

# St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

**NEWSLETTER - August 2017**



## From the Minister's Desk

## Partners in God's Mission of Love

Winter thoughts

I wonder if you have a favourite winter garment? It will not surprise some of you to know that one of mine is my green puffer jacket. It is light, it is warm, just putting it on – even thinking of putting it on! keeps winter at bay.

Winter can affect our thoughts and feelings – the shorter days and longer darkness can sometimes make us feel a bit down. When I lived in the North of England for a while, in midwinter the sun rose at 830am and set at 4 00pm. It was depressing! Especially as it didn't usually snow, just drizzled with acid bearing rain. I am glad I live here!

Winter is also the season of coughs and colds and TV ads repeatedly reminding us of the many ways we can boost our immune systems. These coughs and colds are perhaps a reminder to stay home, to give our bodies and spirits time to recuperate and prepare for the new life of spring.

But we need winter don't we? Maybe we don't need the colds and coughs, but we need time to hibernate, time to regroup, time to retreat from the energetic demands of our lives.

Just as the trees take time to rest and slow down, so we need time for solitude, time to be warm, wrapped in a warm jersey or blanket, enjoying a bracing walk especially when we have warm gloves and when we can return to the warmth of the fire (or heater!).

Have you noticed the days getting longer? We have passed the winter solstice, and there are signs that winter is giving way to spring – daffodils flower surprisingly outside my office window, camellias remind us that even in winter colour and life insist on making themselves visible; vulnerable lambs gambol around on snowy paddocks caught in the midst of a swirling storm, enterprising rabbits hitch a ride on the back of sheep as they move to safety from a flooded plain.

Around our way, the trees are not yet showing those first signs of the sap rising to new life although there are hints of swelling in the buds on the branches.

My friend and colleague Lynne Frith wrote a thanksgiving prayer for a winter's day. Here is the first stanza. What would you put in your winter's day thanksgiving prayer? Perhaps you would like to send it into the office and we could put it in the bulletin.

*On this winter's day*

*We are thankful for the small things that lift our spirits-*

*The warmth of another's smile or embrace,*

*The glimpse of the sun through the clouds,*

*Freshly brewed coffee,*

*Newly baked bread,*

*Hot soup.*

© Lynne Frith

*Sally*

## **Midwinter Lunch**

Marion Fell

A two-course Midwinter lunch is being arranged by our Pastoral Care team and will be held on Thursday, 10 August from 11.30am for a 12noon start. Entrance is a gold coin(s) donation. Entertainment will follow including a singalong of your favourite songs. Please place names on the list in foyer today or before 30 July plus requests/suggestions to Dorothy (843-1266 or findot@xtra.co.nz).

The Pastoral Care team asks that Newsletter deliverers support the event by inviting those folk on your delivery list. We all know that many church folk (especially those living and eating alone) miss having company. Will you please help our Pastoral Care team for this occasion by placing names on the list in the foyer before 30 July. Final day to book is 6 August by phoning Dorothy Finlayson 843 1266 or Marion Fell 844 4216 or Anne Silson 844 8381 asap. Thank you

## **Money for Merino**

Session Outreach Initiative

*Out and About with Kids* is a forum for parents to reach out on-line for support, to form social connections, share ideas, events and chat, but from time-to-time they take on a project. During June, they collected and distributed over 3,000 pairs of new PJs, 1,500 pairs of hand-knitted slippers and over 2,000 other warm items such as hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, clothes, socks etc.

The current project is to help keep the newborn babies born here in Hawke's Bay (approx. 1,000 per year) warm. The organisers are starting to put together basic packs and buying Merino to make wraps.

The Merino wraps will be put into a pack which contains:

- a cotton onesie
- a cotton singlet (or Merino if donated)
- a hat
- a cardigan if these are donated
- a singlet hand knitted
- a warm top (similar to the fish and chip style)
- socks or booties
- possibly a small muslin or cotton wrap or burp cloth

At the June Session meeting, it was voted to give our June donation of \$100 to this organization to help with the purchase of fabric for the wraps.

We are sure this small gift will make a big difference in the lives of some precious babies and make life a little easier for their mums.



Marion Fell

Below is a letter from Save the Children to thank our members for contributions to this project as one of many SCF has enabled to proceed. A "thank you" to all who support our monthly retiring offering on last Sunday each month.

Dear St Paul's Presbyterian Church

Imagine watching your home collapse around you. And then having to live for more than two years in a flimsy shelter built from mud, wood and corrugated iron. You might wonder if you'd ever have a safe place to call home again. Unfortunately, two years ago, that is what happened to Sumana and her family. Their house, in a remote village of Nepal, was utterly destroyed in the earthquakes that devastated the country. But thanks to you, Sumana and her husband Ratna, teenage daughter Anjali and young son Anoj will have a brand-new earthquake resistant house soon!



