

## Presbyterian Church of Washington

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presbywashmo.org



January 2024

## *Connect Newsletter*

Dear Members and Friends:

Christmas is over and it is time to take down all the decorations!

There is often the urge, the desire, to pack everything up and get it out of the way. But, sometimes, I think we rush too quickly, do too good of a job at cleaning up after Christmas, and in that we run the risk of removing it from our lives.

What if after Christmas we could keep life from getting back to normal again? What if we could really hold on to the Christmas spirit and take it with us into the hopeful days ahead of us in the new year?

We have been able to see again a star of wonder, to hear again the angels sing, to hear again the cry of a baby, and have our hearts strangely warmed because God has bent low to the earth, again. Every Christmas we are reminded of God's sacrificial love and to whom to devote our lives to, Jesus the Christ.

Matthew tells us that the Magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They had one question on their minds, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." The point is clear. They came all that way for one reason and one reason only, to worship the new born king, to make him the object of their devotion.

I have a collection of manger scenes. Each year as I am packing away all the Christmas decorations, I leave one nativity scene out on the mantle. It stays out all year long. It is a reminder of the one born to be the object of my devotion.

What decoration can you leave out in a prominent location to remind you of the birth of Jesus, the one to worship every single day?

Christmas blessings and best wishes for the new year.

***Stephanie Knopf***  
***Moderator of the PCW Session***

Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



# PCW Prayer Requests

## Members with continuing needs:

*Family of Kay Hazel, Ollie Whyte, Francie Turnure, Jocelyn VanBuskirk, Heather Miller, Scott McCracken, Jan Eade, Sid Thayer; Bill Kellermann, Barbara Hagan, Brian and Kate Hall, Tom Seener, Jamie Tucker, Becca Brehe and Juliana and Gracelynn, Annette Bogdanor.*

Union Care Center: George Peters, Ken Roetheli

Group Home: Lisa Conrad

## Friends of the church requesting prayers:

**Eddie and Sarah McGurthy and Family** (daughter and son-in-law of Ollie & Virginia Whyte)

**Patricia Hucke** (daughter of Kay Hucke)

**Pam Evangelist** (sister of Sharon Fenner)

**Phyllis Rocco** (sister-in-law of Lois Kempf)

**Loyd and Louise Gordy** (parents of Beth Brehe)

**Betty Buerk** (cousin of Becky Vogt)

**Howard Thiesmann** (friend of Tom Kempf)

**Lauren Kellermann** (daughter of Bill and Pamela Kellermann)

**Dora Ficklin and Parents** (great-granddaughter of Gary and Beth Brehe)

**George Brehe** (brother of Gary Brehe)

**John Howe** (family member of the Eade's)

**Sherry Shehan** (cousin of Kathy Rogers)

**Kelly Sewell** (son-in-law of Virginia Boren)

**Bob Rafferty** (friend of John and Jane Bugele)

**Anna Niessen** (friend of the Grubers)

**Bob Duemler** (brother of Richard Duemler)

**Quinn Burton** (daughter of Kelly Burton)

**Sarah Rogers** (family of Lya and Randall Avery)

**Russ and Marian Schelich** (friends of Kathy Froning and Mauri Truesdell)

**John Kennedy** (nephew-in-law of Kathy Froning)

**Gertrude Treutel** (friend of Kathy Rogers)

**Mary Whisonant** (sister of Barbara Duemler)

**Lainie** (friend of Vivian Marshall)

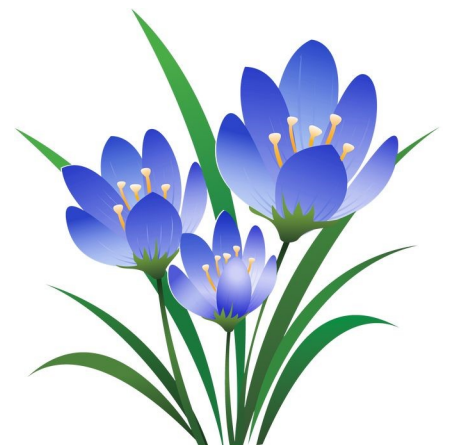
**John Holbert** (brother of Vivian Marshall)

**Family of Jane Lohmeyer** (sister of Barbara Hagan)

**Carl and Ketha Bounds** (parents of Aaron Bounds)

**Bob Turnure** (husband of Francie Turnure)

**Tom Pennington** (friend of many)





## Mission Garden Update

# Why Is Our Garden Green Now?

Many people in our congregation believe that David Brunworth can work miracles in our mission garden, but does that include a green garden in January when snow might be on the ground?

