

The Wind Call

The Christian Community
in and around Cape Town

May – July 2016

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www.thechristiancommunity.org.za

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Whitsun or Chaos.

THE CAPTAIN OF A SHIP is faced with the task of sailing his vessel safely from the point of departure to his destination as efficiently as possible. This is the necessity that belongs to his job. Everybody else on the ship is concerned with maintaining and propelling the ship itself. The captain can only fulfil his task with the help of certain tools such as charts and a compass which enable him to make informed and therefore free decisions in the interest of all on board and of the ship itself. Without the help of these tools his task would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, and all would be endangered.

Until 2000 years ago the whole of a nation was like the crew of a ship, the captaincy of which was in the hands of a spiritual being responsible for that nation - this being worked through certain individualities to guide the people on a meaningful path. Christ introduced into the whole stream of humanity a completely new era by planting in the soul of the human being the seed of his or her own inner authority – that is the seed of their own essential self.

The germinating of this seed would necessarily mean an ever decreasing reliance, on the part of the awakening individuality, on all outer authority. This development means that we lose the comfort of reliance on others to make decisions for us. For this reason Christ also had to send the Comforter to humanity to provide the tools that we would need to be captain of our own ship. This is the great blessing of Whitsun; that we can know that the task of successfully taking hold of our own inner authority and navigating our own way through life, is indeed possible as long as we make use of the tools available to us to do this. Without the possibility to connect with this Comforter – the Holy Spirit – we would come into great distress and flounder.

This is more of a truth today than ever before because we live in a time in which the seed that Christ sowed in the souls of men has now, after twenty centuries of gestation, germinated in most of humanity. Much of the social upheaval in the world and the migrations of millions of people in the world has to do with this new awakening of inner authority. People today are less and less likely to passively accept the dictates of outer authority - especially when they are fully aware of the fact that what informs the decisions of such authority is clearly not in the interests

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of the people themselves. At the same time, outer authority becomes more and more entrenched in its bid to hold onto power at all costs and therefore becomes increasingly isolated from the people.

The fundamental problem is quite clear. Outer authority which originally had the interests of the people at heart has shifted its focus from people to the economy. At the same time the idea of economy has become completely corrupted. True economy means housekeeping. That is; ensuring that everything in the whole household of the earth is cared for in its own right and according to its own needs. This includes all of humanity, all natural resources, all plants and animals and the earth itself. Economy has come to mean; maximising profit and the wealth of a few at the cost of everything else on the planet. It is to this false notion of economy that the outer authority in the world had become beholden and with it all the systems of governance. They are essentially inhumane, unsustainable, and the cause of great distress and suffering in the world.

This world situation cannot be remedied by the outer authorities which brought it into being. It can only be remedied by the mass awakening of inner authority in individual souls who realise the necessity one faces in being the captain of your own ship. The moment that we realise that radical change is necessary in the way we think and live, we are faced with the problem of not having adequate concepts and ideas to meet the challenge of bringing about a future totally different to the present and past. We are indeed a captain without compass or charts faced with the necessity of getting to our destination safely.

Here, the only course of action we have, is to make the Whitsun phenomena a personal reality. That means engaging with the tools that are made available to us so that we can take hold of and manage our individuality successfully. We can only solve the problems that manifest in the horizontal of everyday life by engaging with that which is available to guide and comfort us out of the vertical – namely – that which streams into our thinking from the spiritual world when we earnestly turn to it. Finding solutions to world problems is in our time a form of art in which each and every one of us needs to engage. It means: recognising that I am the agent of change; that this change is an absolute necessity; that I need to bring it about; that I can do this - but only by using the tool of being able to engage with and be inspired by the spiritual world; that beginning to work in this direction will reveal the path to be taken; that I am an artist and that my artistry is all that will divert humanity from sinking into chaos. When enough individualities do this, things change for the good.

Richard Goodall.



Baptism.

Congratulations to Franzesca (11), daughter of Mariana and Joah Pereira, on her baptism during February. **Left:** Franzesca with her parents (on her left side) and her godparents. **Right:** A happy moment.

