



BELL

The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

Jesus said: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."
John 15 : 16

From the Rector

INWARD AND OUTWARD

The Celebration of Hope weekend is on our doorstep. It is the culmination and final event of our Spirit of Hope focus which we have had this year. This focus has helped us to discover the rich creative gifts and talents that we have among the people of our parish. On the weekend of 23-25 October we again offer our arts, music and crafts for the benefit of one another and the community. We encourage you to invite friends and colleagues to the events of this weekend.

Our church should have both an inward and an outward focus and our Spirit of Hope activities reflect this. We need to continue to care for and nurture one another and also to reach out in loving service to those in our community. In our stewardship campaign a number of people have come forward offering to help with aspects of pastoral care - we welcome further offers. Please speak to one of the clergy in this regard.

Outwardly, we face the challenges of crime, homelessness, hunger and poverty in Pinetown. Fortunately we have various organisations that can help us address some of these issues. I mention three of them which are deserving of our support. The Interdenominational Christian Care, set up, financed and staffed by the churches in Pinetown, runs a soup kitchen and provides other valuable social services. The Open Door Crisis Counseling Centre has provided support to parishioners and many others in need. The Seniors' Day Care Centre provides fellowship and support to the aged.

In the new year, encouraged and strengthened through the activities of this year, let us use the many opportunities we have to share our faith and love with others around us.

Revd Dr Andrew Warmback
Rector

ARBOUR DAY 2009

Mary Allen

What a lovely varied evening we had on the evening of Arbour Day! A large crowd gathered in the Hall from 6.30 on Friday 4 September to share food, fun and fellowship. We learnt a lot too!

The evening started with prayer, blessing of the food and the Dinner of curry and/ or breyani. Many thanks to Denise Marescia for providing the food. It was much appreciated.

The first item on the programme was the Ecology Quiz, donated by Paul Allen of Mind-bender Trivia. Each team had a sheet of 10 cryptic pictures to decipher which had nothing to do with ecology, but were just for brain gymnastics to get people thinking! The quiz itself taught us things we did not know, and more! We all now know that the national tree of S.A. is the *Real Yellowwood*.

We then heard an inspiring account of the clean-up of the tributary of the Umgeni River that flows through Clermont, undertaken by Solomon Dlamini and his small band of helpers. The slide show gave us a good image of the huge challenge that has been undertaken by this small group, and how the message is spread as others see the benefits of clearing choked streams. We wish Solomon and his team all the best.

The star of the show was Janet Williams (right), who demonstrated how to make your own little compost pit, starting in your kitchen. Right in front of us - on the table - she mixed all the bits of unneeded, inedible food and organic matter from our kitchens. Old soil is also added, when taken to your compost heap/pit in the garden. She encouraged us to consider getting our own compost container - these can be bought at a garden centre, or any suitable container can be used.



We then had an opportunity to buy indigenous trees, shrubs and bedding plants at very reasonable prices. Thank you, Max, Dot and Andrew! Thank you to the youth group who washed up, the cooks who fed us, the environment group who put it all together and to our visitors from other churches who joined in so well.

CELEBRATION OF HOPE - 23-25 OCTOBER



This weekend is the culmination of the year's activities focusing on hope which we have expressed through the creativity God has given us. The gifts and talents that our parishioners have will be show-cased this weekend.

There is only **ONE MONTH** left before this weekend is upon us!! A great deal of preparation has been going on in the parish, and the time to finalise the programme is here!

Anyone who is going to be setting up a display **PLEASE** let Jane Whitby or Dot Sanders know who you are and what you are planning **NOT LATER** than **6 October**. All groups are encouraged to participate - AWF, KidZown, Youth, church cleaners, Ukukhuthaza, Heritage, etc. etc.

The Spirit of Hope initiative has shown a lot of growth and fellowship in the congregation, so lets' make this last weekend truly a **GRAND FINALE!**

WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

This event, held on 15 August, was attended by about 50 women who were fed by men of the parish. The guest speaker was the Revd Canon Bellina Mangena (right), the rector of St Alphege's, Pietermaritzburg. She shared her personal journey to ordination and ministry within the church, encouraging all present to use the gifts that they have to serve God and one another.



DATES for the DIARY

Thurs.24 Sept.: HERITAGE DAY: 12:00 - 15:00 - Lunch-time bring & braai. People will be asked to relate stories about their families and customs. We wish to give expression to our differences in food and culture, to better appreciate each other. Don't forget to wear your hat!! (see the notice in the pew bulletin).

