

Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



**Bethany Presbyterian Church**

## COMMITMENT SUNDAY

**October 17, 2021 ~ 10:00 AM**

(also live stream on Facebook, Zoom or Boxcast)

Rev, Lisa Lancaster, guest preacher

### Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship Matthew 25:14-30

#### I. The Principle of Ownership (vss. 14-15)

- It is clear that man was created to work and that work is the stewardship of all of the creation that God has given him (Gen 2:15, Gal. 6: 4-5)
- This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship. God owns every thing, and we are simply managers or administrator acting on his behalf (Duet. 10:14, Jn. 3:27)
- Therefore, stewardship expresses our obedience regarding the administration of everything God has placed under our control.
- Stewardship is the commitment of one's self and possessions to God's service. (Duet. 8:17-18)

#### II. The Principle of Responsibility (vss. 16-18)

- Although God gives us "all things richly to enjoy", nothing is ours. Nothing really belongs to us. God owns everything: we're responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it (1 Cor. 4:2)
- While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns as his stewards, we are responsible to manage his holdings well and according to his desire and purposes.

#### III. The Principle of Accountability (vss. 19-27)

- We are all stewards of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what he Master has given us.
- God has entrusted authority over the creation to us and we are not allowed to rule over it as we see fit.
- We are called to exercise our dominion in managing his creation in accord with the principles he has established.

#### IV. The Principle of Reward (vss. 28-30)

- Stewards who do the master's will with the master's resources can expect to be rewarded incompletely in this life (Col. 3:23-24)
- Biblical stewardship deals with more than finances but encompasses all that God has given us to advance His kingdom on the earth.

### **Bethany Mission Statement**

*We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.*

**October  
2021**

Volume 24,  
Issue 10

### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page

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### Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Shipmates
- Life Groups
- Presbyterian Women
- Contemporary Worship

**Deadline for the  
Newsletter is on  
October 7, 2021**

## Pastor's Page:

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Dear Friends,

There's a bumper sticker that reads "You are a child of God. Please phone home." How many children of God do we know who have wandered away from their church home? Sociologists tell us our country is full of them, and their numbers are growing all the time.

If it's any comfort, this matter of wandering away from the Christian community is nothing new. It's as old as the Bible, as old as the Letter of James. "My brother and sisters," James writes, "if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a person from wandering will save their soul."

Perhaps the most important thing Christians need to do – in order to be truly hospitable to those who may be ready to come back to church – is to listen. Listening, as Henri Nouwen says, is at the heart of hospitality.

Nouwen writes "Listening is much more than allowing another to talk while waiting for a change to respond. Listening is paying full attention to others and welcoming them into our very beings. The beauty of listening is that those who are listened to start feeling accepted, start taking their own words more seriously and discovering their own true selves. Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends, to get to know their inner selves more fully, and even to dare to be silent with you."

So much of what churches do in the name of evangelism is centered around talking. Certain types of evangelism center around a kind of "witnessing" that has a lot of similarities to a sales pitch. A far more potent form of witness is to spend time listening rather than speaking. Only after we've truly listened have we earned the right to reply.

We all crave someone to truly listen to us; to find such a person is a great gift. The "spiritual hospitality" – to use Nouwen's term – is far more likely than speaking to make an impact on another person. It's one of the best ways to bring the wanderer home.

See you in church,

Dr. Bob Spratt

## With Our People

### With sympathy

**Christian love and sympathy** is extended to the Seidel family at the passing of Margaret Seidel.

### COLLEGE CARE CARD



Congregational Life is in the process of organizing the College Care Card event once again. Please let me know, if you haven't already, whether you'd like your student to receive a care card. Also, anyone wanting to make a donation to this event can also contact me.

Thank you, Jennifer McGarrity,  
CLC Elder/Chair  
[mcvamp22@gmail.com](mailto:mcvamp22@gmail.com)

## Fiscal Focus

2021	August	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$36,198.05	\$240,126.45	59.98%
Expense	\$26,661.59	\$232,691.49	58.13%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$9536.46	\$7434.96	



Thanks from **Maria Wehrle**  
Mothers in Need of Others

Thank you so much for all of the personal hygiene products you and your church contributed to our ministry! I will be sending a more formal looking thank you this coming week. But I wanted you to know that we already started distributing them to the agencies we work with! They were extremely grateful to receive them for the families they care for! It was such a pleasure meeting the members of your congregation! They are a very special and generous group of people!

## Contemporary Worship



Please join us on October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 28<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 for our contemporary worship services. The style of these services is more informal than our traditional services, but just as meaningful. The sermons are delivered in a more relaxed, conversational style. Jacob has worked hard to choose music that is upbeat and relevant. We hope to see you there!



