



The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness,"
says the Lord.*

2 Cor 12: 9

GOD'S GENEROSITY AND OURS

The story of the feeding of the five thousand (John 6:1-15), which we look at this Sunday (26 July), is about compassion, sharing, abundance and generosity. It is an encouraging story for us as we enter our month of stewardship. I have often been encouraged by the generosity of the people of St John's. This expresses itself in various ways: firstly in the on-going commitment to the ministry and mission of the church in the sacrificial giving of time and the sharing of skills with others, and secondly in financial giving. In this respect I think particularly of the regular giving through the dedicated giving scheme, the commitment to filling the AIDS and other food parcels, and more recently the assistance given to building Sam's house and the visit to Motala Heights on 18 July.

Out of your generosity Sam and his family have now been able to get to the stage of putting the roof on the house which they have built at St Wendolins, and this has brought them much joy. The visit to Motala Heights by about 40 parishioners, who brought with them food and clothing and other household items, was received by a leading member of the community with emotion and heartfelt thanks. This visit had been arranged by Revd Caroline Beech in response to a family whose house had been burnt down and also in support of the Mandela Foundation call to give 67 minutes of one's time to the community, a call which was also endorsed by our Archbishop.

Good stewardship enables us to give ourselves to God. Material to assist you in our stewardship campaign will be sent to you soon. We give thanks to God for all we have!

*Revd Dr Andrew Warmback
Rector*

CELEBRATION OF HOPE WEEKEND

Rhea Gwynn

When? Fri-Sun, 23 - 25 October

Where? St John's Church

Who? EVERYONE

Calling all parishioners: have you considered yet what **YOU** can offer towards this weekend, planned for 23 – 25 October? I am certain that every single one of us has a talent we can share! This goes for **ALL** of us – men, women and children! The range of activities under the heading of CRAFT gives such a large scope – and whatever you call a hobby will surely fall under this heading. What about your wood-working skills – wood turning and carving? Metal work – welders and turners? Dressmaking – from a designer wedding dress to dolls' clothes; bags and other items to use and/or decorate your home; embroidery skills – freehand or machine! Lace making, knitting, crocheting, tatting; paper crafts – greeting cards, paper sculpting, scrapbooking and calligraphy; bead making –after the workshops and fun afternoons we KNOW that many of the ladies have mastered this craft; decoupage; egg carving; miniatures; cake icing; flowers and/or vegetables from your garden and, of course, floral skills – the list is endless!! We ALL have something that we love doing – and we encourage you to share it with others!

I challenge all children: what about a whole section on what YOU can make out of recycled materials – no limits except size - we will probably be challenged for space so don't make them TOO big.

SO – we will be keeping an eye on the list in the porch at the back of the church, and hopefully we will soon have several filled sheets of paper!!

CALLING ALL MEN OF THE PARISH : A men's ministry is being revived at St John's : First meeting is to be held 18:00 on Tuesday 25 August. Come along and join us, all men of the parish will be welcomed.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

The Patronal Festival on 21 June was a joyful occasion, when Bishop Nkosinathi blessed our new bell. He then presided at the Eucharist, during which our two new lay ministers, Robyn Savage and Makhosi Cain, were licensed.



The service was followed by a wonderful breakfast – thanks to Boni Sibisi and her team (right)



JAZZ AT ST JOHN'S

Don't miss this opportunity to see the well-known artist Bheki Khoza and his jazz quartet performing in our church hall on Friday 7 August, together with Christopher Cockburn on piano.

Have you got your ticket yet? Space is limited, so call Rose at the parish office (031 7020712, weekdays between 08:00 - 12:00). Cost is R100 per person, or R75 for pensioners, and this includes a meal!! A cash bar will also be available.

YES, MIRACLES DO HAPPEN!

Nicky Bosman

God is so wonderful, we just cannot fathom the depths of His love and the help that He gives us!

2 weeks ago my one and only kidney gave up the ghost. I was rushed into Entabeni where my doctor told me that the kidney was blocked and had gone into hydro-nephrosis and that I also had a severe kidney infection. I would have to undergo a procedure in which a wire is put into the kidney (similar to an angiogram), which is then held open by a stent. This would be done under local anaesthetic in the X-ray department, but it was possible that complications may occur, in which case I would be taken to theatre and might wake up with a bag in place of the kidney. I would have then have to have home dialysis. This was the worst news I had had for a long time. The day came and Caroline (Beech) came to pray and to anoint me, and many of my friends were also praying for me.

