

Minister's Letter



Our dear Friends

Parting has rightly been described as 'sweet sorrow'. As my retirement fast approaches, the over-riding emotion is one of gratitude for the privilege of ministry for 36 years, half of which has been spent at Trinity.

Three things immediately come to mind when I think of Trinity:

Generous: The generosity of the congregation over the years has been overwhelming. Moreover Session has enabled us to purchase our own home. And if that were not enough, we have been gifted the church car as well. We are indeed grateful.

Gracious: You have opened your hearts to us as a family, enabling each of us to find our own place of ministry without pressure or undue expectations. As a result I've been able to pastor and preach with the quiet assurance of the family's entire support. I am indeed grateful.

Gifted: So many folk have exercised their giftedness in response to God's call and enabling. Committed service over many years has afforded stability and a unique spiritual DNA for the long haul. I am indeed grateful.

Trinity is in good hands. Our Thanksgiving Service saw an outstanding demonstration of every member ministry with many opportunities to serve. My Farewell Service and Social afterwards were beyond expectation – personal, tender and thankful. I am indeed grateful.

Our first Christmas at Trinity was in December 2001. Nineteen times we've had the joy and privilege to share this celebration with you. Each has been filled with special memories as the children have grown from childhood to young adulthood surrounded by the congregation's care and nurture. I am indeed grateful.

Its hard to believe that this will be our last Christmas with you. However you will always remain in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. Cecile, Ross, Jess (and Wesley) and Caitlin (and Bernie) join me in wishing you and yours a Christmas filled with God's joyous presence and a New Year bright with his promise and provision.

I leave you with the prayer of Paul, an expression of our family's wish for you all,

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)

With tender gratitude and loving greetings

Alan




Session Clerk's Letter

As we approach the end of the year, one predictably reflects on the past year and starts anticipating what the new year may bring. Session spent considerable time during the year to consider the existing, and possible new, ministries at Trinity. This past Sunday we held a thanksgiving service that focused on our ministries. We celebrated the significant roles of Alan and Cecile in these ministries, but also the fact that, because of your enthusiastic involvement and commitment, their departure from Trinity when Alan retires does not imply an end, but rather an opportunity for further growth, so that we may continue to promote our vision of being “A congregation pointing people to God”. We are equally sure that wherever they go, Alan and Cecile will continue their own ministry journeys and be a blessing to others as they have been to us. Our wish for them is that the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip them with everything good for doing His will, and that He may work in them what is pleasing to Him (**Hebrews 13: 20-21**).

Session has been preparing for the next transitional phase until a new minister is called to Trinity. At its November meeting, Presbytery approved the appointment of Rev. Wayne van Heerden as our Interim Moderator. Alan and I will soon be meeting with him to discuss the way forward and he will meet the congregation as soon as possible next year. Under his leadership a committee will in due course be established to fill the ministerial vacancy. We are blessed to be able to rely on many gifted people who worship at Trinity during this interim phase. Amongst them, our newest elders, Charlene Mentz, Matthew Botha and Lincon Hardouin have taken up key batons. Lincon will, as his “new” appointment as Pastoral Assistant suggests, provide general pastoral assistance in addition to frequent preaching. He will also, assisted by Matthew, continue to lead the Next Generation Ministry. Charlene will take over from Cecile in leading the Children’s Ministry. Gordon Hay was recently set aside by Presbytery as a lay preacher and Maniraj Sukdaven and Bryson Arthur are both ordained ministers. I am so thankful for the willingness of all three of them, despite busy schedules, to assist in whatever capacity (their words not mine!) which has enabled a preaching plan for the first three months of 2020 to be drafted.

The new season at Trinity is bound to bring both opportunities and challenges. Let’s embrace both, and enter this new season together in faith and with thankfulness, filled with joy and peace as we trust in Him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:13**).





This past year has provided many happy times, but inevitably to some also the loss of a loved one, illness or injury and various other concerns. May you continue to be encouraged by His comfort and care over the festive season.

As we reflect on the past year and anticipate the new one, let's not forget where we are – almost at the beginning of Advent, getting ready to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. We look forward to the Café Trinity Christmas lunches and to celebrating the true message of Christmas with our Anglican brothers and sisters at the carol service on 1 December. We should remember to celebrate not only on Christmas day, but every day, the miracle of God's love – *"This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins"* (1 John 4: 10). My best wishes to all of you for a blessed Christmas and a year of spiritual growth and grasped opportunities.

