

Holy Trinity Hillcrest

News Letter

Christmas 2015



Dear God's people,

One of the phrases that appealed to me when we reflected on Richard Rohr's book, *Breathing Underwater* about The Twelve Steps and Spirituality, was the term 'counter intuitive'. It literally refers to the paradoxes we have in Christianity, for example, we give in order to receive or we die in order that we might have life. In some way this season on our liturgical calendar has a similar paradox. In our widely accepted civil calendar, Gregorian, we have come to the end of the year. For some it is the Christmas holidays and others think of it as our summer break. In whatever way we may look at this season we have come to the end of a year that sped past at such a rate that we seem to have only caught a glimpse of it. Liturgically, however, December marks the beginning of a new cycle. So we have come to the end of one cycle and we embark on a new journey. The paradox lies in that for anything new to begin there must be an end of whatever precedes it. In our spiritual lives or as nature teaches us, for something new to begin there must be the dying of the old.



Christmas is about new beginning. The visible image we see depicted on cards, in school plays and at the church is of a new born baby. The birth of a child signifies hope. It is in the hope of a species surviving or the family name being extended for another generation. For some couples the birth of a child becomes the 'distraction' to focus our attention on a common purpose or goal. The birth of a child can also be a 'filler' where there may be an emptiness and yearning for more meaning. For the greater majority the birth of the child is an occasion of great joy and for the dad a moment of sheer pride. Very seldom and in extreme cases will the birth of a child not be welcomed.

The Bible tells us that Jesus birth was welcomed with great joy that brought the lowly shepherd and the heavenly host to the stable and drew people to travel great distances to see the wonder of what had taken place. But we are also told of the perceived threat the birth had caused and how the king of a nation sought the whereabouts of the king of the universe to cause harm to Him. Just as there had been a mixed reaction to the birth of the Child so we may react differently to the birth of Jesus.

Jesus' birth was to usher in a new season that would be a complete change from what had been before. It would be a new season free from oppressive rule, it would be a season of renewing a broken relationship with God, it would be a season of forgiveness of sins committed, it would be a season of light in a dark and painful world. As the creation story puts it after each day that God created, "and there was evening and there was morning,". The morning came after evening, the light replaced the darkness. The light that the Christ –child brings into the world is to replace the darkness that humanity created.

As we listen to the retelling of the old familiar story and joyously sing those well-known carols may we find that something new which will encourage us as we head into a New Year. May the pain and darkness of a fragmented past be replaced with a bright hope in a better tomorrow, may we find an inner peace that keeps us connected to the Prince of Peace, may our lives be filled with joy so that each experience will give us reason to rejoice and may we live with the assurance of God's love for us and those around us.

So may this season be one in which we discover something new in the retelling of the story.

With my love and blessings
Your priest and friend

Fr Gary



From the Administrator's Desk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my "priceless volunteers".... Thora, Pam and Wendy, for the generous gift of your time which lightens my load and brings great pleasure to all who come into the office. My handyman, Neville, what would I do without you! And of course to the many, many who give so selflessly of their time to beautify Holy Trinity and keep the flag flying high with pride, thank you. I would also like to thank all who have demonstrate their love by spoiling me this Christmas. It is, as I have said before such an honour and privilege to be able to serve you all.

As we serve and worship God together as volunteers we are reminded at this time, the birth of our Saviour and Redeemer, that we are indeed priceless to the God who created us. *Enid*



**Volunteers are not paid,
not because they are
worthless but because
they are priceless.**

7 Biblical Reasons Why Singing Matters!

1. When you sing, you obey.

Singing isn't an option in Scripture. It's a command.

Colossians 3:16: and Ephesians 5:18-19:

God's people are more than just invited to sing – we are commanded to sing. When we sing, we're doing what God asks of us!

2. When you sing, you dig deep roots in the Word.

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs..." Colossians 3:16

3. When you sing, you build up others.

First, you build up fellow believers when you sing:

Ephesians 5:19: Note specifically here that it says: "addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs..."

We see the same thing in Colossians 3:13-16: the exhortation to

sing comes on the heels of bearing with one another (13a), forgiving one another (13b), putting on love (14), being at peace as one united body of Christ (15), and teaching God's Word to one another (16).

4. When you sing, you make war.

It's very hard to lie, be greedy or to look at something inappropriate when, you're "singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" (Ephesians 5:19). Simply, a heart that's doing that will not easily give in to temptation.

A singing heart is a heart at war with the work of the evil one and the power of sin.

5. When you sing, you are spiritually strengthened for trial.

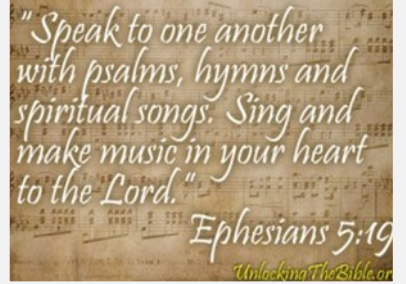
Often times, we think only of singing when we're happy and times are good, but singing bringing strength for trial comes out in Acts 16. Paul and Silas are unjustly

imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel, and what do they do while they're in prison? Sing! (Acts 16:25)

6. When you sing, you walk a God-designed pathway to joy.

From James 5:13: "Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise." And as you study Scripture on this point you'll notice that sometimes singing gives birth to joy and sometimes joy gives birth to singing. But persistently in Scripture, joy and singing are bound together. You can't study one of those two biblical themes without encountering the other.

If you struggle for joy – SING! If you are joyful – SING! In God's perfect design and in His perfect understanding of the human condition He has bound joy and singing together for His people.



