



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

February 2020

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



**Celebrating Special People
Christmas 2019**

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

Email: tokerau.j@gmail.com

Ph: 478 6180

Administrator

Jo Wyman-Macer

Office hours:

Wednesday via phone and email

Thursday—Friday 9am to 1pm

Ph: 478 6180

Email: office@bayspc.nz

Street Address

10 Hastings Rd

Mairangi Bay

Vehicle Access

Between 8 & 10 Penzance Rd

Postal Address

PO Box 65299

Mairangi Bay

Website

www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz

Parish Clerk

Stewart Milne

Ph: 478 5786

Mobile: 027 293 8499

Treasurer, property and finance

George Wyman

Ph 478 6411

Support worker for the elderly

Margaret Pont

021 679 019 or 09 4734173

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

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **BOOK CLUB 1st Tuesday of the month**
9am to 10am Lounge Discuss / swap / borrow books, a cup of tea followed by a game of cards or board game. Come for all or part of the session
 For further information Raewyn 4104423 or Margaret 479 5984
- **ACTIVITIES MORNINGS - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month**
10am - 12pm, Lounge Boardgames, Rummikubs, Cards etc
 For further information Margaret Pont 4893176 or 027 2258893
- **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 for further details.
- **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 Stewart Milne 478 5786
- **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 Tangi Joseph 0226573223



AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

It's 2020. I can't believe another year has come and gone and now we're into another one. I hope you have all had a wonderful time over the Christmas and New Year break.

December 2019 was obviously a very busy month with various services involving plenty of preparation, delivery and attendance. The Packing service in hall, the joint service with Yedarm and the Christmas Eve service for children and families were particular highlights. I also thoroughly appreciated the combined services we shared with Forrest Hill Presbyterian and Glenfield Presbyterian after Christmas. They all demonstrated the beauty of our unity and diversity in Christ and exemplified the words of psalm 133:1, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"



It's important, then, that we build on the good things already begun. These events have pointed to the value of relationship-building. In essence, I believe this is what our Christian discipleship is all about – building grace-filled relationships with others in Christ. Both the Hebrew and Greek words for "grace" in the Bible convey the meaning of favour or kindness.

The Apostle argued that our relationship with God is based on accepting God's grace through Christ: "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand" (Rom 5:1-2). Our faith is one that is lived with God and others through grace.

It doesn't mean we are perfect, but the kindness or favour of grace provides the opportunity for us to be better. The words of a song from my younger years rings out the truth of this:

"Wonderful grace,
gives what I don't deserve
gives me what Christ has earned
let's me go free.
Wonderful grace,
gives me the time to change
washes away the stains
that once covered me.
And all that I am
I lay at the feet
of a wonderful Saviour who loves me"

So what might a grace-filled relationship look like? As the song suggests, grace provides the space or opportunities for people to be transformed by the love of God through Jesus. It involves honesty about who we are and how we live as recipients of God's grace (acknowledging our faults or weaknesses and efforts to improve). It also involves reciprocating grace with others. The "others" are not only those with whom we are familiar with in our congregation, but can include people we have yet to build grace-filled relationships with in the community.

People come and go for different reasons when they visit our congregation. Regardless of their reasons, we challenged to consider how we might connect better with them – building grace-filled relationships with them. Perhaps we have expectations of new people and they may have expectations of us. But, more importantly, what opportunities can we provide to allow those expectations "the time to change"? What space can we create to enable ourselves and others to appreciate together "a wonderful Saviour who loves me"?

My prayer and hope this year is that we all (individually and collectively) reach out to and build a grace-filled relationship with at least one person.

It will then be interesting to see what our congregation might look like this time next year. May the Lord be with you and bless you.



BEACH CLEAN-UP 9am 16th Feb

16th Feb

The Mairangi Bay Association has asked for volunteers to undertake a beach clean up. Our church has said we will provide some volunteers. Would those will-

ing to assist please gather at the church at 8:45 on the Sunday and we will go down to the beach together. We will give them 50minutes of effort and return to the church for the 10am Whanau Service.

