

St. Mark's Epistle!

- District Six -

St. Mark's Anglican Church, District Six, Cape Town

Monthly Newsletter

05 August 2001

YOUTH FOCUS

Youth Focus Month started off with a very entertaining **Music Ministry** service on Sunday. Two young people armed with a guitar and the word of God brought us a message in a bottle. The message – “Be Bold for God!” **David K**, 24 years old, and **Ria Smith**, 22 years old, have been ministering to youths for the past 5 years. Ria's ministry has taken her abroad as far as Russia where she spent months interacting with the youth of that country.

David's praise was expressed beautifully in song, and Ria emphasised that we should break the bottle and get the message out. The youth in particular should step out of their comfort zones and be instruments to God.

On **Sunday, 8 July**, we were greeted by an exceptionally talented young lady. **Elizabeth Petersen**, director of St. Anne's Home shared choruses with us, in a morning filled with Praise and Worship. And, it was obvious that her beautiful voice more than echoed through the church, it touched and filled our hearts. Elizabeth's message was a simple one; “When we learn to understand God only then can we have a relationship with God. And, how we choose to worship God must come from within. Nobody else can tell us how to feel, or worship God.”

Saturday, 14 July saw the youth take on the **Pipe Track**. Blessed with beautiful weather, and a team of very energetic young people, the walk up Table Mountain was destined to be a success.

After a word of prayer, the hikers departed from Kloof Nek at about 9.15 a.m. and returned 3¼ hours later.

The Pipe Track, originally a service path for maintaining pipes leading from the high reservoirs, is a beautiful stroll. The track passes the redbrick water-filtration plant, crosses the gully known as Diepsloot and winds around several bends, offering wonderful views over Camps Bay.

Although the size of the group diminished as they progressed, the ones who completed the walk said it was great fun, and are looking forward to the next one.

On **Sunday, 22 July**, **Margot Keys**, a recovering drug addict, brought us a message of hope. Having endured 18 years of serious drug addiction, in which she experienced the grim and horrific reality of drug abuse, she's now a living testimony, carrying a message that must be heard by parents and youths alike.

Margot says, “It's okay to make mistakes, as long as we learn from them.” She adds, that we are not perfect, and that we should accept ourselves for who we are, and learn to love ourselves unconditionally.

Now, *Addicted to Life*, Margot says she owes everything to God, and Jesus Christ, whom she has accepted as her personal saviour.

Youth Focus Month came to a conclusion with the youth actively participating in the service on the last Sunday of the month. A wonderful end to the start of a new beginning. **V**

BINGO!

What a wonderful way to have spent a winter's afternoon in the company of friends. The very entertaining Bingo event was held at the Cape Technikon Students' Centre on Saturday, 30 June. The event was well attended, and raised just over R5700. There were lots of good food on sale. And, for those who preferred something with a little more spirit, a bar was available to assist in combating the winter chill.

There were many great prizes up for grabs, from fancy stationery, to kitchen appliances. The grand prize consisted of a grocery hamper and an electric ceiling fan. To add to the excitement, the quest for the grand prize was narrowed down to five contestants. The very delighted ultimate winner walked off with the much-coveted trophy.

Father John closed the function in prayer, and thanked everyone who contributed towards making the event such a huge success. **V**

THANK YOU
to

Formeset Printers
22 Kinghall Avenue
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Tel : 507 9000
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for printing the newsletter.

Letters to The Editor...

Dear Editor

Could we perhaps start a lift club through the newsletter? There are some people from Bothasig who would love to come and worship at St. Mark's but have no form of transport.

Thanks
Vanda Adams

Anybody willing to assist, contact Vanda on 461-1059.

Don't pay twice for apartheid!

Third world debt is a modern form of slavery. It impoverishes billions of people around the world. As Christians we must always face the issues of poverty and injustice. The apartheid system left our country with a debt of hundred of billions of rands. This is an 'odious debt' in international law. It should not be paid back to those who made profit from the evil of apartheid. By not cancelling the debt, we are being forced to pay twice for apartheid.

At present the government is paying 4 billion a year for housing and 46 billion per year on servicing this debt. Petition forms are available at the back of the church. On Wednesday 6th June Fr John and Fr Mark Walker represented the Anglican Church at a Religious Summit on Debt held at the Lutheran Youth Centre. The Religious Task team is part of the National Jubilee Campaign and is preparing a strong statement to encourage our Government not to pay the debt at the expense of our suffering people.

Please contact Fr John if you would like to follow-up with this issue.
Tel: 448 1006

National Youth Day

I was shocked recently when South African youths interviewed on television did not know why June 16 was a public holiday. I think it important that the events of 16 June 1976 be remembered for what it was - a brave and long fight for freedom.

