

THE BUZZ

Nahoon Methodist Church newsletter



Nahoon Methodist Church

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DEAR FRIENDS

I greet you all once again in the wonderful name of our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

During the last quarter of 2022 some time was taken to look for my replacement to take over in 2024. Two ministers and their families came to NMC to share with us, and we were given opportunity to interact with them. The invitation process should be complete by the end of February next year.

A highlight for me was the Family Fun and Fellowship Day. It was good to see the church full of people having fun and it made me realise just how good it is to be able to do stuff like that again.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful festive season as we celebrate the coming of Jesus. May 2023 be all you hope it to be and I want to invite all of us to make one of our goals for 2023 to get to know God better. Jesus said that if we do that then everything else will fall into place (Mt 6:33).

And so, as you continue to slide down the banister of life in 2023, may the splinters never point in the wrong direction.

Shalom!

Andrew

Noteworthy:

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

8am & 9:30am

SUNDAY SERVICES

- Early Morning Service – 8am
- Morning Service – 9:30pm
(With Children's Church)
- A recording of the Sunday Morning message is available on the NMC Facebook and YouTube page on Mondays.

WEEKLY CONTENT

- Wednesday Evening Devotions – 18:30 via NMC FB page or YouTube Channel
- Children's Church Online Message, Sundays at 9am via NMC FB page or YouTube channel.

BILL'S RAISON D'ÊTRE

One of the reasons that I wanted to retire from the full-time ministry was that I wanted to leave a legacy behind me when I shed this mortal coil. But what kind of legacy was the question. That led to my search for my *raison d'être*. I enjoy helping people to find their purpose and God. In other words, to be what and who God intends for them to be.

So, I decided to start a coaching business. At that stage, I wanted to coach cancer survivors and church planters – in both areas I have experience. However, in further discussions with my business coach, I decided to change to another specialisation. Another area in which I have a lot of experience. That is in public speaking! That does not mean that I drop the Cancer and church planting. Still, my primary focus is helping young professionals be impactful public speakers. (That was one of my roles at IBM and ECITI).

I must confess that in the early days, I thought all I had to do was print some business cards, put up a website and hang out my shingle, *"The coach is in."* But it is more complicated than that. There is also more learning. (Many online webinars and conferences to earn "CPD" points.) Fortunately, I am an old dog who is open to learning new tricks—and there are plenty of new tricks out there. For example, more companies hold online job interviews post COVID. How do you present yourself in the best light?

So, when will I open my public speaking coaching business? God willing, February 2023.



Cancer Companions

We are planning to run another Cancer Companions devotional journey in the 1st quarter of 2023.

For more information please contact Bill on 084 352 9011 or bill@disciplecoach.com.



NCO (Nahoon Community Outreach)

Another reason that I crawl [I was tempted to say "jump", but those days are passed] out of bed in the mornings is because of the NCO. More specifically, the NCO Job Club. [Thank you, NMC, for allowing us to host the NCO Job Club here.]

Some in our community think NCO is about filling bellies with food. That activity is a vital foundation of NCO's labour. But our end-goal is to seed disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and workplaces. That is what I find exciting and challenging. Helping the poor and marginalised people to see Jesus in their dire situation. Reminding them of what the Bible says about how to live - and it is reminding them. Even the illiterate among them quote Scripture stories.

This reminds me that we have decided to start an ABET class for the illiterate people we serve.

Can you help here? Don't hesitate to contact Bill at 084 352 9011 or bill@disciplecoach.co if you hear God nudging you to help those who cannot read.

Life began in a garden, and another new exciting NCO initiative is gardening! I'm sure you are familiar with the saying, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish, and you feed him for life." That is what the gardening project is about – a hand-up, not a handout. Currently, fifteen men and one woman are taking part in this initiative. "The empowerment and freedom for individuals who experienced a trapped life of poverty and dependence is happening, plant by plant."

I asked Dorothy McIntyre if there was anything that she would like NMC to assist with, and she said, "Oh that would be great. We start again next year the second week of January. Seeds will be super. Any suitable seeds to plant in summer, will be Most welcome. But we have enough sugar bean seeds."

