



# **St Paul's Presbyterian Church**

**"Partners in God's Mission of Love"**

## **NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2019**



**"This do in remembrance of Me."**

### **Services of Holy Communion**

**Sunday, 8 September 2019 at 9.15, 10.30am and 7pm services**

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



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## **From the Minister's Desk**

Partners in God's Mission of Love

*Reverend Sally Carter*

Body, Mind and Soul



Last Sunday evening I came to St Paul's. Not, as I sometimes would, to lead an evening service, but to come to a concert. A violinist and a guitarist, classical music combined with folk music. The group was called Fire and Grace. Fire and Grace reminded me of Jesus - the Human One - who came to bring fire to cleanse the sin of the world and grace to heal.

It was warm inside the sanctuary. Warm from the heaters, warm from the buzz of conversation among old friends and new acquaintances. Warm from the anticipation of the music we would share. Warm from the hospitality of a place of peace.

The violinist was very tall, with long freely flowing hair, the guitarist definitely not tall, his short hair neat. As the music was about to begin, they looked at each other and with the slightest of nods began the music. And the audience were connected too. We were more than an audience... we were active participants in this meeting of body, mind and soul.

The stories of the music took us from Sweden to Ireland to Bulgaria, from the 18th century to the 21st. We were soothed by lullabies, enlivened by jigs, inspired by the music of great composers. We could see and feel the passion for the music, the joy and commitment of the players. We lived the embodiment of the rhythm of the soul as the musicians moved with the music.

Behind them, the ancient wisdom of the Iona cross, the richness of the wood in the communion table, the lecterns, the pulpit, the light shining on the communion chalice added to the meeting of body and soul now and through the ages.

And afterwards we shared supper - tables abundantly laden with the fruit of the earth, feeding our bodies and our conversation.

And there and then, I felt the presence of Christ. Wherever body, mind and soul meet, where earth and heaven touch, where the goodness of God meets our frail humanity, where the infinite touches the ordinary, Christ is there.

May you know the presence of Christ in your heart and in your life.

All blessings

*Sally*

## **Editorial**

*Rae Wildbore & Pam Clare*

A warm welcome to Pam Clare as she joins the editorial team of the quarterly Church Newsletter. We look forward to your contribution Pam. Kerry Marshall, who is involved with many community activities, has taken some well-earned leave.

Thank you, Kerry, for your leadership, contributions and guidance during the publication of the first five issues; your expertise has been very much appreciated. Thank you also to our contributors; this is your Newsletter and we appreciate receiving your articles.

Our quarterly newsletter publication coincides with our quarterly invitation to the celebration of communion to which everyone is welcome to join on Sunday, 8 September. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The winter season is almost over; may we look forward to the season of Spring with its promise of new life, in our gardens and in rural fields, with faith, hope and love. The closing date of the Christmas Edition of the newsletter will be 18 November.

## **Quilters' exhibition**

*Lynne Arnold*

It was a real privilege to be able to provide a venue for the 2019 More Quilters' exhibition back in June. Every two years the group takes the opportunity to hold an exhibition, showing off the work the group members have been busy working on. This is the first time we have used a church as a venue and I am sure it won't be the last. St Paul's proved to be the perfect place to display the nearly 100 pieces of work. Quilts were draped over the pew backs making it easy to view them and get a good look at the work involved in each one. The lighting and wood in the church set the colours of the work off beautifully, especially in the evening.



So many people stood in the door to the church and just said "Wow", or something similar as they got their first glimpse of the work on display. It was a breath-taking and inspiring sight! So, thank you St Paul's for the use of your building, and thank you St Paul's for being so welcoming, and relaxed about people coming into the church and for sharing your sanctuary with the community. Many who attended had never been inside the building and were surprised that it was such a beautiful place. Some who had attended had been married in the church, but never been back. They enjoyed the opportunity to revisit. Please see St Paul's Facebook page to see colour photographs of the quilts.



