

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" **John 15**



THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

At church on Sunday (23/4), we were reminded that while absolutely assured of our eternal security in and through Jesus, believers are not immune from hurt or hardship in this world now. We get sick, we endure difficult circumstances, and we even face the calamities of this world like everyone else. As did the great men and women of the faith before us – consider 2 Samuel:

King David was facing calamity and crises on every front – the Gibeonites are seeking vengeance for crimes committed by Saul against them (21:2); the Philistines continue to battle against Israel, insistent on killing David (21:16); there is a plague about to break out through the land because of an error of judgement on David's part (24:10); and David is himself growing old and frail, facing the inevitability of his own mortality (21:17). In the middle of this, we find David's song of praise.

*"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
My shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold,
my refuge and my Saviour"
2 Samuel 22:2-3*

A song that reminds us, even today, that amid crisis and calamity our comfort does not ultimately derive from what we know about ourselves or whether we can control our circumstances. Rather, our comfort comes from what we know about God – about His identity, His character, and the fact that He controls all things. That comfort comes when we seek refuge in Him first and foremost. David recalls both God's person and God's faithfulness to His plans, especially His plan of salvation (read the whole of 2 Samuel 22 if you haven't done so recently) ... and finds His peace amidst the storm, in the loving arms of His faithful God. It's what He knows and trusts about God that provides the comfort he desperately needs.

As we face calamity or crises of our own (whether because of sickness or circumstances), the key is not to take our eyes off this truth about God – He alone is our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer; the One in whom we take refuge and find peace in the storm. May He be your refuge, even today.

Yours together in Christ

Luke

**May 2023
Edition: 2**

BIRTHDAYS in May

5 May: Anne Potter
8 May: Angela Rea
8 May: Brayden van Rooyen
9 May: Johan Paulsen
13 May: Gabriella Laporta
16 May: Chip Malan
16 May: Andrew Dunn
18 May: Kerryh Rehse
19 May: Angelique Lubbe
23 May: Caren Radue
23 May: Timothy D'Alton
24 May: Olivia Lumby
26 May: William Radue
27 May: Lindsay Clift
28 May: Joshua Piper
29 May: Tiffany Venter
30 May: Nanika Langenegger

ANNIVERSARIES in May

17 May
Sheldon & Mandi Cairns





UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

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

7 May - (pm) start of 7 week "Meeting with Jesus" course at **19:15**

7 May - Council nominations due

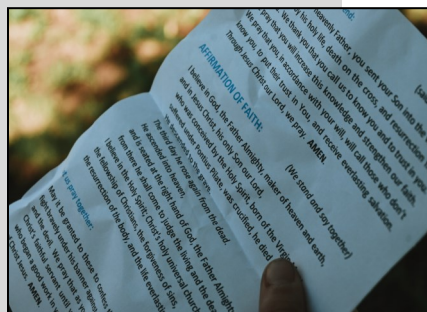
18 May - Ascension Day Fellowship (tbc)

21 May - Annual Vestry Meeting at **10.30**

22 - 24 September - Church Camp - details to follow



"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you" **Deuteronomy 31:6**



BAPTISM on Easter Sunday

On Sunday, **9 April 2023**, four of our teenagers Anna Lumby, Bradley Nel, Ellie Peters and Luke Pooler affirmed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour during a baptism service at the Lumby's house in Kreupelbosch. It was encouraging to see them boldly stand for Jesus in today's world. The occasion was witnessed by family and friends, who came to support the teenagers and enjoyed tea and chocolate brownies after the baptism.

Our prayer is that the Lord will sustain Anna, Bradley, Ellie and Luke as they continue to serve Jesus in their daily lives, bringing to completion the work He has started in them.



NEWS from our Mission Partners: Michael and Renee Watson



GROWTH GROUPS



This month has been the start of Growth Groups at Christ Church Lusaka. These Growth Groups are really the heartbeat of the church and have been so valuable and encouraging for us. It has opened up the communities to us and has given us a glimpse into the lives of the people we are here to serve. There are two groups that we are involved in. What a joy it is to be able to share life in this way.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME

This week God encouraged my heart during Sunday School. As I glanced over at one of our older children, Moses. On his worksheet I noticed some blank spaces and some incorrect answers. I noticed Moses paying close attention to the sermon as Michael preached. Moses also realized one of his answers was incorrect and I saw him scratch it out and correct it. I thanked God in that moment that I could be a part of growing these little children.

