

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission"

NEWSLETTER - November, 2016

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FROM OUR MINISTER AT GLEN INNIS

This week we have rounded off my study leave with a week in Glen Innis – the ministers' holiday home on the way to Porangahau. It is a wonderful place, to use the words of a friend of mine, 'catch up with yourself'. There are birds and rabbits, sheep, an amiable Jack Russell called Gus, beautiful trees and gardens, and a pool table and darts board for rainy weather or moments of brain fade.

This afternoon, we went out to Herbertville Beach, where the sea was an astounding blue, and the sand seemed to stretch a thousand miles. The wind was just windy enough to blow the Spirit's energy, to carry the calls of paradise ducks and to enable the joyous soaring of gulls and terns.

But tonight my amazement was of a different order of magnitude. Out here, the sky is very dark. The stars I am sure are more numerous than the descendants of Abraham (see Genesis ch 15!). More satellites than I have ever seen before crossed the sky, the planets shone steadily, and the moon considerably delayed rising so that the glorious spectacle of the Milky Way could be enjoyed more fully. My heart was full to bursting with the wonder of it all. The sky was a hymn of praise to the One who created such an awesome spectacle, and who continues to reveal its mysteries to us.

A short while ago, I bought myself a tripod for just such a night as this. I have a way to go before I can produce a truly amazing photo of the night sky, but even my first attempts went some way to capturing in a photo the experience of the immensity of God's goodness and never ending creation.

Some wise person advises us to look up at the sky at least once a day. There is even a special day for it – International Look Up at the Sky Day! Next year it will be on April 14th. But any day works well! So look up at the sky some night. Remember that everyone on Earth is looking at the same moon, the same stars, and is part of the same wondrous immensity that you are.

With every blessing,

See you next week, *Sally*

PARISH REGISTER:

FUNERALS. 8th September, 2016 – Kay Caradus, Elder at St Stephen's and St Paul's.

23rd September, 2016 - Alan Percy Dyer, husband of Lola.

20th October, 2016 – George Ronald Quinn, long time member of St Paul's.

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of Kay, Alan and George.

George Ronald QUINN. 10th Nov, 1940 – 14th October, 2016.

George was a member of St. Paul's Church and a celebration of his life was held in the Church lounge on 20th October, 2016. George was born in Dunedin but after twin brothers died soon after their birth, George was left as an only child. When his parents moved to Napier he lived in the family home in Flanders Avenue, until the time came for care and George moved into Hampton Court Rest Home about three years ago. George became a member of the Board of Managers in 1979 and remained an active member on door and manager's duty until he was no longer able. George enjoyed being part of the card group and participated in bowls. Willing support was active in the Church by the pastoral care team when transport was necessary to take George to and from worship services and it has been appreciated that a few members were still diligent in their visits to George during the time when health issues hindered outings from the rest home. Some remember Mrs. Linda Quinn (Mother) who was an active member of the women's groups at St. Paul's. Sincere thanks for support from Church members was expressed in a Eulogy by Mr. Graham Ryan who was responsible for George's welfare.

SEISMIC STRENGTHENING

On behalf of the Capital Project Team it is with much pleasure that I can advise the congregation of St Paul's that the Property Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand has this past week given approval for us to proceed with the Seismic Strengthening Project required in the Church Sanctuary.

Further to this, tenders were called for the undertaking of the required work. Initially four contractors were invited to submit tenders, two due to their work commitments, withdrew from the tendering process. The other two contractors each submitted quotations with Atkins Construction being the successful tenderer with a price of \$23,267 plus GST. The second tender submitted was a price significantly higher than that of Atkins Construction.

The Building Consent has now been received from the Napier City Council and Atkins Construction have begun preparing for the job to be done and expect to be on site towards the end of November. Meantime they will be constructing the Steel Posts and having them galvanised. Once that process has been completed it will then be on site to install the posts. It is expected that the work will be completed in time for the Church to be back in use before Christmas – what a Christmas Present.

Bryan Rudd, Team Leader, Seismic Strengthening Project.

NAPIER FAMILY CENTRE.

The AGM of the Napier Family Centre will be held on Thursday, Nov 3rd at 5pm in Lecture Hall(LTH1) in K1 Building at the EIT (Contact their website for map).

The speaker will be Roy Sye, Director of Education for Hawkes Bay Tairāwhiti.

As St Paul's supports the work of the Napier Family Centre, it is hoped that some of our folk will attend this meeting. Please phone the Family Centre, 843 7280, if you intend being present (for catering purposes).

“And God promised that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world and He made the earth round.....and He laughed and laughed and laughed.”

A LOVE OF READING

Lynne Arnold

The Alan Duff Charitable Foundation, Duffy Books in Homes programme, is a literacy programme aimed at breaking the cycle of booklessness amongst children at low decile schools throughout New Zealand.

The programme was developed following a visit by Alan Duff to Camberley School in Hastings in 1992. He found that the majority of those children came from bookless homes and showed little, if any, interest in reading. From this grew the key concept of book ownership prompting an interest in reading and a love of books. This would also create the opportunity to share the books with other family members.

