

# Alan's Letter



Dear friends

Recent events remind us that we live in a violent society with women, children and foreign nationals being particularly vulnerable. We might feel overwhelmed by the immensity of the scourge and wonder what difference we might make on a personal level. However, Graca Machel, one time first lady of South Africa and now Chancellor of UCT recently challenged each of us to be “agents of change who take responsibility”. She reminded us that the key to change is the family where seeds either of love and acceptance or indifference and violence are nurtured.

The basic building blocks of character are put in place by the family. Children learn compassion, care and commitment in the family. In short, children learn what they observe:

If children live with criticism they learn to condemn and be judgemental

If children live with hostility, they learn to be angry and fight

If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy and withdrawn

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty

If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence

If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate

If children live with fairness, they learn justice

If children live with security, they learn to have faith

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves

If children live with acceptance and friendship, they learn to find love in the world

Little wonder then that Jesus said “*Anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it*”. The wonder of grace is that God is able to heal, restore and redeem the negatives of childhood and turn them into stepping stones of growth.

Until next time

Affectionately

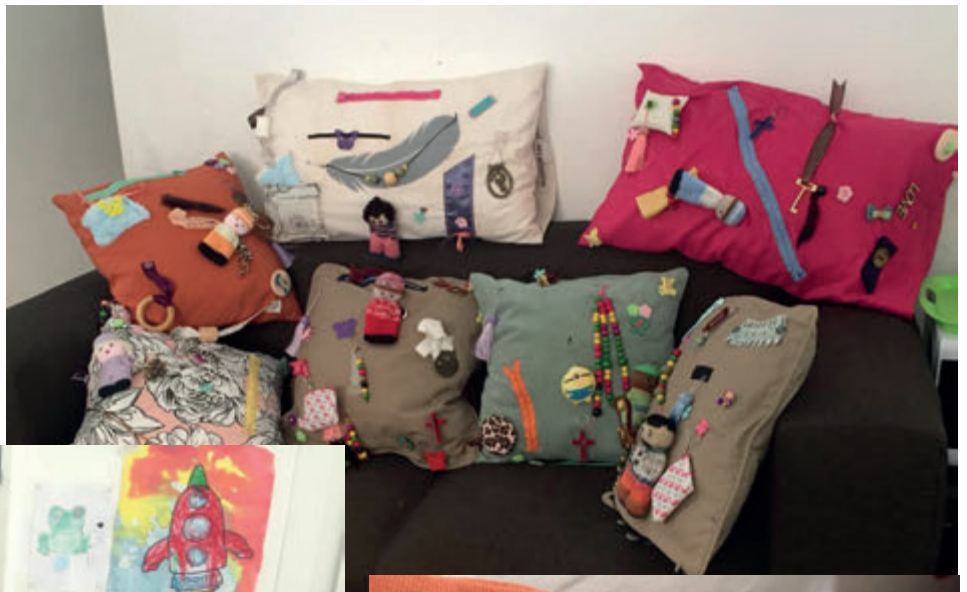
Alan



# Session Clerk's Letter

On 25 September, Sue, Jo, Peter and I delivered fourteen activity cushions, which many of you helped to make at our Be Women for God gathering earlier this year, to Cedar Manor in Centurion. This advanced care home provides full-time care for patients who have dementia, Alzheimers, or who need ongoing care as a result of car accident injuries or strokes. The cushions were received with great appreciation by the patients and their responses, for example from one lady "But why would you make this for me? You don't even know me. I can't believe you did this for me." reminded us again that "Small things done with great love can make a huge difference".

Sister Sylvia Dreyer so appreciated the cushions and sends her sincere thanks to all of you.





The Tshwane Presbytery meeting of 17 August was held at Trinity. Denette van Rooyen and her team organised the catering for the day and, as always, did us proud. My sincere thanks to the entire team.

As we near the time that our minister Alan will go on long leave and then into retirement, please continue to pray for him, Cecile and their family; for Lincon as he takes on more responsibilities; for Pietro in the church office; for the many others whom we will continue to rely on to preach and fulfil other duties; for Session as we seek to manage this time of transition at Trinity; and for the prescribed processes at Presbytery to appoint an Interim Moderator and, in due course, to call a new Minister. In all we do, may His Kingdom be served!

