



Nahoon Methodist Church

4 Kennington Road

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nahoonmethodist.online

Noteworthy:

SUNDAY SERVICES

- Morning Service – 9am
- Evening Service – 5:30pm
(Every Sunday from 2022)

- **Live streaming of Sunday Morning**
service available on
NMC Facebook page.

- **Wednesday Evening Devotions** – 18:30 via
NMC FB page or
YouTube Channel

- **Children's Church** will
begin again once
schools reopen in
January 2022

- **Children's Church Online**
Message, Sundays at
9:45am via NMC FB page
or YouTube channel.

Greetings in the name of the Coming Christ!

Since the last issue of the Buzz, we have slowly returned to one worship service in the sanctuary in the morning with the month of October being a special highlight as we celebrated our centenary. I again want to take this opportunity to thank all those who planned the Sunday worship and did all the hard work in making our celebrations memorable during very difficult circumstances.

The evening worship service was held every second week and what's exciting is the formation of a youth band, who will hopefully be leading worship on a more regular basis next year. We will be having an evening service every Sunday at 17.30pm starting in the new year and hope to grow the service especially amongst our young people.

We are also currently investigating the addition of another morning service, possibly at 7.30am and would ask you to please indicate whether this would be an option you would consider in response to the survey sent out recently.

The Ministry Team has been working on a new vision for NMC, which we hope to share with the congregation at the AGM in February next year. We are keenly aware that God is leading us into new beginnings as we adjust to life with Covid-19, which will probably be with us until Jesus returns. This is still a work in progress, but what we currently have is:

To be an innovative church that focuses on the youth and families of the community to equip them to build the Kingdom of God.

To be achieved by:

- ▶ growing a vibrant ministry to children and youth
- ▶ cultivating a culture of 'walking alongside'
- ▶ re-imagining engaging worship in a multicultural community
- ▶ equipping every member to participate in the mission of God according to their gifts and calling
- ▶ creating opportunity for outreach that is relevant to the changing needs of the community

I must emphasize that focusing on a specific area doesn't mean we will exclude the others. We need the others to assist in carrying out the vision as we have sensed that God wants us to be more intentional in making NMC a youth-centred church. We ask that you please pray for the process and when the time comes, to give your input, so that we serve God together according to God's will.

Anthea, David, Robert, and I wish you all a blessed and safe Christmas and a Spirit-filled 2022.

Shalom!
Andrew



"People are perishing from a lack of knowledge"

"We need to build labourers for the harvest"

Zwai Zulu – Discipleship Making



MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE OTHER DISCIPLES

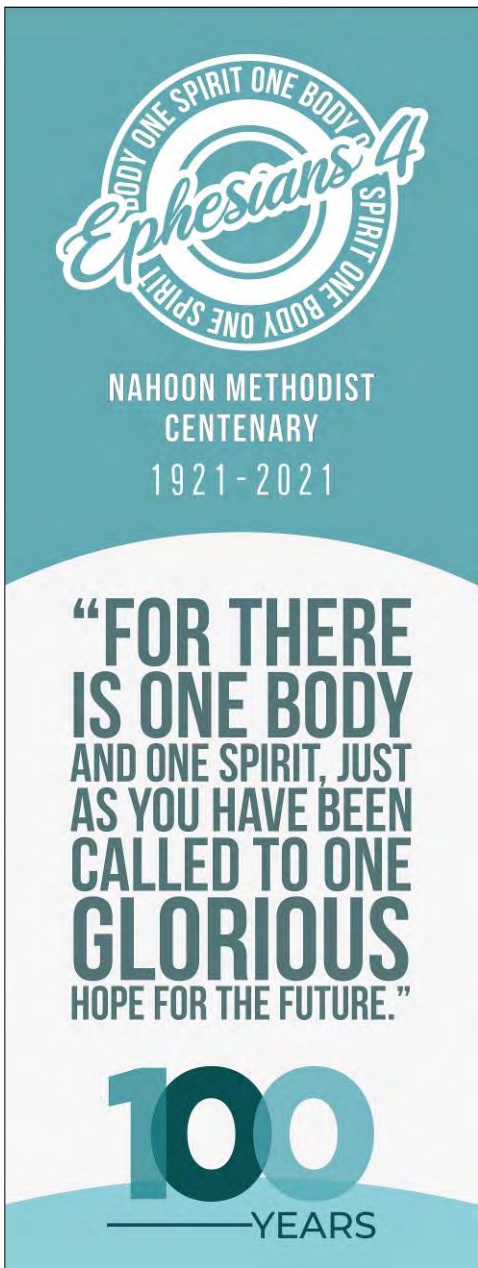
We recently hosted Pastor Zwai Zulu who is the Discipleship Pastor at "Rosebank Union Church" (RUC) in Johannesburg.

