

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

**April
2025**

Volume 28,
Issue 4

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Pastor's Page

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Palm Sunday, April 13th 10AM
Maundy Thursday service, April 17th 7:00 PM
Good Friday service, April 18th 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday worship service, April 20th 10:00 AM

The Community and Global Mission Committee has designated The People's Pantry as the recipient of this year's Maundy Thursday and Easter offerings. The People's Pantry is located at 555 Avenue D in the City of Rochester 14621 neighborhood. They provide groceries to individuals and families to help mitigate the effects of food insecurity with dignity and without bias or discrimination. It is their goal to alleviate hunger and promote healthy nutrition among people in need within the Rochester community. They strive to provide access to healthy food, offer supportive services, and create a compassionate environment where every person is treated with dignity and respect. On Sunday, April 6th, 2025, Michael Durfee, the Executive Director of The People's Pantry, will share more information about the food pantry during a Moment for Mission.



One Great Hour of Sharing Palm Sunday

Pick up a fish bank OR use a special offering envelope to donate to this important cause. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Bethany Mission Statement

Bethany is where God's love nurtures friendship, hope, and peace.

Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Church Calendar
- Jennifer's Closet
- Bethany Women
- Shipmates

**Deadline for the
May
Newsletter is on
April 18, 2025**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

A distinguished historian declared that, "Once the modern world convinced itself that nothing is real except what we can see, taste, and touch, the modern world has gone downhill ever since." Today's world seems to operate under the assumption that there is no reality, other than what we can see.

Mary Magdalene appeared at the tomb of Jesus early Easter morning. When she saw that the huge stone at the door of the tomb had been rolled away, and that the tomb was empty, she immediately saw what had happened. Obviously, someone had stolen the body of Jesus and she did not know where they had put him. Even when an angel appears and asks her why she is weeping, Mary still says that someone has stolen the body of Jesus.

Even when Jesus himself appears to Mary, she first thinks that the risen Christ is a gardener. Mary just can't get it out of her mind that she is at a cemetery, a place of death and loss. She can't refocus her eyes, even when the risen Christ is standing right in front of her.

What does it take to get us to see what is there? We've all had the frustrating experience of seeing something at some distant point across the landscape. And then we say to the friend beside us, gesturing as we speak, "Look, over there!" The friend looks, squints, but can't see. The thing is so obvious, so apparent. But the friend just can't get it. We attempt to point to certain landmarks, hoping that the friend will move from seeing those apparent objects to this less apparent thing we are trying to get them to see.

What enables us to see? What is it that turns our heads in the right direction, and brings everything into focus? For Mary it was the risen Christ. He did not leave her to rely on misperceptions, but rather he called to her. He turned her gaze away from what was expected and accustomed toward what was being revealed. Maybe that is why we call Christianity a revealed religion. You can't see it until it is revealed, given to you, until one has experienced the gift of the presence of the Risen Christ, and then one's eyes get in focus.

That's Easter. It wasn't just that Jesus was raised from the dead. It was that He was raised for us. He returned to his friends, revealed himself to them, and enabled them to see and to believe. They got a vision of who they were meant to be, of who they could be. Their world changed. May it be the same for all of us.

Wishing you a blessed Easter,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family of Betty Griswold at her passing.

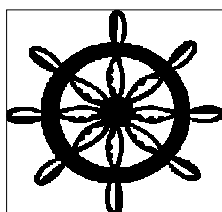
Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Troutman family, at the passing of Peggy Troutman.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Murray family, at the passing of Neil Murray.

Christian love and sympathy is extended Linda & Ernie Tolentino and family at the passing of her mom.

Shipmates May Program

Come learn about our Stephen Ministers from our own Kim Bolinger. He will tell us that a Stephen Minister is much more than a friend who visits weekly. They are trained to understand your concerns and provide Christian love and spiritual support.



Crisis Care: includes people who have had a hospitalization, a terminal illness, death of a loved one, divorce, natural disaster, car accident, or other urgent situation.