"When I asked Franzesca if it was everything she thought it would be she said, 'To me it was everything and much, much more'."
Mariana Pereira.





In Memoriam: Franziska Blöchliger.

PASSING THROUGH TOKAI FOREST yesterday I was struck by the poignancy of colourful ribbons still attached to the fence around the forest where Franz Blöchliger died two months ago on 7th March. Although the flowers held by the ribbons are long gone, having returned to the earth, the ribbons still flutter in the wind, testimony of a tragic event that unfolded there.

It is a place of great natural beauty: fynbos, dark green pine forests, the majestic mountain and some lazy clouds drifting past. A hiker can feel at one with both the earth and the sky, as if the division between the two is indeed very flimsy there, as if there is a dimension where one can step through a veil into a wonderland of fairies and elves. It is a stark reminder of the two sides of everything: the beauty of nature and its potential and concealed dangers.

Much has been spoken and written about Franzi. Her connection to our community was the Children's Camp, the Children's Service and her Confirmation in 2014. Although not known very well by all of us, she

was nevertheless one of us and as such we all grieve for her. She represented youthful forces, innocence, love, caring for others, enthusiasm, diligence and a love of sport and outdoor activities.

I wondered about the symbolism of her last moments on earth being in a place of such natural beauty, jogging along with light tread between heaven and earth. It is a bit like the inter-tidal zone where sea birds forage and run around on spindly legs, both on earth and in the water. In an instant they ascend and soar in flight into their natural environment, the air.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her parents, Florian and Shireen and sister Sophia, as well as Mirjam MacLeod and family. (Mirjam is a sister of Florian.)

Marilize.

Holy Nights and Easter.

HOW BLESSED WE WERE to have once again received such rich content during this most holy time of the year! Starting with the joyful *Daughter of Zion* hymn on Palm Sunday, we continued through the contemplations by Richard Goodall on each day of the week until the Silent Supper and reading on Maundy Thursday evening. On Good Friday Christina Goodall and Barbara Herbert played a moving piece, suitable for the somber mood of the day, titled *Aliinale* by Avo Pärt on their lyres at the 3 p.m Contemplation. This encompassed a meaningful experience of the events of Holy Week. Congratulations to Barbara who made her debut and we hope that it is the first of many more!

On Easter Sunday morning, after a night of welcome and soaking rain, the usual silent walk with the children and some adults took place in Kirstenbosch Gardens. Rob Small reported, "We had a clear blue sky circle above us all the way. Richard told the Easter story on the forest canopy bridge. At the well a cup of sacred water was shared. The Easter bunny had put eggs all over while the little ones had fun finding and sharing them with each other."

Later, during the Easter Service, the choir lifted everybody's spirits by their pure rendering of two exquisite pieces: *Now the Green Blade Riseth* as well as the *Ave Verum* by Elgar. Thanks, Christina and choir!

Marilize.

THE INVITING CURVING WALLED ENTRANCE to the new units of Timour Hall Cottages lends a special touch to this architectural achievement. The large oak keeps a protective eye over the dappled warm brickwork. Completion date is estimated at mid-July. Helen Baker and Barbara Herbert are the lucky inhabitants of this unit. The third part of this unit is still open for rental, as is Oak Cottage where Pauline used to live. Are you one of the enthusiasts who want to occupy one of these? We are waiting for your call!

Hanna von Maltitz.

Double curved walls at Timour Hall Cottages.

HAVING AN OFFICE IN THE CHURCH “TOWER” affords me the privilege of seeing what’s going on below. The Timour Hall Cottages Phase 3 for example: from the foundations up, as each brick is meticulously laid and lined up, and a theodolite is used to survey the accuracy of the builders’ skills, I learnt this tool of the trade is a movable telescope mounted within two axels. For a layperson there is nothing like acquiring a snippet of extra knowledge, especially straight from the horse’s mouth.

