

Faith & Finance

Just as we are called to be loving and truthful we are also called to be generous. Just as we seek to grow in love and grow in truth so we should seek to grow in generosity. As you decide to be more generous towards CMM please do not limit your generosity to “Church”, remembering that every time we share what we have to bring LIFE to those who struggle most is honouring the call of Jesus on our life. True generosity always looks for new opportunities. We give not out of obligation, but in hope for all that our gifts can do.

Payments via EFT & SnapScan are encouraged and appreciated.

Details are below and can also be found at: www.cmm.org.za/support-us/

10% of all donations / offertory is tithed.

Banking Details

Account Name: MCSA Central Methodist Mission

FNB 6212 649 3204



Thank you for your joyful and just generosity.

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Annual Society Meeting: Central Methodist Mission

Reflections on the Year 2024



01.12.2024

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Sikawu's Reflection

As I reflect on my first year serving this remarkable congregation, my heart overflows with gratitude and joy. Joining a community so deeply committed to being a prophetic voice and a living sign of God's kingdom has been an honour and a profound blessing.

The leadership team (the Donkeys) has been steadfast in their support and their commitment to serve, the worship team together with the readers and those who volunteer to pray have inspired us to deeper encounters with God, and every member has brought unique gifts to the life of the church. Those who make the tea and wash the cups, the offertory counters, those who prepare holy communion and welcome people at the door and Oscar who keeps the sanctuary clean and Cedric who maintains our properties are all committed to serving God and our community in their own special way. Alessandro makes it possible for us to hear music, prayers and sermons—whether inhouse or via Zoom. Together, we are building a community that reflects the diversity, unity, and love of God's kingdom.

At the heart of the Lord's Prayer is a profound and transformative petition: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). In this my first year at CMM I found this not to be merely a plea but a call to action—a summons to live in ways that reflect God's will and manifest God's kingdom in the here and now. This is in line with the theology that the church is both a sign and an agent of God's kingdom, participating in its unfolding reality through faithful discipleship, justice, and love.

Through prayers, song, and scripture, worship at CMM reminds those attending of God's call to action and sustains our hope in the face of challenges. At CMM we use liturgy as a form of protest and proclamation, offering a counter-narrative to a dark reality marred by conflict, wars, poverty, inequality – marks that do not resemble God's kingdom. In worship, the congregation is reoriented toward God's vision for the world and encouraged to align their lives with God's will and participate in God's transformative work.

With great sadness we also mourn long-standing members of our community who were witnesses of God's love and grace at CMM as well as the wider community and their places of work. Cecily Milward, Terence Parker, Patrick Hewitson and

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the congregation as Society Stewards in 2024.

Yvette, Travis, Rose-Anne and Sophie.

Conclusion

As we look to 2025, our vision remains rooted in being a church open to and for the community. Inspired by the Presiding Bishop's call, we will strive to embody the theme: "Awakening Prophetic Urgency and Agency: Becoming an Alternative Community."

This theme challenges us to reflect God's kingdom values in every aspect of our worship, mission, and ministry. We are called to encourage one another to live as those created in love and called to love, building a community that offers hope, justice, and reconciliation in the face of the world's brokenness.

We will continue to create vibrant, Spirit-filled worship services that inspire and equip us to live out our faith as a Prophetic Alternative Community.

One of the special moments planned for 2025 is our dream to collaborate with the District Six Museum to reflect on the meaning of freedom. This collaboration will honour the history and resilience of those affected by forced removals while inviting all to consider how we live into the freedom Christ offers. Part of this will be a symbolic walk from Buitenkant Street to CMM commemorating the journey toward justice and reconciliation. This act will serve as a reminder of our shared commitment to building a just community where all are welcome and free.

As we prepare for 2025, we invite every member of the congregation to join us on this journey. Let us dream boldly, serve faithfully, and love unconditionally, becoming an alternative community that reflects God's heart and brings hope to the world.

May the Spirit lead us with wisdom and courage as we awaken to God's call and step into the year ahead.

Peace and grace,

Sikawu.

broader community. On the other hand, we must acknowledge that our offerings and tithes have fallen below budgeted expectations this year. This could reflect economic challenges faced by many in our congregation and broader community. While we acknowledge that contributions have fallen below budgeted expectations, we also recognise the resilience, faith, and commitment shown by our church family during these difficult times.

While there have been challenges, we have been able to meet all our expenditures and commitments, which is a testament to God's provision and the faithful stewardship of our resources.

We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed financially, whether through tithes, offerings, or the use of our property. Each contribution, no matter its size, has played a vital role in enabling the church to serve God and the community.

Reflection from Society Stewards



As Society Stewards it has been such a privilege to welcome the Makubalo family to CMM (and the Table Bay Circuit) as well as working with Sikawu this year answering God's call on our lives in real ways. We have supported one another and, in this way, also supported the congregation with the transition.

The activities across the Circuit have been encouraging and this has prompted not only growth at CMM but also growth throughout

the Table Bay Circuit. One such event was the Rise and Thrive Women's Day event which brought the ladies of the Circuit together for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. So many ladies left this event saying can we please do this regularly.

