

# CROSSROADS



*Guided by God's radical love for all, Bethany seeks to... Offer sanctuary, Inspire personal transformation, Foster a faith community, and Engage locally and globally for social justice.*

Bethany United Methodist Church Newsletter

June 2017

## ACS To Affirm Bishop Oliveto

By Bruce Pettit

Bethany Lay Member to Annual Conference



The California-Nevada Annual Conference Session (ACS) in Burlingame June 21-24 will affirm Karen Oliveto, former pastor of Bethany (1992-2004), as the bishop of the Mountain Sky area of the United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Judicial Council on April 28 said it was improper that she be a bishop under the UM Book of Discipline that forbids LGBTQ pastors. But the Council also said it was the Western Jurisdiction of the church that has authority on how to proceed.

The Western Jurisdiction Council of Bishops is expected to decide by the end of June exactly what to do. The full worldwide Council of Bishops could take charge of the matter if the West does not.

Our California-Nevada ACS will offer a resolution that will likely lift directly some language which the Western Bishops issued May 4 after the Judicial Council's April decision. Some pertinent points: "For many years, the Western part of the United States has been a refuge for LGBTQ persons from across the U.S. and around the world. Our region is a place where they can live fully into who God has created them to be, free from discrimination, violence, and closets...We the people called United Methodist in the Western Jurisdiction witness daily the

gifts and reflections of God's grace in LGBTQ persons who faithfully serve among us as lay leaders, pastors, district superintendents, and now, as a bishop "Our Christian experience teaches us that God's love is wide enough for all of us...It is not always easy for us to hold relationship with those whose understandings differ from us, but John Wesley encourages us to remember: 'We don't have to think alike to love alike.' " (Wesley was

*(Continued on next page)*

## **ACS To Affirm Bishop Oliveto (continued)**

an Anglican priest who started in the 1730s what became Methodism.)

All of the annual conferences in the UMC West are hoping to adopt identical resolution language in their sessions this month. A draft now in circulation asks the Western bishops to call a special meeting of Western Jurisdiction delegates (who elected Oliveto) — to be held prior to the special General Conference in St. Louis in February 2019. At such a special Western meeting, strategizing would develop on how to advocate in St. Louis on the sexuality issues — the only issues to be discussed there — before the quadrennial General Conference in 2020.

The bishops of the West are the five active bishops — Grant Hagiya (California Pacific Conference), Elaine Stanovsky (Greater Northwest), Robert Hoshibata (Desert Southwest), Minerva Carcano (California-Nevada), and Oliveto — and six retired bishops: Roy Sano, Melvin Talbert, Elias Galvan, Mary Ann Swenson, Beverly Shamana, and Warner Brown.



## **PRIDE at Bethany!**



Every year as the city of San Francisco Celebrates PRIDE, BETHANY also celebrates PRIDE with a special worship service, guest speaker and community BBQ. Mark your calendar for June 25th for our Special PRIDE worship service. Where we celebrate the legacy, history, and story of the LGBTQIA community right here in our church!!

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry to Begin**



Greetings to you from Ray Capiral, the new music director at Bethany I would like to announce that I will be establishing a knitting/crochet group beginning in August 2017. The meetings will be held at Bethany United Methodist Church and will begin with a 4-week instructional and mini-lecture series every FIRST and THIRD Tuesday (Aug. 1, 15; Sept. 5, 19), 6:00-8:00 PM.

This program is offered completely FREE of charge and is open to anyone interested. My goal is to share the transformative power of fiber arts and crafting, not only by sharing my personal journey and giving instruction to participants, but also in order to give back to our community in the way of organized knitting/crochet projects intended for charitable giving. In the church this is often referred to as Prayer Shawl Ministry, but you don't need to be affiliated with any religion or group to get involved—ALL ARE WELCOME! No experience is required, and all materials will be provided.

If you would like further information about this program, I invite you to contact me directly at: [bethanysfmusic@gmail.com](mailto:bethanysfmusic@gmail.com). A detailed outline of topics to be covered in the first four sessions will be available soon.



## **IT'S A SMALL WORLD ~ HOW MINISTRIES AT BETHANY, CURRY WITHOUT WORRY, MOLDOVAN ACADEMY AND AMA FOUNDATION (A NEPAL CHILDREN'S HOME) INTERTWINE**

We often hear the adage, "it's a small world". The circle of one of Bethany's ministries reaching across the globe as well as here in San Francisco needs to be shared. Bethany as a steward of our building provides space to Curry Without Worry.

