

A scenic photograph of a vineyard in the foreground, with a small white church building nestled among trees in the middle ground. In the background, a large, rugged mountain range is visible under a cloudy sky.

THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

**April 2023
Edition: 1**

Welcome to our very first edition of the “**The SCC Times**” which we hope will be a monthly feature in the life of SCC. The plan is to use this newsletter to keep you updated with what’s happening at SCC, to advise you of upcoming events and special dates, to introduce you to different ministries and members so you can pray for them in a more informed way, to share with you regarding news, birthdays and anniversaries of those who are SCC, and to encourage you as you walk with Jesus. Our prayer is that this will become a helpful tool in fostering both better communication and warmer fellowship amongst all of us. Please pray to that end and feel free to contribute accordingly.

Speaking of encouraging you in your walk, may I remind you of our theme verses for 2023:

***So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,
rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught,
and overflowing with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:6-7***

To receive Christ Jesus as Lord is more than hearing a message about Jesus. It’s to hear and understand the grace of God, it’s to receive the teaching about Jesus as true and undeniable – correct on every level, it’s to recognise that He alone is the fulfilment of God’s promise of a Saviour to free His people from their sins – Christ, it’s to recognise that He alone is the forever King, rightly deserving of our worship and rightly demanding our submission – Lord, it’s to hear and understand, to believe and accept wholeheartedly both who Jesus is and what Jesus did for us on the cross ... it’s to receive Christ Jesus the Lord as your Lord!

But, receiving is just the beginning! As Jesus is fundamental to our salvation, so He’s fundamental to our sanctification – to us living out the Christian life. The path to Christian maturity is always with Jesus – without deviation or drift! We never move on from Jesus to the next spiritual experience ... as we started in Him, so we continue in Him! That’s why we’re to be rooted and built up in Him.

Our prayer is that SCC will be a family where you are enabled and encouraged to continue with Jesus ... rooted and built up in Him as we faithfully teach and study the Word together. Please pray this will be true for you and others at SCC...then, let’s work together to that end.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

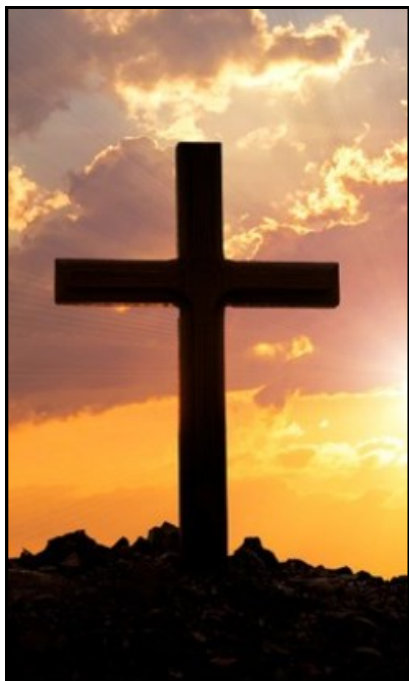
Yours together in Christ, Luke

BIRTHDAYS in April

1 April: Justine Stewart
1 April: Josh Giles
2 April: Paige Cronje
3 April: Lika Odendaal
4 April: Jess Schacht
5 April: Claude Dennis
6 April: Des Inglesby
7 April: Roald Besselaar
9 April: Jenny Inglesby
9 April: Cruz Jeppe
12 April: Luné Odendaal
14 April: Penny Gill
19 April: Simon Pooler
23 April: Ingrid Peters
28 April: Carah Mulligan
29 April: Dave Lumby

ANNIVERSARIES in April

5 April
Duncan & Paula Snyman
8 April
David & Tiffany Venter
14 April
Scott & Penny Gill
17 April
Leigh & Kyla-Rei Mulligan
20 April
Paul & Desiree Joubert
23 April
Dion & Ailsa Williamson
27 April
Mike & Ursula Morris



UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

7 April - Good Friday Service at **09:30** with a 'bring & share' brunch afterwards

9 April - Resurrection Sunday Service at **09:30**

9 April - Baptism Service at **11:30** (in Kreupelbosch)

12 April - Church Prayer Meeting at **19:45** - venue tbc

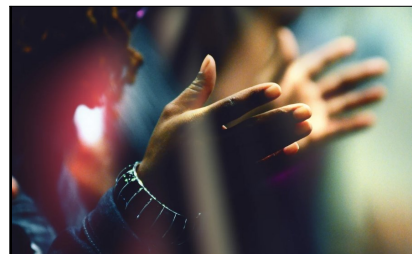
22 April - Men's Breakfast at **07:45**

7 May - (am) Confirmation Service with Bishop Alan Noble at **09:30**

7 May - (pm) start of 7 week "Meeting with Jesus" course at **19:00**

21 May - Annual Vestry Meeting after morning service

22 - 24 September - Church Camp - details to follow



"O Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever "
Psalm 118 vs 1

MEN'S Breakfast - 25 February

(Submitted by Sheldon Cairns)

We had an excellent turnout at our breakfast, with 16 men attending the breakfast. We enjoyed a scrumptious brekkie consisting of bacon & egg rolls and orange juice.

