

THE SCC TIMES

Dear SCC Family,

Can you believe that Spring is upon us ... according to the calendar anyway!
But, back in Daniel 2, he's still in the throes of winter's darkness – *figuratively speaking*.

King Nebuchadnezzar had a recurring dream (2:1). Dreams were perceived as forms of communication, so he calls his wise men to interpret it for him. Suspicious of their competence, he says they must tell him both the dream and its message. If they don't, he'll have them cut into pieces (2:5) – *clearly, he's been working on his motivational skills!*

The wise men understandably think this is unreasonable: no one on earth can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing (2:10). Daniel agrees with them (2:27). Especially when the dissatisfied king decrees for all the wise men to be killed – including Daniel and friends (2:12).

They are in an impossible situation – an unreasonable king, with unreasonable expectations. Maybe you've experienced something similar (hopefully your life wasn't in danger)! But maybe you've had to deal with unreasonable people, making demands that are unfair and unjust. Sadly, it seems there's no shortage of such people! *How do you respond?*

Consider Daniel's response (we'll return to the dream in a later newsletter). When informed of the king's decision, he didn't lose the plot as we might be tempted to – becoming angry or bitter, argumentative, or even aggressive! Instead, we read in v14:

Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. (Daniel 2:14)

Wisdom and tact; not anger and frustration, not rage and fury – *wisdom and tact!* He doesn't react how I'd have anticipated, and not the way I would have – *if truth be told!* How can he remain so calm under such trying circumstances?

Partly, because he'd resolved to honour God in all things (1:8). And partly, because he recognised his dependence on God's mercy in all situations – notice what he tells his friends to pray for (v18). He recognises his dependence on God's mercy. He knows he's already received it (Ch 1) but recognises his ongoing need for it. Mercy is described as compassion, kindness, understanding, or benevolence from another. Daniel is dependent on God's mercy ... and that mercy transforms his character. Because of God's mercy towards him, he can show mercy to others – dealing with difficult people in a merciful way.

That's the great challenge for God's people in all our difficult situations. We are not called to treat others on the basis that they treat us; but on how God has treated us. We are to show compassion, kindness, understanding, even benevolence to others, because God has shown that to us, supremely in Jesus. In trying times, we need to show mercy!

Remember, Jesus said: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matt 5:7). So, let's commit to be men and women who, having received mercy from God, show mercy – kindness & compassion – to others; transforming every encounter to show God in the midst of it.

Yours together in Christ, Luke

SEPTEMBER 2023 Edition: 5

BIRTHDAYS in SEPTEMBER

1 September: Gavin Blyth
1 September: Matty Pooler
2 September: Kirstin Helleman
2 September: Emil Langenegger
5 September: Stephen D'Alton
5 September: James Pickford
6 September: Kath Malan
12 September: Scott Gill
14 September: Anna Pooler
15 September: Mike Schacht
16 September: Melanie Schacht
17 September: Leila Cronje
26 September: Elijah Rea
27 September: Sean Pickford
28 September: Emilie Langenegger

ANNIVERSARIES in SEPTEMBER

10 September
Jake & Daleen Griesel





UPCOMING Dates for your Diary

4 September - Church Council meeting at 19:45 - 14 Airie Place, Constantia

9 September - Men's Fellowship - Boerie rolls for lunch at 13:00 (venue tbc)

11 - 13 September - REACH SA Synod at Christ Church, Umhlanga

18 September - Community Group Leaders meeting - 19:45 - 14 Airie Place, Constantia

1 & 8 October - Holiday Sermon series

Sunday Afternoons - Join the SCC Hiking Group - contact Debra 072 016 5511

22 - 24 September - Church Camp @ Rocklands Centre in Simons Town

We are so excited to be going away as a church family for good food, great fun and warm fellowship as we spend time together in and around God's Word ... and we're so hoping that you will join us.

From **Friday, 22 September 2023** (anytime from 16:30, supper at 18:00).

To **Sunday, 24 September 2023** (finishing after we've enjoyed lunch together).

For more info, please contact Luke (Tel. 084 440 0199) or Kerryn (Tel. 084 515 5961).

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you: he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid: do not be discouraged". Deuteronomy 31: 8-9

LADIES MINISTRY - Women's Day Breakfast - 9 August



The Ladies Ministry Team organised a delicious breakfast for the ladies on National Women's Day, 9 August. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast with muesli & yoghurt, fruit salad & muffins, followed by fellowship and a talk by Eunice Rea on 'prayer'.

REACH Women's Conference - 19 August



Ladies from the various REACH churches across the country attended the 2023 REACH Women's conference hosted at St James Church, Kenilworth.

The speaker was Jo Anne Taylor, the Children's Worker from St Stephen's church in Claremont. Jo gave an encouraging message on "Living By Faith In a Broken World" from the Book of Habbakuk.

NEWS from our Mission Partner: GRACE ACADEMY

Dear Friends,

What's the buzz at Grace? Lots has happened since our last newsletter.



The students with their newly donated tv

themselves “naturally” and there is mutual learning and care for one another. From Bible readings and reflections to moments where we call one another out. As I write, I reflect on those moments of gratitude.

Life Design:

What a fun learning journey. Learning to think critically, creatively and with curiosity in order to solve problems. The best part is the excitement when solving design challenges with nothing but a few pieces of paper, some sticky notes, a sharpie and a bunch of minds brimming with potential solutions.

Speaking on design, we've partnered with Solid Ground Training to offer a Graphic Design internship. This is the 2nd that the membership has run. However, it's the first time the course is being run from Mitchells 's Plain. Gabby, a current student and Storm have embarked on this new learning adventure.