Thanks

- Bill Brander





CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The last few months have felt like a blur as one week merges into another! Life often tends to feel like that when lots of exciting things are happening around us, and this is certainly true for our Kids Ministry at NMC.

In Term 3, we learnt all about the Fruits of the Spirit, having lots of fun through lessons, crafts, games and experiments! By the end of the term, most children could recite all eight of the fruits, they knew what each of them meant and they certainly knew that they were NOT actual edible fruits! As our outreach in Term 3, we supported CHOC by putting together basic toiletry packs for the children who are admitted to hospital, often without any preparation. Once again, the generosity of the congregation was amazing – thank you for your continued support to our community-based outreaches.

Term 4, traditionally a really busy and jam-packed term, was no different this year! We spent most of the term learning about Advent – what it means, what it's all about and why we focus on it leading up till Christmas. The children went home with such beautiful Christmas décor, advent wreaths and advent calendars which they made during our time together on Sunday mornings. We also spent time working on our annual Nativity play which was focussed on some of the lessons we had learnt about the season of Advent. The Nativity went off beautifully – I am SO proud of each precious child who took part and made it so special. Words don't do justice to describe the wonderful sense of joy in the congregation on that Nativity Sunday.

I want to make special mention of our INCREDIBLE and reliable Children's Church teachers – Melissa Smith and Caroline Koby. These ladies diligently and voluntarily show up prepared and ready each Sunday with fresh ideas and positive attitudes. I don't know what I would do without their constant help and support. I pray that God would richly bless them as they continue to sow everlasting seeds into the lives of the children at NMC.

Special mention also needs to be made of Owen who quietly goes about (often behind the scenes) spreading himself all over on a Sunday – setting up, preparing any media needed at Children's Church, going into the church to help with sound, then coming back to us to lead the teens in discussion/activities. Owen, I can't thank you enough for your steadfast support and help.

On that note, over the last few months it has been a joy to witness how our children's ministry has grown – we have seen kids return to Sunday School, new ones arrive and some little ones' first experience of church! As a result of these numbers rising (after many prayers that this would happen) we desperately need more teachers. If you are interested in helping in any way or feel led to find out more in this regard, please contact me. Any help will be greatly appreciated!

I pray that the children have a special Christmas, a restful break and quality family time. Until next year, God's richest blessings to you and your family.

- Lindi Shaw



YOUTH

(Let's Hear it from the Kids)

Senior Youth

Every Friday evening at NMC a youth is run for individuals over the age of thirteen, where we engage in many activities and games while also learning about the word of God.

Before July of this year I was a socially deprived individual, and because of this I was losing myself and I was losing my faith. I was not happy and I wanted a change in my life, but I did not know how I could achieve this, until I found out about youth at Nahoon Methodist church. With me being an introvert that does not like social interaction, going to youth on a Friday has honestly been the highlight of my week. I was nervous and quite scared as I did not know what I would expect, but everyone was so welcoming and friendly that I instantly felt comfortable.

One of my favourite youth programs this year has definitely been the praise party, where we spend the entire evening just praising and worshipping God. There are so many other programs that we had that were so much fun, and they were all absolutely amazing. Going to youth on a Friday has definitely taught me something very important that I shall never forget, that you can worship God and have fun in the same way.

I know that it was not a coincidence that I ended up here at this youth, and I've come to realize that in finding God, I found myself and I could not be any happier to be a Christian.

- Bridgette, 19 - Youth Leader



Firehouse

Firehouse for me was probably one of the best church programs I have ever taken part in. In Firehouse we mostly had videos to watch, that were put in series, such as; the Alpha series and the Guardrails series. Both of these series were amazing. Alpha was a course that gives you the Christian foundation and helps you answer all the questions needed for Christianity, which is answered at the end. It's was also about Jesus in general and in-depth information about what He has done for us, as well as, that different questions they asked strangers to get their opinions on the topic. Guardrails was about the different steps and decisions that we should be making/taking to still be in the "Safe Zone" through our walk and journey with God. This was by far the best series I have ever seen.

