



Alan's letter

Dear friends

For the past several years we have endeavoured to focus our life as a congregation around an annual theme. Granted no theme or slogan in itself can effect change. However, it can point us in the right direction. True change, inner change of heart and life is wrought by God through the daily means of grace: on a personal level – prayer, Scripture and a heart for God; on a congregational level – proper preaching of God's Word, celebrating the sacraments and corporate accountability.

That said, the task of leadership on a human level, is to define reality and respond appropriately. To that end, the elders and I have noted the challenges we face as a congregation, a greying church with a plateaued membership and financial constraints. Prayerfully dependent on God and with your help we will seek to address them.

And that is where our theme, "Trinity 2019 and beyond", comes in. We present it by way of a logo: a circle of progressive verbs, Knowing, Growing, Going, Together, enabled by Jesus at the centre and prompted by faith in him.




Please prayerfully consider your response. Personally, with my 'glass half-empty' awareness of my shortcomings and inadequacies, one needs to look beyond the limitations of temperament and personality which do not align with God's provision and plan for his church. In so doing, I have taken heart from two reminders grounded in South African soil:

J.R.R. Tolkien born in Bloemfontein:

*"All that is gold does not glitter
Not all those who wander are lost
The old that is strong does not wither
Deep roots are not reached by the frost
From the ashes, a fire shall be woken
A light from the shadows shall spring
Renewed shall be blade that was broken
The crownless again shall be king."*



J.B. Gardener, a Methodist teacher:



*“Who will save our land and people?
Who can rescue us from wrong?...
May his Church in loving service
Shown to all whose path is rough
Give a clear, united witness, and
proclaim “Christ is enough!”
Christ enough to break all barriers
Christ enough in peace, in strife
Christ enough to build our nation
Christ enough for death, for life.
Christ enough for old and lonely
Christ enough for those who fall
Christ enough to save the sin-sick
Christ enough for one, for all.”*

Christ is indeed enough, not only for our nation at the crossroads, for Trinity as we face the future, but also for each one of us as we seek to be faithful followers of Him.

On a very, very happy note Jess and Wesley’s wedding in church on Saturday, 9th February, was a joyful celebration of sacred vows and Christian commitment. Contagious joy throughout and spontaneous fun thereafter, saw the weather smile and load-shedding banished. We so appreciated the number of Trinity members who attended the service and shared our joy. Jess proved to be a most competent wedding co-ordinator which helped the minister and father of the bride keep his emotions somewhat intact. All in all, it was a cherished time with memories to last a lifetime.

“Christ
is indeed
enough”

Cecile and I constantly give thanks to God for the gift of family and are delighted that Wesley is part of the clan. Moreover, we give thanks for the gift of a church family we’ve been privileged to know and enjoy for the past seventeen years.

Until next time

Your minister and friend

Alan



The Wedding of Jess & Wesley Reid



Dearest Trinity Family

Thank you for blessing us with gifts, cards and special words of encouragement and advice for our wedding. We are so grateful for all that the Trinity Family has done for us. God is truly good, all the time!

All our love, Jess & Wesley

Session Clerk's Letter

Our summer holiday is just a memory, and we have hopefully all settled into 2019, knowing that we can face its opportunities and challenges with the certainty that the Lord will command His angels concerning us, to guard us in all our ways (Psalm 91: 11). I have never been very good at making New Year's resolutions, let alone at keeping to them, but let's make it a joint Trinity resolution to "Know, Grow, and Go Together" with Jesus as the Centre during 2019. You will hear more about this 2019 theme throughout the year. And as we, as a congregation, contemplate learning how to know Christ better, how to grow in a trusting relationship with Him and how to put our faith in action, it is opportune to consider again all the Trinity ministries in which we could participate.



There are various ways in which you could assist to make our Sunday morning **worship service** a blessing to the Lord: reading the Word; doing the Call to Worship and Prayers; joining the worship team as a singer or instrumentalist; projection of songs; sound management; participation in Sunday School teaching and activities; doing children's talks; serving tea after the service; doing door duty before the service; stewardship; providing flower arrangements; or helping after the monthly communion service. Serving refreshments; attending to projection and sound management are also required in respect of the evening service.



