



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

October 2019

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



Amy Reddy

Esteemed Girl Guide Leader

Farewell, September 2019

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

Email: 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

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

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

This month's newsletter has a range of photos of some of the community outreach undertaken by the church.

Many thanks to Yoshiko Tregathan and Karel Lorier for sharing.

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **ACTIVITIES MORNINGS** - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month
10am - 12pm, Boardgames, Rummikubs, Cards etc
For further information Margaret Pont 4893176 or 027 2258893
- **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 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 Tangi Joseph 0226573223



AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Spring is here and we've had some very hot days already. More people are outdoors at the beach or playing various sports. I've been watching a lot of sports on television including the 2019 Rugby World Cup, the NRL, the national provincial rugby, and U.S. tennis open. I've also been watching my grandchildren Niah and Kimi play rugby league for the Auckland Cook Islands under 8s in a couple of tournaments.

One thing that caught my attention was the sportsmanship or lack thereof by players. There are those who play with respect for others and themselves and those who don't; particularly for the opponent. I'm a very competitive person when it comes to sport. I can't honestly say that I disrespected those I played against, although I would try every avenue possible to win. Winning felt good, but did I truly appreciate those I played against? If we do appreciate our opponents, is it only if we win?

But now older and not playing sport, I'm reminded more and more of the value of the spirit of sportsmanship. The value and care of others and of our relationship with them has been very clear through the lectionary recently. Just last Sunday, we heard (through the parable of the dishonest manager Luke 16) about the importance of securing friendships for our life rather than solely financial gain. Achieving this requires a reorienting of our core values to that of love for God and neighbour. As such, it also involves humility.

I came across an article about respect for our opponents (in sport). It spoke to me about some of the things I've mentioned above. It's by Melissa Slocum entitled "Humility holds court".

Recently, the U.S. Open tennis tournament showcased some of the world's greatest tennis players. While upsets were a theme in the tournament, good sportsmanship also won fan approval. In the third round, Naomi Osaka (seeded No. 1) faced crowd-favorite Coco Gauff (non-seeded) in a much-anticipated match to see how 15-year-old Coco would perform. Though Coco lost, Naomi asked her to stay on the court and join her for the post-match interview. Coco refused, not wanting to take the spotlight away from the winner, but Naomi insisted. During the interview Naomi not only praised Coco for her hard work and training, but also praised her parents for raising "an amazing player."

Like other professional sports, tennis is charged with emotions. With cam-

eras watching every move and social media spreading images far and wide, athletes are encouraged more than ever to keep their cool or to hide their emotions entirely. Many athletes are coached on what to say and not say in press conferences. So, when an athlete lashes out against an opponent, referee, judge or the press, it is guaranteed to make news and tarnish the athlete's reputation. Similarly, an athlete who expresses sincere appreciation, humility, respect and graciousness also makes news and helps build up his or her reputation. Veteran athletes tend to keep their emotions under control and their negative comments to themselves.

Some athletes take it a step further, showing great empathy, humility and respect for their opponents and the game, whether they are on or off camera. Like great athletes who understand their influence, Christians are called to be ambassadors for a way of life that involves as much discipline, sacrifice, practice, training, losing and winning as any sport. When we lead with humility, the wins and losses have no power to define us. We simply continue down the path we are called to take, grateful for another day to play.



Question of the day: When you win at something, do you ever give credit to your opponent?

Focal scriptures: Proverbs 22:4; Ephesians 4:29-32; Romans 12:9-17

YOUNG MUM'S GROUP - 10 October 7:15pm

A time for mums of young people of all ages to get together and share fellowship. Hosted by Heather Gibson on the second Thursday of the month.
Phone Heather, 027 499 9808; email: gibsonfamily@xtra.co.nz

Fellowship Group

The Fellowship committee have decided to organise another lunch after church at Sunrise Café (owned by Grace and her husband) after church on the 20th October.

This was well attended last year and the banquet style lunch gave us an amazing variety of food and depending on the numbers not expensive.