Read and experiment, says the retired family physician and founder of our Mission Garden, whose annual yield of about 1,000 pounds of produce is donated to Loving Hearts Outreach food pantry. He agrees with author Elizabeth Murphy, who has a master's degree from the University of California where she studied the fundamentals of soil organic matter. "The daikon radish is nature's rototiller. It breaks through hard, compacted soil layers...and mechanically opens up channels for water and roots to penetrate."

Adds David, "We'll leave the radishes in all winter and grind them up in spring. They release nitrogen into the soil, which will be great for next spring's crops." Below, David stands atop a truckload of compost that was delivered to the church in December.





# Clerk's Corner

By Nancy Sebastian

I trust this letter finds you well and blessed in the grace of our Lord. As we enter a new year, I wanted to share some exciting updates and important announcements regarding our church community.

**Rev. Jensen's Inspiring Sermons:** We've been privileged to experience delightful and insightful sermons from Rev. Jensen in recent weeks. His unwavering support has been a source of strength for our congregation, and we eagerly anticipate his return. It's heartening to know that he travels from Swansea, IL to worship with us, underscoring the sense of unity within our faith community.

**Appreciation for Rev. Alan Meyers:** Our gratitude extends to Rev. Alan Meyers, who delivered an excellent sermon recently and in addition skillfully moderated our Congregational Meeting. His dedication to our community is appreciated.

**Motion for Congregational Meeting Minutes Approval:** Recognizing the time gaps between our Congregational Meetings, the Presbytery has recommended a motion allowing Session to approve the minutes. This change aims to streamline the process and ensure more timely decision-making. This motion was approved by the congregation at our December meeting.

**Revised Cantata and Acknowledgment:** A special treat was delivered with a revised Cantata in December. Heartfelt thanks go to the Bounds family for their creativity, time, and talent in making this musical celebration possible.

**Christmas Eve Evening Service:** Craig Matzes led us in worship on Christmas Eve. Thank you, Craig, for planning and carrying out this special service. Pat Brown and Andrew Brehe handled the sound booth, which was greatly appreciated.

**New Pastor Search Update:** The search for our New Pastor is temporarily on hold. The Commission on Ministry (COM) has provided valuable feedback on the Ministry Discernment Profile, suggesting a revision to better reflect our desires for a permanent minister. A dedicated committee has made these edits, with the revised document which was approved by Session at the December meeting. Session is exploring the possibility of moving directly into the Pastor Search, which is a process within itself. A request has been made with our Commission on Ministry representative to meet with Session to answer questions and guide us in this process. Your patience is greatly appreciated as we navigate this next step to securing a permanent pastor.

**Bylaw Update:** Tim Urban and Bruce Wiese have recently completed a bylaw update. Session approved this at the December meeting with corrections. Upon approval, the members will vote to approve the bylaw update at our January annual meeting. The Presbytery requested the update.

**Committee Annual Reports:** Each Committee Chair will be submitting their annual report no later than January 15, 2024. These reports are to be compiled, along with a Scrip and Cemetery report, will be available for the Congregational Meeting.

Peace, Nancy



# Annual Congregational Meeting

## Sunday, January 28 Following Worship

The Presbyterian Church of Washington Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, January 28, 2024, immediately following our church service.



Rev. Stephanie Knopf, who has been the Moderator for Session, will lead the meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to approve the 2024 budget which the Finance Committee has been working hard on. The Annual Report will be available containing the Presbytery Cemetery Report, Scrip Report and Church Committee Reports. A motion to accept these reports will be needed.

## January Birthdays

**5 Linda Booher**

**8 Bob Eade**

**10 Shirley Coulter**

**11 Bob Turnure**

**11 Mary Eleanor Farrell**

**12 Gary McElhinney**

**16 Brad Carpenter**

**17 Alisa Conrad**

**22 Craig Matzes**

**24 Susan Benedict**

**30 Kathy Froning**





## ***Painting Crew at Work***

When our Interim Pastor is selected and arrives, he or she will move into a freshly painted office. Steve Sebastian (pictured), John Bugele, and David Brunworth have been painting the walls. Thanks guys!

