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A Center of Grace in Whittier, California



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**Annual Meeting**

**February 21, 2021**

**St. Matthias Annual Meeting 2021**

Call to Order Senior Warden Mary Jean Christian

Opening Prayer The Rev. Bill Garrison

Senior Warden Remarks

The Presentation of the Annual Meeting Booklet

**St. Matthias Reflection**

Electing the Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Electing the Rector as a Member of the Vestry

The State of the Church The Rev. Bill Garrison

Worship, Education, Parents’ Group,
Prime Timers, Women’s Ministries,
Small Groups, Communications, Soup Hour

 There is a Place for You: The Soup Hour, Choir, Youth, Spirituality, Small Groups

Outgoing Vestry Appreciation:

New Vestry Slate Introduction:

Budget Presentations

Questions?

Closing Prayer The Rev. Carole Horton-Howe

 Greetings to our 2021 annual meeting on Zoom and Facebook! To say it has been an unusual year doesn’t even begin to describe it. Yet we have made it through 2020 and we look forward to the future which I am quite sure is bright.

 We have discovered so many ways to conduct church in the last year online. Our Communications director, Andrea Schmid, has pulled us into the 21st century and made worship and meetings possible in cyberspace. We have learned lessons that will aid our church as the pandemic we are suffering through lessens and comes under control.

 Surprisingly, and through the generosity of our wonderful congregation and some good management, we ended the year in the black. Not many churches can say that currently I am afraid. We have built budgets for this coming year that are well conceived and we believe the year 2021 will be another successful year financially for the same reasons that made 2020 a success.

 Our Soup Hour ministry continues to feed the hungry, handle their mail, and contribute small amounts of cash as needed. Sanitary kits are provided on a regular basis and through a partnership with the Episcopal Church Women a ton of socks and items to keep folks warm were given away.

 Believe it or not we have continued to conduct Sunday school online. Our dedicate teachers meet with the kids through Zoom every Sunday. Thanks to the teacher and the parents for a pretty major miracle.

 So, there is much to give thanks for and much to look forward to. Please enjoy the articles attached and I hope you get a chance to see the visual/audio presentation at the meeting or later on our website produced by Bob Howe.

St. Matthias remains an address for the Kingdom of God.

Blessing to all,

*Bill+*

Rector and CEO of the Soup Hour

Senior Warden

It has been my privilege to serve as your senior warden this past year. As I reflect on the all that has happened, I am thankful for many things and hopeful for a blessed 2021.

We are blessed at St. Matthias with strong leaders that have helped us navigate this most unique year. Our clergy, Fr. Bill and Rev. Carole transitioned to virtual worship in what seemed like a blink of an eye. Even when we had a brief opportunity to meet in person our clergy, staff and vestry leaders rapidly prepared the sanctuary for safe worship.

We have been served well by a strong vestry and I am thankful for their efforts to keep St. Matthias together as a strong community of faith. I would especially like to thank the outgoing members, Kathy Adams, Ben Corbitt and Doug Overstreet for their service to this parish.

The Soup Hour also had to change gears and adjust to social distancing and switched to distributing sack lunches, while still providing hygiene kits, mail service, clean socks and in January some cold weather gear. Ben Gonzalez, Dottie Andersen and the many volunteers were able to maintain services for our more vulnerable guests. The absence of the usual Soup Hour fundraiser was concerning and threatening its financial stability. Fortunately we were able to apply for several grants which ended up providing funds that were lost by not having the fundraiser.

The restrictions of the pandemic did not prevent many of our small group ministries from continuing to meet. We were able to still participate in Bible Study, prayer groups, book groups, ECW, Daughters of the King, women’s retreat and quiet days. The spirit of God certainly remained alive and well at St. Matthias.

Finally I am grateful for the leadership and expertise of Andrea Schmid, Tom Booth and Alan Selmanaj who worked tirelessly to keep us all connected. Who would have thought we would all become such competent “zoomers”? By the way, I can’t hear you, I think you are still muted.

I look forward to 2021 and am confident the Holy Spirit will continue to bless all of us at St. Matthias.

