

St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER – September 2018

Services of Holy Communion

Sunday, 2 September at 7pm service Sunday, 9 September at 9.15 and 10.30am services

World Communion Sunday Sunday, 7 October at 9:15am, 10:30am and 7pm services

Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.



"This do in remembrance of Me."



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From the Minister's Desk

Partners in God's Mission of Love *Reverend Sally Carter*



It may not have seemed like it in last week's grey chilly weather, but spring is here! The ducks are back at the donut caravan, cygnets are born at Anderson Park, cherry trees grace our streets and yards with their pink and white glory.

While many trees still have branches bare to leaden skies, there are blossoms everywhere, the scent of freesias is on the breeze, daffodils are in bloom, birds are beginning to build their nests, lambs delight us with their plump leaping around on the green grass.

In the Northern Hemisphere, this springtime energy bursts forth at the time of Jesus' resurrection – for us, it gives us another chance to celebrate Christ's risen presence among us.

We have been faithful through the wintry times and now start to feel the warmth of resurrection, those nudges and hints of the Spirit's presence which nourish us and give us life. At Fireside recently I bought a plant which is apparently a pink daisy. I say apparently because it is yet to flower. But, while over autumn and winter it didn't seem to grow at all, in the last week or two it has about doubled in size. I am eagerly anticipating what will happen to it next. I think it is important that we accept that there will be times in our lives when we do not notice or cannot see any growth and times when all of a sudden, a small shoot seems to explode into growth.

Many of you enjoyed a poem I shared in our worship a couple of weeks ago. (You can find it on our website or Facebook page.) The Harvest of God by Macrina Wiederkehr reminds us to notice the glimpses we catch of God in the ordinary experiences of our lives. Which is, after all, where we live.

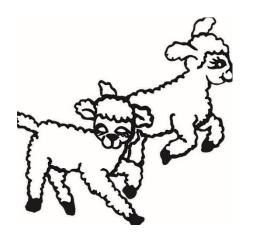
As we become aware of the life rising around us, we may find ourselves more willing to step outside and see what is going on. Out and about, we are more aware of the people around us, more aware of God's good creation. Out and about, we can begin to see where God is at work and notice the pokes of God's Spirit when we notice something which asks for our closer attention.

Spring is also the time when we have our AGM - a time when we can look back on what we have been doing and gather together to reflect on what God is calling us to in the future. What are the signs of new life in our congregation and our community? Where can you feel the whisper of the Spirit's presence?

While we probably have a few more chilly mornings, a few more grey days - I hope that over the next few months we will see signs of God's purposes among us – small shoots of hope catching our attention in the resurrection promise of spring.

All blessings,







St Paul's Presbyterian Church 160th Anniversary



Sunday, 14 October

Celebrating the life of the parish over 160 years. Join us for a time of celebration and sharing stories. Please share the enclosed flyer with anyone you know who may have a connection with the parish.

Editorial

Rae Wildbore & Kerry Marshall

Thank you all for the very positive feedback for our new-look St Paul's Newsletter. It seems that our readers did enjoy the variety of articles in the first edition and we've tried to follow-up, in this the second edition, with more interesting news.

Many people in the Parish do a lot of work to keep things going and we'd like to hear from you so that we can share the good news with our readers. Don't be shy, put pen to paper and record your activities.

The publication of the quarterly newsletter coincides with our quarterly communion invitation - we hope you will be able to join us for those services in September.

The calendar of events for the next three months has been updated but new happenings organised after the newsletter has gone to print can be included in the weekly bulletin and on the parish website calendar. Closing dates for the calendars over the next two months are Monday, 24 September for the October update and Tuesday, 23 October for the November one. Please send details of your events to the office by these dates. Of course, you'll still be able to have notices in the weekly bulletin if you get them into the office by Thursday each week.

The next quarterly newsletter will be published at the end of November with a closing date for news and articles of Monday 19 November.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to your feedback and your contributions.

Letters to the Editor

Bryan Rudd

Congratulations to Kerry Marshall & Rae Wildbore on the new look Parish Newsletter certainly well presented & eye catching. It is to be hoped that there will be wider contributions & discussion points raised & questions asked through this medium by Parishioners. Good luck for the future productions.

Church ladies with typewriters

Editors

From time-to-time you may see sentences in the newsletter that actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services. We hope you enjoy them.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals

From the Bush Telegraph

From the Moderator, Richard Dawson



The bottom line in ministry today

I find that there are still some basics in ministry that make our task a lot easier: good relational skills, a sense of humour and an ability to refrain from defensiveness. Add to this a deep commitment to the health of our soul and allowing God's Word to shape us daily and this contributes significantly to the resilience of those who take up the call. But, for my money, something else rates as a bottom line for those in ministry and it's this...

