



LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL:



A number of years ago, I fasted for lent; I would only eat my evening meal and nothing else. And quite a few things struck me about the experience. First, for someone who likes his food, I found it remarkably easy to adapt. I won't lie and say I wasn't tempted when serving the homemade pizzas at a lunchtime school event. Of course, I was! But it certainly didn't come anywhere close to even scratching the surface of Christ's suffering. Second, I found it hard not to tell people. Now this surprised me because I tend to keep myself to myself, but I had to restrain myself several times from weaving it into conversations. I wanted people to know.

Third, it forced me to confront, very directly, the question of what happens after? When lent is over, do we just start eating again? I remember regularly eating at the Big Bite restaurant on Swahili Street as a young man and being fascinated that the bar down the road was always empty during Ramadan. When Ramadan was over the bar would be full again. This was certainly not what I wanted from my experience of lent. Surely the aim should be to derive more long-lasting effects from the holy month?

And, finally, did I feel closer to God as a result of the fast itself? Well not really. Which is not surprising in hindsight as I was not working enough on other, more important, areas. Isaiah 58 offers a brilliant dissection of this issue and quashes any notion that fasting is worthy simply for fasting's sake. The Israelites, who had expected to be 'noticed' by God simply for fasting are rebuked in verse 3b and 4:

"3b Yet on the day of your fasting you do as you please and exploit all your workers. 4 Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high."

So, what am I saying here? Well, importantly, I do not believe I exploited any workers and I certainly did not strike anyone with my fists. But I am saying that I got it all wrong, because I did not work hard enough on reordering myself alongside my fast. I made the mistake of thinking that fasting was worthy for fasting's sake, and it is not. Fasting is worthy if done correctly, if it puts God at the centre, if it is done quietly and without thought for earthly distractions. And, as we were reminded at our Ash Wednesday service back in February, fasting from complaints, selfishness, bitterness, worries and a whole lot of other human traits, is much more desirable to God, and should be to us also.

The final major act at ACC each year before the season of lent is the Annual General Meeting. Whilst mostly uneventful, it is a significant moment in our church's year for a few reasons, not least because it marks the election, or re-election in some cases, of council members.

The ACC Council is the body that oversees the running of the church and it is important to have members with strong organisational and leadership skills. However, in our first Council meeting since the AGM, Erwin Kinsey reminded us that spiritual leadership is key, and that the first and foremost duty of Council members is to present leadership to the church in this area. He is right, of course. Otherwise, what differentiates a church leader from a leader of any secular organisation?

IT CONTONUES ON PG 2

And it seems we have, once again, got together a strong council this year, thanks to the democratic votes of the quorum present at the AGM. Wilson Mziray, Moira Brehony, Irene Joel and Eric Mbelle were all newly elected, while Erwin Kinsey and Elizabeth Hudgin were re-elected. The Council Executive was then chosen at the first council meeting. Susan Simonson continues as Chair of the Council and we are blessed to have someone who gives so much of her time, freely, for the betterment of our church. Neil Miller has been elected vice-chair, Eliel Gideon continues as Treasurer and Michael Murray was re-elected as Secretary.

Here's to a blessed year ahead for Arusha Community Church and I look forward to every member of our congregation playing a prayerful and reflective role this Easter and beyond.

– *Michael Murray.*

Secretary, ACC Church Council



New Council:

From Left to Right: Erwin Kinsey, Eliel Gideon, Irene Joel, Susan Simonson, Michael Murray, Eric Mbelle, Elizabeth Hudgin, Moira Brehony, Wilson Mzirai, Neil Miller(missing from the photo).



Leaving and New Council:

From Left to Right: Rebecca Morsley, Eliel Gideon, Susan Simonson, Monica John, Doreen Marandu, Erwin Kinsey, Irene Joel, Michael Murray, Elizabeth Hudgin, Moira Brehony, Eric Mbelle, Wilson Mzirai and Neil Miller(missing from the photo).



New Council without masks for a moment:

From Left to Right:

Erwin Kinsey, Eliel Gideon, Irene Joel, Susan Simonson, Michael Murray, Elizabeth Hudgin, Moira Brehony, Eric Mbelle, Wilson Mzirai and Neil Miller(missing from the photo).



UPCOMING EVENTS:

~ March 28: **Palm Sunday Service**

~April 1: **Maundy Thursday foot washing service, 7 pm.**
At-home worship, not @ ACC, resources will be provided.

~April 2: **Good Friday service, 10:30 am**

~April 4: **Resurrection Sunday Service, 10:30 am**

TIME AND ABILITY – What can you offer in ministry to your church?

As a lay-led church, VOLUNTEERS are always needed. The Time and Ability [TAA] forms allow you to see where help is needed, and what activities need your support. They will be available from the Duty Elder each Sunday in February, and should be returned to Vivi in the church office when filled in.

"So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16



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.

John 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Message from the Council Chair

Cases of COVID-19 are on-going and increasing around the world. As an international community which welcomes visitors and which seeks to love and protect those around us, we are continuing to follow health protection guidelines for the safety of all.

We ask that you continue to:

- Wash your hands before entering
- Wear a mask at all times, **especially** when singing (please don't take off your mask to sing)
- Keep a degree of distance

We work and pray together as one community, sharing the love of Christ to all.

-Susan Simonson

TITHES AND OFFERINGS AT ACC:

Your OFFERINGS are important. It is easier for accounting purposes, and without charges, if offerings are deposited directly into our Exim Bank Account (please see details below). While the MPESA number remains available for receiving offerings, please consider making a deposit directly into our bank.

ACC BANK DETAILS:

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

EXIM BANK

TSH: ACCOUNT NUMBER 00 300 23 252

USD: ACCOUNT NUMBER 578 067 0116

ACC MOBILE MONEY ACCOUNT DETAILS:

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

M-PESA DEPOSIT NUMBER: +255755992394

NAME: NASIEKU MOLLEL (Church Administrator)

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 :

Monday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Friday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00am – 11:00am

NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meets:

Tuesday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Thursday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm



Check out our Facebook page: **“Arusha Community Church”** for updates and news. You can add your words of encouragement in the comments section.
Tupo Pamoja!

ACC WEBSITE:

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?

Please visit our ACC website www.acc.or.tz for more info.

March 2021 Worship Schedule

	March 7, 2021	March 14, 2021	March 21, 2021	March 28, 2021
Church Calendar	Third Sunday in Lent	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Sixth Sunday in Lent Liturgy of the Palms
Service Type				
Service Leader	Michael Murray	Monica John	Erwin Kinsey	Christy Miller
Preacher	Derrick Matthews	Eliel Gideon	Pat Patten	Rebecca Mosley
Musician(s)	Rebecca Mosley	Vance Bicknell Miller and Daniel Kalule	Randy Stubbs	
Duty Elder				
Zoom Host	Jessica Shayo	Sion Miraa	Jessica Shayo	
Sound Projector	Severin Mandare	Tumsifu Mushi	Edmund Massawe	Andrea Thomas
Ushers				
Flowers	Doreen Marandu	Yoka Bruisma	Christy Rowe-Miller	Jane Mashingia
Scripture Readings	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Mark 11:1-11

“So this is my command: Love each other deeply, as much as I have loved you. For the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices all. And this great love is demonstrated when a person sacrifices his life for his friends.”

John 15:12-13