



# CROSS CURRENTS

June, 2025

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 36 No. 06



# Women's Guild News

Our May program was from Interfaith Community Services which is a UCC supported program working together with people of other faiths on shared concerns through programs on homelessness, mental health, helping families with shelter, and basic needs and more.

In June we will be touring the Alpine Library at 9:30. A program on Costa Rican birdwatching will follow. Our lunch destination will be announced later.

July will bring a service project for ECTLC. We will be collecting small personal items. A basket will be placed in the narthex for you to drop off items. They are always so appreciated by ECTLC.

We will resume our meetings in September. Happy Summer!

Your Guild Board





## Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



The summer season officially begins in June with what is called the summer solstice. It is the day on which we experience the longest period of daylight during the year. In sunny Southern California, it can be easy to take this for granted given the generally beautiful weather. But summertime, to me, is not just about the length of days, but about how we choose to fill them.

Psalms 90:12 offers a lovely perspective. The writer offers an earnest request that God would “teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.” As a child, I counted down the days until summer vacation and looked forward to long hours of playing with friends, riding my bike around the neighborhood, and chasing down the ice cream truck. Back then, the summer break seemed like it stretched out for ages. Time feels different when we’re young and we haven’t had as many experiences.

Now that I’m just a \*little\* bit older, summer doesn’t feel quite the same as it once did. Yes, things do slow down a bit, but my day-to-day responsibilities are far more pressing than they were in my youth. There are bills to pay, travel to arrange, meetings to attend, books to write, and classes to plan. And it often seems like there aren’t enough hours in the day, or weeks in the summer, to do all the things I planned to do. Time becomes more precious to us when we realize how limited it is.

The carefree summers of my youth are no longer my reality. But these days, my reality is more reflective and thoughtful. Whereas I took the summer for granted in my younger years, I now relish the rare days when I have nothing at all on my schedule. I appreciate time as a precious resource that cannot be renewed but must be used to the fullest. There is a deep wisdom in learning to count the days and appreciate what can be done with them. And even on the longest day of the year, every minute matters.

One of my favorite poems by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays captures this sentiment beautifully:

I have only just a minute,  
Only sixty seconds in it.  
Forced upon me, can't refuse it.  
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it.  
But it's up to me  
to use it.  
I must suffer if I lose it.  
Give account if I abuse it.  
Just a tiny little minute,  
but eternity is in it.

Indeed, eternity is in every minute. May we all discover the deep wisdom that emerges from not just from counting our days but making sure the days count.



## Message from the Moderator....



For Mother's Day, my daughter Megan gave me a wonderful, useful gift. She gave me two uninterrupted hours of her time helping me with technology! With her help, I downloaded some new apps for my iPhone and she answered several of my more inane questions. She helped me to make a Playlist (2!) and showed me how to download them I can play them in my car or on Alexa! She even showed me how to use my Smart

TV . Now some of you are probably laughing that I find these tasks difficult. But it's CHANGE!

You see, I'm TRYING to learn to live in 2025. And I find it HARD! Things seemed much easier when I was living in an analog world. One thing I truly miss about teaching high school is that my students were great about showing me things that can be done on their cell phones or how to use a chromebook. They taught me a lot! And, now, in retirement, I'm in serious trouble. Inside our home, Pat and I often still live in an analog world. We don't even do Facebook.

But the world is constantly changing, and it's tough trying to keep up. It's HARD to keep up.

Yes, I often live in another time. But I don't want the world to pass me by. I want to keep up with the times. And I want the church to keep up with the times. Which leads me to thinking about our church. We also need to be open to change. Whether it's the programs we offer, the service itself, the music we sing, the programs we offer or the way we present to the community, we need to consider what we do, and consider some updates. I wish I had a magic wand and could figure out how to make some effective changes, but I don't. We will need to work together on that. I'm open to your suggestions. We need to be open to trying new things, and listening to others along the way.

# He Would Love Her Too!



If you are familiar with the classic sitcom, *The Golden Girls*, you probably remember the character of Blanche Devereaux. She was a wild Southerner who, in her words, “...enjoyed the company of gentlemen.” In all honesty, she most likely isn’t what comes to mind when one thinks of a proper lady. After all, even she knew that she couldn’t wear white on her wedding day. Lately, however, I have been thinking that for all of Blanche’s wild antics there was a special side to her that was not often thought about.

Blanche may have been wild and uninhibited in many ways, but she had a good heart. She was always there for her friends and had good common sense about right and wrong. Therefore, I believe that if she were a real person, God would have loved her too. She may not have been perfect, but who among us is? She did try, and there was an episode or two where she tried to think less about herself and more about the Lord. Of course, she didn’t always get it right. When she tried to lead her friends in prayer, she said, she wanted the prayer to be heard, “...from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli!”. Then, she tried to quote the Bible and quoted the motto of the post office! The point is this: we may not always do the right thing, say the right thing, or pray the right way, but God knows our hearts. He delights in our goodness, and we will always be worthy of His love.

Blanche was always trying to do the right thing; even when she pretended to be a nun collecting lingerie for needy sexy people. (See episode.) In fact, Rue McClanahan, who played Blanche, had her own theory about the way Blanche lived her life. She said that she was so heartbroken over losing her husband George that she was constantly looking for a man who would match up. There isn’t any way God would have a problem with that!

Some of us are deeply religious and spiritual and some of us may stray off the path having a little too much fun, yet no matter what, we are all children of God and worthy of His love. That is something to celebrate.

