



# East Claremont Congregational Church Newsletter

*A gospel community on mission!*

## CHALLENGE – September 2011

### Editorial

After a long and cold winter, I sit here on this last night of August and cannot help but feel excited about tomorrow - one of my favourite days of the year – 1st September – Spring Day – with its promise of good things to come: warmer weather, blossoms of every sort adorning bushes and trees, jasmine hanging thickly over hedges and fences with its gorgeous scent, as well as so many other wonderful things.

The other night I was sitting and thinking about some of the wonderful people at ECCC who I knew well from my childhood who have passed on recently – beloved Vera Attwood with her strong faith, wonderful personality and uplifting smile and Pierre Sloan with his interest in and encouragement of others. This, of course, led me on to thinking about those in my family who had also passed on, my dad, my wonderful mom and of course my brother, Nick.

To think that what we in this world would call old age, sickness or weakness, is just springtime in the believer's life - that wonderful time just before they move on to full-blown, beautiful summer. How wonderful to think that when we go to be with the Lord we are passing into a world of "summers" where we will dwell in a true and full life of wellness, of happiness and of absolute intimacy and communion with God. To behold beauty that we could never have dreamt of, to experience His holiness and glory and to take part in the most incredible worship in His wonderful presence. Oh yes, I'm sure that we will sing songs that will take our breath away and we will dance dances that we could never ever have dreamt of. Perhaps we'll even hear God sing? Imagine that!

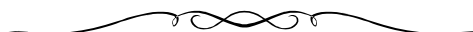
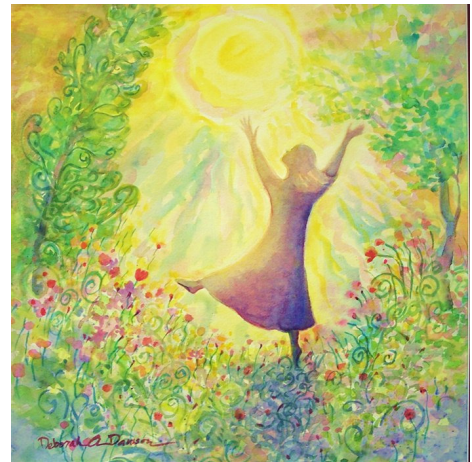
That's when life really begins. The verse below really gets the message across to us in a most meaningful way:

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"—1 Corinthians 2:9

Enjoy your September issue of the Challenge!

Blessings

Melody Graham  
Challenge Editing Team



## From the study

### *Adopted in God's Family*



When God adopts us into His family it is not by our choice but by His. A mother can fall pregnant by mistake, but you can never adopt someone by mistake. God intentionally chose to have each one of you as part of His family. In the Epistle to the Romans, Paul shows us four privileges of been adopted into God's family.

### **Led by the Spirit (13-14)**

Paul has been contrasting the world's view of a fulfilling life and the true life that God gives. And so he says, "For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God" (Romans 8:13-14). The world thinks that a fulfilling **life** is a desirable self-indulgence, but it just leads to alienation from God which in reality is **death**. God calls us to put to **death** all of the perceived sin within us (which the world sees as an undesirable self-denial) because this is the way to real **life**.



It is the Holy Spirit that leads us to do this – to put to death the things of the sinful flesh. We are impelled, enlightened, persuaded to really live for God. The Holy Spirit is gentle and sensitive – he doesn't force us or drive us by some holy violence to put to death the sinful nature (although sometimes I wish he would – but only to realise then I would not be human – only a robot!). The way he strengthens and empowers us to put to death the "misdeeds of the body" is precisely the experience of those who are adopted as children of God.

### **No fear (15a)**

Today people adopt because they cannot have children or because they want to help a baby that will not otherwise have a family. Yet the commentators tell us that "in the Greco-Roman world of the first century AD an adopted son was a son deliberately chosen by his adoptive father to perpetuate his name and inherit his estate". He did not have an inferior status to a biological son – he might even be favoured! The Roman law would cancel one's old life (even thought of as "born again"), becoming a full member of the new family. The new father was responsible for any debts (our sins) and had to support and discipline the child (as God does).

We used to live in fear of God's judgement (and if we did not perhaps we should have), but now we are free – we can approach God as our Father. And so Paul says, "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear" (Romans 8:15a).

## Prompted to call God “Daddy” (15b-16)

But it is more than just no fear: “but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children” (Romans 8:15b-16).