Should you like to join a **prayer ministry**, you could join the contemplative prayer group; be part of the prayer chain or join the team praying for worshippers with specific prayer needs directly after each service.

You may feel led to join an existing **fellowship group** or to establish and lead a new group; or to join either of the open **Bible study groups** that meet on Monday evenings or Thursday mornings or the Next Generation Bible study group on Thursday evenings.

Please contact us if you would like to participate in the teams that assist with the **Men's and Ladies' functions**; or if you can assist **Café Trinity** as baker, cook, or helper on Thursdays.

The **Charisma Outreach** programme offers several opportunities: you could become involved in administration; a teaching group; or helping with parties and outings.

Finally, if there is any other ministry you might like to propose, please let us know.

If you would like to be involved in any of these ministries please contact Pietro at the church office, Sue Hay (suehay@tci.co.za or 082 8050072), or me mkhavenga@mweb.co.za or 083 2441601). There are no prerequisites and you will be guided on what each ministry entails and trained in the few where it might be required. Rosters are drawn up so you need not be available all the time (none of us is!). You are very welcome to participate in any or several of these ministries - we would love to have you join us!

Best wishes to Matthew and Alex, and Bernie and Caitlin as they attend to final preparations for their weddings in April. Congratulations to Niku Kruger who recently got married in America, and to Wesley and Jess Reid and Duane and Zenadia Havenga who have just celebrated their weddings. May they continue to be embraced by the love and protection of our Lord as they journey on together.

With love,

Michele Havenga



Next Generation Leader's letter




There comes a time in every Christian's life that will be somewhat perplexing. A time where every Christian will be facing certain things, things that are confusing, things that may seem troubling, even things that hurt. For many Christian people throughout the world, these moments are not necessarily about what is happening around them, neither are they about what is happening to them in the physical sense. One question that comes to mind, which I am certain that every believer has asked at least once in their lives, is "how can God love me and how can I be sure of that love?" For me personally, that moment has come and gone multiple times where I've found myself wondering, with the things I have done in my life, how God can still love me, a sinner who, in the words of John the Baptist, is unworthy to even untie the sandals of Jesus.

The answer to this has come through many different moments of reading God's word. The first of course is seen in John 3:16-17, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* The realisation for me was seen in the fact that this love I experienced was never initiated by me. God's plan, from the very beginning, was to reconcile all of creation back to Himself through the blood of Jesus, a sacrifice done out of love.

This was not because of who we are, where we come from, whether or not we are even worthy of it, but it is because of God's great love for us, His people. The second answer (or rather assurance of the answer) came through Romans 8:37-39, *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

We can never underestimate the power that is God's love for us, for in all things and through all things, God's love is present. There will be times where we simply don't see it, times where we don't feel it and even times where we feel like we do not deserve to be loved by God. There are times where we will question God, times where we will feel like we are unlovable, but take comfort in these words.



There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God that is found in Christ Jesus. A love that is undeniable, a love that is so powerful, a love that is gracious and kind, a love that is merciful, a love that is forgiving, a love that is for you.

Lincon

Charisma

We have much to be grateful for in our ministry to the children of the Charisma Drop-In Centre. The ongoing support of the members of Trinity via financial support, donations of food for the food parcels, assistance with teaching English, purchasing and delivery of food parcels and your prayers. We have also received generous funding for both the Drop-In Centre and the Miki Maths initiative from the Chamberlain Foundation. This blesses us with the ability to continue with these activities for 2019 and we are deeply grateful.

Last year Monica, who heads up the Drop-In Centre completed her second year of studies towards a diploma in Foundation Phase Teaching at SANTS Private Higher Education Institution. We congratulate her on her passing the year with distinction.

Women's World Day of Prayer



On 1st March it was Trinity's privilege to host the Women's World Day of Prayer annual Worship Service.

Pixie Witham is our representative on the regional committee.