

Glad Tidings

PO Box 2316, Arusha, Tanzania
www.acc.or.tz



2021
Volume 409

Arusha
Community
Church

LETTER FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL



I grew up in a small town in Ireland in the 1960s, where every day at 6 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. the bells of the church would ring for “the Angelus”.

Everyone, no matter what they were doing, would stop, and pray the set of prayers that comprised the Angelus, a Roman Catholic devotion commemorating the incarnation of Jesus; God made man. The whole town would come to a standstill; everyone stopped what they were doing, stood still, and prayed. We were the only Christian family living in the village that was not Roman Catholic. But we too would stop and stand still, not quite knowing all the words to the Angelus, but recognizing the importance of this ritual in the lives of the community we lived in. With the tolling of the bells, a community was being reminded and encouraged to pray on a daily and regular basis. Not just when they remembered to pray, or felt the need to or had the cause to pray; just a routine of prayer when the bells rang out.

It has been more than a year now that world became aware of and effected by a pandemic, which has since reached into every far corner of the earth. At Council meetings, we often look at our worship service attendance numbers. Pre-covid, ACC averaged around 250 people at each Sunday worship service. Since October 2020, we have averaged around 85 people. Apart from the recent Easter Sunday service, we have never had all the chairs filled, even though the chairs are limited to 100 because we are following health protocols of distancing and also masking. We have “lost” about 60% of our congregation. We do know that some continue to be in fellowship with us through Zoom Sunday services. We do know that some are waiting until they feel less at risk. We do know that some started attending other churches when ACC shut its physical doors for 6 months. These all are to be expected. What ACC Council does not know, is where the other large section of our congregation gone to. We do not know under what conditions people might return, or if at all. Our monthly income is also related to our worship attendance. As can be seen by the graphs below, we are meeting our basic mandatory payments. We can function as a church, but are not able to finance our external ministries of evangelism or reaching out to the poorest of the poor. It is a challenge for us to know how to do these things in ways that do not need financial support.

The last Sunday of April, Vance Bicknell Miller preached on Psalm 23, and more specifically on the words “the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want”, emphasizing that, in Christ (if we can but realize it) all our needs are met.

How are these three threads of thought connected? Perhaps not, except in my own head. Yet, somehow, if I think of one, the others come to mind. In this time of uncertainty, in our disconnectedness as a church, it is important to remember that “the Lord is our Shepherd, ACC shall not want”. The needs of ACC are being met in Christ, as we strive to follow in his footsteps, and seek to find alternate ways of fulfilling the mandates of all our core committees. And the ringing of the bells for the Angelus? That is just a story that reminds us of the importance of living in prayer and in relationship to the triune God. And a reminder that it is up to each one of us to minister to each other and the Body of Christ.

- Susan Simonson

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

As a lay-led church, ACC is dependent on volunteers for just about every aspect of our church life. We minister to each other and often it is difficult to realize how many people actually are involved in the running of the church; or know how to recognize and thank them.

Worship Committee is planning a **Volunteer Appreciation Sunday for 23rd May**, Pentecost Sunday. Join us in person or on zoom as we give thanks to the many who give of their time to ACC and in service to Christ and the community.



*the steadfast love
of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come
to an end;
they are NEW
every morning
great is your
faithfulness.*
LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

We are continuing our in-person worship services at 10:30 am every Sunday. However, we have a limited number of chairs available in the sanctuary to follow appropriate social distance guidelines. We encourage anyone with risk factors to stay at home and participate in worship by Zoom.

To prepare yourself: Download Zoom on a computer or mobile device by going to zoom.us Click on these links to watch a tutorial on how to download the Zoom App and how to join a meeting from a computer or a phone.

Joining on mobile

phone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8JaUEORjSo>

Joining on

computer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMUxzrgZvZQ>



❖ **May 23**

✓ Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

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

Do you have a word of encouragement, favorite bible verse, inspiring or even funny story, song, poem or picture that you would like share with us ACC?

