

Alan's Letter



Dear Friends

Several attempts at writing this pastoral letter have ended up in the waste paper basket! So I'll simply say what I told the congregation on 12 May. After prayerful reflection it is time to retire, God willing, at the end of March next year preceded by three months accumulated long leave.

Church protocols have been followed. I informed Session in April of my desire to retire. Session in turn sought Presbytery's approval. This was granted on 11 May whereupon I informed the congregation the next day. Presbytery has conveyed my request to General Assembly which meets as Executive Commission in September. Thereafter, all things considered, I will become a Minister Emeritus.

The decision was not taken lightly. However, I believe it is the right one both personally and pastorally. After 18 years come December as your minister, Trinity needs fresh blood. Session has risen to the challenge admirably. New elders will shortly be ordained and inducted. Lincon will assist pastorally. As Session meets with the various Ministry Leaders at their monthly meetings, ministries are encouraged and co-ordinated so that our whole community is strengthened. Sue Hay is available to assist Session in this process. The church office is in the capable hands of Pietro. Neill our treasurer keeps a careful eye on our finances. And many unsung heroes serve diligently and willingly. Trinity is in good hands.

On a personal level I can identify with the sage who observed 'Age sneaks up behind you in early years, catches up with you in midlife and rushes ahead in later'. The past several months have been a watershed. The children have moved on, Jess and Caitlin to married life and Ross living and working in Nigel. Our four dogs and two cats have all died one by one of old age. So it's 'Derby and Joan' living alone in a big house hitherto filled with family and pets.

Pastoral etiquette requires one not to remain in the congregation of one's successor. So we plan to place our home on the market in January and hopefully realize some capital to augment my pension. Thereafter we plan to relocate from Pretoria. Annual leave in the next two school holidays will allow us to explore options along the Southern Cape Coast and KZN South Coast. We would like to live where the family can spend a holiday rather than visit out of a sense of duty.

Our future is in God's hands as is Trinity's. I have no doubt that, under God, we will emerge from this time of transition better people, having tasted the faithfulness of God and tested our faith in him.

As ever with warm affection,
Your minister and friend.

Alan



Session Clerk's Letter



In our previous newsletter, I wrote about the various ministries at Trinity where your participation would be so welcome. The recent ladies' meeting, attended by some of our sisters from the Anglican congregation at Trinity as well as several other congregations provided an opportunity to further consider where each of us could fit into a, or create a new, church ministry. Using the analogy of a jigsaw puzzle, Sue Hay described the Bible as the puzzle picture and each one of us designed in a particular pattern as a piece of the puzzle which fits into a specific place. Together, no matter whether we fit as a corner piece, part of the border or anywhere else in the puzzle, we combine to make up the complete picture. Without each individual piece the puzzle remains incomplete. Similarly, the "church", with all the diverse images the concept evokes, is a collection of God's people and its activities or ministries, rooted in and covered by prayer, reflect that it is truly a church. And so all of us, as God's people, are co-workers who build up the Body of Christ so that it is strong and healthy and able to be God's hands and feet in the world. This in no way detracts from the centrality of the role of the ordained pastors, priests, and preachers, but there is a role for each one of us. In her own gentle and affirmative way, Sue reminded those of us who know and enjoy our "place" in our particular worshipping communities, to be encouraged by the reminder that what we do in the name of God and for His sake is a ministry and essential to the wellbeing of our community. And for those of us who are still unsure of where we most effectively fit in, there was the reminder of the very wide range of activities making up our specific community, and that our gifts and talents have a place waiting for us to discover.



The second part of our ladies' gathering aimed to give practical effect to the morning's sub-theme that "Small things done with great love can make a huge difference". We had great fun making activity cushions for patients at a nearby frail care facility.



The final products of the small groups working together showed how different contributions, whether it be stringing of beads, cutting of shapes, more intricate designs, sewing, etc combined to produce lovely and practical cushions which will keep patients, some of whom are recovering from strokes, busy and improve their fine motor skills. This confirmed Sue's earlier message that we are all in this together and that no participation, however insignificant it may appear, is ever unimportant.



Session is carefully considering all the existing, and possible new, ministries at Trinity and we will soon (re-)introduce the ministries and their coordinators to the congregation during a morning service dedicated to Ministry. Until then, if you would like to be involved and need more information, 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).

During this time in anticipation of Alan's retirement, may Alan and Cecile to be reminded how deeply we as a congregation appreciate them and that they are in our prayers as they prepare for this new exciting, but also somewhat daunting, chapter in their lives. Session is committed to making the interim phase until a new Minister accepts a call to Trinity as smooth as possible. We also rely on your prayers in this regard.




Michele Havenga






Next Gen Newsletter

By now I am sure that we have all come to the realization that summer is officially over, and with a certain level of hesitation, the time has come to start pulling out the winter clothes, winter blankets and the heaters if you haven't done so already.



