



# The Bethany Beacon

## Congregational meetings

- Dec. 8—election of Elders, Deacons & at-large members to 2020 Nominating Committee
- January 12—Annual Meeting of the Congregation

## Annual reports are due to Kathryn by Dec. 15

## December scripture

- Dec. 1—Isaiah 2:1-5; Matt. 24:36-44
- Dec. 8—Amos 5:16-24; Matt. 3:1-12
- Dec. 15—Isaiah 35:1-10; Matt. 11:2-11
- Dec. 22—Isaiah 7:10-16; Matt. 1:18-25
- Dec. 24—Isaiah 9:2-7; Matt. 1:18b-25; Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:15-20; Matt. 2:1-12; Luke 1:46-55; Titus 2:11-14
- Dec. 29—Matt. 2:1-15

## Pulpit Assistants

- Kathy Penne & Terry Warrington

## Fifth Sunday—December 29 (invitation from Linda)

On Sunday, December 29, we will have our last Fifth Sunday of the year. On this day we will have a modified worship where we will show the movie, “The Star”. The movie is over an hour long so we will have a very short liturgy, a few Carols, followed by the movie and then our potluck. We have invited St. Paul’s Lutheran Congregation and St. Matthews Episcopal to join us. At the time of writing I have not heard back from them, but I hope we have a few extra folks join us. “The Star” is a retelling of the Christmas story, and looks like a lot of fun. So I invite you to come in your comfy clothes with your favorite potluck dish (with a little extra to host guests) and let’s end this year in joy.

### Linda

#### Cast of Characters

**Bo**—small donkey with big dreams who believes he is destined for a bigger purpose...greatness awaits him outside the mill walls.

**Mary**, who embraces her destiny. Joseph, a first-time dad.

**Dave**—a dove with a big personality and Bo’s only friend.

**Ruth**—an adorably smart and helpful sheep who left her flock to follow the new star in the sky.

**Cyrus, Felix and Deborah**—the three not-so-wise camels.

**King Herod and the palace dogs...Thaddeus & Rufus.**

**Abby**—small mouse with a big mouth and a tale to tell.

**And many more**—Elizabeth, Zechariah, Old Donkey (worker at the mill); Edith, Zach, and Leah (stable animals).



## Stewardship update



Session and the Stewardship, Finance and Budget Committee wish to thank everyone for their generous 2020 pledges. If you have not turned in a pledge card yet, it is not

too late. The more the committee knows what to expect in terms of anticipated revenue, the easier it is for them to lay out an accurate 2020 budget and Bethany’s mission goals.

The *Beacon* Editor thanks Miriam Jones, Kay Hyatt, Lois Legg, Kathy Penne and John Armstrong for writing stories of their stewardship of service, which appeared in the *Beacon* during the stewardship drive.

## Why I love the Western Treasure Valley

*The following is from an interview of Chase by Griffin Hewitt of the Argus Observer*

The Western Treasure valley has many admirers, people who have grown up in the area and never left and those who may have gone away for a while, but just like a boomerang, returned to their roots. One such person is Treasure Valley Community College's Chase Van Weerdhuizen.

He explained how he did leave the area to attend art school after high school. While he was away, Van Weerdhuizen said he never thought "in a million years" he would be coming back to the area. Being away did make him realize he missed his family and the social connections he had built he explained.

"I do love the college," Van Weerdhuizen nodded, saying that he supports the idea that the school is sending out the message of "education for all." He also described how this community is fortunate enough to have annual events like the Obon festival, the various church bazaars and the Emerging Leaders Summit. The last is very special for Van Weerdhuizen as it is a project which he originally joined as a member of the planning



team and, this past year, became the program's director.

As someone who is well acquainted with Treasure Valley Community College, Van Weerdhuizen has nothing but the most glowing of reviews for the TVCC music department. He said how the college, and surrounding community, is lucky enough to have a symphony that is as dynamic as this one. One of the places which Van Weerdhuizen was particularly taken with was Vivaldi's Four Seasons. He was delighted to express how important the arts are and how the college provides access to musicians of a very high caliber.

As for the area itself, Van Weerdhuizen said that he saw "a transition across the board" in which the Greatest, the Baby Boomers [sic], left such an impression within the community.