The knowledge that my main task in this endeavor and effort and dreaming is, first and foremost, to hear Christ. I am and can contribute little without this and, indeed, may well betray Christ in the very act of trying to serve Him unless I am hearing Him.

It's not just that hearing is the key to wisdom and to building something that lasts, (Matt 7:24) or that it is the key to fruitfulness (Matt 13:23). Nor is it that the very definition of being in Christ's family is in the act of hearing (Luke 8:21) or that hearing is, in fact, half the work of salvation (John 5:24) that sets hearing apart for me. It is the very next verse that holds the key to a successful ministry: 25Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the son of God and those who hear will live. (John 5)

As this verse explains, the resurrection power of Christ is activated by hearing the "voice of the son of God" and today we need that power in ministry. The Kingdom of God is precisely a matter of power says Paul

(1 Cor 4:20) and it will be served only as we allow that power to be demonstrated through our weakness.

But, it is not our weakness which is the note of God's power – this is just the instrument on which the note is sounded. Rather it is our hearing that releases the note and makes a pathway for God's power to be at work. As Paul says... "4My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power." (1 Cor 2:4-5)

God bless you all.

General Assembly 2018

Our General Assembly takes place in Christchurch in October and I am conscious of the extra work that is being undertaken to make this event not only an effective forum for our Church's business, but also an opportunity to celebrate, learn and grow together.

Moderator elect, Rev Fakaofo Kaio writes: "Our focus for GA 2018 is relationship: the relationship between God and you, you and your maker, and, the relationship between you and others. Relationship is basic and fundamental – it is the 'bread and butter' of Christian existence. The one who makes personal our relationships is the helper, the Holy Spirit. The cross is our logo for GA18, and it reminds us that Jesus Christ is the heart of all such relationships. Indeed, the Lord Jesus is God's 'Yes' to a groaning world. May the Holy Spirit guide us in fulfilling the will of God."

Assembly is an opportunity for us to gather, and provides the opportunity for thanksgiving and mutual encouragement. It is also a time of discernment for how God may be calling us to mission at this time and in this place.

Our Minister, Rev Sally Carter, along with her husband Frank will be attending GA18. Frank is our Parish delegate while Sally is a Presbytery Central delegate.

New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services

Diane Gilliam-Weeks, Presbyterian Church representative on NZCCSS Better rental laws urgently needed

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services – which includes our Church and Presbyterian Support – welcomes the launch of Renters United Plan To Fix Renting.

For many years, NZCCSS and other community organisations have called for better rental laws.

"Our members work constantly to address the damage caused by lack of regulation relating to the quality of rental homes and the impact of no security of tenure," says NZCCSS executive officer, Trevor McGlinchey.

"We receive many reports about poor quality houses that are damp, mouldy and in disrepair. We hear of renters having tenancies ended with only six weeks' notice; families having to move several times in year – disrupting schooling and friendships for children."

Urgent action is needed and Renters United's Plan To Fix Renting represents a comprehensive set of ideas to bring about improvements in the quality of rental housing, and ideas for making rental housing a secure and affordable housing option for New Zealanders.

Around half our population lives in rental housing. Nearly 9 out of 10 households are renting in the private rental market. Seven out of 10 children living in poverty live in rental housing and they are likely be in rental housing for much of their childhood – so quality is critical. People living with a disability are 20% more likely to be living in rental housing.

"Improvements for renters will help overcome the very large and growing inequalities in our communities," says McGlinchey.

"Being able to stay longer in a good quality rental house with an affordable rent will help people improve their lives, plan and save for the future. Security of rental agreements make it easier for people to find and retain employment, improve their health, and help their children succeed in education."

For more about the NZCCSS and how you can take action visit: http://nzccss.org.nz/

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

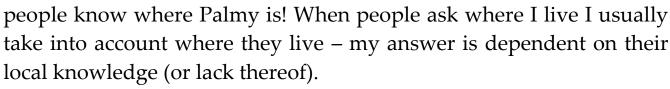
From the Presbytery Central Roundup

Peter MacKenzie – Executive Secretary

Addressing a Problem

We live in Kopane – but 95% of people have no idea where that is.

It's near Rongotea – but 60% have no idea where that is. It's north- west of Palmerston North – most



It seems to me that it is often the same with churches – trying to describe what happens in church is dependent on what knowledge people have about churches. In an older generation it is often a Sunday School experience that is the core knowledge – and that is often boring and long. For younger people, who have no experience of church, it is all a bit of a mystery.

There is a stunning reality that the church that we find so familiar is a foreign place to many people in our community. Part of our Gospel mission is to assure them that the church is not a foreign place, but their place. Not an easy task at times and I commend those who work to make Christ known in the community.

