



Kaleidoscope

April 2013

A PARISH MAGAZINE
ANGLICAN PARISH OF VEREENIGING
P.O. BOX 263167 THREE RIVERS 1935
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RECTOR'S STATEMENT OF NEEDS

FIVE YEAR PLAN for Anglican Parish of St Mary and St John Vereeniging and Holy Spirit Complex in Three Rivers.

Introduction:

My dear sisters and brothers may grace and peace be yours.
To paraphrase the words of St Paul to the Thessalonian Church, I continually thank God for you all and always mention you in my prayers.

For I remember before our God and Father how you put your faith into practice, how your love made you work so hard, and how your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ is firm. (1Th 2:1)
And there is another reason why we always give thanks to God. You have heard God's message, and accepted it, not as a message from human beings but as God's message, which indeed it is. For God is at work in you who believe. (1Th 2:13)

Guiding principles

Guiding principles are core value statements describing the ethical foundation and values, which form the parameters and framework on which all strategic directions and decisions are made. In working to develop goals and objectives of the strategic plan, there are certain values which are important and as foundational to our ministry.

Vision: I would like to start off by proposing that in spite of all the rhetoric that often accompanies the "Rector's Statement of Needs" there should be something definitive expressed so that the parishioners can receive and support the vision, which is a short statement describing the ideal state we are striving to achieve in the long-term.

Our mission refers to what we do to achieve our purpose? What makes us unique? What do we do? - For whom? - Why? It is something to which parishioners are committed and becomes a powerful tool in planning, decision-making, and evaluation. Mission flows from vision and is a clear statement of what the parish is all about.

Last year we also identified core values that we as a parish hold dear and nothing has changed. We still uphold the following:

- Open and welcoming
- Worshipping and prayerful
- Affirming young people
- Servant community
- Embracing diversity
- Discipleship/Teaching and learning

We adopted the following last year:

"Our vision as a parish is to follow Jesus' two great commandments, to love the Lord our God and to love our neighbours as ourselves." (Mark 12:29-31)

"Our mission is to nurture the sharing of Jesus' gospel of faith and love within our own congregations and with all others, near and far."

Open and welcoming

We believe we are called by God to love all people and to do so by being open and welcoming to all.

Worshipping and prayerful

We believe that we are all called to seek God's will as ministers in the Church's servant community. Part of being open and welcoming of others is through reverent, prayerful, creative worship and the sharing of our time, talents and resources.

Affirming young people

We believe that as important members of our Church, our young people must be given a place to offer their particular talents within a nurturing environment where faith may grow.

Servant community

We believe that we are called to seek God's will as a servant community, widening the community through worship and the sharing of our time, talents and resources, to include all in our community, including those on the periphery.

Embracing diversity

We believe that as Christians, we should respect all others regardless of race, colour and creed as per our baptismal covenant and that the human rights of every individual should be respected.

Christian education

We believe we are called by God to grow in our knowledge of Him, to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to be eager to share our faith by helping others to grow in theirs and together to reach out in Christ's love.

Goals and objectives

There were seven categories of need that we embraced last year.

In each category there is a general, long term goal, towards which we should concentrate our efforts. The objectives are a means of getting to our long-term goal - one for each year –The short term goals are guideposts to help us along the way. A goal under a particular year does not restrict us to waiting for that year to implement it, especially if the time and resources are available to allow us to accomplish it sooner. We must constantly and prayerfully monitor our progress so that we consistently act according to God's will.

The goals and objectives identified within the parish were:

Community building, Youth, Faith development, Stewardship/Leadership development, Worship, Outreach/Mission, and a substantial worship facility at Three Rivers.

Community building

Goal: To get to know all people of our congregations, both those involved in church activities and those who are not.

We need to hold a celebration of our diversity and cultures to help members to respect one another. Perhaps the 5th of August (The anniversary of us being declared a parish 100 years ago)

Evaluation: We wanted to initiate an annual newcomer's event by the end of 2012 but this has not yet happened and it will go together with a new members' course by the end of 2013.

Young people

Goal: To bring more young people into involvement into our church and community within the next five years.

Objectives: At the beginning of 2013 we are seeking membership of "South African Sunday Schools Association" and several people have offered to be trained and teach at both St Mary and St John and Holy Spirit Chapel.

By the end of 2013 we need to establish a youth ministry and some have volunteered to oversee that work. I am not sure that the idea of having a full time youth worker is feasible by 2015 considering our financial position.

To have youth Bible studies in both congregations and possibly in our schools.

Improve conditions and facilities for St. Nicholas School.

Outreach and mission

Goal: To be a community that exercises a ministry of outreach that is compassionate and non-judgmental to those within and outside of our own parish.

