



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

June 2018

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



The Colours of Pentecost

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister: Rev Tokerau Joseph Mobile:
E-mail: tokerau.j@gmail.com
Administrator: Jo Wyman-Macer
Office Hours: Wednesday : via phone and email
Thursday - Friday: 9am - 1pm
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Vehicle access: Between 8 and 10 Penzance Rd.
Postal Address: PO Box 65299, Mairangi Bay.
Website: www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz
Parish Clerk: Stewart Milne
Telephone: 478 5786
Mobile: 027 293 8499
Treasurer, Property & Finance: George Wyman
Telephone: 478 6411
Support Worker for the Elderly: Margaret Pont
Telephone: 027 225 8893



REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

GIRLS' BRIGADE - Tuesdays 6.30-8pm
During School term only. Church Hall.
Kay Barbour Ph 478 7603



LADIES HOME GROUP - Wednesdays 10.15am.
Contact Heather Ph 479-8822 for further details.



BORN AGAIN BODIES - Wednesdays 1-2pm
Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212

ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS - Wednesdays 1-2.30pm
New Meeting Room 2.
Further Information Stewart Milne 478 5786



HOUSE GROUP - Wednesdays 7.30pm a
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.



LUNCHEON GROUP - 2nd Thursday of month 12-2pm
Church hall
Further information Jill Wyman 021 066 1059.



DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP - Thursdays 10am-2pm
Church Hall & Lounge
For further information Stewart Milne Ph 478 5786.



FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP
3rd Friday 6.30pm A meeting & shared meal.
Venue circulates. For further information contact
Jenni & Allan Jones Ph 478 5694.



MAINLY MUSIC - Fridays 10-11.30am
During the school term only. Church Hall
Further information Margaret Callaghan Ph 027 885 4408

AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Kia orana and greetings.

As we enter the season of Pentecost, we are reminded of how God's Spirit impacts peoples' lives. Acts chapter 2: 1 – 11 says that "there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem" who were "bewildered" by how the followers of Jesus could "speak of God's deeds of power" in their respective languages. God works within the diversity of God's people.

New Zealand, and Auckland City in particular, is increasingly becoming ethnically and culturally diverse. I spoke on this at the Coastal Region meeting of Northern Presbytery. The 2013 Census revealed that 74% of people indicated their ethnic identity as European; meaning that 26% were non-European. The figure for non-Europeans in Auckland, with a population of nearly 1,400,000, is 41%. Almost 40% of Auckland's population comprise of people born outside New Zealand, many of whom are people with some kind of faith. Auckland is the fastest growing city in New Zealand with nearly 30% of its people having the ability to speak two or more languages apart from English.



What does an ethnically and culturally changing population and environment mean for us as the church? What might our Christian response be to those who are different from ourselves, and yet are largely people of faith?

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) understands itself as a diverse church and advocates for diversity. We have four very broad people groups (European, Maori, Asian, and Pacific Islander) including other nationalities represented within it. Our Book of Order and our statement of faith Kupu Whakapono both explicitly affirm an ecclesiology that is grounded in the unity and diversity of Christ and the Trinity. We are one in Christ, without denying our cultural heritage, and we are a people of the God of community.

I am excited that our parish strives to faithfully live out our unity in diversity. Our community here on the North Shore is changing and I believe we, as a parish, are responding to those changes. The English conversation group is growing in number, ethnicity, and enthusiasm. Rev Raju George's work with the Hindi-speaking community is bearing fruit and the returning attendance of new friends and families at our worship services is uplifting. I was privileged to be asked to officiate the opening of a Mother's Day celebration of the Chinese community recently. Lesson's in Mandarin with Grace Liu and her translation assistance was most helpful in addressing the packed-out hall.



