

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER - August, 2016

www.stpaulsnapier.org.nz e-mail stpaulsnapier@gmail.com

Phone 835 5359. P O Box 310, Napier, 4140

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK Seeing the world through the lens of love.

This morning when I woke up, I turned my phone on, checked into Facebook and caught up with some news headlines before reading the paper. On the way to work I listened to the news on National Radio, then at work, read and wrote some emails, made some phone calls. During the day, caught up with a couple of blogs and even talked to a few actual live people in the flesh.

All that made me think about how we get information, and so much information these days. Probably we all have a variety of ways in which we get the news. Some of us listen to National Radio, some of us to Newstalk ZB, some of us say 'Radio? You listen to the radio?' At dinner time, some of us will watch the news on TV1 or TV3 or not at all. Or we will catch up with Al Jazeera or CNN or Fox News. We will subscribe to the Listener or North and South, the Guardian Weekly or the Woman's Weekly or Directions magazine, National Geographic or Marie Claire.

Each TV channel, each radio station, newspaper, magazine, each facebook page, each blog has its own lens through which it views the world but we don't always see or acknowledge those lenses. 7 Sharp looks at the world differently than Campbell Live did. Understanding the lens through which we look at the world can help us build a clearer picture out of all the information which comes our way.

The other day, a gorgeous day which hardly seemed as though it belonged in the middle of winter, we went for a trip around Central Hawkes Bay. On the way we came across an amazing rainbow. It looked even more amazing through my polaroid sunglasses. When I wear them, the whole world is illuminated with great intensity and depth which turns flat and dull when I take them off. When I tried to photograph the rainbow, I was frustrated because the lens I was using couldn't show the whole of the rainbow. I needed a lens which would take a wider view. But sometimes we need to be able to zoom in closely and see what is going on.

As people of faith, we try to look at the world through the lens of Jesus. A lens which focuses our sight on what God is really like. A lens which shows the depths of God's love like a long telephoto lens, the breadth of God's love like a wide, wide angle and a lens which shows the richness and intensity of God's love like a pair of polaroid sunglasses. Looking at life through a Jesus lens helps us see beyond all the lenses of greed, political expediency, division and envy to the truth at the heart of God.

I wish I had those lenses on all the time!

PARISH REGISTER.

Funerals. June 29th, 2016. Douglas Pat (Pat) Bond. (Service at Beth Shan.)

New Members. Joan Dodge and Jenny Hodgson (Apologies for names wrong last month)

THOUGHTS WITH THE SESSION CLERK

One of the jobs often unnoticed in the Parish are the finances. For a long time Jill McConnochie did the job and currently we have Sylvia Low and Kerry Marshall doing great work on our behalf. It is important that we all give our input on financial questions as they relate to our church life here at St Paul's.

In today's secular society parishes are facing big questions and we are no different. It is important to remember that we all need to be involved in planning our future. Churches that are growing are doing things differently. Perhaps they are better at inviting the young to create churches that suit the young ones. Churches that young people can relate to.

I haven't asked my non attending children; Why don't you come to church? What sort of church would you come to? What does the church need to do to become important and relevant for you? Could the church help you with the difficulties of modern life?

Have you asked your family these questions? I find it hard, almost impossible to broach these questions with my family, it's sort of taboo. We might all be surprised and enlightened, so I think we should.

When you read this our budget conversations with Kerry will be behind us so I thank you in advance.

Let me stress the following:

All your opinions and ideas are valued and respected.

The greater participation the more likely a better outcome

Like the parable of the tiny mustard seed little thoughts/ideas can lead to big outcomes.

God bless,
Bruce Tucker

ST PAULS BUILDING SEISMIC UPDATE

As most of you know, the Seismic Team (Murray Arnold, Frank Carter, Ian Finlayson, Jenny Foster, Bryan Rudd, Bruce Tucker, David Walker (plus Sally Carter and Kerry Marshall ex officio) have been working with the Seismic Reports pertaining to Asher Hall and the Church and the flow on effects from such reports.

Here is an update of where we have got to:

Firstly Asher Hall has been re assessed and declared a Non Earthquake Prone Building and the Napier City Council has removed Asher Hall from its register of Earthquake Prone Buildings. The Church Property Trustees have also been advised of the change of status. Asher Hall is back in full use by the Church and Community Organisations. In the longer term there are some maintenance issues to be attended to in respect

to Asher Hall, but apart from urgent and essential maintenance requirements, these are on hold until the wider picture of ongoing maintenance and of our Parish Buildings and strengthening of the sanctuary is clarified.

With respect to the Church, the Seismic Team has been working and consulting with Tim Pike of Sigma Consulting Engineers as to how best we progress to bring the Church Building up to the required National Building Standard (NBS).

This work has been quite complex and time consuming, however we are now getting to the point where all parties are in agreement as to what needs to be done, and Tim is well on the way in preparing plans and documents so that invited tenders can be called for the required work. We hope that will be achieved in the coming weeks. Once a proposal is sent to tender, the work of the Seismic team will transfer to the Capital Development Project Team (the strengthening team!) Bryan Rudd, (team leader), Murray Arnold, Frank Carter, Jenny Foster and David Walker (with the ability to co-opt others.)

In the meantime in preparation for seeking final approvals for the work to be done the following path of events will be progressed:-

- Approval of Session & Board of Managers for the calling of Tenders for the required work.
- Session and Board recommend one tender for the project.
- Approval of Congregation for work to proceed.
- Approval of Presbytery for the required work to be undertaken.
- Final approval of Church Property Trustees for work to be undertaken.
- Tender confirmed and work commenced.

The team will post regular updates on ongoing progress of this project through the monthly Newsletters. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team.

Bryan Rudd, Team Leader, Capital Development Project Team.

