



Newsletter August 2025

St Columba's Presbyterian Church

Mutare

Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude

In a world that often races ahead, pausing to give thanks is both an act of humility and a profound expression of faith. Gratitude connects us with God's goodness and reminds us of the countless blessings—both big and small—that surround us.

Even in times of hardship, Scripture encourages us to find reasons to be thankful. Gratitude shifts our focus from what's lacking to what's already been graciously given. It deepens our trust in the Lord and opens our hearts to His peace.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

At St Columbus, let us continue to nurture a spirit of thankfulness, not just during special moments, but in our everyday walk with Christ.

Calendar highlights

Sun 3 Aug	9 am	Communion Service - Handfull of Rice - GiLLS Bake sale
Sun 17 Aug	9 am	Baptism Service
Sun 24 Aug		POZ Family Conference Mhondoro
Sat 30 Aug	10 am	Session Meeting



A Word From The Pastors

Dear friends,

In the modern day, much is said about statistics. Which statistics do you fall under? Maybe you fall under the statistics of the young or the old; the married or the single, the employed or the unemployed; the happy or the unhappy, the number of children you have, the places you've been to, or maybe you're a statistic of the country with the highest inflation recorded in recent years...

Whichever statistic you fall under, the important thing for you to know is that you are more than just a statistic! God's view of you is this:

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

*Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

How vast is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:14-16)

Take time to internalize God's type of statistic which places importance and value on you as an individual whether or not the world places you in a negative or positive statistic. And then take time to act as if you are more than just a statistic. Take time to marinate in the reality that you are saved for a reason. Take time to allow God to use you and your value in your family, in your community, and in your church. You are more than just another statistic.



Tribute to Ant Went by Sandy Robertson

Ant gets things done, then looks for more to do

THERE are a lot of facts about Ant Went that need explaining. We see him up front at St Columba's coaxing the congregation into the swing of things. We know he was the Session Clerk for 24 years until April 2024, a job that calls for patience and tolerance and skills not many others possess. He may have got them from his mother, Joan Mary Went, who was one of his predecessors in the post. Can Ant be the same man who once stomped on to a parade ground and bawled "Get fell in, you miserable bunch of (expletives deleted)"? Well, maybe he did, maybe he didn't, but yes, he was a sar'nt major in a real army. Before that Staff Sergeant (boy rank, but with swagger stick) who holds the Queen's Badge of the Boys Brigade. He was MD of a landmark Mutare business until its closure in 2012.

Full names: Anthony Harry Rhys Went. The surname is thought to have lost a capital "G" somewhere between here and the distant family origins in Wales, which would explain the "Rhys". Ant's late father, Harry Thomas Fairbridge Went, can surely be called Umtali's elder statesman. He was born in 'UTOPIA' house which was built by Ant's Great-grandfather Rhys Fairbridge and is now the Utopia House Museum and Gallery, died at a good age in his own home right next door to that pioneer building. If that's not enough by way of bona fides to steep Ant Went in Umtali/Mutare credentials, his grandmother was Kingsley Fairbridge's sister.

It's fair speculation that Ant Went inherited from the Fairbridge line his total commitment to the welfare of children, and to their religious education. When the Boys' Brigade Umtali company was formed in 1959, Ant was the first recruit. It took him a mere three years to be promoted to Staff Sergeant.



The world-wide Boys' Brigade has one clear objective - the advancement of Christ's kingdom on earth. It believes this is best achieved among young boys by something conspicuously lacking in many other youth organisations - discipline, in the Brigade's case based on Christian principles. But there are lighter sides - in Mutare, one of these was a pretty competent pipe band.

Ant took a break (had no choice, really!) from the Brigade to go into the army in 1963 for National Service, emerging from 4th Batt seven years later as a WO2. There followed a spell with a chemicals company in Bamba Zonke, another with the Wattle Company in his home town, and finally into the family firm in 1969 to "learn the ropes" hands-on. He was managing director of Carlisle Enterprises since 1972.

He seems always, since leaving school, to have been more keen to get stuck in and do things rather than learn about them in books. He has busied himself in practical ways in virtually every activity at St Columba's Church, but has never felt called to study theology and become a man of the cloth, and even now he can't read music. Not, perhaps, that he needed to when he joined the Blue Jays rock band, and later the Outlaws, and then the Silhouettes. There were memorable, occasionally almost riotous, weekend rock sessions at Beira. In between times, at Boys' High School and for Manicaland Under 16s at inter-provincial level, Ant played soccer, usually as a half-back. Surprisingly, to some, soccer was preferred to rugby in his young day - there were eight senior and junior teams in the town.