By the end of 2013 we are committed to more ecumenical activities, worship, and fellowship to bring together the community. These will be realised through major combined services planned

for this year. Wimmer Place continues to be more than just a retirement village as it fulfils an important pastoral role in the care of the elderly of our parish.

Christian education

Our goal is to grow in our faith and understanding of the implications of the Gospel.

By the end of 2012 we wanted to hold grief counselling courses, but it did not materialise. Our lent 2013 course is to focus on Healing and Wholeness in Christ.

With five new lay ministers having completed training and two more starting in February 2013 our pastoral plan continues to be realised.

We still need to form more home groups and a lot of work has been done by Di Keeling to help make this dream a reality.

Stewardship/Leadership development

Stewardship is dealt with through the church warden's report while leadership development is on-going.

Worship

Goal: To offer worship to God that is reverent, prayerful, joyful, inclusive and reflective of the cultures and traditions of all our people.

We have recruited and trained a number of servers. We also continue to encourage participation in the choir and music group.

By the end of 2013: We still need to design activities which reflect worship and the seasons of the year, such as Advent/Lenten craft events, which will take place outside worship time.

By the end of 2013: we also need to train people of all ages to lead prayers and read lessons in divine worship.

Infrastructure

We still believe that we need a substantial worship centre at Three Rivers, but the establishment of a project management team has not progressed as there seems to be little enthusiasm for conversion of the Hall. We must commit ourselves to the seeking of God's will in this regard.

Much has been done by very few with very little to restore and repair our buildings – Thank you. I still have a vision for the church I cherish and long to see.

Acts 2: 42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people.

And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A praying Parish devoted to the teaching and study of God's word written in Scripture - people who love and care deeply for one another and honour the Lord in the Eucharist.

A Parish devoted to building up the people of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Parish in which we see the power and presence of God manifest in our midst, as lives are changed and people are drawn into closer fellowship with the Saviour through the Holy Spirit.

I hope all of us will be a part of what God wants to do in this Parish.

To God alone be the glory.

Amen

Ven Reg Gersbach
Rector

CHURCH COUNCILLORS FOR 2013/2014

Congratulations to our new councillors!
May God bless you and lead you in this work he has given you to do

Church Wardens:	John Harris-Webster	Cyril Mhlongo
Councillors:	Theresa Cresswell	Peter Moses
	Libby Hamman	Jack Raves
	Andrew Itumeleng	Andre Zietsman
	Humphrey Molapo	

VOTES OF THANKS GIVEN AT THE VESTRY MEETING

- Thank you to all the anonymous givers.
- Lourdes thanked everyone for making them feel comfortable with the palisade fences.
- Peter Mangunda thanked Fr Reg and Lourdes for keeping up the good work.
- Elaine Wilson thanked Andre Zietsman, Willem Bergh, John Harris-Webster and Jack Raves for all the work they do at Wimmer Place.
- John Harris-Webster thanked Alex Loch for all her hard work and Mickey and William Cresswell for all they do.
- Andre Zietsman thanked Peter Mangunda for his good work as a church warden.
- Fr Reg thanked Joan Hepburn and Israel Qwelane for their support.

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Psalm 45:8

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Wardens	John Harris-Webster	082 605 1381		Judy Blackburn	016 423 3927
	Cyril Mhlongo	082 827 8565		Sue Sorsby	016 423 5669
Secretary	Alex Loch	016 423 1110		Howard Pillay	083 410 1147
				Carol de Jager	016 423 2945
Prayer Chain	Sue Sorsby	016 423 5669			
Care Group	May Van Rensburg	016 423 1738			
St Nicholas	Theresa Cresswell	016 423 6565			
Sunday School	Lawrence West	016 423 5271			
Co-Editors	Madelaine Goetsch	016 430 6123	madelaine.goetsch@cbi-electric.com		
	Judy Blackburn	016 423 3927			

GOD'S GIFT OF CREATION (6)

STEWARDSHIP

As people of God, 'keeping' God's earth whole should be at the centre of how we live our lives. We are moving into a new 'ecological age' – a time for people of faith to unite, show moral leadership in our divided and broken world and speak and act prophetically about caring for all of creation – not just the human part of it. Essential is a life of voluntary simplicity which values caring and sharing relationships, service, creativity and co-operation over those that emphasize consumption, material possessions and wealth, self gratification, status and competition. If the diversity of creation is to flourish, the voice of people of faith must offer a powerful alternative language to the one we are hearing in today's world. If we don't speak out against the wastefulness and destruction of modern lifestyles and live out a new value system, there will be no planet left to pass on to future generations.

