



# CROSS CURRENTS

January, 2025

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 36 No. 01

## A New Year

is God's gift.  
In the joyful moments,  
*thank* Him.

In the busy moments,  
*bless* Him.

In the trying  
moments,  
*trust* Him.

In the quiet  
moments,  
*praise* Him.



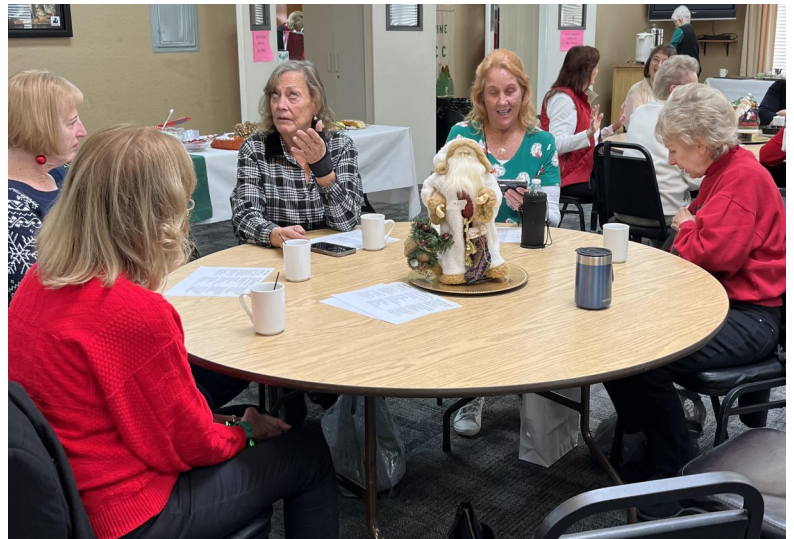
# Women's Guild News

It's Christmas 2024, our year has gone by so fast and here we are at another Guild Christmas party. We had 29 women join us this year and a GREAT time was had by all! From the food (Thanks to all who cooked and served) and to Cheryl Worland who did the devotions. Everything was fun. Cheryl read the meaning of Christmas from A to Z with sound effects supplied by the women and a whole lot of laughter. Thank you Cheryl! Everyone shopped and shopped at the Boutique. Our party ended with the Mr. & Mrs. Right story and all, I think, had a wonderful time.

Our new officers for 2025 were announced – Peggy Barnum is President, Sarah Harrison and Brenda Clark are Vice-President, Doreen Caldwell is Secretary, Judy Smazel is Treasurer and Marcella Krantz is Correspondence Secretary.

Guild Board...Hope everyone has a Healthy and Happy New Year!





## Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



One of my favorite Broadway musicals, *Rent*, has a theme song that has become a classic. The song, “Seasons of Love,” asks how we measure a year. Literally, we could measure it in 365 days, or 525,600 minutes. But the song ultimately asserts that we should measure it in *love*.

With every passing year, I find myself reflecting on just how much has happened. It is easy to lose track of events and people in the never-ending shuffle of life. The gift of reflection is that it allows us to slow down and take stock of what we have felt and experienced. If I am honest, 2024 was a year of beautiful beginnings and difficult endings, hard losses and glorious gains. Life is not a uniform fabric; it is a patchwork quilt of varied questions, answers, and ambiguities.

As we gaze upon the quilt that is life, sometimes we will see patterns emerge. Perhaps we see the threads of friendships that have endured changes. Or the goals we set that came to fruition. Others might see that when unexpected struggles could have made them fall apart, their community held them together. For me, the theme that has been the strongest is love - love that binds us together and fills us with hope and calms our fears.

It's love that causes us to feel the sorrow of a family member's demise. It's love that fills us with joy as we celebrate the accomplishments of friends. It's love that draws us together for meals and guild meetings and Sunday morning worship. I think love is a powerful way to measure a year. It is a reminder that we can still choose to seek the best for one another, and that we are strengthened through the choice to show up for each other with care and concern.

I am not much of a New Year's Resolution person. It has been said that “most people overestimate what they can achieve in a year and underestimate what they can achieve in ten years.” And so I don't worry too much about what I think *needs to be done* in a year. But I will say this - love is both a short-term goal and a long-term project. And as the calendar turns to a new month and year, I'm less concerned about counting my goals and more concerned about living in love.

However you measured the year that was 2024, I invite you to measure the moments of love and to see how they change and transform us in ways that mere resolutions cannot. We've got 525,600 minutes ahead - let's fill them with all the love we can.