### **2024 Offering Envelopes**

The 2024 PCW Offering Envelopes will arrive mid-January. We apologize for the delay. If you wish to make an offering before their arrival, please use any envelope, write your name on the outside, and deposit it in the lock box outside the sanctuary. Thank you.



**During most of December, our church was without a fulltime pastor and also an office administrator/financial secretary. Many members volunteered on very short notice to assist in the office with duties that needed attention. A special thank you to our Session members, Personnel Committee, Worship Committee, Finance Committee, Youth Director Craig Matzes, musicians Aaron and Emily Bounds, and everyone who helped with church office functions.**

**Session:** Linda Booher, David Brunworth, Tom Farrell, Joe Hagan, Tom Kempf, Jolene Patterson, Kathy Rogers, Nancy Sebastian, Elda Seener, Sarah Spear, Mauri Truesdell, and Gerry Urban.

**Personnel Committee:** Mauri Truesdell, chair; Mary Ellenberger, Gretchen Farrell, Joe Hagan, Nancy Sebastian, Elda Seener, and Tim Urban.

**Worship Committee:** Tom Kempf, chair; Mike Becker, Andrew Brehe, John Bugele, Katie Collins, Tom Ellenberger, and Vivian Marshall.

**Finance Committee:** Tom Farrell, chair; Linda Booher, Karen Ladd, Phyllis McElhinney, Elda Seener, and Bruce Wiese.

**Individual Volunteers Helping With Office Functions:** Linda Booher, Aneeta Brown, John Bugele, Christy Eckert, Gretchen Farrell, Katie Farrell, Tom Farrell, Lois Kempf, Barbara Mullins, Kathy Rogers, Mauri Truesdell, Tim Urban, and Becky Vogt.



## Congregation Assembles Blessing Bags To Give Away

Several dozen homeless persons in our area will be nourished by some hearty snacks that are being distributed by PCW members who attended church on December 10, 2023.

The blessing bags idea came from Mission Committee chairman Jolene Patterson, who attended a Presbytery Gathering last November in Belleville, Illinois, at the First United Presbyterian Church. "Their mission team asked everyone to assemble a blessing bag for homeless persons, but in addition, we were to take one to keep in our car, and also take one bag to our respective congregations," she said. "I decided that instead of saying thank you to all of the

wonderful members of our church for supporting God's mission with their time, talents, and treasures, I would give them a gift—a way to share the blessing that God gave us."

Jolene, who donated all of the food items and plastic Ziplock bags, said 45 bags were filled on December 10. Additionally, she took 15 bags to the Washington Police Department for officers to carry in their cars and give away. Jolene has been Mission Committee chairman for four years and retired at the end of 2023.



**PCW Book Sale will be April 26 and 27  
from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day.**

## Book Club Meets January 4

After a 3-week Christmas break, book club resumes on January 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the Session room. The group is reading *Eli, A Novel*, by Bill Myers, and the cost is \$5. Books are available in the church office. *Eli* is a story of Jesus living on earth today. The author asks, "What if Jesus had not come until today? Who would follow Him? Who would kill him?" Book club is open to all adult members and friends and generally runs from 10:00 to noon every Thursday. The club meets year-round except for a summer break.







**The Proclamation Brass will present a free Pops Concert on Saturday, February 3, at 2:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. A “free will” offering will be taken and the proceeds will be donated to the Bethel Hills Community. Bethel Hills is a neighborhood of homes in “Marthasville designed for the needs and aspirations of individuals with and without developmental disabilities. Proclamation Brass rehearses at Faith Lutheran Church in Sullivan.**

*Photo copyright by Meta.*

### **Scrip Orders Due Sunday, January 7**

Our next monthly PCW Scrip order will be on January 7, 2024. Please get your orders and checks into the church office by noon that Sunday or contact Kathy Froning, Gretchen Farrell. or Becky Vogt. Scrip orders can be for physical cards, digital cards and reloads, which are just reloading more money onto physical cards you already have from this Scrip program.

Have you heard how wonderful and very SAFE these gift cards are from scammers? By not being in a public store where scammers can touch them and tamper with them, these are the best way to get and buy gift cards, and have them delivered directly to you.

Remember, EVERY Scrip gift card you purchase from us benefits our church immediately and in so many wonderful ways.