With love

Michele Hawenga






Next Gen Newsletter


We have entered a very special time of year, the time of Advent, a time of joy and celebration. I suggest also, a time where one has the opportunity to reflect on a wonderful year past as well as to dream of the year to come. While reflecting as well as dreaming, I was reminded of a very special passage in Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
 ² a time to be born and a time to die,
 a time to plant and a time to uproot,
 ³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
 a time to tear down and a time to build,
 ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
 a time to mourn and a time to dance,
 ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
 a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
 ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
 a time to keep and a time to throw away,
 ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,
 a time to be silent and a time to speak,
 ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
 a time for war and a time for peace.*

One of the aspects of life that I think frightens many people is the aspect of change. For the most part, change is something that we do not always have control over nor are we able to anticipate what that change will hold for us. There are times where we seek to hold on to what is constant, what is consistent, for fear that the change in and of itself will bring about chaos, disappointment or despair. Yet we are well aware that change, however hard it may seem at times, is a necessity of life and is something that occurs more often than we care to think about. **Ecclesiastes 3:1** is quite clear on this point, “*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.*” Things will start up and things will come to an end, each in their own time and for their own purpose, according to the will of the Lord. But take comfort in the word of the Lord, **Philippians 4:6-7**, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”





It is my prayer that in this season of Advent, we would give thanks to the Lord for the year past, we would give thanks to the Lord for the faithful work and ministry of both Alan and Cecile, and we would look to the Lord for guidance, direction, joy and comfort, through the Holy Spirit, in the season to come.

May you have a wonderful Christmas, and may the Lord Bless you, may He guard your hearts and, over this time of reflection and dreaming, may you experience His peace.

Lincon





Children's Ministry Teachers

We wish to thank those members in our congregation who have served and continue to serve, the Lord faithfully within Trinity's Children's Ministry. Charlene Mentz is our Children's Ministry Co-ordinator.

Attached are photos of folk who will be involved in our Children's Ministry in 2020.

We have included something of their work background so that you can see what a diverse group of people the Lord uses in Children's Ministry and for that matter in any form of ministry. Our work doesn't define us, but it does expose us to varied experiences which is wonderful when working with children.

We do pray for the Lord's continued blessing and guidance upon their ministry.



CHARLENE MENTZ
Teacher at Pretoria
Boys High



TONY BANKS
Civil Engineer at
Aurecon



LEE KOEVOORT
Retired - Gr 3-7
Primary School Teacher



ANITA BANKS
Retired - Nursing Sister



JARED SUKDAVEN
Legal & Functional
Consultant at EPI-USE
South Africa



ALEX BOTHA-GREEN
Freelance Graphic
Designer



NEILL BARNARDT
Maths Tutor & Sports
Coach

Acro-Branch Centurion @ The Big Red Barn



The Junior Church's outing to Acrobranch in Centurion was a thrilling, exhilarating and challenging morning for everyone who attended. The expansive forest of Bluegum trees provided a series of obstacles, bridges and zip lines. On our arrival, the children were given safety harnesses and gloves and divided into two groups. The littlies went to the Monkey Moves (self-explanatory) and started their tricky climbs and crossings. Squeals of excitement were heard echoing through the trees. The



older children faced some really challenging obstacles which were certainly not for the faint hearted either doing the activity or watching from below. However, they all ventured from one tree to the next like true superheroes. Chitambala was like The Flash, he was seen for a second and then disappeared swiftly, and assuredly, onto the next obstacle. Chifula, like Superman, carried out some enhancing leaps from one swaying log to another. Like Spiderman, webslinger Makosa zipped through the sky after the first swing and appeared to be shot across short distances with super human manoeuvrability. Luca's tactical and practical skills helped him master the ladders and walkways in true combat-centric Batman style. Abigail acted very similar to Marvel's The Wasp, and appeared to harness and augment her body's natural energy, releasing it confidently as she mastered each obstacle with ease and unaided. Our very own Wonder Woman, Stella, appeared to be gliding through the air on currents in the wind with extraordinary speed, flexibility and dexterity.



