
From the Pastor

For the past six months, I have immersed myself in outreach and evangelism, not only through the Bible, but through Christian authors as well. It has sparked my heart for evangelism and missions and stirred within me anew a deep desire to tell others about Christ.

One of the most important things that God has impressed upon me is the need to evangelize children. Statistics alone bear this out. A "survey cited by the International Bible Society indicated that 83% of Christians make their first commitment to Jesus between the ages of 4 and 14, that is, when they are children or early youth. Surveys done by the Barna Research Group indicate that American children ages 5 to 13 have a 32% probability of accepting Christ, but youth or teens aged 14 to 18 have only a 14% probability of doing so. Unbelieving adults age 19 and over have just a 6% probability of becoming Christians" (home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ages.htm).

Not only that, but as a church, not only are we called to evangelize, but we are called to disciple (from the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20), meaning that it is not enough to tell children about Christ, but we must seek to come alongside them and teach them all that the Scripture teaches. In other words, it's wonderful to see unchurched children, teenagers, men, and women in our church a time or two, but like every church, we are also called to seek that they find a church home at Bergen Presbyterian.

Which brings us to the largest children's event of the year for us as a church, VBS. Regularly, we would see a lot of the children maybe once a year, and that was it, and so in thinking about VBS, maybe we could have it as piece of a larger children's ministry, and use other children activities in July to point towards VBS, then use VBS as a way and means to propel other children's ministries in the summer and towards the fall?

This brought us as a session to a difficult problem. Bergen Presbyterian has partnered with friends over at Bergen United Methodist church for probably over several decades. It was one of mutual love and respect, and out of that love and respect, we never strongly advertised our church, and as a result, we would never have the opportunity to develop discipleship with the children and their families. As a session, where we found ourselves as a church, we strongly felt called to not only share Jesus that one week, but throughout the year, and so it was with sadness, but also a feeling of excitement that we set to go out on our own for VBS.

As you can tell from our Kid's Quest Summer of Fun, we will have lots of activities for children this summer, and the center of that is VBS, but it still is a piece to a larger picture of ministering to children in our community. We will continue to use the Jesus Storybook Bible during Kid's Quest, and seek to have all of this in the larger picture of children's ministry, especially on Sunday morning. This is also meant to attract a children's minister so that he or she will not have to start from scratch.

When I sent the summer list to the session, I got several remarks that said how ambitious it was. I thought that was great. It reminded me of a quote by the famous missionary, William Carey, when he said, "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." God willing, my prayer is that we can attempt great things for God this summer.

Pastor Brandt



Phone: (585) 494-1251 email: office@epcbergen.org

38 S. Lake Ave, PO Box 206

Bergen, NY 14416

Pastor Brandt Hammack: brandthammack@hotmail.com

(585-732-6163) Website: epcbergen.org

You can also find us on Facebook.

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri: 12 - 3:30 pm

Tues & Thurs: 12 - 4 pm

Pastor's Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday

9:30 am - noon (flexible)

State of New York Executive Certificate Of Recognition To Debbie As An Outstanding Community Member



SWP

Sewing With A Purpose Delivers 75 Eye Protections and 50 Flannel Bonding Hearts to the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at Golasano/Strong Hospital for the 1 - 2 pound babies. The babies use the eye protections to shield their face when they are placed under the "Blue Light". Each Mom receives two flannel hearts and a paper heart for the baby's Baby Book. Flannel hearts are used to have Mom and Dad bond with their baby. Thank you Sewing With A Purpose Team for sharing your God given skills to fill the needs to better the babies chance of survival.



BEPC Scholarship

The Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for this year's Memorial College Scholarship awards. Details about the application process, including who is eligible, can be found on the Application Guide, which is available upon request from the church office or by contacting Seth McNear (beccaseth@hotmail.com). **Please note:** A change was made to the application guidelines starting in 2022; the number of times a recipient can receive an award has been increased from 2 to 4, with additional considerations being made for those attending graduate school.