Wedding bells rang out in 1968. The blushing bride was Ant's long-time girl, Carol Lesley Simmens. (Not Simmons, like the rest of the family - the story told against her proud Papa was that he was so chuffed at her arrival that he got his own surname wrong when he went to tell the Registrar of Births all about it.) Ant and Carol have two children, and last year Great Grandchild No 1 arrived. **



Ant's work for young people outside the church ambit, before and after he became a family man himself, may be more widely known. He and Carol were deeply and actively involved with other parents in the founding and building of the Hillcrest complex - first the primary school, then the college. Ant was founder-chairman of both Liaison Committees, and later chairman of the Board of Governors.

Perhaps the most remarkable characteristics of people like Ant Went - the people who get things done, and then look for more things to be done - is the broad spread of their interests. If it's true that variety is the spice of life, this man enjoys a lot of spice. Think about it ... the welfare and Christian upbringing of all young people, music for praise and for fun, kicking soccer balls, running a business, elder of the kirk and then Session Clerk. Perhaps in contrast to all the above, Ant used to like making a lot of noise and getting covered in mud - not at childhood games, but on the race track, in stock cars, most especially a blue and yellow Ford V8 of formidable power. In 1983 he won the Zimbabwe national championship in the sport. Did he do it to impress the girls? Ah, no, he says - they were impressed already. - Sandy Robertson.

2012

** PS – UPDATE 2025 June

- Both children now married

Melanie to Deon Landman in 1998.

They have three children:

Megan (23); Declan (21); Emma (18)

Kevin (50) to Lynette Hay in 2001.

They have two sons:

Kyle (21) and Liam (18)

- Both Ant and Carol have now reached 80 years old and are 57 years married!



Ant Went

Munashe's perspective

Deciding to leave home to study abroad is more than just packing a bag, it is packing your entire life in a 23kg suitcase, carrying your identity across nations and expecting it to stay intact and most importantly leaving family and friends behind which is by far the hardest part and this is a glimpse of Munashe's experience as a second-year student studying in India.

Question: "Name of the degree program and what year?"

"My name is Munashe Mususa and I'm a second year Bachelors of Business Administration (BBA) in India.

Question 2: what surprised you about India the country?"

One word to describe my biggest surprise pertaining India is 'sour candy' how it is full of mysteries as soon as one places it on the tongue, sour at first yet sweet as it melts down. To begin with, the extreme nature of India's weather was a complete shock to me because I thought Zimbabwe is hot until I experienced the sun in India, the winters are unbearable because temperatures can drop to as low as 5 degrees in hours which is something I wasn't prepared for. I was also surprised to encounter Indians who openly declare their faith in Jesus given that the society is quite centralised on Hinduism. The good part of this mystery is that people here feel like home and they make it easier to breathe especially when nostalgia kicks in.

Question 3: " what do you miss about Zimbabwe and why?"

Zimbabwe is the only home I have known for almost twenty years of my life and saying, 'I miss home' doesn't do justice to how much I yearn to be back in the streets of Mutare. However, I miss church, to be more precise I miss our church. I miss the sound of our praise and worship and its not like there's no church this side but the feeling is different.



I also miss African food or rather the food that my mom cooks, its even weird to say this given that I never gave it much importance back home. Lastly I also miss being around my fellow Shona speakers, being around people who understand you without even saying a word.

Question 4: "Has uni hindered or helped your faith?"

I can't really say that university has hindered my faith but moving out of my comfort zone has actually elevated my faith in the sense that being surrounded by people of a different belief has helped me to know that meeting Jesus actually changes everything. I would also want to thank Jenny for sending me bible verses and daily prayers which has helped me to keep myself accountable.

Question 5: "Favorite aspects of your university experience so far?"

Getting the chance to rediscover myself away from my 'village' has been my favourite aspect of the university experience. Getting to realize that I am accountable for every decision that I make from as little as, 'what will I eat today?' to something as big as, 'how much money should go into savings?' has helped me to grow as a man and that's another cool part of my university experience and lastly, being around people of a different culture is thrilling and overwhelming but I love every bit of it.

Question 6: "what advice would you give to someone planning to move to a different country for study?"