National Youth Day was previously known as Soweto Day. In 1975 protests started in African schools after a directive from the previous Bantu Education Department that Afrikaans had to be used on an equal basis with English as a language of instruction in secondary schools. The issue however, was not so much the Afrikaans as the whole system of Bantu education, which was characterised by separate schools, and universities, poor facilities, overcrowded classrooms and inadequately trained teachers. On 16 June 1976 more than 20 000 pupils from Soweto began a protest march. In the wake of clashes with the police, and the violence that ensued during the next few weeks, approximately 700 people, many of them youths, were killed.

As we commemorate this historic day, we honour those who, during the 1976 students' uprising against inferior apartheid education, paid the supreme sacrifice. We must ensure that those who laid down their precious lives did not die in vain.

The youth today, should look back on June 16 and use it as a tool to combat crime and other emerging social evils, especially sexual abuse, gangsterism, and alcohol and drug abuse. **V**

16 June 2001

The youth of Kensington started the day at 9.30am with Praise and Worship at the Kensington Civic Centre, after a warm welcome from Father Noble Scheepers.

In addition to the chorus singing and live band, they had a guest speaker who spoke about the youth of today. Other entertainment included liturgical dances from St. Stephen's, Paarl and St. Timothy's, Facticeon.

After a light meal, the youth moved across the road to SHAWCO where they participated in a few sporting events.

Later that day, the youth visited the Athlone School for the Blind. There they were given a talk on AIDS and HIV by a couple suffering from the disease. This was followed by a pop quiz where prizes were given for correct answers. This was followed by another talk, by a police sergeant, on crime and gangsterism.

The day culminated in a potjiekos competition, with each youth group having to participate. **V**

NEW SOUNDS AT ST MARK'S

There has been a growing demand for more contemporary praise and worship songs in our services. Fr John and Elizabeth Petersen have introduced us to some songs from Hillsongs Australia and the choir is busy learning new material from our new edition of Songs and Praise and Devotion that will be available soon.

For those a little concerned about too much music in the 'modern' idiom, Fr John says there is nothing to worry about.

"We will continue to worship at St Mark's within the traditional Eucharistic framework and in the Anglican style," he said. "We will draw from a wide variety of musical sources ranging from Anglican Psalmody and Hymns Ancient and Modern to contemporary songs and choruses"

Our aim is to enhance our worship with a high standard of music whether 'ancient' or 'modern'. We are still looking for a permanent organist to help us achieve this goal.

Parish Council Vision Workshop

On Saturday, 23 June 2001, the PCC held a workshop at the rectory. The aim of the workshop was to focus on the vision the council had for the year ahead. Using this vision, our mission statement was revisited, and amended. And then, using the new mission statement, practical objectives were set. In addition, areas in the church that required special attention were integrated.

The very energetic and almost over zealous council then divided into smaller groups and each group was assigned to a particular area of interest. The areas the council feels require specific attention are, (1) structural repair to the building, (2) finance, (3) worship and ministry, (4) the youth, (5) community involvement, (6) music and praise, and (7) media and tourism.

After fervent discussion, the team reassembled with report backs. Each group isolated problem areas and suggested possible solutions. To ensure that these goals are met, and solutions are implemented, a person or persons were assigned to the particular project. One very important statement, which surfaced, was that each council member would have a portfolio. There would be no free rides – each member would reside on at least one sub-committee. Furthermore, the involvement of the parish as a whole is vital to the success of our mission. **V**

Seen On Church Notice Boards

COME IN FOR A FAITH LIFT.

WE OFFER SOULING AND HEELING SERVICES.

HAVE A LONG STANDING PROBLEM? TRY KNEELING.

*

Knights of the Altar



Back (from left to right): Glenn Petersen, Byron Retief, Damian September
Middle: Lindsay Nicolaai, Shana September
Front: Jody Kennedy, Luke Botha
Absent: Joanne van Niekerk, Gavin Aries, Bevan Murison, Chanelle Williams, Rory Africa, Joshua Africa

Ever wondered why we have servers, and what their purpose is? Servers are also known as acolytes. The word acolyte is derived from the Greek word *akolouthos*, which means follower or server.

The first authentic document that mentions the existence of acolytes is a letter, written in AD 251, by Pope Cornelius to Fabius, Bishop of Antioch, in which a list of the Roman clergy is given.

The function of servers is to assist the priest in liturgical celebrations, especially the Eucharistic liturgy. These functions include carrying the cross, the processional candles, holding the book for the priest celebrant when he is not at the altar, and carrying the incense and censer. Other duties performed are presenting the bread, wine, and water to the priest during the preparation of the gifts, and assisting him when he receives the gifts from the people.

The title and responsibilities of the acolytes are as follows: The *Crucifer* carries the cross in procession.

The *Thurifer* bears and swings the censer (thurible).