## Anna Mae Boehmer Reaches 76 Years of Membership in Our Church

About 35 years ago, a few members of the Presbyterian Church of Washington, then located at Market and Fourth Street, began openly discussing buying land and building a new church. Anna Mae Boehmer was not one of them. She now admits that she wasn't happy about the prospect of leaving downtown Washington. "I cried," she recalled. "At the time, I had been a member of our church since I was a little girl in the 1930s. And Wilbert and I were married there, too. I had been a member of the downtown church for almost 50 years. But then I said to myself, *Anna Mae, we've outgrown this old church. Maybe it's time to move. All of those steps are a problem. I broke my leg once and some men had to carry me up the stairs in my wheelchair. Maybe the new church won't have so many steps.*"

Regardless of the church street address, or the building's architecture, or the ease or difficulty entering the sanctuary for worship, Anna Mae has been a faithful member since 1948. Last year marked her 30<sup>th</sup> year in the "new" building, which was completed in 1993. She now has the distinction of two church records: being on the membership roll longer than any living member today, and having been a choir member in our church for 75 consecutive years. She formally retired from the choir in 2022. Our choir honored Anna Mae during a worship service in December 2022 for her decades of musical service.

*Continued on next page.*





Anna Mae attributes part of her vitality to her childhood on the family farm in New Haven. “It was nothing to get up at 4:00 a.m. and start chores,” she remembered. “And I can milk a cow, by golly.” The family had electricity when Anna Mae was young, but no indoor plumbing. She was the youngest of seven children. “All of them are gone now,” she said wistfully. She has celebrated more birthdays than any of her parents or siblings did, and her family bloodline to the Presbyterian Church of Washington spans more than a century. Her father and mother, Charles and Lillian (Pehle) Wolking, were born in 1884 and 1894. Lillian attended our church as a child, and the couple were members when they were adults.

Anna Mae attended a one-room country school through the eighth grade, and then lived with her widowed grandmother in Washington while attending Washington High School on Locust Street. “My grandmother didn’t have a car, and neither did I, so I walked everywhere—to school, to church, and downtown for shopping.” After graduating in 1952, she was employed for about four years at J.C. Penney’s downtown, now occupied by Mommy & Me clothing store. “I earned 35 cents an hour,” she remembered, “and started in the women’s clothing department, which was called ready-to-wear. It was on the second floor and the store had no elevator. I also worked in the basement unloading and sorting new merchandise, and later I worked in the office. So I got lots of walking exercise in that job.”

In the undated photo below, published in 1950, Anna Mae is in the second row.

*Continued on next page.*



THE CHOIR

First Row—Betty Anthony; Esther Ellison; Cherril Medley; Mrs. Erwin Steffens; Mrs. Albert Hencke; Arline Krue; Bettie Wimberly; Selma Fink; Mrs. Culvin Bourne, Organist and Director.

Second Row—Betty Pace; Nancy McMonigle; Anna Mae Wolking; Mrs. Bryan Hungate; Mrs. Donald King;

Mrs. George Sherk; Agnes Meyer; Mrs. Ferol Hudson; John Lohan; Donald King; Hugo Bunning.

Absent—Mrs. Harold Johnson; Jeanne McDonald; Dorothy Danz; Bessie Gregory; Barbara Hungate; Bert Lange.



In Stony Hill, Missouri, about 25 miles west of Washington, Anna Mae Wolking met her future husband, Wilbert Boehmer, at a Saturday night dance. She introduced him to her parents a week later. “He liked them, and two years later we were married in the Presbyterian Church in 1955. Our reception was at the Washington City Auditorium, and my mother and his mother made all the food for the dinner.” Wilbert joined the church shortly thereafter, and was an active member until his death in 2006. He and the late Whip Schultz, father of Becky Vogt, were good friends for many years and worked together often on church projects.

“If you wanted anything done at church that required some muscle, you’d ask Wilbert or Whip,” added Anna Mae. “They were both farm boys. I’d watch them work together, and they never said a word to each other, but they got the job done.”

While Wilbert was doing the heavy lifting at church, Anna Mae lifted volunteerism to a new level herself. Although the choir was her favorite and most time-consuming activity, for many years she taught children’s Sunday School, played the piano for Vacation Bible School, prepared enough hot roast beef sandwiches for thousands of hungry members and guests, baked more than a hundred cakes for potluck dinners, funeral meals, and craft shows, and once a month—for about 40 years—baked a loaf of bread for the communion table. Today, she can be counted on to arrive early on Sunday mornings to prepare coffee for the after-worship fellowship time.

