



QUARTERLY CONNECT



THE VINE & THE BRANCHES

STAY ROOTED - BE FRUITFUL

— Growing Deeper —

RECENT SERMON SERIES

“More than stone - God’s Glorious House” - 3 talks in Haggai by Scott Tubman.

“Way to Grow” - 3 talks in Colossians 1 by Mervyn Eloff.

“There and not silent” - 3 talks in Psalm 19 by Mervyn Eloff

All our talks are available on our website and our YouTube channel.

RECTOR’S REFLECTION

Brothers and Sisters,

Can you believe that term one is almost behind us? We have had a busy start as we launched our focus for the year, “Growing Deeper”. As you look back on our time together so far, what has been your growing deeper story? Growth can be slow, but progress is what counts. Having just finished writing the final study for our growth groups, I was drawn back to Paul’s purpose statement in Ch 5:23-24. He frames it as a prayer, confident that it is God who sanctifies them, and because God never breaks a promise, they can be sure he will do it.

Sanctification is the ongoing change that comes through the Holy Spirit as we seek to walk with Jesus in all things. It is also a synonym for “growing deeper”.

The final words of Paul in 1 Thessalonians give us all the confidence we need to continue our growing deeper journey. God is the one who calls us, and keeps us, until the coming of Jesus. He is committed to our sanctification, and he will do it. Read those last four words again: He will do it. If progress has been slow, or if you are feeling discouraged, take heart in these words. God is with you and is still at work.

I've witnessed so many examples of people on their growing deeper journey this term. Discovering Christianity has again proved popular, and it has been wonderful to meet some new faces and see people having “ah ha” moments in rediscovering Jesus. The GWC Explore course has also begun, with Gareth leading a group of 20 people through their first module. In both these courses people are growing deeper as they let the word of Christ dwell in them richly.

We have launched new growth groups, and some existing groups have multiplied. I was urging our team leaders and group leaders to consider these new opportunities, but was surprised how quickly they responded! The willingness to try something new is evidence to me that people are taking the 2024 challenge seriously.

This year, Ashley Hector embarks on his final year of study at GWC. Let me take this opportunity to also offer our belated congratulations to him and Zukiswa for their wedding in December! We see our investment in this kind of training as another way of providing deeper growth for the future of God's church. I also spent some time recently with the two curates at Christ Church Khayelitsha. I was encouraged to see their enthusiasm and hard work at our partner church. Redpost, of course, is well underway for the year too. Cameron and his team have seen many new students join them after O week, we keep praying for their growth as well.

I hope this news encourages you. But please remember, the small moments of obedience and the daily commitment to faithfulness is just as wonderful as any of the examples I've mentioned. So keep going, and keep growing. If you get stuck, ask for help. And know that there are many others who will be blessed by your help too.

“For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.” 1 Thess 3:8

Yours in His Service

Scott Tubman
Associate Rector



FINANCE UPDATE

As we look back at how this year has started for us financially, we are encouraged that our normal regular EFT giving is still sustaining more or less at the levels from the end of last year (Q4 2023). Both the number of EFT's and Average EFT value per month has remained on par and for this we are very thankful. This reflects a new base in regular giving, which has increased by 27% relative to the same time last year!

Our monthly donations have dipped since the end of last year, but this is expected around this time of the year. We continue to encourage those who are able to give above and beyond their normal giving as when the Lord allows for it.

