

St. Mark's Epistle!

- District Six -

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

Monthly Newsletter

5 May 2002

Annual Vestry Meeting

The Annual Vestry Meeting of St. Mark's Anglican Church, District Six was held on Sunday, 28 April 2002.

Although, poorly attended, the meeting was extremely fruitful. As per usual, Fr. John opened the meeting with a word of prayer. After a warm word of welcome, the minutes of last year's meeting was confirmed, and the proceedings got under way.

The reports of both Denise Lowton and Lionel Africa, current Church Wardens, were very moving, as they summarised the past year's events. They placed strong emphasis on how being able to serve as church wardens as enriched their lives.

The Rector's report focused on the year ahead. The need for more for people to get involved in the running of the church was eminent. Fr. John called on parishioners to take a leap of faith, to step out of their comfort zones, and experience the rewards of personal growth and the joy of serving.

Fr. John also acknowledged and commended parish secretary, Denise Nicolaai, for her unselfish, commitment towards the church

This year saw more good news, as the Annual Parish Accounts reflected a surplus of over R17 000. However, this is but a drop in the ocean compared to the amount of money required for the much need repairs to the church. Donald Hendricks quoted an extract from *Buckingham Place* by Richard Reeves, where the PCC of the 1950s discussed the same leaking roof we are haunted by today.

It was also good to note a decrease in certain expenses, although it was voiced that perhaps more money should be spent on training.

It was decided that the current PCC be re-elected in a block vote. There were some minor changes made. As William Petersen has decided to step down as Alternate Church Warden, Merlin Blanchard was elected as the new Alternate, and will continue to serve on the PCC *ex officio*. Lionel Africa and Denise Lowton remain on as Church Wardens. The PCC members are as follows: Vivienne Blanchard, Vivien de Vos, Fred Esau, Frank Evans, Donald Hendricks, Basil Jansen, Greg Jutzen, Brian Lawrence, Jeff Marshall, Beverley Murison, Denise Nicolaai, Colwyn Peters, Glenn Petersen, William Petersen, Georgina Retief, Norman Ruiters, Cindy Sullivan, Ivan Titus, Valda Titus, and Joey van Niekerk.

In her report on the Sunday School, Emma Oliver mentioned the challenges in teaching little ones. She said that it was directly related to the fact that they learn by example. She called on parishioners to visit and share meaningful experiences with the Sunday School.

The Youth report highlighted some events of the previous year and a few of the projects for the year ahead. Other positive feedback included the growth in the Youth, and their endeavour to keep making a financial contribution towards the church.

(continued on page 3)

115 Not Out!

If only the South African cricket team could bat like this. No, this headline calls for a more auspicious occasion. Thursday, 25 April 2002 marked the 115th Anniversary of St. Mark's Anglican Church, District Six. Yes, the "klipkerkie" on Clifton Hill is still standing.

The actual celebration coincided with *Freedom Day* on Saturday, 27 April. A reunion was held at the church, and all former residents of the area were invited to come and share in the festivities.

It was an afternoon of story telling, sharing memories, and catching up with old friends. The nostalgic trip down memory lane was shared by members of all faiths. Old black & white photographs helped to jog the memory, or simply tell a story of their own.

Beside the scores of church members, there were also former students of St. Mark's Primary School, as well as the many who utilised the community centre.

The highlight of the afternoon was definitely the sing-a-long. For a brief moment it was as if everybody stepped back in time and relived those special times.

The Regional Bishop of Table Bay (Cape Town), **Bishop Christopher Gregorowski**, gave the event two thumbs up, saying that it was a huge success. **V**

PCC Members Receive Accolade

The following is an extract from a letter given to the PCC.

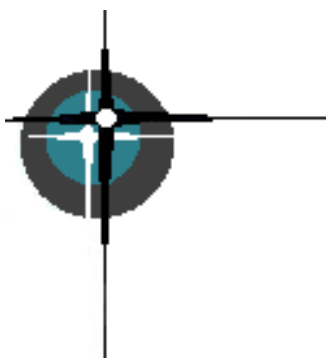
St. Mark's, District 6 has provided a special home for me during my sabbatical in Cape Town. You have been very welcoming and included me so readily in your life. I especially enjoyed going through Lent and Holy Week with you.

