



STELLENBOSCH UNITED CHURCH

Newsletter Vol. 2019 (#7)

September 2019

Dear All

December is generally known as the silly season, but I must say that October is a close contender. We leap from summer to winter clothes on a daily basis, basking in warm sunshine on one day and battenning down the hatches on the next day. Then not to mention all the sniffles and snuffles of the hay fever sufferers! Well, whatever else, it certainly keeps us on our toes.

Tony's message is simple, but challenging and is accompanied by great visuals.

Malibongwe Gwele gives a wonderful overview of the UPCSAs twentieth anniversary celebrations. It sounds like a very inspirational occasion and both the keynote speaker, Dr Allan Boesak and preacher, Allan Cowan, presented thought-provoking messages. Thank you, Malibongwe, for a really good summary of the proceedings!

Art with heart features the work of Vernon Swart, which brilliantly evokes Namaqualand!

The Narrow Road the Deep North by Richard Flanagan is the book reviewed this month. It sounds as if it is not for the faint hearted, but a good read nevertheless. Perhaps we would do well to read it to remind ourselves that the lives of others can be oh so much tougher than ours!

In Feedback and newflashes, we say thank you to the Viva Cantare choir for filling the hearts of the congregation at church with joy a few weeks back and congratulate Tilda and Arnold Schoonwinkel on the birth of another grandchild.

For those of you that are gardening minded or simply enjoy beautiful flowers, the first weekend of November is when you should make your way to The Rustenberg Manor House Garden Open Day. And all golf pro's and wannabees, don't forget to sign up for the Golf Day on 14 November!

Have you done your spring cleaning yet? It is time to re-locate some of those shall-I -shan't-I keep items that have been cluttering up the home. You will find plenty of new home options for these items listed at the end of the brochure, including opportunities for shedding excess energy by engaging in a few worthy causes.

Finally, please share with us any joys or important events in your lives. We would love to hear from you!

God bless

Jane van Wilgen

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MESSAGE FROM TONY



Dear Family,



Chief Petty Officer Dudley Malgas of the South African Navy has been firing the noon day gun in Cape Town for the last 20 years and on the 21st of August, he fired it for the last time, and we were there.

Actually, he fired *them* because there are two great old Dutch black powder guns which have been fired alternately each day since 1806. Every day without stub-e-ling tick tick tock.

It was a great day out for us and the boys and they were so excited to see the massive guns fire. It's short walk from Bo-Kaap up to the guns to join the thousands of international visitors who flock annually to get a pic with our favourite gunner.

Tanner and Tyler stood in the queue and he was wonderful with them as he bent down to pose for the photo. Of course, when the two cannon fired about 3 seconds apart, the concussion was enough to scare them into tears, despite hands firmly over ears.



While we were having our picnic of chips and sweets, staple party



food for 5-year olds, we looked out over Cape Town and I noticed how many people Dudley influenced each day when he fires the Noon Day Gun. It made me think how easy it is to forget how many people come under the influence of the Church each year

without even realising it.

Perhaps the loudest message to me that day came from the 20 years of faithful noontime service. Jesus call to us is not to do anything fancy or terribly innovative, but rather to get behind His counter-intuitive message which has not changed for 2000 years. "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."



Jesus is calling us to do what He called us to so long ago. To love others as He has loved us. Day after day, year after year, and allow the rest to follow. May we faithfully follow Him in loving every single person. Every single day.

MESSAGE FROM MALIBONGWE



UPCSA 20th Anniversary Celebration

Last week was a busy week for Presbyterians of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) in South Africa. It began with the Executive Commission on Monday 23 September 2019, followed by the UPCSA 20th celebrations on the 26th to the 29th.



This was a great time for Presbyterians in South Africa, of course those who are members of the UPCSA. It was also a busy time for some; especially the Presbytery of the Central Cape which had to host over 5 000 people and busier for our Minister, Tony Robinson who is a Chaplain to the Moderator the Rev Dr Peter Langerman. As a Chaplain, his role is to ensure that everything is organised in accordance with the *Uniting Presbyterian Manual*, including services. It also meant that he

must look after the Moderator's guests which included amongst others the Rev. Prof Allan Boesak and the Rev. Dr Collin Cowan, the General Secretary of the Council for World Mission (CWM). These two guests gave Keynote speeches and the closing sermon on Sunday. Our Tony was extremely busy. As one stage, when he was distributing water to the guests, one of our 14

congregants who attended the event came to me and asked, "Can I go and help **umfundisi** or, even better, could you please go help?"