The Boehmer children also grew up in our church. Charles and his wife now live in Eureka, Missouri, and Denise and her husband live in Alaska. Anna Mae has three grandchildren.

In seven decades, Anna Mae has experienced many changes in our congregation—including numerous pastors and choir directors—but her faithfulness to God and to our church has never wavered. “The devil doesn’t want me,” she laughed, “and God doesn’t want me yet, so I’m doing the best I can right here on earth.”



**At left is Anna Mae and Wilbert’s wedding portrait from 1955.**

**At right, Anna Mae and her dog Molly at a recent Pet Blessing at our church.**



## Former Member Graduates From Army Chaplain Boot Camp

Jeff Brown, a former member of our church who was active in the PCW youth group from 1999-2002, recently graduated from the Army's Chaplain Basic Officer Leader Course (CHBOLC) at Ft. Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. Jeff is a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Army Reserves, and the 90-day training exercise is mandatory for all Army chaplains and chaplain candidates.

Last summer's class was comprised of 83 chaplains from across the country. In addition to classroom instruction, they marched outdoors, had overnight drills in simulated battlefields, competed in physical skills, and learned how to conduct memorial ceremonies and funerals. The Army currently has 1,300 active duty chaplains and 1,200 chaplains in the Reserves and National Guard. All Army chaplains are required to have a master's of divinity degree, which typically includes courses in Greek and Hebrew. The first chaplain in the Army was authorized by the Continental Congress and appointed by General George Washington in 1775. Chaplains have a dual role of providing religious support to soldiers as well as advising the commanders on the impact of religion, morale, morals, and ethics.

Jeff is a member of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia and is pursuing his master's degree at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. The members of the youth group who graduated from Washington High School in 2002 were part of one of our largest youth groups in recent memory. Several of the 2002 class are still active or have active parents in our congregation: John Buckhorn, Emily (Bugele) Bounds, Marty Brunworth, Drew Greer, and Andrew Kellermann. Jeff, who lives in Philadelphia with his wife and three children, is the son of Dean and Aneeta Brown.





**We appreciate any member who can pay the per capita fee, which is mandatory for all congregations in the Presbytery. For more information, please read below. The fee can be paid at any time during the year. Please make check(s) payable to Presbyterian Church of Washington. Unpaid fees will be charged to the church budget.**

**\$36**

The commitment to sharing the cost of the connectional church is but one of the ways in which our gathering together makes Christ's church possible. Our generous support of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the form of per capita gifts, are part of our call to be one church, one community. Through our gifts we support the work of our congregation, our presbytery, our synod, our national church, and beyond.

Per Capita is the primary funding source for Giddings-Lovejoy, the Synod of Mid-America and the General Assembly. With it the GLPBY staff and leaders resource and equips its congregations and supports its minister members.

Pending approval at today's Presbytery Gathering, the 2024 Per Capita will be set at \$36 per member. Every member congregation is asked to fulfill its Per Capita commitment and to give generously, connecting our offerings with those across the PC(USA) who have committed themselves to the work of this church.



