

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission"

NEWSLETTER - December, 2016

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

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

Services of Holy Communion

Sunday, 4th December, at all services –

9.00 am, 10.30 am, 7pm

Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.



"This do in remembrance of Me."

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK. Losing your voice

A couple of Sundays ago, I knew I was losing my voice. It was only by the grace of God and a soothing mint that I was able to last through the evening service. On Monday, I could hardly say a word and Tuesday was not much better. As you can imagine, I discovered quite quickly how much being a minister depends on having a voice!

And that got me thinking about those who do not have a voice in our society. Not those who like me are literally voiceless, but those whose voices are not heard, respected or understood.

There are some who would say that the election in the USA was at least in part about people feeling voiceless under the Obama administration. In the surprising election result, they found their voice – for now at least.

And because they have found their voice, there are others who, in such a polarised country, will be further silenced. It seems to me, whether we are speaking of the division which still exists in the PCANZ or the division within Britain and the USA, that, as the division deepens, the sense of voicelessness also intensifies, whichever side of the division you are on.

The advice I was given in treating my lost voice was simply not to talk for a couple of days. This treatment works for laryngitis, but I don't think it would be helpful in the healing of divisions in churches and societies. We tried it at least once, in PCANZ. Some people said 'Whew, thank goodness we don't have to waste our time and energy talking about this – now we can get on with the really important things.' For them it was as though the inconvenient minority voice had simply

disappeared. But they hadn't, and refusal to talk about the issues that divide us merely accentuated the division. The elephant occupied a very large space in the room.

There is a hymn we sing sometimes called 'We shall go out in hope of resurrection'. One of the lines in it says 'We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken...'

Notice that it says, 'We'll GIVE a voice, not We'll BE a voice. Often what is needed for voices to be heard is to make space in which it is safe to speak up and speak out. For example, a recent report highlighting homelessness in Napier drew attention to the fact that no homeless people are represented on the committees which make decisions about what the homeless need. We who are comfortably housed should not assume that we know what people who have no reliable shelter need. (The report itself, I hasten to add, had consulted widely with homeless people.)

By giving a voice, even to those whose voices we may not want to hear, we open a pathway towards healing, generosity and understanding.

Ooops!! I just realised that it will be December when you receive this, so - May the Love that came down at Christmas, be with you all during advent and as you celebrate the birth of our Lord with your family and friends. God bless you all.

Sally,

AN ELDER WRITES - Kerry Marshall.

A Better World?

While our Minister was on study leave we enjoyed services lead by a number of people including Rev Craig Kilgour. For his last sermon Craig shared with us his thoughts for a better world. For Craig this would be a world where:

- poverty is reduced;
- sickness is cured and suffering relieved;
- equal opportunity (especially educational opportunity) is adopted as a serious goal;
- the problems of isolation and loneliness are addressed;
- there the rich accept their obligation to help the poor;
- the strong help the weak;
- the advantaged help the disadvantaged;
- where difference is appreciated and valued;
- where the environment is cared for.

A world:

- where there is more of loving kindness than materialism;
- of peace and shared prosperity.

I am sure that for many of us these would be our ideals too. Thank you Craig for being with us in recent months.

THANKS

Margaret Grieg has compiled the Children's Page of our Newsletter for some time now – this is her last. So thank you, Margaret for you innovative contributions. Well done. I'm sure more than the children have enjoyed them. *(ed.)*

COLE FAMILY BEQUEST

The Cole family, were originally from Napier. They lived in Wellington, where one of the brothers, John, was an electrical inspector. In retirement he returned to Napier with a brother and sister, none of them having married. They had the Brick house in Kennedy Road next to the entrance to Onekawa School built for them by Jack Ennor, Bruce McConnochie being the electrician. They attended St Paul's regularly until their demise.

The Estate, left to us by Edwin Lamond Cole was administered by a large Wellington legal firm, who unfortunately did not always get things correct. The will stated that 1/2 the estate was for St Paul's and 1/2 for Presbyterian Services East Coast. This was duly distributed. However the solicitors then noticed a codicil which had changed the amounts to 1/4 for St Paul's and 3/4 for PSEC. Jill McConnochie was our treasurer at the time and had of course invested the money immediately. On maturity PSEC were paid their 1/2 of the capital with interest. We received \$101,958.37 in total from the estate.

The second codicil states

To pay one quarter of my estate to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Napier to be used for the financing of a specific project or projects of a capital nature for the benefit of the said Church as the congregation on the recommendation of the Session and Board of Managers may decide and to be identified in terms of clause 6 hereof.