There are four more kinds of Care that they provide. Please come to learn how fortunate Bethany is to have this group of people.

May 10th small hall 2pm dessert with coffee and tea after.

Fiscal Focus

2025	February	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$30,689.81	\$67,788.96	13.95%
Expense	\$29,166.51	\$64,310.89	13.24%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$1,523.30	\$1,954.30	



Jennifer's Closet is open Tuesdays 1:00-3:00, Thursdays 9:30-noon, and the third Saturday of the month from 10:00-1:00.

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention Monday & Wednesdays

1:00—1:45PM

April 7—May 28, 2025

Bethany Presbyterian Church

To register: Please call Lisa Clement
585-363-0446

For more information, please contact
Julie Battaglia at 585-368-5372

Suggested contribution of \$25 for materials
and series.

Tai Chi provided by



If you would like to beautify the sanctuary on Sunday mornings by purchasing flowers for the chancel in memory of a loved one or in honor of, order forms are available on the table in the narthex. Make your check payable to: Bethany Presbyterian Church, in the amount of \$46.00 for a communion table piece. Place a check in the envelope and place in the offering plate or mail to Bethany church office.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: At times, families or individuals may find they need pastoral support for various reasons ranging from a long-term matter or an emergency. In the event of a pastoral emergency, this can be sought by calling the church office (585) 663-3000 during normal business hours or after hours at (585) 496-4699. In addition, Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. To receive support from a Stephen Minister contact Kim Bolinger at (585) 227-2540 or Wendy Watt (585) 415-2351.



Stephen Ministry

In addition to entering the Easter season, we seem to relate so many other things to this time of the year. Hopefully this means that spring is right ahead. Winter clothes can be put away. Snow shovels and salt for melting can be replaced with garden tools and fertilizer for plating and growing vegetables and helping or lower gardens to create and recreate. This has been an exceptional winter so exchanging these tools around in the shed gave us the feeling of what is to come.

Easter not only gives us a look forward of what is coming, but also reminds us of what has just passed. The sacrifice of Jesus for us gives us the understanding of our mistakes and errors being forgiving by God. One man did that for us.

I was raised that when someone did something nice for you, a thank you should be extended to them in some way. I is any electronic system that is used in heaven, so the emails, tweets and texts are out. A letter or note is proper, but is there a zip code for God?

How about a simple thank you to God in prayer or just a quiet talk with Him? "The deepest level of worship is praising God in spite of the pain, thanking Go during the trials, trusting Him when we're tempted to lose hope, and living Him even though He seems distant and far away."

Some assistance you could turn to for helping you speak with God are the Stephen Ministers at Bethany. We are ready to listen to you and help you speak your mind and your heart to God for whatever reason you need. Asking for healing, comfort, guidance, or a simple thank you for a small blessing you have received are all welcomed by Him.

If you would like to visit with a Stephen Minister, please contact Wendy Watt or Dr. Bob.

In memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby)
written March 2014.

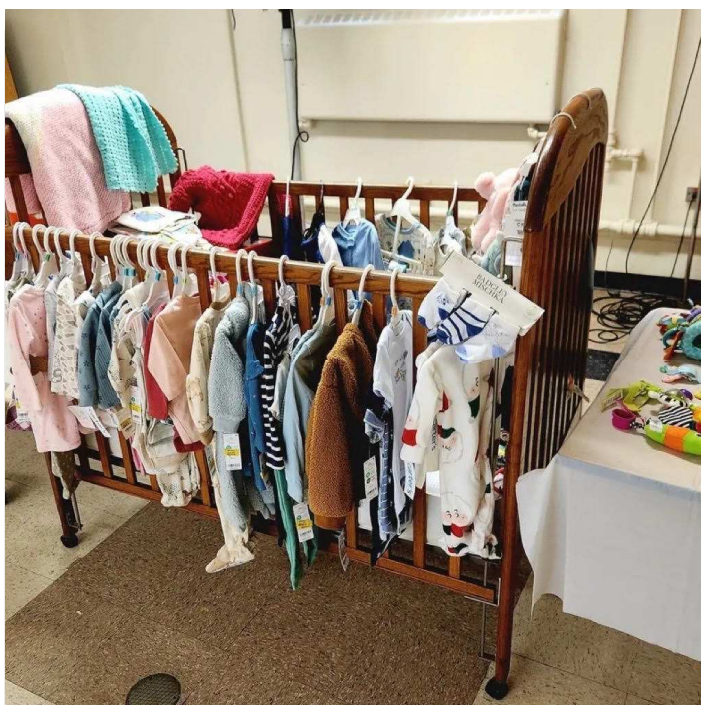
May Community Supper Angels of Mercy: Human Trafficking Awareness Presentation

