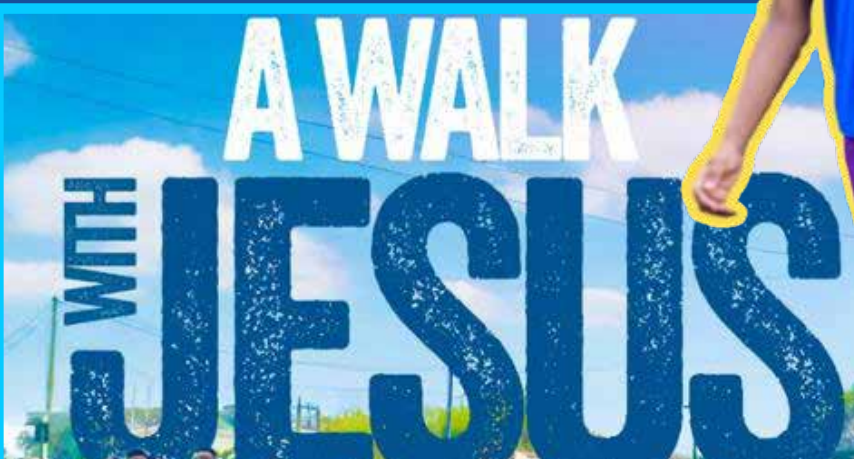




90TH ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER - 01

APRIL 2026



90TH ANNIVERSARY HEALTH WALK





Easter and The Enduring Band of Love: A Call to Glory

Reflecting on the Theme:
"Bonded In Christ's Love For His Glory"

BY REV. FR. REGINALD LAWSON

Easter stands as the central pillar of the Christian faith - a profound intersection where divine love meets human brokenness, and where sacrifice gives birth to eternal hope. Yet beyond the familiar symbols of the cross and the empty tomb lies a deeper, more compelling narrative: Easter is the story of restoration, of a God who binds humanity back to Himself and to one another through love. It is this very truth that resonates powerfully with the anniversary theme, "*Bonded In Christ's Love For His Glory.*"

At its core, Easter is not merely a historical remembrance; it is a living reality that continues to shape the identity and mission of the Church.

The Cross: Love That Reconciles and Binds

The journey of Easter begins with the cross. A symbol often associated with pain and suffering, yet fundamentally an expression of divine love. Humanity's greatest problem was not simply moral failure, but separation: a fracture in relationship with God and with one another.

The crucifixion of Christ addresses this rupture decisively. In that singular act, love took on flesh and bore the weight of sin, bridging the chasm that humanity could not cross on its own. **The cross**, therefore, is more than an event; it is a **divine initiative of reconciliation**.

Through Christ's sacrifice: *Estrangement is replaced with intimacy, Division gives way to unity, and, Judgment is overshadowed by mercy.*

This is the foundation of our bond. It is not built on shared preferences, backgrounds, or interests, but on the self-giving love of Christ. Such love does not merely inspire - it transforms and unites.

The Resurrection: Love Vindicated in Power

If the cross reveals the depth of God's love, the resurrection reveals its power. Easter morning is the triumphant declaration that death does not have the final word. The resurrection of Christ is both validation and victory: affirming His identity and securing humanity's redemption.

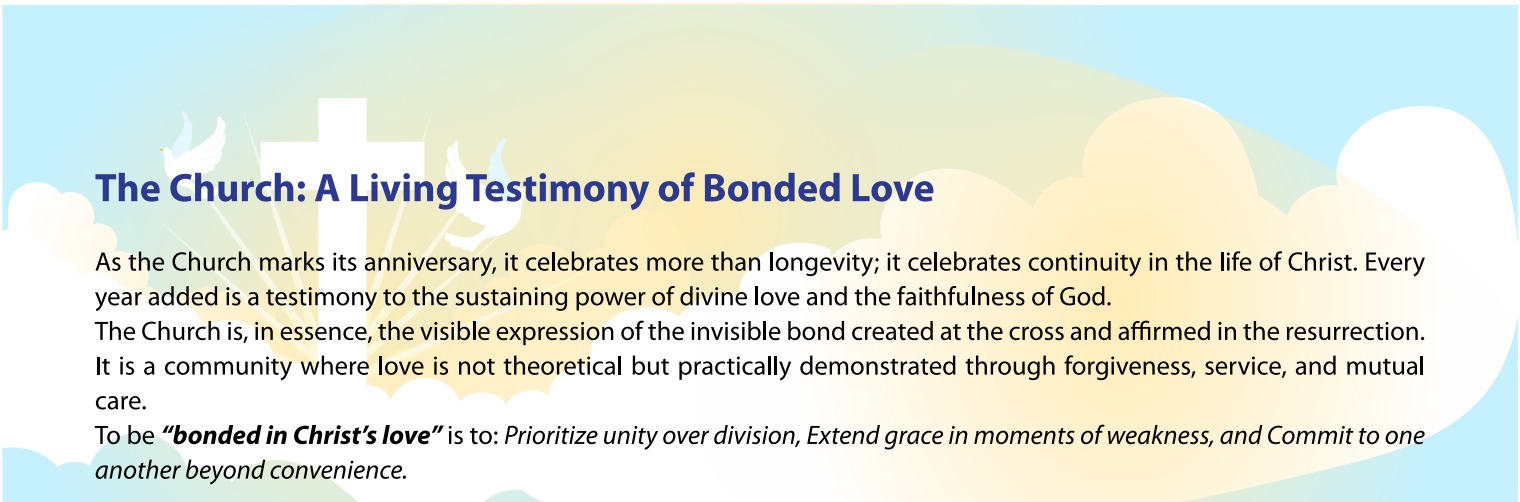
Without the resurrection, the cross would remain a noble tragedy. But with it, the narrative shifts from defeat to triumph, and from despair to hope.

