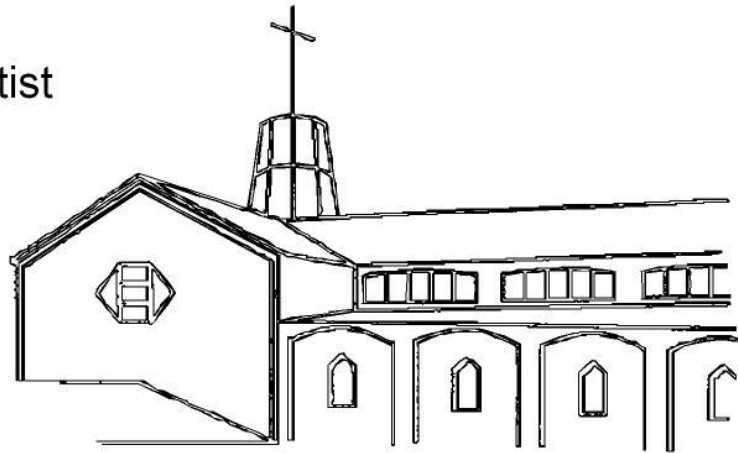


If undelivered please return to:  
Parish of St John the Baptist  
5 Payne Street  
PINETOWN 3610

Church of St John the Baptist  
Vestry 2008



*The*  
LANTERN

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.  
1 John 4:14

## RECTOR'S REPORT TO VESTRY

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other. And above all, clothe yourselves in love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were called in the one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:12-15)*

### Introduction

In reviewing this past year we, as a parish, have much to be thankful for. While there have been struggles and frustration, our faith has kept us faithful to our calling as a church to be good news people and to share the good news with others. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the life of the parish.

We indeed have a rich parish in terms of our diversity. We need to make the most of this, being open to one another's differences and respecting the theological traditions and varying spiritualities that the members who make up our parish value. Opportunities to listen to one another, and engage with these differences need to continue to be provided.

In my own vision for the parish, I am working towards the establishment of a faith tradition and spirituality that is real and relevant to all in our context. It involves taking the Bible seriously and bringing it to life in a way that provides meaning and a lasting hope for us all.

Our faith in Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our church and all ministry. God's Holy Spirit, who helps us to pray, and strengthens and guides us, also leads us into compassionate action in our communities, such as in caring for those who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Let us be open to His Holy Spirit that we may fulfill fully God's purposes at St John's.

I commend to you the reports contained in this edition of *The Lantern* as a sign of what God has done and is continuing to do through us all.

### Clergy team

Doreen Böhmer joined the clergy team following her ordination to the diaconate on 1 December at the Cathedral. We appreciate the gentle and organized way in which she exercises her pastoral gifts. We have a gifted clergy team. I am grateful to Revds Caroline Beech, Anthony Castleden, Sue Brittion and Doreen Böhmer for their committed ministry to the parish as self-supporting clergy. We are privileged to have this strong team.

### Wardens

Our wardens, André Zuidewind and Richard Clüver, and alternate warden, Goodness Hadebe, have provided wisdom and direction to the parish, which I value. We thank them for their hard work. Our thanks too, to Colin Mann who was elected a warden at the Vestry meeting and served until his resignation. Thank you to our parish councilors who have given selflessly of their time in guiding and supporting the work of the parish. Our parish council structure will change to some extent in the new year.

### Staff

Three people have filled the position of parish secretary during the year: Tracey Xaba (Gumbi), until she moved to the Eastern Cape; Nthabeleng Lebeko, until the birth of Unathi; and Rose Bernhard, who has now been employed on a permanent basis. I am most grateful to Tracey and Nthabeleng for their conscientious work in the office. Rose has taken quickly and enthusiastically to the work and we wish her a happy stay with us. Our Verger, Innocent Zungu, was dismissed and replaced by Sam Shezi who has settled in well. Thanks to Innocent for his seven years of service to the church. Luise Joubert and Val Williams have helped out in the office and with tying – thank you to them both.

### Ministries

My thanks to our layministers who undertake a variety of ministries in a conscientious way, building us all up. The Care Group, co-ordinated by Margaret Castleden and Morag Davidson, have, like many others in the parish, worked 'behind the scenes' in making real God's love to all.

We reluctantly relinquished the chaplaincy of Fulton School for the Deaf (entailing a weekly service at the school) to the Hillcrest Parish (at their request). Thanks to Revd Caroline Beech for her faithful and creative ministry to this school over a number of years.

Our organist, Christopher Cockburn has continued to enrich our worship experience through his music and creative liturgies. We value his contribution to our parish in this way.

### Young people

Despite various efforts during the year to find a suitable youth worker to employ at St John's, we were not successful. Our thanks to Morton du Preez for his leading of "teen church" (meeting of youth on Sunday mornings), Alison Warmback for helping the youth get restarted on a Friday evening, and Elkanah Matthew, who worked part-time as a youth coordinator for a few months. The establishment of a committee and the presence of older youth members will help in sustaining this ministry in the absence of a youth worker.

We are grateful to the creative ministry of our Kidzone teachers and their superintendent, Leanne Murray-Rawbone. Ministry to our young people remains a priority.

### Finances

Thank to everyone who has supported the parish financially. Without your financial contributions none of our ministries would be possible. Thank you to those who helped with managing the finances, particularly our treasurer, Mandy, who has given a number of years of dedicated service and Jayne Zuidewind who has

worked hard in her first year as our Dedicated Giving Recorder.

### Grounds

The maintenance work and improvements done in the graveyard by the Heritage Group, (chaired by Rob Niemeyer), and the compilation of a comprehensive record of our grave sites and Garden of Remembrance niches, is much appreciated. Errol Greenslade, together with others, has given much time to this. I am grateful to Max Gibbons, and others who have worked quietly in the gardens of the church, ensuring that we move in the necessary "water-wise" direction.

### Communication

We are a large parish and continue to respond to the challenge to communicate clearly to all. Revd Anthony Castleden has been dedicated in his production of The Lantern. We need to continue to devise ways of communicating to those beyond the parish. The parish website, ably maintained by Barbara McAlpin, is useful in this regard. Let us make

God's work at St John's better known.

### Ecumenical relations

Clergy of the parish have continued as active members of the Pinetown Ministers' Fellowship. Our members have supported the Interdenominational Christian Care and the Seniors' Day Centre and we have participated in Holy Week and Ascension day services. Our regular evening Meditations have attracted members of other churches.