Your ongoing support has trained more than 1,500 local men in masonry, teaching them how to build safe shelters and houses. Ratna has been trained and is now a lead mason. This means he has a steady income in a remote area where jobs are scarce. He's helped build more than 350 homes in his district. Ratna is now putting his skills to use and building his family a new, sturdy house that will hold up in future earthquakes.

Sumana and her family will be able to move in to their new house soon, and they already have plans for how they will decorate it. It's thanks to you that they will have a safe place to live! Anjali and Anoj will have a roof over their heads when it rains and shelter when the winds pick up. They will take comfort knowing that there are people out there who care about them and their future. Thank you for all you do for children. Jessica Kay, Humanitarian Programmes Manager, Save the Children NZ

### **United Nations Comment**

Carol Grant, PWANZ UN Convener

One of the delights I have discovered after leading the various delegations to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of PWANZ, is seeing the ripples circling out from delegation members on their return into the church and wider community. Since I became UN Convener more than thirty talented ordained and lay women and girls have accompanied me to New York to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Leading delegations takes heaps of organisational time, individual contact with those who first express interest, and finally those who make the commitment to be a self-funded member of each successive PWANZ delegation. Detailed planning before leaving, whilst at the UN Commission, and after returning home is vital to make sure the delegation goes safely and successfully from planning stage to final completion.

I am very grateful for the amazing support I have received during my term for this and the ongoing national and international work from PWANZ women and others around New Zealand. The encouraging phone calls and emails of each time I write an article in Bush Fire or Bush Telegraph have meant a great deal.

To be a member of the PWANZ delegation costs each of us our own savings, may involve fundraising, and annual leave allowances, unless specifically funded as one person was by their employer. I deeply appreciate the financial support I have received from the PWANZ special funds set aside by wise and faithful women of the past for this national and international work - it is the taonga of our organisation.

PWANZ does not receive any funding support from PCANZ for our UN work as an NGO with Special Consultative Status so during my term as UN Convener I have worked hard to raise our UN profile within the PCANZ, other NZ women's networks, with Government departments, and local authorities as well as the UN bodies with whom we are associated. I have also endeavoured to find alternative ways of increasing our funds for this work and hope these efforts will help PWANZ maintain its status in the future.

It is good to hear our UN work mentioned in casual conversations in the courts of the Church, about presentations our members have given, UN focussed worship services, the extensive networking developing, and the ways in which this experience has given members a global perspective, more confidence and knowledge when speaking about issues or challenging gender inequality or on the myriad issues affecting the lives of women around the world, here in NZ and the Pacific.

(The above comes from the latest "Bush Fire", the monthly Newsletter of Presbyterian Women, Aotearoa New Zealand. If you would like to receive this informative paper, please contact Jill McConnochie on 845 2392.)

## **Environmentally Speaking**

Isabel Morgan

Photographs have been taken of the huge island of plastic that is floating the around the Pacific Ocean. When I go to a beach clean-up, a large percentage of what we collect is plastic of various shapes and sizes. What did we do, how did we cope, before plastic?

The pressure to put a monetary amount on plastic bags is raised regularly, but little is done. What would you consider a charge on plastic bags? \$1? \$5? If we all had to pay even a \$1 per bag, would we then think about taking own shopping bags with us? Or, we could decide to wheel our full trolley from the check-out to the boot of the car and so avoid the charge? Would some, the well-to-do, or the uncaring, pay the surcharge and grumble or grin and bear it? Who knows?

Do you think we could do with publicity on the effects of discarded plastic? What DID we do before plastic?

It is very pleasing that the Environment Centre has found outlets for the plastic that ended up in the landfill and it is good too that our St. Paul's Managers endorsed this initiative and continue to encourage us in this very worthwhile venture. Well done!

Each fortnight when our recycling day comes, I am continually surprised at the amount of plastic we have accumulated.

## **Summary of 10 Commandments**

As presented by Craig Kilgour on 23 July

1. The Golden Rule
2. Strive to do no harm
3. Treat others with love, honesty, faithfulness and respect
4. Do not overlook evil and always be ready to forgive
5. Live life with a sense of joy and wonder
6. Always seek to be learning something new
7. Test all things against the facts and be ready to discard even cherished beliefs
8. Always respect the right of others to disagree with you
9. Do not allow yourself to be led blindly by others
10. Question everything

## **Hymns**

Ella Haigh

### **And did those feet in ancient times (Jerusalem)**

Written by William Blake. Tune: Jerusalem by Hubert Parry. Probably best known as being sung at each Last Night of the Proms in the Royal Albert Hall in London. It is not in With One Voice, but is in the church Hymnary. Blake was born in 1757 and grew up in a London of striking contrasts; elegant new terraces and areas of unimaginable squalor. His great imagination is shown in his poetry and painting. Jerusalem first appeared in the preface to the very long poem entitled 'Milton'. The part of the poem sung as a hymn was written about 1804. There are many hidden layers of meaning behind every line. The hymn is sometimes described as a second national anthem.

