

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission"

NEWSLETTER - March, 2017

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Phone 835 5359. P O Box 310, Napier, 4140

Services of Holy Communion

Sunday, 5th March, at all services –

9.00 am, 10.30 am, 7pm

Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.



"This do in remembrance of Me."

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK THROUGH SMOOTH AND BUMPY TIMES.

Once when my youngest daughter was about 9, she was reflecting on how her life compared with the lives of the other children in her class. She decided that, as far as she knew, anyway, their lives were smooth and straight, while hers was rather bumpy and windy. She was quiet for a while and then said 'But I think I like my bumpy life better than their smooth ones.'

I imagine that most of you reading this have had a mix of bumpy and smooth rides as your lives have unfolded. Even when the road is bumpy, though, there are moments of joy, love, delight. Even when the reality of our lives includes fear, disappointment, anger, illness, loss these are very seldom the whole picture.

As we open our hearts and lives to God in bumpy times, we seek not so much reasons why but a pathway of wisdom in the midst of our pain and uncertainty. And we have been given a great resource for finding this wisdom. The Book of Psalms. The Psalms, the poetry of God's people, call out to God in both the smooth and bumpy times. In Psalm 13 we hear the impassioned cry '*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?*' And then we have the beloved familiarity of Psalm 23 – '*He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.*' And the exuberant praise of Psalm 150: '*Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*' Through the psalms we can give voice to our rage, our relief, our joy, our fear, our loneliness, our thanks, our wonder and our praise.

This week I came across two people who pray with the Psalms. One was Eugene Petersen, one of the most well-known and loved pastors of recent times. He is the one who gave us The Message paraphrase. The other was the immediate past Moderator of the PCANZ Andrew Norton. Both of them begin the day by a slow and attentive reading of a psalm. A different one for each morning. In praying the psalms, they openly offer to God the whole of their humanity. Through the psalmist they and we are helped to pray our feelings, taking them into the presence of God until we change or understand them. Praying the psalms helps us find

the path of wisdom, to accept the moment by moment experiences of our lives allowing both pleasant and painful experience to come and go as gifts of God.

Perhaps you might like to join me in praying with Psalms 27, 63 and 131. If we can spend 15 minutes a day with a psalm, that gives us time to listen to our story through God's voice.

In this particular bumpy stretch in my life, I am very grateful for the cloud of prayer that has supported and surrounded us as we take each step along this journey. Thank you so much!

May God bless you all this Lenten Season when we might well talk more about these things.

Sally

AN ELDER WRITES, - "SALT AND LIGHT" (MATTHEW 5: 13-16)

Have you ever failed to recognise something valuable? If you've watched Antiques Roadshow you will have seen many cases where someone has brought along to the show an artefact from their home, something that has been around for years, perhaps handed down through several generations; treasured because it was great- grandfather Robert's or it was brought back from India or some other far flung outpost of the Empire by Auntie Kath. After explaining its origins the owner sometimes gets a great surprise when the expert reveals the 'value' of the item. One of the most expensive objects to be sold as a result of being discovered on the show was a 1932 camera which realised over US\$600,000 in 2013.

Just like this camera, you and I are worth more than we sometimes think. Right now you may not feel like you are valuable - you might be reflecting on mistakes made or things not done or people not thought about or potential not realised. But, regardless of how you feel today, we consider you incredibly valuable.

Jesus said we are the Salt of the Earth but why did He say that? A long time ago ... before refrigerators, or freezers, or airconditioners ... people wanted to keep their food nice and fresh. One way they could do that was to cover it in salt, that way the food would stay fresh, it wouldn't go bad, or get rotten! In the ancient world, salt was very valuable: the Greeks thought it contained something almost divine, and the Romans sometimes paid their soldiers with salt. That's the origins of the word 'salary' and a soldier who didn't carry out his duties "was not worth his salt."

Jesus said we are the Salt of the Earth because we are what keeps it nice and fresh! We help keep the world from going bad, or getting totally rotten.

Thinking about the references to light I was reminded that the whole world is watching and we would hope that Christians cannot be hidden. What is valuable that is being lost and what can we do about keeping the light shining?

New Zealand has long enjoyed a reputation of having one of the least corrupt public sectors in the world. Apparently we rank number two on the 2014 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index and are considered to have a well-run, transparent public sector. My impression is that this is changing and if we as a society don't get this right we are potentially vulnerable to a repeat of the personal and economic catastrophes that followed the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and a host of other scandals since. The country is full of people whose moral compasses are in fine working order, but we must keep the light shining.

