

THE BUZZ

Nahoon Methodist Church newsletter



Noteworthy:

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 9:45am via NMC FB page or YouTube channel.

Nahoon Methodist Church

4 Kennington Road

043 735 1380

office@nahoonmc.co.za



Greetings in the name of the Coming Christ!

Since the last issue of the Buzz, we had moved to two morning services at 7.30am and 9am. After consultation with the music groups, the leadership decided to go back to pre-Covid 19 service times from the 1st May 2022, which are **8am and 9.30am**.

The 8am service will have a more traditional flavour while the 9.30am service will be more family orientated as we try to grow our ministry to families. We made the most of the services of Matthew Tarboton (some of you might know him through his work at Scripture Union) until the end of May to assist us in getting the ministry to families off the ground. The children's church will meet at 9.30am.

In the last NMC Buzz I introduced a new vision for NMC and since then there has been a little tweaking on it to make it more inclusive. It now reads as follows:

To be an innovative church that proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ in the community, in word and deed, to build the Kingdom of God.

To be achieved by:

- growing a vibrant ministry to children, youth and families
- cultivating a culture of hospitality
- re-imagining engaging worship in a multicultural community
- encouraging and equipping every member to participate in the mission of God according to their gifts and calling
- creating opportunity for mission that is relevant and effective in a changing community

We are inviting the congregation to comment and/or make suggestions regarding the vision as we continue to seek God's will for NMC. Please send your contributions to minister@nahoonmc.co.za

I want to finally say a BIG thank you to all our members who contribute to the ministry of NMC so generously. Your investment in the Kingdom of God makes NMC a growing church for growing people.

Shalom!

Andrew



The original Nahoon Methodist Church!

BUZZ SANDPIT

"WHAT DID I GIVE UP FOR LENT?"

"Nothing." I rather embarked on a pilgrimage – a life-long pilgrimage. There is no destination, it is rather moving in a direction. A way of life illuminated by Scripture as the psalmist says in Psalm #119:105, "Truth's shining light guides me in my choices and decisions; the revelation of your word makes my pathway clear. " [ERV] I expect some discomfort and maybe some pain along the way. But did Jesus not say as much? John 16:33b "... In the world you will have trouble, but be courageous—I have overcome the world!" [ISV]

But what is this path which I have started upon? Why am I filled with fear and trepidation? My journey is to become an anti-racist South African – "Ndingum Afrika", (I am an African.)

Why? It all started with cricket. (I bet that surprised you. You thought I would say a prayer. Prayer followed, but initially, it was cricket.)

Do you recall that Quentin de Kock was admonished and praised for not 'bending the knee' according to the dicta from the Cricket SA (CSA)? People saw De Kock as either a hero or a foe, depending upon their persuasion. Then he buckled and did bend to financial and political pressure. I was disappointed. Why? Months before this incident, in response to questions asked by some of the congregation, I had looked into the BLM and CRT growing movements. (That's another story for another day.) However, while praying about what to present for the Wednesday evening Lenten devotions, De Kock's capitulation came to mind because, to my mind, it is all about racism. I believed that South Africa had handled their race relations quite well - far better than America has, but not as well as Scotland!

Within a few days of my contemplations, Saint Michael's Anglican church contacted me to ask if I would be available to lead their Sunday Services during lent. I asked them if I would be allowed to preach a series on "Giving up racism for Lent." They agreed. And so my journey to a new land began.

The map I am following is below for your reference. As you can see, there is no destination.



I have slowly, ever so slowly edged out of the “Fear Zone” into the “Learning zone”. (Where I am more afraid.) It is a time of questioning my long-held beliefs and praxis. A time constant consulting of Scripture to hear what God has to say about the race which He created in His image.

What would it take to get you to join me on this pilgrimage? “Why should I?” Is probably your question. I do not know! But if you would like to chat about becoming an anti-racist person, let’s do coffee sometime.

“THE CLEAN SLATE ‘HALF-WAY HOUSE’ IS OPEN!”

