

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

**December
2024**

Volume 27,
Issue 12

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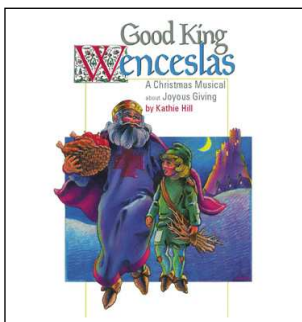
Ring in Christmas - The Celebration Ringers bell choir are planning some fun Christmas music! Join us as we celebrate the season with music, and sing along with us as we play some favorite carols. We will perform Wednesday, December 18th at 6:45 PM. The Spiritual Growth Committee will provide dinner with pizza, salad and cookies at 6:00 PM. Please sign-up in the narthex (\$5 per person) and join us for this evening of Christmas fun!

The Christian Education Committee cordially invites you to an intergenerational Advent potluck lunch on Sunday December 22, 2024, immediately following the service. Sign-ups for food items will be available in December. The Spiritual Growth committee has graciously agreed to accept your food donations prior to the service in the large hall, and will be setting up the buffet. We will be celebrating Advent and the Children's program which will be performed during the service on that Sunday. This is an event you won't want to miss!



Special points of interest:

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



Advent Program presented by the Joyful Noise Singers on December 22nd

The Christmas traditions of baking cookies for friends, taking food to the needy, and sharing meals with others are annual events we all look forward to. Did you know that the custom of sharing food at Christmas was started by a Christian king back in the 10th century? You may have sung the familiar carol "Good King Wenceslas" but, like me, never knew that the subject of the carol was a real king who ruled in Bohemia, now known as Czechoslovakia.

Wenceslas was a Christian in a predominantly pagan land. His own mother was so jealous and fearful of the influence his Christian grandmother had over young Wenceslas. But Wenceslas must have continued to grow in the faith, for throughout his reign he advanced the acceptance of Christianity in that part of the world.

**December 24th Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

(One service Christmas Eve)

9:00 PM Service: Communion, Candlelight Service,
Bethany Choir and Handbell Choir



**Deadline for the
January
Newsletter is on
December 14, 2024**

Bethany Mission Statement

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

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

The Bethany Session has been working for over a year with Rev. Dr. Rose Niles, Ministry Relations Officers for the Presbyterian Foundation on Project Regeneration. Project Regeneration is a free consultative service to guide congregations through a process of prayerful discernment through a series of meetings, held on site or virtually, to help churches consider a strategic approach for the future.

There are seven core options that cover most church situations.

- 1) Age in place, using the resources available to you to stay in your location as long as your fiscal health allows.
- 2) Share your campus with another congregation or group to help sustain your ministry.
- 3) Merge with another church to create a new, healthy congregation.
- 4) Sell your church campus and find a new location that is better suited to your current needs.
- 5) Reinvent your church with new ministries; this can vary widely depending on your church's situation.
- 6) Close your current congregation and re-start as another church.
- 7) Close your church and create an endowment to fund ministries your church supports – forever

The Session has eliminated choices 6 and 7, to close the church. But the Session values your input.

There is a Project Regeneration Task Force whose members include Jim Hetzler, Craig Johnson, Jennifer McGarrity, Wendy Watt and Dr. Bob Spratt. Their goal is to meet with every church group at Bethany. This will be an opportunity to learn more about Project Regeneration and ask questions and make suggestions for the future strategic plan for Bethany Presbyterian Church.

There are two open meetings scheduled for the congregation on December 8, 2024 and January 19, 2025 at 11 am after worship in the sanctuary. Bethany has a glorious past, let's make it an even brighter future.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Jeff Munson, Joe Munson, Julie Picard and Jan Sherburne and families at the passing of their mom, Shirley Munson.

Joy

We welcome to the Bethany family Olive Justice Foreman, parents Ryan and Laura Foreman and proud grandparents are Craig and Darlene Foreman.

