



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Minister: Rev Karel Lorier



*"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof;
The world, and they that dwell therein."*

World Food Day 16 October 2016

Psalm 24

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Parish Clerk:
Stewart Milne
Telephone: 478 5786.
Property & Finance:
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**Social Worker
for the Elderly:**
Melinda Gama
Mobile: 027 308 5015.

SUNDAY SERVICE: 10am
WEDNESDAY COMMUNION: 2.30pm

PARISH ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER

- **GIRLS' BRIGADE**
Tuesdays during School term. Church Hall 6.30-8pm.
Newcomers welcome.
Kay Barbour Ph 478 7603
- **GARY SYME'S BORN AGAIN BODIES**
Wednesdays 1.00-2.00pm Mairangi Bay Church Hall.
Simple exercises to strengthen muscles and bone density.
Gary Syme Ph 479 2212
- **LUNCHEON GROUP**
Thursday October 13 the Glenfield Entertainers, will be entertaining us. Bring your lunch and enjoy the music
Raewyn Henderson Ph 410 4423.
- **HOUSE GROUP**
Once a month . All welcome. If interested -
Contact Dorille Ph 479 3953.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**
No meeting in September . Next one 21 October
For further information
Jenni & Allan Jones Ph 478 5694.
- **DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP**
Thursdays 10am Mairangi Bay Church Hall
For further information
Stewart Milne Ph 478 5786.
- **MAINLY MUSIC**
Fridays 10-11am during the school term.
Mairangi Bay Church Hall
Pre-schooler music and movement. All members of the community are welcome. No waiting list.
Pauline Gulliver Ph 478 4051
- **WEDNESDAY COMMUNION**
Wednesdays 2.30pm in the church, except 14 Sept



FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

I write at a time when more bombs are being dropped on Aleppo. We are very far from there, but it is agonising to watch the after effects of the bombing - parents anxiously searching for their children and distressed children looking for their parents. We hear the disturbing screams of pain and anguish in the overcrowded hospitals.

I don't know how you feel when you hear this on the radio or see it on T.V. I am left feeling helpless and thwarted that I can do little if anything to assist. The behaviour of the various militaries in the area is atrocious. No one emerges with clean hands. I sense anger rising in me and can understand other people's violent responses and understand the readiness of the protagonists to leap into the fray heavily armed and spraying machine gun bullets to wreak their own damage and injury on those they perceive to be their enemies. The lethal attitude of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" can carry on indefinitely. With modern weapons at the disposal of some and the willingness of arms' dealers and manufacturers to provide them, the fighting could carry on for a long time yet.

If I, in my safe comfortable arm chair, experience anger, how much more would a parent who has a child or children killed or maimed, who loses their partner, or everything they have worked for over many years, experience anger and the desire to retaliate?

This is precisely the situation Jesus addresses, when he says "You have heard it said, 'Love you friends, hate your enemies.' but now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you may become sons and daughters of your father in heaven." And in the beatitudes, "Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children."

A suggestion like this sounds foolish, idealistic and glib, as if it comes from someone who has no idea of the reality of war and violence. But, on the contrary, Jesus lived in a country that was occupied by the Romans, where violent death were all too common. When he was about fourteen, the Romans in Galilee (where Nazareth, his home, was located) crucified over 2,000 people and left them along the roads on crosses to decay.

For a long term peace Jesus' solution offers the best way forward. The downside is that it demands great courage, willpower and the willingness to appear foolish to one's enemies and bystanders. What Jesus teaches is the way to peace. Did anyone say that following the way of Jesus is easy?

We can, however, give money to those agencies that offer help to the injured and refugees. We can as well ask the government to increase our quota of refugees.

The contention that it is too difficult to do so because we lack the infrastructure and ability to settle new people is weak. We will have put ourselves out, face slight discomfort and make do to alleviate enormous suffering. Again is that not the very thing that is expected of a follower of Jesus?

At home, we are saddened by the death of Tracey Henderson. Tracey was a member of the choir, had many interesting things to say in community time and quietly offered support when members of the congregation were suffering bereavement or difficult times. He impressively learnt sign language to assist those who were deaf from birth. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Bob Pettett also died after a long illness. He was connected with the Castor Bay side of the Parish and was a stalwart at working bees. He was a very skilled man with a wicked sense of humour which he retained even when very ill days before his death. Our thoughts and prayers are with Val, Gary and Maureen, Bryan and Sheryl. We will miss both these men.

