



Flowers at Pentecost



The Franciscan

July Trinity 2013
St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter

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Foreword

It's a slimmer newsletter this time, but there are some new contributors, which is encouraging. Some articles that had been promised never arrived – please submit them now for the next issue which is due quite soon, early in September. Martzi sent me an appropriate poem all the way from the USA – if she can remember to contribute to the *Franciscan*, so can those who get reminded of the deadline in the pew leaflet!

Thanks to Christine Lawrie for the photo on the front cover. I welcome photos as well as articles, but please send them to me in jpeg format, not embedded in text.

Jill Daugherty

From the Rector's Desk

My dear Parishioners,



I asked Rev Nontle Ndlovu to write the editorial for this issue to introduce herself to the congregation and to give us her first impressions. She has been at St Francis of Assisi for five months now, but some of you may not yet know much about her. We threw her in at the deep end, because we had great need of another deacon, and she has coped admirably. We welcome you, Nontle, into our midst!

Fr Timothy

Peter answered him, 'Lord if it is you on the water, command me to come.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, and started walking on the water. (Matt 14: 28-29)

Having been ordained on 13 January 2013 as a brand new deacon, I started at St Francis on 27 January. I came here in high spirits, ready to move mountains with my faith and energy. Little did I know that by ordination I had actually been called out of my comfort zone. God comes to meet us where we are and there is a sense in which we have to respond by moving out of our comfort zones to experience the joy of His presence in our lives. After just the first service, my bubble burst when I became aware of how different this new home was from my old church, the cathedral. I had been doing services for over a year at the cathedral, without a priest, which had given me a misplaced sense of security. I came to St Francis relaxed, only to find a different format of doing things.

I felt left-handed and realized there was a lot I had to learn. Learning on stage is not always easy to say the least. I became anxious. Even the incense smelt different! The hot weather added to my discomfort. I felt very lonely. Many may have reached out to me, but I was too much into myself to notice. I was sinking. I went into self-preservation mode.

Once in a while I visited the cathedral. I was homesick. I could no longer walk on water. I prayed, and God directed me. I decided to make the first move one Sunday morning and I joined the Parish Intercessory Group. This was not so much to pray, but my hunger was for human contact. I have never looked back. I thank God for their warm acceptance into the group. They became the love of God that called me out of my safe, lonely corner. They helped me to refocus on God. Their honesty as they talked with Him brought me to my senses. I started to feel at home and relaxed. My advice for newcomers is to find a group to join so as to feel part of the family.

I am now much more relaxed and comfortable at the services. I am excited to be part of the pastoral care group in this church. I love doing stuff for God. I have recently taken semi-retirement from my hospital work, so that I can give more time for His work in this church. I dare not waste the privilege to serve Him. Fear of failure can hold us back in ministry.

When I shared my experiences with an old friend, a priest, he was not surprised. He simply said, "Welcome to the world of God's work. Just do your best and God will do the rest." Some advice indeed! Is that really all there is to it??? Maybe he is right. In fact, we are not called necessarily to success or to spectacular deeds, but we are called to willing, obedient service to God according to our gifts. He alone is the God of the gift. It is our human pride that makes us chase success at any cost. Indeed when we do our best God does the rest. He comes to meet us where we are.

Many a time we forget the truth that, whenever Jesus Christ calls someone to get out of the boat, he gives the power to walk on the water. Our response is to focus on Him. The challenge is to trust and obey!!!

Who I am and What I do

I was born in the Eastern Cape and grew up there. After high school, I studied medicine in Natal and qualified in 1976. I married my late husband in 1977. Our marriage was blessed with three daughters and a son. I now live in Waterkloof Ridge and work at Dr George Mukhari hospital in Garankuwa in the HIV/Aids section. Let me tell you a bit about my work.

Since the advent of antiretroviral drugs, HIV has moved from being an enormous challenge to being a very rewarding area of medicine. For me, the grace of God is so clearly shown in the people we treat, that we thank God daily, despite the difficult challenges our patients face. We see very sick people recover completely to go back to work and be with their families. It is a joy to be part of this work. It is a privilege I will forever thank God for.