I am very pleased that Lincon's contract at Trinity has been renewed for two years. He will continue to lead the Next Generation Ministry, but as pastoral assistant he will now fulfil a much broader role in our congregational life. I am also delighted that two new elders, Matthew Botha and Charlene Mentz, were recently ordained. This brings very welcome additional expertise to Session at a crucial time. The church office remains under Pietro Wentzel's calm and efficient control. Presbytery will, in terms of its rules, be requested to appoint an Interim Moderator when Alan retires and he or she will in due course meet with Session and the congregation. We will of course have a farewell celebration (a deliberate choice of word as we will celebrate the many years Alan has served Trinity, his immense support to many of us in various circumstances and his opportunity to now focus on his own wellbeing; as well as Cecile's significant contribution to the Children's Ministry and the Music Ministry) for Alan and Cecile.

We are blessed to have several members in the congregation who are able and willing to assist with preaching during 2020. On this note, special congratulations to Gordon Hay who will be set aside to the Lay Ministry of the UPCSA at the Presbytery meeting of 10 November having successfully completed the prescribed formalities!

A time of transition inevitably brings some uncertainties and concerns. But Isaiah 40:29 -31 reminds us that *"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak ... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."* May we, as the Trinity family, guided by the Holy Spirit, experience this next phase mainly as a time of renewal, excitement and invigoration.

With love

*Michele Hawenga*  
Session Clerk







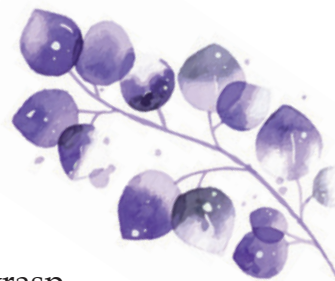
# Next Gen. Newsletter



Once again, we have reached that time of the year, the time where we start to notice the miraculous changes happening around us as we move from one season to the next.

Of course, this is a wonderful time of the year for many of us: The chills have, for the most part, gone, there is a freshness in the air after the first bit of rain and with that, comes the flurry of activity in the gardens as things begin to spring to life. I was reminded about this beautiful verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" And this is the reminder that I get every time spring rolls around. There was a time in our lives where we were stuck in the dead of winter, a time where we were trapped in the cold, a time where we were smothered with the freezing frost that was our fallen nature, leaving us withered and burned. Yet this miraculous transformation occurs in us... spring begins to come around, we begin to warm up and we are drawn out of the icy grip that was our fallen nature. Suddenly, we begin to see the signs of new life in our own lives, the working of God within us. The old stuff, that which is left over from winter, gets pruned away, life giving waters come and the hand of the Lord tends to his creation: we are made new through Christ Jesus.

It is such a beautiful image for me and an immense promise, knowing that it does not matter what we have done in the past, it doesn't matter how cold it has been, it doesn't matter how long we were in the grips of winters icy grasp, if we are in Christ Jesus, we are made new and indeed, the new is here!



It is with great joy that I congratulate Matthew Botha and Charlene Mentz on their ordination and induction as elders on the 8th of September. This was such an incredible moment in their lives and in the life of Trinity and we continue to lift them up, along with all the elders and members of this wonderful church family, to the Lord.



Lincon



Congratulations to our new elders, Matthew Botha and Charlene Mentz!

## *Worshipping with Handbells:*

### **Gottfriend - English Handbells**

Delightful experience of Classical & spiritual Sound  
**Saturday 5th October at 09h30 in the Trinity Church**

Join in a bring and share cake and tea afterwards.

Donations will go to Trans World Radio.








# Visit to Marakele Game Reserve by Charisma Drop-In Children




Twenty of the drop-in children accompanied by Monica and Angela spent the weekend (13th - 15th September) at the EEC in the Marakele National Park. They were hosted by members of the Pretoria branch of the SANParks Honorary Rangers, Dave Morgan, Robert Wapenaar and Pieter Raath. These gentlemen planned our every activity, cooked, washed-up and made us feel special all the time.

The children were treated to a variety of activities including talks on conservation, poaching, birds and reptiles. They were taken on a drive in a game viewing vehicle, had a walk in the bush guided by a ranger (carrying a rifle!), had a bush picnic, enjoyed water sports in a set of sprinklers at the EEC and had a bush braai with roasted marshmallows. In fact the complete "bush experience". Although the bush was very dry with few animals about, the children did see a rhino, a giraffe, zebra, ostrich, many impala, kudu, baboons and monkeys.



