



Newsletter January 2025

St Columba's Presbyterian Church  
Mutare

## A word from the pastors

Beloved friends,

At the beginning of the year God is receiving new year requests from millions of people all at the same time - and the requests are as diverse as the people themselves. One wonders how God copes with being bombarded by all the requests. Does God have a priority list of which prayers to answer first? Or does God have certain people at the top of His list? Or does God simply pick our requests from a hat? Or is it first come, first served? What does God's word say:

## Calendar highlights

Sun 5 Jan	9 am <b>New Years Communion Service</b> Handful of rice
Sat 11 Jan	10 am <b>Session meeting</b>
Sat 27 Jan	9 am <b>GILLs meeting</b>
Sun 2 Feb	9 am <b>Communion Service</b> Handful of rice

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right." Acts 10:34-35



“God does not show favouritism.” Favouritism is a word which when literally translated from the Greek means “acceptor of a face.” In other words, God does not accept someone based on ‘face’ value things such as nationality, background, educational level, gender, social status or financial status.

Instead, the Bible is showing that the two qualifying factors for being accepted by God are:

- “fear of God” (v. 35)
- “righteousness” (v. 35)

Now measure your new year resolutions, plans and strategies by these two factors – do you fear God and His purposes above your own? And secondly, are your motives righteous or are they self-serving and sinful? So enter into 2025 with confidence knowing that God has got your back. You are loved and God has no favouritism. When times of difficulty, uncertainty, failure or complex situations arise, remember that God is a safe place for us.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastors Paul and Lydia

### **Acknowledgements**

Pastors Paul and Lydia Neshangwe,  
Mercy Kurewa,  
Kudakwashe A Musanhu,  
Ashly Mususa,  
Fiona Botes,  
Lys Sheykhi,  
Jenny Paterson,  
Chloe K. Mahachi,  
Kayla N. Mahachi,  
Iris Shiripinda,  
Rob van Steensel,  
Wietske Mushonga

all contributed to the production of this newsletter.



# Fellowship of Women (F.O.W) Update

## Mutare District Mubatanidzwa Christmas Party

The highly anticipated Mutare District Mubatanidzwa Christmas party took place on November 30th at Sakubva Presbyterian Church. Over 50 ladies from Sakubva, Dangamvura, Chikanga, Hobbhouse, Chigodora, and St Columbus gathered for an afternoon of fellowship, fun, and celebration.

### A Spirit of Togetherness

As the ladies assembled, the atmosphere was filled with warmth and camaraderie. Dressed in their festive red and blue attire, they exchanged hugs, smiles, and laughter, setting the tone for a joyous occasion.

### Program Highlights

The event commenced at 1 pm with a heartfelt devotion led by Rev Fereira of Sakubva Branche, who shared a powerful message from John 2:1-10. This was followed by inspiring testimonies from several ladies, after which the group enjoyed lively singing, music, and dancing.

### Gift Exchange and Feasting

A highlight of the afternoon was the gift exchange session, which sparked excitement and facilitated new friendships. The ladies then indulged in a sumptuous feast, featuring a variety of dishes contributed by the attendees themselves. The culinary delights were expertly prepared by the youths from Sakubva Branche.





### **Appreciation and Gratitude**

We extend our sincere appreciation to Rev Ferreira for his presence and guidance throughout the event. His support and encouragement meant a great deal to all who attended.

### **A Memorable Afternoon**

The Mutare District Mubatanidzwa Christmas party was a resounding success, fostering a sense of community and connection among the ladies. As the event drew to a close around 4 pm, everyone left with full hearts, cherished memories, and anticipation for future gatherings.



# Youth, A leap of faith

We are young confused people who are pretty much searching for the truth in all sorts of places. This year has been wild and confusing, between trying to discover who we are, what we were made for and how our different purposes fit into this big puzzle, it's been such a roller-coaster ride. As a young person who is trying to leave a mark, I mean that's everything we have been taught to embrace from a pliable age, being asked to figure out who you are is the scariest thing ever for obvious reasons like, what if I don't get it right? This year has been a bit like that for almost everyone in the youth group, having to navigate between bidding farewell to some of our members which was such a heart-breaking thing to do given the fact that we had grown so close to be apart.

However, after all is said and done it goes back to one word, 'FAITH', the faith to know that God already knows who you are and the part you carry in this big puzzle. The faith to embark on the constant journey of self-discovery even though we are scared of falling down. But it is faith that teaches us that even if we fall, even if we drown, there is a God who would never allow us to fumble in the pain.

This year has been a lesson and as we progress into 2025, we give you Ephesians 4 verse 1-6. Life is all about hope, hoping that tomorrow will be much better than yesterday and hope takes faith. As we continue to discover who we are and what we were made for, we would want to encourage everyone to take a leap of faith even in places where success might seem to be not a part of the options. It is not easy to dive into the unknown but it's better when you know that God is willing to dive in there with you and He would never let you crumble so 'JUST KEEP SWIMMING EVEN IF YOU FLOAT'.

