

# St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

## NEWSLETTER - September 2017



### From the Minister's Desk

'From the Minister's Desk' will be back next month. *The Black Dot* reflection which follows comes from Dave Thomas... Thanks Dave!

### The Black Dot

Submitted by Dave Thomas; Author unknown

One day, a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin. The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers. To everyone's surprise, there were no questions – just a black dot in the center of the sheet of paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following: "I want you to write about what you see there". The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable tasks. At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams and started reading each one of them out loud in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet. After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain: "I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same happens in our lives. We have a white piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots."

Our life is a gift given to us by God, with love and care, and we always have reasons to celebrate – nature renewing itself every day, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see every day... however, we insist on focusing only on the dark spot – the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend. The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they're the ones that pollute our mind. Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love!

### Nominations for Board of Managers

Elizabeth Willis

In accordance with the terms of reference for Board of Managers, those Managers who have served a term of three years or more will retire by rotation, but be eligible for re-election. Those retiring by rotation at the 2017 AGM are Kerry Marshall, Janice Tucker and Christine Woodward. The remaining members are Sylvia Low, Dorothy Finlayson, Margaret Greig, Helen Morgan, Stan Mulder, Dave Thomas, David Walker and Liz Willis. Nominations are invited from members of the congregation who consider they have the attributes to serve on the Board. Forms are available in the foyer or from the Church office. All nominations must be lodged by Sunday, 10 September 2017 with Liz Willis (Secretary, Board of Managers) or left at the Church office.

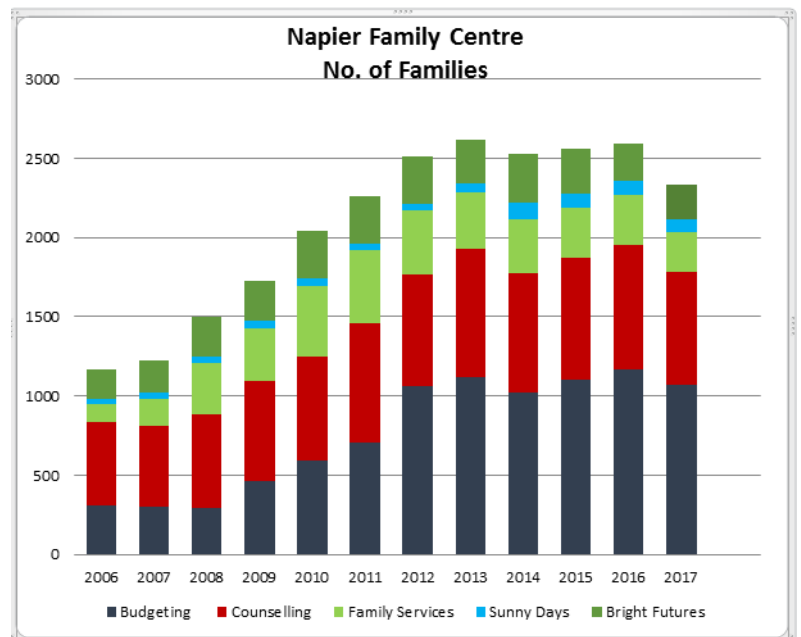
### The Napier Family Centre

Kath Curran, Chief Executive, Napier Family Centre

Next month marks Napier Family Centre's tenth anniversary in the remodelled old St Stephens Church building on the corner of Morris Spence and Wycliffe Streets in Onekawa. For those of us who were part of the move 10 years ago from the Cathedral Lane building it still feels great to enjoy the free parking, comfortable office spaces, counselling and interview rooms and heat pumps. The community

also responded to the shift and the families engaging with services have more than doubled from 1100 families to over 2500 per annum across our budgeting, family social work, counselling, parenting education, children’s courses and early childhood education services. This graph shows the rapid rise in our services over the past 11 years.

It is coincidence but feels like a timely milestone to have received grants from Eastern & Central Community Trust and the Lotteries Community Facilities this year to further improve these premises. This past month the playgroup hall has been upgraded with insulated ceiling, lighting and that marvellous invention of air-conditioning/heat pump. Just a few finishing touches still needed but fully functional so, already, within a few days the hall has been humming with activity with the community hip-hop for under five year olds, the Onekawa community playgroup, our own Bright Futures playgroup, and the term’s community programmes are underway – Parenting Teenagers, Positive Parenting, Incredible Years and Just for Kids. Nearing completion is our new training room and another interview room. Without doubt these spaces will be put to great use.



Well before Napier Family Centre moved into St Paul’s Onekawa complex the community parent-led playgroup provided time for parents to meet with each other and children play and socialise. Ten years on this group is still going strong. In more recent times we have seen the addition of the Hawke’s Bay Community Law who have run their busy Friday Napier clinic from our premises for the past eighteen months.

