



December 2012

Christ Church Chronicle



1400 people, 4 days, 1 Lord

A report by Margaret Labuschagne

Mission and Vision of ACSA

Almighty God, consuming fire of love
You have given us the vision to be
Anchored in the Love of Christ
Committed to Your mission, and
Transformed by the Holy Spirit;
We seek
To honour You in living worship
To embody and proclaim the Good News, and
To grow communities of faith:
Set us ablaze with Your power and love
To build up Your Church
And serve You in the world
To Your praise and glory
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Deck the Halls

Join the choir to celebrate the joys of
Christmas: carols, crackers, crazy hats!

When? Saturday 8 December in the Parish Hall, from 18.30

Cost? R70 adults, R50 concessions

Contact? Ansie or Carolyn after church

Christmas services

2 December, 5.30 pm:

O Come, Emmanuel: Preparing for Christmas—Service for Advent

Christmas Eve:

5.30 pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

11.00 pm: Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

7.30 am: Said Mass with Hymns

9.15 am: Sung Mass

"Anglicans Ablaze: A generation rising up" was a conference held from 3-6 October,

under the auspices of the Anglican Church of South Africa and Anglicans Ablaze, an umbrella organisation of several groups within the greater Anglican community. It was attended by 1400 delegates, myself included, representing Christ Church. The aim of the event was primarily to look at the vision and mission of the ACSA (see sidebar) and consider how each of us can do something about making it a reality in our churches and in our communities.

The ACSA's vision and mission statement was worked out by a Task Team and approved by Provincial Synod in 2010. It has the full endorsement of the Archbishop and Bishops. A lot is happening to implement it at Provincial level, but it still needs to take root in the people, parishes and organisations that make up the ACSA. So, at the conference, different groups of Anglicans called on God to empower us with the Holy Spirit to make this vision and mission a reality in our lives.

The central focus of the conference became clear very quickly: MISSION and EVANGELISM. This report will focus on two very interesting sessions I attended.

Committed to mission

This session was led by SOMA, an Anglican mission organisation. SOMA have much to teach us about the nature of mission. What kept coming through was the centrality of mission to the Christian identity – in other words, without mission, we are not Christians. Or, mission is what makes us Christian. Perhaps this is alarming to many of us, but it is handy to remember the Anglican church's five marks or characteristics of mission:

- Proclaim the good news of the kingdom.
- Disciple, teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- Perform loving service.
- Transform the unjust structures of society.
- Safeguard and sustain creation.

We were also reminded that although we are the hands of mission, God is actually the God who sends: "Mission is an attribute of God" (David Bosch). Mission is not a human invention, nor a human choice. *(Continued on page 3)*

The Pretoria Regiment and Christ Church

Have you ever wondered about the flags that hang in Christ Church? These are the regimental colours of the Pretoria Regiment, which has a special relationship with our church, traditionally marking Remembrance Day with us. Read on to find out more about this Regiment.

Origins of the Pretoria Regiment

The Northern Mounted Rifles (NMR) was established as a Transvaal Volunteer unit in 1903. On 1st July 1913 it was disbanded in accordance with provisions of the *SA Defence Act* of 1912, and replaced by the 12th Infantry, or Pretoria Regiment (PR) as an Active Citizen Force regiment. It consisted of former members of the NMR, Pretoria companies of various Volunteer regiments headquartered in Johannesburg and new recruits.

No longer compulsory since 1994 the PR now recruits volunteers among former Reserve and Regular Force soldiers and University of Pretoria students, men and women, black and white. By 2010 it included a black major in the command cadre. Decentralized training enabled several members to be trained at the School of Armour in 2009, followed by promotions. Conventional training and skill tests have culminated in participation in exercises and training for Peace Keeping Operations as required for one of the SANDF's major roles.

Roles and Active Service

The PR has been active in peace-keeping

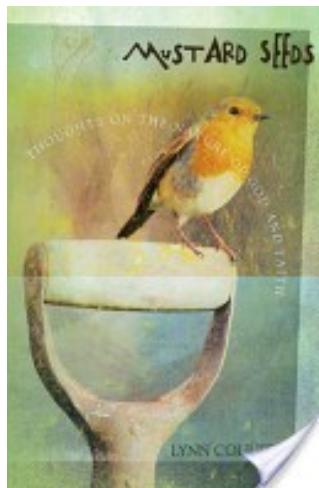
and war situations, ranging from action during the 1913, 1914 and 1922 strikes, to active service during the First and Second World Wars in German South West Africa, North and East Africa, as well as Europe and Madagascar. Battalions were active in Namibia and Angola in the 1980s as well.

The PR suffered casualties during these operations, including three deaths in German SWA 1914-15, one by German air action, one in Madagascar and 61 in Italy and two due to malaria and accident in 1988.

Theatre, Battle and Other Honours

- *1938 Regimental Colour*. Replaced in 1963.
- *Theatre and Battle Honours SWA 1914-1915, Madagascar 1942, Italy 1944-1945, Bagno Regio, Sarteano, La Foce, Florence, Gothic Line, Caterletto, Ridge, Po-Valley, South West Africa/Angola (1976-1989).*
- *City of Pretoria Banner* 1915.
- *First World War Banner* awarded by King George V in 1923.
- *Freedom of the City of Pretoria* 1 July 1963.

The headquarters of the Pretoria Regiment are at Magazyn Hill, Patriot Street, Salvo Kop, Pretoria.



NEW BOOKS IN THE RESOURCE CENTRE

Come and take a look at the new titles in the Resource Centre for your holiday reading. Why don't you try this one?