Amongst challenges that faced the union of the two churches, former Reformed Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (RPCSA) and former Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa (PCSA), was uniting the associations. Article 13 of the basis of union states that, as a condition of the union, both churches are to join their four



respective associations (eight in all) into only four associations. In addition to this, there was a formation of the Fellowship of Church Choirs and Musicians. So, the celebrations began with the dissolution of the eight associations and establishment of new fellowships; the fellowship of women, fellowship of men, fellowship of young women and fellowship of youth. Historically associations 'offered a space for black people's expression of faith', the identity of these former churches that came to be UPCSA cannot be understood without the movement of iimanyano.

It was indeed a time to Rejoice and Celebrate as representatives from all UPCSA Presbyteries gathered to reflect on the past 20 years. We also heard words of testimony and encouragement from partner denominations within Southern Africa and from around the world. Both the Key note speaker and the Preacher during the Sunday closing service challenged all of us to reflect deeply about the role of the church in South Africa in the face of all the social ills like poverty, inequality, violence and insecurity. The Rev. Dr Colin Cowan said that "we are living in a hostile world and the church is no safe heaven, the church is no sanctuary for victims of violence and hate crimes".



Rev. Prof. Allan Boesak's address was themed: **Remaining faithful in the Wilderness.** In his address he decried all that characterises wilderness, emphasising that wilderness was about God and his people. He said that the God of wilderness is the God of justice and freedom. The glory of God's compassion and justice shall be relieved only when the church begins to build highways for God to reach the poor and marginalized. He concluded by posing these questions; where are your wounds?

Is it because there is nothing to fight for that you have no wounds, Presbyterians? Reminding us that we shall all be held accountable by the Judge one day.



In his sermon the Rev Dr Collin Cowan was at pains to challenge us to imagine the world we desire for our children and our grandchildren and to live that legacy now. He asked whether this was the unsafe world that we wanted for our children. He said Isaiah dreamt of a new heaven and a new earth, a new community where even those who make no sense to the world and at times make no sense to the church, make sense and have meaning in Jesus. Not only is that new heaven and new earth a possibility but it is necessary. He went on to say that the call for a new heaven and earth is a call for a rearranged community. In this rearranged community greatness is defined by service.

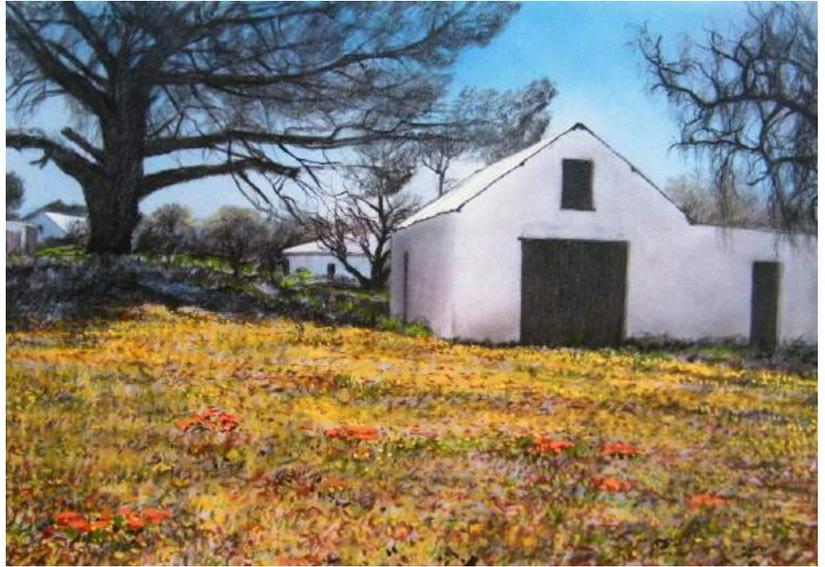


By Jane Plantinga

Paintings by Vernon Swart

Pastel and Acrylic, Namakwaland

Vernon is the son of the late Maureen Swart, a long-time member of Stellenbosch United Church





Suggested by Delice Thompson

***The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan**

Published in September 2014 by Random House

A novel about the cruelty of war, the tenuousness of life and the impossibility of love.

