

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission"

NEWSLETTER - September, 2016

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

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

Services of Holy Communion

Sunday, 11th September, 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 MY DESK – SEPTEMBER 2016

For the next two months, thanks to the generosity (and insistence!) of Session and the wider church, I am going to be on study leave. This is the first time I have taken proper study leave – time out of parish life to deepen my understanding and experience of some aspect of faith and ministry. I feel as though I had before me a blank canvas (an intimidating prospect at times)

Reflecting on the life and mission of our parish, I decided to begin by sketching some pictures of inner city ministry – because although Napier is rather a small city, it is a city, and we at St Paul's face many of the challenges and opportunities associated with inner city ministry in much larger cities.

So I will be listening to stories, walking around in the cities, finding out some of the riches and challenges of being the church in the city. I will be reading a few books.

A couple of stories will be shaping my conversations with people. The other day I was told that a taxi driver almost missed picking someone up at Waiapu Cathedral of St John the Evangelist ('the Cathedral') because he had lived here for many years and always thought that St Paul's was 'the Cathedral'. Our location, the appearance of the building, ... created a sense that this was the church of the city. That started me wondering what that might mean for us.

Then I was helping prepare the application to strengthen the sanctuary part of our building. At the top of the mission part of the application, we have written

'St Paul's Presbyterian church, Napier - A place for refreshment and replenishment, peace and refuge in the middle of the city. A place where the gospel of Jesus is proclaimed in actions and words of justice and love.'

This seemed to me to encompass many of the aspects of life as an inner city church. It invites us to think of all those we encounter in our life here – yes, those who are homeless or struggling in other ways, but also those who are also our neighbours.

Sally,

AN ELDER WRITES – Jitterbugs - Lynne Arnold.

Have you ever thought you might nip into Napier for a quiet bit of shopping on a Tuesday morning, and park in the church carpark to beat the parking wardens? My suggestion, don't! There won't be parking space anywhere in the church grounds, not even for a bike! The church is humming on Tuesday morning, and no, it isn't the Civic Choir, or the Stitch in Time group. It is Jitterbugs time!

Around 25 under 5 year olds are having a ball. They and their parents, or caregivers arrive for a time of play, then move into the lounge where they are welcomed and then it is into dancing, moving, singing and generally having a great time.



Jackie has a wide repertoire of action songs, old favourites like the Hokey Tokey, through to some Wiggles favourites which keep us all active. It is a joy to watch the children joining in as they begin to feel more at home, there is the one year old who claps his hands and stamps his feet, and the little girl in the walker who jiggles along and even takes the odd unsupported step resulting in a tear in her mother's eye.

We laugh with the parents, read with the children, have in-depth conversations with very intense 4 year olds, offer a listening ear when needed and a hug of encouragement and support, even find someone to teach them to knit, what a privileged position we have. It is so good to see friendships developing between parents and children, support being offered, and many taking advantage of the safe place we offer.

The Jitterbugs ministry of St Paul's goes beyond Music and Movement for pre-schoolers. It is a way to show the love of Christ in a non-threatening way, to show that the church is more than a building, it is people who care and are prepared to walk alongside others in the ups and downs of life.

Thank you to all who make this ministry what it is today, the doorman, the kitchen "staff", the music makers, the birthday card makers, and the strong prayer supporters and encouragers. You all play an indispensable role.

SESSION'S OUTREACH.

Each Month when Session meets it decides on an organization to which \$100 donation will be given. Whilst this is not a large amount, is it greatly appreciated by the recipient group, who know we are caring and praying for them, their work and the people they assist.

In July the gift went to **Women's Refuge** where already this year they have given shelter to as many women and children as they had in all of 2015. In her letter of thanks, the Manager of the Napier Refuge wrote "Your donation has been added to a small fund which is used to purchase food for women and children who come into our safe house at the weekend and who are unable to provide their own food. This means your donation directly benefits women and children in need."

The donation for August went to "**Operation Christmas Child**". This is a project of Samaritan's Purse bringing God's hope and joy to children in desperate situations. They partner with churches, businesses, schools and individuals worldwide by giving gift-filled shoe boxes to needy children in over 100 countries. The shoe boxes contain, something to love, and to wear, things for school, to play with, for personal hygiene, etc.

Our donation will assist with the cost of getting these shoe boxes to their destinations.

This month Session decided to donate to “**Foster Hope**” (Bringing hope to those in Care). Did you know there are over 5,000 children in foster care in NZ? Are you aware that many of these foster children arrive at their new placements with NOTHING but the clothes on their backs, or with their belongings in a black rubbish sack?

No child should be made to feel like their belongings are “rubbish” and care givers should be able to focus on the emotional needs when a child arrives, rather than having to run around doing last minute/late night shopping.

The Foster Hope organization makes up backpacks to be given to children when they are removed from their homes. The children go into their new placement with a backpack or a carry all bag containing toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo etc) and some items that will show them they are loved (books, soft toys etc).

