

An Update from Session

With Pastor Brandt and his family on a well-deserved vacation, and the COVID-19 pandemic finally appearing to pass, your Church Session is using this space to provide you with several updates on how we are prayerfully moving forward into the second half of 2021 with several initiatives. The first two updates are ongoing, the second two are forthcoming.

First, with many thanks to Brenda Reber for her faithful service, we are currently seeking a new **Church Administrative Assistant**. As shared in the weekly Life in the Church announcements, packets containing job information, application forms, and instructions are available outside the Church Office. Applications are still being accepted. Please seal and return a completed application in the provided envelope to Seth McNear's mailbox by the church office. Alternately, copies of the necessary documents can be emailed to him at beccaseth@hotmail.com.

Second, we are continuing our search for an **Assistant Worship Coordinator**. This person will work closely with the Music Coordinator and Pastor on all music-related activities at the church, including weekly musical participation in the worship service and leading the worship service once per month. If interested, please submit a letter of inquiry to [<fpbergen@gmail.com>](mailto:fpbergen@gmail.com); include "Assistant Music Coordinator Search" in the subject of the email. Questions about this part-time position may be addressed to Rob Willhoft at (585) 293-1304.

Third, our church pipe organ needs restoration work. Built in 1907 and repaired in 1964 and 1989, the instrument requires deep cleaning, repair, and refurbishment. The cost of this work is \$85,560. To begin the process of addressing this need, Session has formed an **Organ Restoration Fund**. Please prayerfully consider whether you would be willing to provide a financial gift toward this work. Please also plan to stay after church on Sunday, July 25 for a short presentation about the instrument work. Scot Huntington, a past president of the Organ Historical Society, has agreed to speak with us about the instrument. Alden Snell will also play a few pieces on the organ and lead a hymn sing as part of this event.

Fourth, Session is considering ways to grow our **children's ministry**. When Pastor Brandt returns from vacation in early July, a committee will be formed to evaluate how a new staff position could be used to grow this ministry within our church. Please pray about whether you might be willing to serve on this committee.



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Pastor Brandt Hammack: Brandthammack@hotmail.com
(585-732-6163) Website: www.bergenepc.com
You can also find us on Facebook.

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
8:30am - 1:30 pm

Pastor's Hours:

Tuesday- Friday
9:30-12:00 flexible



Dear Members and Friends of Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the status of our church's pipe organ and its need of substantial restoration work. There will be a brief meeting about the organ after the worship service on Sunday, July 25. Scot Huntington, a past president of the Organ Historical Society has agreed to share more information about the organ and there will be a short performance and hymn singing led by Alden Snell. Look for more information about this event soon.

Built in 1907, renovated in 1964, and repaired—by the men of our church!—in 1989, the organ requires some tender loving care so it can continue to facilitate singing and worship at our church. Representatives from Parsons Pipe Organ Builders have extensively reviewed the instrument, as well as Scot Huntington. All speak positively about our organ, including the quality of work done in 1964 and 1989. Following is a brief summary of the work needed:

- 1) General cleaning of entire instrument (this includes every pipe in the instrument)
- 2) Disassemble wind chest bottom and repair with correct length screws
- 3) Disassemble and repair keyboards (the keyboards are warped and uneven)
- 4) Regulate key action (the keys require different amounts of pressure to press and play)
- 5) Remove, check, and repair pedal board
- 6) Install walk-board for safe access to instrument
- 7) Replace air regulator (this is the only non-mechanical part of the instrument: it provides the air that sounds through the pipes)
- 8) Replace wind connector sleeves (connects blower in basement to regulator (#7))
- 9) Mount chamber lighting
- 10) Reconnect tubular chimes and regulate/re-wire

This work would require approximately eight weeks and would cost \$85,560. The proposed work is inter-connected: the repairs cannot realistically be broken down into smaller, more financially manageable phases. **While the instrument can continue to be used "as is," dust, dirt, and the air regulator issues will eventually ruin the instrument.**

Envisioning this restoration work as an opportunity for serving both our congregation and the community, the Church Session is considering several outreach ventures featuring the restored instrument, including but not limited to hymn sings and community concerts featuring Eastman School of Music organ students and other organists interested in our instrument. This could lead to additional music outreach including a broader variety of musical styles such as other worship music styles in a coffee-house atmosphere.

This is an expensive and extensive repair. To begin addressing the financial need, Session has authorized formation of an Organ Restoration Fund. We ask that you begin to prayerfully consider whether you would be willing to provide a financial gift toward the organ restoration. Questions about the project may be directed to the Organ Restoration Team: Fred Ely, Tom Jones, Alden Snell, and Rob Willhoft. We hope you can join us after the worship service on July 25 to learn more.

