CROSSROADS

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025

PHOTO GALLERY

A PEEK AT RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE BETHANY COMMUNITY!

The Bethany community was very busy over the Advent and Christmas Season.

For Christmas Eve, 85 people attended our Family Service at 4 pm, and 25 people joined our intimate Traditional Service at 7pm.

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COMING SOON

Feb 7 - Ring Out Danger

Feb 8, 12 - Small Groups

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- Community Celebration Board

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PHOTO GALLERY

On December 30th, the Bethany community once again helped cook, deliver, and serve meals at the Interfaith Winter Shelter.

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PHOTO GALLERY

On December 27th, some members of the Bethany community attended a winter concert – the San Francisco Girls Chorus presented: A Celtic Winter with Edwin Huizinga and Ashley Hoyer. Mattie Armstrong and Adela Keleman-LaFors were on stage for the last two songs.

On Sunday, December 15th, we celebrated Evan and Jess' wedding. Congrats!!

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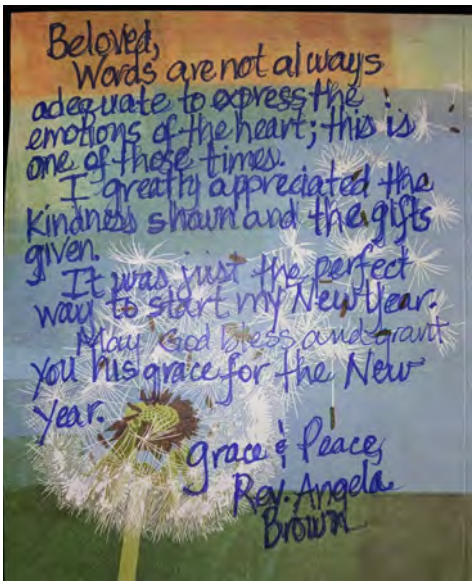
PHOTO GALLERY

On January 10th, Cathy, Shannon, Liam & Angela pulled together our 100 bagged lunches for the unhoused in our community, along with help from some others.

Members of the Bethany community had fun connecting at the de Young on Sunday after church!

On January 5th, Rev. Angela Brown presided over communion with Pastor Rob. A picture and thank you from Rev. Angela is below.



LAY NOMINATIONS for 2025

On November 10th, Bethany held its annual Charge Conference. As part of this meeting, members elect lay leaders for the coming year. Our leaders and their roles are outlined on the next two pages.

Lay Leader: Jeff Friant

Covenant Council

Chair: Cathy Personius

with administrative assist from Shannon Horton

Secretary: TBA

Representatives From:

Finance: John Nelson

SPRC: Julie Freeman

Trustees: Michael Eaton

Worship: Lawson Barnes

Nurture/Outreach: Cathy Personius

Lay Member to AC: Shirley Perkins

At Large Members:

Gloria Soliz

Marilyn Herand

Jeff Friant

Trustees: Michael Eaton, Chair

2025	2026	2027
Joel Creager	Bob Armstrong	Michael Eaton
Jerry Winniczek	Racquel Redondiez	Thomas MacBurney*
John Nelson	Shirley Perkins	
Walter Thoma*		

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Julie Freeman, Chair

2025	2026	2027
Erin Halden	Jeff Friant	
Julie Freeman	Stanley Watson	
Jeannette Given		
Josh Webster		
Elena Fuentes-Afflick		

ex officio—Shirley Perkins, Lay Member to Annual Conference

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LAY NOMINATIONS-cont'd

Lay Leadership & Nominations Committee: Rev. Rob Herrmann, Chair

2025	2026	2027
Jeff Friant	Steve Wereb	Jeannette LaFors
Shannon Horton		
Gloria Soliz		

Finance Committee: John Nelson, Chair

Treasurer: Steve Wereb
Finance Secretary: Jerry Winniczek
Trustees Rep: Michael Eaton
Church Council Chair: Cathy Personius
SPRC Rep: TBD
At Large: Erin Halden
Liam O'Connor

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Shirley Perkins
Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference: Thomas MacBurney*

Nurture/Outreach: Cathy Personius, Chair

Jeff Friant
Marilyn Herand
Walter Thoma
Mike West
Racquel Redondiez
Kate Armstrong*

