

The Vision

October 2021

The Monthly Newsletter of
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Bergen, NY

From the Pastor

Starting this Sunday (October 3rd), we will begin looking at what theologians call the Great Exchange. I was having a difficult time explaining what an exchange is, so I asked my 3 sons with their permission what exchange means.

Here is what Noah said, "When you trade something for another thing. A person wants to trade something, you put down your item, and the other person puts down their item, then you grab his item and he grabs yours, then you shake hands and then BOOM!! you walk away with his item and he walks with your item. My friend and I almost exchanged Obi Wan and Anakin light sabers. We almost did, but you (dad) did not want me to bring my light saber to the rec program." (He says hi to everyone.)

Jonah didn't know what exchange means (a little big for first graders), so asked him what trade means. "Trade means when you give somebody a toy, then you just let them have it, but if you want it back, they give it to you. They give you something only if you want it back. That's it."

Jeremiah said "trade is when you give someone something that you really want to. They give you something special."

That was so good, I decided to ask them about what great means.

Noah said great means "awesome. Like someone gave something to me and I liked it."

Jonah said great means "when you go to fun places."

Jeremiah said that great means "God."

Thank you, boys. Perhaps I had a hard time defining the words "great exchange" in earthly terms because I have heard so much about "The Great Exchange" in theological terms. From my three sons' perspective, if I were to put the two words together, a great exchange would be if I were to

give an awesome gift to someone and in turn, they were to give me an awesome gift.

2 Corinthians 5:21 shows us what the great exchange would be in theological terms: "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

From this, what Jesus receives from us is not so awesome. In fact, it is rather ugly (which is quite an understatement). It is all the horrific things you and I have done in our lives; from the least offensive thing we have done to those sins that we would be utterly ashamed if anyone knew about them. Jesus took every single bit of that upon himself, and not just mine and yours, but every single wrong word, thought, or action by every single Christian. All of this was poured out onto the One whom we have come to love in one single instance as he hung on the cross in our place. (This is what is normally called penal substitution.)

Not only did Jesus take on all our sin, but from the above verse, we see that we took upon his righteousness, meaning every single one of his righteous words, thoughts, and actions, so that when God sees those who have faith in Him, he does not see sin, for that was placed on Jesus; but he sees righteousness, not our own, but the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

This is why those who have studied the above verse (and others like it) came up with the words "Great Exchange." Because they have looked upon what the Bible teaches, and can do nothing less than sit back in wonder the way my sons look at an awesome trade. They truly realize how astounding and amazing is the grace of God.

Pastor Brandt



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You can also find us on Facebook.

Office Hours:
Monday & Wednesday
9:30 AM – noon

Pastor's Hours:
Tuesday – Thursday
9:30 -noon (flexible)



Gleaning Ministry

Our gleaning ministry is off to a wonderful start for 2021. In September, a farm near Batavia filled Stu's trailer with large potatoes deemed unsellable. Some of these potatoes were taken to the North Bergen Food Pantry for distribution.

On Saturday, Sept. 25th, a Vegetable Wash team comprised of 5 adults and 3 kids washed and dried potatoes. They tackled three quarters of a ton of potatoes! Great job team! Thank you for your time and hard work!

A farm near Lake Ontario has butternut squash in their fields to be gleaned. Once the fields dry out, in early October, our gleaning team will get to work.

Please consider volunteering on one or both of our upcoming Vegetable Wash days. There will be butternut squash and more potatoes to wash. There is a sign-up board in the church foyer, near the office.

Upcoming Vegetable Wash days are planned for Saturday, Oct. 9th and Saturday, Oct. 23rd. They will be held in the church parking lot from 9am to noon.

Egg Cartons

Please save your egg cartons. Both the Salvation Army in Batavia and the North Bergen Food Pantry are asking for egg

cartons. We will collect egg cartons along with non-perishable food on the 1st Sunday of each month. The egg cartons will get distributed to both organizations. The food is taken to the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army has been receiving eggs in trays instead of cartons. They find it much easier and less messy to use egg cartons to distribute eggs to families. The North Bergen Pantry has a duck egg donor! They have been using the tops of egg cartons to hold eggs for their patrons.