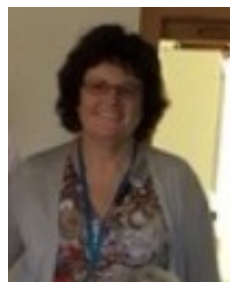
My hope is that our journey of unity in diversity will help transform our relationships with others; particularly with those who are different from us. May God's Spirit empower us with love and understanding to do this. This is the heart of the gospel and was what transformed those long ago at Pentecost in Jerusalem and then the world. So, keep up the great work with the Holy Spirit and see our parish, homes, schools, work-places, an community transformed.

SUPPORT WORKER FOR THE ELDERLY

Margaret Pont, who has been the Co-ordinator for the Dees Social Group for the last 7 years, has been appointed as our Support Worker for the Elderly.

This is a part time position which is designed to provide advice to elderly people who do not have adequate family support and who are wanting to understand the options available to them in terms of services and housing. Where necessary Margaret will also take on an advocacy role.

Margaret's mobile Ph umber is 021 679019 or she can be contacted through our Minister Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph ph 027 371 4733



UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At our May meeting we:

- Welcomed Erica and Karel back from their 3 month break
- spent time on pastoral matters and prayed for those needing support
- received advice on the formal opening of the Family Works (Presbyterian Support Northern) North Shore Base which will be at 1:30pm on Monday 18 June. There is an open invitation to attend and to hear something of the services which Family Works provides and the ways that we can work together. An invitation to the opening is also being sent out to the schools and pre-schools on the North Shore.
- supported applications to the North Shore Presbyterian Hospital Trust and PressGo for grants to assist with the costs of Dees and the Hindi Community Project
- agreed to support the Hibiscus Coast Parish with the Port Vila (Vanuatu) School Ablutions Block Project with a \$6,000 donation. Those who were at church on 6 May will have heard Paul Fransham speak of this need
- were advised of the Fellowship Committee's programme of events for the rest of the year. Karen will be providing information on the individual events as the year rolls out
- agreed on a more organised way of publicising forthcoming events as well as those which have occurred. Erica has volunteered as the communication person and those with responsibilities for particular activities who want publicity will work through her
- spent a lot of time on the wording of an inclusion for this June Newsletter addressing our financial situation and the need to inform our members of it. This is a sensitive matter but we do need to be sustainable as a parish and not dependent on only a few funding sources.
- were advised on the key points contained in a report on our prison system by Sir Peter Gluckman and agreed that a Community Discussions series on this subject should be mounted.
- welcomed Margaret Pont's suggestion to start up a weekly board games session for the elderly. This will probably be held on a Tuesday morning. Details to be announced.

Stewart Milne

FINANCIAL MATTERS

It's coming up to Budget time in our Parish. The procedure that we go through is:

(i) those with responsibilities in the parish (eg Christian Education) let our Treasurer know what their financial needs for the coming year are

(ii) a draft budget is prepared by the Treasurer for consideration by the Property and Finance Committee which includes a forecast of the many operating costs that the parish will experience in the coming year, the projected revenue from use of buildings by others, interest on reserves and the cost of our community focussed and missional activities. The level of donations/offerings required then becomes clear

(iii) the draft budget is then considered by Parish Council in June/July with a view to establishing what can be recommended to the congregation

(iv) the draft budget is brought to the AGM in August for the approval of and adoption by the Congregation

Before this process commences there are some points that Parish Council has asked be brought to the attention of the congregation. These are :

- We do have reserves however we are partially dependent on the interest earned on these and **we need reserves** to deal with unexpected capital costs such as roof replacements. Consequently we do not favour covering operating deficits from reserves
- Even with our Special Appeal which was mounted in March we are struggling to meet our offerings revenue target of \$75,000 which was approved by the congregation at last year's AGM. We are heading for an annual deficit for the year ending 30 June
- The amount of offerings revenue received over the last 5 years has declined year by year while costs have risen
- While we are currently receiving good income from the groups who are using our facilities, this or parts of it could cease at any time due to circumstances beyond our control.

(Continued...)