Angels of Mercy states that human trafficking has become \$150 billion a year industry; 1/3 takes place in the US and New York State is one of the top destinations for Human Trafficking and abduction. Please join us May 21, 2025 at 6:00PM for a Community Supper prepared by Episcopal SeniorLife Communities followed by a presentation from Angels of Mercy on this important topic. Dinner is \$10; dietary restrictions can be accommodated if notated.

A big thank you to April Honan and her friend, Kerri, for teaching self-defense techniques after our pizza dinner in March. When we asked April for some information on her self-defense background so that we could "brag" a little about her and her school, this is what she shared...

My martial arts style is Goshin Jutsu karate. I have been practicing since July 2013. KJ started in February 2007, then Brandon in September 2010. The three of us have all earned our black belts. I am continuing to work for higher achievements, which would be a second degree black belt. There are 10 levels. My school is run by Shihan Frank Williams. Our school works with children ages 4 all the way through adult. We also have cardio classes every Tuesday evening and Saturday mornings. Women's self defense classes are taught monthly.

A couple interesting things about my journey is that I am only 1 of 3 female black belt instructors at my school. Only 10% of students reach the black belt status. Most leave at the yellow or brown belt level. My boys sat on the panel to judge my test. This was another first for our school. The dojo (school) has become my place of peace and safety. During my darkest times, Frank and the classes kept me grounded and moving forward. Any questions, Frank can be reached at 585-520-7007.



Baby Shower a Great Success

Thank you to all those who donated items for the families with babies who come to Jennifer's Closet. Forty people had fun playing games, visiting with new and old friends, and enjoying four delicious soups and a celebration cake.

Adding up all the clothing (including everything from sweaters, onesies, socks and more), bedding, bath needs, diapers, toys, books, bottles, pacifiers and more, Bethany members and friends donated 440 items!!!!

The Community and Global Mission Committee and all the Jennifer's Closet volunteers thank you for your love and generosity.

BETHANY WOMEN



BPWC believes that an environment grounded in Christian beliefs promotes the full growth and expression of the individual. Such an environment renews, strengthens, and empowers the individual to participate in the life and work of the church, the servant community of Jesus Christ in the world.

Church World Services Blankets: Bethany Women would like to express our sincere appreciation for the kind and loving response from the congregation. Your generous donation of \$475 and Bethany Women's donation of \$100 for a total \$575 will make a difference to someone facing a difficult time and remind them that they are not alone.

Budget: As of this writing we have received \$3470 in pledges and incurred \$293.80 in expenses. We are blessed by your generosity. This amount exceeds our estimated pledges for 2025.

Afghans: There are two completed afghans and when Beth Thomsen receives the next afghan and lap robe she will deliver them to local charities. Our March speaker, Michelle Quinn thanked these women for afghans they have received from Bethany Presbyterian Women.

Saturday, April 5, 2025 @ 11:00 am: All women are welcome to participate in a Women's Tea. *Red Bird Café* will cater for the tea which will include sandwiches, desserts, and tea. There will be a floral arrangement presentation by Justice Florist and time for fellowship and a fun activity. Sign-up for the tea will be on Sundays after each worship service in the Narthex.

