



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

September 2016

Minister: Rev Karel Lorier



Photo John Shadbolt

Overflow into the foyer at the dedication service.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister:

Rev Karel Lorier

Mobile 021 903 762

Telephone 414 6321

E-mail: karellorier@gmail.com

Administrator:

Jo Wyman-Macer

Office Hours:

Wednesday :

via phone and email

Thursday - Friday:

9am - 1pm

Telephone:

478 6180.

Email:

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Street Address:

10 Penzance Rd,

Mairangi Bay.

Postal Address:

PO Box 65299,

Mairangi Bay.

Website:

www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz

Parish Clerk:

Stewart Milne

Telephone: 478 5786.

Property & Finance:

George Wyman

Telephone: 478 6411.

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 September 8 Murray's Bay Intermediate orchestra will be entertaining us. Bring your lunch and enjoy the music
 Raewyn Henderson Ph 410 4423.
- HOUSE GROUP**
Wednesdays 7.30pm at the Shadbolts.
 Resumes in September
 All welcome.
Contact Dorille Ph 479 3953.
- FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**
No meeting in September. Next one 21st 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 School terms. 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,

The dedication of the church development was a memorable occasion. On Saturday the 6th of August about 60 people came to look over the new development and at the display in the hall put together by those who use our facilities. Devonshire tea was served. Some interesting people came along. Ted Hipkins a carpenter worked on putting the floor in the church and helped pour the concrete for the floor in the hall was there. Others came along to see what facilities were available for community use.



On Sunday the 7th of August in a well attended service the Moderator of the PCANZ offered the prayer of dedication. He spoke in family time about the Moderator's Korowhia Tapu and preached on the text "The Lord is here! He is in this place and I didn't know it."

Bruce Deverell, before reading the Old Testament reading, spoke about his family's association with building the church and the early history of the church. During the service, certificates and flowers were presented to George Wyman and Stewart Milne for their demanding work of managing and overseeing the rebuild and new building. For months they spent an enormous amount time on the building site.



The lunch after the service was splendid and we owe a great deal of thanks to members of the Fellowship Committee who organised and those who brought food.



George and Stewart being thanked for their stalwart work on the building project. George is not sure what to do with flowers!



All photos thanks to John Shadbolt

With the death of Marcus Bowden we lost a great friend from our congregation. Listening to the speeches and talking to people afterwards it was clear that he made an impact on people as a good pastor during his years as a Baptist Minister in a number of churches. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and particularly Sue and Lea who will miss him in the house.

The mid week meditation and communion service is meeting a need for those who attend. However, the current time does not suit some people who would like to attend. From September we will experiment with a changed time of 2.30 pm each Wednesday following Born Again Bodies. Please phone me on 021903762 if you have any question about this service.



The TGIF on Friday has not had a great response. Some think it is for young people only. It is for all ages and a chance to chat, reflect, play games and eat together. Bring some food or order take ways. We meet on Fridays at 6pm and eat at about 6.30 pm. Hopefully it will develop into an occasion to which you can invite friends. With warmer weather just around the corner it presents a wonderful opportunity to make use of the courtyard where in the not too distant future we will have a children's playground.

The Parish Council has asked each of its committees to spend some time thinking about activities we can do with or for children and youth and if you have any ideas, please let me know and we will add them to the list of things to think about.

Your minister

Karel Lorier

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the August meeting of Parish Council :

- we had a visit from Rev Margaret Anne Low who is the Moderator of the Northern Presbytery. Margaret Anne constituted the meeting and spoke words of encouragement. When a minister resigns from a parish the Presbyterian Book of Order requires that a commission be set up to inquire into the reasons for the resignation. The Presbytery has appointed Rev Martin Baker, Rev Mark Chapman and Mrs Phyllis Brock to the commission to inquire into Caleb's resignation which is lying on the table at the Presbytery. The Moderator spent time with our Parish Council and explained in general terms the way that a commission operates in the Presbyterian Church.
- pastoral matters were discussed and it became clear that Karel is carrying out a lot of visiting with members being unwell at home and in hospital. The assistance being provided by Melinda Gama our Social Worker for the Elderly also received special mention.
- a further disappointment for our parish has been the resignation of Josh Dunne the Youth Intern. After Caleb's departure we went to some lengths to map out a programme for Josh but it wasn't enough to convince him to stay.
- we were advised that by April of next year there will be 5 Presbyterian parishes on the North Shore without a full time permanent minister . The Presbytery is convening meetings of North Shore Ministers to look at options . Karel is representing our parish at these meetings and it is planned that attendance be widened later in the year.
- Pauline and Karel have updated the website. It is well worth a visit.
- Our fundraising for additional items associated with the development project raised \$34,000. That was a splendid effort and bit by bit the extras are being provided.

