

The Messenger

August/September 2018

Dear Friends

There is a very powerful passage in the Ecclesiastes which speaks of the broad expanse of the seasons. I'm sure you know it well:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

*a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

And then, in verse 11, "God has made everything beautiful in its time". I have a real sense that God is changing the season here at St Mungo's. At this point (when this newsletter is being made available to you), we have had two evenings to talk about Stewardship and Resourcing. We are exploring new ideas on how to fund the programmes of the Church and to resume paying our affiliation fees to the two denominations of which we are a part. In September, we will present the best set of financial accounts the Church has seen in the last 7 years. It's a new season but we will first have to get through a last bit of cold before we can enjoy the warm sunlight of spring.

The writer of that beautiful piece reminds us that the hard times have value also, they inevitably precede and follow the times of plenty – mourning and dancing, embracing and refraining, war and peace. The question is, how can we learn from the tough times? How can we mature

Save the Date

26 August

Songs of Praise

At both the 8am & 9h30am services

14 September

Family Quiz Evening

Get your team ready

16 September

Annual Congregational Meeting

Combined Service | 9am

29 September

Morning Market

6 - 7 October

Thanksgiving Weekend

Inside

Photos & more photos of Holiday Club
& Mandela Sunday

Missional Engagement

Morning Markets

and so much more...



as a result of the trying times so that the season of rejoicing can be enjoyed?

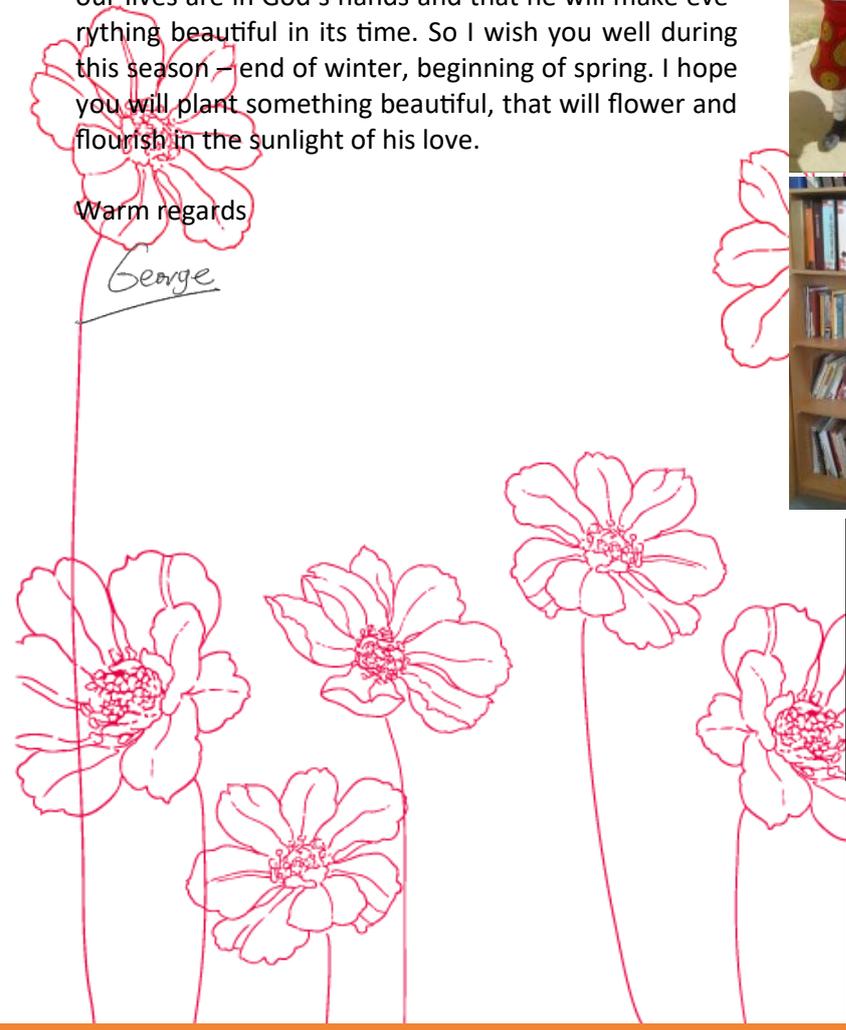
In the two months since the last Messenger, we have experienced the death of two dear friends, committed members of St Mungo's. We've made hospital visits to people who are suffering greatly. We've experienced the struggle that people live on a daily basis. A time to mourn?