Floral Arrangement Presentation



Women's Meeting May 13, 2025:

Our May speaker will be Chet Fery. Chet initiated the Bread Time Stories and More project. He is an amateur bread baker who talks about how random acts of kindness can change our lives and create a world of community that is caring, supportive and secure. Chet has given away over 10, 000 loaves of bread to family, friends, colleagues, and strangers. Through this effort he has created hundreds of stories that touch your heart and stimulate your soul. He will be giving a loaf of bread to each woman who attends the May meeting.

Display Case: Please take a minute to see programs and activities for women in the Parlor Display Case.

Bethany Women's Meetings: All women are welcome to share in fellowship. Please feel free to bring a friend. Women meet on the second Tuesday of the following months: September - June except for December and April which meet on Saturday. We have speakers who present on a variety of topics. We also coordinate service projects, Women's Tea, and fellowship opportunities.

Women's Brunch: We will be sharing "Brunch and Fellowship" at *Bill's Long Pond Diner* on the last Saturday of the months of September through June at 10:00 am. Our next Brunch is Saturday, April 26, at 10:00 am.

Building Caring Relationships: Any woman currently active or inactive with BPWC who would like to be included in the *Bethany Presbyterian Women Communication Distribution List* please contact Karen Bolinger - 585-227-2540 or kbolinger@rochester.rr.com.

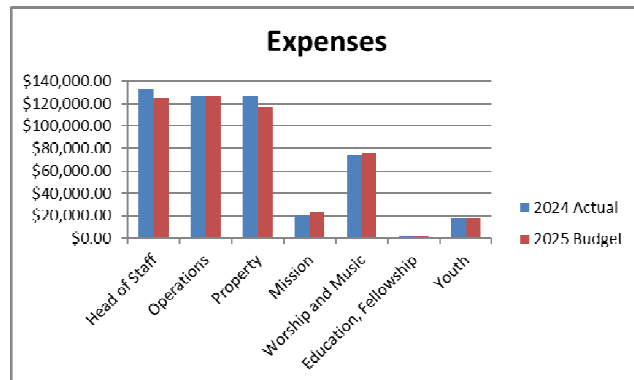
April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 6-Worship & Music	<i>3</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 9-Men's breakfast 11-Women's tea
<i>6</i> Communion 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11-Christian Ed	<i>7</i> 11-The Chosen 1-Tai Chi	<i>8</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>9</i> 1-Tai Chi 6-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>10</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> Palm Sunday 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 12-BYF Planetarium	<i>14</i> 11-The Chosen 1-Tai Chi 7-Life Group	<i>15</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>16</i> 1-Tai Chi 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>17</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7-Maundy Thursday Service 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>18</i> 7-Good Friday Service	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> Easter Sunday Communion 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare No Youth Studies	<i>21</i> 11-The Chosen 1-Tai Chi 7-Stephen Minis- ters	<i>22</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Committee 11:30-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>23</i> 1-Tai Chi 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>24</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>25</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>26</i> 10-Women's brunch @ Bill's Long Pond Diner
<i>27</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<i>28</i> 11-The Chosen 1-Tai Chi 7-Life Group	<i>29</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>30</i> 1-Tai Chi 7:30-Celebration Ringers			

The following graphs were mentioned by Kim Bolinger during the Annual meeting and were promised to be distributed in the mouse:

