

 **BETHANY****2023****ANNUAL REPORT**

Connecting People to God, to Each Other, and to the World

Dear Bethany Congregation,

This year's annual Pastor's letter to the Bethany congregation will be different than any other I have written in the last 20 years. I am praising God for you all and I am filled with a grateful heart for all that God has done in and through our congregation in 2023. The following page of the annual report has a list of all the wonderful things God has done through you. Notwithstanding, I want to write to you about the tremendous change that is coming in 2024-2025 to Bethany Church.

Succession

I am grateful for our Bethany Board as we began in 2023 to discuss and strategize coming changes for Bethany leadership in 2024-2025. Namely a succession plan to “pass the baton” to the next Senior Pastor. I don't know the exact date when I will be stepping away from being Bethany's Senior Pastor, but I know it will be as soon as the new Senior Pastor is voted in by the congregation and has gotten his feet under him. This profound change could be as soon as October 2024 or as late as Spring 2025. But it's coming. And I want this year to be the best year of my ministry and the best year in the history of Bethany's 104 years. My heartfelt desire is for us to step on the gas. I want to pass the baton to the next Senior Pastor as a win for the Kingdom of God.

Bedlion Future Plans

Our plan is to trust God completely for the next chapter. Elaine and I are praying it will be fruitful and full of joy. I don't know if pastors ever really retire. We plan to stay active as long as we have our health. I am excited about continuing the ministry of leading our Flood the Sound Church Planting Network. If God opens the door, I may do interim ministry in churches that are in between pastors and do pulpit supply.

You folks have been the very best congregation a pastor could've ever hoped for. You are such excellent listeners. You have treated me and Elaine with such wonderful care. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor George Bedlion Jr.

HIGHLIGHTS

2023



175
SALVATIONS



32
BAPTISMS




1,726
EASTER ATTENDANCE



1,900
CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE



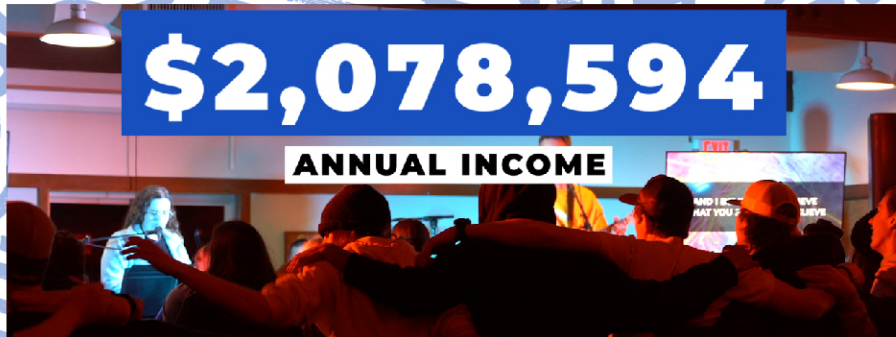
20,000
EASTER EGGS STUFFED



490
KIDS AT VBS



2,000
PEOPLE AT TRUNK OR TREAT



\$2,078,594
ANNUAL INCOME

2023 OUTREACH



150 individuals served in over **200** roles for Live to Give.

The Puyallup Police Dept. and Central Pierce Stations received over **80** meal packs in recognition for their dedication to the community.

50 freezer meals were made for Olive Crest families.

Over **2,000** first responders, teachers, staff, and hospital workers received personalized cards and gift sets.



100+ craft kits went to Good Samaritan Hospital's START program, aiding expectant mothers on their recovery journey.

\$2,000 sponsored Puyallup Food Bank's summer event, "Film at the Farm".

Wildwood Elementary School received **\$5,000** for essential school supplies and furniture, including much-needed wobble chairs.

Walker High School received **\$12,000** that went to catering their first-ever prom, weekend meal kits, warm-up uniforms for their debut cheer squad, and seven driver's ed scholarships. Bethany also provided Christmas presents for **201** students and their families!

Olive Crest, an organization that supports foster kids and their families, was gifted **\$27,600**, fully funding a year of foster care support for 12 families.



Reep Village's "Clean Water Project" was completed in Nepal, giving **500** villagers safe water to their homes.

6 new wells dug in Democratic Republic of the Congo, serving **1,800** people.

Water partners include **Water4**, **Medical Mercy Canada**, and **World Vision**.

A letter from the Bethany Board Chairman – Ryan Funk

Dear Bethany Members,

I am so thankful to write to you for the first time as Chairman. George Hills left some large shoes to fill, but God is ever-faithful and knows what He is doing. Looking at and reflecting on 2023, I continue to be amazed at how God works in and through all things.

