

## Chaplains Corner

Warm greetings as it gets more chilly around Volmoed and we celebrate the risen Christ in this Eastertide season.

So far this year up until Easter was joyfully full of ministry, retreats and groups, leading up to holy week and Easter. Since Easter the pace has thankfully slowed down and yet as someone said, ‘there is always something happening at Volmoed!’

Most of the action has been focused on VYLTP. We held another Taizé Youth day on Palm Sunday weekend, attended by about forty-five young people, from Mount Pleasant, Zwelihle, Khayelitsha and the Western Cape. We were glad to have a large group from Mount Pleasant for the first time, which made the racial demographics more diverse, which we hope will lead to deepened friendships across cultures and languages. For the first time ever, we added drumming to the music mix! Our newly trained drummers, under the direction of Bevil Spence from Drumba organization, gave us a new and beautiful experience. The music and meditative singing, time for reflection alone and in small groups, a walk to the waterfall, networking, and workshops on drumming workshop that was very popular, prayer, and Gender Based Violence, make this a wonderful day for the group.



VYLTP and Drumba are now working out how to partner together, with Drumba to provide the marketing for gigs and events for our young trained drummers to play at so that we can focus on our leadership training. Next we start a new phase, which involves training the young people to make the drums. This will be based at All Saints Church in Zwelihle so is another good partnership in development. All very exciting!



Another exciting development: at the end of March, VYLTP added a new weekly program, called Thursday Program, as young leaders from Zwelihle and Mount Pleasant come to Volmoed on Thursdays, attend the morning eucharist with the Volmoed community, engage in learning programs with local and visiting speakers, enjoy the nature and beauty of Volmoed and get to know each other across racial, cultural, and language differences. This now takes the place of our former ten week residential program. We are working out how to cover the same content, based on the five themes of Volmoed: Beloved Community; Creation and Creativity; Healing and Wholeness; Peace & Justice; Reconciliation; as well as teaching leadership skills and other tools needed to be leaders in church and faith groups and in society. This is a very exciting development and in the end will cost much less than the residential program.



As the year continues, we are excited to see how all these new emerging projects develop.

I have also begun the Shalem course on Transforming Communities through Individual and Group retreats. There is a fair amount of reading and the two monthly online small group meetings thus far have been engaging and enjoyable.

In these slightly less busy weeks, I am reorganising the cupboards in my home, and some of the furniture. I am so grateful for my lovely home and enjoy its peace and quiet as well as hosting many visitors.

As the Eastertide moves on, I continue to look for the presence of the risen Christ in unexpected places in unexpected ways. The risen Christ accompanied people on their way, and they shared their stories of seeing Christ show up at their dinner table or breakfast on the beach. May we too seek the risen Christ in the places of ministry and healing, and encounter the risen Christ in unexpected ways that transform our journeys.

Love and Peace,  
Wilma