What can we do? Many of us feel powerless and overwhelmed but numerous small actions and changes in behaviour can start a groundswell of change. We can become ethical consumers and investors, we can save water, energy and resources in our homes, churches and workplaces, we can 'wise up on waste', we can change our transport, travel and holiday habits. Problems always provide opportunities for change, but with the extent and urgency of the crisis facing our planet, acting locally is not going to be enough.

The environmental crisis of the 21st century offers a new and urgent challenge for people of our globalised world to unite and work together for peace and stability. Who better to lead the response than people of faith, since 'keeping' God's creation is a moral issue? But, where is the prophetic, visionary and united voice of faith? It is time for our churches and other faiths to give new and courageous leadership with regard to the threats facing the planet. We can't afford to continue to leave the business of saving the world to politicians and economists. We must now demand eco-justice – economic and ecological – for all the inhabitants of the earth – both human and 'other than human'.

WHAT WE CAN DO

- Inform ourselves about global economic, ecological and social issues.
- Speak out, write about, and demand moral and ethical responses to environmental injustices within our communities, nationally and internationally. The 'silent majority' of civil society must rediscover its voice.
- Set an example and be prepared to take on leadership roles in the ethical response to the environmental crisis.
- Re-establish the value of communities and empower them to strive to create a co-operative culture that is based on democratic principles and human rights. In a world where there is rampant poverty and a scorched earth: Multi-national corporations have no right to 'own' and dictate how resources are used; Economists and businesses have no right to control a money system that disadvantages the environment and the poor; Military powers have no right to squander the earth's resources on arms and weapons of war; Politicians and people in power have no right to be leaders if they do not lead by example.
- Shrink our individual and collective ecological footprint.
- Support the rights of women: their security and education is the key to development and family planning.
- Create literacy.
- Support self-help housing.
- Campaign for the lifting of third world debt.
- Look at the Earth Charter and use it in your faith community.

For all your property needs

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Cyril Buttrick on 082 578 3669 or Grant Austin on 082 413 3351

NEWS FROM OZ

It is well over a year since we came to live in Adelaide, Australia. Time has passed so quickly and we often think of or talk about our friends in South Africa, always with love and happy memories. We are now happily settled in an Anglican retirement village in Kensington Mews in our two-bedroom unit (a quarter of the size of our home in V'town) . St Matthews Homes consist of five villages, ours being the largest with a lovely hall where we can entertain as all facilities are there. There is also a library, snooker table, comfortable chairs, tv, video, and dvd.

We have a little garden in front of our unit and though it is all regarded as community property, each resident is conscious of privacy. I have spent many happy hours working in the garden and building it up.

Sue, our daughter, and her hubby Guy and sons Russel and Justin, who also live in Adelaide, have been so good to us and we see them at least once a week. Our daughter Lynn and her hubby Dave and daughters Sabrina and Tyla live in Bowral in the Southern Highlands, which is cooler and wetter than Sydney or Adelaide but a beautiful place with arty villages around.

You may have heard that John has been diagnosed with Alzheimers disease and is on treatment. However, although his memory is short and he battles to remember names, we still have a good comradeship together. He plays tennis 2-3 times a week and his friends love him.

I have needed to learn the reversal of roles. This started before we left SA as I found he battled to do tax etc. So I have needed to deal with all the finances, transfers, taxes, banks etc. However, it has not traumatised me at all. I have given it all to the Lord and I do it with joy and it is amazing how things work out.


Our church, St Matthews, is across the road from us and what a wonderful place to be! We attend 8.30 on Sundays (one of three services) and on Wednesday mornings where there is a short communion service and then a wonderful tea. We have four pastors and a full time youth worker and there are many things happening all the time. Sue, Justin and I are joining the other workers from our church to feed the homeless or lonely in the city on Saturday evening.

Adelaide is beautiful and was planned to have a green belt around the city. The cathedral is in that area as well as the oval where people do exercises. Wherever you go there is greenery and colour. Listening to the TV news, Australia is not the squeaky clean place one imagines. There is corruption and crime but not as much as in SA. The good thing is that it is all told to the country, especially when it is within the government. There are areas where drugs are rife and those areas may not be safe but generally we feel so safe without any gates or fences.

I do hope that you are all well and that the news we hear about the country is not too depressing. John and I wish you all the best and, believe me, we do miss you. In case you'd like to contact us, our details are as follows:

Email: jenjohnmc1@gmail.com
Address: 16, 69 Maesbury Street, Kensington, 5068, Adelaide, South Australia
Phone: +61 870707655

Lots of love to you all and God Bless
Jenny McMillan



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WHAT DO YOU SEE?

The following poem was found in the locker of an old lady who died in the geriatric ward of a hospital near Dundee, Scotland. It was all she left behind.

