



Senior Citizens' Newsletter – June 2021

Greetings

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW - Sarah Hahm

My three-and-a-half-year-old son had been complaining about the snow. Only a few days before Easter, after what had seemed an early and warm spring, the cold rain had turned to ice and then snow. "Turn it back! Turn it back to rain," my son yelled

"Perhaps God will," I said, "if you ask him."

I thought of explaining to him how God once held the sun still in the sky for a whole day in response to one man's prayer, but, given his ongoing fit, I didn't think it was a teachable moment.

What happened next happened so fast! After putting on his coat and boots so we could go pick up his brother and sister from school, I let him out the door while I finished putting on my boots and putting some washing in the dryer. Now it was time to buckle him into his car seat, but he was gone. He wasn't in the front yard, the backyard, the fort, anywhere in the house, or even in the van waiting to go. And I was terrified.

Then I saw them. Footprints in the snow.

I followed them. Down the hill in the backyard, onto the back path which runs behind our house, all the way up to where the path runs along the railroad tracks, and then onto the railroad tracks. There he was in the distance, walking right down the middle of the railroad tracks heading to where the tracks crossed one of the major roads in the village.

Few times in my life have I been so scared.

After I yelled three times for him to stop, he finally did, and I was able to catch up with him. I grabbed



him in my arms and carried him the whole way home, while he told me about his wonderful adventure of walking on the tracks. I sternly told him how dangerous what he just did was.

A day later, when my husband returned from his business trip, he remarked, 'Imagine, dear, if that rain had not turned to snow. There never would have been any footprints to follow.'

The rain turned to snow about an hour before I found my son on the railroad tracks. When my son ventured outside, about one to two inches of snow covered the ground. A half hour after I found my son, the rain returned - melted the snow.

"On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel, 'sun, stand still over Gibeon'... The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day." (Joshua 10:12,13)

I did not pray for it to snow that day. And I am glad that God did not heed my son's prayer to stop the snow. But I am convinced that God sent the snow that day and at that very time - at least in part - because he knew my son needed to leave footprints in the snow for me to follow.

God knows the plans he has for us (Jeremiah 29:11). He knows our going out and is familiar with all our ways (Psalm 139:3). And "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Including the weather.



And God looked down – A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note : "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

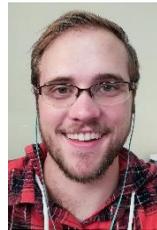
Some useful telephone numbers:

	Estelle	082 821 5359	
Marje	083 247 3938	Rina Fourie	082 534 1958
Pastoral Care	011 782 0367	Church Office	011 888 1740

1. A note from the office

Hi everyone

It's Devan Fleetwood here, the Youth and Young Adults Pastor at Trinity. I am so excited to be writing this letter for the newsletter this month.



Things have been moving along quite well here at Trinity. We've just finished our latest series called Prayer: It Looks Like You Are Doing Nothing But...! And it has been so refreshing to hear of the different ways peoples' prayer lives have been revitalised and strengthened. It's also been so awesome to hear how many people have been able to engage with the series through the online video recordings and the audio recordings that are sent out, including many of you who are reading this now. We really hope that those of you who were able to engage with this series have also seen some kind of refreshment in your prayer life.

With the 3rd wave coming through we've been reminded of the level of disconnection COVID-19 has brought to our community. While this is the case, each Monday in our staff meetings we are made aware of different ways people throughout the community are still reaching out and connecting with each other. With this newsletter being one of those methods of connecting, I would just like to encourage anyone who is reading this and feeling disconnected from community and the people around them that, this too shall pass.

While these words aren't from Scripture, they can still act as a reminder that although COVID seems endless right now, it too shall pass. It's a reminder that the limitations COVID has forced us to put in place, too shall pass. It's a reminder that in the present we have the opportunity to look ahead at the joys that will come down the road, to help us get through the difficulty of today. Hebrews 12:2 says 'For the joy set before Him [Jesus] endured the cross'. Jesus was able to look ahead at what good things would come from His death on the cross. He was aware that people would experience eternal life, that people would be set free from the strongholds holding them down, that people would be healed and that people would experience the fullness of the Father on this side of the grave. While this didn't lessen the pain or the weight of the cross, it made enduring that pain and the weight all the more worth it, knowing what would come from it.

