



CROSS CURRENTS

July, 2025

Alpine Community Church (UCC), Alpine CA

Vol. 36 No. 07



Women's Guild News

There was much fun to be had on Saturday, June 14, when the Guild was treated to a tour of the Alpine Library by the head librarian, Susan Del Castiano.

The library is so much more than just books. It is a place filled with imagination for both children and adults. The library has special activities for youth, and even some occasional contests. Did you know that the library has a 3D printer on which toys can be made? Everything in the library is free, except the printers and copiers, and the bookstore run by the Friends of the Library, which is a non-profit who fund the library. The organization consists of volunteers who wish to help the library succeed. The library is open most days with the exception of Monday and Sunday.

Susan showed us the beautiful mosaics and stained-glass windows inside and outside the library. She told us some information about the artists and gave us information on the pieces. We were also taken behind the scenes to the back room where the books are returned and sorted.

Then it was time to watch a live zoom feed tour of birds in the forests of Costa Rica, as well as the sites of San Jose courtesy of two local guides. Interestingly, we only ended up seeing a couple of birds! However, most enjoyed getting to see the sites of San Jose, Costa Rica. At one point, our guide, Alejandro, gave us a bird's eye view of the town. So even though the birds were scarce, at least we got to know what it looked like from their point of view! Afterword, the only birds we saw were the ones that could be cooked and put on our plates when we went to lunch at Jay's Southern Barbecue!

It was a wonderful highflying way to end another great year for the Women's Guild. As you know, they will be taking a break for July and August. However, look forward to the September issue to hear more adventures with the ladies (and maybe one gentleman) who laugh, learn, and love!



About the Alpine Library



- Alpine is the first Zero Net Energy library in San Diego County, certified by the International Living Future Institute
- 12,681 square feet: 4 times larger than the previous library
- Completed in May 2016 by the design-build team of general contractor C.W. Driver, Ferguson Pape Baldwin Architects, Van Dyke Landscape Architects, and design architect Manuel Oncina
- \$460,000 in community donations raised by the Alpine Library Friends Association
- LEED Gold certified
- California Council of American Registered Architects Design Award
- San Diego Green Building Council Zero Net Energy Honor Award



Exterior mural sculptures by Betsy K. Schultz



Children's area ceiling sculptures inspired by native Kumeyaay dwellings, by Christopher Puzio; replica native Live Oak trees by NatureMaker



How do we produce more energy than we use?

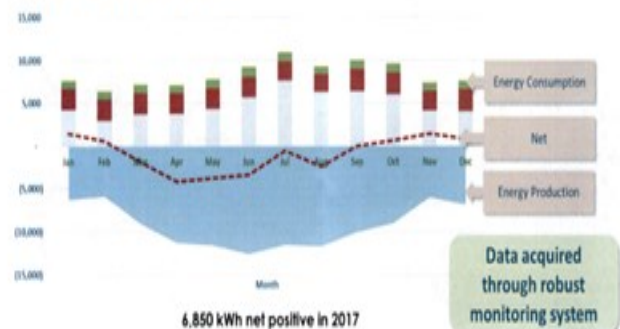
Energy Efficiency:

- HVAC system that brings cooling or heating fluid to precise locations only when it is needed (variable refrigerant flow)
- Low-power-density lighting using LEDs, plus maximal use of daylight
- Architectural design with north-facing windows that bring in light while minimizing heat in summer
- Thermally resistant glazing on the windows
- Motion sensors to turn off lights and plug sockets when not needed
- Optimal building insulation to minimize air leakage and heat transfer

Energy Production:

- 72 kW of rooftop photovoltaic panels, producing about 108,500 kWh per year
- Solar thermal hot water system

• ZNE verified 2017



Message from the Interim Designated Term Pastor



Being born on the 4th of July means I always get the usual remarks about how everyone is lighting fireworks in my honor. It never fails to bring a smile to my face, because who doesn't like to be celebrated? While the day marks the independence of this nation, its personal significance to me has always been a little different.