Due to the later posting time for the scholarship this year, the deadline for the submission of all materials is 7/15/2023 rather than 6/15 as listed on the guidelines.



Organ Restoration Pledge Drive

Total Cost of Renovation	\$ 90,000
Down Payment	\$ 9,000
First Payment (April)	\$36,000
Second Payment (Summer)	\$ 36,000
Final Payment (Completion)	\$ 9,000
Organ Fund Balance	\$ 33,000
Pledges not paid	\$ 10,000
Still needed	\$ 2,000 (+\$9,000)



Organ Update

Work is underway on restoration of our church's pipe organ! Parsons is currently building the new bellows for the organ at their shop in Canandaigua. They are planning to return to the church on June 14 to remove the pipes and inner workings of the instrument for restoration and cleaning. Their goal is to complete the project by early September.

As a reminder, the total cost of the renovation is approximately \$90,000. The church paid an initial down payment of \$9,000 to authorize the project. In April, we paid \$36,000 to begin the project. An additional \$36,000 will be due this summer. The final \$9,000 will be due when the project is complete.

As of mid-May, there is currently \$33,000 in the organ fund, with approximately \$10,000 pledged funds still to be received by June 30. This leaves approximately \$2,000 remaining to fund the final \$45,000 due. **Note:** Additional funds received will go to the church's tithe fund up to \$9,000; any funds received above that amount will pay the church back for its \$9,000 initial down payment.

Looking ahead:

Parsons has invited anyone interested to tour their facility in Canandaigua while they are working on our instrument. We hope to organize this trip in late June/early July. Our goal is to carpool and stop for lunch either before or after the tour. Please call (585-590-0129) or email (snell.alden@gmail.com) Alden Snell if you are interested.

When the project is complete, we will have a dedication recital featuring doctoral students from the Eastman School of Music. The chair of the organ department is willing to put our church on their rotation of community performances, so we hope that this may become an annual event! We are also working with E&M and Door of Hope to schedule some additional musical events in the sanctuary.

We thank the church for their continued support of this project.

Organ Restoration Team (Fred Ely, Tom Jones, Alden Snell, & Rob Willhoft)

From the Deacons

May delivers the beauty of flowers. During the month of May, the Deacons did not deliver flowers, but we did deliver seven cheer bags filled with fruit and homemade goodies. Specially crafted cards were sent to Nancy Charcolla and Bev Wooton, who have moved to apartments on Long Pond Road. Welcome cards were also sent to our new attendees.

The Deacons are here to serve and pray with you and for you. Don't hesitate to contact us with any needs.

Blessings from the Deacon Committee

Ruth Morse, Moderator

Evangelism & Mission Committee

Will meet June 18 after the worship service in the room adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. (Choir room)

Fellowship

Thank you for joining us for the luncheon/mission program with E&M on Sunday, May 21. We hope that you enjoyed the taco salad and ice cream sandwiches for dessert.

The program was wonderful and informative. God is doing amazing things in our world!

We were able to use many of the leftover vegetables from Foodlink for our luncheon. Thanks to those that saved them for us. Many thanks also to all of you that help us clean up after. You are a blessing!

We served hotdogs at the May Foodlink event. It was another beautiful day and the hotdogs were appreciated by many of the over 200 people attending. If you would like to help with grilling and/or serving hotdogs at the Foodlink events during the summer, please let us know.

We will be cleaning the church kitchen during the week of June 26th. If you have any items in the kitchen/coffee hour room, please take them before then. Also, if you have any food in the refrigerator and/or freezer, please label it, so that we don't throw it away.

Thank you,

Fellowship Team:

Helen Hill	Sandy Partridge
Marty Hammack	Paula Welch
Diane White	Donna Lacey
Kevin Hollenbeck	Pam Patmore
Delores Seward	

All Things Food: Our Several Food Ministries

Salvation Army Needs Cereal, Pasta

Two items the Salvation Army food pantry in Batavia needs the most are cereal and pasta. Please keep that in mind when you are purchasing items to share.

Remember, we collect items for the Salvation Army in Batavia the first Sunday of every month.