## **Isabel Morgan MNZM, Elder Emeritus**

*Pam Clare*

In March this year after retiring from Session, Isabel was awarded the honour of Elder Emeritus to mark our gratitude for her long and extensive service to St Paul's as an elder, a youth

leader, a Sunday school teacher and an active member of many parish groups. Isabel became an elder in 1975 and it is noteworthy that she and Jill McConnochie, after one hundred and seventeen years since the founding of the parish, were the first women to be invited to join Session.

Isabel became a member of St Paul's in 1954 when she moved to Napier to take up a teaching position at the new Onekawa School. Rev James Gray was the minister, followed shortly after by Rev Ron Hay. The morning congregation was large, requiring extra seats to be put out for communion, with a well-attended, full evening service.



In 1967, Isabel was asked by Rev Hay to become a bible class leader and when in 1981 she passed this role on to Lynne and Murray Arnold, Ray Arnold wondered if she could give a term to the Sunday school. One term became twenty years of service as a Sunday school teacher.

As well as her many contributions to life at St Paul's, Isabel has always been active in the wider church community including Presbyterian and the Napier Action Group of the Bible Society, with fundraising for the National Bible Society to go towards overseas projects. The Philemon group, with a focus on justice and peace, was formed as a result of an elders' retreat shortly after the beginning of Rev Colin English's ministry in 1982.

Alongside Isabel's commitment to the church and to her Christian faith and belief in social justice, has been her deep care and concern for God's creation through her advocacy for the environment. She has been a member of Forest and Bird since 1956 and remains an honorary member of the Napier branch committee. She was a founder of the Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society (formed in 1981) when it was realised that more was needed to save the estuary from further degradation. Many of us who enjoy the walking track and watching the increasing

variety and number of water birds feel thankful for the difference Isabel has made by raising awareness of environmental issues, locally and nationally. Becoming a Member of the NZ Order of Merit for services to conservation was well deserved.

And thank you, Isabel, for your regular contributions to this newsletter in your “Environmentally Speaking” column. You wrote most recently about the predator threat as a result of the beech trees’ prolific mast year and questioning if the vision of a predator free NZ can be achieved.

You quoted “where there is no vision the people perish”. We are grateful for your vision and your active contribution to our church and community.

### **Report from the Board of Managers**

*Elizabeth Willis, Board of Managers Chairman*

The Board of Managers is a committee of the parish appointed by the Congregation to undertake oversight of the financial and property affairs of the parish. We are well served by a Treasurer and the financial team at the Napier Family Centre. Much has changed from the earlier times of men in dark business suits; two women were appointment to the Board in 1975 and the current Board of eight members includes one sole male.

Our main concerns are to stay on top of maintenance without compromising the budget. A figure extracted from a year or two ago shows it costs \$2,000 per person each year to keep St Paul’s operational, so the question posed is what can you do to help?

## **Fireside**

*Helen Morgan*

At our recent Fireside meeting, we had Kirsten Thompson from Enliven who showed and explained to us how to Live Stronger for Longer to prevent falls and fractures. Kirsten worked us through a few simple, but effective standing exercises. Kirsten demonstrated and encouraged us to practice how to get ourselves up off the floor if we had a fall. We were all given an excellent book entitled "Love Your Independence" which is full of useful information.



## **Our Church family**

*Fakaofu, Moderator*



The Lord God called you, planted and nurtured you. "Do not be afraid, I will save you. I have called you by name - you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

Israel's journey from Egypt to the promised land was not a smooth and peaceful journey. There was tension, struggle and hardship. Our Church, as a denomination, as a family and as a community, are also on a journey where our resolve is tested. Our struggles and challenges are real.

There are changes taking place in our church communities: a shifting of some major parts of our "Presbyterian way", declining membership, amalgamation, church closures and a shortage of key leaders. It appears to be a downward spiral of irrelevancy and the sceptic would paint a picture of doom and gloom.

