



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**October 2018**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



Praying Hands by Albrecht Dürer

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## **Minister**

**Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

**Email: [tokerau.j@gmail.com](mailto:tokerau.j@gmail.com)**

**Ph: 478 6180**

## **Administrator**

**Jo Wyman-Macer**

**Office hours:**

**Wednesday via phone and email**

**Thursday—Friday 9am to 1pm**

**Ph: 478 6180**

**Email: [office@bayspc.nz](mailto:office@bayspc.nz)**

## **Street Address**

**10 Hastings Rd**

**Mairangi Bay**

## **Vehicle Access**

**Between 8 & 10 Penzance Rd**

## **Postal Address**

**PO Box 65299**

**Mairangi Bay**

## **Website**

**[www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz](http://www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz)**

## **Parish Clerk**

**Stewart Milne**

**Ph: 478 5786**

**Mobile: 027 293 8499**

## **Treasurer, property and finance**

**George Wyman**

**Ph 478 6411**

## **Support worker for the elderly**

**Margaret Pont**

**027 225 8893**

# REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **GIRLS' BRIGADE** - Tuesdays during School term. Church Hall 6.30-8pm.  
Kay Barbour Ph 478 7603
- **LADIES HOME GROUP** - Wednesdays 10.15am.  
Contact Heather on 479-8822 for further details.
- **GARY SYME'S BORN AGAIN BODIES**  
Wednesdays Church Hall. 1.00-2.00pm  
Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212
- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**  
1pm—2.30pm Wednesdays New Meeting Room 2.  
Further Information Stewart Milne 478 5786
- **HOUSE GROUP**  
Wednesdays 7.30pm at the Shadbolts  
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.
- **LUNCHEON GROUP**  
2nd Thursday of month 12-2pm in Church hall  
Further information Jill Wyman 021 066 1059.
- **DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP**  
Thursdays 10am-2pm Mairangi Bay Church Hall  
For further information Stewart Milne Ph 478 5786.
- **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



# **AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU**

**Kia orana and greetings.**

The following is an article about prayer I found very inspiring. I want to share it with you with the hope you will be encouraged to continue praying for our ministry together.

**“Crazy ideas change the world” by David Staal**

**<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9261/is-prayer-crazy>**

The Bible contains story after story that began with ideas that likely seemed far-fetched. Fight the giant warrior with just a sling? Leave the family fishing business? Gather together in Jerusalem and simply wait—for what? Fortunately, the people in those stories had just enough faith in God to take crazy ideas seriously.

A couple decades ago, someone shared a wild option for our organization to consider. We do just one thing: we partner local churches with local schools and equip the churches to mentor at-risk students at the schools. One mentor with one child. Simple. The new idea: Add a prayer partner to each relationship, someone willing to feel a burden and pray behind-the-scenes specifically and consistently for the student, the mentor, and their relationship. In other words, ask churches to recruit two people for every one student. In a single word: Crazy. Finding one volunteer is hard enough. I’m so glad we went with the far-fetched idea.

Twenty years later, data arrived that demonstrates the value of this “different” approach. Specifically, evidence that points to passionate, specific, persistent prayers as delivering something amazing. Yes, I realize that this should not be new news. But before you suddenly stop reading this column, please answer this: Do you have well-researched data that shows prayer works? I do. And it’s crazy-exciting.

A two-year evaluation of our program by a highly-credible, external researcher showed that the existence of a highly engaged prayer partner serves as the single greatest predictor of a positive outcome in a student. In fact, twice as much impact as the next highest factor. In the clearest of terms: Students do far better when a persistent and passionate prayer partner joins efforts with a mentor.

The researcher, a secular expert on measuring mentoring's effectiveness, asked me to explain the prayer partner role because he had not seen such compelling data before. Today, when he consults with other mentoring organizations, he boldly recommends they add another role to their program—an “accountability partner.” Calling it a “prayer partner” must be a bit too crazy for some.

Full disclosure: Our organization did not originate this idea. Possibly the most effective, yet unheralded prayer partner was Pearl Goode, a little old lady from Pasadena.

When the 1949 Billy Graham crusade came to Los Angeles, Pearl volunteered to work the event and felt compelled to appeal to heaven for the ministry team. "That night God laid those boys on my heart as a burden," she explained in a 1963 issue of *Decision* magazine, "and I have been praying for them ever since. I went to the Crusade every evening as long as it lasted, and began talking to God about them, asking him to anoint them individually and to give them boldness in proclaiming the Word."

