

Love
Hope
Faith

The Link



Midrand Presbyterian Church

M P C @ S t S a v i o u r s

Heart to Heart

Dear Friends,

I love the decorations, and the food, and the presents, and the carols, and the fact that most people are in a relaxed and jovial mood, and that at Christmas time, Christians have the ears of the world.

But, the mellow, domesticated holy-day we celebrate on the 25th December 2011 is a far cry from the events of the first Christmas: a young girl pregnant and unmarried. Mary's predicament has lost some of its force in our day and age, but in a closely knit Jewish community in the first century

the news would not have been welcomed. The law regarded a betrothed woman who became pregnant as an adulteress, subject to death by stoning. A few months before Jesus' birth, his cousin John (the Baptist) was born, no doubt amidst great fanfare; midwives, doting relatives and the village celebrating the birth of a Jewish male. Jesus was born far from home, no midwife or extended family or village celebration. Joseph, as the male head of the household, would have sufficed for the Roman census. In other words, did Joseph really have to drag his pregnant wife to

Bethlehem for the census or was it because he wanted to spare her embarrassment and judgment in her own village.

At first, Jesus' birth would have passed unnoticed. He was in an obscure corner of the greatest Empire the world had known, under Caesar Augustus, at a time when hope and arrogance wafted through the Roman Empire. In fact, it was Augustus who used the Greek word evangelio or 'Gospel' or 'Good News' to label the new world order represented by his reign. Many believed that his government would last forever.

Who would have guessed that the birth of a child, in shame, to unwed teenagers in a small village in the 'backwaters' of the Roman Empire would fulfill the words of Simeon, "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many." Perhaps it is no accident that the authors Matthew, Mark, Luke and John borrowed the same word 'gospel' to proclaim a different kind of world order – one not founded on power, greed, lies and self-interest, but on love, forgiveness, truth and grace.

This Christmas, as we reflect on a world troubled by climate change,

failing economies, the passing of the Protection of State Information Bill and rising poverty; we may wonder what difference our lives can make in the face of such local and global issues? I wonder if Mary and Joseph felt the same way that evening when Jesus was born in a stable of an Inn in Bethlehem?

The gospel of Augustus and the Roman Empire has long been confined to the pages of history, but the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom remains to this day. The message has not changed: God lived amongst us, died for us and then commissioned us to change the world one heart at a time. We may not see or understand the significance of what we do now, but when we live in the will of God and to the glory of Jesus, I can assure you that he uses us to fulfill His purposes.

May you have a blessed, joyful and fulfilling Christmas celebrating the Gospel and Kingdom that knows no end.

All my love,

Christopher's Induction as Presbytery Moderator

What a special day the 11th of October was, not only for Christopher but also this Congregation. It is really an honour to have him chosen as the Moderator of the eGoli Presbytery.

On the 11th of October some of the ministers from the eGoli Presbytery joined us for a meal that was lovingly made by some of our members. They were so delighted by the delicious lasagna and salads. Thank you once again to all those who donated meals.

After the meal everybody moved to the Church where the actual Induction Service was held. The service was started with a procession of past moderators entering the Church carrying in the bible. Rev. Tieho Letsheleha (a past moderator himself) performed Chris' induction and he now becomes the Moderator for a period of 2 years.

Chris then gave a moving sermon from Acts 2 about the marks of the Church. He spoke about how we must be passionate for Christ! Wow, what a privilege it is, to not only have Christopher as our Minister but as our Moderator too!! ~Pam Louw



Fourth Quarter 2011

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DIVORCE Care

Trevor and I have really felt blessed running the course again this year. We have had a group of 7 people including Trevor and I. It is lovely having a small group as it is more personal and we can meet in the comfort of our home. Each week I have seen how the Lord has worked in the individual lives of these very special people who willingly shared and discussed things.

Some of the comments from the group are :

"I didn't think I could benefit from the course, but it's made me realise that I never really healed from previous relationships gone bad."

"Support a friend through divorce or separation by taking them to the Divorce Care course. You might find there are issues you also need to deal with and let the Lord do the rest. Thanks to Trevor, Val and the group for all the laughs and their support."

"It's been wonderful meeting such lovely ladies who share the different experiences of divorce, and learning how to deal with these. Val & Trevor are so kind and patient; putting up with all our "sharing". I have been blessed in many ways through these evenings."

"Wow, if you are divorced - recently or long ago or long, long, long ago - or in the process to get divorced, even if there is a change on reconciliation- for sure a course not to be missed!

If I were to list the advantages of attending this course, those would fill the complete issue of the Link. Therefore, I would rather just share ONE of the many...

That benefit being to realize and experience that you are not alone and that in fact, there IS LIFE after divorce! Just being (physically - during the course sessions) with other Christians who have some or other time (or times!) in their lives gone through the same experience and issues as you did, is already a gracious gift from Our Father. And then, hearing the testimonies, experiences, empathy, understanding, and Godly advice of the many speakers via the course DVD, slowly but surely assist one to take on the long road to healing - area by area, topic by topic - with your mind alertly tuned into Wisdom (Holy Spirit), through the grace and righteousness (even if you are divorced!) that Christ bought for us, and strengthened by the multitude of promises that Our Father gives us in His Word.

