



Newsletter June 2026

St Columba's Presbyterian Church Mutare

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

One of the most valuable gifts that money cannot buy in our lives is the gift of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:10-11 says, "The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God." The Holy Spirit will mould four important areas as you relate with others around you.

1. Your Reactions.

The Holy Spirit will help you to unlearn unhealthy ways of reacting which create cycles of negative outcomes and cycles of negative and unhelpful thinking. Our reactions will no longer just be determined by our family systems, our cultural conditioning, our gender types or our personality weaknesses. Our reactions will be self-disciplined, creative, informed and wise because of the power of the Holy Spirit upon us.

Calendar highlights

All Sundays	11 am	Shona Service
7 June	9 am	Communion Service Combined with Shona Service - Handfull of Rice
13 June	10 am	Session Meeting

Visit our website:

<https://stcolumbasmutare.church/>



2. Your Triggers.

Many of us are triggered or upset by issues that relate to our past experiences, our fears, and our inner insecurities. The Holy Spirit is able to shine a light upon these and make us aware of such triggers so that we are no longer controlled by them but are rather controlled by the “mind of Christ.”

3. Your Methods.

Our methods of doing life need the washing of the Holy Spirit so that we move from methods such as sulking, withdrawal, rage, love of drama, unhealthy competition, and unnecessary confrontational modes. The Holy Spirit will replace these with God given methods such as the fruit of the Holy Spirit which is the ultimate test of what kind of tree you really are.

4. Your Perceptions.

The Holy Spirit is so powerful over our minds that He will clean up our thinking patterns so that you stop unnecessarily taking things personally, stop making unhealthy assumptions about others, learn the power of forgiveness, the power of non-violent communication, and the power of love.

Allow the Holy Spirit to direct ALL areas of your life so that you do not have to be without wisdom or without direction.

Pastor Paul and Lydia

Acknowledgements
Pastors Paul and Lydia Neshangwe,
Kuda Musanhu,
Liffy Gorton,
Dr Chakonda,
Fiona Botes,
Iris Shiripinda,
Rob van Steensel,
Wietske Mushonga

all contributed to the production of this newsletter.



Growing Into Leadership:

A Journey of Purpose and Transformation

Over the past few weeks, we as young adults have had the privilege of participating in a 7-week leadership skills training program aimed at equipping us to become impactful leaders in our communities, workplaces, families, and personal lives. The journey so far has been insightful, challenging, and deeply transformative.

The topics covered have laid a strong foundation for both personal and relational growth. One of the first areas explored was attitude — understanding how our mindset shapes our decisions, relationships, and future. We learned that leadership begins from within, and a positive, growth-oriented attitude can influence not only our own success but also the people around us.



Another important focus has been personal growth. Through self-reflection and meaningful discussions, participants have been encouraged to identify their strengths, areas for improvement, values, and purpose. We have come to appreciate that effective leadership is not about perfection, but about continuous learning, discipline, and the willingness to grow.

The training also emphasized the importance of relationships in leadership. We explored how communication, empathy, respect, and accountability build healthy and meaningful connections. Strong leaders understand that success is rarely achieved alone; it is nurtured through collaboration and genuine relationships with others.

One particularly impactful session centered on “My Most Important Relationships.” This topic challenged us to evaluate the quality of our relationships with ourselves, family members, friends, mentors, and even with God. Participants reflected on how these relationships influence emotional well-being, decision-making, and leadership effectiveness. Many walked away inspired to strengthen broken connections and become more intentional in how they relate to others.

As the program continues, excitement and anticipation remain high for the lessons still to come. Beyond leadership skills, this training is shaping character, confidence, emotional intelligence, and vision among young adults. It is creating a generation that is not only prepared to lead others but also committed to leading themselves well.

The journey continues — and with every session, we are growing into leaders of integrity, purpose, and positive influence.



A Lesson from Joshua

I was reading the book of Joshua the other day and came across a scene which I found intriguing, so I thought I would share what I found out about it from commentaries.

The scene is where Joshua and the men of Israel are about to take Jericho (Joshua 5:13-15). Joshua comes across a man with a drawn sword in his hand, so approaches him to ask whose side he is on. (That seemed very brave to me. If I didn't know if an armed man in front of me was a friend or an enemy, I would not approach him!) Anyway, the answer was not what I expected. I expected the man to say he was on Joshua's side. Instead, he said: "Neither, but as the commander of the Lord, I have now come".