You will have seen in the “Go Newspaper” (31 March) that at long last, the Clean Slate halfway “Sam-Loughnane house” is officially opened. If you watch the YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/sw5TlauF0Q8>, you will better understand the need and the genesis of such a facility.

What is NMC’s role in this rehabilitation programme? Why not make the residents feel welcome in our community and help them on their spiritual journey by opening our doors for them to participate in our LIFE groups.

- Bill Brander

APP REVIEW (Bill Brander)

I am constantly trying to stay awake to new android apps which will aid me in my spiritual growth. Googleplay store is chock-a-block with such apps. I would like to share my experience with two of them, just in case you too are ever searching for ways to grow closer to God through prayer.



“The Bible In One Year” app comes from Nicky and Pipa Gumbel. It comes in two versions. The main version, consists of three daily passages of Scripture. (Wisdom, Old Testament, and New Testament readings.) Following each reading there is a commentary and short prayer. Possibly because there are Old Testament scriptures the Old Testament reading is the longest reading. [And I must confess that I sometimes scan through these readings – to my peril!] For example we are reading the Book of Numbers now. Did you know that there is a “test” and a subsequent sacrifice for jealousy? Numbers 5:29 “This is the ceremony that must take place at my altar when a husband suspects that his wife has been unfaithful. The priest must have the woman stand in my presence and carefully follow these instructions.” [CEV]

There is what they call a “light version” of the app, but being concerned that Gumbel may have been ‘cherry picking’ verses to suit his commentary, after a couple of weeks I opted for the full version.

Pipa has very little to add at the end of the devotion, and I rarely read her input.



“Lectio365”

I only recently stumbled upon. To my mind it clips in the “Emotional Healthy Spiritually” (EHS) course which we have run at NMC.

The app says of itself:

“TRY SOMETHING ANCIENT – Lectio 365 is inspired by Lectio Divina, a way of meditating on the Bible that’s been used by Christians for centuries.

SHAPE YOUR FAITH – Explore how to love God through prayer and creativity, love others through justice and hospitality, and love the world through mission and learning. (Matt. 22:34-40 & Matt. 28:18-20)

SPECIAL SEASONS – Be inspired to pray through Advent, Lent and current events with hosts from around the world.

Two things I really like about this app is, as stated above, it aligns with the liturgical calendar, and the other are the prayer at the end.





CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The first term of 2022 was an exceptionally busy one as most areas of life made a 'return to normal'. It was wonderful and refreshing, but sometimes completely exhausting and a shock to our systems – I think a lot of us found ourselves longing for more of a balance between 'Lockdown' and 'Normal'! However, it was wonderful to see children returning to Children's Church despite the 'busyness' of their school weeks.

NMC Kids spent the first term learning about each piece of The Armour of God from Ephesians 6 and how we can apply it in our own lives. We continued with our online messages, but have loved the connection with the kids on Sundays and have especially loved to see the numbers grow!

We are still praying for more volunteers to help us in our team, to alleviate teachers being on duty every Sunday and therefore allowing everyone a chance to be in church too. Please speak to Lindi Shaw should you feel called to help.

We have continued our termly outreach program, and in term 1 we focussed on the East London based NGO, Helping Those in Need. Thank you once again for your amazing support – it is both humbling and a true blessing to witness the generosity of the NMC congregation. We managed to raise an amazing amount of physical and financial resources for this organisation, as well as being able to create more of an awareness of who they are and how they serve the community which will hopefully lead to long-term support for them.

In term 2 we faced a number of interruptions with the many public holidays and long weekends, but are pleased to see the Children's Church attendance continue to grow. In April the children were part of a special Palm Sunday service in the sanctuary and shared what they had learnt in Children's Church so far. Their palm waving and excitement for Easter added such a wonderful joy to the service as they joined in for worship.

