



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020



Remember your Christmas Boxes - December 6

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister:	Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph Ph: 027 371 4733 tokerau.j@gmail.com
Honorary Assistant Minister:	Rev. Karel Lorier Ph: 021 903 762
Administrator	Jo Wyman-Macer Ph: 478 6180 office@bayspc.nz
Office hours:	Wednesday via phone and email Thursday—Friday 9am to 1pm
Vehicle Access	10 Penzance Rd
Street Address	9 Hastings Rd Mairangi Bay
Postal Address	PO Box 65299, Mairangi Bay
Website	www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz
Parish Clerk	Stewart Milne Ph: 478 5786 Mobile: 027 293 8499
Treasurer, property and finance	George Wyman Ph 478 6411
Family Coordinator	Angel Matapo angeljmatapo@gmail.com 022 486 5409
Support worker for the elderly	Margaret Pont 021 679 019 mpont@xtra.co.nz

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **ACTIVITIES MORNING - 1st Tuesday of the month 9.30am - 12pm**
Book Group 9am / Games & Gatherings 10am
Discuss, swap, borrow books, play cards & board games & a cup of tea
Contact Raewyn **410 4423** or Margaret **021 679 019**



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



- **LADIES HOME GROUP -**
10.15am Wednesdays
Contact Heather on **479-8822**



- **GARY SYME'S BORN AGAIN BODIES**
1.00-2.00pm Wednesdays Church Hall.
Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212



- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**
1pm - 2.30pm Wednesdays Meeting Room 2.
Further Information John Shadbolt 479 3953 Grace Liu 021 0487978



- **HOUSE GROUP**
7.30pm Wednesdays at the Shadbolts
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.



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



- **DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP**
Thursdays 10am-2pm Mairangi Bay Church Hall
For further information Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223.



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



- **MAINLY MUSIC**
Fridays during the school term. Church Hall 10-11am
Ph Angel Matapo 022 486 5409



- **FAMILY STYLE FUN NIGHT**
1ST Friday every month Church Hall 6pm
Ph Angel Matapo 022 486 5409

UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

Tena koutou, kia orana, and greetings in Jesus' name. At a time when the Northern Presbytery has adopted its Strategic Plan and we are beginning to review ours as a parish, I thought this article I came across was encouraging/challenging. I'd like to share it with you and hope it encourages/challenges you too.

“Stewarding the Vision”

By Rebekah Simon-Peter

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/10557/stewarding-the-vision>

George Bullard's pivotal work, *The Life Cycle and Stages of a Congregation*, reinforces what the author of Proverbs once said, “Without a vision the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18, KJV). Turns out this proverb holds true for churches, too. Bullard demonstrates that congregational vitality hinges on one key dynamic: the maintenance and reinvention of a vitalizing vision. Programs, people and proper management aren't enough. Even money isn't enough. Without a vision, not only do people perish, but so do churches.

This is especially true in the time of COVID. I have found in the work I do with churches around the country that perhaps just one-fourth of ministries are outward-focused and designed to transform the status quo. The vast majority of ministries are inward-focused, strictly designed to comfort their members and attenders. Even as churches are coming back together, having a new vision is critical.

I fear that American Christianity has stopped daring greatly and switched to cruise control. Cruise control is great, as long as it works. But in older models of cars, as in older congregations, cruise control is not known for its durability.

I used to drive a 1995 Toyota RAV4. I loved the way it looked, felt and drove. That is, until the cruise control stopped working. In those days, the legal speed limit in Wyoming was 70 miles per hour. I would set my speed for 72, cruising paved-over prairies lined with sagebrush under the shadow of rising mountain peaks. Before long, my speed of 72 gave way to 70, then slipped down to 65 miles per hour. It was hard to tell when the cruise control first disengaged. I would think I was maintaining my speed until other vehicles appeared on the lonely highway and passed me. The same is true in older congregations. You can't stay in aging cruise control long without losing momentum. Before you know it, you've slowed down to a crawl and it's all about survival.

The survival mode isn't working for most congregations. Especially now.

When faced with the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic and all its fallout, a vision is more important than ever. It reminds you that you have a say in how the future goes. That you're not just called to steward a building, or a budget, but the dreams of Jesus.