The resurrection accomplishes three profound realities:

- i. It confirms the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice
- ii. It inaugurates new life for all who believe
- iii. It forms a new community rooted in resurrection power

This community- the Church; is not defined by external markers but by an internal transformation. It is a people bound together by a shared experience of grace and a common participation in the life of the risen Christ.





The Church: A Living Testimony of Bonded Love

As the Church marks its anniversary, it celebrates more than longevity; it celebrates continuity in the life of Christ. Every year added is a testimony to the sustaining power of divine love and the faithfulness of God.

The Church is, in essence, the visible expression of the invisible bond created at the cross and affirmed in the resurrection. It is a community where love is not theoretical but practically demonstrated through forgiveness, service, and mutual care.

To be ***“bonded in Christ’s love”*** is to: *Prioritize unity over division, Extend grace in moments of weakness, and Commit to one another beyond convenience.*

Such a bond is countercultural. In a world often marked by fragmentation and self-interest, the Church stands as a witness to a different reality. A reality shaped by sacrificial love.

For His Glory: The Ultimate Purpose of Our Bond

The theme’s concluding phrase, *“For His Glory,”* provides essential perspective. The unity and love experienced within the Church are not ends in themselves; they are means to a greater end - the revelation of God’s glory.

When believers live in genuine love and unity, they reflect the very nature of God. Their lives become testimonies that point beyond themselves to the One who called them.

This has profound implications:

- Unity becomes a form of witness
- Love becomes a language of evangelism
- Community becomes a canvas for divine expression

The Church, therefore, exists not only to gather, but to reveal - to make known the character and purposes of God to the world.

A Timely Reflection: Living the Reality of Easter

Easter invites more than celebration; it demands reflection and response. It calls believers to examine whether the reality of the cross and resurrection is evident in their lives and relationships.

Are we truly living as people bound by Christ’s love?

Does our unity reflect the sacrifice of the cross?

Is God’s glory visible through our communal life?

These are not rhetorical questions; they are essential considerations for a Church seeking to remain faithful to its calling.

Conclusion: An Ongoing Story of Love and Glory

My dear friend and reader, Easter is not confined to a season - it is a continuing story. It unfolds in every act of love, every expression of unity, and every life transformed by grace.

As the Church celebrates another milestone, it does so with the recognition that its existence is rooted in the events of Easter. The same love that was demonstrated on the cross continues to bind its members together, and the same power that raised Christ from the dead continues to sustain its mission.

In embracing the theme, *“Bonded In Christ’s Love For His Glory,”* we are reminded of both our identity and our purpose. We the Church, are called to remain united in love, steadfast in faith, and committed to reflecting God’s glory in all we do.

For in the end, the true significance of Easter is not only that Christ rose, but that through His love, we are brought together, made new, and sent forth to live for His glory.





90TH ANNIVERSARY INAUGURAL LECTURE



TOPIC: **THE ACCRA RIDGE CHURCH WE KNEW, HAVE AND ENVISAGE**

- BY VERY REV. DR. ABRAHAM BOATENG, YOUTH MINISTER

**ANNIVERSARY THEME: BONDED TOGETHER IN
CHRIST'S LOVE FOR HIS GLORY (Ps.78:4; Col 3:14)**

INTRODUCTION

I wish to express my profound appreciation to the Clergy, the Central Planning Committee (CPC) and Council, for this opportunity to present this inaugural lecture as part of our 90th Anniversary celebration. I deem it a great honour considering that in my humble opinion, there are more qualified personalities in the congregation than me. However, I give God all the glory for this great privilege nonetheless.

This opportunity also poses the challenge to delve into this profound subject, by creating an atmosphere for retrospection, introspection, planning and maximizing the Accra Ridge Church concept as we look further on in years ahead.

This address will include the presentation of the history of Accra Ridge Church, by focusing on the Accra Ridge Church we knew with the aid of some sampled views from members of our church.

The next part will be a reflection of the current situation at the Ridge which will include an evaluation.

Finally, the Ridge we envisage will seek solutions and proposals for growth and development in the years to come. It will be an engagement with the realities of our time and projections for the future.

For starters, definition of some terms in this presentation: Ridge implies Accra Ridge Church, by connotation the different generations and context affiliated to our Church.

"There is one body and one spirit - Just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all in all ..." (Ephesians 4:4-6 NIV)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACCRA RIDGE CHURCH

The first Chaplain was appointed in 1936; hence, we fix our formation to this period, nonetheless records exist of some interactions in 1935 about the start of a community of worship desired by a number of residents from the residential areas of Accra known as the Ridge.

The initiative in establishing this Church came from a number of Europeans (British expatriates), mainly in Government service and largely Anglicans, who wanted a service in English and of a simpler pattern than that available at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

The first Chaplain was Rev. W.G. Harward, appointed by the (Anglican) Society for Propagation of the Gospel, which supported similar chaplaincies in various parts of the world. Although the Ridge Church started as an Anglican congregation, Rev. H.H.G. Macmillan of the Scottish Mission and Rev. M.B. Taylor, Chairman of the Methodist Church, conducted services at the Church from time to time, and by the time the congregation moved to its present site, it had begun to assume its present interdenominational character. In due course, this development was finalized by the appointment of honorary Methodist and Presbyterian Chaplains, and the adoption of an interdenominational constitution.



The records of the Church include a Minutes Book which begins: "On Monday, 18th January 1937, a meeting was held in the European Chaplaincy of members of the Congregation of the European Church. There were 19 members of the congregation present and the Chaplain, Rev. W.G. Harward." At this meeting, a committee was formed, "to be responsible for the organization and administration of the Chaplaincy services and finance," and thus began what has now become the present Church Council.

The Church began its life in a wooden building rented from Government, one half being the church and the other half the chaplain's house; and this building stood down the road from our present site, housing, the former location for the Labour Department and Youth Employment Centre. As the congregation became well established, a permanent building was put up and opened in 1946. With the continued growth of the congregation, the present Church was built and opened in 1968. The most recent development has been the erection of an extension on the south side the Church, and this was opened at the beginning of the Jubilee year. The ARC Hall which is almost completed was also added.