Expenses, Clark Park sale omitted

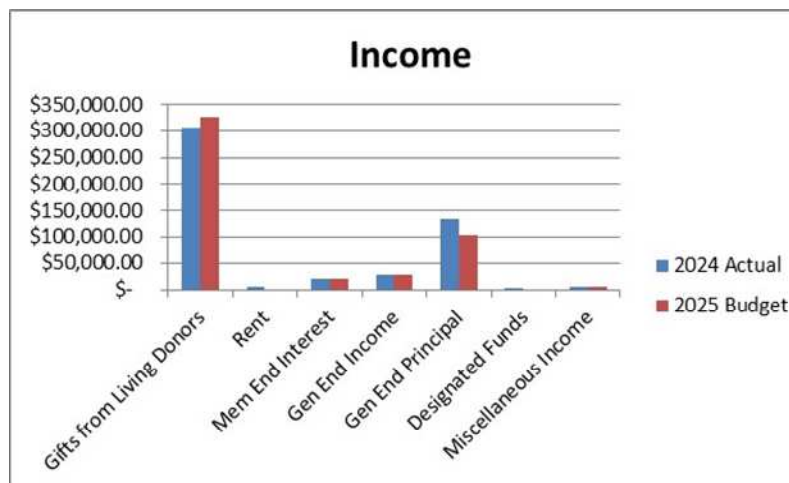
	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Head of Staff	\$132,950.88	\$124,605.73
Operations	\$126,756.69	\$126,034.54
Property	\$127,291.57	\$116,767.01
Mission	\$20,666.25	\$22,794.53
Worship and Music	\$74,401.42	\$75,945.76
Education, Fellowship	\$1,696.99	\$2,000.00
Youth	\$17,794.87	\$17,674.40
Total	\$501,558.67	\$485,821.97



Slide 1 Expenses ('25 budget vs. '24 actual) are shown in a narrative style by combining various expenses in different categories versus by committee as in your annual report.

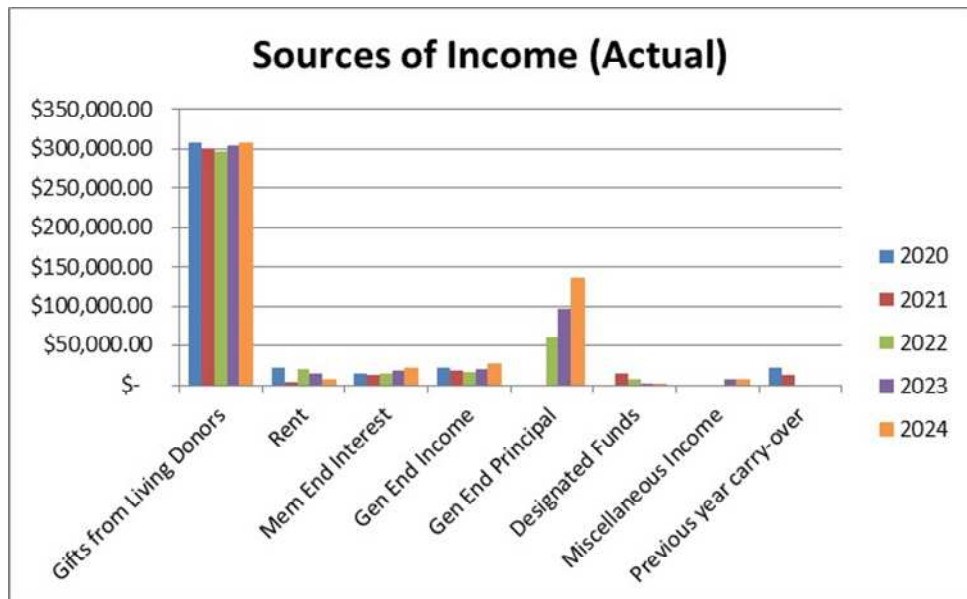
Income, Clark Park sale omitted

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Gifts from Living Donors	\$ 306,529.01	\$ 326,593.23
Rent	\$ 5,619.35	\$ -
Mem End Interest	\$ 21,246.72	\$ 21,211.00
Gen End Income	\$ 26,893.93	\$ 28,669.39
Gen End Principal	\$ 135,248.47	\$ 104,548.35
Designated Funds	\$ 220.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 5,801.19	\$ 4,800.00
Total	\$ 501,558.67	\$ 485,821.97