### Archdeaconry, diocese and province

St John's financial contributions to Christ the King ended in 2007. Their congregation have expressed their most sincere thanks for all that St John's has contributed to their development over many years. We thank Archdeacon Nigel Jukes who concluded his ministry as archdeacon of our region, and we welcome the new archdeacon, Revd Johan Vilakazi, the rector of the parish of Umhlathuzana. On swap Sunday we welcomed Revd Victor Makhubu, the rector of Christ the King,

Mariannridge, to our Sunday services. In our diocese Nkosinathi Ndwandwe was consecrated as a bishop in our Episcopal area, and we look forward to working closely with him. Within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa Archbishop Njionkulu retired at the end of the year and has been succeeded by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba.

### Conclusion

At the end of the year we had 396 ("units" – individuals or families) on the parish roll. During 2007 there were 6 baptisms, 14 candidates confirmed and 18 members died.

There are a number of areas in our parish requiring people's help: we need to continue a focus on good stewardship. Let us commit ourselves to God and one another in 2008 that we may experience much growth in our faith journey and as a parish. Thanks be to God!

Revd Dr Andrew Warmback

## REPORT OF THE ANGLICAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

### Yvonne Tweedie (President)

We have +-40 members on our register, of whom about 25-30 attend regularly. The AWF is a ministry within the church. It is a parish based organisation and our first obligation is to our parish. Our motto is "United in prayer, service and love". Our aims are:- Prayer and Worship, Mission and Witness, Fellowship and Study, Service and Stewardship.

We started the year with our annual New Year lunch which was most enjoyable. During the year we had various speakers on different topics. Rev. Warmback lead a bible-study, we visited *Christ the King* for our monthly Eucharist service, followed by tea and fellowship. Our annual coffee morning, where people from different churches are invited to attend, was a great success. Some of our members visited a home for the blind in Sherwood where we chatted and had tea. They really appreciated this. This year we hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer. We contribute to Interdenominational Christian Care by making soup on a regular basis and sending it over to *Steve's Kitchen* where it is distributed. Money collected at our meetings is also contributed to this cause. R100 is given monthly to Ukukhuthaza, the St John's AIDS support group. Members are kept busy knitting and crocheting blanket squares, beanies, scarves, jerseys etc which are donated to *Friends of Umgeni Hospital* in Howick, *Zimbeleni Old Age Home* in Clermont, and *Clouds of Hope Children's Home* in Underberg. We are not a fund raising society but money from our Sales Table at meetings, cake sales, jumble sold, is distributed to various charities at the end of the year. We acquired one new member during the year but would love to get some new members.

### NEXT LANTERN EDITION

The next edition will be issued in March 2008. Please get material to Anthony Castleden for inclusion by 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**DO REMEMBER THAT THE  
LANTERN IS FOR YOU!  
I AM ALWAYS MOST  
APPRECIATIVE OF ARTICLES.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE  
CONTRIBUTED TO THE LANTERN  
FOR THIS EDITION.**

## STORM BEFORE THE CALM

a daily reading from "*Our Daily Bread*" submitted by June Morse

The small church was struggling, and everyone knew why. Two elderly church members had a conflict, and the people had divided their loyal ties between them, which made any kind of progress impossible. They blatantly disregarded Jesus' instructions on forgiving others.

A new pastor came to the church and spent several weeks teaching about forgiveness and trust. For a while, the people stuck to their divided loyalties and continued to slog along in their stagnant pool of distrust.

After much prayer, the pastor felt directed by the Lord to take action. So during a morning service, he called on the two men to stand and then asked them to forgive each other. He knew that if the church were ever to have peace again, a storm of

confrontation had to occur. The men faced off, paused, and then embraced.

Tears ran down their faces as each begged the other for forgiveness. Forty-five minutes later, the crying and hugging and forgiving throughout the congregation finally stopped. The church was revitalized to serve together as a loving community for the glory of God.

Forgiveness is a powerful thing, bringing a comforting calmness. With it, we can enjoy harmony with God's people; without it, the storm continues. - Dave Branon

Forgiveness is Christianity in action. If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matthew 6:14

## APPEAL FOR STAMPS

Rhea Gwynn

This is a reminder to all that I collect used postage stamps for the *Bible Society's* fundraising efforts. They welcome all stamps (EXCEPT the standardised SA ones) - just tear the stamps off the envelopes, leaving about a 2cm paper border - they remove will soak them off, etc. Please place your contributions in the office foyer pigeon hole for my attention.

## PLANNING DAY REPORT - Rector

Our parish planning on 26 January was well attended. We were reminded of people's vision for the church expressed at the previous planning session (11 November), received a report from the clergy day away, and discussed in small groups particular goals: reflecting on our roots, youth, stewardship, and outreach to Nazareth. A report will be compiled on the results of these proceedings for Parish Council's consideration and for further action.

In terms of the way forward, those present agreed to the following:

*In all we do God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit would be central; we should embrace diversity, with openness and willingness to change; and show love towards one another and exercise compassion to all.*

*Prayer would undergird all our actions, with a particular focus on healing and strengthening ourselves during the five weeks preceding a period of "restoration" (1-9 March), which would provide the opportunity for forgiveness, reconciliation and letting go of the past. (The clergy will work out the details of this focus.)*

*Christian growth, in knowledge (study), our relationship with God and in living this out, would be our overall goal for this year and beyond.*

*In order to strengthen our youth and contribute to the future of our church, it was also felt that efforts to employ a youth worker/pastor should continue.*

Thank you to all who attended the planning. Growth in our parish requires the commitment and involvement of all. Let us work together to achieve what we believe God has called us to.

## PARISH FABRIC

### Andre Zuidewind

As with most reports in the past regarding Church Fabric, there is not much to report as not much work has been done, in relation to what needs to be done. There are various reasons for this, with the most important being lack of funds. Most of the maintenance that is required would be very time consuming and would therefore require us to get in contractors, which can be rather costly. At present we do not have a large budget for maintenance.

We have managed to do certain jobs, however, and a special word of thanks goes to Anthony Castleden for arranging for the kitchen floor to be repainted, at no cost to the parish.

The lantern lights were replaced with energy saving lamps. Unfortunately when they were being replaced, we realized that two of the fittings were broken due to old age. These will have to be replaced at a later stage. An energy saving floodlight was also installed to improve the lighting for the choir. Special thanks to Morton du Preez, Craig Murray-Rawbone, Sean Cremer, Peter Zuidewind, Edward and Hugh Pines for their help. It is a long way up there!

Following the rains, a leak developed in the roof, which I was able to fix by replacing those and other broken/cracked roof tiles.

I am planning to replace the broken gutter and fascias above the entrance to the church shortly.

The most urgent jobs that need to be done are upgrading the ladies' and men's toilets, and upgrading the verger's room. These unfortunately are going to be costly projects. The Social Events committee have already advised me that they would like to sponsor the upgrading on the toilets, if not fully then at least partly, starting with the ladies' toilets. If any other group or individual would like to sponsor a project or contribute towards a project, please advise me. We really need your help.

