

Letter From the Council:

New Year Resolutions



The church calendar year begins with the first Sunday in Advent when the cycle of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent etc. begins again. The calendar year begins on the 1st January. It can be said that ACC's new year starts with its Annual General Meeting (5th February 2023 this year), when committees present their reports on their activities of the past year; new Council elders are elected; a new budget proposal is looked at and approved; and committees and programs seek new volunteers. At any of these 'New Years' we can make a resolution to 'do more' or 'do less' or 'do better'. The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year resolutions, some 4,000 years ago; though for them, their new year was mid-March when crops were being planted. During their massive 12-day religious festival, the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king.

The words resolve, resolute, resolution all come from the same Latin root. After resolving and coming to a conclusion about a question or problem, then one could proceed to act in dealing with the issue. This process implies analysis and evaluation of the past, decision making about what can be done, and then proceeding into action. All of which is a similar process to our AGM. We too, as a church, make new year's resolutions.

Each year, millions of people worldwide make individual 'New Year' resolutions; over 50% in some countries. They may feel it is time to improve their health, do something more purposeful with their spare time, learn something new. They make a plan of action of how they will do these things and start doing them. 23% quit by the end of the first week; 64% after the first month; and only 9% successfully keep their resolutions throughout the year. How do we at ACC do? Do we say we will do 'x' activity and then never show up? Or say we will do 'y' and only turn up a few times? Or do we do what we said we will do throughout the year?

I enjoy 'words'; their meanings and origins. So, I will return back to the word 'resolute'. Synonyms for resolute include faithful, loyal, steadfast, staunch. How often do we hear and read those words in the Bible; during worship service or our hymns? How often do we use those words to describe those who we feel best exemplify the Christian faith in action? How often can those words be applied to ourselves, either individually or as a community of Christians?

When I think of the words faithful, steadfast, staunch, I often think of Brother Lawrence, born around 1608 in Lorraine, France. An ex-soldier turned Carmelite monk, he spent over 40 years in the monastery kitchen as a cook. Along the way he learned to, what he called, 'practice the presence of God'. In everything he did, no matter how mundane or tedious, he saw an opportunity and way of expressing God's love. "We can do little things for God; I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for love of him, and that done, if there is nothing else to call me, I prostrate myself in worship before him, who has given me grace to work; afterwards I rise happier than a king. It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God."

Can we, individually and collectively, reaffirm our loyalty to our King? Can we use our AGM as a time of making resolutions to take action on serving God, our faith family and the wider community to the best of our abilities and using our time and talents faithfully and steadfastly? Can we, as Brother Lawrence did, see that every action, no matter how small, mundane or tedious can be an expression of God's love, if that action is done with an awareness of God's presence in all aspects of our lives?

SUSAN SIMONSON

NEW VOTING MEMBER CLASS

14TH JANUARY 2023

0900 – 1100

Welcome all those who are not yet voting members.

Voting membership at ACC – what does that mean?

Everyone who walks through our doors is a member of our faith family. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to take an active part of our church life. Everyone has a voice at our Annual General Meeting. However, only those who are registered voting members can vote to elect our leadership on Council, or on key issues brought up at the AGM. To be nominated for Council also requires that a person be a registered voting member.

Voting membership confers rights and responsibilities to the member. It is a declaration of renewed and increased commitment to ACC and the needs of the church. Because of this, there are minimum requirements to become a voting member which include; to have attended ACC for at least 3 months, and intend to continue to be part of the community for at least one year; agrees with our statement of faith and are over 16 years old.

New member instruction is intended to inform people of our history, background, constitution, mission and structure of our lay-led church.

All those who wish to become voting members of ACC are therefore welcomed to a New Member class on Saturday, 14th January 2023, 0900-1100 at ACC.

If you are interested in attending, please register with Vivi in the church office.



**ACC's Annual
General Meeting
Sunday 5th February
2023**

**After worship
service.**

**All are welcomed
and encouraged to
come.**

**A fellowship meal will
be provided after the
meeting.**



Jeremiah 29: 11

"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope."

Other news from Council

We are all aware the effect of the prolonged lack of rain has had in surrounding communities to the north and west of Arusha, especially for the pastoralists who are at greater risk of food insecurity.

Over the past two months, Council received requests from three different organisations or individuals working in the Kitembiene, Malambo and Olkokola areas for funding support. Two million shillings was given to each one (total 6 million) to either distribute food supplements to identified malnourished children and pregnant mothers, or provide income supplements primarily to single mother families.

We give thanks that we could support and help those most in need in those dry areas adversely affected by the drought; given from the offerings of our congregational members over the years. And we give thanks to those who can help others on our behalf.

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

JOHN 13:34-35



"Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."

ISAIAH 43:18-19

TEACHERS and ASSISTANTS NEEDED



There are over 60 children who are eager to learn about their Christian faith. Presently however, there are few volunteers who have committed to help those children nurture and develop that faith. All that is required is willingness; previous experience at teaching is not required, and people are encouraged to first come to the SS classes, observe and learn and take on teaching roles when comfortable doing so. Our Child Protection Policy does require that strangers do not interact with our children and therefore new teachers and assistants should be known to someone in the congregation.

If you wonder about helping in Sunday School, please just speak to the SS teacher on any Sunday and ask to sit at the back of the class to observe. If you then feel you do want to help, sign up with the Sunday School Coordinator, or fill in a Time and Ability (TAA) form which is available from the Duty Elder of the day and also the office.