Then something intriguing (for me) happened when the walls either side of the entrance were being erected. They are doubly curved walls which means they curve in two opposite directions simultaneously: from top to bottom as well as curving on plan, giving the surface of the wall a really dynamic, inviting quality. How innovative, I thought. This is mind-bending stuff. On request I even acquired some photos to illustrate the process a bit. Thanks to the architect and builders for transforming our grounds into a human-friendly haven.

Marilize.



How they build a doubly curved wall.

Picture above:

The team set up wooden templates at regular intervals on the inside face of the brickwork. **From left to right:** Paul (foreman), Erhard (builder with his back to camera) and Keith (architect). Keith is giving credence to his designs with his different coloured socks (and sometimes shoes!) – apparently *de rigueur* if you want to walk your walk and talk your talk!

Above Right: Here the builder, Merwe, had joined them. They marked the curve of the first template using a plastic pipe - the ideal flexible ruler. In the following two steps they marked the curve on plan, using the first template as reference and lastly, **(right)** all the templates are cut to curve, similar to boat ribs, and the bricks are angled to follow them. Soon, when it is all finished, you will be able to observe the rather pleasing end result.

Marilize.



News from far afield – Indonesia.

Dear Friends,

We live and work on the small island of Batam, at the top end on Indonesia, a 40 minute ferry ride from Singapore. The animation studio sits on the edge of a golf course and is surrounded by forest. Each morning we drive our golf buggy from the resort where we live across the greens from work. It's by far the best home to office journey I've ever had.

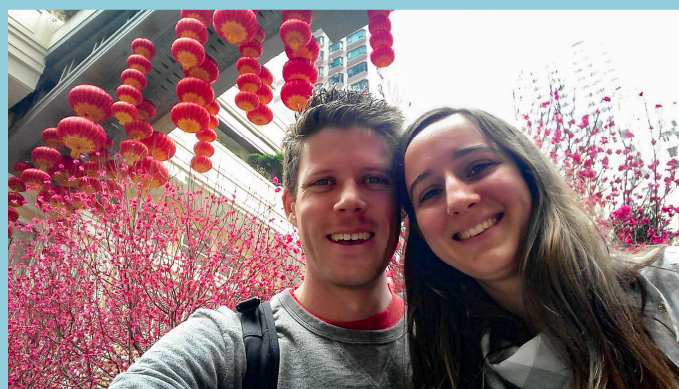
The culture here is strange, very different from the rest of Asia. The animation studio empties out each Friday as all the workers go to prayer. They eat a lot of strange sea food that's mostly deep fried, and all meals are served with rice. Days are hot and humid, the rainy season has ended and air is feeling dryer each day.

The sea around Batam is not good for swimming - the Singapore Strait causes it to resemble harbour water, full of oil and debris. Being in the East means short flights to interesting places though. We spent New Year's Eve in Singapore, the Chinese New Year in Hong Kong, and at the end of this month we going to Bali for some surfing and diving in their far cleaner seas.

Warm greetings, Rhoda Rutherford.



Above and right: Rhoda and partner, Chris, discovering a new culture.

**Eva Picard: 30/03/1920 – 28/03/2016.**

WHAT A WONDERFUL WOMAN and an equally wonderful life she had! I have so many memories of her, having been part of a reading group with her for years. She always brought profound wisdom with her and she was always in the company of the angels she had such intimate knowledge of. Having visited her in Silvermine Village and spent time with her in Montague one admired her uprightness and strength of character more and more (also her driving skills which were formidable!!) Fortunately I can picture her at peace and beautiful composure in the wake room at the Church. My thoughts and love go to her. I still miss you all and wonder if I will ever really get over being so far from you all. Best love to everyone.

Pauline Scott, Oxford, U.K.

Right: Eva Picard just before her 96th birthday at Silvermine Village. Thanks to Annette Chouler for the photo. Marilize.



Caring for the earth through harnessing solar power.

No doubt most of you know Leza Sieckmann and her family (husband Peter and his mother, Hille Sieckmann, as well as their three children at Constantia Waldorf School). It is on their family farm, Wildgarten, where our Children's Camps take place every year. Peter Sieckmann senior died in November 2009.

