



ST PETERS CHURCH
A ST PETERS CHRISTMAS EVENT FOR WOMEN

Christmas WITH Lilly Million

Join us as we experience Lilly's life story through her music!

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER
7.30pm
ST PETERS CHURCH

Acclaimed South African singer/songwriter

* R50 per person. Refreshments included. Booking essential.

Fellowship Groups
One Life: Enjoy it

Wednesday 21
Fellowship Groups
One Life: Enjoy it

Friday 23
CoolClub 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 1-4
7UP 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 5-7
Hood 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Grade 8-12

Sunday 25
8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm
Family
Carel Pienaar

Book table at morning services

4.30pm Confirmation Series

Monday 26
5.50pm Prayer meeting at church

Tuesday 27
8.00am Hiking: St James Peak. Meet at Vallyland, bring a jacket, strong shoes, water & something for tea. Contact Carole 0812356809 with any questions.

10.00am Stay & Play

Friday 30
CoolClub 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 1-4
7UP 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 5-7
Hood 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Grade 8-12

December 2018

Saturday 1 at 7.30pm
Christmas with Lilly Million

Sunday 2
8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm
Presents
Carel Pienaar

Sunday 2 at 3pm Kid's Carols – For 0 - 6-year old's & their families. Join us for snacks & refreshments after the service

4.30pm Confirmation Series

November 2018

Sunday 4
8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm
One Life: Sacrifice it
Murray Anderson

(Missions prayer meeting between the morning services – will be meeting upstairs on the balcony at 9.15am)

Monday 5
5.50pm Prayer meeting at church

Tuesday 6
10.00am Stay & Play

Wednesday 7
6.00PM
ST PETERS VISION DINNER

Friday 9
CoolClub 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 1-4
7UP 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 5-7
Hood 7.30pm – 9.00pm (Cutting Edge at St Peters)
Grade 8-12

Saturday 10
8.30am Valley Inter-Church Prayer Meeting. Venue: St Peters Church

Sunday 11
8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm
One Life: Share it
Murray Anderson
4.30pm Confirmation Series

Monday 12
5.50pm Prayer meeting at church

Tuesday 13
8.00 am Hiking: Wolfkop Meet at Vallyland, bring a jacket, strong shoes, water & something for tea. Contact Carole 0812356809 with any questions.

10.00am Stay & Play

Fellowship Groups
One Life: Share/Sacrifice it

Wednesday 14
Fellowship Groups
One Life: Share/Sacrifice it

Friday 16
CoolClub 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 1-4
7UP 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 5-7
Hood 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Grade 8-12

Saturday 17
10.00am Craft Group meets in the Children's Centre

Sunday 18
8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm
One Life: Enjoy it
Murray Anderson

4.30pm Confirmation Series

Monday 19
5.50pm Prayer meeting at church

Tuesday 20
10.00am Stay & Play

WHAT DOES HE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GIVING?

As Christians we want our view of giving, money and possessions to be shaped by God's Word and not our increasingly materialistic culture. During his ministry, Jesus Christ taught extensively about these things. He warned clearly about the danger of loving money more than God; he urged his followers to store up eternal treasure in heaven; he lovingly taught about the importance of being generous with what God has given; he commanded his disciples to make the growth of God's Kingdom their priority in life.

So, here are some basic Biblical principles about giving, to keep in mind:

1: GIVE BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL

This is the most important thing: we give in response to what God has given us. Christians are those who have grasped just how generous God was when he sent his Son to die as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. Christians are those who realise that *"though he was rich, yet for [our] sakes he became poor"* (2 Cor 8:9). And so, in response to the immense generosity of their Father God, Christians will in turn be givers. The Bible calls on each Christian to give (2 Cor 9:7).

2: GIVE GENEROUSLY & SACRIFICIALLY

In the Old Testament, God commanded his people to give at least a tenth ('tithe') of all their produce to God, in joyful response to his blessings to them. Much of the tithe went towards supporting the priests and Levites who served them in God's work.

So, how much should "New Testament" Christians give?

The New Testament never stipulates percentages but we suggest a minimum of 10%. After all, can you imagine the disciples (of Jewish background) giving less than their previous tithe after they became Christian? (i.e. After they realised that God had so generously given his only Son to die for them.)

But this 10% should be a starting point from which we then decide how generous we can be, rather than a legalistic figure to enforce. For very low incomes, 10% may be difficult to manage. But many in our church have been abundantly blessed, and could even afford to give a higher percentage.

A good approach is to aim to make your giving sacrificial in some way.

That is, we give beyond that point of comfort. Because God's giving to us was so sacrificial, it makes sense that our giving involves us accepting a personal cost. Our tendency may be to give only if there is something "left over" after we have decided what we want or need. It would be more in line with the Bible's teaching to first consider your giving, even though that may mean a sacrifice of some kind.

Notice how Jesus commends the poor widow (Mark 12:41-44). Her two copper coins represented a far greater sacrifice than what the rich had given. Jesus knew who had sacrificed more.

When we receive new income (a raise; a bonus; a liquidated investment) the Christian's response is not simply: "How can this raise my standard of living?" but

"How can this raise my standard of giving?"

3: GIVE CHEERFULLY & RESPONSIBLY

We read in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that God loves a cheerful giver. According to Paul, the opportunity to give in support of the work of the Kingdom can be considered a grace from God. We can

also give cheerfully knowing that generous, sacrificial giving is often God's way of helping us battle materialism and it leads to us storing up (real!) treasure in heaven.

In some practical advice about a collection for the Jerusalem poor, Paul says: *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made"* (1 Cor 16:2). This tells us that, as Christians, we need to plan ahead responsibly to give. This is an important matter and one which couples and households should discuss, pray through, plan for and act on. That's one of the reasons why, in the fourth term, we'll be asking everyone to make pledges as to their intended giving, over the coming 12 months. It will help us as a church plan our finances more accurately and it will help us all to be more responsible stewards of our own personal finances. Being intentional about giving ahead of time helps you to examine how best to allocate the resources God has entrusted to you.

So: You may have recently become a Christian. You may have joined St Peter's in the last few months and have not yet thought this through. You may have been here for ages and have just "never got around to it". You may think that the amount you can afford to give will make no difference. But the Bible is clear: every Christian should consider the gift of God's Son and, in response, give.

Consider the great example of the impoverished Macedonians, as described by Paul: "Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people." (2 Cor 8:4) What a thought! These Christians pleaded with Paul to give their money away. For them, giving to the gospel cause was a privilege and a way of expressing their partnership in the growth of God's Kingdom.

Murray Anderson



VINTAGE CHRISTMAS
AT ST PETERS

FUN CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- 1st Dec, 7:30pm Christmas with Lilly Million
- 2nd Dec, 3 - 4pm Kids Carols
- 9th Dec, 10:00am St Peter's Nativity Play
- 16th Dec, 6:00pm Community Carols
- 23rd Dec, 6:00pm Classic Carols

CHRISTMAS DAY
All-age Family Services: 8am & 10am

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11