Last year, we saw Bethany make a further push into our local community with several outreach opportunities. The Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat events continue to draw large numbers of neighbors to our campus and I regularly hear stories of people who bring their children to one of those events and end up coming back to Bethany on a Sunday and turn into regular attenders. 2023 also saw the inaugural Community Outreach Offering on Easter Weekend. Mimicking Bethany's Water Offering at Christmas, last year all the money collected during our Easter services was given straight back to our local community partners. Building off our successful partnership with Wildwood Elementary School, we have now established partnerships with Ferrucci Jr. High and Walker High School.

A word that God continues to bring to me is Stewardship. In my time serving on the Bethany Board, I have witnessed firsthand the generosity of the Bethany congregation. From being able to pay off our mortgage in 2022 to our largest ever Water Offering in 2023, you have been so incredibly faithful in your giving. My daily prayer is that God would continually make us good stewards of the blessings that He has given.

The biggest item on the Board's agenda for 2023 ended up being discussions related to Pastor George's upcoming succession. He told me his plan several months ago and I am honored and humbled that I get to be a part of calling the next Senior Pastor for Bethany. I'm sure I could continue to write for pages but I will try to keep it brief. I attended Bethany during the last transition and I am so thankful that the Calling Committee faithfully listened to God and that the congregation at the time voted in Pastor George who has led Bethany well over the last nearly 20 years. Pastor George has committed to the Board that he wants to be part of a smooth transition and we have started talking about it like an Olympic-caliber baton pass in a relay race. Bethany isn't Pastor George's church – it's God's church and He already knows who the next Senior Pastor is going to be. Isn't that amazing? All we must do is listen. My goal is to be transparent and to communicate clearly as we, as the church, move through this transition together.

We will be holding the Annual Business Meeting this year where the budget, elected officers, and the Calling Committee members will be submitted for approval. As a member of Bethany, your prayers and vote matter and I am so thankful for your continued partnership. Finally, thank you for your love, prayers and support through this past year and for the privilege to serve God as your Chairman.

In His Service,

Ryan Funk
Church Chairman

Date & Location:

February 18th & 19th, 2023
Bethany Baptist Church
713 S. Hill Park Dr.
Puyallup, WA 98373

Results of the voting are as follows:

- The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were accepted.
- The 2022 Financial Report was accepted.
- The 2023 Proposed General Fund Budget was adopted.
- The changes to the Church Constitution were approved.

Elected to the Church Board:

- Ryan Funk – Church Chairman
- Kent Attwood – Worship Team Chairman
- Jack Gouge – Outreach Team Chairman
- Phillip Wells – Discipleship Team Chairman

Elected to the Nominating Committee:

- Bethany Allen
- Terry Broberg
- Candy Chastagner
- Dave Erickson
- Luke Heath
- Mark Phillips
- Sarah Stachofsky

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda Heath
Acting Church Clerk

Membership & Baptism

2023 Baptisms:

AJ	Armstrong
Chloe	Blair
Jasper	Bristow
Isaiah	Chantry
Michelle	Clark
Brianna	Edwards
Gretchen	Emerson
Andrew	Engle
Trevor	Fuhlman
Neema	Githinji
Rehema	Githinji
Tracy	Graves
Noah	Heath
Grace	Heath
Everley	Holmes
Jineyshka	Huffer
Yonathan	Hutagalung
Luana	Kahala
Teresia	Kamau
Alan	Keelan
Lily	Keelan
Rena	Martin
Cayley	McCart
Olivia	Mitchell
Winnie	Mumbi
Anna	Mungai
Brittney	Postel
Chanthy	Strehlo
Addison	Walker
Savannah	Wood
James	Woodside
Jaxon	Ytreeide

2023 New Members:

Lauren	Bristow
Donette	Burtis
Karen	Byrd
Josh	Cheriyon
Sharon	Cheriyon
Diane	Denaro
Elizabeth	Fisher
Scott	Forbes
Jo	Forbes
Teagan	Forbes
Karin	Gehrke
Jeffrey	Gehrke
Ariel	Gudzyuk
Oleg	Gudzyuk
Andrew	Henzel
Danielle	Henzel
Yonathan	Hutagalung
Ken	Kaltschmidt
Cameron	Langdon
Karen	Langdon
Cynthia	Lucas
Phil	Luther
Patty	Luther
Mary	Nene
Jacob	Peterson
Ally	Peterson
Tonya	Pomeroy
Olga	Romero-Harris
Sara	Scheib
Rob	Webster
Sharon	Webster