Peter (or Pete as he is called) was at Constantia Waldorf School for his school career. His project in Class 11 was on Camphill Village Alpha, as it was then known. He was confirmed in The Christian Community in 1984 at age 15. Leza hails from Aurora in the Western Cape, a small village where people live near to the earth. They run their own company from home, as part of a multi-national, Sieckmann Engineering, founded in South Africa.

How would you describe your work?

Peter: As an electrical engineer I work with solar photo-voltaic systems as my main focus, specializing in off-grid systems, in other words, systems that are not dependent on Eskom. I am also keenly interested in wind energy as an alternative source of electricity. This is my passion.

Were you always based in Cape Town?

Leza: With one young child we first spent one year in London where Peter was working at the time, followed by six years in Switzerland, until we finally moved back to Cape Town in 2006 in order to create a meaningful opportunity for our children to spend time with their grandparents. Peter's playground for learning was on their farm when he was a child, where he was already interested in renewable energy in order to put something back into the environment. The farmhouse has been off-grid (from Eskom) since 1982.

You also have other projects running simultaneously.

Peter: Yes. Sieckmann Engineering was one of the businesses which in 2015 helped Camphill become more self-sustainable by providing a solar plant with the help of Rays of Hope (ROH), a German non-profit organization, which worked out a self-sustainable program for Camphill. ROH approached me about 3½ years ago, saying they would donate to the project if I do the installation. Today the dairy is entirely run on solar, saving Camphill thousands of rand each month. When surplus energy is generated during the day it gets stored in a battery bank. Although only one of the houses is on solar energy now the plan is to supply the whole Village. With the current savings they can already accommodate two extra residents. Two years ago this Camphill Project was elected as the Community Project of the Year.



What is the main focus of your pro-bono work?

Peter: This is like doing an energy audit for businesses and/or people's homes. We advise for example how they can reduce their carbon footprint by upgrading their old appliances like fridges and swimming pool pumps to more energy-saving models. Also, sustainable energy is becoming more affordable as the equipment is becoming cheaper.

How do the current changing weather patterns impact on your work?

Leza: Through the burning of fossil fuels global warming has become a serious problem for the future of the earth, therefore if people can be taught how to switch to alternative energy it would slow down the effect. (Cont. next page)

"... Sieckmann Engineering was one of the businesses which helped Camphill become more self-sustainable by providing a solar plant with the help of Rays of Hope ...".
Peter.



The solar plant at Camphill installed by Sieckmann Engineering.

The Sieckmann Family from left to right: Claus, Leza, Peter, Kersten and Oliver in front. Thank you, Pete and Leza, for the inspirational conversation and enthusiasm for your subject!

Some of our readers might have seen the article on the Camphill Solar Plant Project published in a recent edition of *The Big Issue Magazine* – Issue #240.

Marilize.



Thanks, Clare, for the interesting photos! M.K.



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Do you feel as if the awareness around environmental issues is growing fast enough?

No, we are way behind! It needs a mind shift and most people are still caught in the materialistic trap of big profits as quickly as possible.

Your ultimate vision?

Peter: To become fully self-sufficient.

We can only make headway if we show others by example. And, by the way, I run an I.T. Company for my bread-and-butter!



The Church Garden.

ON THURSDAY, 28 APRIL, Monde, two other gardeners and I worked in the church garden.

In the last few months, Monde has been mulching the garden and as we worked on Thursday we uncovered a few rain frogs and a legless skink. The mulch really helps bring back life to a garden.

We planted a fresh new hedge of lavender and some rosemary for the wake room. A wider pathway has been made in the middle of the hedge for the short cut across the lawn. We need to get a few nice pavers for the stepping stones here.

Four more *Acacia sieberana* trees have been planted to connect with the magnificent tree in front of Barbara's cottage.

The entrance to the church has been replanted with restios, wild sage and wild rosemary. These indigenous herbs might be able to be used in the wake room too.

With the indigenous plants and *Acacia* trees, I feel it will give the church an African feel.

Clare Bell.

P.S. If anybody can help us with four paving stones of approximately 40 cm x 40 cm for the garden please let us know.

