

Glad Tidings

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

DECEMBER

2021
Volume 416

Arusha
Community
Church



Happy New Year!



Perhaps an odd thing to say at the beginning of December, but not for the Church Year which starts at the Advent season, which is usually the end of November or beginning of December.

So Happy New Year! In the secular world, New Years is often used to reflect on the year past, and consider the year to come. So, as a church, entering a new church year, how has our past year been? What criteria do we use to evaluate this?

If we are to reflect only on our 'statistics', it would be grim reading. Most within our congregation have been affected through illness and death due to covid. Families and individuals who were actively involved in many aspects of our church life have moved away from Arusha. Our attendance is basically half what it was before. Our offerings and income are down considerably, and we are barely meeting our mandatory payments. Two of our committees, Evangelism and Outreach (E&O) and Projects and Benevolence (PBC), which reach out externally into the community to support evangelical efforts and support those most in need, are dormant due to lack of funds. Many key programs, such as Sunday School, are not happening. Not a pretty picture!

And yet And yet, I come to church each Sunday and see a faith community worshipping God together in a meaningful way. I see energy and enthusiasm. I see people, many different people, giving of their time and talents to the church in service to God. I see new people come to join us. I see individuals who reach out to those in need, and encourage everyone to be involved with evangelism.

Which picture is the 'real' one? Both, I would think. One laid on top of the other; with the reality of the statistics causing Council to reflect and consider how best to serve the congregation in these difficult times. Yet always with faith and trust in God's love for us individually and as a community which allows us to see, recognize and give thanks for the Holy Spirit at work in our faith family.

During the past almost 2 years, I have leaned heavily on the words *Be still, and know that I am God, Wait upon the Lord*, and other Scriptures such as Ecclesiastes 3: *I To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven*. All these seem to say that it really is OK to be inactive, to wait, to 'poa kidogo'.

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That thought brings us back to the season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word ‘adventus’ or ‘coming’; and is the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ celebrated at Christmas. This implies being both passive (waiting) and active (preparing). It takes real discernment and a lot of talking and listening with God to know how to both ‘wait’, and yet, continually consider how to move forward; to ‘poa kidogo’, and yet, know when it is time to move.

I pray that all of us in the ACC community seek God’s guidance and wisdom; that we take the time to listen to the Holy Spirit’s guidance, and continually follow in the footsteps of Jesus. As we ponder this Advent season of preparation, and then celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ, may we truly feel God’s love in our lives, and reflect that out to the community around us.

- Susan Simonson on behalf of the ACC Council

Carols Service Offering

It has always been a tenet of our faith community to reach out, support and assist those most in need around us, just as Jesus taught us to. Sadly, we have not really been able to do that in the past year. It is a priority of Council, and hopefully the congregation, to begin to do so again, starting with this year’s Carol Service.

The Carol Service offering will be given to Peacemakers for Albinism and Community (PAC), a grassroots organization which ACC supports. May we all give generously.

<https://www.albinism-tz.org/>



- December 12**
- Church Hike

- December 22**
- Carols by Candlelight Outdoors 7PM. Come a bit earlier as the service will start on time. The service will be outside in the courtyard. Bring a torch if you do not have one on your phone.

Welcome all in celebration!

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



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>

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

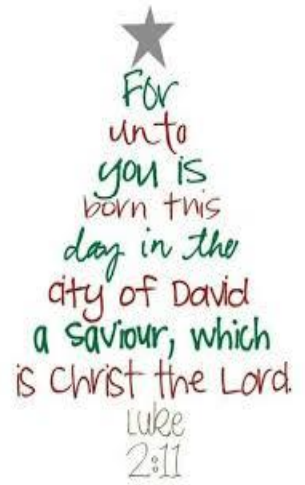
Mission Statement: Arusha Community Church seeks to bring Christian praise and witness to God through worship, service and study. The congregation provides opportunity for Christian fellowship, service and witness, community outreach, personal growth and family growth. Recognizing the close link between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

Arusha Community Church 2021 Income through 31 October

(in TSh millions)



Due to shortfall in first ten months of income (TSh 23.34 M) ACC has significantly reduced expenditures on internal ministries, and funded no external ministries at all



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 00 300 35 020

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)