Faith is like baby steps, sometimes you fall, sometimes you crawl and other times you run but with a prayerful heart and stubborn faith, eventually you will get there. As young people, we need to learn to forgive ourselves because life has no manual and more often than not, we turn to make mistakes and yes in the journey of self-discovery it's important to know that mistakes are a big part of the lesson so it's OK to fall short sometimes and that is how we grow.

In closing, we are all searching for a truth but always remember that the truth is silent and even though the world is chaotic, we will learn to mute all the other voices and lean on the truth of God which brings life. Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.



# Growing in Love Ladies (GILLs)

## Reflecting on Our Journey and Looking Ahead

As we step into a new year, we reflect with gratitude on the incredible journey of the GILLs (Growing in Love Ladies) and eagerly anticipate what 2025 holds. Established as a safe, inspiring space for women to grow in all areas of life, GILLs is a community where we nurture our relationships with God, deepen connections with others, and focus on inner growth.

The past year has been filled with enriching experiences. From our first meeting in January, where Lydia introduced the vision of GILLs and encouraged us to become “sheroes” inspired by Esther, to the many impactful sessions that followed, we’ve witnessed a remarkable transformation in our members. Whether it was learning about mental health and self-awareness, sharing cherished recipes during our cooking event, or diving into financial stewardship, GILLs has been a platform for meaningful learning, fellowship, and personal development.

Highlights of 2024 included a vibrant fitness demo day that encouraged us to prioritise our physical health and the Winter Fair, which brought the community together and raised over \$500 for the church. The August retreat, themed Refresh, Renew, and Restore, was a particular blessing, offering us a chance to step back from life’s busyness, bond deeply, and reconnect with God.





As we move into the new year, we are thrilled to announce our first meeting of 2024 on January 27th. We will continue to meet every last Saturday of the month, diving into topics that inspire growth, resilience, and faith. Together, we aim not just to survive life's challenges but to thrive, becoming the "sheroes" our families, friends, and communities need.

We look forward to another year of growth, connection, and impact. Let's continue to lean into God's calling, support one another, and pass on the lessons we've learned to those around us. May 2025 be a year of abundant blessings for the GILLs!

# Womens Retreat Nyanga September 2024



## Company of the Boys' Brigade

The 1st Mutare Company of the Boys' Brigade was founded in 1959 in Umtali now Mutare. There were many captains one being Anthony Went the original Company closed up in 1996 along with the Girls' Brigade and was reopened in 2014 under the leadership of captain Fiona Botes. In my years as the Captain I have attended many camp's and held many camp's our company meets on a Saturday afternoon between 2pm - 4pm in the church hall and this year 2024 one of my officer cadets passed his officer training at a camp held in Bulawayo and proceeded to help run and organize the Manicaland camp held at the end of November. Many of my Boys' and Girls' have moved on to high school some have now moved town to attend university, we have a Facebook page and our page is The Boys' & Girls' Brigade 1st Mutare Coy Zimbabwe.

For those who don't know I run a joint brigade company due to some families have both girl's and boy's in the brigades and not to confuse anything I combine them. Put activities including church parade each term and a national camp for both officers and children in the past years I have done cook-outs, taught sewing with the help of Wendy Mususa one of our mum's we hoping in 2025 to teach them cooking and hoping to have a cook-out at the end of the year. I encourage the children to wear our uniform each week, If you have any questions please don't hesitate to speak to me my office is my phone.





# PRAYING FOR YOUR CHILDREN FROM HEAD TO TOE

## 1 Pray for Their Mind:

Pray that your children would earnestly seek wisdom and understanding; that they would value knowledge and discernment; and that their thoughts would stay centered on the truth of God's Word. (Proverbs 2:1-6; Proverbs 3:21; James 1:5; Psalm 119:97)

## 2 Pray for Their Eyes:

Ask God to guard your children's eyes and protect their innocence. Pray that they would focus their attention on doing what is right. (Romans 16:19; Proverbs 4:25)

## 3 Pray for Their Ears:

Pray that your children would be quick to hear and that they would incline their ears to listen to instruction. (James 1:19; Isaiah 55:3; Proverbs 8:32-34)

## 4 Pray for Their Mouth:

Ask God to keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking lies. Pray that all their words would be pleasing to Him and edifying to others. (Psalm 34:13; 19:14)

## 5 Pray for Their Heart:

Ask God to give your children a happy, cheerful heart. Pray that they'd come to faith early and would trust easily and completely in Him. (Proverbs 15:13; Psalm 28:7)

## 6 Pray for Their Hands:

Pray that they would be diligent in their work and that their hands would not be idle, but that God would bless, confirm, and establish the work of their hands. (Ecclesiastes 9:10; Ecclesiastes 11:6; Proverbs 10:4-5)

## 7 Pray for Their Legs:

Pray that your children would not walk in step with the wicked nor stand in the way of sinners, but that they'd find wise and godly companions along life's journey. (Psalm 1:1)

## 8 Pray for Their Feet:

Ask God to direct their steps, to help them stand fast, and to protect them from stumbling. (Psalm 17:5; Psalm 37:23-24; Psalm 121:3; Psalm 119:133)





We have had such a full and fun 2024

Fabulous Christmas time to say goodbye to 2024



Matthew 1:21

It's not just about the manger where the Baby lay  
It's not all about the angels who sang for Him that day  
It's not just about the shepherds or the bright and shining star



OR it's not all about the wisemen who travelled from afar.  
The beginning of the story is wonderful and great. But it's the ending that can save you and that's why we celebrate.  
It's about the cross. It's about my sin. It's about how Jesus came to be born once so that we could be born again.



