

VOLMOED CHAPLAINS CORNER

As the month of May ends, the season of Pentecost is upon us and the green season of ordinary time. Here are the lyrics of a favourite song for the season, by Carolyn McDade:

Spirit of Life by Carolyn McDade

Spirit of Life, come unto me,
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea
Move in the land, giving life the shape of justice
Roots hold me close, wings set me free
Spirit of Life, come to us, come to me

This week as June begins, I am privileged to be leading ten clergy in a silent retreat, my first time ever, and it is wonderful and challenging. Theme is 'Come Holy Spirit! Grow our Compassion!' Thus far it has been a deeply meaningful experience and I hope in future to do more.

This month has held some wonderful activity. At the beginning of May the brothers facilitated a weekend retreat for the Cape Town diocese Fellowship of Vocation, those discerning a call to ordination. I was part of the team of those offering one on one sessions with retreatants, always a privilege.



VYLTP began the next phase of our drumming project on 8 May and it was exciting. Bevil Spence of Drumba, guided the young people as they learned each phase of the drum making. Their faces lit up with smiles as they mastered new skills and tasks.



All Saints Anglican Church in Zwelihle was abuzz with activity and local parishioners helped to make lunches for the crew. A local restaurant is providing lunch every couple of weeks and others are being asked to do the same. It's an exciting set of partnerships. The drums take a week or more to complete, depending on weather and drying time to



glue on the skin drum heads. Our artistic ones paint the decorations onto the drums while some are left in their unadorned beauty.

Four new drums were finished, and then used along with Drumba drums at the airport a week later, to welcome students

from West Chester University, Pennsylvania USA. The group spent a morning with the young people making drums and then an afternoon at Volmoed together with the young people, discussing Humanity, Healing, Humour and Hope. What a wonderful day of cross-cultural interaction it was. And the first two drums that had been made, were sold!



to two of the visiting students. Since then, five drums have been completed and a couple of orders for drums have come in. We hope this project will grow to the point it can become self-sustaining.

Meanwhile at Volmoed a group of people from the Dioceses of York, Cape Town, False Bay and Saldanha Bay spent four days at Volmoed. The Diocese of York has a long-standing link with the former diocese of Cape Town, and had sent a group to reactivate the link post the Covid pandemic.



I was asked to facilitate their time at Volmoed at the end of the journey, to reflect on their visit and look forward to next steps. What a privilege it was to engage with them and to also enjoy the local beauty of Herrnanus with the whole group.

At Volmoed we held a gathering of residents to begin a discussion on 'Getting old at Volmoed' over a soup lunch together. There was a lot to say on this important topic! We have embarked on a journey and will continue. Our Wednesday morning prayers that gather most of Volmoed staff and residents together, are a highlight for many of us. We have now added a second part to our gathering, where one or two share





their stories of coming to Volmoed and what it was like. This is part of our discussion and process of writing a Covenant of Love, that begins to articulate the values and mission of Volmoed and our shared commitments.

I am grateful to have regained my health after a tummy bug/virus flattened me for a good few days in mid-May. As the nights and early mornings are now often down to single digit temperatures, I try to keep warm and I still love my lovely home. My heart is filled with gratitude!

Love
Wilma