I have learnt to be very strict with those I treat, but patient at the same time. Teaching on how to take the drugs is very important. Counselling about the disease and lifestyle is a must. The struggles of life are real out there, but there is always a better way of doing things, the God-way. God is faithful to give us our daily bread and forgive our sins. Saved lives are a testimony of God's loving care for his people. He always comes through for us.

I always tell my patients not to waste God's grace by neglecting their medicines. He has given life to a dying world, light into the darkness of our hearts and the warmth of His love into the cold world. Because of this, HIV is no longer a killing disease. God so loved humanity that, in spite of our waywardness, He gave us antiretrovirals, so that whosoever chooses life, may have fullness of life. Of course this becomes possible only if we do our part and look after our bodies responsibly. Strict adherence to medication is a must. VCT and antiretrovirals are freely available at public health centres. But prevention is always better than cure. Abstinence, absolute faithfulness to one's partner and regular, correct use of condoms are forms of prevention that are possible and best in the pandemic. However, if one tests positive for HIV, it is not the end of the world. Medication is started when the CD4 count is 350 or less.

As Christians, much loved and forgiven by God, we dare not pass judgement on those who are sick because of HIV. Our role is to be Christ to them. We thank and praise God for His grace by being graceful to others. Many who are sick work in our homes. They need our support, so they can freely fetch their medication. Stigma in our homes is a problem for our patients. Some drop out of the programme due to fear of losing their jobs. Workplace policies must be adjustable so that we can all live.

For me, God's love is revealed clearly in the HIV pandemic and Christians have never been more challenged to walk the talk. Let us do our best and God will help our efforts and do the rest. This then is my work. Our collective responsibility is to make life less painful for those who are in any adversity. We are to lift the Christ light for others in pain and say the words of comfort that they so long to hear.

Now this God has called me into church work. I am willing. I have a lot to learn. I believe the God who sends is the one whose strength and wisdom are our shield. He has already given me peace in the knowledge that I am in safe hands at St Francis. Thank you, St Francis, for accepting me as I am into your family. It was a long walk, but now I feel I belong. I embrace you as my home. I am at peace. May the grace of God be with us all.

Nontle Ndlovu

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

Date	Child	Date of Birth	Parents
10 Mar 13	Ethan Muzata	29 Oct 2012	Tapera and Thandeka
10 Mar 13	Tyler Rudd	20 Aug 2012	Jean-Paul and Cheri

Marriage (at Nazareth House Chapel)

Date	Husband	Wife
2 Feb 2013	Pieter Willem Prinsloo	Catherine Elizabeth Shee

Faithful departed

Date of Death	Name
9 April 2013	Yvonne Merchant
10 April 2013	Colin Geekie
13 June 2013	Rae Wiesner
15 June 2013	Christine Brownell

ARE YOU REALLY LISTENING?

Nothing is more hurtful than the sense that the people we care about are not really listening. We never outgrow the need to have our feelings known. A sympathetic ear is such a powerful force for healing and reconciliation.

Our modern, hectic and hurried lifestyles have regrettably impoverished the quality of listening. We are bombarded with so many messages – from TV, cell phones, iPods, the Internet, emails etc. – that our attention is fractionated. The time left for spending quality listening time with our loved ones has become limited and of poor quality. We lack the time to lend an attentive ear and to receive the same the same compliment in return, with the result that we can hurt each other by failing to acknowledge what the other one has to say.

Sustained attention and careful listening demand strenuous and unselfish restraint. To listen well, we must forget ourselves and submit to the other's need for attention. Sadly, we tend to react to what is said, rather than concentrating on what the other person is trying to express. We might not hear what the other person is saying because something in the speaker's message triggers hurt, anger or impatience. Yet there are helpful tools for good listening, such as:

- Knowing the difference between real dialogue and just taking turns to talk.
- Hearing what people mean, not just what they say.
- Being able to get through to someone who never listens.
- Showing support without giving unwanted advice.
- Getting uncommunicative people to open up.
- Sharing different opinions without making other people feel criticized.

