



December 2021



This year is coming to an end and it is time for the last letter of the year. A time to look back with gratitude and forward with hope.

Gratitude for His hand of protection over us. Though we have just received the news that the farm bakkie (Pick Up Truck) has to be written off after a branch fell on it while we were transporting some of our staff home at the end of the day. Nobody was hurt though they were all a bit shaken after the experience.

Our planned Create and Celebrate fund raiser went well and a good time of painting and fellowship was had by all who attended. Shannon from Bouchard Finlayson gave us an insight into wine making which she described as an extension of art.



We have a 'new kid on the block'. Deon and his team of men worked tirelessly to get the VYLTP media office (my name for it) in ship shape order for the Taize Day. The stoep is going to be a wonderful gathering place for the youth and it is also wheelchair friendly.

The ground staff have also been hard at work trying to keep the roads in good order as all the rain we have had keeps undoing all their handiwork.

We are thankful for the rain though as we have started replanting the area where we chopped down the pines so our new trees, a combination of false olive, wild olive and water pear are being well watered.





PRIORY NEWS



Scott arrived home safely and Luc's

visa was approved so he will be arriving next week.

We had a successful Founders Day lunch which was shared by the community and staff.

On one of her daily walks Molly (the Priory dog) got captured on the Leopard Trust camera.



PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKS GIVING

- John's operation was postponed and now takes place on the 9th December.
- Healing for Mathilda and Molly Wood as they recuperate from their operations.
- Blazio as he waits for his passport.
- The trustees as they continue to plan to keep Volmoed's legacy alive and well.
- We are happy to have Dorothy back after a long wait for her to have passport renewed.
- We give thanks for Tony & Franci's safety—their house was burgled while they were sleeping.
- Peterus' daughter Zoe went for a check up and all is well.



Tony, Mathilda, Esther, Karen, Andries, Maggie, Deon, Serghay, Johannes, Peterus, Lucas, Vuyani, Blazio, Anna, Leana, Tariro, Dorothy & Nomveliso

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Gratitude is once more the focus and theme for this month. I am grateful for my trip to California, where I enjoyed reconnecting with longstanding beloved friends and favourite beautiful places. I officiated at a very ethnically diverse Los Angeles Chinese American wedding, used my first four words in Mandarin in the liturgy, and thoroughly enjoyed the multiple courses of delicious traditional Chinese wedding food. I am grateful I managed to tie up many ends of my California life, and that all my musical instruments and precious scrapbooks are now safely in South Africa.

The overwhelming feeling each day of my trip, was delight and joy, while simultaneously feeling a subterranean grounding that I belong in South Africa and at Volmoed. Hard to articulate but a sense of integration of both my US and SA lives that has in the past eluded me. I am enormously grateful.

I returned to all the joys and current challenges of Volmoed. I helped with staff transport last week due to the demise of the bakkie and staff away. VYLTP held our last Taize day for young people around the Western Cape on 27 November, as a start to Advent, which was smaller yet very meaningful for those who attended. I also directed my first official retreatant, here for three days of quiet and reflection, who was able to join in the Taize day service.

I look forward to conducting a retreat for the Manenberg Anglican church youth band, who will be with us for the weekend and provide the music for our annual Christmas Carol picnic on 11 December. I have a retreatant booked for January, and a sense of joy that this aspect of the chaplain role is finally becoming a reality, after cancellations earlier this year due to Covid-19.

I also look forward to my annual silent retreat, delayed a few months due to house building and travel, from 14-21 December, and ask for your prayers.

As we journey through this advent season may the Spirit lead us through the wilderness and all the difficulties of these times, and guide us in hope, peace, joy, and love, as we walk together in faith and trust towards the coming of the Christ-Child among us.

WILMA