Bethany as a steward of our building provides space to Moldovan Academy. Moldovan Academy provides support to AMA Foundation in Katmandu, Nepal who in turn provides a home and education for underprivileged children in Nepal.

It all began when Moldovan Academy in Sonoma learned one of their students has an aunt who is the director for AMA Foundation Children's home in Katmandu, Nepal. Tragically, a devastating earthquake had just occurred. Moldovan faculty and families sprung into action to send aid across the globe.....What happened next; Moldovan Academy started the San Francisco school at Bethany and Curry Without Worry began their use of our kitchen to further their ministry of providing food to the hungry in San Francisco. Shrawan Nepali is the founder of Curry Without Worry. Conversations with Shrawan brought about the discovery of the Children's Home in Katmandu! It was Shrawan's home and he has built the girl's building for the Children's Home! AMA Foundation, the Children's Home for underprivileged children, is the fruit of Shrawan's ministry. Moldovan Academy would discover their connection to the Children's Home through conversations with Shrawan Nepali. On a sunny Tuesday when Curry Without Worry was preparing their meal to feed 300 hungry in San Francisco this discovery was uncovered.

The circle of God's work is being drawn; Sonoma, Katmandu in Nepal, Bethany in San Francisco, Curry Without Worry in San Francisco.

Moldovan Academy in celebration of their 10 years of Early Childhood Education has dedicated support of a charity every month for 10 months. September's charity is the AMA Foundation. A fund raiser will be held in September at Bethany. Curry Without Worry will provide food, Moldovan will have an art auction of the children's work! What an excellent opportunity to mix and mingle with Mr. Curry Without Worry, Shrawan Nepali, and some of the volunteers along with parents, faculty and friends of Moldovan Academy.

Hopefully you will be able to attend.....bring a friend! It is a small world!!

Curry Without Worry welcomes volunteers to help with meal preparation Tuesdays from 1:30 to 4.

For more information contact Kay Nemeth





## A Wedding Ceremony in July

You're Invited to the wedding ceremony of Pastor Sadie Stone & Reid Bond. Saturday July 15th at 3:30pm at Bethany UMC! A small reception will take place at the church following the ceremony. Please come and celebrate the start of the their lives together.



## Bethany Cares SF Food Bank

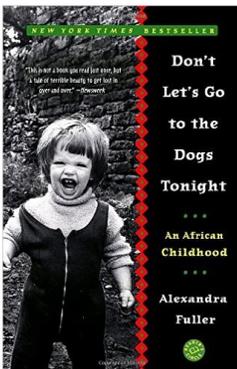
Sign up with Josh Webster; [webste28@gmail.com](mailto:webste28@gmail.com); 517-410-7034.

Our upcoming volunteer dates are:

**Saturday, June 24:** 9am-12pm

**Saturday, July 15:** 9am-12pm

## BETHANY READS BOOK CLUB



Our new read: *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood* by Alexandra Fuller. This book has been on the New York Times Best Seller List. A memoir of life in Rhodesia-now Zimbabwe. Join us Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 PM @ 3886 22nd Street as we review and discuss this book. Julie Freeman will be our discussion leader. I'm looking forward to another evening of thought provoking discussion and fellowship. Please join us. All are welcome ~ bring a friend!

More information: Kay Nemeth



## Budget Update

Please find below the church's operating budget status through May 31, 2017. Total collections in the month of May were light, with collections of \$3,537 and total expenses were \$11,155. Total year-to-date collections through May were \$92,295 (in comparison to full year budgeted collections of \$142,650). Total year-to-date expenses were \$56,150 (in comparison to full year budgeted expenses of \$156,331). In May, we made of contribution of \$1,188 to the Reconciling Ministries Network (which represented 50% of the Easter Collection amount). Based on the current operating budget, we are projecting a net deficit of \$9,473 for the year. Thank you to everyone who has pledged and is timely with your payments. And thank you to everyone for all your financial support. The financial strength of our church is an important foundation for our services and community.

### Budget Update - through May 31, 2017

May's collections	\$ 3,537
May's expenses	(11,155)
Net +surplus(deficit)	(7,618)
2017 annual budgeted collections	142,650
Actual collections, year-to-date*	92,295
Remaining collections to go	50,355
2017 annual budgeted expenses	156,331
Actual expenses, year-to-date	56,150
Remaining expenses to go	100,181
Current estimate for 2017 collections	146,858
Current estimate for 2017 expenses	(156,331)
Estimated net +surplus(deficit)	(9,473)

\* Includes full year pledges received up-front



## Cal-Neva Conference This Month

The upcoming California-Nevada Annual Conference session will take place June 21st-24th at the Hyatt in Burlingame, CA. This is a yearly conference where lay folks and all pastors retired and current gather to celebrate the ministry of our churches, fix appointments for the next year, celebrate ordination and pass legislation. Pastor Sadie will attend and Bruce Pettit will attend as our lay delegate. If you have any questions about the conference please let either of us know.



