TRIBUTES TO RETIRING MINISTERS

Report to General Assembly 2012

REV. JOAN BRUMMER:

Rev. Joan Shirley Brummer was born at Marianhill Monastery in Pinetown in 1948.

She grew up in Natal - first in Zululand and then in 1967 she married Russell and settled in Durban. The Brummers moved first to Pinetown, then Kloof where Joan first began to the call to be a Sunday School teacher.

She worked for Barclays Bank for seven years and left the banking world in order to start a family. Russell and Joan have three children, Murray, Jenny and Bronwyn, and five grandchildren.

Thirty years ago they moved to the Natal Midlands where Russell tried his hand at dairy farming then continued in the business that he knows best, engineering.

The family joined Upper Umgeni Presbyterian Church in the mid-1980’s where Joan was approached to be a Sunday School teacher, (having previously been a Sunday School teacher at the Methodist Church in Kloof). In time she became the Sunday School Superintendent, and remained one of the teachers at UUPC for sixteen years.

Ordination as an elder soon followed, and Joan then completed the Rosebank Bible College course which whetted her appetite to know more of the Bible.

Joan initially felt the call to ordained ministry as a result of an by the denomination to all congregations to seek out any potential candidates for the ministry. She resisted the call until God answered her prayer to confirm the call by sending someone else to make the suggestion, which He did the very same day.

Still uncertain, Joan began to study through TEEC, while at the same time being accepted as a member of the order of lay preachers in 2000. The next step was to be recognised and accepted as a student for the ministry in the UPCS, which happened in 2004. At the end of the year Joan received the Diploma in Theology with distinction.

She served her probation year at UUPC, after which the members of Upper Umgeni invited her to consider a call as colleague minister to Rev David de Kock, and Joan was ordained on the 16th December 2005. Since December 2005 Joan has continued to serve as a colleague minister at Upper Umgeni, firstly with Rev David de Kock and with Rev Nigel Fuller since November 2009.

During this time, at a Presbytery level, Joan has served as the Presbytery Clerk and as a member of the General Assembly Church Development Committee.

I have known Joan for nearly twenty years, having also served with her as an elder at Upper Umgeni, and we studied towards our diplomas at much the same time.

Looking back, the progression from member to Sunday School teacher, to elder to ordination into fulltime ministry seems such a natural process for Joan.

Joan is gifted with a gentle spirit and she has a passion for God’s people and His Church. More importantly, she has a passion for Jesus which will certainly not be diminished by her well-deserved retirement.

I have been blessed to serve with Joan, and I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for her in the future.

Rev Nigel Fuller

REV. BALDWIN WHITE KANDINDA:

The Reverend Baldwin White Kandinda was licensed to preach the Gospel at Kabwata Presbyterian Church of the Central Zambia Presbytery on 5th March 1995 as a Probationer after completing his Theological Studies at the University of Makerere (Uganda) through the United Church of Zambia Theological College. He was ordained to the Ministry of word and sacraments after receiving his Exert Certificate from the Ministry Committee of the General Assembly on 8th December 1996 and was appointed to the charge of Chelston Presbyterian Church of the then Central Zambia Presbytery.

The Reverend Baldwin White Kandinda was born on 28th February 1955 in Chama in the Republic of Zambia. Upon retirement, the Minister will be Fifty Seven (57) years old.

During his Ministry in the Church, the Minister has served in different appointments and Congregations. He served in the United Church of Zambia from 1992 to 1994. He has served the Church for sixteen (16) years.

REV VICTOR KESWA:

The Rev. Victor Mpumelelo Keswa was born to Gilbert and Adelaide Keswa on September 21, 1946 at Mangoloaneng in Mt Fletcher. He went to
Mangoloaneng and Dengwane schools for primary and secondary education, and later went to Mt Hargreaves High School to do Matric.

Victor’s call to the ministry came at a young age while he was a student at Mt Hargreaves High School. His first experience of the call was when a heavy thunderbolt struck, as he and a friend were driving cattle home from the veld. Strangely enough, instead of becoming petrified by this frightening occurrence, Victor experienced an amazing sense of calm and actually got inspired to sing the hymn “Yivani ezizindaba”. Listen to his good news, to the surprise of his friend.

This extra ordinary experience left Victor in no doubt that he was being called to the Lord’s service. Shortly after that incident he applied and got admitted to the Federal Theological Seminary in 1971 to do Ministerial Training. On completing that training he was appointed to the Kimberley Congregation of the then Western Cape, Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in 1974. Kimberley Congregation was a new charge with no manse or sanctuary. The Congregation erected a shack (“umkhukhu”) on the church site to serve as a manse. It was in this congregation, that Rev. Keswa served his probation under the late Rev. J V Hliso. While at Kimberley he got married to Nomthandazo Matutu in 1976, and God blessed them with two daughters, Philiswa and Avuyile. By the time he left the Kimberley Congregation at the end of 1977, Rev. Keswa had already managed, under trying circumstances, to build a sanctuary in the main station.