Erica and I had the privilege of attending “Common Dreams” a Progressive Spirituality Conference in Brisbane. Between 400 and 500 people were there to hear lectures by cutting edge theologians from a variety of traditions, from Australia, USA, New Zealand and Canada. People attending were from Australia, USA, Britain, South Africa, the Philippines, Vanuatu and New Zealand. There were lectures, discussion groups and breakout groups. Morning devotions in the chapel encompassed the themes of “Earth”, “the Cosmos” and “Life” and involved meditation on poems or pictures and weaving an art work as well as singing. It was useful to meet up with and talk to Australian Parish Ministers, mainly from the Uniting Church, and a minister from USA, to learn about the things that worked in their Parishes and above all not to be afraid of failure when trying new things.

Currently I feel as if I had a rich fourteen course meal of theological ideas which I need time to digest. I came away with the sense that the new reformation which started some years ago is gathering pace. It was good to see some younger people attend and a special programme was included for them.

Shalom
Karel Lorier



Somerset House, the girls' boarding school, where the conference was held.

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the September meeting of Parish Council :

- Pastoral matters were discussed. The special communion service and lunch for those who have difficulty getting along to church on a Sunday morning was held on 20 September. It was great to catch up with them
- We considered the cost estimates for the children's play area which is to be sited above the courtyard and are working on ways to get the cost down through more of a D I Y approach
- The Dees Group for those living at home with dementia was also discussed. We currently have 8 members who attend on a regular basis at the Thursday sessions but in the past have had up to 12. The benefit to these folks from participation is most marked as is the appreciation of their caregiver who get some respite and see their partner regaining at least some of their social skills. If you know someone who could join the group please let me know and we will arrange a visit to meet with them and their caregiver.
- The success of the Quiz night which Pauline organised and ran and where \$2,000 was raised for the restoration of the Presbyterian Women's Project House in Vanuatu was acclaimed. The cheque was handed to Paul Fransham from the Hibiscus Coast Church who we have a partnership with for the Vanuatu projects. Paul took the service on 11 September where we sang and prayed in the local pidgin tongue.



We were grateful to Harcourts Mairangi Bay, for the great prizes

- We received initial feedback from Karel who attended the Common Dreams Conference in Brisbane. He talked with many other Ministers about what their churches were doing.
- We were requested by George to keep an eye out for and to advise him of any faults or deficiencies in the new building as we have until 6 October to get these identified before making the final payment to the contractor. This is something we should all participate in.
- We gave consideration to the end of year/Christmas activities dates and times. Christmas Eve is a Saturday with 7pm carol singing planned and perhaps with a community activity before it at 6pm. The Christmas day Sunday Service will be held at 0930 hrs.
- We heard from John on a meeting which he represented us at where the options for the future structure of the Presbyterian Church on the North Shore were discussed. We will be focussing on what we need to do as a Parish

Stewart Milne

Before the Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council visited the Girls' Brigade which meets in our premises and gave gifts congratulating Emma Smith and Catherine Horgan on being commissioned and sent a multi -coloured flower to Amy to represent the various joys and trials of a new baby. She wasn't there because she was experiencing one of the trials with a baby who refused to settle!



KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Expressions of Christianity

Over the ages there have been many different expressions of the Christian faith. There have been two main streams with many small tributaries. These differences begin in the New Testament with differences in theological thinking by the gospel writers and are shown most starkly in the differences between Peter and Paul. Jesus became understood as the

Messiah, (Christ), the long expected military conqueror, who would be sent by God to set Israel free from domination by the Romans. Jesus was not the sort of Christ people expected, but the influence of Paul prevailed. He, although a Jew, grew up in the Greek world and was much influenced by the Greek Gentile world. He took Christianity to the Gentiles. Subsequently, (about one hundred years after Paul's death -from about 150 AD)

Christianity became a Gentile religion cut off from its Jewish roots.

Early Christians followed the way of Jesus. They were originally known as followers of the way. They lived simply, shared food, offered hospitality to strangers, cared for each other, healed the sick, refused to be soldiers and met in homes or by the river on the first day of the week to break bread together and worship. Theirs was a practical faith of following the teaching of Jesus.

Among the various churches there were huge disagreements about who Jesus was. Was he the Messiah, a good man, a prophet, God come down to earth as a phantom of the Son of God? There was much theological discussion. In small groups the differences did not matter too much. Practical details were very important. They were a persecuted group and many died because of their faith.



