

Glad Tidings

PO Box 2316, Arusha, Tanzania
<https://acc.or.tz/>



2019
Volume 392



Letter from the church council:

An exploration on Wikipedia concerning our Christmas traditions.



Did you know that a carol is a song of praise and joy? Carols used to be written and sung during all seasons of the year but of late, tradition has us singing them during Christmastime.

What is the origin of Christmas? Early Christians took over the pagan winter solstice (21st December) celebrations by celebrating the birth of Christ, and as early as the year 129 a Roman Bishop decreed that "Angel's Hymn" should be sung in Rome to commemorate Christ's birth.

Which are the oldest carols? The oldest Christmas carols which are still sung date from the 4th century, one of which we sing at ACC: *Of the Father's love begotten* – author unknown. Four hundred years later composers from all over Europe were writing Christmas carols, mostly in Latin and hardly understood by the common people who lost interest in singing them during the Middle Ages. In 1223 St. Francis of Assisi, Italy began a tradition of nativity plays which told stories in songs in local languages mixed with Latin. From that period come songs like *In dulce jubilo* (*Good Christian ones rejoice*) which we still sing.

Did the church always welcome carol singing? During the rule of the Puritans in England in the mid-1600s, the celebration of Christmas and singing of carols was stopped. This did not prevent the people from singing them secretly but carol singing in the church was disallowed. By the late 19th century, Christmas carols, considered to be a secular activity, were normally sung from house to house and still excluded from Christian worship.

What is the origin of Carols by Candlelight? The prohibition was to change. Organist John Stainer who later compiled *Christmas Carols New and Old* during Christmas 1878 introduced carols into the choral evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. From Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, England there is a quote recorded in the Royal Cornwall Gazette of 20 December 1878: "The Choir of the Cathedral will sing a number of carols in the Cathedral on Christmas Eve, the service commencing at 10pm...It is the intention of the choir to no longer continue the custom of singing carols at the residences of members of the congregation." Bishop Benson was concerned by excessive consumption of alcohol in the pubs during this festive season, and sought to attract revelers into the churches by offering a religious celebration. From this time onwards, carol singing rose in popularity and was included in church worship. Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas eve was first celebrated in Truro Cathedral on the 24th of December, 1880, a service mixing Christmas music and Bible readings, and over 400 people attended. Singing of carols in the streets also regained popularity and this custom has spread all over the world. Another custom became popular, the candlelight service, where the churches were only lit by candles. Today Carols by Candlelight services are held in countries all over the world.

What is the most popular Christmas carol? Silent Night" turns out to be not only the *most popular carol worldwide, translated into hundreds of languages, but it has over 700* copyrighted recordings in the past 40 years and as such is twice as popular as the next best known carol. It is the chosen carol for ending ACC's Carols by Candlelight service each year, sung with descants, sometimes in different languages, and to which the candles are lit prior to the final benediction. Don't miss it!

When did Carols by Candlelight start at Arusha Community Church? The Carols by Candlelight has been a tradition from the very first year of ACC held in the Greek Club in 1986. This year marks the 33rd year, although the same service was conducted at Christchurch Anglican before then. Both congregations continue to celebrate this way, on 13th December 2019 at 6pm at Christchurch, and on 23rd December 2019 at ACC at 6:30pm. **Karibuni sana!** Services on Christmas Eve are also a tradition in many local services.

Is there anywhere in Arusha where one can go caroling outside of the services? ACC has a tradition since around 1990 of singing in the hospitals and sometimes at the homes of the elderly. This year we will be singing from 2pm-4pm at Mt. Meru Hospital on the 15th December. We will go around the wards and gift soap, biscuits and greeting cards to the sick and those who attend them. **Karibuni sana!**

~Erwin Kinsey



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **December 15, 2-4pm:** Caroling at Mt. Meru Hospital.
- **December 23, 6:30:** Carols by Candlelight. You are welcome to bring a plate of Christmas baking to share after the service.

During the **Carols for Candlelight service**, we will take a special offering to support Peacemakers for Albinism and Community (PAC). PAC is a local ministry in Arusha, working to raise awareness about albinism, reduce stigma, and provide a safe education for children with albinism. All funds raised at Carols by Candlelight will be used to provide safe, accompanied transportation for students going home for the holidays, and for supplies needed by 22 new students with albinism.
- **Confirmation classes** will be starting in January .Watch the announcements for the date of a parents meeting early in 2020.