The first 6 reasons get summed up with this:

7. When you sing, you glorify God.

Truly obedient, deep roots in the Word, building up others, making war against Satan and sin, persevering, finding joy in God – all of these things bring glory to God – each person's chief goal and chief purpose in life.

Sing now. Sing forever.

Singing matters. And it matters that we do it together.

unlockingthebible.org

On the Subject of Singing!

Holy Trinity has certainly been spoilt for choice this year. Starting with the Festival of Celebration we were entertained by the choirs of Fulton, Hillcrest High and Endameni schools. We then hosted Christopher Duigan who with his friends provided superb entertainment. The Busisizwe Choral Society from Shongweni joined us in worship and led the singing.

After them came our Charity fundraiser with the Durban Men's choir who got us in the Christmas spirit of singing.

On Sunday 13 December we held the annual Carol Service and in true Holy Trinity Choral tradition the choir presented another memorial performance had a beautiful, inspiring and uplifting Carol Service surrounded by fine looking floral candle arrangements.



Dear Gary and the Hillcrest Anglican Church team,

A thank you for your generous donation, received. We will put these funds toward our Respite Unit - our biggest and most critical project. Your support throughout 2015 has been so appreciated by everyone at Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust and has made a tangible difference in the lives of our beneficiaries.



And finally the singing of Carols at the Hillcrest Provincial Hospital on Monday 14 December where each of the 200 patients were presented with a gift from Holy Trinity.

Thank you to each and everyone of you who made this year of music such a success. The Charities who benefited from our fundraisers were the Hillcrest Aids Centre, R11000. Fulton School for the Deaf, R6000, Endameni School R5000 and Mission to Seafarers R2000.

And then came the festivities!



The Morning Women's Group hosted their annual lunch for invited guests on Thursday, 10 December. The hall was decorated and tables laid in splendour, equally matched by the meal and dessert! I am sure all the guests will agree with me. We thank the Guild for their hospitality and kindness.

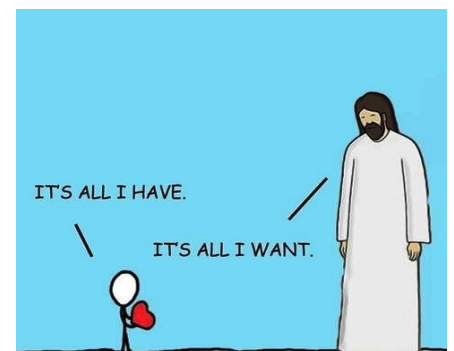
Before and after the sumptuous meal the guest were entertained by Jeanette Hill seen on the left at the piano. Geoff Maud surprised us with his singing talent and led us in some golden oldies. A great time of merriment was had by all.



NEXT CAME THE CHILDREN.

The Zikwanele House of Hope, our crèche looked after with so much love and dedication by the Evening Women's Guild were treated to their annual Christmas party.

The girl's ballet costumes were kindly donated, and they had a great time putting them on as you can see below they wore them with pride. The boys were also given present which had also been donated. Once "Santa" had done his job the real business began.... The party! Lots of cake, cool drink and sweets were provided by members of the EWG with everyone enjoying the festivities.



A thank you letter to Holy Trinity

First of all I would like to thank Holy Trinity Church for believing in people, giving them chances of becoming something important. Thank you for the willingness of helping the community because this will create a better society. When I look at my background I don't believe that its finally happening even at home especially my grandmother. In few months time I will be holding a Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences and Social Services (specialising with Psychological Counselling). Without help from Holy Trinity Church IT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE.

Its been a journey a I have learned a lot especially in life, especially sharing what you have with someone who doesn't have because I am what I am now, because someone helped me. I have been given a chance to learn to be independent at Holy Trinity Church. I was enters into a Life Skills training with World Changers Academy and through that I got my first job at Mr Price. I was so happy and since from then great things started to happen. Now I'm with Woolworths and I am having fun.

Most of all I would like to thank Fr Gary for putting me under his wings and always there to motivate me and teaching me to believe in God and put God in everything and by doing that things fall into places. And I have witness that through my experiences so far.

No words can be enough to say how much I appreciate the way the Church had made me. May God keep Holy Trinity standing and Bless everyone who sacrifices for making change in someone's life like me.

Thank you so much
Mbali Kunene.

BITS AND PIECES!



January Birthdays

04-Althea Kroone
05-Margaret Vorwerf
08-Tony Groenink
09-Edna Simpson
11-Muriel Doherty
12-Marilyn Thompson
13-Tony Udal
14-Mark Joubert
17-Joel Walker
17-Valerie Nangle

20-Ann Maud
23-Jean Hull
23-James Small
23-Phumlane Nene
27- Brian Webb



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Rev Bruce Woolley

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Alternate Warden:

Clive Dunn

031 776 3463

Youth Worker

Althea Kroone

031 765 5941

Parish Ministries:

Audio Visual

Nigel Combes

031 762 1176

Bookkeeper

Doreen Hood

082 550 8387

Companionship

Glenys Dickson

031 767 2213

Environmental

Maggie Fleming

031 765 7157

Evening Women's Gp

Lynette Reynolds

031 716 8161

Flowers

Margaret Vorwerf

031 765 4390

Food Parcels

Rosemary Dickinson

031 765 2782

Garden

Jill Howard

031 765 1061

Hospital Visitors

Elaine Hutt

031 765 2188

Lay Ministers

Rosemary Combes

031 762 1176

Martha's Friends

Ann Maud

031 765 2111

Morning Women's Gp

Ann Maud

031 765 2111

Musicians

Matthew du Sart

082 526 3518

Music Group

Pat Dawson

031 765 8013

Prayer Chain

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