Worship: Lawson Barnes, Chair

Rev. Rob Herrmann
Gloria Soliz
Evan Alparone
Lizzy Hull Barnes

*Indicates new this year

BUDGET UPDATE

by Steve Wereb, Treasurer

We finished 2024 very strongly. Total donations in December were $25,189 and resulted in total donations of $140,536 for 2024 which exceeded our budgeted goal by $13,293. Total rental income of $167,657 for 2024 was about in line with our budget. Even though we had additional repairs of +$26,553 primarily for the bell tower, a special donation of $25,000 along with an insurance payment of $7,145 offset the additional repair costs. We also underspent on Staff & Programs by $5,603 and Building Costs by $6,126. Our final tithe payments to the Conference for 2024 were $30,850 (10% of all income).

With the additional donations and underspending, we finished the year with a net surplus of +$3,151 when we had budgeted for a deficit of -$27,277.

We are very thankful to all our financial donors this past year who provided the means to sustain Bethany and fund our staff and programs, and support our community. Bethany would not exist without your financial commitment.

With gratitude,
Steve Wereb, Treasurer

Summary of Donations

Expected Giving for 2024 ==> $127,243

Actual Giving for 2024 ==> $140,536

Actual vs. Budget	Actual 2024	Budget for 2024	Actual vs. Budget
Donations	$ 140,536	$ 127,243	$ 13,293
Rent	167,657	166,375	1,282
ıcome	308,193	293,618	14,575
Staff & Programs	147,807	153,410	(5,603)
Tithe	30,850	29,362	1,488
Building Costs	93,955	100,081	(6,126)
Building Repairs	64,575	38,042	26,533
Total Operating Costs	337,187	320,895	16,292
donation	25,000		25,000
Insurance received	7,145		7,145
Net Result	**$ 3,151**	**$ (27,277)**	**$ 30,428**

Cash Balances at 12/31/24

Operating Cash	$ 123,885
Trustee Cash Reserves	$ 40,121
Memorials	$ 11,733

Distribution of Pledges

Gift Amount	Number of Households	Pledge Amount	%
$1 to $2,500	8	$ 10,330	10%
$2,501 to $6,000	5	$ 23,900	22%
$6,001 to $9,999	3	$ 21,500	20%
$10,000 & Above	3	$ 52,000	48%
Total	19	$ 107,730	100%
Average/person		$ 5,670	

YTD Donations Received

		%
YTD pledges received	$ 112,893	80%
YTD other donations	$ 27,643	20%
Total donations	$ 140,536	100%
Total number of givers	58	
Average gift/giver	$ 2,423	

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7th @ 9:30 am, every 1st Friday of the month, we ring our bells in solidarity with ***Ring Out Danger: People of Faith Opposed to Gun Violence*** (**https://ringoutdanger.org**). Please join us, in front of Bethany, no ringing experience is required.

Bible Study

Wednesdays 3-4pm on zoom. Join to discuss the scripture for the coming Sunday. All are welcome. Email Marilyn for more info mherand@sbcglobal.net

Small Groups – Sign-up at bethanysf.org

Group options:

-2nd Saturdays each month @ 8:30am

-2nd Wednesdays each month @ 7pm

community celebration board

Marilyn would like to extend special kudos to Liam – for the last 2 years, Liam has come over to put up my Christmas tree, bring the Christmas dishes down from the top shelves, which he can now reach without climbing on the step ladder, and today drove here after school to put them all away again. Thank you Liam! I appreciate your help and our close friendship so much. ❤ Marilyn

Thanks to Tim Silva for hanging the star banner for Christmas and to Cathy Personius for securing the banner.

Because Thanks to Thomas McBurney, Bob Armstrong, and Lizzy Barnes for clearing off prayer strips to begin a new liturgical season.

Thanks to all those who helped to decorate for Christmas – Jeff & John putting up the tree, Carole and Bob for putting up and taking down decorations for Advent. Thanks to all who made a contribution towards the poinsettias.

Thanks to all the outgoing leadership and to all those who continue to serve and those who are stepping up to take on new leadership roles.

Thanks to all those who have hosted Fellowship throughout 2024.

CONTACT US

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

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Find us online at **www.bethanysf.org**
FB **@bethanyumcsf** and IG **@bethany_umc_sf**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3: Jeannette Given
7: Rick Grube
9: Stan Watson
21: Mattie Armstrong
30: Paulina Personius
30: Phoebe Creager-Horton