Save August 16-20 for VBS and Sports Camp

The Rebiszes are planning a creatively combined event that will tell good news from God's Word and let kids burn off lots of energy.

We will need plenty of volunteers so please save the dates. Plans are still being developed so watch for more details.

You don't have to hit home runs or run a marathon to qualify as a volunteer; just have a love for kids and want to share the love of Jesus. Those two things make you a super star.



Update from Mexico: Prayer Requests from Uli

We were fortunate to talk live with Uli, our missionary in Mexico, during our worship service of June 20. He shared with us how technology has greatly expanded his ministry during the COVID pandemic. The online worship service now reaches more than a thousand people during the course of each week. In addition, many folks, literally from all over the country, are joining the online intercessory prayer group organized by Uli's church.

Praise God! This is an answer to prayers of many years by Uli and his wife, Deena. They prayed for ways to expand the outreach of the Sunday messages, but costs for television were prohibitive. Now, with the use of technology like FaceBook as COVID struck, they have been able to reach so many more people.

When asked for specific prayer requests, Uli offered these:

- God's provision of funds to purchase higher quality equipment that will make it easier and quicker to prepare the Sunday service for online sharing.
- To keep the online prayer group growing
- Healing for Deena's knees that are causing her pain
- Lifting of COVID restrictions that have had a negative impact on the local congregation

Please keep these items in your prayers.

Our congregation has supported Uli and Deena for decades in their work in Mexico. We are pleased to be able to partner with them to spread the word of God.

If you missed the conversation with Uli, you can still watch it on YouTube. Here's the link to the service:

[Bergen EPC Worship Service - June 20, 2021](#)

Learn More About African Missionary We Sponsor

Our church has added Sarah Speer to the missionaries we financially support through the Evangelism & Mission budget this year. Sarah works with the Aka Pygmies at the Kimia Care Center in the Congo. Read about her work and the way she is spreading the gospel to the many leprosy patients served by the center.

John Gay has worked with Sarah when he was in the Congo on short-term mission trips and says she is an amazing Christian dedicated to serve the Aka Pygmies and treat their leprosy. The bandages, pillow case dresses, and shorts created by our church's Sewing With a Purpose team plus others, have gone in the past to Sarah for use by her patients. More suitcases are ready to go, and we are making contacts with MissionGO to have them delivered to the Congo.

Rescue the Perishing: A Neglected People

A newsletter from MissionGO

What is the most important responsibility of a Christian in the world today? When examining Scripture, we are to look into the life and character of Jesus Christ and mirror our lives to His example. We are to follow His last command of going into the world to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey and follow Him. Our obligation to the Lord is to further His kingdom by seeking to tell and display the love of Christ among the nations. *And this is exactly what we are doing in the Republic of Congo with our MissionGO ministries including the Kimia Leprosy Center in the Congo.*

Our work at the Kimia Leprosy Center is vital as we are the only leprosy center in the region -- and these people would have no other way of getting this treatment. An old hymn reads, "All because we do not love them, millions fill the heathen grave; brother can you see them perish, when a little love would save? Love undying, love eternal -- will impel us to our duty." **What a joy it is to bring lasting physical treatment coupled with lasting eternal hope for a neglected people.**

Our Kymia Leprosy Center is a respite for those suffering with a horrible disease. We are currently at full capacity at the Center with 28 residents, as we administer treatment for leprosy. Treatment may last from 6 months to a year depending on the stage of their leprosy. It is important that they are treated at the Center, as the concept of taking the treatment in a timely manner is not well understood in their culture.

Untreated bacteria destroys the skin and nerves over time. Leprosy can cause deformity, crippling and blindness. With treatment, tremendous effects will occur as the medicine halts the process completely! As it will not repair past cellular damage, our missionaries train residents and their families on how to take care of affected limbs (such as wearing socks, using rolled up leaves to grab a warm pot, etc.) We proactively take medical trips deep into the tropical rain forest on a regular basis to find individuals with signs of leprosy and others who need medical attention for various tropical diseases. Our missionaries, Sarah and Serge, often have to cut out infections, repair broken bones and practice wound care.

Cultural Background: While 95% of the world's population has a natural immunity to leprosy, the Aka Pygmies in whom we serve are not immune. In fact, they are prone to it. Sadly, they are the downtrodden and known as outcasts of society, as they are treated very poorly by other tribal groups. However, we bring hope to them and tell them of their true identity in Jesus! **Because this people group is vastly unreached, this is the first time they are hearing the name of Jesus, and their hearts are open!**

The ultimate goal is not only to alleviate their temporary suffering, but also for these cherished people to learn of the One who suffered that they may be wonderfully and intimately known by Jesus Christ.