Late last year the Community Connexions team gave us a day of gardening that fully established our community garden and fruit trees. A grant from NCC along with volunteers and expertise from Te Whakaritorito Trust and Volunteering HB made the dream of ten years ago for an edible fruit forest a reality. This project has made the place more welcoming and people delight in taking produce that they can use to enhance their family meal. I guess it is ok that, for some good things, it takes time. There is immediate urgency though in our city for support for individuals, families and children who are struggling under a load of debt, housing shortage, insecure work, family violence, health issues, stress and the trauma of abuse, loss and grief.

There’s a lot of insecurity in the not-for-profit sector as funding is sporadic and scarce. We remain incredibly grateful to our landlords of the last ten years, St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, who have shown us great faith and been solid partners in establishing a place that I have heard more than one client say ‘is a godsend’.

**HB Presbyterial**

Isabel Morgan Convenor

Meeting will be held at St Paul’s on Thursday, 7 September with morning Tea at 10am; communion at 10.30am; and followed by AGM and a short general meeting. Between these two meetings, Sally Russell will speak briefly of her work on the Board of CWS. All are welcome.

## **These days**

Isabel Morgan - Liaison

Many groups/businesses etc. are identified by initials only. So, PCANZ is an easy one for us, but what about PWANZ? If you are a woman, and identify the PCANZ as your 'home Church' then you are a PWANZ (singular.) However, in all or most areas of NZ PWANZ join, combine local church women into a group called Presbyterial. As you will read in another notice in this newsletter, HB Presbyterial will meet on 7 September at St Paul's. You are all very welcome to come to this meeting and here is some even better news. You will NOT be rushed on to a committee – We do not have one! Do come, bring a friend, and enjoy a time of Fellowship. (Men welcome, too)

## **Film, Coffee, Desert**

Jill McConnochie

The Fireside group invites you to come and see "Boy Choir". A lad from a broken home, without any knowledge of music, but with a great voice, joins a school that focuses on music and is pitched in among lads who "know it all". The film is 99 minutes long, has wonderful music and interesting encounters and incidents among the boys. Please come and support this evening. Tickets, limited to 40, will be available from Fireside Group members.

When: Friday, 29th September at 7pm

Venue: St Paul's Lounge

Cost: \$10 for film and tasty refreshments

## **Session Initiative July 2017**

Lynne Arnold (on behalf of Session)

The July donation was made to Whatever it Takes, better known as WIT. WIT has been working with clients in Hawke's Bay since 2000, when they had one client. Now there are 300 clients on the books. The service was originally borne out of some work done at The Light House in Napier, a drop in centre run for people who have experience of mental illness. Some of the clients had fallen through the cracks of the mental health system and needed advocacy as well as resources to find their way back into the community. They were commonly referred to as the "too-hard basket" and were either living on the street or not far from it.

The name WIT came from Hawke's Bay DHB clinical team manager John Conneely, who, when asked at a meeting why WIT was being successful, said, "Because they do whatever it takes."

WIT now operates a Lighthouse day centre in Napier and Hastings, recovery programmes at Manaia House in Napier, assists people into safe affordable housing, has a number of residential care facilities, employs advocates to assist mental health consumers, operates "return to work" programmes and provides whatever support folk with mental health difficulties need to live well in the community.

The August 2017 donation was made to help with postage of the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes that the members of the Stitches Group have put together.

## **From the Board of Managers**

Elizabeth Willis, Secretary

### *Napier Family Centre Refurbishment Project*

Earlier this year, St Pauls was approached by Kath Curran, Chief Executive Officer of the Napier Family Centre (NFC), with a plan to enhance the facility to better meet the needs of a growing clientele. The NFC operates from premises which are amalgam of parts of parts of the old St Peters Church and the newer structure of St Stephens Church.

You can read about this work in the NFC report from Kath Curran on pages 1 and 2 of this Newsletter.

St Paul's Church has planned to upgrade the toilet facilities which were built in the 1960s. They are of poor quality and not what the parish as landlord should be providing. Maintenance co-ordinator Frank Carter noted accelerated deterioration of the toilet block with a real danger of being imprisoned by a jammed door or a fall through rotting floorboards, in his report of 14 August. The Board of Managers

meeting on 15 August resolved to proceed forthwith and accepted a quote of \$76,912.36 from Oak Construction for extensive refurbishment work subject to the various church approvals required.

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, 3 September at 11.30am to discuss the recommendation that the Parish (subject to the approval of Presbytery and the Church Property Trustees) accept the quotation from Oak Construction for the sum of \$73,912.63 for the refurbishment of the toilets at the Onekawa Complex, 112 Morris Spence Avenue.

The NFC is carrying out work that the Parish would consider to be highly relevant to its mission for this community. We trust we have the support of the wider congregation in proceeding with this expenditure to complete the upgrade and support the NFC.

### **Christmas Card for Everin**

Marion Fell

Everin is our World Vision sponsored child per Sunday retiring offerings (also Save the Children). Thank you to those whose names were added to her special NZ Pohutukawa-Kowhai Christmas card after morning service to add a more "personal touch for her Christmas greetings. Everin lives in Chigodi community- the largest (29,000 people in 151 villages) which is one of x3 sponsored by World Vision in Malawi.