Clause 6 states that the estate be referred to as "The Mr and Mrs G.K.Cole Family Bequest"

SEISMIC STRENGTHENING UPDATE

A Contract has been signed and preparation work has begun on the Seismic Strengthening Project.

The Contractor is currently prefabricating the steel work off site in readiness for galvanising which will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. Action on site should begin around 24th November with the installation of dust protection around the organ area, and work will progress from there with completion and handover scheduled for 20th December.

During the construction process people need to be mindful of and stay clear of the Hazard Areas which will be clearly marked.

We can now look forward with some assurance that Sunday Worship & other activities within the Church Sanctuary will resume from 21st December - all in time for Xmas.

Bryan Rudd, Capital Project Team Leader.

THE STORY BEHIND THE ORIGINAL PAINTINGS OF SPECIAL CHURCHES.

These paintings at present are hung in the passageway between the Lounge and the Offices at St Paul's, numbered 1 – 4. You are welcome to come in and view them.

The first of the paintings is of the Miller Congregational Church which was in Carlyle Street. This congregation joined St Peter's in 1969. It was painted by Mrs Yvonne Easthope to acknowledge the service Mrs Lex Nicol gave as elder to support the 5th Napier Girls' Brigade at the time she retired from this position at St Peter's in Wycliffe Street. This was then returned to my care and then eventually became part of the continuation of special memories recorded in paintings by Mrs Easthope.

The next was when St David's joined St Peter's and became part of the Napier West Parish. As part of the joining of the two churches the name was changed to St Stephen's. Mrs Easthope was then asked to paint the St David's Church in Georges Drive, which has now become the Beth Shan Funeral complex, and they requested permission to have a copy made of the painting and this hangs in the lounge area of that building.

Following the decision to build a new church on the Wycliffe Street site to replace the original building which had been part of the temporary Waiapu Cathedral of St John, a painting of that building was then added to the collection.

When the new church was completed, a painting of this was included and unveiled at the opening by the then Hawkes Bay Moderator, Rev Ria Sporry. So many places worship included in the collection. In the words of the Hymn, NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD.

Anne Silson.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING

A recent interview on RNZ was interesting. Lou Sanson, D.G.of DOC., was being interviewed.

In the last twelve months over three million visitors have come to N.Z. While not all come for wilderness and experiences, many do, and this is putting a huge strain on our Great Walks and back country areas. Listening to that interview, I was reminded of a recent suggestion of a road being put through the Hollyford Valley from West Coast. I felt my hackles rise. It would be desecration of the first order! I have walked the Hollyford Valley. This is back country at its best. Towering beech trees, different vegetation from what we find here. It took two days to reach Martins Bay, and it was glorious. Past Lake Alabaster, a view of Mt. Tautoko. First night in a hut, two nights in Martins Bay hut, with time to explore this historical place. N.Z. fur seals basking on the beach, a sea lion, and yellow-crested penguins.

A few years ago someone suggested that a gondola be built over to Milford Sound. That would have entailed a not insignificant swathe of forest destroyed. We saw that one off. The next idea was to put a tunnel through to Milford Sound. When Dr. Nick Smith vetoed that, I wrote and congratulated him. I know that the road over the mountain to Milford Sound is often closed by snow. Tourists take their chances, and if they miss out, so what?

The pressure on our back-country wilderness areas is huge. So what is the answer?

Isabel Morgan

EARTH GARDENS.

At the last meeting of the Fireside Group we were pleased to welcome visitors from Methodist, Anglican and Catholic Parishes for a Pot Luck meal. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

Our speaker for the evening was Geoff Quarry of Earth Gardens Charitable Trust where, for 5 days each week from 8.30 to 3pm, 50 clients come to participate in the programmes they run for people with a disability – mental or physical. They provide Food technology skills, work ethics, employment and social skills, and educational opportunities, and are able to prepare people for full employment, 15 in each of the last two years. They have a lawn-mowing group with regular customers, a building group erecting shade and green houses, gardening group, also with regular customers for their vegetables, and a workshop for maintaining equipment. The Gardens are in Sandy Road, Meeanee, and welcome visitors to view their work and purchase the products grown there.

We also received gifts and money (\$168) for the Angel Tree, the Charity that assembles gifts for the children of people in prison, and Jennifer Wyman from the Group was able to tell us of the joy the recipients (175 of them) show when the gift is delivered to them.

Thank you to all who contributed. Jennifer was very grateful for the generous response. (ed)

SOME FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

Ella Haigh.