Yours in Christ,

Mary Jean Christian

**Church Groups at St. Matthias**

**Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild prepares the church for worship on Sunday mornings, for special services such as weddings, funerals and special services during Holy Week. Altar Guild members ensure that linens and vessels used for the Eucharist are properly cared for and set up to facilitate a meaningful worship experience for everyone. Both men and women are welcome and training is provided. Contact Father Bill (bill@stmatthiaswhittier.org) or Rev. Carole (carole@stmatthiaswhittier.org) to let them know of your interest.

**Bible Study and Eucharist**

On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., twenty or so friendly people meet online and in the Chase Room with Father Bill to encounter the scriptures. The conversation is fun, interesting, informative, and lively. At 11:00 a.m., we all have Noonday Prayer together, dismissing by 11:30. Everyone is welcome.

**Chalice Bearers/Lay Eucharistic Ministers**

Chalice Bearers administer the chalice during the Eucharist and Lay Eucharistic Ministers take the reserved sacrament to shut-ins from time to time. Please see Father Bill or Carole Horton-Howe for more information.

**Counters**

The Counters are responsible for counting, recording, and depositing the funds from the collection plates on Sunday mornings and special offerings at Easter and Christmas. These funds include pledges, checks. and cash offerings.

**The Order of the Daughters of the King**

The Order of the Daughters of the King (“DOK”) is an organization for women whose vision is to call upon the Holy Spirit to help them know and follow Jesus Christ, to make God known to others and to become reflections of God's love throughout St. Matthias and the world. In the past year, DOK sponsored Quiet Days in Lent and Advent open to all women of the church to give them the opportunity to prepare spiritually for the celebrations of Easter and Christmas. There are currently 13 Daughters at St. Matthias. Daughters meet monthly on the third Sunday of the month to support each other in their spiritual lives. All women of St. Matthias are welcome and may contact Co-Facilitators Angela Warner angelateacher1@gmail.com or Carol McCracken mccracken\_carol@yahoo.com or Rev. Carole at carole@stmatthiaswhittier.org, for more information.

**Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

ECW is the umbrella organization for the women’s ministries at St. Matthias offering logistical and financial support to several sub-ministries: ECW Book Group, Daughters of the King, Community Care, Our Time and Events Group. ECW holds a bake sale each June to support these ministries. All women attending St. Matthias are automatically members and are encouraged to give input into and participate. At meetings, current activities of the women’s sub-ministries are discussed and future projects are planned. Meetings are the 4th Saturday of the month and are currently conducted on Zoom. Please contact current co-facilitators, Kathy Adams at ktouch52@gmail.com or Janice Webster at w.webster6@yahoo.com, or Rev. Carole at carole@stmatthiaswhittier.org for more information.

**Episcopal Church Women Book Group**

The ECW Book Group meets every other month on the second Sunday to talk about a book chosen by the group that is of interest to them. Books chosen are not limited to religious topics. The group currently meets in the evening by Zoom but hopes to resume meeting at the home of one of the members when it is safe to do so. In the last year books included “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens, “The Book of Longings” by Sue Monk Kidd and “The Choice” by Edith Eva Eger. All women of St. Matthias are welcome. Please get in touch with the group’s facilitator, Mary Jo Call, maryjocall@gmail.com, for more information.

**Episcopal Church Women Community Care Group**

The ECW Community Care Group is a service ministry that includes both outreach to the Whittier area community and in-reach to members of St. Matthias and their families. Community Care in the last year assembled and delivered 200+ Easter baskets to the Interfaith Food Center and plans to expand outreach to women’s shelters this year. More than 300 pairs of socks as well as more than 300 hats, scarves and pairs of gloves were collected for distribution to St. Matthias’ Soup Hour guests. Community Care offered care packages to the teachers in our congregation to support and assist them in their efforts to teach electronically. Social activities in 2020 included a tea in June and an ice cream social in October both held via Zoom. *Community Care relies upon and is grateful for the support of the congregation for its donations which make its work possible.* All women of the parish and ideas for additional projects are welcome. For additional information please contact the ECW facilitators, Kathy Adams at ktouch52@gmail.com or Janice Webster at w.webster6@yahoo.com.