Very few of us here at St Paul's are active in the work place these days, but we must be involved in those places where we live our lives. We have an important role to play because we are the salt of the earth. Salt preserves and Christians help preserve what is good in our society and communities. This puts us in a tension because the dominant culture doesn't necessarily like us. What will we do if showing mercy, making peace, or working for justice jeopardises our position at work or in our Rotary Club or in our pipe

band? Withdrawing from the world is no answer for Christians, we must retain our “saltiness,” our distinctiveness. It’s a balancing act we’re called upon to maintain.

Yet, you may still be thinking, “I’m just not very impressive. I don’t have a lot of gifts or talents. I’m not educated. I’m not rich. I’m not outgoing. I’m not even good looking. How can God use me?” Remember that Jesus’ disciples were the little people of the world. Jesus Himself was a carpenter/preacher who was not much older than thirty. His disciples were the same age. They were not political leaders and they weren’t well educated. Some spoke with country accents. They didn’t come from wealthy or aristocratic families. They came from what we would call today small business and “blue-collar jobs.”

So if Jesus could call His disciples “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world,” He can say the same to you today. Our calling is to give the world a taste and glimpse of who Christ is. Just as the presence of salt and light cannot be hidden and their absence will be noticed, the kindness of the good person cannot be denied.
Kerry Marshall

LENTEN SERVICES - Theme: 30 years ago we signed The Covenant.

1st March, (Ash Wednesday) 7pm at St John’s Cathedral

8th March, 7pm at Knox Ahuriri

15th March 7pm at St Paul’s

22nd March 7pm at St Thomas More

29th March 7pm at Trinity Methodist

5th April 7pm at St Patrick’s

Please feel free to join in any of the above – 7pm each Wednesday during Lent.

FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

At our February meeting we discussed several matters of importance/interest to the congregation.

Now that the earthquake strengthening project has been completed the Board has asked the **Landscaping Project Group** to pick up from where it left off several years ago and come back to the congregation with ideas for the development of the church grounds. The group organised a useful round of consultation back in 2012 but things have changed so they will bring everything up to date and report back.

The movement of **vehicles in the church grounds**, especially those of people who are not parishioners, is of concern so we are trialling keeping the gates closed. During times when the church office is open one of the gates will be closed to discourage entry and to slow vehicles, but at other times both gates will be closed. You are welcome to continue using the grounds but please close the gates when you leave.

We are grateful to all those who played a role in the very successful **Art Deco Fete** on 18 February. The sum raised so far is \$3,343, an amazing result given the weather. Whether you provided something to sell or helped out or encouraged people to come along, thank you. And we are especially grateful to David Walker for organising everything once again. .

Kerry Marshall.

FAVOURITE HYMNS – Ella Haigh.



Angel Voices Ever Singing. Words by Francis Pott, who was born in Southwark in 1832. He took his Masters at Oxford and was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1857. He served in several parishes for, 25 years in his final one. Because of increasing deafness and general ill-health he had to take early retirement on 1891.

In his retirement he worked on a new Psalter, but it didn't have the success he anticipated. He was very interested in hymnology, and in 1861 he edited a collection of over 300 hymns from various sources. Included are sixteen of his own translations from the Latin. One of these is "The strife is o'er, the battle done", which is usually sung at Easter. Another is "Angel Voices ever singing", which he wrote for the dedication of the organ in the church of a friend. Rev. Frances Pott died in 1909 at the age of 77.

The tune, Arthog, was composed by George Thomas Thalben-Ball, born in 1896. I have an EP record of Eugene Goosens playing the oboe to the accompaniment of George on the organ of the Temple church in London.

Now thank we all our God, was written by Martin Rinkart, 1586-1649, and was translated into English by Catherine Winkworth in the 1800s. The tune we sing it to is 'Nun Danket', a later form of a melody by Johann Cruger, composed in the 17th Century.

During the Thirty years' War, (1620-1648) the little town of Eilenburg in Saxony suffered severely. It was sacked three times. Refugees poured in and the overcrowding produced the plague. Martin Rinkart was the only minister left, so he ministered to the sick and dying. He often took as many as fifty funerals a day, in all about 4,500.

When the war ended and the Peace of Westphalia was signed, the Elector of Saxony ordered Thanksgiving Services to be held in every church, and selected a text which began "Now bless ye the God of all". Rinkart was inspired to write the words of this hymn. It has been translated into many languages and we sing it to Catherine Winkworth's translation. This hymn is often sung at thanksgiving celebrations.