Financial Statements & Budget

Statement of Activity

Bethany Baptist Church

January 1 - December 31, 2023

	General Fund		Restricted Funds	
	Budget	Actual	Temporary	Permanent
Balance January 1, 2023			1,273,538.06	147,138.15
Receipts				
General Fund Contributions	2,100,382	2,076,659.65		
Other General Fund Income		1,934.57		
Benevolence, Missions, & Miscellaneous			38,798.88	
Water Offering & Community Impact			156,826.04	
Other Restricted Receipts & GF Transfers			121,933.89	6,087.25
Total Funds Available 2023	2,100,382	2,078,594.22	317,558.81	6,087.25
Funds Available	2,100,382	2,078,594.22	1,591,096.87	153,225.40
General Fund Disbursements				
Church Board	1,438,882	1,450,116.01		101%
Worship Team	30,000	36,083.87		120%
Discipleship Team	87,000	65,979.34		76%
Outreach Team	88,000	80,547.90		92%
Church Planting Team	50,000	50,000.00		100%
Shepherding Team	6,500	4,676.59		72%
Fellowship Team	17,000	19,635.57		116%
Property and Finance Committees	283,000	326,515.33		115%
Transfer to Future Opportunities Fund	100,000	44,080.92		44%
Total GF Disbursements	2,100,382	2,077,635.53		99%
Restricted Funds Disbursements			342,047.77	0
Balance December 31, 2023		958.69	1,249,049.10	153,225.40

Restricted Fund Activity

Bethany Baptist Church

January 1 - December 31, 2023

Temporary Restricted Funds				
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	Bal. Jan 1	Received	Disbursed	Bal. Dec. 31
Benevolent Fund	32,198.92	33,119.67	11,297.01	54,021.58
Memorial	63,239.69	678.26	13,273.70	50,644.25
Miscellaneous	20,288.30	0.00	19,803.92	484.38
Wedding Fund	1,506.76	0.00	0.00	1,506.76
VBS Missions Fund	0.00	4,910.95	4,910.95	0.00
Building Fund	71,725.56	0.00	0.00	71,725.56
Mexico Mission Fund	6,058.22	90.00	0.00	6,148.22
Community Impact	38,958.70	48,423.59	65,926.99	21,455.30
Youth Special Fund	69,093.16	26,628.83	45,374.53	50,347.46
Water Projects	136,432.48	108,402.45	129,433.40	115,401.53
Future Opportunities Fund	344,817.00	44,080.92	44,080.92	344,817.00
Temporary Restricted Funds	784,318.79	266,334.67	334,101.42	716,552.04

Compassion & Church Planting Restricted Funds				
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	Bal. Jan 1	Received	Disbursed	Bal. Dec. 31
Church Planting	468,016.30	50,000.00	2,946.35	515,069.95
Compassion & Interest	21,202.97	1,224.14	5,000.00	17,427.11
Compassion & Planting Funds	489,219.27	51,224.14	7,946.35	532,497.06

Permanent Restricted Funds				
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	Bal. Jan 1	Received	Disbursed	Bal. Dec. 31
Moore Short Term Missions Endowment	120,192.10	4,972.46	0.00	125,164.56
Dolores Breul Missions Endowment	26,946.05	1,114.79	0.00	28,060.84
Permanent Restricted Funds	147,138.15	6,087.25	0.00	153,225.40

2024 Proposed Bethany Budget

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	% of Budget Disbursed	2024 Proposed Budget
CHURCH BOARD				
Staff Salaries	1,036,895	1,069,220.69	103%	1,094,303
Staff Benefits	300,488	304,095.89	101%	317,184
Other Church Board Expenses	101,500	76,799.43	76%	93,000
Total Church Board:	1,438,883	1,450,116.01	101%	1,504,487
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO GOD				
WORSHIP TEAM	30,000	36,083.87	120%	30,000
DISCIPLESHIP TEAM				
Kids	30,500	29,337.93	96%	31,000
Students	18,000	22,199.33	123%	20,000
Adults	38,500	14,442.08	38%	36,000
Total Discipleship	87,000	65,979.34	76%	87,000
Total Connecting People to God:	117,000	102,063.21	87%	117,000
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO EACH OTHER				
SHEPHERDING TEAM	6,500	4,676.59	72%	11,000
FELLOWSHIP TEAM	17,000	19,635.57	116%	19,500
Total Connecting People to Each Other:	23,500	24,312.16	103%	30,500
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE WORLD				
OUTREACH TEAM				
World Partners	48,200	41,231.96	86%	59,800
National Partners	12,000	12,000.00	100%	12,000
Local Partners	27,800	27,315.94	98%	20,600
Total Outreach Partners	88,000	80,547.90	92%	92,400
CHURCH PLANTING TEAM	50,000	50,000.00	100%	50,000
Total Connecting People to the World:	138,000	130,547.90	95%	142,400
OPERATIONS, FACILITY AND OTHER				
Operations, Utilities, and Facilities	223,000	289,751.79	130%	250,000
Long-Term Repair & Maintenance	60,000	36,763.54	61%	26,000
Total Operations & Facilities	283,000	326,515.33	115%	276,000
Future Opportunities	100,000	44,080.92	44%	30,000
Total Operations & Future Opportunities:	383,000	370,596.25	97%	306,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	2,100,383	2,077,635.53	99%	2,100,387

The 2024 General Fund Budget total is nearly the same as the 2023 total, and a 1% increase from the 2023 income.

**A more detailed version of this document is available in the Church Office, at the Welcome Desk, or you can email info@bethanysite.com*

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BETHANY