WE KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR ON 12 JANUARY 2025

THE LINK

2-6 years old (Those who can't write)

These little ones will finish off *The First Christmas Gift* series followed by *Stones, Slings and Giant Things* series



7 years + above (Those who can write)

Here we will start with a 1 week only—*The Musical* followed by a 1 week only—*Why Do People Worship God?* Then a 1 week only—*Everyone Sins*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR EASTER CAMP

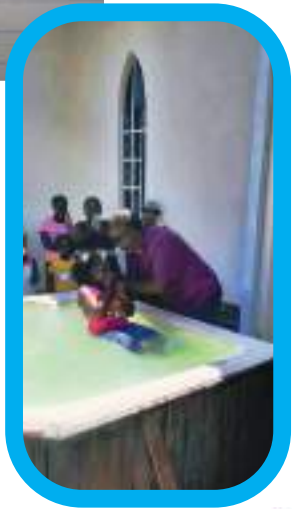


My name is Chibwe-KMaboko. I was looking forward to being baptised since the beginning of the year. I was saying pastor pass but when he said next week my mommy comforted me. The next week he said next week but she was so happy I put on a smile and went to church. I was baptised in the water. I was told being baptised is fun. You will follow Jesus! Read the bible and pray and you will be like me a follower of Jesus!!!! love your neighbour

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven

If you also want your letter and picture in the Newsletter talk to Jenny.

The end  
Thank you



My name is Kenya N. Mwachiki This is my baptism story

On the 24th of November, people including me were getting baptised. When we got to the pool where we were getting baptised, I was both excited and nervous at the same time! When it was my turn, I got into the pool, I was excited. Before getting baptised, Pastor Paul asked all of us if we wanted to get baptised and give our life to Jesus. I definitely said yes! I do this cos I know the punishment Jesus took for my sins and at the end of the day it is all about Jesus.

At Sunday School, Aunty Katie, Jenny, Wendy and Maw teach it is important to always forgive and love Jesus and therefore I gave my life to Jesus. After getting baptised, I realised it is all about Jesus.

In conclusion, I got baptised to know I love and give my life entirely to Jesus. Thank you Presbyterian Church, Sunday School, Pastors and teachers for showing me this.

Signed 

**love it!**



## LIST OF MINISTRIES

**MINISTERS:** REVs PAUL AND LYDIA NESHANGWE  
Email: [pneshangwe@gmail.com](mailto:pneshangwe@gmail.com), [lydianeshangwe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lydianeshangwe@yahoo.co.uk)  
Tel: 0717 654008, 0782 964362

**SESSION CLERK:** MARIE SACCONI

**CHURCH OFFICE:** Mon – Fri 8am – 12:30pm  
Tel: 02020 60628, 0717 459312  
Email: [mupresby@gmail.com](mailto:mupresby@gmail.com)

**CHURCH SECRETARY:** KATIE BOWEN

**SERVICES:** Sunday Service 9 am  
Communion Service and 'Handful of Rice' - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
Kids Church - Sunday 9 am

**BIBLE STUDIES:** LADIES BIBLE STUDY Mon 10am, Contact Jenny Paterson  
THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY 10am - Marie Sacconi  
HOMEGROUP Wed 6.30pm - Mark and Jenny Paterson

### CHURCH MINISTRIES:

- CALLED 2 CARE (Skills Training Outreach) Daily, Onie & Wendy Mususa
- GILs (Growing In Love Ladies) Last Saturday of the Month, 9am – Lys Sheiky
- FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN Monthly - Esther Mususa
- MEN'S MINISTRY Every Saturday, 7am - Colin Brandt
- BOYS & GIRLS BRIGADES Every Saturday *at the church, 2pm* - Fiona Botes
- YOUTH MINISTRY Every Saturday, at the church, 2pm -  
Munya Kamunda and Ashley Mususa

**CHURCH BANKING DETAILS:** STANBIC BANK: RTGS 914 000 2833 696  
FCA 914 000 4484 346  
ZB BANK: RTGS 4532 104335 200  
FCA 4532 104335 405



***Season's greetings, friends.***

***The Newsletter Team is appealing to all who would like to advertise their businesses, practices and trades in the monthly church newsletter.***

***You can take a full page, half page or a quarter page for a small fee.  
We want to know about and support your "hustle."***

***Contact Wietske or any member of the Newsletter Team.***

