



## **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

### **NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2020**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

### **ACTIVITIES / SUPPORT AVAILABLE**

**Included with your Newsletter this month are pamphlets advising of what is available by way of activities and support - particularly for the elderly.**

**These are for you, neighbours and friends who you think may be interested.**

**Please spread the word.**

**Additional copies of the pamphlets are available in the church foyer**

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

<b>Minister:</b>	<b>Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph</b> <b>Ph: 027 371 4733</b> <b>tokerau.j@gmail.com</b>
<b>Administrator</b>	<b>Jo Wyman-Macer</b> <b>Ph: 478 6180</b> <b>office@bayspc.nz</b>
<b>Office hours:</b>	<b>Wednesday via phone and email</b> <b>Thursday—Friday 9am to 1pm</b>
<b>Vehicle Access</b>	<b>10 Penzance Rd</b>
<b>Street Address</b>	<b>9 Hastings Rd</b> <b>Mairangi Bay</b>
<b>Postal Address</b>	<b>PO Box 65299, Mairangi Bay</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz</b>
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	<b>Stewart Milne</b> <b>Ph: 478 5786</b> <b>Mobile: 027 293 8499</b>
<b>Treasurer, property and finance</b>	<b>George Wyman</b> <b>Ph 478 6411</b>
<b>Family Coordinator</b>	<b>Angel Matapo</b> <b>angeljmatapo@gmail.com</b> <b>022 486 5409</b>
<b>Support worker for the elderly</b>	<b>Margaret Pont</b> <b>021 679 019</b> <b>mpont@xtra.co.nz</b>

***This month's newsletter contains photos of parish activities.  
Many thanks to Karel for collated photos.***

## REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **ACTIVITIES MORING - 1st Tuesday of the month 9.30am - 12pm**  
Book Group 9am / Games & Gatherings 10am  
Discuss / swap / borrow books, play cards & board games with a cup of tea  
Contact Raewyn **410 4423** or Margaret **021 679 019**
- **GIRLS' BRIGADE - Tuesdays during School term.**  
**6.30-8pm Church Hall .**  
Kay Barbour Ph **478 7603**
- **LADIES HOME GROUP -**  
**10.15am Wednesdays**  
Contact Heather on **479-8822**
- **GARY SYME'S BORN AGAIN BODIES**  
**1.00-2.00pm Wednesdays Church Hall.**  
Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212
- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**  
**1pm - 2.30pm Wednesdays Meeting Room 2.**  
Further Information John Shadbolt 479 3953 Grace Liu 021 0487978
- **HOUSE GROUP**  
**7.30pm Wednesdays at the Shadbolts**  
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.
- **LUNCHEON GROUP**  
**12-2pm 2nd Thursday of month in Church hall**  
Further information Jill Wyman 021 066 1059.
- **DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP**  
**Thursdays 10am-2pm Mairangi Bay Church Hall**  
For further information Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**  
**Meeting 3rd Friday 6.30pm shared meal. Venue circulates.**  
For further information contact Jenni & Allan Jones Ph 478 5694.
- **MAINLY MUSIC**  
**Fridays during the school term. Church Hall 10-11am**  
Ph Angel Matapo **022 486 5409**



## UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

Hello everyone and Kia orana! The lectionary continues to focus on Jesus' parables about the kingdom of God. I find them fascinating and challenging because they are not always straight forward as I think they are. They point to but are not meant to fully explain something. They provide the room to explore further and try and put together pieces to give us a picture of the Kingdom.

I came across an article about one of Jesus' parables that I'd like to share with you. It reminds us that what we search for maybe closer to us than we think.

### **A Treasure Found By Brent Lamberth**

In 2010, author and art dealer Forrest Fenn published *The Thrill of the Chase: A Memoir*, which includes stories recounting his life. Within the book's pages, readers are given a poem containing clues to finding a chest of buried treasure, which Fenn had hidden north of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the Rocky Mountains. Over the course of 10 years, thousands of people trekked into the wilderness in search of the gold. During that time, at least five people died in the pursuit. Through the years, Fenn offered more clues on his personal blog, yet it seemed the treasure might stay hidden forever. Finally, on June 6, 2020, an anonymous treasure hunter uncovered the treasure chest and quickly sent pictures of the chest and its contents to Forrest Fenn. The author confirmed the find, stating that the box was in the forested vegetation of the Rocky Mountains, where he had buried it more than 10 years ago. Based on photos of the treasure, experts believe it to be valued at around one million dollars.

