



WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"We would see Jesus and be transformed into His Likeness"

Dear Friends,

Today would have been likely a big day for many families. Like ours, it may have been the first day back at school for your children, some starting at a new school. For others, it may have been having to contend with the usual Joburg traffic in full swing. With it comes anxiety and excitement, potential for tears and for new friendships and experiences. May you experience the blessing of God's presence through it all.

Last October, the leaders of Trinity gathered to listen for what the Spirit is saying to us for 2026, seeking a shared sense of direction that we can hold before us as it motivates and guides our decisions and our life together. It is not easy to capture on paper everything that was shared and discerned in that time, but I have attempted to do so and now share it with you here:



We discern that the Spirit is leading us:

- to set our hearts to be alert to the Kingdom of God in our living — to be expressions of Kingdom life that is hope-filled and hope-extending: Living Hope, Godly Hope, and Blessed Hope.
- being deeply loved, choose to love deeply — through listening, connecting, and healing.
- to commit to maturing in faith and nurturing those new to faith, remembering that "faith (steady trust in God), hope, and (extravagant) love abide" (1 Corinthians 13:13).
- to grow in awareness that Christ's love makes the church whole; His words evoke her beauty (Ephesians 5:26-27). As Christ reaches into our brokenness and into the broken places of the world, so we reach with His compassion into brokenness and broken places - extending healing and connection, drawing people together and to Christ.
- that Mission – God's love reaching out to all people - is by each one for each one.
- with trust, hope, and love, to hold before God our financial health and that of our wider Church, confident in His faithful provision for ongoing ministry and mission.

If I were to attempt to put all of this into one sentence of what we sense the Spirit saying to us and what we hold before us for 2026 it would be:

“Living and Extending the Hope of God’s Kingdom” - Being deeply loved, we live alert to God’s Kingdom, extending Living Hope, Godly Hope, and Blessed Hope as we grow in faith, love deeply, and join Christ in healing brokenness.

This aligns with the vision of Trinity – “We would see Jesus and be transformed into His likeness”.

As we step into this new year, with its fresh routines, challenges, and possibilities, may we keep before us what God is doing among us. May what we have discerned be a living invitation to notice the Kingdom in our everyday lives, to trust God’s faithful leading, and to join in Christ’s work of hope, love, and healing. May we begin this year, and continue in it, with open hearts and willing hands, holding before us the assurance that the One who calls us is already at work in and through our congregation.

With love and awe filled gratitude,

Iain

P.S. On Sunday morning, the 7th of November, in response to the church’s monthly financial shortfall, a congregation member, Teresa, shared a creative and heartfelt initiative called #Coffee - a small way each of us can make a meaningful difference. Here is her testimony as she shared it:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/fz6t6nITurM?si=5WqgH6Oe0ZOg7yaP&t=3877> .

Here is her idea:

by giving up one small luxury each month — perhaps a cup of coffee, a snack outing, or another treat that costs around R200 — we can collectively help close the financial gap. For instance, skipping a weekly R50 coffee adds up to R200 a month, which can then be donated to the church.

You can participate by setting up an automatic monthly deposit or by bringing your contribution in an envelope marked #Coffee. This tag helps us track the initiative’s progress.

It’s about sharing joyfully to support our community. If 200 people give R200, we could raise R40,000 together! Let’s invest in keeping our church strong, our ministries active, and our lights shining.

May God bless this effort and everyone who takes part in it.



(By Emmanuel Richard)

May this song draw you into the presence of Jesus.

“Draw me close to You” – performed by HeartCry music (Written by Kelly Carpenter) -
https://youtu.be/K_qPjNyUf6k?si=GdJA5ljpyvE-a9gx

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/track/1wrlgOCcGFTC7WxoilPooQ?si=4720944a46f545fc>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/song/draw-me-close-to-you/1167778699>



Themba will be presenting on his experience at his Training in Mission (TIM) in the Philippines, Singapore and Jamaica.

There will be opportunity to ask questions and engage with him about his experiences.

Please join us on

Saturday, 24 January

10am

at Trinity Presbyterian Church

RSVP to the office for catering purposes.



“Our Purpose is to GROW DEEPER! Grow deeper with God, in Relationships with each other, by creating Opportunities for ministry and as Witnesses.”

Friday night Youth – Junior and Senior Youth on Fridays

Check out the WhatsApp group or contact Ross for more information

Youth and Sunday School start up this Friday 16 January


2026

STARTING FEB

TRINITY
PRESBY

CONFIRMATION

IF YOU ARE 16 OR OLDER (OR YOUR CHILD IS) AND INTERESTED IN JOURNEYING WITH THE IDEA OF CONFIRMING YOUR FAITH

Please reach out to Ross or Iain
0114537729

Trinity Seniors Social

Save the Date – 12 February 2026

It's a New Year for Seniors

This is a wonderful time to reconnect, share updates about our lives, and delight in each other's company once again.

Activities

- We're fortunate to have Vivienne guiding us through chair exercises
- and Ian enriching our gatherings with his beautiful background music.