# Message from the Moderator....



I begin this column with a very short history quiz. One question only: “Does anyone remember Y2K?” Y2K is an abbreviation for Year 2000. The tabloids were full of all kinds of gloom and doom predictions for the “turn of the century”, but there was one prediction that had to be taken seriously. There was a real possibility that multiple computer systems would fail because the system programs would not recognize the last two digits of the year ‘00 as the first year of the new century. Instead, the programs were set-up to assume the first two digits would always be 19. So, at 12:01 am, on January 1, 2000, our computer dependent world waited anxiously to see if the programmers were able to fix the problem to recognize 00 as the year 2000 (Y2K) or if we would revert to 1900. In hindsight, we know that the programs were, with a very few exceptions, corrected to recognize the birth of a new century. Although this may have seemed like a *Tempest in a Teapot*, with almost no serious consequences, it was only because of the hard work and uncounted hours spent by programmers who worked diligently to fix the problem before all systems failed.

Now, 25 years into the new century, at our little church in Alpine, CA, the lesson still rings true that the hard work of a team of dedicated people can have a big impact on the world around us. When I look at membership statistics and demographic profiles, it appears that the good old days have come and gone. But when I look at what a small group of dedicated people can accomplish by working together, a much different story unfolds. When this church takes on a project, we all pitch in and achieve great things. Examples are endless but a few illustrate my point: the Alpine Rummage Sale benefits hundreds of families each year, the Angle Tree provides Christmas gifts to local children who might otherwise feel left out, the Blessing Box provides free food for persons in need, the Guild raises money to support an amazing array of local charities and the Deacons provide Thanksgiving baskets to hungry families during the holiday. There are many more examples of the generosity of this congregation in Alpine, but one thing is constant - that these mission projects and many more are all accomplished by volunteers willing to share their time, talents, and financial support to help others in our community. I conclude with a big *THANK YOU!* to all of you for all that you do!

Happy New Year to you all,

Tom Myers

# Flying Into The New Year



We did it! We made it through another year. While the conclusion does not bring with it perfection, we do have a sense of hope for what's ahead.

This year there were many discussions and much on people's minds. However, in the world of entertainment, the one thing on everyone's mind more than anything else was the film version of the musical *Wicked*. I thought that this would be an interesting topic to write about because it is the one time I can talk to the church about anything "wicked" and use it as something positive.

I think the most special thing about the piece is the music. I find the song "Defying Gravity" to be wonderfully empowering. Elfaba, (the main character who would be known as the Wicked Witch later) has been ostracized and unsure of herself most of her life. When she takes her first flight on her broom and sings the song, she discovers her power and feels that nothing can defeat her. As we stand at the precipice of a New Year, I find myself thinking about all the good fortune that God has brought to our lives and wonder what He has in store for us in the New Year.

As Christians, we sometimes feel as though we too have the power to "defy gravity" as long as we are secure in the love of Jesus Christ. Did He not say that we can accomplish anything with faith as small as a mustard seed? Knowing this, I feel the same sense of empowerment that was evoked in the musical when Elfaba first discovered her power.

We cannot pretend that evil is not still a factor. It will always be out there trying to destroy all the good in the world. Yet, by helping us through another rocky year, the Lord proved to us that He will always be by our side. As long as we stand securely in His love we can accomplish anything. With the help of God we can hold evil at bay, and "fly" into the year with a sense of confidence. Through it all, we know that we will triumph!

Friends, the New Year is waiting. Let's fly!!!!!!

May God Bless you throughout the New Year!

# Cabinet Doings

The Cabinet met on December 15 for a regularly scheduled meeting. There were smiles all around that our income was more than our expenses. Ray and the Trustees have been valiant in keeping expenses at a minimum and this was reflected in our Annual Budget, which was approved last week.

The Deacons have been serving in many capacities during this season, including giving out the Thanksgiving baskets, decorating the church for Christmas, coordinating the Angel Tree as well as managing the Christmas eve service which will be at 5:00 this year.

There was discussion with Pastor Kyle regarding the Christmas traditions of the church. The Angel tree gifts are all due next week and things appear to be going well.

Tom Myers and Pam Price have been busy as the Nominating Committee to select officers for the 2025 church year. There will be an Annual Meeting on January 19 to vote on the slate of officers. We will also be having a secret ballot of sorts regarding having a Rummage Sale in 2025. As our membership ages, it is harder to do all the work involved in Rummage Sale. On the other hand, it has been a great way to serve the Alpine community, bond as a church team, find great deals on everything from pots and pans, to towels and jewelry, and always clothes, clothes, clothes!! But we need all healthy hands on deck to make it a success. Tom and the Cabinet encourage everyone to be at the Annual meeting on January 19 so we can make a decision regarding Rummage Sale.

