



St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER – December 2021



"This do in remembrance of Me."

Services of Holy Communion

December 5th 9:15am & 10:30am

Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.



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From the Minister's Desk

I wonder if any of you celebrated some of your family occasions at Cobb and Co? We did, and the highlight for my children (after the Cobb Crunchies) was a traffic light drink! I don't think the taste ever lived up to the wonder of those separate layers.



Probably the traffic light system we are about to experience may not be quite as joyful as those magic drinks at Cobb and Co.

I am predicting -probably not the only one - that this Christmas might be a bit chaotic. As the Auckland borders open, as people try to get their vaccine passes (we can help you with that!), as we try to figure out how people can travel safely and enjoy the summer break. Never mind how we will negotiate increasingly tetchy family dynamics when we do arrive at our destination. Christmas is often a bit chaotic, but there is an

additional layer of chaos this year. The adjustment from elimination to protection in our COVID 19 journey is not proving to be easy for us.

We are not the only ones who have had to deal with chaos at Christmas time. Imagine young Mary discovering she was pregnant and the conversation between her and her betrothed. Never mind her parents.

Imagine shepherds startled by thousands of angels singing and calling them to leave their sheep for the promise of a new and better life.

And then there is the state census. Maybe there were some reluctant participants in the census, maybe even protests. Maybe there were chaotic scenes as people left their home towns and returned to their birthplaces. Maybe the inns, like MIQ facilities, were full to overflowing with everyone thinking they were more deserving of a place than someone else.

In the midst of the chaos, in a room beside the animals, the pangs of labour overtake all the hustle and bustle, all the anxiety and anger, and in the mystery of the ages, a child is born. A child whose coming then, as now, and in the fullness of time brings hope in the midst of uncertainty, joy in the midst of confusion, love in the midst of fear and peace in the midst of conflict and division.

May you find the hope, joy, love and peace of Christ in your celebrations of Advent and Christmas, however much chaos is surrounding you.

Sally

Editorial

Pam Clare

Does it seem that perhaps some parts of our lives seem to be returning to a sort of normality - even if we need to do things in different ways?

It's been good to see St Paul's being used again for a range of musical events following postponements due to Covid, and recently the Napier Civic Choir was able to hold their long-awaited concerts. Covid restrictions meant a masked audience restricted to one hundred, some social distancing within the orchestra, and just half the choir singing at each of the two performances.

So, we were an expectant audience at the evening performance. However, as the orchestra played the first familiar notes of the Mozart Requiem and the choir took breathe to sing, there was a sudden dramatic explosion of sound from outside the church, and the cross on the wall in the sanctuary was lit up with swirling colours against the darkness. Yes, it was Guy Fawkes night, and though the fireworks didn't last long as the choir, unperturbed, sang on, it added a feeling of celebration to the music for those of us who hadn't been able to attend a concert for so long.

One of the four young soloists (all with connections to Project Prima Volta, the Hawke's Bay charitable trust and music programme that helps local teenagers explore their unique potential within the context of sung performance) could not perform, and fortunately our own Frank Carter was able to step in with just a few days' notice. It was wonderful to hear him, so experienced in oratorio, singing alongside the three young people all at the beginning of their music careers.

In this edition we hear of the volunteer work carried out by the Christian Love Link organisation in Napier and Hastings,

assisting families in need to set up a home by supplying donated household items. Read about how they accomplish this and how we can help.

And Charles Bell recalls his early days in the 1950s attending St Paul's and how the playing of organist Stan Pearce at worship services influenced his life-long fondness for rich organ music.

Christian Lovelink : Churches Helping People

Recently, Ian Jones, spoke at morning worship about the work of Christian Lovelink and the volunteer service they provide to needy families in Napier and Hastings. Ian, who is the manager, kindly shared his notes with us for inclusion in the newsletter. Check out their website, www.christianlovelink.org.nz for additional information and how we can help.



Christian Lovelink is an interdenominational church group, which started in Hastings in 1992, so this is our thirtieth year operating in the region. Originally there were a number of Lovelink organisations in different areas of New Zealand, but we are the only one still operating.

The team is completely volunteer based and numbers around forty, with some assisting one morning a week and others up to five mornings. In total, our volunteers contribute nearly 7000 hours annually. A minimum of five volunteers is required each day, and preferably six, with two in the truck for pick- ups and deliveries, one on the phone, and at least two in the clearing house.

We assist families with basic needs to set up a home by supplying items such as beds, linen, lounge furniture, tables and chairs, and kitchen items. To meet these needs we collect

donated goods, sort them in the clearing house, and then deliver them to the families that need assistance. There is no cost for the families involved, as we rely on the generosity of our community to help those in need.

We receive referrals for families from a number of agencies, such as Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, Family VIP (formerly Women's Refuge), a large number of branches of Hawke's Bay Health, Enliven, Citizens' Advice, Kainga Ora- Homes and Communities, WINZ, as well as direct enquiries. Twenty-five percent of our referrals come from HB Health, predominantly from the Child Healthy Housing Team, but also other areas such as Mental Health.

A new and concerning area for us is that we are now getting requests to assist elderly individuals. We assist around six hundred families each year. This assistance can range from sheets and blankets to a complete house lot of furniture. With the advent of people in transitional housing then moving into their own home, we are increasingly having to supply everything for them to set up. This can mean that we have a complete truckload going to one family. A basic order can consist of three beds, five bags of linen, a lounge suite, a dining table and chairs, and kitchenware.

We also have a workshop that carries out basic repairs, and volunteers from Menz Shed build bed bases for us from donated materials.