## EVANGELISM

### Austin Savage

The parish council decided, together with some house group leaders to do the following courses:

*Jesus Today* by Albert Nolan, a book grounded on the spiritual life of Jesus.

The life of Jesus was radical; he challenged the authorities of the church and displayed his own spirituality of truth and love.

More than ever today people hunger for spiritually things and thirst for knowledge and Jesus is still relevant today as he was over 2000 ago.

Later in the year, during the season of social justice, the house groups were encouraged to do a short study called *The Oikos Journey*, published by Diakonia Council of Churches.

We examined the concern for the economy and also the ecology.

God's rules for the economy are different to the current world view. God asked us to care for the hungry, destitute and poor.

The world economy is destroying its environment in the pursuit of wealth.

We need to preserve our environment and at the same time create employment and share resources in an equitable manner.

We need to continue to pray and ask God for guidance in our life. He is the Good Shepherd and He does care for his sheep.

*"Call to Me all ye that are heavily laden and I will give you rest. Take your yoke upon me for my yoke is easy and my burden light".*

I wish thank Andrew and the Parish Council for their support during 2007.

### LENT COURSE ON GOD'S CREATION

This five week course starts in the week of 10 February and runs for 5 weeks. If you would like to join a small group for the period of Lent please speak to Revd Sue Britton.

## HERITAGE GROUP

During the past year, there have been very positive activities in the graveyard. Many parishioners will have noticed that there is now a regular garden service cutting the grass every fortnight. The palm trees along the pathways have been removed. This had been a concern for some time, as the pips from the trees could be dangerous under foot. There was a danger of someone slipping on the pips and having a serious accident. With the palm trees gone, this potential problem area has thankfully been removed.

The project to mount row markers in the graveyard has been completed. These markers have been painted white with the row indicator shown on each pole. The records of the graveyard and Garden of Remembrance have been updated. An electronic and printed copy of the records, together with plans of the graveyard and Garden of Remembrance has been supplied to the parish office. The records together with the row markers will hopefully assist visitors to find the graves of their loved ones without too much trouble.

Earlier in the year, a maintenance team from the Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) cleaned and painted the headstones and crosses in the Anglo-Boer war grave site. As a favour, they also did maintenance on the Anglo-Zulu war grave site. Subsequently, St Johns has entered into a contract with the CWGC to maintain the Anglo-Boer war site. The CWGC provides a monthly payment to St Johns for this maintenance.

Thanks to donations from the Sons of England Trust and St Finbars Lodge, a retaining wall has been erected around the Anglo-Zulu war site and the surface levelled off. Another donation has provided for a picket fence to be erected in front of the garden refuse dump to hide the eyesore.

Thanks go to the members of the Heritage Group for all their hard work throughout the year. Without their hard work, interest, enthusiasm, perseverance and dedication, the projects mentioned above would probably not have seen the light of day.

Sincere thanks go to Robin Niemeyer, who in many ways, is the 'father' of the Heritage Group, and who has shepherded the group's enthusiasts in their hard work at St John's as well as encouraged and lead them to discover other exciting regional heritage in KZN. Robin has decided to lay down the mantle of this leadership: once a new chairperson is elected, the Heritage Group will be planning its activities for 2008 and beyond.

## ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

### Janet Williams

During 2007, our Group was saddened by the unexpected loss of our environmental leader and expert, Delise Coad. Rev Andrew, himself also an expert, has been a source of innovative ideas, and in particular has negotiated with Christopher Cockburn's wife, Karen, to provide advice on the indigenous development of the church gardens.

We co-ordinated meetings of the Pine-town Archdeaconry Group on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, and 29<sup>th</sup> September, with our next meeting due on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Our own meetings were held on the 7<sup>th</sup> February, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 29<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> November.

#### We have undertaken the following:

- Regular Eco Tips in the Pew Leaflet
- Environment Sunday on 6<sup>th</sup> May, with picnic afterwards
- *Collect-A-Can* drums on the property
- Recycling bins in the kitchen
- Vegetable garden in the sand pit
- Indigenous plant sale at the church
- Planting of an indigenous tree by the Bishop on Confirmation Sunday
- Outreach to other parishes

#### Our plans for 2008 include:

- Show and discuss Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth"
- Plan an Environment Sunday in May
- Collaborate with the Archdeaconry Group in organizing an Environment Weekend in April, to be facilitated by Alistair Clacherty, an Environmental Consultant involved in school syllabus development
- Practical involvement of other parishes
- Encouragement of active participation by St John's members

## KidZown

### Leigh-Anne Murray-Rawbone

The year 2007 was a challenging one with regards to teacher numbers; however "when the going gets tough" – trust in God. With a little bit of restructuring and answered prayers, we were on our way. We had two young people join us, Faren and H'lobisile, to teach the pre-school group, and Craig who assisted with the older group.

The year flew by and ended with two parties which we all enjoyed.

The Christmas Eve nativity presentation was well performed by those who weren't away on holiday. Kate, Debbie and James helped with their God-given musical talents.

Unfortunately the Friday Junior Youth evenings came to an end. Those children who attended have been encouraged to join youth groups which are run by other churches in the Pinetown area.

## SENIOR YOUTH

### Elkanah Matthews

Last year, our Senior Youth started again and has been growing steadily and strong. Last year we visited St Agnes and went to the *Pavilion* and watched a couple of DVDs concerning life and all its dangers. This year we hope to grow move in the Spirit and in numbers and to have the most fun that we can! I attended a Youth Conference in December and gained a couple of skills to help our youth.

I wish everyone a good year and blessings to all those who are in school. Don't forget to attend Youth on Fridays' from 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

*Judging by a recent Friday evening youth gathering at StJB in January, the Senior Youth are really alive and strong. ED*

## MEN'S MINISTRY

### Morton du Preez

During the second half of last year, twelve men from the parish went away for a fulfilling weekend of fellowship, worship and teaching. An observation was made that the men's breakfast had served its purpose and that something new was needed to take its place. During one of the fellowship sessions the desire for men to meet for regular fellowship, worship and teaching was raised. Out of this was borne the present Men's Ministry.

We meet regularly on a Thursday evening at the church for strictly 1½ hours – from 19h00 to 20h30. If all those men who had attended at least one evening were to gather together we would number about 15.

Our studies for the first seven sessions come from a book entitled *C.I.A. - Church in Atrophy* by a Presbyterian pastor from the Tzaneen area, by the name of Gary Ninneman. It certainly has been interesting, topical and challenging.

The next series of teachings will use material from a book entitled "*An introduction to The Old Testa-*

*ment Template - Rediscovering God's principles for discipling all nations*". The author, Landa Cope, is founding International Dean of YWAM's (Youth With a Mission) University of the Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. As Michael Cassidy says in the Foreword, "... the earth is God's special arena for practising and working out His love, justice and righteousness.... in individual nations." He goes on to say this book "... is a passionate appeal to the Lord's people to join in the study and search for God's nation building values." We hope to not only learn about scripture but also look for real life application in our everyday lives.