I was lying on the x-ray table when the doctor did one last scan. After staring at it for a while, he said "Your kidney has started responding to medication and to do this procedure will be too risky now, so I am sending you back to the ward." Well, I screamed "PRAISE THE LORD" all the way back to the ward, and the nurses joined in! This is the miracle God has given me, His healing touch, and I must go out and tell everybody that God does do miracles, even today! I cried, I was so happy that I did not have to have the procedure, am able to keep my kidney and need no dialysis.

I cannot tell you why God has given me this miracle, I am not special in any way, but I can tell you that God does do miracles and we must put our trust in Him every day. It is with open eyes that we must see the miracles He performs in people. Some may say this is not a miracle, but I know it is and it's about time we recognise God's hand in this and not our own. I say if we keep the faith then we will see; it's like asking and we will receive. God is so good, He really is!

I hope that you will see the miracles in your life that God has given you. It really makes us strong to know that God is there for us no matter what.

UKUKHUTHAZA

A big **THANK YOU** to June Prentiss for the food that was donated on the occasion of her 80th birthday. June asked that, instead of buying her presents, people should buy items for the food parcels. A good amount of food was received, which went a long way to filling the AIDS parcels for July. Thank you, June, what a good idea that was! We hope others will follow your example.

FLOWERS

On 21 June (our Patronal Festival) the exceptionally beautiful flowers decorating the church were donated by Ingrid Pines in memory of her father on the anniversary of his death. This is a lovely way to mark a special occasion, and perhaps more people would like to do this - to commemorate a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary, or perhaps even as a 'thank you' for blessings received. Contact Rose at the parish office for details.



IN MEMORY OF PAT WILLIAMS

Luise Joubert

One Tuesday evening Pat walked in and joined in the regular Ukukhuthaza meeting, just to find out what we were discussing. Perhaps it was a year or so later that she added her name to those who wanted to be involved in the project, and suggested that perhaps I could tell her what was needed. At that time we had vegetable seeds that needed to be divided into smaller packets that we were selling to our community workers at 50c each. Did she think she could perhaps do that? Most certainly – I was unaware at the time that plants and the whole environment were so very important to her. She took on that task, and brought them back to me in no time at all. Were there any more? No, we haven't got the money to buy any more – wholesale or not. So she volunteered to get some – which did we need most? She purchased a few packets and promptly divided those up – marking them with the 50c price ticket. Such was her commitment and interest, quite from her regular generous contribution to the collection for food parcels on a Sunday morning. Thank you, Pat – we are sorry we could never take you to see the gardens that are growing in Clermont and Tshelimnyama, where the most enthusiastic gardeners are.

I miss another regular contribution from this wonderful, ever-cheerful lady – once a week she'd bring an ice cream box filled with frozen soup that we take to Steve's Kitchen. It is a behind-the-scenes commitment to make a pot of soup once a week and it is so much appreciated by those who distribute it to pre-schools and the many poor needy that come for help. Again: thank you, Pat. We will miss you and your generosity. May you rest in peace.

CHRISTIAN CARE

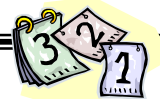
URGENTLY REQUIRED: Someone to run "Steve's Kitchen" for 1 week in September while Marie Roberts is on leave. Hours are from 08:00 - 12:00, and training will be given. They also need people to help out on a regular basis, even if only one day per week. Contact Marie Roberts on 031 70296987 or 083 7421733 if you can help.

FROM THE REGISTER:

R.I.P.: Pat Williams (died 22/06/09)
Alfreda Cain (died 26/06/2009)

Baptised: Gabriel Siyabonga Shelembe (12/07/09)

DATES for the DIARY



Sun. 30 August: Stewardship/Dedication Sunday - 08:00 service.

10 - 13 Sept.: Provincial Standing Committee

Thurs. 24 Sept.: Heritage Day - Traditional South African Presentations - more details later.

1 - 11 Oct.: Diocesan Synod

23 - 25 Oct.: CELEBRATION OF HOPE

29 November: Advent Sunday - 08:00 Service