Since the official launch event in 1995 with 80 schools, 16,000 students and 14 sponsors, the programme has grown to encompass almost 510 schools and 230 early childhood centres, more than 100,000 students and more than 200 sponsors and donors in 2016.

Two years ago a relationship was developed with the Teen Parent Centre at William Colenso College. We met with the staff and enquired about ways in which we could assist the staff. They identified the Books in Home as a project that we could help with. The Early Childhood Centre qualified for the programme, but the staff just didn't have the time to organize ordering the books, then give them out.

Initially Lindsay Oldershaw and I took on the task, but when Lindsay left Brenda Silson and I have had a great time ordering, sorting, then giving the books out. The programme means that each child, and unborn child whose mother attends the TPU receive 4 free books each year. It is great to see the young mums remembering the joy of receiving their own books when they were children, and then sitting reading to their own children. This year we have also ordered books for the Flaxmere Teen Parent Unit, resulting in over 50 preschoolers being gifted their own books and developing a love of reading.

“THE GREEN HAT THAT BLEW AWAY”

This book has been reprinted, and the author has sent me ten copies. Some of you will remember that I had 10 copies of the first printing and sold them. These are available at \$10 each, and all the proceeds go to UNICEF. (The author publishes them at her own cost.) If you have grandchildren or (great ones) you may like to buy one for birthday or Christmas.

Isabel Morgan.

ATTENTION – SAFETY AND SECURITY

Recent information has been received that a young couple seeking help for their child misrepresented themselves and took advantage of the goodwill and charitable actions of a local Church group. Access was gained to an area which was briefly unsupervised resulting in cash, purses and handbags being emptied.

Remember it is better to prevent such distressing losses than to pursue recovery after the event.

The Board of Managers recommends the following: For personal safety keep doors locked when in the Church. Ensure safety of handbags and other possessions.

- Check all doors are locked when leaving the premises.
- Key holders – keep keys secure and in your possession.
- Refer requests for food or money to the Church Office, or by direct contact with Rev. Sally Carter.
- Report any anti-social behaviour or activity which may compromise personal safety or the security of the premises,
- If a situation is not resolved and appears out of control and unsafe phone **111**

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING

I know that I harp on about CO2 in our atmosphere, and the need to reduce greenhouse gases! So I was rather relieved when Dr. Jan Wright was on the same subject recently. While radiata pine are in the ground, they help. But they are planted to be a crop at maturity, and the CO2 they have stored is released. And pinus contorta are filling spaces that should be filled by native trees. P. Contorta are a very big problem, and need to be eradicated, but there is not enough money. More needs to be done, more money of course. There is scope for many more native trees to be planted.

Many private landowners are doing a great job, but we do need a national strategy.

Isabel Morgan

A STITCH IN TIME 2016.

This very active and creative group has finished for the year. It seems early but meeting from April – October seems a good length of time for us to achieve a number of activities and gives us time to support several projects.

This fun loving and lively group of ladies supported Breast Cancer Awareness by knitting 140 pink bows to wear as a brooch and sold by the support group. 160 Daffodils were knitted into brooches sold to support the H.B. Cancer Society during their collection days. 30 hats were knitted and sent to the hospice for patients needing warmth after radiation has taken all their hair. Wool was donated and not all who support our group are members of St. Paul's. If you are thinking of clearing out your sewing cupboard or know of anyone who would like to join our group, we meet again in April, 2017. We do lots of other activities besides knitting so come and join in the fun. All are welcome. For further information contact Dorothy findot@xtra.co.nz or phone 8431266.



SAVE THE DATE

Christmas is just around the corner and the Stitch in Time group together with the Pastoral Care team would like to invite you to **“Celebrate the Season”**.

A special afternoon will be held in the Church lounge on Monday, 5th December, 2016, commencing at 1.30pm. Singing, items, gifts and a sales table as well as a delicious afternoon tea will await you. Transport can be arranged.
Enquiries to Ian or Dorothy, Phone 8431266

ART DECO FETE 2017

We are getting things started with our plans for next year's Art Deco Fete. There will be a meeting for stall convenors soon and once again we are looking for people to help. For more information please contact me.

David Walker, 843 7853

From The Board of Managers - a financial update

The financial reports to 30 September were approved by the Board at its October meeting. These show that after three months income is \$44,810 and expenditure \$47,393, giving a net deficit of \$2,583 compared to the budgeted deficit of \$15,066.

Income so far this year is close to budget, but the Board noted that even though Offerings are 'only' \$951 below budget, this is 6% and if the trend continues that would see the parish \$4,000 below budget at year end. Information about the annual Thank Offering which will be received in November is being distributed now. This is one way we can all say 'thank you' for the many ways in which we are blessed and sustained in our life together.

Expenditure is \$13,138 below budget which is helpful for cash flow at this time of year but part of this is due to the timing of payments for Presbytery Levy and Audit fees.

We have faced ongoing challenges and decisions about our buildings but the end is in sight! Having Asher Hall available at this time when we are in need of a place to worship while the Church is being strengthened has been another blessing.

We are grateful to our Treasurer, Sylvia Low, for all the work she does each week, month and year to keep our finances organised so effectively.

Kerry Marshall, Chair, Board of Managers