- Our Parish has a long standing and clear policy that our members who are on fixed incomes should not feel they are under pressure to give more when they simply can't afford it
- Our Parish is levied by the central church (PCANZ) and by the Northern Presbytery to assist with meeting their costs. The formula used includes the number of members that a church has. Consequently if a member is not contributing financially this cost is having to be borne by others
- The PCANZ publishes the figures (membership and offerings received) for all parishes and when we look at these figures for the 11 North Shore Presbyterian parishes we see that for 2017 we were 9th lowest out of the 11 North Shore parishes for offerings per member.
- Many of us have been giving a set amount to our church for years despite rising costs
- As an indication of amounts: **if all of our 100 members were giving an average of \$15 each per week we would meet the \$75,000 offerings target** but we accept that many of our members simply can't afford that amount and that others are willing to give a lot more to achieve the overall average of \$15 that is needed.

Please give this matter your prayerful consideration and if you are in a position to increase your offerings to our church that will be very much appreciated. However we repeat that members who cannot afford to increase their level of giving should not feel under pressure to do so.

If you do not already have an allocated offerings number which will result in an end of year tax receipt thus allowing a 33% refund from IRD please contact Norma Baker (the offerings clerk) phone 443 3108 or crnjbaker@gmail.com . The number system that we have ensures confidentiality is achieved. At the time of getting your number you can choose to donate via the envelope system or by Direct Debit from your bank account to the church Westpac account 03 0180 005234 002 with your name or offerings number as identification. Thank you.

George Wyman (Treasurer) and Stewart Milne (Parish Clerk)

Mary

When I was 15, I said “yes” to the Lord. I was young. That is my excuse. I did not expect anyone to believe me. I was ready for family and friends to be angry, perhaps even disown me. I was ready for Joseph, my betrothed to scorn me. I would be a fallen woman, but the Lord would lift me up. I was taking on this burden for God and for my people. They needed a savior.

God did not desert me to bear the burden alone. Elizabeth was the first to recognize the miracle for what it was. The Lord came to Joseph in a dream and he renewed his commitment to be my husband. Shepherds rejoiced at his birth; wise men knelt before him and brought the resources for our sojourn in Egypt.

Joseph and I had other children and the savior of Israel was raised like any other child. As the years passed my dreams of a savior faded. At age 15 I was filled with visions of soldiers toppling off their mighty war horses, of the Roman Empire begging for mercy, of Israel taking her rightful place among the nations. By the time I was 30 these visions had lost their glamour. I had seen too many young men rise up only to be put down by Roman might. And this uncanny son of mine, this Jesus, was not a soldier. He did not have the tools to fight the power of Rome. That certainty I had enjoyed at age 15 was gone, replaced with love for a young man who could bring the light of heaven to earth with his smile. How I longed to protect him.

But if Jesus was not a soldier, do not imagine that he was timid. He spoke with an authority beyond his years, and later when rumors of miracles began to appear, I was not surprised. But as his ministry and his renown grew, so did my fear. I stood by him, all the way to the cross. And every day, I prayed to the Lord God. What use, I cried was a savior who was hung on a cross to die?

Three days after his death, my prayer was answered. My son held my hand and dried my tears. And as His hand held on to mine, I saw salvation as he saw it—so much larger than my feeble imagination. A salvation that reached through our tiny nation across all the world and through time. For a brief moment I truly understood the immensity of God’s design for the world. Then he let go of my hand and he was gone.

But now, even on the days when I understand nothing, this much is certain: Jesus, my son, is not really gone. And if God has not given up on us, neither should we give up on God.

KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Seeing

When in 1994 my hearing had deteriorated to the extent that I could not carry on Parish Ministry, it was suggested by a career's advisor that I follow up my interest in photography and work as a photographer. After a period of retraining and experimentation I worked as a qualified professional portrait photographer. Lately I have been experimenting with landscape photography which requires some different skills. The first of these is really seeing the landscape and not being blinded by the familiar images we have of it in our head.