This term we explored Discipleship throughout the Bible and learnt how to apply it to our everyday lives in practical ways. Our outreach focus has been Hilltop Animal Shelter who do amazing work in the lives of so many special creatures by rescuing, sheltering, feeding and homing unwanted or stray animals. Once again, we have been able to make a substantial donation of pet food, pet supplies and financial contributions thanks to the support of our amazing congregation, a huge thanks to all who donated.

- Lindi Shaw

YOUTH

Junior Youth

This year we were finally able to re-launch Junior Youth at NMC and in all honesty the first few weeks were slow. We had 4 children attending each week and a number of disruptions due to long weekends and public holidays. Nevertheless we went into Term 2 determined to get Junior Youth off the ground. With the assistance of Matthew Tarboton in family ministry and a number of helpers spreading the news of Junior Youth we reached lift off. All Glory to God we now have a Junior Youth of minimum 25 kids every Friday evening ready for fun and to learn more about Jesus. Please continue to pray into this area as we trust for further growth and the involvement of parents in the youth and our church.

Senior Youth

God has blessed us with a vibrant and stable senior youth group, our numbers range between 35 and 45 on a weekly basis.

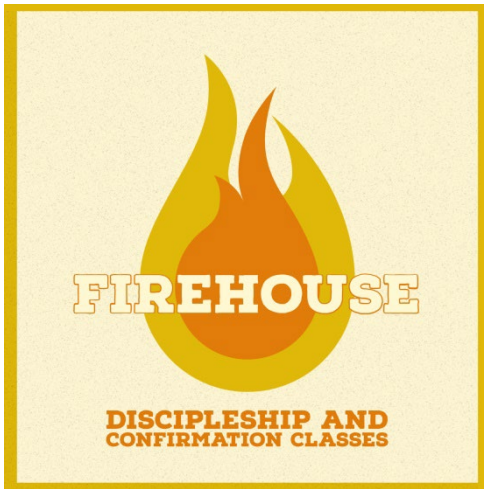
The end of term 1 saw us hold the first stay awake since the arrival of Covid 19, we attracted 80 teens and made a 75-litre milkshake which was a massive success (excuse the pun), we have tackled topics like the armour of God, know your enemy, let go of the trash in your life so you can hold on to God, and many, many more topics that are current in the lives of young people.

The second term has continued with a number of challenging topics as well as fellowship and enjoyment, with more kids bringing new friends on a Friday evening, as well as many breaking out of their shells and coming into their own as young adults, and future youth probi-leaders.

Senior youth has become a training ground for young leaders and a source of Beach mission team members, Junior Youth leaders, as well as Holiday Club leaders! This is so important as these are the future leaders of church and business in our communities.

It is always great when parents become more involved in youth and their children's activities, and as we hope to grow young families in our congregation, we aim to host a number of parent-child youth get togethers in the weeks to come. Please don't hesitate to come and chat to me if you have any questions or would like to get involved with youth at NMC.





Firehouse

Firehouse has been launched and I am excited to see the real hunger in the youth to grow spiritually. This amazing group meets most Sunday afternoons for a planned session of learning God's Word through a range of materials, such as the Youth Alpha course, examining and unpacking popular Christian songs and lyrics, as well as sharing life experiences. We have a number of Young Adults who assist each week in running the Firehouse sessions and ministering into the young people's lives. The group is just on 20 strong and are really comfortable with each other which makes it easier to tackle difficult topics. I look forward to giving more feedback on this group as the year progresses, we are hoping to have a Firehouse camp and at the end of the year confirmation for a number of the group.

Beach Mission

Praise God for another successful beach mission this April, despite the rain! Even though this shorter trip was only a week long, the growth that I saw in the 12 kids who joined was amazing. They started leading devotions, morning sessions, and needed no encouragement mixing with the holiday makers and local children as well. This time we were able to interact with a number of the parents as well who were super responsive and supportive of the team. Despite there not being a beach mission in June/July, the hotel has asked us to place someone with them to run their children's club during these holidays. We thank all those involved and parents of team members for your continued support of this amazing ministry. We look forward to our next Beach Mission in December!