Looking ahead at what will come about when this too passes gives us that extra boost to endure the difficulty of this time. May you then, for the joy

set before you, endure COVID-19 and remember that in time, this too shall pass. Remember too that you are welcome to contact any of us (on the numbers listed on the newsletter) to have a chat at any time.

God Bless
Devan Fleetwood



Where do we begin? Begin with the heart. - Julian of Norwich

2. A Note from Marje (In the Absence of Estelle)

Greetings to all our Wonderful Seniors, Groete aan al die Seniors, Sanibonani, Dumelang, Molo, Lotjhani!

Hasn't our Lord provided us with the most glorious daytime weather lately? I hope you are managing to find the perfect spot in the sun and keeping yourselves warm. The winter solstice will take place on the 21st June - our longest night and shortest day and to me that means spring is not too far away. Isn't nature a wonderful thing.

Nature's Melody - Helen Bird

*There is music in the rustle of the leaves each daily dawn
There is music in the birdsong of each beauteous bursting morn.
The rushing stream, the croaking frog, the bumble buzz of bee.
Are all the instruments God needs for nature's melody.*

We have a couple of important celebrations taking place during June : Melanie Parfitt turns 70 on the 4th – Happy Birthday, Melanie. One of our past leaders, Grace Grant, is turning 90 on the 8th. Happy Birthday, Grace. We hope you both enjoy your special days. These two ladies belong to our Seniors Group that meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

- Numbers 6:24-26

Talking about celebrations, our over 60's are now able to register for the inoculation against COVID. If you haven't managed to do so, please remember Trinity is able to assist you. We would like to thank Devan Fleetwood who is kindly offering this service to you. Please contact him on 072 883 8004 or email him at youth@trinitylinden.org.za and he will assist you with online instructions.

On **Wednesday 9 June at 10.00am** we will be holding our communion service for our seniors, COVID permitting. Should you wish to attend, please contact Melanie on 011 888 1740 to book your seat. Should you forget to book and on the day wish to attend, there will still be place, so please do come. All COVID -19 protocols will be enforced.

Happy Father's Day to all our fathers for the 20th June! I hope you will all have a wonderful day.

Lastly, I would like to wish Estelle Breytenbach, who is currently away, a wonderful holiday. I hope she is having a fantastic time with family. Travel home safely, Estelle!

Something to chuckle about, from Estelle:

Two guys grow up together, but after college one moved to Georgia and the other to South Carolina. They agree to meet every 10 years in Florida to play golf.

At age 32 they meet, finish their round of golf and head for lunch.

"Where you wanna go?" "Hooters." "Why Hooters?"
"They have those servers with the big boobs, the tight shorts and the gorgeous legs." "You're on."

At 42, they meet and play golf again.

"Where you wanna go for lunch?" "Hooters." "Again? Why?"
"They have cold beer, big screen TVs & side action on the games." "Ok."

At 52 they meet and play again.

So where you wanna go for lunch?" "Hooters." "Why?"
"The food is pretty good and there's plenty of parking." "Ok."

At 62 they meet again. After a round of golf, one says,

"Where you wanna go?" "Hooters." "Why?"
"Wings are half price and the food isn't too spicy." "Good choice."

At 72 they meet again. Once again, after a round of golf, one says,

"Where shall we go for lunch?" "Hooters." "Why?"
"They have six handicapped parking spaces right by the door and they have senior discounts." "Good choice."

At 82 they meet again and play again.

"Where shall we go for lunch." "Hooters." "Why?"
"Because we've never been there before." "Okay let's give it a try."

Have a great month and God Bless.

Marje

3. Poem

An English Winter's Day – Paul L Kennedy

On those cold and frosty winter's mornings when the
grass crunches beneath your feet
and you're wrapped up in layers, hats, scarves, as is
everyone else you meet



When each time you exhale a breath of steam quickly disappears into the
chilled air,
and any part of you that is open or exposed is numbed and quickly
covered, or beware,



Often every outside surface is dusted
with winter's cold makeup white,
and Jack Frost at your nose your ears and fingertips
tries to take a bite.