On Easter Saturday I set out to photograph a tree on Bush Road. Over some time, I had seen a magnificent old Totara tree which stood out mid-morning when the sun light just touched it. The problem in photographing it was the busy traffic which intermittently blocked the view so I chose Easter Saturday to photograph it when I hoped traffic would be lighter. I set up my tripod on the footpath as far back from the road as I could go. Then I waited for the right light as the clouds moved across the sun.

A young woman was walking up the road and she asked, "What are you photographing?" I pointed to the tree and surrounding vegetation. "Oh," she said, "I have never noticed it before." She walked a few steps up the road, got out her mobile phone and photographed the tree. This sort of scenario happened several times as I waited for the right light. One man did not talk to me. He looked across the road and quickly snapped a picture on his mobile.



The same happened to me in Whakatane when I was photographing the Estuary from the walkway. People remarked that they had not noticed the beautiful pattern of the driftwood and reflections on the water. We can become so familiar with our surroundings we don't actually "see" them.

If we don't make an effort, we don't see what is there but rather what we think is there.

Not surprisingly the spiritual life is often spoken about as a new way of seeing. The Hebrew Bible prophets were at times referred to as “seers.”

John’s gospel, often referred to as the most “spiritual” of the gospels, has Jesus in dispute with the Pharisees and the Jewish authorities. Among the accounts of these disputes the story is told of Jesus healing a



man born blind on the Sabbath. The Pharisees and Jewish authorities interrogated the man, with a loaded question saying, “Promise before God that you will tell the truth! We know that this man who cured you is a sinner.” To which the healed man replies, “I do not know if he is a sinner or not. One thing I do know: I was blind and now I see.” (John 9) The point of the story being that the religious authorities were blind while the man who had been blind was the seeing one who recognised the significance of Jesus.

The two people walking the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus who met the risen Christ, discovered that when Jesus broke the bread and blessed it, that their “their eyes were opened.” (Luke 24)

Saul’s conversion is described in terms of blindness and sight, “something like fish scales fell from Saul’s eye and he was able to see again.” (Acts 9)

Spiritual writers through the ages have continued this theme of seeing the world differently, of eyes being opened or of seeing Christ in the weak, exploited, hungry, homeless, cold or in prison. Meister Eckhart (c. 1260 – c. 1328), a German theologian, philosopher and mystic, went even further he wrote, “The eye through which I see God is the same eye through which God sees me; my eye and God’s eye are one eye, one seeing, one knowing, one love.”

How we see the landscape in which we find ourselves is important for followers of Jesus. We have the advantage of being able to look back over centuries of fellow Christians who have seen the landscape and marked out the places from which to examine the view. We have a vast selection of viewpoints to choose from.

But there is a catch. We can be so preoccupied with exploring the magnificent landscapes from viewing points of the past that we miss the present landscape. We just don't see it. We miss the special places – the wonderful play of the light- that opens our eyes to something we have not experienced or thought of before. Furthermore, the landscape changes constantly. To really see the landscape, we need to concentrate and have another look at those places that look bland, unattractive or disturb us. We cannot live by faith viewing the comfortable landscapes of the past.

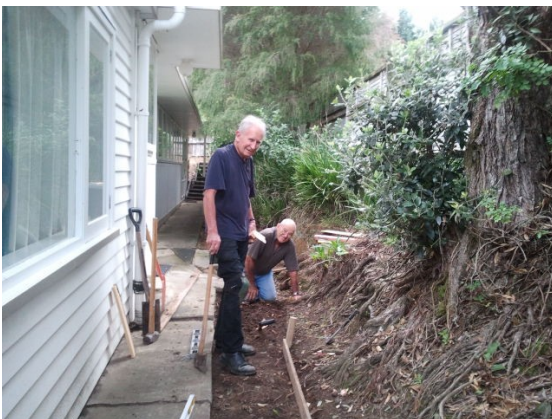
To find those special places of awe-inspiring Christ landscapes in today's secular world we need to open our eyes to look beyond the familiar landmarks which mark the well-trodden path. Finding those new landscapes requires courage and faith to see. Our hope is to join the once blind man and say, "One thing I do know: I was blind and now I see."

