



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021



Karen and Erica with plants for the Shine women's refuge. The money to purchase the plants was raised by a special morning tea after church.

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister:	Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph Ph: 027 371 4733 tokerau.j@gmail.com
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

***This month's newsletter contains photos of parish activities.
Many thanks to Karel for collated photos.***

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

I'd like to share with you my experience of the Caleb Leadership Course (CLC) I attended last week at the Connect Baptist Church in Manukau City. As part of the Northern Presbytery's strategic plan, the CLC is a way of equipping and encouraging ministers and elders as leaders within their respective parishes. So, I took the opportunity to register at the end of 2020. The first half was done in May and the second will be in September, with assignments in between.

Although it usually involves people from various denominations, this course was catered for Presbyterians. So, it was wonderful to do it with familiar faces and new friends. Many facilitating were PCANZ ministers; one being a past Moderator of General Assembly.

CLC coaches in skills that are appropriate to both family life and ministry life. We learn:

- Relationship Skills – five essential principles of building effective relationships within the church and ministry teams but more particularly with the un-churched.
- Communication Skills – how to develop and tell short faith stories powerfully. They will learn how to link these stories together into a powerfully effective 'message'.
- Leadership Skills – what the role of a leader is in discovering the purpose of God for their organisation and how leadership functions in a team context.
- Management Skills – the biblical basis for managing or contributing to their team and will develop skills and understanding in five key areas. These areas are: planning, organising, directing and coordinating, supervising and evaluating all that goes into the ministry of the church and its mission. The key role of the leader is to make their team successful and in so doing will be successful themselves.
- Creativity Skills – an area highly encouraged with constructs enabling ministers and elders to release the creativity within their ministry setting and harness that creativity in an effective way.
- Training Skills – help participants pass on



their learning and develop an understanding of how each ministry setting needs to become a learning culture.

- Motivation Skills - how to motivate a group of people within church/ministry contexts moving in a co-ordinated fashion toward the mission and vision of the church, or other ministry setting.

Decision Making Skills – one of the frequent blockers in a church, or other ministry setting, is the inability to make effective and timely decisions which bring a disparate group of people in behind the decision. We learn how to do this with any size group of people from the small ministry team to the whole church.

Life Management – looking at nine areas of their life in Christ and beginning to plan for what they may achieve in the balance of their life. The belief is that each minister, for example, is more than the role of minister and needs to get a balance in their life and work to be effective.

Seven elements of leadership emerge throughout the course for which a person should have:

1. A vision of where he/she is going
2. The ability to communicate this vision clearly to his/her congregation
3. The skills and compassion to care for their team with a shepherd's heart
4. An understanding of the difference between Leadership and Management roles and skills to function competently in both
5. A deep desire to continue learning and growing
6. The resolve to handle the pain that comes with leadership positions
7. The anointing of the Holy Spirit of God on his/her life

The course is intense but highly interactive and relies on a tested strategy of giving packets of knowledge followed by skill practice before building on the knowledge. All this is done in an atmosphere of affirmation.

LUNCH GROUP

THURSDAY 10TH JUNE 12pm – 2pm

Bring your lunch & a friend & enjoy fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee.

Then sit back & enjoy our entertainer, GRAHAM GILL, who plays the guitar & sings old timers with band background music.

Gold coin donation at the door.

Trade table & raffles operating.

A WORD FROM KAREL

Chess and The Homeless Boy



The news over the last month has not been good. Thousands of people dying from Covid-19 and yet another eruption of violence arising from the tension between Israel and the Palestinians resulting in deaths, much suffering, particularly for innocent children. These events have overshadowed other troubles where there is killing and suffering.

One is tempted to turn off the news on radio, television and stop reading the news. The media following proverbial advice

“if it bleeds lead it” provides us with a constant stream of bad news and particularly of human suffering. Often this is to keep us hooked, to keep watching, hearing, and reading, to take in the advertising which pays for the media. In this way we can get a distorted view of the world and the way people behave. The ethics of using this to sell advertising is questionable.

Amid all this all this mayhem and suffering it was with great relief that I read a couple of stories by Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times. But the good news story still has a sting in its tail.

A seven-year-old Nigerian refugee, Tanitoluwa Adewumi, known as Tani, lived with his family in a shelter for the homeless in New York found for them by a church pastor. Tani learned to play chess at his elementary school after his mother pleaded with his school to forgo the fees which they could not afford to allow him to attend the chess club. A little over a year later at the age of eight Tani won the New York State chess championship for his age group, beating well coached children from private schools with personal chess tutors. Nicholas Kristof wrote the story about Tani and his family and assistance poured in. They were offered several apartments, some luxurious, Tani was offered a place at several prestigious private schools, a GoFundMe drive raised US\$250,000, Tani was offered 100 chess books, immigration lawyers offered pro bono assistance to the Adewumis and there was an invitation to meet President Clinton. Mr Adewumi, an Uber driver and real estate agent, was offered a car to replace the one he was renting so that he could retain a greater amount of his earnings. Mrs Adewumi was offered a

job as a health care aid at a local hospital.

In the event, the Adewunis settled for a modest apartment and Tani stayed at the local elementary school which had given him the opportunity to learn chess. The money raised, after giving a tithe to the church which assisted them, created the Tanitoluwa Adewumi Foundation, a fund to help African families settle in the USA. When Tani was asked whether he regretted not having the money, he said, “I just want to help other kids.” When asked whether he wanted anything, there was long silence before he said, “Maybe a computer.” Asked about happens when he loses (which happened when he played a Grandmaster) he said, “When you lose, you have made a mistake, and that can help you learn. I never lose I learn.”