**Episcopal Church Women Events Group**

The Events Group plans outings to events of interest to members of the church. Ideas for future events or outings are warmly welcomed. In the past year, the Events Group has been on hiatus but will resume activities when safe to do so. Please contact the ECW facilitators, Kathy Adams at ktouch52@gmail.com or Janice Webster at w.webster6@yahoo.com, if you would like to plan or join an event.

**Episcopal Church Women Stitchery Group**

The ECW Stitchery Group meets the third Saturday of each month in an “open house” style with opportunities for participants to bring a sewing or stitchery project of their own to work on with others or learn a new skill. During most of 2020 the Stitchery Group has been on hiatus but will resume meeting in person in the Chase Room when it is safe to do so. All women, men and older children are welcome. Feel free to contact Ellen Mykkanen, ellenmykkanen@yahoo.com for more information.

**Finance Committee**

This committee reviews the continuing financial condition of the Parish and Soup Hour while working with the treasurer and the vestry to guide the church in sound financial practice. If you have interest in becoming a member of this committee please see Father Bill.

**Futures Fund**

The following are some quotes from the Episcopal Church Foundation in 2000 as St. Matthias was preparing to create a Futures Fund.

"Our emphasis is on ‘Future’ because it may draw your mind, spirit and heart out of the rut of short term problem solving and encourage hard-edge vision about growing your vision and mission. History and experience teach that our future can be influenced by our past. Little of substance springs from thin air. Inspiration and aspiration are not usually the products of desperation. The archaic meanings of ‘inspire’ ‘include’ ‘breath’ and ‘life.’ As people of hope, and as we acknowledge our past we must ask what will give us new breath and life."

"Finally and importantly, is the reminder that one need not have great material wealth to be a philanthropist. All in your congregation (St. Matthias) are by Christian instinct, imperative and experience budding or flowering philanthropists. Lively Episcopal Philanthropy when combined with good measures of sound leadership and education are the ingredients that contribute to an engaging and effective mission.”

These words still ring true in 2021. If you have not already done so please pray and think about how you can contribute not only spiritually but by becoming philanthropists in any way that you can. We know this philosophy works because we have grown our fund from the initial 55 thousand to close to one half million.

If you have questions regarding how you can become a philanthropist please contact one of our committee members: Larry Christian, Doug Halliday, Mike Taylor or Fr. Bill Garrison.

**Futures Committee**

The Futures Committee was formed to oversee an endowment fund called “Funds For The Future.” This committee meets quarterly to review the production of the fund, strategize on ways to further grow the fund and develop ways to fully educate our congregation on the purpose of the fund so that members can make sound decisions regarding contributing to the fund. The fund is an endowment fund being built primarily through legacies and memorials. The fund’s major purpose is to support ministries and major capital needs of St. Matthias. The fund will never be used for general operating expenses. The committee is covered by very strict resolutions and by-laws and is restricted from independently making distributions from the fund. The final say in making distributions is made by the vestry of St. Matthias.

**Lectors**

For most of the history of the church, laypersons have been selected to read scripture during worship services. The Lectors and Readers read the lessons and lead the Psalms and prayers. Lectors or Readers are assigned on a rotating basis to Sunday services and special services. If you would like to be a Lector or Reader, please see Kathy Underwood.

**Ministry to Children & Youth**

St. Matthias offers something for all children on the Lord’s Day. The nursery is available for our youngest children, and Sunday school (which continues to meet on Zoom) is provided for kids from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Our classes are divided into K through fifth, led by Gigi Maidlow and Sarah Corbitt, and grades six through twelve, led by Sam Hayashida and J.D. Neal. Father Bill designs the weekly curriculum, which follows the lectionary. Our parents are also intimately involved in every aspect of our ministry to the kids, including planning extra-curricular Family Fellowship events for our kids, youth, and families. For further information please see Father Bill or Andrea Schmid.