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?
Do you see this when you're looking at me –
A crabbit old woman, not very wise, uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes.
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply when you say in a loud voice 'I do wish you'd try'.
Who seems not to notice the things that you do and is forever losing a stocking or shoe.
Who resisting or not, lets you do as you will, with bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
Is that what you are thinking, is that what you see?

Then open your eyes, you're not looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still as I use at your bidding and eat at your will.
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother, brothers and sisters who love one another.
A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet, dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.
A bride soon at twenty my heart gives a leap remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
At twenty-five now I have young of my own who need me to build a secure, happy home.
A woman of thirty, my young now grow fast, bound to each other with ties that should last.
At forty, my young sons have grown and are gone, but my man's beside me to see I don't mourn.
At fifty once more babies play round my knees, again we know children, my loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead, I look at the future, I shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own & I think of the years and the love I have known
I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel, 'tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart, there is now a stone where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells and now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys, I remember the pain and I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years all too few, gone too fast and accept that stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your ears nurses, open and see not a crabbit old woman, look closer – see ME!

The above poem about the 'craabby old lady' was broadcast in Dewar McCormack's "Sixty Plus" series in the 1980's and shortly afterwards he gave an answering poem which was written by a student nurse from the Sefton general hospital in Liverpool.

"What do we see" you ask, "what do we see"
Yes, we ARE thinking when looking at thee!
We may seem to be hard when we hurry and fuss but there's many of you and too few of us.
We would like far more time to sit by you and talk, to bath you and feed you, to help you to walk
To hear of your lives and things you have done, your childhood, your husband, daughter and son.

But time is against us, there's too much to do, patients too many and nurses too few.
We grieve when we see you so sad and alone with nobody near you, no friends of your own.
We feel all your pain and know of your fear that nobody cares now your end is so near.

But nurses are people with feelings as well and when we're together you'll often hear tell
Of the dearest old gran in the very end bed and the lovely old dad and the things that he said.
We speak with compassion and love and feel sad when we think of your lives and the joy that you've had.

When the time has arrived for you to depart you leave us behind with an ache in our heart.

When you sleep the long sleep, no more worry or care,
There are other old people and we must be there.
So please understand if we hurry and fuss, there are so many of you and too few of us.

Submitted by Reg

- Happy Birthday - April 2013**
- | | | | |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Faith Tshabalala
Tumi Boshielo | 19 | Marge Beck
Khotso Melato |
| 2 | Tshepang Lelosa | 20 | Mabel Khumalo |
| 3 | Lerato Rabodila
Olive Mothae | 10 | Eunice Boshielo |
| 4 | Richard Allen
Maureen Nkaota | 11 | Motebang Mothae |
| 5 | Yvonne Kennelly
Dumisani Mafrika | 12 | Philiswe Sibiya |
| 6 | Mdawo Tshabalala
Nkosinathi Mashopha
Sipho Linda
Khanyi Linda | 13 | Dudley De Jager
David Raboroko |
| 8 | Vuyo Mafrika
Thakabanna Photolo
Esme De Jager
Jaco Bezuidenhout
Vanessa Van Staden | 14 | Abel Mafrika
Zinhle Damane |
| 9 | Veronica Khumalo | 15 | David Mokoteli
Francois Kemp |
| | | 16 | Terral Kisten |
| | | 17 | Magdelene Khumalo |
| | | 18 | Beryl Harding |
| | | 21 | Lorraine Moeketsi |
| | | 22 | Okgalalelo Mokgotla
Khethang Makhetha
Johannes Lieta |
| | | 23 | Lukhanyiso Mhlongo
Jason Vincent
Tshepo Senokoane
Tsholofelo Motaung |
| | | 26 | Emily Sifumba |
| | | 27 | Julia Ramotso |
| | | 28 | Mabel Mothae |
| | | 29 | Samantha Maboya
Sebata Myemane |
| | | 30 | Gerald Brimecombe
Kgabi Mhlangu |

Dedicated Giving - February 2013

2 200	24 100	49 7500	69 450	97 1300	135 3600
13 300	25 60	51 1600	71 1800	100 300	144 1300
15 200	34 200	56 320	73 50	109 250	152 300
18 50	36 500	57 40	77 100	119 300	153 200
19 350	39 300	59 50	84 300	124 700	168 250
20 100	40 300	61 1000	86 200	131 200	174 500
22 300	46 300	62 400	91 60	134 400	212 600

Stop orders and bank transfers

400 650	410 600	421 650	431 825	458 350		
401 4500	411 250	422 200	433 2000	461 200		
404 3000	414 5100	424 100	434 300	467 100		
406 200	415 400	426 200	435 200	469 300		
407 1800	417 1100	427 650	436 500			
409 1300	419 4400	428 300	452 50			

Finally Brethren...

I have not failed...
My success is just postponed!