

St. Mark's Epistle!

- District Six -

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

Monthly Newsletter

4 November 2001

Hartenbos Train Trip

Cape Town station, platform 23 was buzzing with excitement on Friday evening, 5 October 2001. We boarded at 5:45pm and the train departed at 6:40pm.

We embarked on a journey, which was successful socially, profitably as well as spiritually. To think, that we came so close to cancelling the trip, owing to a lack of support. But, with prayers, commitment, and the dedication, drive and enthusiasm of the Social and Fund Raising team, everything just fell into place.

With the Grabouw Moravian Church and School joining the excursion, we were able to fill 9

coaches, and thus make the venture economically viable. Blessed with exceptional weather, both young and old alike took full advantage of the cold and heated pools, swimming till well into the night.

The dinner, presented by the Hartenbos organisers, was not only simply delicious, but aesthetically pleasing too. Dinner was followed by a Karaoke, which carried on until the wee hours of the morning.

Departing Sunday morning at 6:30am, we readied ourselves for a Spring drive through God's Garden Route at its best. At 10:00am Mass was celebrated

en route – what a beautiful time of Praise and Worship.

We arrived in Cape Town at 6:30pm, tired, excited, and overwhelmed. Although everybody was in agreement about one thing - the weekend was definitely well worth the money.

A special word of thanks to everybody concerned who made this trip possible, especially the Elgin and Grabouw members of the Moravian community. **V**

Thanks to Lionel Africa and Basil Jansen for providing the above narration.

Social and Fund-raising Report

by Lionel Africa

This Hartenbos Trip was not only because we needed another social event, but purely because of the financial situation. What we aimed for was, should this trip have been as well supported as planned, our profit margin would have lightened the financial situation of the church for this year, and the year to come. Thus far, we have had 4 fund-raising events:

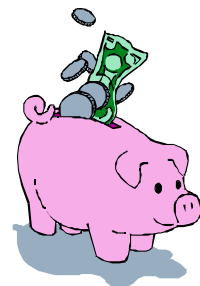
Dance	9 122.00
Bingo	5 034.00
Fete	15 428.00
Hartenbos Trip	10 500.00
	<hr/>
	40 084.00

This figure may sound high, but we have still not reached our budget of R48 000.00 per annum. Hence, we have planned another Bingo for 3 November 2001, and we appeal to you for donations of prizes and food. As this is our final fund-raiser of the year, your support is of utmost importance, as part of this money goes towards the senior citizens Christmas party and the Sunday school Christmas party.

We seriously need to pay earnest attention to our pledge commitment, as this will also lighten the burden of the Social

and Fund-raising Committee.

On Monday, 12 November, the Social & Fund-raising Committee will have their 2002 Budget meeting, and wish to invite all parishioners who would like to partake in this drive. **V**



Youth AIDS Service

A special youth service was held on Tuesday, 2 October 2001 at the Church of the Resurrection in Bonteheuwel.

After a warm welcome from the Rev. Gregory Haynes, the Rev. Margaret Haynes opened the service with a word of prayer.

The special guest speaker was the Rev. Gideon Byamugisha, an HIV positive priest from Uganda. His message covered two seemingly simple topics – Life and Love. He went on to say, that even though a person is infected with HIV, if you have Jesus Christ in you, you can still live a full life.

"He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life." (1 John 5:12)

On the topic of Love, he reminded us that God is love, and that we are to love one another.

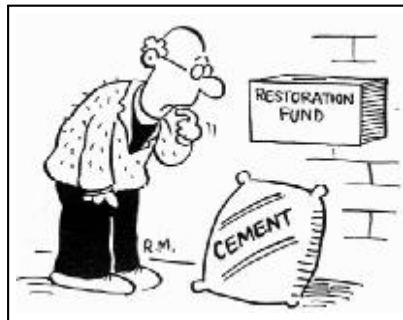
"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7)

He reiterated that sex is not love, and that there are other ways to show love. We should learn to respect others, and the choices of others. He spoke about the importance of trust and honesty in relationships. He challenged the youth to redefine love – in so doing, create a new generation.

A young lady, who is HIV positive as a result of being raped, delivered another powerful personal testimony. Her message was, 'Say "NO!"' She added, "Your boyfriend might leave, but Jesus will never leave you."

She too spoke about how being infected with HIV can be used in a positive way. She is making an impeccable contribution to society by visiting communities and educating the youth about AIDS via her personal experiences.

Before the Rev. Andrew Hunter closed the service by thanking all concerned, the youth put on a drama. A very serious message was concealed in the rather humorous skit. The play revolved around AIDS and Teenage Pregnancy, and how mistakes youths make affect their families, friends and everyday lives. **V**



BUILDING RESTORATION FUND

We are all aware of the physical condition of the church building. It has become necessary to establish a separate fund to ensure that the much needed repairs happen. These repairs encompass the roof and the structural damage at the north end of the building (*St. Mark's Epistle! – July 2001*). The cost of these repairs is estimated to run into tens of thousands of rand.

...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (*Acts 20:35*)

As of last month we have started a *Building Appeal Fund*, and urge parishioners, friends, and anybody who is interested in saving our stained glass window, and preventing our church from being renamed, *The Church at the Bottom of Clifton Hill*, to give generously.

The bank account details can be found on the back page of this newsletter. **V**

You give little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

- Kahlil Gibran

MEMO FROM GOD

To : ALL
Subject : YOURSELF
Reference : LIFE

I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. All situations will be resolved, but in My time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic; don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work; think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new grey hair in the mirror; think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them! **V**

Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.