Marilize.

Stars, Galaxies and the Cosmic Flow.

Our in-house astrophysicist, Kosma von Maltitz, has agreed to share more about her stimulating career and generally how life is unfolding for her. Thank you, Kosma, for lifting the curtain a bit to give us insight into your sojourns. Kosma is a regular face in our community events and activities, helping at our Fairs and also singing in the church choir.

Marilize.

As an astrophysicist you spent many a lonely stint at Sutherland to observe the starry skies for a few weeks at a time. What was your job description and main focus of research while completing your Masters degree at the University of Cape Town?

About 20 km outside Sutherland in Northern Cape is the field station for the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). There are more than 10 telescopes on the plateau. I spent most of my observing time doing spectroscopy (splitting the light into a rainbow and analysing the intensities of the different colours) with the 1,9 m Radcliffe telescope. I observed galaxies so far away that even with powerful telescopes I had to gather light for nearly an hour just to get enough data to analyse. I was doing research into the Large Scale Structure of the Universe, in other words looking at the Universe on a scale where galaxies are the "particles". On that scale they form the most beautiful web of structure - a bit like a sponge with voids and filaments. Galaxies "flow" along these filaments in what is called the Cosmic flow. The patterns originate due to a combination of gravity and the expansion of space itself. I spent a lot of time first determining the exact coordinates of the galaxies from a geocentric perspective and then pointing the telescope there to carefully determine how far away from the Earth they are; in short, I was mapping a tiny piece of Large Scale Structure.

You also offer programs at the Iziko Planetarium in Cape Town on weekends and some evenings. Do you find a high level of interest from the general public in our night skies? What about children? Is it a meaningful way for you to share your information with others?

I love presenting shows at the planetarium! I love the stars and having the opportunity to share that passion is a dream come true! A lot of interested people come to the Planetarium. In the last hundred years there have been so many amazing discoveries in Astronomy that people are fascinated. I am extremely fortunate that I have a platform to talk to young and old about the wonders of the Universe. The celestial dance is a marvelous thing to become more aware of. Besides the Science, it is an opportunity (or "excuse") to research and share the rich tapestry of history and mythology our ancestors wove into the firmament or perhaps found there...

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Below: *The SAAO at Sutherland, Northern Cape. For the visitor it is an impressive sight by day or by night. On the photo left the entrance can be seen which leads by way of a staircase up to the viewing gallery for the public. And the stars are really huge like lanterns in the sky there, to use a poetic expression.*

Marilize.



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We believe that you are now working in a new field. Can you tell us a bit more about it and what inspired you to go there? We understand you are still a teacher but that you work mainly through the electronic medium – is that correct?

Besides Astronomy I am very passionate about education and helping people reach their full potential. During my studies at UCT I often volunteered for a project called Free High School Science Textbooks. They were creating openly licenced textbooks for high school learners, an amazing project to provide free textbooks to under-resourced South Africans. This project evolved into the company Siyavula Education (www.siyavula.com) whom I now work for as an Educational Technologist. Besides having put over 10 million free textbooks on the desks of learners we have also developed an on-line adaptive learning service. We believe we can use technology to bring Mathematics and Physical Sciences resources and learning opportunities to people who would otherwise have limited or no access. My work is leading a team of Educational Technologists in creating and scaffolding the adaptive exercises for the service. I am also involved in a project called Open Textbooks 4 Africa to write an openly licenced University textbook for first year Astronomy.

Do you have a long connection to our community? How many years have you been in Cape Town?

When I was a little girl we lived in Tulbagh; we used to go to church at Camphill Village West Coast (then called Alpha). Julian Sleigh gave me confirmation lessons and in 1997 I was confirmed at The Christian Community here in Plumstead with the group of confirmands from the Cape Town community. I have been singing in the choir for a few years and it is such a joy and privilege:)

Kosma von Maltitz.



Finance Team.

Here they are in their matching outfits: Rosemarie Enthoven and Anne-Marie Winkelman, ready for a meeting and with their paraphernalia at hand.