## Stephen Ministry

October is my favorite month. Not real cold yet, still some warm days, and oh my, the colors! Things are changing and preparing us for the upcoming seasons.

Again this year, there may be some differences to what we are going to be able to experience, but we have gotten very good at balancing our lives and being flexible to what we have to do for our friends and family. Will it be like last year or will we have more access to travel plans for all?

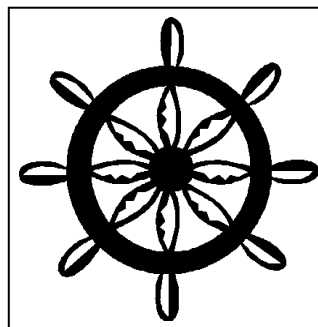
Bethany's fall schedule has begun with classes, meetings, interesting trips, bell practice, and hopefully the choir returning soon. I must say, though, that the music we have been blessed with throughout this entire adjustment period has been outstanding. And I personally look at the Worship in the Park as the beginning of our fall season.

No matter how much planning we want to do for the days ahead, sometimes there is an unexpected event that will occur and we are not ready for it. A loss, an illness, sadness in our community, our country and the world can dent our optimistic plans for the coming months. What can we do to help? How do we explain things to our friends and families? We pray. That is always our "go to" option, but how and where do we get started?

People want to be heard, seen, felt and understood. This is an area that the Stephen Ministers can help you with. Making the move to speak with someone may need that little nudge, but we are here to make that a smooth and easy move for you. Not all storms come to disrupt your life. Some come to clear the path. We are still "on the job" and hoping to hear from you.

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

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,  
Cindi Sywulski



### OCTOBER SHIPMATES

Shipmates will attend the New York Museum of Transportation and take the museum's Fall Foliage Trolley Ride on October 10th. Note that this is a **Sunday** -- the museum and Trolley Rides are open only on Sundays. Guests are welcome. Reservations required.

### SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER SHIPMATES EVENT

- Have you ever wondered how Jean Coniber manages to play all those bells when she performs a bell solo in church?
- Have you ever wondered how the musical art form of bell ringing came to be?
- Have you ever wondered how the Bethany bell choir members manage to keep everything straight when playing?

Please join Shipmates on Saturday, November 13 at 11:00 am at Bethany's large hall for a talk/performance by Bethany's own Jean Coniber. All are welcome. Look for possible lunch details (Covid dependent) in the next Mouse.

**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, there are several members of the congregation that can be called on for support called Stephen Ministers. 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.

**PRESENT WORD:** The Present Word has resumed meeting in person every Sunday at 9:00 am. What is The Present Word? The Present Word Bible Study is based on a uniform Series, a plan for reading and studying the Bible. The objectives of the series are to help persons increasingly:

1. to know the content of the Bible,
2. to understand the message of the Bible in light of their experiences and relationships, and
3. To be aware of God's self-disclosure, especially God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ, that they may respond in faith and love to the end that they may know who they are and what human situation means, grow as the children of God rooted in the Christian community, live in the spirit of God in every relationship, fulfill their common discipleship in the world, and abide in the Christian hope.

All are invited to participate in The Present Word on Sundays at 9:00 am in the Small Hall.

#### **Peace and Global Mission Collection October 3, 2021**

On October 3, Bethany will be collecting the annual Peace and Global Mission offering. General Assembly will receive 50% of the donation, Genesee Valley Presbytery will receive 25%, and the Bethany Community and Global Mission Committee has designated the final 25% to be donated to Willow Domestic Violence Center.

We will welcome someone from the Center to speak to us about the programs Willow provides to those in need within our community. Willow Domestic Violence Center was formally known as Alternatives for Battered Women.

Its mission is "to prevent domestic violence and ensure every survivor has access to the services and supports needed along the journey to a safe and empowered life."

Its vision is "a community free from domestic violence, where healthy relationships thrive."  
The Bethany CGM believes this is an organization worthy of our support.

#### **BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 ~ NRSV

"Life Group 4 Bible Study" has grown with many blessings since beginning last September. We have decided on a new name for our group: "BIBLE FELLOWSHIP".

We want all to feel welcome to join us throughout this summer, and we hope to continue through 2021 strengthening our foundation, fulfillment, forgiveness, and freedom through Jesus Christ sharing God's word. Our own various versions of the Bible miraculously come together like a melodious rainbow from God.

We also wholeheartedly volunteer our life experiences encouraging and learning from one another. Sharing these things is a gift, and we invite you all to join in this harmony.

