



Holy Trinity Hillcrest

News Letter November 2015



What does it take?

Dear God's people,

We have just completed our focus on stewardship and throughout the month we were attempting to better understand what it means to be a steward if we acknowledge that God is the owner of all that we have, see and are and that we as stewards are entrusted with all that belongs to God. Before we renewed our commitment to God, as disciples commissioned to make disciples, we reflected on the commended offering and God's preferred desire.

Working through the readings myself these past few weeks got me thinking a lot more of my personal response to God as a steward. But something more has happened through this process because I have become more acutely aware of the status of my relationship with God and that there is much to be desired if I am to honestly fulfil my call as a steward of the many blessings I am privileged to enjoy each new day.

In addition to the readings I have also been meditating on the life and ministry of Billy and Ruth Graham. I've spent the last month reading and reflecting on the teaching of the Scriptures, comparing my life and ministry as a priest with the life of one of the world's most renowned evangelist and pondering my own spirituality. I was particularly attracted to one chapter that seemed to push me to dig really deep in my reflection and meditation. The challenge was not only in

my ability as a priest in the Church of God but in my personal spirituality from which I need to resource for my ordained ministry. It was the difficult challenge of moving away from performing a task to building a honest relationship with God. Each page of that chapter seemed to highlight something different that needed some attention and focus. It reawakened within me the promise I made three decades ago that God may grant me the awareness and strength to serve God with humility, simply and faithfully. I was overwhelmed by God's mercy and patience with me when the reality dawned of how often I may not operate as I had promised and how the focus on the task had robbed me of being merciful, compassionate and loving.

Billy Graham speaks of the Christian duty of humility. I often find myself praying that God should make me humble. But Graham explains that humility is not a gift from God. Being humble is a duty towards God in response to the generous outpouring of God's abundant love and mercy. For him humility is not merely a state of being lesser than another person but an attitude we must strive for when we take account of all that God does for us or how God cradles and protect us when we find ourselves in the place the Psalmist calls the "Valley of death". Reaching that place of humility means that it, like everything else, has to be a goal towards which we

must strive. In his letter to the Corinthians St Paul writes about the athlete's preparation for the race. Like an athlete determined to win a race Christians must work hard at achieving the goal. The 'hard work' requires discipline. The more intense and thorough our preparation the greater the chance reaching our goal. The key to achieving the goal of humility is by being disciplined.

Hanspeter Nuesch, author of the book, Ruth and Billy Graham writes, "Discipline has to do with setting priorities and the value we attribute to something. The reason for a lack of discipline often lies in the fact that we won't place enough value on something." He asserts, "... Christians shouldn't be strangers to discipline when we consider that that word *discipline* has the same root as the word *disciple*. A good student follows his teacher's instruction carefully. The Holy Spirit is our teacher, or, as the disciple John says, our *parakletos*: someone who has been called (*kletos*) to stand by our side (*para*) and to show us the way." But it was the words, 'placing enough value' that resonated with me. I began thinking of what it is that God requires of me as God's child and how that should inform and shape my call as a priest in the Church of God. My discipleship and call should then become my goal and I must keep it in the fore of my mind like a neon flashing light drawing attention to something. In my case it would be my desire to be in one of the rooms that Jesus had

gone to prepare for those who believe in God.

I have come to realise that for me to be a faithful and humble follower of Jesus Christ I need to make a conscious commitment to do so. This is despite the commitment I made at my confirmation and that I make at the end of each Eucharistic service. I recognized that I need to do it daily as a constant reminder of my intentions to be a follower of Jesus.

So if that is what I wish to achieve I need to be disciplined because that is what my response to God will require. I have to deliberately take the necessary steps seeking what God requires of me as a person through the reading of the Bible, praying for the guidance to make the right

decisions, submitting to the power of the Holy Spirit and in the struggle of wanting to do my thing as opposed to doing what God requires of me I will need to discipline myself.

It is in my commitment as a steward seeking a better relationship with God to live out the great commandment in my life daily. I know that it will be my constant challenge not to love myself more than God or to put myself before the needs of my neighbour. In pursuit of this which has as its foundation humility and faithfulness I will have to up the level of my prayers to constantly seek God's face and be assured of God's guidance. And when I fail, which I am bound to do, I will confidently fall on my bended knees knowing God's grace and forgiveness and muster

more courage to carry on until I next fall.

I thank God for the journey through this past season of stewardship and for God's guidance in helping me see which areas in my life need attention. I pray that you and I, as God's sons and daughters, may diligently fulfil the promises we made this time so that all we are and in all we do may the God of Heaven be glorified.

And may the promise of Scripture that God will bless and multiply all our efforts be God's blessing to us through our commitment to God.

Your priest and friend

Gary

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus
look full in his wonderful
face....**



The month of October had the most successful Messy Church ever with a total of 41! That is both adults and children. What an awesome team effort and we give thanks that God heads up our team. Please continue to pray for this ministry to carry on growing and that the post of Young Church co-ordinator will be successfully filled.



A Bumper...

Messy Church!



The Black Dot!

Submitted by Marion Wakefield

One day a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They waited anxiously at their desks for the test to begin. The professor handed out the question paper, with the text facing down as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked his students to turn the page and begin. To everyone's surprise, there were no questions....just a black dot in the center of the page. The professor seeing the expression on everyone's face, told them the following:

"I want you to write what you see there."