There has also been times of great joy: a holiday club in Diepsloot (I think the first one ever!) which was a great success, a Mandela Sunday that brought us together. The generosity of God's people has surprised us again. A time to dance?

I'm not sure what your year so far has been like. I'm not sure whether it feels more appropriate to scatter stones or to gather them up. What I do know is that our lives are in God's hands and that he will make everything beautiful in its time. So I wish you well during this season – end of winter, beginning of spring. I hope you will plant something beautiful, that will flower and flourish in the sunlight of his love.

Warm regards

George



FLEECE & BLANKET DRIVE

Thank you St Mungo's. Our appeal for money for fleeces was a resounding success. We bought enough fleeces for 43 children at our Khulani ECD, 9 for the destitute in Diepsloot and the Johannesburg central congregation in Berea.

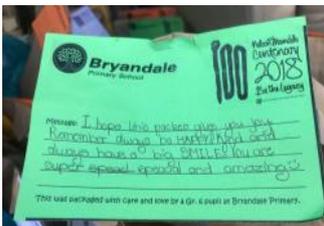


Thank you also for the donation of blankets made by the congregation. You made the very cold winter a little warmer to the congregants at the Johannesburg Central Congregation and the destitute in and around Bryanston.



BRYANDALE PRIMARY CELEBRATE MANDELA DAY

The Grade 6 children at Bryandale Primary School made 197 packs filled with an orange, hot dog, packet of chips and cooldrink, for the Musenga Vhudzimu Primary school in Diepsloot and the adult learners at the Diepsloot Foundation. Thank you Grade 6 learners what an incredible generous gesture. We especially loved the personalized messages on each pack. The children at Musenga stuck them into their workbooks as a memory of generosity and gratitude.



GOODBYE & THANK YOU

Heather Garrett

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" Colossians 3:23-24

On Tuesday 26 June, Setlamo Employment Bureau bid farewell to a truly incredible volunteer – Lyn Ernstzen. Lyn has faithfully served in various capacities for the Soup Kitchen and Employment Bureau projects for the past 17 years and we will miss her friendship, expertise and love greatly. When I joined the Bureau 12 years ago it was Lyn who 'showed me the ropes' and mentored me and I could not have asked for a better role model.

Come rain or shine, heat or freezing cold, Lyn was always there to lend a hand. Not only did she register job seekers, but also ministered to them and counselled many who felt as though all hope was gone.

I read a quote recently by Tammy Cohen that said "A great employee is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have" – Lyn was indeed a rare find and we were so lucky to have had her share our journey for the past 17 years.

On behalf of the ladies at the Bureau, thank you Lyn and we wish you every happiness and God's richest blessings going forward.





MANDELA SUNDAY



St Mungo's celebrated Mandela Day on the 1st July 2018, in order to complete the Mission trip from First Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney. The day started with a spirit filled Combined service of all our congregations. What a wonderful day was spent at our church in Diepsloot.

We had various activities available in order to spend 67 minutes, this included making soup for our soup kitchen, planting trees and succulents, making Christmas cards for Lotsha prison ministries and packing epap for our Robot Ministries. All the hardworkers were thanked with a Boerewors Roll and cooldrink, which had been kindly donated by various members.







DEEPER





Turn the page to find out more...



Mission Week

What a fantastic Mission week we had with the Holiday Club attracting just short of 100 children on Tuesday to Thursday in the last week of June. Our friends from First Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, worked very hard together with our Bryanston and Diepsloot adults and teens to put on a 'top class' undersea Bible adventure. In addition, our Irish friends painted the Bathroom block at Diepsloot. It looks lovely (as you will see). On Mandela Sunday, 1 July we had a full service with testimonies about the week and with the celebration of the Lord's supper. What a privilege to see God's people at work, serving each other and sharing our faith.