Contact persons Norma and Grace.

Numbers needed by the 18th October.

Address - Unit 7/14 Corinthian Drive Albany

Christmas boxes

Yes folks, it is that time of year again.

Grab your shoe boxes and keep those eagle eyes out for Christmas goodies.

We will start collection on October 13 and will be wrapped by the end of Nov.

Think of all of those wonderful treats you would like to have at Christmas time.

If we get too much of one type of treat, we will let you know during a Sunday service. If you have shoe boxes that you would like to drop off, please feel free to start a pile



Toiletries are also incredibly welcome.

Cheap treats

Jelly

Single chocolate bars

Canned fruit

Jam

Lollies

Snack packs of chips

Not-so-cheap treats

Bigger boxes or blocks of chocolate

*Christmas puddings
(though they are often on special)*

Toiletries

Honey

Cakes

Crackers

KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Where is religion going?

Fifty-one years ago, I was on stated supply (a fill in Minister) in the Parish at Waiona, Western Southland based in Nightcaps. The Parish had three churches and a preaching place in a public hall. Service were well attended, including an evening service; we had a thriving Sunday school, and a regular youth group of about forty members which swelled to seventy if we had something special on. We did things with the neighboring Parishes which were similarly placed. When I returned a couple of year ago, I found the Nightcaps church closed and decaying; another had burnt down after being repurposed to store a farmer's timber and the third was closed and empty.

Although the rural area had depopulated, the churches decline was mainly through rapid cultural change.

When I was there, in the 60' everyone knew what religion to which they claimed allegiance, whether they attended church or not. Up to that time there was general agreement among most people in New Zealand about what constituted religion which created a broad set of shared values. Over the years church membership has declined and would be very small indeed if it were not for immigrant populations which swell the numbers of the major denominations.

Parishes which I have had something to do with over the years have spent an enormous amount of time, energy and resources to engage young people with limited success, despite the occasional blip in membership, often to be left with a sense of guilt and failure. In the meantime, congregations have got smaller and older. It is becoming challenging to see how churches will survive in the long term.

In hindsight (always a place of great wisdom) we might have been asking the wrong questions and instead may have been better engaged prayerfully and thoughtfully considering what the key elements of our faith are in our current cultural setting. Then we could have used appropriate ways of communicating and celebrating these. This may have meant jettisoning some things which we held dear but were superfluous or even counterproductive.

It is now difficult to identify if New Zealand has a religion. At this time of the Rugby World Cup people say, “NZ’s religion is rugby.” Ian Harris, in his ODT column examines this proposition. I quote the conclusion of his article.

“Good religion, however, offers a breadth and depth of experience that rugby could never match. It shares the sporting aspiration to excel, but its excelling is of a different order: religion is framed by an architecture of meaning that touches every aspect of life.

It provides a sense of personal identity within an awareness of a greater whole. Faith is central – not faith in the sense of believing blindly, which is a caricature, but as a positive orientation to life and its possibilities for good. It is a turangawaewae, a standing place for the feet. It is enriched by insights and traditions that are as old as human experience. It expresses what is of ultimate worth to its followers, which is usually more than the result of the latest rugby match. Explored and shared with others, it helps meet the human need for belonging. It holds together in a single frame all that its people value most in body, mind and their sense of the spiritual. It opens up vistas of hope. Its sign and seal is love, the steady direction of the will toward the lasting good of another.

Rightly embraced and rightly applied, religion of this kind could do much to enhance community well-being, reverse the growing crisis in mental health, reduce crime and foster wholesome human values. That won’t happen, of course: too many New Zealanders are suspicious of anything religious, and too many religious institutions have failed to adapt to the new secular era. We’re all the poorer for that.”

Neil McGregor, in his book. “Living with the Gods,” writes “...(O)ne of the central facts of human existence: (is) that every known society shares a set of beliefs and assumptions – a faith, an ideology, a religion – that goes far beyond the life of the individual, and is an essential part of a shared identity... For in deciding how we live with our gods we also decide how to live with each other.”

