



Holy Trinity Hillcrest

News Letter July 2015

Rector's Reflections



Dear God's people,

When we set out at the beginning of the year shortly after the busy Christmas season December seemed such a long way off. For the past seven months we have been moving through the semester in cruise speed. Now August is upon us and before long it will be Advent and the summer Christmas holidays. The old, old question is, 'where has time gone?' Thomas Mann, the German Novelist, made this observation about our obsession with time, "Time has no divisions to mark its passage, there is never a thunder-storm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new month or year. Even when a new century begins it is only we mortals who ring bells and fire off pistols." I'm not quite sure if it is a good thing but our lives are governed by seasons and time. Maybe there is some wisdom to sound an alarm of sorts to alert us to the time and enable us to quicken our pace. This month our theme is about a changing landscape. We will report on the Strategic Planning Meeting held last month and give you a heads up on activities in the coming months.

You may have noticed from the Pew Leaflet that our Vision Statement has changed. In 2012 we adopted a Vision Statement which read, 'OUR VISION IS TO EXPRESS THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITHIN AND THROUGH OUR PARISH MINISTRY'. At the time we thought it was simple and easy to remember. As I subsequently discovered not all of us remembered it. At the Strategic Planning meeting we revised it to what we hope better describes what we wish to achieve as the Anglican Worshipping Community of God in Hillcrest.

The new Vision is, 'TO SHARE OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST IN RESPONSE TO THE NEED FOR GOD, THROUGH MINISTERING TO EACH OTHER AND OUR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES'. So why the difference?

Christians are called to love, Jesus commanded that we love God and with the same energy and passion we are to love our neighbours. Our primary responsibility then, as

the sons and daughters of God is to share our love for Christ with others. In this way we fulfil Jesus' commandment. In the letter to the Ephesians St Paul implies that we do not fully comprehend the extent of God's love so he prays that God will grant all the saints the power to comprehend it. Deepak Chopra argues that we tend to box God because of our mortality. God cannot be boxed. Subconsciously we tend to do that because our frame of reference is boxes. We think in terms of time, distance and touchable things. 'We'll speak of God in terms of infinity, eternal and love'. Our experience of all those adjectives are term bound and may be painful and disappointing. We function in a world of limitations, time frames and fragile emotions. So even though we use them to describe God we may never fully appreciate them. Trying to gain that fuller understanding should be a daily unfolding in our thinking and belief. Whereas God loves us unconditionally, mortals generally love conditionally. So within our ability and frail understanding we strive to share God's love for the world. Secondly, the task of every Christian is to reveal to the world what we have come to learn and understand of God's love for God's creation. In obedience to that we endeavour to reveal that love in our broken and hurting world through our fellowship, our worship and our service.

Having thoroughly engaged and discussed what we perceive our primary role to be as a community of believers in Jesus Christ to be we then reflected on how our current operations gave substance to who we believe we should be. Through a process facilitated by Dennis Saville we identified our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. (A detailed report of the Strategic Planning meeting is available from the office) At the subsequent Parish Council meeting, our leaders devised the following strategy to maintain what is working well and address those areas that need our attention.

The Strategies we adopted are:

- ✦ Maintain and promote our facilities to a high standard
- ✦ Nurture and support the administrative and general staff to operate at their optimum
- ✦ Nurture Lay ministers and raise new leaders for ministry
- ✦ Nurture rector and members of this body
- ✦ Nurture each and every ministry by encouraging commitment and growth
- ✦ Ensure focused review amongst each ministry
- ✦ Attract more people by offering worship that is edifying, glorifying and reverent to God
- ✦ Ongoing review and training of leaders

- ✦ Ongoing training of readers, AV operators and sides-people
- ✦ Proactively market and communicate externally and internally through the office
- ✦ To bolster and increase the numbers of people involved in all ministries
- ✦ Employ a new youth worker
- ✦ Encourage young family members to participate more actively
- ✦ Create more opportunities for fellowship
- ✦ Strategy to approach the local schools
- ✦ Services to include multicultural nuances
- ✦ Advertise our church to outside users of the premises
- ✦ Make people who are visiting feel welcome
- ✦ Encourage people to view our website
- ✦ Set up training programme (Pack) for people to give religious instruction at home.

Our task now is to look at ways of implementing these strategies. I pray that it will not just be left to the members of Parish Council but that we all will agree that this is where we believe God to be calling us and that we will play our part, formally through the various ministry groups but also through our personal capacity as members of this amazing body of believers. If you have a specific interest or talent in making it happen then please come and speak to us. (Thank you to Dennis for the facilitation and all those who participated.)

