



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



Cook Island Band

Luncheon Group, July 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

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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 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
Ph Tangi Joseph 0226573223



AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

I write this article about fathers because I'll miss our Father's Day service with you. While putting that service together, I began thinking more about my relationship with my own father as well as the relationships I have with my children. I realise that being a father is an ongoing learning process. Time changes, circumstances change, people change, and so fathering continually navigates the changing landscape of relationships. It's not easy being a father, a husband, or whatever role we have in the family and community.

Yet, being a father involves great moments. From childhood, there are some things that really stick out for me about my father. I hardly saw my dad during the week because he worked 12-hour shifts in the city beginning at 7:30am. He left home at 5:30am to catch the bus and returned after 9pm. He also worked most Saturdays up to 12pm. Time with us improved by nearly 2 hours when we bought our first car. My dad was a very hard worker and provider for our family of seven children. I never resented him for it; in fact, I admired him and am thankful for teaching me the value of a good work ethic.

The other thing that stands out in my memory is how incredibly patient my dad was with me. I was a very active, adventurous, and determined boy. I never quite understood what the word "no" meant, especially when my mother said it. As a consequence of my "adventures," dad was responsible for discipline, even if at my mother's guidance. But most of the time, dad was reluctant to do so. His silence and stern look were enough to get the message across. He was, and still is, a very gracious man who spared me much even when I didn't deserve it. On reflection of my teenage years, I feel quite guilty for how I treated my dad at times and how I must have caused him great pain emotionally. I feel grateful now for the lesson of patience and grace.

But there is obviously more to being a good father than just providing for one's family. I didn't have long or deep conversations (or even arguments) with my dad. We were close in terms of knowing our relationship to each other, but not close in many other ways. It was and still is different when compared to my relationship with my mother. It is only since he retired that we've talked a lot more, albeit not as fluid or open as with mum. In spite of this, I dearly love my dad. Deep down inside I trust that my dad tried the best he could for me and my siblings despite our own expectations of him. I've definitely learned things from my dad and other men who have helped

shape me as a person, as a husband, and as a father. I always say to myself that I will do better with my own family. Sometimes I feel as though I have and other times it seems as if history has replayed itself. When praying for my children, it often leads me to reflect and assess myself as their father. I realise also that my own children have and continue to make their own assessment of me.

But I know I have to keep moving forward in my journey of learning as a father and also now as a grandfather. It will continue to include good and challenging experiences. It will also continue to involve the presence of God our Heavenly Father. I'm not sure what a perfect father is like (or if there is such a thing), yet I trust that God's grace will help me to be the father God wants me to be for my family. I trust the grace will provide the opportunity to do better the next time. Since becoming a man and a father, I've always tried to make my dad proud hoping that he would feel he did a good job in having and raising me. I hope that might be the same with my own children.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



YOUNG MUM'S GROUP - 12 September, 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 group's annual spring trip to the flowers is on!!

September 15

Eden or Botanical gardens (weather dependant)

Contact Norma Baker

Lunch together at the church before leaving and we will be car pooling.



A poetic interlude

Last night as I was sleeping,
I dreamt - marvelous error! -
that a spring was breaking out in my heart.
I said: Along which secret aqueduct,
Oh water, are you coming to me, water of a new life that I have never
drunk?

Last night, as I was sleeping
I dreamt - marvelous error! -
that I had a beehive here inside my heart.
And the golden bees were making white combs and sweet honey from my
old failures.

Last night, as I was sleeping
I dreamt - marvelous error! -
that a fiery sun was giving light inside my heart.
It was fiery because I felt warmth as from a hearth and sun because it gave
light and brought tears to my eyes.

Last night as I slept,
I dreamt - marvelous error! -
that it was God I had here inside my heart.
Antonio Machado

KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Forgiveness

Alex, not his real name, was referred to me by his Doctor when I was working as a counsellor. He had chest and abdominal pains which after much specialist investigation appeared not to have a physical cause. When I first saw Alex his breathing and speaking was strained. He was very reluctant to talk about his life. He was studying at a polytech. Over some months of seeing him his story emerged. He had gone to school in a small North Island town. He was a prefect, a keen cricketer and rugby player. Early in his last year at school, when his cricket team was playing in another small town, a boy was seen by the store manager stealing stock from a general store. Alex was accused as being the one. He fitted the description given which could have fitted many of the boys in the team. The school principal barred him from playing sport for the school and demoted him from being a prefect. Alex was devastated and said he had not even gone to the store, and that at the time the manager saw the shoplifting, he was having lunch with a group of players and their coach.

The school Principal would not budge. His parents took up the case with the school board, saying the matter should have gone to the police and been properly investigated. A couple of months before the end of the year after the board had investigated the matter, Alex and his parents received a letter exonerating him. The principal had relied on the accusation of one boy and had not interviewed others who could have told him that Alex was with them at the time of the offence. The letter indicated that he would receive an apology from the Principal. No apology came nor was he reinstated, even after a letter from his parents and a phone call from his mother. When Alex trusted me with his story, he produced a pile of documents showing just what had happened.