In my experience and from my travels and witness of our people, I believe that the Church family/whanau is moving along in line with our times. We are resilient and adaptable to change with the times. There are some fascinating stories,



events, ministries in our family, and what I have seen is but a glimpse of the vast faith living events happening within our Church family.

The opening of St Paul Trinity Pacific hall in Christchurch was a massive achievement by our people. Their strong infrastructure, leadership, vision and endeavour was a sight to behold. It is always the people: the people, their story and their faith stands out and is an inspiration.

The formation of Hope Whangarei from three churches to one was a sign of the times. There is excitement and confidence in this new ministry. Change is not a popular part of human existence, I believe, but it is, at times, a necessity. And with insight, belief and prayer within the family, there is confidence, determination and a new ministry in born.

The Connect gathering of our youth leaders was an incredible event. Our young folks turned up in numbers from all over New Zealand. We also welcomed youth from Taiwan and Vanuatu. Our tangata whenua family, predominantly of the Tuhoe iwi welcomed, hosted, educated us, as we all merged as one in Christ. There was great preparation, good speakers, workshops and our young people experienced many spiritual moments. It was well led and prayerfully organised. My soul rejoices.

These are just a few current events in the life of your Church family. There are many, many more. Your Church is alive, moving, inspiring, transforming and blessed by the Spirit of God. It is always about the people. The love of God in Jesus Christ prevails. The Word became flesh, our Saviour lead us. Be blessed.

## Our Brick Church

*Sylvia Low*

In the NZ Heritage magazine 2009, there is an article by Judy Siers about the Ennor family of Napier. John Ennor, son Bill and grandson Jack were the sub-contractors for the brickwork of the church in Dalton St. Jack's uncle Vivian was proud of the family's achievements and believed the pinnacle of their career was the contract for the brickwork on St Paul's Presbyterian Church. "At the time of the 1931 earthquake, the building was nearly completed," he wrote. "It was engulfed by the fire that destroyed the city. I had attached myself to the fire brigade and a man came along to where we were working and said St Paul's had just caught alight. We rushed to Tennyson Street, set up the hydrant there and turned on the water - but there was no water".



"Not a brick on this building, fell so it could have been restored, but the church people decided to demolish it. The successful tenderer thought he would recover thousands of bricks, but so thorough was the workmanship, he didn't get one. It had to be broken into slabs which were dumped at the breakwater."

Jack Ennor and a cousin were on the scaffolding around the steeple at the time of the quake and watched Napier collapse. John had mentioned a few days earlier that the scaffolding was not strong enough and this had been strengthened and remained standing. Controversy obviously surrounded the demolition of the building with Guy Natush wanting it to remain as an icon of triumph over adversity.

Today, of course, the wall behind car parks 1-3 still stands, and we can watch waves splashing over the breakwater and our bricks.

## **St Paul's Visit to Mahana**

*Jill McConnochie*

Each month at their regular meetings, Session nominates a local charity to receive a \$100 donation. I realise that this is quite a small amount compared to an organisation's needs, but it shows our gratitude and appreciation of the work they do for others less well off than ourselves. It also lets them know that we are thinking of them and in some small way share in their task. Some who have received donations recently are Hohepa, Family Works, Teen parenting unit at Colenso and Mahana.

Earlier this year, I went with Sally to Mahana in Marewa and were greeted by their chief carer who once happened to live next door to us on the hill. She and our daughter used to walk to school together. Yvette loves her job, as do her staff of caring men and women, and their clients enjoy the staff too. It seemed a very happy place. We joined the men and women for morning tea in a bright sunlit room with colourful items of their art and craft on the walls. Mahana gives day care respite to carers of men and women with early dementia, and speaking to some of the clients, they seemed pretty clued up. It was easy to have an interesting conversation with them. They participate in a number of activities based on Active Brain programmes. Discussion groups encourage them to voice their own opinions. They have visits weekly to the Taradale Library and The City Gym. They play table tennis, have a Knit & Natter Group; craft groups; rhythm group and music - all play a good part. They sometimes have a one-off event such as bringing a group to at Bluff Hill Bowls at Art Deco weekend to enjoy the music and to watch some of the colourful Art Deco clad players.