When we pray we have the privilege of calling on God as our “Abba Father”. This phrase expresses the love, intelligent confidence and childlike trust with which we can approach God. In the Jewish religion you would never call on God as “Abba Father”. But now we **can** cry out to Him in ecstasy, in childlike and joyous assurance, as contrasted with the fear of a slave.

When we pray in such a manner we experience the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. He testifies to the truth and the depth of God’s love and also the Father heart of God as He cares for and disciplines us. You only have to approach the throne of God crying “Abba Father” to know that testimony in your heart. It is a spiritual thing.



## God is our inheritance (17)

Paul continues: “Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory” (Romans 8:17).

The natural conclusion of being children of God is that they are his heirs. The implication for the future is that we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. This seems to refer to our heavenly inheritance – the reward we will receive when we get to heaven. But there is a richer, deeper meaning here. It may sound funny, but it’s God – we are the “heirs of God”. He is our inheritance! One day He will be “our all-in-all”. The Psalmist says, “Whom have I in Heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You. God is... my portion forever” (Psalm 73:25-26). In heaven we will find our most specific fulfilment and eternal enjoyment in God himself.

Thank God that he has adopted us as his very own children!

God bless

**Grant, Annie, Seth and Ben**



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

## The minister's memo ...

### Those needing prayer and care



Please would you remember the following people in your prayers:

- Those facing cancer: Roger Horwood (Congregational minister), Carol Hubbard, Cailin (John and Kate Philip's daughter) and each of their families
- Paddy Case, Elizabeth Enslin, Penny Hoffman, and Christen Pietersen, Nadia Rinquest – all working/studying overseas for a period of time
- Steve Palframan – grogginess and headaches
- Freddie Du Toit
- Chris LeMesuirer – recovering after prostate operation
- Chris Shortt – recovering after back operation
- The family of Pierre Sloan after he passed away
- Those whom we visit with communion:, Daisy Kotze, Sue Herringer, Phyl Bryant
- Betty Jones who is on oxygen most of the time

God Bless

**Grant Peers**

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## The influence of faith

### *1 Kings 18:37-40*

In contemporary Christian culture, faith is often considered a possession that affects just its "owner". Because of our love for independence and self-sufficiency, we have, in many ways, lost the sense of community and outreach that the church is meant to embody. We live like little islands in our own "personal relationship with Christ". But in reality, God wants our faith to influence others, both within and outside the church.



Elijah's faith influenced the entire nation of Israel. By believing and delivering God's message, he was an example to them in word and deed. When he asked the Lord to reveal Himself as almighty God, fire fell from heaven, and the people believed.

His motive in the showdown at Mount Carmel was to draw the people back to the Lord. We usually think of "sharing our faith" with those who don't know Christ, but our confidence in God can also encourage weak or wayward believers. Likewise, those strong in faith can strengthen us when we are struggling with doubt.

The church is described as a body whose parts are all interconnected (1 Cor. 12:12). God never intended that we be autonomous, living in our own personal faith. We are not like a bag of marbles; rather, we're to be like a bunch of grapes whose juices blend in times of pressure.

Guard against living an isolated Christian life. Share your confidence in God's faithfulness. Your testimony could help others' faith to grow. If you're troubled by doubt or fear, let go of any pride or shame, and seek help from a strong believer. Mutual blessing awaits when we reach out to one another.

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## *All praise to God*

*A heartfelt thank you note to Grant and ECCC for the prayers and encouragement for me during my treatment of cancer.*

*I humbly believe at the start of my treatment, when I asked Grant to anoint me with oil and the prayer group laid hands on me as we prayed to God, I was healed.*

*James Chap 5 V15-16*

*Our God is an awesome God!*

*Love  
Gloria*



## **The Anderson's News (Written while still away on their travels)**

Three days to go on our amazing trip to the USA, UK and Canada. We have swapped Glen and Dawn for Brett and Val, who are in Philadelphia in a team at The Simple Way, caring for people who are really battling with unemployment, drugs and booze.

It is a very violent society and there have been some really frightening things happening already and Val has lost her wedding ring and engagement ring, stolen while she was busy in another part of the house. Please pray for them. This last winter in the U.K. has meant that Dawn and Glen have bought a house and car and a motorcycle in Durbs.

We have had a wonderful time and yet a very sad time... for we saw so many of the family and friends' kids in disastrous situations. Young people who have turned their backs on the Lord Jesus and as a result there are babies and kids without dads. One dad is in prison and another just sacked for cheating. Others shack up together and then fall apart. None seem to have made it outside Jesus and His way of Marriage. Yes, even kids brought up in the church lose out when they go their own way.