THE RIDGE WE KNEW

The Ridge we knew is a beacon of hope and a demonstration of an eternally prophesied atmosphere. The idea of the formation of this great church was to fellowship irrespective of one's denomination, tribe, colour or race. Ridge Church was formed with the idea of our common humanity in focus. The admonishing of Jesus echoed in the minds and hearts of the founding fathers, "that they may be one" (John 19:20-23). Oneness is faith, love and advancing the mission of the church. The church that met the specific needs of those who formed it. They sought not to follow the existing standard but seek their own context-sensitive approach to worship.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHARACTER:

The Ridge we knew is interdenominational and English-speaking. It is neither Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian or any other denomination. It has created the environment for peaceful co-habitation of various denominations and confessions. It has served as the solution to many marriages of couples of diverse confessions. "My husband is a Methodist and I am a Presbyterian so after our marriage we sought to be at Accra Ridge Church". These and many other examples are very common in our Church. Ridge Church has not only preserved this all-important legacy, but has also birthed other interdenominational churches and continues to be the mother of all interdenominational

churches in the country. The church that supports interdenominational institutions such as Trinity Theological Seminary, GHAFES, Scripture Union, Bible Society of Ghana amongst others. The basic concept of church minus the excesses = Accra Ridge Church. Accra Ridge Church like the coat of Joseph, is the Church of many colours where everyone feels at home.

EXCELLENCE

We are known as a church with a set of standards that have stood the test of time. Members of this church are known to be good Christians who do things well (fastidious). Church services from all accounts started on time and ended on time. Systems and structures worked to it full capacity without any room for mediocrity. The ARC standards and approach to burial services, weddings and other church-related events have given the church its badge of excellence in our Country and beyond. "As for Ridge Church they start on time and keep to time", "they are a very disciplined Church". This and many more attributes of excellence are what we are known for.

LEGACY OF SERVICE

The Ridge Church School was established in 1957 as a wholly private basic school in modern Ghana designed to provide a high standard of Christian education to the children of both expatriates and Ghanaians. It was and still is synonymous with excellence and godly training of children. The testament of many great people who have passed through the walls of the school is evident for all to see. The church continues to serve Ghana, society and the world with great human resource from this great school.

It is the church that serves diplomats, expatriates and others on missions in Ghana. This was the church that provided the congenial atmosphere for all Christians from around the world who found themselves in Ghana for a period.

We are known as the Church that offers scholarships, medical outreaches, social support to different institutions like REMAR Ghana, Weija Leprosarium, Boys and Girls Remand Home and others. We are known as the church interested in giving back to society and fulfilling the mandate of the Church in the State and society.

MONUMENTAL RIDGE

The Ridge we knew is the church of our grandparents and parents. We attended this church and school as children. It is part of our memories, formation, culture which is a lasting memorial in our hearts. We knew prominent uncles, aunties, family members, etc., who



were the pillars on which our nation at post-independence stood. For some of us, we were baptized in the old chapel which was demolished for the ARC hall construction. The controversies of this demolishing are enough for a second lecture.

ANECDOTES FROM SOME MEMBERS

The confessions of Dr. (Mrs.) Sylvia Awo Mansa Boye (The Ridge she knew)

I joined the Ridge Church, Accra in 1964 from the Calvary Methodist Church having been introduced by my foster mother, Mrs. Marion Odamtten who was the Confidential Secretary to Mr. John Deakin, the Registrar to the West African Examinations Council.

Reverend Colin Forrester Paton, a Presbyterian Minister was the Resident Chaplain and Dr. Ebenezer A. Sackey was Chairman of Council superintending the affairs of the Church. The congregation was small comprised mostly of expatriates and some prominent Ghanaian Civil/Public Servants and professionals. The services lasted for one hour. The doctrine of the Church, I was made to understand then was Ecumenical - the doctrine within the Christian Church towards unity on all fundamental issues of belief, worship, etc. I was happy to belong to the Accra Ridge Church having gone through infant baptism at A.M.E. Zion Church where my father was a staunch member, church organist and choirmaster.

I then had Presbyterian training and education in my primary and formative years before gaining admission into Wesley Girls High School, Cape Coast where I was confirmed as a Methodist in my first year in 1952. So the 'doctrine' of Ecumenism suited me very well at Accra Ridge Church. I learnt and enjoyed the Anglican Evensong and chants of the Psalms and canticles. Indeed, it was a beautiful blend of forms of worship of our God and Father in Heaven. I felt very comfortable with the interdenominational worship. I remember at one stage we used to have evening services rotating between Calvary Methodist Church, Accra Ridge Church and Christ the King Catholic Church where we worshipped our one True and Faithful God as a family in God's Kingdom. Praying and singing hymns of praise and listening to the Word and Homilies delivered. Sweet reminiscences of the good old days of Christian worship and the fellowship of believers. The Ridge we knew was interdenominational, English-speaking, multicultural and depicted the futuristic heaven where people from different settings will live together. An ecumenical fellowship where each faith was respected, appreciated and enjoyed together.

THE RIDGE WE HAVE

This section reflects on the present realities of our beloved church engaging the difficult realities and challenges. Can the Ridge we have at present be able to stand the test of time? What are we building on the foundation bequeathed to us by our forebears? What are we in our present state able to hand over to the next generation?

STATISTICS OF RIDGEANS

Our estimated numbers includes 1,107 males and 1,661 females. Of this number, 312 are females aged (16-29), 145 males aged (16-29) in our books.