BOOKS AND GAMES 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Starting Tuesday 4 Feb there will be a get together on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss / swap / borrow books from 9am to 10am and to have a cup of tea and a chat followed by a game of cards or board game if that is wanted.

Finish up when it suits you – certainly by 12 noon. All welcome for the book session, the morning tea and the board games or any one or more of these – bring your friends.

Contact Raewyn Henderson
4104423 or Margaret Pont 479 5984



“OUR GOD IS ABLE”

CONFERENCE 22 FEB AT ST COLUMBA 9am - 1:45pm

As advised in the December Newsletter Parishes in the Northern Presbytery are currently considering a paper produced by a Northern Presbytery Task Group titled ‘A Case for Change’. The paper looks at the decline in the Presbyterian Church and spells out the options of : Manage the Decline or Change. The Presbytery has organised a conference to assist with the consideration of these options and each Parish has been asked to send a delegation to the Conference which will be held at St Columba, Botany Downs between 9am and 1:45pm on 22 Feb. So far we have 6 people from the parish who can attend and it would be good to have a few more.



Transport will be provided and the registration fee can be met.

More information about the Conference is available on the Northern Presbytery website or by talking to Ian Watson, Tokerau, John Shadbolt or myself. If you are interested in attending please talk to one of the afore mentioned.

Thanks Stewart Milne 478
5786

KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Changing One's Mind.

Changing one's mind is seen as a sign of weakness. Think, for example, of the customer who changes their mind about purchase of a retail item, of a friend who frequently changes his mind about meeting just before you're due to meet; the person who loves the home they purchase and three months later changes their mind, hates it, and does this at frequent intervals or the person who frequently changes their opinion see-sawing back and forth on matters of politics or religion.

Politicians and community leaders have a particularly hard time if they change their minds on important matters. For some it threatens their position as politicians or leaders.

Yet, being able and having the courage to change one's mind is very important. When there is new evidence, information, or the context changes, it is important to change one's opinion, beliefs and actions. It takes courage to do so.

Years ago, as a Minister I had to pin a notice on the church door stating that a wedding was off. The bride has decided to call it off the night before the wedding. Her husband to be was popular with her friends and family. They had been engaged for 18 months or so, but two days before the wedding she discovered that he had criminal convictions and was out on bail facing more. She loved him dearly and felt if he had told her they might have been able to work through his criminal behaviour. But he had not told her which she felt was a breakdown of trust. She did not tell anyone other than her parents and one close friend, because she still felt protective of her former husband to be. She faced ridicule, was ostracised, embarrassed and much critical gossip circulated while her fiancé was treated with utmost sympathy. It turned out to be a courageous and sensible decision to change her mind.

Changing one's mind takes courage and strength. There are some good examples in history.

Jesus changed his mind when after his baptism he ceased to be a disciple of John the Baptist and decided to go in another direction. On another occasion he changed his mind about whether his ministry was solely to the Jews when a gentile, a Syrophoenician woman, asked him to exorcise her daughter of a demon. This was how mental illness was understood. Jesus at first refused saying, "Let us first feed the children. It isn't right to take the chil-

dren's food and throw it to the dogs.” (Mark 7:27) But the woman's answer convinced him to change his mind.

The Apostle Paul, changed from persecuting the followers of Jesus to becoming one, and a leading one at that. Just imagine how the media would handle that if it happened today!

The great physicist Albert Einstein had calculated that the universe was static and had created a constant in his General Theory of Relativity to show this. In the event, when confronted by the evidence of Edwin Hubble and Georges Lemaitre, Einstein, after some consideration of the idea, changed his mind and accepted an expanding universe saying of his previous calculations that they were, “his greatest blunder.”

Being able to change one's mind based on new evidence, a changing context or one's developing spiritual experiences and insight is im-



portant. It requires courage and sometimes humility to admit that one was previously wrong.