On the other hand we had time with Jonno and Claire, also Rob and Carmen, both young families already ministering in different churches and full of the joy and love of Jesus - what a difference. Pray for our young people, there is only disaster outside the Gospel. Let's pray and expect a miracle.

See you soon, Peter and Barbie Anderson.

## I was taken for a ride (Maybe next time it could be you!)



Would you believe that Peter Anderson could take anyone for a ride? Well, he did, except it was on his BMW 800cc Motorcycle.

At our “Pick-a-Packet” game at Social Morning, the prize that I drew was “a ride of a lifetime”. On Peter’s return from his extended holiday overseas, and at the August Social Morning, the big moment arrived. I must confess that it was with great trepidation that I agreed to the ride!

With a helmet and warm jacket supplied by the Andersons, off we went, amidst shouts of “Good Luck” and camera clicks. I thought we were just going round the block but, before I knew it, we hit the M5 and Peter opened up the throttle — what a great feeling. Thank you, Peter and

Barbie, for your encouragement. I felt so proud to be able to spread the word to motorists that “God has plans for you” (Peter’s bumper sticker).

Come and join us at Social Morning and, who knows, you may be the next winner of a great experience that you won’t forget in a hurry and, if you’re very lucky, you may even win the car.

**Heather Heiberg**

*All Challenge articles are due on the 20th of the month.*

*Contributors please note:- Articles for the Newsletter should not exceed an A4 half-page typed or A4 full-page hand written, (250 words). Unfortunately photographs involve scanning so are not usually accepted **unless** they are digital photographs.*

*(Please see the note below regarding this.) **Editing team.***

### Digital photographs

For those of you who send articles into the Challenge, if you have any digital photographs relating to your article, please could you send them in JPEG format (jpg) to Melody Graham at the following email address – [Melody.Graham@gmail.com](mailto:Melody.Graham@gmail.com).

Did you know.... You can download the transcript of Grant’s sermon each week from the church website ([www.eccc.org.za](http://www.eccc.org.za)). You’ll also find the cell group questions for the coming week there.

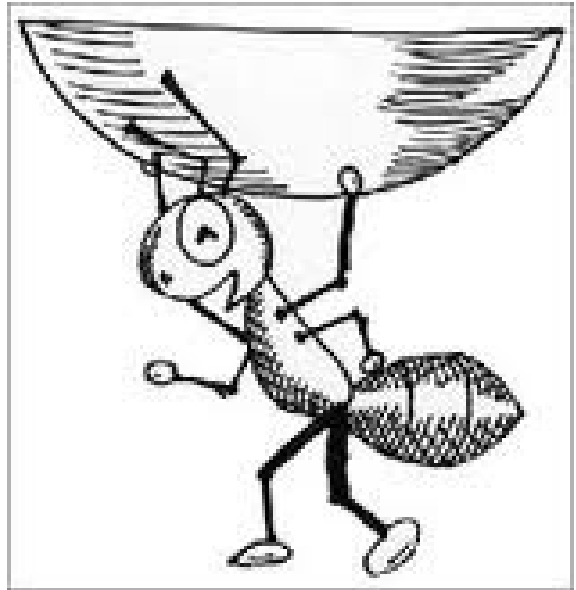
You can even download the latest copy of the Challenge from the website. Remember the colour copy of the Challenge is much more attractive than the black and white version ... and to have your own personal pdf copy emailed to you, just send a request by email to [kanderson@escs.org.za](mailto:kanderson@escs.org.za) and we’ll put you on the mailing list!

## The Ant and the Contact Lens

*This is a true story*

[Snopes.com](http://Snopes.com) says the original source is a chapter, "Lost and Found," from a 1995 book, **Keep a Quiet Heart**, by Elizabeth Elliot. Elliot attributes the story to a first person account sent to her by Brenda Foltz of Princeton, Massachusetts. Foltz said she wrote it based on an event that occurred during her first rock-climbing experience.

Brenda was almost halfway to the top of the tremendous granite cliff. She was standing on a ledge where she was taking a breather during this, her first rock climb. As she rested there, the safety rope snapped against her eye and knocked out her contact lens.



"Great," she thought. "Here I am on a rock ledge, hundreds of feet from the bottom and hundreds of feet to the top of this cliff, and now my sight is blurry." She looked and looked, hoping that somehow it had landed on the ledge. But it just wasn't there!