So, what does that mean? Isn't God on Israel's side just as they're about to embark on a battle? And, by extension, is He not on our side, either? What I have found out is that this is the wrong question. God is Who He is. He isn't on anyone's side – not the Baptists, not the Catholics, not this political party or that. He is there for us, always. The right question is: whose side are we on? Are we on God's side, ready to depend on Him for the battles we face and to trust Him for the outcome, or are we on another side, living for ourselves and not being a part of His plans? We need to be on God's side!



—Let's—
GROW
together

Liffy Gorton

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come"

Girls' Brigade camp

Ndola Zambia

20th - 26th April 2026

I had the privilege of taking Talent Chigonde to the national camp in Zambia they invited Zimbabwe and Malawi to their national camp. The theme for this year was “walk in obedience” sub theme “lead”.

From Zimbabwe 2 senior officers Captain Sharon Muronda 3rd Harare Company and Captain Fiona Botes 1st Mutare Company accompanied 5 young ladies/junior officers Shirley Bingura, Chido Mukawu, Hope Kamflomi, Mazvitaishie Chivayo, and Tariro Chigonde 1st Mutare Company.

We started off at 2pm on the 19th April and besides having a breakdown we had an enjoyable trip and the girls managed to rehearse their item for the night with the King once we arrived in Lusaka on the 20th we were welcomed by commissioner Yasa and other officers who took us to St Pauls Church where we waited to connect with a company from Chipata. We then left for camp and arrived around 10:30/11pm, once we were given our respected rooms we then rested from our trip.



On the 21st the official day of camp we all got ready for the official ceremony a number of girls paraded through town and some including our Zimbabwe girls did a traditional dance for our guests the government minister of the Copperbelt Mr Elisha Matambo and the national Chaplain Reverend Alick Banda who came to officially open the camp.

We had morning and evening devotions done by our national Chaplain and other company Chaplains, we also had inspirational speakers namely Lady Norena, Ms Chanda Chibuta, Lady Nomsa Shu Nyati, as well as officers from the Girls' Brigade the talks were on IDENTITY, CHARACTER & DISCIPLINE, LEADERSHIP INFLUENCE, SKILLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY & PURITY & BOUNDARIES AS INDEPENDENT YOUNG LADIES.

The Girls' enjoyed Zumba sessions each morning plus devotions, each evening we were told which colour t-shirt we were wearing the next day the colours we wore were RED, BLUE, WHITE, YELLOW OR OUR OFFICIAL UNIFORM. We were given a camp t-shirt which most of us wore on our way home they were in our 4 square colours.

On the Thursday many of the campers were sick but by Gods grace they were healed. We thank the Lord for giving the Zimbabweans the opportunity to attend the camp a great time was had by all and we all made new friends.

Thank you all for your prayers for our trip, we also plan to travel to some schools in Mutare and Rusape and am praying for the finances for our transport to be able to promote the Boys' & Girls Brigade.

Miss Fiona L Botes Captain of 1st Mutare Company



The Zimbabwean team 'the Parents & Daughters' L-R Captain Sharon, Tariro Chigonde, Mazvitaishie Chivayo, Hope Kamflomi, Chido Mukawu & Shirley Bingura
"the dorms in the background"



Captain Fiona being part of the closing ceremony

The Girls Brigade of Zambia



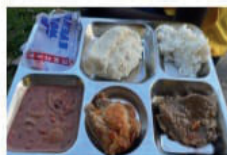
Zimbabwe, Malawi & Zambia were involved in a traditional dance for the opening ceremony



The Mutare team heading to Harare to meet the rest of the Zimbabwean team



In our official uniform on the opening day of camp the 3rd from right is our Zambian friend



What our girls were served



Gill's breakfast

The Ladies breakfast was a great success. The teamwork among the ladies was quite biblical! All working for the God's children!

Each lady had to pay \$4 towards the breakfast and others were even kind enough to donate some extra foods like sausages, beans, pancakes, watermelons and pawpaws.

As early as 6am some ladies were at the church to prepare the fresh breakfast.