Thank you for your support of these missions.

Deacons

The Deacons will soon make a decision regarding the distribution of Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets.

If you know of someone in our church family who would be encouraged by a food basket, we are asking that you let one of the Deacons know. For neighbors and community members who may be in need, we can point you to other resources that can help in those situations. Your Deacons appreciate your help in supporting our body of Christ.

- Faith Willhoft
- Ron & Kay Harmon
- Kevin & Chris Hollenbeck
- Joan Dermody
- Diane White
- Debbie McAllister
- Mark White



TAG - Teens After God

BACK IN FULL SWING!!!!

Back to school! Which means back to activities, sports, clubs, and God! After a very busy summer, it is nice to be back on a more consistent schedule for TAG. Our youth group conversation and activities on Sunday, September 12th focused around prayer. Teens discussed why we pray, how we pray, and what they know about prayer. They then worked in small groups to find and discuss Bible verses concerning prayer to share with the whole group. The discussion was amazing, with many teens memorizing their verses, as well as sharing a short reflection on the meaning of the verse and why it is important to them. We then had a time of prayer requests and prayer that was completely led by the teens. I concluded the evening by challenging the teens to begin a time of daily prayer in their lives. Although we are back in the teen room, we are still following COVID-19 protocols and procedures, similar to those in all public places, in order to keep everyone safe and healthy. We are also asking any teens (or families) who are sick, or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, to please stay home.

Our TAG youth group now meets on Sunday evenings in the Teen Room. We are currently meeting from 6:00-8:00PM. Our next two meeting dates are October 10th and October 24th. A Sunday morning teen Bible study is also still in the works ... stay tuned for more details. Please keep all the teens of our group, and in Bergen, in your prayers. Continue to pray for God's protection and guidance in their lives!



TAG September 12th – The Power of Prayer!!!

A Peek at the Church Calendar

Opportunities for Service

Sunday, 10/3 – Food Collection for Salvation Army
 Saturday, 10/9 & 10/23, 9 AM-noon – Vegetable Wash
 Tuesday, 10/26, 3 PM – FoodLink

Weekly

Sunday, 9:15-10:15 – Sunday School
 Sunday, 10:30-11:45 – Morning Worship
Communion on first Sunday of the month
 Sunday, 6:00-8:00 – TAG (see article to left)
 Thursday, 6:00-7:00 AM – Son Risers

Other meetings

Sunday, 10/3, noon – Fellowship Committee
 Monday, 10/11 – Office closed
 Wednesday, 10/13, 7 PM – Session (at church)
 Sunday, 10/17, noon – E&M
 Tuesday, 10/26, 7 PM – Deacon Meeting

CE Update

We are excited to have in-person Christian Education classes meeting again at church! All are welcome to join us at 9:15 AM for classes based on the Gospel Project curriculum. This month, our classes will finish up looking at the children of Israel in the wilderness (Deuteronomy) and explore entering the promised land (Joshua).

With thanks to our teachers, we could still use some more helpers. If you like children and want to help in the life of our church, you are qualified to help! Please contact Julie Foeller (bfoeller@frontiernet.net or 585-943-9155) if you are willing to help or have questions.

Job Announcements

Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church continues to search for personnel in three areas. We are looking for a person to serve as a **Children's Minister** to outreach to children and families both in the church and in the community. We are also looking for a musician to serve as **Assistant Music Coordinator**, who will work closely with the Music Coordinator and Pastor on all music-related activities at the church. And, we are seeking an **Administrative Assistant** to assist the pastor, perform office tasks, and coordinate activities of the church. Details on these positions can be found at:

<http://www.bergenepc.com/employment.html>

Genesee County Young Life

E&M: Mission of the Month

We go to kids, build bridges of authentic friendship and introduce them to Jesus Christ.

Our church brought Young Life to this community 27 years ago. Throughout more than a quarter of a century we have continued to support the Young Life mission that "every young person deserves the right to hear the good news of God's love."