Jesus had much to say about the treasures of life, and specifically about which are worthy of our heart's pursuit. In Matthew 13:44, Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as buried treasure that is discovered by a person, who then sells everything to buy the land that holds the treasure. That treasure, Jesus tells us, is found within our hearts. It is the gift of knowing God and being in communion with the divine.





It is the only treasure that holds eternal and infinite value.

Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as buried treasure that is discovered by a person, who then sells everything to buy the land that holds the treasure.

Question of the day: What is your most valued possession?

Focal scriptures: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Exodus 32:1-4; 1 Timothy 6:5-11, 17-19

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

## FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES

Friday Night Games are back!  
Friday 7 August 2020 6:30pm to 8pm.  
Bring a friend and a plate to share for  
dinner.  
All ages welcome!



## THE ELECTION

As you know the election is coming up on 19 September and to give you a chance to explore the referendums which will accompany it and to learn more about the North Shore candidates and the policies of the main political parties we have arranged a series of evenings under our “Community Conversations” heading.

### Encourage the Grandchildren

Many of us are committed to making our voices heard by voting but what about our grandchildren? Typically this is the group which doesn't allow its voice to be heard through voting, even if they take part in street marches and petitions. Partly this is because of despair about the behaviour of politicians in and out of Parliament, partly because enrolling and voting are unfamiliar territory and partly because it all seems too hard to get to grips with what the Parties stand for.



Could we email (or Face book or whatever) our 18+ grandchildren and suggest that their voices are important and we would value their participation, and urge them to register as voters if they haven't already done so. They will be especially welcome at the Community Conversation series even if they are not yet 18.

## Enrolling

It's easy to do online (vote nz) or by phone 0800 36 76 56. The sooner the better so your name gets on the roll and it's simpler when you come to vote.

## Finding out about parties' Policies

Obviously one can go to each Party's web site, but helpful web sites often appear during the course of the campaigning which do comparisons between the Parties on various issues. At the stage of writing this all these referred only to the last election. Keep an eye out.

## Our Community Conversation Series

### Preparing for the Election

**7.30pm on Friday 31 July** there will be an opportunity to find out what is in the Cannabis Legislation and Control Bill. This will not be a discussion to persuade you how you should vote but will simply go into what the Bill contains and what will happen if more than 50% vote "Yes" or "No".



**7.30pm on Friday 21 August** there will be an opportunity to find out what is in the End of Life Choice Act. This will not be a discussion to persuade you how you should vote but will simply go into what the Act contains and what will happen if more than 50% vote "Yes" or "No"

**7.30pm on Monday 24 August** The Mairangi Castor Bays Presbyterian Church will hold its traditional Candidates Evening at 7.30pm on Monday 24 August in the hall. The candidates standing for the North Shore electorate have been invited to introduce themselves and answer written questions which will be collected before and during the meeting. Spokespeople for NZ First and the Greens have also been invited.



# A WORD FROM KAREL

## THE FREE GIFT...

Some months ago I attended a worship service in West Auckland where the congregation sang, repeating it several times with great vigour, choruses about “the blood of Jesus,” “Jesus’ blood was shed for me,” and “nothing but the blood of Jesus.” I wondered how someone who was not conversant with the Christian faith would have understood this. Furthermore, I thought about how this image of a violent God sacrificing his son, which was provoked by the song, affected those who might lean towards solving life’s problems violently. This image is not one which is compatible with the Good News of Jesus.

The New Testament, particularly the anonymous Letter to the Hebrews, uses a High Priest and sacrificial metaphor about Jesus. This was understandable as the letter was written shortly after the Jerusalem Temple, considered to be the dwelling place of God on earth where animal sacrifices to God were made, was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. The metaphors made sense to first century Christian Jews. They no longer make sense to us, especially when the metaphors are portrayed as facts.