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end. Rev. John Ernest Bode lived in the 19th century and published a book of hymns in 1860. This hymn, which he wrote for a children's confirmation service, is the only one that has survived.

There are seven tunes that can be used. "Songs of Praise" choirs are spoilt for choice, but woe betide the producer who chooses the 'wrong' one. Everyone knows that there is a 'right' and a 'wrong' tune, but ideas of what each is are different. We usually sing the hymn to 'Wolvercote' by William Harold Ferguson. It can be sung to "Thornbury" by Basil Harwood, which is the tune for 'Your hand, O God, has guided'.

Action is the theme of Bode's intensely personal prayer of self-dedication. The result of promising to serve Jesus was at the heart of a 1980's broadcast when Malcolm Muggeridge at 80 years of age interviewed Catherine Bramwell-Booth, Salvation Army Commissioner, as she celebrated her 100th birthday.

THANKS.

We've received letters from World Vision and Save the Children, thanking us for supporting them over the past years. Your contributions to the Retiring Offerings on the last Sunday of each month help to make a difference in the lives of those SCF and World Vision work with. So thank you for helping in this way.

From Chigodi in Malawi, Stonard Sintirawu writes "Education has been a big focus for us this past year. By teaching the parents the importance of education, and creating a by-law to ensure children attend school has resulted in increased attendances. Children's reading and writing skills are improving thanks to the improved teaching methods and use of local age-appropriate books. Another focus has been on improving family livelihoods. 460 farmers were loaned seeds and fertilizer which helped their crop yield, and they

were able to pay back these loans as they were able to sell their crops. And with the aid of irrigation equipment 101 farmers have increased their output.”

The child we support in Chigodi is Facob Evereen. He is 8 years old, in Grade 1 and with the help of a volunteer he has filled in a colourful questionnaire which states that his favourite subjects are English and Maths, he goes to school on foot, starts school at 7am and finishes at noon, would like to be a nurse someday, is good at drawing, favourite foods are banana and carrot, he knows to wash hands regularly, and it is important to go to hospital when sick. Malaria is a common health challenge in his community.

Gareth Davies of Save the Children writes about SCF providing clean water in drought-stricken parts of Papua New Guinea, training Nepalese villages in commercial farming, and last November for the first time ever in New Zealand put their global experience to work in Kaikoura with Child Friendly Space Programme. “Even with the logistical difficulties we encountered helping the children was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had. We could see the difference on parents’ faces when they knew their children were going to be safe and they were able to get on with sorting out work and taking care of the house, etc. ‘without having to worry about our kids for a bit’.

“So thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to respond in times of emergency and also allows us to commit to long-term projects like our school in the brothel of Daulatdia, Bangladesh.”
(ed)

AND MORE THANKS

And it rained, and it rained, but the folk at St Paul’s were not daunted, and the Art Deco Fete went ahead with all the usual activities – music, Devonshire Teas, Barbeque, Stalls of crafts, jewellery, baking, collectibles, all combining to help raise over 3,300. So a big THANK YOU to all who helped in any way. What a great team of people – those who erected the gazebos, who served on the stalls, who fed the patrons, and those who supplied the goods to sell, and the organizer of it all. And thanks too to the Pipe Band who again kept toes tapping.

Well done, everyone.

(ed)

MEMORIES ABOUT SOME OF THE ITEMS AT ST PAUL’S **AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?**

From the first newsletter at **St Peter’s** dated July 1963 and other annual reports.

The Rev. Duncan Jamieson was appointed to be the interim moderator and 400 letters were sent out to homes in Pirimai, Maraenui and Onekawa and early replies resulted in 86 communicant members, 4 others wishing to become members and 41 wishing to be associated with the parish.

The first service was held on a Sunday evening and taken by Mr A.M. Lascelles. At a meeting following the service it was agreed that the church be called St. Peters. Greetings were received from neighbouring parishes and a gift of a Communion cup and plate and tray was made by St. Columba’s Taradale. and good wishes expressed from the Rev W. Moore of Ahuriri Putorino and the Rev. W.R. Hay of St. Paul’s. The first minister the Rev. Ian Hewson was inducted in September 1963.

We could ask where the Communion chalice and plate are now. They are in the first aid cupboard among first aid items and now number six. One from St. David’s, one from the Congregational Church and the one from St. Peter’s/St. Stephen’s.

Could they not be cleaned and displayed in a glass fronted cabinet as part of our history? It is surely time to recognise the history of these items while there are still some people who can record these items.

