

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER - May, 2016

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FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK -

As it is the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, I thought I would begin this newsletter with a quote from his sonnet number 73:

'That time of year, thou may'st in me behold
Where yellow leaves, or none, or few do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruined choirs where late the sweet birds sang.'

A wonderful evocation of the season of autumn, which is certainly upon us as I write. I think we are fortunate in the Southern hemisphere to have the church's season of Pentecost in the autumn of the year. The colours are so rich, the light deep and warm, the trees like a fire with their leaves of red and gold. The equinoxial gales blow right through us.

Pentecost is the season of the Spirit, and I got thinking about the symbols we use to try and get a sense of what the Holy Spirit is like. As I watched a skein of Canada geese flying over Westshore Estuary and listened to their honking as they flew, I was reminded of the wild goose, Celtic symbol for the Holy Spirit. I noticed as the geese flew that the skein took a while to form. The geese were disorderly and noisy, getting in each other's' way until eventually they each found their place and began to fly together.

The other symbols we use for the Holy Spirit also offer us many possibilities. **Wind**, coming out of nowhere, blowing where it wills, drying our washing, clearing out the cobwebs of our mind, sometimes gently reassuring, other times tossing aside branches, roofs, as it insists on making a path through our lives. Or the breath that inspires us, the breath of peace we need for life itself. **Water**, thirst quenching and refreshing, calming as it laps against the shore or meanders through the bush, powerful in flood, or a wave which can be exhilarating as you ride it, or overwhelming as you toss and tumble in its breaking foam. **Fire**, a warming welcome home during a cold evening, a gathering place to tell stories and toast bread or marshmallows or to send a signal. Or fire, burning through forest so that seed pods can open and new growth happen.

The symbols of the Spirit resist being contained in one meaning, as the Holy Spirit itself does. The Spirit cannot be contained in our human imaginations, but blows, burns, flows or flies as she will. By turns unsettling, reassuring, empowering and overwhelming, the rich, warm, blustery autumn Spirit of God leads us out of the doldrums into fullness of life.

Sally,

PARISH REGISTER.

Funerals. 29th February, 2016 - Mary Bowers SPEIGHT, Step mother to Andrew and Anna.

20th March, 2016 - Hilary JEFFREYS, Mother and mother-in-law of Alison, David and Mona. Grandmother of Sophie Isabelle, Lewis and Hazel

We extend our sympathy in their loss to the families of Mary and Hilary.

FROM THE ARCHIVES – FROM THE HAWKE’S BAY HERALD OF JANUARY 10, 1863, COMES THE FOLLOWING.

ST PAUL’S PRESBYTERIAN TRAINING SCHOOL.

The above Seminary was re-opened on Monday, January 5 and is now in operation. Pupils may now be enrolled for the ensuing Quarter, ending April 1. In order to correct any misunderstanding that may exist in reference to fees, Mr Thompson would place before you his scale of charges in a different form:-

For Reading, Spelling and Explanation, £1.1s per qr; 7s.6d per month.

For writing and Arithmetic, 5s per qr; or 1s.6d per month additional.

For dictation, Geography and Grammar, 16s per qr; or 5s 6d per month.

For composition, History and Elocution, 10s.6d per qr; or 3s.6d per month.

For English Literature, Natural Science etc, 10s.6 per qr; or 4s per month additional.

For the entire course of English, £1.2s per month.

Mr and Mrs Thompson (*Andrew, newly-arrived from Scotland became 1st Elder at St Paul’s*) will receive a limited number of boys as Boarders on or after March 1st. Eligible premises have been secured and the utmost care and attention will be bestowed on all entrusted to their charge. Terms may be known on application either in person or by letter. Miss Boyle is prepared at once to receive girls as boarders. (*This was a surprising find for “Church Historian”. James Morris, a part Maori was a great Uncle of mine, and his lifelong friend, later to become Sir James Carroll, were both pupils of this School in 1863*).

(Notes in italics are by Alison Wright who was the “Church Historian” till 2007. It would be interesting to know for how long the school was in existence. Ed.)

A STITCH IN TIME:

It was a Royal Occasion at our meeting on Monday 18th April, 2016. Pearls, diamonds, bling, diamantes and tiaras were worn as we celebrated Queen Elizabeth’s 90th birthday. We made a gift bag and filled it with goodies to be kept as ‘A Stress Kit’. A quiz proved very informative about the Queen’s activities around her birthday and we learnt many things about the occasion and what we didn’t know we made up. Inez was crowned the winner. Elizabeth called in but didn’t stay long. Somehow we didn’t think it was Queen Elizabeth but it was lovely to have 20 ladies share the afternoon. Do join us on 1st and 3rd Monday’s each month in the Church lounge (April – October). Have fun and a good laugh as well as stitch with us all. For more information contact Dorothy 8431266 or Christine 843 8788. (6. 1958).

