

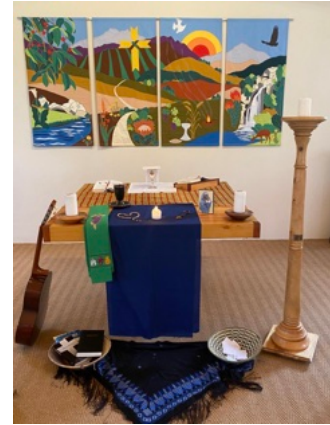
CHAPLAIN'S CORNER SEPTEMBER 2024

Warm greetings! September has been a mixed bag of all sorts, with much to be grateful for.

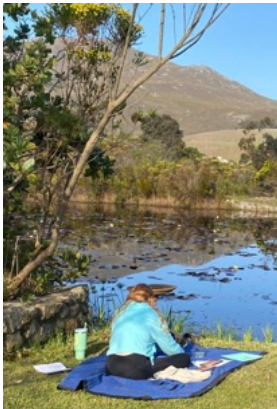
I find that leading and guiding individual and group retreats is always a highlight. September silent retreats included Anglican



clergy from a large area from Blue Downs to Khayelitsha to Eerste River and Somerset West. Another group from an NGO called Not I But We,



www.notibutwe.com, who work with women survivors of trafficking and GBV, came on retreat with staff, volunteers and supporters. Both groups needed deep rest and refreshment, and the retreat theme of 'Abundance, Grace and Compassion' ministered to them. This was the retreat I had compiled as my final



project for the course on leading retreats with Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. It was a delight to use the material in these quite different contexts, tweaked as needed, and find it used by the Spirit in beautiful ways.

Another highlight was my ordination anniversary as a priest at the end of the month. It was quite a contrast to first celebrate eucharist at Volmoed with the Benedictine brothers at the usual weekly Sunday service. From there I went to preach at a



local non-denominational church in Zwelihle, pastored by one of our staff, Lucas Mazantsana, called Communication of God church. It was their Heritage day service and the end of





a two week revival of church outreach services. It was wonderful to join in plenty of singing and music, to share my story of calling and how the journey was filled with so much grace amidst all the challenges. I used the story of Elijah in the cave in 1 Kings 19, and Ephesians



3:14-20 of God's love that surpasses knowing, and God who is able to do abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. 'What are you doing here? Listen, God is calling you!' I was able to weave a couple of breath prayers, and a silent, meditative exercise into the sermon, and it was a powerful moment that many told me afterwards was most meaningful for them.



Preparations continue for the November USA 'Drumming for Unity and Peace' tour for our young people. They are fundraising



in various ways. I will be working with those remaining behind to drum at a UCT Graduate Business School workshop in November and at a public lecture by Archbishop Rowan Williams here in Hermanus. He is leading a retreat 4-8 November here at Volmoed on 'What is the Spirit saying to the Church in these times.' Please contact me if you are interested in attending either of these. Or use this link https://b-cdn.springnest.com/media/doc/vl/rowan_williams_-_retreat.pdf

Both Volmoed and VYLTP are experiencing financial challenges, like so many organisations. I am part of a new committee on marketing for Volmoed, which is much needed. I continue to

work through the Global Giving Foundation to raise funds online for Volmoed staff, Volmoed operations, and VYLTP leadership training and drumming events/drum making.

Another highlight was a visit to nearby Stanford to see the Chelsea flower SA



exhibit, which re-created the gold award-winning exhibit at the Chelsea flower show in England. It was extraordinarily beautiful and breathtaking. Our SA fynbos is quite amazing.



This month has thankfully held a change of pace, with time to catch up on many deferred tasks on my To-Do list, such as helping Isobel de Gruchy revise the Thursday morning order of service, and more mundane tasks such as getting new specs and starting to re-organise my home space. The spring flowers in my garden are beautiful despite the winter rain and storms still abound, sometimes several times a day, and even hail today, in between more spring like weather.

Thank you as always for your support and prayers, I value it so much and love to receive the little notes and emails that come my way after people read this. The work and ministry is challenging, rewarding, sometimes deep and intense, sometimes exhausting and frustrating, often deeply meaningful and often fun.

I am going on a group silent retreat to Temenos retreat centre in MacGregor, (first time going there) just before my birthday next month. It's a different type of retreat for me, involving silence, yoga, meditation and more. It seems right as I head into a new journey around the sun and turn the age at which many retire. I note that I am technically already retired, but always gainfully occupied and life is full! I love what I do and God continues to use me in these very diverse ministries. I am awed and grateful for the very positive responses of people to what I do or who I am. Thanks be to God!

Love,
Wilma

A prayer from Taizé:

Christ Jesus, you came to bear our burdens with us, and for us. You take even our faults on yourself, so that we can be free, free to love. And so you place in the depths of our being a joy which no-one can take away from us. *(Br Matthew, prior of Taizé)*