They still appreciate receiving empty egg cartons, because sometimes they receive eggs donated from the stores, and one egg may be broken in the carton. They will repack eggs into the clean cartons that have been donated.

And Another Food Note ...

We had previously asked for paper shopping bags you no longer needed. There isn't a need for those at this time, as Foodlink provided us with plastic shopping bags that are used when we have loose items that need to be repacked, like the large boxes of loose tomatoes at the most recent Foodlink distribution. Our volunteers quickly packed them into bags of 10 tomatoes each.

Mark Your Calendars: Foodlink Dates through November

Foodlink has assigned dates for us through November. We will have our monthly food distribution the third Thursday of each month. We will continue to start to unload the truck at 3pm for a 4pm distribution in our parking lot each of those days.

Volunteers, please arrive by 2:45pm, if you can, and park in the Methodist church parking lot to leave our parking lot open for our clients.

Here are the dates from now until the end of 2023:

June 15

July 20

Aug. 17

Sept. 21

Oct. 19

Nov. 16

No distribution in December

Our May distribution drew more of our neighbors than prior events. We served 200 families. These represented 728 individuals. Thank you to the almost 50 volunteers of all ages who gave their time to help our neighbors in need.





VBS

Sunday School News

It is hard to believe we are ending the Sunday School year soon. We have completed a challenging 3 years studying the Old Testament using 'The Gospel Project' curriculum and are beginning a 3 year study in the New Testament. The last day of lessons will be June 18.

Since we all love breakfast, the Bible, and being with one another, we thought it would be fun to have...

What: End of Sunday School Year **Celebratory Breakfast**

Who: Everyone is invited !!!...you do not need to have participated in Sunday School this year, But... we sure hope you would consider joining us in the Fall.

When: Sunday- June 25 at **9:00** a.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Why: To Celebrate our faithful teachers and students of all ages with a wonderful breakfast buffet.

Questions? See Julie Foeller



August 1-3 * 5pm - 8pm *
Age 4- High School

New this year:

- Change in week and time, all activities at BEPC
- Free Family Dinner provided from 5-5:30 p.m. each night before VBS program
- Parent/Adult Study and Fellowship each night during the program hours; coffee/dessert
- Sunday August 6- VBS ' Fun-Day ' Finale and picnic starting at 10:30 a.m.

** Volunteers are needed in many different areas: please sign-up at the VBS display in the foyer. Your willingness to serve will be such a blessing to our church and community.

** Student/Adult Registration Information will be available soon on the church website: bergenepc.com

** Come to the Park Day parade on June 10 at noon to see our VBS float and stop by our church booth in Hickory Park to see the VBS display and play some games.

Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the VBS team if you are not sure what area you would like to serve in or if you have any questions re: VBS

VBS team:

Pastor Brandt and Marty Hammack, Bethany Berggren, Pam Patmore, Judy Bailey, Julie Foeller

Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths. Psalm 25:4

TAG ~ Teens After God

Do Not Judge

On May 7th, the TAG teens joined forces with Sandy Partridge to prepare 80 bagged PBJ lunches for the Open Door Mission. It was a great time of fun, fellowship, food, and frolicking. I am always impressed with how willing our teens are to be the hands and feet of Jesus. "Feed the poor" is something our TAG group definitely takes to heart. To that end, many of our teens also helped at the Foodlink distribution at the church on May 18th. What a great opportunity to shine God's light right into our own community. During our bible study time, we were continuing through the book of Luke. We read and discussed Luke Chapter 6 verses 37-42. Each week I challenge the teens to come up with an application of the scripture read, which is relevant to them in their own life. What the teens took away from our evening reflection on May 7th was that we should not judge others until we have thoroughly judged ourselves and removed the plank from our own eye. Then we can approach others in a spirit of love and humility, covered in prayer!

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: June 4th and June 18th. 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 Teens Packing PBJ Lunches for Open Door Mission
– May 7, 2023

Latest from Sarah Speer

It was the best EASTER ever because of a spontaneous God plan for our friends at the Kimia Center. At 5 am, I took 3 families and one other person to the cemetery to "look for Jesus". We did not find Him amongst the dead! He was risen!



