

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 84 ST. JOHN'S TIDE 2019

Australia and New Zealand

no message

Japan

no message

Middle Europe

no message

Central Germany

The past months have been very trying for the communities of Wiesbaden and Frankfurt. In Wiesbaden it had been known since the end of February that a new priest would be sent in the summer due to the retirement of Reglind Köhlcke, however a name had not yet been mentioned. This was due to the fact that despite intensive efforts in the lenker circle no one had yet been found. The priests in the vicinity accompanied this distress with great sympathy. After discussions amongst the Frankfurt colleagues, this led, very surprisingly, to Sabine Layer's readiness to leave Frankfurt and assume responsibility for Wiesbaden. Now the open question remained whether such a radical change in the Frankfurt congregation this year would be justified, as it was also still open whether a priest could be sent to Frankfurt this year! The perception of the grave need in Wiesbaden and the strong solidarity of the congregations in the southern Hessian area led to an affirmation on the following Sunday despite the understandable pain and the uncertain future in the congregation and in the conversation with the congregation. A moving process that testified to the "one" Christian community, the unity of all congregations.

In the meantime, additional help has been found for Frankfurt, at least for one year.

Albrecht Schwenk

Bavaria

Nothing new to report.

Dorothea Humérez

Great Britain-Ireland

Paul Newton's farewell in Edinburgh was held on 2nd June. We made an innovation for this lenker, namely that we marked the end of the sending with a sermon following Paul's final Act of Consecration of Man before the speeches and contributions from the congregation. It made sense to us to mark this moment with the same degree of seriousness which we bring to bear for the introduction of a priest. We wish Paul well in North America and we are looking forward to his continued connection to our region.

We are looking forward to the celebrations around the consecration of the new church in Stroud, which will take place as part of our Annual Meeting from 18th – 20th October this year. When we consecrate an altar picture or new vestments, we imbue the objects themselves with the spiritual power to bless the work that is to be performed with their help. The consecration of a church has a different quality. We do not bless the bricks and mortar; rather, we call on the ele-

mental forces of the four points of the compass, asking them to be at work in this place. The building that we have designed and built with such immense efforts is important as a focal point of forces that converge here from the whole universe.

What will we do after Stroud has been completed? Our first task is to repay the loans that we have taken out in order to complete the building work, which we will do through the sale of two sizeable properties elsewhere in the region. The Edinburgh congregation is hoping to build a chapel, but they plan to finance this by selling one part of their property to pay for the building of a chapel and community space on the other part. We do not have any further plans for major building projects. However, at a recent synod the priests gave themselves the challenge of thinking of what we would do if we received a major legacy after our debts had been paid. One area that we looked at was the buildings that we are using now. Many of our churches and chapels were completed over twenty years ago, and they are showing signs of wear. We also need to make investments in people: we have supported a number of students through their trainings with loans and grants, and our Training Fund is nearly empty. We need to support priests in their continuous professional development, and we have also made a commitment where possible to support priests' children in Waldorf School education.

A group of priests and lay people is meeting to explore issues around gender and sexuality. In another region the first marriage service has been held for someone we were aware had transitioned from one gender to another. Does this make a difference to how we say the words of our Sacrament of Marriage, which makes such a clear distinction between man and woman? What do we mean when we refer to 'man' and 'woman' in that service? And do these questions have a bearing on the question of the blessing service that we have offered gay couples for some time? We are not expecting to find definitive, dogmatic answers. We hope to start an exploration that can draw on current thinking and accounts of experiences, all of which we hope to understand with the help of anthropology.

Tom Ravetz

Japan

no message

Middle Europe

no message

Netherlands and Flanders

Nothing new to report.

Ellis Booi

North-America

As life in the congregations calms down for the summer, life is brewing and bubbling over in the preparation for four children's camps and a youth conference. Until now we had a camp on the East Coast in Maine, in the Midwest in Wisconsin and in the West in California. We are very happy to announce a fourth camp.

