



Church Details

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Dates

Christmas Market &
Soiree:

28 September

Sunday School
Nativity Play:

24 November

Friendship
Club Christmas

Lunch:

28 November

Christmas Cantata:

1 December

Carols by
Candlelight:

15 December

From the Vestry

The night was dark. The air crisp. Strange noises were echoing down the darkened street. The electric security fence was down and I felt particularly vulnerable. Picking up the pace I took a short cut across an undeveloped plot. Glancing down to look for the path ... I nearly fainted. Staring back at me were these two big eyes!

Walking around our complex I encounter a regular crowd of characters: frogs (usually flat on the road), Dikkoppe and Hares. As I walk a regular route I have become familiar with the different animals—two birds in particular—one of which always screeches at me in protest and the other which will dive bomb me from above. The frogs are pretty consistent in that they simply remain squashed on the road without so much as a blink. Then there are the Hares—a pair which frequent one of the areas I walk in have completely opposite reactions. Whenever I

approach one dashes off as though its tail had been set on fire while the other freezes completely. It ducks down into the grass, flattens its ears ... and not matter how close I approach, it stays put!

This reminds of the 139th Psalm. These words are mind-blowing:

Where can I go from your Spirit
Where can I flee from your
presence? If I go up to the
heavens, you are there; if I make my
bed in the depths, you are there. If I
rise on the wings of the dawn, if I
settle on the far side of the sea, even
there your hand will guide me, your
right hand will hold me fast. If I say,
"Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around
me," even the darkness will not be
dark to you; the night will shine like
the day, for darkness is as light to
you.

As a congregation we are blessed with so many committed, kind and generous members; there are so many of you who are so involved and give more to this faith community than you receive! Yet there are times when we continue to struggle financially, there are



the odd services that are sparsely attended and yet in all of this ... in the times of blessing and in the times of difficulty God in the person of the Holy Spirit is our second Hare.

No matter how far off the beaten track or how clearly we traverse the main highways, whenever we look down, he is there. He will never flee from us, never abandon us and our hope and our future is secure—not in the whiles and machinations of man—but rather in the consistent, faithful, ongoing presence of God who is always here. This is true for our lives. This is true for St James. Yours in
His love, *Gavin*

Centenary Watch

Very prevalent in the pages of the Old Testament is the celebration of the past. Most of the Jewish Festivals and religious holidays centre on remembering what God has done for his people over the years. From the call of Abram to the Jews release from Egypt there are

moments in the Jewish calendar that celebrate God's guidance and salvation. With the advent of the anniversary of St James' 100 years in existence, we will be doing the same: looking back and celebrating what God has done in and through us over the last century. From March

2014 we will be celebrating with special worship services, social functions, memorabilia and a publication. We encourage you to celebrate God's Grace over the last century and to find in those celebration the impetus and direction for the next 100!

St Francis Care Centre



This care centre is situated in Boksburg and offers care to both adults and children. The Rainbow Cottage cares for 30 children, all of whom are suffering from AIDS. They believe that children belong in a loving family environment, and every effort is made to reunite the little ones with their biological families or to place them with a host or foster family. Their Mission Statement summarises the wonderful work they do: "To

provide training in order to be able to reach out to the wider community in education, care and counselling, and comfortable environment, whilst their physical, spiritual, emotional and social needs are catered for with care and dedication."



2013 Knitting Project

Sincere thanks to all the 'knitting ladies' who, with love and generosity, supported the abandoned children of the Rainbow Cottage at St Francis Care Centre.

On 10 June, I delivered 3 huge cartons of jerseys to the care centre. I just couldn't leave without visiting 29

little people, aged between 6 months and 5 years. Their playroom was filled with happiness and I was delighted when I left to the waves and calls of 'Bye, bye Nanna'.

I know that the Lord led me to care for these helpless children, who may well grow up knowing that St Francis,

and the loving people who cared for them, gave them a better future. I have been blessed with this privilege for 8 years, and it is a joy to share it with our team of 'knitting ladies'.