BLANKETS GALORE

What a great response we had with the appeal for Blankets. And what a colourful display they made in the Church when Liz Read, Head of the Public Health Nurses at the DHB came to receive them and tell about her work amongst the neediest in our communities. Public Nurses go to all schools to check health and hygiene, into homes where they see some of the poorest living conditions, overcrowding, and lack of warmth and amenities that we take for granted in our homes.

So a special THANK YOU to all who knitted, crocheted and brought blankets that were surplus to requirements in our homes. You can be assured that they will be warmly welcomed by the families to which they will go.

Here we see Liz and Dave Thomas filling Liz's car with the blankets.



A GOOD LIFE REMEMBERED.

The funeral took place late in June of Pat Bond who was remembered with thankfulness and gratitude by members of St Peter's, St Stephen's and more recently by St Paul's. Also by many friends, particularly previous pupils, teachers and sports people.

And there is so much you learn at funerals of friends. Pat was a very special person to people at St Stephen's as a member of the Finance and Property Committee of the Parish Council, as a Monday Warrior, working to keep grounds and buildings at the various churches in order, and as a leader in the Family Church when it was held at Wycliffe Intermediate School, and then at St Stephen's. He was involved with the planning of the building of the New Church in Wycliffe Street. As a member of the Board of Managers at St Paul's he was a great support in the building of new offices and kitchen. Pat had moved to Wellington to be near his daughter, Jill and son Brian after his wife Jean passed away. At 90, Pat had had a very full and worthwhile life touching the lives of many people. We were privileged to be able to extend our sympathy and gratitude to his family at the service.

Anne Silson.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING

How do you feel about 1080? Conservationists were pleased to learn that the government has allocated \$21m for pest control to be spread over the next four years. Dr. Jan Wright, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, has welcomed this commitment to making a positive impact on some of our pests. All have been brought to N.Z.

In past years, there were mistakes made in the use of 1080, but we have learned from these mistakes and now use it much more judiciously. One anti-1080 person said indignantly, "The bush is silent because of 1080. No small birds". My reply was, "The bush was rather silent prior to 1080".

When beech trees have a mast year, they produce a huge seed harvest. Rats and mice have this full larder, and breed prolifically, so are then in competition with our birds for food. The eggs and young of our endemic and native birds are good food.

Can N.Z. become pest free? I believe we can, but it will take continued effort and money to achieve this. Some years ago Napier Forest and Bird bought Little Bush at Puketitiri, when farmer Rob Whittle, who owned it and had carried out restoration work over thirty odd years, decided that he wanted permanent protection for it. We carry out regular pest control work. But any such work anywhere in the country must be continued on a regular basis to catch further incursions. Little Bush is at the end of Little Bush Road, and is open to the public year round. It is well worth a visit.

Did you know that Ball's Clearing was Big Bush? I'm sure many of you have been to Ball's Clearing.

We salute men and women like Rob and Eileen who have a passionate love for our special places and bush.

Isabel Morgan

SAVE THE CHILDREN – News from a letter sent to Marion Fell.

(abridged, ed)

Dear St Paul's members,

On my first visit of Udayapur in Nepal, the people talked of their great need for more money to keep their children in school. But for some children, when they reach the age of 11 or 12 their parents have no choice but to keep them at home to help the family generate a living.

The first thing I went to see when I returned to the village, was the youth training. One of the challenges for young people who have left school to support their families is that they are relatively unskilled. This leaves them vulnerable to labour exploitation and abuse, as they often migrate of Kathmandu or abroad to find work.

So far we've begun working with 27 vulnerable youths who do not have access to land for farming. They spend 390 hours in a government training centre in Gaighat learning vocations that will provide job opportunities, such as carpentry tailoring and dressmaking.



There was a common theme to the young women's stories – their husbands had abandoned them and they had no support. Women marry young, sometimes at the age of 14 or 15, and being able to start a small business or to be employed means economic security for the future. In the coming years we will be teaching a total of 160 youths in vocational skills.

I also went to see the farmers' groups and on arrival the women adorned us with garlands of flowers and colourful scarves and pressed red powder to our foreheads. We realized that this visit and our project is hugely important for these people. I was able to see the farms which are now growing profitable vegetable crops. We talked with farmers about their hopes for the future and how they will use their money to support their children's education.

I was introduced to Dhanbir, from a low caste indigenous group often marginalized and exploited, who was trained as a village Animal Health worker through our project. He now earns approx. \$190 NZD monthly for his vet services.

I was pleased with how the project is tracking, and the positive changes being made for children, families and the community. Your caring support is helping to bring these about.

Miranda Cahn, Director International Programmes.

Oh, how small a portion of earth will hold us when we are dead, who ambitiously seek after the whole world while we are living! -Philip of Macedon, king, father of Alexander the Great (382-336 BCE)

The tragedy of modern war is not so much that young men die but that they die fighting each other, instead of their real enemies back home in the capitals. -Edward Abbey, naturalist and author (1927-1989)

FOOD AND FINANCE – BUDGET CONVERSATIONS.

You are invited, and indeed urged to join in one of the three occasions when the budget, which the Board of Managers will bring to the AGM at the end of the month, will be discussed, and to contribute your ideas and questions about how we manage our Parish Finances. Each of the meetings will have the same format and you will receive relevant papers to aid discussion. Each of you is a vital part in the life of St Paul's, and your thoughts are important. So we look forward to seeing you at one of the following –

1. Devonshire Teas on Thursday, August 4th at 2.30pm, in the Lounge.
2. Soup and Rolls on Friday 5th August at 6.30pm, in the Lounge.
3. Pikelets and nibbles on Saturday, August 6th at 10am, in the lounge.

If you have not already indicated which of these meetings you will attend, please phone the office, 8355359, to give your name and preferred time.

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