The below table shows some of our key financial metrics

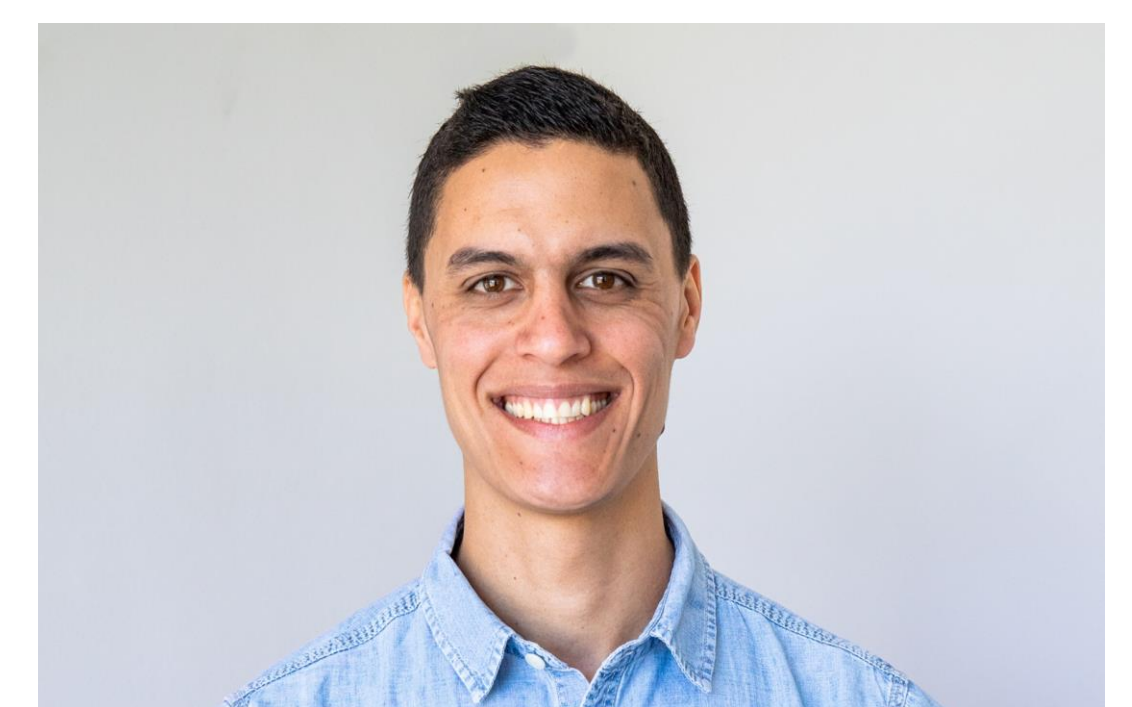
Per Month	Q4 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024
Normal Regular Giving (EFT's, Cash, Scapscan)	966 647	972 092	931 971
Monthly Donations and Other	207 999	166 190	82 457
Expenses	-1 137 621	-1 202 497	-1 234 472
Surplus/Defecit	37 025	-64 214	-220 044

No. EFT's per month	472	426	446
Average EFT Value (R)	1 842	1 965	1 965

As Gareth mentioned in his video update a few weeks ago, we have incurred some high expenses for the first two months of the year which have been largely driven by some annual maintenance and once-off property work. Some of these expenses include:

- Auditorium roof maintenance which amounted to R132 000.
- Children's Center roof and ceiling waterproofing which amounted to R25 000.
- As part of keeping our technology up to date we had to replace a few laptops, and in addition to this we had two devices stolen, due to a break in, and that resulted in additional security upgrades as well. This amounted to an additional R40 000.
- Every two years we have to renew all our police clearance certificates for not only our staff but all our youth and children's ministry workers and volunteers. This is to ensure the ongoing safety of the children in our congregation. This amounts to about R15 000.

Kyle Fourie
Church Treasurer



MINISTRY FOCUS

New ministry startup

BIKERS WITH A BIBLE

The *Bikers with a Bible*, the new Motorcycle Ministry at St. James, has been a vibrant addition to our church community. As passionate motorcyclists, we gather on the Second Sunday of every month to head out on breathtaking rides, share camaraderie, and grow in our faith.

The wind in our hair, the hum of engines, and the open road create an atmosphere of freedom and adventure. But beyond the thrill of the ride, it's the fellowship that truly sets us apart. Each ride is unique and brings together a different and diverse group of individuals, people who might never have crossed paths otherwise. Our large church can sometimes feel overwhelming, but this motorcycle ministry bridges those gaps. We've witnessed friendships grow between riders of all ages, backgrounds and bikes. Whether cruising on a Harley, or racing on a Sportbike it's our love for motorcycles that brings us together, but it's our shared love for Christ that unites us.

This ministry's impact extends beyond the asphalt. As we twist through winding roads, we also share stories of faith, struggles, and victories. Lives are touched, hearts are encouraged, and bonds are forged. Our monthly rides are more than just outings, they're great moments of connection and fellowship.

As we continue riding we anticipate even greater growth. Our ministry isn't just about motorcycles, it's about growing our faith, together. So, whether we're revving engines or bowing heads in prayer, we ride together, bound by a common love for bikes and, most importantly, for Christ.

May the road ahead be filled with joy and fellowship.

Stay safe and enjoy the ride.

