



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

Minister: Rev Karel Lorier



The Burning Bush
Appliqué at St Andrews on the Terrace, Wellington

General Assembly meets 7-18 November
May commissioners truly hear and represent the loving word of God

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: preschurch.mairangi@xtra.co.nz
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 NOVEMBER

- 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 November 10 12-2pm U3A orchestra.
 Bring your lunch and enjoy the music
 Raewyn Henderson Ph 410 4423.
- HOUSE GROUP**
 Going to the Male Voice Choir this month
 Contact Dorille Ph 479 3953.
- FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**
 Meeting 18 November 6.30pm shared meal
 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,



FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

With the repainting of the church exterior, the replacement of the vinyl in the hall and near completion of the children's playground (tasks which are almost finished) the redevelopment of the church buildings is almost completed. Much has been achieved. The buildings are well used. I enjoy working in the office and hearing the buzz of conversation and children's voices of those who use the buildings. The place feels alive and used. As well there are interesting conversations with those people who just pop in.

Having redeveloped the church, it is important to look again at our mission statement and update it. On Sunday the 20th of November, there will be an opportunity during the morning Service for everyone to contribute with suggestions and ideas. We need to think creatively beyond what has worked in the past. Elsewhere in this Newsletter there are details of facets of mission we need to talk about. But now is the time to start thinking.

On November the 6th we will have a service to which we ask grandparents to invite their grandchildren and grandchildren to invite their grandparents. We all have much wisdom to share.

Celebrating Grandparents and Grandchildren November 6th



On **Sunday the 30th of October** and the **13th of November** I will be sharing some of the things I learnt at the Common Dreams Conferences which Erica and I have attended.

Friday, November 25th is White Ribbon Day when we think about violence against women which is very prevalent in New Zealand. This will be the focus of our Service on Sunday the 27th. You will be able to get your White Ribbon to wear on White Ribbon Day (25th), at the service on Sunday 20th.

A White Ribbon Day Project



A lead group of motorbike riders steer convoys through towns in the North and South Islands, picking up support riders in every region along the way. In many regions local riders will lead the White Ribbon into their town and this year we are encouraging scooters and bikes under 250cc's to join in when the event is within city and town limits

Violent offending continues and the Minister of Corrections, Judith Collins, has announced the building of new prison facilities for 1,800 prisoners. Currently prisons are overcrowded with nearly 10,000 prisoners, 37% of these are there for violent offenses. Our rate of imprisonment is the 7th highest in the OECD, just below Mexico. Our rate is 155 per 100,000 people, Northern European countries and Japan have rate between 37 and 73 per 100,000. The Netherlands and the State of Texas have drastically reduced their crime rate and imprisonment rate by using well funded rehabilitation services. These cost much less than keeping people in prison.

I think there is a conversation to have in New Zealand on crime, punishment and rehabilitation and why our rates of violence are so high. Currently many people who go to prison return within a few years after release. Many prisoners are Maori and for many Maori young men, prison seems to be a rite of passage.

What Jesus taught about compassion, forgiveness and life transformation may be much better for everyone than current punitive practices. There just has to be a better way.

Your minister
Karel Lorier

Climate Change Conference 7-18 November

Minister Paula Bennett will be attending this conference in Morocco. New Zealand is relying on carbon credits to achieve some of our goals - in other words, letting other countries do the climate change work. We seem to be talking the talk but not walking the walk as a country. Some individuals and firms are making great efforts but you may like to encourage the Minister to come up with more specific government actions.

(p.bennett@ministers.govt.nz) .

One bit of good news from a Queensland University is that a seaweed (asparagopsis taxiformis) has shown excellent results at reducing methane (responsible for almost half our greenhouse emission) if added to animal feed.

