

# St. Thomas Congregation

Evangelical Church (Lutheran Confession)

## Newsletter 6 (2010)

December & January



**"Do not be overcome by evil,  
but overcome evil with good." (Rom.12:21)**

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### Important Dates

- 5 Dec Advent Celebrations
- 19 Dec: Final Service with Pastor Reinstorf (Sermon Bishop Alan Kenyon-Hoare of the Anglican Catholic Church): 9.30am
- 25 Dec: Christmas Service: 8.30am
- 23 Jan: Installation of Pastor Dr. W. Winterle (provisional date)

### PURPOSE STATEMENT SAINT THOMAS CONGREGATION

- To promote fellowship in a friendly environment, where
- a) God's love in Christ is proclaimed (proclamation)
  - b) love for one another is exercised (care)
  - c) loving others is practised (outreach)

**Loved by God. Loving others.**

## FROM THE PASTOR

**"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom.12:21)**

Dear St Thomas members and friends!

### God provides

This is the last time that I am preparing a newsletter before our relocation to Pietermaritzburg in the week before Christmas. Accepting this call to Pietermaritzburg was on the one hand the most difficult decision I ever made. Two of our children are still at school, but more importantly I believe that St Thomas congregation needs pastoral continuity and stability. On the other hand, however, the decision to move was not my own, but prompted by my election as Bishop of the *Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa* (FELSISA) and the need for the office of the bishop to be placed more centrally within Synod.

Having said that, I trust above all the providence of God. Indeed he has everything in his hands. That is true for my own family, but also for St Thomas congregation. Furthermore God's view is not restricted to the present, but extends into the distant future. He knows what is and will be needed tomorrow. And I am convinced that he has plans to prosper us and not harm us and to give us hope and a future (Jer.29:11). Therefore he "commands" us not to be discouraged, as he is always with us, wherever we go (Joshua 1:9).

After 8 years in St Thomas you will also be well aware of my shortcomings. With a new pastor comes new strengths, also a new personality. But all of us work in the kingdom of God and serve the one who calls us according to his master plan. Paul writes to the Corinthians: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow" (1 Cor.3:6). Likewise I will have had my role to play and Dr. Winterle will continue the work of God, possibly with a slightly revised role and a new purpose. But "you" (members of St Thomas) are also part of the "team". With every change comes a new challenge to step forward in faith. It is a time, not to be served (and to watch from the sidelines), but to serve the Lord with new vigour with the gifts he has given you.

### Thanks

May I use this newsletter to convey my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude to the members of St Thomas for their friendship, support, prayers and encouragement in what has been an enriching time both for me personally and my family. You are all very special people, made special by the grace of God.

### Overcome evil with good

So often when one experiences disappointments or things don't work out as expected, the "evil" causes a downward spiral leading of re-actions not so dissimilar to the "evil" experienced. Such "evils" are encountered in all facets of life, political, social, family, and church. Scripture refers to our evil reactions as "an eye for an eye" behaviour, deeply rooted in the "law". The unmerited experience of God's grace, however, leads to a truly "revolutionary" response: Evil is overcome *with good!*

### God's act of goodness

The overcoming of evil by good God is "God's" response to the evilness in this world. The "law" should have prompted him to react in anger and to speak judgement. But instead God reacted with divine kindness. In Christ he left his throne of judgement, entered this world, was exposed to it and suffered at the hands of human evilness, but never hit back. Instead he was silent like a "lamb being led to the slaughter" (Is.53:7b). He died. But in his death, bearing the punishment for our sins, the evilness of this world was overcome once and for all.

The journey started in Bethlehem, when the hosts of angels sang: "***Glorify to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men, on whom his favour rest***" (Lk.2:14) and ended on the cross of Calvary with the words: "***It is finished***" (Jn 19:30).

It is only against this background that the words of Paul in his letter to

the Romans can and should be read:

Therefore I urge you... in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God... Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world... Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love... Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord... Bless those who persecute you... Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another... Do not repay evil for evil ... (and) ***do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good*** (Romans 12:1ff)

The highlighted verse is the watchword for 2011. In this world we *will* encounter evil, but let your response be Christ-driven.