We enjoyed fellowship together and Luke shared with us his vision on how he wants the men's group to be a place



where we can share in each others lives and struggles. Our aim at SCC is for the men to be able to have a place where they can be held accountable to each other and build and support each other.

With this in mind, we are asking for ideas for men's meetings, activities and venues. Please chat to myself or Luke.

A big thank you to Mandi for taking the time to assist with the breakfast preparations and for allowing us to use the premises.



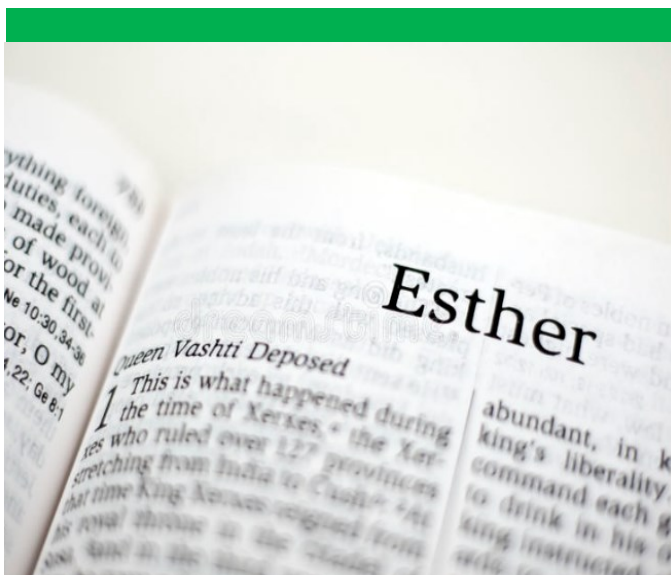
UPCOMING Sermon Series

Easter - Mark Chapter: 14 - 16

April - The book of **Psalms**

May - The book of **Esther**

The Book of Esther, also known in Hebrew as "the Scroll", is a book in the third section of the Hebrew Bible. It is one of the five scrolls in the Hebrew Bible and later became part of the Christian Old Testament. The Story of Esther emphasizes **the power of God, instructing us that we should use the blessings given by God to help others**. The moral of the Story of Esther, is to always do the right thing, using the influence you possess to help others as Esther does in this story.



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you ." 1 John 5 vs 14—15

FINANCIAL Update

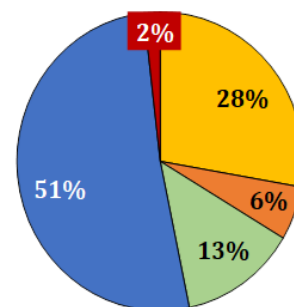
YTD January & February 2023

Church Finances			
	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
Full Year 2022	1,154,497	901,068	253,429
Year to date - Feb 2023	244,001	225,116	18,885

Focused spend for 2023

- Monthly support to Grace Academy & Michele Roux
- New projector
- Music and sound desk improvements
- Website update

- Management / Operations
- Ministry
- Missions
- Manpower (Maturity)
- Membership



Bank Details: Southern Cross Church Standard Bank Blue Route (02 56 09) Acc no: 072 104 791

NEWS from our Mission Partner: MICHELE ROUX

THAI ADVENTURES

Alice joined the Centre Team, as a short-term volunteer for a five week stint with me. I was blessed to have been able to join Alice on her adventures. We explored the mountain close to Chiang Mai University where I stay and did a Thai cooking class. We also took a trip to Pai. The trip to Pai, as lovely as the scenery was, was a reminder of why I'm here. Pai is one of the destinations in Thailand that tourists flock to for 'a good time'. It is a place with so many lost people who are searching, but don't even know what they're looking for.



Learning to cook Thai Food

THIP

It was a blessing to reconnect with Thip. Thip is a believer and we spend time reading the Bible and praying together.

THE NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD

I have enjoyed staying in my new neighbourhood, however it gets lonely at times. I've enjoyed exploring my new surroundings. It feels like a real little community with its fruit & veg stalls. The neighbours dog has become a real companion on my walks down the road.

TRANSPORT

I'm not a daredevil and have never sought the thrill of an adrenalin rush, but there's been something about riding on the back of Grab scooters, that has brought some of it out in me. This newfound sense of freedom in letting my hair blow in the wind, coupled with the frustration of being limited without my own transport, has led me to venture into learning how to ride a scooter.

THAI

Last month I heard about an intensive introductory course in Thai, and had thought it would be a good idea to start it at the beginning of March. However, as I moved and realized how much energy adjusting to culture shock and life in Thailand was taking, I reconsidered this decision and signed up for the May classes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ME:

- As I teach. Pray that I will be able to build good relationships and for gospel opportunities at the right time.
- Please pray for me and Som-O (one of the Thai staff members at The Centre) as we start reading together this week. Pray that our time together will be an encouragement to us both.
- Pray also as we navigate cultural differences between us, that they won't hinder our time together.
- Please pray for safety as I continue learning to ride a scooter.