- We reflected on the open day and the dedication service for the new premises with a degree of satisfaction. The theme of the Moderator, Rt Rev Andrew Norton's address was 'God is in this place' and several people spoke to me of the positive effect that this message had for them.
- replacements for Karel in terms of taking the Sunday Services On 11 and 18 September were agreed. Karel and Erica will be attending a theological conference in Brisbane over this period. My guess is that we can anticipate hearing aspects of new theologies upon their return. The service on 11 September will be led by Paul Fransham from the Hibiscus Coast Church and on 18 September we will be hearing from Susanne Ritzenhoff who is the recently appointed GM of Communications and Fundraising for Presbyterian Support.
- my request for more volunteers to assist at the Dees Group sessions on Thursdays has resulted in Anita Schloss volunteering. If you are prepared to give 2 hours of time on a Thursday and would like to give it a go come along and see what it is like.
- the mid week service with communion at 1130 followed by lunch which is intended for those of our members who struggle to get along on a Sunday morning is planned for September 20. Invitations will be going out soon but please ring Norma Baker on 443 3108 to have your name recorded and let Norma know if you would like transport .

Stewart

"Many many thanks to **all those** who contributed to our Favourite Hymns Service: to those who requested hymns and shared memories with us; to **Jonathan** who played for us; to **Jo** for preparing the service sheet and power point, and to **Karel** for his support and encouragement, who edited the list and presentation of the words, and who "stage managed" the service. Above all, my thanks to **you**, the congregation for entering into the spirit of the service and for singing so well.

You brought joy to so many. *Trish Campbell*"

8 KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Atonement

At-one-ment is the word used to describe our harmony with God. Our human nature and sinfulness breaks our relationship with God and has consequence for the community in which we live.

Over the Christian centuries there have been a number of theological theories of how Jesus Christ heals our relationship with God. I outline the main ones to which there are a number of sub theories below. They are brief summaries. The full theories themselves are more complex. These theories arise out of the human hunger for explanation, but have taken on a life of their own, as if this is the truth about God.

Christus Victor (CV)

This originated with the church fathers in the first three centuries. They envisaged a huge cosmic battle between good and evil in which Christ by his crucifixion and resurrection was the victor. This was an understanding held by some for the first 1,000 years of Christian history.

Moral Exemplar or Moral Influence (ME)

Jesus is seen as a moral example or influence to be followed. This is the most common view held for the first thousand years of Christian history and in various forms is still held by the Eastern Orthodox churches. It is also the view attributed by a number of Pauline scholars to Paul eg D.E.H. Whiteley "if St. Paul can be said to hold a theory of the *modus operandi* [of the atonement], it is best described as one of salvation through participation: Christ shared all our experience, sin alone excepted, including death, in order that we, by virtue of our solidarity with him, might share his life."

In the Eastern Orthodox churches it is called *theosis* and is summarised as "God became a human being in order that human beings could become divine."

Satisfaction Theory (ST)

Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) asked the question, "Why did Jesus become human?" Anselm accepted Augustine's notion of original sin that we were all born sinful and thus were in great debt to God, by marring God's honour. Anselm used the feudal model of a King being owed a great debt by one of his vassals. The King could forgive personal debt, but debt to the kingdom had to be paid or recovered. He applied this model to God and said that only the sinless perfect Jesus could be offered as a sacrifice to pay God's debt of human sin and restore God's honour. Jesus suffering and death thus satisfied God's honour.

Penal Substitution Theory (PS)

Penal substitution, developed by the reformers in the 16th century, is the idea that divine forgiveness must satisfy divine justice, that is, that God is not willing or able to simply forgive sin without first requiring a satisfaction for it. It states that God gave himself in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer the death, punishment and curse due to fallen humanity as the penalty for our sin.

All four theories pervade our hymns and Christian thinking. If you asked a person what Christians' believe they would answer with a version of satisfaction theory or penal substitution theory.

Yet I would argue that both these theories are questionable history, theology, anthropology and psychology.

Questionable history because Jesus was crucified as the inevitable result of his teaching of radical love rather than adherence to the law which upset the religious temple authorities, and the economic and political leaders of his day.

Questionable theology because it paints God as an infanticidal monster who murders his own son to reclaim his honour or repay his debt. This God is a child abuser on a cosmic scale. This is not the God of justice and love of Jesus and of the Old Testament prophets. Such a God is not worthy of our worship, or an example of ethical and moral behaviour. Believing in such a God has consequences for the health of our community by normalizing violence.