Friday, October 22 @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall  
All welcome!

Please phone Bev Bennett 585-225-0206

A peace that preeminents all understanding by Jesus way.

-Philippines 4:7 ~ Our Bible

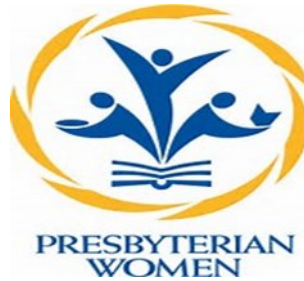
#### **October Birthday**

10/6  
Annette (Peach) Werner  
The Highlands Living Ctr  
500 Hahnermann Trl  
Pittford, NY 14534





## **BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the CONGREGATION**



### **BPWC Budget Update:**

As reported previously, all our mission donation checks were mailed in July. During the month of August, we have received thank you notes from nearly all the recipients. All responded with deep gratitude for our generosity. Your pledge dollars given are now helping to do God's work.

There were no expenditures during the month of August. In September we gave an honorarium to our speaker, Dr. Rebecca Letterman and we will be reimbursing money spent for cards and stamps used in our card ministry. These items will appear in the Bethany Presbyterian Women's Income and Expenditures Statement for the month ending September.

### **Correspondence:**

*Thank you's* were received from Church Women United for Least Coin Offering, Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf, Open Door Mission and Open Door Mission Coldwater, Jennifer House Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach Mission, Journey Home, Presbyterian Church USA.

### **BPWC September Meeting:**

On Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 24 women gathered for fellowship in the Large Hall. Dr. Rebecca Letterman talked about diversity and how *sometimes "diversity" feels "threatening" or uncomfortable. This study explored ways in which women "from the margins" offered God's salvation to God's people, who in turn offered God's salvation to them. She shared that diversity actually enriches a faith community.* We are so grateful for Dr. Letterman's willingness to share her spiritual perspective of scripture with us.



**BPWC October Meeting:**

Reverend Dr. Bob Spratt will be our featured speaker on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. He will be presenting on the following: *Jesus' Great Grandmothers: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*

Have you ever wondered about the women listed in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus? They are named for a reason, and you will have an opportunity to explore and reflect on what these "great grandmothers of the faith" can teach us today. This seminar is based on a book by Merryl Blair.

**Program Schedule for 2021-2022 BPWC Meetings:**

The Bethany Women's Program Schedule is posted in the Parlor display case for everyone's perusal.

**Afghans:**

Sharon Nichols and Joyce Adaskin have completed squares. Beth Thomsen delivered eight completed afghans to Open Door Mission. They were thrilled to get them.

**Christmas Luncheon: SAVE THE DATE!**

It was decided that we will have our Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Bella Pasta. All women are invited to join in this festive occasion.

**Building Caring Relationships:**

Our faithful "Callers"- Heather Kruspe, Karen McIver, Linda Lamb, Beth Thomsen, Cindy Hetzler, Cheryl Fisher and Karen Bolinger continue making phone calls every month to check in with women who have asked to have a phone call. Any woman currently inactive with BPWC and would like to have a friendly call or be added to the Communication Distribution List please contact Karen Bolinger- 585-227-2540 or [kbolinger@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kbolinger@rochester.rr.com).

**Using Bethany's Large Hall and Kitchen**

Now that we are back fully functioning again, a reminder about using the Large Hall and kitchen...

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS THAT ARE IN THE A FRAME BOX IN THE KITCHEN!

Do not adjust any controls. If there are concerns/problems please contact the office, Jim, the Sexton, or Pat Hemmenway, 225-1652.

Do not leave any unmarked foods in the refrigerator or freezer.

Please check each time about trash can maintenance, which may be different on different days.

When finished, please fill out the form to let us know how things went or if there were any problems.

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## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church

3000 Dewey Avenue

Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000

[www.bethanyrochester.org](http://www.bethanyrochester.org)

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**Mailed September 30, 2021**

**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

Jeff Tabor - Staff Singer

### Bookkeeper

Tom Olney

### Administrative Assistant & Mouse Editor

Eileen Sengillo

### Custodian

Jim Cruppe

### Nursery Child Care Worker

Jennifer Watt

### The Session

Craig Johnson, Budget & Finance

Wendy Watt, Christian Education

Judy Price, Community & Global Miss.

Jennifer McGarrity, Congregational Life

Bev Murray, Nominating

Jim Hetzler, Personnel

Carrie Buri, Spiritual Growth

Bev Bennett, Welcoming Committee

Connie Slapar, Worship & Music

Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator

### Treasurer

Carl DeGraff