The gift of our attention and understanding makes other people feel valued and validated. Our ability to listen, and to listen well, creates much goodwill, healing and liberation. Listening is something we can keep on learning for the rest of our lives.

With all the above in mind, we at St Francis would like to invite you to come to a listening course presented by the Aloe Christian Foundation (date to be announced), which will help you in your personal life as well as in your ministries in church or at work. The course will include:

- **Listening to others:** Identifying various levels of listening, recognizing various patterns of listening – helpful and unhelpful – and learning active listening responses by hearing the whole person, not just the words.
- **Listening to myself:** Learning to quiet myself before God, exploring my own thoughts and discovering more about the influence of my early listening life
- **Listening to God:** God communicates with us in many different ways and we can learn to listen to Him by meditating on scripture, engaging with music or nature, reflecting on our lives and taking time to be silent.

Listening is the highest form of hospitality. Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place. (Henri Nouwen)

Gesine Buiten

Consecration of St Monica's Anglican Church, Nellmapius

On Sunday 7 April 2013, I accompanied Fr Timothy to Nellmapius for the consecration of a new church dedicated to St Monica – a Chapelry of the Parish of the Good Shepherd, Eersterust. At this service, the Bishop of Pretoria, the Right Revd Dr Jo Seoka, blessed the church and handed it over to the congregation.

At the start of the service the congregation was asked to gather outside the church. The bishop first blessed the gate, the bell, the garden and the outbuildings (kitchen, cloakrooms, etc.), before entering the church itself, followed by the congregation. Prayers, hymns and readings were interspersed with the blessing of the various parts of the church, starting with the font and ending with the sanctuary. Here the altar, furnishings, ornaments and cloths were blessed, and finally the church and altar candles were lit.

The sermon was then given from the newly consecrated glass pulpit, decorated with mirrors, which had been donated by a parishioner who wanted to remain anonymous. The normal order of the Eucharist then followed. A band accompanied the many hymns sung mainly in English, with some verses in Afrikaans and Sepedi. Just before the recessional hymn and the final blessing, the Registrar (Mrs Simone Tshisevhe) read the Deed of Dedication and the Bishop declared 'this house of God' dedicated under the title of St Monica's Anglican Church, Nellmapius.

In his sermon, Bishop Jo explained why the church was dedicated to St Monica. He also spoke of problems experienced in the community and advised parents to follow the example of their patron saint, St Monica, by praying for their children. Visitors from other denominations in the community were welcomed and given the opportunity to speak as well.

A short history of St Monica, the mother of St Augustine, the famous theologian and Church Father of the 4th century, was printed at the back of the booklet containing the order of the service.

Keneilwe Mmusinyane

Who was St Monica?

St Monica (333-387) was born in Tagaste, northern Africa, and died in Ostia, near Rome, at the age of fifty-six years. Monica was a Christian but her husband a pagan. Monica's virtues and prayers, however, converted him and he was baptised a year before his death.

Monica's marriage was blessed with three children — two daughters and a son: Navigius, Perpetua, who later became a nun, and Augustine, her problem son. The youthful Augustine caused his mother untold worry by indulging in every type of sin and indulgence. As a last resort, after all her tears and entreaties had proved fruitless, she forbade him entrance to her home, but after a vision she received him back again.

When Augustine was planning his journey to Rome, Monica wanted to accompany him. He dodged her but she later followed him to Milan, ever growing in her attachment to God. In Milan she prepared the way for her son's conversion. Finally the moment came when her tears of sorrow changed to tears of joy. Augustine was baptised and Monica's lifework was completed.

She then returned to Africa. The description of her death is one of the most beautiful passages in her son's famous confessions. St Monica was the Patron Saint of: Abuse victims; Alcoholics; Alcoholism; Difficult marriages; Disappointing children; Homemakers; Married Women; Mothers; Victims of Adultery; Victims of unfaithfulness; Victims of verbal Abuse; Widows; Wives.

St Monica is an example of those holy matrons of the ancient Church. Through prayer and tears she gave the great Augustine to the Church of God, and thereby earned for herself a place of honour in the history of God's kingdom on earth.