As representatives of your parish, I would like each of you to have one of these pins created from the logo of All Saints Westboro. At home we use them as special awards for parishioners and as gifts to honoured guests.

Please accept them with my very sincere thanks and my prayers for God's ongoing blessing on the life of your community.

*Sincerely
Your brother in Christ
Allen Box*

Below is the logo of All Saints' Anglican Church (Westboro)



T-shirt Fiasco

In the March Edition I incorrectly priced the St. Mark's memorabilia T-shirts at R35.00. The correct selling price of the T-shirt is R50.00. Please accept my apology for any inconvenience this might have caused.

Youth Stay Awake

On Friday, 5 April, the Youth had a Stay Awake at the rectory. The 10-hour event, which was extremely entertaining, started at approximately 10.00pm.

The Youth kept busy and awake by playing various games, including table tennis, cards, dominoes, Pictionary, and what turned out to be the favourite game of the evening, *Fruit Salad*.

Some of the visitors, though initially shy, were soon the life of the party, and it was wonderful to see new friendships being formed. A second game of *Fruit Salad* was played with so much vigour that there were serious concerns that somebody might get injured. It is also possible that this might have been a world record in endurance, as the game was played for over an

hour.

As the night drew on many a sleepy head prayed for first light. With the threat of being smeared with toothpaste lurking, those brave enough to doze off, arranged watchmen to guard over them.

And as we watched the sun rise, exhausted little bodies longed for their soft comfortable beds. The smell of bacon and egg wafting from the kitchen was greeted with much enthusiasm, and the hearty breakfast was wolfed down to replenish much needed energy.

We closed with a chorus and prayer, and as we all went our separate ways, there were many questions about what and when the next event would be. **V**

Letter from a Friend

As you got up this morning, I watched you, and hoped you would talk to me, even if it were just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday. But I noticed you were too busy, trying to find the right outfit to wear. When you ran around the house getting ready, I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy.

At one point you had to wait, fifteen minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip instead. I watched patiently all day long. With all your activities I guess you were too busy to say anything to me.

I noticed that before lunch you looked around, maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that is why you didn't bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you didn't. That's okay. There is still more time left, and I hope that you will talk to me yet.

You went home and it seems as if you had lots of things to do. After a few of them were done, you turned on the TV. I don't know if you like TV or not, just about anything goes there and you spend a lot of time each day in front of it not thinking about anything, just enjoying the show.

I waited patiently again as you watched the TV and ate your meal, but again you didn't talk to me. Bedtime I guess you felt too tired. After you said goodnight to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's okay because you may not realise that I am always there for you. I've got patience, more than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well. I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer or thought or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation.

Well, you are getting up once again. And once again I will wait, with nothing but love for you. Hoping that today you will give me some time.

Have a nice day!
Your friend, GOD

Editorial

As some of you might have noticed, there was no newsletter in April. A month brimming with fascinating activities went by completely unnoticed. This was an extremely distressing time for me because even though I very much wanted to publish an Easter edition, I was unable to due to a lack of newsworthy material.

At first, I felt that I had not only let the parish down, but also myself, since I was unable to keep to my commitment of one newsletter a month. However, I did find some comfort in the fact that I wasn't entirely to blame. As editor, I'm not able to attend every function, meeting or event, and thus rely on other sources to relay anything of note to me. I have on numerous occasions solicited people to write something, which they think, might be of interest to the broader community, but to no avail.

So, I once again appeal to everybody, to please make a contribution, to the newsletter, which will ensure the continuance of *St. Mark's Epistle!*

Thanking you.
The Editor

QUOTABLE QUOTE
I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.
- Confucius

THANK YOU
to
Formeset Printers
22 Kinghall Avenue
Epping Industria

Tel: 507 9000
Fax: 534 5977

for printing the newsletter.

Annual Vestry Meeting

(continued from page 1)

The Youth's attempt to raise their own funds has also been successful. By instituting levies, and running a tuck shop, the Youth has accumulated just over R1000. Not too shabby if you consider that some money was used for projects and donations, and that eight months ago they had a mere R66.40.

The winds of change have blown ever so gently over St. Mark's. The Social & Fundraising Committee have changed their name to **Social Outreach & Fundraising**. But, as the saying goes, *a rose by any other name would still smell as sweet*. It was self-evident that the work done by the Social Outreach & Fundraising was instrumental in giving us a surplus rather than a deficit in the budget for the year ahead.