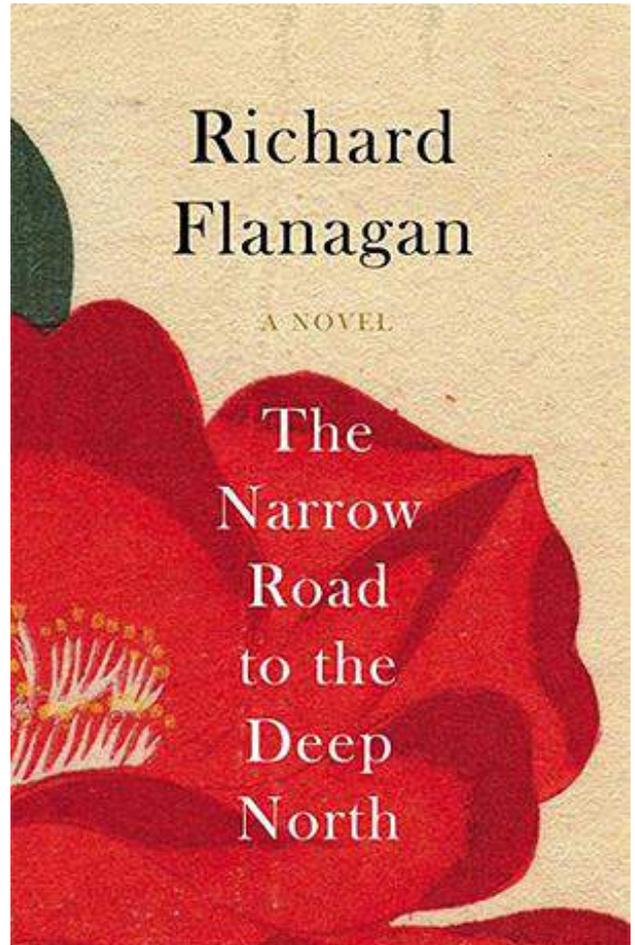
This book is heart-wrenching and profoundly personal. Set in a Japanese POW camp on the Burma Death Railway, its inspiration, in part, arose from a place of love, albeit considerable pain, too. It is dedicated to his father – prisoner 335 – who survived internment on “the line” in a Japanese POW camp where 14000 died, though the narrative is driven as much by the central love story as its tortured counterpoint of war.

While the novel's starting point was his father's story, it was extended upon and elaborated fictionally through his protagonist, Dorrigo Evans, an army surgeon who is indelibly touched by war, an Australian doctor haunted by a love affair with his uncle's wife. Flanagan spent a lot of time with his father before he died, talking about the finer details of his POW experience too.

The novel journeys from the caves of Tasmanian trappers in the early twentieth century to a crumbling pre-war beachside hotel, from a Thai jungle prison to a Japanese snow festival, from the Changi gallows to a chance meeting of lovers on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Taking its title from 17th-century haiku poet Basho's travel journal, *The Narrow Road to The Deep North* is

about the impossibility of love. At its heart is one day in a Japanese slave labour camp in August 1943. As the day builds to its horrific climax, Dorrigo Evans battles and fails in his quest to save the lives of his fellow POWs, a man is killed for no reason, and a love story unfolds.





Viva Cantare Choir

Viva Cantare is made up of people who have good voices and love to sing, like Ulrike and Helmuth, two of our members. What a joy it was to have this choir enrich our service – we hope that will come again soon!



Congratulations

Congratulations to Tilda and Arnold Schoonwinkel on the birth of their grandchild Cara, born on the 4th September in Canada.