She felt the panic rising in her, so she began praying. She prayed for calm, and she prayed that she may find her contact lens.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but it was not to be found. Although she was calm now that she was at the top, she was saddened because she could not clearly see across the range of mountains.

She thought of the Bible verse, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Later, when they had hiked down the trail to the bottom of the cliff they met another party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?"

Well, that would be startling enough. But you know why the climber saw it?

An ant was moving slowly across a twig on the face of the rock, carrying it!

The story doesn't end there.

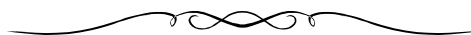
Brenda's father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a cartoon of an ant lugging that contact lens with the caption:

*"Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."*

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

He is my Source of existence and my Savior. He keeps me functioning each and every day. Without Him, I am nothing, but with Him...

***"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13)***



## Of this and that

### ***HOP ALONG TO SOCIAL MORNING***

*Join us in Craven Hall on the last Thursday of every month at 10h30*



***S**uper Entertainment*

***O**utstanding Fellowship*

***C**aring People*

***I**nteresting Guest Speakers*

***A**nnual Outings*

***L**ots of Refreshments*

For more information, contact Anne Snyders on (021) 671 8732

#### **The Friendship Club**

The Friendship Club is a group of women of many ages. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month and take turns in hosting the group.

We meet to discuss matters of interest, the latest news and anything else that may pop up.

We also enjoy tea, delicious eats and the sense of community that having this brings.

If you are interested in joining us, we would love to see you.

Phone **Jill Greer** (021) 671-1664



#### ***Lifts to church (and elsewhere) for people who need transport:***

*Please contact Carol on 021 671 5574*

#### ***Hire of the hall:***

The rate for hire is available on request.

Please contact Jill Greer  
on 021 671 1664

It is also possible to borrow the church's tables and chairs (excluding the metal tables) for functions.

#### **Challenge by email?**

If you would like to have your copy of the Challenge sent to you by email, please send your email address to Karen Anderson ([kanderson@escs.org.za](mailto:kanderson@escs.org.za)) and we'll add you to the email list.

Once the Challenge is posted on the church website, we'll be able to send you a link enabling you to download and print your own copy of the Challenge.

#### **Church trailer for hire**

Contact – Dave Watts – (021) 671-5574



**PLEASE HELP** - We need donations of unwanted wool (any thickness) which will be knitted or crocheted into blankets for the babies at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital". Wool can be handed to Heather Heiberg at Church or contact Rosemary Hacha on (021) 671-4736 or Cell (084) 846-2824.

### Bread tags for wheelchairs

Please don't forget to collect all the tags you get off bread loaves, cotton wool, fruit, etc. I have placed a glass jar in the foyer of the church for the tags.

The tags are sold to a recycling company and every 270 kg collected pays for a wheelchair. Sasko and Kwikloc, the manufacturers of the bread tags, have also pledged to donate two wheelchairs for every one wheelchair that is "bought" with the bread tags.

The Bread Tags for Wheelchairs Project already has over 100 coordinators in different communities all over South Africa. In 2010 over 70 wheelchairs were given away and they aim to do better in 2011.

Thanks

**Jaqui Sterrenberg**



Dear Friend(s)

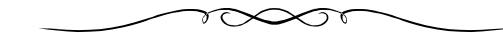
We need a few of the old style rectangular canvas camp cots (with the fixed plywood base on a fold up metal tube frame).

They were normally available in shades of blue.

If you know of anyone who no longer needs theirs and is prepared to donate to us, then please contact us on 021 785 4049 between 9 am and 1 pm weekdays and ask for JP. (If the mattress is also available, that will be a bonus.)

With sincere thanks and regards

Phillip and Pat



### **ECCC banking details (for direct deposits):**

**Account name:** East Claremont Congregational Church

**Bank:** First National Bank

**Account number:** 50170468844

**Clearing Code (Branch code):** 201509

**Account type:** Current account

## Thoughts for the month

***Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God***  
(Psalm 42:11)

My wife and I were very confused when our third child was born. A baby without a hope of staying alive. Each day he bred was an agony.

We felt our world had been turned upside down. We were confused, upset and full of questions. The more so because I experienced a great revival in my church. People were saved, delivered from all kind of addictions, healed from various kinds of diseases. The people in my church were glorifying God. So did I ... until our child was born. 'Why Lord? Why?' we cried.

