



Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

**July/August
2024**

Volume 27,
Issue 7-8

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SHIPMATES 2024-2025 PROGRAM

Saturday SEPTEMBER 14 Sam Patch. River Cruise		Saturday FEBRUARY 08 Movie Matinee at Bethany	
Saturday OCTOBER 12 at the Planetarium		Saturday MARCH 12 Guest Speaker at Bethany	WHAM radio talk-show host BOB WONSBERRY
Saturday NOVEMBER 09 at Bethany	The Great Barrier Reef Sue Kretovic 	Saturday APRIL 12 School Play. TBD	GREETA ATHENA HIGH SCHOOL
Saturday DECEMBER 14 at BelaPasta Restaurant	 Merry Christmas	Saturday MAY 10 Guest Speaker at Bethany	ALL ABOUT IT! MEN'S MINISTRY
Saturday JANUARY 11 at Bethany	Todd Baxter MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF	Saturday JUNE 14 Greece Canal Park	 FELLOWSHIP PICNIC

**ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS
JOIN THE SHIPMATE EXPERIENCE**

Special points of
interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Worship in the Park
- Vacation Bible School
- Church Calendars
- Per Capita
- The Present Word

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

Deadline for the
September
Newsletter is on
August 14, 2024

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

The summer is a time when many people work on home improvement projects. If you open up your toolbox, odds are you'll find all kinds of tools and gadgets inside, some old, some new. You may have one of the most time honored tools inside, one that the Egyptians used to build the pyramids. It's a simple device, a length of string, with a lead weight tied to one end. The tool is called a "plumb line" which is from the Latin word plumbum, which means "lead."

Masons hang a plumb line next to a wall they're building and the tug of gravity pulls the weight and the string straight down. By sighting along the string, workers know whether the wall is straight, whether it's perpendicular to the ground or whether it's leaning over. A wall out of plumb cannot be repaired; it can only be torn down and rebuilt.

When construction workers unroll a plumb line, they generally don't touch the line. They let it hang right next to the wall under construction. A simple look reveals the truth. In the same way, the will of God is something that hangs beside this human life of ours, but which seldom directly touches it. Relying on our own judgement, we cannot always be sure that any given action confirms to the will of God. Yet if we took a look at the plumb line, the laws of God in scripture and the example of Jesus' life, we realize that in the grand scheme of things our lives and the Lord's will for us do run parallel.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Nancy Noxon and family, at the passing of Orlo Noxon.

Diane Wangman McIntosh, died on June 18, 2024 in London, Ontario Canada. She was the daughter of Rev. Alfred B. Wangman who was senior minister of this church for 31 years. Among her family she leaves her sister, Susan Wangman Jadwin, who is a member of this church



OPEN
Tuesday's - 1:00PM—3:00PM
Thursday's - 9:30AM—Noon

Fiscal Focus

2024	May	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$27,289.17	\$161,914.83	32.80%
Expense	\$56,042.48	\$211,370.50	42.82%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$28,753.31	-\$49,455.67	



Mark your calendars for Worship in the Park on September 8, 2024! Once again, we'll kick off the school year with our Sunday worship service and a pot luck lunch at Greece Canal Park's Millennium Lodge on 241 Elmgrove Road. Because of the lodge hours, we'll be having the service at 11:00 (not 10:00). The Spiritual Growth committee will be providing the hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, drinks, and paper products; sign-up sheets for sides and desserts will be in the Narthex in August. More info to follow. We'll see you at the park!

August Birthday

August 15,
 Charlotte Shaw
 165 Silver Lane Apt. 208
 St. Augustine, FL 32084



AFGHAN/YARN UPDATE

Thank you to those who so kindly donated yarn (including Skip Sywulski). It has all been distributed to the Bethany Women in the Congregation who continue to crochet/ knit squares. They then become afghans which are donated to charity. Distributor, Beth Thomsen

THE PRESENT WORD

The Present Word is an adult Bible study curriculum that studies the Bible over a six-year period. Each quarter works its way through different books of the Bible and focuses on a different theme. Participants study a passage of scripture, discuss its deeper meaning, and reflect on how the passage is relevant in our world today. The Present Word meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in Bethany's Small Hall from September through May. A new session will be starting September 15, 2024 and all are welcome. Please join us!