We returned to tell the others at the Center. Four hours later, we took the whole group to the cemetery. The cemetery is in the midst of tall forest trees and very grown up with only small paths in amongst the graves. We had a great little service on the edge of the cemetery. The Aka LOVE the forest. They were so happy to sing and dance. Afterwards, we had our lunch at the riverside.



You were in my thoughts as well this weekend but there was no opportunity to sit down and write. Serge and his team were on a river trip; an emergency call came on Friday night from a village 30 km away because an Aka man had fallen from a honey tree (We brought him to the gov't hospital and finally got to bed around midnight) and it was EASTER weekend! Thank you so much for your faithful giving.

Love, Sarah

Parkfest: Bigger and Better Booth to Tell Our Church Story

At the end of last year's Parkfest, Shirley Harris said that our church booth should be expanded to two spaces for 2023. That's a God incidence, since our church has new and exciting things to talk about this year that hadn't even been discussed at that time last year.

Shirley and her faithful assistant Joan Dermody are creating a bigger and better booth that will provide an opportunity to highlight the new activities and invite our neighbors in the community to become involved. Parkfest is June 10 this year.

Featured will be:

- **The new VBS** with info about the evening time, activities for kids and adults, the community dinner each night before the program. Families will be able to register at the booth. The church VBS team, including Julie Foeller and Marty Hammack, have planned big games that will bring lots of activity to the booth.
- **Kids' Quest** and other summer special events for youth.
- **Door of Hope** coffee house.
- **Sports Camp** coming August 13-16 at 6 pm in the Village Park.
- **Foodlink** distribution dates through the remainder of 2023.
- **Sewing with a Purpose** sample projects.

Volunteers are still needed to staff the booth to talk about our church activities and distribute free water, Band-Aids, and sunscreen depending on the weather. Call Shirley Harris if you can spend an hour or more at the booth.

Elizabeth Snell will be reading to kids who drop by. Delores Seward is on hand to pray for visitors' needs.

The day is always fun to chat with and pray with our neighbors from the community. Thanks to the volunteers who will move tables and tents to the park or contributed items for the booth.

Two PB&J Events in May for Open Door

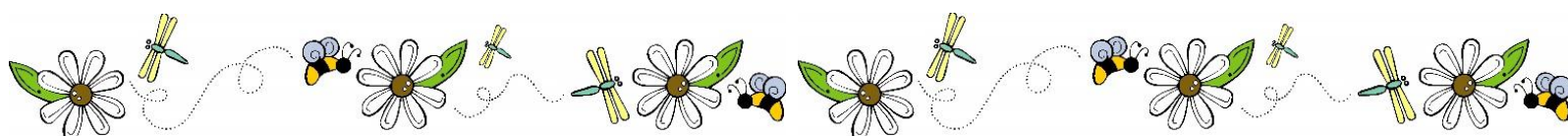
Our church held two peanut butter and jelly lunch making sessions in May. The lunches, each with two sandwiches, two snacks, and a beverage, were taken to Open Door in Rochester to feed homeless individuals.

Members from TAG worked on May 7th to make 70 bagged lunches. The teens raced each other to see who could make the sandwiches the fastest! On May 25th, a week after their last exams for the school year, the homeschool group came back together to work on this Open Door project. There was a job for everyone: The younger kids really enjoyed decorating the lunch bags while the older kids made the sandwiches and filled the bags.

Our next PB+J event will be held on June 8th at 10:30am. This event is open to everyone from our church family! There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer for needed items. Thank you everyone for your support thus far!

