



**St Paul's Presbyterian Church**  
“Partners in God's Mission of Love”

**NEWSLETTER – March 2022**



**“This do in remembrance of Me.”**

**Services of Holy Communion**

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 9:15am & 10:30am**

**Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.**



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## From the Minister's Desk

When my oldest daughter was little, she was learning to pour from a jug into her cup. She had the picking up just fine and the tipping over just fine, but the tipping back up wasn't going so well. 'Stop pouring, Kate!' we would say. Her cup ran over!



Some of you may remember a chorus from Sunday School days: 'Running over, running over, my cup's full and running over. Since the Lord saved me, I'm as happy as can be. My cup's full and running over.' And of course, there is that wonderful verse in the 23rd Psalm. 'You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.'

The season of Lent leads us from Ash Wednesday on March 2nd to Palm Sunday through Holy Week. Traditionally it has been a time to leave our old life behind in preparation for baptism into new life. To step away from corrupt power, a mentality of scarcity and empty rituals. This year our Lent reflections are called 'Full to the Brim'

The introduction says 'It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.'

And we are in such need of God's overflowing grace at the moment. The COVID pandemic is taking its toll on us as individuals, on us as a community of faith and on us as a nation. We can feel uncertain, anxious, frustrated, angry, disappointed... a whole range of emotions in response to the changing circumstances around us. We are surrounded by a mass of information and opinion, and that information can overwhelm

us as we try to make good decisions for ourselves and the communities we belong to.

The stories we read during Lent remind us of God's abundant grace and comforting presence - pictures of a mother hen longing to gather us under her wings, of a father embracing his wayward son, precious oil poured out freely, and even stones shouting out God's praise. In the midst of the confusion, violence and anger which is swirling around us, just as confusion, violence and anger swirled around Jesus, let us take time to rest in these images of love, trust, hope and grace and to know ourselves as beloved and belonging in God.

God doesn't stop pouring!!

*Sally*

## **Editorial**

*Pam Clare*

It happens every four years. Disappearing into the weird and wonderful winter wonderland of the Winter Olympics while outside the sun beats down and the cicadas provide a deafening accompaniment to every outdoors conversation.



*Cousin Jean, Winnipeg, 1925.*

It's easy enough to understand the motivation behind figure skating and ice hockey, even curling (which turns out to be the most televised women's sport in Canada as well as being known as "chess on ice"). There is a long-ago photo in the family album of a Canadian cousin in her curling outfit with straw broom, a far cry from the slick

outfits of today, but there's no doubt the games would have been just as intense.

What to make of those other strange and terrifying events? For example, skeleton, which is like sledding to the extreme, where athletes dive headfirst onto sleds and race facedown down an icy mountain at speeds reaching 130 kilometres an hour - with no steering. And luge, even faster, where a competitor rides a flat sled while riding face up and feet first.

Then the snowboard events, where speed and height are essential, as well as taking greater risks to perform more difficult tricks for higher points. And this is where two young kiwis, Zoi Sadowski-Synnott and Nico Porteous won for the first time ever Winter Olympic gold medals for New Zealand, plus another silver for Zoi, making us all proud.

What is always noticeable about these young athletes, at Winter and Summer Olympics, and World Championships, is their acknowledgment of their support teams around them. And behind those teams are the countless volunteers throughout the country, helping young people achieve their potential in areas such as sport, music and service organisations.

Anne Silson is one of these people. For forty years she was a leader in Girls' Brigade, helping to found the 5<sup>th</sup> Napier Company based at St Stephen's which eventually grew to over 120 girls and leaders, including Jean Gillies and Brenda Silson. She was District Commissioner for Hawkes Bay, travelled to the Cayman Islands for an international conference, and, impressively, accompanied eighteen girls to the United Kingdom to attend a jamboree.

In this edition she writes about the Girls' Brigade organisation, and look closely at the photo of some of the girls who received their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards. You might recognise a couple of familiar faces. There is also a message from the

Moderator reflecting on Waitangi Day, and we remember the lives of Valda Spiers and Nancy Lyons, loved members of our church community.

## Moderator's Message Waitangi Day 2022



Writing this message has caused me to reflect deeply on where I

stand in terms of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. I acknowledge that I am not the tuakana (elder brother) here but rather the teina (younger brother) needing to listen and learn. My earliest engagement with tikanga Māori in the Church was at Knox College in the early 1980s as a fellow student of the Very Rev Tame Takao QSM - who left the Hall to become Moderator of the General Assembly! A kind and gentle mentor of things Māori.

