



Bethany Briefs

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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An Epidemic of Loneliness

by Pastor Doug Kelly, Head of Staff

Let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near. – Hebrews 10:24-25

In his NY Times opinion essay on April 30th, the US Surgeon General, Vivek Murthy, declared that America is facing an epidemic of loneliness, with “one out of every two Americans experiencing measurable levels of loneliness.” Murthy comments that “its invisibility is part of what makes it so insidious. We need to acknowledge the loneliness and isolation.”

I was surprised by this declaration from our surgeon general. Yet, I wasn't surprised. I have been particularly concerned about men in our culture. A few years ago, I was having lunch with an acquaintance outside our church community where he was struggling with a lot regarding his work community. I asked, “Are you talking to people? Who are your friends?” He said “You.” It was only the second time we'd gotten together!!

Just recently a former neighbor of mine and I were sharing time on his patio. Since Jean and I moved ten blocks away four years ago, he and I have met, I think, six times. He is about to move out of state and said this last month, “Doug, I wouldn't have made it through the pandemic without you.” I had no idea the conversations meant so much to him - we were just chatting and connecting.

But maybe that's the key. Rainn Wilson, writer and actor best known in his role as Dwight Schrute in the “The Office,” has a new TV series, “The Geography of Bliss” where he travels the world to identify what makes humans happy. Recently on PBS Newshour, he confessed “*It's not any great mystery: finding bliss is all about connection.*”

“So, Pastor Doug, what has you so animated about this?” I'll tell you; I think this is a call to ministry for all of us. I hear God's voice in all of this. Here are some steps for each of us to take:

- First, if you are experiencing severe loneliness and need pastoral care, do not hesitate to reach out to me, pastor Danielle, or Marisa Gronholz. If you're facing a season of illness, have just given birth, or feeling overwhelmed with

a move to a new home or a house project you can't tackle alone, reach out to our Deacons where our meal maker ministry team and home project team can come alongside.

- Come to worship. The author of Hebrews named it: if we want to spark love and inspire each other to live the good life, we must “*not stop meeting together.*” To those in our online worship community (1/4 to 1/3 of our worshipers every Sunday) I say, “*Keep coming to worship online. But know there is more for you in person, and more for us who are already in the sanctuary.*” Nothing can replicate passing the peace of Christ with a neighbor or singing “Blessed Assurance” full throttle, as we did recently with Carlos Rangel driving it on the piano and Sylvia Oines opening all stops on the organ.

- Inform Small Groups Elder, Jennifer Steenstra, that you would like to join a small group, or better yet, let her know you'd like to start one. We know that new people to our church join new groups. And we have some new people at Bethany who are looking for connection.

- Men, mark your calendar for the Men's Retreat at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island, September 29 – October 1.

- Don't do any ministry alone. If Jesus chose to not do it alone, how can we? Let's do it together.

- Say “Hi” on the sidewalk, the bus, rail link, at your coffee place. Columnist David Brooks wrote an essay last year on the importance of the small social interactions that make a difference for our communal mental health.

- Finally, gather people together in your apartment building, your neighborhood. This is a gift many of us in churches can offer: the knowledge and skill in bringing people together. Our city needs us, needs God's people exhibiting the Kingdom of God. In fact, if you have a communal gathering practice in your neighborhood or workplace, email me about it. You have inspired me before with your stories. “*Don't stop meeting together with other believers.*” We Christians need it, and our non-believing friends need it too, even when they don't know it.

The Journey, Not the Destination

by Matt Miller, Associate Director of Young Adults

Bethany Presbyterian fosters a unique ministry—our Young Adults Ministry. From our research and connections with others, it is uncommon to find a robust, lively young adult presence in a mainline church in 2023. At a time when Millennials and Gen-Z are disappearing from church rolls, it's a significant *generational* ministry. And look: we *don't* know what this ministry will be in a decade. We *don't* know exactly how this ministry complements, extends, or stands in holy contrast to our status quo at Bethany. Beyond what the Spirit speaks week-to-week, we *don't* know all that much.

