

Hello Everyone,

***Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?***

***Matthew 6:25***

Another year has yet again gone by, and another financial letter is needed to let you know how the church is doing.

As of July 31, 2022, the following accounts were:

- General Fund **\$130,519.60**
- Compassion Fund **\$885.00**
- Other Income **\$4,497.36**

Although that is a fantastic number, our giving is actually behind budget by \$21,730.40. I realize that it is a difficult time for most people, with inflation causing a huge financial stress on households, so I want to thank everyone for the continued giving during this difficult season. However, I would also like to put out a gentle reminder to people that we are called to give God our first fruits and to trust that He will provide everything that we need.

I also want to mention that we have cut our budget back to \$261,000 in 2022, which is as low as it can be to operate our church. Our goal is to have a budget of around \$270,000 to allow our church to run more programs and have more community outreach.

Other highlights from the year include the church received \$75,000 in January from the land sale, which covers the higher expenses (shown in the next paragraph) and hiring a new bookkeeper to keep our operations running.

Our total expenses were **\$188,215.83** at the end of July. This is higher than our budget by \$35,979.25. There are a couple reasons that explain why this number is so high. For starters, the Board of Elders decided to hire a summer intern, which turned out to be quite helpful during Pastor Chris' sabbatical. We also tackled the media room in the balcony in order to operate our live stream sermons.

We have continued to give towards the same missions and as of July 31, 2022 we have given:

- Global Advance **\$10,792.01**
- New Ventures **\$5,609.87**
- Dignity House **\$1,618.80**
- Seamless Link **\$2,800.00**

Note: I realize these numbers are not exact to the percentage in the budget but is being worked out with the bookkeepers.

Financially, the church is doing okay largely because of the land sale and the great start we had at the beginning of the year from 2021. But our giving is behind, so I'd like to thank you for everything you've given so far and to encourage everyone to look at how they are doing with their giving compared to your personal goal on your membership. If there is a way that we as a board can come alongside and help in your giving journey, please reach out to your flock elder or Pastor Jenn.

Hillary Reeves  
*Treasurer, The Bridge Church*