Some Statistics:

So far this year we have assisted 357 families.

We have given out 7152 items, including 351 beds, 292 blankets, 418 duvets, 534 pillows and 996 pairs of sheets.

We have received 622 donations. These can range from linen and blankets to a house lot from someone moving into care or from a deceased estate.

We have an operating budget of \$41.000. This is funded by donations, accounting for 25%, and grants.

Our largest funders are COGS (Community Organisation Grants Scheme which provides government-funded grants to support voluntary and not-for-profit organisations working in local communities and neighbourhoods), and the Lottery Grants Board.

Our largest expense is the rental for the premises that we operate from, and our second largest expense is the operating costs for our truck.

How can we help?

If you are downsizing, then think of us.

Lovelink can take any household items that a family would need to set up a home.

As mentioned earlier, Lovelink is regularly having to supply a house-lot for families that only have their clothes.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,

For the rights of all who are destitute.

Proverbs 31: 8 – 9

Charles Bell Memories

Charles Bell, a long-time resident of Napier, has shared some memories of attending St Paul's in his early years. He attributes his lifelong enjoyment of organ music to this time.

I started there probably from around 1948, attending Sunday School in the old hall up at the back, behind the church. It was

demolished some years ago. The ruins of the old church, felled in the 1931 Quake, were still standing in places and, as small children, we used to play amongst them. It wouldn't be allowed today. The brick foundations of that church remain today with Asher Hall and adjacent rooms being built upon them in the early 1950s.

The Sunday School Superintendent was Mr Ian Bain and his assistant was Mrs Sorrell. I think I got roped in to attending because Mr Bain's sister Mrs Payne and her daughter Monica were our neighbours in George St. The Minister was Rev W L Gray and we had to attend all, or at least part, of his morning services. I recall Dr Danny Craven, famous South African Rugby Player and Coach, preaching the sermon one Sunday when the Springboks must have been in town to play Hawkes Bay. And my enjoyment of rich pipe organ music stemmed from then. The organist was Stan Pearce who was well regarded amongst local organ enthusiasts.

At some point, we graduated to Bible Class, by which time the Asher Hall complex had been built and that's where we met. The Rev Hay was the church minister. Bible class teachers included Ray Arnold (also my scout master and next- door



neighbour), Bruce McConnochie, Hector McGregor of electrical shop fame, and SH Bishop, who ran everything. Once we became teenagers, there were Bible Class Socials with dancing, which were

always very popular. I'd say most marriages of the day stemmed from a meet-ups at such local dances.

My first wedding in 1963 was at St Pauls by Rev Hay with Stan Pearce at the organ. Prior to that time, the Goon Show and Peter Sellars were extremely popular and Peter Sellars had a skit which was played many times on radio called Trumpet Volunteer, a spoof on Purcell's Trumpet Voluntary, which was a semi -classical organ piece. Stan, bless him, at our request learned and played it instead of the usual Wedding March.

My first job from 1959 was as a trainee accountant for McCulloch, Butler, and Spence. Scotsman Morris Spence, who'd been widely involved in Napier community affairs, had just retired when I arrived there, but he was a regular visitor to the office and was a prominent member of St Pauls, as was another partner, Frank Ashton. Morris Spence died in the early 1960s and his funeral at St Pauls was possibly one of Napier's largest of that time.

My Mother Mabel Bell sung in the church choir for some 10 years prior to her death in 1969. That's about it. Have to confess I'm no longer a church attender.

Charles Bell

Care and Share

Dorothy Finlayson

Christmas Blessings



There is something about singing Christmas Carols. The 20 ladies who attended our Monday afternoon gathering enjoyed the relaxed format of the afternoon. Singing, laughing sharing and gifting. Santa sent a special message to Wendy and apologised for his absence.

Nobody missed out and a yummy afternoon tea was shared by all. Ella read a special Christmas message and we all read the prayer about the joys of Christmas. Seasons Greetings to you all and may you all enjoy the blessings of Christmas.

Dorothy (for the team)



Six Little Short Stories

1. Once, all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That's **Faith**

2. When you throw a baby in the air, it laughs because it knows that you will catch it. That's **Trust**

3. Every night we go to bed, without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarm to wake up. That's **Hope**

4. We plan big things for tomorrow, in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's **Confidence**

5. We see the world suffering, but we still get married and have children. That's **Love**

6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years.... I am sweet 16 with 64 years' experience. That's **Attitude.**

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories

PARISH REGISTER
<i>Rae Wildbore</i>
William (Bill) Mayo died 3rd September 2021. James (Jim) Uriarau died 7th September 2021 Rosalind (Ros) Kieran died 4th October 2021 Our loving sympathy goes to the families and friends of Bill, Jim and Ros.

Worship for Summer

November/December at St Paul's

Advent 1 November 28, 9.15am, 10.30am

Advent 2 (Communion) December 5th, 9.15am, 10.30am

Advent 3 Gifting service (December 12th) (one service)

Advent 4 Lessons and Carols (December 19th) 9.15am, 10.30am

Christmas services

Christmas Eve Friday Dec 24th 9.30pm

Christmas Day Saturday December 25th 9.30am

Boxing Day Sunday December 26th one service 9.30am

January Services

January 2nd Trinity 10.00am

Jan 9th St Paul's, 10.30am

Jan 16th Trinity, 10.00am

Jan 23rd St Paul's, 10.30am

Jan 30th Normal services resume



Contact Us

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Phone

Please feel free to phone me with any questions or if you would like a visit.