Tani receives chess coaching three times a week, twice a week if his parents cannot afford to pay for the three sessions. At the age of 10 years 7 months and 28 days, Tani became the 28th youngest person ever to become a chess master in the USA. He is ambitious. He wants to be the youngest Grandmaster when he is 11 or 12. A book has been written about Tani and a film is about to be made. Charity and a hard working and modest family who can get him to chess coaching have made all this possible. They have used their good fortune to help other struggling families. Mr Adewumi, said, “God has already blessed me. I want to release my blessing to others.”

It's a heart-warming story among all the doom and gloom. But there is a sting in its tail. As Nicholas Kristof writes, “Talent is universal, while opportunity is not.” Charity to outstanding individuals is not going to provide opportunities to the many poor homeless children who are the victim of an economic system that thought that as the rich got richer everyone would thrive. We now know forty years later that this economic system has failed leaving many families in the US and here in New Zealand, homeless and poor. We just do not know what talent and potential for good has been wasted, and worse resulted in potentially outstanding, good, and constructive people ending up in prison.

Hopefully, as announced in the NZ government budget, the increase in benefits, to decrease child poverty (really family poverty) is a signal that we are aban-



Members of the congregation at the Cook Island Service.

doning the economic theory of the last forty years. Instead, we are aiming for a “wellbeing economy” which works so that everyone can thrive.

The parable about Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46) is where we meet Jesus in the least of his brothers and sisters. We meet him when we feed them, visit them in prison or cloth them when they are naked. This needs translating for a more complex society such as ours. Our task is to change systems which keep people hungry, homeless and without the necessities of life deemed normal in our society. These systems failures pipeline people into prison. When a system change such as the increase in benefits announced in the NZ government budget is accepted by the public at large and across the political spectrum, we realise that change is afoot in community attitudes. We all need to take credit for these changes. They occurred when the government realised that public opinion had changed sufficiently not to jeopardise their election. Our opinions and convictions do matter. In a democracy they make a difference.



*Girls Brigade
Activities*



UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the May meeting of Parish Council we :

- Spent time on pastoral matters. There are several of our members with health problems and they are in our prayers with any identified needs being assisted with. Please keep Norma Baker, one of our pastoral visitors or our Minister advised of any situations you know of where a visit or some assistance would be helpful.
- Agreed to engage a contractor to maintain the church website which experienced an invasion in February necessitating it being taken down and repaired. We want to avoid that happening again.
- Were advised that the response to our special appeal for funds is progressing well and the projected deficit for the year is reducing
- Complimented our Minister on his initiative in arranging the first of 4 Cook Islanders on the North Shore Church Services which was held in our church on at 4pm on 16 May and attended by 45 adults and 12 children.
- Approved Tokerau's participation at a Leadership Course
- Approved a report being sent to Northern Presbytery on progress with the Hindi Mission
- Were advised by Erica that the \$227 which was donated at the special Mothers Day morning tea is being spent on shrubs and plants for the Shine Safe House garden.
- Discussed a report on the Christian World Service (CWS) Workshop which had been set up to obtain feedback on their Christmas Appeal , and decided to continue to support the appeal
- Decided not to join in a partnership with the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Budgeting Service on the grounds that the cost and time commitment would be too high . We will explore with Presbyterian Support whether there is a way that we can usefully link in with their budgeting service to assist people in need.
- Were advised of our Parish response (sent to Northern Presbytery) over the second Theological Education and Leadership Training paper. (Copies are available from me)
- Agreed to the PCANZ proposal to amend the Rules and allow a General Assembly to be held via electronic means if a situation arises whereby attendance in person at a General Assembly is precluded. (eg as happened last year with covid).

Stewart Milne

Vaccinations

We are getting closer to having the opportunity to be vaccinated against the Covid 19 virus. The Interchurch Bioethics Council has produced a useful Questions and Answers sheet which is recommended for anyone who still has questions or is unsure as to whether to accept vaccinations. Copies are in the foyer.

Special Communion April 2021



Church Giving

There are a number of ways people contribute financially to support the running of the church and our ministries to the wider community:

- Cash or cheque donations into the Sunday plate
- Regular giving through the Envelope system. We will soon be preparing numbered offering envelopes for July – Dec 21.
- If you would like to be added to the system for income tax donation purposes contact Norma Baker on 443 3108 before June 20th .
- If you have spare envelopes you can use them. Please let Norma know if you have plenty.
- The Automatic Payment system. This is particularly good for busy people and can be used for intermittent or regular donations.
- The account number of the church is 03 0180 0052341 02

Receipts are issued annually for regular giving and can be used for tax deductions.

Parish Plan

At a Special Meeting of our Congregation on Sunday 23 May we were advised of the procedure that had been used to revise our Parish Plan. The plan is a guide as to what we as a parish wish to do and achieve over the coming period. The draft plan had been available for consideration since it was agreed by the Parish Council at its April Meeting for recommending to the Congregation. The Meeting of the Congregation on 23 May approved the Plan and copies are available in the foyer. Please take one and if you feel you would like to be involved with any of the activities that we are committing to please make contact with me or the Minister.



Special Appeal for Funds

Our Financial Year ends on 30 June and faced with a forecasted deficit of around \$15,000 for the year and the message that for the next year some of the financial assistance we have had in the past for our community services (particularly Dees and the Hindi Mission) was unlikely to continue, we launched a Special Appeal for funds in May. To date the response has been good. The Appeal will be closed off this month and so if you haven't yet contributed and are able to do so please contribute through

the Church ASB Bank Account : 12 3042 0002489 00. For inclusion in your annual receipt for IRD reimbursement please provide either your name or your church offerings/donation number as a reference.



Girls Brigade Activities



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