Tim Riley is the Area Director for Genesee County Young Life. He and his wife, Mel, have been worship leaders in our church on several occasions, and Tim has brought the message.

COVID has challenged Young Life's mission work over the last 19 months. Tim offers this update on what has been going on with the ministry.

"Young Life is a very relational ministry. We meet teens and support them with what we call contact work-- going to where the kids are, like their sports games or performances. We introduce them to the gospel of Jesus at group activities called Club, and deepen their relationship with Bible study called Campaigners. For much of the last year and a half, we haven't been able to do many in-person meetings. We have adapted with online contacts and clubs. Now we are more free to meet with kids, so it's great to be back at the sporting events, and seeing many of the parents in the bleachers as well.



"This summer we were excited to take 16 students and leaders to YL camp in the Adirondacks, where we could confront kids with the gospel in the beauty and wonder of God's nature. *(continued on the next page)*

Meet Tim Riley, Genesee County Young Life Area Director

Tim grew up in suburban Detroit, where he was the third of four boys in his family. He became involved with Young Life as a teen. After graduating from Grove City College (where he met Mel) with a degree in entrepreneurship, he served as his church's Youth Director for four years, then came to the Genesee County area when Mel took a job at Brockport College. He's been on the staff of Young Life in Genesee County for five years.



Tim and Mel have been married for 8 years. They have two sons, Porter, 6; and Case, 3; and live in Chili. This family loves outdoor adventures, yard games, movies, and frozen yogurt! Mel coaches Porter's soccer team. Tim has begun subbing one day a week at Byron-Bergen Junior-Senior High School. It allows him to get to know students better and is also a service to the school district.

Tim and Mel ask for prayers for a better childcare arrangement, as they are trying to home school Porter. Mel works full time at Brockport, and Tim has many meetings. Someone who could provide childcare a couple of days a week would be a real blessing.

Tim says a special thank you to our church in Bergen because of its continued faithfulness to Young Life's outreach to teens of our community.

(Genesee County Young Life from previous page)

"We are still working on logistics to restart our direct programs, but are able to meet one-on-one with the teens and support them in their various activities. Building true friendships allows us to share the gospel as trusted advisors.

"Young Life staff, leaders and volunteers are focusing this year on being a people of prayer as we go, meet, and invite students into a relationship with Jesus. We recognize that God is directing this ministry and we need His constant direction."

In the last couple of years, Genesee County Young Life also introduced Young Lives, an adaptation of its outreach especially for teen mothers. Five young moms were participating in this program over the summer. Sandy Partridge is an active volunteer with Young Lives.

Specific prayer needs for Genesee County Young Life:

- That God would raise up more volunteer leaders. Several of their long-term leaders have had to move on as they advance in their college education.
- That Genesee County YL can continue to connect with kids in new and meaningful ways.
- For their banquet, which is normally their largest fundraiser. That they can find a way to offer an equivalent event in a COVID-world that updates their supporters and others, and that those supporters would be moved to continue to offer financial support.
- That other volunteers might step forward to join the YL ministry in a variety of roles.
- That Tim and his family can find balance with the demands of ministry and raising two active young boys.



Sewing With a Purpose



Sewing With a Purpose (SWP) has been busy preparing flannel hearts for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for the Golisano Children's Hospital. The table in the SWP room is set up as stations for helpers to participate in a station or skill they can share to complete this project.

Flannel Hearts 1 — 2 — 3

Station 1 -- Select flannel and take a template to trace and cut a heart --- samples for this stage are on the table. Scrap flannel is brought back to church and placed in the scrap box for Darlene who donated flannel and uses each piece ... no waste with this project.

Station 2 – Cut hearts are placed in this box and machine sewing is required. Sample of this is provided

Station 3 - Sewn hearts are placed in this box for the hearts to be turned right side out and hand sew the little opening closed. Ironing the heart finishes it.

We have been requested to make 50 hearts per month for this service project. Each preemie baby receives two hearts. One is on the mom's chest transferring her scent to the flannel heart. The heart is then placed in the incubator for the baby to lie on. This is an emotional and physical bonding between the mom and the baby. The hearts are washed and cycled through so that the mom and the baby continue to bond. A little history for this project Shirley VonBergen was the person who heard about this and approached SWP to see if we could help support this need at Strong Hospital.