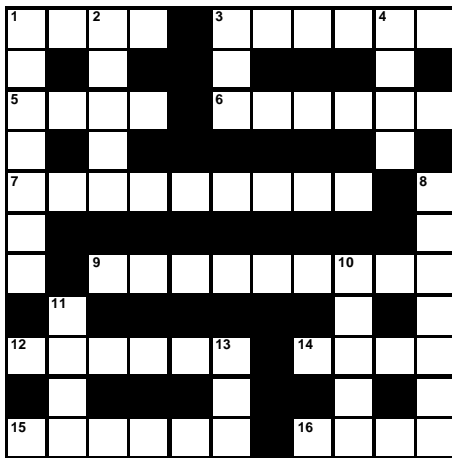
The *Boat Bearer* carries the vessel containing the incense to be burned.

The *Torchbearers* carries the candles in procession.

The patron of those who serve at the altar is Vincent, deacon and martyr. He lived in the third century, was martyred in the year 304, and is commemorated on January 22. He is remembered for his love of God, his faithfulness to his bishop and his uncompromising loyalty to his responsibilities. Through his example, these are the same virtues those who are privileged to serve at the altar seek to cultivate and perfect.

Participation in the Altar is invaluable and very important to the smooth function of the Holy services. Not only do acolytes have a wonderful opportunity to serve God and the Church, but also get a chance to see the services of the Church from a different perspective. This is a very serious commitment and one that should be entered into with faith and respect. **V**

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Who said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (4)
- 3 The doubting disciple. (6)
- 5 Jacob was tricked into marrying Rachel's elder sister first. (4)
- 6 The prophet who delivered God's message to David. (6)
- 7 Michael and Gabriel are these special messengers. (9)
- 9 This disciple was also called Bartholomew. (9)
- 12 Jacob's favourite son, the dreamer, sold into slavery by his brothers. (6)
- 14 Flat hollow unleavened bread. (4)
- 15 Elisha visited a rich woman in this city. (6)

16 The name of Adam's third son. (4)

DOWN

- 1 The place where Christ was crucified, also called Golgotha. (7)
- 2 The name of Abraham and Sarah's first born. (5)
- 3 The number of commandments God gave to Moses. (5)
- 4 The first man God created. (4)
- 8 The Philistine giant killed by David. (7)
- 10 "... with me" - name of a hymn. (5)
- 11 He was saved from the great flood by building an ark. (4)
- 13 One of Noah's three sons. (3)

BIBLICAL REFERENCE

Across: 1 *Genesis 4:10*, 3 *John 20: 24*, 5 *Genesis 29: 23*, 6 2 *Samuel 12, 7 Jude 9*, 9 *Luke 6: 14*, 12 *Genesis 37: 28*, 15 2 *Kings 4: 8*, 16 *Genesis 4: 25*.

Down: 1 *John 19: 17-18*, 2 *Genesis 17: 19*, 3 *Exodus 20*, 4 *Genesis 3: 21*, 8 1 *Samuel 17: 4*, 11 *Genesis 6: 9*, 13 *Genesis 6: 10*.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

One Sunday morning a little girl in her Sunday best was running so that she wouldn't be late for church.

As she ran she kept praying, "Dear God, please don't let me be late for church. Please don't let me be late for church..."

As she was running she tripped and fell.

When she got back up she began praying again...

"Please, God don't let me be late for church - but please don't shove me either!"

* * * * *

DID YOU KNOW

Pentecost, which means "fiftieth day," is the beginning of the longest season of the church year. It lasts until the first Sunday in Advent. In some traditions, the whole season is called Pentecost. In others, Pentecost Sunday is followed by the Trinity season, which begins with Trinity Sunday a week later. In some churches, Pentecost is known as Whitsunday, after the white robes once worn by candidates for baptism on that day. The liturgical colour for Pentecost is red. The liturgical colour for the Sundays following Pentecost is green.

HAPPENINGS

Date : 5 – 7 October 2001
 Price : R450 - Adults
 R250 - Children
 (5 – 12 yrs)

Contact Lionel Africa for more information on 590 7022.

ANNUAL BAZAAR

Date : 1 September 2001
 Time : 8.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
 Venue : Lentegour Civic Center

Donations of non-perishable grocery items are welcome.

ST. ANNE'S HOME

Please support this worthy charity by donating sugar and rice.

MARGOT KEYS can be contacted on 082 498 5014 or e-mailed at margotk@xsinet.co.za

FROM THE BIBLE Ecclesiastes 11: 9 - 10

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

Contact Details

snail mail:

The Editor
 St. Mark's Epistle!
 19 Almar Road
 Lansdowne
 7780

telephone:

(021) 761 5941

e-mail:

epistle6@yahoo.com

website:

http://epistle.bizhosting.com