Speaking of addresses - the Presbytery Central post box is going to change – the new address is PO Box 12042, Inner City, Palmerston North 4444. We're not moving the letterbox – just where we pick up the mail. And the office is not moving either, but we will be closer to the new letterbox.



News from Presbyterian Support East Coast



Volunteer Excellence Awards

It was great to see a proud contingent of Presbyterian Support East Coast volunteers and staff attending the Hawke's Bay Volunteer Excellence Awards

Congratulations to PSEC's youngest regular volunteer, Elizabeth Campbell, who was awarded the Youth Volunteer excellence Award, Michelle Ballin, who was a nominee for an Individual Volunteer Excellence Award and PSEC Charity Shop volunteers who were nominated for the Team Award. Elizabeth began volunteering in our Napier Charity Shop in order to gain her Duke of Edinburgh Award, but has continued long after she gained it. Michelle volunteers at the PSEC Hillsbrook office lending her handy admin skills.

We are thankful for all our volunteers for their time, expertise and dedication.

Did you know?

Did you know that you can call in to PSEC coffee mornings to find out more about the services offered by PSEC, meet the people and share a tea or coffee. All gatherings are between 10.30am and 11.30am. Just turn up on the day! Here's a list of the coffee morning dates for the rest of the year:

Enliven Older People Services & Enliven Home Support: At the Enliven Centre 2087 Pakowhai Road (Taradale end) 24 September, 30 October and 30 November

Family Works Hawke's Bay: Cnr Lyndon Road/Warren St, Hastings 27 September and 8 November

Mosaic Enliven Disability Services: 429a Gloucester Street, Napier 18 September and 13 November

Rowan Enliven Disability Services: 429 Gloucester Street, Napier 5 September, 17 October and 28 November

PSEC charity shops offer certified safe household electrical items

PSEC charity shops have long been known for quality bargains – clothes, furniture, books, even antiques! And now we can add safe household electrical items to the list thanks to our staff becoming certified tag and testers. Safety is paramount for our staff, volunteers and customers so we've never sold household electrical items in the past. However, due to the number of quality electrical items donated and the subsequent demand for them we took the plunge and got certified. PSEC Napier Charity Shop Manager, Roslynn Young, says since offering the test and tag service they've got a large selection of household electricals available that continuously revolves. "There are so many quality items available – it's really exciting seeing them come in and know they're safe and in good working order to go out for sale," Roslynn says. "Some items donated are brand new. Obviously given to people as gifts and they've never used them. It's great to be able to give people the opportunity to have electrical items they couldn't usually afford brand new."

PSEC Charity Shops also offer a pick-up and delivery service throughout Hawke's Bay, so if you're not able to bring your quality donations to the shops you can arrange a time for them to be collected. The only items not accepted are large whiteware items, such as fridges, freezers and washing machines. "We already have a large range of items built up so come in and check it out."

The Napier shop is 47 Carlyle Street, Napier while the Taradale one is on the corner of Gloucester and White Streets. All shops are open Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm and Saturdays 9.30am - 1pm. For more information see our Charity Shops page.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Annual General Meeting

Rae Wildbore

Meeting will be held on Sunday, 16 September following the second service. We will then share a light lunch; please bring a plate of finger food (that doesn't need to be heated) to share. Hot savories will be supplied

SCHNEG

Article appeared in the St Columba's Havelock North newsletter - A Biodiversity Guardian for Hawke's Bay

Jocelyn Kirkwood

On the 22nd May, in the Community Centre across Te Mata Road, 200 passionate people resolved to adopt the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Action Plan. This had been anticipated for some time: the results of workshops and study groups had to be assimilated, digested, and meditated on!

Long established groups were represented – like Forest and Bird. But also, and in numbers, the 25 years plus age group, local Iwi; representation from DOC and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. All guided by the 'sageous' minds and experience of ecologic academics of national standing.

So what was all the excitement about? Well, perhaps it was really 'anticipation'. The anticipation of having worked TOWARD an agreed way to approach the restoration of the Bay's biodiversity; of working along agreed lines and priorities that might REVERSE the loss of native species in the Bay and bring back the natives that have been marginalized by introductions.

The St Columba Havelock North Environment Group (SCHNEG) have already been part of this - for over thirty years! And the congregation has been with us. In the 1990s we 'envisioned' a restored Karamu Stream. And as part of a millennium project, we led the community in a pilot restoration project that has resulted along what we now call

'Parks Reach' - a 1 km stretch between the bridges. The bigger picture of 'the whole of Hawkes Bay' is at a different scale – and with even bigger dreams. To work, it has to have a financial footing. The strategy is to enlist Biodiversity Guardians, ranging from individuals up to -maybe a corporate giant or two?!

