
Presbytery of Egoli

NEWSLETTER

August 2017

The Presbytery of Egoli consists of 29 full status congregations and 2 transitional congregations which form part of the Diepkloof shared ministry and 11 outstations that we are aware of...



Focus Congregation for August/September St Giles Norwood

In July, I had the privilege of attending the Session meeting of St Giles Norwood in their new venue. I am so excited at the courage and leadership that has resulted in St Giles selling their building in Orchards and buying a house in Norwood to use as a venue for worship. Rev George Marchinkowski was also in attendance at the session meeting and shared from one of the booklets that he has written called "Does the answer lie within?" The leadership at St Giles have already seen the freedom that the new venue has brought with a member even feeling free to participate by telling a story during the service. This would not have taken place in the Orchards building.

Concern was raised by the leadership about people who have not moved across to the new venue and a plan was put in place to follow up those who have not yet made an appearance at the new venue in Norwood.

St Giles would like to get involved in schools surrounding them like Norwood Primary, and the session were exploring different options as to how they as a Church can offer support to the primary school.

I urge you as the Presbytery to pray for the St Giles congregation as they embark on this exciting new chapter in their new building.



Ethan Tshepo Asch outside the new home of St Giles Presbyterian Church



The caretaker at St Giles. A future preacher?



The office of Rev Melanie Cook



St Giles Norwood



St Giles Norwood

Introducing Rev Melanie Cook

Melanie spent some of her early years in Zimbabwe before moving to South Africa. Gavin Lock had the challenge of having Melanie in his youth group when he was the youth pastor at St Giles during the ministry of Tim Hawkrige.

Melanie did her Probation at St Columba's Parkview and served as an assistant Minister with a focus on youth ministry at Trinity before becoming colleague Minister to Rev George Marchinkowski at Trinity Edenvale. The invitation to assume a part time position at St Giles after the birth of her second child was an answer to prayer. Melanie is married to Gordon and they have two children.

Melanie has courageously led St Giles from their building in Orchards to their new home in Norwood and is the current Moderator of the Presbytery of Egoli. Please pray for her!



The Assembly Executive Commission 2017 – Harare, Zimbabwe

It was a privilege to travel up to Zimbabwe with an old friend, Rev Armando Sontange. We have known each other since I was 19 years old and we were part of PoCYA together in the Western Cape. The Hospitality of the host Presbytery was fantastic. I thoroughly enjoyed the opening service at City Presbyterian Church in Harare! When I posted the picture below to Facebook I was amazed at how many people had called this Church home while living in Harare!



One of the saddest experiences in Harare was driving past a bank and seeing hundreds of people queuing to get their \$50 for the day.

The worship and preaching that I experienced in Zimbabwe at the Executive Commission was outstanding. I thought about what it would be like to worship before the throne of God in many languages, as we worshipped in many different languages over the week of the Executive Commission.



Another highlight was the service in which we thanked Minsters for their faithful years of service to God in the UPCSA.

It was my first time attending an executive commission and I enjoyed the smaller more intimate meetings. The consensus model results in a win-win outcome as opposed to a win-lose outcome.

The General Secretary, Clerk of Assembly and the Business convener gave fantastic support to the moderator as did the moderators chaplains.

I came away feeling hope for the future of our denomination and its congregations as they continue to be Gods hands and feet, and salt and light in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia.



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