

Encanto Community Church

A United Church of Christ Congregation
2710 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85007-1124
602.266.4602

The Pilgrim

July Events

- | | |
|---------|---|
| July 2 | Spanish/English 11:30 AM
Pet Food Bagging |
| July 4 | Happy Independence Day!! |
| July 9 | Spanish/English 11:30 AM
Deacon's Meeting |
| July 15 | Yard Sale Sorting 10 AM |
| July 16 | Spanish/English 11:30 AM
Outreach Meeting
Ice Cream Sundae Sunday |
| July 22 | Social Gang Bingo 10 AM |
| July 23 | Spanish/English 11:30 AM |
| July 25 | Newsletter Deadline |
| July 30 | Spanish/English 11:30 AM |



Who's feeling lucky? You are! That's why you are coming to ECC Bingo July 22, 10 a.m., in Fellowship Hall. The game is free to all as are the snacks. If you would like to bring a bag or can of dog or cat food, we would gladly accept it. Come on over and enjoy this highly competitive (really it's mostly luck) Olympic (it should be!) sport. Interesting prizes will be showered upon our winners so get over here and flex those skills.



**WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING
CONGREGATION.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
HERE!**

July 2023



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Diane Boudle, Bill Edens, Jane Gempeler, Ron Jasper, Debbye Jones and Rev. Gloria Smith, Mildred Juncker, Carol Krietenstein, Linda, Rich Maxwell, Carl Madsen, George Penny, Patricia Probst, the Rigali Family, Cindy & Mike Robinson. Nancy Studebaker, Shanti Sunderajan, Gavin V., Jay Gonzalez, Bill Willers, Encanto Community Church, Our Community, and Our World. May God's grace and healing touch be with you all.

Late Last Supper

Our Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will take a month off during July, giving our summer diets a chance to be more effective (LOL). Enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing everyone in August!

Our conversational English and Spanish classes are still offered on Sundays after church. If you are a non-English speaker who wants to learn basic conversational English, or if you are a non-Spanish speaker who wants to learn a bit of conversational Spanish, look for the study group that will be meeting during or after Fellowship Hour on Sundays after church.

In an effort to reduce the amount of work required the week before the next yard sale, some of us are getting together one Saturday per month to sort, price, and clean yard sale donations that have already been received. This month, the **Yard Sale Sorting Squad will be working in the basement of Fellowship Hall on Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.** Please join us as "many hands make light work." Also, please remember to enter Fellowship Hall via the rear kitchen door that morning, so you don't disturb the support group that will be meeting in the main area of the Hall.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Treasurer's Report (General Fund for May 2023)

Beginning Balance: \$-4,755.12

Received: \$9,624.46

Disbursed: \$12,621.46

Ending Balance: \$-7,752.12

For a loss of: -\$2,997.00

Total Offering Receipts for May 2023

5/7	5/14	5/21	5/28
\$1,572	\$1,599	\$2,432.58	\$462

No withdrawals were taken from the Endowment Acct

Copies of the monthly Treasurer's Reports, including a list of all disbursements, are on file in the office.



Late Last Supper Club at Babbo Italian Eatery.



Deacon on Duty

The Deacons are available to assist the pastor.
The Deacon on duty for July is:

John Hasenstab

602-503-9817

Birthdays To Remember July

Zoe Coughlin-Velasquez	4th
Lucas Sorter	6th
Kathy Stock	7th
Patty Arnold	9th
Steve Krietenstein	13th
Elice Higgenbotham	23rd
George Penny	26th
Debbie Jones	27th
John Hasenstab	29th
Bradley Gilstrap	31st

Happy Anniversary to
Del and Carolyn Krietenstein on July 31st!



The ECC youth will be hosting **Ice Cream Sundae Sunday on Sunday, July 16, 2023**, during Fellowship Hour! Take a break from the heat and enjoy a root beer float or other dairy delicacy while enjoying one of our church's great annual traditions!



Fellowship Hour

Thank you to Susan P. for hosting last month, and to the Deacons for the delicious Father's Day lunch! Thank you to Brenda, Natalie and Jan for the cookies and treats! If you would like to bring something to share, please sign up on the Cookie Calendar in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!

Youth Tutoring Nights are on hiatus for the summer. Enjoy the vacation!