We do not know what lies ahead in 2011. But we do know *who* leads the way. It is our loving Lord, whose humble birth we celebrate during the Christmas Season.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and blessed new year.

Yours in Christ

Dieter Reinstorf

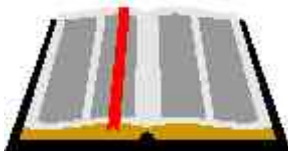
## CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Sunday School Breakfast - 15 January 2011



On 9 October 2010 Sunday school teachers and parents gathered at the parsonage for a meeting and a sumptuous breakfast. Due to illness in their families, only about half of those invited could attend. But we had a lovely breakfast, not only prepared, but also sponsored by Quinton and Mandy Aubrey. Thank you so much. Even before the meeting in

### Bible Study



During the school holidays there will be no Bible Studies.

Please wait for the announcement of

### Sunday Services in December

October, Christy Johnston had indicated that she is prepared to organise Sunday School from 2011. All Sunday school material, music CD, etc were given to Christy who has started preparing a programme for next year. There is a new sense of expectation and general agreement that the children should "sing" more (activity songs). Children that sing are happy and they could also perform for the congregation every now and then. If we aspire to have a congregational choir in future, we need to start with our children now.

**NB:** Christy has called another "**Sunday School Breakfast**" for Saturday, **15 January**. Please mark this date now already. The exact venue and time will still be confirmed by Christy early in the new year.

Pastor Dr. Winterle on arrival. If you haven't attended Bible Studies in the past, do consider attending in future. It is a great time of sharing, fellowship and friendship.

**5 Dec:** Advent Celebrations

**12 Dec:** Reading service (Pastor Reinstorf will be in Diepkloof, Soweto, to attend and preach at the confirmation service of the Emmanuel Congregation)

**19 Dec:** Pastor Reinstorf's last service. For this service St Thomas will be joined by the members of the Anglican Catholic church, who are renting our facilities. Bishop Alan

Kenyon-Hoare will deliver the sermon. Time 9.30.

**25 Dec:** St Thomas is invited to attend the Christmas Service of the Anglican Catholic Church. The service is held at St Thomas, but please note the starting time: 8.30am.

For additional details please refer to the "Duty Roster" (Sunday Services)

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### News on Pastor Dr. Walter and Lidia Winterle



As I am writing this newsletter, the work permit for Dr. Winterle has not been approved by the Department of Home Affairs. Word

at Home Affairs is that the application (together with many others) is receiving priority attention.

Needless to say, the delay is causing great uncertainty, preventing the Winterles from purchasing air tickets to South Africa and making concrete arrangements for their relocation.

Provisional plans are for the

Winterles to arrive in Cape Town in the first week of January 2011. Quinton Aubrey has agreed to fetch them from the air port. Dr Winterle's first Sunday service is already scheduled for 9 January and the installation service for Sunday 23 January.

Let us pray that everything goes according to plan. If for whatever reason the work permit should not be granted in time, vacancy arrangements will be made for that period (which hopefully shouldn't be long at all). I myself (Bishop Reinstorf) will most probably oversee the vacancy and take the necessary measures for St Thomas to be served well.

When the Winterles do arrive, make them feel at home. Although Pastor Dr. Winterle has often travelled

to South Africa and has even attended a Synodical Convention of the FELSISA, he and his wife have never been in Cape Town before. Settling won't be easy, but is made so much easier when welcomed by friends and fellow family members of God.

**Household items**

In the previous newsletter, we put a request out for household items. The response has been great, especially from Ian and Elk Crouch, who have made a number of items available, among other:

- Single bed and mattress
- 4 cane indoor patio chairs
- Desk (possibly two)
- Standard lamp

- Gateleg table and 4 chairs (not sure for how long as it will go eventually to my brother)
- Front loader AEG lavamat washing machine
- Microwave
- TV (if required)
- Small wardrobe
- Two casual chairs

If you have some household items not listed, please speak to one of the church council members.