A total of R44 445.57 was raised last year.

Lionel also acknowledged Fred Esau for his contribution of R5974 made with the monthly cake sales.

Donald Hendricks took the opportunity of echoing Fr. John's words on the need for lay ministers. He expressed what a privilege and a joy it was to serve the Lord in this way.

Under other business, a delighted William Petersen declared that there are 9 candidates learning for Confirmation this year.

Vanda Adams recapped on the success of the Tourism Launch, but underlined that it was an ongoing process.

Jody acknowledged and thanked Elizabeth Petersen for contribution to the Praise & Worship.

With no further business, Fr. John closed the meeting with prayer and a blessing. **V**

SERVING

Sentence or Privilege?

When given the opportunity to serve God, or the community, why do some people see it as pain and others see it as pleasure?

Being a church warden, serving on the PCC, being a lay minister, or serving on the altar, may seem a daunting task, but so was walking when we were 8 months old.

We all fear change - and admittedly, change can sometimes be painful - yet change is inevitable. For, it is through change that we learn and grow. Sometimes the only way one can bring about change is to be part of the process.

When one is nominated for election it should be seen as an honour. The proposer must hold the nominee in high regard to

want to be represented by him/her. Yet, instead of seeing this is a privilege, we see it as a burden, and immediately decline. Granted, sometimes we are unable to serve due to other commitments. After all, we are all busy people.

As Christians we have a responsibility not only to ourselves, but also to God, Jesus Christ, His church, and our fellow man. Remember that Jesus died for us. Perhaps Jesus should have declined the nomination. He surely had other commitments. What have you done for Him lately?

"but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 10:33

Your church needs you as much as you need your church. **V**

WORDSEARCH

K U K S C I H R E S U R R E C T I O N Z
 C Q J A B W D I S C I P L E S S Q E F C
 U W V H P C V Z Y G Y D L X U J X T Z O
 X Z J P Q M Q D J E G J U M J M Y N Z E
 P G L A U T Z R A C Y L E A C C M A O L
 D E O I O T K R L O U D F R E N I I C F
 H T P A Z F E L I P O E U T W R P L A W
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 O M S Z C X S O Y G T D C Q S B S S R T
 U A X O K X V A W E O K I L F A S J Y Q
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 R S A V L C L W M C N I R D E H N A S B
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 K D J N L J L Y S U S E J V U I N O G J

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|---------------|------------------|
| 1. ANGELS | 11. JESUS |
| 2. BARABBAS | 12. JUDAS |
| 3. CAIAPHAS | 13. NAILS |
| 4. CALVARY | 14. NICODEMUS |
| 5. CROWN | 15. PASSOVER |
| 6. CRUCIFY | 16. PILATE |
| 7. DISCIPLES | 17. RESURRECTION |
| 8. EASTER | 18. SANHEDRIN |
| 9. GETHSEMANE | 19. SUPPER |
| 10. GOLGOTHA | 20. TOMB |

JUST FOR LAUGHS

The priest of a certain parish was always asking his parishioners to provide him with feedback on his sermons. One Sunday, as the priest was checking the box for comments, he found a piece of paper with the single word **FOOL** scribbled on it.

The next Sunday during his sermon he commented on the note by saying, "I usually find comments in the box without signatures on them. However, last week someone left a note with only his name on it."

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

DID YOU KNOW

Stephen was the first Christian martyr. Originally, *martyr* meant "witness", but because so many early Christians were killed for their beliefs, the word has come to mean someone who dies for their faith. Stephen was stoned to death, and yet prayed to God to forgive his executioners.

Acts 6 & 7

There are no mistakes, no coincidences. All events are blessings given to us to learn from.

- Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

HAPPENINGS

DINNER DANCE

Friday, **14 June 2002** at Wittebome Civic Centre.

FLORAL TEA

Friday, **9 August 2002** (*National Women's Day*) at the Multi-purpose Hall, Cape Technikon at 3.00pm

YOUTH

The Youth of St. Mark's meets every Friday at 19h30. Join us at 35 Beresford Road, University Estate.

Ever think about the word **JOY**?
 First **J**esus, then **O**thers, then
 Yourself.

Please Support Our BUILDING FUND

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FROM THE BIBLE

Philippians 4: 6-7

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (RSV)

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