From the service booklet

LESSONS FROM SINGAPORE

By now most of you would have heard that Tim and I went to Singapore in May, going on what was termed a Vision and Mission Exposure Trip with 15 other Anglicans from around the country, led by an organisation called Growing the Church. This organisation was set up by the Provincial Synod of Bishops and is headed by Bishop Martin Breytenbach together with Trevor Pearce, both of whom accompanied us on the trip.

The purpose of the trip was what they called a “plunge experience” – plunging us into the life of the Anglican Church in Singapore and Malaysia to experience how they worked, what projects they ran, how a Christian Community can survive (and grow!) in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society. Remember that “proselyting” – going out to make converts – is forbidden in Singapore, so Christians have to witness by their actions in the community. The experience was awesome and, if you want to hear more about it, then please invite one of us to your house group or home and we will gladly share more of the detail of what we saw.

The challenge now is to take what we saw and experienced and to ask God to reveal to us what He wants us to do back here in Pretoria, South Africa.

The first thing we noticed in Singapore and Malaysia was that: **the Churches strive for excellence in everything they do.**

Whether it is the sound and audio-visual equipment in churches, or the state of the art equipment in St Andrews Community Hospital that caters for people recovering from strokes and orthopaedic surgery, or in the ministry projects they run, everything is done with excellence in mind.



As the Bishop of Singapore (+Rennis) said, "If the Church does something well, the community will sit up and take notice and will want us to do more of that in the wider community". This has been experienced in the C.I.T.Y. ministry to school children where the Government has asked the Church to extend this programme to 17 schools in Singapore, as well as in the St Andrews Community Hospital, which is attached to the general hospital of Singapore that refers patients to St Andrews for further treatment.

We must strive to do likewise in all we do at St Francis, and in all our ministries. I think you will already see this coming through in the improvement to our sound system, and the superb breakfast offered after church on Sundays, to name a few small areas.

We saw incredible **ministries reaching out to communities.**



In Singapore many elderly people live in high-rise apartment blocks heavily subsidised by the state. On Saturday mornings, a group from the Church of Our Saviour provides a hot breakfast and entertainment to these folk.

Here Rob enjoys breakfast with some of the occupants.

In Malaysia we witnessed the Church teaching Muslim refugee children Maths and English, so as to give them a better opportunity when they are moved to another country by the UNHCR programme.



The Church needs to be seen ministering in the communities – not necessarily preaching the gospel, but showing God’s love to His people. It takes time and personal involvement – not simply money. We have many such programmes that we can get involved in – Tateni Home-based Care and Tumelong’s Fill-a-Bag to name just two projects, as well as the Soup Kitchen that operates from St Francis.

As Trevor Pearce termed it, **“we need a mixed economy”**.



At St Andrew’s Cathedral in Singapore, there are 18 different services taking place between Saturday evening and Sunday evening. There were High Church services with incense and bells using the 1652 prayer book, a sung Eucharist, Chinese services, Tamil services, contemporary services with no liturgy and loud modern music. All these

different styles of worship and different languages exist quite happily side by side, all sharing the same facilities (the “mixed economy”). All these services were well attended – more than 300 at each – and every service had a different staff that looked after that congregation.

At St. Francis we need to accept that there are always going to be different styles of worship that attract different congregations and we must allow them to exist side by side, and embrace these differences.

Most Churches had **many members of full time paid staff**.

When we questioned this, asking how they managed to afford so many staff members, they looked at us quizzically and simply said that their congregations tithed!

Many of our churches in South Africa (and Pretoria) do not even have a full time priest, let alone more than one full time member of staff.

However, in parishes where there are large staff complements, the ministry of that particular church is extensive and flourishes... And we have seen the fruits of additional staff at St Francis. The appointment of Jon-Reece Evans as Youth Chaplain and Guy Smith as an intern has resulted in remarkable strides in the growth of our Children's Church and Youth Group and the establishment of a Young Adults group.

But it comes down to resources. If all at St Francis tithed their income, it is estimated that we would increase our monthly revenue tenfold! We could then employ fully trained staff who could lead extensive ministries into our communities and grow our church.