Questionable anthropology because these theories rely on Augustine's notion of original sin based on a literal understanding of the Eden myth. There was no Adam or Eve who could pass on their sinfulness to subsequent generations.

Questionable psychology because it has created human unworthiness, self-loathing and spiritualities focussed on the suffering agonies and blood of Jesus which require human mortification and suffering. It creates a punitive, vindictive God who punishes people through no fault of their own.

Such a God is in stark contrast to the loving God of Jesus who seeks to draw out the best in us and welcomes the prodigal home. Contrary to having original sin we have original blessing – the capacity for great goodness. We also have the capacity for great evil.

I find the understanding of Jesus as the moral exemplar the most useful. There I find God who is worthy of love and worship and who considers us all worthy of love. In the end it is God's grace not some theory which makes us whole.

Karel Lorier

We are disappointed that Josh Dunne has resigned and are now reviewing the youth and children's programmes. (See the Minister's letter and pass on any ideas you have.)

Pauline, Kay and the team continue to provide a programme for those children and young people attending on a Sunday largely based on the lectionary.

Kids' activities on Dedication Day



Photos John Shadbolt

Some Suggestions from the Moderator to make Meetings more fruitful

1. Change the focus from meeting to experiencing God in one another.
2. Multi task to do more than one thing. Eat, have fun and work together
3. Ask "Is this Agenda worth giving my life for?"
4. Ask who really needs to be at the meeting - if the right people aren't there, don't have the meeting.
5. Don't record minutes of meetings, only the action points.
6. Set very clear time limits for a meeting (1 hour)
7. Stop sharing opinions. In most meetings we already know what people are going to say. Listen for the silent voice, the voice you don't want to hear.
8. Ask what would spiritual discernment look and sound like.

LOOKING OUTWARDS

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

From 16-21 September, voting papers will be delivered for the local body, DHBs and Licensing trusts (if relevant to your area) elections. They can be returned any time after that until 8 October when they have to be with the Council by noon.

Auckland is a huge city which grew 8.6% between 2006 and 2013 to 1,415,550 which makes it the largest district in New Zealand with the largest Maori population (23.9% Maori live in Auckland). It has enormous challenges as we all know when we fight the traffic. It is important that we are involved in the issues and vote and vote sensibly with as many of the facts as we can get.

That being said we do not have to vote or vote for every part of the contests. There are 2 voting systems in place. First past the post (FPP) is used for the Council and Community Boards and the Licensing Trust. Single Transferable Vote (STV) is used for the District Health Board in the area. This involves ranking the candidates in order of preference. We don't have to rank them all but for the vote to count we do have to start with 1 and move down in order of the people we would like to include—no more than the number of vacancies.

We are asked to vote for one mayor, (out of 19 candidates) a representative on the Council for our Ward and a certain number of Local Board members (this varies a bit). A ward may involve more sub-divisions eg Rodney Ward includes Kumeu, Dairy Flat, Wellsford and Warkworth sub-divisions

The successful candidates are the people who will set policy for the whole of Auckland (the Council) or for local issues (the Boards). The Council also sets the general direction of policy for the Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) such as Auckland Transport and Water Care. They are assisted by staff whose numbers (contrary to common gossip and despite serving about 130 thousand more people) have decreased by 3% since amalgamation. Advisory panels which represent certain demographic, ethnic or specialist sectors also assist councillors with the decisions they have to make.

The Chief Executive of each Council is required to produce a Pre-Election Report which is a non-political view of where the Council is, what has been achieved and what challenges it faces. Copies of the Auckland 2016 Pre-Election Report are available in libraries, on the Auckland Council web site and in the blue folder at the back of the church. (Please don't take it away for too long.) It's a good place to find out some facts about Auckland City's challenges.

Good voting!

Erica Brash

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CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Church and Community Report to August Parish Council

The Open Day and Dedication Service gave us opportunities to connect with community groups, Those using our buildings were asked if they wished to put up displays. Others were invited to the Open Day and Dedication.

Advertising went to the Village News, and their email site as well as an article to the NSTA and information for their What's On column. (An item for the What's On column about the Quiz Night has also been sent.) The Committee needs to review the efficacy of sending material to the NSTA.

The parish brochure was updated for the open days in terms of the content.

Opportunity did not allow for the photographs to be up dated but this is not a major current issue (They are not too obviously out of date).

We were also able to make connections with people who had had some contact with the church in the past.