A huge thank you for their combined efforts – Anne-Marie grew up in The Christian Community and has a life-time of experience in all church matters while we benefit hugely from Rosemarie's financial and business acumen.

Thanks to Antoinette Antoine for the lovely photo.

Marilize.

The First Children Service for the new Class Ones will be held on Sunday, 8th May.

*The preparation for both parents and children will take place on **Sunday, 8th May at 08h45** here at the church.*

Richard Goodall.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation was held by our Lenker, Rev. Reingard Knausenberger, on 17th April for Pedro Bosse from Namibia. Pedro was unable to fly back to Windhoek to join his confirmation group there because of problems with his passport and so was confirmed here – which was a very special event for all of us. Thank you, Pedro.

Richard Goodall.

Echoes from the Past ...

- The first Act of Consecration of Man in Cape Town was held 57 years ago on **15th Feb 1959** in the Jan Prins Day Centre in Rondebosch by Rev Peter Roth from England and the server was Heinz Maurer.
- In **July 1966** after the church rent was paid we had only R33.00 in our bank account!

Dear Friends,

The long-overdue task of writing the Church Chronicles has finally started in February. The above excerpts are from historical documents which are interesting reminders of where we started decades ago and where we are today.

If any of you have anecdotes or stories to share, especially from those early years, please let me have it by e-mail or, if you don't use a key board, it can be hand-written.

Marilize.

Thanks to:

- **Rosemarie Enthoven** for making five scatter cushions for the chairs in the foyer and the flats. In addition the fire escape doors in the foyer needed follow-up work, and with the help of **Patrick Enthoven's** engineering know-how, the faulty doors were replaced and are now fit to pass any inspection. Roof repairs to the front section over the foyer will happen soon, and long-awaited repairs have finally been done at Richard's home. Maintenance is indeed an ongoing task.
- **Richard Goodall** for repairing the church's ironing board which has been broken for a long time, without even being asked!
- **Annette Chouler** for providing new bins for the kitchen: one for re-cycling (see instructions on the lid), one for non-recycling items and a small container next to the sink where compost goes, including tea bags. Those of you on the Tea Roster, please note!
- **Helen Baker** for doing the two magnificent flower arrangements in the church for Eva Picard's funeral service.
- **Clare Bell** for improving the church garden area by area. The pretty, indigenous tree to the right of the front entrance is growing very well and adding to the aesthetics. The moving of the indoor plants to open up the space in front of the church door has also been successful. We are indeed grateful for her input.
- **Elizabeth Bell**, who for years has been helping me with the cleaning of the copper in the vestry. Sometimes she ends up having to do it alone when my desk is too demanding, so many thanks, Elizabeth! Marilize.
- **Ulrich and Gabriele Feiter** for once again providing our grape juice for the year, bottled and delivered at our door. This is a wonderful service to our community which isn't necessarily visible. Thank you both so much. Richard.
- **Riaan van Zyl** for sending his team to free Marilize's car from arborous captivity and assault during the last storm when our acacia tree in the car park was uprooted and fell on it. The team of fellers worked in driving rain and at the end of their operation their electric saw ceased up from the damp – but at least the car was free to be towed away. Richard.

Starting Times of Church Services.

AT AN OPEN FORUM held on Sunday, 3rd April, the matter of the starting times of the services was discussed by all present. Richard explained that the times were changed a year ago on an experimental basis and now had to be re-assessed. After thorough consideration of the pros and cons it was decided by an unanimous show of hands in favour of reverting back to the previous times viz: **The Children's Sunday Program will begin at 09h00. The Act of Consecration of Man will start at 10h00 with childcare available as usual during this time.**

This arrangement is effective from Sunday, 8th May. Please help to spread the word to people who may need to know it.

Marilize.

Request from Richard Goodall:
Will people who send him an SMS please leave their names so that he knows whom to contact!

Marilize will be on leave from 16th – 27th May during which time the church office will be closed.

New Telephone answering machine.
The church office telephone recently had to be replaced by a new phone which has an automated Telkom answering service. Please leave your message and your call will be returned.
Marilize.