In 2025 we would like to prioritise ways and means to include children and youth in ministry. To echo Sikawu's invitation we also extend an invitation to you to share your gifts, volunteer your services and help grow our community to best serve the people of God and to live out our mission:

Central Methodist Mission is a city church which is committed to Jesus Christ. We have been called out of division into community and seek to bring wholeness to each other and the world.

Mavis Slingers (who lived for 100 years and eight months!) will all be remembered for the gifts they were in our community.

As I look ahead, I am filled with excitement for what God has in store. Together, we will continue to deepen our commitment to being a prophetic community and a visible sign of God's reign on earth. I pray that we will remain faithful in our calling, bold in our witness, and steadfast in our love for one another and the world.

Thank you for welcoming us (Nathi, Khoza and Lethu) with such warmth and grace. Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your shared commitment to the work of the kingdom. It has been a privilege to serve as your minister this past year, and I look forward to journeying with you in faith, hope, and love for the year to come.

Some Highlights of the Year 2024

Child Protection Week

During Child Protection Week, CMM was delighted to host a joyful and meaningful gathering of children and teachers from both Stepping Stones and Gateway Children's Centres. This collaborative event brought together young ones and their educators for a day filled with fun, learning, and connection. The event was centred on the vital theme of protecting and nurturing children. Through engaging lessons and interactive activities, the children were equipped with knowledge about their rights and the importance of safety and care in their daily lives. They also expressed



their own ideas around the meaning of wellness and why a Child Protection Week is necessary – all through creative storytelling and art pieces. The children enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends, play together, and celebrate the gift of childhood in a safe and supportive environment. The teachers, too, found the occasion refreshing, as it provided a chance to network, share ideas, and deepen their commitment to

the important work of caring for children.

FAMSA also screened the children for Vitamin A and offered deworming where needed.

We look forward to many more opportunities to come together in support of the next generation, ensuring that every child feels valued, loved, and protected.

Inspiring Holy Week Services with Sister Churches

This year's Holy Week was a profound experience, enriched by our collaboration with sister churches. Together, we reflected on the journey to the Cross and celebrated the joy of resurrection. This shared time was a testament to the strength we find in unity and the deeper connections that our congregations have forged.

Methodist Students Society District 6 Branch

We had the privilege to host the opening service of the D6 Branch of MethSoc. Students from the campuses in Cape Town filled our church in joyous praise and worship. Interaction with and ministry to students provides a unique opportunity to shape future leaders and offer pastoral care to many that come from far and are without resources.



Visitors from Palestine

We were honoured to host visitors from Palestine, who shared stories of their lives and struggles under occupation. Their testimonies reminded us of the importance of standing in solidarity with those seeking peace and justice worldwide. We thank them for the courage to share their experiences and for inspiring us to act as instruments of peace.

Shabbat Service by South African Jews for Palestine

In an act of interfaith solidarity, we hosted a Shabbat service organised by South African Jews for Palestine. This unique and meaningful event opened our hearts and minds, strengthening our commitment to justice, compassion, and understanding across faith traditions.

Thank you to Lauren and the Worship Team

Our worship has been truly blessed this year, thanks to Lauren for sharing her talent so generously. Thanks also goes to Kyle and Thembi who joined Lauren to form a worship team dedicated to leading us in inspiring worship. This team has grown with Felicia, Floyd, Rob, Nathan and Nicole joining in from time to time. Their music and ministry have deepened our worship experience, bringing warmth and sincerity to our services. We are immensely grateful for their contributions.

Gratitude for our Leadership and Secretary

We extend heartfelt thanks to our church leadership team for their guidance and tireless service. Their vision and dedication have kept us strong, focused, and faithful to our mission. We also thank our church secretary for her hard work and commitment, ensuring smooth and effective church operations.

Community Engagement through our Church Building

Our sanctuary has become a hub of peace and service, open to all. Workers from the city find it a welcoming space for prayer, and visitors to Cape Town are drawn to its warmth. Our coffee shop has added a welcoming vibe, becoming a favourite for many. Open Doors volunteers offer a warm hospitality and a jovial interaction with all who enter our doors. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) have been meeting in the Ubuntu room during the week for many years and have become part of the community – another reason to keep our doors open.



FAMSA has also run a successful Wellness Hub at the back of the sanctuary and expanded it to include the much-needed services of a social worker on a Monday. This hub has been a source of access to essential health care and testing services for people in the City, including street-based people, church members and the broader community. It has been a highlight for many and the hope is that it will continue to grow and expand. This service further embodies our mission to serve with compassion and hospitality.

Invitation to Serve

As we look forward to the coming year, we invite all members to consider volunteering and serving within the church. There are many ways to become involved and contribute to our community. Let us continue to grow together in service, faith, and love.

Reflection on Church Annual Finances

As we review our annual finances, it is both encouraging and humbling to see how God has provided for our church's mission and ministry through diverse means.

A significant portion of our income continues to be generated from rentals and the use of our property, reflecting the strategic value of our facilities in serving the