Time spent with Te Aka Puaho at Te Maungarongo, Ohope Marae over the years has been inspirational. Currently, I am meeting early Monday mornings with a friend who is a wise kuia, to chat, to talk tikanga, practice Te Reo and work our way through one of Scotty Morrison's Māori Made Easy workbooks. From these teachers I have learnt to love the language, to dig into my whakapapa and tūrangawaewae. The river and mountain that I identify with are visible on my daily bike ride to work - embracing my mihi has beautifully deepened my sense of place.

New Zealand's younger generations are helping too. Struggling with my pronunciation at a Te Reo course recently, I was amazed at the fluency of the younger members of the class. Watching the way Te Reo is naturally incorporated into the education of my grandchildren gives me a deeper understanding as to why this is so. While some of my generation grumble



about all manner of things to do with Māori in our society, the younger generation don't just accept it, they embrace it and celebrate it the way it should be. It is so good to see the younger generation leading the way here.

You can see it in the Church as well. On my journeys as Moderator, I see and hear what is going on. I have been impressed to hear what younger ministers like Mo Morgan at St James at Whanganui, Sebastian Murrihy at Knox Waitara, Jono Barb at Linwood Union and Brendon McRae at Flagstaff Community Church are all doing to honour the Treaty in their context.

Maybe this is the teina leading the tuakana!? And doing so in a way that brings bubbling joy and hope to this nation's bicultural journey, and our Church's part in it.

*Right Reverend Hamish Galloway*  
*Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*

## **The Girls Brigade at St Stephen's Church**

*Anne Silson*

The 5th Napier company actually started during Ian Gordon's ministry at the Congregational Church in 1964. The year before Ian's wife Audrey, worked with Marjorie Marshall at St



*Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and commissioning as officers*  
*From left: Ila Northe, Margaret Leitch, Carol White, Brenda O'Brien (now Silson)*

Columba's with the older girls and I worked at Trinity with the junior girls. We were then able to start our own company. The number of girls grew slowly, but when we were looking at the possibility of Church Union in 1968, we were also looking for a new minister. This made us consider if we could move to an area where there was a need for workers. We had the workers and

St Peters, as it was then known, had the need in a fast-growing suburb with lots of young families and so the approach was made to join with them.

We were made so welcome and were very soon totally involved in the work of the church and Girls Brigade grew and grew eventually having over 120 girls and leaders involved. Many older girls worked and achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award and also the Queens Award. Some girls getting the award from the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

So, what was Girls Brigade all about? It was an organisation to encourage girls to become Christian young women and involved a programme giving encouragement to girls to have a balanced life and to work on four areas each year- Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Social.

We had a promise - *With God's help we promise to seek, serve and follow Christ.*



The Juniors (6-9 yrs) would learn to seek just as the wise men did.

The Seniors (10-13 yrs) would learn to serve in the community and world.

The Pioneers (14-18 yrs) would learn to

follow and make a commitment to Christ.

A number of girls became officers in the company and have since moved on to become involved in other voluntary work.

Following is a story of the butterfly which shows the progression a good example gives.



There is the EGG - the junior who is born into God's family.

There is the CATERPILLAR for the seniors for growth and establishment in Christian life.

The CHRYSALIS for the pioneers where God wants major changes in you.

The BUTTERFLY for young leaders to prepare for a life of service to their community.

One day, a small opening appeared on a cocoon and a man sat and watched a butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it stopped making any progress. It appeared as if it had got as far as it could and could go no further. So, he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining section of the cocoon and the butterfly emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small shrivelled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected the wings would enlarge and expand and be able to support the body.

Neither happened – the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shrivelled wings. It could never fly. What the man did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening was God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in life. If God allowed us to go through our life without obstacles, it would cripple us. We could not be as strong as what we could have been.

We could never fly.

## Remembering Nancy Lyons

*Jenny Foster*

Let us remember Nancy Lyons, who died recently at Princess Alexandra Retirement Village. Nancy McKay was the only daughter of Scottish parents who came out to New Zealand and settled into farming life in Nuhaka. After primary school at Nuhaka, Nancy went to Iona College where the long terms were broken by exeats with fellow boarders.

On leaving Iona in 1952, she went to Ardmore Teachers' College and began her teaching career at Opatama school where the love and respect she earned is remembered by Bruce and Donald Tucker from our congregation.