Thank you to everyone who is praying for this outreach and involved in this ministry.

FoodLink

Feeding the Hungry Who
Come to our Door

Monthly FoodLink distributions continue this month with our date of Tuesday, Oct. 23. Our church serves a vital need as a distribution site in our area of WNY.

Volunteers are essential to make the distribution successful. We are a walk-through site, so volunteers help the clients pick up their food from tables or pallets.

Young volunteers can help carry food to clients' vehicles. And everyone can smile and chat with the clients to show the love of Jesus.

The truck with the food arrives at 3 pm, which is when volunteers are needed. The distribution usually takes about three hours. Even if you can't stay the whole time, please come anyway. Students can get credit for volunteer hours required for some school classes. Help is especially needed for cleanup, so you can come late if you have a prior commitment. Recruit your friends!

And mark your calendar for November 23, which will be our final distribution date for 2021.

Let Gregg McAllister know if you can help:
greggmca@verizon.net or text

585-738-6141.



Evangelism & Missions

Bringing in the Sheaves, and Our Neighbors, Too

The annual Harvest Festival that welcomes our neighbors into our church on Halloween will be back again this year. The team planning the event will include socially distanced games for youngsters while parents have a chance to chat. Adjustments to activities of prior years will be made in consideration of the safety of all.

Watch for specific details. We may need some donations of candy and refreshments, plus volunteers.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas ...

Maybe you haven't hung your Christmas decorations, but it's not too soon to think about Operation Christmas Child. This is our way to send the love of Jesus to children around the world who may not get another gift. Specific plans aren't definite yet, but our church will be participating again this year. Shoeboxes will be available for you to fill.

Watch for details! Ho, ho, ho ...

All Babies Cherished Tells Their Story

All Babies Cherished Pregnancy Assistance Center in Batavia is a ministry our church continues to support through the E&M budget. They are planning their 17th annual fundraising event for Oct. 28 at 7 pm as a virtual event. They invite persons who are interested in learning more about their ministry.

Special guest speaker is Alexandra Andrews, a member of their board. Alexandra is a wife, mother of three and a pro-life speaker who shares her testimony as an abortion survivor. Alexandra shares the ways in which God revealed his plan for her life, bringing her out of an

orphanage in Russia to be a witness of God's mercy, healing and forgiveness. Alexandra is an active member of her parish, a registered nurse and a Creighton Model Fertility Care Practitioner.

Heart for Missions? Join us.

The Evangelism & Missions Committee meets monthly to plan mission support both locally and globally. We always welcome additional members. We meet the third Sunday of the month after the worship service, so Oct. 17 this month. Snacks are provided. And remember, God doesn't care about your ability, just your availability.

For more information, contact Gregg McAllister at 585-738-6141.

A link for access to this event will be available soon, and we will share it with you. But mark your calendar now for this inspiring evening.

Don't Forget the First Sunday is Food Sunday

Bring your food donations for the Salvation Army and local food pantries to church on the first Sunday of the month. Peanut butter and jelly remain

much needed items. All non-perishables are welcomed.

Teen Challenge Expanding into Rochester



Adult and Teen Challenge in Buffalo has long been among the ministries we support through the church's E&M budget. We are also blessed each year to host some of the Teen Challenge clients for a special worship service.

Adult and Teen Challenge is expanding into Rochester. They have purchased a building that will serve as a residence for up to 25 men and women for 12 months, offering care and support as they seek freedom from addiction.