He mentioned Bob Feasel who served as a mentor to him during his professional development and the impact it had on him.

Van Weerdhuizen said he is happy to see those who have retired remain an active part of the community, all the while younger people are stepping into leadership roles and continuing the good work their predecessors began before them.



Don't miss the Décor Committee Bake Sale December 15

### Bethany bulletin board

PW will meet at Joey's for Bible study (lesson 3) and lunch on December 7. (9:30 a.m.)

A note from Merlyn Ashby says, "I can still dream myself at church there. I do miss all of you. I am glad to see the schedule for Saturday [PW] meetings. Glad those are going well."

Remember all those in need of prayer., particularly for Meloni Armstrong (John and Alice), cancer treat-

ment; Roy, Linda and David Peterson; Barbara Henderson's mother and sister; Terry Warrington's and Jean Church's brothers who are both undergoing cancer treatment; and Kathryn Baker's family upon loss of her niece, Cheri to ALS. And continue to pray for Linda Toth.

The Deacons have provided hand sanitizers in the pews. Please use them to keep us all healthy, especially throughout the flu season.

## Presbytery meets at First Pres.—Boise on November 2

Rev. Andrew Kukla and others from First Pres. Boise led worship. It was inspiring to see the remodeled sanctuary, lobby and chapel at FPC.

Nancy Martin Vincent, Synod of the Pacific Executive, attended the meeting, bringing greetings from the Synod staff and explaining grants available through the Synod. René Meyers, Mission Engagement Advisor for the region was also in attendance. René worked with Bethany to help identify Chenoa Stock as our mission partner.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate for Presbytery committee membership as well as representatives to the 2020 General Assembly. This was Kathryn's last meeting as a member and chair

of the Nominating Committee. What you hear now is a sigh of relief.

Seven 2020 mission projects were approved for a total of \$53,000; First Chapter Food Pantry among them (\$3,000). The Presbytery also partnered with Southminster by giving all \$5,500 of 2019 Emerging Needs funds to RIP Medical Debt to help erase medical debt in the State of Idaho.

Linda Toth's 2020 contract as Temporary Pastor was approved.

Pray for First Pres., Emmett while they consider their future and seek God's direction as they work through various options.

## Grant for motorized wheelchair transforms pastor's ministry and life

The Rev. Dr. Steward M. Pattison, pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church in Lombard, IL has been living—and serving—with multiple sclerosis for more than 20 years.

Although in remission for the past decade, the disease damaged the nerves on the right side of his body. As a result, Pattison has little to no movement in his right arm. Although he can stand and preach, he cannot lift his right knee. He can walk only short distances and only with a cane, because, without a functioning knee, his leg drags.

Up until three years ago, Pattison felt hemmed in by his restrictions: On Sundays he would preach, then need to go sit in his office. If parishioners wanted to comment on his sermon or simply shake his hand after worship, they had to go to him. He could not drop by fellowship hall or stand at the church entrance to chat with them about their week.

Outdoor activities were an even steeper challenge. To get across the grass for a church picnic or down a dirt road for a spiritual retreat, he had to depend on others for help — usually his wife, Bonnie. He couldn't simply hop in the car to visit a parishioner in the hospital or a nursing home.

"Needing to be pushed in a wheelchair because I have only one good arm was affecting my ability to provide pastoral care," he said.

Then, in 2016, Pattison had a providential encounter: He ran into a woman at the airport on a three-wheeled scooter unlike anything he'd ever seen. She worked for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and gladly demonstrated what she



liked best about her "very cool" ride. The scooter is a lightweight, electric wheelchair with large pneumatic wheels that can handle rough terrain. It's also mobile, folding to about the size of a carry-on suitcase.

"The genius of this chair is, it folds up at the push of a button — an important feature if you have the use of only one hand," Pattison said. He immediately realized how freeing it would be to have a scooter of his own.

He applied for, and received, a Shared Grant from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Presbytery of Chicago for the purchase of the scooter.

"The scooter has really revolutionized my ministry and life," Pattison said. "It allows me to be me again! Now I don't ever go to my office on Sundays — I can quickly get to the back of the church and greet my congregation as they exit." It also enables him to independently visit members of his congregation in hospitals, nursing homes and funeral homes.