Their Creator knows exactly what ails them and has the power to heal. While we work to restore their community in tangible ways, we also seek to restore their spiritual brokenness. Recently, through the impact of Bible studies, a young man received Christ and asked one of our missionaries to be involved in his baptism and be a spiritual mentor.

These crucial ministries are funded by faithful supporters like you. If these ministries do not have the support, there are no others to replace us in this work! Not only do we strongly desire to maintain these ministries, but also we have many opportunities to grow. Acres surround our property and the ways to expand are numerous to meet our growing demand. This is a pivotal time in us praying and seeking the Lord's leading on the Kimia Center and a Feeding and Nutrition Program.

Our immediate need is \$56,000 to support these ongoing ministries and their operation through the end of the year. Your gift today will provide such things as: nutrition for our patients and their families at the Center, fuel and repairs for vehicles, surgeries, medical supplies, medical screening equipment, upkeep and maintenance, river trips for finding new patients, seeds, additional food items from the local market, support for our North American missionaries in the Congo, and so much more. Your financial gifts of kindness go directly to meet the needs of the Congolese who are in desperate need of physical attention and spiritual truth. By giving a one-time or recurring donation, you "rescue the perishing, care for the dying" and help us "tell them a Savior has died." By His wounds, we are healed. Amen!

Sincerely in His Matchless Name,
Dr. Brian M. Albrecht
President, MissionGO

For more information about Sarah, use the link below:
<https://www.missiongo.org/donate/missionaries/sarah-speer>



Happy Anniversary



(For every 5 Yrs. there is a ♥ for extra congratulations)

July Anniversaries

4- Gregg & Debbie McAllister	34 yrs
19- Alden & Christin Snell	18 yrs
28- Dan & Debbie Sheldon	4 yrs

August Anniversaries

5- Dan & Pam Patmore	21 yrs
14- Charlie & Elaine McAdam ♥	50 yrs
25- David & Cindy Baker	42 yrs
25- Rick & Amy Stacy	37 yrs
30- Richard & Shirley vonBergen	68 yrs



July Birthdays

2- Kathy Cosgrove	24- Eunie Ely
8- Gail Freeman	27- Dan Sheldon
10- Cambria Goodenbery	30- Jonah Hammack
10- Gregg McAllister	30- Jeremiah Hammack
11- Tracy Miller	31- Shirley vonBergen
14- Celeste Brownell	

August Birthdays

5- Elizabeth Snell	18- Jim Bridge
8- Jonathan Snell	20- Brian Foeller
9- Pam Patmore	22- Anne Waldruff
10- Sally Thomas	23- Kyle Foeller
14- Mark Kobel	

Job Announcement

Administrative Assistant Job Opening

Session has approved the posting of the Administrative Assistant position. Packets containing job information, application forms and instructions are available outside the Church Office. Applications will be accepted from May 17th through June 7th. Please seal and return a completed application in the provided envelope to Seth McNear’s mailbox by the church office or copies of the necessary documents can be emailed to him at beccaseth@hotmail.com.

The Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church seeks a Christ-centered, Bible-believing musician open to the Holy Spirit’s leading, to serve as Assistant Music Coordinator.

This person will work closely with the Music Coordinator and Pastor on all music-related activities at the church, including weekly musical participation in the worship service and leading the worship service once per month.

This is a part-time position (approximately 5 hours per week). A complete job description is available upon request.

If interested, please submit a letter of inquiry to <fpcbergen@gmail.com>; include “Assistant Music Coordinator Search” in the subject of the email. Questions about the position may be addressed to Rob Willhoff at (585) 293-1304.



Young Lives is a mission of Young Life, a mission that our church supports, that mentors and provides support to teen-aged moms. We have about 7 young women in the Genesee County area that are either pregnant or are raising young children.

We are establishing a ‘baby closet’ to help these new moms. We would welcome gently used baby items (clothes, car seats, cribs, strollers, etc.), as well as new diapers, and maternity clothing. We have received some maternity and baby clothing. Thank you for your generous support. You may contact Jessica Maskell – Young Lives Genesee County Coordinator at 585-409-7261, gcyounglives@gmail.com and/or Sandy Partridge (committee member) at 585-414-4593.

A peek at the Church Calendar— keep an eye on Life in the Church emails for changes!

