

# Encore

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## Stay in the Zone



No matter the age, we all know about the importance of “being in the zone;” that place of greatest success. While some suggest that “the zone” is undefinable; that you just know when you are in it, others try to objectify it. The zone has been described in many ways including that fine line between

anxiety and boredom. Though it is probably more than that, I confess that since I finished my years of vocational pastoring, that line is harder to hold.

In baseball, there is a place called by most, “the strike zone.” I’d suggest that they might better call it the “hit zone,” because if you can master where that approximately 1000 square inches begins and ends, you are far more likely to get on base than if you swing at balls outside the definable rectangle.

I recently heard Hall of Fame Chicago Cubs outfielder, Billy Williams, say that the best baseball lesson he learned in the minor leagues before he was promoted to the parent club was to know that zone. They say that “Sweet Swinging Billy, as he was affectionately named, owned it! His swing was “sweet” because he was confident both about the pitches at which to swing and which to leave alone. He stayed in the zone.

So, my simple question as we get into the summer months is, do you have a handle on your zone? Do you know what to do; what to swing at in order to succeed in life? And just as importantly, do you know what to let go by?

In our spiritual lives, as we stay in God's Word and listen to God speak to our hearts, we will learn what is in and outside His zone. Outside God's zone is vast and tempting while everything inside it is firm and yet sweet as honey! If we stay in God's zone, we will comprehend what to go after. As we learn to live in and with Christ, our lives will be sweet too. The Apostle Paul said he was absolutely certain of this: "that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). That's the "hit zone" for me!

I know this; that we best not waste time by chasing what is outside our God-given zone. Your swing may be good, but if the opportunity is not in your area of God-defined success, the outcome will likely leave frustration and/or boredom in its wake. While you will not necessarily get a "hit" every time, if you swing at what you know is in your zone, you're far more likely to accomplish your God-designed goals.

Helping one another find and stay in "the zone" is central to what Encore is about. Our goal is not to fill rosters or to try to keep people busy. You don't need that! But our intention is to come alongside each other in the power of the Holy Spirit and find ways together to accomplish God's Kingdom purpose. To grab a motto inscribed on a college wall, we want to help you to know Christ and to make Him known.

In this Encore Letter, as well as on our [2rc.tv/serve](http://2rc.tv/serve) webpage, you will find some of our "together" opportunities. Check them out.

Know your zone, and yes, stay in it!

# Views from the Bridges...

(Encore's ministry is broken into eight sections - or "bridges." Some updates are listed below)

## HOSPITALITY BRIDGE:

The Hospitality Bridge was designed to show Christ's love to the people in the Encore group, church members and people outside our walls. We organize meals for Encore gatherings and meals for members who have been ill or have a death in the family. Please contact Lynnette Payne at [alpayne80@gmail.com](mailto:alpayne80@gmail.com) or 865-705-9656 to volunteer.



## ALL CALL BRIDGE:



First Gathering: Thursday, June 24 | 10:00AM | Student Center  
Join us on the Harrison Lane campus for the first post-Covid Encore All-Call event!

We'll meet in Amped (Student Center) to make items that can be put in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. While assembling these toys and trinkets, we'll have plenty of time to socialize, snack, and share with our fellow Encore participants.

## SOCIAL BRIDGE:

Next Gathering: Wednesday, June 16 | 11:00AM - 1:00PM | RiverRoom (HL campus)

Lunch & Learn: "Protecting ourselves & loved ones from Elder Abuse"

Bring a sack lunch - drinks will be provided

RSVP to Jacqueline Burg @ 865-257-1624 or

[JacquelineABurg@gmail.com](mailto:JacquelineABurg@gmail.com)

Please come join "Social Encore" to discuss one of the largest and fastest growing crimes, which is elder abuse. Our speaker Wendy has been in Law Enforcement for 30 years in both California and Tennessee. She worked patrol in South Central Los Angeles in their Gang Unit. During her last years in law enforcement, she became an expert in elder abuse. Wendy's involvement in the community has given her a great perspective, valuable knowledge, and insight of what



is happening in our communities. Come and hear what Wendy has to say about elder abuse, protecting ourselves, our family, friends, neighbors, and our communities. She will inspire you to get involved and be the eyes and ears of your community, especially for our elderly vulnerable community members.

The Lord says in Matthew 25:44-45 (NIV) “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ Her mission is teaching those in law enforcement, colleges/universities, medical facilities, banking institutes, and the public to be aware of how our elderly families and friends are being mistreated. Wendy’s passion is to honor the Lord by protecting his people who have contributed, fought for, and supported our society for all their lives.

Please come, bring a friend, and bring your willingness to help Wendy make a change in caring for those who are in need.

**If you would like to help plan events please, pick an event and let me know when (day or evening, weekday or weekend) and we will try and make it happen.**

**Interests include: learn pickleball, go hiking, potluck meals at church, dinner club, theater, concerts, book club, all day excursions or overnight get-togethers, craft & hobby time (garden, wood working, cooking), fishing, etc...**



**Keep an eye out for the upcoming events. We will post on the events page of the 2RC website and on Realm once finalized.**

### **CARE BRIDGE:**

Care is an action verb, not just a feeling or emotion. It is something you do. These actions can be large or small. Sometimes caring for someone can be a simple act of kindness such as asking the cashier at the grocery if she is doing okay today or asking another customer at Home Depot if you can help him hoist that heavy item into the back of his truck. Or telling a young mother her child is cute as she struggles to keep a rambunctious toddler under control. Care can be of a larger and more personal nature such as talking



and praying with someone after an unhappy event or being there to guide and encourage someone who is struggling through a difficult season. The point is, to show we care, we need to show we care...we need to do something.