When, in 213 CE, in the Edict of Milan, the Emperor Constantine decriminalised Christian worship, the influence of Christianity grew. It grew so much that the unity of the Roman Empire depended on a uniformity in what Christians believed. In the meantime there had been huge disputes among Christians about who Jesus was. Arguments raged and led to the murder of prominent leaders and the supporters of various Christian factions.

In 325 CE, Constantine called the council of Bishops together at Nicea to formulate a creed on which all Christians could agree. Despite much pressure from the Emperor, he did not succeed. There was still much disagreement. In 390 CE Christianity became the official religion of the Empire. Successive Roman emperors were concerned to create unity in the church and a number of councils called by Emperors followed. In 481 at Chalcedon a formula was drawn up in which Jesus became God - as the second person in the Trinity. This formula is couched in Greek philosophical concepts which are quite foreign to us and do not make much sense.

Those who did not agree with these creedal statements were excommunicated as heretics. In this way Christian orthodoxy was born. Belief about the nature of Jesus became the important attribute of being a Christian. Jesus' teaching was overlooked in the creeds, although remaining important for some, particularly in the monasteries.

In the creeds, Jesus' teaching, it is quipped, became the comma between his miraculous birth and the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension into heaven. The printing of the Bible and, for the first time being able to make exact copies, led indirectly to the 16th century Reformation. The creeds of the fourth and fifth century were reaffirmed and confessions of faith written which smoothed out the different theologies in the Bible. The Bible was declared to be the written word of God and theories of verbal inspiration and inerrancy developed.

Believing the right things (**orthodoxy = correct belief**) became all important rather than following Jesus' ethical teaching. In many places it was orthodoxy which was strongly upheld by monarchs and the state. Not until 250 years ago was this orthodoxy questioned.

However, alongside this orthodox story, there was a second Jesus story - that of the people who followed the teaching of Jesus (**orthopraxy or orthopraxis = correct practice**). This strand is often interwoven with the orthodox story but should really be a separate story. These believers were often mystics, frequently women, and at times persecuted by those who upheld orthodoxy. They endeavoured to follow the way of Jesus in caring for the sick, compassion for all, generous hospitality, peacemaking and reconciliation and seeking the mystical presence of God in all they did. They were also persecuted from time to time as heretics. Some sought refuge in monastic orders.

It is interesting that this second strand of Christianity is coming to the fore again. It is being "rediscovered" in various Christian groups, as the usefulness of the orthodoxy of creeds and confessions are rapidly declining under the onslaught of the scientific understanding of the world, universe and ourselves.

Karel Lorier



Some of the orchestra group from Murrays Bay Intermediate who entertained the luncheon group in September enjoying a well earned snack after the performance

Once again this year we will be putting together special
 food for Christmas for the Foodbank, so please save any
 shoe boxes you have for us to decorate and fill.
 We are checking requirements for what to fill them with
 and will have a particular item to collect each Sunday in
 November, so watch out for the notices



We were joined by Susanne, the General Manager Communications and Fundraising Support Northern, at our service on 18 September. She gave an overview of their work, including some human stories with the positive outcomes for those involved.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL

We have been in our new space now for nearly two months, and what a pleasure it is to worship and function within it.

One reason it has come into being is the support and generosity of those, who responded to our letter of appeal with a staggering, collective \$33000 gift.

As a result of this, we have been able to either purchase or contribute to the purchase of - Two heat pumps

A rejuvenated sound system

New Furniture for the offices

Some Courtyard furniture

A Playhouse for pre-schoolers.

Additionally, this gift has enabled us to spend other savings on a number of things. We have been able, for instance, to refurbish the Hall. This will include its painting and the laying of new lino. The upshot is that we now have both a new and refurbished building that is not only functional, but will be maintenance light (financially speaking) over the next few years. This is a remarkable achievement.

Over the course of the appeal, we have personally and collectively thanked those who have donated. Now that the appeal has formally ended, and, in the light of the fruit it has born, we would like once again to thank all of you, for both the financial and other ways that you have helped to get us to where we have now gotten.

THANK YOU AGAIN

Ian Watson

Convenor Fund raising Committee



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Many of our children's activities are having a school holiday break and will re-open after the holidays - Mainly Music, Girls' Brigade and Mairangi Bay Primary – but of course, Kids Choice is in full school holiday care mode so there are many children around the premises.

Dees Group continues through the holidays and still has spaces for more clients and more volunteers on the roster. We are grateful to Milford Rotary for the members who help both at St Georges and Mairangi Bay.

Maybe some other folk from the Probus groups who meet in the hall would be prepared to spend some time with Dees group?