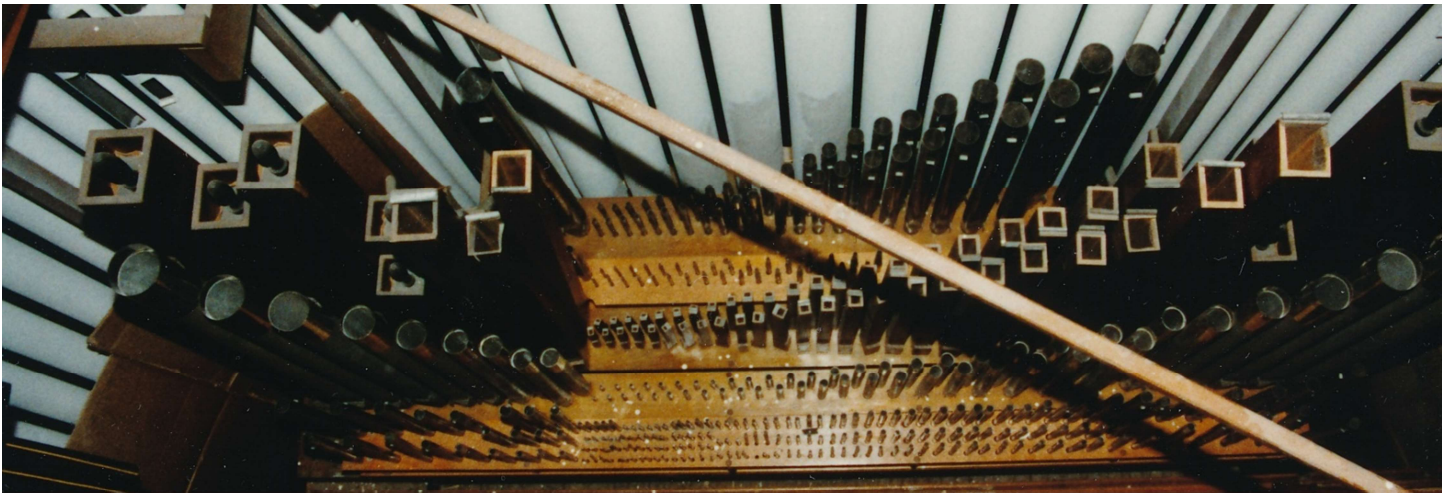
Remodeling of the facility has begun. For more information, check out their websites at:

<https://rochesteratc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/rochesteratc/>

All Babies Cherished Fall Festival Vendor Event – October 23

Rick Stacy will be participating in this event. Check it out at <https://fb.me/e/1NNT8J2yN>



Organ Update

As our church continues its pledge campaign for renovating the organ, many have asked for more information about the instrument, including more detail about its problems. This is the second of three newsletter updates highlighting the instrument’s primary problems.

The second thing our organ needs is for the key action mechanism to be regulated. The action needs to be reset due to years of use and normal changes and deterioration in the wooden parts of the action (i.e., expansion and contraction of the wooden components

of the instrument during seasonal shifts in temperature and humidity). The organ has always had a hard action, meaning the organist needs to work hard to play the keyboards. Adding to the difficulty of the hard action is that the keys are not even across the keyboard. This is due to both deterioration of the mechanism and constant adjustments to individual keys to prevent ciphers--random pipes that sound without actually pressing down on a key. Repair and replacement of warped, weakened, or broken parts of the mechanism, resetting of the mechanism, and a deep cleaning of the instrument (see last month’s update for more) should restore the instrument to nearly new condition. Next month: replacing the wind pressure regulators (bellows).

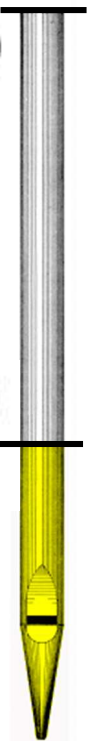


This month, we will again feature the organ during our worship service on October 10 as well as provide an update on the pledge campaign. The Bergen Historical Society Presentation on September 14 was well attended and well received; a video of that presentation can be viewed on the church’s website (see below). If you know of other groups that might be interested in learning more about the instrument, please let members of the Organ Team (Fred Ely, Tom Jones, Alden Snell, Rob Willhoft) know.