May you feel the Lord's presence in your lives

– Elizabeth Baker

Nicholas—Avril Elizabeth Home

For many, many years the Tuesday Fellowship Group sponsored Nicholas, who is a resident at Avril Elizabeth Home. This sponsorship is now being supported by the Wednesday and Thursday Ladies' Bible Study.

With the money received, Nicholas is able to receive Christmas and birthday gifts and we are also able to give him a small birthday party. This certainly makes special occasions special and we

pray that we will be able to continue to bring extra joy into the young man's life.

Avril Elizabeth Home is a home for disabled children and adults, situated in Fishers Hill. They are able to offer physio and occupational therapy and whenever possible, their residents are encouraged to find appropriate employment. The staff are proud that they brighten the lives of their residents and

the fact that the home is filled with laughter and happiness.

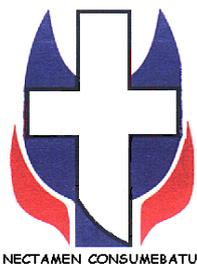


A Splendid Morning

The Fellowship Commission promised to provide us with *'fun, fellowship and food'* on Sunday, 14 July. And they did – with enormous success!

Children of all ages enjoyed fellowship and fun – young children played games in the sunshine, we older children tested our knowledge (or lack thereof!) in a crossword quiz, and had many a chuckle. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch and went home well satisfied.

Sincere thanks to John Wernick and his team – it was indeed a splendid morning; we trust we can look forward to similar functions in the future.



NECTAMEN CONSUMEBATUR

The Life and Work of the UPCSA

Presbytery.

This is a collection of 32-odd congregations that stretch from Midrand in the North, to Randfontein in the West, Edenvale in the East and Lenasia in the South. In this

St James f a l l s within the bounds of what is known as the eGoli

geographical area you will find approximately 33 Ministers – 5 of whom are retired and 4 of whom are seconded to non-church organisations.

The Presbytery is led by the Moderator, the Revd Christopher Judelsohn and the Revd John McKane is the Clerk who is responsible for all the administrative matters. The Presbytery oversees the placement of

ministers, combined projects and encourages fellowship. The Mission Enabler, the Revd Vusi Mkhungo's job is to facilitate mission and outreach amongst the different congregations. We are a part of this broader church family and it is a joy to see our commissioners to Presbytery: Mr Mark Alexander and Mr Malcolm Elston participate actively – and give a voice to St James – within the council.

Pentecost Sunday

This year, Pentecost Sunday was remembered as the 'birth day' of the Christian church - and what a lovely service it was! Our sanctuary was filled with red and white balloons and the service was concluded with the choir leading the congregation in procession out into the gardens, all singing "Make Us A Channel Of Your Peace". And then as a

reminder that each one of us should be taking Christ and His word out to those who have not yet been blessed with the Holy Spirit in their lives, we let go of the balloons and watched them drift into heaven and away...



REACHING IN ...

Do You Know? - A Family Love Letter



A message of love from Tracey van Niekerk to her family.

The "Van's", that's how we sign cards and messages, we are proudly the "Van's", Leon, Tracey and Brett Van Niekerk, a small family of three, which is in no way, a crowd.

I met Leon through a mutual friend at the age of 15, he was 16 at the time, and I have never looked back. For me it was, love at first sight. I couldn't even begin to imagine my life without this man, who is the father of my beautiful son, Brett.

Writing this encouraged me to think back on where we have come from and what we have gone through. It has been a bumpy road but it's been fun and I couldn't have done it with anyone but Leon. He is a very loving man, regularly phones me during the day just to say he's missing me and that he loves me. He loves to be held and hugged and even I can see that he

is very proud of his "little" family. I believe that true love is when you turn to look at your husband and he is already smiling at you. He's kind, patient, loving, generous, loyal, steadfast, awesome, a wonderful husband and my best friend, Leon.

When Brett was born in April 1996, Leon was the nurturing parent, the mother/baby bonding only came a little later for me, unfortunately, but Leon bonded immediately. He was at the hospital at five in the mornings and never left until 11 or 12 at night. He would lie in my hospital bed with Brett nestled snugly on his chest and the two of them would sleep while I read. He would thank me on a daily basis for giving him "this wonderful gift" his son.

