

St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER - July 2017



From the Minister's Desk

Partners in God's Mission of Love

Next time you have a bulletin or a newsletter in your hands, you might notice that at the top it says 'Partners in God's Mission of Love'. Out of our conversations we had together over the past few years, love was one of the key ideas which kept coming through. Love for one another in all our diversity, love for our community, and the love of God which we share in our worship and in our life together.

Overarching all that we do together is the realisation that we are the Church, the Body of Christ, the people sent out to discover where God is at work and to be God's partners in working for justice, reconciliation, peace, truth and love; continuing, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the work that Christ began to do.

God's mission of love is not only something which happens in faraway lands. It begins in the community of faith, where as we worship and pray together, we learn that we are God's beloved children, and with the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit, learn forgiveness and reconciliation with each other. Of course, we have to keep on learning that which is why we gather regularly, sharing communion at the Table of grace, worshipping, and meeting together.

Strengthened in our life together, we are then able to look beyond our walls to where God is working in our community – where we see Jesus' manifesto of bringing good news to the poor, release to the captives, giving sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed coming to life.

Each time we bring food for the foodbank, each time we offer hospitality to someone who needs it, each time each time we show care for God's wonderful creation, each time we visit people in prison or support them in court, each time we support the Family Centre, or Presbyterian Support we are partners in God's mission of restoration, reconciliation and love.

When my children were small, one of the treats of the day was sitting down together and watching Sesame Street. It began with a song 'Who are the people in your neighbourhood?' Each time we ask that question, we are discovering more about the people among whom we live and serve, discovering who we might join as partners in God's mission of love. Let us keep our eyes, ears and hearts open to what God is doing in our neighbourhood.

Sally

Specialist Recycling Partnership

Environment Centre Hawke's Bay and St Paul's Presbyterian Church

What a great response from the Parish to our partnership with Environment Centre Hawke's Bay which provides easy access to the specialist recycling for members of our congregation. In our first emptying of the collection there was 6kg of 'stuff'. A wide range of batteries of various types (these were the bulk of the weight) but most of the other types of materials were represented to some extent, including a cell phone, quite a bit of dental care products and food packaging of the specified types. However, it seems that no-one uses a Nespresso machine as there were no used coffee cartridges. There was nothing 'foreign' that had to be removed for landfill. Thanks again for supporting this scheme.

A reminder that parishioners can bring items with them when they attend services and drop them off at the designated collection point in the church foyer. A poster, with full details of the items covered by this scheme, is displayed in the foyer where the collection bin is located, but in brief they are:

- Coffee capsules from Nespresso and similar machines;
- Batteries of any size and shape (excluding lead-acid vehicle batteries);
- **Clean** oral care products, including toothpaste tubes, floss containers, and old toothbrushes;
- **Clean** “Glad” brand plastic film, zip-lock bags, and containers;
- **Clean** packaging from “The Collective” brand, including pouches, tubes and bottles;
- **Clean** “Fonterra” brand packaging pouches;
- **Clean** foil packs from “Sealord” brand tuna products.

Contact people for further details of this scheme are:

Environment Centre

Tony Smith
0210359314
tontine@xtra.co.nz

St Paul’s

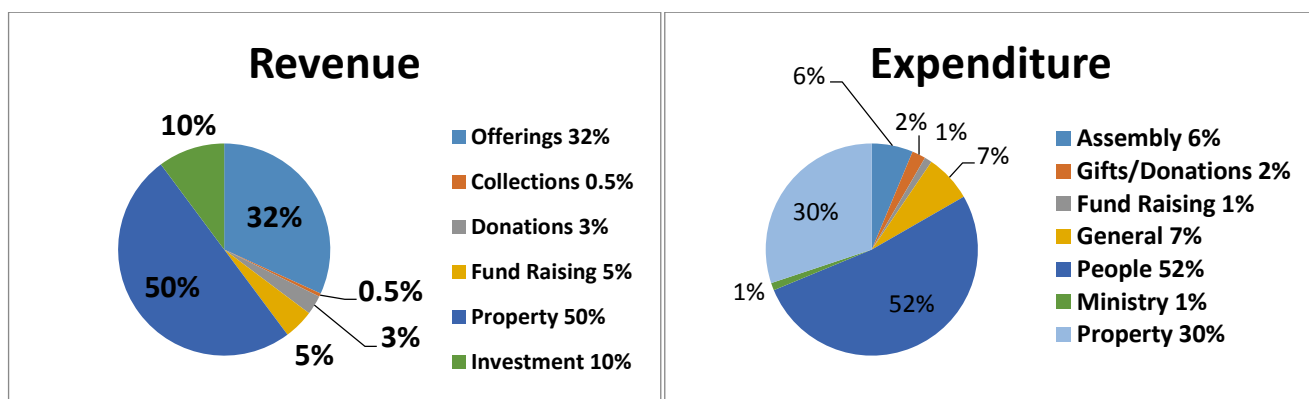
Kerry Marshall
833 7088
piper@clear.net.nz

From the Board of Managers

Kerry Marshall

The Board of Managers and Session met recently to discuss the budget for the next financial year. As many of you will know, creating a budget involves looking at the current year actual income and expenditure and trying to estimate what the next year will bring.

