



Holy Trinity Hillcrest

News Letter April 2015

Rector's Reflections



Dear God's people

At this time of the year, we, as a community of faith, the sons and daughters of God recall an event that had taken place thousands of years ago. We have heard this story many times and we have relived its agony as we considered how someone whose sole purpose it was to divert the attention of a world, whose chosen path was destruction, back to its Creator was treated so cruelly and inhumanly.

This commemoration is somewhat of an irony, a paradox. It is primarily about death, a death of one man that ultimately restores life. It is somewhat of a bitter-sweet commemoration. It is a time of feeling deep remorse and also a time of rejoicing in hope.

For many of us this is a familiar journey. We have heard the details and recalled the journey from Jerusalem to Calvary many times. We heard of the disrespect shown by the powerful political and religious leaders of that time; the heart ache of the women who followed in the distance; the rejection by His most trusted friends and companions; the physical abuse meted out by strong military men; of his being despised and rejected by the very people who days earlier welcomed Him with palm branches and to songs of praise, and when they were given a choice they opted for Barabbas; and then to add insult to injury Jesus is sentenced to suffer a fate equal to one found guilty of serious criminal offences.

All this, that Jesus endured, the Scripture says was purely to demonstrate how much God loves us. What a strange way to show affection and compassion to a community of people who had repeatedly expressed little or no interest in the first place. St John tells us that "God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life"(3:16) and in John 15:13-14 Jesus is quoted as saying, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friend. You are my friends if you do what I command you."

In his book, [It's Friday, but Sunday's coming](#), Tony Campolo shares his experience as a minister of a congregation in Philadelphia. He describes that congregation as the closest thing to heaven this side of the pearly gates. He writes,

"People in this congregation always let me know how I am doing. At one time when I was preaching I sensed that nothing was happening. There seemed to be no more of that dynamism of God. I had got about three quarters of the way through my sermon when a lady on the back row yelled, 'Help him Jesus; help him Jesus!' That was all the evidence I needed that things were not going well that day.

On the other hand, when a preacher was really 'on' in my church, they let him know. The Deacons sit right under the pulpit, and whenever the preacher says something especially good, they cheer him on by yelling, 'Preach brother, preach brother, preach man preach.'

One Good Friday, there were seven of us preaching one after the other. When it was my turn to preach, I rolled into top gear. The more I preached the more the congregation got turned on. And the more they turned on the more I preached. I got so good that I wanted to take notes on me. At the end of my message the congregation broke loose. I was absolutely thrilled to hear the hallelujahs and cries of joy that broke loose throughout the place. I sat down next to my Pastor and he looked at me with a smile, 'You did all right boy'. I turned to him and asked, 'Pastor are you going to be able to top that?'

I did not figure that anybody could have beaten me that day. I had been so good. But the old man got up, and I have to admit it, he did.

The amazing thing was he did it with one line. For an hour and a half he stood the congregation on one ear with just one line. That line was, 'ITS FRIDAY BUT SUNDAY'S COMING'. One deacon yelled, 'Preach brother preach', and that was all the encouragement he needed. He came on loader as he said, 'It was Friday and Mary was crying her eyes out. The disciples were running in every direction as sheep without a shepherd, but that was Friday and Sunday is coming. People in the congregation were beginning to pick up the message; women were waving their hands in the congregation and whispering, 'well, well'; the men were yelling, 'keep going, keep going.'

The Preacher got going. 'The cynics were looking at the world and saying, as things have been so they shall be. You can't change anything in the world. But those cynics didn't know its Friday, Sunday's coming. It was Friday and those forces that oppress the poor and make the poor to suffer were in control. But that was Friday, Sunday's coming.'

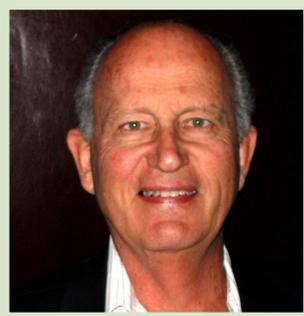
By the time he had come to the end of his message I was exhausted. He had everyone so worked up that I didn't think any of us could have stood it much longer. At the end of his message he just yelled out at the top of his lungs, 'It's Friday', and all 500 of us in the church yelled back with one accord, 'Sunday's coming.'

At this Eastertide, as Jesus' friends, we remember Friday but more importantly that Sunday had come and that we continue to live in the season of Sundays. We wish you all a very happy Easter.

May God bless you

Gary +

THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2015



Nigel Bourne - Treasurer

Retired from IBM South Africa in Johannesburg in 1999 after 32 years. My wife - Justine - died from cancer in 2006 and I have two daughters, Tracey & Angela, and four grandchildren all living in Gauteng. I met Cynthia Dunscombe in December 2009 after several months of long distance dating and we married in May 2011 at which time I moved to Waterfall, and began developing the sectional title complex Caribu. Cynthia & I attended several services at St. Agnes before visiting Holy Trinity where we have worshiped ever since. I joined the Men's Fellowship and AV groups and Cynthia & I are part of the hospital visiting team. We are also members of Jean & Victor Hull's bible study group.