Sale of 83 Clark Park Property Sale Price \$240,000

Expenses of Sale:

- Commission Paid (\$14,400.00)
- Legal Fees Paid (\$2354.62)
- Filing Fees Paid (\$2410.00)
- Adjustment to Property Tax \$319.27

Net Proceeds \$221,154.65

Proceeds Distribution:

Mission—10% TBD—\$22,115.47
 Elevator repair—\$64,172.00—50% down payment to Otis \$32,086.00; 50% payment in 2025 upon completion
 General Endowment—\$134,867.18

Fiscal Focus

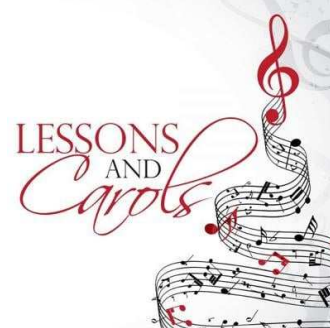
2024	October	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$33,571.89	\$541,874.06	109.78%
Expense	\$41,469.98	\$418,058.76	84.70%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$7,898.09	\$123,815.20	



Jennifer's Closet We're getting ready for the colder weather and, based on feedback from our shoppers and our current inventory, we are looking for the following items to be donated:

- *Men's, baby toddler, kids', and teen clothing
- *casual adult clothing
- *bras
- *costume jewelry
- *casual shoes and boots (no heels, please)
- *small household items
- *new or like new sheets, blankets, and towels
- *please, no pillows or thick comforters unless they are new
- *bags with carry handles

There are approximately a dozen people who volunteer and keep Jennifer's Closet in "business." 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.



Music Sunday - Lessons & Carols

December 15, 10am. On the third Sunday of Advent, please join us for a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols! You will hear the Bethany Choir perform together with brass musicians, and partake in the singing of well-known Christmas and Advent carols. Music by Charles Wood, John Rutter, and Swedish composer Otto Olsson, among others.



Stephen Ministry

I collect “words of wisdom” from almost everywhere – Facebook, emails, a book I am reading – many places. I use them occasionally in this article. Sometimes, I just look in the folder on my desk top when I think I personally need some grounding or inspiration on things happening in my life. It’s always good to have a source to turn to. Another source for me are my friends both here and outside the Bethany community. Oh, and without saying, my discussions with God are the best! He doesn’t look at his watch if I start rambling and being available at all hours is a plus.

At this season of the year, we are celebrating the gift of God’s son. We sing Christmas carols, decorate, buy gifts and wish all the Merriest of Christmas. We get some extra hugs and usually all eat more than we should. We donate time and contribute to organizations that reach beyond those we do at Bethany. It’s just what we do. We show the love we share.

The Stephen Ministers here at Bethany are also a source that can be turned to during a difficult time in your life. It’s just what we do. You may not see it as a difficult time. Maybe you are feeling lonely but don’t want to let it show. Maybe you are just plain stressed but don’t want it to show. Ok. We understand. That is why we do not open up on who we are visiting with. You deserve a place to go and talk to someone privately about things that are troubling you.

It is a time of the year for celebration. Maybe part of that celebration could be lightening up your spiritual pain. We are here and would like you to enjoy the holidays with an uplift to your soul. If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt. Wishing you the warmest of holidays from Kim Bolinger, Wendy Watt, Jim Hetzler, April Honan, and Bob Spratt – your Bethany Stephen Ministers.

In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby)
written December 2015

Technology Team Digital Deacon

We've made a few changes to our Sunday Worship livestream. We are now streaming with a camera operator and a completely new position that we're calling "Digital Deacon." This person functions similarly to our actual liturgical deacons. They greet people when they arrive. They join in the passing of the peace. They assist people throughout the service. And they wish everyone a good week at the end of the service. The difference is that they are doing these things in chat sessions on YouTube and Facebook. The digital deacon can serve from the tech table in the choir loft, but we also offer a "work from home" option for anyone that worships with us via our weekly livestream. If you're interested representing Bethany by sharing fellowship and building community as a digital deacon or would like to learn more about the position, please contact the Technology Team at: bethanyliveworship@gmail.com