In brief, Mission Week included:

- 9 Guests from Ballymoney, Northern Ireland. Full of life (20s to 60s), enthusiastic to share their faith
- Adults and teens from Bryanston joining in to put on a great programme.
- A week of activity at Diepsloot including maintenance of the buildings and painting the bathroom block.
- Holiday Club: Tuesday 26 to Thursday 28 June – a great success.

- To crown it all off: Mandela Sunday 1 July 2018 at 9:30am with Holy Communion (followed by 67 minutes of service at Diepsloot).

At the end of it all, the Ballymoney church donated enough money to repaint the inside of the hall and offices at Diepsloot. Also, they payed for the entire Holiday club décor, crafts and tea time catering – An investment of around R 50 000!

St Mungo's says thank you to our Irish friends. Thank you to the Dicksons, the Longwes, Marshalls and the Mclroys for hosting our friends, to those who provided transport and daily lunches, to the volunteers (especially Sibó and Pearl) and to Sascha M and Fiona MB for the incredible amount of work they put in to make it happen.



Irish Guests & their hosts



Season of Commitment

The 2017/18 Financial year has been finalised and the books have been handed over to the auditors so that they can do their examination and prepare the Financial Statements for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday 16 September 2018. On the whole, it has been a wonderful year financially with the accounts showing a total giving of **R 4,2 million**. When added to fundraising and hall hire etc, the total income is **R 4,8 million**. God has been good to us. Thank you for your generosity.

On the expenses side, we have spent **R 4,6 million** – a saving of **R 200 000** on what we budgeted to spend. Thanks to all the Task team conveners and to the Church office for spending carefully. Of course, a large percentage of the savings is as a result of not having given our staff an increase this year.

St Mungo's still faces the prospect of structural change in 2019 as we attempt to right size ourselves for the new financial reality in which we live. It is hoped that a small task team led by Adrian Dickson will bring proposals in the last quarter of the year. The main challenge is to begin paying our assessments to our two parent denominations.

The Council wishes to thank the members of the Finance Committee for diligent work done during this past year and especially to the following three members who are standing down at the ACM: Garth Smit (Chairman – after many years of faithful service), Dennis Rutter (Treasurer) and John Grimmer.

Welcome to the following new members who joined in July and August: Lorraine Klaasen, Yvonne Arends and Mthabisi Ndlovu.

Most importantly – our Commitment Sunday this year was an integral step toward laying good foundations for 2018/19. Here is a prayer given on commitment Sunday.

A PRAYER FOR COMMITMENT SUNDAY

*Gracious God,
Thank You for the work You have given me.*

*I give You my hands to...
create something of beauty,
build something of strength,
serve the broken and needy.*

*I give You my feet to...
lead by example,
go where you lead,
carry me to worship.*

*I give You my mind to...
learn more of Your world,
learn more of your Word,
see my work as service to You.*

*I give You my voice to...
speak kindly of others,
share Your story with friends,
sing Your praise.*

*I give You my time and my money to...
work for You,
bless the poor and needy,
comfort the lonely and build your kingdom.*

Gracious God,

*Thank You for the work You have given me,
May my work be Your work.*

Through Jesus I pray. Amen.





God's Word - Central to Missional Engagement

God's revelation in the Bible enables humanity to have a glimpse of the power of God. The Bible, His Word allows us to see and understand what is important to God. When we read the Bible we see what God has done for humanity. When we allow the Bible to read us, we see so much in us that needs conversion. He is the God who loves us, the God who has rescued us from death and redeemed us. The Bible helps us to see how God has always brought us closer to Himself to enable us to be part of His mission in the world.