Alex lived with the shame, embarrassment and a sports career in tatters. His shame and embarrassment were such that he came to Auckland to get away from the small town where everyone knew him as a shoplifter. He lived every minute of his day and many nights with fury at the unjust way he had been treated. I worked with Alex over many months until he was able to forgive, knowing that it was unlikely he would ever receive an apology. His pain disappeared over that time. Forgiveness under such circumstances when there is no apology or admission of wrongdoing from the offender is difficult. Alex in doing so had taken a courageous step.

A dictionary defines forgiveness as:

Forgiveness is the intentional and voluntary process by which a victim undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offense, lets go of negative emotions such as vengefulness, forswears recompense from or punishment of the offender, however legally or morally justified it might be, and with an increased ability to wish the offender well. Forgiveness is different from condoning (failing to see the action as wrong and in need of forgiveness), excusing (not holding the offender as responsible for the action), forgetting (removing awareness of the offence from consciousness), pardoning (cancellation granted for an acknowledged offence by a representative of society, such as a judge), and reconciliation (restoration of a relationship) .

The Bible has much to teach about forgiveness. In the Hebrew Bible God is a forgiving and merciful. In the New Testament Jesus teaches forgiveness, When a disciple asked how often he must forgive his brother Jesus responded that “you should forgive seventeen times seven,” (Matt 18:22) – that means always. Matthew then follows with Jesus telling the parable of the unforgiving servant. (Matt 18:23-35.) Jesus also said, “if you forgive others the wrongs that they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you.” A different version is given in (Luke 6:37) which includes “Do not judge others, and God will not judge you, do not condemn others and God will not condemn you, forgive others and God will forgive you.”

The Greek words translated forgive in our English Bible have several meanings. One means “send off, let off or send away” and can include divorce. The other means “to be gracious to.” Both are translated in places in our Bibles by other words than “forgive” according to context. In the Lord’s prayer in Matthew “God forgives us of our debts as we forgive our debtors,” (Matt 6:12) Debts were a real problem in New Testament times, as they are for many people today.

Forgiveness is different from reconciliation, where two people resolve their differences and it may involve forgiveness. Reconciliation was also taught by Jesus. Forgiveness in the Bible is about retaining relationships and community. Modern understanding of forgiveness from about 18th century recognises that offering forgiveness, like Alex did in the story above, is good and healing for the person who forgives. Forgiveness and reconciliation can be devalued, however, if we don’t fully recognise the hurt and damage the offender has done to us.

Sometimes the most difficult person to forgive is ourselves when we look back over our life and realise that we have intentionally or unwittingly hurt other people. Forgiving ourselves and seeking reconciliation is healing of our spirit.

“To err is human, to forgive divine,” Alexander Pope



LUNCHEON GROUP

On Thursday 12th September we are in for another treat. We will be entertained by

**THE MURRAYS BAY
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
STRINGS ORCHESTRAL
GROUP.**

There are 18 of them coming so bring your lunch, sit back and enjoy the talented young players.
Trade table & raffles operating.
Gold coin entry.



FAMILY GAMES EVENINGS

First Friday of every month (September 6),

6:30-8pm

All ages welcome

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

- At the August meeting of Parish Council (which was interrupted by a power cut necessitating a move to the foyer where the emergency lighting allowed us to continue – proving to be a good test of its workability !!) we :
- Spent time on pastoral matters. Tokerau led prayers for those who are currently suffering poor health and experiencing difficult times
- Received an update on the emerging agreement with our Penzance Road neighbours over the approach to be taken in briefing a valuer to assess and make recommendations for the value of the vehicle accessway that Council is wanting to sell us
- Were advised of the steps being taken to find a Co-ordinator for our Dees programme following Margaret Pont's resignation. Note: Margaret is currently overseas but on her return she will resume her role as Support Worker for the Elderly
- Were advised by Tokerau of his continuing exploration of possibilities to achieve ministry for our younger people
- Received a report from George Wyman on the forthcoming work to be done in strengthening the hall building against earthquakes and also the Auckland Council's position on property rating for religious organisations
- Agreed to invite Anne Overton (the Liaison Person from Presbyterian Support) to participate in our service on 8 September to share feedback on the receipt of the Out of Gate donations for the women released from prison and also the copious supplies of hand knitted goods that flow through Pat Pratt from the Browns Bay Over 60 Knitters
- Received a good report on the success of the Local Body Workshops which Erica organised and were briefed on the the number of community oriented activities that our parish is involved in under the umbrella of the Church and Community Committee
- Discussed the forthcoming AGM and Committee membership

Stewart Milne



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	Margaret Pont 021 670 019
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