*** During this time of quarantine,
Son Risers will meet through zoom every
Thursday at 6am.**

TAG will meet at Church every other Thursday I

July

4- Church 10:30/ 4th of July!
11- Church 10:30
18- Church 10:30
25- Church 10:30

August

1- Church 10:30
8- Church 10:30
15- Church 10:30
16-20- VBS/Sports Camp
22- Church 10:30
29- Church 10:30

Thank you to all
who helped with
the parking lot
planters.
They look beautiful!



Thank you to the Maher family,
friends of Brenda Reber, for
painting the front foyer! Their
daughter will be getting married at
our church July 9th.

Church repairs

**We are looking for help in completing some projects that need to be done at Church.
Please contact David Hahn if you can help!**

Thanks!

- *Repair SW wall of west stall of downstairs large ladies room
- *Repair front steps
- *Repaint outside lower windows and trim
- *Make an enclosure for the dehumidifier
- *A cover needs to be built over the pipes in the corner of the nursery- See Julie Foeller or Neva Lattimer with questions
- *General painting



TAG ~ Teens After God

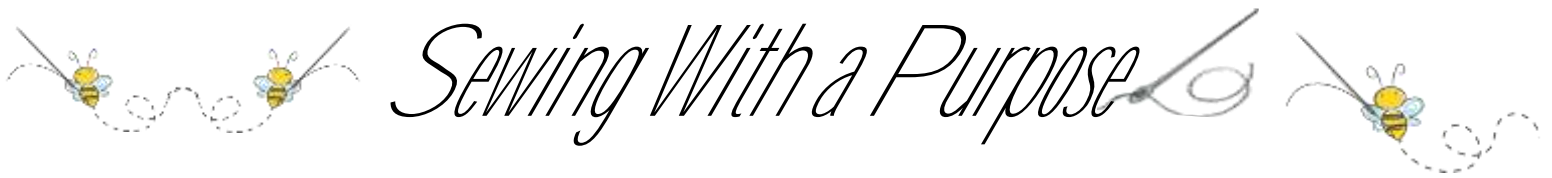
YOUTH GROUP GOING STRONG...AND BACK IN THE TEEN ROOM!!!!

We have returned! After well over a year hiatus, we have finally returned to having TAG in the teen room!!! It is such a blessing to be back home. This month we spent time in youth group analyzing what we know about God and what His plan is for our lives. Teens chose their favorite scripture verse to share with the group and explain why it was meaningful in their life. As usual, one of our more humorous boys chose the shortest verse in the bible, "Jesus wept!" To his credit, he had an excellent explanation of why the verse was important to him. We ended both nights in a time of fellowship and fun. 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 will most likely be switching from Thursday to Sunday evenings for the summer. Many of our teens have soccer, dance, karate, and other activities on Thursday evenings, so please stay tuned for updates on our night/time change. We will also be holding more TAG social events this summer. The teens are excited about hiking ventures, bonfires, movie nights, etc. 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!



Final TAG Youth Group of 2020 Before Covid-19 Hit (in the Teen Room)



Thank you all who support our mission to support our congregation's needs through Sewing With A Purpose.

All prayer shawls donated by Mindy Mayne have been labeled . Jodi graciously made the BEPC labels for each and while at church on Sunday, the remaining shawls were labeled. There is an assortment on the black shelves as you entry the SWP room to your right.

We placed the other labeled shawls in the metal cabinet closest to the windows. Should someone need a prayer shawl in the future any of the following SWP team members can assist you:

Sandy Partridge

Jodi Black

Pam Patmore

Faith Willhoft

Shirley Von Bergen -- After her heel heals (she is a good consult though)

Neva Lattimer

Debbie McAllister

Sewing with A Purpose will take a little break to garden and enjoy the out of doors for July/August and will resume in September.

Should anyone in the congregation have a need, please feel free to contact one of the SWP team members listed above.

Also, should anyone have an idea for our Fiber Arts Team to pursue, share your thought or idea with one of the friendly ladies.

Thank you all again!



This month, please pray for:

Those with ongoing challenges and needs:

Aggie Redinger, Delores Seward, David Hahn, Bob and Kathy Cosgrove, Nancy Alfes, Janice Langdon's mother (Jo Files), Susan Brownell's grandmother; Hazel New-som -and her caretakers Susan's parents

Paul and Sandy Harris, Malanie Glucksman, and Evelyn Pangrazio-friend of Tom and Cyndy Jones, Colton Ely, Rusty Brenton

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

Those who have lost loved ones:

The family of Max Jessop, the family Rob Charcholla, The Coexxter family, and the Roche family

The Youth of our church and our community.

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 von Bergen ministry to the Middle East through Arabic Bible Outreach Ministry; Teachers in Sierra Leone with EduNations; Tim Riley with Genesee County Young Life.

