



Contact us: 028 312 1282 or admin@volmoed.co.za

September 2021



Painting of the Pine trees by Alyson Guy

On your next visit to Volmoed you will notice that we have started clearing some of the alien trees with the row of Pine trees in front of Die Nessie and Oak Cottage. We are looking at replacing them with indigenous trees which will be able to tolerate water, as the winter rains



have changed the flow of the stream in that area. One thought is the Cape Willow



which likes water but is also drought resistant. As September is Arbour Month, should you want to donate towards replanting, please contact the office. The tree feller took out all the big logs, leaving us with a lot of small branches, seventeen heaps to be exact. We made use of a day's good weather to do a controlled burn. As we were doing the burn we got some expert advice from a fireman who was facilitating a first aid and fire fighting course on Volmoed.

Sunny days at this time of the year also make us more aware that Spring is knocking on the door with new leaves appearing on trees and sun loving flowers opening up. Then again we might have an almighty thunderstorm depositing a whole lot of hail on our doorstep. (One of our staff took time out to create a 'hail man'. Don't forget to go out and play.)

In August two 50th Birthday parties were held in the Kitchen/ Dining Room. Over the long weekend a group of friends had a low key celebration, chilling out with guitar playing in the Boma as the braai fire burned and friends chatted. The children enjoyed the freedom of running around and playing in the mud which is everywhere after all the rain. A Sunday morning Brunch was followed up with a walk to the Waterfall by some, while others just enjoyed lazing about with a book or chatting. Deon and their family and friends celebrated Hendrika's birthday in style with a beautifully decorated Dining Room. Speeches were made and songs sung to the accompaniment of the keyboard and good food was enjoyed by all present. The aroma coming from the dining room on Anton's and my morning walk was mouth watering.



Thursday services have resumed after a break due to the lock down at the beginning of July. It is good to see the familiar faces on Volmoed again. Unfortunately there are some faces that we will not be seeing again, our thoughts and prayers are with their families during this time of loss. You are welcome to come and join us for the service and a cup of coffee/tea afterwards. Please let the office know that you will be coming, as we want to stay Covid compliant.

Chaplain's Corner

In the midst of all the heartbreak and tragedies this month - in Haiti; in Afghanistan; in South Africa; all the gender based violence; all the grief and loss; there is beauty and gratitude.



I am beyond grateful that my house is finally basically finished, and last week the building inspector gave permission for me to move in! So many have helped in the process, and will help me to move in and get the rest done. All who see it say, "It's beautiful" and it is! Thank you for your prayers and support. It's a beautiful house, becoming a home, in the beautiful space of Volmoed, this peaceful place of healing and reconciliation that whispers, smiles, sometimes shouts and roars with beauty - that we stop and smile at, or gaze and drink in the view, or sit in peace by a fire.

I found these poems this month, may they be meaningful to you. I love the image of God as a woman (for God is neither male nor female yet so much more!) creating beauty to lure us to respond. I love the reminder to light candles and sit in silence with those who grieve. For me these two poems together help me to walk in faith and trust, and to celebrate beauty in the midst of heartbreak.

Beauty is God's bait.

*She sets it out and she waits
for you to notice.*

*You pause and gaze,
and, God hopes, lingers a bit,
rapt, while she stares at you
because she loves seeing
your face like that.
Amen.*

*When you meet someone deep in grief
slip off your needs and set them by the door.
Enter barefoot this darkened chapel,
hollowed by loss, hallowed by sorrow,
it's grey stone walls and floor.*

*You, congregation of one
are here to listen not to sing.
Kneel in the back pew,
make no sound,
let the candles speak.*



Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Unfolding Light

Love, Wilma




PRIORY NEWS



Nine clergy from the Archdeaconry of Constantia in the Diocese of Cape Town came to Volmoed on their Annual Retreat from Monday 16th to Thursday 19th August. Being aware that there is now a monastic religious presence at Volmoed, they sought to take full advantage of this. The plan was for Br. Scott to conduct their retreat, but he remains unavoidably detained in the USA, and so it became Br. Roger's privilege to do so. Their desire was for a time to rest, refresh, reflect, and reconnect with God and one another, away from the intensity of ministry. Br. Roger provided a short address for reflection each morning, the group joined the Brothers at prayer through the day in the Chapel, and the Brothers and Rev. Wilma made themselves available to meet with the clergy individually in the afternoons. There was intentionally a lot of space and time in the days for resting and reflection. At the end of the retreat, the group affirmed that they were refreshed and felt reconnected, their only disappointment being that they should have planned for an additional day of retreat time, not having been aware beforehand of how much they needed this retreat.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please continue to pray for the health and safety of our staff, especially those living in Mount Pleasant and Zwelihle where crime is increasing. 
- Wilma, our chaplain, as she moves and settles into her new house.
- For our guests coming in September, they are mostly individuals.
- Dorothy, who went to Zimbabwe to renew her passport and has been caught up in the lockdown there.
- Give Thanks for a good report from the doctors who have given Peterus' daughter, Zoe, a clean bill of health at her last visit.

Bless my mind with calm and sight
Bless my heart with love and light
Bless my day with grace and ease
Bless my world with hope and peace. Mary Davis

Esther