**Chairman of the Church Council**  
Until the arrival of Dr. Winterle, Günther Meier will serve as chairman of the Church Council

**The Ndebele Family**

In the last Newsletter we announced that the Ndebele family had officially joined our congregation. At that time we lacked a family photo. I herewith

introduce to you (from left to right): Mangaliso, Dumisani, Nala, and Tilana. Indeed a special family.



**Confirmation of Maxine Brooks - What a special Day!**

The Confirmation of Maxine Brooks, on 24 October 2010, was indeed a very special day. The service was well attended as we were joined by many of Maxine's family members. Both parents were there, uncles and aunts, many others. Pastor Reinstorf preached on "Jesus calming the storm". Life on earth is never without "storms". But no matter how huge or overwhelming the storm is, we don't need to be afraid. Right there next to us "in the ship" is Jesus. He has all the power to guide us through a storm or

to calm the "winds and the waves". Just call on him.

Being confirmed, Maxine, has now also officially joined St Thomas congregation. She lives in Edgemoed, 7 Reston Way, together with her dad, Andre (see photo). The "garden flat" is rented from Denise Kontsidis.

We are especially glad to see that Andre has decided to join us in worship regularly. Andre, you are most welcome and we pray that you will grow both in your faith and the joy of the Lord. May God bless you both.



**Congregational Calender and Address Booklet**

Pastor Reinstorf has prepared a number of "Congregational Calenders" for 2011. The calender features the "Church Year" (Name of each Sunday), as well as the birthdays of all

congregation members (and friends). The St Thomas Address Booklet has also been updated. If you haven't received your copy yet, please get one from the church.

## St Thomas Website is up and running

Thanks to the help of Corne Grobler our St Thomas Website is up and running again. Please note the changed address and visit the site regularly.

In 2011 Erica Laspe (together with Dr. Winterle) will administer the website:

**www.st-thomas.org.za**

## FROM THE TREASURER

This is the last report for the 2010 financial year and will deal with the situation as at 23 November 2010. Basically there is only one month left for this financial year. As not much is expected to happen on the financial front during December this provides with an ideal opportunity to assess our financial situation for the year.

### Income shortfall

As stated in the previous newsletter, so far this year our expenses exceeded our income. Thanks to an increase in contributions (church offerings) during the latter half of the financial year, this shortfall has been reduced. Primarily due to a lack of rental income from our flat (less than anticipated due to problems with one of the lessees) and no bazaar income as budgeted, the shortfall is still approximately **R28 000**. To cover the shortfall we had to use some of the savings from previous years.

### Expenses

As usual our major expense item was

our annual levy to Synod, which amounted to R152 743. We also spent some money on improving the toilet facilities at church and the floor in the courtyard at a cost of R28 359. The bathroom in the parsonage was tiled and renovated at a cost of R10 604. The other costs were the normal running expenses and they were all within the budgeted figures.

### Church Offerings

The graph on the next page shows (in the first column) our budget for church offerings (or contributions). Until the last week of November they amounted to R127 195. Together with our special collection of R8 913, our total contributions were R136 108 as at the end of November (Sunday, 21 November). During October our normal contributions recorded the highest monthly intake ever of R21 113.

**Record contributions in October: R21 113**

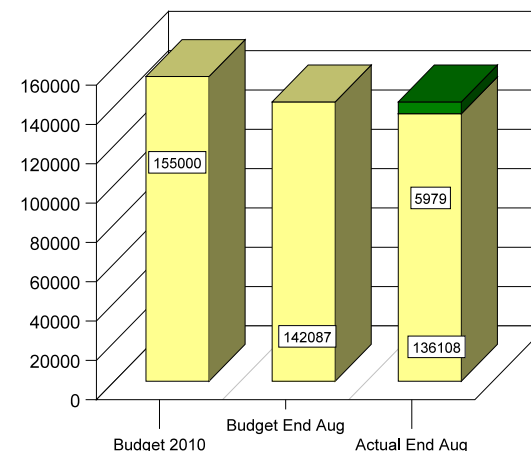
Due to the positive response to the appeal for contributions, as well as the special collection, the shortfall on contributions has declined from over R17 000 to about **R6 000**.