Recently, the Next Generation group has begun a new Bible study series looking at the Book of Joel. Though this book is short, it is remarkably powerful. In essence, this wonderful book looks at two major themes: Firstly, **The Day of the Lord**. Throughout the first chapter, and part-way through the second, the prophet Joel describes a calamity that will befall, specifically, the nation of Israel. It is described as an invasion of locusts which will leave the land desolate, the people distraught, a priesthood unable to perform their sacrificial duties and the nation in ruin. This is what many refer to as the Lord's righteous and just judgement upon a people that have turned away from the Lord, a consequence that we are all familiar with and have heard about, but a consequence that we tend to shy away from. We do not like to hear about the judgement of God, nor do we like to acknowledge at times, that the judgment of the Lord will come to pass on that great day. Yet this is what the Lord says about that day of judgement through the prophet Joel, "**The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?**" (2:11b). It is something that we ought to acknowledge, something that we need to accept and something that we have to speak about. At the end of the day, the word of the Lord says this, "**For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad**" (2 Cor 5:10). But Joel's prophetic word does not simply end with a word of judgement. The second theme looks to a future hope in the Lord and the assurance of salvation. How beautiful are these words given to God's people in Joel, "**Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love**" (2:13). This is the promise of the Lord, and the hope in which we can, as His people, rest assured. It is the hope found in the risen Christ Jesus, a hope of forgiveness, a hope for salvation, a hope for eternal life, a hope that one day, we, as God's children, holy and dearly loved, would be restored to the fullness that He originally intended for us.



It is my prayer that you would hold onto this hope, knowing that you are dearly loved by the living God, and that you would experience His love each and every day.

Until next time.
God bless

Lincon Hardouin

Shoes 4 souls

www.shoes4souls.co.za

A new ministry started by Craig Smith, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church.

Keep a look-out for this Box at the back of the Church.

Any shoes that you no longer need can be put in this box: they will be mended, cleaned, re-packaged and given to someone who needs them.



Sunday School Outing



Our Sunday School children got seriously active during their outing at Acrobranch, Rosemary Hill on 13th April.



Caitlin & Bernie
2019-04-27



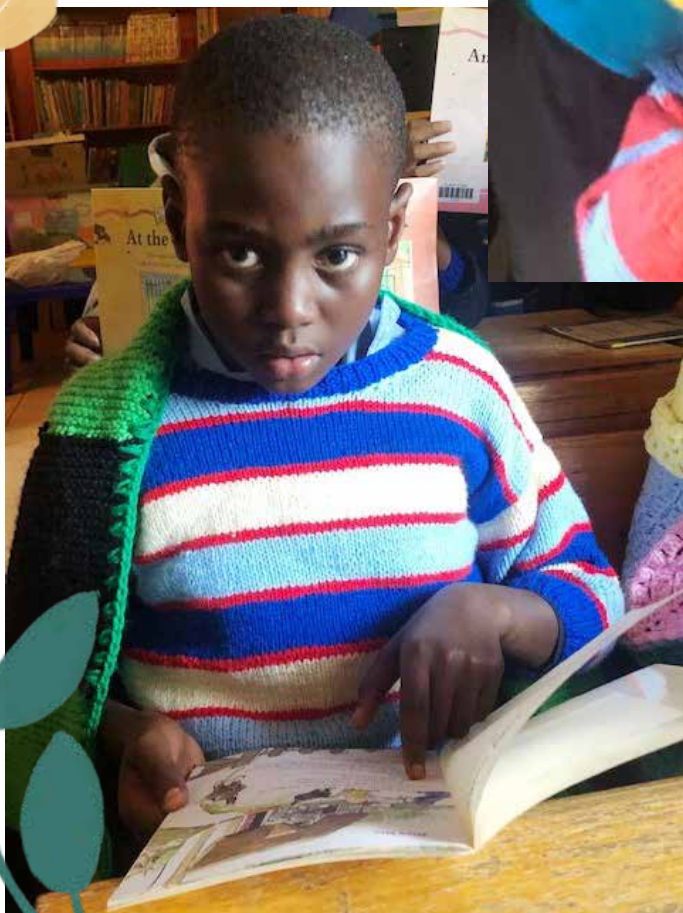
Matt & Alex
2019-04-13



Charisma Community Service Drop-In Centre

There is usually a lot of activity at our Charisma Community Service Drop-In Centre. The children continue to walk to the Centre from their respective schools. They are helped with their English on Mondays, have Miki Maths lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and help with their homework on Wednesdays and Fridays. They are given a hot meal, food parcels to take home approximately every 6 weeks, school stationery and school uniform updates as needed.

We have just given them



the beautiful jerseys that Gwen Barry knitted, the blankets that were crocheted by the girls and staff of St Mary's DSG, and the blankets that you so generously donated. We celebrate the children's birthdays with them and invite them to choose a gift. We make sure that they know that all of this is done because Jesus loves them and they are very important to Him. We think that these photographs will share some of their joy with you.



Alan and Cecile attended St Francis United Church in Sedgfield on Sunday, 24th of June where Chrissie Lotz is the new minister.

Upcoming Events:

15 September
“Sing the Psalms“
Celebration in Song
Service.



**Below are events arranged by the Anglican
Congregation.**

We are all invited to participate!

5th October @ 9 am for 10 am:

Worshipping with Hand Bells – Gottfried Schiele.

23 November @ 7 pm:

Quiz Evening.