Zwai was here to tell us how RUC has grown since they became intentional about making disciples. At RUC all their departments (LIFE groups, Youth Ministries, Children's Church, etcetera) ask themselves, "How does what we are doing help people to become disciples of Jesus Christ?"

For example as a LIFE group leader I ask myself, "What is my LIFE group doing that makes disciples who will make other disciples?" When I couple that to what John Wesley's said to Joseph Benson (7th November 1768), "An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge." How am I encouraging my LIFE group to demonstrate the love of Jesus?

Zwai also told us that where you work, where you play are places of affinity. Your life as it stands now has tremendous power. Be aware that in those areas of your life, people are watching you. What do they see in you? What is different about you from others within that affinity? Why has God placed you there?

I personally found the workshop informative and challenging. It has certainly given me a lot to chew upon.



CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The month of October 2021 was filled with thanksgiving, love and joy as we celebrated 100 years of Nahoan Methodist Church.

The celebrations kicked off with a Centenary Prayer Vigil on Saturday 2 October 2021. Members took time out of their busy schedules to come and share in some beautiful and meaningful prayers that were collated by Bill Brander.

Members joined in the celebrations by attending the 4 celebratory services, each with a special theme. It was wonderful seeing the services well attended, some members returning to the sanctuary for the first time since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020.

In the spirit of thanksgiving, donations towards NMC's Food Pantry Ministry and the Nahoan Community Outreach Project were overwhelming and heart-warming. Both these ministries assist families in our community who are finding themselves in need. With all the amazing donations, the December food parcels can include a little extra to make the recipients Christmas special. An amount of over R20 000 was raised for the Nahoan Community Outreach. A huge thank you to all who donated towards these worthy ministries.

The Laity Service gave a few members the opportunity to share how working for God through NMC has made a difference in their lives. The young adults performed the Hands Play which was very moving and thought provoking. Members who would like to become more involved with the adhoc duties in the church are welcome to contact the office to find out where their assistance would be appreciated.



Centenary Thanks-Giving table



Centenary
celebrations
at NMC



A colourful and beautiful centenary banner was hung with the words "Love So Amazing", a reminder that God's love for His children is amazing. An art piece made up of the hand prints of members is a work-in-progress and will be hung in the concourse once the art piece is complete. Members who have not yet added their print to the canvas are encouraged to please do so.

The Testimony Service was a reminder to all that God is always with us and will help us through our battles. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). The NMC Music Group did their first live performance since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, bringing much joy to all.

The official anniversary was on 22 October 2021. An article sharing the news of the centenary appeared in the Go Newspaper the day before. Andrew Els was interviewed by the editor.

The Celebration Service on 24 October 2021 was the perfect ending to the month of celebrations. A video of a compilation of messages from past and current members was shared with the congregation, as well as a compilation of photos taken over the years.

Psalm 100 verse 5 reads: "For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." One thing is clear, we celebrate this year not only the 100th Anniversary of the present Nahoon Methodist Church, but also at least 111 years of the foundation of Methodism at Nahoon.

- Carol Backlund, Centenary Committee



CHILDRENS CHURCH

Term 4 is always a whirlwind as there is so much going on in all areas of our lives! This year, we are so thankful that life has been able to feel relatively more 'normal' than it did a year ago this time, and one of the main things which symbolised this for us as a Children's Church, is that we could work toward putting on a Nativity Play for the Church for the first time in two years!

It has been wonderful to see more and more children returning to church. When the younger kids need to sit on the floor right in the front to make room for more seats, it always brings great excitement to my heart! We have spent most of the term doing a six week series on the Christmas story – my prayer is that it was as much a blessing to the children as it was to me. One of our amazing and enthusiastic teachers, Melissa Smith, organised for each of the children to make beautiful advent calendars to take home and use in the build up to Christmas. Each link for each day has a verse to read. It was a beautiful initiative to take the Bible into homes long after schools close. The Nativity Play is always so special and appreciated by the congregation. This year was no exception, and I want to congratulate each of the children involved. It always seems to 'come together' with very little practice and time.

For our last outreach of the year, we decided to bless each of the children in the Kings Children's Home with a Christmas gift. There are 39 children in total, and after appealing to the church to help by taking a list to buy basic essentials for a child, the lists disappeared within minutes of being available. Wow! We have such a generous congregation and we are so thankful for your on-going willingness to bless others. We also so appreciated the generous stationery donation from PNA, the beautiful hand-made pencil bags made by a special lady in our congregation as well as the monetary contributions received. It all came together so perfectly – I wish I could be a fly on the wall on Christmas Day to see those children's faces!