LUNCHEON GROUP

Thursday 14th June will be the next meeting of the Luncheon group
from 12pm – 2pm.

We will be entertained by a very large group called THE UKLELE UNION,
who will perform a mix of songs and music from different eras which will
bring a smile to your face.

Bring your lunch and anything you might have surplus for the trade table.
Gold coin + donation at the door.



The "old fellas" doing yet another job for our church behind the lounge

REVIEWERS WANTED

The Northern Presbytery is developing a programme of parish reviews. This will involve a group of people (from other parishes) visiting a particular parish and reviewing how they are going in terms of their various activities , numbers and general well being. The reviewers will have a check list.

It is an interesting exercise as it provides the opportunity to assist other parishes with suggestions as well as the opportunity to learn what is succeeding elsewhere.

Would anyone interested in volunteering to become a reviewer or who would like to learn more about this please contact John Shadbolt (4793953) or Stewart Milne (4785786)

Scottish country dancers at the May Luncheon Group.



Plenty of smiles going around.
Thanks Yoshiko for the photos.



THE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Once again the Fellowship Group have had their thinking caps on to plan some activities. This month there is the

Mid-winter dinner at Montrose cafe on the 24th of June

If you are interested, please let Dorille Shadbolt or Karen Ruffell know.

The TiriTiriMatangi trip has been rescheduled for October the 6th.

Finally, for those who missed the very amusing trip to the **Bookclub**, another show at the Rose Theatre is being planned for later in the year.



Members of the Hindi congregation
singing for Pentecost

CRIME QUIZ

1. Recorded crime rates in NZ have increased since 2009 and are at an all time high (T/F)
2. New Zealand's prison rate per 100,000 population is second only to USA in Western world (T/F)
3. Children of prisoners are also punished (T/F)
4. Early intervention in anti social behaviour is the most effective financially and socially (T/F)
5. Property crime offences are increasing (T/F)
6. The Finnish crime rate is similar to NZ but fewer get a prison sentence so NZers feel safer (T/F)
7. "Remand" prisoners are people who are waiting for their day in court. (T/F)
8. Nearly all people in prison have a lifetime diagnosable mental illness or substance abuse disorder. T/F (continues...)

9. Between 2009/10 and 2016/17 youth crime increased dramatically (T/F)
10. Maori make up about half the prison population (T/F)

***Answers to this quiz will be in next month's newsletter

MONTH'S DUTIES

3 June

Welcome Team: Bronwyn Stone (Readings), Yoshiko Tregathan (Offerings)

Morning Tea: Jennie Pascoe, Kay Barbour

Sound System: Peter Stone

10 June

Welcome Team: Raju George (Readings) , Roopali Dayal (Offerings)

Morning Tea: Val Crawford, Sylvana Whyborn

Sound System: John Shadbolt

17 June

Welcome Team: Sylvana Whyborn (Reading), Jennie Pascoe (Offerings)

Morning Tea: Jean Hollings, Sue Bowden

Sound System: John Shadbolt

24 June

Welcome Team: Erica and Karel (Reading), Erica and Karel (Offerings)

Morning Tea: Norma Baker, Sylvana Whyborn

Sound System: Kaz Handa

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2017

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth activities	4.00-6.00pm	Various venue	Saturdays tba	TBC
Youth and children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	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	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay New Meeting Room 2.	Every Wednesday	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	Mairangi Church lounge	10.00am-2.00pm Every Thursday	Stewart Milne 478 5786
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Jenni & Allan Jones 478-5694
Mainly Music	10.00am-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker 443 3108