

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER - July, 2016

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FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK The Space Between

The other day, I came across a cartoon, which unfortunately I cannot find again, but you will be able to picture it, I am sure. Two towering, heavy, concrete walls are drawn at the left and right of the picture, one labelled US and the other labelled THEM. In the space between is a tiny little person labelled 'me'. It is a space I often find myself in and it can be a hard place to be. In a world which sometimes feels polarized along so many axis, it seems as though everybody clusters around the ends of the space of 'either – or' and that being in the middle is seen as being weak. It reminds me of experiments with magnets which I enjoyed at school. A bar magnet is placed under a piece of paper, and iron filings sprinkled over the paper. Soon, the filings cluster strongly around the poles of the magnet while in between the filings are much less densely spread. I am not sure whether it is true for magnets, but it seems that for people as the polarity intensifies, it becomes harder and harder to find a way of being in that space between.

Even in the debate over whether Britain should stay with or exit the European Union, the points which earned the most cheers or boos were, the points which were the most polarizing.

It has been that way in our church for many years as people become more and more hardened in their positions on a variety of issues. I think that hardness is beginning to soften somewhat, I hope so anyway, but it is still a challenge to find that space between and discover what it is like to live there. A hui is being held on the marae in Ohope to explore the diversity of our views and how we might learn to live with that diversity. I hope that our General Assembly may become places of inspiration, honesty and compassion rather than polarization and bullying.

One way in which the Way of Jesus is different from the way of the world is in response to the prejudice, violence and fear which can result as polarization intensifies. Walter Wink calls this way The Third Way – a creative, loving and non-violent way of pointing out injustices and breaking down the polarities which divide us. It is a way of pointing out the abuse of power without resorting either to a violent response ('fight') or a passive response ('flight'). This way is not passive, or weak, or cowardly, but a way towards the healing of polarity and injustice.

Here are a couple of examples when humour or great presence of mind have been used to find this Third Way . What do you think?

A black woman was walking on a South African street with her children, when a white man, passing, spat in her face. She stopped and said, "Thank you, and now for the children." He was so nonplussed he was unable to respond.

Sometimes the wit can have a barb.

When Bishop Desmond Tutu was walking by a construction site on a temporary sidewalk the width of one person, a white man appeared at the other end, recognized Tutu, and said, "I don't give way to gorillas." At which Tutu stepped aside, made a deep sweeping gesture, and said, "Ah yes, but I do."

PARISH REGISTER

New Members - Joan Hodge and Jenny Dodgson

Elder Emeritus - Heather Craig.

Welcome, Joan and Jenny, and congratulations, Heather.

FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS: MAINTENANCE PLANNING

We have sought advice from a number of places including Napier City Council and Eastern Institute of Technology and based on the advice we have received we have asked Programmed Property Services (PPS) to prepare the five year maintenance plan for the parish properties. This plan will set out all the work that needs to be done each year, internal and external, to maintain our properties.

One issue that will impact on the maintenance plan is the Earthquake strengthening project which could well give rise to maintenance items that will have to be included in the five year plan.

The Board has agreed that no maintenance work such as painting and repairs will be done on the church building until the EQ project is underway or has been completed. This includes landscaping of the church grounds as this area will almost certainly be used by the contractor as a base for vehicles, equipment and supplies.

There are concerns about the overall condition of Asher Hall but we have decided that while we are using it for Sunday services no upgrades (such as painting) will be done. The gutters on Asher hall have been cleaned and enquiries have been made about gutter guard systems however we agreed we wouldn't do this until we know whether the roof might need replacing. Curtains are to be put up in the McConnochie/Arnold room.

Kerry Marshall for Board of Managers

A PASTORAL CARER.

Ian Finlayson

I love people, I love being a sane, rational and hopefully different voice for the Christian faith, I love seeing people helped out. I really love what I do.

It has been my pleasure to arrange and organize several Pastoral Care gatherings for our parishioners. It has been a time to share triumphs, joys and victories and, recently a Pastoral Communion service led by Sally for anyone able to attend when sometimes Sunday Communion service isn't possible.

As a pastoral carer I offer friendship, caring and support for our members. I see Pastoral care as the ministry of care. Many Session members are conscientious and willing pastoral carers and we work inclusively with the Minister with home and hospital visiting. Often during a visit it is not finding a solution to their concerns but just being a caring visitor during their difficult times.

I hope I listen with respect, and honour the stories of people's lives, their experiences, struggles, joys and pain. In difficult and demanding times such as a critical illness or other traumas in life, we may experience high stress, reducing our ability to cope. At these times the help of others may be very valuable. Family members and friends are often a very important support, but sometimes the presence of a person who is more emotionally detached from the situation can be very helpful. It is our spirituality that is at the core of self-identity and sense of purpose in life.

The apostle Peter put it this way, "*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing...*" (1 Peter 5:2)

PARISH OUTREACH.

Each month when Session meets, one of the items on the Agenda is Outreach. We decide which of a wide number of community we'd like to donate \$100 to. In April and May we gave this to the Napier Family Project for the "Edible Fruit Forest". This is still in its early stage, but when you drive past, apple etc. now growing there. Other smaller bush fruits are being considered too – blueberries, feijoa, passion fruit and ????. Kerry Marshall, Sally and I delivered the cheque, and the CEO, Kath Curran showed us progress thus far.



The Te Whakaritorito Trust, from their volunteer base have done some work there and will continue, but Kath would welcome enthusiasts to work alongside trust members, especially with the planning and guidance. It would not be a big task. If this is an area in which you'd like to help, please phone Kath, 8437280. She'd love to hear from you.

In June our donation went to "BellyFull", an organization of younger women which takes meals to new mums to assist them to settle in with their new

(ed).

SOME NEWER POPULAR HYMNS.

Ella Haigh.

Beautiful Presence. Words by Joy Cowley; Music by Barry Brinson. Joy Cowley is a well-known New Zealand author who has been writing for adults and children for over forty years. She and her husband, Terry Coles, lived in Marlborough Sounds for many years and now live in a little cottage in Featherston. Terry is a keen photographer. They have co-authored four books of reflective prayer/poems with complementary photographs:- Aotearoa Psalms (1989); Psalms Down-under (1996); Psalms for the Road (2002); Come and see (2008). Notes to a Friend (2013) is written for people who are outside religious structures. Joy has written a benediction beginning "May the mystery of God unfold us", which has been published in Psalms Down-under. It has also been set to music.

Barry Brinson is a Christchurch musician and is organist at the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church. Those who watch Praise Be will have heard his name as the conductor of items from Our Lady of Victory Church in Sockburn.

From This Holy Time was written by Marnie Barrell and set to music by Barry Brinson. Marnie Barrell lives in Auckland. She is a piano teacher and is musical director at St Barnabas Anglican Church. She has always loved hymns, both words and music. In 1986 she met Shirley Murray who encouraged her to try writing hymns. She has enjoyed doing this and her texts have been published in the three hymnbooks produced by the New Zealand Hymnbook Trust.

Marnie likes to write new texts for the well-loved hymn tunes so that they can be used immediately and easily, and people don't have the effort of learning lots of new music. She doesn't generally just paraphrase scripture to set it to music, but uses a variety of material to illustrate one main theme she is writing about.

Be Still, For the presence of the Lord - by David D Evans, born in England in 1957. He also composed the tune, called "Be Still". As well as composing he works in the field of music education and has done research into the psychology of music for his PhD. He has written some fifty items which are largely unpublished, but "Be Still" has far outstripped the others in popularity. This song is clearly inspired by words from the Bible, but seems to touch people where they are. Evans says that the core message of the hymn came from a phrase in the Old Testament, 'Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said "Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it" '.

CARD MAKING NEWS

(Amended from last Month)

The Greeting Card Stand in the Church Foyer is now empty. As expected the sales had dropped due to the Church Services now being held in Asher Hall. We still continue to make cards for the stand, and when services return to the Church building you can look forward to a nice fresh supply. For your information, since June 2006, \$2140 has been donated to church funds. Thank you for your continued support. Best Wishes to all.

Phyllis Jane.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE – REFUGEE DAY – JUNE 20TH.