Every time I've gotten discouraged enough to consider walking away from the people who gather in his name, or from the religious community that honors him, my own waking vision of Jesus from 30 years ago reminds me that he was intentional about coming to me. Out of that profound encounter, I've developed my own Jesus-like dream, captured in Creating a Culture of Renewal®, which guides my ministry. That's the power of vision. It calls you back. It reminds you why you do what you do.

When you operate without a vision, not only do you suffer, so does your community. When you refuse to exercise your right to dream like Jesus, when survival becomes more important than service, the community you serve becomes spiritually impoverished. This lack of engagement reinforces a corresponding lack of interest from the community in joining you.

Bottom line: if you find that you or your people are just going through the motions of doing church rather than being church, of stewarding budgets and buildings rather than the dreams of Jesus, it's time to bring the miraculous back.

Make a difference this Christmas. One Family at a time

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Yes folks, it is that time of year again!! Time to dust off the shoe boxes you have been collecting all year and drop them in the office for packing on DECEMBER 6. Keep those eyes posted for treats to fill the boxes also.

Let's share a wee bit of joy this Christmas

******* Update - We need YOUR help *******

We have only received 38 Shoe Boxes and only have enough treats to fill One box - and all those fillings have come from one person.

Please help us spread some Christmas joy, bring some treats in. Thanks

A WORD FROM KAREL

Human's need a place to call home

Some months ago, on my morning walks through the Park I encountered a mother ushering pyjama clad children with towels and tooth brushes from their car to the public toilets. I had stumbled on one of the manifestations of New Zealand's homelessness: people living in cars. Since then I have met and talked to a number of people who were living for a time in their cars in the Park. It's tough.

Having a house to call home is most important. Social research shows that secure affordable housing is important for creating a healthy community. Research over many years has shown that the lack of a good, affordable home leads to health problems, addiction to alcohol and drugs, criminal behaviour, family dysfunction, bad educational outcomes for children and malnutrition. Those outcomes are very crippling for those who live without a house or in inadequate housing. As well this is costly to the whole community, and nation. We all need a place to call home.

When I was 11 turning 12 my parents bought a house which would need renovating before it was liveable. We were homeless. Both parents became ill - in hindsight due to a combination of post-traumatic stress as the result of the war, the stress of not having somewhere to live and the huge task of renovation. To survive the family was broken up. My mother and my younger two brothers boarded with a family, my father and I camped in the shell of the house they had bought while working part time on the renovations. After some time, my brother, four years younger than me, and I were sent to an orphanage in another town. It was a dismal experience. I still remember the celebratory meal we had when almost a year later we were re-united in the nearly completely renovated house.

A family needs a home.

In New Zealand now we have a shortage of houses, but part of the problem is greed. It is nothing new.

In the 8th century BCE the Assyrian Empire (today's Northern Iraq) was expanding and moving West. In Judah, the prophet Isaiah, who was probably part of the royal court, saw corruption in high places, injustices and unrighteousness, the opposite of what God required. This made Judah, the Southern part of Palestine where he worked, vulnerable to being attacked by Assyria.

He writes: "You are doomed! You buy more houses and fields to add to those you already have. Soon there will be nowhere for anyone else to live, and you alone will live in the land." Similar themes can be found in Amos who preached to people in the Northern Kingdom, Israel and in Micah who preached in the Southern Kingdom, Judah. They saw that the cores of the Kingdoms were corrupt. Prosperity and luxury were enjoyed by the wealthy, the king and royal court, but the poor were exploited and suffered. Housing and food were big problems. For those who could afford it there were elaborate rituals of worship and religiosity, but their hearts were not in it. The justice and righteousness -

the equitable sharing of resources God requires - was ignored. As a consequence, everyone suffered. They became easy prey to be exploited and conquered by expanding Assyria.

In New Zealand, as in many other countries throughout the world, houses purchased as an investment for a capital gain sit empty during a housing crisis – about 40,000 of them in Auckland that was 7% of the housing stock in 2018. Others sit partially empty because they are Airbnb houses let out for short stay rentals attracting a higher rental than if they were rented out long term to a family.

The reason for this is revealed in a Newsroom article. "For these people, putting tenants into properties would be a negative because it would make their investments less liquid and therefore less valuable. Vacant houses are worth more because they offer owners more flexibility and can be sold speedily.....Until we stop viewing houses as investments and go back to regarding them as homes, we will not solve our homelessness crisis. Houses are for living in, not for wealth investment."