While the teaching and learning is important, worship and fellowship also feature strongly in Mens' Fellowship on Thursdays. We thank Greig Brimer and Pieter Jordaan for sustaining our time of worship that starts each evening.

All men in the parish are most welcome. For more information, talk to Rev Anthony Castleden, Eddi Wolff or Morton du Preez.

**LIBRARY NEWS - Beryl Rawson**

Herewith a list of the new additions to the church library:-

- The Words of Martin Luther King ... Coretta Scott King.....Christian Faith
- The Silent Path..... Meditation
- Last Day Events .....Ellen G. White ..... Bible Study
- Jesus Today .....Albert Nolan..... Reference
- First Step Bible ..... Children

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
 There will be the 'imposition of ashes' at 3 services:  
**07hr00**  
**09hr00**  
**19hr00**

**HOUSEGROUPS - Sue Brittion**

Housegroups have been meeting regularly throughout the year, with many going into recess during school holidays. Leaders have met once a month for fellowship, sharing, learning and prayer together. These meetings have been very well attended.

Most groups studied Albert Nolan's book '*Jesus today*' during Lent and in the weeks following Lent. Themes from the book were also picked up in many of the Sunday sermons. Group members were encouraged to feed questions or problems from the group study to the clergy, so that these could be addressed in the Sunday sermons.

During August, the two-yearly *Social Justice Season* was marked by many churches in the Durban region, of many denominations. St John's joined the ecumenical fellowship and several groups

studied '*The Oikos Journey*', a study of economic and environmental justice. Some members went on the exposure visits arranged during the season: those who went found it an eye-opening experience.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September a retreat/training day for leaders was held at Mariannahill Monastery Retreat House. Some leaders were unable to come for the day, or for part of it. Those that did attend expressed appreciation for the spiritual input and time of quiet, as well as for the training in a different way of doing bible study.

The last group leaders' meeting of the year took the form of an informal evaluation of the leaders' meetings. Appreciation was expressed for the meetings, from which several leaders found they gained strength to do the work

God had called them to. Sharing in prayer and being able to discuss particular material was also appreciated, and the leadership of the group was affirmed.

Plans are under way to run the diocesan course on *Creation* arranged by the diocesan environment committee at Bishop Rubin's request during Lent. It is planned to use this opportunity to offer the groups to new people in the parish, as well as to people who do not at present belong to such a group.

Those who do belong to a housegroup mainly find that they become an important time on the regular calendar, not only for the stimulation of thinking and studying together, but also for the fellowship and support offered.

**BRASS CLEANERS**  
**Rhea Gwynn**

We still desperately need more members on our team - at present there are only 6 of us, so we only clean the brass once a fortnight! At this time we do a duty once a month - the more folk there are, the less often ones turn comes around! I KNOW it is not a "nice" job, but it has to be done! Most of us go in on a Friday morning to do the job, but if that does not suit you, an arrangement can be made for a Saturday morning! Please speak to me or one of the clergy!

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
**Liz Castleden**

We meet on a Sunday evening at 6 p.m. in the chapel, for half an hour. Thank you, Lord, for sending people who are of one mind and in unity in your Holy Spirit. Thank you too Lord, for the privilege of being able to "stand in the gap" for St John's. Thank you Lord, for answering prayers. Thank you, Lord, for blessing us during that time spent with You! All are welcome – COME, now is THE time for prayer and worship!

Jim Cymbala in his book "*Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*" writes: "God birthed the church in a prayer meeting, yet church prayer meetings today are almost extinct. What does this say about our churches today?"

## PASTORAL CARE

**Doreen Böhmer**

The following are five of the many areas of Pastoral Care at St John's. Come and share God's love with our St John's family through caring:

### **Care Group - Margaret Castleden at 031 262 3038 and Morag Davidson 031 701 6608**

A team who show God's love and care, reaching out to God's flock at St John's who are mature in age.

This team has given lots of lifts, meals and flowers and done visiting. They hold monthly lunches for the +-80 year olds. If you have slipped their net, please get in touch. The "Celebration of Joy" party was a great blessing in December. Many of our elderly were brought to church for a pre-Christmas Holy Communion service, followed by fellowship, tea and carol singing. There is always a need for more carers, so if you feel moved to assist in any way, please contact Margaret or Morag.

### **Home Visiting - Leigh Ketley at 031 701 1647**

A team who visit our parishioners, especially the elderly, sick or those in need of a "hello" visit.

Leigh has established a card system to keep a record of visitors and those visited. Parishioners are very grateful to be visited. Please consider visiting parishioners in your neighbourhood.

### **Newcomers - Rose Hadebe at 031 700 9647**

This is a team who extends a hand of friendship to visitors and newcomers.

A newcomers' table is set up for this purpose at our Sunday morning services. The Visitor's Book is signed and a newcomers' pack, with an application form, is available.

Would you like to reach out to any strangers in our midst? Please contact Rose above.

### **Telephone Ministry - Rosemarie Hendry at 031 702 7858**

This team phones members of the parish on their birthdays and anniversaries.

Parishioners are extremely appreciative of receiving a phone call on their special day. This is a wonderful ministry to do from home.

### **Hospital Visiting at Crompton - Doreen Böhmer at 031 701 1831**

We are hoping to get together a team and to draw up a roster for hospital visiting on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The staff and patients are very happy to see us, as we spend time with parishioners or others who have a need for a listening ear or prayer.

## HEALING FELLOWSHIP

**Doreen Böhmer**

Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk" (Acts 3:6)

This passage of scripture challenges our faith in Jesus as living Lord and active Healer; to be His channels of His divine healing.

We claim in faith the healing needed. Jesus promised to be present (and healing) whenever we gather in His name. (These thoughts come from Sr. Mary

Usha's book, "A time for Healing").

Here at St John's, our *Healing Fellowship* team believe in the healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ. We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 8.30 a.m. until 10 a.m. in the chapel. All are welcome, especially those in need of prayer.

We are also available in the chapel on Sundays after Holy Communion or after the service,

to pray with you for any need, sickness or other situations in your life. If a Prayer Partner is not available, please speak to a lay minister or member of the clergy.

Healing services will be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> March at both the 7 and 9 a.m. services.

More people are needed on our team. "The harvest is large but there are few workers to gather it in". (Matt 9:37)

## SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

**Dawn Asher**

The year started off with a Valentine Dance which was held in the hall on 16<sup>th</sup> February. The committee worked very hard and the hall looked beautiful with new curtains and red and white decor, and excellent food was provided by the "White Rabbit Caterers". A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

Shrove Tuesday was, as usual, an evening of good food and fellowship, and the start of our Lent fasting and deepening of our journey towards Easter.