But we do know a few things. We know that over the lifespan of this 3.5-year-old ministry (we're just toddlers!), we've seen some things. We've seen 20-somethings forge lifelong Christian friendships amidst the cold, lonely, dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic. That same cohort goes on vacation together these days because their friendship is that strong.

Life birthed from the relational death knells of a pandemic.

We've witnessed fervor for the study of Scripture in a Bible study group perpetually asking, "how we can make more time for this?"

Faith birthed from death knells of a theologically deconstructive culture.

And perhaps most importantly, we continually witness key moments of church outsiders joining our community in a unique way—non-Christians, those attending other churches, and those wrestling with their faith identity.

Christ-centered belonging birthed from foreignness, outsiderhood, and an alien lifestyle.

In countless ways, our age of digital belonging mirrors that of Jesus' own Roman-occupied 1st-century Palestine in which citizenship was a primary but grossly inadequate marker of identity. Today, we are promised identity through a digital citizenship which the promisors know to be dissatisfying and, ultimately, toxic to our souls. Sure, we have 100's if not 1000's of digital "friends" ...but we have never been lonelier nor more disconnected. We engage the world on the world's terms and find ourselves belonging nowhere, floundering for meaning and purpose. In the face of this, Bethany experiments with, supports, and remains faithful to our Young Adult Ministry which seeks to embody Christ's presence as an answer.

As Bethany's Young Adult Ministry staff person, I confess that my work resembles exploration far more than contracting. We are not building a 3-story, 3-unit townhome complex with a clear blueprint and materials list. Rather, we are—with prayerful intention, some "wilderness" skills, and a Spirit-hearing openness and curiosity—walking down the barely visible trail the Holy Spirit pointed us down in the fall of 2019. While our ultimate destination is unclear, it remains ever clear we're walking towards the Kingdom. Bethany's Young Adult Ministry is one of *faithful journey*, and I hope you'll join with us along this path in myriad ways in the coming year.



Young Adults Backpacking Trip - August 18-20

Join us for the second annual Bethany Young Adults backpacking trip this summer! We'll begin hiking Friday morning at Sunrise on the Northeast side of Mount Rainier, and will hike to Granite Creek Camp. (Optional but recommended Thursday night "gear shakedown" & dinner in Enumclaw.) We'll settle into camp, then hike to the top of Skyscraper Mountain for dinner with a serious 360-degree view. On Saturday morning, we'll pack up & hike to Fire Creek Camp through Berkeley

Park & Grand Park for a lazy backcountry afternoon & evening. On Sunday, we pack up and hightail it back out to Sunrise. This trip will be lightly programmed with Scripture, discussion, and directed reflection. Contact Matt Miller for more info & to sign up: mattm@bethanypc.org.

Welcome New Staff to Bethany!



Carlos Rangel joined Bethany as Director of Worship on May 7th. Carlos has been a worship pastor at several Baptist churches and is an ordained Baptist minister. He began his ministry career with large congregations in Brazil. He came to the United States for school and has a master's degree in Divinity and Music from Baylor. While in the United States, he has worked in 4 different churches, most recently as a Worship Pastor at a 300 member church in Texas.

We asked Carlos to do a little Q&A with us - here are his answers:

How did you get involved in music ministry? *My father was a choir director, so that's how I initially got involved in church music, and then I felt a call as a youth to visit and minister to different churches.*

How do you pronounce your last name? *Phonetically, it's like "rhan-zhau," or some people just call me "Rango."*

What is your favorite travel spot? *I love my trips back to Brazil every other year to visit my family and friends there.*

What's your favorite meal? *Feijoada, a black bean and pork stew (also Brazil's national dish).*

What is your favorite scripture or quote? [Psalm 146](#)

What are you looking forward to most about being on staff? *That it will help me love Jesus more through our fellowship together and spending time with each other.*



Ken Jordan joined Bethany as Director of Wednesday Night Dinner on May 15th. Ken brings a wealth of experience serving people in and around Seattle including at Plymouth Housing. Please welcome Ken to Bethany when you see him, and be sure to thank Jacque Ives who graciously stepped up to lead on an interim basis after Hannah Kunde departed for Bellingham at the end of 2022.