## Bethany to Host Eagle UMC in June

In June, we welcome Eagle United Methodist Church, for a week-long service trip to the City!

Here is a brief note from the group's leader, Jeff Nielsen:

*"Eagle UMC is located just outside of Boise, Idaho. We focus on growing disciples and being a blessing to the community. We have an active prayer shawl ministry, partner with River of Life Men's Shelter, and participate in Free Wheel Chair Missions. The youth group is ages 13-18 and we do a mission trip annually. Salt Lake, Spokane, and now San Francisco are the last three. I can give any other information about the church you would like. We are working at Glide, San Francisco-Marin Food Bank, Haight-Ashbury Food Pantry, Casa de las Madres, as well as handing out toiletries and sandwiches on prayer walks throughout the week, working on the parsonage and church. We will be spending our fun day at Great America theme park and the ocean as well as church and fellowship with Bethany."*

# JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Moldovan PS <i>(PS hours: 830a-530p)</i> FC Math 430-630p Bell Appeal 630-930p	2 Moldovan PS	3 SURJ Dialogues 1130a-430p
4 Food Bank Collect 10a Worship 1045a Fellowship 1145a	5 Moldovan PS	6 Moldovan PS Curry w/o Worry 1-5p	7 Moldovan PS SF Sangha 7-9p	8 Moldovan PS Bell Appeal 630-930p AI-anon 7-9p	9 Moldovan PS Parent Orient. 1030-1130	10
11 Worship 1045a Fellowship 1145a	12 Moldovan PS	13 Moldovan PS Curry w/o Worry 1-5p	14 Moldovan PS SF Sangha 7-9p	15 Moldovan PS Bell Appeal 630-930p	16 Moldovan PS	17
18 Worship 1045a Fellowship 1145a	19 Moldovan PS Overnight Youth group arrives	20 Moldovan PS Curry w/o Worry 1-5p Overnight Youth group	21 Moldovan PS SF Sangha 7-9p Overnight Youth group	22 Moldovan PS Bell Appeal 630-930p AI-anon 7-9p Overnight Youth group	23 Moldovan PS Overnight Youth group	24 Overnight Youth group
25 <b>PRIDE!</b> Worship 1045a Fellowship 1145a Overnight Youth group	26 <i>Memorial Day</i> Overnight Youth group departs	27 Moldovan PS Curry w/o Worry 1-5p	28 Moldovan PS A Little Yum 8a-4p SF Sangha 7-9p	29 Moldovan PS Bell Appeal 630-930p AI-anon 7-9p	30 Moldovan PS	

# Sanctuary!

Churches and sanctuary go hand and hand, and since the new administration has taken office churches are once again being asked to consider what it means to practice sanctuary. Bethany has been a place of "sanctuary" for many who looked for a place to express themselves in the fullness of who God created them to be. Becoming one of the first reconciling congregations in the United States.

Now, it is time for Bethany to see how we might aid those as they seek safety, comfort and sanctuary around issues and questions of immigration. There are a variety of ways that churches can offer sanctuary:

1.) Advocacy, helping to ensure that sanctuary city laws are held and that due process is in place for those within the system.

2.) Accompaniment - showing up and walking along side individuals and families as they navigate the complicated immigration system of this country.

3.) Rapid Response Network - When ICE shows up at someones door, being called to respond to document and witness the practices and procedures as they take place.

4.) Physical sanctuary offering people a place to stay.

There are obviously levels and different opportunities that will arise as we enter into this work, but my hope is that by the end of the summer, Bethany will adopt an official policy and practice that will allow us to live into welcoming the stranger in our midst.

If you are interested in helping pastor Sadie with this initiative please let her know.



## Note

Anyone unable to attend worship (travelling, illness, etc.) but would like to receive the Sunday Worship Bulletin may do so by contacting Kay Nemeth and she will put it in the mail.  
KNemeth@aol.com / 415 643 6826.



## June Birthdays

6: Michael Eaton  
27: Bailey Armstrong  
27: Dan Johnson



## Contact Us

If you have articles, photos or announcements that you would like to share with the Bethany community, please contact us!

### Bethany United Methodist Church

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Visit us on the web at  
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