A FUN EVENING

On Friday, 18th March, a Trivial Pursuit evening was held in Asher Hall. There were 9 teams of 4 people. Our Quiz master was Kerry Marshall, and where he gets his questions from, I don't know. But do you know:-

1. Who said 'pipes must lead' (in a pipe band)?
2. What first appeared in Napier in 1915?
3. What do Ivana Zeinickova, Maria Maples and Melania Knauss have in common?
4. In 1879 200 tins of what product were sold for the first time from a Christchurch grocery store?
5. What was shown on Television in Auckland for the first time in 1961?
6. In what year did Christmas Day become a public holiday in Scotland 1598, 1859 1958?

(Answers to these questions will be elsewhere in the Newsletter.)

Congratulations to the winning team, "Gray Matter" - Marian Emsley, David Walker, Christine and Roger Schofield. Supper was served and prizes presented. Our thanks go to Kerry and his team for organizing such a fun evening. If you weren't able to be there, make sure you are for the next one, otherwise you'll miss out on a wonderful fun night. See you there.

Anne Burden.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING

Each year I am once again slightly bemused by the 'Easter bunny'. Chickens hatch from eggs, so did a rabbit steal an egg? Has the chicken hatched? There are other thoughts that engage my mind each Easter, and the bunny becomes irrelevant.

Now I am thinking of real rabbits, and the pest they have become in N.Z. As I understand it, the early South Island high country settlers, 18th century, decided they would like some hunting sport. Picture the be-whiskered gentlemen discussing this. No foxes, no rabbits. Ah! why not rabbits.

I wonder how many rabbits were shipped in originally. A pair for each station? In one year there would be enough to delight. And the rabbits said, "Thank you very much. Not as cold, lots of hills and fields and grass and other greens in the gardens." (2. Electric Power).

When the realisation came that the rabbits were out of control, no doubt the gentlemen thought of predators for control. Their natural enemy? Mustelids, plans were made. When eminent British scientists learnt of this, they urged the N.Z. government not to allow this "as your ground-nesting birds will be in danger". And in danger they have been ever since, and not only from mustelids. Loss of habitat and human encroachment have also played a part, to say nothing of human folly. Anyone for a huia feather?

The answer to the solution for the problem is not in sight yet. Myxamatosis was smuggled in, and reduced rabbit numbers temporarily. And still they multiply. *Isabel Morgan*



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN – ANNUAL DINNER.

18th May, 2016 at Havelcok North Function Centre. (6.30 for 7pm).

Guest Speaker, Kate Radburn, “A Women in Wine”. Tickets \$40. Available until 16th May, from Jill McConnochie, 845 2392 or Kath De Latour, 843 9080.

Kate Radburn has a reputation as someone who is truly passionate about what she does, is recognised for her expertise with awards and by being chosen as a national and international judge, and has a care for the countryside in her work pioneering the Sustainability Winegrowing New Zealand programme. Pask Winery, where Kate is chief winemaker, is the first vineyard to obtain accreditation. Kate has also been deputy chair of the Eastern Institute of Technology where qualifications in wine science and viticulture are now two of its flagship degrees. Amidst all the news of the struggle for gender equality it is refreshing to learn that Kate has never felt she has been held back by being judged for who she is. Nowadays there are many women winemakers. (1. Queen Victoria)

THANKS

Thank you for the St Paul’s birthday flowers plus the many cards from some of the folk, all very much appreciated. I had a lovely weekend with family, some from Auckland, Dargaville and Darwin, and the Friday with the Luncheon Group was a real treat, a great spot and lovely folk. I enjoyed every minute. Being 21 plus is great!!! Thank you for everything.

Heather Craig – (who recently turned 90) (3. They are ex-wives of Donald Trump.)

COMMON GROUND CONFERENCE MAY 6TH - MAY 8TH

Early last year, Sally asked members from the St. Paul’s catering team if they would be interested in catering for a conference in May 2016. Having read the brochure about the conference we agreed. We will be catering for afternoon and morning teas as well as lunch on the Saturday.

The conference promises to be very interesting. NZ’s 2nd Progressive Spirituality conference will feature best-selling author Robin Meyers, Professor of Social Justice at Oklahoma City University and Member of the Jesus Seminar.

People from a number of progressive faith communities are contributing and others will be welcome to join in. We’ll be exploring ideas through story, discussion and debate. We’ll share our resources to inspire and encourage each other.

Other speakers include Jo Randerson and Robert Myles. Events will be held in Asher Hall, St. Paul’s Church lounge and Trinity Church. Robin Meyers will be preaching at the **10am** Sunday service in Asher Hall.

Thank you very much for your offers of help so far. If you would like to help with hosting, furniture moving or driving, please contact Sally.