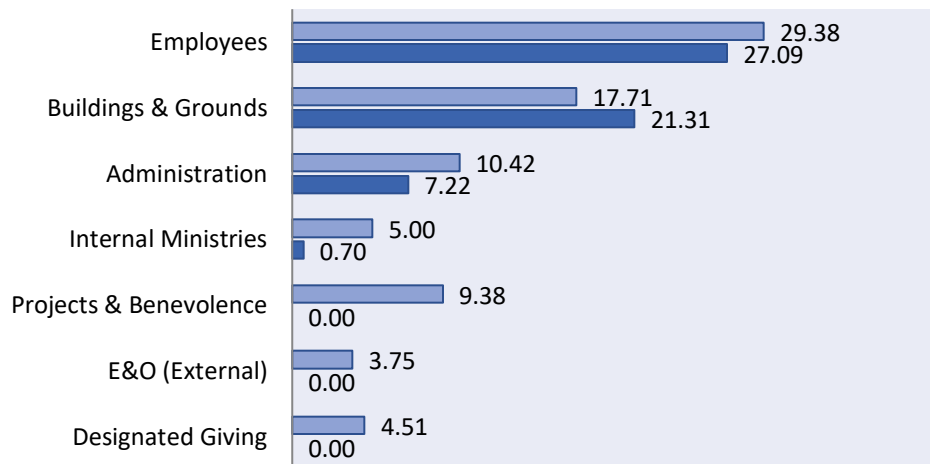
Arusha Community Church 2021 Expenditure through 31 October

(in TSh millions)

Projected 31 Oct: 80.14

Actual 31 Oct: 56.31

Due to shortfall in first ten months income (TSh 23.34 M) ACC has significantly reduced expenditures on internal ministries, and funded no external ministries at all



ASANTE ACC!

Thank you from Ndotu Zetu

There were toys left over from our Growing Vines playgroup which were too small for use by our Creche. These toys were given to Ndotu Zetu, a small local NGO working with families and children and which includes an after-school program.

The children love the Lego toys!



WE LOVE LEGO!



Donations of clothing

PAC always can use clothes in good condition, especially long sleeved shirts and pants for both adults and children, sunscreen, wide brimmed hats, sunglasses.

There are also other NGOs within Arusha who can use clothing for various initiatives.

Look through your cupboards and see what you might no longer use, but which are useful to others.



YOU MIGHT THINK WE LOOK TO CONCENTRATED, OH YES BUILDING DREAM FUTURES IS HARD WORK. :)

THANKS FOR YOUR CARE AND LOVE!

MERRY X-MAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!



NDOTOZETU.ORTZ



[NDOTOZETUTZ](https://www.instagram.com/NDOTOZETUTZ)



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ATTENTION HIKERS:

ACC E+O will host a hike up Sambasha Hill above Olmotonyi, /Ngaramtoni Juu on 12th December, a chance to see Hartlaub's Turacco, Kilimsnjaro Colobus, Red Duiker, Golden winged Sunbird and tree orchids among native trees, for hikers who walk quietly and share sightings. Karibuni! Please inform Erwin Kinsey if you can take anyone in your car and we will rent Dala dalas as needed. We all should carry picnic things to share with others, wear good walking shoes, carry a full water bottle, and please do not go home first after church as we cannot wait again for people who forget to come prepared!!

WELCOME ... KARIBUNI!

Confirmation and Sunday School Teachers needed

The Christian Education committee is considering starting Confirmation and Sunday School classes again, if that can be done in a safe way. All the teaching materials are there.

We are seeking committed people who want to be a part of this very important ministry. If you are interested to help teach, please give your name and contacts to Vivi in the ACC office, who can pass on the information to the Christian Education Committee.

December 2021 Worship Schedule

	December 5, 2021	December 12, 2021	December 19, 2021	December 22, 2021	December 25, 2021	December 26, 2021
Church Calendar	Second Sunday of Advent	Third Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Carols by candlelight	Christmas Day	First Sunday after Christmas
Service Type	Communion	Morning Service	Communion	Special	Special	Family
Service Leader	John Kraft	Christy Miller	Rebecca Mosely	Susan Simonson	Jessica Shayo	Moira Brehony
Preacher	Pastor Tebbs	Eric Mbelle	Jonathon Eager	Derrick Matthews	Mary Ng'ida Severe	Fr. Oliver O Brien
Musician(s)	Neil Miller	Dr EmelesterSwai	Erwin Kinsey	Randy Stubbs & Wendy Willmore	Jessica Shayo & Rebecca Mosley	Mary Severe
Duty Elder	Wilson Mziray	Moira Brehony	Irene Mchomvu	Susan Simonson	TBD	Eliel Gideon
Zoom Host	Tim Steeb	Jessica Shayo	Sion Miraa	TBD	Avogadro Gerson	TBD
Sound Projector	Andrea Thomas	Tumsifu Mushi	Goodluck/Andrea Thomas	Andrea Thomas	Avogadro Gerson	TBD
Ushers	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Flowers	Nancy Sadiq	Nancy Sadiq	Christy Rowe-miller	Irene Mchomvu	Irene Mchomvu	Jane Mashingia
Library	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Books	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
DVDs	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Scripture Readings 	<i>Malachi 3:1-4</i> Psalm 125 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 or <i>Psalm 80:1-7</i> Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1; 1-12 John 1; 1-14	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14(15-20) Psalm 96	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18 Psalm 147 or 147:13-21