Glynn Alard's Pilgrimage

# RONDEBOSCH UNITED CHURCH
## Creating Circles of Dignity

## RUC NEWSLETTER
Cape Town, Sunday 15 March 2026

*Facing Our History & Present Realities*

"We cannot go back. But we can reclaim."
*Glynn Alard*

Please remember our Bring & Share Brunch with our Canadian guests after the service. They are on a "Justice and Joy" educational tour under the leadership of Bob Park (see below for more context).

Our guests will lead us in a four direction prayer. Cape Town's Thulani Mqadinyane will introduce us to drumming as a cultural practice. And the conversation between Glynn Alard and Robert in the service will set the tone for small group discussions with our guests in the church hall.

The event will end at 12pm.

## Sunday Service
9.30am to 10.45am

with Holy Circus (Sunday School)

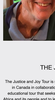
**Please diarise:**

Sunday 22 March at 11am
AGM of RUC and Samaritan Partners Fund Association
Please speak to the minister if you would like
to nominate a descrimintor for election.

Sunday 29 March at 11am
Bring and Share Lunch at RUC with Canadian Students
(hosted by RUC families from 22 to 29 March)

Please click below for last week's online sermon.

In Memory of Her



## Our Sincere Condolences

to Lyn Holness and her family
on the passing of her husband Kenny.

Please hold the family in your prayers.

## THE JUSTICE AND JOY TOUR

The Justice and Joy Tour is sponsored by Justice Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in collaboration with the Wahnond Community in South Africa. It is an educational tour that seeks to expose participants to the beauty and wonder of South Africa and its people and to learn more about its history and the struggle for justice for all. There is a particular focus on the impact of Colonialism and Apartheid on Indigenous and Black people, land, farming and the environment. Participants will be aware that we live in a world that is changed to face our own history and current realities, particularly in the relationship with Indigenous Peoples. We seek to share in learning and discerning where we are being called today.

Leadership is provided by Rev. Bob Park who has acquired in southern Africa over decades of experience and relationships. Bob is a Ph.D. candidate in Theological Studies doctoral studies at the University of Cape Town. He has also provided leadership in the PCC, including being Co-Convenor of Rainbow Communion and being elected Moderator of the General Assembly in 2002. Participants come from different locations and play a variety of roles within the Church. Many have participated in educational experiences with Indigenous Peoples in Canada. We are delighted to be with you, particularly here at Rondebosch United Church and look forward to our journey together.

## Glynn's Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage was in honour of my great grandmother and the beads I made for the journey, tipped with lion claws.

I had such mixed feelings just outside the locked gate of the Bethany Mission Station.

The monotone, monotonous, monstrously vast grassy plains dwarfed me. My ambivalence made real by the exclusion of the gate, yet the wonder of gazing - from a distance - the little mission which permanently transformed the destinies of indigenous peoples throughout the world.

I knew that this was the region of origin of my matrilineal ancestors. I know that they were all Lutheran, associated with the Berlin Missionary Society, both in the Mediterranean and Cape Town. I know that my great, great, great, Oma, Sara, was born at the Bethany mission in South Africa, and it was specifically to convert and minister to the Korana khoekhoe people. Because of the confluence of region and faith, I now know that I am a descendant of the Korana. This blood is within me. A part of me comes from here.

I feel glad that the many missions in South Africa allowed indigenous people to keep a tiny sliver of their land, albeit only a tiny sliver.

I am a Protestant Christian, with increasingly symmetric indigenous beliefs. My Christianity is a massive part of my identity - my core, my culture, my compass. So this mission connection me.

BUT it is here that identity changed. It is here, and in many places like this, where we lost our names, our language, our way of understanding the universe, our world view. It is here that my Korana ancestors came to grips with the end of their road, and ended up being, just Coloureds. Being Coloured is not a name. It is not a thing to be proud of. It is only a sliver of me. It is an small.

And it is here where it happened.

Here, I wore my beads, here I covered my flesh with the deepest brown, here my bare feet touched the ground, and I reclaimed my spirit and name. Here I burned outraged, and recognised that this was never only a mission station. This was a portal from one world to the next. From Korana to Coloured. From African to Christian. From Kora to Afrikaans.

We cannot go back. But we can reclaim.

And even though I could not enter, I could transport. And enveloped by the fragrant smoke, I called out:

'Sisumpan'

'ek hapon'

And it happened here.

## ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2025

Please click below to access annual reports for the Rondebosch United Church and the Samaritan Partners Fund.

Annual Reports

Paul Kee, "Introducing the Miracle"

## Congratulations to Andrea Harrison
### on an exciting new project!

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

Do you want to connect with your creative spirit? Do you want to learn how writing skills and write more regularly? Three Muses Writing Service invites you to unleash your creativity and hone your writing skills in either of our upcoming 8-week courses – open to everyone, first-time writers welcome! Each course offers a unique vision to our *Introduction to Creative Writing* course, and learn fundamental writing techniques while nourishing your creative process.

