



# Holy Trinity Hillcrest

## News Letter

September 2016



Dear God's people,

Although the southern hemisphere is preparing to welcome the season of Spring we have recently been experiencing such hot weather that it already feels like summer. Traditionally, this would be an exciting season as nature

awakes from her slumber and everything springs back into life and full bloom. It is also the time when we would expect our seasonal rain but the forecast is bleak and instead of a season we would welcome with joy and excitement this Spring, may become a time of desperation as we have been warned of severe water restrictions and that we have to change the way we would normally use water. For all of us this Spring may be a time that will require we spend a lot more time urgently and sincerely petitioning God to bless us with that life giving substance that sustains all life. As we pray to God for the gift of water we should also be praying for ourselves as the Users of God's precious gift, that we be responsible stewards of what the Oxford Dictionary describes as, "a colourless, transparent, odourless, tasteless liquid" without which no living species can survive.

At Holy Trinity we will be reawakening an old tradition in the life of the Christian Church. My pray is that we will look forward to it with as much expectation and urgency as we await a down pouring of rain. We have dedicated this month as our MONTH OF MISSION. September being a very special month in the life of the Anglican Church in Southern Africa. On the 1<sup>st</sup> we commemorate the life and work of the first Archbishop of this Province, Robert Gray.

Our Mission will be a mission with a difference. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Missions had become an activity of the Evangelical and Charismatic community of Christians. In many cases there would be renowned Evangelist recognised to possess miraculous powers as the keynote speakers. Meetings would take place in large marques or venues that seat thousands. Acclaimed musicians would provide emotionally steering music and reports will circulate of how many people had been touched, blessed or healed. On a lesser scale there may have been well rehearsed events with teams of people praying and reaching out to others and special worship events and prayer services organised to attract new converts. But ours will be different.

The focus of our month of mission will not be to do the extraordinary (even though every moment of our day is an extraordinary experience of God's blessings) but to awaken within us the task that we have all been called to do. Our month will not be headlined with renowned Evangelists but

## Rector's Reflections

by men and a woman of faith whose daily responsibility it is to do the task that God has given to each one of us. Our music will be provided by our faithful and talented choristers and musicians and the format of our worship will be familiar but different because it will be focused on getting to better understanding our task. So why is it billed as our special month?

At the end of Jesus' historical or earthly ministry he commissioned His disciples to 'GO'. Jesus sent them out into the world. He tasked them to 'make disciples, baptise them and teach them what he had commanded them' (Mtt 28: 19,20) Earlier in His ministry when they tried to trap Jesus a learned member of the law asked Him which was the greatest commandment and Jesus' answer was summed up in the one word, a verb, 'LOVE'. It was the love the Disciples had to show for God and for their neighbour. So the task was very simply to share with others what they had come to experience about loving God and their fellow human beings. In our worship we have preserved the commissioning or task of being sent out. At the end of our Eucharist the Celebrant stretches out his/her arms and says "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" and those present in worship boldly, and I pray, with eagerness respond, "In the name of Christ. Amen" In our reply we agree with the task and accept the challenge of going out to share our experience of the love of God with others. That is the message our four priest will be reminding us of this month. Please pray for them as they prepare to teach us and challenge us, pray that their message will be the message that God had laid on their hearts for us and pray that all who will be attending will prepare their hearts and minds to receive the seed that will be planted just as Jesus taught in the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13: 1-17)

As we think about the Commissioning and the Commandment let us reflect on what Scripture teaches about loving God. I think that to love God is one of the easiest things we can do, unless of course we are angry at God for one or other disappointment in our lives. But for the majority of believers I am convinced that we will all boldly and unquestionably declare our love for God. But there is a snag in the theology of love for God. The snag is not a trick but another selfless act of God who does not seeking human praise and adoration in a selfish way but encourages us to express our love for God through the way we love our fellow human beings, our brothers and sisters of the human family. The call is rather challenging in that our love for God is tested in our love for others who often make it extremely difficult to love them. St John teaches us, "Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, <sup>[a]</sup> are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister <sup>[b]</sup> whom they have seen, cannot love God



whom they have not seen.” (1 John 4:20) The measurement of our love for God is tested by our love for our neighbour. If this be the plumb line then love for God becomes a lot more challenging. We thank God for the help that God provides in enabling us to do the things that God calls us to do. So as we pray for rain, for this month of Mission let us pray to for the humility to surrender ourselves to the authority of God to be used as God has determined for each one of us.

May we have a blessed and challenging month.