**Our Time**

Our Time is part of the ministry for seniors at St. Matthias. It is a social group open to both men and women to share their accumulated experiences and to build supportive community. Our Time will resume meeting on the third Tuesday of each month to explore topics of interest and enjoy conversation when it is safe to do so. Our Timers often work on projects to support other ministries of the church such as assembling care baskets for women in local shelters. Last year they enjoyed an exhibit of art from the Sistine at Christ Cathedral together. For additional information about Our Time contact Rev. Carole at carole@stmatthiaswhittier.org or call (714) 878-0692.

**Pastoral Commission**

The purpose of the Pastoral Commission is to assist parishioners who are having difficult times and need a helping hand. While the specially trained Stephen Ministers provide long term confidential support, the Pastoral Commission covers the immediate needs of our Church Family. If you feel called to participate in the Pastoral Commission, please contact Chair Mary Jean Christian at mchristrd@yahoo.com.

**Prayer Partners**

Prayer Partners are members of St. Matthias Episcopal Church who desire to serve the church by praying with people individually during the 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. service at either end of the altar during communion. Any person attending a church service may ask for prayer for support during difficult times or in thanksgiving for God’s grace. The power of praying together has been practiced and felt through the centuries by the Christian community as a way to seek God’s help and give God thanks through Christ and the Holy Spirit. If you are interested in praying with people during communion, you may contact Jan Biby by phone at 562-869-3083 or by e-mail at jbiby@aol.com.

**Saint Elizabeth’s Guild**

St. Elizabeth’s Guild provides an opportunity for fellowship for the women of the church, who meet monthly on the third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel for a potluck luncheon.

**Saint Matthias Parish Choir**

*“Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!*

*And may God give us faith to sing always Alleluia!”* – Fred Pratt Green…. #420 *The Hymnal 1982*

For nearly a year now, we have not been able to assemble as an in-person community to sing and worship together. It is indeed fortunate that St. Matthias began streaming our services on Facebook in late 2017. As we accumulated a healthy archive of services and the music contained therein, we have been able to present meaningful musical portions of our worship to share with the parish and broader community via Zoom worship services. I believe I can speak for all of the choir that we greatly look forward to being back together sometime in 2021 to once again lead the musical portions of our worship at St. Matthias.

The Parish Choir is dedicated to leading the congregation in the liturgy, through the spoken word and music written by fine composers and authors spanning the centuries. The often repeated expression – “one who sings prays twice” – is felt very deeply by this ensemble. Although a close and friendly “family,” this group, directed by Kevin McKelvie, is serious about their preparation for services of worship so they may do their very best to convey a spiritual message and to provide a ministry of music for this congregation and the community at large. In our weekly prayer, we pray that we might ...*ready ourselves so as to inspire and empower those who will hear us, so they may go forth into the world and do ministry.* We invite those wishing to serve in ministry of music to come share your gifts through our Parish Choir. Too many people discount their musical abilities.  As we emerge from this current pandemic, we encourage ALL to "give it a try" and see if ministry through music is for you.  Our music ministry is only as strong as *your* commitment to engage with us in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please contact Kevin McKelvie - krmckelvie@aol.com or following a Sunday service, once we are back together as a community, with questions and/or to join.

**Sanctuary Committee**

The Sanctuary Committee was formed in 2012 to look at ways to improve the looks of the sanctuary and to make it a more welcoming experience not only for visitors but for the existing parish. The committee formulated a long list of items, many of which have been accomplished. If you are interested in becoming a member of this Committee please contact Stan Jamieson.

**Soup Hour**

St. Matthias began serving meals in 1984 to homeless and other economically disadvantaged community members. In normal times, each weekday from 2:00-4:00 p.m., our gate is open to anyone who is in need of a hot meal, which is served at 3:00 p.m. Hygiene kits and other donations are distributed, and referrals for further assistance are given. Mail is received in the office for over 200 people. In this crisis time of Covid-19, we are glad to be able to continue to serve this population, albeit in a modified manner. Since we cannot, at this time, invite people into the patio for a hot meal, we are serving sack lunches from 3:00-4:00 p.m. through the bars of the gate, maintaining a safe distance. We are also distributing mail, socks, and hygiene items.