We also asked Ken to do a little Q&A with us - here are his answers:

How would your friends describe you? *Friendly, approachable, and pleasant to be around. Always smiling.*

What do you like to do in your spare time? *Enjoying myself on a sunny day in my yard or on my food truck.*

What's your favorite scripture or quote? *"I appreciate you" is a statement I use all the time. Let's make it happen.*

What is your favorite travel spot? *I like to go to Texas to spend time with my grandchildren - I have eight of them.*

What are you looking forward to most about being on staff at Bethany? *Going from just being on staff to becoming a member and a part of the Bethany family.*

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Welcome New Members



Mary Barker

Mary recently finished school and moved to Seattle last year to work at Fred Hutch. When not doing math, she spends her time being a sister and aunt, taking long walks, and drinking tea. She loves to read, to make music, to knit, and helps out with high school youth group.



Bill Barnes

Bill grew up in Hollywood Presbyterian Church and worked in a residential home for boys for 13 years before becoming a pastor and serving Brentwood Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Newhall as an associate and senior pastor. He and his wife, Brenda, raised three foster sons from Bill's time at the residential home, and they have been blessed with wonderful grandchildren.

Brenda Barnes

Brenda has had a long career in public radio and currently serves as CEO of Classical KING (98.1 FM). Her husband, Bill, recently retired after a long career as a Presbyterian pastor, and he is a new member of Seattle Presbytery. Their adult children and grandchildren live in California, Arizona, and Colorado.



Alan Beasley

Alan's earliest memories are of being in Seattle. His family moved north to Mt. Vernon when he was eight, but he later returned to Seattle to attend UW. Alan and Lynn married in 1972 and moved to Berkeley where he studied theology at the GTU and was ordained in the PCUSA. They served churches in San Francisco and Eastern Washington, and then Alan did chaplaincy work with older people here in Seattle until retiring in 2013. He and Lynn feel that it is a real example of grace that they are able to be part of Bethany. Alan teaches the 4th and 5th grade boys' Sunday school class and helps with Wednesday Night Dinner by welcoming guests and talking to those who feel like talking with someone. He is also in the rotation of people who lead Children's Time during Sunday worship.



Lynn Beasley

Lynn is the director of Children's Dance Workshop teaching creative dance and ballet since 1988. She loves to garden and has been married to Alan Beasley for 50 years. She began regularly volunteering with Wednesday Night Dinner last summer and fall, and tries to help out whenever she can.



Joe Gerlitz

Joe spends the majority of his time trying to make his two little kids laugh. Thankfully, he has about a 93% success rate. Job-wise, he's a creative director at an advertising agency and had the pleasure of getting a book published not too long ago. He also cares greatly about the Mariners and Seahawks. (His wife might say a little too much. In fact, he's sure she'd say that.)

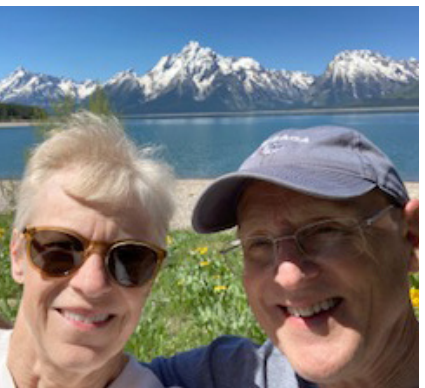
Mary Gerlitz

Mary was born in Portland, Oregon. She came to Seattle to attend SPU. She has two young children and is a surgical RN. She enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, interior design and construction, being creative and working with her hands.