And finally, +Rennis (Singapore) stressed the need to **invest time in making disciples.**

Possibly that is what we saw more than anything else on our trip. You see, in a multi-cultural, multi-faith community which is NOT predominantly Christian, people make distinct CHOICES to follow Christ – and sometimes these are costly decisions. Muslims, making a choice for Christ, are cut off from their families completely; Hindus go through a cleansing process and have all the built-in altars in their homes destroyed. Having made the choice for Christ, they look for ways to serve Him and, in doing so, strive to win others for Him. And so we see a greater involvement by large parts of the congregations in the numerous outreach projects.

Teaching from the pulpit is strong, and home cell groups are encouraged. Attending Mass on a Sunday is not enough for many. They **want** to be involved in a wider ministry.

This is possibly the biggest challenge for us at St Francis – to see more people involved in ministry. But many of us are very busy people, with stressful jobs, who have to travel great distances every day. This has of course been a problem since the time of Jesus. "The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few," he is quoted as saying in Matthew 9:27. And, on another occasion, one of his disciples said to Jesus: "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ... and then I will follow you. On the face of it a reasonable excuse – but an excuse nevertheless.

Possibly the answer lies in a combination of many of the points raised above. Consider this scenario: If we could increase our giving through tithing (maybe just threefold instead of the tenfold as envisaged above) we could employ more staff members who could head up various ministries – be the “champions” as I like to call them. In this way the ground work of organising, gathering material, sorting the logistics and the training of “labourers” would be taken care of. Then many of us may feel that we could help out in a ministry because it’s not so onerous – the whole burden will not fall on already burdened shoulders, and we won’t have to go out so often – once a month perhaps.

In this way we can extend our ministries way beyond where we are now and many more people can be exposed to the Kingdom of God.

Let me remind you of our **Mission:** *To be role-models of Kingdom values, immersed in ministry, mission and social justice.*

If we follow our mission, we will achieve our **Vision:** *To be a transformed and culturally diverse community of Faith, bound together through caring, fellowship and worship, reaching out to influence our environment for Christ.*

As we wrestle with these challenges, may God reveal to us the way forward to advance His Kingdom.

Rob Lewis



St Andrew's Autism Centre in Singapore



Ray of Hope Centre for people with Down Syndrome or learning difficulties

See Rob's posts on our Facebook page for more photos & information on the Singapore/Malaysia visit.

**A NEW APPROACH:
TATENI'S 'BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY' PROGRAMME**



Tateni is a non-profit community based organisation that provides home-based care services to the people of Mamelodi and surrounding informal settlements. It supports HIV/AIDS infected and affected chronically and terminally ill people and their families, including orphans and vulnerable children.

Tateni is already engaged in Poverty Alleviation by providing health care, nutritional support, document registration, and housing and clothing support to our clients. We need to continue and, where possible, improve these interventions.

We also need a new focus on Poverty Eradication (at a family level). This will be done by introducing the "Breaking the cycle of Poverty" Programme that aims at providing psycho-social support to a focussed high-risk/gifted target group. The target group will be expanded at a later stage.

Many of the families and children that Tateni works with are caught in the "poverty-trap", fuelled by ignorance, feelings of helplessness and poor life style patterns. This condition is transferred from generation to generation.

To make a sustainable difference to the lives of people, this cycle of poverty needs to be broken. With this in mind, Tateni has launched an initiative that goes beyond caring for the sick, the vulnerable and the poor through its existing home-based and child care services.

This is a strategic intervention aimed at assisting some of the most vulnerable households, as well as the most gifted children in households that are on Tateni's client list, to "break free" from those forces keep them locked into poverty.

Tateni had identified 5 very needy households and 10 gifted children from poor households to participate in the initial pilot programme. The intention is to upscale the initiative over time. Companies, church groups and individuals will be asked to sponsor a family or a child to enable the delivery of a range services that are tailor-made for the particular family or child. A profile of each of these families and children can be made available.