Matthew 5: 16

"In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, that they may see your good deeds and **glorify your Father in heaven.**"

Lastly, I want to thank Anne-Lise and Melissa for your on-going help and support in being part of our teaching team this year – we wouldn't have a vibrant Children's Ministry if it wasn't for people like you, your time and effort never go unnoticed. Owen, thank you for your belief in me, you're on-going and quiet help, and for always being a sounding board. Our prayer is that God would send more help for us next year to increase our teaching team, in faith that kids will come back and our Children's Church will be 'bursting at the seams' once again!

Remember to let your lights shine this Christmas season. I look forward to even more fun in 2022!

- Lindi Shaw

CHILDRENS CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Perhaps you feel led to join our Children's Church team at NMC in 2022. We'd love to meet with you and see how your talents and gifting can best be used to serve our community and The Kingdom.

Please contact Janet at the office for more details. Children's Church will start again once schools reopen in January 2022.

YOUNG ADULTS

The country's third wave and the resulting lockdown led to the longest break in Young Adult Life Group gatherings thus far. To make matters worse, many within the group went through immense personal difficulties at this time, compounded by the lack of meetings which had become a source of encouragement and accountability for us all. The enemy, it seemed, was firing darts everywhere he could.

Thankfully, technology kept us connected. Our Whatsapp group allowed us to share prayer requests, encourage one another, and retain the wonderful, unique sense of community which God has blessed us with. When we finally were able to resume our meetings, we dived straight back into the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course, which challenged us to become better Christians through being more cognizant of our emotions and attitudes, and surrendering them to God.

The remainder of the year proved to be a period of restoration, as God showed up in mighty ways: healing physical and emotional wounds, turning job losses into promotions, and carrying members through the loss of loved ones.

Perhaps one of the most exciting developments of this last quarter was the formation of the Young Adults worship team. It happened so naturally and effortlessly that there can be no doubt that God's hand was on it, and as we continue to pursue Him and to serve Him with our time, talents and treasures, we believe that He has incredible things in store for the church in the New Year.

- John Andrew

YOUTH

Youth has been an absolute blast over last quarter, we have seen the numbers grow week by week but more than that we have seen God changing young lives. The teens at youth at present are seeking answers and are serious about living right for Christ. We have had Q & A evenings and dealt with everything from "How do I deal with lust?" to "How do I know he's the right one?" I am blessed by the enthusiasm of our youth leaders and their willingness to learn, they really are prepared to go the extra mile.

Beach Mission was the buzz word around the kids the last 2 months, we have a record number of teens involved this December. Each week for 3 weeks we have 8 new teens and 4 old hands forming the ministry team, they will receive training and guidance as to what to do and how before they embark on this new service opportunity. I am looking forward to sharing what God has in store for them and the unfolding of this with you all in the new year.

Many thanks to all who have in some way, big or small contributed towards this December's Beach Mission trip. It is only by God's grace, and your generous donations, of time, money, effort, prayers and support that we can undertake this 3 week mission trip which comes at a time when so many seem to be searching for hope and comfort. We trust it will make an everlasting impact on a number of individuals and families.

We are sad and excited to report the loss of Matthew Faure, one of our dads who came to youth 5 years ago (in Cambridge west) just to see what it was all about, this 1 visit to youth resulted in him studying theology for 3 years, passing cum laude and at the end of this year answering the call to pioneer a youth group in Cambridge west from next year, Matt, we wish you God's speed in your new venture.

Finally, from myself and Rita, and all the youth and youth leaders we wish you a very, very, merry, blessed and Jesus filled Christmas.

P. S. It's true, he's the One and he's coming back for you

– be ready.

- Owen Domoney

PRAY FOR BEACH MISSION

Heavenly Father, we pray your hand of protection over all those attending the Morgan Bay Beach Mission this December. We thank you for the teams you have formed and for each person's obedience to serving You and sharing the knowledge of You and Your Love with many of the holiday makers.

May You do a mighty work and see lives changed for the better as they draw closer to You in all ways.

Thank you that COVID-19 will have no hold over the campsite and that the area will be filled only with Your presence and joy.

We pray a blessing over every person who contributed to this ministry and give You all thanks for its continuance.

In Jesus precious name, Amen.