Catriona MacLennan, a barrister, journalist and media commentator in a Newsroom article, "What Auckland's 'ghost homes' could do for the housing crisis" Newsroom 12 March 2020. When houses cease to be homes to be lived in but investment properties to make a profit from a capital gain, all sorts of distortions creep into the housing and rental market. Renting a house or buying a house has become exceedingly difficult for many people in New Zealand. Some resort to living in garages, cars and tents. Others live in state sponsored emergency accommodation. For many paying for a roof over their head comes at the expense of food, medical care, and heating. They need to resort to food banks and the children require school breakfasts and lunches. Any accommodation supplement from Work and Income is eaten up in the next rent rise - fortunately now limited to once a year.

Catriona MacClennan further writes: "Perhaps the most alarming aspect of this phenomenon is that it means that building more houses might not, in fact, mean more people obtain homes. Counterintuitively, rather than providing shelter for the homeless, constructing more homes might simply be increasing the pool of investment properties. "

We cannot live as a healthy community with a distorted house market. For the health and wellbeing of the poorest and weakest and the community this needs to be addressed. Jesus called us to see him in "of his least brothers and sisters." As followers of Jesus we need to persuade the government to address this problem of injustice. Not to address it undermines our wellbeing as a nation.



IN MEMORY OF TRISH CAMPBELL

Trish Campbell Memorial - Saturday 28th November 10.30am - 12pm. There is a morning tea being held to celebrate the life of Trish Campbell. All Welcome.

FELLOWSHIP, FAMILY & GAMES NIGHT

Friday 6 November

Come along for a relaxed, fun evening to spend with old friends,
new friends and whanau

Bring a plate for a shared meal and come along for a relaxed so-
cial time including games for young and young at heart.

Mainly Music is back for Term 4! It is such a delight to see our Mainly Music families and team members again. Many parents are glad we are back into the swing of things again as boredom really started to kick in being in and out of lock down over the past 2 terms. We have had many new families join our group with at least two new families texting me each week asking if we have space. Grace Xu has also joined our Mainly Music team at the end of term 3. Welcome Grace! Friday mornings at Mainly Music are full of energy and fun and we look forward to the rest of the year with our Mainly Music service on Sunday 15th November then finishing off the year with our Christmas party on Friday 4th December.

Flatmates Wanted (x2)

Hi there, we're looking for flatmates for our large two storey sunny and warm house in Kowhai Road, Campbells Bay. Semi-furnished or unfurnished, carport and off-street parking. Five minutes walk to beach, shops and bus-stop. In-zone for Campbells and Mairangi Bay schools. Different room options available, \$275/week including fibre internet and lawns. Pets negotiable. Available 4th Dec. Contact Sue B on Mob: 021 116 8720

LUNCHEON GROUP November 12th 12- 2pm.

Feel like some company? Come & join us for and enjoy some wonderful entertainment from the ALBANY WOMENS CHOIR. Bring your lunch & enjoy fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee. Trade table & raffles operating. Gold coin donation at the door. The Luncheon group is held monthly at the Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Hall.

REFLECTIONS ON OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & OCTOBER MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL

Well, what a month this has been to date. The President of the United States struck down by Covid 19. The City of Auckland given a degree of freedom, in its Covid 19 strictures. A general election just completed, two referenda on national issues, two Bledisloe cup tests. And the Annual General Meeting of the Mairangi and Castor Bay Presbyterian Church.

Our AGM attracted neither national headlines nor a standing room only crowd. Nor was there acrimonious debate. In short, it was a quiet occasion. None the less, for the life and health of our Parish it was an important event. For instance, we elected two new members to Parish Council. Through our Annual Report, we learnt that we had come through a financially challenging time, yet still had been able to earthquake proof our building, to hire a youth co-ordinator and to contribute to mission work both at home and abroad.

We also learnt that we were able to deliver a high level of pastoral care to our parishioners and that we had increased our outreach into the community. In addition, we are reaching out to other nearby presbyterian churches, one manifestation of which is the combined services over the Christmas/New Year period. And, reference was made to our venture into becoming a digital church, now reaching through that technology at least as many as we do on a Sunday morning service.

What our Annual Report does not imply is that everything is rosy, still less that there are no challenges ahead, and over the next few months, we will be seeking to arrive at a strategic plan to help us in this quest. What it does imply, though is that we are pledged to be servants of Christ to our fellow parishioners also to those in our Community, using our talents and resources to the best of our abilities. May God give us the strength and wisdom to pursue what we believe is our calling to service.