The next eighteen days were like one long nightmare. We cried, we prayed, we fainted, we argued with God until we were left without strength. It was then that we realised that we were selfish, proud and stubborn. I thought I heard the voice of the mockers saying: 'Doctor, heal yourself.' So I said: 'Lord, your will be done. If you decide to take my child it will not change my obedience to you.' That very day a miracle happened ... the peace of God entered our hearts. We had won the battle.

PS Late that night our child came back to life and has been healthy ever since. What a bonus.

What a secret. Put your hope in God and surrender to His love and sovereignty — even when 'the miracle' does not take place.

**Andres Noriega**  
in  
**DAY by DAY**  
by Jan Pit

### Birthdays to remember in September:

3rd Wendy Kalis  
4th Jacqui Sterrenberg  
5th Michelle Goliath  
8th Grant Peers  
14th Paul Goliath  
16th Carol Macallan  
22nd Robert Alger  
25th Joy Ross; Noeline Case

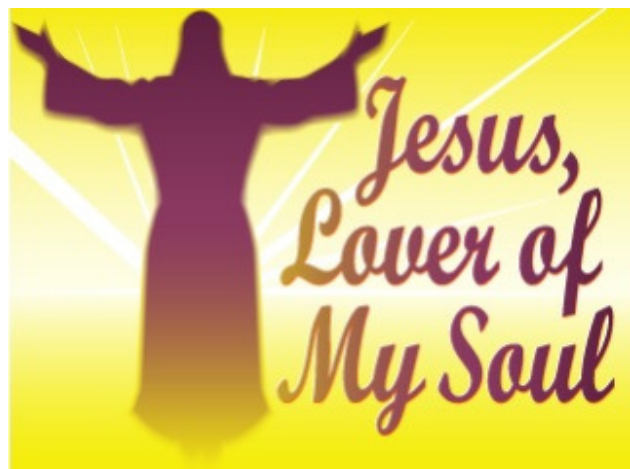


### Wedding anniversaries in September:

3rd Bryan and Sandy Wehrli  
18th Mike and Diane Hosty  
19th Harry and Maureen Ditchfield  
21st James and Linda McCahon  
24th Gavin and Kate van Leleyveld



Blessings to all on their Special Days.



### THE HANDY CORNER

GENT'S HAIRSTYLIST - Rosemary Hacha - 021 671 4736/084 846 2824  
LADIES' & GENTS' HAIR STYLIST - Yvonne Legg - 021 671 5908  
BUYING & SELLING OF MOTOR CARS, BAKKIES & LDV's - Ron Wilson - 084 608 8925  
SELLING OR BUYING A HOME? Diane Hosty - 082 775 2777. (Referrals paid)  
TO SELL OR BUY COMFORTABLE HOMES - Elizabeth Tromp - 021 671 5846. (Referrals paid)  
VALERIE JEAN'S CATERING SERVICE - Valerie Jean Oliphant - 021 697 5626/072 234 9579  
ELECTRICIAN/HANDYMAN - Clyde Oliphant - 021 697 5626/072 643 4949  
CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING - Hennie Storm - 072 528 7743  
ELDERLY/HOUSE/PETS-SITTING AND CARING - Janine Alger - 021 683 0598/082 789 1720  
HOUSE-SITTER OR WATCHER also CLEAN & FIXIT - Steven - 072 328 2673  
ALTERATIONS / KNITTING - Connie Meyer - 021 6715908

*Any member who wishes to have their name placed on the above list,  
please let the Editing Team know before the 20th of the month.*

### Tea Roster

#### September/October

The Morning Tea after Service will be run as usual by the Home Cell Groups.



*Any nice little bits and pieces for THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH? Do let us have them by the 20th of the month*

Do we have a record of your birthday or wedding anniversary?

Even if you are not a member of the church but you attend regularly, drop us an email at [kanderson@escs.org.za](mailto:kanderson@escs.org.za) and [Melody.Graham@gmail.com](mailto:Melody.Graham@gmail.com)

and we'll ensure you get your birthday wish.

### Flower Roster

#### September

4th M Adriaanse  
 11th V Black  
 18th R de Villiers  
 25th R Attwood

#### October

2nd B Glazer  
 9th J Gallard  
 16th R Hacha  
 23rd J Peers  
 30th F Hanslo



**Flowers and More** in Belvedere Business Park have very kindly agreed to give our ECC members 20% discount on flowers bought there for the Church. They will of course need to show the **Challenge List** with their name on it when buying.