Because the need is so great this year at Cameron Community Ministries, the C&GMC has decided to participate in the "Adopt-A-Cam Kid" program for the holidays. This program helps families that need the extra support to provide gifts for their children at the holidays. We will be adopting seven families for a total of eight children. There will be Christmas ornaments on the tree in the narthex with a child's name and the gift they have asked for. All gifts must be brought to Bethany by Sunday, December 8th. The gifts can be wrapped or unwrapped (whichever is easier for you). Please attach the ornament with the child's name to your gift and put it under the tree.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring happiness to a child at the holidays.
Thank you for your support.
C&GMC

Bethany Men's Group

The Bethany Men's Group meets on the 1st Saturday of the month for breakfast and fellowship. In the Spring and Summer, we meet outdoors at Sawyer Park. We are moving indoors for the Fall and Winter months. If you would like to receive invitations to these breakfasts, as well notifications of opportunities and projects that could use our support (e.g. Adopt a Highway, Parking Lot Clean-up, Property Maintenance, etc.), please send your email address to Jim Hetzler at jhetzchetz@hotmail.com.

For a while now, Nominating Committee has been unable to find people to go on Congregational Life Committee. It was mentioned in Session that Spiritual Growth has grown in covering both their own and Congregational Life's goals over time. Session recently approved dissolving the Congregational Life Committee. Spiritual Growth is officially responsible for what used to be Congregational Life Goals. If you read through both below, you'll see how familiar they sounded. Your Spiritual Growth Committee, Heather Kruspe and Lisa Clement, Co-chairs.

Spiritual Growth Committee

The committee will:

1. Plan, develop, direct, and evaluate a wide variety of educational programs and events for growth, develop a better articulation of personal faith, broaden awareness of Christian responsibility in the world, and challenge the Bethany congregation to discipleship.
2. Provide leadership for, and management of, Spiritual Growth opportunities by enlisting staff, inviting guest speakers, and/or recruiting and equipping lay people as needed to teach and instruct adult Christian education classes.
3. Recruit and support the volunteer Church Librarian and review library policy in consultation with the Librarian.
4. Interact with other Bethany committees in coordinating and offering educational opportunities in such areas as worship and the sacraments, stewardship and mission interpretation, personal growth and support, and social concern.
5. Sponsor those Bethany members seeking to investigate and follow God's Call to further ministry and the work of the Church.
6. Interpret the position of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on social justice and theological issues through publicity and education opportunities.

Congregational Life Committee

The committee will promote events, activities, and groups that build community and are consistent with faithful membership, as described in The Book of Order (G-1.0304). It will suggest methods and technologies for effectively sharing information about what is happening at Bethany. This team will serve committees of Session, church fellowship and service groups, and those who participate in the worship, programs, and activities of the church. The goal will be to inform people about connecting within the life of Bethany Presbyterian Church.

The committee will:

1. Actively encourage, promote, and assist other committees and groups in developing programs that include community interest and participation.
2. Promote ongoing internal communication among Bethany committees, groups, congregation, and organizations via the Church Mouse.
3. Plan, develop, direct, and evaluate a wide variety of educational programs and events for adults that enlarge understanding of the Bible, stimulate interest in continuing spiritual growth, develop a better articulation of personal faith, broaden awareness of Christian responsibility in the world, and challenge the Bethany congregation to discipleship.
4. Provide leadership for, and management of, Spiritual Growth opportunities by enlisting staff, inviting guest speakers, and/or recruiting and equipping lay people as needed to teach and instruct adult Christian education classes.

Christmas Joy Offering - Follow Christ's Lead This Advent Season

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and our future leaders of the church. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

By supporting the Christmas Joy Offering, you share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families.

We will be collecting the Christmas Joy offering at the Christmas eve service.

