

St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER – March 2018



Services of Holy Communion

Sunday, 4 March at 7pm service

Sunday, 11 March at 9.15 and 10.30am services

Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.

"This do in remembrance of Me."



From the Minister's Desk

Partners in God's Mission of Love

Reboot, restore, reconnect

I suppose some of you have wifi or a smart phone. Periodically my wifi just can't sort out its connections or my cellphone becomes so slow that my frustration knows no bounds. My cellphone sometimes just turns itself off for no apparent reason. Much as we might wish we were in control of these things, there is nothing we can do to fix it. The only way to get things working again is to turn off the router, hold down the switch for a while and turn it on again; to reboot it. It is as if your wireless connection or your phone has just had enough and needs some time just to restore to a balanced state where it can function once again.

It can sometimes feel as if our connection with God is like this. We can have so much traffic in our systems - body, mind and spirit - that we just need some time to reboot, restore, and reconnect to a point where we can function once again. Lent is a time when we can reboot; when we can clear away the clutter and clean up the junk files. By the way, about junk files - junk files accumulate in our phones and on our computers without our doing a single thing! Hundreds of megabytes of memory can be taken up with junk files. Maybe Lent is a time when we can clean up our junk – first of all by being aware that it is there.

Psalm 51 (which we read on Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent) is a psalm of rebooting. David, the psalmist, who had plenty of problems of his own, prays 'Create in me, a clean heart, O God, renew a right spirit within me'. Clean up my junk files. Help me to start afresh. If we decide to give up chocolate (although that might have been a struggle, with Ash Wednesday and Valentine's day falling on the same day) or fast from meat or carbs, or exercise more, or work less, or turn off Facebook, or be more hospitable or more charitable, it is not about self-improvement or a guilt trip like yet another failed new year's resolution. Nor is it about showing what spiritual athletes we are. It is about stepping out of our habits, especially, but not solely, our bad habits into a greater awareness of God's loving presence within, among and around us. It is a time to recognise, forgive and eventually love all that seems broken and imperfect, unworthy and excluded within and among us.

So this year, instead of the old three 'reading, writing and 'rithmetic', maybe we can have a new three R's for Lent - reboot, restore, reconnect.

Sally

Environmentally Speaking

Isabel Morgan

On a late summer afternoon some twenty odd years ago, a small convoy of vehicles, set off from Napier to go to Ball's Clearing in Puketitiri. This had been arranged by the Public Relations person at DOC. Our objective was to count the long-tailed bats as they flew out of their roosting places at dusk to have a good meal, sufficient to last them all the following day. We had taken our food and once that had been eaten, we enjoyed a walk in the bush, before settling down to wait for dusk. We were spaced apart and laid down, some with little gadgets that would emit a high-pitched sound like the squeak these bats make. We were able to record quite a few a number of bats for that comparatively modest area. In the desire for farmland in the early days, it was fortunate that Ball's Clearing was not entirely destroyed. Now under DOC care, it is a fine example of lowland forest. I am sure you have visited Ball's Clearing on Puketitiri Road. Originally it was called "Big Bush", so where was "Little Bush"? Turn south off the main Puketitiri Road onto Little Bush Road and at the end of the road you will come to Little Bush, now owned by Forest and Bird, bought by the Napier Branch of Forest and Bird.

When Rob Whittle and his wife Eileen bought their farm after the war, they found the bush in a sorry state as it was not fenced off from animals. One of Rob's early jobs was to fence it. He and Eileen tended it lovingly, fencing, replanting, eliminating weeds and trapping pests. Some years later, when Rob wanted Little Bush preserved for the future, he approached Napier Forest and Bird with the thought that we could consider purchasing it. We did, and Little Bush is open at all times for the public to visit. If you haven't been to Little Bush, make a day of it, and enjoy.

Thank you Hawke's Bay Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Chaplaincy Service

(Received December 2017)

Dear St Paul's

Please extend our gratitude and thanks to your "Chapel helpers" teams who again came so willingly and faithfully to help us this year. Your assistance ensured that all patients wishing to attend the Sunday service in the Chapel were able to do so. Thank you too for your ongoing financial and prayer support. May you and all your congregation experience the many blessings of the Christmas Season.

World Day of Prayer

Jill McConnochie

Will be held at Cathedral, Friday, 2 March at 10am. All Welcome.

"All God's creation is very good!" is the theme this year, prepared by Christians in Suriname, a country on the Caribbean coast of South America. Please make an effort to attend this ecumenical service.

Lunch Group

Jill McConnochie

Meets on Friday, 2 March at noon. New members welcome. Please contact Jill on 835 4656 if you will be attending. Venue to be confirmed. Thank you.

April Newsletter

Please forward items for the April Newsletter to the Parish Office (stpaulsnapier@gmail.com) by Monday, 19 March 2018.

Did you know

Provided by Stan Mulder

- Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61%.
- Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.
- The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.
- The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.

Story

Author unknown

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life." "No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly. "I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of." ...and that he did.

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill.
His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.



This newsletter was delivered by..... phone.....

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

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 10am World Day of Prayer @ Cathedral 12noon Lunch group	3 9am Praying together
4 Worship 10.30am 7pm Communion 9.30 Choir practice	5	6 9am Jitterbugs 7pm Session	7 10.30am Lenten Study, Church Lounge 1.30pm '500' Cards 7pm Lent Service @ Knox Church	8	9	10 9am Praying together
11 Worship 9.15,10.30am Communion 9.30 Choir practice	12	13 9am Jitterbugs 7.30pm Fireside	14 10.30am Lenten Study, Church Lounge 1.30pm '500' Cards 7pm Lent Service @ St Thomas More	15	16	17 9am Praying together
18 Worship 9.15,10.30 9.30 Choir practice	19	20 9am Jitterbugs 7pm BOM	21 1.30pm '500' Cards 7pm Lent Service @ Trinity Methodist	22	23	24 9am Praying together
25 Worship 9.15,10.30 9.30 Choir practice	26	27 9am Jitterbugs	28 1.30pm Afternoon Fellowship	29 Maundy Thursday 7pm Trinity Methodist	30 Good Friday Services 9:45am Clive Sq 10am St Patrick's ecumenical	31 9am Praying together in the lounge