I thank God for empowering MPC and the Corins to present this course so diligently and with so much love and empathy, and for granting me (and my fellow course attendees) the time and opportunity to attend it. "

"Divorce Care really helped me to get things into perspective. It was comforting to know that I was not alone and that there are so many of us on the same emotional roller coaster.

Thank you Val, for your support and kind understanding. Thank you Trevor, for bearing with us ladies, even when the things we shared were not exactly what men want to hear!"

Silent Prayer Retreat - Barking Up the Right Tree

Trying to escape from the heat, I found myself lying down under one of St Saviours beautiful shady trees on Saturday morning the 22nd of October. In my hands was my bible and notes provided by Lynn, which offered bible readings, relevant questions and time to meditate and reflect. This was AWESOME. I was in God's peaceful, yet mind blowing creation seeking and spending intimate quality time with our King. It was a great way to completely remove myself from the grips and pressures of society and the rat race we live in, and find just 42 minutes to praise, honour, thank, glorify and worship our God. I was truly blessed during this time and felt that I had come to know God more. Seek God in all things and find your meeting tree... and bark up it. ~Love Graeme Gauld

MEN 2 MEN 4 CHRIST

On Saturday morning, the 26th of November, the Friday morning Men 2 Men 4 Christ all gathered at the church house for a breakfast to sign the year off. As usual, there was a large variety of food and too little space to put it all! There was everything from omelets to a bowl of oats to choose from. This was just the back drop to what was an exceptionally wonderful morning; we all had the opportunity to get to know each on a more social basis; without having to worry about tight schedules, looming traffic & meetings. It was a time of fellowship that brought a vastly diverse group to know one another better, based on that, I cannot wait for the new year to begin! Chris has brought us some great insight and knowledge throughout the year and we have all shared our knowledge and perspectives. Which in itself is intriguing, based on the uniquely different journeys we have all been blessed with. It has been a great blessing on a Friday morning that has always greatly enriched my weekend.

~ Christopher Morison



LADIES MORNING

What a pleasure it was for me to just arrive as a guest and not be immersed in the planning and organising of the latest Ladies Morning.

Debbie and her new committee took over the running of our special mornings and I would love to say congratulations and well done on such a successful, happy and meaningful morning. You ladies did a fabulous job! Thank you also to my hostess Janine for her delicious healthy eats and chatter.

I always look forward to Gavin's ministry as he has a wicked sense of humour whilst always delivering his message so well. He really made up for his previous leg pulling (The hilarious video on lady drivers) by showing us another video illustrating the downfall of overzealous macho men!!!

The main speaker bubbly Heidi Peterson had us all laughing as she presented such a meaningful lesson by teaching us to let our inner beauty reflect our love of Jesus in the mirror. Reminding us that it is not the outside packaging that counts, but the real inner you. Thank you again to Debbie and your team for taking over and keeping what has become an institution, our Ladies Morning, alive and well. A job well done. With love. ~Anne Oliver.





An appeal was made to our church to help pack food for the community @ Olievenhoutsbos.

So Keith & I & about 30 other volunteers pitched up @ the hall after the second service to offer our help.

There was a group from "Stop Hunger" who showed us a DVD of how we were to organise ourselves to prepare the nutritional dry food packs.

As those dealing with the food had to wear hairnets (not at all flattering!) Keith & I opted for counting & packing the sealed plastic bags into the boxes.

We were arranged into two teams – people who weighed the dry ingredients (lentils, soya, rice, powdered vitamins, dehydrated veges) – people who put the ingredients into plastic bags – people who sealed the bags with a hot press & packers.

Every time a box was filled & sealed the vuvusela was blown! So the race was on, which team could fill the most boxes? (Well, ours of course, wow, despite Matthew pilfering for the other team!)

Great fun was had by all & in about 1 hour we had packed 900 packs of food which were destined to feed 5400 people!

"Stop Hunger" are doing a wonderful job at feeding those in need, why not get involved?

See you next time ~Love Kate & Keith Lindsay



Paul Jungnickel

An amazing day filled with special people, and memories made...

Saturday the 27th November, spent at a Paul Jungnickel home, singing Christmas carols and just having a good time.

Seeing the heart warming and amazing smiles on the people that got the special love and attention that they don't normally get. Feeling more like a real family of God than anything else, the hugs and smiles were much appreciated, and the voices sang just for God.

After a morning of real good times singing with the amazing children of God we were also invited to their Christmas market! It was amazing, and the things made and bought there were amazingly beautiful! Don't miss out on the market, it is a must see! ~ *Samantha Lomas*



New Members

On the 30th October the following people were welcomed into membership; Patrick Ngubane, Rendani Ramuthaga, Fhatu Ramuthaga, Ricardo Arendse, Evodia Mabuza-Mokoko, Tumi Molathebi, Anne Louw, Janet Richardson, Vicky Richardson, Bianca Moulder, Kerry Schmidt, Ian Schmidt, Carlos Vilela and Megan Hopkins. We pray that they will feel at home as they enter fully into the life of the congregation.