I’d like to close now with one of Blanche’s most sincere prayers. It came after she was wronged by a man she picked up at the library, who also happened to be in a wheelchair. “Oh as God is my witness, I will *never* pick up another man... in a library... on a Saturday... unless he’s cute... and drives a nice car. Amen!”

# Cabinet Doings

May 2025

May has been another good month for Alpine Community Church! Our income was greater than our expenses! Ray Sopfe, chair of Trustees, did note, however, that our annual insurance bill will be coming in December which will affect our cash flow.

Pastor Kyle will be travelling for his work with the University of San Diego in June and will miss the second and third Sundays in June. Bible Study has continued and is doing well. Deacons reported that they will have their regularly scheduled meeting in June, and then go dark for July and August. Discussion was held to make sure our shut-ins will receive a communion visit this next month.

Thanks go to Suzy Broderick who provided the beautiful roses for Mother's Day. We are always so grateful for all that Suzy does, including loving our Sunday school kids.

The Trustees continue to work on getting a cleaning service to do a deep and thorough cleaning of the church and Fuller Hall. If you have any suggestions, contact Ray or one of our Trustees.

Sadly, it was noted that Dan and Debbie Hames will be moving to Louisiana in July or August to be closer to their son. They have already purchased a home and will begin to take some of their things there soon as they prepare to sell their Alpine house.

Peggy Barnum talked about the wonderful speaker the Guild had this past month from Interfaith Community services, a UCC supported organization. This next month the Guild is going on a tour of the library and sit in on a lecture about Costa Rica. This will be their last meeting before the summer break.

The rest of the Cabinet meeting was a discussion about how we can manage the upcoming Rummage Sale in October. See Help Wanted article for more info. This will be a major discussion topic in Cabinet for our next two monthly meetings on July 20 and August 17. If we have no names of people who can help by the first of September, we may need to cancel Rummage Sale.



## **RUMMAGE SALE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! October 24-25!!**

While we as a congregation voted to continue to have Rummage Sale this year, there is concern about the lack of capable people to help with moving and setting up all the equipment tables, boxes, chairs, tents, etc. that need to set up to make Rummage Sale work. With Dan Hames moving, Ray is one of our only able bodied men who can do the lifting... and that won't work. We are asking ALL MEMBERS to see if they have adult children and others to help, particularly with the set up and take down for Rummage sale. These are the times we will need people to manage heavy lifting:

Rummage Sale set up – Sunday, October 19.

Moving goods to selling areas – Thursday, October 23.

Rummage Sale tear down – Saturday, October 25.

## **Reliable Trustee Needed Now**

The Trustees are busy people who keep the church running smoothly and maintain the physical areas of the church grounds. As Chair Ray Sopfe stated, "We need a Trustee who works!"

## **Church Clerk needed Now**

With the resignation of the Gibson family from the church, we are in need of a new clerk for the Cabinet. The clerk is responsible for taking the minutes for the Cabinet meeting and writing the "Cabinet doings" for *Cross Currents*.



# 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

Marcie Berry

Sally Caruso

Ray Cobble

Tatty Fenton

Helen Harvey & Roy Jr.

Jessica (Chris Noble niece)

Brandi Moreland

Sandra Nunnally's Granddaughter

Ellie McGarry

Andrew Patrick

Family of Ed Robards †

Robert Placencia

Rick Sitter

Saron Stone/Mike & Sandy Smidt

Sue & Tom Truscott

OUR Nation & new Leaders

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## JUNE BIRTHDAY WISHES:

HARRISON, Sarah	06/26
COSIO, Mario	06/28
O'NEAL, Gage	06/28
BENNETT, Jean	06/30

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

FULLER, Louise	06/01
DENNY, Ina	06/14
STACKS, Kelly	06/15
SILVIA, Randy & Brenda	06/16
BOYER, Donna	06/26

## 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:**  
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**Pamela Ennis**  
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# June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>ACC – 9am</b> <b>Pastor Ben &amp; PPC</b> <b>11am &amp; 5pm ser-</b> <b>vices</b>	<b>2</b> OFFICE CLOSED B.S. TROOP 105	<b>3</b> CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>4</b> <b>ACC B.S.</b> 5:30p – AA, FH	<b>5</b> PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Steve Kearley Memorial 11am  7:00 PM AA
<b>8</b> 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am  PPC 5:00pm	<b>9</b> OFFICE Closed  B.S. TROOP 105	<b>10</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>11</b> Pre School Grad- uation  5:30p – AA, FH	<b>12</b> PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> GUILD MTG 9:30am
<b>15</b> 9:00aACC Worship  PPC 10:45am <b>DEACON’S Mtg</b>	<b>16</b> OFFICE Closed  <b>Lunch Bunch ?</b>  <b>TRUSTEE’S Mtg</b>	<b>17</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>18</b> ACC Bible Study  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>19</b>  PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>22</b> 9:00a ACC PPC 10:45am  <b>CABINET Mtg</b>  PPC 5PM	<b>23</b> OFFICE Closed  B.S. TROOP 105	<b>24</b>  CHOIR 7-8:30p	<b>25</b>  5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	<b>26</b> PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  7:00 PM AA
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 6:00pm  <b>PPC 5pm</b>	<b>30</b> OFFICE Closed  B.S. TROOP 105	CHOIR 7-8:30p	ACC Bible Study  5:30p – AA FH	PPC Bible Study 6-8pm		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))

### ALPINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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### CROSS CURRENTS

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**The editor welcomes contributions  
But they must be received**