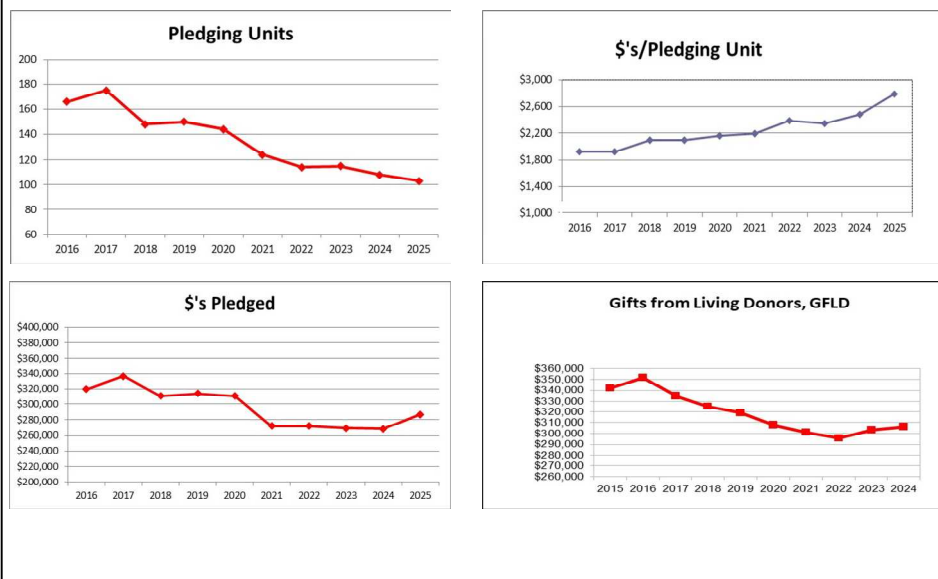
Slide 2 - Income ('25 budget vs. '24 actual) is shown (3) times to point out: 1. Gifts from living donors increased. 2. General Endowment Principal needed to balance '25 budget decreased. 3. Manse rents eliminated.

5-year income, Clark Park sale omitted



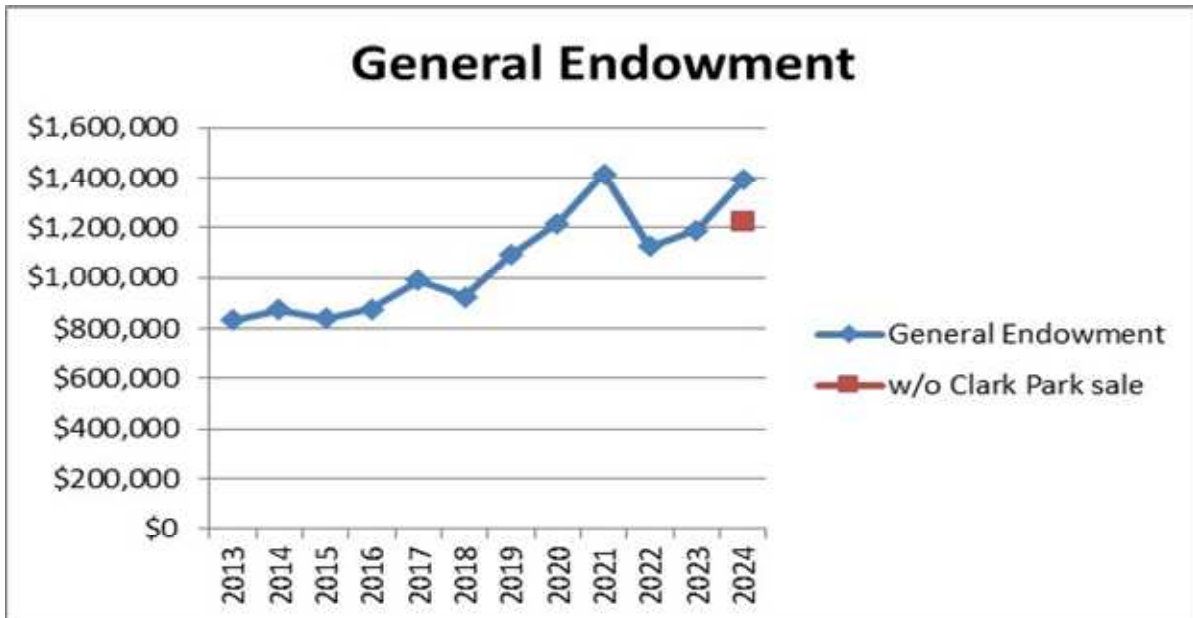
Slide 3 5 Year actual Income Sources (2020-2024) are shown. 1. Gifts from living donors trending up the last (3) years. 2. Financial Markets have done well the last (3) years. 3. Designated funds are almost depleted since being used along with the budget for some committees. 4. Previous year carry-over has not existed in the last (3) years since we have had deficit budgets.