The tune, written by C Hubert H Parry was intended to provide simple music to allow an audience to join in. It has done that. Parry began to compose at eight years of age, and will still a boy at Eton, he took his Bachelor of Music degree at Oxford University. He joined the staff of the Royal College of Music and later became its Director. He also became Professor of Music at Oxford University. Queen Victoria knighted him and then made him a baronet. For all its Englishness, Jerusalem first appeared in July 1915 in 'Life and Work', the Church of Scotland's magazine where it ended with the words 'In Scotland's fair and pleasant land'. The ending we know is 'In England's green and pleasant land'.

**At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow**

Words by Caroline M Noel who lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The tune: Camberwell was composed by John M Brierley born in 1932. Caroline Maria Noel wrote her first hymn at the age of seventeen and several others during the next three years. When she reached her twentieth birthday, she didn't write anything for another twenty years. At age forty, for another twenty years, she resumed writing. During this third period, she wrote the most famous of her hymns 'At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow'. This was a processional hymn based on Philippians 2:5-11. We sang this hymn at the 10:30am and 7:00pm services on 9 July.

**Monthly Parish Newsletters**

Rae Wildbore

Many of you will be aware that for a very long time our faithful Newsletter Editor, Mrs Jill McConnochie, has been trying to retire from this position. We do appreciate Jill's long service, which will be acknowledged at the Annual General Meeting. Session decided at our June Meeting to transfer the collation of the Newsletter to our Office Staff and that initially Kerry Marshall and Rae Wildbore would share the Editor role and that on occasion this role may be carried out by another person from the Administrative Session. Regardless, all items for the Newsletter should be submitted directly to the Church Office. Where possible, electronic submissions would be very much appreciated. I apologise for the lack of communication about this. There has been a note at the back of the Newsletter during June and July (on the Calendar Page) noting the email address and closing date for submissions which will be continued.

**Parish Register**

Rae Wildbore

Baptisms

9 July 2017 Ekamjot Singh Saini. We welcome with love Emma and Jaswant and Family

Funerals

12 July 2017 Shirley Isabelle Lawson

Service held at Dunstall Memorial Chapel. We extend our sympathies to Sandra, Keith and their Families in the loss of their loved ones

20 July 2017 Janet Brown. Service held at East Pier Ahuriri. We extend our sympathies to Owen, Kerry, Craig and their Families in the loss of their loved ones

**Old ones but good ones**

A young man saw an elderly couple sitting down to lunch at a cafe. They had ordered one meal, and an extra drink cup. As he watched, the older gentleman carefully divided the hamburger they had ordered in half, then counted out the fries, one for him, one for her, until each had half of them. Then the old man poured half of the juice into the extra cup and set that in front of his wife. The old man then began to eat, and his wife sat watching, with her hands folded in her lap. The young man decided to ask if they would allow him to purchase another meal for them so that they didn't have to split theirs. The old gentleman said, "Oh, no. We've been married 50 years, and everything has always been and will always be shared, 50/50." The young man then asked the wife if she was going to eat and she replied, "Not yet. It's his turn with the teeth."

**Puns for educated minds....**

A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: "Keep off the Grass".

The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

"This newsletter was delivered by..... phone.....  
Please feel free to phone me with any questions or if you would like a visit."

# August, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9am Jitterbugs 7pm Session	2 1.30pm '500' Cards	3	4 Parish Group Luncheon	5
6 <b>WORSHIP</b> 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	7 1.30pm Stitch n Time	8 9am Jitterbugs  7.30pm Fireside	9 1.30pm '500' Cards  7.30pm Bible Study	10 11.30am Midwinter lunch	11	12
13 <b>WORSHIP</b> 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	14	15 9am Jitterbugs 7pm Board of Managers	16 1.30pm '500' Cards	17	18	19
20 <b>WORSHIP</b> 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	21 1.30pm Stitch n Time	22 9am Jitterbugs	23 1.30pm Afternoon Fellowship 7.30pm Bible Study	24	25	26
27 <b>WORSHIP</b> 9.15, 10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	28	29 9am Jitterbugs	30 1.30pm '500' Cards	31		

Items for the September Newsletter to Parish office [stpaulsnapier@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsnapier@gmail.com) by Monday, 21 August 2017