

## ***IN THE MIDDLE OF PAST AND FUTURE HOPE***

***Do you remember those charts from school called Venn Diagrams?*** They are made up of two circles each representing different concepts that overlap forming a space in the middle that represents a third category that is a combination of both circles.

When I read Zechariah's prophetic song it helps me to picture his prophesy in a diagram like that.

***The first circle represents the past.*** Zechariah finds hope in God because of the promises from the mouths of the prophets of old, in remembering the covenant with our ancestor Abraham and in the memories of the house of God's servant, David.

***The second circle represents hope for the future.*** Zechariah tells us that John will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, dawn will break upon us and God will give light to those in darkness.

***Zechariah is standing right in the middle, in the overlapping parts of those two circles, between past and future.*** What a gift to be permitted to stand in the time and space where the promises of God from the past and the promises of God for the future crash into one another like waves on the shore, flooding him with hope from both sides. *What a gift to be buoyed up by the confluence of the streams of grace from past and future.*

***That is the place that we also are blessed to stand during Advent, in the middle of past and future hope.*** In Advent we remember, just like Zechariah did, all of the promises of God that lead up to the birth of Jesus Christ that we celebrate at Christmas.

We rehearse the words of the prophets, the proclamations of the angels and the story of the manger.

***But Advent is not only about looking backward and celebrating the event of a birth. It is also about looking forward in anticipation of the fulfilment of God's Kingdom in the fullness of time when Christ will come again and both past and future hopes will become reality.***



Rev. Caitlin Deyerle

***"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfilment into the Advent of our lives."***

# Trinity Methodist Church

LINDEN, JOHANNESBURG



*Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the night.*

**23 November 2014**

## ***1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT***

“Then John’s father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty Saviour for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.*

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. *And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.*

*By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”*

Luke 1:67-79

***Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.***

Isaiah 7:14

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**GRAEME FRASER** underwent a knee replacement on Tues, op went well, he is undergoing physio with painful knee exercises.

**TONY (Sue Edwards Dad)** suffering with severe back & neck pain due to arthritis, he is also battling with problems with his hand.

**DELENE MULLER** A deep vein thrombosis was picked up a week ago after the cast was removed from her leg. Nick has been nursing her at home.

**REVD HAS VISSER** (Brixton) is currently receiving treatment for stomach cancer. His need is to have a positive mind and strength for his family.

**GABRIEL (Michelle Tippet's nephew)** diagnosed with scarlet fever & swollen lymph nodes with a very high fever.

**JACK MILNER (partner Lena)** admitted to the Helen Joseph last Sun with chest pains diagnosed as a mild heart attack. He is back home but very tired.

**CARL MARAIS (Carlene Zietsman's son)** left foot amputated last Wed due to diabetes. Op went well & Carlene reports that "*he is sparkling with the love of God*"

**DUDLEY MIDDLETON (Angela's husband)** has had a reoccurrence of tumours on his liver, but, having seen the surgeon, was told that the tumours did not need any attention now and he could come back in six months. His last liver op was about 4 months ago.

**DEVON (10 - Dudley Middleton's nephew)** broke his arm badly 18 months ago; he now has a serious bone infection and is in hospital for docs to decide on treatment.

**GAIL DE KLERK** was in a Step Down Facility near Northcliff Corner but due to complications she has been re-admitted to hospital.

**DR AUDREY MULAUDZI (husband Trevor)** had an elbow operation 2 weeks ago which is very painful and is affecting her left hand.

**CLIVE & RAINE PETTIPHER (Rob Price's daughter & son-in-law)** and their children will be relocating to Stellenbosch in January 2015.

**KATE WATERSTON** is suffering with a Cocksackie B virus causing extreme pain in her neck & back. She is on strong muscle relaxants & anti-inflammatory meds.

**SUE EDWARDS** directing an 8 day silent retreat in Pretoria which started Friday (28<sup>th</sup>).

✠ **NEL ALLEN** is due to have a hip replacement on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

✠ **WIN KIRKMAN** broke her arm a few weeks ago.

✠ **HELENE SEGAL** has had heart problems & underwent an angiogram on Tues.

✠ **GORDENE** diagnosed with brain cancer and will be going for chemotherapy.