Also, if congregation members are going to see their doctors, please take a couple of the Dees Group pamphlets and make sure your medical practice knows there are spaces for people with memory loss who are living at home. It gives the carers a break during the week when they can be sure their family member will be safe and Margaret is aware of how valuable it is in keeping members active and involved.



Stewart continues to fill his car with our food donations (thank you all) to take to the Foodbank and we will soon be starting to think about Christmas parcels.

Born Again Bodies continues with a variety of leaders because Gary is away in Germany at present. The Mairangi Bay contingent is very well supported now, as are many of the other groups. and Gary has organised a group of skilled leaders to take them. What started out as a small service to older people has developed into a well respected service commended by ACC and other health care providers, It is very accessible and uses only a chair and some weights as equipment. Well done, that man!!

Luncheon Group was amazed at the skills of the orchestra from Murrays Bay Intermediate last month and looking forward to the Glenfield Entertainers in October.



We are wondering whether we should add another day group to cater for older people—maybe crafts or games activities. What do you think? Let Raewyn or Erica know.

LOOKING OUTWARDS

October 10 World Homeless Day will be marked in Auckland in Aotea Square. Lifewise and other social agencies will be there to talk about the issue in partnership with homeless people.

October 16 World Food Day.

This year the emphasis is highlighting the difference Climate Change is making



The world's poorest are being hit hardest by climate change.

If we strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers, we can guarantee food security for the planet's growing global population and also reduce emissions.

But we can do our bit.

Challenge—pick 4 of actions below and stick to them:

- Don't waste water
- Diversify your diet
- Keep fish populations healthy
- Keep soils and water clean
- Buy organic
- Be energy efficient
- Buy only what you need
- Pick ugly fruit and vegetables
- Love your leftovers
- Bike, walk or use public transport
- Or any of the other things on the FAO website

A Notice from St Lukes in Remuera JUST ACT: FAMILY VIOLENCE IS PREVENTABLE



Wednesday, 26 October 2016 - 7:30pm

In association with Presbyterian Support Northern we host a panel discussion with:

- the Honourable Amy Adams Minister of Justice or her deputy
- Jude Simpson, Victims Manager for NZ Police A field worker

This discussion will address:

The progress and action since the publication of the government's discussion document

Strengthening New Zealand's legislative response to family violence (August 2015)

The gaps in responsiveness to reducing family violence at a national level

What can individuals and groups do to address family violence in their communities.

Wednesday 26th October 7.30 – 9.00pm

Cost: \$10 per person to cover costs. Register at www.stlukes.org.nz

RSA Dinner Wednesday, 19 October 2015

We are planning to have our annual dinner at the East Coast RSA in Browns Bay RSA on Wednesday, 19 October 2016 from 6.30 pm. The cost is \$22 per person for the full Carvery.

Please contact Dorille on 479 3953 by Wednesday, 12 October 2016 to confirm your attendance so that we can provide the RSA with numbers for catering purposes. Please join us and if you need transport, let us know so that we can arrange this.

House Group

The House Group will be meeting on a monthly basis until the end of the year. Please contact Dorille on 479 39353 for further details regarding our activities.

Certificate in Pastoral Care of Ageing People

Some of our readers may be interested in this Certificate being offered by the Selwyn foundation.

It comprises 3 modules: which will take place in Auckland in the Reeves Room at Selwyn Heights Village, 42 Herd Rd, Hillsborough on 4, 5, 18 and 19 November.

The cost is a total of \$85.00, and is open to lay or ordained Christians.

For more information and an enrolment form go to

www.selwyncare.org.nz/145/Certificate-in-Pastoral-Care-of-Ageing-People.

Luncheon Group - 13th October 12pm

Luncheon group will be entertained by the Glenfield Entertainers, including Peter and Bronwyn Stone.

Bring your lunch and enjoy the company and singing.

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2016

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth and children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver 478 4051
Born Again Bodies	1.00—2.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays in lead up to Special Services	Patricia Campbell 476 0377
Dees Social Club	10.00am	Mairangi Church lounge	10.00am-2.00pm Every Thursday	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Fellowship Group	To be advised	To be advised	To be advised	Dorille Shadbolt 479 3953
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Jenni & Allan Jones 478-5694
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour 478-7603
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	Once a month	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
Luncheon Group	12.00 noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	2nd Thursday of the month	Raewyn Henderson 410 4423
Mainly Music	10.00am-11 am	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Pauline Gulliver 478 4051
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker 443 3108