Refugee mothers from Syria are worrying about how they will feed and care for their children. Years of bitter war are destroying their country and their lives. More than five years of conflict have left them with few resources and worn thin the lifeline that has kept them going. Now with husbands and sons in Syria, Europe, or lost in between, their worries are mounting. Debts are growing as they struggle to care for their families. Food supplies are low and they need help to get through. They need more than food parcels to survive the trauma they have experienced. Shelter, education, healthcare, livelihoods and psychosocial care are high on the list.

Our partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon is using decades of experience and networks to support Syrian refugees to find their own solutions. Training refugee women to lead women's forums in Jordan is an effective way to deal with the trauma and worries they carry. In the forums the women talk about their difficulties and support each other. One woman said,

"I was thinking to commit suicide, but after participating in the women forums, I felt self-confidence and that I can trust people."

With the future uncertain, DSPR knows how important education is. In Lebanon where there are not enough places for all the refugee children, they are running school in the morning and activities in the afternoon. Since 2013 they have used their contacts to organise Year 9 and 13 students to return to Syria to sit major national exams. In Jordan they are organising free medical days and health education programmes.

On World Refugee Day June 20 we celebrate the courage and resourcefulness of refugees. Can you keep the lifeline going to Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon?

Director of DSPR Lebanon Sylvia Haddad, herself a Palestinian refugee has written to thank New Zealanders for their help, **"Fleeing one's home is not an easy matter and has never been an option. But life is precious and so we fled. Thank you for helping us until we get back to our homes."** If you can, please support Syrian refugees again. **The New Zealand Government will match donations made to the [Syria Appeal](#) by August 1.**

Working together we can keep the lifeline going. A gift of \$90 will feed a family of six for 15 days. You can make your donation [online](#) or [post it to](#): Christian World Service, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140.

SUNDAY, 19TH JUNE, 2016

At Morning Worship We were pleased to honour Heather Craig and grant her as Elder David's about 1956. She would have been in her late 50's when she became an elder. When she closed she moved to St Peter's which then became St Stephen's. It was there that she started the Day Care Centre and was the driving force behind this for many years. She was awarded a Napier Civic Award for her community work. Heather was always a loyal and committed elder at St Stephen's, and now at St Paul's, a regular attender at meetings, a good visitor, and supportive of the ministers, a caring and kind person.

Also at this service we were pleased to receive into membership, Joan Dodge and her daughter Jenny Hodgson. They had both been associated with St Stephen's in earlier years. We welcome into the family of St Paul's.
(ed.)



ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING Isabel Morgan

Last month I wrote about the launch of bio-diversity strategy put together by the HBRC. This is to protect native and endemic species.

In a recent casual conversation with a local taxi driver we were talking gardening. He mentioned that he could no longer grow his own tomatoes. I asked him to tell me why. Yes, yes. The psyllid that had been seen first in Auckland about 2006, and has now spread widely. We have native psyllids, but this one, probably from South America, is most definitely an 'unwanted' organism. We were told that it had probably blown here. More likely came in on some

produce! (My thought). So growers have been battling this psyllid (cockerelli). One of our native plants, poroporo, is related to the potato, and there was some concern that this psyllid would cause damage to the poroporo.

I asked a local grower what he does to combat this pest, and the answer was, "Awful things! Wash your tomatoes well."

Just a few days ago I heard an item on National Radio that held my attention. After some years of clinical trials very carefully and thoroughly undertaken an application will be made to import a tiny wasp that lays its eggs in the psyllid, and when they hatch they eat the psyllid. I hope it works.

It reminds me of a piece of doggerel I read many years ago. Something was brought in to Australia to control the prickly pear, then something to control the control, and on and on.

Well, I hope the little wasp idea works, and I am once again able to grow tomatoes and a few early potatoes.

Tamarillos and capsicums were also severely affected by the psyllid. Within a short while of its arrival, tamarillo growers in NZ had reduced from 900 to 35. Ever wondered why tamarillos are so expensive?

"May God grant you always....
A sunbeam to warm you, A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering Angel, so nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you; Faithful friends near you.
And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you."
~ An Irish Blessing ~