Holiday Club

We cannot wait for this amazing ministry to begin once more. Nahoon Methodist partner up with Vincent Methodist and St Nicholas Church to host a week of holiday club in the July school holidays. Holiday club presents an array of exciting positives. Firstly, it is an opportunity for young people to step up into leadership positions as they take care of their groups for the week. Children who may not normally have a safe place to be during the school holidays can instead be well looked after and learn about the love of Jesus for the week, hopefully returning home with the Good News for the rest of the family and friends.

A chance for young adult involvement as future leaders in ministry, as well as presenting a church that is active and present in our community.

- Blessings, Owen Domoney



4-8 JULY 2022
VINCENT METHODIST CHURCH
SIGN-IN 7AM - 8AM
PROGRAMME 8AM - 12PM
GRADE R - GRADE 6
BRING A SNACK,
A JERSEY, AND A FRIEND

043 735 1380 OR 043 748 6100
FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK A SPOT!

CHURCH ACITIVITY

We are almost halfway through 2022 and what a busy year it has been! The church building is once again abuzz with activity on a weekly basis, from support group meetings, to worship practices, life groups, junior and senior youth, multiple Sunday services, ladies teas and fundraisers. Praise God!

With the COVID restrictions reduced and church activities on their way to 'normal' once again, we changed our service times to 8am and 9:30am on a Sunday morning, with children's church at the 9:30am Service. This has been especially welcome with the colder winter mornings setting in.

One such weekly activity is on a Monday evening at 7pm in the church chapel. A support group run by the Koinonia Rehabilitation Centre for addicts. This group invites families and loved ones to meet together for a time of support and sharing through the difficult process of the rehabilitation of a loved one.

On a Wednesday evening at 6pm there is an AA (Addicts Anonymous) group which meets in the church chapel and is lead by a trained AA leader, which guides those struggling with addiction through a step-programme as well as offering a time of sharing and support.

Once a month the ladies have their ladies' tea fellowship in the church hall at 11am where they spend time together in fellowship, enjoy some light eats, entertainment and sharing in God's Love.

Pray with us on a Monday and Friday Morning at 8am as we lift up friends, family, church, community. City, country and global issues to the only One who can solve them.

Friday Nights are youth night with Junior Youth beginning at 5:15pm until 6:30pm for ages 6 to 12. After which Senior Youth begins from 7 until 9:30pm for ages 13 to 20.

Throughout the week there are a number of Life Groups who meet for fellowship and spiritual growth through studying God's Word. Feel free to contact the office to find out which group would be a great fit for you if you aren't already part of a Life Group.



“... I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.” [John 10:10b. The Message.]

LIFE is where the rubber meets the road. LIFE groups offer mutual support and accountability but also for helping one another grapple with and better understand how the Bible is still relevant today in South Africa. With the relaxation of the lockdown regulations, more of our LIFE groups are hosting meetings again.

The “Men only LIFE group” recently completed an extensive study of the book of Revelation. What a trek that has been! The book of Revelation and Genesis are bookends. In both books, God creates. In Genesis, God creates the universe as we know it today, and in Revelation, He creates a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21).

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 Delpont #083 680 0820)	This group meets at the Delpont'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.

NMC Online:

- Recording of the 9:30am Sunday Service is made available for viewing during the Monday after. via NMC Facebook Page and NMC Youtube Channel
- Children's message on Sunday 9:45am, NMC FB page and Youtube Channel.
- Weekly devotionals on a Wednesday 6:30pm.

Be sure to follow the NMC Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as our website:
nahoonmethodist.online

NMC MEDIA

What a busy, but blessed year 2022 has been so far. I'm so proud to be a part of NMC and the amazing way they touch the lives of so many in our community and East London as a whole. This year we fundraised during Shrove Tuesday for a digital noticeboard, and Praise God we raised just the right amount. The noticeboard, if you haven't already seen it, is up in the concourse right outside the office doors. The benefits include:

1. Updated, and current notices which easily catch the eye, are modern to look at and keep members informed on church activities and important information.
2. Serves as an icebreaker for newcomers who are unsure of what to do/who to talk to. By casually having a cup of coffee and watching the notices they can relax and ease into the church environment, as well as proving valuable information they may not have otherwise asked for.