While all these activities were wonderful and really appreciated by the children, the experiences of sleeping in bunk beds in a dormitory (some enjoying the luxury of sleeping in their own bed for the first time), showering every morning, having pudding at each meal, having a choice of food at each meal were equally as wonderful for them.

The children were extremely well behaved at all times but still were children - lots of noise, too much excitement on the first night so not too much sleep, needing reassurance and an ear for their stories. They appreciated everything that was done for them.







Monica, their “mother” is an amazing lady who keeps tight control of her children, always trying to instill good values as well as a love and appreciation for our God and Saviour. We were lucky to be assisted by Sam and Tinyoko, SANParks staff members who are delightful young men and wonderful role models for the children.

Overall it was a wonderful experience for the children, Monica and myself. I was blessed to be able to get to know Monica and the children better and see them respond to this amazing experience.

*Angela Roche*



# Hands on the Wall

Once again the Pretoria Preparatory School supported the Charisma Drop-In Centre this year. They have an exciting project whereby the children have the privilege of printing their painted hands on the wall when they bring a contribution to the Centre. The principal and staff delight in this event contributing amazing creativity and enthusiasm.



We appreciate their kindness and friendship enormously!

*Sue Hay*

On behalf of Charisma Drop-In Centre



# Garden of Remembrance

This article comes to us from Annekie Brink, a member of the Trinity Anglican congregation:

When I asked Eldene to take a few photos of the Clivias in the Garden of Remembrance, I was surprised to hear that she had never been there before!

If you have never been to this garden, please come and see the Clivias in full bloom. I regularly talk to them – I recall that people called Prince Charles ‘nuts’, when he told the world that he was talking to his plants in his garden at Highgrove

For many years I have tried to keep the Garden of Remembrance tidy and encouraged parishioners to plant something special on their loved one’s ‘spot’. I regularly see Gloria there, watering the Brunfelsia (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) she’d planted on her beloved Denzel’s ‘spot’.

A number of years ago we held a workshop of four ladies where I taught them to mosaic a brick to put on their loved one’s spot. Most of them made more than one so the extra ones were placed in various places.

I work with a limited budget so any donations of stepping stones, certain plants and so on will be much appreciated. We are separating the Bromeliads currently, so let Sally know if you are interested in a few of these.

Annekie Brink





# Exciting Event at St. Columba's

St Columba's Presbyterian Church, our neighbour congregation has organized this exciting event:



**"There is neither Jew nor Greek  
nor Gentile nor male nor female;  
for you are all one in Christ Jesus."**



**ST. COLUMBA'S  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
INTERNATIONAL DAY**

**Saturday 5 October, 11am-4pm**  
**National foods and drinks @ R10**  
327 Hilda Street Hatfield  
Info: 012 430 2719  
**Celebrating Diversity**

We have recently experienced another overflow of xenophobia in SA. We have long discerned at St. Columba's the need to know others more deeply. Our faith calls us to this. Since we are a congregation with a high proportion of "pan-African" members this is especially vital for us. Jesus gave us a model from his own culture of eating a meal together. St. Columba's is using this simple insight to intentionally create community. We are hosting an International Day to learn from each other. International Day is an opportunity to 'taste' other cultures.

There will be 11 countries represented at the tables, where for R10 you can sample a bite of food from that country. Embassies in our area have pledged their support. We will have music and fun, and a jungle-gym, face-painting for the kiddies, and everyone will be able to learn more about the cultures of our world.

- Each stall will have a host who can explain the traditional food you buy from them; and we will have a traditional dress parade; best stall competition; and country information available. We ask you to invite others to your sit-down table and to share your own culture and traditions between yourselves. In between, musicians will entertain, and jovial hosts will share cultural stories. We want to celebrate the diversity of all God's people!
- There is no entrance charge, it's not intended to be a fund-raiser, however traditional foods will be on sale at R10 per portion to cover costs. You can select from any of the foods available on a ticket system. Tickets will be sold in batches of ten (R100 per pack).

**Ticket packs can be prearranged with the church - phone Suzanne on 012 430 2719**