The other best part about Firehouse was meeting the other teens taking part in the program. There were a few people that took part and we formed a miniature community which somehow felt like a family in a way.

In ending; Firehouse is the best disciple membership program by far, from personal experience. It's the best way to ensure a proper foundation for Christianity and to answer those burning questions you had about Christianity. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

- Kyle, 18 - Youth Leader

Beach Mission

Beach mission is a Christian camp in Morgan's bay. It is a way for Christian individuals to gather and celebrate in their faith while spreading the word of God. Beach mission allows individuals to take time to get to know God more and grow spiritually and draw closer to God. It allows others to make certain decisions in their life and make changes for the better which will allow them to live a life closer to God. Being a part of God's army is the best decision you can ever make and Beach Mission is a way to reach out to individuals you might not see in your daily life so you can spread God's word and motivate people to take that step to accept God as their Saviour. This program shows that being a part of God's army and being a Christian is the best, most fun thing you can do.

There is a perception that being a Christian is "boring", but being involved with Beach Mission has shown me that being a Christian is awesome and so much fun. The minute the Beach Mission team arrives at the campsite, people come from all over the area to ask when activities will start and as soon as we do begin with the fun activities many people start gathering and joining, and in that way we get to spread God's Word in a fun way that allows for everyone to be involved and excited to receive the gospel. It all comes naturally. In all of this you get to know yourself and who you are within God, and getting to meet like-minded individuals who you can talk to about God gives you such joy and hope for yourself and the world you live in. That is what Beach Mission is all about. Getting to meet people and spreading the gospel with people you meet along the way. Creating fellowship and creating a safe space for people to express themselves within their faith and then going out to let others know about the Glory of God.

Beach mission has certainly changed my life and has given me a chance to be a better person, dedicated to the Word and overflowing with love for God, myself and others.

- Chiteme, 23 – 3x Beach Mission Leader



YOUNG ADULTS

The first moment I came to the young adults group I knew it was the place to be. Never have I experienced so much love and kindness so concentrated in one room.

Young adults teaches us to follow in the steps of Christ. It is only by the grace of God that each member tries to spread as much love that God has for each person. It is no doubt that on occasion, the Holy Spirit has flowed through members and it is heartfelt, especially through prayer.

New members are always made to feel welcome. An evening at young adults consists of bible study and fellowship. As we all know, there are a lot of lessons to be learnt from the bible and each message transcends the context of the time in which they were written. We discuss how these lessons can be applied in modern day life and over time they become part of the psyche. In time we learn from each other's experiences and knowledge, with special thanks to Owen and Tara.

Fellowship is always a great way to end the night. Coffee, treats and interesting conversations are to be had. Good friendships have been made and it is mostly because each member attempts to aim in the direction of righteousness. I am truly grateful to be part of such a kind, loving group.

- Daniel (Joined YA 2022)

INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

2 Corinthians 9:15

Nahoon Methodist Church Holiday Dates

DECEMBER

04 Dec - 9am Nativity Play (Only Service)
11 Dec - 8am Carol Service (Communion)
11 Dec - 7pm Carols by Candlelight
18 Dec - 8am Service only
25 Dec - 8am and 9:30am Christmas Day

JANUARY

01 Jan - Online New Year's Message
08 Jan - 8am Service Only
15 Jan - 8am Service Only
22 Jan - 8am and 9:30am Services

Please note the church office will be closed from
27 Dec 2022 and reopen on 3 Jan 2023

WORSHIP REPORT

Over the last few months, it has been exciting to see some new faces in our worship teams. After COVID, it took us some time to make live-worship possible again for a variety of reasons, however it has been really encouraging to see our worship teams back on a more regular basis during Sunday sermons.

We were all thrilled to be able to have our annual Carols by Candlelight again for the first time in a while. When things like this have been forbidden for the past two years, it only makes us appreciate them all the more! The 8am service held a morning carols, and the evening carols was a wonderful time of fellowship, family and worship.