CATEGORY	AGE GROUP 16-29	ADULT MEMBERS ALL AGE GROUPS	TOTAL
MALES	145	1107	1252
FEMALES	312	1661	1973
COMBINED	457	2768	3225

AVERAGE CHURCH ATTENDANCE RECORDED FOR JANUARY, 2026

The average attendance for church services for the month of January was as follows:

SERVICE	ATTENDANCE
7.30 AM	251
CONTEMPORARY (8.30 AM)	252
10.00 AM	283
6.00 P.M.	44
YOUTH (10.00 AM)	55
MANET	166

Find below a full table for January 2026

SERVICE/ DATE	4TH JAN	11TH JAN	18TH JAN	25TH JAN
7.30 AM	278	336	173	218
CONTEMPORARY	319	-	136	301
10 AM	412	219	243	259
6 PM	50	35	46	45
YOUTH	65	55	45	-
MANET	192	145	170	160



NOTES

The average attendance for 8.30am Contemporary Service increased significantly again in the past month. This may be attributed to a birthday celebration which brought in large numbers of non-members' on one of the Sundays although the numbers for the rest of the month seemed encouraging (recording over 300 attendees on 2 Sundays)

2.The highest attendance was 412, recorded at the 10.00 am service on 4th January, 2026, followed by 336, recorded at the 7.30 am service on 11th January, 2026.

The Ridge we have continues in the strides of our forebears and continues to keep the torch burning but with some modifications. Church services obviously are not an hour as it used to be or the typical service which follows in the steps of any church service in Europe.

There are presently three services at Ridge main Church; 7.30am, 10.00 am and 6.00 pm. The ARC Hall houses the Contemporary Service at 8.30 am, Youth Service at 10.00 am and the German Service. Sunday School is held simultaneously in designated rooms in the ARC Hall. Manet Chapel continues to have its service at 9.00 am, Tudu at 9.30 am ACP at 10.00 am. The Ridge we have is at the crossroad at its 90th year.

The ARC we have is currently experimenting with the Church Life and Nature (CLAN) System. A portion of the bigger CLAN is being piloted. The full implementation of CLAN will include constitutional changes and other major shifts in the administration of our church. (Is CLAN the solution, is it for the future will it take us to the promise land?)

THE BATTLE FOR IDENTITY

What is the Accra Ridge Church identity? Who are we? What do we stand for? What should we be and how should we proceed? These seem to be the questions on the minds of most members. The current identity is dues-paying but have no relationship with the Church. Pay your dues be a member in the books like many people are. There are many who have their names in our books but do not fellowship with us. They are members in good standing by our definition but do not really know what happens in Church. They qualify to vote on issues that do not interest them.

Who is a Ridgean and what qualifies one to be an active member? Are we in a church where members are only full members when they die, their children are ready for marriage and when they need "corporate church help"? What I mean by this expression is the advantages we can derive from the church when we need the church, its facilities, clergy and name for our personal advantage.

The identity of our church is complex in the face of changing scenes/paradigm and evolving patterns of church formation and dynamics. Quite a number of our fold have found themselves in other churches and have ceased to meet in our fold.

I am currently studying two of such churches where members find themselves when they leave Ridge Church. What should we do to our identity? Should we change, reorient, re-evolve, re-examine or repeat. The Ridge we have, the identity we have and jealously seek to preserve.

DECISION MAKING

This is Ridge and things must be done in a certain way. Leadership and decision making seems to delay and take eternity. I have been here for about three years and some issues discussed before I reported are still being discussed. We take solace in the statement, "leave it with Admin Manager and the office". They continue to do their best but the structure of our church require other routes and processes. Can we do better, can we evaluate our ways and re-think the decision making process in our beloved church?

Decisions made even by those we have entrusted these to must go through the hands of the powers that be. Who exactly are these powers? No one knows but they exist and have strong influence in the Ridge we have. Can we continue to trust their judgement? Are their solutions still relevant? Should we continue with the old methods if we wish for new solutions? This is Ridge and this is how we do it, period!

The Ridge we have presents an interesting spectacle on one side where we have a rich history, elegance, excellence and quality human resource. On the other hand, is the contrast of a depleting church, which is struggling to retain its members and to continue to attract younger members.

Is the Ridge we have healthy, sick, in intensive care, paralyzed, pregnant or on pension? Let us ponder over this carefully and thoughtfully because the revelations we receive, will determine the course of action we need to take for the next phase.

THE ACCRA RIDGE CHURCH WE ENVISAGE

The Ridge we envisage in simple terms will be the Church after God's own heart. The church that follows the concept of ecclesia as found in Acts of the Apostles. The church where love is present, care embraces all and heaven is the ultimate destination of all members who are well disciplined.



THE RIDGE PRESENCE

We envisage a visible church in the conscience of our nation and having a positive impact. We envisage a church that continues to have a presence and an impact on society. The modern church requires presence; sign posts on major roads in the capital city. Active social-media presence targeting the unreached and those beyond our borders.

The Ridge presence seems to be in the shadow of other things at present. It is very difficult to find a cross in any of our rooms at the ARC Hall. The presence of Christ and the Word of God must forcefully encounter you as you enter our compound. A case in point is the basketball and football court at Trinity United Church, Legon. Bible passages, short messages and a conscious attempt to evangelize all possible users of the sports facilities. We are not ready to put Christ in his Church here at ARC. We have recently installed directional signs to our church. Many drive past and have no idea that they are near a church.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELLING

We envisage a church where members are properly cared for, supported and ministered to in times of joy, sorrow, death, birth and all the changing scenes of life. What type of care do our members receive when they need care and counselling? The future church must prioritize the needs of its members and seek ways to personally minister to them.

MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION

The good old age can be reproduced. This is the motivation for our mentoring. We envisage a church where we intentionally allocate 40% leadership positions to members of our church who are below 35 years of age. We envisage and encourage the formation of the professionals' guild: Lawyers, doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs and many more. Mentoring the next generation in the corporate, professional and church is the way to go. Reproduce your skills and ability for the next phase of our beloved church for the future.

THE ONE STOP CHURCH

The objective is to be all things to all people. The conservative Christian, charismatic Christian, the business executive, the Gen A(lpha) and Gen Z(ee), the one with a preference for High Mass and the one for none. Since we have the capacity, let us create services to meet the needs of our congregants and other Christians. We are among the few churches with a vibrant evening service that has stood the test of time. This implies that we are capable of being innovative, creative and respond to the needs of society as we draw them to the Throne of Grace.