The Guild had a successful Christmas party, and voted in a new slate of officers for the coming year. They are looking for mission projects to help more local organizations for next year, groups that would benefit from our donations.

# Annual Meeting

## January 19, 2025

We have marked the calendar for our ACC annual meeting after church on January 19, 2025.

Purpose of the meeting will be to elect new officers and board members for 2025, to receive a final Financial report for 2024 and to receive year-end summary reports of the activities for each board.

### Choir Christmas Program

The annual Choir Christmas Program was performed on 12/22. The choir was helped this year by several members of the former Alpine Chorale. These additions were: Doris Lamping, Cheryl Robertson, Carol Park, Cindy Gutierrez. Catherine Horne, Gay Beauregard and Betty Nash. We want to thank them for making our choir sound so much fuller.





# Care and Prayer List

## **Alpine Community Church Care & Prayer List**

*Please call or send a greeting card to someone on the list, your thoughtfulness will be appreciated. Names will be removed when it is unknown if the need for prayer still exists. If you have family or friends in need of prayer,*

George & Judy Doble

EVA McCoy

Tatty Fenton

J. J. Jacoby

Helen Harvey & Roy Jr.

Debbie Klass

Mary Francois

Heriberto Lopez

Family of Lori Lopo

Brandi Moreland

Robert Placencia

Muffie Pennington

Kathy Peterson

Sue Truscott

Ed Worland

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## JANUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES:

BRODERICK, Suzy	01/01
STRONG, Lorena	01/03
STEWART, Christine	01/07
GIBSON, Ken	01/14
ENNIS, Pam	01/21
SONKSEN, Vernon	01/22
WORLAND, Ed	01/27
O'NEAL, Galen	01/28
BARNUM, Peggy	01/29
GIBSON, Debbie	01/30

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

BARNUM, Richard & Peggy	01/27
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## Church Office Hours

We can be reached by telephone at (619) 445-2110, or by e-mail at [acc1894@acc.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:acc1894@acc.sdcoxmail.com). Office hours are Monday – Friday from 9am until noon. Even if we are not here in the office after noon, you can slip envelopes, messages & requests through the mail slot in the office's front door. *Thank You, Denise*

***Please send articles and pictures for the Cross Currents to:***

**Cross Currents Editor:**  
**Email: [pamelaennis@cox.net](mailto:pamelaennis@cox.net)**

**Pamela Ennis**  
**Cell Phone: (619) 249-3739**

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Pastor Ben &amp; PPC</b> <b>11am &amp; 6pm ser-</b> <b>vices</b>	B.S. TROOP 105	CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>1</b> <b>HAPPY NEW</b> <b>YEAR</b>  5:30p – AA, FH	2 ACSL Book Study 10:30- 11:30 FH  PPC	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  7:00 PM AA
5  9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall) PPC 6:00pm	6  B.S. TROOP 105	7  CHOIR 7-8:30p	8  5:30p – AA, FH	9 ACSL Book Study 10:30- 11:30 FH  PPC	<b>10</b>	11 GUILD MTG 9:30am
12 9:00aACC Worship DEACON'S Mtg  PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (Fuller Hall) PPC 6:00pm	<b>13</b>  TRUSTEE'S Mtg  B.S. TROOP 105	14  CHOIR 7-8:30p	15  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	16 ACSL Book Study 10:30- 11:30 FH  PPC Bible	17	18  7:00 PM AA
19 9:00a ACC <b>Annual Meeting</b>  CABINET Mtg  PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (FH)	20  B.S. TROOP 105	21  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>22</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	23 ACSL Book Study 10:30- 11:30 FH  PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	24	25  7:00 PM AA
26 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am ACSL 11-1 (FH) PPC 6:00pm	<b>27</b>  B.S. TROOP 105	28  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>29</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	30 ACSL Book Study 10:30- 11:30 FH	31	7:00 PM AA

## **Mission Statement**

*Our Mission as the Alpine Community Church is to serve God by creating an environment of fellowship following the teachings of Jesus Christ. We minister to the needs of our congregation and community, motivating ourselves with love, faith and hope.*

## **Join us for Worship**

In person in our sanctuary at 9:00 AM Sunday Mornings

Also on **Facebook** and **Youtube** (links found on [alpineucc.org](http://alpineucc.org))

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## **CROSS CURRENTS**

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**The editor welcomes contributions  
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