The goal of the Soup Hour is to provide people with daily sustenance, community resources, and companionship. In all aspects of the program, we strive to make evident our belief in preserving the dignity of every human being. The program is run by staff members Ben and Dottie along with wonderful volunteers. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Dottie Andersen.

**Stephen Ministry**

Stephen Ministers are lay people, trained to work with people who are experiencing tough or stressful times. Stephen Ministers are trained to deal with death(s) in a family, people with job losses, people going through a divorce, and many, many more crises. Stephen Ministers are a friend to their care receiver and offer a listening ear. Stephen Ministers have the resources available to make referrals to professionals if the situation becomes more than they are trained to handle. All conversation and visits are extremely confidential. Stephen Ministers complete 50 hours of training administered by Stephen Leaders. Stephen Leaders must complete one week of intense training that is administered by personnel from Stephen Ministry headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. To learn more, please contact Faye Jackson, Stan Jamieson, Terry Dodd, Kay Lozano or a clergy member.

**Ushers**

The Ushers greet people as they enter, distribute bulletins, count attendance, receive the offering, and direct people row by row to the communion rail. Please express your interest in this important ministry to Dave Donovan or Father Bill, or Rev. Carole.

**Community Groups Meeting at St. Matthias**

***These groups will be meeting again when the pandemic is under control.***

**Addictive Eaters Anonymous**

Addictive Eaters Anonymous meets in the Chase Room at St. Matthias on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

**Adult Children of Alcoholics**

Adult Children of Alcoholics meet in Room 111 on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

There is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Chase Room on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

**AAUW Board**

Our Greater Whittier Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is very grateful to St. Matthias for a meeting space for our monthly Board meetings. AAUW’s motto is Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls. We do service projects, give scholarships, present conferences for 8th grade girls to encourage them into mathematics/science careers, and work for equity for women and girls in many areas of life. Our elected Board has 17 members and our monthly meetings are essential for a smooth running, 130-member organization. Thank you for your generous sharing of a meeting space.

**Ballet Folklorico**

Ballet Folklorico Juvenil de Pico Rivera is a family-operated and community based program. Various ages and levels practice dances from all regions of Mexico each Tuesday evening in Lewis Hall.

**Boy Scouts at St. Matthias**

Boy Scout Troop 546 Trailblazers has been in Whittier for over 70years (One of the oldest Troops in Whittier), and meets on Monday evenings in Lewis Hall.

Our Scoutmaster is Mario Sierra.  He is dedicated to turning these young boys into young men.  The troop does an number of civic projects in the community.  The Troop has one of the highest number of Eagle Scouts in the district.  This is primarily because the Troop meets with each Scout regularly to measure their progress.

**Hispanic Outreach Taskforce**

Their mission is to improve the quality of life of Hispanics and the community through programs in education, health, economic development, financial literacy and the cultural arts.

**Keystone Montessori Preschool**

Keystone Montessori Preschool Whittier is housed at St. Matthias. The school applies the highest standards and the education method developed by Dr. Maria Montessori.

**The United Nations Association/USA, Whittier Chapter**

The Board meets in the Chapel on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The Association relates the peacemaking vision of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals to our local concerns.

**The Whittier Area Peace and Justice Coalition (WAPJC)**

WAPJC meets at St. Matthias on Thursday nights. Their goal:  To popularize civic participation by an informed public and to combat the triple interlocking evils of racism, exploitation and militarism. Their purpose is to promote a vision of peace, justice and environmental well-being.  This vision is grounded in the belief that life is sacred; that differences between people and nations can be resolved in non-violent ways and that peace is more than the absence of war or the denial of conflict.

**Young Artists Theater Company**

Their mission is to allow children to discover and develop hidden talents, creativity, and build up their self-esteem and confidence through the performing arts. The program is open to all regardless of experience, talent or financial circumstances.

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| **St. Matthias Income and Expense 2020** |
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| **Income** |  |
| Donations | 323870 |
| Designated Fund Donations | 16100 |
| Rental & Misc Income | 149539 |
| **Total Income** | **489509** |
|  |  |
| **Expenses** |  |
| Diocesan Pledge | 25431 |
| Soup Hour Support | 21156 |
| Expenses Paid by Funds | 11016 |
| Insurance Expenses | 67012 |
| Worship and Music Supplies | 2369 |
| Office Expenses | 38397 |
| Payroll Expenses | 247271 |
| Property Taxes | 9366 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 2585 |
| Utilities  | 30745 |
| **Total Expenses** | **455348** |
|  |  |
| **Net Result**  | **34161** |

**Year End Balance Sheet SM**

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| **Assets** |  |
| General Checking | 36195 |
| Designated Checking | 90141 |
| Endowment Funds | 475733 |
| Total Current Assets  | 602069 |
| Fixed Assets | 1159221 |
| **Total Assets** | **1761290** |
|  |  |
| **Liabilities and Equity** |  |
| Reserves and Transfers | -1855 |
| Advancement Fund | 1000 |
| All Purpose Fund | 3241 |
| Kevin Taylor Fund | 8220 |
| Christian Education Fund | 1196 |
| Congregational Care Fund | 8246 |
| Endowment Funds | 465557 |
| Sanctuary Fund | 37040 |
| Rectors Discretionary Fund | 23445 |
| Retained Earnings | 1181039 |
| Net Income 2020 | 34161 |
| **Total Liabilities and Equity** | **1761290** |

**St. Matthias 2021 Budget**

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| **Income** |  |
| Pledge and Plate Income | 329000 |
| Designated Fund Donations | 8900 |
| Rental & Misc Income | 168600 |
| **Total Income** | **506500** |
|  |  |
| **Expenses** |  |
| Designated Fund Usage | 35150 |
| Diocesan Pledge | 27000 |
| Soup Hour Commitment | 21600 |
| Insurance Expense | 72000 |
| Payroll Expense | 260000 |
| Utilities | 30800 |
| Taxes | 9400 |
| Repairs | 7600 |
| Music and Worship Supplies | 6200 |
| Office and Misc Expense | 36750 |
| **Total Expenses** | **506500** |

**Soup Hour Profit and Loss 2020**

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| --- | --- |
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| **Income** |  |
| General Income | 28022 |
| Community Support | 26325 |
| Personal Assistance | 5741 |
| Other Donation Income | 3957 |
| Donation Incoome | 64045 |
| Church Support | 21204 |
| **Total Income** | **85249** |
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| **Expenses** |  |
| Bus Fare and Personal Assistance | 6747 |
| Food and Drink Costs | 2326 |
| Hygiene Expenses | 2922 |
| Paper Goods | 1126 |
| Postage | 112 |
| Insurance Expense | 1810 |
| Sanitation Expense | 1695 |
| Misc | 673 |
| Rental Expense | 84996 |
| **Total Expenses** | **102407** |
|  |  |
| **Net Loss** | **-17158** |

**Soup Hour Balance Sheet**

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| --- | --- |
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| **Assets** |  |
| Cash | 23077 |
| Equipment | 641 |
| Total Assets | 23718 |
|  |  |
| **Liabilities and Equity** |  |
| Payable St. Matthias | 7083 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 33793 |
| Net Loss | -17158 |
| **Total Liabilities and Equity** | **23718** |
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**Soup Hour 2021 Budget**

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| --- | --- |
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| **General Donations** | **28000** |
| Personal Assistance | 5500 |
| Community Support | 26400 |
| Misc Income | 800 |
| Grant Income | 14000 |
| Church Support | 21600 |
| **Total Income** | **96300** |
|  |  |
| **Expenses** |  |
| Holiday Dinner | 1700 |
| Bus Fare & Personal Assistance | 6500 |
| Food and Drink | 4000 |
| Hygiene Expenses | 3000 |
| Paper Goods | 2000 |
| Postage | 150 |
| Rent and Overhead | 72000 |
| Insurance | 2000 |
| Sanitation | 4000 |
| Misc | 950 |
| **Total Expenses** | **96300** |
|  |  |
| **Net Income/Expense** | **0** |