Sebastian Machill



MINISTRY FOCUS

Men's Ministry

MEN'S FRIDAY & SATURDAY BREAKFASTS

Growing Deeper With Men's Breakfast

Most of us refer to the St James Men's Partnership as Men's Breakfast, and that would largely be correct. What we aim to achieve is enshrined in our by-line: "Encouraging men to live for Christ". This year has been more of the same and we achieve this by doing largely the same thing, namely meeting on a regular basis as a group of men to talk to one another and to read God's Word together, but first we eat!

In the recent Home Group Study in 1 Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul calls on his readers to stay alert, to live in the light and to protect themselves with Faith, Love and Hope. By sticking to this pattern he tells them that they encourage and build one another up (1 Thes 5: 1-11). The short talks from the Bible at our events reminds us of the things that we believe and how we should be living that out (Faith), meeting with the men twice a month builds bonds with fellow Christian men that you would otherwise never make (Love) and so what about hope? Being held firm in what you believe from God's Word alongside brothers who love you – even when your world may be crumbling around you – gives a Hope that is certain, that the Lord's promises have always come true and will be true for us on that day too.

We meet on every first Saturday and every third Friday of the month. If you have never joined us before, consider doing so – we'd be thrilled to help you grow deeper as we encourage you to live for Christ too.

Gerald Sutherland



EASTER FROM DEATH TO LIFE

MARCH

School holidays 21 March – 2 April

Sun 24: Palm Sunday

Easter week begins with the start of a new series "From Death to Life" at both the 8am and 10am services.

Tues 26: Kids Morning Mini Easter Egg Hunt

This new event is for kids 5 and younger who live in our Kenilworth neighbourhood and will run from 10am till 11.30am.

Wed 27: Easter Celebration

Spend the time in song and hear from God's word. Our guest speaker is Bishop Glenn Lyons. Coffee and tea available from 7pm and event starts at 7.30pm in the Auditorium

Fri 29: Good Friday

Join us at the 8am or 10am, both will be communion services

On Good Friday we have a tradition of bringing buttered hotcross buns to share at the end of each service. Drop off in the DG Mills kitchen before services.)

Sun 31 : Easter Sunday

Join us at 8am or 10am Services as we celebrate our risen Lord together.

Coffee & tea served in the DG Mills after both services.

WHAT'S COMING IN TERM 2

APRIL

Wed 3: **Growth Groups** will have their first study for term, starting this week.

Sat 6: **Saturday Men's Breakfasts** start up again 2nd Term at 7.30am in the DG Mills. **Kids Ministry Leaders Social** at 10am in the DG Mills Hall

Sun 7: New Sermon Series begins at 8am & 10am services. **Welcome & Info Tea (Newcomers)** at 9am & 11.20am in the Chapel.

Tues 9: **Ladies Tuesday Coffee Morning** term begins at 10am in DG Mills and **Discovering Christianity** starts and runs over 5 weeks at 7pm - 8pm in the Studio.

Fri 12: **PODClub** first meeting of term 2 at 6pm - 7.30pm, upstairs in the Meeting Room

Sat 13: **Challengers** meeting at 2pm in the DG Mills

Sun 14: **Partnership Classes** start at 11.30am in the Meeting Room (4 weeks) , **Bikers with Bibles** meetup at 11.30am today & **Sunday Hikers** will start @1pm.

Fri 19: **Friday Men's Breakfasts** at 6.30am in the DG Mills.

MAY

Wednesday 1: Public Holiday

Fri 3: **PODClub** at 6pm upstairs in the Meeting Room

Sat 4: **Saturday Men's Breakfasts** at 7.30am in the DG Mills.

Thurs 9: **Ascension Day Services** at **12.30pm & 7.30pm**

Fri 10 – Sun 12: Kids Camp @ Rocklands

Thur 16: **Women-to-Women Connect** Event at 7pm in the DG Mills

Fri 17: Friday Men's Breakfasts at 6.30am in the DG Mills.

Wed 29: Public Holiday – General Election Voting Day

Fri 31: **Cutting Edge Youth Rally** at 7pm

WHAT'S COMING (continued)

JUNE

Sat 1: **Saturday Men's Breakfasts** at 7.30am in the DG Mills.

Sat 8: Challengers meeting at 2pm in the DG Mills.

Sun 9: **All Age service** at 10am in the Auditorium.

Wed 12: **Ed Drew Parent Workshop** @ St Stephens. **Growth Groups REGroup** at 7.30pm in the DG Mills.

School holidays 17 June – 8 July

Sat 15: **Revive Kids & Youth Ministry Workshop** at 9am – 3pm in DG Mills.