So how do we take our strengths—our abilities that create our zone--and translate them into caring acts that can have a kingdom impact? That is a question we will explore--and act on--in the Care Bridge. Encore is an on-ramp for action. Initially, some of us in this Bridge are joining the 2RC Care Visitation Team to visit members that are in the hospital or a nursing home or those that are homebound. But Care could be any number of other things based on our awareness of what others need and based on our abilities. What strengths, abilities, and desires do you have that can be used to care for others? If you are interested in joining the discussion of how we might build and participate in the Care Bridge, please contact David Fowler (fowler.david.e@gmail.com).

### **SERVE BRIDGE:**

During the Recent Covid Pandemic some of our ministry volunteers were still able to serve their ministries. Often this was on a limited or restrictive basis (or virtual). Many volunteers just had to isolate and stop. Currently ministry participation is coming back but organizations are expressing shortages in volunteers while needs are higher than average. Thankfully recent vaccinations have opened doors to return or begin participating in service opportunities again!! What a great feeling to be free again!



We are in the process of updating our list and looking for new opportunities to be added. The easiest way for you to check for volunteer opportunities/ministries and contact information is simply go to one of the two internet sites:

For service to community, go to: [2rc.tv/serviceopps](https://2rc.tv/serviceopps)

For service within 2RC, go to: [2rc.tv/serve](https://2rc.tv/serve)

For help connecting to service opportunities contact: [kennethjburg@aol.com](mailto:kennethjburg@aol.com)



# Events Calendar

## **JUNE**

16 - Lunch & Learn

24 - All Call

## **JULY**

1 - prayer team gathering

7 - social event TBD

21 - social event TBD

28 - All Call

# 8 Bridges of Encore

**PRAYER:** The prayer bridge is designed to provide prayer support for the Encore Community. This includes personal needs and concerns of individual participants and their families, as well as praying for God's direction for Encore Ministry as we move forward. Prayer requests will be posted as received on the Encore Realm Group (Prayer Bridge-6) making it personal to Encore.

[CONTACT JANE CALFEE - jane@thecalfees.com](mailto:jane@thecalfees.com)

**CARE:** The goal of the Care Bridge is to provide a pathway to connect with and support individuals who find themselves in circumstances that make it difficult to attend church or otherwise benefit from 2RC support groups. This Bridge provides Encore members the opportunity to join the 2RC Care Visitation Team to make hospital visits and to visit those who cannot regularly attend church for services and functions (e.g., those who are in nursing homes or are otherwise unable to attend church). Additional Care opportunities will be identified as needs arise.

[CONTACT DAVID FOWLER - fowler.david.e@gmail.com](mailto:fowler.david.e@gmail.com)

**SOCIAL:** The Social Bridge is designed to help retired folks meet new friends and enjoy deeper community through large and small group activities. Entering retirement can be a big transition from regular engagement in a working community to forming new community through activities and volunteering. With more time comes greater opportunity to connect. Our team desires to create environments where friendships and community can develop.

[CONTACT JACQUELINE BURG - jacquelineaburg@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelineaburg@gmail.com)

**SERVE:** We desire to help Encore participants engage alongside others from 2RC who are already on serving teams in ministries in the community (Meals on Wheels) or at 2RC (set design, building maintenance, etc.). We will maintain a list of specific opportunities and contacts to connect people who want to serve in whatever environment or setting they feel called or comfortable.

[CONTACT KEN BURG - kennethjburg@aol.com](mailto:kennethjburg@aol.com)

**ALL-CALL:** This Bridge is being designed to reach the largest section of our Encore members. The current vision for the All-Call Bridge is to engage participants in service projects that generally take place at Two Rivers Church's Harrison Lane Campus. These projects will typically take place around tables that allow you to simultaneously socialize and serve. We are working at becoming a significant player in the Operation Christmas Child efforts in Knoxville.

[CONTACT RICK & TERRI ROBERTSON - localimpact@2rc.tv](mailto:localimpact@2rc.tv) or [terri@rrphotos.com](mailto:terri@rrphotos.com)

**HOSPITALITY:** The Hospitality Bridge is designed to show Christ's love to people in the Encore group, church members and people outside our walls. We can achieve this by organizing meals for Encore gatherings, for Encore members who have been ill or are experiencing a death in their family and are not affiliated with a 2RC Group.

[CONTACT LYNNETTE PAYNE - annlynnettegp@gmail.com](mailto:annlynnettegp@gmail.com)

**MENTORING:** The purpose of the Mentoring Bridge is to connect Encore participants with mentees who need a trusted and experienced person to counsel, train, equip, or advise them. Members of this Bridge-team become vetted to work with such ministries as our 2RC Family Ministries, our 2RC Harbor Ministries, Kids Hope USA, CASA, Bridge Refugee, Generous House, and others.

[CONTACT ROSEMARY PORTWOOD - spot1993@gmail.com](mailto:spot1993@gmail.com)

**CONSULTING:** Our intention of the Consulting Bridge is to find those challenging places that sometimes slow people down as they enter and navigate through retirement. Challenges like: re-purposing and positioning, finances, gift-ministry alignment, time management, along with others yet to be discovered.

[CONTACT JOE BUBAR - joebubar47@gmail.com](mailto:joebubar47@gmail.com)

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## ENCORE MINISTRY

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Encore Ministry endeavors to cast a God-sized vision for helping retirees build a Kingdom-based legacy, launch relational environments to go shoulder to shoulder to make a gospel impact, and bond with a fun and supportive community.