Yvette told me that with the money from St Paul's, a group bought some annuals which they planted and have been enjoying the colourful results.

## **Environmentally Speaking**

*Isabel Morgan*

It is not surprising to hear that deer are eating the young beech trees in the Kaweka Forest. They are like ice cream for deer.

That set me thinking about the pests in New Zealand. How did they come into our country? Well, we know the story of the rabbits and mustelids, but who brought in deer? Was it to satisfy man's primeval urge to be the gatherer of food for the tribe? Who brought in wallabies? Was it Sir George Grey? Why were Himaylan Thar brought in? It seems the latter was just to satisfy some hunting instinct and overseas hunters pay to chase the Thar. We may have learnt a lesson.

## **The Birthday Mission Gift**

*Marian Eagle*

The Birthday Mission Gift has been running for over 100 years in various forms and has been administered by The Association of Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand (APW) for many years. The money is forwarded from Parishes to the APW each year for distribution to various areas of our national church's work such as Global Mission and to projects overseas and within New Zealand. Last year, members of St Paul's donated \$315; some years it can be up to \$400. If anyone would like to join, I would love to include them. They will receive a donation envelope during their birthday month. Presently, only two people contribute during the months of June and July, so take note those with a Gemini or Cancer star sign. Interestingly, nearly half of the money arrives in November and December when there seem to be a lot of birthdays happening within the congregation. Do contact me if you wish to join and make an annual donation.

## **World Vision (August)**

*Submitted by Marion Fell*

Thank you so much for your kind-hearted support of Everen. We also want to share a story of inspiration: Our team member Tony Rinaudo is transforming deserts into forests - and giving millions of vulnerable people the ability to grow food and earn family incomes using previously dry, unworkable land. This is the sort of game-changing progress you're fuelling with your compassionate support.

## **Seven Blunders of the World – Mahatma Ghandi**

*Submitted by Jill McConnochie*

Picked up on my travels and I thought worth sharing.

- 1 Wealth without work
- 2 Pleasure without conscience
- 3 Knowledge without character
- 4 Commerce without morality
- 5 Science without humanity

## **Welcome to new members**

We are pleased to officially recognise parishioners who became St Paul's members in June: Asi To'omata, Varna Day, Mike and Bev Coghill, Meg Sillay, Bart Visscher, Carroll Noble and Roger Phillips.

## **Parish Register**

*Rae Wildbore*

### **Funerals**

Kerry Veda Duncan QSM died 13 June 2019. We extend our loving sympathy to the family.

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## Regular Events

- **Sunday Services:** 9:15am and 10:30am services each Sunday and 7pm evening service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month (NB: 9:15am service not held on statutory holidays)
- **Care and Share:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays from 1:30 until done in the church lounge (April – October)
- **Fireside group** meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the lounge (February to November)
- **Cards 500:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 1.30pm in the 3<sup>rd</sup> office
- **Lunch group** meets monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at noon for food and fellowship at various venues around the city
- **Choir** meets each Sunday at 9.30am in the church
- **Jitterbugs Pre-school Music and Movement** each Tuesday from 9am (during the school term)

## Upcoming Events

	September
7 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Blaikie workshop 8:45am-4pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Communion all services
15 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Flower Service
21 <sup>st</sup>	Presbytery Gathering at St Andrews, Hastings
22 <sup>nd</sup>	St Pauls' AGM
29 <sup>th</sup>	Breakfast @ church 9:15am
	October
27 <sup>th</sup>	No first service (Labour Day and Hawke's Bay Anniversary Day)
	November
	Nil at the time of printing

## Contact Us

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