RIDGE ORCHESTRA AND MUSIC SCHOOL

We envisage a church where music is taught as part of our Sunday school training leading to the formation of the Ridge orchestra. Sunday music school where the youth and our children are taught to read music and learn church music. The aim is to have adequate organists and church musicians. The Ridge Youth and children's Choir is a must considering the ages of our choristers. This is a sure way of retaining our young people in the church, creating employment for the many who will seek to be musicians and above all aiding the proper integration of the individual since music is said to be therapeutic.

RIDGE RETREAT CENTRE

We envisage the ARC retreat centre that has long been on the drawing board. A place where conferences, camps, spiritual renewals, personal faith reflections are accessible to the body of Christ. The fees we continue to pay for our teen and youth camps, clergy retreat and others should give us some insights into the future of our church. This center could be developed further to house our projected Ridge Church Secondary School.

RIDGE ON WHEELS

"We aspire to be a strong and united church impacting families, communities, workplaces and nations for Christ."

We envisage a future where church services move to the people. As noted about our identity, a clearly defined identity is required to know our scope of evangelism, that is, are we happy just being where we have been for 90 years while the people we desire to serve keep moving? As the capital expands and the dynamic of church changes, we have no choice other than to seek to be present in all newly-developed estates, in the North, South, East and West of Accra. The church will move to the location of the people with its core values, traditions and culture as practiced over the years. It is a matter of urgency that we get on the wheels to get to the people. This is in line with our vision and mission as a church. We were able to evangelise and start a church in Swedru. We can do same at Kasoa, Adenta and other parts of the capital where our beloved members live.

RIDGE MEMORIAL GARDENS

We envisage a church that seek the welfare of its members even after their life here on earth. The Accra Ridge Church Memorial Garden will be a serene cemetery where members can have a decent place of rest after their toil on earth. In my short stay here I can clearly deduce that members care about where they will be buried and some even document these before their death. We should envisage this project and its impact on our ageing church.



THE ARC MEDIA AND ONLINE PRESENCE

Members of our church live across the globe and in every corner of the earth. We envisage a church where members can feel a part of the service whether in-person or online. This comes with intentional investment and planning. Do we have a dedicated studio? media equipment? and are we ready to take advantage of new media to spread the message of the Gospel? Some of our members are part of other churches which have these resources. We are able and capable.

CONCLUSION

The Ridge we knew is ecumenical, interdenominational, English-speaking. The Ridge we have continues in this tradition but faces countless challenges and prospects but in the context of faith and to the glory of God, we envisage a glorious tomorrow where we will be sensitive to the demands and challenges of our times and the future. Members will be prepared for proper Christian living and for heaven. The church will continue to make an impact and presence even after 100, 150 and more years of existence.

It is my prayer that you will all give careful thought to these considerations presented in this lecture and look forward to incorporating these in the on-going restructure of the church so that the Accra Ridge Church we envisage will be more of a reality than a mirage.







ARC@90: MAIDEN ANNIVERSARY LECTURE FROM MY LENSES

By Rami Baitie

I had always planned to be at the maiden ARC@90th anniversary lecture which was going to be delivered by Very Rev. Dr. Abraham Boateng, Youth Minister, on Wednesday, February 11.

On that Wednesday afternoon however, my plan nearly failed me. At the time when I should have been getting ready to leave home, I almost willingly dozed off. I am glad that I did not succumb to the wiles of my bed. Let me tell you why.

The lecture started at 5:30pm prompt, I'm happy to say. A sign of things to come as we celebrate our 90th anniversary? There was a nice homely atmosphere in the Basement of the ARC Hall, with a sense of anticipation. We started with a hymn, and we were exhorted to say: "Lord, I am ready to be blessed."

The opening prayer was by Rev. Father Reginald Lawson, Chairman of the ARC@90 Central Planning Committee (CPC). Can you believe that I greeted my Anglican priest with a hearty "Good morning", at 5:30pm, simply because I have become used to a "good morning" greeting on days of early morning Mass?? Some habits die hard.

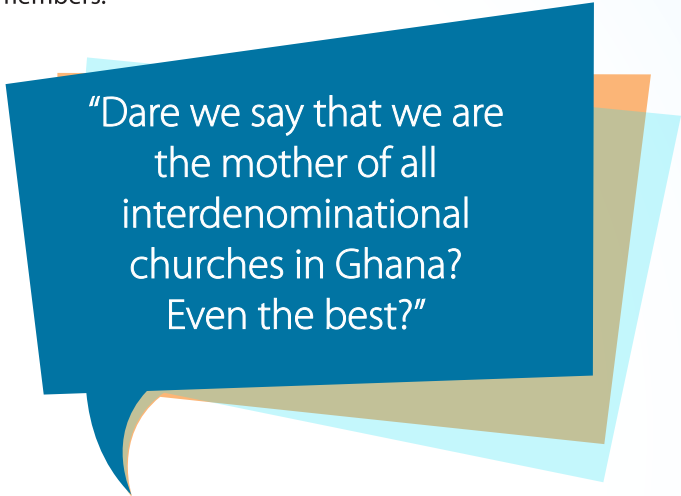
It was interesting to note that both the MC and our Council Chair mentioned that it's 'always good to have paper' as they spoke. They both read from their mobile phones, and there seemed to be a glitch or two. That is becoming a challenge for modern communication on stage.

I liked the fact that the miracle of Sarah's story was referenced. As the Lord made her laugh at 90, and Ridge Church is also 90...

The main speaker, Very Rev. Dr. Abraham Boateng, was then introduced. Full disclosure, I know of him briefly from the past, but I had never heard him preach. I was looking

forward to hearing him speak on the topic: "The Ridge we knew, The Ridge we have and the Ridge we envisage." To the glory of God, Very Rev. Dr. Boateng did not disappoint at all.