We often avoid changing our minds on important things. As economist John Kenneth Galbraith wrote wittily,

“Faced with the choice between changing one's mind and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everyone gets busy on the proof.”

As a counsellor, from time to time I had middle aged clients who could not change their minds. They were stuck at a child's understanding of the world, relationships and faith. They were bewildered by the world because growing into maturity requires that we change our mind about many things as we encounter new evidence and experiences.

I greatly admire people who, faced with new evidence, changing con-

texts and experiences, change their mind. If they are in a leadership position it takes courage to do that, as they face a barrage of criticism. We are all too aware at the current time of world leaders in politics, business, faith communities who are unwilling to look at the evidence available to them and change their minds on important matters.

The word “repent” in the English Bible is the translation of the Greek word “metanoeo” which literally means “to have another mind.” Growing spiritually and maturing in faith requires of us frequently “to have another mind” as the evidence of the world around us, the context in which live, our experiences of life, and spiritual growth, pressure us to change our mind. We may do so with great reluctance, working hard and even recruiting others to prove that we do not need to change. If we don’t change we miss out and don’t mature and grow.

We can see the danger to the world, to peace and the wellbeing of many people from leaders who will not change their minds despite having good evidence to do so.

Let us applaud those who have the courage and humility to say, “I have listened to the evidence, looked at the changing context and I have changed my mind.”



Corona Virus results in Change for our activities -

Following advice from our Chinese members who are aware of some number who have been back to China over the last few weeks we have decided not to commence the **English Conversation classes** on Wednesdays or the **Friday night Games and meal** events until further notice and the lunch after church at **Sunrise Kitchen Lunch** will **not now be held**.

These decisions have been taken with a view to being consistent with those being taken by other organizations and to be responsible at this time of uncertainty. We will be monitoring the situation on a weekly basis and will keep members informed. Stewart Milne



Palm Sunday Choir Practices

After a quick summer break, the choir will be preparing a few anthems to sing at the Palm Sunday service on April 5th.

The practices will be

Sundays 2nd Feb, 9th Feb, 1st March, 8th March
all at 9 am with a possible one on Thursday, April
2nd.

If you would like to join us, contact
Bronwyn Stone 479 6631.



CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2019

| EVENT | TIME | PLACE | FREQUENCY | CONTACT |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Youth and children | 10am Church | Mairangi Bay | Sundays | Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616 |
| Girls Brigade | 6.30pm - 8.00pm | Mairangi Bay Church Hall | Every Tuesday in school term | Kay Barbour 478-7603 |
| Parish Council | 7.30pm | Mairangi Bay Church Lounge | 3rd Tuesday of the month | Stewart Milne 478 5786 |
| Born Again Bodies | 1 - 2.00pm Church Hall | Mairangi Bay | Every Wednesday | Gary Syme 479 2212 |
| English Conversations | 1 - 2.30pm | Mairangi Bay | Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2. | Stewart Milne 478 5786 |
| Ladies Home Group | 10.15 am | 10A Newhaven Tce Mairangi Bay | Wednesdays | Heather Gibson 479 8822 |
| Luncheon Group | 12.00 noon | Mairangi Bay Church Hall | 2nd Thursday of the month | Raewyn Henderson 410 4423 |
| Church Choir | 7.15pm | Mairangi Bay Church | Thursdays leading up to special services | Norma Baker 443 3108 |
| Dees Social Club | 10am -2.00pm | Mairangi Church lounge | Every Thursday | Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223 |
| House Group | | 22A Hastings Rd | TBA | Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953 |
| Friday Night Discussion Group | 6.30pm | To be Advised | 3rd Friday of the month | Karel Lorier 414 6321 |
| Mainly Music | 10.00-11a m | Mairangi Bay Church Lounge | Every Friday in school term | Tangi Joseph 0226573223 |
| Transportation | Arranged as required and as requested | | | Norma Baker 443 3108 |
| Activities Mornings, Board and Card Games | 10am-12noon | Mairangi Bay Church Hall | 1st & 3 rd Tues | Margaret Pont 021 679019 |