For as long as I can remember, whenever my birthday comes around, I return to the famous speech of abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" He delivered this message on July 5, 1852, a little over a decade before the end of slavery. In his remarks, he praised the bravery and commitment of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He also acknowledged the hypocrisy of holding the ideals of liberty and justice while slavery also persisted on American soil. In the end, Douglass called upon his audience to think very carefully about the independence they celebrate, and how its benefits have not been extended to all within the nation's borders.

What do the ideas of liberty and justice for all mean in our present world? As followers of Christ, we do well to consider what the scriptures remind us – "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:29). In Christ, we find a promise that we can all participate in the blessings of true freedom. Yet, such a freedom requires consistent and significant practice in our present world.

What does the Fourth of July mean to a follower of Christ? I think it's an opportunity to ask how commitment to the ways of Christ produces a different relationship to the world. Many will have their interpretations of what one ought to do or how a nation ought to be organized and governed. The life of Jesus the Christ suggests to me that our freedom is not bound up in whom we can eliminate, control, dominate, or reject, but in whom we embrace as our neighbor (the parable of the Good Samaritan rings a bell). The life of Christ suggests to me that our aim is not mere independence – the myth of being separate, individual, untouched – but true interdependence, in which we follow the lead of Galatians 6:2 to bear one another's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ.

As the nation's birthday approaches, let us consider just how freedom is a collaborative work. We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes. Let us strive to live and work in such a way that true liberty and justice for all can be a given, not just a slogan.

Message from the Moderator....



A year ago Easter, (that's more than 14 months ago!) I took one of the leftover bedraggled Easter lilies from the service and planted it in our new yard. Over one year later --- and off season -- it is blooming!!! I've included a picture of it. I was delighted! I think I've tried to transplant lilies before, but they never flourished. I'm delighted that it is growing – and can't help thinking about the church as I look at it. Some things in our church are flourishing – like my lily – and some things are not.



I am so glad we continue to support our Sunday school, thanks to the dedication of Suzy Broderick and the support of Betty Sopfe. But few kids attend. I think it's hard to encourage kids to attend the church, when so many of our members no longer are raising kids. But the kids that come feel at home here and receive support, love and a Christian education.

On the other hand, as an aging congregation, and with the inspiration of Roy & Helen Harvey, we have established a reputation in Alpine for providing medical equipment to the community free of charge. Just as my lily, something new is flourishing! And once a month, we deliver peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the Salvation Army, thanks to the enthusiasm of Cheryl Worland.

We continue to provide food for many community members with our Blessing Box, thanks to the support of several of you in the congregation who donate food, as well as the daily help of Cheryl Traverse, who comes over once and even twice a day to make sure we have food available.

Two years ago, we had discussions about how we were going to pay our bills and maintain the church. But, thanks to the dogged work of Ray Sopfe and all the Trustees, we are on solid economic footing.

As I have looked at the church the last few weeks, attendance is a continuing concern for me. But last Sunday, six people stepped up and volunteered to help with our booth at the Fourth of July carnival at The Alpine Club. formerly known as the Community Center (another change and transformation taking place in the community). When we need volunteers, people step up. We needed a new Trustee, and Jan Welch stepped up to fill the gap.

Spring has ended and summer is arriving. Seasons come and seasons go. I remember a time when our church was full with two services on Sunday morning. Now we have 30-40 people on Sundays. But we provide meaningful services each Sunday, thanks to the gifts of Pastor Kyle. We continue to provide fellowship to our members and a welcoming community to all who enter. The Guild is well attended and contributes money to several worthwhile mission projects as well as providing meaningful meetings for all who attend. I pray we have another season when our pews are full on Sunday morning, but it may be something different in the future. But we are open to a new season for our church, and new ideas are welcome!

God's Other Precious Gift



God has blessed us with many things. His greatest gift was our salvation as He came to live among us and die for us. Is there any greater gift more precious than this? Though it may surprise some, I would argue that God did indeed leave us something almost as precious. He saved us with his blood and taught us how to have faith. Centuries later, He would help us to use that faith to give birth to the idea of the greatest nation the world has ever known.

Before the revolution, the world believed that people were to be ruled by kings and queens. They also believed that these people were chosen by God. Therefore, when this idea was challenged, there were those who called it blasphemy. However, God was there to help the new Americans win the war against the British. It was proven that God had other plans for His people.