World Vision has long-term programmes to build up communities, look at root causes of poverty, help families become resilient and give children the tools and education they need to have a brighter future. Your support is drilling new boreholes for clean water, improving education, helping kids stay in school (particularly girls), providing healthcare to pregnant women and young mums, treating malnutrition in young children, making sure families have food year-round and more! Thank you all for this continuing support.

### **Pastoral Care Winter Luncheon**

Dorothy Finlayson (on behalf of the team)

A very successful luncheon was held in the St Paul's lounge on Thursday, 10 August 2017. Forty members of our congregation arrived on a sunny winter day and were greeted by members of the Hospitality Team. A two-course meal was enjoyed and followed by tea, coffee and slice. We then broke into song which brought back many memories of the old time sing-a-long around the piano. Special thanks to the kitchen team, cooks and transport group. Everyone made this a very special gathering.

### **Environmentally Speaking**

Isabel Morgan

Just to add to last month, a friend told me that her son-in-law is joining the lukewarm campaign to get rid of plastic bags. Time was such when we all took our own bags (not plastic) for our shopping. Too easy for shoplifters today? Probably. But at least we do not need the plastic bags from the supermarket, if we think ahead.

A Hastings friend, an active environmentalist, recently made a great discovery. He was quite elated. He said to me, "we don't take plastic bags from the supermarket now. We just put everything back in the trolley, wheel it out to the car and put it all into our own bags in the boot!" I could have looked at him witheringly and reminded him that I had told him that is our method some years ago, but being a good friend, I nobly refrained, smiled sweetly, and said, "That's great! Pass that idea on to others won't you? "

Today, so many goods are packed in plastic, but at least some of it is recyclable. We look for the triangle.

## Hymns

Ella Haigh

*Let all the world in every corner sing*

Written by George Herbert who lived in the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries and 500 years later we are still singing this hymn. George Herbert was of aristocratic stock and was born in Montgomery Castle in 1593. His father died when he was four and his mother cared for the large family. He had tutors until he was twelve and then attended Westminster School where he gained a scholarship for Trinity College, Cambridge. There he took his MA degree and was Orator for eight years.

Herbert came to the attention of King James I and spent five or six years in court. This life of pleasure caused him to neglect his duties; therefore, he wasn't given a state appointment. Instead, the King gave him a living at Whitford at £120 a year. He took the advice of his mother to give up his life of pleasure. After a serious illness, he decided to enter the ministry. He was ordained and became rector of a small country parish near Salisbury. After three years there, he died of consumption at the age of 39. He wrote 169 poems and 2 have become hymns both being in *With One Voice* (this one and *Teach me, my God and King*).

*Lord, your almighty word* (formerly *Thou, whose almighty word*)

Old folk tunes can be found in many modern hymnbooks, but it was rather incongruous having the tune of the British National Anthem, supposedly chosen by John Marriott, for this hymn. That didn't least and now Felice Giardini's tune 'Moscoe' is in regular use. John, born in 1780, was the son of a minister and received his early education at Rugby School. At Christ Church, Oxford, he took First Class honours. He then became private tutor in the family of the Duke of Buccleuch. While there, he met Sir Walter Scott who dedicated to him part of his long poem 'Marmion'.

When his duties finished, the Duke presented Marriott with the living of Church Lawford, near Rugby, for the rest of his life. Because of the ill health of his wife, they had to move to the warmer climate of the south. He acted as curate in various parishes in Devon. He died in 1825. None of the hymns he wrote were published in his lifetime. *Though whose almighty work*, the only one in common use, was written in about 1813.

## Puns for educated minds

- The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran
- A backward poet writes inverse
- When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion

## October Newsletter

Items for the October Newsletter to the Parish Office (stpaulsnapier@gmail.com) by Monday, 25 September 2017

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

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

# September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 12noon Parish Luncheon Group @ Napier RSA	2 9am Praying together
3 <b>WORSHIP</b> 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice 11.30am Congregational meeting	4 1.30pm Stitch n Time	5 9am Jitterbugs 7pm Session	6 1.30pm '500' Cards	7 10am HB Presbyterial AGM at St Paul's	8	9 9am Praying together
10* <b>WORSHIP</b> Communion 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice Spring Festival	11	12 9am Jitterbugs 7.30pm Fireside	13 1.30pm '500' Cards 7.30pm Bible Study	14	15	16 9am Praying together
17 <b>WORSHIP</b> 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	18 1.30pm Stitch n Time	19 9am Jitterbugs 7pm Board of Managers	20 1.30pm '500' Cards	21	22	23 9am Praying together
24 <b>WORSHIP</b> 9.15, 10.30, 7pm 9.30 choir practice	25	26 9am Jitterbugs	27 1.30pm Afternoon Fellowship 7:30pm Bible Study	28	29	30 9am Praying together

\*1.30pm Meet the Candidates, Church Lounge