"Sponsorship" does not necessarily entail giving money – in most cases people caught in the poverty trap need wise counsel, mentorship, advice, love and encouragement for empowerment. In our experience, breaking the cycle of poverty requires the following type of support:

- a. Child and family counselling;
- b. School subject choice and career guidance;
- c. Parental guidance;
- d. Skills development (attitude and competency skills to deal with the opportunities and challenges of life);
- e. Extra classes for critical subjects like maths and science (to improve the chances of a suitable career);
- f. Work Coaching.

NELSON MANDELA WEEK 15 – 27 JULY 2013 AT TATENI

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Tateni Home Care Nursing Services is calling on your services and support during the 2013 **Nelson Mandela Week** and beyond. We invite businesses, community organizations, churches, clubs and individual to join us in reaching out to people in Mamelodi. We offer **Home-based Care** to the chronically and terminally ill and **Social Care** to orphans and vulnerable children through Tateni's seven drop-in-centres.

You are invited to participate in any of the following activities:

At Tateni Centre

✓ Building maintenance:

- Painting of the two Board rooms, four offices, passage and three toilets, (Need 40 litres of paint and brushes).
- Replacement of 15 window blinds
- Providing shelving for the store room

✓ Gardening:

Clearing rubble; making a compost heap; and planting of seedlings.

✓ Shelving and cupboards:

We need filing shelves and storage facilities.

✓ Cooking and baking skills:

Training Home-carers and Child-carers on how to cook nutritional and cost effective meals. They also need baking skills.

✓ Education:

Provide educational toys for children at the drop-in-centres.

In the community

- ✓ Mahlasedi Masana Primary School Drop-in-Centre:
Clean the environment and paint the container that is being used for cooking meals.
- ✓ Residential dwellings:
Renovation and maintenance of shacks & houses occupied by needy families.
- ✓ Food parcels:
Provide food parcels for 20 needy families.
- ✓ Toiletry and sanitary wear:
Basic toiletries, as well as sanitary towels for girls.
- ✓ School uniforms:
20 Orphans and vulnerable children have been identified that need assistance with school uniforms.

Please let us know which activities you would be interested in and when you could make yourself available. Donations in cash and in kind are also welcomed.

The main work and fundraising event for the “**67 Minutes for Mandela Day**” is planned for **27th July 2013** at Tateni’s premises:

- Car Wash: you can have your car washed for R50 or volunteer to wash cars.
- Purchase any of the following items:
 - * Nelson Mandela T-Shirt with a Tateni Logo
 - * Raffle ticket for R20.00 where various prizes can be won
 - * Squizz water bottles and pens with the Tateni logo
- Braaivleis and sausage rolls will be on sale

Please invite family and friends. Contact Cephass Mutanhaurwa at contact details above, or Erik Buiten (erikbuiten@mweb.co.za).

Bless you.



..... **20th of June 2013**
Charles Baloyi: Chairman of the Board of Directors

Eco-Congregation Experiences at St Francis of Assisi

St Francis of Assisi became an eco-congregation by joining SAFCEI (Southern Anglican Faith Communities' Environment Institute) in October 2011. In 2012 the parish celebrated two important occasions highlighting care of the environment:

- **World Environment Day** in June, by holding a special service and putting on an exhibition of sustainable development – reported in parish newsletter *The Franciscan* July 2012 & in SAFCEI Newsletter July 2012; and
- **Clean-up Day** in September, by joining with other parishes in the Pretoria East Archdeaconry to clean up Serene Valley, Garsfontein (Moreleta Spruit) and Moretele Park in Mamelodi – reported in parish newsletter *The Franciscan* September 2012.

Recycling has been encouraged by installing an Mpack paper bin outside the church and recommending that parishioners join Waste Plan, which collects recyclables weekly from most of the eastern suburbs in Pretoria.

Energy-saving was instituted by the Parish Council, specifically with regard to the four geysers in the rectory and church kitchen. A committee explored three different energy-saving technologies: solar heating, heat pumps and geyser timers or managers. It was decided that the latter system was the most cost-effective and suitable. Geyser timers were installed towards the end of 2012 and after three months a 30% saving on electricity had been recorded.