That now brings us to communion tables. I do not know the history of the table currently being used at St. Paul's. The small table in a corner of the church came from St. David's when they united at St Peter's and was housed in the foyer at the Morris Spence Church. The communion table in the foyer at St. Paul's was donated along with two communion chairs by Mr A.M. Lascelles in the early days at St. Peter's/St. Stephens and the small carved table just inside the entrance door of the Church was the first communion table at the Miller Memorial church in Carlyle Street in 1890s. The six communion chairs made by Nicholsons Funeral directors at a cost of 50 pounds each were donated by members of the congregational church. These were used so that the deacons could sit around the table. When the move was made to St. Paul's the communion table, lectern and baptismal font were donated to a pacific island church in south Auckland. The chairs are currently stored in Asher Hall, as is the memorial stone donated when that church was named a memorial church early in the 1900's in memory of the first minister who was buried in the old Napier cemetery. There was an undertaking that it would be erected in St. Paul's church when St Stephen's people came to St. Paul's over 10 years ago. In addition the baptismal font in the body of the church was made in oak and donated by John Oliver before he moved to Putararu.

Anne Silson.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING

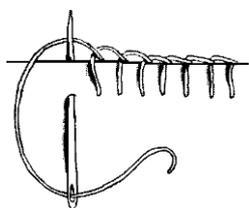
Scientists are telling us that we will have more frequent incursions of insect pests. They will come in via luggage of travellers, they will come in via containers. Containers have many tiny spaces where these little nasties can hide. They will come in on produce, despite our best efforts at the border.

As a result we will, according to scientists, be exposed to insect-borne diseases that we do not have at present. What do we do? Be more vigilant at the border? I have a great-niece who works on border control at Wellington airport. She has told me that she loves her work, but finds it very exacting, searching crevices, but she enjoys it very much. Just the sort of job she hoped for, once she was in the job market after varsity.

All incoming passenger aircraft should have to educate passengers as to our border control re food. When we watch "Border Control" it is obvious that people try to get away with well, not murder, but with idiocy and cheating. Are the fines high enough? *Isabel Morgan*

COMING UP 3rd April, 2017.

A STITCH IN TIME



This is important to all ladies interested in fun and fellowship. Our meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays each month April to October, in the Church lounge. Come any time after 1.30pm to have a browse and chat BUT we won't start any demos until after 2p.m. Cuppa and biscuit will be served at 3pm, but there's no rush to get away.

The group was started to share craft skills, have fun and fellowship with other women and chat and meet new friends. We saw great fellowships develop last year and hope this will continue. We hear lots of laughter and that is the best medicine of all. Bring a friend along. You never know there could be new members out there. \$2 per meeting covers most expenses and we always have a sales table so please come prepared.

Happy stitching. Enquiries to Dorothy findot@xtra.co.nz or Phone 8431266

BARBEQUE – BIBLE SOCIETY

When: Saturday 11th March **Time:** 6pm **Where:** All Saints' Church, Taradale.

Cost: \$12 **Speaker:** Rev. Dr. Duncan Layton

For catering purpose, we would appreciate knowing numbers prior to the event,
Please Ella or Isabel for tickets.

H.B. PRESBYTERIAL will meet at St. Paul's on Thursday 9th March. All women are welcome, and as our speaker is Sally Russell's husband, men are especially welcome. Part of our project this year is for Nicaragua, and he will tell us of his experiences there.

Morning tea at 10.30am. Meeting at 11am.

Please remember our sales table, stamps and envelopes.

Isabel Morgan.

AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP

The first meeting for the year will be held on Wednesday 22nd March at 1.30.p.m.

Everyone is welcome to hear an interesting speaker and have input into the meeting. No finance needed but a great afternoon tea.

Marian Emslie convening.

JAM STALL

A great thankyou to all those people who have provided jars and sugar. They are greatly appreciated. At the moment I have had to buy only size 300 gms jars and all I need is that size and small jars especially for Lemon Curd. I make for the Church all year as fruit becomes available. It has been a lean year with crop failures. I would be grateful for quinces and citrus fruit later on or any other fruit that you could spare..

We were down on money for the fete but will sell on our stall on a Saturday at the Church if fine, and add to the fetes total.

Marian Emslie

Don Ransom picked up a little book of the World's stupidest signs, here are a few of them.

In a Jewellery store "Genuine Faux Pearls."

"Bottomless pit 65 feet deep."

Sign in a drycleaners "Able to do the worst possible job".

"No parking above this sign."

Near a river in Europe – "Danger ahead. Fasten safety belts and remove dentures".

"Animals drive very slowly".

On English farm. "Sheep, please keep dogs under control."

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