For the first 1000 years during which Christianity existed Jesus was not considered a sacrifice for sin. St Anselm, in 1089, first proposed that our sins must be paid for in order for God to forgive us, and that Jesus is the sacrifice, who paid the price by his suffering and death. This grew into two theories of atonement (making us right with God) – substitutionary atonement, and satisfaction atonement. The first suggests that Jesus died in our place, the second that he satisfied the debt we owe to God. Many people in our day think this is the Christian story.

This happens because we have literalised the metaphoric language of passages in the New Testament. We turn the Good News into a trading relationship - in the way we understand our ordinary everyday relationships. We take turns at buying coffee for our friends when we are out. We invite those to dinner who in turn invite us back. Many of our relationships are “trading” relationships. Clarified in sayings such as, “There is no such thing as a free lunch.” We make sure we fulfil our obligations to others. We know all too well that advertisers use this when they make a free offer. We feel obligated to do something in return – if it is only to pay attention to their advertisement. This is the economy of normal human trading relationships.

This is contrary to the Good News of Jesus and the way he lived his life.

Christians understand Jesus to embody the characteristics of God; he is our model of what God is like. Jesus taught us to invite those to dinner who could not pay us back. He exemplified openhearted generosity. A generosity which went beyond the trading type of relationships.

Jesus was accused of eating with sinners and those who were considered to be ritually unclean and therefore of no interest to God. Jesus ate with, touched, and was touched by sinners - which made Jesus himself ritually unclean in the eyes of the religious authorities. Note that they were sinners, not repentant sinners. If they had been repentant sinners, the religious authorities would have welcomed Jesus with open arms. Jesus eating with sinners riled the pharisees and religious authorities of his day. By eating with sinners Jesus declared acceptance of those they considered unacceptable to God. Some like Zacchaeus, did repent because they were loved freely and unconditionally.

Jesus says, after telling us to love our enemies, to go further - Matthew 5: 48, "To sum up, you are to be unstinting in your generosity in the way your heavenly Father's generosity is unstinting." Or in Luke 6:35 "But love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Be compassionate in the way your Father is compassionate."

No matter how we understand God, we are loved, wanted, and forgiven, as a free gift. In traditional terms this is called the grace of God. We insult God when we turn this into a humanlike trading relationship; a life for a life, Jesus suffering and death for our sin. We are rejecting God's love freely given. We do not understand God's free gift, God's unconditional love – God's grace. As the parable of the Unmerciful Servant shows (Matthew 18:23-34) our response ought to be as forgiving, compassionate, and unstintingly generous as God is. That's the trade, if there is a trade, - God's unconditional love for us in turn reflected in our love for others. We see this in the way Jesus lived, taught, and died.

We may find it difficult to give up thinking of Jesus as a suffering sacrifice for our sins. This made sense in particular contexts over the last 1000 years. For us today, it no longer makes sense. It misses the point of God's gift of unconditional love as we know it through the gospels and experience it through Jesus. We need to go back to our source - the teaching of Jesus.

A much greater challenge for us today is how we apply this unstinting generosity, compassion, and forgiveness Jesus taught amidst a global pan-



demic, climate change, and increasing inequality. Through Covid-19 many who were previously middle-class people in secure employment, find themselves unemployed and amongst the poor. Climate change is already wreaking havoc. We have to change our ways, on a personal, national, and global level.

In following Jesus' example of unconditional love, unstinting generosity, and compassion we may find hope for a peaceful and bloodless way forward in extraordinary times

**LUNCH GROUP- THURSDAY 13th AUGUST  
A MUST COME!!!  
12 noon - 2pm**

Another SHARED LUNCH ON THURSDAY 13th AUGUST TO  
CELEBRATE THE DEES GROUP'S **10th** BIRTHDAY.

So PLEASE BRING A PLATE OF FOOD & a FRIEND.

Entertainment by our very own REV TOKERAU JOSEPH & his WIFE  
TANGI. Enjoy a journey around the sunny  
COOK ISLANDS with them.

Raffles & trade table operating.

Gold coin ENTRY DONATION at the door please.



Singers from St Andrew's First Church help us  
in our worship.

## UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

Sue Bowden constituted the July Meeting of Parish Council with a piece on being overwhelmed. This included references to Bible passages which are relevant to dealing with the situation which is being experienced currently by some people in NZ and by millions around the world . We then had our standing agenda item for pastoral matters where we share any particular concerns or good news we have about members of our church family

Matters discussed / decided on at the meeting were :

- The Presbytery Strategic Plan which is still in draft form and which is seeking to get parishes to examine their own situation and what changes are needed.
- The current degree of responses which Dorille has received from the questionnaire she sent out on skills and interests. To date only 10 responses have been received and more would be appreciated
- Support for a mid week, recorded devotional item which Tokerau will begin on 5 August
- Approval for a Cook Island Service at 4pm on 2 August which will be in the Cook Island language week
- The request from the Mairangi Primary School for more volunteer teachers' aides. This is a great community activity which takes about 90 minutes a week on a day and time that suits the volunteer . We started up this community service 10 years ago at the request of the school principal with 5 members of our parish volunteering. Over the years the number has dropped off with advancing age being a factor and currently only Tokerau is involved. We want to get it back to 5 . Believe me it is very rewarding – I did it for 7 years.
- Spent time having the complexity of the annual accounts explained to us by George our Treasurer with money being taken from our Capital Account which is with the Church Property Trustees to pay for work on the hall earthquake strengthening - with the work being shown in the accounts as an expense.
- Received advice from our Treasurer on the relatively healthy state of our finances and approved a draft budget for the 2020/21 year with a deficit of \$13,624 which will be recommended to the AGM on 23 August.
- Received an update from Roopali on the Hindi speaking services and the growing numbers attending. They are looking at organising an Indian cultural evening to be held later in the 2020 year. Those of us who attended the 2019 event would certainly recommend this.
- Were advised of the arrangements Erica has made for the three Community Conversations Events which are coming up before the Elections. These will be of an explanatory nature for the Cannabis Legalisation Bill and the End of Life Choice Act. The 'hear from the candidates' session is something that our parish has organised and hosted for at least the last 30

years . It is a well attended community event. See elsewhere in this Newsletter for dates, times and more info

- Had a report from Norma on the special communion service and lunch held earlier that day. This is designed for the elderly and folks who have difficulty getting along to the 10am service.
- Received a report from the Fellowship Committee listing the occasions that have been planned for the period up to the Choral service. These are :
  - The 'S' Lunch on 23 August following the AGM
  - The meal following the combined evening service with our Hindi speaking congregation on 4 October
  - The Albany singers concert on 29 November
  - Carols in the Mairangi Park on 9 December
  - Mince pies following the Choral Service on 13 December
- Set up a Working Group to consider the PCANZ Report on Theological Education and Leadership training. This extensive report proposes major changes to the way that Ministers and Elders are trained. Anyone wishing to join this Working Group should contact me
- Considered Parish Council Membership and the recommendations to make to the AGM on this subject
- Appointed Rev Karel Lorier as our Honorary Associate Minister which is a position Karel has held previously. This appointment was accompanied by acclamation reflecting the respect that Karel engenders.



Stewart Milne

## FAVOURITE HYMNS SERVICE

Sunday 9th August

Our annual favourite hymns service will be on Sunday 9th August.



## CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2020

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Activities Mornings, Board & Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	1st Tues of the month	Margaret Pont <b>021 679019</b>
Book Club	9.30am	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Margaret Pont <b>021679019</b>
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme <b>479 2212</b>
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays before special services	Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Dees Social Club	10am -2pm	Mairangi Church lounge	Every Thursday	Tangi Joseph <b>022 657 3223</b>
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2.	John Shadbolt <b>479 3953</b>
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier <b>414 6321</b>
Girls Brigade	6.30 - 8pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour <b>478-7603</b>
House Group		22A Hastings Rd Mairangi Bay	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt <b>479-3953</b>
Ladies Home Group	10.15 am	10A Newhaven Tce Mairangi Bay	Wednesdays	Heather Gibson <b>479 8822</b>
Luncheon Group	12.00 noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	2nd Thursday of the month	Raewyn Henderson <b>410 4423</b>
Mainly Music	10.00-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	Every Friday in school term	Angel Matapo <b>022 486 5409</b>
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Transportation Available	<i>Arranged as required and as requested</i>			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Youth & children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver <b>021 0244 9616</b>