Mon 17: [Public Holiday](#)

Tues 25 - Fri 28: **Kids Holiday Club**



STAY CONNECTED @ ST JAMES



ST JAMES WHATSAPP GROUPS

Our Whatsapp groups are essential to stay in touch on a regular basis. We have a number of groups which send out specific information about services and relevant church notices. These groups are divided into the following categories:

Youth
Young Adults
Adults

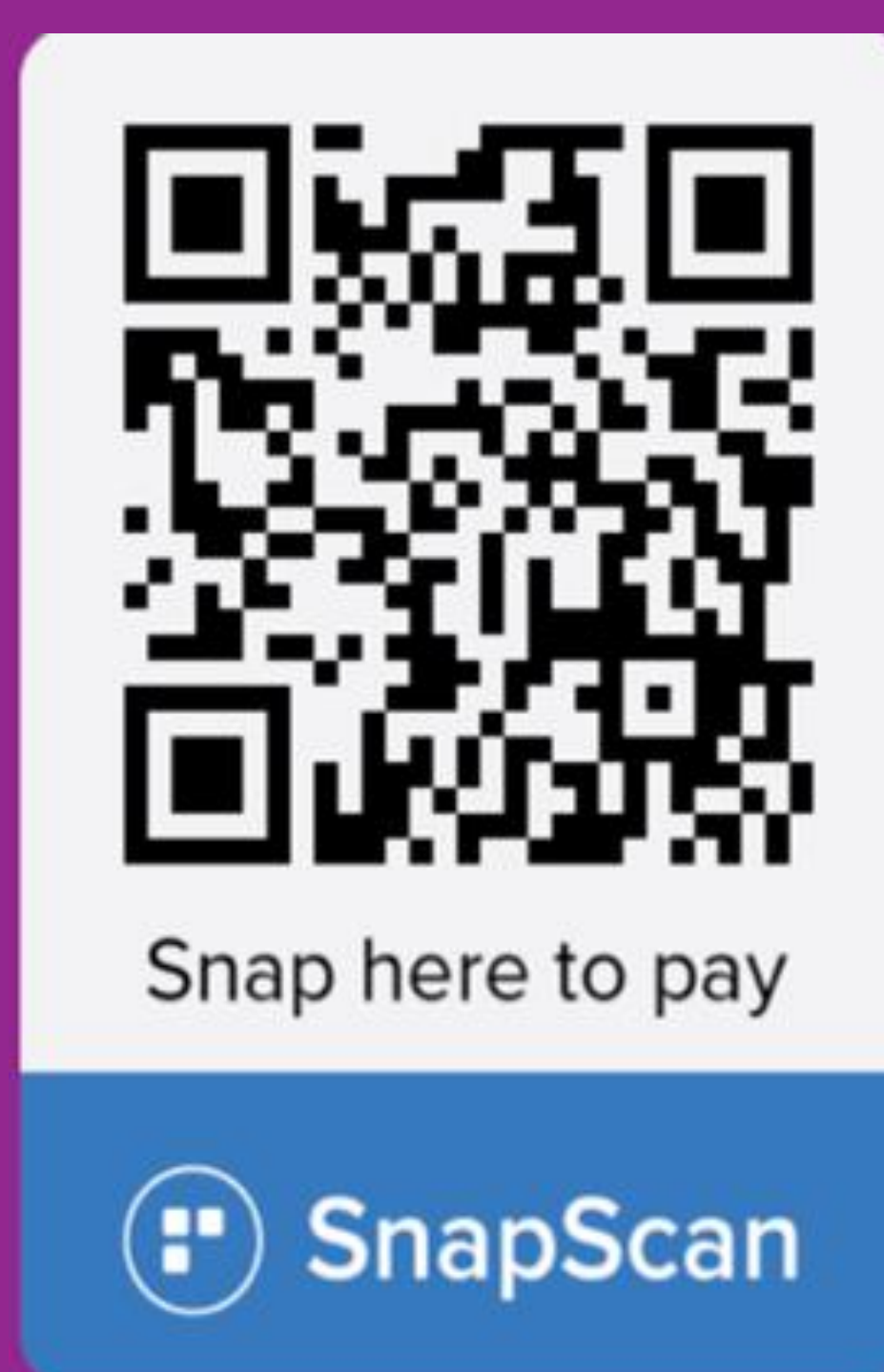
If you are not part of one of these groups, you can join via a requested link. (Due to the POPI Act we do not add names without your consent/request). Please get in touch with one of our staff team if you would like to join one of these groups.

