

Volmoed Chaplain's Corner

Warm greetings in 2023!

I love this prayer for the new year, and use it especially in the month of January each year (*by Joyce Rupp, (from 'Out of the Ordinary', 2000, used by permission of Ave Maria Press)*)

Faithful Companion, in this new year I pray:

To live deeply, with purpose,
To live freely with detachment
To live wisely, with humility,
To live justly, with compassion,
To live lovingly, with fidelity,
To live gratefully, with generosity,
To life fully with enthusiasm.

Help me to hold this vision and to daily renew it in my heart, becoming ever more one with you, my truest Self. Amen.

VYLTP drumming project

This potential income generating project with our young VYLTP local cohort, has had an exciting start. Drumming continued through the holidays and the VYLTP drum group played at the Volmoed Christmas Carol picnic, and then performed three times in Hermanus near the old harbour, with fairly good audiences, some of whom happily joined the group and participated in the fun. The



group made the front page of the weekly Village News! They also welcomed people at the Volmoed service where Rev Edwin Arrison celebrated his 30th anniversary of ordination, and again when a group from the USA arrived at Volmoed for their stay last week. They sounded great!

This month Bevil Spence begins a four-weekend training program to teach them drum circle facilitation. The paying drum circle has also continued to meet - this helps to fund the VYLTP training by Bevil. This project is a work in progress, and some learn to lead drum circles and later, others will learn to make the drums. Thank you for your prayers, watch this space!

Retreats, Groups, Events:

Our Taize Youth Days continue to be a gathering space for young people to pray, reflect, sing, attend workshops, and network. They are a joy.



Our annual Christmas Carol Picnic was not dampened by the rain, nor that we had to move halfway into the chapel, and the intrepid ones continued their picnics. Our brand new VYLTP choir and Volmoed Youth drumming group joined the Manenberg Anglican Church band to provide wonderful music and atmosphere, and many delighted raffle prize winners went home with lovely gifts to eat, drink, or events to look forward to in future. Proceeds from the day were shared with the band, and overall with some extra donations afterwards we are so grateful to have made R9500. What a great annual Christmas event it is!



The Tutu Travel Seminar group from the USA, led by Michael Battle, was here last week, listening to the story of Volmoed from John de Gruchy, the story of my own journey, the stories of the young VYLTP people, who showed them around the Zwelihle township. On Sunday

they participated, some preached and presided at the eucharist, at the three chapelries of St Peter's Anglican church in Hermanus. It was a joy to spend time with them, some of whom know friends and former colleagues. I hope more groups like this can visit Volmoed.

I have had a couple of requests to lead Anglican clergy archdeaconry retreats later in the year, an answer to prayer. I love leading individual and group retreats and continue to feel called to grow and develop this ministry.



On a personal note: The minor surgery on my leg, twice, in November and December, to remove all of a squamous cell carcinoma, left a wound that has taken much longer to heal than expected (though it is lower leg and I'm told healing always takes longer). I am so grateful there is no cancer and no infection, yet impatient with the lack of exercise, and no beloved summer swimming yet. It quietened and slowed down my festive season visits with longtime friends, which was not necessarily a bad thing!



I was hugely privileged to get time in Grootbos Nature Reserve near Stanford across the bay, with Heather and Robin Petersen and others; in Pringle Bay with Hildegard and Beatie, and then Kogelberg nature reserve with Maryellen Ashcroft and others. All of it was a joy that I will treasure a long while, especially reconnecting with people I had not seen in many years. I am now enjoying being back in my lovely home at Volmoed, sorting and tidying and starting up the year.

Looking ahead: Our VYLTP leadership team meets at the end of January for strategic planning. We have important decisions and directions to discern, along with planning for the year. We have a new person, Cathy Bruce, who will be helping us with financial management and bookkeeping. I am grateful, as some of that that has been my responsibility until now. I look forward to handing that over, the work that takes will be worthwhile.

At Volmoed I continue to try and discern how best to be the chaplain here. We will continue the process that began with the Healing of Memories workshop with Michael Lapsley, hoping to create a monthly gathering with staff and residents to become a forum for sharing stories and continued healing of memories. Your prayers and support are valued!

May this year bring the Light and Love of Christ into your lives, and may we be bearers of Christ's Light and Love to those around us and across our world.

Love,
Wilma