Reconnect with the Earth through language in *Rewilding the Page: A Nature Writing Course*. Discover nature writing as a spiritual practice, nourish your creativity, and explore ecological literatures in your own writing.

Lastly, join us for a 2-hour workshop on reawakening your creativity at Rondebosch Library on Wednesday, 18th March, 2-4pm or 4-6pm.

For more information, visit www.threemuses.co.za or contact Andrea at andy@threemuses.co.za or 071 197 9733.

## Rewilding the Page
### A Nature Writing Course

Let the natural world inspire your creative spirit

Engage with great nature writers and explore ecological themes

Write about the places that you love

**Open to everyone – first-time writers welcome.**

This April, join our 8-week creative writing course.
Registration closes 10 April. Places limited. Buy now for 25% OFF.

www.threemuses.co.za | tel: 071 197 9733 | andy@threemuses.co.za

## Sermon Discussion Group

Please join us if you enjoy being in conversation with others about Sunday's sermon.
Everyone brings their own questions, interests, and stories to the discussion.
And together we hope to make meaningful connections to our daily lives.

Every second Tuesday of the month at someone's home.
*Facilitated by Beryl Botman*

Every third Sunday of the month we gather in the upstairs room of our church hall.
*Facilitated by Barbara Centner-Harris.*

If you wish to join, please contact Beryl at beryl.botman@1Grapel.com

## Yoga Classes at RUC
Mondays at 6:30pm in the Church Hall.

Please contact Erika, if you would like to join: tencses.e@gmail.com

Graphic Prints by Peter Clarke



HEAR HOLD LOVE ENFOLD

The Cooke Family, Jennifer Pearlewell, Walter Mulowa, Kenny Holness, Margaret Reid, Roy and Wendy Cheek, Douglas Rae, and Chris Rudseth

Rondebosch Police Station, SmilingOne, Outlers, U-Turn, "Grow Great" Campaign, Masizame Soup Kitchen, and Thembi's Soup Kitchen.

TABLE OF REMEMBRANCE
IN MARCH

1st Jean Scott, 2nd Jonathan McLachlan, 5th Doris Sonneveen, 10th Andrejo Arnagh.

HAPPY RETURNS IN MARCH
Kindly let us know if your birthday is not listed.

2nd Isabella Sleith; 6th Dean Pretorius, Caleb Du Plessis and Huw Vaan; 7th Aristide Aronson, and Jan William (Duane) Sharp; 8th Sharon Stoffels; 9th Ruth Ann Ford; 10th Ethan Ford and Sheila Lowe; 11th Dia Makhanya; 18th John de Gruchy, Joy Wanless, Melissa Oliver, and Samuel Sankoh; 19th Clive Mark, Kate Lubum Pearl, and Timothy Seaman; 20th Nicholas Ford; 21st Ashwin Ford; 22nd Fabian and Bathabile Ramsamy; 23rd Angelique de Koker; 24th Annette Newmarch; 25th Rita Hearn; 26th Jeannie Walker and Nikki Fuller.

## ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH
Please email us, if you would like to add a special anniversary.

15th Lyne and Steuart McLennan; 20th Andrew and Michelle Kendall (2004).

LGBT+ NETWORK AT RUC: INQIRUC
Please go to our website for more information:
https://www.rondebosch-united.org/lgbt-network-at-ruc

WEEKLY DISCUSSION GROUPS ON ZOOM
For more information please go to our website:
https://www.rondebosch-united.org/weekly-bible-studies

MONTHLY LESBIEAN KINER CLOAN-UPS
For more information please go to our website:
https://www.rondebosch-united.org/lesbiean-kiner-clean-up

## RUC CONTACT DETAILS

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Church Minister, Interim Moderator and Pastoral Care: Rev. Robert Kee: robert@rucsa.org or 082 483 9874
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Church Emails and Hall Rentals: Kate Lubum Pearl: kate@rondebosch-united.org
Pledge Scheme Secretary and Database Administration: Marie Sarsam: sarsamsue@yahoo.com
Property Steward: Jacques Pretorius: jacques.mailbox01@gmail.com
Property Committee Convener: Ian Cooke: ian@cooke.co.za
Church Council Secretary: Heidi Segal: heidisegal1@gmail.com
Child Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Sampson: michelle@thesampsons.co.za

BANKING DETAILS

Rondebosch United Church
First National Bank
Branch Rondebosch
Branch No: 251 505
Account No: 501 755 58 119
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Send Text to Pay Using
SnapScan

Auf Social Media Aktiv

Check out our site