CJ Wright believes that "in order to understand the Bible, we need a missional hermeneutic, an interpretive perspective that is in tune with the great missional theme. We need to see how the familiar bits and pieces fit into the grand narrative of Scripture. Beginning with the Old Testament and its groundwork for understanding who God is, what he has called his people to be and do, and how the nations fit into God's mission." Wright gives us a new hermeneutical perspective on Scripture. This perspective provides a solid and expansive basis for holistic mission. "God's mission is to reclaim the world. – including the created order and God's people have designated roles to play." (Christopher JH Wright, *The Mission of God. Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative.*)

"We join Him in the mission so that everyone from every tongue, tribe, nation, every people group, every population segment, every cultural environment ... hears the good news of Jesus Christ and is reached."

"If there is any good news it will have to come from Christians who know what they believe and why. We are called to bring a message of hope in the midst of despair; we are called to suffer if need be for the only message that shines a light in the darkness. Without a strong belief in the Scriptures, we simply will not be able to stand against the encroaching darkness." (7 Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible. Erwin W Lutzer)

Wright again makes a profound statement that resonates with me intensely: "To say that the Bible is all about mission does not mean that we try to find some-

thing relevant to evangelism in every verse. We are referring to something deeper and wider in relation to the Bible as a whole. In a missiological approach to the Bible we are thinking of:

- The purpose for which the Bible exists;
- The God the Bible renders to us;
- The purpose whose identity and mission the Bible invites us to share; and
- The story the Bible tells about this God and his people and indeed about the whole world and its future."

The entire Bible is about God's mission and central to our missional engagement. The Message puts Romans 10: 13-15 so beautifully:

"But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That's why Scripture exclaims,

*A sight to take your breath away!
Grand processions of people
telling all the good things of God!"*

Selatswe

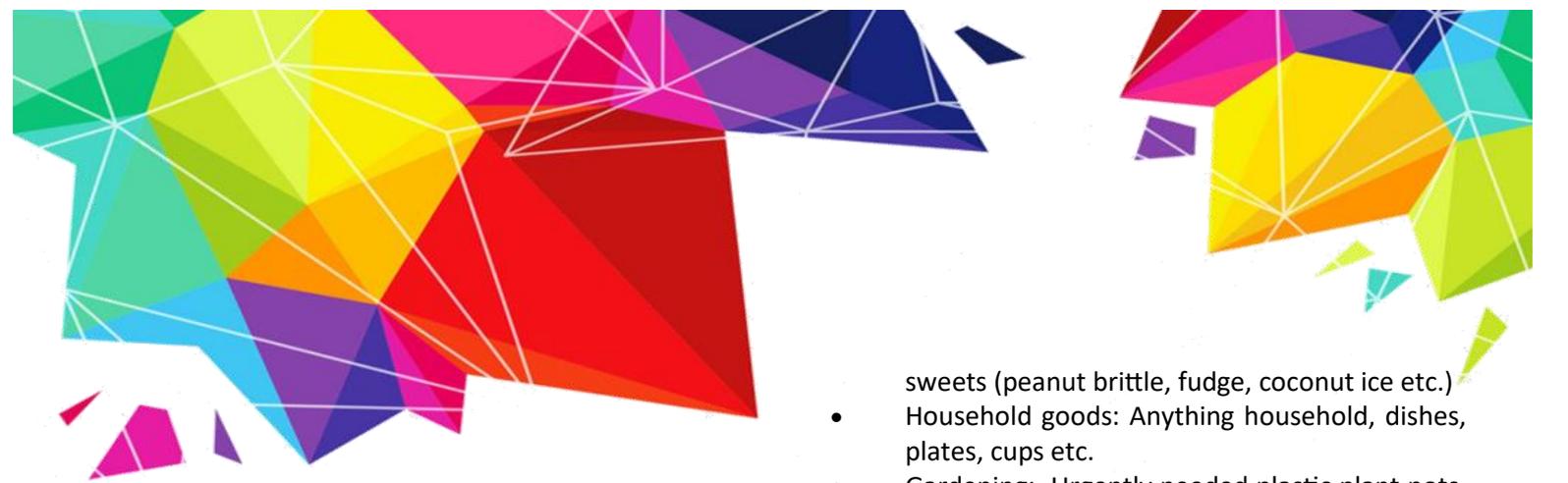


Refresh!
SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 27 October | 9am

Guest Speaker: Saray Khumalo

Saray is a Mandela Libraries champion climbing mountains to raise awareness of the Mandela Libraries Projects. This initiative is working on building libraries for about 90% of the schools without libraries in South Africa.



