



WELCOME MINISTRY of EL CAJON

2019 ANNUAL REPORT | WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER
Volume 5 | Issue 1

The Right Rev. Barbara Brown-Snook, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, celebrates the Holy Eucharist at Welcome Church—Church without walls in Wells Park, January 5, 2020. Also pictured: Deacon Tom Morelli (L) and Deacon Phil Loveless (R). Photo: Jeremy Kaercher, Welcome Ministry

Announcements...

- Here's our invitation to join us for our **Community Men's Breakfast** at 8:30 AM the second Saturday morning of each month at St. Alban's Episcopal Church fellowship hall. There is no cost. Come enjoy this time of fellowship and faith.
- **Welcome Church—Church without Walls** now worships TWO times each month—on the first AND the third Sundays at 3:00 PM in Wells Park.
- Welcome Ministry's free **Joy Force food pantry** occurs every month on the first and third Tuesday mornings following our **bilingual Mass** in English and Arabic at 8:45 AM.
- Visit our new website: welcomeministryec.org.

In This Issue...

Page 2: Father Dave's thoughts regarding homelessness:

"I struggle with wanting to fix things, but I'm disappointed there's a growing homeless population despite our work and that of other ministries, non-profits, churches and hundreds of caring people. We can, and we must, do better."

Page 3: The Faces and Places of Welcome Ministry in 2019

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JUSTICE, MERCY, HUMILITY

the Rev. Dr. David L. Madsen | Mission Developer

Recently I was heading home from my office and decided I'd drive down the long alley behind Walmart between Main Street and Madison Avenue in El Cajon. I noticed several groups of folks setting up camp for the night. I made a few turns and found similar encampments nearby. I recognized a few people; most individuals are easy to find because they usually remain within the same areas. There seemed to be a lot of newer faces I didn't know. I know I struggle with wanting to fix things, but I'm disappointed there's a growing homeless population despite our work and that of other ministries, non-profits, churches and hundreds of caring people. We can, and we must, do better.

Living on the street is tough. I hear the stories. Each month I have as many as 40 one-on-one conversations with people on the streets and in El Cajon parks. Here is the reality of just one person I know. His ability to access services and support for help is limited. He's had no consistent place to sleep or keep his belongings. He has difficulty doing things that you and I take for granted such as filling out important paperwork. He doesn't always remember the location of his doctor's office. In the past two years he's had six telephones with different numbers, so he isn't easily reachable. Yet I know he is capable with tools and handiwork. In fact, I hired him. There are many like him in El Cajon.

Those of us who work one-on-one with unsheltered people know that their phones, personal identification, and important papers are easily lost or stolen or sometimes confiscated by police. Our helping institutions routinely make no allowance for the fact that a homeless client's entire possessions are contained in a grocery cart or back-pack. Individuals are penalized for not having the capacity to arrive at appointments on time; for not returning phone calls; for not having a computer, the literacy skills or the mental ability to complete required paperwork.

“...it is time to wake up and smell the coffee...”

Welcome Ministry will continue to take a leadership role in our community to promote sharing and caring together. *However, I think it is time to wake up and smell the coffee!* I believe it is time for advocacy and transparency. It's time to quit shifting the blame to people who for various reasons cannot speak for themselves. It's also time to take a break from service providers and agencies gathering

more and more research data regarding homelessness and the people living on the streets. But, there's the rub. Data confirms there is great need, but effective solutions are slow to come. Gathering data should not be an endpoint at the expense of creating immediate solutions. As Jeremy Kaercher of our staff wrote in a recent Welcome Ministry report: “This is a region of San Diego County for which policy solutions relating to homelessness have been long neglected.”

I recently was co-facilitator for a group of congregational mission developers, Lutheran seminarians, and people with specific (and some not so specific) ministry calls from throughout the



Father Dave Madsen with ELCA
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Photo courtesy ELCA

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THE FACES AND PLACES OF WELCOME MINISTRY OF EL CAJON



all photos: Jeremy Kaercher, Welcome Ministry

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JUSTICE, MERCY, HUMILITY | *continued*

nation. Like us they meet with those struggling on the margins of poverty, homelessness and injustice. We each shared what works for us, and learned best practices from one another. After several days with these committed individuals, I reflected that they – like us – do the best they know to do with the tools, resources, and partnerships they have. I admire that in them. I humbly identify with that reality.