**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:**

**SONETTE MACGREGOR** (husband Roderick) Sonette has been diagnosed with myasthenia gravis, a chronic autoimmune neuromuscular disease.

**RUTH (Cecil Olberholzer's daughter)** has been very ill; a decision will be made with medical professionals to consider the option of surgery.

**LIZELLE SLABBERT (husband Martin, 2 young children)** underwent her first chemo treatment this week for breast cancer diagnosed a number of weeks ago.

**MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION** who are experiencing difficulties and doubt in their lives, that they may not forsake the care of the Trinity Church family.

**WINIFRED TENNANT** had a turn for the worse; she has been in ICU for 12 weeks. Her daughter, Barbara, continues to bear the load of her mom's illness as well as other major family problems. Barbara's sister has arrived from Aus to be with them.

✠ **GWEN SMEATON** suffering with pneumonia.

✠ **WILLA** suffering with severe backache due to injuries to the vertebrae.

✠ **BABY BELLA** continues to gain weight, trusting she will be home for Christmas.

**CANCER LIST:** *Gordon Bennett, Anton Marais* (Sydney), *Lee Barnes, Nola Dodds, Tracy Hoy* (UK), *Hilda Louter, Val Warren, Dudley Middleton, Marguerite, Peter, Myrren* (18), *Diane Turner, Maureen Lupton, Martin v d Merwe* (Karin Blackburn's dad), *Joy v d Klis, Jean Clarence, Daniela Andrade* (7), *Russell Jones, Ursula Ryder, Lesley Steyn, David Edwards* (UK), *Doh Carneson, Louise Shaw* (Texas), *Brian K, John Sandison, Cindy Saunders, Marina v d Ruit, Brian Tromp, Chloe Thomas, Elizabeth Innes, Greg Cleeve-Edwards, Joanna* (Maurice's niece), *Joy* (Sam's sister), *Gilbert Hughes, John Clarke, Dudley Hudson, Keith Bunce* (UK - wife Liz), *Bill Coulle*.

**CHRONIC LIST:** *Denese Pieterse* (back problems), *Dave* (Guillain Barre Syndrome), *Elaine Vermaak* (osteoporosis), *Moira Smith* (hiatus hernia), *Maureen Dewberry* (heart problems), *Alison* (spinal problems), *Illia & Graham* (UK), *Diana Viljoen's Mom* (stroke), *Colleen Hunter* (brain op), *Christiaan Vermeulen* (heart surgery), *Deon* (facial surgery), *Susanne* (stroke), *Duncan Edwards* (rare disease), *Noelle Marshall* (leukemia & eye problems), *Louise Combrink* (nervous breakdown), *Heather Seymour* (emphysema), *Nic Swart* (stroke), *Nic Breytenbach* (MDS Leukaemia), *Elwyn Dyer* (hip op), *Bradley Manson* (Kidney disease, dialysis), *Reef's grandparents, Eva & Brian Humphreys*, Coral Fisher (foot problems), *Jules* (auto immune disease), *Lesley* (broken wrists), *Louis Brugman* (heart & hip problems), *Linda Hann* (needs employment), *John, Elaine Vermaak's nephew* (heart problems, loss of job), *Dennis Meintjies* (Sheila Marley's brother - intestinal op), *Moira Wessels* (in frail care), *Rebecca Owens* (fungal infection), *Rhys Thomas* (heart), *William Marrs* (elbow op), *Mari Thomasset* (Leg op), *Helene Segal* (fractured arm), *Harold* (Maurice's dad – tired & frail), *Bella* (prem baby), *Terry* (broken leg), *Pam Jenkins* (blood pressure problem), *Hans* (thinning retina), *Audrey Newberry* (broken wrists), *Gail de Klerk* (hip replacement), *Delene Muller* (broken knee cap, DVT), *Annabelle-Jane* (5 - insecure), *Sylvia Maphisa* (TB & eye problems), *Cynthia Ross* (spinal problem), *Elsabé Vorster* (back problem).

~ ~ ~



**"Life is a constant Advent season:** we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfil. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfilment are all part of our Advent experience. *"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be.*

But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—**as one of us**— give us reason to live in hope: *that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.*