Ian Goepferd

Ian is married with two children and has lived in Seattle since 1995. Ian enjoys reading, running, hiking, skiing, backpacking, and escaping to Orcas Island as often as possible. He has been a regular participant of our online worship gatherings since Covid.



Janet Hauck

Janet is married to Rob, and they have two grown children with two grandchildren and another one on the way. For the past four years, she has been working as a librarian at SPU. It has been a joy for her to return to work at her alma mater with such a wonderful team of colleagues. It has also been a joy to return to living in Seattle after many years away, reconnecting with family and friends in the area and spending time in the beautiful outdoors. Janet recently joined the Bethany choir.

Robert Hauck

The most important elements in Rob's life are his wife, Janet, their children, John and Elizabeth, and their grandchildren. He is currently in his first year of retirement, and his hobbies, in addition to time with family, are flyfishing, canoeing, and (now) sailing. Janet and Robert are becoming acquainted with the Bethany community, after starting to attend worship in person and participating in a few adult education opportunities.



Marcie Wolff

Marcie grew up in Alexandria, VA. She was a member of Old Presbyterian Meeting House there. She is married to Richard Wolff, they have a son, Karl, who is a junior at UW. Marcie helps with the Children's Ministry and recently started playing clarinet with the worship ensemble.

Richard Wolff

Richard enjoys music, reading, traveling, exercise, cooking, and watching movies and spending time with his wife and son.

Formation and Outreach Updates

by Marisa Gronholz, *Director of Formation and Outreach*

For three weeks in May, a group of nearly 30 Bethany congregants participated in a class entitled, “The Way Forward” with guest facilitator, Scott Hall. Scott is one of the chaplains with our ministry partner, King County Youth Chaplaincy, and hosts a podcast called “White People Work.” The class was built on the premise that we’ve heard so often in our Roadmap to Reconciliation work, that there is specific work for white people to do in racial justice and specific work for BIPOC. Over this three-week class, we were all challenged to interrogate the systems and beliefs that we have inherited—beliefs that are antithetical to the gospel of Jesus Christ. While we were challenged to look at the ways that the concept of whiteness has been harmful to others and harmful to ourselves, we were encouraged to move forward towards wholeness and healing by putting others at the center, relinquishing control, and embracing the limitations of our own humanness. We can do this in our relationships, in our regular practices, and in the experiences that we choose to participate in. One participant had this to say about the class: “I learned that it is quite possible that I am ‘taking up too much space and being too much of a loudmouth!’” But Scott was great. His approach doesn’t engender guilt, but uses Scripture to gently encourage me to ask, “What is God calling me to?” May we all continue to ask what God is calling us to do as we seek to live out the ministry of reconciliation. We are hoping to offer this class again this fall.

Upcoming Opportunities for Faith Formation and Learning from Outreach Partners

Sunday, July 23rd: Faith Formation Class with Bethany member, Dr. Michael Paulus. Dr. Paulus leads the Seattle Pacific University Library, which includes educational technology and the information studies program. Dr. Paulus’s administrative, teaching, and scholarly interests focus on the future of information communication technologies — from books to artificial intelligence — especially as they relate to libraries, higher education, work, and ethics.

New Horizons Monthly Community Coffee Series, first Thursdays of the month, 7:30am at Street Bean Coffee. Join us to discuss the important work of ending homelessness and how we can break the negative cycle, starting with young adults. Save the date for these future conversations:

- Thursday, July 6th - The Nest on 3rd: How New Horizons shelter model honors guests
- Thursday, August 3th - A healing approach to ending youth homelessness
- Thursday, September 7th - Case Management to make homelessness as brief as possible