In addition to the access to people it gives him, Pattison said he appreciates that, compared with a regular wheelchair, the seat in the scooter is higher, putting him almost "eye to eye" with congregants.

"The Board of Pensions and the Presbytery of Chicago got behind me 100 percent. Their generosity has enabled me to continue in full-time ministry," Pattison said. "I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the scooter. It's like getting new legs!"



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 40 years.

## Bethany will receive the Christmas Joy Offering on December 24

### Session notes

- All equipment belonging to the Boy Scouts has now been removed from church property.
- The Financial Review Committee, the Budget Committee and the Nominating have all met in November.
- There are several building repairs being addressed at the current time.
- The 2019 Active Membership rolls were reviewed as required by the Book of Order. The rolls were found to be accurate.
- John Armstrong reported on the November meeting of the Presbytery on November 2. John, Kathryn Baker, Joey Mills, Marilyn Blair-Clausen and Linda Toth attended.
- The Deacons did not meet in November. They will meet again on December 3.

## Beyond words



School for the Deaf in Nueva Cajamarca, San Martín, Peru



Cleaning up the school grounds

Hi Kathryn!

I hope this finds you well. I just wanted to thank Kathy Penne for her 'shout-out' in the *Beacon* this past newsletter. I am honored to represent her and all of Bethany Presbyterian in our work together for a better world. Our partnership is what allows me to continue to serve alongside our Peruvian partners, and your thoughts and prayers and words of encouragement are what keep me going on that mission. May we continue to grow in this beautiful, mutual partnership.

Peace & blessings,  
Chenoa

*From Chenoa Stock's newsletter*

Well, we can officially say that we survived our first 'season' of accompanying U.S. church teams in *their* accompaniment of our Peruvian partners. Our final team from First Presbyterian Church Burlington, NC arrived in early August. They have had a long-term partnership with institutions in Moyobamba, a city in the jungle area of northern Peru in the Department of San Martín. For this year's mission experience, the nine-member FPC Burlington team literally learned that words are not needed to communicate. We spent our days with children of the School for the Deaf in Nueva Cajamarca, a district just outside of Moyobamba city.

Our van drove up to the two-classroom school, in the outskirts of the town, and we were overwhelmingly greeted by all of the children, anxious to get to know us, spend time with us, and sign to us, even when we did not know a single bit of sign language to sign back. We began our time in one of the two classrooms, where all of the children introduced themselves, while one of their teachers translated their signs for us. Each student had a simple sign for his/her name – perhaps equivalent to a nickname. Each group member then introduced themselves, and the students, after much debate at times, gave each member a simple sign/nickname for their name. And just like that, we all knew at least one word of sign language

The focus of this mission experience was not to construct something. There was no final objective or goal to be achieved. The purpose was simply "to be" with these children by sharing our love, time and attention with them. And we did just that. We played various, silly get-to-know-you games outside of the school. My hero that day was Rodrigo (name changed for privacy), a

boy probably about 10 years old, somehow getting around with a walker on the rocky, dirt school grounds. Rodrigo walked right into the middle of the circle, an excited grin on his face, ready to play with no doubts or fears. If only we all had courage like him.

We met the three teachers of the school. Diego is a mild-tempered young man, with great rapport with the students, and is paid by the municipality. Yannet is a volunteer, but provides her energy and support unconditionally. They are both deaf. Jessie is a young woman whose life was changed after taking a sign language course in Colombia years ago. She had to leave the school for a time due to lack of funds to pay her, but after a few months in her government job, she bravely decided she needed to be with these students, so she has returned despite the fact that she does not receive a steady salary.

These three teachers support the school's parents' association that is advocating for the approval of an education code by the Ministry of Education to become a fully-funded government school. This has been an ongoing, bureaucratic battle, as they submitted their documents months ago, which were archived without notice. Despite setbacks the teachers and parents work tirelessly to make sure their children's case is not forgotten.

We closed our time by sharing our experiences, feelings and hopes for the future. They gifted each of us a personalized, decorated banner with our names and a laminated paper with the sign language for our name attached to a pipe cleaner butterfly. Perhaps the world was not changed during this week or a project was not completed; but new life, as symbolized by that butterfly, was definitely felt and experienced.