Four? Yes, four! Rev. Ann Burfeind is pioneering a children's camp on Vancouver Island, which is about as far west as you can go in North America. You can read about the new camp and all the other children's camps at <https://www.thechristiancommunity.org/children-youth/camps/>

Ann writes: This July camp songs, stories and laughter will ring out through the ancient moss covered spruce trees along the Koksilah River on Vancouver Island. A dedicated group of young camp leaders have come forward from Bern, Switzerland, the East Coast of the United States and the Midwest to help found with Rev Ann Burfeind a new British Columbia Christian Community children's camp. The affiliate of Vancouver, which meets at the Glenora Farm Camphill in nearby Duncan, is strongly supporting this initiative which is founded on the family camp that was held back in 2008 on Glenora Farm. The camp will follow the familiar rhythms of the North American

Christian Community children's camps which are also located in the High Sierra's of California, the lake shore of Wisconsin in the Midwest and the Maine woods of the East Coast.

At the end of the summer there will be a youth conference in upstate New York. The Theme is: I AM THE TRUE VINE: Stewardship of the Earth, Finding True Connection, Rooting Oneself in What is Real.

This year's conference will have a new focus on singing and making music. Come join us in making a joyful noise in the beautiful and relaxing setting of the Berkshires/Columbia County NY as we sing, wrestle with important themes and have a great time! Sleep in tents, swim in the pond and river, eat delicious food, make music, reflect and pray together, discuss important life questions, offer community service, and go on adventures in our beautiful area, including a trip to Shakespeare & Co.

You can read more about the conference at [/https://christiancommunityyouth.com/conferences-1](https://christiancommunityyouth.com/conferences-1)
Send your young people! They will have a wonderful time and make new friends.

Craig Wiggins

Northern Germany

Nothing new to report.

Thomas Nayda

Northern Countries

no message

Northwest Germany

no message

Russia

no message

South America

no message

Southern Africa

In people's lives there is a depression economically in this country. Taxes are being loaded on everything to try and re-cap what is missing, to replenish stolen money by the Zuma administration, which we have to pay for it as a collective. This not only changes the picture of the country but also of us in the Christian Community, as it shows in the non-ability of people to support or to even sustain themselves. It is on this background that we spend a fair amount of time contemplating our situation going into the future and how we can manage within the means available.

In the Cape there are two Camphill Villages which fall under the care of the Cape Town priest. The one is dealing with the aftermath of a wild fire storm which devastated their farm, fields, 30 beehives and most vegetation. A miracle was that the houses were spared. The other village on the West Coast is in transition from an anthroposophically-based enterprise to becoming a conventional public benefit organisation, hence our involvement in the latter village is in question in the long term, although there are about 50 ageing villagers very dedicated to the Act of Consecration of Man. The Christian Community in Cape Town itself is 'okay', although it has also been hit by many unexpected incidents which have left it without any financial reserves.

The community in Hillcrest, KwaZulu Natal is small and continues to grow in strength and the premises are being transformed evermore into a worthy church environment. Rental income enables these renovations. A priest no longer lives on the property. The consequence of the priest being able to work at the Waldorf School has meant that the Community has not needed to financially carry their priest, as their situation is not strong enough to fund a priest. This is not meant to be a solution in the long term.

The caring community in Windhoek is very small but strong, and there is a lot of life on the property, a Green Market every Saturday for the last 14 years, children's festivals, religion and con-

firmation lessons, and a Kindergarten. The property has three spaces which are rented out to people not connected to the community, although very appreciative.

Our Africa Seminary has begun its 2nd year of Modules and continues to offer the possibility to people to explore The Christian Community and develop themselves personally. The Modules always attract more than the committed core and the founded hope is that the pro-seminar will inspire local people to follow the path to priesthood. One of our seminary teachers is the first result of this seminary, who was ordained in 2017.

On the background of the country's situation and laws, the Johannesburg Community is in the process of selling a piece of undeveloped land which served as parking and for fundraising events. This will also give us some much needed reserve money and enable some maintenance.

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Southwest Germany

Easter information No. 83 reported on several changes in the priesthood of the region. We can now confirm that this process is continuing, but is still at the implementation stage. We hope to be able to report in more detail around Michaelmas.