With my prayers and love

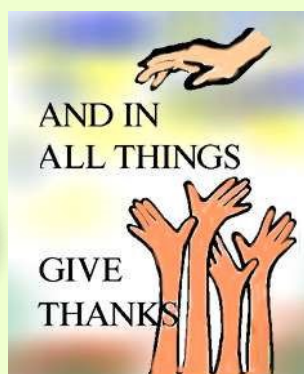
Fr Gary



My Favourite saying on a Sunday Morning.... “God is Good All the time, All the time God is Good” This past Sunday we celebrated the end of Environment month with our annual Outdoor Service and for those who didn't attend or were unable to come you can see from the photos that God is indeed good. We were blessed with an amazing day, in fact I would go so far as to say perfect! The weather was good and the young lady, Melissa Schreiber who shared her story of being a finalist in Miss Earth SA and her passion for all of God's creation was so inspiring. We give thanks to God for providing all that we have and for our small but committed Environment group who arranged a very varied and interesting month of thought provoking and enlightening DVD's and speakers. Thank you.



## Parish Breakfast





# 4 T's for Charity



*The Morning Women's Fellowship outshone themselves this year when they hosted their annual "4 T's for Charity". For those of you who are uncertain what the 4T's are.. It is **Tasty Tea Time Treats**, and that is exactly what it was.*

*In order to attend the tea one is required to bring a toiletry item and non perishable food. The toiletries are packaged and donated to the Hillcrest Provincial Hospital patients while the food items are handed out to the needy.*

*It was a bumper turnout and while everyone enjoyed the sumptuous tea they were treated to a floral demonstration by Cherry chapman who matched the lovely spring theme set in the hall to the arrangements she did, one of which she donated to Holy Trinity and is in church today.*



## BEING A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

This is how the New Testament describes followers of Jesus - disciple, believer and Christian. The terms disciples appears 282 times, believers 26 times and Christians only 3 times. There are two Greek words used for disciple in the New Testament. One is math-ay-tes this means learner or pupil. The other is math-ayt-yoo-o this talks about being a student or a pupil, but also a teacher too. It is about learning and passing it on to others.

Here are some suggestions of the things we can do as disciples of Jesus.

### **A true disciple is willing to follow the call to discipleship**

Being a disciple of Jesus is about committing to a way of life and of learning and growth. It goes past just believing in something, it is more about learning to follow and to heading in a new direction full steam ahead.

### **A true disciple wants to be part of God's plan for their life**

The Bible tells us that God has a plan and purpose for each of our lives and a disciple of Christ knows and understands this. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:10, For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Because of this plan He has created us with certain gifts and abilities so we can play our part in it. Just imagine that we could have been born at any time in history, but God chose for us to be born now. We are not here by chance. God has a plan and purpose for each of us and it is a great one! When we deliberately seek out God's plan for our life and play our part in it, we find ourselves being the most happy and fulfilled as we can be in this life. Finding and following God's plan is a big part of being a true disciple.

### A true disciple loves and accepts others like Christ did

In John 13:34-35 Jesus says, A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. A true disciple should love God and love others. In Matthew 9:36 When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Loving others the Jesus way means opening ourselves up to others and to want what is best for them. It means being willing to come alongside them and help them if the need arises. It is interesting that it says people will know we belong to Christ because of the love we show to others. A true disciple loves people like Jesus did.

### A true disciple shares their resources to help others

In this life we have a choice to spend our money how we please. We can choose to save it and spend it all on ourselves or we can see ourselves as stewards of God's resources. One of the great examples we see from the early church in Acts 4:32-37. We see that the community of believers shared their possessions and sold some things so others would not go without the basics of life. A true disciple sees the world and its needs through God's eyes and uses their resources accordingly. A true disciple knows to store up their treasures in heaven as it tells us in Matthew 6.

### A true disciple helps others to follow Christ

In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus tells us to go and make disciples. This is the last words of Jesus before He returned to heaven. We are told to make Disciples, not Christians. A disciple is someone who is committed to a journey of learning, service and growth. We are called to help others start the journey of faith and life in Christ to be disciples. A true disciple knows how great it is to know, love and serve Christ and they want to help others to follow Him too.

### True disciples are known by Jesus and do the Father's will

In Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.' Being a true follower of Jesus is about being obedient to the Father's will, it is also about relationship. Jesus' words "I never knew you" shows us that it is possible to do good works and not be in relationship with Him. True disciples are obedient to the Father's will and are in an ongoing personal relationship with the Son.

### Summary

As true disciples of Jesus Christ our heart attitude should be that of a humble servant who loves God and loves others. We should try our very best to live our lives in the same way that Christ lived His. A true disciple should try to live out Jesus' teachings in a way that blesses others and gives them a chance to follow Jesus themselves. And finally a true disciple is known by Jesus and is obedient to the Father's will. extracted from [www.Passionaustralia.org](http://www.Passionaustralia.org)



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Flowers  
Food Parcels  
Garden  
Hospital Visitors  
Lay Ministers  
Martha's Friends  
Morning Women's Gp  
Musicians  
Music Group  
Prayer Chain  
Publications  
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Readers  
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Margaret Vorweg	031 765 4390
Rosemary Dickinson	031 765 2782
Jill Howard	031 765 1061
Elaine Hutt	031 765 2188
Rosemary Combes	031 762 1176
Ann Maud	031 765 2111
Ann Maud	031 765 2111
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Pat Dawson	031 765 8013
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