saturday morning MARKETS

Dear Friends,

Following our announcement on Sunday 15th July, we are happy to inform you our first Saturday Mini Market will take place on **Saturday 29th September** between 9am and 12 noon. These Saturday Mini Markets will continue in 2019.

At this market we will be having household goods, books, jams, preserves and pancakes for sale. We will definitely be having a tea garden for you to spend a while enjoying a cup of tea and a fancy treat.

Below is a list of the stalls we intend having over the various market days and the items we need to collect for them:

- Books: Any and all books.
- Jams, Chutney and Preserves: Glass bottles with metal lids Big and small (including fish paste or salmon spread bottles). Recipes available.
- Sewing and knitting: Any items handmade are very popular.
- Baked and sweet goods: Quiches, pies, tarts, biscuits, loaves (date, banana etc), rusks, muffins,

sweets (peanut brittle, fudge, coconut ice etc.)

- Household goods: Anything household, dishes, plates, cups etc.
- Gardening: Urgently needed plastic plant pots, seeding trays and containers. We would be delighted if you would grow some seedlings or slips yourself. Potting soil is available at the church.
- Toys: Puzzles, games, soft toys, (dolls knitted/sewn clothes, pattern available). Anything suitable for children
- Second hand clothing: Will be greatly appreciated.
- Tombola: Any item suitable for adult and children's prizes.
- Boerewors braai: Donations of boerewors and rolls would be a great help on the particular day.

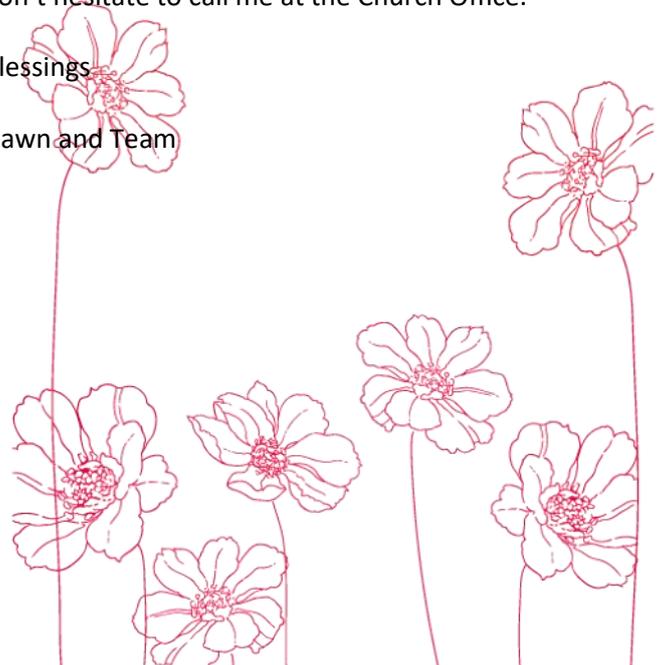
So please remember, should you, your family or friends be moving home, downsizing or having a general clear out, these items can be delivered to the church office, or dropped off at the "Trolley" in the foyer as they become available.

We intend holding another Mini Market on the 1st December with emphasis on Christmas.

Should you have any queries or suggestions please don't hesitate to call me at the Church Office.

Blessings

Dawn and Team





CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER | COMBINED SERVICE | 9AM



Songs of Praise

Sunday 26 August
8am & 9.30am

Quiz Night

FRIDAY 14 SEPT

- PRIZES TO BE WON
- BRING A PICNIC SUPPER

ALL WELCOME

How to Contact Us:

- ✓ Telephone: 011 706 6108
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- ✓ Website: www.stmungo.co.za
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