to the special collection. We pray that our Lord will bless these funds and that these funds will contribute to spiritual growth in St Thomas and will help to spread the Gospel. Contributions can be summarized as follows:

### Thanks

Thanks to everybody who contributed so faithfully during the past year. Special thanks to all those who made a special effort after we appealed for funds and also those who contributed

Budget 2010	R 155 000
Budget end November	R 142 087
Actual end November	R 136 108
Shortfall end November	R 5 979



Günther Meier

## CONGREGATIONAL BIRTHDAYS

We wish the following people a very happy birthday and above all a renewed awareness of God's grace on their lives.

### Dezember 2010

- |   |                          |    |                |
|---|--------------------------|----|----------------|
| 3 | Graham Lear / Taylor M-W | 9  | Michelle Hohls |
| 5 | Peter Reinstorf          | 27 | Vivian Louw    |
| 6 | Bob Laspe                | 31 | Marja Wybrow   |



**January 2011**

5 Anita Willis  
 7 Elke Crouch / Jason van Dijk  
 13 Maxine Brooks  
 18 Yvonne Hillermann  
 21 Denise Kontsidis  
 25 Lisa van Dijk\  
 30 Myrna Skibbe



# Laughter is good



Even a stray dogs finds comfort at Christmas.

He did so by “accident”, but wouldn’t it be great if all of us would seek comfort at the feet of “Baby” Jesus.

Fact is, he was born to be with us all the time. Trusting him brings “peace” and “joy”.

## **A Little Boy's Explanation of God -- Fabulous!!!** (Send in by Juanita Peyper)

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are

smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista . At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.'

'His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He

could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.'



## DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

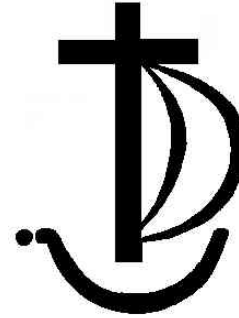
### December

5 Isaiah 8,16-22  
 6 Psalm 87  
 7 Isaiah 8,23-9,6  
 8 Isaiah 11,1-10  
 9 Isaiah 12,1-6  
 10 Isaiah 14,1-23  
 11 Isaiah 24,1-23  
 12 Isaiah 25,1-9  
 13 Psalm 33  
 14 Isaiah 26,1-6  
 15 Isaiah 26,7-19  
 16 Isaiah 28,14-22  
 17 Isaiah 29,17-24  
 18 Isaiah 30,1-17  
 19 Isaiah 32,1-20  
 20 Psalm 94,1-15  
 21 Isaiah 33,17-24  
 22 Isaiah 35,1-10  
 23 Matthew 1,1-17  
 24 Matthew 1,18-25  
 25 Matthew 2,1-12  
 26 Matthew 2,13-23  
 27 Psalm 93  
 28 Matthew 3,1-12  
 29 Matthew 3,13-17  
 30 Matthew 4,1-11  
 31 Matthew 4,12-17

### January 2011

01 Psalms 8  
 02 Genesis 1,1-8  
 03 Psalms 33  
 04 Genesis 1,9-25

05 Genesis 1,26-31  
 06 Psalms 72  
 07 Genesis 2,1-4a  
 08 Genesis 2,4b-17  
 09 Genesis 2,18-25  
 10 Psalms 101  
 11 Genesis 3,1-13  
 12 Genesis 3,14-24  
 13 Genesis 4,1-16  
 14 Genesis 4,17-26  
 15 Genesis 6,5-22  
 16 Genesis 7,11-24  
 17 Psalms 77  
 18 Genesis 8,1-12  
 19 Genesis 8,13-22  
 20 Genesis 9,1-17  
 21 Genesis 11,1-9  
 22 Genesis 12,1-9  
 23 Genesis 12,10-20  
 24 Psalms 63  
 25 Genesis 13,1-18  
 26 Genesis 14,1-16  
 27 Genesis 14,17-24  
 28 Genesis 15,1-21  
 29 Genesis 16,1-16  
 30 Genesis 17,1-14  
 31 Jan Psalms 62