PREACHING THE WORD



The past three weeks, Michael has had the opportunity to preach every Sunday at Christ Church Lusaka. He has enjoyed spending time in God's word and preparing to bring it to the people.

SIMEON TRUST IN KITWE

Last week Michael had the wonderful opportunity to attend a preaching workshop in Kitwe. The workshop was run by the Simeon Trust and has been on his wish list for quite some time. God opened the door for Michael to be able to attend this workshop not too far from where we are based. It did require a long bus trip and a bit of financial output (R5000) but all in all he found it to be so valuable to be able to bring God's word out in a simple way.

A SEARCH FOR A NEW VENUE



Christ Church Lusaka is currently meeting in a lecture room at the University of Zambia (UNZA). This venue, although relatively central in terms of location, has not been ideal for the growth of the church or the children's ministry. A few weeks ago we were informed by UNZA that they will no longer be hosting any other outside groups on campus and we would need to find a new venue. The search for a new and appropriate venue has started and has proved to be quite a challenge. We are looking for something that is centrally located, affordable and hopefully has additional space available for the running of the Children's Ministry. Despite it being a challenge, we are thrilled at the exciting possibilities that this change will bring. We trust this challenge will turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

PLEASE PRAY FOR US:

- Thank God for the weekly Growth Groups that have started up.
- Thank God for monthly financial support that enables us to pay bills.
- Pray that Children's ministry will continue to grow and meet the needs of the children at Christ Church Lusaka.
- Pray for the Explore courses that are running with the two groups.
- Pray for Christ Church Lusaka to find the right venue.
- Pray for ministry funding to cover ministry costs.
- Pray for the provision of a vehicle for us here in Lusaka.



GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

SPOTLIGHT on ANNA POOLER from the Music Team

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY



I am part of a family of 5 humans and 5 cats. I am the eldest sibling of 3. My younger brothers are Luke (15) and Matty (13). We live in Bergvliet with our parents, Bex and Simon. My brothers are both currently at Westerford High School, which is where I matriculated from. My mom is a Crazy Cat Lady (her words, not mine) and my dad hires and sells musical instruments.



YOU FINISHED MATRIC LAST YEAR. WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY STUDYING AND WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

I am currently doing my Bachelor of Music (BMus) at UCT with psychology as an elective. After I complete my Bmus (hopefully in 4 years time), I plan to do my Masters in Music Therapy so that I can teach and practice music therapy.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A CHRISTIAN? WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE?

I declared my faith to the Lord when I was 14 years old and was confirmed when I was 15. I think my favourite Bible verse is John 1:1, because it is the first verse I remember having to memorize for Sunday School and it has stuck with me.

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

I play the piano and flute, with a side of guitar (lockdown hobby). I started learning the piano when I was 7, and the flute when I was 11. I completed my grade 8 exams in both instruments at the end of last year, just before finals (terrible timing). At UCT, I can only major in 1 instrument, and I've chosen to do piano but I am planning to keep playing the flute in ensembles.



*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. John 1: vs 1*

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD

I am struggling to pick one, so will give a three course meal: starter of blue Doritos, my mom's baked Chicken Pasta as main course, and Kristen's Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough ice cream to finish it all off.



TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

I love playing with my kittens and listening to music. I like listening to music that I play on the piano and sometimes making my friends sing along while I play.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE BOOK AND MOVIE?

I used to be big reader, but sadly not as much anymore and I am still struggling to pick a favourite book. I love the book series Valiant Hearts by Dina L. Sleiman and the Secret Countess by Eva Ibbotson. I love musicals, and my favourite movie is the 2005 movie adaption of Rent.

MATTERS for Prayer

Luke recently shared two important items for us to be praying about as a local church:

- the first is the **election of the church council** at our upcoming **AVM , 21 May 2023**.
Please pray that the right people will be nominated and elected to serve as churchwardens and council members.
(if you wish to nominate someone, please collect a form from the "admin" table on Sunday and return it before **7 May 2023**).
- the second is that we need to temporarily move **venue for our Sunday services** while BHS do repairs and refurbishments to the gym and the hall during June and July.
Please pray that we can find a suitable alternative space for both services and Sunday School.
If you know of any suitable venues, please speak to Luke.

CHURCH Finances

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
Full Year 2022	1,154,497	901,068	253,429
Year to date - March 2023	361,076	339,455	21,621

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