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Minister Articles from the Archives

The summer season is here and after our winter, we are welcoming it with open arms! Bethany is also going through some changes and updating so I guess this would be the time of year to get things started. Some of the committees have taken a break for the summer months, but it is just to regroup with energy for the fall. Bethany in general is looking forward to the future with new ideas and asking the congregation to participate.

Change can be good when it is planned for. Unexpected change is not always welcomed and can be difficult to handle. Especially by oneself. Why do we do that? Well, maybe it is because you want to shelter your pain so no one feels sorry for you. Maybe it is because you feel you can deal with whatever you have hurting you all by yourself. No need to burden others. Maybe it is a privacy issue.

All of these are understandable. Probably more than you realize. There are times that we all have been there, but then we find that there are people who just plain care about you and want to help in any way possible. It's a sort of relief just to open up.

Bethany has a group of Stephen Ministers who just plain care about you. It's that simple and in a time of many things hitting you at once, just plain simple sounds like something you could use. Someone to talk to, pray with and listen to all of the thoughts you would like to share with someone. We listen because we just plain care about you.

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

Have a safe and calm summer. See you in September.....

Peace from the Stephen Ministers,
Cindi Sywulski
In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby) written July and August 2015

Aggressive Deadly Behavior (ADB—formerly known as Active Shooter) Planning Team



In May, Officer Jonathan Payne came to Bethany and discussed tips for what to do in an incident of aggressive deadly behavior—run, hide, fight. Officer Payne offered to return to Bethany to form a more building specific plan and suggestions. If you're interested in being part of this team, please contact Carrie Buri (716)390-8941 or Kim Bolinger (585)227-2540.

2024 Per Capita

Have you paid your per capita apportionment for 2024? A reminder comes each year with the offering envelopes. You may have missed it if you contribute electronically and don't use envelopes. The per capita amount this year is \$36.85 per congregation member.

What is per capita? Per capita is an annual per member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly (national level), the synod (regional level), and the presbytery (local level) to enable Presbyterians mutually and equitably to share the ecclesiastical and administrative costs of sustaining our witness to Christ through the Presbyterian Church (USA). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well. Some examples of ministries funded at the national level are the General Assembly meeting held every two years, publishing and interpreting the Book of Order, training church leaders, supporting those called into ministry through the ordination process, engaging in issues of justice, and building relationships with ecumenical and interreligious partners to strengthen God's work in the world at large. Examples of services the Presbytery provides are mission collaboration opportunities, leader training, call support to find replacement clergy, and trustee support for legal and property issues. Some members of our congregation volunteer with the Presbytery.

How to pay: If you haven't yet paid the per capita, you can do so through the offering collection. Be sure to designate the money as the per capita contribution. Thank you for supporting the church.

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

3000 Dewey Ave
Rochester, NY



Camp Firelight

A SUMMER CAMP

Psalm 56:3

ADVENTURE WITH GOD

VBS for
Ages 5 to 10

Music & Dance | Storytelling | Arts &
Crafts | Interactives Games | & More |

August 5-9, 2024

9:00 - 11:30 AM

For more information:

585.663.3000

<https://bethanyrochester.org/>



July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> Church office closed	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> Fourth of July Church building closed	<i>5</i> Church office closed	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 10-Worship, with communion, Childcare	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 11-Staff Meeting	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 9-Men's breakfast (Sawyer Park)
<i>14</i> 10-Worship, Childcare	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 11-Staff Meeting	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 10-Worship, Childcare	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 11-Staff Meeting	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10-Worship, Childcare	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 11-Staff Meeting 6:30-Worship & Music			

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9-Men's breakfast
4 10-Worship, with communion Childcare	5 9-11:30 VBS	6 9-11:30 VBS	7 9-11:30 VBS 11-Staff Meeting	8 9-11:30 VBS	9 9-11:30 VBS	10
11 10-Worship, Childcare	12	13	14 11-Staff Picnic 6:30-Spiritual Growth	15	16	17
18 10-Worship, Childcare	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10-Worship, Childcare	26	27	28	29	30	31

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 June 28, 2024

**We're on the
Web!**

Ministries Team

Head of Staff / Sr. Pastor

Dr. Bob Spratt

Music Ministry

Jacob Montgomery - 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
Linda Lamb, Clerk of Session