### EVANGELICAL CHURCH (LUTHERAN CONFESSION) SAINT THOMAS CONGREGATION

#### Church

27 Settlers Drive, Edgemean

#### Parsonage:

10 Van Gogh Street  
 Panorama 7500

✉ Street Address or  
 P.O. Box 12255  
 N1-City 7463

#### Divine Service

Every Sunday at 10.00am

- Sunday School
- Holy Communion

#### Pastor

Rev. Dr. Dieter Reinstorf

☎ 021-9303734

083-4409498

E-Mail: dreinstorf@felsisa.org.za

#### Treasurer

Günther Meier 021- 9760313

#### Church Councillors

Günther Meier	021-9760313
	082 373 8167
Marja Wybrow	021-5571328
	082 6255 629
Quinton Aubrey	021-5580600
	082 972 6666
Shawn Johnston	021-5591069
	083 325 9965

#### Women's Guild Chairladies

Jackie Karshagen	021-5587759
	082-8266412

#### Sunday School

Christy Johnston	021- 5591069
	073 2464 398

#### Banking Details

ABSA (Parow 502 110)  
 Account Name: St Thomas  
 Acc Number: 404 1515 600

Website: [www.st-thomas.org.za](http://www.st-thomas.org.za)

## SUNDAY SERVICES AND DUTY ROSTER

**Service Times:** Every Sunday at 9.30 (with Holy Communion) / (U) = Usher / RS = Reading Service. Evening Service at 19.00 (7pm)

DATE	SUNDAY	CHURCH COUNCILLOR	READER	SUNDAY SCHOOL	ALTAR DUTY	FLOWERS	TEA DUTY
5 December 9.30 for 10.00	2 Advent Advent Celebration	G. Meier Q. Aubrey (U)	Pastor	-----	-----	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen M. Hohls
12 December	3 Advent Reading Service	M. Wybrow S. Johnston (U)	E. Köhne	School Holidays	-----	T. Köhne	T. Köhne C. Johnston
19 December	4 Advent Sermon A. Kenyon-Hoare	Q. Aubrey A. Runds	H. Peyper		J. Peyper	M. Aubrey	M. Aubrey M. Deetlefs
25 December Service Time 8.30	CHRISTMAS	Service held by Bishop Alan Kenyon-Hoare of the Anglican Catholic Church of SA			No Sunday School	-----	
2 January	New Year's Service Reading Service	S. Johnston Q. Aubrey	D. Skibbe		-----	M. Hohls	M. Hohls D. Kontsidis
9 January	Epiphany Service by W. Winterle	G. Meier M. Wybrow	C. Melck		M. Halm	F. Dini	F. Dini J. Karshagen
16 January	2 <sup>nd</sup> Su.a. Epiphany	Q. Aubrey S. Swiegers	S. Swiegers		W. Willis	M. Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs
23 January	3 <sup>rd</sup> Su.a. Epiphany Installation Service	S. Johnston A. Runds	Pastor		Christy Johnston	B. Schreiber	C. Johnston
30 January	4 <sup>th</sup> Su.a. Epiphany	M. Wybrow A. Aubrey	E. Köhne	Errin & Maxine	M. Skibbe	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen T. Köhne

### Flower Duty

The person on duty is requested to make a (very simple) flower arrangement to be placed either on or next to the altar (the flowers are to be taken home afterwards).

### Altar Duty

The person on duty is requested to fill the communion vessels and wafer plate and place them on the altar (and wash the vessels after the service).

### Tea Duty

The person on duty is requested prepare the cups and saucers before the service, switch on the urn, serve coffee and tea after the service (provide milk), and wash the dishes.