\$85,000

\$34,350

13 pledges



See the page on the church’s website for additional information and a link to the pledge form:

<http://www.bergenepc.com/organ.html>

Anniversaries & Birthdays

October Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 – Jake & Michelle Buckland-Seward | 5 yrs |
| 9 – Jeff & Corissa Goodenbery | 16 yrs |
| 10 – Keith & Barb Marshall | 12 yrs |
| 26 – Dick & Cheryl Saville | 47 yrs |

November Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 27 – Brian & Julie Foeller | 28 yrs |
|----------------------------|--------|

October Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – Stacie Bridge | 25 – Dick vonBergen |
| 6 – Debbie Sheldon | 25– Dale White |
| 13 – Delores Seward | 26 – Maddie Buckland |
| 15 – Joan Dermody | 30 – Ruth Morse |
| 16 – Chris Hollenbeck | 31 – David Baker |
| 17 – Jeff Goodenbery | 31 – Chad Caccamise |
| 18 – Mandy Wilson | 31 – Diane White |

November Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 – Garry Hutchurson | 15 – Hannah Berggren |
| 5 – Richard Stacy | 19 – Kevin Hollenbeck |
| 7 – Fred Ely | 27 – Seth McNear |
| 11 – Loretta Miller | |

Prayer

Those serving as Missionaries:

- Sarah Speer at the Kimia Center for Lepers in the Congo
- Jose Ulinov "Uli" Fernandez in Mexico
- Arber "Berti" Berhami with Campus Crusade in Albania
- Jesse vonBergen ministry to the Middle East through Arabic Bible Outreach Ministry
- Teachers in Sierra Leone with EduNations
- Tim Riley with Genesee County Young Life

Those fighting cancer:

- Dan Forno
- Stacy Cline
- Elaine Malkani - Cyndy Jones' sister
- Corky's friend, Sharon, fighting colon cancer
- Rosemary Utz - friend of McAllisters
- vonBergen's grandson - Joe

Continued healing

- Helen Hill's sister-in-law Dorcas Arbach
- June Hahn's niece Ann Crone
- Joan Miller

Those with ongoing challenges and needs:

- Aggie Redinger
- Delores Seward
- David Hahn
- Bob and Kathy Cosgrove
- Nancy Alfes
- Janice Langsdon's mother - Jo Files
- Susan Brownell's grandmother - Hazel Newsom - and her caretakers - Susan's parents
- Paul and Sandy Harris
- Melanie Glucksman
- Evelyn Pangrazio - friend of Tom and Cyndy Jones
- Colton Ely
- Rusty Brenton

Those who have lost loved ones:

- the family of Max Jessop
- the family of Rob Charcholla,
- the Coxeter family
- the Roche family
- the Slavin family

Our Church

- Our Session & Deacons
- Youth Leader, Joe Rebisz, and the youth of our church and our community
- Worship Leader, Christin Snell and those who minister in music each Sunday
- Christian Education, Evangelism & Missions, Finance, Nominating, Personnel, and Property Committees
- Pray for the other local churches in our area (and your area too!)
- The Servicemen & Women of the United States, as well as our Veterans and their families
- Our country's leaders and their advisors

