



# Staying Connected

7 January 2024

## Office Details

### Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 08:30 to 14:00  
Fri : 08:30 to 13:00

### Address:

38 Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville  
PO Box 47, Westville, 3630

### Phone:

031 266 5222

### WhatsApp:

081 885 4928

### Email:

office@westvillemethodist.co.za

### Website:

westvillemethodist.co.za

### Sunday Service Times:

07:30  
09:00  
18:30

## From the Minister's Desk

In the gospel reading last Sunday, we saw the old man in the temple in Jerusalem, Simeon, rejoicing at the coming of Jesus. He spoke about God's salvation being revealed and talked of a light being shone for the Gentiles. You may know that there is an annual festival in the church's calendar (Epiphany) which celebrates the revelation of God to the Gentiles. Epiphany is celebrated on 6 January each year (or on the closest Sunday) and the gospel reading associated with this day is the story of the coming of the Magi in Matthew 2.

The inclusion of these Eastern outsiders (the Magi were not Jewish and their religion was probably Zoroastrianism - certainly they did not worship the God of Israel) is good news for us because we too were outsiders who have been welcomed into the people of God. Their inclusion is equally a challenge to us when we seek to define ourselves as insiders, because the God we worship is always inviting everyone to come closer. If God ensured that these outsiders were present at the birth of Jesus, who should we be inviting into our community and into our families? Who will God lead to our doors in 2024, and how will we receive them?



## Ethelbert : Christmas Day Collection

The entire amount collected during the Christmas Services, combined with electronic payments for Ethelbert, amounted to R35 356.63. This entire amount has been paid to Ethelbert Child and Youth Care Centre. Thank you for your generous gifts.



## Ladies' Bible Study Group

A new Thursday afternoon Ladies' Bible Study group will be commencing on 18 January.

**Course:** Beth Moore : The Patriarchs - An 11 week study of Genesis 12 - 50. This consists of a weekly DVD-based teaching and discussion session, and a workbook for deeper study.

**Venue :** Westville Methodist Church - Family Room

**Date / Time :** From 18 January - Thursdays at 14:00

For further information please contact Glenda by WhatsApp on 082 655 7785. New participants are welcome.



## Contact Details

### Minister

Michael Bishop 079 499 9139

Email : michael@westvillemethodist.co.za

### Church Executive

Amanda Kenny (Communication) 083 330 8780

Ashley Sellwood (Mission) 083 650 7612

Brandon Walker (Worship) 084 912 8188

David Jordan (Finance) 082 922 9385

Jane Bainbridge (Fellowship) 084 746 2004

Louise Walker (Pastoral Care) 084 580 3471

Natalie Moolman (Youth & Children) 073 438 8153

Sybil Scott-Adams 083 787 2680

Paul Bryan 061 309 6635

## Bible Readings

### 7 to 13 January 2024

**Sunday** Mark 1 : 4 - 11

**Monday** Psalm 69 : 1 - 5

**Tuesday** Acts 22 : 2 - 16

**Wednesday** John 1 : 29 - 34

**Thursday** 2 Corinthians 10 : 1 - 11

**Friday** Judges 2 : 16 - 23

**Saturday** Matthew 25 : 1 - 13

## Society Stewards

Dave Oldacre (Property) and Glenda Gorven (Discipleship) have stepped down from their positions on the Church Executive. We thank them with gratitude for the years of service to WMC and the contributions they have made in their respective roles.

Just as we are trying to stay connected with you, we also need you to stay connected with us. If you have any family news, births, weddings, family members going to hospital or unwell, please let the church office know.

*Let's Stay Connected...*

Condolences to  
**Pam Miller and Family**  
 on the death of  
**Pam's husband**  
**Don Miller**  
 on **Monday 1 January.**



WITH  
*Deepest*  
 SYMPATHY

# PRAYER REQUESTS

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <i>Cameron Smith</i>      | Multiple Sclerosis                          |
| <i>Amy Harms</i>          | Recovering from Surgery - In Hospital       |
| <i>Lynda Tarbett</i>      | Recovering from Skin Surgery                |
| <i>Rujeko Kachisi</i>     | Recovering from major Spinal Surgery        |
| <i>Steve Smith</i>        | Recovering                                  |
| <i>Brandon Walker</i>     | Effects of Long Covid                       |
| <i>Gavin Linnett</i>      | Recovery                                    |
| <i>Shirleen Prydderch</i> | Bipolar Treatment                           |
| <i>Ursula Rohrs Ameen</i> | Pancreatic Cancer                           |
| <i>Mike Hoole</i>         | Frail                                       |
| <i>Dorothy Foster</i>     | Recovering from Surgery                     |
| <i>John Cave</i>          | Cancer - Cardiac Stent inserted - pneumonia |
| <i>Zayden Govender</i>    | Kidney function Improvement                 |
| <i>Debbie Ivins</i>       | Autoimmune Disease                          |
| <i>Shelley Reed</i>       | Motor Neuron Disease / ALS                  |



I will praise you **Lord** with all my heart.  
 Psalm 138:1

**Knitwits Social**  
 Please join us on Saturday 13 January for a fun and creative morning, over a cup of tea or coffee and cake, at the first Knitwits Meeting for 2024.  
**Date:** Saturday 13 January  
**Time :** 09:00 - 12:00  
**Venue :** Westville Methodist Church  
**R.S.V.P. :** Wendy Theunissen 082 3581593



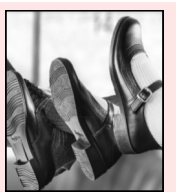
## Ongoing Prayer

*Stephen Adams, Lance Bainbridge, Lorraine Bekker, Rose Chislett, Florrie David-Sullivan, Janita Downing, Gwen King, Evelyn Kolbe, Linda Lodge, Megan Moody, Sané Ndlovu, Doff Ponsie, Nicky Proctor, Siswana Family, Sherwyn Sullivan, Marjorie Tarbett.*



## Donations of Stationery

Thank you for all the donations placed in the black donations box outside the office. (See the list below for items that are required). When dropping off items of clothing, linen or household items, please ensure they are in a good, clean condition and in the case of electronics, in a working condition. Items received are sorted and



**The following items can be placed in the black box outside the church office.**

- Second hand clothes and shoes in good, clean condition*
- Small household items, in good, clean condition*
- Blankets / Linen / Towels*
- Wool / Off-cuts of Material*
- Non-perishable food items*
- Books in good condition / Stationery*
- Items for Winter Warmth*
- Small Bowls for Pastoral Flowers*
- School clothes, shoes and Stationery*

distributed on a weekly basis to the many organisations / ministries we support.



**Supplying stationery to learners at the beginning of the school year is an added expense for many families.** If you have stationery, school shoes, sports shoes, sports equipment or children's clothes (in a good and clean condition) that you would like to pass on to families in need, please put them in the black box outside the church office. Thank You.

*Thank you*

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
*Engagement*  
 Congratulations to  
**Evan and Robyn Lapin**  
 on the engagement of their daughter,  
**Rebecca**  
 to  
**Taylor Edwards**  
 on **24 December 2023.**

**Church Bank Details**  
**Acc:** Westville Methodist Church  
**Acc No:** 58880668126  
**Bank:** First National Bank  
**Branch:** Westville **Br Code:** 223526

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 www.zapper.com

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When planning our budget for the year, planned giving is a disciplined way to make your offering to the work of your church.  
 If you are not a Planned Giver and would like to become one, please let the church office have your contact details so that we can allocate you a number.



**Your faithful giving to the work of your church is really appreciated.**

*Thank You!*