



WELCOME MINISTRY of EL CAJON

2021 ANNUAL REPORT | WINTER/SPRING 2022 Volume 7 | Issue 1

Members of First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon and St. Alban's Episcopal Church joined gardeners of the Circle Community Garden on Farragut Circle for a clean-up, fix-up day April 2, 2022.

Photo: Heidi McKinley, First Presbyterian Church

WELCOME MINISTRY TWOFOLD PATHS OF DISTINCTION (WELCOME CHURCH AND JOY FORCE)

by **Father David Madsen**

In my post-graduate studies, I and other seminarians were challenged to discover non-profit organizations that reflected both a vision and mission for ministry that we also identified for ourselves. In my case, I had imagined a two-pronged outreach, the first prong aiding refugees and asylum seekers, and the second assisting people suffering from homelessness and poverty. That vision today is Welcome Ministry.

Concerning Joy Force (Refugees, asylum seekers)

I love this nation called the US of A, and I love this planet called Earth. However, I am troubled by atrocities like global warming, racism, and the cries of tired, wounded, and desperate people in Ukraine, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Sudan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Afghanistan. I am reminded of the scene in the 1976 film *Network* when news anchor Howard Beale declares: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." That film, now 46 years old, has as much to say about the state of the world today as it did then. I believe we are on the cusp of a great catastrophic movement of displaced humanity in the history of the known world. How does that affect Southern California and east San Diego County?

El Cajon has become a mission field for refugees and asylum seekers. We have an estimated population 50,000 Chaldean refugees living in and around El Cajon, 8,000 Kurds, and a growing number of Syrians and Afghans. We know this expanding population of immigrants into our community will influence this first prong of Welcome Ministry's future outreach, but our strategic plan anticipates this growth. For now, we remain alert, ready to respond.



Father Dave Madsen

Photo: Jeremy Kaercher

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WELCOME CHURCH IS “POPPING-UP” EVERYWHERE

by Jeremy Kaercher

Uncertainty that we all have encountered from COVID-19 once again challenged Welcome Ministry in 2021. In late 2020 subject to local health protocols, we began to restart or expand our separate ministries to people experiencing homelessness and to refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants living in the El Cajon Valley that had been curtailed because of the pandemic. Our semi-monthly *Joy Force Food Pantry* and our weekly *Loads of Love* laundry ministry for people experiencing homelessness first resumed in 2020 and continued last year. In early 2021 our twice-monthly Tuesday morning bilingual worship services resumed with a limited liturgy to start. *Table Talk*, our weekly conversation group for immigrants and refugees, having been online in 2020, in the late spring returned to meeting in-person outdoors at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church and later in the year indoors as conditions permitted.

We had hoped to resume *Welcome Church without Walls* much earlier in 2021, but did not until November when we felt it again safe. We seek to bring *Welcome Church* to wherever our worshipping community of unhoused residents might be. Since we had last worshipped as *Welcome Church*, it became more challenging to find where unsheltered people gathered—and not just because of COVID. During 2021 new public policy initiatives resulted in expanded commitments for unsheltered people desiring to transition into new bridge, supportive, and permanent housing opportunities. Many of our neighbors left life on the streets to begin on a pathway to homes of their own. For that we celebrate. Yet, too many still live without shelter or services in and around El Cajon.

With so much transition occurring we introduced what we have come to call “pop-up” church. It is a different way for us to bring worship to people experiencing homelessness. Rather than be anchored to a single location, we seek out places where groups of unsheltered persons have currently relocated. That can change from week to week, day to day. *Welcome Church* attempts to move with them to offer fellowship, worship, and a shared Meal – both Eucharist and a community meal that is a protein-rich snack bag of nourishing, non-perishable food items donated by the members of First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon.

Throughout November and December pop-up church worship took place adjacent to the El Cajon Public Library and on the Prescott Promenade in downtown El Cajon. Beginning in January the increased community outreach to unsheltered people resulted in more and more persons being moved indoors into temporary housing leaving fewer and fewer people in familiar places for *Welcome Church*. We adapted once more. For now, on Sundays that we would normally worship our pop-up church volunteers disperse in small teams to locations throughout the city to offer our mobile neighbors our protein snack packs, engage them in conversation, ask if they have needs we might help them address, and offer prayer right where we find them.