While data collectors analyze research, Welcome Ministry this year will grow our outreach of advocacy on behalf of our unhoused neighbors. We will seek public transparency for major funding of projects in East County. We desire to work with others who want to work with people on the street. †

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

(Ecclesiastes 4:9-20, 12. NRSV)

2019: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Our collective ministry begins by meeting our neighbors at our Tables of Grace: our twice-monthly bilingual Mass and food pantry for middle eastern refugees and asylees, and our twice-monthly **Welcome Church** Eucharistic worship and community meal for homeless and low-income persons. It is here that we build one-to-one relationships that are at the center of our ministry.

In 2019 **Welcome Ministry** moved from its previous single outreach of homeless ministry to include what had been St. Alban's Episcopal Church's **Joy Knight Refugee Ministry**. Welcome Ministry now has two points of outreach:

- **Welcome Church—Church without Walls** which meets in Wells Park ministering to those who experience homelessness and are marginalized; and
- **Joy Force** which welcomes refugees, asylees, and all newcomer immigrants seeking a home and acceptance within America's borders.

With this consolidation we have discovered a unique opportunity to build a synergistic and holistic ministry.

In November, the ELCA Domestic Hunger program awarded Welcome Ministry a \$30,000 grant; \$10,000 per year for three years. (We received our first year funding in February 2020.) We will use the first installment to replace our aging and under-sized Toyota pick-up truck. A larger

vehicle will allow is to transport more produce for our food pantry, and serve more families through our ministry.

Welcome Church – Church without Walls

The day before each Welcome Church worship service, our evangelism team does one-on-one visits in Wells Park sharing coffee, water and pastries as we do walk-about to invite guests to worship the next afternoon. We meet many people this way. Following our Sunday Welcome Church's services, we offer a picnic-style lunch and as they are available personal items such as blankets and new socks to care for our unhoused neighbors.

In 2019 we helped some of our people move from homelessness into housing. Four of our church members pooled their incomes so that they could share an apartment home. Others found housing in shared mobile home/trailer houses. Some of our church family live in their vehicles which, while not ideal, is preferable to being completely unsheltered. We also assisted clients seek mental health and public benefits assistance.

This past year we continued to offer free laundry services to those without housing. Our **Loads of Love** laundry service provides clients with a sense of well-being and dignity when they can have clean clothing to wear. **Loads of Love** provided well over 400 loads of laundry in 2019.

Since 2016 we have participated on the East County Homeless Task Force (ECHTF). Welcome

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED WELCOME MINISTRY IN 2019:

- The Sheila Buska Foundation
- Betty Cuadras
- Denise Drier
- Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon
- the John and Karen Garcia family
- Sharon Hathaway
- Phillip Loveless
- the Rev. Dr. David and Naomi Madsen
- Gregory Masztel
- Network for Good
- Pacifica Synod of the ELCA
- St. Alban's Episcopal Church of El Cajon
- St. John's Lutheran Church of El Cajon
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church of San Diego
- Judith Taylor
- Rev. Andrew and Anne Welch
- anonymous donors

WELCOME MINISTRY ANNUAL SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS as of December 31, 2019

Statement of Income and Expenses

Balance Sheet

Income	
Grants	\$12,833.33
Donations-Welcome Church	9,684.58
Refugee Ministry income	8,539.57
Automobile	2,248.21
Tithes/offerings	200.00
Total Income	\$33,505.69

Expenses	
Advertising/promotion	\$45.26
Automobile expense	1,722.36
Travel expense	1,121.60
Bank charges/e-commerce fees	1,211.02
Conferences/meetings	1,188.85
Dues/subscriptions	675.00
Corporation fees	10.00
Insurance	513.00
Ministry expenses	
Welcome Ministry	\$1,800.00
Joy Force Refugee Ministry	4,452.71
other	8.69
Supervision/ministry expense	729.76
Pastoral needs	2,413.37
Office: rent, supplies	3,006.99
Meal supplies	51.23
Payroll expenses	
Salaries, wages	\$12,084.94
Employment taxes	947.34
other	2,276.65
Repairs and maintenance	(25.30)
Telephone/website	1,781.61
Total Expenses	\$36,015.08
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$2,509.39

Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/savings	\$17,738.89
Fixed Assets	
Furniture/equipment	69.24
TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,808.13

Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	
payroll liability	\$12.49
Total Liabilities	\$12.49
Equity	
Unrestricted net assets	\$20,305.03
Net income	-2,509.39
Total Equity	17,795.64
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$17,808.13

WELCOME MINISTRY OF EL CAJON

is a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Chief Executive Officer:

the Rev. Dr. David L. Madsen

Program Administrator:

Jeremy Kaercher

Social Media:

Victoria Mayer

Board of Directors:

Judy Brown
Deacon Phil Loveless
Michael Park
Pastor Kim Dawsey-Richardson
Pastor Andy Welch



Welcome Ministry is an affiliate of Ecclesia Ministries.

DEACON PHIL LOVELESS RETIRES FROM MINISTRY

We celebrate the retirement of Deacon Phil Loveless from active ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego on December 31st. Deacon Phil was assigned to St. Alban's Episcopal parish in El Cajon. He was ordained after graduating from the diocesan School for Ministry in San Diego in 2015. Phil worked tirelessly with homeless and refugee ministries at St. Alban's, St. Mark's in City Heights and St. John's in Chula Vista. Phil will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of Welcome Ministry of El Cajon. ✝

Photo: Jeremy Kaercher, Welcome Ministry



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2019: THE YEAR IN REVIEW—continued

Ministry's participation with the ECHTF and other venues brings the prophetic voice of the faith community in support of all of God's beloved. Through our collaborative public advocacy we are developing public initiatives to address homelessness in East San Diego County.

Jeremy Kaercher of our staff, who serves on the ECHTF, co-authored a major research report for the task force that was released in April 2019. It describes the unsheltered population of East County, the issues they confront, and suggests a range of short-, medium-, and long-term housing opportunities to address present systemic shortcomings. The summary report is a resource for government, non-profits, and the wider community.

We also are advocating for an integrated, comprehensive regional plan for homelessness covering all East County governmental jurisdictions that, we pray, will result in new services, shelter, and permanent housing for the economically vulnerable among us.

Joy Force Refugee Ministry

As we incorporated the *Joyce Knight Memorial Refugee Task Force* of St. Alban's Episcopal Church into Welcome Ministry we rebranded the refugee outreach as our **Joy Force Refugee Ministry**. Worship is the foundation for this outreach. Our bilingual English-Arabic Mass occurs on the first and third Tuesday mornings after which worshippers gather in community on the church patio for prayer before the food pantry opens. A similar worship experience for El Cajon's Karen refugee population from Myanmar takes place at a neighborhood apartment complex where most live. Food pantry items are also available for them.

Our **Table Talk** conversation group is for those

for whom English is their second or third language. **Table Talk** is now in its second year providing a safe, hospitable multi-cultural environment for refugees and asylees to grow their English proficiency. Several women in **Table Talk** have felt empowered by their participation to enroll in community college. Others are working to earn their driver's licenses or take English literacy training at the El Cajon Public Library.

As 2020 began we received a *Fearless Love* grant from the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego to begin a **Community Men's Breakfast**. It is multi-ethnic and inclusive of rich and poor, young and old. We are inviting men from our Circle Community Garden, our refugee food pantry and bilingual Mass, the Latino congregation that meets at St. Alban's, and from other nearby congregations. We have a volunteer team of cooks and food servers to prepare the meals at no cost beyond that of basic supplies. (We served 20 meals at our first *Community Men's Breakfast* on February 8th, 2020.)

Welcome Ministry unveiled a new internet website, **welcomeministryec.org**, in late summer to support the organization's expanding communications strategy. It introduces visitors to all of the elements that compose our outreach ministry, and offers thoughts and reflections by Fr. Dave on matters we encounter in ministry.

Looking forward, **Welcome Ministry Inc.** will continue to be ecumenical and we invite clergy and laity from all denominations to become involved. We have begun planning so that we might employ an experienced professional program manager beginning next year, either clergy or laity, who will be tasked with overseeing the continued growth of this ministry and help our Board of Directors develop an expanded vision of our mission.

It is our prayer that Welcome Ministry will grow to serve the unique and diverse needs of both El Cajon's refugee and homeless populations. †

Welcome Ministry of El Cajon

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