We can see what is at stake here. Many of our society’s ills find their basis in a lack of religion or unworthy religion.

I am optimistic. I think we, as communities of faith, are going through a period of rapid change. Even as churches in the form we know die, there will be a resurrection of communities of sharing, eating, caring, praying, supporting each other in love, following the example of Jesus. Religion may take shape growing out of, or maybe away from, the institutional churches.

In many ways we are fortunate that we have Maori as an example where Christianity and traditional ways have joined hands and religion comes naturally embracing all of life.

In the meantime, we in the church need to be open to new expressions of faith and church, aware that it is not ultimately about us, but about the health and wellbeing of our whole community, physically, mentally and spiritually. In this the three things that last, faith, hope and love with greatest being love, may flourish.

LUNCHEON GROUP - THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER

is the date to remember from 12 – 2pm.

COME

Bring your lunch, enjoy fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee & listen to

HELEN BROWN

with her country singing & great rapport with the audience.

Trade table & raffles operating.

Gold coin donation.



Acknowledging Patty Pratt from the 60s Up movement, Browns Bay for their knitting prowess

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At our September Meeting of Parish Council we :

Initially gathered in the hall with the Girls Brigade to give a big thank you to Amy Reddy who is leaving the leadership role that she has so wonderfully filled for the last 13 years. Amy is expecting her second child in November and she was presented with a certificate, voucher and flowers.

Welcomed Rev Jim Pearson from Belmont Church who is attending a couple of our meetings and also Roopali Dayal who has just joined our Council

Were advised on the current position with regard to the long running issue of the vehicle accessway from Penzance Road. We are now awaiting the return of our consultant valuer from overseas before receiving his advice on what Council would be justified in charging for the accessway and how that should be apportioned between the church and the neighbours

Welcomed advice from the Clerk that a new agreement has been entered into with Rev Raju George to continue the twice a month Hindi speaking worship services for the next 12 Months.

Expressed delight at the appointment of Tangi Joseph as the Dees Coordinator in the place of Margaret Pont. Tangi has been a Volunteer helping at Dees for most of the year and so knows the requirements of the job. She is very popular with the Dees and Family Members and the volunteers

Acknowledged the Service of Worship on 15 September where Anne Overton (the PSN Liaison Officer) provided feed-back from the recipients of the donated knitted garments (from the 60s and Up Browns Bay Group) which Pat Pratt delivers to us to pass on to Family Works for children in need including the children of Women Prisoners. Anne also expressed strong appreciation for the weekly donations to the PS Food Bank and for the products for women as they leave prison which we collect on the first Sunday of each month

Spent time considering how to handle the 'Notes on the Abortion Issue' from the Presbyterian Church's Doctrine Core Group. It was decided to run off copies and have them available for the congregation in the foyer if they wish to pick them up.

Gave preliminary consideration to the consultation documents from the Task Group which was set up by the General Assembly on 'The Theology of Property and Money' and requested Ian Watson to convene a small group to work through these documents and bring a recommendation to Parish Council on

what our Parish could do on this matter. Anyone wanting copies of these documents should contact me.

Stewart Milne

FAMILY GAMES EVENINGS

First Friday of every month (September 6),

6:30-8pm

All ages welcome

Early spring sunshine in
Eden gardens



Celebrating Girl Guides in
Mairangi Bay

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2019

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth and children	10am Church	Mairangi Bay	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour 478-7603
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2.00pm Church Hall	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2.	Stewart Milne 478 5786
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
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays leading up to special services	Norma Baker 443 3108
Dees Social Club	10am -2.00pm	Mairangi Church lounge	Every Thursday	Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier 414 6321
Mainly Music	10.00-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	Every Friday in school term	Tangi Joseph 0226573223
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker 443 3108
Activities Mornings, Board and Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	1st & 3 rd Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019