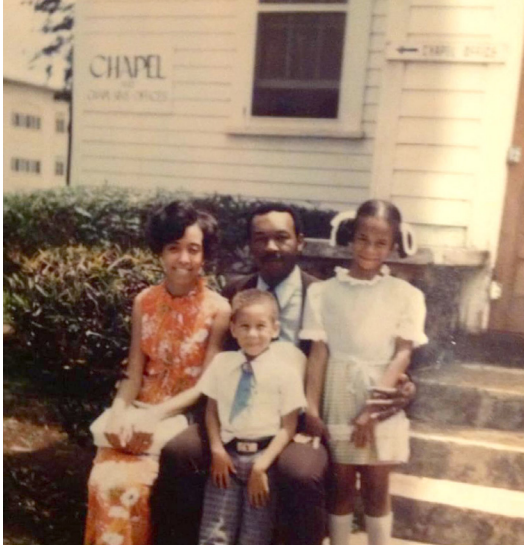
Welcome Bethany Summer Intern, Amelie Deese!

Amelie will be serving with Marisa Gronholz and the Outreach team at Bethany, and we are excited to have her with us! She will be a sophomore this fall at Whitworth University. Amelie plays lacrosse at Whitworth and is studying political science.

She grew up in Sumner, a small town south of Seattle, and loves the outdoors, hiking, working out, and hot yoga. She also loves music and animals. Going on walks with dogs is her happy place.

Museum Without Walls: Hawaii History, Heritage, and Reconciliation

by Suzanne Lacey, Executive Director of Museum Without Walls



About 47 years ago, my father started a gospel church service. He was the head chaplain of Soldier's Chapel at Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu. Dad had noticed that African American servicemen on base were missing the more vibrant style of worship they'd grown up with. The service became so popular that on the 25th anniversary of its inception, the Army flew my parents back to Oahu to celebrate. When planning the Hawaiian Sovereignty Museum Without Walls (MWW) program for Bethany, I anticipated our group worshipping at this service. It was during my research that I learned the service no longer existed. Attendance never rebounded after Covid, so it was discontinued. It was a disappointing ending to the joyful community.

But, in my search, I discovered some compelling history about the chapel. In 1913, twenty years after being removed from the throne, Queen Lili'uokalani heard that the island's Army base needed a chapel. The Queen was a deeply religious woman and couldn't bare the thought of

the 13,000 young men stationed there not having a place to worship. Despite her difficult history with the military, the Queen donated not only money for the church construction but gave the building several items for its altar including personal flower vases and a sacristy set. On the day of the church's dedication, she rode in her horse and buggy over two hours each way to witness the event.

Even with Queen Lili'uokalani's example of forgiveness, the path to reconciliation between Hawaiians and the US government remains rocky. In 2023, native groups are continuing the fight for what they feel they lost when the US overthrew the Hawaiian monarchy. But even sovereignty organizations don't agree on what that is. Some want to govern themselves through indigenous rights; others feel most strongly that the US needs to return land promised to them in the 1922 Homestead Act. But several more want to find a middle ground in the search of peace in the islands.

The MWW program with Bethany this fall seeks to examine all paths to include where the church falls in this struggle. However, even churches in the state wrestle with how to minister to the many desires among native people. How can their reconciliation walk inform our own as a faith community? As visitors, how can we respect their culture while enjoying the spectacular beauty bestowed on the islands?

I hope that our community will look upon this opportunity as a chance to study another story in our nation's myriad of narratives of racism and intolerance. The dates are Nov. 3rd to 11th. The cost with airfare is \$3,625pp for double occupancy. The single supplement is \$850. Bethany has scholarships available for a third of the cost. Please contact Suzanne Lacey or Marisa Gronholz for information. If you want to use your own airfare, the cost reduces to \$2,995. Deadline for the trip with airfare is August 1, 2023; deadline without airfare is September 1, 2023. Register at www.museumwithoutwalls.org.