We got a bit of the history of the church, with emphasis on how Ridge Church was started to meet a specific need. An interdenominational church, English-speaking, and with time-conscious services. There were Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, and eventually also Catholic, members.



"Dare we say that we are the mother of all interdenominational churches in Ghana? Even the best?"

Joseph's coat of many colours would be an apt analogy, says our speaker. Ridge Church has become known for our time management, and particularly, our badge of excellence in conducting marriage and burial services. The speaker mentioned our Ridge Church School, and the good reputation it has gained over the years. I started my education at Ridge Church School, in the nursery, but for only a very short time.

I really liked Very Rev. Boateng's line about Ridge Church being the church of our parents and grandparents, our aunts and uncles. And how, over the years, prominent professionals have been part of the congregation. Even Presidents have been amongst us.





But he didn't only stick to the good things. He breezily mentioned the controversial demolition of the old church building, and the construction of the new one we were currently sitting in. Ridge Church has always been seen as a beautiful and comfortable church, and I'd like to think we still are. But, said the speaker, do we have an identity, as the Ridge Church? Can a Ridgean be identified? Or is it only when you pay your dues that you become a Ridgean? Or when you attend church on Sundays?

Apart from identity, says the speaker, does Ridge Church have a presence? Surely, even parents dropping their children at the school should enter the car park and be able to see signs of a church everywhere. He gestured to our venue, and asked if there was any sign that these premises are part of a church. Could that be one of the reasons we are losing members? The speaker made the intriguing statement that Ridge Church should be a one-stop church. Let us be all things for all. Let us think about the future.

The lecture was approximately 52 minutes, and honestly, it didn't feel that long. It was a well thought out presentation, delivered in a humble but challenging manner. It was salutary, but provocative, questioning, than accommodating. Kudos to Very Rev. Dr. Abraham Boateng for setting the right tone for this anniversary.

When the floor was opened for questions there were hardly any takers. As someone said, "we were processing what had been placed before us". Someone however asked if the presentation would be made available (it will). A member I know said that Council changes every election cycle, and the clergy come and go. But, he asked, "Who dreams for Ridge Church?" A very deep question I am totally unqualified to interrogate.

Someone also asked, "where are the expatriates who founded the church, and that we like mentioning as members". Another said that surely, we can implement some of the suggestions quickly, like putting up Bible verses around the Church, and cataloguing our history permanently, maybe to help us know the reasons why some things are as they are.

In the general closing remarks, the media team was particularly praised for their efforts in broadcasting the event. The general consensus was that we wanted more, a 'Part 2' if you like, of the lecture. There was a feeling of hope for all of us at Ridge Church, and that we have the resources to make it all happen.

Let us make Ridge Church truly a place of worship, for Christ's love and His glory to be manifest.

After some acknowledgements a closing prayer was said. We ended at 7:04pm. And oh, there were refreshments, which were very tasty indeed.



A Night of Psalms Hymns and Spiritual Songs

– By Vicky Wireko-Andoh

It was a lovely evening”, that was the simple but impactful verdict someone gave at the end of the 27th February Night of Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs. One could not agree more because the atmosphere itself described it.

Bonded in Christ’s love, it clearly was a night to make music for His praise.

At 6pm that night, the opening Hymn selected from the Methodist Hymn Book (MHB) 2 set the tone for the night as all gathered “sang to the Lord with cheerful voices, as we came before Him to rejoice”.

The Accra Ridge Church Praise Team electrified the sanctuary with some favourite spiritual songs that brought almost all to their feet.

All the Church Groups that were ably represented had their special moments as they ministered their choices of Hymns, Psalms or spiritual songs that reflected the unity, diversity and shared faith that have sustained us and bonded us together in Christ’s love for good 90 years.

In no special order, the Church choir, Sides persons, Council Members, Women’s Fellowship, Men’s Fellowship, Christian Services, Widows Fellowship, Mission 50+, Instruments of Praise, other members and of course our ever present Clergy, were there. And so also were our brothers and sisters from our Manet and Tudu branches. Together, we all came ready to lift our voices up in praise and worship with joyful sounds to the Lord.

Everyone present, including the Clergy, danced in joy to the glory of God. If a verdict was to be given, it would just be apt to say that the Clergy out-performed every group in the period of dancing to God’s glory.

At the end of the evening, our melodious Tudu Choir dismissed us with some praise songs. The night of 27th February 2026, indeed set the tone for a year of melodies to appreciate God’s love and faithfulness.







"Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts." Ephesians 5:19

CHAT WITH MR. JAMES OPOKU AGYEMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR – By Vicky Wireko-Andoh

ARC@90 - NIGHT OF HYMNS, PSALMS and SPIRITUAL SONGS

Following a delightful Night of Hymns, Psalms and spiritual songs, we caught up with the Music Director, James Opoku Agyeman for a short interview as below.

Why was it necessary to slot in a Night of Hymns and Psalms in the ARC@90 programme?

Music plays a pivotal role in the worship of God generally, and indeed there are several biblical instances where God through music demonstrated His power. The word of God in Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 encourages us as believers to sing hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in our hearts to God. I am certain the 90th anniversary Central Planning Committee were inspired by these scriptural texts by specifically delimiting one of the music programmes earmarked for the celebration to the singing of songs considering their spiritual, social, historical, and evangelistic significance. Personally, it was necessary to slot in this programme to primarily afford congregants an opportunity to express our faith in Christ through “organised” singing as an expression of our deepest gratitude for the Lord’s guidance and provision these past 90 years. Secondly, there was the need to further promote community building. The theme “bonded in Christ’s love for His glory” needed to find expression in our celebration and since music has the propensity to achieve this, it was necessary to have this programme. Music, an integral part of the church’s culture, is not only a means of worship, but an also establishes the church’s identity as one whose music in worship is based on the scriptural provision as stated earlier. The multiplicity of music styles employed in worship meets the needs of congregants who have diverse tastes when it comes to music, and so a programme like aside its spiritual significance projects the church to the world as a denomination that sticks to tradition (hymns and psalms) and is also responsive to contemporary music styles (spiritual songs) which is most desired by the younger generation.