TAKING GOD TO DINNER – PART TWO

by

Kathy Van Etten

(Church Treasurer)

As some of you may recall, I wrote the first of these articles in March of 2016, when we had just lost the tenancy of the Great Hope Korean Church who had been sharing our worship space for a couple of years. At that point, we also lost the rental income we were receiving from them (\$1,250 per month) which constituted about 10% of our monthly budget. Fortunately, over the years, we have been able to make up that deficit through various means. However, given our high insurance premiums (\$2,300 per month), I am concerned that we need to maintain our increased monthly income over the summer.

Yes, we have a reasonable endowment that was created from the bequests of many generous parishioners who have long since passed away, but that money is only to be used for true emergencies. If we are forced to use it merely to “make ends meet,” it will be gone very, very quickly. Consequently, I thought this would be a good time to re-run this article and ask for everyone’s help.

To reiterate my 2016 thoughts, here’s my suggestion about how to handle our current financial dilemma: Take God to Dinner!

Yes, I realize you don’t know what I’m talking about, but you will in a minute.

Read on. . .

The reality is that \$1,250 per month is approximately 10% of our monthly budget. This is not an insignificant amount, but it is not an insurmountable one either. Indeed, if you run the numbers, this amount can be made up fairly easily if all of us contribute to the cause. If everyone simply donates a small additional amount every month, the problem will be solved.

How much should I give, you ask? My suggestion is to consider your donation in terms of what it would cost for you to take God to dinner once a week or once a month, depending upon your lifestyle. If you’re “feeling flush,” perhaps you would even spring for God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost to join you for dinner!

Indeed, considering everything that God has done for each of us through our wonderful church, it’s not too much to ask that we “pick up the dinner tab” for a while in order to get us through the coming lean months.

I would further suggest that you seek guidance from the old Marxian philosophy: “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.”

Consequently, if you are only able to take God to McDonald’s once in a while, put an extra \$10 in the offering plate for that week. On the other hand, if you are able to take God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost to dinner at Durant’s, pitch an extra \$100 in the offering plate for the month – unless, of course, you are ordering drinks, in which case, you had better double that amount.

This may seem like a silly way to look at the matter, but I think you’ll find it quite practical.

At the end of the day, if twelve of us who are able to do so donate an extra \$100 to our beloved church every month for the next few months (perhaps, through September), we’ll get through the summer shortfall with relative ease, and we’ll be ready to embark on an exciting new chapter in the fall.

Just a little food for thought . . .

Thank you for your consideration.

Who the Hell Are You?

by Rev. Dr. Steve Barrett

Kathy Van Etten, Every Church Should Be So Lucky (Blessed)!

I wish every church could have a Kathy Van Etten! But they can't and they don't. So I am glad we do! Kathy has been a part of the ECC family since birth. She was baptized here at three months old and raised two blocks away.

If there is a job that needs to be done at our church, Kathy is always willing to step up to the plate. Currently she serves as Treasurer, member of the Trustees, Chair of Religious Education, and a Tech Crew member. Together Kathy and Steve have loved and served our Youth for many years. And she literally sleeps in a chair in front of the church at every yard sale to watch over all the treasures to be sold the next day!

Kathy is married to Steve Holloway, and together they form a real power duo. Kathy asked Steve out initially. They went to a professional marionette show and to Coco's for a late dinner. Then they spent hours talking and walking in the park until sunrise. Kathy states "Few people in the world can listen to me for that long, much less engage in a discussion for that long. So it was clear that 'we were meant to be.'" Professionally Kathy is a lawyer with a primary practice of family law and family law litigation. Her goal is to do her job well and to be of great benefit to her clients and their families.

Kathy and Steve have had many pets in the past, but their current pet reduction plan leaves them free to travel. Kathy loves travelling to Cannon Beach, Oregon; Ouray, Colorado; Central and Northern California; and Europe. Kathy is especially keen on Northern Oregon beaches with monoliths, fog and wonderful waves, where the trees meet the beach. To paraphrase a well-known travel author, "just give her a window seat on a plane going to a place she's never been."

Kathy's favorite color is blue, and her food of choice is Italian, chiefly any pasta. Her most beloved budget restaurants are McGurkee's for sandwiches and La Pinata for Mexican. At the other end of the spectrum Kathy, enjoys Durant's for dinner and The Phoenician for High Tea. For a truly delightful evening, she loves having a nice dinner on the patio at sunset with excellent company and a good glass of wine. When it comes to sports, Kathy's always roots for the Phoenix Suns.