She completed the course three times. At the highest point, some of our heroes looked like The Hulk, a little green about the gills, but they persevered with courage and determination. The graceful Gigi, wirily Wesa and agile Anna, all completed their course like true Supergirls.



After everyone had completed the course, we were treated, at the restaurant, to superhero food; milkshakes, ice cream with chocolate sauce, plus ice cream and waffles. A wonderful and exciting adventure was had by all, even by those who prefer to keep their feet firmly on the ground.

The Sunday School is organising a talk for young and old alike in which our speaker, Jessica Schorr, will be addressing the topic of Social Media.

Make a note to join us on the morning of February 24th at Trinity.

Exact time and further details will follow early in 2020






Making a difference in the community

I have always wanted to write an article about serving the LORD but I never seem to have enough time. I decided to set aside a couple of hours this week to sit and write. Between using the laptop or the mobile phone I chose the latter. I seem to do everything on the phone nowadays. From replying to emails, drafting the budget and writing reports is all happening on my mobile device. Thank God for Technology, its life made easy.□


Moving on, I thought it would be a good idea to introduce myself and share a little bit about the work I do in Lusaka, Zambia.

I was born 45 years ago on the Copperbelt in a town called Ndola. When I was born my Uncle (Dads elder brother) took one look at me and said I should be named “Queen”. Long story short my parents decided to name me Charity;). Not sure why though□. Wish I could ask them where that came from but they have since passed on.

Getting back to the whole essence of this article, in 2005 I moved back to Zambia from the United Kingdom where I had gone to live and work. 2005 had been an exciting year for me as I got married and started a family. It was during this time that I had a calling in my heart to do something for people living in disadvantaged communities with little access to basic amenities. I had the idea and the passion but I didn’t know how to do it. It was not until 2008 when my house help who was on maternity leave suddenly lost the baby and within a few weeks she passed as well that I got up and said I have to do something about the plight of women and children living with HIV and AIDS. At this point in my life I knew exactly what I was going to do. I felt women from poor communities lacked knowledge on Nutrition and eating the right foods when pregnant and post pregnancy to improve their wellbeing and that of the unborn child. It was clear and obvious that lack of adequate money was also a big challenge for them to feed properly and have a balanced diet. That didn’t stop me as I felt I could train the women to budget, plan their meals in advance and buy foods and fruits that are in season as they are usually cheaper. Out of the above a nonprofit organization called Food and Nutrition Foundation was born.



11 years on and we are still going strong through the grace of God. We have trained over 200 women in basic nutrition and child care. We have trained one hundred women in business skills as part of the women’s empowerment program. In the past 3 years we sponsored 50 girls to school by paying their school fees, buying them stationery, school uniforms, bags and shoes. We have also built 27 houses for widows and Grandmothers who are looking after orphans and are too old to work or to provide for their grandchildren. We have fed 300 plus children every Christmas for the past 5 years. We also cook meals for 20 children attending preschool and 45 children that come to attend a literacy program called Saturday School. Through Our Care Givers we have provided care and



counseling to ailing women who are almost at the end of their life and some have been nursed to health and are now productive and are also helping others.

Last year we embarked on building our own learning centre. The main structure is complete and we have started using it. We still have a long way to go as we still need to build the kitchen, store-room and an office before we can think of painting and tiling. Our prayer is that next year 2020 is for God to answer our prayers so that we connect electricity and sink a borehole to ease the water situation.

Last but not the least, thank you to Trinity Presbyterian church that help us from time to time. Thank you for meeting us at our point of need. We truly appreciate the support.

Finally, it would not be right if I do not mention that with help and provision from God we have created a safe place for our children and women and the hope we see in their eyes enables us to keep going despite the odds and the challenges. Everything we do in life should come back to serving the LORD and his people. Matthew 25:35-36 reads “ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me ‘.

Thank you for reading.