If so, we would love to hear from you! Please send _____ on _____ to:
arushacommunitychurch.office@gmail.com

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

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

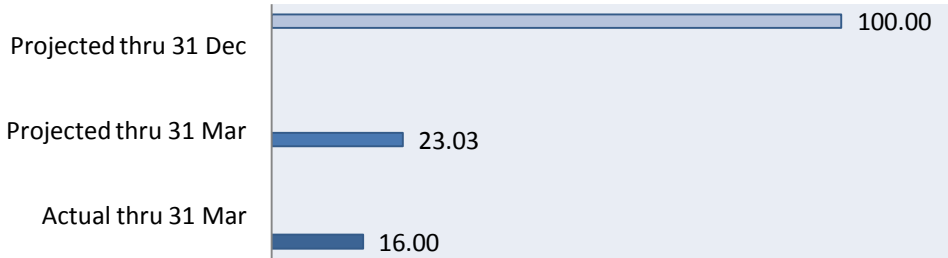


Mission Statement:

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.

Arusha Community Church 2021 Income through 31 March

(in TSh millions)



Due to the shortfall in first quarter income (TSh 7.03 M) ACC significantly reduced expenditures on internal ministries, and funded no external ministries at all

Check out 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.

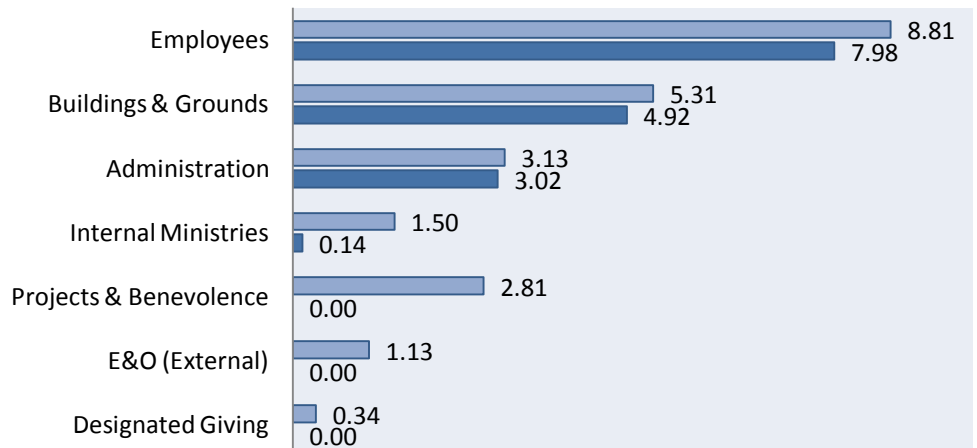
Feel free to add your words of encouragement in the comment section. Tuko pamoja.

Arusha Community Church 2021 Expenditure through 31 March

(in TSh millions)

- Projected 31 Mar: 23.03
- Actual 31 Mar: 16.06

Due to the shortfall in first quarter income (TSh 7.03 M) ACC significantly reduced expenditures on internal ministries, and funded no external ministries at all



TITHES AND OFFERINGS AT ACC:

Thank you to the many who continue to give your tithes and offerings to ACC. Please know that these offerings are needed, appreciated and are used to help many within the community.

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)

May 2021 Worship Schedule

	May 2, 2021	May 9, 2021	May 16, 2021	May 23, 2021	May 30, 2021
Church Calendar	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Day of Pentecost	Trinity Sunday (First Sunday after Pentecost)
Service Type	Morning	Morning	Morning	Morning	Family Service
Service Leader	Penina Oredsson	Elizabeth Munisi	Linda Jacobson	Vance Bicknell-Miller	Erwin Kinsey
Preacher	Michael Murray	Mike Taylor	Mark Jacobson	Cynthia Rich	Mark Rich
Lead Musician	Linda Jacobson	Rebecca Mosley	Wendy Willmore	Neil Miller	Mary N'gida Severe
Duty Elder	Wilson Mziray	Susan Simonson	Erwin Kinsey	Neil Miller	Irene Mchomvu
Zoom Host	Sion Miraa	Jessica Shayo	Sion Miraa	Jessica Shayo	Michael Murray
Sound Projector	Andrea Thomas	Severine Manday	Avogadro Gerson	Tumsifu Mushi	Philip Mvungi
Ushers	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Flowers	Nancy Sadiq	Rebecca Ndorossy	Christy Miller	Nancy Sadiq	Jane Mashingia
Scripture Readings 	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17