Janet Richardson has shared with us her experience of the New Members Course:

My son and daughter-in-law located to a new property in Randjiesfontein and part of the incentive for me to join them was, "There's a church just four doors down from us!" Having left the KZN south coast after 40-plus years, after a hectic career, the friends, the social interactions, and life within the church and its community, I felt like a pre-schooler on her first day at "big school". Not only was I "new" I was also an Anglican! From the first attendance at church, I was made to feel very welcome, and began to feel at home, although the services proved rather different. I was pleased to hear about the "Newcomers Course" and resolved to attend each Thursday at 7.30 pm for the four-week period 8 to 22 October 2011.

Gavin welcomed us all the first evening and made us feel at ease creating a relaxed and informal gathering. Some were total newcomers, while others had attended for some time but had been unable for various reasons, to attend a course when offered. To break the ice, all the 'newies' were encouraged to give a biopic of themselves by way of introduction and it would appear that there is a lot of valuable talent within the congregation! Gavin introduced each week's topic and reinforced the lesson by way of hand-outs, and during tea we were able to mingle and discover more about our fellow-attendees. The information he gave us was most informative and while being light-hearted, at times made us really sit back and evaluate our own concepts and feelings about our faith and beliefs in general. It would appear that too often people attend church with the attitude that it is a duty to overcome each week, but with an in-depth course like this, all newcomers are able to choose and to participate more fully in church activities.

It was a privilege to attend the course, to meet other parishioners new to the congregation and I wish to thank Gavin and Chris for giving up their time to give us an insight into Midrand Presbyterian Church life, the church for providing a welcome cup of tea/coffee and would encourage people to attend courses when they are made available as they can enrich our lives beyond measure.

Pastoral Care Course

What a privilege it has been to attend the Pastoral Care and Counselling course prepared and led by Gavin. The main role of caring or counselling a person is to help them find their balance again. Not by you doing everything for them or continually offering them advice, but by assisting them in setting goals and showing them ways to cope. Much like teaching a hungry person to fish.

Without genuine love and care, none of this is possible. We can show others this love only because our Heavenly Father first loved us.

I learnt a lot about myself too during this course. It made me think critically about my unconscious behaviour towards others and how it makes them feel and react to me. What my body language says, how to cope better in my own situations and most importantly how to care for others.

You don't have to be special or know everything there is to know, you just need to approach pastoral care and counselling with an honest, loving heart and allow God to work through you.

Thanks to everyone at St Saviours who made me feel so welcome.

God Bless you all.

Marilynn Leonard (4Ways United Church)

Family Matters (September-November 2011)

Births: Skylar Heard was born to Heather and Kevin on the 19th of September ~ *May the Lord bless your lives together*~

Deaths: John Kloppers (27 October) and Shirley Wilson (28 October) ~ *Our sincerest condolences to the families*~

We Praise God and give thanks to the Lord as we celebrate the following special birthdays in June, September, October & November:

Christine Cherry (9 October), who celebrated her **21st**
Margot Stephan (27 October) who celebrated her **40th**
Jan Greyling (29 September), **Magda De Beer (12 October)**, **Lynn Balkwill (24 October)**, **Christine Leighton (11 November)**, who celebrated their **50th**
Laraine Redelinghuys (16 September) who celebrated her **60th**
Wendy Lochner (8 November) who celebrated her **70th**
Aline Wright (18 November) who celebrated her **80th**

We give thanks for the following seniors (80+) who celebrated their Birthday's:

May Gardener, Rea Grobbelaar, Lia Brits, Rowley Hide, Eric Allan, Maureen Hide

We encourage you to look at the Notice board for the complete monthly birthday list

We apologise for any omissions

SPECIAL SERVICES

Carols by Candlelight:

18th December

18:00 mince pies and fellowship,

19:00 Carols



CHRISTMAS EVE

24TH DECEMBER 23:15

CHRISTMAS DAY

25TH DECEMBER 8:00 & 9:30



New Years Service

1 January 9:00 ONLY



Bethel Course
Starts 1st Feb
19:00-21:00
In the Church House

Marriage Course
Starts 1st Feb
19:00 in the Church Hall

For more information, please contact the church office

Ladies Morning
18 Feb
9:00 - 12:00

Young Adults
Starting Late January
2012

Church Office: Ministers: Christopher Judelsohn & Gavin Lock;
Youth Pastor: Tammy Philpott
Administrators: Keryn Judelsohn & Pam Louw :
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Midrand Presbyterian Church Building Fund
Banking Details:
First National Bank
Cheque Account 62303943717
Branch Code 250117

Midrand Presbyterian Church seeks to be a community of hope characterised by the development of Christ Centred families, Spirit Filled worship & fellowship and Bible Based ministry among the members and the wider community.