Hellmut Voigt

Switzerland/Southwest Europe

It was with great joy, that we welcomed Mr. Anand Mandaiker as priest to Bern. In May we held a conference in Zurich, the city from where the Reformation by Huldreich Zwingli originated 500 years ago. The weekend conference on the topic of "Renewal – then and now" was in cooperation with the Constance congregation ("Grenzstadtgemeinde"). (Our community life also includes friends in the vicinity of the Swiss town of Kreuzlingen). It was quite amazing to see how traces of the reformation event can still be found and experienced in the city today. A bilingual French-German conference is planned for Ascension Day 2020 and will be held in the Romandie.

At the end of last year we were able to buy a second priest's flat in Paris thanks to generous help from various regions; it is now occupied. This also made it possible for the priests to divide their duties. One priest operates from Paris, the other from Alsace. The mutual cooperation between the regions seem to work well.

With Luis Gonzalez, another Spanish priest was ordained this spring. He is at present working in Sacramento, but we very much hope that he will soon be sent to Spain, to relieve our two pioneers who truly have "earned" their retirement.

In Italy, the financial situation has improved slightly due to the closure of a premises. Our two priests continue to work unabated in the many small congregations that are scattered all over the country. A new focus of their work is now in Milan.

Christine Jost

West Germany

no message

Wuerttemberg

no message

Haus Freudenberg

Welcome to our website! Of course, this applies first and foremost to the many dear people who find their way to Söcking. Anyone who doesn't know Haus Freudenberg is missing out. Almost unique is the nature and the atmosphere of this special oasis of the Christian community. That's how guests often describe it. A heartfelt thank-you wants to come from your lips and that especially in a time when the world seems to change so rapidly. Pause, think, calm down - recharge your batteries,

experience people, find new ideas and paths – a “protected space” and yet open and inviting for everyone ... that is Haus Freudenberg.

First Future Conference | Since changes are not a bad thing, the first Future Conference took place in Haus Freudenberg to look at what the Haus is today, what it has been and what it wants to become in the future. It was an initial meeting of priests, the board of the Sozialwerk of the Christian Community in Bavaria and the management. This initiative wants to be continued, fully aware of the numerous ideas that exist about the future of the house. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Andreas and Elsbeth Weymann | With the death of Andreas Weymann, Haus Freudenberg loses a very special person. For so many years, together with his wife Elsbeth, he has shaped life in this house in a superb way. The large “congregation” that came to his seminars often spoke, as he himself did, of a home from home in connection with Haus Freudenberg. “What has been invested over many years, at the interface of art and religion, what together with the course participants has become a Pentecostal culture – it cannot be imitated and simply continued. Nevertheless, it should be continued, because it was too precious or even necessary for it to be discontinued,” writes Norbert Schaaf, priest of the Munich-Mitte congregation. Together with his wife Beate Schaaf he invited to the Whitsun days in memory of Andreas Weymann. Something new wants to unfold and so the Schaaf couple will lead the Pentecost conference in Haus Freudenberg next year as well. However, the Christmas and New Year periods are still open and it seems right to allow something new to emerge. We are looking forward to initiatives and suggestions.

The Altarpicture. It's hard to believe and even less to understand. What seemed impossible remains a mystery to this day. The altarpiece, painted by Gabriele Bock, was stolen. It was noticed during the seminar “Praxis macht schön”, so that we could search the whole house with all participants. It remains missing to this day. The house is open during courses. Appropriate measures will now have to be taken. To lock the house with its open welcome culture, however, seems absurd. Here, too, we are happy to listen to what you may suggest.

Planning for 2020 | Looking ahead to next year, we will again welcome numerous guests from here and abroad. The reasons for visiting can be as varied as the needs are: conference, seminar, time out, working groups, class or confirmation trips, music, theatre or family leisure, art and culture, practice weeks, practical seminars, lectures or day trips, events of sorts or group meetings of any kind and much more.