If you have filled in a TAA form and not yet been contacted, please take the initiative yourself and go speak with a member of the SS team who can be found most Sundays teaching in the classrooms. The Duty Elder can also point you to the SS Coordinator. You can make a difference.

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 003 003 5020

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)

“You crown the year
with your goodness;
your paths overflow
with rich food.”

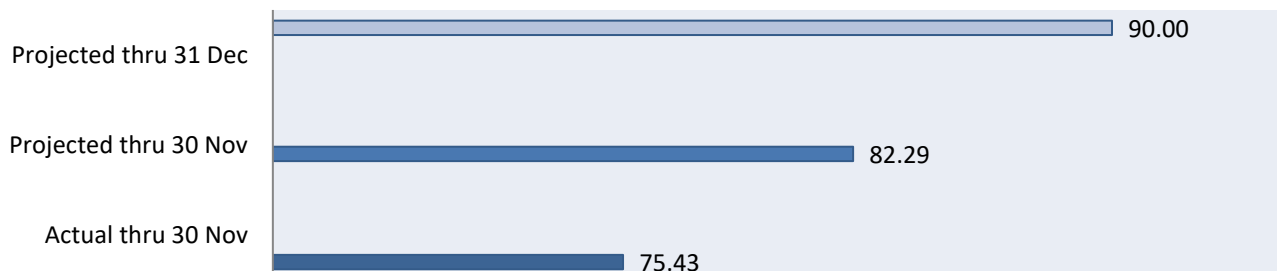
PSALM 65:11

“But the Lord is the
one who is marching before
you! He is the one who
will be with you! He won’t
let you down. He won’t
abandon you. So don’t be
afraid or scared!”

DEUTERONOMY 31:8

Arusha Community Church 2022 Income through 30 November

(in TSh millions)



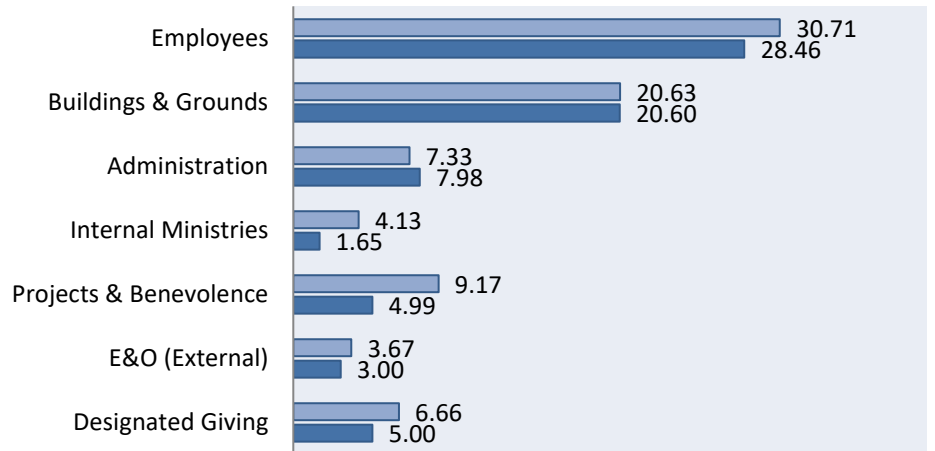
2022 income thru November was TSh 12.51 million higher than same period last year, but TSh 6.85 million below target. We respectfully ask all to consider helping ACC reach our goal by the end of this year.

Arusha Community Church 2022 Expenditure through 30 November (in TSh millions)

■ Projected thru 30 Nov: 82.29

■ Actual thru 30 Nov: 71.69

2022 expenditure thru November was TSh 10.58 million higher than same period last year, but TSh 10.59 million below budget. Our Projects & Benevolence and E&O (External) committees resumed spending earlier this year, with more activity planned.



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	Saturday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Friday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	
Saturday 10:00am – 11:00am	



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!



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.

January 2023

Worship Schedule



	January 1, 2023	January 8, 2023	January 15, 2023	January 22, 2023	January 29, 2023
Church Calendar	First Sunday after Christmas	Second Sunday after Christmas (Epiphany Jan 6)	Baptism of the Lord	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Third Sunday after Epiphany
Service Type	Communion	Morning	Communion	Morning	Family
Service Leader	Sion Miraa	Daudi Msseemmaa	Michael Murray	Susan Simonson	Megan Ndale
Preacher	Cannon A Kijembe	Rev Levin Mwakidedi	Pat Patton	Dr. Amos Ambilike	Lisa Borden
Musician(s)	Neil Miller		Megan Ndale	Sion Miraa	Erwin Kinsey
Duty Elder	Neil Miller	Susan Simonson	Sion Miraa		
Zoom Host	Jessica Shayo		Sion Miraa	Mishael	
Sound Projector	Andrea Thomas	Tumsifu Mushi	Goodluck Kaaya	Gerald Sebastian	Andrea Thomas
Ushers	Jaqueline Njau	Jaqueline Njau	Jaqueline Njau	Jaqueline Njau	Jaqueline Njau
Flowers	Irene Joel	Immaculate Shija	Eriwn Kinsey	Christy Miller	Rebecca Ndorosi
Scripture Readings	Ecclesiastes: 3:1-13 Psalm 8 Revelation 21:1-6a Mathew 25: 31-46	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Mathew 2:1-12	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Mathew 3: 13-17	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Mathew 4:12-23



"Although your former state was ordinary, your future will be extraordinary." – Job 8: