



July 2021



The Pincushion Trail, stopping place 11 on the Pilgrim walk, is an optional extra. The theme is onward and upward—for at crucial times in our life there is a call from God to go farther, climb higher—to stretch our trust to a testing point.

The mountain, implacable, says Choose.

To choose is to say a wholehearted “No” (even to what is good) for the sake of a more wholehearted “Yes” (to a greater good) without knowing in advance what the “Yes” will entail.

Having said “Yes”, you sense your strength, and you can lie

back and enjoy the mountain’s solid embrace. *Jim Cotter, Waymarks, Cairns for a Journey*



- Anton and I echo the theme of the Pincushion Trail as we have now, after 7 years of discussions, moving and planning, eventually moved upward into Wellspring. We are thankful that the moving day dawned bright and clear as the removal truck didn’t make it all the way to the top so they had to carry the furniture from half way up the hill. After a week we are fairly well settled.

- Boekenhout Down now has a ‘New Look’ as we

had to remove the carpet after it flooded during the May rains. Serghay and Deon did a beautiful job of tiling the area. We are grateful that our insurance paid out the claim without any reservations .

- That we could be part of making dreams come true for a bride who wanted to get married on Volmoed. Janine



Wildschut, a niece of Edwin Arrison, married John Geldenhuys on Saturday the 19th June.

- For our first group to come to Volmoed since the start of Covid. Shofar Church Durbanville brought a group of couples on retreat. Some feedback was—*‘Last weekend was really a blessing to so many couples.’*

- For the continued support we get from our prayer partners, as we see prayers being answered, many of which we



don’t even get to share with you.

- For a break in this week’s weather, (we’ve been having more rain and the water is running level with the underneath of the bridge at the weir), so that we can do some much needed grounds maintenance.

- That despite load shedding and power outages due to cable theft in the valley we have been able to accommodate our guests.



## PRIORY NEWS



Scott is still in America; he sent the following—

*'All my paperwork for visa application is now on its way to New York—so perhaps some news soon.'* It seems that more paperwork is needed so please keep him and the application process in your prayers.

Several people have expressed interest in either joining our monastic community or becoming an Associate of our Order attached to our community. We are accompanying a man who is discerning a vocation as a member of our community. He has visited us a couple of times to engage in conversation and experience the rhythm of our prayer life. We are also accompanying a woman who has started the process of becoming an Associate. We are excited about the future possibilities each of these people bring to our community.

### VYLTP (Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Program) NEWS

Through the grace of God, VYLTP purchased a container classroom, to provide a small office on Volmoed and house the six computers that were donated to us by the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation. This was blessed on 16 June, National Youth Day, the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of VYLTP, together with some of the staff who helped to put it into place, a few trustees, and about thirty young people gathered for our third Youth Taize Day.



It will provide a training and meeting space for young people - we are delighted. Come and see it when you visit!

With all the rain, we have been seeing an abundance of rainbows. A constant reminder of God's faithfulness toward us.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



### GRATITUDE!

It was a full and inspiring month – I am filled with gratitude. This is house building time. Progress has been fast, with much of the outside work complete and now the inside walls are in progress. It is very exciting, though a little overwhelming with all the decisions needed. I am grateful for many people who offer advice and opinions, or raise questions I would never have thought of. What a privilege to be able to create and curate a space that will be a home, sacred space, place of community, welcome, and music, and gets the last sunlight of the day. I expect visitors!

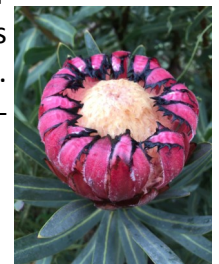


I have been asked to lead a couple of retreats, which gladdens my heart as it

is part of what I feel called to do at Volmoed. I unexpectedly supported a young woman in a six day timeout/transition retreat. I will be leading an Anglican clergy archdeaconry retreat, now postponed to September, and the Manenburg Anglican Church band retreat this month – though Covid-19 may mean postponement. Your prayers are welcomed.

A big thank you to all who give to God by supporting Volmoed, and those who are supporting the new Volmoed 50 Fund. We appreciate your giving to God in this way, it helps us pay our staff and keep Volmoed going. Particularly in these uncertain Covid-19 times, we are all very grateful!

Love,  
Wilma



Esther