9 - 11 Oct.: DIOCESAN SYNOD. Please pray for this important event in the life of our diocese. Our reps are Edward Pines and Makhosi Cain as well as the rector, Andrew Warmback. A report back will be given on Sunday 18 October.

23 - 25 Oct.: CELEBRATION OF HOPE. A programme of events for this weekend will soon be available. Have you put your name on the list of talents offered? If not, it's not too late! See also the announcement on the previous page.

28 Nov.: DIOCESAN ORDINATION.

29 Nov.: ADVENT SUNDAY - 08:00 Service
PATRONAL FESTIVAL of the diocese: service in the cathedral, to which each parish is encouraged to send 2 representatives. If you would like to attend, please speak to one of the clergy.

22 Dec.: 09:00: MOTHERS' UNION enrollment of the new group at St John's. We welcome the emergence of an MU branch in the parish and wish them well.

EVENTS FOR 2010

The parish is compiling a calendar of events for 2010. Please let us have details, before 12 October, of any activity you or your group are planning that needs to be brought to the attention of the parish.

MEN'S GROUP

With the intention of reviving a "men's group" an initial meeting was held on 25 August where those attending had the opportunity to share both their experiences of such group meetings in the past and their expectations and wishes for any future formation for such a group.

From these discussions and sharing it is hoped to include the following in our aims:

- Build spirituality
- Fellowship & Friendship
- Mentor youngsters as they enter the working world
- Provide practical help in the parish by offering our diverse skills
- Outreach into the community by adopting a project
- Availability / communication (a listening ear)
- Be a visible part of parish life

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 September at 18:00 in the main hall. All men of our parish who are able to attend this meeting will be most welcome.

Any queries should be directed to any of the following members:
Gordon Bell / Alfred Nala / Edward Pines

FROM THE REGISTER:

R.I.P.: Pat Broker, died 22 August 2009

20 September:

Malcolm Rosenberg licensed as a lay minister

Jabulani Ngidi professed as a brother of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd.

Congratulations to both as they fulfil their vocations.



GROWING the Church

"MASISUKUME SAKHEI - ARISE AND BUILD!"

ALL parishes in the Pinetown Region are invited to send a minimum of SIX or a maximum of EIGHT delegates to represent them at a one day conference.

To be held on: Saturday 21 November 2009
Time: 09:00 - 16:00
Venue: St John the Baptist - Pinetown
Cost: Donation - to cover cost of lunch etc

Theme: "WE OFFER OURSELVES"

We ask for bookings to be made by Friday 6 November in order for planning to be completed in time for catering etc. This can be done by contacting the parish secretary:

Email: church@stjohnbaptist.co.za
Fax: 031 7021805 (0800 - 1300 Mon - Fri)
Tel: 031 7020712

Any other enquiries please contact Edward Pines:
Email: edwardpi@iafrica.com
Tel: 083 483 5822

STEWARDSHIP

On Stewardship Sunday, 30 August, the children of the parish defined for us the meaning of the spirit of STEWARDSHIP:

Serving God and others, Trusting in Jesus, Equipped by the Holy Spirit, Welcoming people, Accepting one another, Reaching out in love, Dedicated giving, Sharing our faith, Helping transform our world, Involvement of us all, Prayer.



We have had a good response to the stewardship campaign, and we thank you for your expression of commitment to serving God in St John's. We are still awaiting the return of many more forms. If you have not yet returned yours to the parish office, please do so as soon as possible.

ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Dot Sanders

We decided to install a water tank to collect rainwater run-off from the roof of the church. A fleece blanket was raffled to raise funds to buy the tank. Congratulations to June Gibbons who won the raffle! However, after the intention to buy the tank was announced, Edna and John Stevens donated one that they no longer needed. (Thank you, John and Edna!) It will be installed in a prominent place at the church, to demonstrate our commitment to the environment, and the water collected will be used to water the graveyard. Some of the money collected from the raffle will be used to cover the cost of installing the tank.

We would love to see the numbers of the Environment Group grow, so please speak to one of the clergy, Dot Sanders or Janet Williams if you are interested.

Thanks again to all who supported this project.

PARISH FINANCES - JAN - AUGUST 2009

	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Dedicated Giving	R419 978	R466 666	(R46 688)
Loose Plate	R28 293	R40 000	(R11 707)
Donations	R44 062	R33 334	R10 729
Total Income	R492 333	R540 000	(R47 667)
Expenses	R545 864	R581 153	R35 289

Deficit for 8 months: R53 531