Charity Sikazwe

Food and Nutrition Foundation



Trinity Church: 50 Years Ago



The Struben family in developing Lynnwood allocated a portion of the property for the building of a church. An option was given to the Diocese of Pretoria to build an Anglican church on the allocated portion, which option the Diocese took up. St Andrews Presbyterian Church took the opportunity to enter into partnership with the Diocese of Pretoria to develop the Trinity Church. The Lynnwood Church Trust was formed with trustees appointed by the Diocese of Pretoria and the Presbyterian Church of South Africa Finance Committee with equal participation. St Wilfrid's Anglican Church and St Andrews Presbyterian Church were charged with the establishment of the respective churches and the Lynnwood Church Trust with the development of the church complex.

Services were held initially in homes and subsequently in the Lynnwood Laërskool. A joint Sunday School was established when we started worshipping in the Lynnwood Laërskool.

The Trust began the building of the church and the foundation stone was laid in 1971.

From 1972 to 1978 the Anglican congregation worshipped in the hall and the Presbyterian in the chapel. The services were held at the same time.

In 1978 the church building was completed and the Anglicans moved their services to the Church. After a period the Presbyterian congregation attendance became too large for the chapel to accommodate. As a result the Presbyterian congregation began to hold their services in the church. Service times were changed, the Anglican service being held at 08h00 and the Presbyterian service at 09h45. The joint Sunday School was replaced with separate Sunday schools.





The Presbyterian congregation was at the outset a preaching station under the St Andrews Session with the Rev. Bob Orr as our minister. Services, led by various ministers and lay preachers, were initially held in a garage, then the Lynnwood Laërskool and subsequently the chapel. A sub-committee of St Andrews Session was responsible for the outreach at Trinity. Collections were paid to St Andrews who met the cost of pulpit supply and administrative costs.

In the mid 70's the church was recognised as a full church and Trinity Session was elected. The first minister was appointed jointly with St. Marks church. This arrangement was not ideal and in 1978 we sought a full time minister. Tim Horwood was appointed to lead us from 1 January 1979.

At the outset Lynnwood Trust capital was provided in the proportion 2/3rd by the Diocese of Pretoria and 1/3rd by St Andrews, 1/3rd. This was based on expected church attendance. St Andrews sold one of their manse in order to meet their initial financial obligation to the Trust.





It was anticipated that the number of Presbyterian attendees would in time increase to equal the Anglican attendees. Each year a census was taken and financial adjustments made until there were equal numbers. At this point the capital responsibility became 50:50 which relationship is to remain. The churches were called on to contribute additional capital to the Lynnwood Church Trust to finance the phased development of the church buildings.

The Anglican rectory and the Presbyterian manse are built on Lynnwood Trust property. Each congregation was responsible to raise the funds to finance their respective houses, which was in addition to the cost of the church buildings. The rectory and the manse remain the property of the Lynnwood Church Trust.

Joint fundraising activities were conducted by way of church fetes and cake sales. Successful fetes were held on the properties of DSG School, St Albans College and a park in 13th Street Menlo Park. Members of both congregations were delighted to actively participate in these activities. Funds were also raised by way of loans from the Diocese of Pretoria, donations by members and a Trust debenture scheme. We acknowledge the making of loans by the Diocese of Pretoria which facilitated the timely completion of the complex. Today we have a fully paid up church complex.

We as a congregation are extremely grateful to our Lord God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit who led our founding members in establishing Trinity Church, providing a worshipping community with the facilities for worship and being with us today in our worship of the Godhead.

Malcolm Brown



Trinity Church: 24th November 2019

This morning as we look back, and also look forward, we are focusing on Ministry and Thanksgiving. We give thanks for Ministry that has been exercised here over many years, both Alan's ministry as well as the ministries of many in this community.

It has been my privilege to have been involved in the co-ordinating of our ministries at Trinity over the last 20 years. There have been times when I have been surprised by my conviction in wanting to see ministries be sustained and grow at Trinity. I have also been surprised by the joy which has accompanied me along this journey.

Just last week a friend prayed this prayer: "Thank you Lord for giving me the urge to want to be involved in projects like this".

Although this prayer was prayed in a slightly different context, it resonated with me. It reminded me that my "wanting" to participate in life at Trinity as I have done, has not been of my own making. The urge to want to be involved is a God given gift. And as with all God's gifts, it is given by His grace – unearned and unmerited. And so my intermittent surprise about conviction and joy is explained – it's almost as though they snuck up on me, and caused moments when I thought – "where did that come from?"