Ian Watson

“The Big Quiz Night” SUNDAY 8th November 5-7pm

Held in the Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Hall

A Fun fundraising Quiz night with all proceeds going to Tear Fund.

Lots of prizes and raffles thanks to the support from our local businesses.

BYO drinks & nibbles Teams 5-8 people \$10pp

Contact Glen Stanton 021743224 or Raewyn Henderson



UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the October meeting of Parish Council we:

- Spent time on pastoral matters. Tokerau then led prayers for those of our members who are unwell with failing health or have experienced a recent loss
- Welcomed Glen Stanton who has joined Parish Council having been appointed at the AGM
- Gratefully acknowledged receipt of a grant of \$8,500 from Northern Presbytery which will go towards enhancing our Hindi Mission.
- Approved the minutes of the AGM which was held on 11 October
- Approved the baptism of William Colin Charles Tallot which will take place during the service on 22 November. We now have an organist for the 4th Sunday of the month – Maureen Webley will be starting on that day
- Approved the expenditure of \$11,463 (GST excl) for the installation of heat/cooling pumps for the hall, meeting room 2, Office and FW room.
- Agreed to combined services with our neighbouring Presbyterian parishes as follows: 27 Dec Browns Bay; 3 January Mairangi Bay; 10 January Forrest Hill; 17 January Glenfield
- Confirmed the arrangements for Sunday 1 Nov when there will be a combined service with our Hindi Speaking congregation at 6pm followed by a meal. There will not be a morning service on that day.
- Were advised that Angel Joseph-Matapo (our Coordinator for Family Activities) is organising a meal, social occasion and games evening for Friday 6 November
- Accepted that our Parish Plan which was last revised in 2016/17 needs to be examined and revised . We then agreed the process for proceeding with this. Ian Watson will be convening the core group for this exercise and will welcome participation from others. Please contact Ian Phone 478 4817.
- Received a report from Glen with respect to the Quiz night to be held on Sunday 8 Nov at 5pm. Arrangements are proceeding well.
- Agreed to the appointment of Rev Raju George to be the part time (10hrs a week) for the Hindi Mission.

Stewart

SERVICES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020

Sunday, 1 November	No morning service
Sunday, 1 November	6pm Combined service with Hindi Congregation <i>Followed by a meal together</i>
Sunday, 8 November	10am Morning Service
Sunday, 15 November	10am Whanau Service
Sunday, 22 November	10am Morning Service with Christening
Tuesday, 24 November	11am Special Communion & Lunch
Sunday, 29 November	10am Morning Service Rev. Raju George
Sunday, 29 November	6pm Hindi Service
Sunday, 6 December	10am Christmas Treats Packing Service
Sunday, 6 December	6pm Hindi Service
Sunday, 13 December	10am Choral Service
Saturday, 19 December	6.00pm Hindi Nativity Play All Welcome
Sunday, 20 December	10am Communion Combined with Yedarm
Tuesday, 24 December	7pm Christmas Eve Service time
Friday, 25 December	9am Christmas Day Service Time
Sunday, 27 December	No Service at Mairangi Bay <i>Combined Church Service AT Browns Bay</i>
Sunday, 3 January	10am Combined Church Service Here at Mairangi Bay
Sunday, 10 January	No Service Mairangi Bay <i>Combined Church Service AT Forrest Hill</i>
Sunday, 17 January	No Service Mairangi Bay <i>Combined Church Service AT Glenfield</i>
Sunday, 24 January	10am Morning Service
Sunday, 31 January	10am Morning Service Rev. Karel Lorier t
Sunday, 31 January	6.00pm Hindi Service

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2020

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Activities Mornings, Board & Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	1st Tues of the month	Margaret Pont 021 679019
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
Church Choir	Sun 9am before Choral services	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays before special services	Norma Baker 443 3108
Dees Social Club	10am -2pm	Mairangi Church lounge	Every Thursday	Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2.	John Shadbolt 479 3953
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier 414 6321
Girls Brigade	6.30 - 8pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour 478-7603
House Group		22A Hastings Rd Mairangi Bay	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
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
Mainly Music	10.00-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	Every Friday in school term	Angel Matapo 022 486 5409
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Transportation Available	<i>Arranged as required and as requested</i>			Norma Baker 443 3108
Youth & children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Angel Matapo 022 486 5409