This was followed by "From Passover to Eucharist", which was once again a spiritually deepening experience, with many new faces participating in the re-enactment of "the Last Supper". Everyone worked hard to make it a wonderful evening, and all left feeling renewed.

A "Mad Hatters Tea Party" was held and a DVD of Andre Rieu's orchestra was shown. This was a most enjoyable afternoon, and special thanks are extended to Morton for providing the equipment to make it possible. Many requests have been received to repeat the event.

The "British Pub Evening" was a resounding success - wonderful entertainment by the "Deez 'n Beez" and the dancers from the *Highway Celtic Dance*

*Academy* were outstanding with their Irish dancing. Once again, our friends from "White Rabbit" provided the food, and an evening of fellowship was enjoyed.

The year ended with a recital by the *Durban Men's Choir* in the church on a Sunday afternoon. The sandwiches and tea were provided by the committee and a few other parishioners, and it really ended the year "with a swing"!

I thank all the ladies of the committee for their hard work during the year. It is much appreciated by me and those who support the functions.

We would like to appeal to all of you who do not attend these events to come along and join in - come and experience the warmth, fellowship and fun that these functions provide - and make new friends (or perhaps putting faces to names!) by being a part of it. If you have any suggestions we would welcome them, and include them whenever it is possible to do so.

Any profits raised at these events go towards upgrading the facilities of the hall - our present challenge is to renovate both the ladies' and gents' toilets - so we appeal to you for your support for our proposed events for 2008.

### SOCIAL EVENTS FOR 2008

- 5<sup>th</sup> February.....Shrove Tuesday - an evening of pancakes and fellowship
- 18<sup>th</sup> March ..... "From Passover to Eucharist"
- March/April.....A bowls fun day for ALL the family - watch the pew bulletins for details
- 19<sup>th</sup> April .....Afternoon tea party with another Andre Rieu DVD - this follows YOUR requests!
- 16<sup>th</sup> August..... "Birthdays with a difference" - a formal dinner centred on our birthdays.
- 15<sup>th</sup> November .....Mediterranean Cruise" - following the success of "Come Fly with St. Johns Airways" we offer you a dinner cruise around the Med!

Please diarise all these dates and join us for fun-filled fellowship. Watch the pew bulletins and further editions of the Lantern for details. All funds generated at these events will go towards the much needed regeneration of our toilets, so please give us your support!

#### **BOWLS FUN MORNING**

Do keep Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April free for a fun filled morning of bowls at Lahee Park from 09h00. More details to follow.

#### **THANKS FROM DELYSIA WOLFF**

I would like to thank all who helped me with regenerating greeting cards while my arm was injured. They are Val Williams, Ann Kidwell, Rosemary Hendry, Rose Bernhard and Irene Scogings. Thank you for all your hard work.

## WORSHIP

### Caroline Beech

*Worship is all that we are and all that we do. Either everything we do is an offering to God, or nothing. We may not pick and choose. Our whole life is a search for wholeness.....to be fully present to God, who is fully present to us, whether in our neighbour, or in the political and social and economic activity of the world around us.....whether in prayer and praise together, or in the very centre and soul of our being. Worship is everything we do, inside and outside the church.*

Iona Community Worship Book.

While this is our mandate for our everyday life, the Worship Portfolio is a reassuringly prosaic one which looks after the nuts and bolts of all that goes on behind the scenes of our services. The picture of gleaming brass and silver, lighted candles, meticulously laundered linen, beautiful flowers, and the message of eloquent liturgy, music and singing, all involve faithful teams of many people all offering their skills in different areas.

We are so blessed with this team of known and unknown, who lovingly care and prepare in this beautiful church for the worship celebrated and offered here.

We are also blessed in the variety of music used here at St John's: the choir leading us at the 7h00 service through the more traditional hymns and mass settings; and the more contemporary music group at 9h00, which has grown steadily in their numbers and in their repertoire

And while celebrating Christmas and Easter through the familiar and moving rituals of the prayer book, our faith walk has also been deepened by seasonal meditations compiled by our gifted organist, Christopher Cockburn, who interspersed scriptural and secular readings with music - in some cases self-composed - and which challenged our thinking and stretched our experiences of God.

Lent was underlined with *The Litany of Thorns*; followed by Pentecost Meditation; Patronal Festival Evening Meditation in June;

*A Home for All* in August; *The Communion of Saints* in November; and an Advent Meditation in December. The music chosen ranged through the spectrum of Gregorian chant, Taize, Graham Kendrick, Irish traditional melodies and Ancient & Modern to mention just a few, not to mention magnificent organ voluntaries like the unforgettable Jean Langlais' Three Meditations on the Holy Trinity.

And so we salute you all, Brass polishers, Choir-singers, Church tidiers (who put the books away), Dust-busters (who clean and dust every Tuesday morning), Flower-arrangers, Lesson readers, Sacristans and Sidespeople and Worship Group players and singers; for your hard work and for the wonderful camaraderie in the Spirit that anoints all that you do with the sweet smell of holiness.

Do you, dear reader, feel called to any of these areas of service?

Don't be shy, there are people waiting to welcome you into their particular circle.

## LAY VISITING

### Leigh Ketley

A New Year! Maybe with this, the third appeal for visitors, there will be a response from more than two or three people. The Lay Ministers have each pledged to do 12 visits per year (an average of only one per month). Won't YOU make the same commitment? If only half the members of the parish offered to do this we would cover the parish in no time at all, and you can't believe how rewarding visiting can be.

Friendliness is the only requirement. Young people - this is a work you can do for the Lord, too. Doreen Böhmer and Leigh Ketley are always ready to provide the names of folk for you to visit; see them after church or telephone them: 031 701 1831 (Doreen), 031 701 1647 (Leigh). As they say on radio and TV - "We're waiting for you call!"

## MASISUKUME SAKHE / ARISE and BUILD

### Edward Pines

Following on the launch at the clergy synod in 2005, the Diocesan Synod held in October 2006 adopted this statement on 'A CALL TO ACTION':

A commitment to the following actions in response to the call to **Arise and Build!**

- To seek creative and novel ways to grow our parishes and transform our communities through holistic mission which responds to the needs of the whole person – body, soul and spirit.
- To recover our prophetic witness in society by engaging in thorough social analysis and theological reflection on both the causes and the symptoms of social ills and economic injustice in our society.
- To continue to offer pastoral care and support to those in our parishes and wider communities who are suffering or in need and actively working for wholeness in response to the current issues at stake in our community.
- To develop strategic partnerships with other churches and agencies to respond to the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of our communities and to engage in projects which create sustainable livelihoods for people in both the rural and urban areas of the diocese.
- To seek new ways of expressing our solidarity with the poor and marginalised and to offer spiritual and material support to them in their on-going struggle for freedom and justice.
- To engage in strategic evangelism which is culturally relevant and sensitive to address the spiritual needs and questions of people in our communities drawing them through repentance and faith into a personal relationship with Christ and into active membership in the church.