Trust and Being a Light in the Darkness

A Reflection from Tom Sawers, *Wednesday Night Dinner Volunteer*

I have been serving at Wednesday Night Dinner for three years. I have been blessed to be the point person at the door who gets to greet and chat with our guests for a few minutes each night. Earning their trust bit by bit, night after night has been my joy.

So I thought I'd share a few snippets that blessed me last week and confirmed that the work we do is holy and much needed.

One man told me of his childhood. He was an orphan, never had a steady home, never learned social skills. He told me he views the world as being surrounded by a foreboding darkness from which there is no escape. I told him we may not be able to change his whole world, but Wednesday Night Dinner is a safe and kind place.

A woman told me her husband has been gone for 20 years and she has not had a single friend in that time. She travels many miles to come to Wednesday Night Dinner. There is a reason for that.

A man told me he has been in Seattle for a year. He arrived just before his mom died of lung cancer. In that year, he says he has been robbed 70 times. He is a very broken man who has said no one cares whether he lives or dies. People at Bethany have fought to save him and to make his life a little better. He has opened up to me over the last month. He likes to joke with me. He will sneak up behind me and try to scare me. I have been blessed to "talk shit" with him.

A man told me he was once a high-end tile installer. He shared installing tile in a penthouse that recently sold for \$40MM. He was making good money. Then his eyesight deteriorated and he could no longer drive to jobs safely. He had to quit. He became very poor. Our community adopted him. He is full of joy and loves his QA barrio.

We are making a difference. We are blessing those who are starved for a blessing.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



Come Join Us at Wednesday Night Dinner!

We are an open-door community of Bethany Presbyterian Church which includes folks from the Sunday congregation and the local area. We gather Wednesday evenings to enjoy a meal and fellowship, to encourage one another in life and the Christian faith, and to be a blessing to our neighborhood and city.

We are currently seeking more volunteers who can help with any of the following: kitchen prep, serving food, ministry of presence, and clean up/dishwashing.

If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Ken Jordan (kennethj@bethanypc.org) or simply stop by for dinner! Food is served every week from 5:30-6:30pm. *Please Note: Wednesday Night Dinner is on break during the month of August.*



by Danielle Merseles
Assoc. Pastor of Youth & Young Adults

Youth Ministries at Bethany is gearing up for the summer. Please be praying for perfect weather, students to encounter Jesus, and community to come alongside our new 6th and 9th graders!

SUMMER EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Wednesday, June 28th - Sunday, July 2nd – MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP! All Bethany 6th – 8th graders are welcome to come to camp where we will: ride horses, swim in the lake, do archery, play group games, have free time, worship together, and have small groups.

Wednesday, July 12th – All youth eat and serve at Wednesday Night Dinner @ 5:00pm

Tuesday, July 18th – Menchie's & Yard Games @ 7:00-8:30pm, meet at 11 Howe

Thursday July 20th – High School Transit Trip with Timothy! No one loves transit trips more than Timothy Chang. He's organized something fabulous. Meet at 7am at Roosevelt Link Station for a whole day of bus, ferry, and light rail trips. Bring your ORCA card and money for lunch in Port Townsend.

Wednesday, July 26th - July 30th – High School Summer Trip to Stonewater Ranch, Wenatchee: All Bethany 9th – 12th graders are invited! There will be zip lining through the canopies, kayaking, hiking, basketball, games, worship with our new worship director Carlos, small groups, and all your favorite leaders!

Tuesday, August 2nd – Carkeek Park Sunset and Games, 7:30pm to sunset

August 7 - 11 – Come and serve at Bethany's Vacation Bible Camp!

Tuesday, August 15th – Outdoor Movie Night, 7pm - 10pm @ the Montagner's

Sunday, August 27th – Mariners Game @ 12pm: We will leave right after church to head to the field. Bring a few bucks for lunch. Bethany! Are you interested in driving a few kids to the ballpark or coming along to chaperone? If so, let Willy or Danielle know!