Icicles form to look just like the teeth of some long since past prehistoric
beast.

Winter's grip in some places on this our Earth holds on; we hope never
ever to cease.

The winter sun is low in the sky and its weak rays
have little warmth, if any.
God's creatures brave the cold in search of food,
but really not that many.



Snug in their winter's long sleep, others see neither day nor night .
The world outside of which they know now blanketed cold and white.

Eventually when the night draws in and there are no clouds and the sky is
clear,
and the only light is from the moon, it's silvery glow throughout the
heavens appear.

The temperature drops until the very air you breathe chills your lungs
with every grasp,
and even the tiniest sound seems to be magnified and its echo all around
is cast.

And when the morning light again returns as the
sun is again risen from its slumber,
the beauty of our treasured land we once more
behold, with eyes of awe and wonder.



 Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. – Francis of Assisi

4. Bible Verse

“While the earth remains seed time and harvest, - Cold and heat, and summer and winter and day and night shall not cease” Genesis 8:22

 Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary. – Pope Benedict XVI

5. Prayer

Lord,
Grant me tenacious winsome courage as I go through this day. When I am tempted to give up, help me to keep going. Grant me a cheerful spirit when things don't go my way. And give me the courage to do whatever needs to be done.

In Jesus' name, Amen



- Dr Ray Pritchard

 I heard a winter tree in song. Its leaves were birds, a hundred strong; when all at once it ceased to sing, for every leaf had taken wing – Mervyn Peake

6. News from the Seniors Committee and Pastoral Care

Mavis Scholes lost her son (63 years old) to a heart attack recently.

Derek Kirsch has been unwell with a bladder infection. He has faced repeated health challenges recently. Please keep him & Jenny in prayer.

Marge Paddock is recovering well from her hip surgery.

Barbara Sutter moved from hospital to the frail care at Elm Park. She is doing better and hoping to be back in her cottage soon.

Thank you to Mavis Isaacs, who knitted baby beanies and jerseys. These will be donated to the Door of Hope.

 Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day – Shira Tamar

7. Birthdays

Psalm 91:11 “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.”

May God warm your heart and grant peace upon you, not only on your birthday but for every single day of your life! Happy Birthday.

June

1 Dru Robert Harvey	14 Margaret Berns	23 Eileen Lock
1 Allen Watson	14 Brenda Le Roux	23 Margaret Slade
2 Mavis Edmunds	14 John Shearer	24 Barbara Anstadt
2 Marika Palfi	14 Rosemary Smith	24 Olivia Collins
4 Melanie Parfitt ✨70	14 Henna Sparrow	24 Ann Lawson ✨80
5 Roy Leahy ✨70	15 Ernestinah Mahlaku	24 Josephine Muller
5 Neo Mokgwetsi ✨70	16 Jonathan Heher	24 Carol Stewart ✨70
6 Barbara Atkinson	17 David Dixon	25 Carol Evans
7 Nell Allen	17 Anna Pottas	25 Coleen Freeman ✨70
7 Valerie Oberholzer	19 Cecil Oberholzer	25 June Jacobs
8 Grace Grant ✨90	19 Carol Warren	25 Johannes Swanepoel
9 Dalene Luzon	19 Karl Schultz	26 Elsabie Vorster
11 Hendrix Erasmus	20 Colleen Hunter	27 Cheryl De Jager ✨70
11 Devan Fleetwood	21 Pat Cass	27 Elaine Orpen
11 Stephen Grove	21 Philip Chilton-Jones	28 Brucenda Bailey ✨80
11 Marjorie Paddock	21 Alan Dugmore ✨70	28 Sylvia Wilke
12 George Baker	21 Daphne Schrieder	29 Graeme Fraser
12 Joyce Parker	22 Jean Gobey	30 Marilyn Fraser
13 Sandy Theron	23 Eleanor Danowski	



You may only be someone in the world, but to someone else, you may be the world

– unknown

8. Date of Next Meeting

COVID permitting, the next meeting will be on the 11th August 2021.

Please keep an eye on the church notices for more information.



Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.

- St Catherine of Siena