Pledging change



Slide 4 Pledging Changes 1. Pledging units has had a steady decline in the last 10 years. 2. Dollars per pledging unit has had a steady increase for the last 10 years. 3. Total dollars pledged has been trending down, and flat the last 4 years until 2025. 4. Gifts from living donors (this includes both pledges, non-pledged offering envelopes and cash) has been trending down until the last 2 years.

General Endowment



Slide 5 General Endowment

1. 2023 and 2024 Financial Markets were good.
2. Markets helped us maintain our endowment, while we have been deficient spending and using principal and interest to balance our costs the last few years.
3. 2024 looks higher than it would have been without the sale of Clark Park which added \$166k to our endowment. Without that \$166k we would have where the RED box is. Very slight increase to endowment.
4. The risk is that as soon as our investments/financial markets do not perform at least at 9% level we will be reducing our endowment.

Please feel free to contact Kim Bolinger or any member of the Budget and Finance Team with any questions.

Greece CROP Hunger Walk May 4th Aldersgate Church



Crop Walk will take place on May 4th at 1:00PM. Please participate and donate EARLY. Recent policy shifts and funding changes from the current administration have left a massive gap in support, severely impacting Church World Service (CWS) programs and putting vulnerable communities, here and abroad, at risk. 25% of funds raised will be donated to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf and 75% will go to CWS.

CROP Hunger Walks are at the center of CWS's work. They embody our shared values of faith, hope and compassion. By donating ONLINE early money can go immediately to CWS. The

link to the page is:

events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/bethany-presbyterian-church-greece-ny

SHIPMATES APRIL EVENT – APRIL 27TH AT 2PM “FOREVER PLAID”

“Forever Plaid” is a musical about a harmony group from the 50's who were killed in a bus crash before making their big break. They are given the chance to come back from the dead and do the show they never got to perform! The musical tells the story of the “Plaids”, a quartet of high school chums whose dreams of recording an album ended in a collision with a bus filled with Catholic schoolgirls on their way to see the Beatle's American debut on The Ed Sullivan Show. You are sure to enjoy this fun revue, chock-full of beloved hits from the 50's and barbershop harmonies, along with choreography and delightful patter from the “Plaids”.

The show is being put on by the Greece Athena HS Music Department, at Greece Athena's Blackbox Theatre. Tickets are \$10. You can sign up and pay at Church through April 19th, or contact Cindy Stanek at (585) 727-7853, or cdkstanek@aol.com, checks can be made out to her (memo line “Shipmates”) and mailed to her 338 Northwood Drive, Rochester NY 14612. We will meet at the Theatre to sit together. ALL are Welcome to come!



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000

www.bethanyrochester.org

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Change Service Requested

Mailed March 28, 2025

**We're on the
Web!**

Ministries Team

Head of Staff / Sr. Pastor

Dr. Bob Spratt

Music Ministry

Benjamin Kjell - Music Director

Jean Coniber - Bell Choir Director

Bookkeeper

Tom Olney

Treasurer

Patric Donaghue

Administrative Assistant & Mouse Editor

Eileen Sengillo

Custodians

Jim Cruppe

Cornelius Yawn

Nursery Child Care Worker

Jennifer Watt

Youth & Children's Ministry Leader

Andrew Ferreira

The Session

Kim Bolinger, Budget & Finance

Wendy Watt, Christian Education

Judy Price, Community & Global Miss.

Michael DePew, Generosity

Bev Murray, Nominating

Jim Hetzler, Personnel

Rick Clement, Property

Heather Kruspe, Spiritual Growth

Karen McIver, Worship & Music

Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator

