

# St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

## NEWSLETTER - June, 2016

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### **FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK - Retreat to Opito Bay**

A couple of months ago, Session kindly agreed that I could attend a three day retreat with the Moderator, Rev Andrew Norton and, as it turned out, five other companions. Four of them I knew to some extent and one was a visitor from Switzerland.

The retreat was held over three days at the beautiful, remote Opito Bay, northeast of Whitianga on the Coromandel peninsula. We had been advised not to rush the journey, so we spent the previous night with family in Cambridge, then Frank and I had breakfast in Thames with the colleague who would take me the rest of the way - another hour and three quarters. All of these stopping points were important as I gradually started looking away from everyday concerns and towards the new environment which would surround me for the next three days.

The journey was beautiful, with beaches, mangroves, nikau palms and surprising views around many of the corners in the road - of which there WERE many! Each intersection, it seemed, led us on a narrower, windier road. The last road before Opito Bay Rd was Black Jack road, which wound its way up into the hills, through native bush and commercial forest, until we reached the top, where the panorama of Opito Bay unfolded before us. We felt as though we had indeed left the world behind us.

And so we gathered, gradually, from our different journeys. A fine table was laid for us and we tentatively began getting to know one another. The weather had been kind on the way over, but after lunch, thunder, lightning and vigorous rain flew over in a brief but tempestuous squall. Within a few minutes it was over, the sun shone, the sky brightened and the beach beckoned us on the first of many walks (the beach was straight across the road!) The weather was kind to us for the rest of our stay.

It is hard to describe what being on retreat is all about. I guess it is to free the mind and the soul from the usual concerns of everyday living, to reconnect with the body and to make room for the Spirit to work within. The first day we were asked to write down a hundred questions. Yes, a hundred questions. Questions which might or might not have an answer. The idea behind so many questions was that we would not overthink the questions - that we would allow space for the trivial and the profound and to discover what the big and wondering questions were that we were asking in our heart's depths. Over the next days, these questions continued to shape our experiences and our discernment of what the Spirit was saying to us. (And there was more good food and wine to help the discernment process!).

My colleague and I were very quiet as we set off for home, reversing the letting go, and gradually starting to process all that had surfaced during the three days. A cup of coffee at Waiomu, where Frank picked me up, and the return journey was well and truly under way - back to grandchildren, swimming and riding, back to Napier and 'normal' life. I am sure that the gift of those three days will remain with me for many months to come.

Thanks and blessings, *Sally*

## **PARISH REGISTER.**

**Funerals.** 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2016 – Roberta (Bobbie) Marian Dick

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Bobbie.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MAINTENANCE?**

The Parish has four main properties: the Church and Asher Hall in the city plus the manse and the buildings (leased to the Napier Family Centre) in Onekawa. It is important that the Parish meets its obligations to maintain its property to an acceptable standard so Session has appointed a committee, the Maintenance Committee, to set up a five year maintenance plan. The members of the committee are Frank Carter, Kerry Marshall, Lionel Maxted, David Thomas and David Walker.

The purpose of the committee is the development and implementation of a five year maintenance plan for parish buildings and, while unplanned maintenance is not a focus, assistance is being provided to Frank with the collation of tasks and the assignment of the smaller maintenance work. Having a longer term plan will help the Board of Managers budget for work such as repainting and the replacement or upgrade of larger items in our buildings.

While a long term plan is under development the committee will ensure that a number of urgent matters such as the clearing of spouting will be done by a suitably equipped contractor. The earthquake strengthening project could well give rise to maintenance items that the committee will have to consider in its planning. Landscaping, delayed while the EQ project is underway will be discussed with the congregation once any disruption to our grounds is completed.

How do we establish a five year maintenance plan? Obviously professional assistance will be needed as this is more than the external painting plans that have been done previously. The upkeep of the interior of our buildings is just as important and will need to be incorporated in the plan as well.

The committee will also look into setting up a list of approved and preferred contractors that can be asked to price work as it arises as we want to ensure anyone working around our properties is appropriately qualified and has things like Health & Safety well managed.

The committee will be reporting regularly to the Board of Managers and will keep you updated.

*Kerry Marshall May 2016*

## **CARD MAKING NEWS.**



Since we have been worshipping in the Church, the sales of the Cards from the stand in the Foyer have dropped, and it has been decided to cease sales until we are back in the Church when we will have a nice fresh supply for you to choose from. As well as supplying some cards to various activities in the Parish, we have donated \$50 for a camellia for the garden in front of Asher Hall and donated \$1214 to Church Funds. Thank you for your support of this venture.

*Phyllis Jane.*

## **FIRESIDE GROUP - NEXT MEETING JUNE 14TH' at 7.30pm**

**SPEAKER** - Sally Carter will tell us about her trip to Myanmar. All welcome – yes men too.

There will be the usual sales table and light supper.

## **BIBLE SOCIETY ACTION GROUP – GENERAL MEETING.**



An invitation is extended to all to the meeting of the Bible Society Action Group on 13<sup>th</sup> June, at 6pm in St Thomas More Church, Wycliffe Street, for a shared finger food meal. The speaker will be Major Alister Irwin the Corps Officer at the Napier Salvation Army. There will be a Bring and buy with all proceeds going towards Bible Society's Fiji Cyclone Appeal.

### **BRING AND BUY - SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – ASHER** **9.45 – 10.30**

**Can you Help.** Each year the Methodist and Presbyterian Women project to assist some special groups that need help. This year the portion is based on the Philippines where recovery from the Typhoon 2015 is ongoing, especially in the more remote areas. Materials rebuilding their homes, clean water and establishment of their gardens all part of the assistance given. The NZ component will assist The Zealanders Foundation. "When I value myself, I value life" is their slogan and they work with teenagers and teachers on suicide prevention. Valuing life is an antidote to suicide. Our money will help to support people working with teenagers to value their life. When a person values themselves, they are more likely to value their health, their relationships with family friends and people around them at school and the environment they live in.



### **HALL –**

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So please come along with items for the stall, if you can, and some money in your purses for the buying of some cakes, biscuits, loaves, jams etc. We look forward to your assistance in this mission of the church. Thank you. (ed)

### **KEEPING WARM.**

Most of us are fortunate enough to live in warm houses with enough covers on our beds to keep us cosy at night. I was speaking recently to Liz Read, (you may have seen the article about her in The Napier Mail), she was awarded Hawke's Bay's Nursing Hero and works especially with families who are struggling. She mentioned that she is often in homes where children do not have enough blankets to keep them warm. Some of us at St Paul's are knitting rugs which will go to such families, but I thought there must be many of us who have spare blankets which are sitting unused in our cupboards and which we could donate to Liz's Department of the District Health Board's Public Health Nurses. If you would like to assist in this area, please bring your blankets (any size) along on any Sunday during June and we will make sure they get to a needy family. (ed.)

### **YOUR INVITATION:**

The Pastoral Care team has arranged a Communion and Coffee morning in the Church lounge on Thursday 16th June, 2016 at 10am. This is especially for anyone unable to attend Sunday Communion services and would like to be included. Transport is offered to anyone who would like to join us.

Your visiting Elder will be in touch with you or you may contact Ian Finlayson Phone 8431266 or Jenny Foster 835 8121 for further information.



*Ian Finlayson* (for the Pastoral Care Team)

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

World Vision have sent a film clip taken at Chigodi for our sponsored child, Everen, to share with sponsors. This was a special moment in a classroom where the topic was chosen by the children while taking a peep into their reading class – all seated on a hard floor with bright smiling faces and so many eager hands up to take a turn.

Another story from a former sponsored child in Mali showed the influence of a talented kiwi musician, Raylee Bracefield, on Mali's life change. From having no school or health clinic Hyromi, after his sponsorship, is now the first person from his village to graduate from university. He now also speaks 5 languages!

And it was good to read in the latest news from Save the Children how our donations have helped in various areas of the world. In Ethiopia where the worst drought in 50 years has left 10.2 million people in need of food, SCF has, in more than 100 of the worst affected areas, provided food, water medicines to families who have lost their incomes, and nutrition to children suffering from severe-acute malnutrition, and has worked to save livestock and crops where possible. In Syria SCF has been working in besieged areas since 2013 and has provided food parcels, repaired water systems, kept schools running, distributed hygiene kits, and set up Child Friendly spaces to provide support for children affected by bombing and siege. And in New Zealand, have supplied all refugee children, (many from Syria and many who have not been to school for years) with school starter packs which include a bag, pencil case, lunchbox and uniforms.

Thank you to all who support the Child Sponsorship retiring offering on the last Sunday of each month which is shared between World Vision and Save the Children. It is good to read news of the help and assistance that our donation can give to the examples above and similar causes in our needy world. *Marion Fell and Ed.*

## ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING

In early March I received an invitation to attend the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's launch of their bio-diversity Strategy. I was pleased to attend the function, as well as being pleased that the strategy is out. All Regional Councils are required to have such a strategy, but the positive actions that follow are what is of most importance.

The main speaker at the launch was Rudd Kleinplaste who in his inimitable, humourous, sometimes cheeky way, gave us many reasons why flora and fauna, from tiny insects to mighty trees, are important.

But not so for some that have been deliberately brought in (think rabbits, for one) and those that have been accidentally brought in (think varroa mite in beehives) and those that escape detection at ports or airports.

Some years ago I read that it was estimated that at least 300 species of both flora and fauna have been lost since human occupation of these islands.

You may be wondering what you can do to help maintain N.Z.'s biodiversity. The most important way is probably to take an interest, follow what the Regional Council is doing or proposing in this area, and support their efforts. *Isabel Morgan.*

## HAWKES BAY PRESBYTERIAL



The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY, JUNE 9th at 11am at St Columba's Taradale.**

Rev. Brett Walker will tell us about his study leave.

At 12 noon we have soup and buns, with the cost of \$5 going towards St. Columba's fund-raising for this year's project. Do support this meeting and enjoy fellowship with women from other Churches. Please ask if you need transport.

*Isabel Morgan, Liaison*

## MALCOLM GORDON VISIT

Over the weekend of June 10th-12th we are lucky to be working with Malcolm Gordon, PCANZ's Worship, Music and arts enabler. Malcolm is a Presbyterian Minister. He's been writing songs for the last ten years and more, and started writing music for worship in 2006. He has three albums - One Voice, Ministry of the Interior, Into the Deep, plus many other songs for particular occasions, such as General Assembly, Mother's Day and others. He is the voice behind 'Hey Stranger' which we heard at our PSEC service last year, and 'Hey Mary, there's an angel in your house' - a lovely song for Christmas. He's married to Vanessa, and they have two children - Sam, 5, and Lucy 2 (or maybe 3). Malcolm is passionate about writing music that helps God speak to his people, and enables God's people to speak back. He is also passionate about leading worship and writing liturgy which is truly grounded and connected into people's lives. Among other projects, Malcolm is working on songs which smaller congregations with minimum musical resources can enjoy. I hope many of you will be able to meet Malcolm and enjoy his music and worship. (Dates of Workshops to be announced).  
*Sally.*

From Church Notices - "This evening there will be a hymn sing in the park opposite the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin."

In the vestry of a church in the USA. "Will the last person to leave please see that the perpetual light is extinguished."

And other notices - In the obituaries column of Gloucestershire local paper. ".....died after a long fight with his family in Cheltenham."

In a restaurant. "Open seven days a week and weekends."

In a café in Cambridge England. "In case of fire, please pay bill promptly."

Sign on launderette in East London. "Don't kill your wife, let us do it!"

A Road Sign, "Please go slowly round the bend".

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