*Dear "flower arrangers"*

*Thank you very much for serving the Lord in this way with your beautiful arrangements provided every week - they are much enjoyed and appreciated by all! The flowers are usually taken by Grant to someone in need, so if they could be left as a donation in the church on the Sunday, they will provide a further blessing during the week.*

*Thank you and God Bless you all*

*Elaine*



## Spring Flowers



## Message from the Youth Pastor

The kids at our Junior Youth group are absolutely amazing. Despite all of them being in Primary School, at the beginning of the year they were able to run a party for a fairly large group of Grade R's, organise that everyone had enough food to eat, and were extremely helpful in helping clean everything up afterwards. When I saw what they were able to accomplish as a group I was honestly quite amazed. They are so young, yet it is unbelievably quite clear that they have an awesome amount of potential.



A few weeks ago I ran a teambuilding program for them with the idea of helping them understand how much they are able to contribute to a team, and how valuable their input is.

The challenge in this activity was to have the entire group stand on a carpet and then flip it over without anyone falling off and touching the ground. It was a very difficult task, but they managed to do it very well.

Here, they were required to build a human pyramid. From this photo it's clear that they were very excited and had loads of fun. They did a very good job and I was really impressed by how well they worked together.



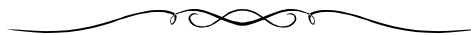
While it's clear that the kids are amazing, I cannot end there. The leaders (Matt, Tracey and Griselda) are also absolutely amazing, and it's been a pleasure working with them.

Here Matt was showing off his Origami skills.

Until next month!

Much love

**Nick Thomson**  
Youth Pastor



## Income and expenditure

The Income and Expenditure statement will be available on request from the treasurer or as a hard copy at church meetings.

## Church directory

Description	Person/s responsible	Tel. No.	Cell. No.
Church Office		021 674 6819	
Minister	Rev G Peers	021 683 9680	083 681 6803
Secretary	G Laubscher	H: 021 671 0862 W: 021 674 1820	
Min Secretary (church)	B Anderson	021 671 4688	
Min Secretary (deacons)	N Case	H: 021 683 6787 W: 021 674 2077	082 588 9374
Treasurer	B Wehrli	021 671 5474	
Children's Church Superintendent	N Case	H: 021 683 6787 W: 021 674 2077	082 588 9374
Social Mornings	A Snyders	021 671 8732	
Challenge Editing Team	K Anderson M Graham	021 671 4608 028 254 9638	083 698 3236 072 219 6380
Youth Pastor	N Thomson	021 674 6819	078 744 4333
Youth Pastor Assistant	M Jones	021 671 2483	082 707 7931
Flowers	E Roos	021 671 1227	072 811 5467
Friendship Club	G Greer	021 671 1664	
Library	M Jones	021 671 2483	082 707 7931
Worship Group	Mike Begg	021 685 2293	
Bible Study	C Watts	021 671 5574	
Craft Class	A Snyders	021 671 8732	
Love Loaves	W Kalis		082 575 7169
Cleaning Dept	C Meyer	021 671 5908	
Property Stewards	P Goliath D Watts	021 703 2106 021 671 5574	
Regional Council Reps	P Anderson	021 6714688	0834223490
Celebration Teas/ Hiring of hall	G Greer	021 671 1664	
Organ	J Ross	021 696 6105	
Fund Raisers	S Palframan	021 671 4409	
	D Hosty	021 761 4468	

**The month at a glance:      *September 2011***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Communion services	5	6 Friends & Fellowship Club @ 10:30 Book Club @ 20:00	7	8	9	10 Maintenance Party
11	12 Craft class	13	14	15	16	17 Deacons' outing
18 Church meeting after the service	19	20	21	22	23 Church Family Weekend	24 Church Family Weekend Heritage Day
25 Church Family Weekend	26	27	28 Worship evening @19:30	29	30 Term 3 ends.	

**What's happening each week:**

**Sunday - 9:15**  
Morning Family Service with Children's Church

**Sunday - 18:00**  
Evening Meeting

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**  
Cell groups: Morning and evening

**Thursday - 19:00**  
Prayer meeting

**Friday - Youth**  
Junior 17:00 - 18:30  
Senior 19:00 - 21:30

**Upcoming Events**

(visit [www.eccc.org.za](http://www.eccc.org.za))

**Family weekend camp**  
September 23 - 25

**Faith@Home**  
October 15  
Seminar on Parenting by Ron Clark