Bethany family, It seems that the summer is here! It's a joy to get to spend more time with students, especially at camp, during these warm Seattle months. As I sit and write this under the sunshine, I am reminded of all the beauty that has happened in the world of youth ministries at Bethany in the past few months. Here are a few highlights, or God-sightings, for you to celebrate with us:

There is a vibrant group of student leaders in the middle school ministry right now. Many will go off to college in the fall. In the weeks leading up to the end of our Thursday night group, they were sharing their faith journeys with our middle school students. This is discipleship for everyone involved! And, as one reflected to me recently: "The middle schoolers seemed to actually listen to me!" As some have shared snippets with me in advance, I am reminded of how vital the whole church has been in equipping them for their life of faith. Which brings me to Graduate Sunday! During both services on June 4th, we celebrated and prayed over our graduating seniors, and wrote affirmation cards to take with them as a reminder that their church family loves them and is cheering them on as they enter this next season. >>> continued on next page >>>



Praying over our graduates in worship on Grad Sunday 6/4



After a recent high school discussion series on listening for where God is leading you, some students shared vulnerably about how they make choices. I admired them for their honesty! An older student shared some compassionate advice to a freshman who was actively discerning something. A senior chatted with a volunteer about college possibilities and where God has been in that decision. After these few weeks at Youth Group, I was reminded of the need to constantly pray for our youth and the overwhelming possibilities that sometimes are before them. May they constantly seek the voice of Jesus in those moments.

Congrats to our confirmation students who were welcomed into membership at Bethany on May 7, 2023: Nora Pratt, Nola Day, Elizabeth Paulus, Tony Fues and Adrienne Beard. If you missed worship that day, find the recording on the Bethany website and hear their statements of faith! This group of inquisitive minds and empathetic leaders are a gift to the whole family of Bethany.

children & family ministries @ Bethany

by Bianca Quezada, Director of Children & Family Ministries

We had a wonderful Winter and start to Spring! During Lent, our families made countdown links that helped kids look forward to Easter beyond the treats and bunnies. Each link had an Easter-themed Bible verse and questions to consider as a family, preparing hearts for the realities of Jesus' sacrifice for us. This Easter, we saw about 50 kids aged one through 5th grade. Preschoolers and elementary students completed many crafts including decorating the Easter Cross with handmade flowers. Thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up on one of our busiest Sundays!

This year the elementary faith milestones are spread throughout January to June. In the sanctuary we have heard the first graders recite the Lord's Prayer after two classes of learning about the prayer. We also welcomed the second graders to all-church Communion after two lessons on the enigmatic sacrament. Recently we congratulated the large third grade class as they completed their foundational instruction on what the Bible is, then received a gifted Bible from Bethany in front of their friends, family, and church. I am so grateful for the youth assistants who helped in these classes, Casey



Spiers, Parker Totten, and Max Wilhite, along with the children's parents who made it a priority to attend these faith milestone classes. You, Bethany, have an important role in helping these kids continue to grow closer to God as they grow in understanding.

We have recently been in the midst of finding the right fit for two roles in Children & Family Ministries. One is coordinating the children's message givers, a role faithfully filled by Julie Christensen for 30+ years! We are so thankful for Julie's incredible dedication to this ministry, and now for Gene Williams stepping in to fill this role going forward! The second area where we're looking for key volunteers is in the nursery. Our baby population is growing, so we are looking for helpers who love holding babies while their parents enjoy the Sunday services. Let me know if this role sounds like a good fit for you!

Lastly, a reminder that Vacation Bible Camp is happening here this Summer, August 7-11! This is Monday through Friday, 8:45am-12pm. Think of family, friends, and neighbors who may want to join as a camper or helper and consider volunteering yourself. There are many volunteer roles spanning from pre-camp to post-camp, kid adjacent to behind the scenes. Let me know your gifts, and we will find a place for you! This is a fun tradition that brings all generations together in play, worship, and community.