If there's someone planning to move to a different country for study I would give an instant yes because you never know how to fly unless you leave your cage. It can be scary but risk takers always fight the hardest and sometimes you need a different landscape in order to find solutions that will fix your home.

Question 7: "what is the biggest challenge that you have faced so far?"

In conclusion, staying true to myself has been a challenge that I have faced in this country because being in a different society can make you question some parts of your identity but I have realized that leaning on God will save me from a lot of mishaps and I hope that one day soon I will be able to play in our church again."



Munashe



MY GRATITUDE JAR

Each day, take a moment to reflect on the things you are grateful for. Write them down on the slips of paper below, cut them out, and place them into your "Gratitude Jar." At the end of the week, or whenever you need a pick-me-up, open your jar and read through all the things that made you feel grateful.



Or write them down inside this jar!

1. What's one thing that made you smile today?
2. Who is someone you feel thankful for and why?
3. What part of nature are you grateful for today?



Name: _____ Date: _____



Feeling Grateful

Word Search

ANIMALS
BED
BIRTHDAY
BOOKS
CARS
CHALLENGES
DAD
EARTH
FAMILY
FLOWERS
GRANDPARENTS
HEALTH
HEARING
HEART
HOME
ICE CREAM
JOKES
LAUGHTER
LUNGS
MOM
MOON
MUSIC
NATURE
OXYGEN
POPCORN

L	E	R	D	I	D	N	V	I	K	B	S	T	E	A	C	H	E	R
X	Q	I	A	C	C	D	V	G	P	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	V	S
T	Q	Q	D	E	S	J	Q	E	S	L	A	O	R	G	U	Q	T	Z
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S	T	N	E	R	A	P	D	N	A	R	G	X	N	H	T	S	F	M
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E	O	A	R	A	S	M	I	O	A	D	I	G	W	G	Y	A	N	E
H	B	S	T	M	X	M	C	T	O	I	V	E	A	N	Q	O	I	G
C	S	I	H	Z	A	B	Z	V	R	M	K	N	N	I	V	B	L	N
U	B	Z	Z	L	Z	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	D	Q	O	H	E
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S	Z	E	O	I	L	L	E	M	S	E	K	O	J	F	I	J	M	B
Z	Z	L	C	L	A	U	G	H	T	E	R	H	Z	P	H	L	A	A

RAIN
READING
SCHOOL
SHOES
SIGHT
SMELL

STARS
SUNSHINE
TASTE
TEACHER
TOUCH
VACATION



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THIS IS THE DAY
the Lord has made. We will
rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24



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Pastors Paul and Lydia Neshangwe,
Pastor Chris Muzodziwa
Esther Mususa,
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Rob van Steensel,
Wietske Mushonga

all contributed to the production of this newsletter.



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SERVICES: Sunday Service 9 am
Communion Service and ‘Handful of Rice’ - 1st Sunday of the month
Kids Church - Sunday 9 am

BIBLE STUDIES:

<i>Ladies Bible Study</i>	Mon 10-11am, Jenny Paterson, Cntct Wietske Mushonga or Jenny
<i>Homegroup men&women Bible Study</i>	Mon 5.30-6.30pm, Liffy Gorton, Contact Gavin&Sue Young
<i>Alpha Course</i>	Tue 2-3pm, Liffy Gorton
<i>Homegroup</i>	Tue 6pm, Simon & Katie Bowen
<i>Homegroup men&women</i>	Wed 6.30pm, Mark and Jenny Paterson
<i>Ladies Bible Study</i>	Wed 6-7pm, Albert Masvongo and Colin Brandt
	Every 2nd Thu,10-12am, Marie Sacconi

CHURCH MINISTRIES:

- **CALLED 2 CARE (Skills Training Outreach)** Daily, Onie & Wendy Mususa
- **GILLS (Growing In Love Ladies)** *Last Saturday of the Month, 9am – Lys Sheiky*
- **FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN** Every 2nd Sunday after Church
- **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
- **MUSIC MINISTRY** Every Friday 4.30 PM Contact Josphat Mususa
- **YOUNG ADULTS** Monthly, cntct Kuda Musanu & Simba Mangore
- **DECO TEAM** Contact Hlupe Gandiero

CHURCH BANKING DETAILS: STANBIC BANK RTGS 914 000 2833 696

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a car or tractor mechanical issue

*please feel free to look for **Munya** on **0775921314***

For car service or repairs or recovery that is towing

*I would be very happy to assist you all our church
members and looking forward to seeing you
bringing some work*

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.