In broad terms, the budget that Session will bring to the congregation for approval shows income of \$196,515 which is 2% more than last year's budget and operational expenditure of \$219,455, 4% less than the current year’s budget. This results in an operating deficit of \$22,940 for next year compared to a budgeted deficit of \$29,270 in the current year.



Parishioners are generous in many ways with time and talents but we’ve noted that average monthly offerings have continued to reduce. In 2012 offerings were \$67,700 including the ‘Golden Offering’ for the year whereas next year we’re expecting to receive \$62,500 from this source. Offerings are one third of our income.

The budget for revenue from investments has been left unchanged – although interest rates might increase, planned capital works and maintenance will impact on interest from our reserves later in the year.

It is important to note that income from property (manse rental, Onekawa complex lease, car parking, the Donut man and other hall and facilities hire) brings in \$98,000 which is 50% of our revenue.

The budget is for expenditure of \$219,455 which is \$2,795 less than the current year budget. As we have previously reported operating costs within the Parish are generally well managed. People costs are 52% (50% last year) and Property costs are 30% (26% last year) of total expenses. When it comes to budgeting for property costs some of the amounts we include in the budget are essentially provisions for unplanned work. Significant changes include:

- a reduction in Assembly Assessment as the beneficiary fund costs are now part of the salary cost, and a reduction in Presbytery levy now that the merged Central Presbytery has its financial situation sorted
- an overall reduction in People costs as the previous budget included provision for costs associated with the Minister's period of study leave, and attendance at General Assembly
- an increase in planned and unscheduled maintenance costs
- an estimate increase in insurance costs (we are still waiting for our current insurers to provide costs for next year)

Capital Expenditure: work is currently underway to obtain quotes for the refurbishment of the toilet facilities and the roof at the Onekawa complex. There is also work to be done at the manse and on Asher Hall so provisional amounts have been allocated for these works. The landscaping is also likely to be a cost in the next financial year.

As a result of the deficit budget there will be a reduction in reserves so the Treasurer (Sylvia Low), and Board, will continue to monitor cash flow on a monthly basis as the actual income and expenditure occurs during the year.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to talk to us.

Journeys

Kerry Marshall

Have you heard, or read, the statement "We celebrate life in Christ, join us on the journey" recently? Yes, that's right, it was part of our mission statement.

How do you start a journey? Lots of planning, and bookings, and arrangements to be made, then there's the packing and then finally into the car and away or off to the bus stop or out to the airport. What to take, what to leave behind.

Journeys start in many ways - lots of packing, bustle, worry but eventually we have to step out and get on with it. The time for decision making is over and we have to live with what we've packed, live without the things we've forgotten and make the best of the journey.

Where is the church on its journey? The foundations of the church were laid two millennia ago and since then the journey has been fraught with difficulties, but it has also been the source of many triumphs. The foundations of this parish were established more than 150 years ago and we too have experienced triumphs and tribulations.

This is a challenging time for our church. At a recent Session meeting Alan Hoggarth read an editorial from the Taranaki Daily News that discussed the need for the Christian Church to redefine itself if it is to have a future. Their expenditure of \$15m to upgrade the church, the bricks and mortar side of this, was the easy part. "The real challenge, the real risk, will be selling the relevance of the Cathedral to a community that is increasingly getting by without a Christian church in their life, or, just as frequently, never had one to begin with." The article is worth reading and can be found online at <http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/opinion/92021290/editorial-bricks-and-mortar-is-the-easy-part>.

The question is – where are we now on our journey and what does the future hold? I don't have the answers and nor does the writer in the Taranaki Daily News. It seems to me that what is expressed in the baptism of Jesus is the desire for us to see Jesus as the doorway through which our faith journey can continue. A journey that seeks love and justice. A journey that sees us serving others just as Christ did on his journey. And if we keep serving then there is hope.

Environmentally Speaking

Isabel Morgan

Pest-free New Zealand by 2050? Is that a possibility? Several of our offshore islands are already that, but the whole of the country? Quite a challenge.