Our clergy and volunteers are enjoying learning to host the concept of pop-up church. Thus far we are taking the church to new places building new relationships with new people. †



Deacon Phil Loveless reads from the day’s lectionary at “Pop-Up” church, November 7, 2021.

Photo: Jeremy Kaercher

WELCOME MINISTRY ANNUAL SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | as of December 31, 2021

2021 Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

Income	
Grants	\$48,114.00
Donations-Welcome Church	14,256.92
Refugee Ministry income	4,100.00
Pastoral income - housing	2,500.00
Special services	200.00
Total Income	<u>\$69,170.92</u>
Expenses	
Automobile expense	4,498.17
Bank charges/e-commerce fees	132.30
Grant expenses	2,250.00
Charitable giving	346.00
Computer/internet/technology	21.89
Conferences/meetings	117.18
Dues/subscriptions/professional fees	869.90
Corporation fees	30.00
Insurance - Workers Compensation	741.00
Ministry expenses	
Welcome Ministry	\$1,920.00
Joy Force Refugee Ministry	959.95
other	0.00
	<u>2,879.95</u>
Supervision/ministry expense	2,584.90
Pastoral needs	4,788.52
Office: rent, supplies	333.45
Meal and worship supplies	1,038.22
Payroll expenses	
Salaries, wages	\$16,835.00
Employment taxes	1,329.62
Payroll processing	2,683.82
	<u>20,848.44</u>
Postage and delivery	101.69
Professional fees	1,043.75
Rent expense	2,500.00
Repairs and maintenance	413.73
Telecommunications	1,543.45
Total Expenses	<u>\$47,082.54</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	<u>\$22,088.38</u>

2021 Balance Sheet

Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/savings	\$41,403.16
Fixed Assets	
Furniture/equipment	7,600.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$49,003.16</u>
Liabilities and Equity	
Equity	
Unrestricted net assets	26,914.78
Net income	22,088.38
Total Equity	<u>49,003.16</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$49,003.16</u>

THANK YOU TO WELCOME MINISTRY'S 2021 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS:

- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Ibtisam Bashee
- the Right Reverend Dr. Susan Brown Snook
- Leticia Buska
- Sheila Buska
- Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon
- Lee and Jeremy Kaercher
- Phil Loveless
- Naomi and David Madsen
- Pacifica Synod of the ELCA
- St. Alban's Episcopal Church of El Cajon
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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TWOFOLD PATHS OF DISTINCTION | *continued*

Concerning Welcome Church (Unsheltered and those living on the margins of poverty and hunger)

There is another diaspora of people taking place. The second largest population of people unsheltered persons in San Diego County is in El Cajon. Their presence is an ongoing community concern. This second prong of our Welcome Ministry outreach is to people experiencing homelessness and poverty. I am encouraged our civic leaders now pursue new approaches to address the needs of unsheltered residents. We appreciate that the efforts of outreach workers use motel vouchers to begin moving unsheltered individuals into housing. But not everyone who wants housing achieves it. There still is not enough housing to fulfill the need, and let's be honest – law enforcement still is a first public response to dealing with unhoused people.

Welcome Church's leadership continues to discern the future of ministry to vulnerable residents, a future that envisions us with a permanent home for ministry. Our dream is to have a site where all feel welcomed holistically and without judgement. We imagine it to be a safe place where people living without shelter can rest, have a snack or coffee, charge their mobile phones, access computers for correspondence or employment searches, receive mail – a place where they can talk with someone and receive prayer and support.

Two immense challenges under the same umbrella.

I do not see that my vision in seminary that gave rise to Welcome Ministry will change anytime in the future, although our methodology will adapt as the way we face these challenges will be flexible and consistent. ✝



Table Talk, our weekly activity for immigrant women wishing to improve their English language skills, meets at St. Alban's Episcopal Church. *Photo: Jeremy Kaercher*

The core mission of the Welcome Ministry is to facilitate the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of members and clients.

WELCOME MINISTRY OF EL CAJON

is a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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the Rev. Dr. David L. Madsen

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Michael Park

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Rev. Andy Welch

Newsletter:

Jeremy Kaercher

Welcome Ministry is an affiliate of Ecclesia Ministries.

Would you help us help our neighbors in the continuing mission of Welcome Ministry? We welcome your tax-deductible donations through our online giving portal at welcomeministryec.org or by mail.

Welcome Ministry of El Cajon is an IRS recognized 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit organization.

Your donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Welcome Ministry of El Cajon

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