

## CHOIRMASTER RETIRES AFTER 42 YEARS

The choirmaster of St. Andrew's, **Mr Rudolf Müller**, retired after 42 years. A small farewell function was held in his honour on 18 September 2002. Without much formal musical training, but with a love for music and his church, Mr Müller took over leadership of the choir when the need arose and kept his involvement up joyfully. Pastor Lutz paid tribute to him for his dedicated service: "He has set an example for the young generation." The choir of only ±12 voices sang regularly in worship services, on average twice a month. It contributed to good singing in the congregation and to supporting the German language in an English-speaking environment. Over the last few years the choir adapted to the new English hymns, which they sing really well. Mr. Müller was happy to hand the choir over to a young, capable successor.

Rudolf Müller passed away on 31 October 2002, only a few months after his wife. He is survived by three daughters and their families.

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## RHENISH MISSIONARY'S WIDOW PASSED AWAY

On 14 September 2002 a funeral service was held at St. Martini, Cape Town for **Maria Elisabeth Esslinger**, widow of the late Rhenish missionary, Pastor Ernst Esslinger. She passed away in St. Johannis Heim, Parow, aged 95.

Her life and the history of her family illustrate one of the roots of our Lutheran Churches in Southern Africa.

Maria Esslinger grew up in the pietistic tradition of Württemberg with its strong emphasis on a close personal relationship with God. Her father was a pastor, later director of the Johanneum, a Bible Seminary in Wuppertal-Barmen. Through a girls' Bible Study group, Maria felt the call into missionary work. She specialised in nursing of infants, soon advancing to matron of a home for infants. In 1935, she was married to Ernst Esslinger, a teacher and ordained missionary (whom she had met while he was a student at the Rhenish Mission