To help raise funds our Cancer Companions ministry we manned a cake stall at Ideal Homes one Saturday. They raised R840 which is enough to fund two more participants on the Cancer Companions course. Our Cancer Companions team want to thank everyone who came along to buy some sweet treats, and cheer us up with their smiles.

The Cancer Companions course was run from September to October this year and had a positive impact on the lives of all those who were involved. In an effort to provide further feedback on the course, we have asked two participants to share their experiences of the CC sessions.

What I have learnt from Cancer Companions

I have learnt that it is important to draw close to God during the hard times as God is bigger than any storm that we go through. That it is okay to have questions about the circumstances that one finds oneself in. Stillness before God should be a way of life as this helps one find the gift of peace that only comes from God. I have also learnt practical ways on dealing with negative thoughts through practical ways of taking thoughts captive.

Before I started the course I had mixed feelings mainly of anxiety doubting if I had made the right decision, but as soon as I started attending the first session I never looked back, not wanting to miss not a single session of the training. The course is presented in a relaxed atmosphere which is conducive to learning from each other and growing spiritually. It has been a valuable experience that has assisted me to better understand some of the questions that I have always had around healing.

I would strongly recommend it to anyone as the knowledge and experience will lead to spiritual growth.

Many thanks,

- Ncediwe Magida

Experience of the Cancer Companions Course

Both Liz and Elize have been my close, personal, facilitators on my cancer companions course.

I have been introduced to many different “themes” over the course of a few months, focusing on God’s Word and God’s Promises for our lives, both on earth and in Heaven

Each “theme” focuses on real concerns experienced in life: bitterness, hurt, pain, sickness and cancer.

I have learnt to live my life Drawing Nearer To God and feeling Gods Presence Closer To Me.

I have learnt to see God in my day to day “life journey”, His Indescribable Creations we so often overlook.

We have focused on many bible verses, promises and miracles which have, and are still constantly witnessed. My Faith in God has grown.

I have been reminded of His ways, His Constant Unfailing LOVE which surpasses all understanding. Gods “WAY” of teaching involves being subjected to both tribulations and happiness, encouraging us to Draw Closer To Him and LIVE A LIFE of unequal measure, both on earth and in Heaven.

I have learnt to ask God real questions, with earnest, experiencing God’s Peace and understanding. Focussing on Praying, on Healing and Stress Relief has been indescribable.

Getting involved with Cancer Companions?

- Become part of the prayer team covering this ministry
- Become a prayer partner (encourage those on a cancer journey weekly)
- Attend the course if you are on a cancer journey, are a survivor, or a loved one / caregiver, and grow closer to Jesus
- Sponsor printing of pamphlets and purchasing of course material in the future
- Encourage others to attend the course
- Become a facilitator of the course
- Help us spread the word about this ministry in the community (at schools, hospitals, doctors' rooms, oncology rooms, other churches etc.).

I have enjoyed being reminded of the importance of Relationships, and real Communication.

We concluded the course focusing on Healthy Living, encouraging us to live a life more acceptable to God. We are His Amazing Creation!

I would recommend this course to all those who are grieving, going through life's challenges and tribulations. By Drawing Closer To God, I have learnt to offload many of my daily difficulties and concerns.

I have experienced life changing moments, real compassion and concern. Both Liz and Elize have been amazing, Thank You!

- Andrew Hanger

If you would like further information on the Cancer Companions course, or would like to get involved, please contact Janet at the office for more information.

MAKE A CONNECTION

Hebrews 10: 25 - "not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another".

Join a family when you join one of our **Life Groups**, designed to connect through fellowship and Spiritual Growth by exploring and discussing weekly themed topics.

Day:	Time:	Where:	Theme:	Contact:
Monday	19:00	Different homes	Sunday sermon	Jilly 072 834 0110
	19:15	Vincent	Sunday Sermon	Bill 084 352 9011
Tuesday	12:30	Men - via Zoom	Revelation	Bill 084 352 9011
Wednesday	19:00	Young Adults Centre of Hope (NMC)	Topics introduced weekly	Tara 073 839 5449 Owen 084 460 5973
Thursday	19:00	Shibden Drive, BB	Relevant Topic	Elise 082 718 5906
	19:00	Via Zoom	Sunday sermon	Janet 043 735 1380
Friday YOUTH	19:00	NMC Hall	Weekly Planned Themes	Owen 084 460 5973

IN CLOSING

We thank each and every one of you who have continued to support NMC as a church and its various ministries. The incredible community made up by each individual and family is one of constant love and support, and for that we treasure you. May you and your loved ones have a beautiful Christmas and a Blessed New Year. – The NMC Family.