2024 Per Capita



# A Trip Down Memory Lane From the Church Archives

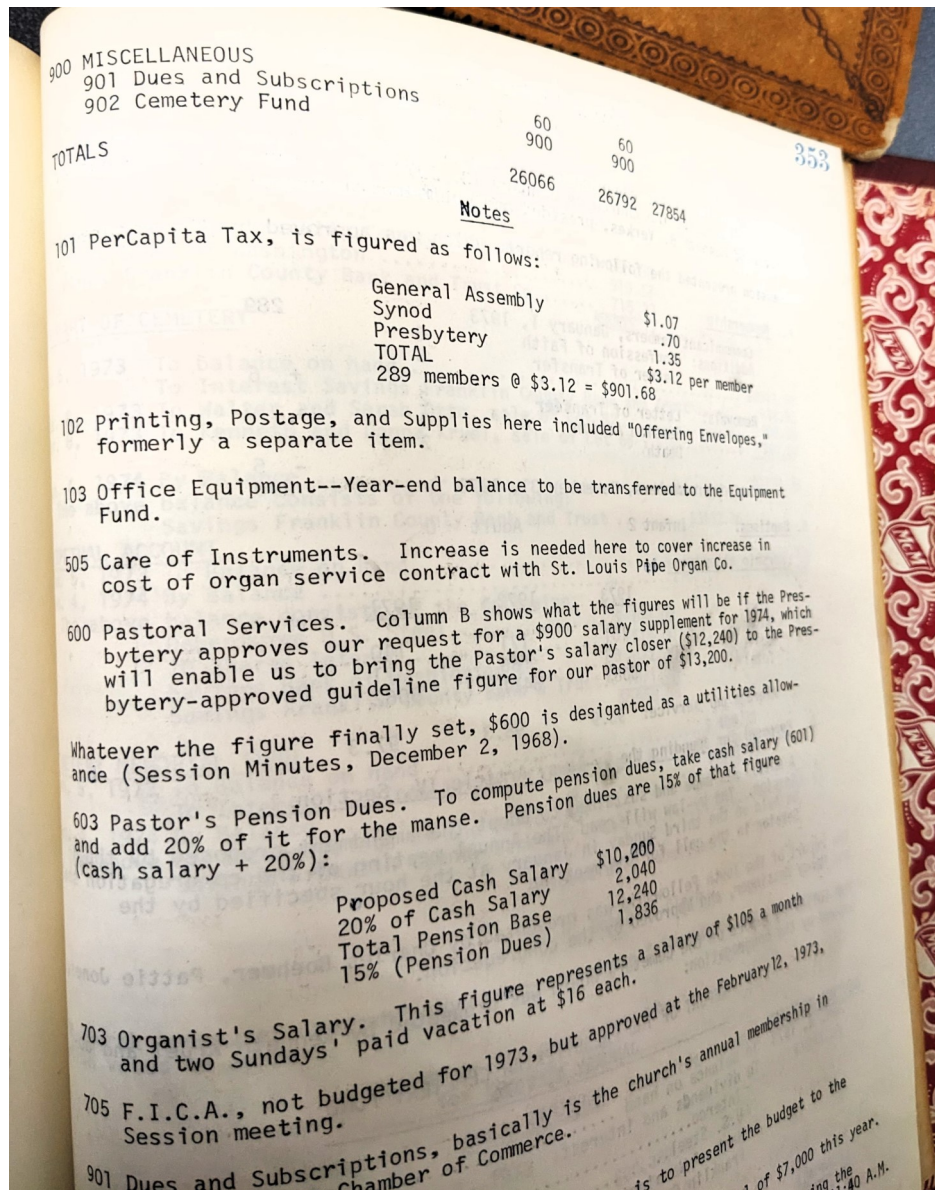
## Our Proposed Church Budget 50 Years Ago

After some discussion of the budget, a motion was made and sustained to approve the budget and to present it to the congregation for approval. The approved budget is as follows:

### THE 1974 BUDGET

		BUDGETED 1973	PROPOSED 1974 A B	\$ 7000
A.	GENERAL MISSION (Benevolences)			
B.	LOCAL MISSION			
100	ADMINISTRATION			
	101 Per Capita Tax	\$ 825	\$ 905	
	102 Printing, Postage, & Supplies	810	800	
	103 Office Equipment	280	280	
200	PROPERTY			
	201 Utilities	1800	2000	
	(202 Custodial Supplies	100)		
	202 Insurance Escrow	1500	1500	
	203 Property Taxes	80	80	
300	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
	301 Study and Teaching Resources	700	700	
	302 Scholarships and Projects	300	300	
	303 Equipment and Supplies	100	100	
400	CHURCH LIFE AND MINISTRY			
	401 These Days	40	40	
	402 Fellowship Hours	75	75	
500	WORSHIP AND MUSIC			
	501 Pulpit Guests	280	280	
	502 Music	75	100	
	503 Communion Supplies	15	15	
	504 Robe Cleaning	50	50	
	505 Care of Instruments	120	130	
	506 Flowers, Decorations, and Memorials	100	50	
600	PASTORAL SERVICES	9300	9300	10200
	601 Pastor's Salary	800	800	800
	602 Pastor's Car Allowance	1674	1674	1836
	603 Pension Dues			
700	PERSONNEL	2400	2460	
	701 Secretary's Salary	2140	2496	
	702 Custodial Service	1232	1292	
	703 Organist's Salary	110	110	
	704 Nursery Attendants	0	145	
	705 F. I. C. A.			
800	STEWARDSHIP AND INTERPRETATION	100	100	
	801 Stewardship Program	100	50	
	802 World Mission Conference			

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