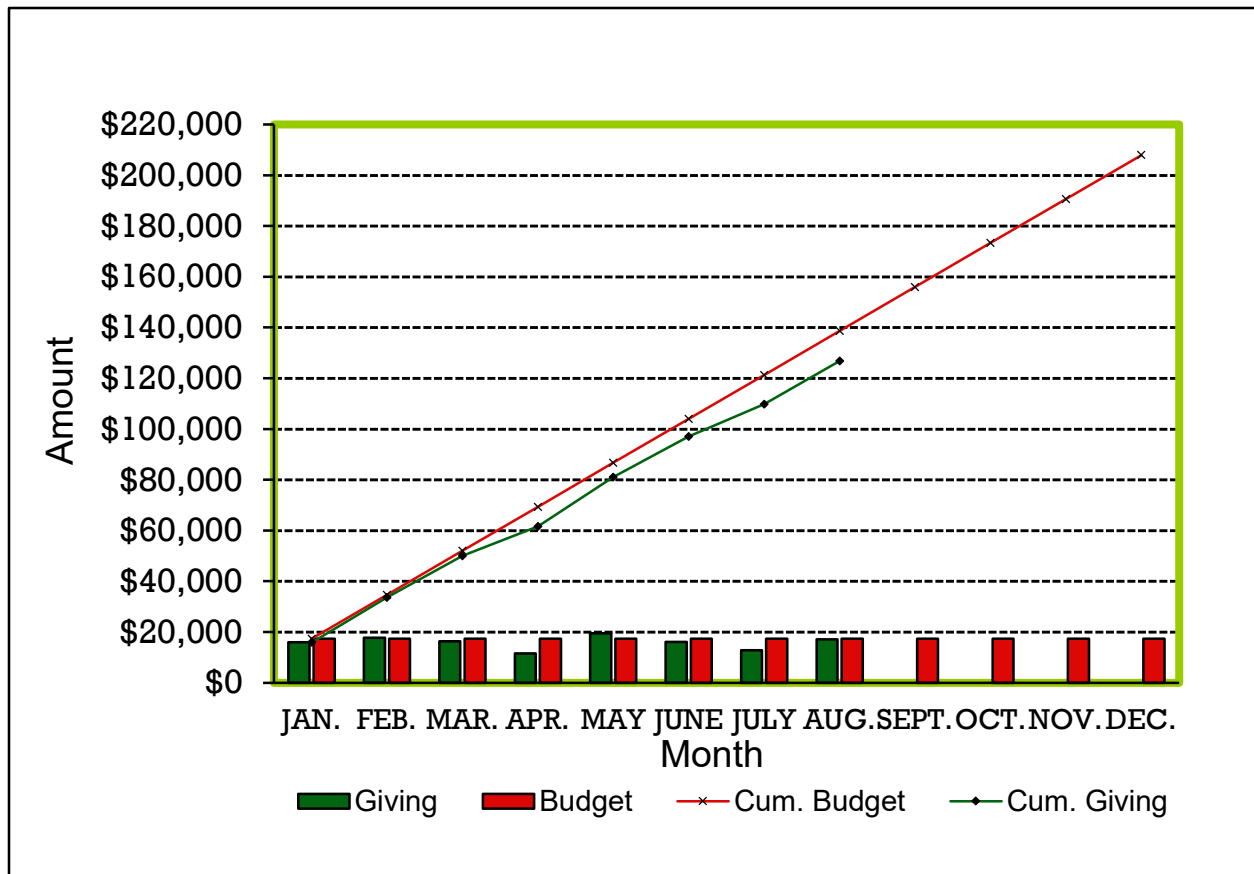
Church Finances

August 2021

"Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

Psalm 50:14-15

Our giving for August followed the pattern we have seen this year; one month up followed by a month down, followed by a month up; etc. Thus, July's low giving of about \$12,800 was followed by August's \$17,049! Total giving for the year is running about \$8,000 ahead of 2020, so we are still on track to have a good year, especially since COVID-19 is still with us.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – AUGUST 2021
OPERATING FUND**Income**

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Sunday offering: | \$12,802.00 |
| Net Online Offering: | \$1,347.15 |
| <i>*note – online offering reflects \$39.72 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i> | |
| Amortized one time gifts: | \$2,900.00 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <i>Total New Receipts</i> | \$17,049.15 |
| <i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i> | \$85.96 |
| Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts) | \$17,135.11 |

Expenses

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Gross Expenditures for the month | \$14,786.06 |
| Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses | |
| • None | \$0.00 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Net Expenditures for the Month | \$14,786.06 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|

| | |
|---|------------|
| Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures | \$1,000.00 |
| Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF | \$0.00 |
| Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund | \$1,900.00 |

OPERATING FUND BALANCE**\$449.05****DESIGNATED FUND**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Opening Balance (from previous month) | \$24,117.66 |
| New Designated Receipts | \$2,639.85 |
| Total Designated Expenditures | \$11,389.02 |

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE**\$15,368.49****TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) \$15,817.54****OTHER FUND ACTIVITY****Accumulated Income Fund**

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| • For July expenses | \$1,000.00 |
| Current Balance (8/31/2021) | \$ |

Memorial Fund

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Adriane Broadbrooks | \$50.00 |
| Current Balance (8/31/2021) | \$ |