The students confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

At the end of the class, the professor took all the answer papers and started reading each one of them aloud in front of all the students. All of them with no exceptions, described the black dot, trying to explain its position in the middle of the sheet, etc. etc. etc. After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor began to explain:

"I am not going to grade on you this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot - and the same happens in our lives. We have a white paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift given to us by God, with love and care, and we always have reasons to celebrate - nature renewing itself everyday, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see everyday.....

However we insist on focusing only on the dark spots - the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend etc

The dark spots are very small compared to everything we have in our lives, but they are the ones that pollute our minds.

Take your eyes away from the black spots in your life.
Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you.

Be happy and live a life positively!

How big is your black dot?



The Importance of Sharing your Talents, no matter how "Small"!



"Your Talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God." - Leo Buscaglia

This year we sent out 215 Stewardship packs, to date we have received back 74 - that is 34%. This is to encourage you to truly seek God's plan in your life and to examine your self, find that gift that God has blessed you with, and share it! No matter how insignificant you may think or feel that your gift is, God will equip you with all you need to contribute to the life of His Kingdom. If you need some help discerning your gift or would like to know more about the ministries that we offer at Holy Trinity, speak to Fr Gary or a ministry group leader. I have included a list of the ministry leaders on the back page for easy reference.

Step out into the light. Share your gift... no matter how small, no matter how imperfectly. And you may be surprised by your impact on the world around you. Yvonne Whitelaw

☐ Know your gifts & abilities ☐ Follow your heart & passions ☐ Just do it...Get involved

Please return your forms. It helps us to keep our contact database up to date, and the green form is vital in assisting us with the Planning and budgeting of our finances.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS:

Rector:

Rev Gary Thompson
031 765 2578 082 442 3241

Church Wardens:

Peter Craig 082 896 3516
Harold Walker 076 055 4240

Alternate Warden:

Clive Dunn 031 776 3463

Youth Worker

Althea Kroone 031 765 5941

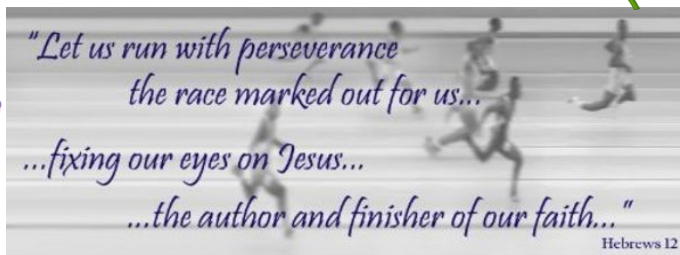
Parish Ministries:

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	Jean Gallie	031 765 5155
Publications	Enid Vreedenburgh	031 765 5941
Recorder	Marion Wakefield	031 716 8201
Readers	Sue Yates	031 765 4272
Sacristans	Brenda Saville	031 765 1111
Sides people	Errol Hicks	031 716 8872
Tea Pourers	Joyce Mickel	031-7672927
Treasurer	Denis Saville	031 765 1111
Warwick Link	Rosemary Combes	031 762 1176



"Go give to the needy sweet charity's bread.
For giving is living," the angel said.
"And must I be giving again and again?"
My peevish, petulant answer ran.
"Oh, no," said the angel, piercing me through,
"just give till the Master stops giving to you."

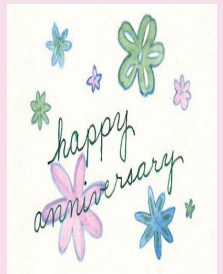


BITS AND PIECES!

November

05-Pat Leys	17-Garth Holland
06-Janet Roberts	20-Hilary Paul
06-Liz Craig	23-Yvonne Wighton
12-Stephanie Hamman	23-Gillian Fannin
12-Strawbs Phillpott	25-Jon Morgan
13-Paul Doherty	27-Vernon Lavender
14-Heinze Benecke	27-Paddy Shuker
16-Denis Saville	29-Trish Christie-Taylor
16-Patricia Tremearne	

02 - Brian & Glynis Webb
04 - Tony & Wendy Udall
06 - David & Sheila Lyon
16 - Heinze & Heidi Benecke
22 - Colin & Barbara Mercer
22 - Dennis & Gloria Rhodes
26 - Ken & Joan Burgess
27 - John & Maggie Fleming
27 - Kees & Enid Vreedenburgh



....And the things of the earth
will grow strangely dim, In the
light of His glory and grace

Festival of Celebration



Part II



Holy Trinity
Anglican Parish of Hillcrest

Presents

Wonderful
Christmas
Time
with the



Date: Friday 27 November 2015

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Nqutu Road Hillcrest

Tickets R100 per person includes Cheese & Wine at interval
Bookings - phone the Parish Office 031 765 5941

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS:

Cnr Elangeni & Nqutu Roads, Hillcrest
P O Box 148 Hillcrest 3650

☎: 031-765 5941 ☎: 031-765 5077

✉: office@holytrinity.co.za / Website: www.holytrinity.co.za

Banking details:

Account Name:	Hillcrest Anglican Church
Nedbank Hillcrest Branch	1338 26
Account No.	1338 034 057

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