God is a God of love. He is also a God who fights mightily against tyranny and injustice. While He promises us that good will overcome evil, it rarely ever does so without blood being spilled. In the same way that God spilled His blood to save us, He allows us to spill our blood to defend the great nation which He gifted us.

We must be grateful to God not only for our salvation, but for the great nation and the ideas and values for which it stands. To take it for granted is to waste one of God's most precious gifts. A person is lost without faith and precious freedom would be lost without God.

Cabinet Doings

As we gear up for the heat of the summer, several groups reported at the Cabinet meeting on June 22 that they will not be meeting in July, including the Deacons, Bible Study, Guild, and the Cabinet.

Bible Study will begin again in the fall with a study of the Book of Acts. The Trustees did not meet in June but will continue during the summer months. Some discussion also continued regarding Rummage Sale. It will probably be a scaled back version due to the lack of manpower, particularly for setting up and tearing down.

Pastor Kyle will be visiting Palestine from August 4-14 with a delegation of pastors. Thanks go out to Jan Welch, who has volunteered to step into the Trustees position vacated by Dan Hames.

The Guild will be collecting personal items to donate to East County Transition Learning Center. A box will be in the narthex for people to place their donations.



Just a few quotes to ponder:

"It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them."

- Mark Twain

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

~ Nelson Mandela

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

~ Thomas Jefferson

"True patriotism hates injustice in its own land more than anywhere else."

~ Clarence Darrow

"The Kingdom of God wasn't born on the Fourth of July."

~ Matt Chandler

"Jesus' example of patriotism perfected can provide a guidepost to Christians. It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth, and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism—it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

~ Ryan Hamm

"The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

~ George Washington

"With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

~ John F. Kennedy

"America is the only country ever founded on a creed."

~ G.K. Chesterton

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

Sally Caruso

Ray Cobble

Celia Cook

Tatty Fenton

Helen Harvey & Roy Jr.

Jessica (Chris Noble niece)

Ellie McGarry

Brandi Moreland

Andrew Patrick

Lauri Reid

Sue & Tom Truscott

Bette Youngman

OUR Nation & OUR Leaders

Military

Police Officers

Firefighters

Birthdays and Anniversaries

JULY BIRTHDAY WISHES:

BROOKS, Kyle	07/04
CLARK, Brenda	07/05
SOPFE, Ray	07/05
MYERS, Judy	07/13
HABERLE, Marina	07/17
CALDWELL, Doreen	07/22
BURRIE, Caryn	07/29

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

HAMES, Dan & Deb	07/09
IONESCU, Dan & Leslie	07/23
CARPENTER, Ginny	07/24

Church Office Hours

We can be reached by telephone at (619) 445-2110, or by e-mail at 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:

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Pamela Ennis
Cell Phone: (619) 249-3739

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ACC – 9am Pastor Ben & PPC 11am & 5pm ser- vices	2 OFFICE CLOSED B.S. TROOP 105	1 CHOIR 7-8:30p	2 ACSL – Rm #1 10:30-11:30	3 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	4 Happy Birthday Rev Kyle	5 7:00 PM AA
6 9:00a ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 5:00pm	7 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	8 CHOIR 7-8:30p	9 ACSL – Rm#1 5:30p – AA, FH	10 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	11	12 GUILD MTG 9:30am
13 9:00aACC Worship PPC 10:45am DEACON’S Mtg	14 OFFICE Closed Lunch Bunch ? TRUSTEE’s Mtg	15 CHOIR 7-8:30p	16 ACSL –Rm#1 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	17 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	18	19 7:00 PM AA
20 9:00a ACC PPC 10:45am CABINET Mtg PPC 5PM	21 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	22 CHOIR 7-8:30p	23 ACSL- Rm #1 5:30p – AA Fuller Hall	24 PPC Bible Study 6-8pm	25	26 7:00 PM AA
27 9:00 AM ACC Worship PPC 10:45am PPC 6:00pm PPC 5pm	28 OFFICE Closed B.S. TROOP 105	29 CHOIR 7-8:30p	30 ACSL – Rm#1 5:30p – AA FH	31 LIFELINE Screening Event all day PPC Bible Study 6-8pm		

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)

ALPINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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