Peter Craig - Church Warden

After 40 years in the corporate world I retired from Eskom a year ago. I spend my time playing a bit of golf, being out in nature and camping trips into countries to the North of us. My wife Liz and I have 3 adult children who very fortunately are all still in South Africa. The eldest daughter is married and lives in Gauteng and the other 2, a pigeon pair of twins, live in Port Elizabeth. I look forward to serving another year on parish council.



Allan Golledge - Parish Councillor

Thora and I have been married for 46 years and have Clare who is married to Walter and have a granddaughter, Ava, who is 16 months old. I am still working, in finance at Grindrod, on a SAP and Working Capital project, which I find stimulating and exciting as one is never too old to learn new things.



Nina Howell - Parish Councillor

I am a 53 year old mother of two girls Gabrielle and Alexandra, aged 22 and 29 respectively. I work as a Finance Officer at an NGO which operates in The Valley of 1000 Hills called The Valley Trust.



Jennifer Lavender– Parish Councillor

I am married to Darryl we have two children: Jonathan, aged 11 and Megan, aged 14. Currently I am reading Theology and in addition to serving on Council I am a Lay Minister and involved in Messy Church.



Enid Vreedenburgh– Parish Councillor

I am married to Kees and have two beautiful, (a little biased I know) daughters and a recently acquired son-in-law. I have been associated with this Parish for about 20 years and for the past 13 have worked as the Secretary/Administrator. I am passionate about serving you as God's children and feel blessed every day to come to work – well most days that is!



Dennis Saville– Treasurer

I am married to Brenda. We have 2 children :Matt & Kate and 5 grandchildren .We have been members of the HTH for about 25. years, I am not yet retired.



Harold Walker –Church Warden

I am married to Nalane and we have one son Joel. I have been involved in a number of ministries for a long time and have recently taken on the responsibility for editing this newsletter. I am currently reading Theology. The year ahead looks challenging but exhilarating as we strive to grow the church.



Profiles of Clive Dunn and Errol Hicks were not available at the time of printing.



The Lenten Bible Study Course

During Lent eleven Bible study groups met at various times on different days and different venues each week to reflect on spirituality based on Richard Rohr's book :”Breathing under Water.” Many have commented that it was a very reflective course requiring serious introspection and honesty.

Pam skinner the leader of the Le Domaine group had this to say.

"Our mixed group from 3 denominations, have found this Bible study, based on Rohr's book - and aided by Gary's sermons - to have been very interesting and moving. It has encouraged us to look honestly and deeply into ourselves, our lives, and actions, and also opened up an awareness of the needs of others - not only Christians, but people of other faiths, showing up the fallibility of the human race. How very important love and forgiveness is. If only more people would recognise and experience it. We look forward to the next half of this study."

Easter Egg Craft

MeSSy Church

Since May last year the parish introduced an additional service for young families called MeSSy Church. It takes place once a month on a Wednesday evening and as its name suggests it is “Messy” because of the informality in the service. The service included doing crafts, worship, sharing a meal and fellowship. The aim of the service is to provide an opportunity to the young families who find it difficult to attend the normal services on a Sunday. MeSSy Church is a wonderful way for parents/grandparents to spend time with God and their children in a friendly, safe and informal setting.



At the last MeSSy Church service 19 children attended with their parents. The theme was the Resurrection of Jesus. Despite an electricity outage that necessitated a change of plan, the parents, children, and volunteers thoroughly enjoyed having an outdoor service and candle lit supper.

The next MeSSy Church will take place on the 22nd April at 17:00. If you are interested in wanting to know more please contact the Parish office, details below.



Swooners and Crooners



With the Gee Jays

The Swooners & Crooners being brought to you by the Evening Women's Group in June - Watch this space!



Bits and Pieces!



- 01 - Nick and Akos Railston-Brown
- 04- Gary and Tessa Thompson
- 14- Peter and Lesley Ford
- 19- Graham and Paddy Shuker
- 23- Basil and Janet Roberts
- 28- Errol and Kay Hicks

April Birthdays

- 01-Elizabeth Brunt
- 02-Jean Blunden
- 02-Pam Hlongwa
- 03-Christine Blows
- 07-Elizabeth Woodcock
- 09-Nigel Bourne
- 11- Ray Markham
- 11- Akos Railston-Brown
- 16- Valerie Peckham
- 18- Joy Medway
- 19-Vicky Miller
- 20- Kay Hicks
- 20-Anne Moore
- 20- Christopher Nkosi
- 23- Kathy Marx
- 26-Basil Roberts
- 26-Claire Norton
- 27-Joan Mackey
- 27- Sheila Chatterton
- 27- Jean Edwards
- 29- Keith Butler
- 29- Pat Hooley
- 30 -Nora Moore

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