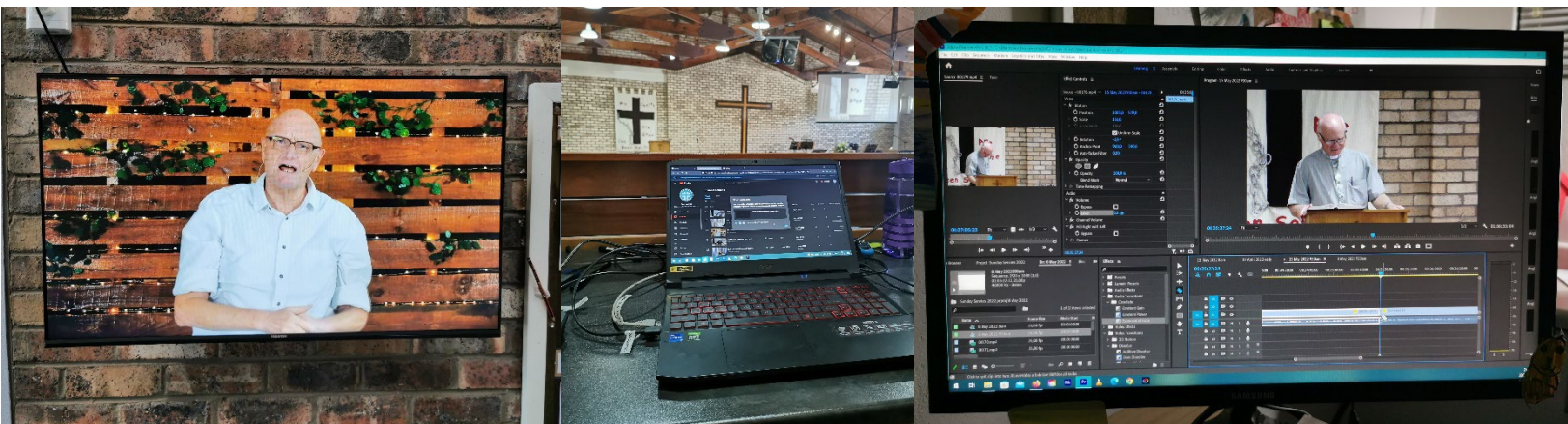
If you have any notices or info you would like displayed on the digital noticeboard please don't hesitate to contact the office so we can make it happen.

While memorials are always sad occasions, we have been able to offer many the service of live-streaming for loved ones. This allows families that are spread all over the globe to stay connect during a difficult time as well as have a downloadable video to keep should they wish to re-watch or share it with others.

We continue to produce weekly content for the church, such as our Wednesday Devotionals, Children's Message and packaged Sunday services. It's exciting to note that our NMC YouTube page currently has over 200 video resources for anyone to watch and connect with. These are also accessible through our website and Facebook page.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the fundraiser for the digital noticeboards, as well as those who watch, comment, share and stay connected with us through our digital media platforms. We look forward to further growth in this area.

- Tara Andrew



NMC CARE / DAWN BARNES MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL TRUST: FEEDBACK

With the schools returning to more “normality”, the children are happier and are obtaining better results, compared to the previous “Covid-year”.

2022 sees 8 children receiving sponsorship from this Trust. Although there are various challenges these children face, on a day-to-day basis, they all try very hard and are worthy of their sponsorships.

One of our boys ended 2021 on a very high note, as he was awarded Academic Honours – for which the Trust sponsored his new blazer. Very smart and very well deserved!