Anything else?

For all other information contact the Church Office
Tel: 021 671 7070
Email: info@stjames.org.za

THANK YOU FOR ONGOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY TO US AS A LOCAL CHURCH.

We are working harder than ever to see God's Kingdom grow and we appreciate your investment in the gospel with us.



BANKING DETAILS

St James Church
Acc No. 072921137
Standard Bank
Branch: 02620919



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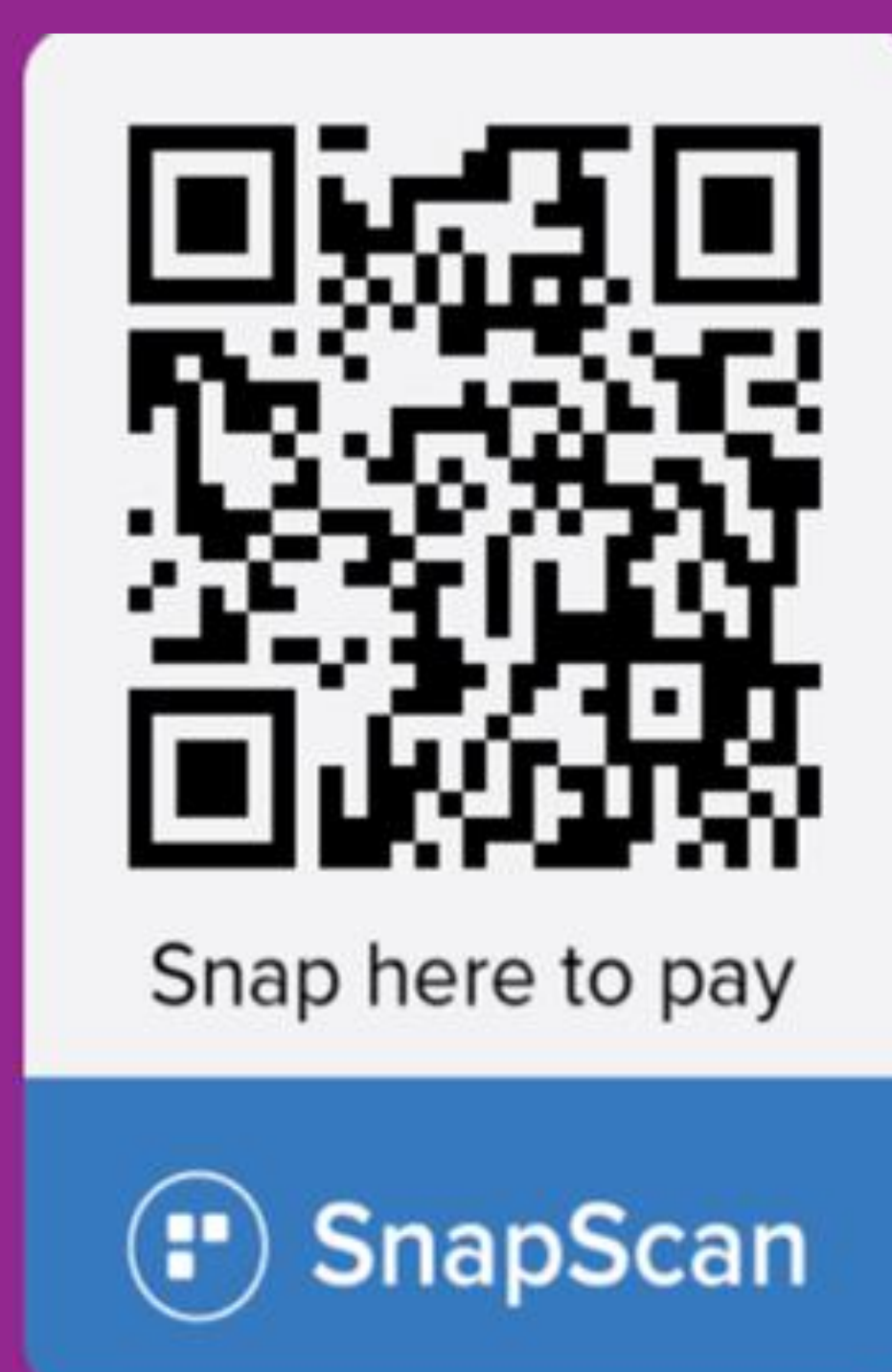
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