Please note, the March meeting will have a slightly different format. WATCH THIS SPACE!

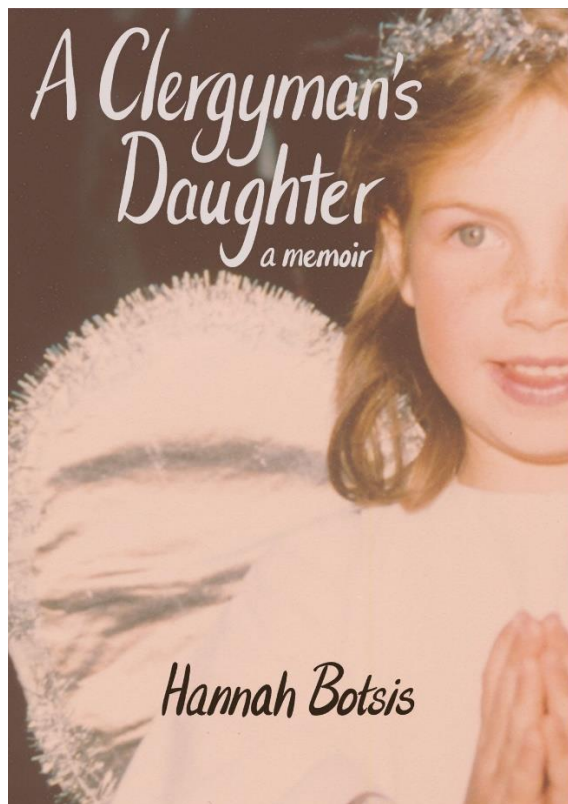
SENIORS CHAIR CLASS

EVERY THURSDAY AT 09:45
STARTING 5TH FEBRUARY

TRINITY PRESBYTARIAN CHURCH, in the small hall

- Fun and energising class led by Viv Williamson, a certified Pilates instructor.
- Fee R50 per class
- **FREE** chair exercises during the Seniors Social every 2nd Thursday of the month!





Several members of Trinity bought Hannah Botsis's memoir *A Clergyman's Daughter* in December after the discussion George and I had with her.

Here is what 4 of them of them had to say after reading the memoir: →

**I still have 3 books available for purchase – R330.
If you would like a copy, please speak to Lesley**

"The relationship between a father and his daughters is very special, and Hannah Botsis has captured her relationship with her clergyman father particularly well. They obviously love each other dearly, but the teasing, eye-rolling, laughter, hero-worship, scorn and criticism are also very evident in her book. She obviously understands the pressures and stresses he has dealt with, from family life to military conscription, racism, and the expectations of a vibrant congregation. This book should be compulsory reading for any young person entering the ministry, and indeed for all Presbyterians. It is not only a good reference work, but also a very entertaining read. I laughed and was moved to tears in equal measure." Rob Couperthwaite

"This is a wonderfully funny and sincerely challenging read. I found Hannah's story both relevant and deeply relatable as I grew up in post-apartheid South Africa. It reminded me that we are all filled with messy contradictions, and life is lived and enjoyed in the simple, sincere moments of connection. I would highly recommend it for both young and old as a poignant reminder of where we've come from, and how much work we still need to do in this beautiful country." Caryn Kemp

"I found Hannah's book refreshing, challenging and motivational. Her style of writing and sincere honesty are refreshing. She challenged my perceptions of the past, my prejudices and my role in community. After reading it, I feel motivated to try and live with grace, forgiveness and love, to walk with intention and give with a big heart." Margie Turner

I really enjoyed the delightfully informal style of this book and the subtle way that Hannah Botsis included her own youthful views. The easy style led carefully into the author sharing her own ideas, righteous indignation and a deep desire to live in a country where basic values are the norm. Reading this made me ponder and consider carefully the quotation from Micah 6:8 "He has showed you O man, what is good, And what does the Lord require of you; But to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Celeste de Lange

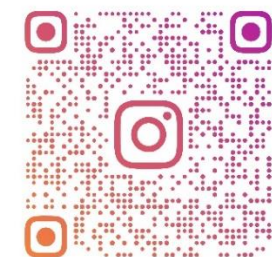


Mxolisi would like to thank all those who were so generous to him and his family in December. Your thoughtfulness and care are very much appreciated.

The Edenvale Methodist Church will be running a 13 week Griefshare support group starting on Thursday, 5 February.

Please see the advert on the notice board in the foyer, or at the office.

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to go to either our Facebook or Instagram pages.



TRINITY_PRESBY_EDENVALE

Giving

Please take note:

EFT Payments

We would like to ensure that the payments made to Trinity towards tithing, retiring offerings, food bags etc are allocated correctly. In order to do this, please would you ensure that the reference shown on your payment has the correct beneficiary.

For Tithing, please use the following methods:

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
STANDARD BANK
CURRENT ACCOUNT
NUMBER: 42 448 2088,
BRANCH: 016 342

Zapper QR Code