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the October Meeting of Parish Council we :

- Spent time on pastoral matters
- Gave approval for a baptism which will be held in February
- Received a report from George Wyman on progress with the children's playground which is above the courtyard. The sand pit and chips are in place. Some equipment which we have applied for a grant for is still to be obtained. Special thanks are due to George Wyman and to Jim Wylie who did much of the work.
- Agreed to the replacement of the hard drive in the Office Computer
- Noted there are to be meetings of the Pastoral Visitors and Newsletter deliverers at 2pm on 1 Nov and 7pm on 15th
- Were advised that recommendations on the restructuring of the Northern Presbytery will be considered at the Spring Meeting of the Presbytery on 29 October
- Agreed to continue to support the hospital chaplains by providing assistants for moving patients to the chapel on 2 occasions during the year.
- Agreed to recommend to Presbytery that John Shadbolt be our Presbytery Elder and that Jean Allan continue as a Communion Celebrant
- Agreed that we will accept an encumbrance on the property to legalise vehicle access from Penzance Road.
- Agreed a timeline and milestones for moving forward to seek a minister including the updating of our Mission Plan which will involve seeking ideas from the congregation on 20 November (See next page for your input.) Karel will reflect some current theological thinking in his coming sermons
- Decided to employ a part time Youth Worker for an average of 6 hours a fortnight in 2017 to take responsibility for youth social activities to be held on a Saturday afternoon.

Stewart Milne

How should our Mission Plan address the following issues?

Note your thoughts in the spaces to prepare for the discussion in church on 20th November. Think creatively and outside the square about activities, constraints, our strengths and skills. What ideas are there that are different from the past?

- **Relevance to the elderly**
- **Relevance to the middle aged**
- **Relevance to youth and children**
- **How should we go about getting our existence, activities and culture known in the community?**
- **How can we better reflect the diversity of ethnicities in our neighbourhood?**

KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

The Word of God

The phrase "The Word of God" is used in two ways in the Christian church and can be very confusing. One is to refer to Jesus as "The Word of God," the other is to refer to the Bible as "The Word of God." Both are referred to as "The Word" in shortened form. We will find both uses in hymns and sometimes in liturgy. To refer to the Bible as the "Word of God" is confusing and wrong. The Bible is not written by God. It is a human book written by humans about their experiences with God and thinking about God. Basic orthodox teaching is that we need to read the Bible through the "Word of God," Jesus. Jesus always trumps the Bible.



Sometimes the Bible is clearly wrong, even when we read it correctly in its ancient context. Admitting that allows us to take the Bible seriously as the most important collection of writings for Christians and the Old Testament as the Hebrew Bible for Jews.

There are many places where the Bible is clearly wrong. According to the Bible the world was created not so very long ago in six days. (Genesis 1): God is seen as commanding indiscriminate violence. (1 Samuel 15:1-3): God ordered Saul (Israel's first King) to kill the Amalekites. "Thus says the Lord of Hosts 'Do spare them, but kill both men and women, child and infant.' " There are a number of similar passages proclaiming violence in the name of God, not only in the Old Testament. but also in the New. The book of Revelations has God ordering violence and destruction more violent than anything in the Old Testament. Is that what God is like? What does it mean to believe in a violent God? Does this accord with the teaching and life of Jesus?

Does God endorse slavery? Both the O.T. and N.T. have passages which do so. The O.T. law regulates the practice. Some of the N.T. letters which are attributed to Paul (but are almost certainly not by him) condone slavery, but seek to moderate it. (Eph 6:5-8, Col 3:22 -4:1, Titus 2:9, I Peter 2:18.) Other N.T. letters (not by Paul) subject women to their husbands (Eph 5:22-24, Col 3:18, I Tim 2:11-15.) Women are be submissive and to have no authority over men. Women are responsible for sin coming into the world. Are these texts the inerrant will and word of God? Do they portray God's view of women and their proper relationship to men?

It was also the belief that Jesus would come again soon. (Mark 13:26-27, 30.) Paul saw the second coming of Jesus as "near and soon." It didn't happen.

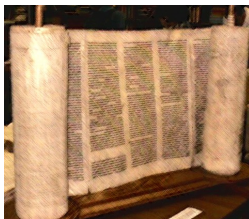
These problems arise when Christians claim the Bible as the “Word of God” inspired by God, inerrant (without error) and authoritative. Such thinking has severely damaged Christianity and discouraged millions of people from being Christian.

This belief about the Bible is a recent phenomenon and held by a minority of Christians, but today it is Christianity's most strident voice, through radio, T.V. and many books. By far the largest number of Christians through history have not thought of the Bible like this.

The reformer, Martin Luther defended himself saying he would use scripture alone to defend his cause. He said that authority lay in scripture *and evident reason*. Richard Hooker, the most important theologian of the Anglican reformation, said authority lay in “scripture, *reason and tradition*.” Origen, a second century theologian, dismissed Biblical passages because they were contrary to reason. Augustine of Hippo (C400 A.D.), who influenced much of Christian thinking over the centuries, berated those who took the words of the Bible literally when they contradicted observed and known facts of his time.