Foster Hope believes every foster child deserves to know that someone cares about them. They demonstrate this through providing children with necessities to ease their way. Our September Outreach Initiative donation will go to Foster Hope, so that children in vulnerable situations can be shown that they have worth, that they are valued and that there is hope.

FINANCE DISCUSSIONS

Over three meetings in August members of the congregation had the opportunity to consider the financial position of the parish and ask questions. During the meetings information about the budget was shared and people were asked to consider what Session and the Board of Managers should/could do about the deficit budget.

What are the options with regard to **deficit budgets**? The three options presented were to accept the deficit budget and use reserves to cover it, to undertake a "slash and burn" exercise to reduce expenditure or to engage in dialogue about ways to increase our income. Most people think that slash and burn is not acceptable and we can't accept the status quo. Therefore we need to focus on mission, sort out what we need to achieve that mission, and then sort out the dollars.

There was discussion about **information sharing** and we'll look into how we can provide more frequent reports about our financial position.

People were innovative with their ideas for generating more revenue from **Asher Hall** but we do need to consider the implications of increased usage include such as maintenance and the possible need for more management or oversight.

There are questions about what the community wants from us (relevance of the church), how effective and useful are newsletters in reaching out, what effort should be put into growing active membership and the impact of technology and personal contact for members who haven't been attending – in-reach as compared to out-reach. Might we have to let go of traditional ways of doing things? Is there a need to distinguish between nurturing ourselves and reaching out to the community? These are matters that Session continues to grapple with, but we did note that **we have good people doing good things** in the church which we should celebrate.

One of the matters we covered was the question of whether we can afford to do the **earthquake strengthening** project. Our investments amount to \$600,000 of which slightly more than half is reserved for capital works which can be used for the building project, so yes we can. Of course we can supplement the reserves with fund raising such as seeking grant applications.

Finally, we talked about **stewardship** which includes things like how we induct new members, and can we do a stewardship campaign which extends to involvement with church as well as giving.

We are grateful for the time and effort people made to come along given the weather we were experiencing at the time and for the lively and well thought out conversations. We also very much appreciated the catering provided by Marion and David. **Thank you** everyone. *Kerry Marshall* for Board of Managers

STITCH IN TIME.



The *Stitch in Time* ladies have been busy supporting the H.B. Cancer Society knitting Daffodils for sale on 26th & 27th August, 2016 at the annual street appeal. Each Daffodil sells for \$5 and our group knitted 150.

The area manager for H.B Cancer Society came to our last meeting to receive the brooches and a lovely article was written in the Hastings Leader that week.

Please support the group with wool or notions towards our projects or come along on the 1st & 3rd Mondays in the month at 1.30pm. Our next project is knitting pink bows into brooches for the Breast Cancer Awareness week in October and we're also knitting Hats for the Hospice. Enquiries to Dorothy, 8431266.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING

The latest edition of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Newsletter, has just arrived in the mail, it makes sorry reading. I have previously written of the perilous state of this penguin, the rarest penguin in the world.

In spite of the best efforts of all at the coal face, and individual supporters and donors, are we to witness yet another extinction?

In a recent radio interview, the speaker said that most of our native birds are under threat.

I want to quote just a small part of the YEP Trust newsletter.

“Even wearing a pair of rose-tinted glasses it is clear that mainland yellow-eyed penguins are facing the biggest challenge to their continued survival since the population crash of 1990 – 91. Following season after season of poor breeding success and adult mortality, the number of breeding pairs hovers around the 200 mark.”

Are we to see the extinction of yet another of our beautiful and unique creatures? Have our best efforts with the YEP been in vain?

Isabel Morgan

A story from the past.

Bruce McConnochie.

1953 – and the Queen came to Napier. The then Minister of St Pauls, The Very Rev J L Gray, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of NZ at the time, thought it would be appropriate to have a flag flying in the church grounds, and approached the Board of Managers who refused his request. However he decided he'd

go ahead anyway, but not being a very practical man, requested some help from me. Whilst in the process of erecting the flagpole one of the managers, Aru Prentice, had the misfortune to walk through the grounds of the church on his way to work. Mr Gray spat out the words “I’ve got my flag, in spite of your Board”.



SUFFRAGE DAY BREAKFAST

The National Council of Women invite you to join in this event, to be held in the Heavey Hall, Wycliffe Street, on Saturday 10th September at 8.30am.
The programme, a Panel Discussion entitled “Meeting Points” - Women’s experiences of Integration, will be led by Rizwaana Latiff of the Multi-cultural Association.
Cost - \$10 at the door. Please telephone Jennifer, 845-1108 or Kay, 878-4894 by 7th Sept if you would like to attend.

Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have.

This newsletter was delivered by.....	Phone.....
---------------------------------------	------------