Following the L.A. event, she began to pray for every crusade, traveling to cities across the country without attracting attention. On buses, starting in the 1950s. Just her. Very crazy. Very behind-the-scenes. Eventually, crusade organizers noticed that her name consistently appeared on volunteer lists. Arrangements were made for her to travel with the crusades so she could continue this critical role.

At Pearl's funeral service, Ruth Graham paid her very public tribute with these words: "Here lie the mortal remains of much of the secret of Bill's ministry."

But Pearl wasn't the first in this role either. Go back in time to a hill overlooking Rephidim, found in Exodus 17. The Israelites battle the Amalekites, and the Israelites prevail whenever Moses raises his hands. This is man-to-man combat, so Israel's success required individuals to do well. Eventually, this keep-your-hands-up-behind-the-scenes support becomes too much for him to continue and Israel suffers when his arms collapse; he needs a prayer partner or two. So Aaron and Hur stand beside him and prop up his arms.

That three-person team on a hill, Pearl's willingness to own a burden, and our army of prayer partners all share a common passion: to see God move.

Do you have a Pearl? Seems crazy if you don't.

# UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council meeting on 18 September we:

- Spent time on pastoral matters and prayed for those needing support
- Spoke of the lead we had received from the Joseph family at the Whanau Service in August and the desirability of other families coming forward with items to share at these once a month services
- Thanked Pauline and the Gulliver family for their organisation and running of the Quiz Night which was so successful in terms of socialising , fun and mon-  
eys raised (\$700) for the Vanuatu Presbyterian School Development Project.
- Confirmed the minutes for the AGM held last month
- Received a report on our finances which showed that offerings have fallen a bit behind budget (by \$300) for July / August
- Noted that Tokerau will be away on 30 September (Knox Review) and I will be taking the service and also on 7 October (General Assembly) , which is World Communion Sunday, when Karel will be taking the service
- Agreed that the next Special Communion Service and Lunch will be held on Tuesday 20 November.
- Confirmed that there will be a planning session in October to consider activi-  
ties and approaches for the young in 2019
- Received a full report on all the many activities covered by the Church and Community Committee including the Community Conversations series held on 4 Saturdays in August on “Thinking Outside the Cell”. This was a very well organised and challenging series with expert , knowledgeable speakers who provided information on the prison and justice systems and highlighted the need for change.
- Reflected on the high standard of entertainment arranged for the Luncheon Group Meetings which are held at 1200hrs on the third Thursday of the month. You don’t have to be old to attend and all are encouraged to come along and bring your lunch. You will enjoy .
- Spent some time discussing the Survey which the Northern Presbytery is asking all churches to complete and decided to open it up to all our members. You should have received an invitation to complete the survey (either on line or a paper copy) . Surveys are to be completed by 30 September
- Agreed to host the Coastal Region Representatives of Northern Presbytery for their 6 November meeting
- Agreed to Presbyterian Support Northern holding its AGM at our church on the afternoon of 29 November

*Stewart Milne*

# LUNCHEON GROUP

The next meeting will be on Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 2pm

Bring your lunch, have a cuppa or coffee with friends and enjoy

ANTHONY CHARLES, a Country Music Entertainer.

Trade tables and raffles operating.

Gold coin entry.



## TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND (THE SECOND INSTALLMENT)

The Fellowship Group invite you to set sail to Tiritiri Matangi on

**Saturday, October 6**

to spend the day with some of our endangered species of flora and fauna. We are able to get a group discount varying on the number of adults and children that would like to go. We will have a guided tour in the morning and then have free time to explore on our own.

**Please indicate your interest** to Norma Baker 443 3108

**before Sunday, Sept 30.**

We will car pool to Gulf Harbour at 8:45 and return about 4:30. You must bring your lunch in a closed bag for biosecurity reasons. No mice sandwiches!

# **KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS**

## **The Resurrection (2)**

In last month's newsletter I wrote that the first mention of the resurrection of Jesus was in Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Paul was a Pharisee and Pharisees believed in resurrection. Although the Hebrews had not previously believed in resurrection or an afterlife, this changed, at least for some groups, during a time of persecution in the second century BCE.

In writing about the resurrection in his various letters Paul used three terms to speak of Jesus after the crucifixion: He was raised up; Standing up; Super-exalted.