Thip & I

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong... 2 Corinthians 12:9-10



GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

SPOTLIGHT on ROSS PICKFORD from the Music Team

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY



This could be the longest answer, but the short version is that Vanessa and I got married at 24 and 25 respectively, and fell pregnant with our first boy, James, 4 years in and he was born just ahead of our 5th wedding anniversary. Sean came along 2 years later and Luke just over 2 years after that. So currently we have 3 teenage boys in the house, which is quite a thing @ 17,15 and 13 years!



In 2019, we embarked on a journey of potentially adopting or fostering a girl child, which turned out to be quite a traumatic experience by the end when it all fell through. A few months after the dust had died down, we completed the process of being fully registered on the adoption register. Fast forward a few months, and on Valentines Day 2020, I found myself on the side of a cricket field in Hilton, Natal with Sean playing when we received an email from our adoption agency with a potential match. Thanks to the joy of remote technology, at lunch break, Vanessa (at home in Cape Town) and I called each other and opened the email together. We were presented with a little 4-year old girl and it was an instant YES. They had matched us perfectly with a beautiful, feisty, strong-willed, sporty child who, as it turns out, really is exactly what she would likely have been if born of our earthly blood.



Then came lockdown which threw a spanner in the plans to have her come home from Gauteng. We only managed to go up and fetch her in August, a full 6 months after we, and she, was told of our matching. A point which she was quite indignant on - how did it take us so long to fetch her!?

Katleah is now 7, in Grade 1 and still quite indignant about things in general. All part of raising a girl child we are told. She is full of life, love and fun!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER

I am currently the head of people for Global Kinetic Software. A business that was started by a group of us (all software developers) back in 2005, as a way to do what we loved, without the bureaucracy of the corporates, who we had all worked in before. We honed our processes and continue growing people and delivering amazing software to our clients to this day.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A CHRISTIAN?

Maths is hard. I'm getting old! I was 12 or 13 if memory serves, meaning about 35 years or so now. Purely by the Grace of God, that is for sure!

WHAT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS DO YOU PLAY AND TELL US ABOUT YOUR MUSICAL BACKGROUND

I play Bass, Guitar, Drums, Ukulele, Tambourine, Triangle and the fool. In no particular order.



I started on a bass guitar in high school as the first actual instrument I performed with, playing 4 notes on one string to help out some friends who needed a bass played on 3 songs for a school show at the Westerford Slog. I knew a guy who had one, but not anyone who could play the thing. I had no idea what notes I was playing, I was just given the positions on the string and when to play them. Around that time or possibly a bit earlier, at a school CU camp my friend Colin started showing me a few chords on his guitar. I learned A, D and E if I recall. I didn't really go further until my matric year. At the end of matric, Gordon, the singer and bass player in the church band at Claremont Methodist went overseas for 3 months. A mutual friend knew I had played a bit of bass and asked if I wanted to play in Gordon's absence. I had no instrument but Gordon had left his behind and had shown me a few things in the months preceding. The details are fuzzy, but I played a bit, and ended up in the worship team there for 12 years on most of the aforementioned instruments at some time or other.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

My favourite has changed many times, but I can always be brought back to earth with a great lasagne (Garfield was my guy), the occasional fillet, and chicken in almost any way you can make it :-)

Easy staples like pasta, pizza and potatoes work well. I like me a carb, but having to do less to keep that cholesterol and stuff in hand.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

Music is my biggest hobby followed by running. As someone who was very sedentary for a number of years, I can't sit still for long anymore. I love fixing things, so you will find me tinkering with something most days, successfully I may add! Interests are similar, but with the addition of travelling to new places (don't get enough of this currently), wines, technology, photography, cycling (casual MTB mostly) and hanging out with friends and family.



COMMUNITY Groups 2023

Day & Time	Leader	Contact Number	Group	Area
Tuesdays @ 19:00	Keith Nicol & William Rea	072 159 7342 / 072 945 2942	Mixed	Constantia Hills
Wednesdays @ 11:00	Kath Malan	082 774 1202	Women	Constantia
Wednesdays @ 19:30	Luke Giles	084 440 0199	Grades 12 to 23 yrs	Constantia
Wednesdays @ 19:30	Ilhaam Smith	083 377 2651	Women	Meadowridge
Thursdays @ 19:30	Andrew Stewart	082 887 5658	Men	Newlands
Thursdays @ 20:00	Roald Besselaar	082 853 0461	Mixed	Bergvliet
Thursday @ 20:00	Chip Malan	079 505 7086	Men	Constantia
Fridays @ 17:30	Leigh Mulligan	071 301 4575	Families	Kirstenhof

Interested in contributing towards The SCC Times?

Contact **Melanie Schacht** on **083 708 3181** for more information.

We would like to also include news on SCC ministry events, testimonies and Christian book reviews.