This year has seen many transitions for the church: getting back to two Sunday morning services; dropping our evening service (for the mean time); Bill retiring; Andrew announcing his retirement next year; a very busy and vibrant church calendar on top of the way our lives have all returned to normal, which means very busy personal schedules! With change, we know that teething stages will occur, and this is possibly where we feel worship at NMC is at the moment. We long for the day that we only have live-worship within all services every week, but for now, we are finding our feet and praying that the right people will be raised up for this to be a reality.

On that note, we are really sad to have to say goodbye to David Els as he returns to his job in Cape Town in 2023. He is such an asset to our worship team, and will be really missed!

Early next year, our plan is to have a Worship Information Evening. If you play a musical instrument, sing or just feel led to get involved somehow, we encourage you to come and find out more about ways in which you can use your talents. Worship is not only about the people in front singing or playing instruments – there are so many more facets to it, for example the sound desk, setup, etc.

We look forward to the many things that God has in store for our church in 2023!

- Lindi Shaw, Worship Coordinator



LIFE GROUPS – THEY'RE THAT IMPORTANT!

NMC LIFE GROUPS

Day & Time:	Information:
Monday 19:00 (Bill Brander #084 352 9011)	How are you growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ? What do you know of Jesus' character and His priorities? That is the aim of our LIFE group. Like many people, we had a tough season during the lockdown. But with God's grace and love, we have come through it. We look forward to having you join us at 86 Vincent Gardens North.
Tuesday 09:30 (Pat Martin #082 652 4262)	A ladies' group meeting weekly, mainly at the church. We are currently discussing the Sunday sermons and scriptures based on hearing God and growing closer to Him. Strong bonds of friendship have been built over many years as we encourage and support each other on our faith journeys.
Tuesday 12:30 (Bill Brander #084 352 9011)	What does God expect of man? Exodus 18:21 is a good starting point. That is one reason that we have a men's group. We start our meeting with a light lunch, and then we delve into some spiritual "meat" – Hebrews 5:14. Call Bill to book your seat at the table.
Wednesday 10:00 (Mary Krull #083 444 6720)	Do you need a midweek break and sanity saver? You are welcome to join our fellowship and Bible Study group. We want to make friends, support one another and grow as Christ-followers.
Wednesday 18:00 (Elize Saunders #082 792 9871)	This group meets at 20 Shibden Drive, Beacon Bay. Our study is about learning to pray with various questions to work through and encourage us to meditate on God's word.
Wednesday 19:15 (Sharon Delport #083 680 0820)	This group meets at the Delport's home in Stirling. We use various resources, e.g. Scripture, books and courses, to increase our knowledge, deepen our faith and grow our relationship with Christ. Sharing ideas and discussion is encouraged, and newcomers are welcome.
Wednesday 19:00 (Tara Andrew #073 839 5449)	This group is for Young Adults, out of school teens and anyone young at heart. We meet for fun, fellowship and to grow more vital as believers. We have various formats to gain a closer understanding of Christ.
Thursday 10:00 (Barbara Davies #082 499 3347)	This group meets at church. We want to journey together to discover Jesus in Scripture. We also want to encourage each other and enjoy the fellowship of unity in Christ.
Thursday 19:00 (Pat Martin #043 726 4782)	Our group of couples and singles meets weekly during the school term. We study God's word and follow the sermon series preached at NMC. Besides enjoining fellowship over coffee, most Thursdays, we have occasional social functions. We experience what it means to be a small caring community in a larger church.
Thursday 19:00 (Andrew Els #082 461 2641)	We are currently discussing the Sunday sermons and scriptures based on hearing God and growing closer to Him.
Sunday 11:30 (Nzimeni Mathe #043 727 1420)	This group strongly emphasises supporting one another, especially during times of crisis. We also read scriptures, pray and listen to what God says through each other's experiences. The meeting is run in both isiXhosa and English.

IN CLOSING

We would just like to thank every single member who has supported us throughout this year. It has been a busy and challenging year for many of us, yet NMC continues to experience God's Grace and Blessings. We trust you will have a blessed Christmas period. We look forward to another amazing year together in 2023.

Many Blessings,

NMC Team