Tentative Summer 2023 Schedule for Kid's Quest

- **June 28th-August 9th:** Tinseltown Summer movie series each Wednesday at 9:30 AM. Movies are \$1.50 with \$1 for kids' snack packs.
- **July 1st** Splash pad in Chili
- **July 5th** Movie night
- **July 8th** Strong Museum of Play
- **July 15th** Bricklab
- **July 29th** Christmas in July
- **August 5th** Superhero Olympics
- **August 12th** Splash Pad and playground in Brockport
- **August 25th** Lock in?
- **August 30th** Movie Night
- **September 2nd** Seneca Zoo
- **September 15th** Game night



Calendar

Online calendar:

tinyurl.com/29zhbnbr



Weekly/Monthly

- Sundays, 9:15-10:15 am – Sunday School
- Sundays, 10:30-11:45 am – Morning Worship
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm – Prayer for Door of Hope
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 am – Son Risers
- Saturdays, 11 am – Kid's Quest
- Newsletter Deadline on the 25th of each month
- First Sunday of the month – S A Food Collection
- Last Saturday of the month – Door of Hope Coffee House @ 6 pm (June 24)

Other Events in June:

- Sunday, June 4 - Fellowship Meeting @ 12:15 pm
- Sunday, June 4 - TAG @ 6 pm
- Sunday, June 4 - Fellowship meeting @ 12:15 pm
- Thursday, June 8 - Packing lunches for Open Door Mission @ 9:30 pm
- Tuesday, June 14 - Session @ 7 pm
- Thursday, June 15 - Foodlink @ 4 pm
- Sunday, June 18 - Father's Day
- Sunday, June 18 - E & M Meeting @ 12:15 pm
- Sunday, June 18 - TAG @ 6 pm
- Monday, June 19 - Juneteenth - No Office Hours
- Sunday, June 25 - Sunday School Celebratory Breakfast @ 9 am
- Sunday, June 25 - Worship Meeting @ 12:15 pm
- Tuesday, June 27 - Deacons Meeting @ 7 pm
- Friday, June 30 - Young Life Wyldlife Club @ 7 pm

New BEPC Website - epcbergen.org - Put on your hardhats and take a walk through our new church website. There's still lots of work to be done but you can see the structure of the site. Your comments and suggestions are welcome as you explore. We hope to go live with the new site sometime between June 15th and July 1st.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

June Birthdays

- 1 - Michelle Buckland Seward
- 9 - Garret McNear
- 14 - Erik Berggren
- 14 - Ron Chraston
- 15 - Jodi Engle
- 20 - Sherry Chraston
- 24 - Elaine McAdam
- 26 - Chris Wright
- 28 - Noah Hammack
- 29 - Shirley Cudney

June Anniversaries

- 6 - Kevin and Chris Hollenbeck (36 years)
- 8 - Fred and Eunie Ely (66 years)
- 14 - Seth and Becca McNear (20 years)
- 25 - Tracy and Loretta Miller (62 years)
- 26 - Ken and Nancy Alfes (47 years)

July Birthdays

- 2 - Kathy Cosgrove
- 5 - William Walker
- 8 - Gail Freeman
- 10 - Gregg McAllister
- 11 - Tracy Miller
- 24 - Eunie Ely
- 27 - Daniel Sheldon
- 30 - Jeremiah Hammack
- 30 - Jonah Hammack
- 31 - Shirley vonBergen

July Anniversaries

- 4 - Gregg and Debbie McAllister (36 years)
- 19 - Alden and Christin Snell (20 years)
- 28 - Dan and Debbie Sheldon (6 years)