Mustard seeds: Thoughts on the nature of God and hope

Lynn Coulter (B&H Publishing, 2008)

Lynn Coulter, a magazine journalist, takes the familiar story of the mustard seed to illustrate how God can use even the most terrible times of our lives to build our faith. In fifteen essays, Coulter reflects on her personal experiences of job loss, physical injury, financial insecurity and daily family trials and offers sincere and honest insight into a journey into faith. She deals with such topics as nature, parenting, work and church, showing the reality of God's presence in all parts of life and the nourishment he offers to his faithful children.

Anglicans Ablaze: 1400 people, 4 days, 1 Lord

(Continued from page 1) It is the *Missio Dei*, the Great Commission. We have several instances in the Bible where we are reminded of this Commission and of the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit to walk with us: look at John 5:10; Matthew 3:13-15; Matthew 11:29; Galatians 5:25.

Unfortunately, in many churches, the Great Commission has become the Great Omission – and there is an utter disjuncture between the worship on Sundays and what happens for the rest of the week. Worship on Sundays has become what church is – “We worship *worship* to avoid the call of God in our lives.” We thereby miss what is truly important. What happens on Sunday should simply fuel the mission of the rest of the week, and the catchphrase here was: from worship into mission. The events of the church should not be Sunday’s events – we all pray weekly for God to make missionaries of us: “Send us out into the world in the power of your holy Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.” We pray to be living sacrifices to Jesus Christ.

The challenge provided was not to do mission as a tag-on, as a social responsibility or an outreach, but to be a church characterised by mission. But how can our churches be transformed into instruments of mission, to a point where mission is integral to the identity of the church? The key to all transformation is through the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step is therefore to pray, pray, pray: to seek the Spirit, to listen to what God wants for the church. It is only after this long period of prayer and preparation that action takes place.

Growing the Church

This session was focussed on church growth and particularly the work of Growing the Church (GtC), an initiative spearheaded by Bishop Martin Breytenbach. Growing the Church combines many approaches and tools with the aim of growing the Anglican church in South Africa, including the Alpha Course.

Another of these courses is called Rooted in Jesus, a discipleship course written specifically for use in Africa, particularly rural communities. Alison Morgan, who wrote this course, spoke about it. Rooted in Jesus is now being used in Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa Zambia and a few more – 42 dioceses in total so far! A second course, Beyond Ourselves, has also been developed, with a more urban and global approach.

Another initiative is called Back to Church Sunday (BTCS), also known as Invitation Sunday, and is referred to as “Evangelism anyone can do”. The speaker was Michael Harvey, who is a founding team member of BTCS. He has seen over 50 000 people added to the church from 2004 to the present day as a result of this initiative. Back to Church Sunday takes place in many countries including Southern Africa. It works on the simple premise of members of the congregation inviting (back) friends and family to join the Parish on a given Sunday. Of course this may result simply in people visiting for the day, but God asks us simply to plant a seed, and He will do the rest. A BTCS initiative is being discussed for Christ Church—so watch this space!



Beyond Anglicans Ablaze

Attending the conference was an exciting and inspiring experience. At a recent Christ Church planning day, I raised the following questions for discussion:

- What is God’s agenda for mission in Christ Church Arcadia?
- Are we fulfilling the Great Commission or the Great Omission?
- How can we change from a worship-driven to a mission-driven church?

In 2013, this discussion will continue. Come and be part of the conversation!



Christ Church, Arcadia

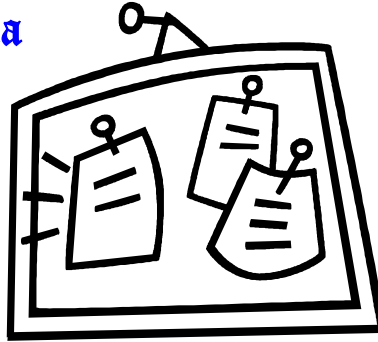
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Diocese of Pretoria

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Regular services at Christ Church

Thursdays: 9:00 Said Mass

Sundays

7:30: Said Mass

9:15: Choral Mass, Junior
Church and Crèche

Rector: The Revd. Duncan Mbonyana
Parish Administrator: Carolyn Chisadza: 012 430 2470
Verger: David Lulacamwami: 078 027 4323
Director of Music: George King: 012 460 9792/ 083 306 4478

Thursday Tea Garden

The Thursday Tea Garden after 9.00 Mass on Thursdays will be taking a break for the festive season. There will be no Tea Garden during December.

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"Uh, guys.....we have to go back, I forgot the Myrrh."



News from the Parish Council: Buildings portfolio

Our beautiful old church

I wonder how many people realise that Christ Church is 112 years old this year? To keep our building beautiful and pristine requires lots of maintenance. The definition of maintenance is "to restore to original condition". I'm always saying that no maintenance is done anywhere these days. In fact, the word doesn't exist in a lot of vocabularies. One of the main reasons is that dreaded word—money!

I have been assigned the task of restoring parts of our beloved church. Unfortunately, our share of the tithe money only covers a fraction of the cost of what I have planned. One of the tasks is to have the choir stalls and floor area around the stalls and the chapel sanded and sealed. I have had a quote from a reputable firm for R40 000. To do the whole church would cost in the region of R70 000.

I know you may be thinking, "Does money grow on trees?" I hope my idea to raise funds will prove that it does! Instead of a Christmas tree, let's have a "Money tree" with envelopes or lables so that everyone can pledge any amount they can afford to help maintain our glorious heritage.

I know that this seems like a lot of money in these hard times, but I also know that our congregation always manages somehow. I would love to get this project underway after Easter.

Thanking you, Will Culbert, Buildings Portfolio