The first two of these terms were ordinary everyday Greek words, meaning to get up, like getting out of bed, or to stand up after resting. They are the same words which are used about the martyrs in Daniel and 2 Maccabees. Maccabees is not in our Bible but is used by Roman Catholics as they used the Greek translation of the Old Testament (included), whereas protestants used the original Hebrew texts (not included).

Paul speaks from his personal experience of the risen Christ. We all know the story of his Damascus experience when he travelled there to harass those who believed that Jesus was God's anointed (Messiah or Christ). Remember the story from Acts 9 when he fell off his horse when confronted by Jesus. (Except there is no horse in the story: this was an invention by later Christian artists which has continued over the centuries.) Acts was written at the end of the first or beginning of the second century by the author known as Luke, about 80 to 90 years after the event. A better version is Paul's own writing about his experience in Galatians, *"When God decided to reveal his son to me, so that I might preach to Good News about him to the Gentiles, I did not go to anyone for advice, nor did I go to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me."*

The risen Jesus appeared to Paul in the same way he had appeared to the other followers of the anointed Jesus. *He writes in 1 Corinthians 15: 3, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our (because of our) sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, (Peter?) then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred people at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then*



*to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*" The Greek word translated "appeared" literally means "seen for," the implication being that it was God's action which provided the seeing or insight. This is important for Paul on two counts.

Firstly, seeing the risen Jesus, the anointed, the cursed one, who was hanged on a tree vindicated by God. (Galatians 3: 13) The evil power of the Roman empire, representing all human evil, had done its worst to him, but by showing that he was alive God had made known his approval of Jesus. Therefore, Jesus' life and teaching met with God's approval.

Secondly, he had the same experiences as the other apostles (envoys) by whom Jesus was also "seen for." They accepted him with the right hand of fellowship. (Galatians 2:9) This is why the crucified Jesus was of such importance to Paul, - crucified by Rome, vindicated by God. He was therefore able write about Jesus being "raised up" and "standing up," words for which we use resurrection.

The other way in which Paul speaks about the resurrection is that Jesus was super exalted, like the Roman emperors and other kings. The best example is in Philippians 2:6-11. There has been much debate about the form of this song or poem and where it originates from. Scholarship of the last 30 years suggested that it is a lampooning of an ecomium, a praise speech or inscription offered to the emperor who was considered divine, and here one was applied to Jesus. It was possibly composed by the Gentile followers of the anointed Jesus at Philippi, a Roman colony, and was quoted in Paul's letter with approval, although it does not completely accord with Paul's understanding and he has probably added the words "and death on a cross." You can look it up in your Bible as there is only room here to quote part of this praise speech. (Phil 2:9) *"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

If the raised exalted Jesus is Lord, then the Roman Emperor is not. You will notice that there are no references to the empty tomb in Paul's letters. Those stories did not emerge until about 20 or more years later. I will write about that in a future article.

# Survey

We would really appreciate your participation in a ***Congregational leadership, worship, life and mission survey.***



This survey is a resource provided by the Northern Presbytery to help us gather some very useful information for discernment and planning as a Church Council / Session / or Parish Council.

Once we have gathered the survey data our Session / Church Council / Parish Council will plan a facilitated workshop.

Could you please click or type in this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3N8C2F>

and proceed to the survey. Once you are in the survey you will need to enter the three character code **C24** for our congregation.

If you do not have access to a computer there are paper copies available at the church office.

The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete.

There is also opportunity for you to add comments.

Can you please complete this within the next week,

Thank you so much.

## **World Communion Sunday - Sunday 7th October**

This will be celebrated next Sunday 7th October by Rev Karel Lorier in the absence of Rev Tokerau Joseph.

Rev Tokerau will be away at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Christchurch 3-7th October.



# CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2018

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth activities	4.00-6.00pm	Various venue	Saturdays tba	TBC
Youth and children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver <b>021 0244 9616</b>
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour <b>478-7603</b>
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme <b>479 2212</b>
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay New Meeting Room 2.	Every Wednesday	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Ladies Home Group	10.15 am	10A Newhaven Tce Mairangi Bay	Wednesdays	Heather Gibson <b>479 8822</b>
Luncheon Group	12.00 noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	2nd Thursday of the month	Raewyn Henderson <b>410 4423</b>
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays leading up to special services	Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Dees Social Club	10am	Mairangi Church lounge	10.00am-2.00pm Every Thursday	Margaret Pont <b>021 670 019</b>
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt <b>479-3953</b>
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier <b>414 6321</b>
Mainly Music	10.00am-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Pauline Gulliver <b>021 0244 9616</b>
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Board and Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019