I think that these thoughts point to the pivotal connection between ministry and thanksgiving. It has been said that the doctrine of the gospel is grace; the ethic gratitude.

By grace through faith we are saved, and our sins are forgiven; what we do in response to this gift flows from our gratitude for the gift. So, our ministries, that which we do in the name of Jesus and for His sake, are our expression of thanksgiving for His grace gifts to us. And from this thanksgiving comes joy.

Ann Voskamp in her book *One Thousand Gifts* puts it like this: "Joy is the realest reality, the fullest life, and joy is always given, never grasped. God gives gifts and I give thanks and I unwrap the gift given: joy".

But it is within ministry at Trinity that I have learned these things as I have interacted with many of you in your joyful commitment to the ministries that you have prayerfully owned, developed, nurtured and sustained. And there are many.

Alan as the teaching elder together with session guide us to ensure that the essential ministries that define an organization as a church remain present: Preaching and teaching of God's Word, worship, administration, fellowship, pastoral care, witnessing, acts of mercy, all rooted in, and covered by, prayer always need to be evident. But within this framework



our own congregational personality or thumbprint has developed through the way in which you have exercised your gifts and taken your place in this community as God's co-workers. And each one is significant –

Ephesians 4:15 and 16 reads: Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ, 16. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work”.

I am not going to talk about specific ministries now. There is a display of Session's plan showing our ministries for you to enjoy in the hall. You will be able to appreciate the many aspects that make up our community and give it the muscle to be able to be God's hands and feet in the world. You will also be able to let us know if you would like more information about a ministry, or if you would like to be part of any of the ministry teams. Ministry is always dynamic, so if you have an idea that you would like explore, please let that be known too!! The contact people for the various ministries will be wearing name tags so that you will be able to talk to them during our time together after the service.

From time to time we conduct Ministry Profile Workshops where we spend time looking at what Spiritual Gifts are; exploring our talents, passions, and personal styles; and our own place in the community. At the end of the workshop we highlight the difference between a ministry and a job. I am going to read this comparison now, but as I do so it is with a deep sense of appreciation for the fact that activities at Trinity truly support the description of ministry.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MINISTRY AND A JOB

- If you are doing it because no one else will it's a job. If you're doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.
- If you're doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job. If you're doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.
- If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job. If you're committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.
- If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it was a job. If you stay with it even though no one seems to notice, it's a ministry.
- If you do it because someone else said that it needs to be done, it's a job. If you are doing it because you are convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry.
- It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.
- If your concern is success, it's a job. If your concern is faithfulness, it's a ministry.
- People may say “well done” when you do your job. The Lord will say “well done” when you complete your ministry.



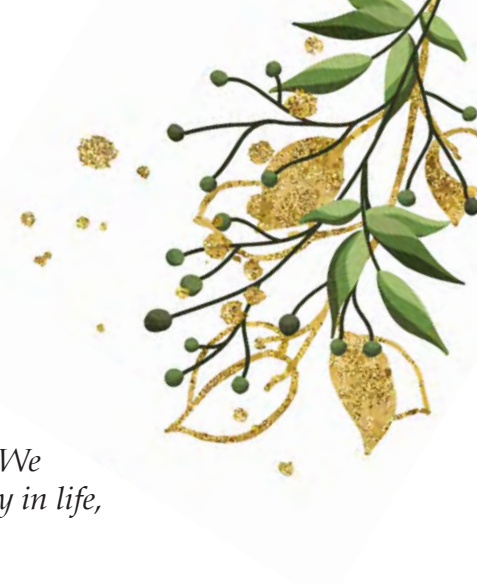
Galatians 5:22

From The Message

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard – things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Sue Hay

Co-Ordination of Ministries





Trinity as 2019 Draws to a Close



The Charisma Children had fun in the sun



Café Trinity gave many the opportunity to celebrate





We gave thanks and celebrated Alan and his family's time with us at Trinity



The office staff enjoyed their year-end breakfast

The Sunday School Children blessed the congregation with their Nativity Play



We worshipped with our Anglican brothers and sisters at a beautiful Carol Service.



*The Trinity
Newsletter Team
wishes you all a
Merry Christmas.*



*“Thanks be to God for His
unspeakable gift”*

2 Corinthians 9:15