Kathy has a long list of best-loved movies, including *Arthur*, *All that Jazz*, *Waking Ned Divine*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *The Godfather*, *Casablanca*, *The Sound of Music* and *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Her television pleasures include *Ted Lasso*, *Star Trek (all versions)* and *CNN news*. She fancies the acting of Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep. Kathy's musical tastes run from classic rock to show tunes and classical. Her number one singers are Billy Joel and Elton John.

Something you might not know about Kathy is that she failed coloring in the first grade! Despite that, her life has turned out pretty good. We are indeed fortunate to have Kathy V cheering on our endeavors at ECC. Kathy, may God bless you richly as you have blessed us!



This month's Pastoral Ponderings summarizes the UCC General Synod resolutions that will be presented at the national meeting in early July. A copy of the full text is available in print by request. There is also a copy hanging on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

DISASTER MINISTRY CLEAN-UP KIT MISSION

The Deacons are heading a mission to prepare clean-up kits to assist victims of wildfire and flooding during monsoon season. As you are aware, wildfires leave debris and soot even if your home is saved and flooding leaves mud, debris when the water recedes. Clean-up kits permit the homeowners and volunteers to begin cleaning as soon as they are able to return to their homes while stores may be closed or sold out of cleaning items.

The clean-up kits will be kept at Encanto so that we can immediately deliver them to Arizona areas facing disaster clean-up. Some of you may have participated in preparing kits for Church World Services. Currently, all Church World Services warehouses are located east of the Mississippi and sending the kits to them requires additional monetary funds as well as time for Church World Services to send them to disaster sites. So, we have decided that having them located at the church will permit us to be of better service to our state neighbors during depressing times.

Beginning June 25th, a clean-up kit display will be set up in Fellowship Hall so that you can see the contents of a kit. In addition, there will be a sign-up sheet for participants. Please let us know what you are willing to bring large or small. Every little item helps. If you do not want to go shopping, you can place a monetary donation (PLEASE MARK ITS INTENT ON THE ENVELOPE) in the offering plate or give it to one of the Deacons. The Deacons will then do the shopping.

May God bless our mission to assist victims of disasters in Arizona.

ECC Endowment Fund by John Hasenstab

Lately, we have had a few questions arise regarding the ECC Endowment Fund, and I thought I would share the answers to those questions here. This article explains what the ECC Endowment Fund is and how you can contribute to it. The ECC Endowment Fund is really like our "Rainy-Day Fund." We try to use the money in this fund primarily for emergency situations that arise unexpectedly (e.g., broken air conditioners, plumbing repairs, etc.) and special projects that the church undertakes (e.g., paving the parking lot, re-carpeting the sanctuary, etc.). We try NOT to use the money in the Fund to cover regular church expenses, since if we did, the money would not last long. Accordingly, no matter what the balance is in our Endowment Fund, it is important that you continue to give generously in your weekly offerings and yearly pledges.

The majority of the money that is in the Endowment Fund came from church members passing away and leaving money to our church through their wills or trusts. If you would like to leave money to Encanto Community Church when you pass on in order to ensure that our church's ministries continue to thrive, you should do it legally through a lawyer. Usually, that means that you would formally name Encanto Community Church as a beneficiary in your will or trust. Informal designations outside of your will or trust are often forgotten or overlooked, and the money often doesn't get transferred. Notably, you can also contribute to the Endowment Fund while you are still living. Just indicate that your specific contribution is to go to the ECC Endowment Fund. If you have any questions, see Kathy V or one of your Stewardship Committee members. Thanks for all you do for our church!

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Pet Food Bagging Spanish/English 11:30 AM	3	4 Happy 4th of July Happy Birthday Zoe Coughlin-Velasquez	5	6 Happy Birthday Lucas Sortor	7 Happy Birthday Kathy Stock	8
9 Deacons Meeting Spanish/English 11:30 AM Happy Birthday Patty Arnold	10	11	12	13 Happy Birthday Steve Krietenstein	14	15 Yard Sale Sorting 10 AM
16 Spanish/English 11:30 AM Ice Cream Sundae Sunday Outreach Meeting	17	18	19	20 Nourish Phx. 8:15 AM	21	22 Social Gang Bingo 10 AM
23 Spanish/English 11:30 AM Happy Birthday Elice Higgenbotham	24	25 Newsletter Deadline	26 Happy Birthday George Penny	27 Happy Birthday Debbye Jones	28	29 Happy Birthday John Hasenstab
30 Spanish/English 11:30 AM	31 Happy Birthday Bradley Gilstrap & Happy Anniversary Del & Carolyn K.					