You will probably know of Richmond Henry, one of our very early explorers, mainly in Fiordland, the fiords and their many tiny islands. One of my visits to Fiordland I went on a small boat (seven like-minded folk, plus captain and cook), exploring the fiords and their islands. We went ashore to see the remains of Richard Henry's campsite. It was a moving experience.

A few bits, eventually to be overtaken by nature. We were all silent, remembering Richard Henry. His feeling of devastation was immense when the first possum was sighted on one of the islands. He left Fiordland, overcome by a feeling of hopelessness.

Pest-free NZ was first promoted at a Forest and Bird AGM and conference in Wellington, some years ago. Now it seems to have become 'main stream'! A dream? Yes, but some dreams are achievable. I believe that this one is.

Hymns

Ella Haigh

We love the place, O God by William Bullock and Sir Henry Baker. William Bullock, a young naval lieutenant was employed with his brother to make a survey of the coast of Newfoundland. When he found the natives had no knowledge of Christianity he decided to resign his commission and become a missionary to these people. He commenced his ministry in a small place called Trinity Bay, where some of the people helped him build a small church. Bullock wrote this special hymn for the consecration service.

For many years it was popular as the first hymn in services. It has been altered from the original and two verses don't appear in hymn books. The first three verses are William Bullock's, the 4th and 5th being written by Sir Henry Baker. Bullock later became Dean of Halifax in Nova Scotia, where he died in 1874. The tune Quam Delecta was composed by Henry Jenner. This hymn is in the Church Hymnary, not With One Voice

All things bright and beautiful by Cecil Frances Alexander, a prolific Irish hymn writer in the 19th Century. She married Rev William Alexander, who became Archbishop of Ireland. Mrs Alexander wrote hymns to help children in her Sunday School class learn their Catechism. She wrote 'All things bright and beautiful' to help them understand the opening words of the Apostles' Creed: 'I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth'. She wrote over 400 hymns and published poems as well. She also did a great deal for the relief of the poor.

The two tunes that are used are 'Royal Oak', an English traditional melody arranged by Martin Shaw, and 'All things bright and beautiful' by William Henry Monk. Andrew Barr, in The Nation's Favourite Hymns says that 'today this hymn fits in with the ecological concerns of both adults and children. Although the two tunes are still popular, a more recent tune by John Rutter has assured Mrs. Alexander's hymn a new lease of life.'

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy was written by Jan Struther (1901-1953). Jan Struther was an author whose most famous stories were the life and times of the fictional Mrs Miniver, published in 1939. Made into a Hollywood film during WW2, starring Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon. Some of you may have seen it. I think I saw the sequel, 'Blossoms in the dust'. She regularly contributed light verse to magazines, and she was asked to write twelve hymns to be included in a new hymn-book, published in 1925. 'Lord of all hopefulness' was one of these and it still finds its way into Britain's top-forty favourites. It is best known sung to 'Slane', a traditional Irish melody. The tune 'Miniver', composed for the words by Cyril V Taylor, has not been so popular.

We Get Help to Refugees

Jill McConnochie

For the third year in a row, refugees' numbers have increased. UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, reported 300,000 more than in 2015 making a total of 65.6 million people of concern—about 10.3 million became displaced in 2016—51% are children. In Uganda for World Refugee Day, UN Secretary General António Guterres urged countries to increase quotas, protect refugees, increase humanitarian aid and seek political solutions to conflicts. He noted 80% of refugees were in developing countries—more than 1.3 million are in Uganda. Only 189,300 people were resettled in 37 countries including New Zealand. Syria produced the most refugees—5.5 million people. A total of 12 million or 65% of the population are displaced.



Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon are facing possible cuts in income without increased international support. In Jordan one in three refugee families depend on the cash assistance from UNHCR as their sole source of income. In Lebanon, 70% live under the national poverty line and are struggling to pay rent, annual immigration fees and other costs. Please consider writing to Foreign Affairs minister Gerry Brownlee asking for more assistance to Syrian refugees from the New Zealand aid budget.

July, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 WORSHIP 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	3 1.30 Stitch n Time 12noon Fundraiser Luncheon	4 9am Jitterbugs 7pm Session	5 1.30pm Cards	6	7 12noon, Lunch group	8
9 WORSHIP 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	10	11 7.30pm Fireside	12 7.30pm Bible Study	13	14	15
16 WORSHIP 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	17 1.30 Stitch n Time	18 7pm Board of Managers	19 1.30pm Cards	20	21	22
23 WORSHIP 9.15, 10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	24	25 9am Jitterbugs	26 1.30pm Afternoon fellowship 7.30pm Study Group	27	28	29
30 WORSHIP 9.15 breakfast, 10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	31					

Items for the August Newsletter to Parish office stpaulsnapier@gmail.com by Monday, 24 July 2017