The breakfast was opened up with a prayer. There were some few men. After breakfast Hillary Chakonda gave a talk on family relations. There were a lot of discussions and sharing of experiences. The environment was very safe. People shared a lot of personal things. The family of Christ-Our Church Family!

Hillary had some questions that encouraged self probing and looking into one's past. She then shared how as Christians we can deal with our past, but more so how with Christ we can face today and tomorrow.



What a lovely day it was!

The Family Institution and the Gathering Storms of the Modern World

A Reflection for the People of the Church

There is a picture most of us have seen at some point along the roadside — a car tilted at an awkward, helpless angle, one wheel lying flat on the ground beside it, unable to move an inch despite being otherwise perfectly intact. The engine is there. The fuel is there. The seats are filled. But without that one wheel securely in place, the whole vehicle is going nowhere. It is a picture of arrested potential — of something designed for motion, reduced to stillness by a single missing piece.

That image, dear reader, is one of the most honest pictures of what is happening to the family in the modern world.

The Family as a Motor Car

Consider for a moment that the family is like a well-built motor car. Every part has been designed with a purpose. Every component contributes to the whole. When all parts are in place and functioning — the car moves, it carries its passengers, it reaches its destination.

Part of the Car – the Family Equivalent

<i>The Engine</i>	Parents — the driving force that powers the whole family
<i>The Wheels</i>	Children — carrying the family forward into the future
<i>The Steering</i>	
<i>Wheel</i>	Godly leadership and moral direction
<i>The Fuel</i>	Love, communication and mutual sacrifice
<i>The Brakes</i>	Boundaries, discipline and wisdom
<i>The Body</i>	
<i>& Frame</i>	The home — the structure protecting all within



When the Wheel Is Removed

When a wheel is removed from a car and left lying on the ground, something immediately becomes visible to any observer — the car cannot function as it was designed. It tilts. It is unstable. It goes nowhere. Other parts are put under strain they were never meant to bear. Progress stops entirely.

This is precisely what happens when a family loses one of its essential members, roles or functions. When a father is absent — physically, emotionally or spiritually — the family tilts. When a mother is overwhelmed and unsupported, the family strains. When children are disconnected from love, authority and purpose, the vehicle of family life grinds to a halt regardless of how much material provision surrounds it.

The family, like the car, needs every part in its proper place to move forward. And in the modern world, the forces conspiring to remove those parts — one by one — have never been more numerous, more aggressive or more sophisticated.

The family is not one institution among many. It is the root institution — the oldest, most universal and most fundamental structure in all of human civilization. It predates governments, schools, economies and even organized religion as we know it. Every society ever built has rested upon some form of family as its foundation. Yet today, that foundation is being shaken as never before. Let us examine, with honesty and pastoral concern, the forces that are pulling at the wheels of the modern family.

Compiled by Dr Chakonda for church magazine.

To be continued in our next newsletter

Oxtail Stew



Ingredients

- 1 kg of Oxtail
(Choose one that does not have too much fat around the meat)
- 2 onions roughly chopped
- 2 Tomatoes cut into quarters
(or 2 tablespoons tomato paste)
- 3 medium potatoes peeled and cut into quarters
- 2–3 medium carrots cut into chunks
- 350 ml of beef stock
- Salt
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 teaspoon fine black pepper
- 1 tablespoon dried Origanum
- 3 cloves of garlic roughly diced
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 clove
- Cooking oil



Instructions

Heat a heavy pot on medium-high heat. Season the meat with sugar, salt, and pepper then add some oil and brown the meat in batches. (Make sure the meat is nicely browned for lots of flavor.)

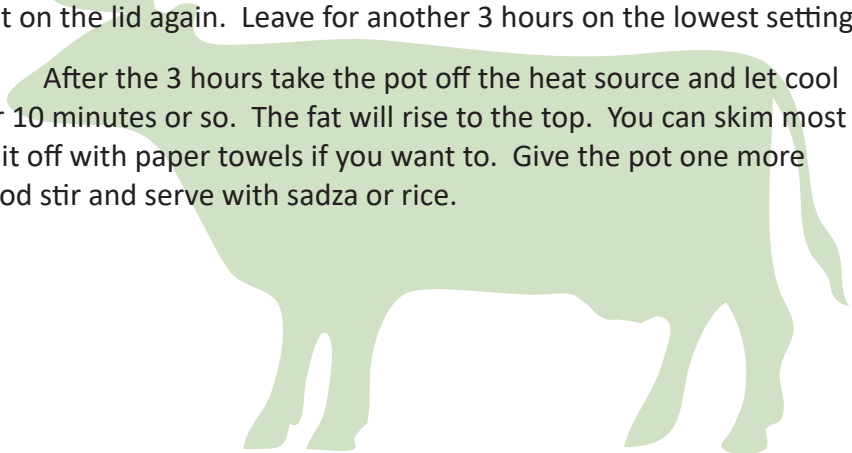
Then take the meat out and add the onions and garlic and bay leaves. Gently fry them for 5 minutes or so until they are nice and fragrant.