- Leo Buscaglia

Why Go To Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" **V**

QUOTABLE QUOTE

The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

THANK YOU

to

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Fax : 534 5977

for printing the newsletter.

Youth Steps Out

The month of October saw the youth of St. Mark's making new friends.

The ball was set in motion in September, when they visited the Youth of Good Shepherd, Kensington and participated in an evening of fellowship.

The Youth also had the opportunity to meet the Youth of the Church of the Ascension, Devil's Peak, when we were invited to attend a Youth Service.

The highlight of the month was the invitation to attend the Youth AIDS Service held at the Church of the Resurrection in Bonteheuwel (see article on Page 2). It was a wonderful experience to

see youths so energetic, and actively involved in the church.

Friday nights at the Rectory will never be the same. It has become a real hive of activity. In addition to the usual programme, the table tennis and kern boards are being utilised to the fullest.

Even though we still have much to accomplish, it's nice to see the progress already made.

Shevon Watson has been appointed Treasurer for the month, with Anthea Hendricks filling the role of Secretary. **V**

Unfortunately, the walk planned for Saturday, 6 October was cancelled due to bad weather.

WHO ARE THE ANGLICANS?

PART THREE

What about our Worship?

Anglicans are expected to pray. When we pray in private, each of us prays in his own way. When we pray together in services of worship, our "common prayers" are "liturgical", i.e. they are structured. Only in this way can we truly share our worship of God. Our liturgical worship involves the whole person, body, mind and spirit. We are active participants rather than just listeners. Worship to us is not "show business". It goes from us to God rather than from a preacher to us. We come to church to give God the praise and worship which, as His creatures, we owe Him; not to get something for ourselves

The Holy Eucharist

The centre of our worship is the Holy Eucharist. Other traditional names for this service is the Holy Communion, the Mass, the Lord's Supper, and the Divine Liturgy. It is the service specifically commanded by Jesus in the New Testament. The Eucharist joins our offering of worship to Christ's offering of Himself upon the altar of the cross. As He promised (Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 6; I Corinthians 11) Jesus is truly, spiritually present under the outward forms of the consecrated Bread and Wine, to infuse our lives with the spiritual strength of His life.

Receiving Holy Communion

By receiving Holy Communion, we give our Solemn Assent, our "Amen," to the entire Anglican Eucharistic Service. We express our belief that the Eucharist is a spiritual sacrifice, which must be administered by a bishop or a priest whose ministry derives in succession from the Apostles themselves. We express also our faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist. Because of the seriousness of these affirmations, this Church does not presume to invite those who in good faith cannot yet accept these beliefs to compromise their conscience by receiving Holy Communion at our Altar. It is for these reasons that we are not an "open Communion" Church. Those who do so believe, and who have been confirmed by a Bishop in Apostolic Succession, and who are spiritually prepared, are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Preparation for Holy Communion generally takes the form of private prayers. In many Anglican parishes, those physically able to do so refrain from eating ordinary food prior to morning Communion, or for three hours prior to an evening Communion.

Taken from the web site of St. Elizabeth's Anglican Church. A Parish of the Missionary Diocese of the West. The Anglican Province of America.

WORDSEARCH

Q Q X J A I M A T O P O S E M K F J I W
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 D M E L A S U R E J O M J K O Q D O C N

BIBLE PLACES

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. ANTIOCH | 11. JERUSALEM |
| 2. ARARAT | 12. MESOPOTAMIA |
| 3. BABEL | 13. NAZARETH |
| 4. BABYLON | 14. NINEVEH |
| 5. BETHANY | 15. PHILIPPI |
| 6. BETHLEHEM | 16. ROME |
| 7. DAMASCUS | 17. SHARON |
| 8. EPHESUS | 18. SIDON |
| 9. GALILEE | 19. TARSUS |
| 10. JERICHO | 20. TYRE |

JUST FOR LAUGHS

As everyone was leaving the church, the Pastor noticed a young boy in the hallway, looking at a number of pictures on the wall. He said, "Well, hello, young man, how are you today?"

The boy said, "Oh, fine."

The pastor said, "I see you are looking at the pictures on the wall, do you know who the men in those pictures are?"

The boy said "No, who are they?"

The pastor said proudly, "Well, son, those are pictures of the war heroes in our congregation that died in the service."

The boy, rather concerned, replied, "The 9 o'clock or the 11 o'clock service?"

DID YOU KNOW

A **Procession** signifies the Journey of the Soul to God for "They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God." (Psalm 84:7). It is preceded by the cross, as the symbol of the triumph of the Church and because we follow Jesus, "who went forth bearing His cross" (John 19:17). Lights are borne, for those who go with Christ "shall not walk in darkness" (John 8:12). Banners are carried because God said, "Lift ye up a Banner." (Isaiah 13:2). Incense is used to symbolise the Merits of Christ, and flowers are sometimes strewn to signify the beauty of holiness and the fragrance of devotion. In a procession, a richly embroidered vestment called a cope is worn by the priest.

HAPPENINGS

ST. ANNE'S HOMES

Please support this worthy charity with donations. Groceries, especially sugar and rice are also appreciated.

CAKE SALE

This month's cake sale will be on Sunday, **11 November** outside the church. The last cake sale of the year will be on Sunday, **2 December 2001**.

CBCO

Public Meeting at Athlone Hall on **18 November 2001** at 3:00pm

Please Support Our BUILDING FUND

Bank : **Standard Bank**
 Branch : Victoria Road (4709)
 Acct. Type : Savings
 Acct. No. : **07 480 558 4**

FROM THE BIBLE Joshua 22:5

Take good care to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul. (RSV)

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