- To seek to provide a nurturing environment for children and young people to feel welcomed and included as full participants in the life of the church, and where they are helped and encouraged to grow in faith, discipleship and active ministry.

We call on all those who are members of the Diocese of Natal and the wider Church in our Province to likewise commit themselves to these actions as together we seek to participate in God's mission of building a relational, moral and just society based on healed restored relationships between God, people, individuals and the whole of creation.

This vision and call to action provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what we are doing and to try new ways of doing things which can help us more effectively carry out our mission as a church.

The parish *Arise & Build* Group is committed to meet regularly and attempt to seek a response to this 'call to action'. During the past year we have wrestled with some real issues and concerns that have been shared in open and honest discussion. I have very much appreciated the dedication of this small group of committed parishioners.

It is our hope that this group will help formulate some fresh stimulating ideas to help move us forward into a time of growth as we minister to the people of Pinetown.

I offer this quote from an article by Trevor Pearce for your consideration and reflection:

*Psalm 133 (verses 1 – 3)*

*How good and pleasant it is when brothers live in unity!*

*It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.*

*It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

It is clear from this Psalm that God releases his finest blessings when his people act together in unity. Let us tease out this Psalm and consider what the scriptures say about the power that is released when Christians act together in unity.

Exodus 30: 22-33 describes the oil of anointing which is referred to in psalm 133. From these verses we glean that this special oil which was reserved exclusively for the anointing of kings and priests was made from very expensive spices, was considered sacred, symbolised the anointing of the Spirit, the endowment of holiness, power and authority, and rendered the anointed one consecrated unto God. What Psalm 133 is saying is that the same anointing and blessing that came upon kings and priests comes upon us when we work together in unity.

The Anglican Church is known as "a broad church" with a huge amount of variety. However if this is to be a growing church rather than a declining church, then it behoves us who love the Lord, who appreciate the working and power released in us by His Spirit, to work together in unity.

May God bless us all richly as we seek to serve together in unity and trust Him to grow his church here in this corner of His Kingdom.

## UKUKHUTHAZA - Luise Joubert

### CHRISTMAS BONANZA

When Tammy Davidson was married at St John's in October 2007 she asked her friends in England to let her have cash in lieu of wedding presents. She asked that this amount should be used to purchase additional food parcels for AIDS families! What a bonanza! This meant that we were able to distribute 112 parcels during December and each Community Health Worker was allocated a few additional parcels. We trust that a few more families could enjoy Christmas having received an additional parcel.

A generous parishioner and her brother who lives in Zambia gave us R5 000 to use at our discretion. We decided to use this to add a little luxury that would make the Christmas parcel a bit more cheerful and thus a tin of jam was put into each parcel together with a card wishing the recipients a happy Christmas.

### ORPHANS' PARTY

On the morning of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December last year, Busisiwe Mdlalose, who oversees the KwaDabeka clinic, arranged an Orphans' Awareness Day on the grounds next to the clinic. The few thousand people present enjoyed the music and singing and educational items and the orphans appreciated the gifts they received. In the afternoon, Winnie Ngcongco arranged a further function in the community hall in 38th Avenue to hand over gifts to the orphans she and her fellow workers had been working with. We wish to record our thanks to the AWF for their contributions and to Greg and Wendy Brimer for the provision of the stockings, and KidZown for their decorating them.

### **DEDICATED GIVING**

#### **Jayne Zuidewind**

After David Kidwell's passing, the Lord prompted me to offer my services as the dedicated giving recorder. I knew that I would have "big shoes to fill" as David had been doing the dedicated giving recording so well for a number of years, but I knew that, with God's help, I could do it.

It has been a year filled with joy at being able to serve the Lord in this way. It has also been a year in which I have got to know more parishioners, which in itself is a blessing.

During the year we had a number of new givers, which was wonderful, but there were others who, for various reasons, sadly were unable to keep up their giving.

The budgeted annual income for dedicated giving for 2008 is slightly below the budgeted annual income for last year. Again there have been a number of new givers, but also a number who have or will be moving away from Pinetown and therefore will not be part of the scheme.

I encourage anyone who is not part of the dedicated giving scheme, and would like to be part of it, to contact me, my home phone number is 031-701 1856 and cell number, 083-661 2243. It is a wonderful way in which we can enable God's work to be continued in our parish.

### **TEEN CHURCH - Morton du Preez**

*Teen Church* certainly benefited from the ministry of Andrew Morris. He laid a strong foundation in the lives of the more senior members of the group before he moved on to St Agnes, Kloof. During the year we had a total of 25 members with an average attendance of between 12 and 18. Teen Church wasn't just about being ministered to, but also offered some opportunities for ministry to others.

During the year, among other things, we looked at relationships and what we would like in a life partner or in a long term friendship. The group discovered that this cuts two ways: what do I want from the other and what does he/she want from me?

In ministering to others, the young folk prayed for one another at times and participated in leading worship at 7.00 am and 9.00 am on some occasions. They also participated in one of the healing services towards the end of the year where they prayed for folk coming up for prayer.

Thanks are due to Ashton Naidoo and Tsolo Lebeko for assisting with teaching from time to time. It was a reminder to me that this group is not the church of the future but the church of the 'here and now'. My own ministry here is very much as a "stop gap". Our young folk are really deserving of a more permanent Youth Pastor. Please pray for God's wisdom and provision in this need!

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2008 - Port Elizabeth

Four of us attended Summer School which was also a celebration of 80 years of the RSCM, very ably hosted by the Eastern Cape Branch. It was a lot of hard work but, at the end, a joy when it all came together, to be able to sing with a larger choir. The music was varied but a conductor with patience and calm, and in control, it was a pleasure and a great

experience. It was my first "school" but it won't be my last and I can only say, one needs to go to Summer School as words do not do justice to joy, fun, fellowship and worship on a very different level. It was also very pleasant to see a number of children and teenagers interested in music.

## MAGNIFICAT'S PUZZLE

MAGNIFICAT'S LAST PUZZLE was finished correctly by the Rev John and Rosemary Freeman! Well done! The answer was "Everything that is done must be useful to all and build them up in the Lord, for God is not a God of disorder but of peace" from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

### TEA AFTER 9am SUNDAY EUCHARIST SERVICES

**Yvonne Tweedie**

I am sure, as you wander over to the hall after services, you are eagerly looking forward to a hot, refreshing, cup of tea or coffee – or a cold glass of Oros?? Sometimes you are disappointed as everything is closed and you have to go home and make your own, or buy a cup at Knowles. Most Sundays the hatches are open and smiling faces greet you and you enjoy your "cuppa" and some fellowship.