Save the Dates



RUSTENBERG MANOR HOUSE OPEN GARDEN

Friday 1 November, Saturday 2 November
and Sunday 3 November 2019

Time: 9:30am until 4:30pm

Refreshments will be available under the oaks

Entrance Fee: R50

Plants for sale

For more details contact Rozanne Barlow:

082 442 1721 | rozanne@rustenberg.co.za

For directions please visit

www.rustenberg.co.za

Save the Date **14 NOVEMBER 2019**
DEVONVALE GOLF COURSE

Golfers: 4 ball team
Sponsors required:
Prizes, on course sponsoring, donations

For more information please contact
Brian Shepherd

2019 SUC
GOLF DAY

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Thank you for getting involved!

Every month the newsletter features ways to get involved in the community work of our church. Since our theme for the month is thanksgiving, we'd like to share some feedback about how your generosity is making a difference.

Book and CD sales

Second hand books are available for sale in the entrance to the Hall. All Books are R20. So far this year we have raised R11 321.00. There are lots of new books to choose from, also new CD's.

Love to Give

Don't forget to bring clothing and household goods for the Love to Give project. These are sold by women who are being trained to start their own businesses to enable them to become self-sufficient.

Care Coins

Don't forget to take a bottle and fill it with your small change. Every cent counts and at the end of the year this money will be donated to Safe House L'Abri de Dieu who provide shelter for abused women and children who are victims of sexual and domestic violence.

Carol's Soup for Winter Project and a Call for Shoes

In winter, we provide bread and soup for hungry people every Saturday. Donations of money would be welcome. We look for the best prices for the items we have to buy. Please contact Carol Chase ASAP on either 073 534 3738 or 021 887 1781.

Carol is also collecting shoes for those who are fed at the soup kitchen. Please drop off shoes that are in good enough condition to use for walking, especially men's shoes size 6 to 9. Carol is willing to collect donations.

Marion's cards

Marion has made some more beautiful cards. All proceeds go towards those in need. Cards are only R5 each.

Stellenbosch Hospital

Donated baby clothes and blankets, along with lovely items created by Crafts for Christ, are delivered to new mothers at the hospital. Other donations of clothes and blankets are more than welcome, as are 'bum cream' and other baby necessities.

Masifunde Crèche

Stellenbosch United supplies the crèche with food once a month, to the value of about R600.

Kayamandi outreach

The church supplies 25 Kayamandi families with groceries once a month. Donations towards this project are highly appreciated, since we are spending in the region of R5 000 per month.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to the above causes, and also to the amazing people organizing these projects! Every bit really does help, and your contribution – whether big or small – could mean the world to someone else.

SHARING RESOURCES



*Do you have any skills, services or equipment that our members might find useful?
You are welcome to share it here!*

Estelle Reynolds (our previous organist) is offering music classes either at your house, or at a venue in Stellenbosch

She offers tuition in:

Piano (Jazz, Pop and Classical), Singing (Jazz, Pop and Classical), Song writing, Improvisation (in any style),

Adding/writing in Jazz, Reggae, Blues, etc., Notes to music pieces, so that it will sound better for light singing and piano, Aural for

UNISA, Trinity, Rockschooll and Gr. 12 pupils for their

exams, Grade 8-12 School Music as Subject: Theory and History of

Music, University standard: Theory of Music, Teaching of

background/ restaurant music without using sheet music, Pipe Organ, Working with music notation programmes like Sibelius (i.e.

helping people to compose music), Piano accompaniment for any solo instrument, groups and singing.

Contact Estelle by email – estellevd@gmail.com or on mobile number – 082 330 9137 (preferably WhatsApp)

UPCOMING EVENTS



14 NOVEMBER

SUC Golf Day

Every Tuesday morning: **Prayer group** meets from 10h00–10h30 in the church. All welcome.

Every Wednesday morning: **Bible study** from 10h00–11h30 in the meeting room. All welcome.

Every Monday afternoon: **Bible study** from 15h30–17h30 at 9 Stellenoord, Tarentaal Road. All welcome. Contact Elaine Ridge (083 564 1553)

Every second Thursday of the month: **Crafts for Christ** meet from 10h00 – 12h00. Contact Lani Bredenkamp (082 648 8646) for more information.

Please remember to share all your precious or newsworthy moments with the newsletter team. We depend on your input!