In 1978 he was appointed to the Queenstown Congregation of the then Ciskei Presbytery and after a short stint there he responded to a call to the Pirie Congregation within the same Presbytery of the Ciskei. Rev. Keswa spent a total of twelve years at Pirie, during which time he built sanctuaries at the outstations of Gobozana and Mzintshane. It was also during his time at Pirie the old sanctuary of the main station was refurbished. In addition to his heavy load of running a big parish of Pirie Mission; the Presbytery gave him the responsibility now and again of taking care of several congregations as an interim moderator. He served in that capacity in the Congregations of Burnshill, MacFarlane, Semple Mission, Stuart Memorial, Mgwali and Lovedale.

In 1990, Rev. Keswa responded to a call to the Congregation of Impolweni in the then Presbytery of Natal. His service at this congregation ends on December 31, 2012 after he has done a lot to develop that Parish. In the twenty three years of his hard labour in that congregation new sanctuaries in seven of its outstations (including) the main station have been built.

The Presbytery of Drakensburg, on behalf of the UPCSA salutes his dedicated work and consequently to grow from strength to strength rather than deteriorate to the point of becoming a liability rather than an asset to the Church. The UPCSA will forever remain grateful, not only to Rev Keswa for the outstanding service that he has rendered over the past thirty nine years but also and more importantly, to God who sustained him throughout his career. The Church’s gratitude also goes to his wife and children who gave him untiring support as they journeyed with him over many years from one parish to another. Last, but not least the UPCSA says thank you to the Congregation’s that Rev Keswa has served, for the love, support and co-operation that they gave him as he laboured in their midst.

The General Assembly and the entire community of the UPCSA wishes Rev Keswa God’s richest Blessings as he retires and goes to enjoy a well-deserved rest from his hard labours.

**REV VELELO LAFAYETTE MAGAQA:**

**Early life**

The Rev Velelo Lafayette Magaqa was born at Ndakana A/A in the district of Nqamakwe on the 30th April 1947. Passed Std 6 in 1963 with first class. In January 1964 he joined his father in Cape Town with the express purpose to further his education.

In 1965-1967 he studied and passed junior certificate at Free Mantle High School in the district of Lady Frere. In 1969 passed Matric at Langa High School in Cape Town. Confirmed into membership in full communion at Langa Presbyterian Church in Cape Town where he was also ordained into eldership in 1971. He represented the same congregation at the Mission’s Committee of the Presbytery and later became a commissioner to Presbytery when its status was elevated to a full charge.

**Work record**

Besides vacation jobs during matric years, in 1970 he was employed by Vereeniging Consolidated Mills in Maitland as a Messenger from 1970 to February 1971. In March 1971 to January 1976 he was employed by the then
Bantu Administration and Development at Observatory as grade 2 Interpreter Clerk.

Tertiary education

In 1976 he registered for Bachelor of Theology at Fort Hare University and graduated at the end of 1978. In 1980 he registered for University Education Diploma, 1985 Bachelor of Education and in 1993 graduated in Bachelor of Theology Honours. In 2006 he obtained Postgraduate Diploma in Pastoral Care and Counselling with distinction from the University of Pretoria. It was also in January 1979 when he tied the knot with Phila Matolengwe and was blessed with three daughters.

Service in the church

He was ordained into the ministry of the Word in May 1979 while serving Dorrington P.C.S.A near Fort Beaufort as well as John Knox Bokwe P.C.S.A. (Nselenamanzi) near Alice. From 1983 he served the following congregations while he was in the teaching profession:

- St Phillips P.C.S.A at Zwelitsha near King William's Town
- Mdantsane P.C.S.A near East London
- Sada and Cradock P.C.S.A
- Zola – Winterberg in Tarkastad
- Alice and Fort Beaufort (White Congregation)

In 1997 he joined the Reformed Presbyterian Church and was placed at Uitenhage R.P.C.S.A, from January 1998 to April 2003. In May 2003 he was called to J.H Hiliso Memorial in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth. It was at J.Y Hiliso where he became engaged in building of a church hall at KwaMaqzaki which was dedicated in 2007. At Winterberg he was always fascinated to see congregants transported in tractors from nearby farms by fellow congregants all donned in overalls in the vicinity of the church. Therefore one would see the beauty of Presbyterian filing into the church hall.

Professional employment

1981-1982 he was an assistant teacher at Nzululwazi High School near Alice.
1983-1984 he taught at Butterworth Training School
1985-1988 he was a lecturer and senior lecturer at Griffiths Mxenge College of Education where he served as a member of Management and Governing Council (1992-1998). It was at this College where he served as a tutor for Azaliah College for further Education.