One of our girls battled with Mathematics due to not having regular face-to-face-classes. She moved to Maths Lit and is achieving very good marks, which has boosted her confidence, which is wonderful to see.

Despite losing her father to Covid, one of our girls still managed to obtain excellent school results.

After considering a few applications, the Trust approved sponsorship of a Grade 5 pupil for 2021. The Trust looks forward to seeing her right through school, to Matric one day, as in spite of circumstances she is a bright student.

FINANCIALS

Summary of activity for the period 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022.

1.	Donations received	R 52 500.00
2.	Net income from Investments	R 23 991.00
3.	Bursaries paid for learners	R 88 348.00

The Trust is registered as a Public Benefit Organisation and has been approved for purposes of Section 18A(1)a of the Income Tax Act and donations to the Trust will be tax deductible in the hands of the donors. In terms of the Trust Constitution, 75% of donations will be paid out in bursaries.

With the Facing It sponsorship coming to an end, we would like to encourage you to please consider sponsoring this Trust. Depending on the response, we can consider taking on one additional child, who can be sponsored by previous “Facing-It-sponsors”. It will be important then to give your donation a reference of “facing it”.

Banking details:

Name: NMC CARE/Dawn Barnes Memorial Education Trust

Bank: Standard Bank

Branch: Vincent Park 3721

Account: 00 33 176 227 7

Just a reminder that these details are confidential and we therefore cannot share photographs.

On behalf of the Trust, we would like to say a sincere thank you for contributions made as well as prayers offered for these children.

NMC FINANCIAL CHECK-IN

As June approaches and the reality that the first half of 2022 is almost up, it is a good time to reflect on our financial position at NMC.

The events and circumstances which many businesses at present are experiencing are also being felt in our financial position to date.

We began the year with a very tight budget which provided very little leeway or cushioning for unexpected events. This situation was brought about because of the last two years, driven mainly by the pandemic, of our planned giving and collections not increasing by much, while at the same time our expenses increasing by a greater percentage.

NMC spends the bulk of their receivable income on salaries. By doing this, we are able to employ staff who provide various services to the community and are involved in many outreaches and missionary work.

So far this year we have found ourselves falling slowly behind on our budgeted targets as each month our expenses exceed our income. Some small unforeseen expenses have also crept in which have needed to be attended to.

As we enter the second half of the year, we appeal to our members to relook at the Planned Giving program. If you are already a part of this program then please carefully pray around increasing your commitment. And for those who are not on the program, for you to commit to prayer the possibility of joining this program. Please contact the office should you wish to find out more about PLANNED GIVING.

There are other ways in which you can assist NMC in improving their current financial position. Our banking details are available should you wish to do an EFT for any collections or donations. The church has a Zapper account which allows you to make payments while at church on a Sunday should you not have cash for the collection bowl.

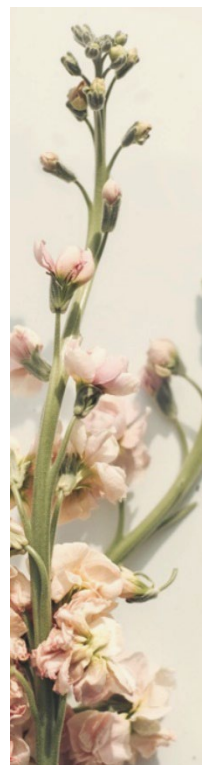
As the leadership of NMC we thank you, our members, for your continued loyal support and financial commitment during very difficult times.

IN CLOSING

We, as the staff of NMC, want to thank each and every one of you involved in the church and our community for your never-ending support, in all its forms. We look forward to the second half of the year and the exciting times it holds for us as we continue to serve in our area. We are always here to support you in any way we may be able to assist, so do come and talk to us should you need assistance.

We are so grateful to once again be able to join together for fellowship throughout the week, as our church continues to grow and play an active role in our community.

Many Blessings.



Never Alone

Our pastoral team is always ready to help you with prayer requests or to meet with you to pray.

Home visits can also be arranged if required.