Our Session, Deacons, Youth Leader Joe Rebisz, Worship Leader Christin Snell, Personnel Committee, Nominating Committee, CE Committee and the many more committees and ministries that help run the church. 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.

Deacon Notes:

Deacon Doings:

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Deacon Dossier

Spotlight on Debbie McAllister



- Born in Buffalo, NY
- Was a schoolteacher for over 20 years
- Has a "super cute" 10-month-old grandson in Virginia
- She and Gregg hiked the Andes Mts. in Peru on their honeymoon -- they love to travel !!

- Favorite summer snack -- hot fudge sundae



- Favorite winter activity -- downhill skiing





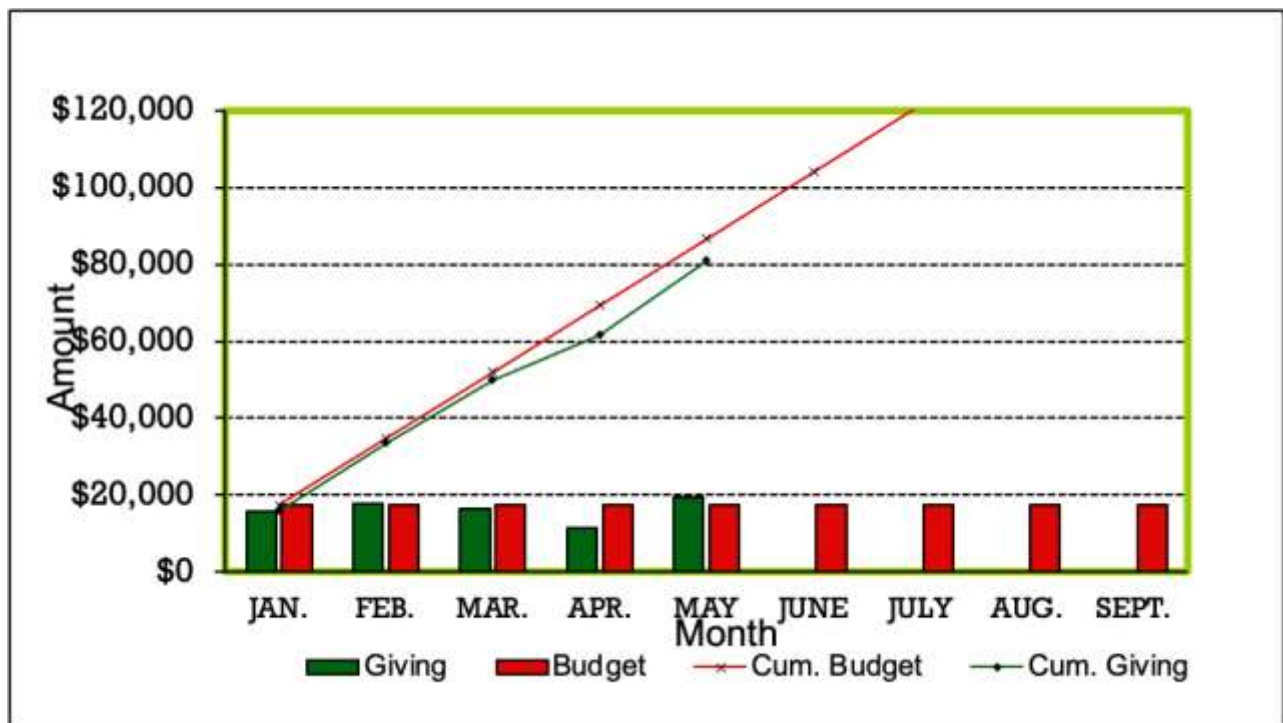
Church Finances

May 2021

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27

With a total giving of \$19,420 for May, our church has responded to April's poor results in a very convincing way. The monthly total was helped by the fact that there were five weeks in which to receive the mailed-in, left at the church, and on-line giving; nevertheless, \$19,420 is \$2,000 above the budget, by far the highest of the year, and the best monthly giving in many years. With expenses for May being quite low, \$13,170, no help from the AIF was needed, and the checking account balance is unusually high at \$4,000 going into June.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – MAY 2021

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$15,005.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,615.49
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$42.00 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$2,800.00

Total New Receipts	\$19,420.49
Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$784.09
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$20,204.58

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$13,169.99
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$13,169.99
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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	\$2,800.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$4,234.59**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$23,071.59
New Designated Receipts	\$806.07
Total Designated Expenditures	\$176.28

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$23,701.38**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$27,935.97**

27,935.97

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

May expenditures	-\$0.00
Current Balance (5/31/2021)	\$