What flavor would you say the Church Groups contributed to the programme?

The aim of the programme was to create an atmosphere of praise with very minimal restrictions on “standard” professional music performance ethics, and this could only be achieved by involving the non-music groups in the church. “Variety, they say is the spice of life”, and I believe the decision to shift from the “traditional” music concert setting of having trained music groups perform to an audience was the masterstroke. Aside



from the spiritual significance of corporate worship, the participation of all the church groups enhanced the celebration by fostering a sense of community, encouraging inclusivity, and deepening fellowship among members. The different repertoire, voices, performance styles etc. of the various groups affirmed the celebration’s theme of being bonded in Christ’s love, as evident in how the stage performers and audience complimented each other. This in my opinion created a richer and more vibrant worship experience making the programme more meaningful to participants observed in the outward show of joy and gladness.

In general, how does music contribute to worship?

Music does not only contribute to worship, but it is an expression of worship either in praise or adoration, penance, supplication, etc. Psalm 100 affirms the importance of coming before God’s presence with songs. Indeed, Psalm 150 goes beyond that by suggesting the need to worship God with “everything” music, i.e. vocal and instrumental, and even with “dances”. Through music in worship, we express deep emotional connection with God. Music like prayer, is one of God’s gifts to the church through which worshippers overtly express their innermost devotion to God. I am certain God appreciates the role of music towards the sustenance of His Word in the hearts and minds of His children. The illustration of Deuteronomy 31, where God asked Moses to write a song for the Israelites to serve as a reminder to them of His works among them for many generations to come is a vivid example. Many people assert that it is relatively easier to memorise many verses



of scripture set to music, as in the case of hymns or canticles, than verses for recitation, thus making music ideal for learning and memorising the Word of God. Music in worship also enriches our worship experience. Can you imagine a divine service without music? Is it not interesting that even in “Said Masses”, music still finds expression in the liturgical rites? I admit that the Ordinary of the Mass may be recited, yet they are interspersed with music, and this is so because music enhances corporate worship by bringing people together and connects worshippers to God. Paul, in Colossians 3:16 encourages believers to sing hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs gratitude in our hearts. Scripture also affirms the many times God demonstrated His power through music, a few examples from the Bible are the fall of Jericho (Joshua 6), restoration of God’s voice among the people of Israel (2 Kings 3), spiritual liberation (1 Samuel 16), physical liberation (Acts 16:25-26), and of course the coming of our Lord will be heralded by a trumpet sound (1 Corinthians 15:52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16). These among other circumstances suggest the relevance of music to worship only for which reason it must not be acknowledged for its aesthetic value to worship, but also its spiritual significance of drawing man to God.

Who qualifies to be in the music ministry?

Everybody can sing in so far as they have no “condition” medically or otherwise which prevents them from making any sound with their voice. The primary qualification for joining the church’s music ministry is by acknowledging the call of God on your life to minister with your gift of music and song and be ready to consider the ministry as a responsibility that is for one to avail him or herself to the discipline of training to be a good singer. 1 Chronicles 25 speaks in general about the temple musicians at King David’s time, but the seventh verse speaks to their level of proficiency as trained and skilled in music for the Lord. Skill does not come by prayer, but it is acquired through effective training over a period of time, and for that matter, people who are able and willing to subject themselves to it qualify to be musicians in the church. God deserves the best of everything, including our voices and so people should not be discouraged by the quality of their voices. The voice, no matter what can be trained, and so once you feel led by the Spirit of God to minister as a church musician, come just as you are and professionally trained musicians employed by the church are ever ready to bring the best out of you.

How long have you served as Music Director and how fulfilling has it been?

I have served as Music Director of the Accra Ridge Church for over eight years, and I am thankful to the Lord for His grace and mercy. It has been fulfilling in all sincerity, because it is every professional Musician’s dream to work in an environment that appreciates and promotes professional practice. I have been fortunate to enjoy the collaboration of all stakeholders; Council, Clergy, Music Group Leaders, Choristers, Singers of all non-choral music groups, Instrumentalists, and of course the larger congregation.

I was fortunate to benefit from the expert guidance and direction of former Music Directors Mrs. Dinah Reindorf and Mr. James A. Scott-Bennin, resulting in a quick adaptation to the Ridge Church “system”, which is quite distinct from most traditional churches in Ghana. I must admit it has not been smooth throughout, but I can say I have become a better version of myself as a practicing church musician because the environment pushes me to learn something new every day, although I believe I could do more, with the provision of the state-of-the-art accoutrement for music production.

Any message for ARC@90?

ARC @ 90... Hurraaaaay!!

“All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given...”

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, let us count our blessings and reflect on the uncountable moments of God’s grace that have, and continue to shape our dear church these past 90 years and beyond. It is important to remember and honour the memory of our forebears whose unwavering trust in God has brought us thus far. To those of us still around, may the celebration of our 90th remind us of our enduring commitment to serve faithfully in the vineyard of the Lord, uplift, uphold, and build upon the legacy left for us, and strive to indeed be bonded in Christ’s love as one church for His glory and praise. Amen.



CULTURE Sunday

AT RIDGE AND TUDU – By Gifty Anterkyi

In the anniversary launch speech delivered on Sunday 7th December 2025 at all services we indicated that "anniversary is our moment to remember, to celebrate and testify"

The speech expatiated on "celebrate" as follows:

"We celebrate the community impact that has touched thousands of lives."

"We celebrate Generational Legacy that sees our grandchildren worshipping where their grandparents once knelt"

This year's Culture Sunday or Ghana Sunday (Sunday after 69th Independence Day) which saw Ridgeans of all ages at all the services dressed in colorful cultural attires exhibiting joy, love, whilst celebrating God's goodness and faithfulness to Accra Ridge Church and Ghana aptly captures the sentiments expressed above.