Gabby & Storm's first day of their Graphic Design Internship with Ben (Solid Ground)

Education:

We're very thankful that the loadshedding hasn't fallen mid-morning for the last couple of days. The students were thus able to make progress in their studies. We try see the glass as half-full. When loadshedding does strike, it allows us to devise creative ways to redeem the time.

Soul Care:

Unlike Sunday gatherings, where we only see one another for a few hours at a time, we get to spend copious amount of time together. One of the benefits of being together all day is that the discipleship moments present



Celebrating Courtney's 16th Birthday

Your prayers and interests in our students are much appreciated. They are learning, growing and being stretched as they go about their learning journeys. Without sharing specifics, all our students face ongoing trauma, some on a daily basis. Please continue to pray for them.

Please share some of your prayer needs with us, we would love to pray for you.

GETTING TO KNOW our SCC Family

SPOTLIGHT on VIOLA NICOLS

from our Music Team

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I come from a family of five siblings, and growing up we had lots of fun together with our large extended family, lots of aunts, uncles and cousins, most of whom were in and around Durban where we lived, and Maritzburg where we lived later. Christmas was, and still is, a special time of family fun for us.

I have been married to Keith (whom I first met in Sunday School in Durban) for 51 ½ years! We have two children, Tim who is a lecturer and Brigitte who is a teacher. Brigitte is married to Craig, who is a headmaster, and they have four children – Chiara who is doing a teaching degree while working as an intern at Somerset College, Gabriella who is in Grade 11, Daniel who is in Grade 3, and Joseph who went to live with the Lord in heaven when he was very young. Many of you will remember him.



My husband Keith & I



Keith has had a long and interesting career in local government and currently works as a specialist adviser to the Speaker in the City of Cape Town.

YOU ARE SEMI-RETIRED, BUT ARE STILL TEACHING, TELL US MORE?

I have had a long career as a school music teacher, both in private and government schools, and have loved every aspect of it. My first teaching post was at a high school where I taught English and music, and amongst other duties I trained the school cadet band. Since then I have worked mainly in primary schools and am now teaching two mornings a week at the Little Bosch campus of Rondebosch Boys Prep School – and loving it.

Over the years my work has involved doing class music lessons, training the school's choirs, teaching piano pupils, training recorder ensembles, staging concerts and nativity plays, and what I greatly enjoyed was the Chapel work on Sundays at a private boys college in Maritzburg, as well as the combined schools carol services which our school used to host.

DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

My hobbies are varied, and apart from music-related things I love doing crafts like beading, knitting, sewing and decoupage. Once or twice I have taken a stall at a craft market just for fun. Crosswords and other puzzles are also a favourite pastime, and playing board games with the family is always fun and can become quite rowdy.



My daughter Brigitte & husband Craig

WHAT MINISTRY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCC?

We very much enjoy being part of SCC and on Tuesday evenings host the community group that we are part of. Also I am one of the helpers in the Sunday School which I enjoy, and I am part of the music team as one of the pianists.

TELL US BRIEFLY HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN?

I come from a Christian family and accepted the Lord as my Saviour when I was at primary school after having the way of salvation explained to me by my mother. Our Sundays were spent at Sunday school, morning and evening church services, and a children's club in the afternoon – no time to get up to mischief on a Sunday!

CAN YOU RECOMMEND A GOOD BOOK AND A FAVOURITE MOVIE?

A book which I really enjoyed reading is *God Meant it for Good*, by RT Kendall, about the life of Joseph, very readable and very encouraging. Having read it for the first time I turned back to the beginning and re-read it. RT Kendall's books are favourite reading. As for a movie – *The Sound of Music* has to be my all-time favourite.



Our grandchildren:
Gabriella, Chiara & Daniel



Our Son, Tim

NAME A BAND, SINGER OR MUSIC YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO?

On the music side, I love classical music, especially Chopin's piano compositions. Christian music is also right up there, going back to some of the lovely and meaningful hymns that have stood the test of time and also any recent songs that have been written with thought and meaning and nice melodies. I especially enjoy listening to, and playing, songs by Graham Kendrick.

WHAT FOOD DO YOU ENJOY?

Foodwise, I prefer savoury to sweet, with pizza being right near the top, along with roast lamb. On the sweeter side, I do love traditional fruit cake.

DO YOU ENJOY TRAVELLING? WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

Yes, we do enjoy travelling. When our children were growing up we went on holidays all over South Africa. Favourite places were Kruger National Park and the Natal game parks. However, my favourite destination was always the lovely Natal beaches where I spent many holidays as a child and where I helped at many CSSM beach missions as a teenager. I also enjoy visiting places of historical interest, especially when we have been abroad.

MATTERS for Prayer

- Please continue to pray for Daleen, our new Family Ministries Coordinator, as she settles in and gets to know the various ministries and people under her care.
- Give thanks for TCC's 40th birthday celebrations this month ... for God's faithfulness to them and for their faithfulness to Him. Pray for Des and Luke as they are involved as former Rectors.
- Pray for the REACH-SA Synod taking place in Umhlanga, KZN (11-13 Sept), especially as they elect a new Presiding Bishop. Pray for travelling mercies for the many clergy and delegates who will be attending (including Luke).
- Pray for the upcoming Church Camp (22-24 Sept) ... for a good response in people attending and for those organising the programme & activities. Pray too that those who can't attend for the weekend will join us as day visitors when they can.



"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you"

Isaiah 43:2

CHURCH Finances

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
2023 January to June	736,669	(644,820)	91,849
2023 July	132,604	(108,097)	24,507
2023 YTD	869,273	(752,917)	116,355

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