Jessie, a teacher explaining the cat and mouse game. Rodrigo getting ready in the background.

We are so very deeply saddened by what is happening in Bolivia. While I am not entirely surprised, I was not expecting the chaos and destruction that is happening now. I know the PC(USA) is following the situation closely now, but I don't think they anticipated any of this either, as far as I know. We are so very grateful to be safe, but also concerned and scared for our family, friends and colleagues who are living this terrible situation. We are praying that reconciliation is reached sooner than later. There are so many deep wounds in Bolivia that are manifested in these uprisings on both sides. It will be a long road, and I hope everyone can put away their hate and talk it out together. That's our prayer.

Peace, Chenoa



## Just a few words...

Dear Hearts:

A few early mornings ago I awoke to a new thought. That happens now and then, and I thought I would try to share this one with you.

We hear the phrase, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,” shouted out as Jesus enters Jerusalem. On this morning the phrase meant something to me that I hadn’t really thought about before. Perhaps to some what I am about to propose is implicit in the phrase itself, but in the wee hours of the morning I’m sharing with you, I wondered, “Does it then follow that when we are asked about our faith systems and personal beliefs and we answer as Christians that the onus then falls on us as the ones who come ‘in the name of the Lord?’” We call ourselves Christians...we are followers of Christ...so does it follow that when we share the Good News, we do it in the name of the Lord? Do we feel, act, think that we are the “blessed” the phrase talks about?

“Blessed  
is the  
one  
who comes  
in the  
name  
of the  
Lord!”  
*Mark 11:9, NRSV*

Being blessed in that way comes with huge responsibilities, and quite often we don’t want to accept that. We equivocate and say we can’t; we aren’t good enough; we aren’t perfect enough. But here’s the real deal...we are all gifted by God, not all the same gift, but a gift just the same. We can’t waste our time wishing we had someone else’s gift or that we could do their job better than they are doing it...that’s way too much drama for me.

Know this, bloom where you are planted, serve God whenever and wherever you may be, for you are loved by God and are well and truly blessed in God’s eyes. Come Christians, join to sing....

In Christ,

*Joey*

# December 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Rehearsal & Worship	2	3 7 p.m. Deacons 4 Kellen Skelly (b)		5	6	7 9:30 PW @ Joey's house Lesson 3
<b>Linda out of the office (after worship)</b>						
8 Rehearsal & Worship Congregational Meeting	9	10	11 7 p.m. Session	12	13	14
15 Rehearsal & Worship Décor Bake Sale <u>Annual Reports</u> <u>due to Kathryn</u>	16	17	18 Noon—Mariners 3:00 Worship Committee	19	20	21
22 Rehearsal & Worship	23 Suzanne Bolyard (b)	24 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship	25 Lois Legg (b)	26 Nancy Anderson (b)	27	28
29 Rehearsal & Worship Fifth Sunday Movie & Potluck Shawn Peterson (b)	30	31			<b>January 4</b> 9: 30 PW Lesson 4	



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Love, forgive, grow.

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## Toth talk

**Prayer of the Month**  
**Chenoa Stock,**  
**mission co-worker,**  
**Peru; José and**  
**Leandro**



*Do not be afraid*, said Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:30). *Do not be afraid*, said the angel to Joseph (Matt. 1:20). *Do not be afraid*, said the angel to the shepherds in their fields watching their flocks by night (Luke 2:10). The story of our Lord begins with this refrain, *Do not be afraid*.

It is easy to be afraid and anxious. We worry that there will not be enough of almost everything. *Do not be afraid*. We worry about our health. *Do not be afraid*. We worry about our families. *Do not be afraid*. We worry about our country. *Do not be afraid*. We worry that God will not pay attention to us, that we are not worthy, we are not “good enough”. In the vast stretches of the universe why would God pay any attention to individual people? *Do not be afraid*.

**Emmanuel**, God with us, came that we might know love.

**Emmanuel**, God with us, came that we might live without fear.

**Emmanuel**, God with us, came that we might have hope in the midst of the various depths of darkness that surround our lives.

As we move through Advent anticipating the birth of our Lord, let each of us be a beacon of light, a word of hope, and a sign of love for our world through our savior, Jesus Christ. That is how we live out the refrain, “*Do not be afraid*.”

*Linda*