It was heartwarming to see "congregants bonded in Christ's love" in their beautifully woven Kente, Classy African prints and styles, stylish fugu, traditional outfits and head gears that reflect our rich heritage and diverse Ghanaian Culture.

In fact, Very Rev. Dr. Jacob W. French identified with members in his beautiful fugu (the latest Traditional wear in Ghana).

The Bible Study and Sermon captured the atmosphere. Both stressed the need for us to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live and love just as Christ did.

The Celebration at Tudu was equally beautiful. From the adult service through to Sunday school, the congregation was adorned in stunning traditional attire, showcasing the rich and diverse cultural heritage of our beloved country. The sanctuary was filled with vibrant colours as members proudly wore a variety of traditional costumes, including fugu, kente, African prints, and many others.

In both Ridge and Tudu, it was a wonderful reminder that though we come from diverse backgrounds, we are united not only in Christ but also in our shared cultural identity. The day was a true reflection of the beauty of our Ghanaian heritage and the unity we enjoy as a church family.

God bless Accra Ridge Church! God bless Ghana







Three generations of a Ridgean family
at the 10am Culture Sunday service

JOANA GRANT

Meet the talented lady behind the concept and design
of the 90th Anniversary logo for Accra Ridge Church!

Designing with purpose and creating with heart: how
Joanna Grant brought the ARC@90 anniversary logo
to life

For Joanna Grant, creativity has never been just about
making things look good. It's about making them
matter.

A member of the 7:30 a.m. congregation at Accra
Ridge Church, Joanna is a creative strategist and
designer who blends storytelling, design, and
intentional thinking to create work that truly
connects. She approaches every project not just as a
designer, but as a thinker who understands how ideas
translate into impact.

Her work on the ARC@90 Anniversary logo reflects
this. What appears as a simple mark is a carefully
crafted symbol bringing together the church's
heritage, identity, and theme, "Bonded in Christ's Love
for His Glory."

Beyond this, Joanna leads Hail Mary Design and
Strategy, developing bold ideas and meaningful
creative solutions for brands and organizations.

At the heart of her work is people. Whether for brands
or community, she is driven to create work that
resonates, inspires, and endures.



ARC@90 logo is more than a
design. It is part of a shared
story, still being written across
generations, and a timeless
mark that captures the spirit
of 90 years of the Accra Ridge
Church.





CULTURE SUNDAY AT TUDU





CULTURE SUNDAY AT MANET

By Joyce Boeh-Ocansey

It was a day of Culture indeed! The congregation—men, women, teens and children—totally in tune with the spirit of the day came out bedecked in colorful traditional attire: Kentes, Fugu, Batakali, Bubu, Kaba and Slit, an assortment of duku, gele, other headgears and lots and lots of smiles and laughter.

The service was full of joy as Rev. Frank Kissi, our Presbyterian Minister, preached on the topic: “Jesus, the Living Water.” (John 4:5–42). The central verses were from V: 14–15, where Jesus said: “Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.”

The central thoughts we were encouraged to take with us were that:

- Jesus quenches spiritual thirst.
- Jesus offers spiritual fulfillment and satisfaction.
- Jesus is the source of eternal life.

It was indeed a fitting message for such an auspicious day.

This topic of abundant blessings was also made more evident when our Senior Sister Regina Djan testified and thanked God for her 91st birthday marked that day. The unanimous response from the congregation was, “We tap into your blessings.”

After service, the Women’s Fellowship once again did what it is best known for—Action! Two Photo Booths were set up and various groups, families, friends, fellowships, and individuals took memorable pictures with a majestic backdrop of our national colors.

The Food Bazaar was packed from opening till everything was gone! There were delicious grilled chicken wings, sausage, goat and chicken kebabs, spring rolls, samosas, pancakes, meat pies, adunle, nkati cake, plantain chips, and an assortment of local drinks—sobolo, asaanaa, lamugin, boba tea and more!

People just kept coming back for more of this or more of that! Alas! Good things come to an end. Everyone had a great experience. The informal poll is that there should be more Cultural Sundays.







CULTURE SUNDAY AT ACP

With some members of ARC Christian services Group





ARC@90



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Chairman



2

C.O.P. Lydia Donkor

Vice Chairperson



3

Very Rev. Dr Abraham Boateng

Co-chairperson



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Mrs. Nana Koomah Boakye Agyemang

Secretary



5

Mr Dickson Gameli Wodi

Member



6

Mr Charles Crabbe

Member



7

Mr Alfred Ayer

Member





ARC@90



CENTRAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CPC)

NAME

POSITION

8

Mrs Christine Kwaning

Member



9

Ms Elizabeth Korkor Ocansey

Member



10

Mr Seth Dzordzome

Member



11

Mr Peter Illiasu

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12

Mr David Amankwah

Member



13

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- 2 Tetteh Okunor
- 3 Gabriel Adotey
- 4 Kwame Anterkyi
- 5 Emmanuel Ackah-Yensu
- 6 Dr Maame Gyekye-Jandoh















RIDGE



RIDGE









MANET

Palm SUNDAY

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

MANET





90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

2026 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES: SECOND QUARTER

"Bonded In Christ's Love For His Glory."

APRIL



Victory Concert
Sunday 5th April



Easter Monday Picnic
Monday 6th April

MAY



Churches-In-The-Hood Games
Friday 1st May / Saturday 2nd May



Anniversary Lecture 2
Saturday 16th May



Fundraising Dinner
Friday 29th May / Saturday 30th May



PENTECOST FIRE
Wednesday 20th May - Friday 23rd May

JUNE



Musical Night
Friday 12th June

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.

The story keeps unfolding...

We've added a little more to the Quater 2 lineup - because 90 years deserves extra.

Two more events to gather, celebrate, and give thanks together.

Check the update and adjust your calendar accordingly!





ARC@90 EDITORIAL COMMITTEE



Vicky Wireko-Andoh

Team Lead



Abigail Armah

Secretary



Rami Baitie

Member



Gifty Anterkyi

Member



Joyce Boeh-Ocansey

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George Assiamah- Damti

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