Tree-planting: Two exotic Kapok trees (*Ceiba pentandra*) in the church garden were replaced by indigenous trees. Indigenous trees were also planted at five other churches in the Pretoria East Archdeaconry.

This year St Francis again celebrated **World Environment Day** in June with a special service. During the service, Fr Timothy and Rob Lewis spoke about their experiences in Singapore and in particular the transformation of the old harbour into a fresh water reservoir.

SAFCEI WORKSHOP for Eco-Congregations

In May this year, I attended a two day SAFCEI workshop. It was held at St Peter's Place, an Anglican conference centre in Rosettenville. The turnout was impressive: many SAFCEI staff members from Cape Town and delegates from different faith communities: Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, N.G. members, Jews, Muslims, Baha'is, Brahma Kumaris, an Anabaptist, who represented A Rocha (see www.arocha.org/), and a Greek Orthodox priest from Zimbabwe, as well as a delegate from nature – a beautiful spotted eagle owl who dozed all day in a large pepper tree at the entrance to the venue.



I was impressed by the networking that takes place between various eco-congregations. In Johannesburg, seven Anglican eco-congregations have formed JAEI (Johannesburg Anglican Environmental Initiative) and meet regularly, inviting speakers and members of other congregations, while the delegates from KZN all knew one another because they belong to the Daikonia Council of Churches in Durban.

Pretoria eco-congregations need more contact with one another in the Diocese and with those of other denominations. Friends of Tumelong meetings concentrate on the core issues of Tumelong, with scant attention being given to care of the environment. One champion is not enough, there needs to be a team at diocesan level, and even at parish level, otherwise everything comes to a halt when the champion leaves.

I intend to expand the Environment Committee that supported me last year at St Francis and to make contact with other eco-congregations in the Archdeaconry and other churches in Pretoria East. I appeal to anyone who is interested in caring for the environment to join us so that we can become more active in this important task.

Jill Daugherty

Ordinary Time

*Now begins the 'ordinary time',
stretching out in green monotony
from Pentecost to Advent.*

*Ordinary time -
Neither festival nor crisis,
but where most of life is spent,
on a meandering prosaic path
around a center of obscurity
in a labyrinth so vast
its circuits, almost parallel,
seem endless.*

*Now begins the 'ordinary time',
stretching out in green monotony
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Neither festival nor crisis,
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in a labyrinth so vast
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*No flaming reds excite us,
No purple depths depress,
No shining white inspires.
But in the mysteries of dailiness
the faithful know a time of greening
growth invisible,
nourished by fruits of waiting,
simplicity, humility.*

*Desire, searching definition,
places one pilgrim foot before the other,
walking the commitment
of a starker time
when the center clarified
in the necessity of suffering
or joy
And trust took root.*

*Holy Spirit,
Wisdom's voice.
Whisper to us, breathe in us
Your truth;
Teach us to taste eternity
in ordinary time.*

*Wendy Lyons, Holy Trinity Church,
Enfield, Connecticut, May 2013*

Submitted by Martzi Eidelberg

THE BISHOP ARRIVES FOR PENTECOST...



CHURCH in the DIGITAL age!

PASTOR: Praise the Lord!

CONGREGATION: Hallelujah!

PASTOR: Can we please turn on our tablet, PC, iPad, smart phone, and Kindle Bibles to 1 Cor 13:13.

And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon.

P-a-u-s-e.....

Now, Let us pray committing this week into God's hands.

Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook, and chat with God.

S-i-l-e-n-c-e

As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready.

You can log on to the church wi-fi using the password 'Lord909887'.

The ushers will circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshipers:

- Those who prefer to make electronic fund transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church.
- Those who prefer to use iPads can open them.
- Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cellphones to transfer your contributions to the church account.

The holy atmosphere of the Church becomes truly electrified as ALL the smart phones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker!

Final Blessing and Closing Announcements...

- This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and don't miss out.
- Thursday's Bible study will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs GMT. Please don't miss out.
- You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers.
- God bless you and have a nice day.

Cartoon & Skit submitted by Terry Brauer