Unfortunately only about 12 people out of +-100 are willing to do this service every month. If others offered to help, these people would do it maybe once every 3 months which would make things easier. HOW ABOUT OFFERING? A roster could be made out. It is an easy job and most rewarding, having a chat, hearing all the news etc.

Think about it! What will happen if the faithful few no longer are around? It will be shut hatches and home for tea, missing an important part of our service – fellowship.

Come on – the pouring brigade needs you! Everything except milk is provided. We need the extra hands. Names can be left with Rose in the office or HOW ABOUT HOUSE GROUPS TAKING A TURN on an ongoing basis?? We look forward to an overwhelming response, or doom and gloom – no more happy half hour after the services.

Yours in the Lord's service  
*The Faithful Pourers*

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Dot Saunders**

The year 2007 has been no different to previous years, only more so! The needs seem to be never-ending but thank goodness, God provides love and guidance and, in the end, the miracle just happens and needs are met.

Diakonia Council of Churches has played a major part in facilitating ideas which have born fruit, as many congregations have implemented these ideas, and others have asked for help to start up, gardens, self-help, etc which is very encouraging.

Christian Care is a very active forum of Highway Churches, assisting those out of work with a meal from *Steve's Kitchen*. Our congregation supports this with soup. The AWF assist with a small cash donation each month. The work undertaken by this group is to help the upliftment of people in the Pinetown District.

The food basket before the service is well stocked, and thanks to all who support it so faithfully, as it is much appreciated by the recipients who are always grateful for what ever they receive.

Last, but not least, is the AIDS ministry. This band of people is a beacon of hope to the 90 families we assist. We need more help if we are to really help, as the numbers needing assistance is nearing the 200 mark. I cannot do justice to the needs of this group and would suggest that Wendy Jones report on this subject, as we are richly blessed in having her team. More hands would also make a difference.

Lastly I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their help and guidance during the year, which has been both a challenging and fulfilling one for me.

## van der Merwe's Steak

Every Friday evening after work van der Merwe would braai a big, fat juicy steak. But his neighbours, being Catholic and therefore reluctant to eat meat on Fridays, suffered agonies of temptation as the delicious aroma carried on the evening breeze. They persuaded their priest to try to convert Van. Success!

Van attended Mass and the priest sprinkled holy water over him and said, "You were born a Protestant, raised a Protestant, but now you are a Catholic." Everybody was delighted.

But when Friday night came, the wonderful aroma of grilled steak again wafted over the neighbourhood.

The priest rushed into Van's garden, just in time to see him clutching a small bottle of holy water! Sprinkling it over the grilling meat and chanting,

"You are born a cow, you are raised as a cow, but now you are a snoek!"

## WARDEN'S REPORT

prepared by Richard Clüver

The 2007/2008 parish year – the first full year under the guidance of Rev Andrew Warmback as our rector - was an eventful one marked particularly by the ordination of Doreen Böhmer and a collective movement within the congregation towards a planned future.

It was also particularly pleasing that during a time when the South African public was feeling the heat of eight successive Reserve Bank interest rate increases, parishioners were unwavering in their commitment to the dedicated giving programme. As a result we were able to end the year with dedicated giving totalling R701 704, just R9 000 short of the total they had pledged for the year.

There are currently 187 members of the parish who have pledged to give regularly to the church, including eight new dedicated givers who have replaced the four who died and four who relocated. Sadly, however, our Recorder Jayne Zuidewind notes that the total pledged for this year is R683 666 which is less than was pledged a year ago.

We need to here record our grateful thanks to Jayne for the tremendous effort she put into contacting every parishioner who had failed to complete a pledge form this past year. In her report Jayne noted that *"of the 187 givers, I only received 127 forms"*. Parish Council has promised that this year a concerted effort would be made both to inform parishioners of how the money they give is used by the parish and, more particularly, to em-

phasise the need for everyone to timeously complete dedicated giving forms.

During the year, Colin Mann resigned as Warden responsible for parish finance and Richard Clüver was elected in his stead for a second term of office. Richard previously served as Warden in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Arguably the most positive development of the year began with a parish planning meeting in November which recognised that a number of divisions had begun to develop over the forms of worship, style of music and matters of biblical interpretation. As an opening step it was agreed that the clergy should go on a day's retreat during which they would develop a common vision.

The second stage of this process was a further Parish Planning Day on January 26 at which there was overwhelming agreement that the focus for the new year should be "Growth".

To this end Parishioners agreed we would begin with a week-long period of reconciliation during Lent aimed at achieving closure on any past hurts and enmity that might exist within the parish family. During this period we would hope to be led to recognise that, rather than being a divisive force, our diversity is our greatest strength which can be harnessed to the attainment of great things for God.

This phase of reconciliation should in turn prepare the ground for a concerted accent on growth in seven specific areas:

- 1) We need to grow our own knowledge and understanding of our faith through an intense campaign of lectures, study and prayer.
- 2) We believe that from this will grow a new celebration of our diversity which will transform us into a united force with a new understanding of the many needs of the community around us, offering a beacon of hope in these deeply troubling times so as to draw in large numbers of our community.
- 3) Thought was given to our tradition of planting new churches within our region, particularly in the area of Nazareth, but it was agreed that while there was space in our own pews on a Sunday we should first aim to grow our own ranks by initiatives like guaranteeing the costs of buses feeding in from areas like Nazareth and by making St Johns a focus of the religious and social life of the wider Pinetown community.
- 4) There was strong support for a concerted programme of prayer to constantly underpin these efforts and ensure that each step in this new journey was what God was willing us to do in His name.
- 5) There was agreement that we should re-examine the times and styles of service and the forms of music that are used in order to ensure that the forms most favoured by the majority of congregants were offered at the times most convenient to them.
- 6) It was agreed that the growing numbers of people of colour within our congregation were underrepresented in our committee structures and that we accordingly lacked understanding of their wishes.
- 7) It was agreed that an expanded series of social and fund-raising events was required to reinforce the understanding between groups currently divided by the times of service they attend.

The planning meeting ended with a unanimous affirmation of our clergy and a recognition that we are deeply privileged to have such a dedicated and hard working team to lead us.

Andre Zuidewind, Richard Clüver, Goodness Hadebe

### PROMPTED BY LOVE

#### Extract from *The Four Faces of Jesus* by Leslie B Flynn

Though all Gospels highlight the love of Jesus, Mark does so most clearly.

In the healing of the leper, Mark says Jesus was moved with compassion (Mk 1:41). In the story of the rich young ruler who came to Jesus, then went away, Mark adds, "Jesus beholding him, loved him" (Mk 10:21).

Our service, too, must be motivated by love; else it will be like banging gongs. Our Sunday school teaching, church attendance, choir singing, visitation, apart from love, will be monotonous drudgery. We'll become professional, going through the routines, like the man described in a *Reader's Digest* picturesque speech column as "nothing behind his smile but teeth."