To take the Bible seriously is to place the texts in the time they were written and ask what it meant to those for whom it was written. Often passages are metaphoric, mountains burst into song, and trees clap their hands and sing for joy. Sometimes it is not as obvious as those examples.

The Bible's language about God is obviously metaphoric; God has eyes, ears, nose, mouth, vocal chords and hands. The ancient writers were not concerned with facts in the same way as we are. They were not modern journalists reporting facts, (Although we sometimes wonder.) but they were concerned with meaning – often in parable form, or metaphor. The Bible continued to be interpreted this way until the modern era when groups panicking about the advent of the modern world proclaimed it the infallible, inerrant Word of God.



For us Jesus is “The Word of God,” against whom we interpret the Bible. We are not like Islam or some other faiths, “people of the book.” Jesus is at the heart of our understanding of the character of God.

Christmas at the Foodbank

Once again this year we will be putting together special food for Christmas for the Foodbank, so save any shoe boxes you have for us to decorate and fill. We still need more - especially boot size ones. If you would like to cover the boxes you are welcome to do so, but don't need to. We have checked requirements and suggestions are below. Please bring them on the Sundays in November :-



ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS PARCELS - TREATS

Cans Fruit Salad
 Cans Pineapple, Lychees, Peaches, Apricots
 Small Christmas Puddings
 Fancy Biscuits
 Small Christmas cakes
 Mince pies
 Chocolates
 Sweets (eg Snakes, aeroplanes, dinosaurs)
 Packets nuts and raisins
 Other

It's Spring so this seems appropriate

HOW TO PLANT YOUR GARDEN.....

First, you come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the flowers....

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love one another



NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.
THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT
YOU SOW.

Thanks to Bronwyn Stone

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CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Dees Group : Two new members have joined and so numbers are now back up to ten. We are working with PSN to produce advertising material. We are already missing Rae and Ken Pascoe who are overseas for the next month and so more volunteers would be welcomed.

Food Bank : As busy as ever and as welcoming of our contribution as ever. Donations for the Special Christmas Parcels for Families in need are to be requested for the four Sundays in November. The favoured items will be advertised.

Mairangi Bay School : School is back for the last term of the year after a very wet couple of weeks holiday.

Friday Night Discussion Group did not meet in Sept but resumes 21 October

Luncheon Group 13th October : We had 36 attend our October meeting and enjoyed the entertainment from the Glenfield singers immensely. There was great singing and audience interaction. We were pleased to note that this month no members were ill or in hospital. Pat Platt's wonderful knitted garments from the magic stripe wool were shown. She would appreciate any odd balls of wool as all knitting goes to Presbyterian Support. See Raewyn if you have any. Next month we will be entertained by U3A Instrumental Group which includes more of our talented parishioners. We'd love to see you there on the 10th November but donations of goods for the trading table are always welcome.

Born Again Bodies had about 15 participants welcomed Gary back from Germany on 12 October.

Mainly Music had great fun on their first time back from the holidays. The children ranged in age from 2 weeks to the five year old who came for the last time to say goodbye. There are 4 or 5 regular families and "casuals" who drop in from time to time. We usually have between 10 and 20 children per session.

Girls' Brigade We are sad to be losing Emma from the group. She is taking up science teaching and after a short course hopes to get a teaching job up north. We will have a farewell for her on 8 November. The Bible Society is arranging for every girl in the Girls' Brigade movement to be presented with a Bible.

****** 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

PRAYER THEMES for GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. God forgive us

We pray this as confession for we know that many of the worst problems we face are of our own making, both within and without the Church. Let us confess together our great need of Christ's redeeming work in our lives.

We pray this as a confession that we are not separate from the lost world but identify with that world in that our need is the same as everyone else's. We need Christ just as all do. We pray this so that God may work in greater ways through us to both love the lost and save the world. We can do this only as we 'die to self.' Our crucifixion with Christ is God's opportunity to work with resurrection power through us.