Dorothy Finlayson, (on behalf of the catering team)

AN UNVEILING

The Blom family invited two of from St Peters (St Stephens) to the unveiling of the Blom Family stone at Western Heights. Mrs Blom was a long time member and was a real worker at the church particularly with the day care of the elderly each Wednesday. The family remembered the chocolate cake and the scones the members enjoyed each week when they came to give their families some respite car. The family was able to remember how their mother worked at Iona School and then moved to Napier when she married her husband Garrard. Comments were also made how much they respected their mother and how she had taught them so much and set a standard for them to live by. It was a pleasure to attend this gathering and to realise how much Nane's faith and commitment to her church meant so much to them all.

Anne Silson.

(4. Edmonds

Baking Powder)

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, 16TH JUNE, 2016

The Pastoral Care team has arranged a Communion and Coffee morning in the Church lounge on Thursday 16th June, 2016 at 10am.

This is 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.

(5. Advertising.)

Ian Finlayson (for the Pastoral Care Team)

FAVOURITE HYMNS - Ella Haigh.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty was written by Reginald Heber. The words attempt to describe and worship the three persons of the Godhead. He wrote them for one Trinity Sunday at his Parish church in Shropshire. Heber was the son of a Fellow and tutor of Brasenose College, Oxford and was born in 1783. When only seventeen he entered Brasenose where he was a brilliant student and won many prizes.

After two years travelling abroad he was ordained in 1807 and served a parish for sixteen years. At the early age of forty he became Bishop of the Diocese of Calcutta which at that time comprised all India, Ceylon and Australia. He died suddenly in India in 1829, his health broken by three years of travel and responsibility for such a huge area.

This hymn is usually sung to the tune "Nicea" by John Bacchus Dykes. He composed it when he was vicar of St Oswald's in Durham and the tune quickly became very popular in that city. Eight of his tunes are in "With One Voice". Three of the better known ones are "Melita" to Eternal Father strong to save; "Gerontius" to Praise to the holiest in the height; and "Hollingside" to Jesus, lover of my soul.

The King of Love my Shepherd is was written by Henry William Baker, based on Psalm 23. He lived in the 19th Century. The 23rd Psalm has been a great comfort to untold numbers of people. Many metrical versions and paraphrases have been written. In Scotland the one chiefly used is "The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want", but English congregations favour Baker's version. "The King of love" is his most popular hymn.

Sir Henry, a Church of England Minister made a study of hymnology. He was Chairman of the Committee of Compilers of "Hymns Ancient and Modern", first published in 1861. He also composed many hymn tunes. He died in 1877 at the age of fifty-six. Another of his hymns in "With One Voice" is "Lord, Thy word abiding".

"The King of Love" has two tunes in "With One Voice", "Dominus Regit" by John Bacchus Dykes, and "St Columba" an Irish traditional hymn melody. We have sung both on occasions.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness was written by J S B Monsell, and is found in "With One Voice" in the section headed "The Church; its life and witness". Monsell, the son of an Archdeacon was born in Londonderry in 1811. After graduating from Trinity College, Dublin, he took Holy Orders and served various positions and parishes in Ireland and England. He wrote numerous hymns and poems.

"O worship the Lord" was written in 1860. He wrote a second version but it never superseded the original. The "O" at the start of the first verse caused the metre to be different from the other verses. It was omitted from the Revised Church Hymnary. Monsell died as a result of a very sad accident. One day he was watching renovations of his church when a large piece of masonry fell from the roof, striking him on the head. He died soon afterwards, aged sixty-four.

This hymn is sung to the tune "Was Lebet", a melody from a MS "Choral Buch" of Johann Heinrich Reinhardt, Uttingen, 1754. Another of Monsell's well-known hymns is "Fight the good fight".

PREPARATION FOR THE END OF LIFE SEMINARS.

An invitation is extended from All Saints Taradale to attend these Seminars to be held in their church on Tuesdays at 2pm and 7pm followed by light refreshments. They are:-

3 May: Legal Preparation Enduring Power of Attorney, Living Wills & Wills, with Mary Robertson (Solicitor), at 2pm and Declan Carroll at 7pm.

10 May: Medical and Support Services, Hospice & Cranford Hospice, Advance Care Planning with Cranford Hospice personnel.

17 May: Preparation for death, Funeral planning with Janine Howard (Funeral Director) and Hospital chaplaincy Rev Barbara Walker

24 May: The Grief Walk, Facing our mortality and Grief Walk with Rev Alister Hendery

More interesting Notices.

In a men's outfitters. "Fifteen men's wool suits. \$100, They won't last an hour."

At an American bookstore. "Rare, out-of-print and non-existent books."

In a launderette. "Do not put wet clothes in dryers, as this can cause irreparable damage."

In a café. "All-day Breakfast being served. 8.30 - 10.30."

"The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday."

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."

On a lighter note

MY DISC IS VERY FULL!!! MEMORY – The Explanation – Brains of older people are slow because they know so much.

People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe.

Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so, too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full.

Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline.

“The human brain works slower in old age,” said Dr. Michael Ramscar, “but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more. Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.”

SO THERE! Now when I reach for a word or a name, I won't excuse myself by saying "I'm having a senior moment". Now, I'll rather say, "**My disk is full!**"