With its surroundings, Haus Freudenberg offers the right setting for every occasion. We are happy to discuss content and arrangements for a seminar or any other event with you. In times of far-reaching changes, the need for a variety of topics is very high. Whether it be impulse work, workshops, practical topics, socially relevant questions, religion, culture and art, in each case something new and of essence can emerge through these encounters. Please contact us timely to allow for sufficient preparation. There are still spaces available. If you would like to introduce a specific topic, have your own ideas or know people in your orbit who would like to get something started, please feel free to contact us any time.

Working in Haus Freudenberg | In order that our guests always feel welcome in Haus Freudenberg, it is very important to have sufficient helping hands on site. Haus Freudenberg is the ideal place for people who want to take on a responsible job and do it with joy, passion and flexibility in this holiday region. We are looking for support in the areas of housekeeping, caretaking, gardening and administration. The tasks can be taken up in combination or according to skills. In terms of flexibility, it could be either an additional task, a mini- or part-time job. Would you like to work in a very special place or do you know somebody who is looking for a job? We are looking forward to seeing you!

After ten years, the Reisch couple has left Haus Freudenberg in February. They have been part of the house in a very special way and initiated and implemented many things. A heart felt thank you to them both!

The new face in Haus Freudenberg | For the ones who don't know yet: with Thomas Meinhardt a new face has moved into Haus Freudenberg. He has taken over as Managing Director and has been with Haus Freudenberg since January 2019. Born in Windhoek, raised in Marburg, a Waldorf pupil and baptized and confirmed in the Christian Community, he studied European Ethnology and Media Studies. He began his professional career as a journalist, then moved to Frankfurt and worked for a long time for an auditing company, including as a press spokesman in Frankfurt, Düsseldorf and Munich. His mother (Ingrid Meinhardt) worked among others at the Bettina von Arnim School in Marburg and in the management of the Waldorf School in Landsberg. His father (Wilko Meinhardt) ran three children's homes. The sister (Birthe Kreutzer) is an occupational therapist in Marburg and the grandmother (Elisabeth Meinhardt) is probably still known to some as an anthroposophist. Andreas Weymann was his godfather.

Looking ahead, it is Thomas Meinhardt's wish to take Haus Freudenberg into a sustainable future. Aware of the history of the house and taking into account the needs of our time, it is also necessary to initiate a development based on the threefold social order. This should be through community cooperation and together with a network based on the ideas of the Christian Community.

Haus Freudenberg – something is happening. Talk to us if you want to get involved with ideas, suggestions or by simply offering practical support.

Thomas Meinhardt

Haus auf dem Berge

no message

Körperschaftsverband (KV)

no message

Publishers

no message

Seminaries/Hamburg

no message

Treuhandverwaltung

no message

Verband der Sozialwerke

no message

Seminaries/Stuttgart

During the summer trimester, life at the seminary is as colourful as the splendour of flowers in the seminary garden. It is during this trimester, that the "Open Week" for patrons and friends of the seminary is taking place and has been for several years now. This year 16 sponsors gained an insight into life at the seminary; after they had their "own" course on the Credo in the morning, they joined the students in R. Halfen's course on "Man and his Temple". In the afternoon all joined in clay modelling with Mr. Chr. Breme working at the embryonic body-temple.

The following week, the so-called orientation week was attended by six interested people, of whom two decided to start their studies in September. So far, there are 12 applicants interested in starting their studies in autumn; experience has shown that many of them register late. All the students of the second academic year presented their dissertations at the seminary, lectures which are open to guests who enjoy coming.

The traditional Ascension Day excursion was this year organised by the students themselves: the UNESCO World Heritage Site Kloster Maulbronn (a monastery) was the destination. After a week of intensive geology studies, the students left to attend the Whitsun youth conference in Witten; in addition to participating in the programme, they will take on various tasks and perform parts of the cabaret which they have been working on for many weeks. The performances of the cabaret in Stuttgart will take place at the beginning of July at the seminary.

The seminary newsletter which is compiled alongside the studies is due to be sent out at the end of this month. So there are busy and varied weeks ahead for the students. At the end of the summer

trimester, the current leadership of the seminary will also end; however those stepping down will continue to be available to the seminary as mentors or lecturers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the trust you have placed in me!

Monika Boerman

Translated by Gabriele Kuhn – many thanks to her!



End