Angels from the Realms of Glory. Words by James Montgomery. The tune, “Iris” is a French traditional melody arranged by Margin Shaw. James Montgomery was born in Scotland in 1771 or Irish parents. His father had been a minister of a Moravian Church in County Antrim. James was sent to a Moravian School and there his interest in poetry began. He worked at various jobs, but writing poetry was his first love. He wrote several hundred hymns, eleven being printed in ‘With One Voice’. Two of these are “Hail to the Lord’s anointed” and “Songs of praise the angels sang”.

Angels from the realms of glory was first printed on 24th December, 1816 in a paper Montgomery edited. It was included in one of the first hymnbooks used in the Church of England, and had a wide circulation on both England and America. In some carol books a tune by Henry Smart is used.

O Little Town of Bethlehem was written by Phillips Brooks in 1868 while he was the Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Philadelphia. It is one of the few carols by American writers. His Sunday School classes asked him for a Christmas song, and after writing this he took it to his church organist for a tune. The Organist, Lewis H Redner says that he heard this melody in a dream on Christmas Eve, and finished the arrangement in time for the service next day. The tune in ‘With One Voice’ is ‘Forest Green’. An English traditional melody collected, adapted and arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Phillips Brooks was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1835 and died there in 1893, aged 57. He graduated from Harvard University when he was only 20. He trained as a minister in the Episcopal Church, served as Rector of Holy Trinity, Philadelphia for seven years, then at Trinity Church, Boston for twenty-two years. In 1891 he was consecrated Bishop of Massachusetts, a position he held for only fifteen months before his untimely death. Brooks was an outstanding preacher and is particularly remembered as the lyricist of this popular Christmas Carol.

While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night. Written by Nahum Tate, an Irish Protestant who lived from 1652-1715, and was Poet Laureate to William of Orange. It is based on Luke 2:8-15. In 'With One Voice' the six 4-line verses are usually sung to "Winchester Old", a later form of a melody from Thomas Este's "Psalter" 1592. Another more ornamental tune is "Lyngham" by Thomas Jurman.

A different version in the Church Hymnary is entitled "While humble shepherds watched their flocks" as in the Scottish Paraphrase of 1781. Here there are three 8-line verses. The tune used is "Evangel" by Gottfried Wilhelm Fink.

PARISH BREAKFAST

WOW – Sunday 30th October saw some 24 plus people joining together in a time of fellowship together over Breakfast in the Church Lounge prior to Morning worship... This is the biggest attendance since the inception of the Parish Breakfast whenever there is a 5th Sunday in any month. Congratulations to the First Service Team who organise, prepare and serve the Breakfast - you do a wonderful job.

Let's see if we can keep the momentum going – schedule dates for 2017 are **29th January, 30th April, 30th July, and 29th October.** Breakfast is from 9.30 a.m. followed by Worship at 10.30 a.m. Mark these dates on your 2017 calendar and come and enjoy a time of fellowship together.

Hope we see you there.

Some thoughts from others – what do you think of them?

Patriotism is proud of a country's virtues and eager to correct its deficiencies; it also acknowledges the legitimate patriotism of other countries, with their own specific virtues. The pride of nationalism, however, trumpets its country's virtues and denies its deficiencies, while it is contemptuous toward the virtues of other countries. It wants to be, and proclaims itself to be, "the greatest", but greatness is not required of a country; only goodness is. -Sydney J. Harris, journalist and author (1917-1986)

Though I have been trained as a soldier, and participated in many battles, there never was a time when, in my opinion, some way could not be found to prevent the drawing of the sword. I look forward to an epoch when a court, recognized by all nations, will settle international differences. - Ulysses S. Grant, military commander, 18th US President (1822-1885)

A few minutes ago every tree was excited, bowing to the roaring storm, waving, swirling, tossing their branches in glorious enthusiasm like worship. But though to the outer ear these trees are now silent, their songs never cease. Every hidden cell is throbbing with music and life, every fiber thrilling like harp strings, while incense is ever flowing from the balsam bells and leaves. No wonder the hills and groves were God's first temples, and the more they are cut down and hewn into cathedrals and churches, the farther off and dimmer seems the Lord himself. -John Muir, naturalist, explorer, and writer (1838-1914)

SPECIAL SERVICES - December and January.

**10.30am - December 4th - second Sunday in Advent -
Communion Service and Ordination and
Induction of Elders**

**10.30am - December 11th - Service of gifts - and for
children**

10.30am - December 18th - lessons and carols

11pm - December 24th - Christmas Eve Service

9.30am - December 25th - Christmas Morning Service - family friendly

During January, Services of Worship will be at 10.30am and 7pm.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING.

As in years past, the offerings of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will go to Christian World Service, the agent of the NZ Churches for relief work overseas. We hope you will be as generous as you have in the past.