The activities in the Parish have escalated to a rather alarming extent. Every month until December will be packed with some exciting activities and themes which we hope you will enjoy and participate in. We begin with what the Anglican Church has traditionally called the Month of Compassion. It was a time when we, as the Body of Christ would give special consideration to the needy and impoverished. Although we do this on a regular basis now we have decided to use the concept of compassion, being outward looking, during the next few months. We will do this drawing attention to our ailing planet with the help of the Environment Group and with special events to generate income to assist needy courses.

In August we will pay attention to our Environment. Some have referred to our planet as a "BLEEDING PLANET", which we mortals, in our desperate attempts to survive, are plundering and destroying the very resource of our livelihood. For each Sunday during August we will consider the various themes that will enlighten us and

hopefully encourage us to take action within our own surroundings. We can read more about this in this magazine.

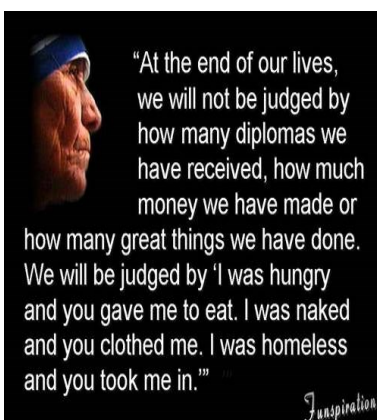
Margaret Vorwerg is working hard in coordinating what we are preliminary calling the Festival of Celebration for the first weekend in September. It is an 'exclusively' Holy Trinity project to collect funding for needy causes within the Hillcrest and surrounding area. The draft programme includes Floral displays, Tea Garden, choral entertainment and a Harvest Service. Tickets for the Floral Display and Tea Garden on the Friday and with the choirs joining them on the Saturday will be on sale shortly. For the Harvest Service on the Sunday, parishioners are invited to donate perishable and non-perishable food items that we will distribute to organisations in need. For this to succeed we need every parishioner to make a donation, invite a friend and participate. The more attendees participating the larger the amount we'll be able to collect for distribution.

As we prepare for the arrival of the warmer months after the brief cold spell let us dig deep into that inner strength to rise and meet the new season with excitement and hope as we witness from our beautiful natural surroundings.

Wishing you a blessed and busy semester.

Your priest and friend

Gary +



Compassion is a verb!



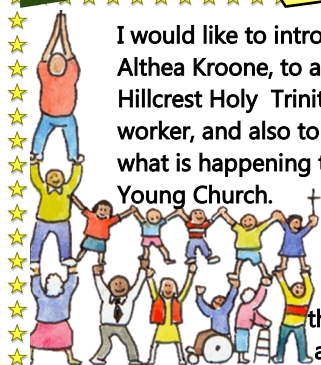
Money Matters.

Our Parish finances up to 31.07.2015

Income:	Budget:	Actual:
Offertories	48 970	47 796
Planned Giving	503 575	602 072
Interest	9 720	17 910
Use of Premises	21 691	25 415
	0	188 410
TOTAL	583 596	873 777
Expenditure:		
Admin & Finance	194 019	187 622
Worship	14 525	8 350
Property & Maintenance	77 609	51 494
Youth & Sunday School	38 423	25 211
Social Outreach	6 300	
Diocesan Assessment	161 994	162 460
Clergy Costs	198 940	163.691
TOTAL	691 810	598 830
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	(108 214)	274 947

Young Church

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.



I would like to introduce myself, Althea Kroone, to all of you at Hillcrest Holy Trinity as the Youth worker, and also to let you know what is happening these days in Young Church.

As you might already know, there has been a need for a

qualified person to take over the reins in teaching and guiding our youth. I felt called by God to fill that gap for as long as it takes, to sort, plan and improve on what we have built thus far.

I have been a regular member of this Church since I married over 25 years ago and moved to the Hillcrest area.

I have brought up my 2 daughters (now 21 and 18) in the Church and have been very involved in the running of the Sunday School on and off, over the years. I have a High school teaching degree and experience, as well as teaching experience with the younger grades.

Lately – since it began, one and a half years ago – I have been integrally involved in the establishing and maintaining of the “Messy Church” initiative. These are fun evenings, held monthly from 5 to 7pm, usually on the 3rd Wednesday for 3 to 11 year olds.

We have various crafts around a theme (for example: this month, being Women’s Day in August, we are doing Ruth & Naomi), telling the Bible story, singing a song and sharing supper provided. It’s a team effort and the children love it – as well as the parents and other others that bring them instead.

Regarding the Sunday School (or Young Church, as it is now known) – this is obviously held during the 8.30 am service on a Sunday – during school holidays, on the 26th of July, with 7 children attending.