Church Finances

April 2023

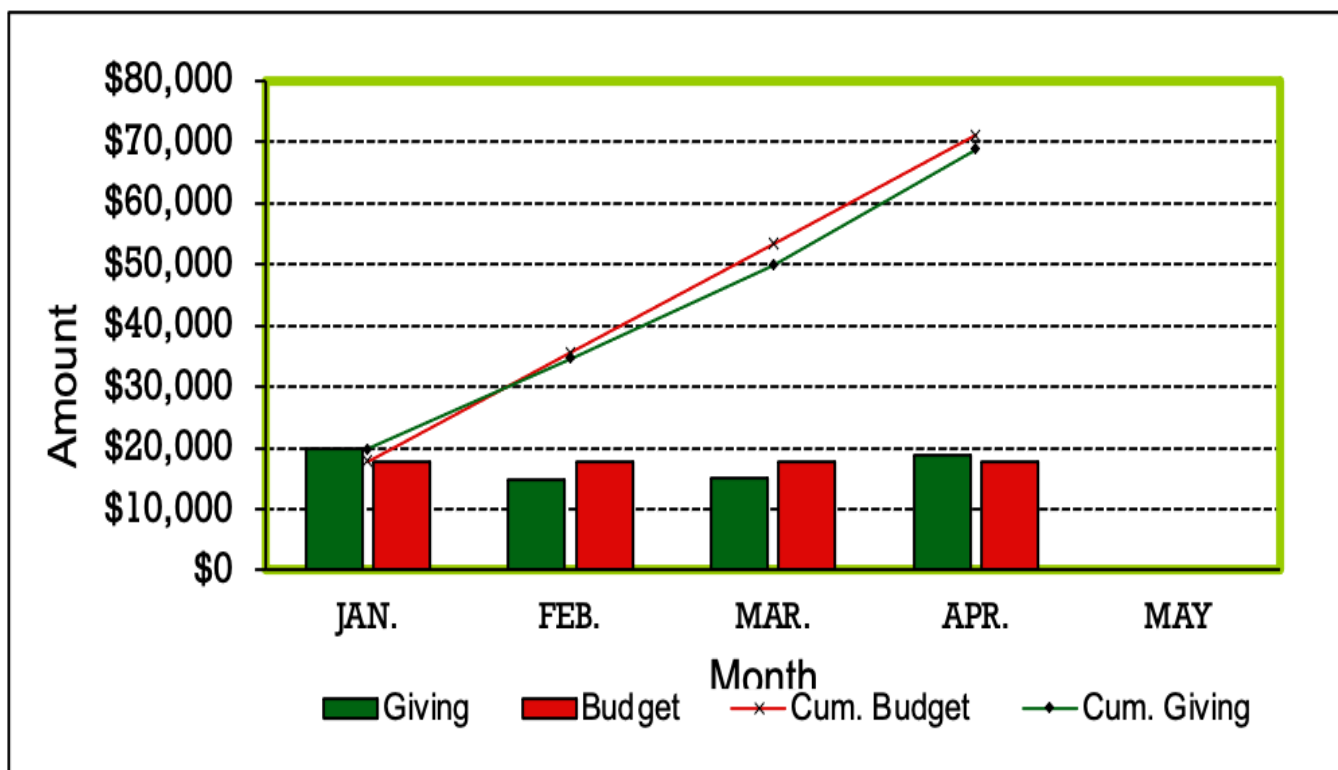
"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."

Malachi 3:10

April's giving was extraordinary, \$18,888, over \$1,000 above the monthly goal and the second highest of the year. At this point in 2023 after four months, total giving towards the budget is running over \$8,000 ahead of the total of a year ago!

Gifts continue to come in for our Organ Fund, with \$1,300 in April. Also in April, since their work was about to begin, Parsons Pipe Organs requested a major 40% payment of the total bill for the repair. At this point, therefore, we have paid to Parsons 50% of the bill (approx. \$45,000). With that payment, and the \$1,300 received in April, our investment earmarked for the organ project now totals \$34,596. With more pledge payments expected over the summer months, we look forward to a successful completion of the Organ Fund Drive.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – APRIL 2023



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - APRIL 2023

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$14,310.75
Net Online Offering:	\$1,570.42
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$47.64 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one-time gifts:	\$3,007.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	<i>\$18,888.17</i>
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	<i>\$772.01</i>
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$19,660.18

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$16,122.91
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$16,122.91
---------------------------------------	--------------------

Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$0.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$0.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$3,007.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE

\$530.27

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$14,175.94
New Designated Receipts	\$2,103.50
Total Designated Expenditures	\$2,276.45

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE

\$14,002.99

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund)

\$14,533.26

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• March Withdrawal	-\$0.00
Current Balance (4/30/2023)	\$29,019