Put in the beef stock. Add the browned meat back on top of the onions. Add the tomatoes, origanum, Nutmeg, and the clove. And then put on the lid.

Turn your heat source to its lowest setting and leave for 3 hours. (You should just see a little puff of steam escaping every now and then. Also if you listen to it it should gently bubble away) You can open the pot after 2 hours just to make sure there is enough liquid inside. If it looks a bit dry add a little bit of water.

After 3 hours add the potatoes and the carrots. If there is not enough liquid add a little bit of water. Give the pot one good mix and put on the lid again. Leave for another 3 hours on the lowest setting.

After the 3 hours take the pot off the heat source and let cool for 10 minutes or so. The fat will rise to the top. You can skim most of it off with paper towels if you want to. Give the pot one more good stir and serve with sadza or rice.



Pentecost

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 A A M C I M L A F S M E B N G R O L U W Q D M S

Self Control
 Pentecost
 Tongues
 Power
 Peace

Faithfulness
 Goodness
 Preach
 Water
 Gift

Holy Spirit
 Patience
 Jesus
 Helps
 Fire

Gentleness
 Kindness
 Fifty
 Teach
 Joy



List of Ministries

MINISTERS:

REVs PAUL AND LYDIA NESHANGWE

Email: paneshangwe@gmail.com, lydianeshangwe@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 0717 654008, 0782 964362

CHURCH OFFICE:

Mon – Fri 8am – 12:30pm

Tel: 02020 60628, 0717 459312

Email: mupresby@gmail.com

SESSION CLERK:

MARIE SACCONI

CARETAKER:

GODFREY MAGODHLO

Tel: 0772844273

CHURCH SECRETARY:

NORAH MACHIRI

SERVICES:

Sunday: English Service 9 am, Shona Service 11 am

Communion Service and 'Handful of Rice' - 1st Sunday of the month

Kids Church - Sunday 9 am

BIBLE STUDIES:

Ladies Bible Study

Mon 10-11am, Jenny Paterson, Cntct Wietske Mushonga or Jenny

Homegroup men&women

Mon 5.30-6.30pm, Liffy Gorton, Contact Gavin&Sue Young

Bible Study

Tue 2-3pm, Liffy Gorton

Alpha Course

Tue 6pm, Simon & Katie Bowen

Homegroup

Wed 6.30pm, Mark and Jenny Paterson

Homegroup men&women

Wed 6-7pm, Albert Masvongo and Colin Brandt

Ladies Bible Study

Every 2nd Thu, 10-12am, Marie Sacconi

CHURCH MINISTRIES:

- **CALLED 2 CARE (Skills Training Outreach)** Every Wed and Thu cntct Rev Lydia
 - **GILLs (Growing In Love Ladies)** Last Sat of the Month 9am cntct Jean Brandt
 - **FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN** Every 2nd Sun after Church cntct Esther Mususa
 - **MEN'S MINISTRY** Every Sat, 7am - Colin Brandt
 - **BOYS' & GIRLS' BRIGADES** Every Sat at the church, 2pm - Fiona Botes
 - **YOUTH MINISTRY** Every other Sat, at the church, 12pm
- Leeroy Mashavave, Nicole Machigere
 - **MUSIC MINISTRY** Every Fri 4.30pm cntct Josphat Mususa
 - **YOUNG ADULTS** Every Sun 12 pm Kuda Musanu & Simba Mangore
 - **DECO TEAM** Contact Hlupe Kandiero or Ann Ruthenburg
 - **WISMOWS** Once a month in various venues - Norah Machiri
-

CHURCH BANKING DETAILS: STANBIC BANK

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