2. God save us...from evil

The New Testament (NT) recognises that we face evil in the form of something other than our own evil. (Eph. 6:12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.) We pray this also as it relates to 'powers and principalities' for evil will and does use whatever it can to destroy God's good work in us and in Creation. We must pray against the evil inherent in powers and principalities, and pray that they might be used for God's purposes and God's Kingdom.

3. God lead us...to love

Love is the most profound expression of God's presence and person in human experience. The NT is clear that 'God is love' by which it means that God is found and understood most fully in the true expression of love for another. Therefore the Church's clear mandate is to be a place of love and to be a clear expression of love in all it does.

We need to pray that all that we do both in public and behind closed doors is imbued with love. Justice, then, is a form of love as is joy, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. All these are expressions of love.

Love is also the key to bringing Christ to a lost world. Jesus said, "They will know you are Christian by your love." So much depends on how and how well we love.

4. God empower us...to share the Gospel.

Perhaps the most significant part of the Church's life is to be 'witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and to the ends of the earth'. But this requires the working of the Holy Spirit within the Church for we find that without the work of the Spirit we do not have the means to truly impact the world.

5. God help us...to heal the world

The context of the Church is the natural world which enables our survival. Unless we treasure this and make sure it survives human civilization we will lose the only true home we have and we will destroy the habitat of many other creatures of God. We have a basic duty to care for and protect the environment and, indeed, to repair the damage we have already done.

Do you have a Bach that you don't fully use? CORT Community Housing is a leading social and affordable housing organisation founded by a local church congregation in 1987 and currently provides rental accommodation for 249 households on low incomes. Social justice lies at the heart of CORT's mission. Many of CORT's tenants have little or no access to affordable holiday accommodation. CORT is therefore on the lookout for a Bach, or a holiday cottage to buy or lease or use on a long term basis. If you think you might be able to help please contact Mark on 09 376 3049 or mark@cort.org.nz



CWS Appeal for Haiti :

Appeal leaflets at the back of the church

Photo UN/MINUSTAH/Logon Abassi

Christian World Service the development, justice and aid agency of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Methodist Church of New Zealand, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, Christian Churches and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Invites you to hear

Rev. Francois Pihaatae

“Peace in the Pacific” 10th November, 7.30 pm

Grey Lynn Presbyterian Church

487 Great North Rd Grey Lynn Auckland

Rev. Pihaatae is the General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) and an ordained minister of the Etaretia Porotani Maohi (Maohi Protestant Church). Earlier this year the church decided to take the French government to the International Criminal Court. They intend to charge France for crimes against humanity as a result of 193 nuclear tests on Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls. PCC with its member churches is addressing issues facing the Pacific today: climate change, self-determination (including for West Papua), gender relations and development. Contact: David Lawson Christian World Service, Auckland david.lawson@cws.org.nz Ph: 021 671 430 or Rev Nathan Pedro Minister Grey Lynn Presbyterian Church revnathan@glpc.org.nz Ph: 027 715 2333

VANUATU CALENDARS - The rebuilding and improvement of the Presbyterian Women's Facilities at port Vila in Vanuatu is our Parish's main overseas mission project. Those who were present for the Vanuatu service taken by Paul Fransham will know of what is being achieved and the way it is being received. 2017 calendars showing this activity are available in the foyer at a price of \$8 for 1 ; \$15 for 2 ; or \$20 for 3. Good for sending to friends and family. All proceeds will go to the project. Stewart Milne

PEWS FOR SALE Four of the old 2.5 m long pews (see photo) are no longer needed and are available for purchase. Preference will be given to members. One of the pews can be viewed in the small meeting room by the stage. Transport can be arranged.

Please contact me if you are interested. Stewart Milne



Shakespeare Park Picnic and Walk

Join the Fellowship group at Shakespeare Regional Park on Sunday, Nov. 13 for a spring picnic and afternoon. We will car pool after the morning tea and after a picnic lunch you can choose to walk on the beach or on one of the bush tracks or just sit and enjoy some fresh air and sunshine. If it turns out to be a "liquid sunshine" day then Sunday, Nov. 20th will be the alternate day. Friends and family are all welcome.

Contact Norma Baker 443 3108.



Saturday morning 26 November Mairangi Bay Christmas Parade

We need help in handing out our Christmas service advertisement and a little decoration gift for children to make up.

Please give names to Erica

Choir practices for Christmas Choir service 7.15pm on Thursdays.
Trish could still do with more sopranos.



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	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		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	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