In younger days, I was always a little insecure and not terribly confident. I didn't believe that I was very loveable and then one day, while I sat holding little Brett close to me while he slept and watching Leon busying himself making me a cup of tea because he knows I will never say no to tea, I saw it, and I knew then that I had been wrong all along. I was loved, I was truly loved for God to have given me this child to nurture, love, educate and raise and this man to love and to love me in

return, God loved me very much. Brett and I share a "wicked" (for lack of a better word) sense of humour, which is sometimes foreign to Leon and he just shakes his head and smiles. Brett and I are almost in sync when something funny happens and sometimes it's subtle but we can roll around laughing and it is amazing to be able to share this with my son.

I've heard the question asked and there was even a talk show on Highveld dedicated to it the other day "Why do we have children?" Comments were made, they're demanding, expensive, naughty. One woman even said that all her friends with children don't seem to be happy - perhaps she only sees what she wants to see, because I know the answer to the question - it's so we can better understand just how much God loves us and to give us the ability to love others unconditionally and without reservation. No matter what your child does, they may hurt you, they may disappoint you, they may anger you but you never stop loving them, your love for them never dies. In fact you love them more and more each day. This is how God loves us and having children, experiencing this kind of love helps us to understand God's love for us.

Having children gives us the opportunity to learn to love in a

way that we could never love until we have our own children.

"Brett, I believe that God sent you into my life to give me something to fight for to show me there is love in this world, to give me hope and to bring me joy, all the proof in God I need is in you, you are a gift, a gift from God".

As I write this, Brett is attending a leadership camp for school. He has made us very proud and I would like to say a little something to him....

"My darling son, I wish you the strength to face all of life's challenges with confidence, remember that in life it is not how often or how hard we fall, it's how quickly we get up. I wish you wisdom to choose your battles carefully. I wish you adventure on your journey through life and may you never be too busy to stop and help someone along the way, it is always more rewarding to give than to receive. Always listen to your heart and be prepared to take risks. Remember that you are dearly loved, we are so very proud of you". Love,

Tracey



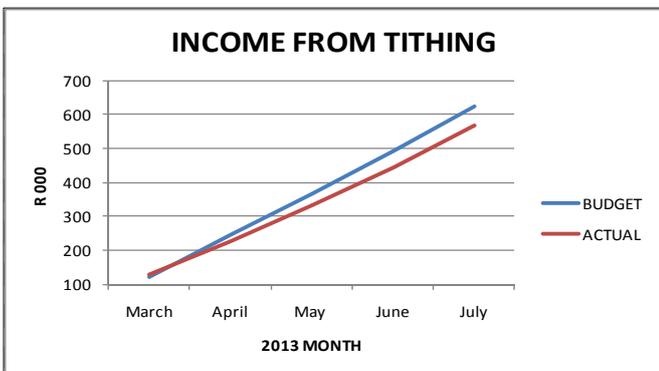
Money Matters

At the time of going to print, five months of the 2013 / 2014 financial year have already elapsed. St James is heavily dependent on a predictable and growing level of income to keep the doors open to do God's

work and effectively plan to expand and meet the pastoral needs of its members. Membership income for the five months to 31 July 2013 compared to budget is reflected in the graph below. Actual income

from tithing was R55 000 behind budget as at 31 July 2013. This is of great concern because our expenditure currently exceeds our income and our return to a cash positive position, which is forecast to take place within three years, will now take longer than anticipated. We have been fortunate to have received some generous donations amounting to R49 000 up to May 2013 which have supplemented the income from tithing. Our expenditure continues to be

tightly controlled within budget. We are extremely grateful to you, the congregation for your tithing and the donations received, particularly in the challenging economic times we are currently going through. It is anticipated that we will incur a deficit in the region of R20 000 per month for the rest of the financial year and so the regular ongoing financial support of all our members in these exciting times is vital to continue the growth of St James.



Confirmands:

Jean Allen
Kirsten Bell
Marissa Bell
Tayla Goddard
Ryan Hoffman
Sofonias Sahle
Adam Somers Vine
Ashley Strydom
Tamlyn Uppink
Brett van Niekerk

Baptisms:

Skyla MacKenzie Costine

Deceased:

Louis Armstrong