Some of the news which came out of the contacts:

- An invitation to the principal of Mairangi Bay Primary school brought the comment of how much the school aiding was appreciated and how more volunteers would be welcome.
- Contact with the **Girls Brigade** brought the suggestion that we, as a Parish Council, might like to go to them (say before a Parish Council meeting) to congratulate the young women who have been commissioned since it is proving harder to get them to a service now-a-days. It was also suggested that the leaders should be on our Parish newsletter list to nurture our connection and they were given copies of the July and August newsletters which they appreciated. The Girls Brigade are enjoying our various new spaces and the carpeted foyer seems to be a favourite spot. There are 11 girls attending at present.

Web Site: Pauline and Karel have started updating the web site and that will continue as time becomes a little more available.

Foodbank : Demand is still high and our contribution very much appreciated. The extra that came in around the Open Day was a bonus. Stuart is due to drop off the donations for the last month on Tuesday morning (16th) and the station wagon will be full.

Dees : Only 8 or 9 these days. Stuart intends writing to medical centres to accompany the pamphlet pointing out the great benefits we are experiencing with those who attend and suggesting they steer any of their patients living at home with dementia our way.

School Aiding : Always a bit more difficult in winter particularly when the little dears can't get outside at play time and lunch time to run around and exhaust themselves. Roll on the spring.

Luncheon group: Thirty people attended and enjoyed fellowship and singing by the Pearls. It was great to have Karel take time out from his busy schedule to open the meeting and join in.

Oronga were unable to attend and there were many on our sick list. We're hoping for some warmer weather soon to boost numbers.

Many thanks to the committee, Dees helpers and the able bodied who set up and put away the furniture. Very much appreciated.

Next month on 8th Sept the Murrays Bay orchestra will be coming to us and it will be really worth attending to hear them

At the end of the financial year we were able to donate \$516 to church funds. For a small group we are doing well. Much of this is for items donated to the trading table.

Friday Night Discussion Group: About 10 were at Val Grosse's apartment to enjoy the evening despite the weather with discussion and the shared meal. 11 were at the Pascoes for the August meeting.

Mainly Music had an active start to the term . All three have been busy sessions so far. Once again we are in a position of being aware of our relatively short human resources, calling on the Wyman family to provide leadership support when Pauline has double booked herself! We are immensely grateful to the wonderful people who turn up regularly to help out. Three of our mums are expecting new babies this term.

Certificate in Pastoral Care of Ageing People

Some of our readers may be interested in this Certificate which is 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.

BOOKS

It's time for that spring cleaning and de-cluttering and we'd like to help. We are starting a library for the adults of our church family and would like suitable books preferably with a Christian theme to stock our shelves. Books can be borrowed on a casual basis, no need to sign them out, just return them when you are finished. Contact Sylvana Whyborn.

Rev John MacDonald, Chaplain at Large, Auckland City Centre, and Acting Superintendent of Methodist Mission Northern, Lifewise and Airedale Property Trust. will be coming to speak at our Sunday service on 4 September

Here is a list of their needs from their web site, If you can help talk to John on Sunday or bring your contribution.

WANTED LIST

We have an urgent need for the following:

- Beds, in good condition
- Blankets
- Men & women's clothing and shoes
- Warm winter clothing, including mittens, hats and socks
- Fridges
- Washing machines

SPECIAL COMMUNION

Tuesday 20th September at 11.30 am

Our next special Communion service for those parishioners who cannot attend church regularly will be held on Tuesday, September 20 at 11:30 am.

There will be a time of fellowship and lunch following the service .

We will provide transportation to and from the church if required.

If you would like to attend, could you please let your Pastoral Visitor know or call Norma Baker on 443- 3108.

Alistair Rankin has space for more gardening clients. He has worked for various parishioners. If you need a hand give him a call on Ph 478 9078 or 027 723 0975



Outing to Auckland Botanic Gardens Sunday 11th September

Come and join us for lunch and a walk around the gardens at Manurewa.

The rhodos, magnolias and azaleas will be at their Spring best. There's a lovely café onsite where we'll have lunch on arrival.

We'll carpool from church after the service and a cuppa, about 11.45am, returning about 3.30pm.

Postponement date will be the following Sunday 18th – we'll make a decision at church on 11th.

If you would like a lift, please call Glennis French ph 4101 464 or 021 0757555.

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2016

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth	10am-12pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	
TGIF evening	6.00-8.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Fridays in term time	Karel Lorier 414 6321
Born Again Bodies	1.00—2.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	2 Thursdays in lead up to Dedications	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	7.30pm	22A Hastings Rd	Every Wednesday	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-11am	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