Property Committee Activities through September 5, 2024

Done at church:

1. Replaced 2 toilets downstairs
2. Repaired plumbing in basement between bathrooms
3. Replaced electric panel in kitchen
4. Repaired leak in kitchen ceiling.
5. Covered two holes in kitchen ceiling.
6. Installed new water heater.
7. Repaired concrete floor after plumbing repairs
8. Installed emergency lighting in sanctuary
9. Painted two bathrooms
10. Repaired two major leaks in roof and steeple
11. Repaired wall in Sanctuary
12. Removed conduit from sanctuary floor
13. Repaired bell rope in steeple
14. Got rid of old pews
15. Installed two laminate floors downstairs near Clark Park Entrance
16. Had whole church parking lot sealed, got quotes, etc.
17. Replaced 36 old bulbs with LED bulbs
18. Replaced 2 light fixtures in Clark Park Entrance
19. Repaired large hole in Tom Olney's office ceiling
20. Repaired and replaced safety railings missing from 3 window wells
21. Trimmed trees leaning on front of church and trimmed deadwood out of a tree in front of church
22. Took out old lilac tree behind church at request of Bugs.
23. Took out 2 trees at end of parking lot near Clark Park
24. Repaired broken mailbox at Office (North) entry
25. Painted windows and under radiator in Small Hall
26. Put new light in Bethany Presbyterian church sign in front of church
27. Repaired exit door from Large Hall to Parking Lot
28. Installed a new outdoor security light outside exit door from Large Hall
29. Now installing a push bar for front Dewey Ave. doors.
30. Fixed door to ramp by realigning inner door to ramp
31. Painted entire handicapped railing to Sanctuary
32. Light put in Clark Park entrance

33. Upgraded lighting in 2nd floor stairwell to Choir Room
34. Helped Jennifer clean church gutters.
35. Killed grass in parking lot prior to sealing (twice)
36. Sealed up leak in Clark Entrance gutter
37. Tightened down two loose pews
38. Repaired exhaust fan upstairs men's room
39. Opened up slow kitchen floor drain
40. Met with 3 engineers from Otis, Kone, and Schindler to get quotes for jack cylinder replacement on elevator

At 83 Clark Park:

41. volunteers, painted every room in 83 Clark Park
42. Cleaned out basement, old water heater
43. Trimmed bushes and trees at Clark Park, picked up leaves, with some volunteers

At 2984 Dewey:

44. Painted porches and every room in 2984
45. Painted rear wall of garage.
46. Sealed driveway at 2984
47. Took two dumpsters full of trash out of 2984
48. Repaired porch
49. Repaired bathroom
50. Repaired 7 light fixtures
51. Replaced 18 sets of blinds
52. Put in new laminate floor in mudroom
53. Repaired electrical security lighting on back of house and in basement

SHIPMATES PRESENT "STRAIGHT TALK"



Todd Baxter, Monroe County Sheriff

Saturday—January 11, 2025
11:00 AM—Bethany Large Hall
\$7.00 p/person

Lunch includes: Subs, chips and dessert with “home-brewed” ginger ale (other beverages will also be available.)

You'll not want to miss this dynamic Law Enforcement Officer. Main topic of today is “Emergency Preparedness Tips”, (in case of blackout or 911 down); and then notable things happening in our area; and how the public is getting along with the police force these days.

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15—Adult Bible Study	2	3 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	4 6:30-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	5 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	6	7 9-Men's breakfast 12-Bethany Women's Christmas luncheon
8 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11:-Project Regeneration, sanctuary	9 7-Life Group	10 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	11 6-Christian Ed 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	12 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	13	14 11-Shipmates Christmas luncheon
15 Music Sunday 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15—Adult Bible Study	16 7-Stephen Ministers	17 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Committee 11:30-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	18 6-Community Supper 7:30-Celebration Ringers	19 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	20 11-Budget & Finance	21 10-Jennifer's Closet
22 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 11-Advent Program, Large Hall	23 7-Life Group	24 Christmas Eve 9PM—Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25 Christmas Day 	26 Church building closed	27 Church building closed	28 Church building closed
29 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare	30 Church building closed	31 Church building closed				

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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Rochester, NY 14616

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www.bethanyrochester.org

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Mailed December 3, 2024

**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

Custodian

Jim Cruppe
Jennifer Smith

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