Coming up, I have planned fun and relevant activities and lessons for this term – for children of all genders, races and ages (between 3 and 11 years.) This includes a Sea Sunday theme for this Sunday – 2 August – as we will be having the current Chaplain of the “Mission to Seafarers” preaching in Church.

We will be involved in the Harvest Festival celebrations during the weekend of 4 – 6 September. On the 13th September, we will re-introduce the all-ages Family service in church, with the children participating.

We really strive to provide facilities for all the youth in our Parish, beginning with a Family Room attached to the church, equipped with comfy couches, a nappy

changing area (with emergency supplies in the cupboard), and toys and books to keep the toddlers busy and happy.

This room is meant for children under 3 years and their parent(s).

There is one-way glass to see the service and a speaker to hear it, so you won’t feel you’re missing out.

Therefore, if you feel your little one is becoming too boisterous for comfort during the Church service, please relax and make use of this facility.

As for children aged 12 and older, we feel they should be old enough to experience the Church service with you. If they have completed the “Admission to Communion” course we offer from time to time, (before Confirmation course) they may partake of the Bread and Wine, as they will have a basic understanding of the meaning of this ritual. Until then, they receive a blessing from the presiding priest during Communion time at the altar rail.

I trust that you will support me in this mission, and look forward to working and playing with the youth in our Church.

Please contact me at the Church office – Monday to Friday, between 8.30 and 12.30, if you have any queries concerning Messy Church or Young Church.



ENVIRONMENT CORNER....

Our Environment Group hopes to enrich our lives with articles concerning the wonderful world which God has entrusted us to care for. Each Sunday will have sermons and talks around that theme, today Rev. Paul Noel is preaching, he is a Chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers. On 9th August there will be six short beautiful scenes on our screen signifying "I am the world in all it's Glory." On the 16th we hope to explain the use of waste water from our house onto the soil for plants. On the 23rd there will be an outdoor Mass in the Springside Nature reserve where a speaker will enlighten us about our very own Hillcrest nature reserve. The last Sunday we will have part of a DVD devoted to trash, while during that last week there will be a skip in the car park to take way some of those broken appliances lurking in your garages.



Can Animals Predict Weather Change?

Below is the list of some wonder animals that can tell you just that:

Cows - Farmers claim that these animals can forecast the weather. According to legend, when cows sense bad weather, they become restless and antsy and begin to swat flies with their tails or lie down in the pasture to save a dry spot. cows lie down when it is cold and stand when it is hot for long hours.

House Flies - Flies tend to become sluggish and crawl on exposed body parts prior to hot, humid, wet weather coming in. The usual quick moving flies become 'sticky' before the onset of wet weather.

Frogs - This one is the easiest to judge. Loud and slimy amphibians, are said to croak even longer and louder than usual, hear their volume increase, you can assume a storm is brewing.

Ants - This one's a common and a spectacular sight. On a very hot day when the humidity starts to build, millions of normally Earth-bound ants seem to miraculously sprout wings and take to the skies. In preparation for bad weather, red and black ants sometimes build up their mounds for extra protection or to cover the mounds' holes.

Bees and butterflies - When bees and butterflies disappear from the flowerbeds, you can expect some heavy weather coming your way. The folklore goes that if they're not in their usual spots and they seem to have disappeared from the flowerbeds they usually visit, something is up!

Birds - Depending on how low the birds fly, how bad the weather is going to be can be gauged. Most birds have a special middle-ear receptor called the Vitali organ, which can sense incredibly small changes in barometric pressure. So if the activity at feeders suddenly becomes much more intense and they start flying close to the ground, be sure that a storm may be approaching. - See more at: <http://www.skymetweather.com/>

BITS AND PIECES!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August

02-Brenda Saville	16-Marion Wakefield	24-Liz Lavender
03-Alex Howell	16-Lauren Joubert	24-Betty Hall
03-Chris Marx	17-Val Watt	25-Sheila Spence
09-Di Mahoney	18-Wendy Porter	25-Marita Kelly
12-Eckton Skinner	18-Lindsay Vorwerk	25-Graeme Shuker
13-Frances Mahon	19-David Easton	26-John Fleming
14-Geoff Maud	21-Lesley Ford	26-Pat Forrest
15-Derek Blunden	21-Tom Rafferty	28-GailMcEwan
	22-Colin Mercer	28-Victor Hull
	23-Brigit Ramsden	29-Nette Miller
		30-Anthony Evans

Grief never ends.... But it changes.. It is a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith,,,, It is the price of love.
Author Unknown

Malcolm Bett-McKenzie
Basil Roberts



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Please check our website, www.holytrinity.co.za, for all the latest news and activities!