Council Meeting: June 14, 2023

The ECC Council Meeting for Wednesday, June 14, 2023 was called to order by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 7:06 P.M. to hear the Treasurer's Report given jointly to the attendees of Trustees and Council Members.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Kathy Van Etten: The monthly expenses were covered for May after gleaning all possible monies from incoming sources such as PayPal, the yard sale residuals and our offerings. No withdrawal was taken from the Endowment Fund, which rebounded in the first few days of June, but was down over \$800.00 in the month of May. ECC will be receiving an adjustment from our Insurance Company for the previous pergola repairs completed in the Rose Garden area.

The ECC Council Meeting was formally called to order by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 7:38 P.M. Prayer was led by Kathy Stock.

The ECC Council Meeting Minutes for the May 10, 2023 meeting were reviewed and accepted into the records by all in attendance.

Trustees Report given by Steve Holloway: Tony is collecting and receiving donated items for the fall 2023 yard sale, and has also been assisting the church's neighbors. The parsonage door west facing had to be replaced, the air units in the office and the cottage also were repaired this month, as well as other campus buildings items. The Fellowship Hall's upstairs doorways are scheduled for cleanup and clearing later this month. The lease on the parsonage is slated for renewal in August 2023, it has now been updated to reflect the approved changes including a monthly increase and a modified 30 day clause effective August 2023.

Deacons Report given by John Hasenstab: The Father's Day Lunch items were ordered today for the upcoming celebration. The Deacons will be rotating during the offerings and communion portions of the Sunday Services. The Deacons voted to assemble cleaning buckets and store them here at the church to be used in Arizona on an as needed basis.

Stewardship Report: None.

Financial Secretary's Report given by John Hasenstab; the monies are in the bank.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten: There will be no summer camp this year for the ECC Youths, but workshops will be done as well as summer projects.

Memorial Fund Report given by Kathy Stock: Printed copies were given to all in attendance.

Outreach Report given by Melanie Herrmann; the Outreach Committee has not met for the month of June.

Hospitality Report given by Todd Montague; Cookies are in the Cookie Bank and we recently have all enjoyed cake. A new sign-up sheet will be available at the end of June.

Pastors Report given by Pastor Gloria Smith: Rev. Gloria will be on vacation beginning the last week of June thru the first week of July. The overhead and shipping costs causes us to pivot and rethink the way we do the Cleaning Buckets Project, they will now be stored here at ECC and disbursed around the State of Arizona as the needs arise. The passing of the peace will begin again after the summer, at the end of summer also the communion supplies bulk\individual will be discussed by the Trustees and Council.

Moderator's Report by Lisa Herrmann; No new items on the agenda. Michelle and I will be meeting to explore Servant Keeper usages and functions. There will be no Council meeting in July. Calendar updates were made for the upcoming months thru the fall.

Old Business: Worship in the sanctuary in July and August.

New Business: Energy reduction and sustainability plans information per Pastor Gloria Smith will be posted online and a page will be in the July Pilgrim listing items available for sale prior to the fall yard sale.

The ECC Council Meeting was adjourned by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 9:03 P.M..

Encanto Community Church
United Church of Christ
2710 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85007



Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith, Minister
Lisa Herrmann, Moderator
Jill Mahoney, Choir Director
Genevieve Benham, Organist
Tony Lusania, Caretaker
Michelle Lusania, Office Administrative Assistant

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Yard Sale Corner



Mirrored Vanity, Dovetail Construction
Solid Wood, Original Hardware.
Needs a little bit of love. \$300



Chocolate Brown
Velvet Chaise
Lounge. Perfect
for reading! \$75



Beautiful, Solid Wood Dresser. Dovetail
Construction, Original Hardware. Needs some
TLC. \$200



Original Maui Jim Sunglasses!
Comes with case, cleaning
cloth and certificate of
authenticity. Retails for \$300,
they're a steal at \$75