### CONTRIBUTION FROM TRACEY ASHER

#### Some background from David and Dawn Asher:

*Tracey is our adopted daughter; a loving, kind and gentle girl now deeply committed to Jesus Christ. When she started studying at UCT she felt an urge to trace her biological parents and we helped her in this quest through the welfare services. A great shock awaited her when she found that her parents had married after leaving school; but it was more of a shock to discover that she had a younger biological brother, born after the marriage, part of this family of which she wasn't and she felt rejected in being excluded from it. She was devastated to discover this and it put her into the depths of depression and she spiraled out of control. What followed*

*was a life lost to her Creator; a life of substance abuse, of withdrawal, of zero self-esteem and of being in the very depths of darkness. Yet we never gave up hope, our regular activity was prayer to God for this, His lost child. God did re-enter her life in a wonderful way - Tracey has had her eyes opened to His saving Grace and she has welcomed Christ as her Saviour and friend; companion and Counselor. Tracey now leads a life renewed in Jesus and has written what follows, convinced that there are many who are blinded to their deathly non-existent relationship with God the Father, His Son and His Holy Spirit.*

If you say this of yourself:

*I gave food and clothes to the beggar,  
My neighbour was rude yet I answered him  
courteously with restraint,  
I attend church and choir practice,  
I cook for my family,  
So I am satisfied as I've done my bit and can  
now sleep easily - as I did what was asked.*

My friend, you are in great danger!

It is only when we see the wretched state of our hearts and cry out to God to put His new nature in us, that by the Holy Spirit, we put to death the misdeeds of the body - therein is our hope of salvation. Not in deeds or works, but in the renewing of our spirit in Christ.

A man who is satisfied with his works is deceived to think he is good enough for God. God looks at our hearts not our deeds.

Please see how vital it is for your hearts to be renewed in Christ. As Andrew Murray said - *it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.*

To be reborn in Christ is a renewing of yourself where you put to death the sinful nature; you let your old life be lost, and find true living in Christ. You can do nothing when separated from Christ; your own efforts are futile.

You need to enter through the door and eat at his table. You need to be in the vine receiving the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Without the renewing of your nature in Christ, without the renewing of your heart, you are being deceived into thinking you are safe and that your deeds are good enough; such pride will indeed rob you.

Beware people, that you are not lulled into the sleep of the dead!

Wake up and give yourself to our glorious Saviour, crown him as your King, as your everything - give your whole life to him, He is worthy and He alone lets you in the door:

*O people wake up  
From your slumber  
Surrender all to Christ*

*And be renewed in his life giving spirit.*

You need to enter in the door - the vine - for this is his Kingdom, when he dwells within you and you dwell in him!

*Glory be to God in the highest,  
Praise be to our heavenly Father,  
the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit.*

## JULIE ANDREWS

### Contributed by Tony Day

*To commemorate her 69<sup>th</sup> birthday on Oct 1, actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favorite Things" from the legendary movie, "Sound Of Music". She received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores. Here are the lyrics she used:*

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, and hearing aids and glasses,  
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak,  
When the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favorite things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,  
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,  
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and no need for sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',  
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache,  
When the hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've had,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

## PARISH VESTRY

### 24<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 08h00

There will be a single Sunday Eucharist service before the 2008 Vestry meeting – be sure to attend and participate in this vital aspect of parish life. Vestry is the opportunity for the needs and desires of ‘you from the pew’ to be expressed and for them to be discussed in an open forum. At Vestry, reports on the previous year’s council activities are received and, if appropriate, discussed. At Vestry you may bring to the attention of the parish anything that you feel strongly about and that relates to the business of the parish. One vital item that is discussed is the parish finances and the 2008 budget.

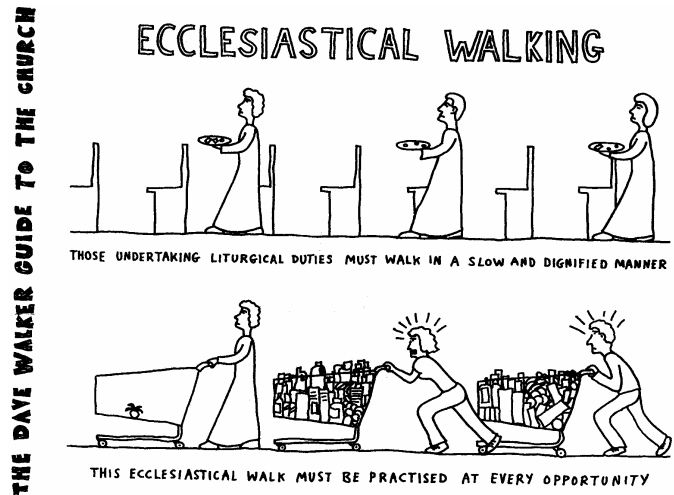
The agenda for the meeting will be published beforehand and to aid the smooth running of the meeting, we ask you to advise us of things that you

- Two Church Wardens
- Alternate Church Warden
- Treasurer
- Portfolios:
  - ❖ Worship and spirituality
  - ❖ Pastoral care
  - ❖ Education
  - ❖ Evangelism
  - ❖ Social action & environmental issues
  - ❖ AIDS
  - ❖ Arise & Build
  - ❖ Communications
  - ❖ Heritage
  - ❖ KidZown
  - ❖ Social Fellowship
  - ❖ Stewardship
  - ❖ Youth

wish to be raised at the meeting, so that responsible preparation can be made for meaningful discussion. There will be a ‘general’ agenda item for matters that fail to make the agenda for whatever reason.

Parish Councillors are elected for the coming year. Please will you earnestly commit this part of Vestry to God in prayer, seeking His will for people to offer themselves for the positions on Council. Nomination lists for councillors will be put up in the church porch, which will have greater detail about the portfolio requirements. Is God calling you to offer yourself for His service at St John’s?

The positions on Parish Council (besides the clergy) are as follows:



### YOU ARE VALUED

#### contribution from Rhea Gwynn

The next time you feel like God can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk  
 Abraham was over the hill  
 Isaac was a daydreamer  
 Jacob was a liar  
 Leah was ugly  
 Joseph was abused  
 Moses stuttered  
 Gideon was afraid  
 Samson was a womanizer

Rahab was a prostitute  
 Jeremiah and Timothy were too young  
 Mary Magdalene was, well you know  
 Jonah ran from God  
 Naomi was a widow  
 Job went bankrupt  
 The Samaritan woman had a string of men

Peter denied Christ  
 Martha was a worrier  
 David had an affair  
 Elijah was suicidal  
 Zaccheus was too small  
 Paul was too religious  
 Timothy had an ulcer.....  
 AND  
 Lazarus was dead!

Besides you aren't the message, you are the messenger.