BAPTISM

Worship committee has selected several Sundays in the church year to schedule baptisms during the service. The next upcoming baptism date will be Sunday, February 23, 2020, a Family Service. If you wish to be baptized, or if you wish to have your child be baptized, you need to follow these steps:

1. Fill out a baptism request form at least 6 weeks in advance. Form available from the church office.
2. Adult candidates or parents meet with a pastor for spiritual preparation. If you don't have a pastor in mind, the council chair will match you with an appropriate minister.
3. The pastor / lay minister recommends the adult / child for baptism to ACC Church Council.
4. If Church council approves, worship committee receives the baptism request to schedule it.

CHURCH RENOVATIONS UPDATE

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Council is letting the congregation know that there has been a delay in the church building renovations that we had planned to have done this year. We are hopeful that the renovations will start early in the New Year. Thank you for your patience.

ACC PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request and would like members of our community to support you in prayer, contact the four key persons – if possible by SMS- and they will inform the others from the prayer chain.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Erwin Kinsey | 0754 480 184 |
| Margaret Kenyi | 0754 090 078 |
| Susan Simonson | 0754 266 559 |
| Stella Karumuna | 0754 281 337 |

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA meets at ACC :	NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meets:
Monday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Tuesday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Thursday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	
Friday 5:00 pm-6:00 pm	
Saturday 10:00am –11:00am	

Arusha Community Church (ACC) functions because many people offer their time and gifts in volunteer roles. At ACC we encourage people to get involved and contribute in some way. If you want to know more about the church committees work, visit our new bulletin board. Or see the Duty Elder after the service for a copy of the Time and Ability Form (TAA) if you are interested in helping out at ACC. We welcome your participation!

Arusha Community Church Offerings through 31 October, 2019

(in TSh millions)



If current rate of giving continues through remainder of this year, we will see an offering shortfall of 31.5 million shillings in 2019

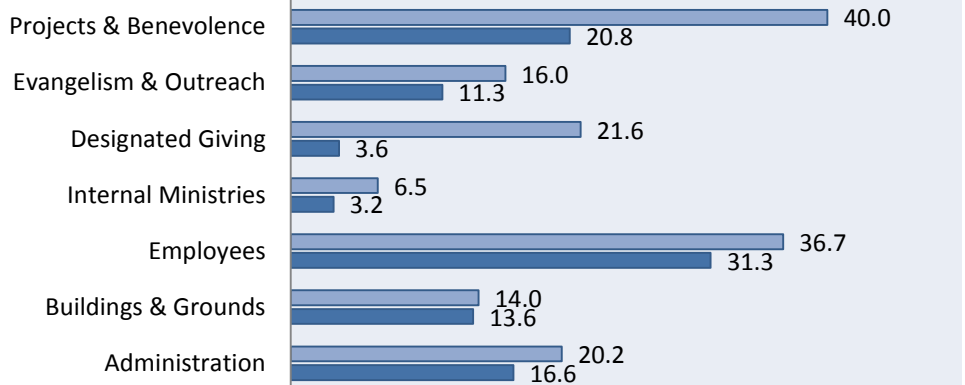
Arusha Community Church Spending through 31 October, 2019

(in TSh millions)

■ Projected thru 31 Dec 2019

■ Actual thru 31 Oct 2019

If current rate of offering continues through remainder of this year, we will be forced to reduce our 2019 external giving (PBC, E&O, DG) by at least 28.6 million shillings.



ACC Bank Details:

For anyone who wishes or needs to transfer funds to ACC please find the following details here:

EXIM BANK

TSH. ACCOUNT NUMBER 00 300 23 252

USD ACCOUNT NUMBER 578 067 0116

M-PESA DEPOSIT +255 743 301 727



Mission Statement:

Arusha Community Church seeks to bring Christian praise and witness to God through worship, service and study. The congregation provides opportunity for Christian fellowship, service and witness, community outreach, personal growth and family growth. Recognizing the close link between worship and culture, Arusha Community Church has an inter-denominational ministry to the international community in Arusha.



Check out (and subscribe to) our Facebook page:

“Arusha Community Church” for more regular updates on upcoming events including audio and text clips on sermons preached during regular Sunday service.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

~James 1:17

Small Group Bible Studies

...an important part of growing in your walk with Jesus, together with other believers in the church. If you are interested in learning more about one of these on-going groups, you are welcome to contact the convener listed. Several groups are still looking for leaders and hosts (Ilboru and Town Center). Contact the church office arushacommunitychurch.office@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Groups Meeting at ACC

- Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30 am at ACC. Bible study from the lectionary (Moses Manyama stanslqusmoses@gmail.com),
- Tuesday, 5:15 pm Young Adults meet at ACC. (Mikael Pallanore +255621626362),
- Wednesday, 4:00- 5:00 pm, Men's prayer meeting, ALMC canteen,
- An outside group meets for bible study and prayer Wednesdays & Friday, 3 – 6 pm,
- Saturday 1 – 3 pm (Dennis Lyimo dlyimoss@gmail.com).