Leadership achievements

When the P.C.S.A and R.P.C.S.A. were united he became the first Presbytery Clerk of the Central Cape Presbytery from 1999-2001.

He also served as a committee member of the Idamasa and represented the same in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality Religious Units/S.A.Police Service Partnership against crime in 2005 till his departure from the Central Cape Presbytery to join Transkei Presbytery in June 2008. He represented the same Idamasa in the short listing and interviews for selection and appointment of magistrate and prosecutors at the North End Magistrate Court for the whole Eastern Cape.

REV. GERALD MALCOLM POSTHUMUS:

On 17 January 2001, Gerald Malcolm Posthumus experienced a call from God to "feed His sheep". In response to this call, Gerald started reading for a Bachelor of Theology degree, (majoring in Pastoral Counselling), at the University of South Africa. Distance learning, on a part-time basis, is no easy task and places a great strain on both the student and his family but, as a family they persevered and Gerald was able to carry out the practical part of his degree at a hospice in his home-town of Durban. Gerald graduated with a Bachelor of Theology degree on 4th October 2008.

He and Trish, together with their two children, Wade and Nikita, moved from Durban to Pretoria – and into the St Mark’s manse - during December 2006; ready for Gerald to take up his appointment as a Probationer at St Mark’s, under the supervision of the then Interim Moderator, Rev Andries Combrink, in January 2007. Upon completion of his probation year, Gerald was called to be full-time minister at St Mark's. In addition to this, his first full-time pastoral charge, he had the task of ministering to the Premier Mine Presbyterian Church, in Cullinan. (Sunday worship services at St Mark’s were held in the morning and the services at Premier Mine were held on Sunday evening, making a pretty full day.)

Gerald was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, in the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa, on 15 March 2008 – a day that, for him, marked the fulfilment of a dream. The worship and devotions at Gerald's Ordination were conducted by Rev Chris Moore and the Ordination and Induction were carried out by the then Moderator of Tshwane Presbytery, Rev Glynis Goyns. The Charges were preached by Rev Andries Combrink. For Gerald, his Ordination was a truly meaningful and exciting highlight of his life.

Like so many ministers starting out on a full-time ministry, Gerald was still on a learning curve and having two congregations to minister to was no easy task. With the encouragement of the combined Session and the Worship Planning Team, Gerald improved his ability to lead the worship services, to the benefit of both congregations in their walk with the Lord. It was a relief,
however, when in 2009 Frikkie Botha was appointed as a CDE at Premier Mine and Gerald was able to give more of his time to St Mark’s.

People experience Gerald as sincere, warm and friendly. He laughs easily and remembers many quips and jokes which he delights in telling. His understanding of the importance of caring for others – evidenced in his choice of Pastoral Counselling as a major – led him to place a high value on pastoral care. Gerald was available day and night (24/7) to do home and hospital visits. The length of time that he devoted to this was not an issue for him. Trish must have, on many occasions, wondered and worried about when he was coming home.

With minimal exception, Gerald attended all Church functions of whatever nature (i.e. fellowship and fund-raising), shared in whatever was going on and led the sort of Bible Study group where members were free to teach one another by relating their knowledge of the scriptures to the many different experiences in their lives. These meetings were intimate occasions when the members truly got to understand and love each other.

We all know that being the wife of a Minister is not always an easy task. For Trish, there were many difficult times. She holds a full-time senior position in the Standard Bank and up until recently, had their daughter, Nikita, staying at home to care for. Their son, Wade, left home some time ago, as his adventurous spirit took him overseas to work.

Trish has been exemplary in supporting and helping Gerald in all facets of his Ministry. Her devoted love for and support to him, have been clearly obvious in the months preceding his retirement.

As an individual, Trish has played a meaningful role in the life of St. Mark’s by, for example,

- starting a women’s “Helping Hands” group, which met once a month on Saturday mornings
- serving on a number of Strategic Planning Teams
- attending Church functions, lending a hand wherever she could and
- helping to run the audio-visual system at services of worship.

Trish, St Mark’s is saying a very big “thank you” for what you have meant to us and done for us. You have served the Lord – and us -with dedication and love. For this we give you our grateful appreciation.

From the beginning of their ministry together, Gerald and Trish have poured their love into the congregation of St Mark’s – and St Mark’s has returned this love, a fact which has made Gerald’s retirement as a result of grave health problems so much more difficult to come to terms with. It brought Gerald’s ministry – for so long the desire of his heart - to a tragic and untimely end.

Gerald, to the outside world you are putting on a brave face. This can only be because of your deep love for your Lord and Saviour. Your faith seems to us not to have dimmed. You believe, as you always have, that God still has a plan for you and that he will never leave you.