Travel and teaching overseas followed and she was able to visit



*From left, Nancy Lyons with husband Noel, Owen & Janet Brown, Alan Hoggarth on Election night October 1990. Jerry Hoggarth was the photographer. Photo supplied by Kerry Hanson (Owen & Janet Brown's daughter)*

her Scottish relations. Nancy returned to Napier to take up teaching positions and met and married Noel Lyons. They had one daughter, Anne who now lives in Sydney.

Nancy was an active member of Knox Presbyterian Church, Ahuriri serving on the Board of Managers and Session. Her role as Property Manager had her

overseeing the maintenance of The Manse, Church and Wilson Hall. Before retirement from teaching, she connected with country children in the parish through a correspondence Sunday School. Later Nancy moved back to St Paul's and was involved with the pre-school music programme.

Nancy is also remembered for her work with Save the Children. She managed the shop and rosters of volunteers until the branches were closed. It was a huge task returning unsold goods to Wellington.

Nancy loved to paint and draw, do needlework and sew. She attended thimble conventions overseas and collected many interesting thimbles.

The breakdown down of her health saw Nancy having to move to Princess Alexandra where she lived for five years. She was ever gracious and never failed to praise the care she received. Friendship, a love of beauty, loyalty and commitment are all qualities Nancy had in abundance. She was a very gracious lady.

## **Memories of Valda Spiers**

*Anne Silson*



It is with sadness that we heard about Valda's passing and remember her as a friend with so many gifts. It was not only her dressmaking skills and the wonderful hats that she made for Art Deco, but also her ability with flower arranging at St Stephen's and her love for her garden, even winning prizes in the city garden competition. She was involved in so many things, especially at the church thrift shop in Latham Street until we had to close. In her retirement, knitting became a hobby, making hundreds of children's jerseys for overseas missions. She also enjoyed playing 500 at the church and at the bowling club where she tended the gardens for many years. Valda will be remembered and missed from her regular place in church.

## Care and Share

*Dorothy Finlayson*



A Happy New Year to you all. It's unfortunate that our February meeting was cancelled. It's sad to think that the fun times are sometimes out of the question but we must take care of ourselves. If you would like to join us for a fun afternoon you would be very welcome to join in. Next meeting:

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 in the Church Lounge @ 1.30pm.

## Mission Birthday Gift

*Marian Eagle.*

Each year many from St Paul's give an annual donation to Mission Birthday Gift during their birthday month.

Last year \$310.00 was forwarded to PWANZ to use for their Mission outreach.

Thank you so much for your donations.

<b>PARISH REGISTER</b>
<i>Rae Wildbore</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Joan Dodge died 2nd December, 2021</li><li>* Nancy Fraser Lyons died 19th January, 2022</li><li>* Valda Spiers died 13th February, 2022</li></ul> <p>Our loving sympathy goes to the families and friends of Joan, Nancy and Valda.</p>

## Upcoming Events

### **Napier Inner City Covenant Churches Services for Lent and Holy Week**



#### **Lenten Services**

Wed March 2nd	Ash Wednesday	7pm at the Cathedral
Wed March 9th	Lent Service	7pm at St Patrick's
Wed March 16th	Lent Service	7pm at Trinity Methodist
Wed March 23rd	Lent Service	7pm at the Cathedral
Wed March 30th	Lent Service	7pm at St Thomas More
Wed April 6th	Lent Service	7pm at St Paul's Church

#### **Easter Week Services**

Maundy Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Methodist/Presbyterian 7pm at St Paul's
Good Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Methodist/Presbyterian 9.30am at Trinity Methodist
Easter Day, Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	'He is Risen' Communion 10am at St Paul's

#### **Sally's farewell service and lunch – Save the date**

As you will be aware, Sally is retiring from ministry and Sunday the 8th of May, 10.30am will be her final service at St Paul's. We will have a Church lunch afterwards. More details to follow.



## **Regular Events**

**Sunday Services:** 9:15am and 10:30am services each Sunday (Except for Sun 6<sup>th</sup> March to Sun 27<sup>th</sup> March, one service only at 10am) First service 9:15am service not held on statutory holidays.

**Care and Share:** Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 1:30pm in the Church Lounge (February – November)

**Lunch group** meets monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at noon for food and fellowship at various venues around the city

**Jitterbugs** Pre-school Music and Movement each Tuesday from 9am (during the school term).

## **June Newsletter**

The closing date for contributions in the June newsletter will be **Monday, 16th May 2022**. Please forward articles to **Bridget** at the church office. Details below.

## **Contact Us**

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Phone .....

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

## Who's on 'Keith's Seat'?



Players from the New Zealand Concert Bands Association Festival take a break.