Other groups

- Thursdays (alternating) 9:30 am, women's bible study. (Linda Jacobson lindawjacobson@gmail.com)
- Tengeru, Saturdays (Jane Mashingia janemashingia@gmail.com)
- Sakina, Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm (John and Mary Israel 0623805038 john_israel98@yahoo.com)
- Ngaramtoni Juu, Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm (Erwin Kinsey 0754480184 ekinsey@echonet.org)
- Olasiti (Irene Joel aichi63love@gmail.com)
- Njiro PPF/AGM, Weeknight (Margaret Kenyi sslcase2005@gmail.com)
- Njiro and East Arusha, Sundays 3– 5 pm (Rebecca Mosley rebeccasackmosley@gmail.com)



“Thank you, GOD BLESS YOU, we appreciate you.”

From Left - Right: Sion Miraa, Rachel Raymond, Sarah Robert, Sion Ridas and Glory Chagama.

INTRODUCING CRECHE VOLUNTEERS:

CRECHE was open to serve ACC members age 3 and below. The main goal is to provide a safe and caring environment for younger children so that parents can worship with peace of mind knowing their children are well taken care of.

On the Left is the group of people who makes crèche work,

As you know this church is a church that is run by volunteers, we invite everyone who love children and love to serve GOD to join us at crèche! What best way to use your gifts than to serve the Almighty and give back to him through the gifts he gave you? Karibuni Wote!



Happy Holidays!
God Bless you on the
coming Year!
From Our Family to Yours

New to ACC?

Want to be introduced to other ACC congregational members? Not sure of our programs and activities? Want to be involved in some way, but not sure how? Want to receive Glad Tidings by email? Have a general question about Arusha that an old-timer may have the answer to? Every Sunday, a member of council is available after the service to assist and to answer your questions. OR please contact ACC via our church phone +255 685 345 429 and/or arushacommunitychurch.office@gmail.com and you will be responded to as quickly as possible. Our ACC website <https://acc.or.tz/> also provides information as does our ACC pamphlet available at the church door. (Note the new website address: <https://acc.or.tz/>).

December 2019 Service Schedule

	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 25	Dec 29
Church Calendar	First Sunday of Advent	Second Sunday of Advent	Third Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Carols by Candlelight	Christmas Day	First Sunday after Christmas
Service Type	Communion Service	Morning Service	Communion Service	Morning service	Evening Community Service	Family service	Family service
Service Leader	Christy Rowe Miller	Susan Simonson	Erwin Kinsey	Marilyn Simonson	Moira Brehony	Susan Simonson	Elizabeth Hudgin
Preacher	Michael Murray	Lisa Borden	Mike Taylor	Cynthia Rich	Rebecca Mosley	Oliver O'Brien	Philip Mvungi
Musician (s)	Linda Jacobson	Rebecca Mosley	Wendy Willmore	Mike Taylor	Wendy Willmore	Anna and Sophia Lieke	TBD
Duty Elder	Michael Pallanore	John Kraft	Erwin Kinsey	Rebecca Mosley	Elizabeth Hudgin	Sharon Mkisi	Moses Manyama
Prayer Person	Service Leader will assign	-	Service Leader will assign	Service Leader will assign	-	Service Leader will assign	Service Leader will assign
Sound	Gabriel, Beneath Joseph	Gabriel, Andrea Thomas	Benjamin Laizer	Gabriel, Edmund Massawe	Edmund Massawe, Phillip Mvungi	Phillip Mvungi, Beneath Joseph, Samweli	Edmund Massawe, Andrea Thomas
Ushers	Jacquelin Ntau, Andrea Thomas	Rogers Eliahu, Shedrack Barnaba	Eliachim Happymark, Jacquelin Njau	Andrea Thomas, Rogers Eliau	Shedrack Barnaba, Andrea Thomas	Rogers Eliau, Doreen Mwandri	Shedrack Barnaba, Jacquelin Njau
Flowers	Yoka Bruinsma	Rebeca Ndorosi	Jane Mashinga	Nancy Maksud	-	-	Irene Joel
Library	Narola Mollel	Sion Miraa	No Library	No Library	No Library	No Library	No Library
Books	Nancy Kimaro	Abella Rugeiyamu	No Library	No Library	No Library	No Library	No Library
DVDs	Nancy Kimaro	Abella Rugeiyamu	No Library	No Library	No Library	No Library	No Library
Scripture Readings	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:1-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23