We give our heartfelt thanks to you and our Lord, for your dedicated Ministry here at St Mark’s and we trust and pray that both your and Trish’s faith will sustain you in the times that lie ahead. May our Lord keep you both, your two children and other family members, in the palm of His hands forever.

REV. DEBORAH WANJIKU SHAWA:
The Reverend Deborah Wanjiku Shawa was licensed to preach the Gospel at Ng’ombe Presbyterian Church on 18th January 2004 as a Probationer after completing her Theological Studies at Justo Mwale Theological University College. She was ordained to the Ministry of word and sacraments after receiving her Exert Certificate from the Ministry Committee of the General Assembly on 9th January 2005 and was appointed to the charge of Ng’ombe Presbyterian Church.

The Reverend Deborah Wanjiku Shawa was born on 4th June 1947 at Kiambu in Kenya. During her Ministry in the Church, the Ministry expressed her passion to work with the orphans and vulnerable Children and she decided to resign her charge at Ng’ombe Congregation to concentrate on the orphans and vulnerable Children.

On 3rd November 2007 the Presbytery of M’chinga resolved to sever ties between Rev. Deborah Shawa and Ng’ombe Presbyterian Church and subsequently on 6th January 2008, the Presbytery severed the ties to enable the Minister attend to her specialized Ministry. She has been a Minister without charge since then.

She served her Ministry in the Uniting Presbyterian Church for five (5) years of training at Justo Mwale Theological University College and four (4) service at Ng’ombe Presbyterian Church.

REV. H TSOAI:
No tribute at time of going to print.

REV. JOSEPH ZIBI:
Joe felt the call to the service of our Lord early in the 1960’s. His life in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church goes back to 1965 when he was converted by the late Rev Bob Donaldson and Evangelist Albert Tokota. Joe became a deacon at Makana'skop Congregation in Grahamstown. Joe improved his education by sheer determination, resilience and humility by joining in with young children at a Johnson Marwaqa Primary School.
Joe married Joyce during this time and is forever grateful to her for her unending support and encouragement and sheer endurance at very difficult time keeping the family going while Joe was a doing part-time evangelism.

In 1981 he went to study at Centane Bible school after which he was licensed as an Evangelist by the then PCSA. Many Ministers came to Joe’s assistance and encouraged him, the Revs Edwin Pons, Gladwin Phenyia, Samuel Qeqe, Richard Gqotso, Howard Hans, Vusi Mkhungo, David Hunter, George Molefe, Edward Magula, Evangelist Mqede, Calvin Cook, Martin Lund Prof Holland and Alastair Kerr.

He was appointed to serve at St. Thomas’ Presbyterian Church under the Rev Mkhuseli Bashman. Between 1985 and 1995, the then Presbytery of Port Elizabeth sent Joe to Thembalethu township in George where he did outstanding work establishing a new Congregation which still exists. The late Rev Syd Smuts was a great inspiration to Joe and played a big part in encouraging him to build up the congregation in Thembalethu.

In 1996 Joe was invited to Butterworth where he took over an outstation that the Rev Luther Mateza was ministering to. Joe was an Evangelist under him and did such good job that Luther only came to administer the sacraments. Joe was then studying through TEEC College, distance learning and received great assistance from the Terry Scholes and who was the Minister at Stutterheim.

In 1998 Joe and his wife, Joyce were invited to Southern Cold Field, UK on a three month visit to survey the twinning of Midrand and Ivory Presbyterian Church with them.

In 1999, the late Rev Tim Sawyer invited Joe to come and work with the St. Saviour’s Congregation on the outreach programme at Ivory Park. Again this time Joe started a congregation which continued to grow to this day. Whilst at Ivory Park he studied and completed a certificate programme with TEEC. Joe feels deep appreciation for the support and encouragement that he received from Tim, Julie and the Congregation of St Saviour’s. Joe was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2001 and Joe felt that great credit had to go to the Rev Prof Maake Masango and his wife Pauline who tutored and mentored and guided him through this process. Thanks also go to the Rev Sicelo Sam.

2002 Joe was appointed to St Peter’s Tembisa, transferred from Ivory Park in a pastoral charge. He was instrumental in promoting Twinning of PC UCA Virginia with Tembisa. He travelled to the USA there with the Tembisa team and spent 1 month in America.

In 2008 he was appointed to serve as a Minister to St Peter’s Presbyterian Church in Tembisa. To date he is a part-time minister at Katlehong Congregation.

Heb 10v 24-25: Let us be concerned for one another to help one another to show love and do good. V 25 let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. This was always Joe’s motto. When God extended a call to Joe, he never looked back. He remained faithful and committed to that call to this day. Well done Joe, enjoy your retirement.

Vusi Mkhungo & Luther Mateza