SCHNEG considered a \$200 annual subscription to be a Guardian. But then someone suggested that it would be EVEN BETER if the whole congregation became a Guardian! After all, a tenant of our national church is 'the care of creation'. Our world is a web of life, not simply for humans."

Landscaping of Church Grounds - Update

Bryan Rudd, on behalf of the Landscaping Committee

The Landscaping Project Team have been working hard to bring to fruition a concept for the landscaping of the church grounds and surrounds. The project is at a point whereby a

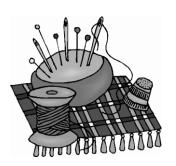


recommendation has been sent to Session and Board of Managers seeking their approval for the committee to seek interim approval of Presbytery and the Church Property Trustees for us to seek the approval of the congregation for us to accept a preferred tender and proceed with the undertaking of the proposed plan. Once the interim approvals of Presbytery and the Church Property Trustees have been received, there will be a period when the plans and overview of the project will be on display in the church foyer for members of the Parish to view prior to a congregational meeting (late September/early October) seeking a final approval of the Parish for the project to proceed. The overview document pertaining to the project is fairly extensive and has answers for many of the possible queries that may arise; however, if you have any further queries please contact a member of the committee

The Stitch In Time

Dorothy Finlayson (on behalf of The Stitch in Time group)

The group meet every two weeks during the months April to October. We are a very happy group with an average of 14 attending. Beautiful handwork is shared



by many who knit, crochet, sew tat and then of course there is much chatter. We have also had interesting speakers during the year. This year we are sad to have lost some of our dear members either through illness or more recently through death. We convey our sympathy to families. If you attended our fund-raising Soup and Bun luncheon raising funds for PSEC, you would have seen some lovely examples of our work on the sales table. \$400 was presented to PSEC and \$150 to Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who supported. The group will be having our annual Hi Tea and Christmas afternoon and have suggested Monday, 26 November and when confirmed by Session, you will read more about the function. Save the Date. Our next meetings will be 3 and 17 September; and 1 and 15 October. Come along on 3 September and learn how to prepare and ice a beautiful Christmas cake OR if you can't do it yourself, you may like to support the Church funds and buy a decorated cake.

Environmentally Speaking

Isabel Morgan

Recently, a friend and I were speaking about the news that one single-use plastic bags are to be phased out. We were both applauding this move. Somehow, we then diverged, as she went on to wonder what we would all use to put our weekly rubbish in for collection, and I went on to talk about what to put our fortnightly recyclables in for collection. It was as though we were each having a conversation with our own self. No decision reached! It had been quite a brief conversation, and only later as I reflected on it did I realise that we had been speaking about different things. And only then did I begin to ask myself what did we use to put out our weekly household rubbish in pre single—use plastic

bags? Can you remember what you used? If you do, let me know please and I'll include it in the next newsletter column. And here is another question: Napier City Council has put forward the idea to require us all to use plastic bins for the fortnightly recyclables collection. More plastic in our world, eventually joining the waste stream? Surely we can do better than that in 2018?

Nation Council of Women

Jill McConnochie

"125 Years on – What would Kate Sheppard think?"

Suffrage Day Breakfast will be held on 15 September, 8.30am at St Thomas More's Heavey Hall, Wycliffe Street. Cost is \$10 at the door. Book with Sue 844 5951 or Jennifer 845 1108 by 12 September.

World Vision New Zealand

Marion Fell, Elder

August Report: Once a month we have a retiring offering which helps to support Everen. The difference we are making for her is life - changing, which is so appreciated. We will shortly receive a New Zealand themed Christmas Greeting Card which will be made available for our signatures of support before being sent to Everen in time for the Christmas Season. Please watch for this and add your signature.

Now for other news - The World Food Programme are helping in Uganda, where over one million South Sudanese refugees are settling. These refugees are mostly women and children who have fled conflict and hunger, bravely travelling for weeks to reach safety and food.

Your continued prayerful support for World Vision New Zealand is also appreciated.

Under the Magnolia Tree at St Paul's

Rae Wildbore

You may have noticed that for some time now (for at least a year), a small group of folk meet under our magnolia tree beside the caravan, during the lunch hour on Fridays. Polly Fairbrother, daughter of renowned Napier Barrister Russell Fairbrother, loved that tree; in fact, she held an affinity with it and inspired the small group to meet there. Polly knew deep sadness. She was the mother of twin daughters, Hannah and Jessie Macdonald who died aged 8 in a house fire at their father's home in Hastings early on the night of 25 August 2003. Would any mother recover from such a shock? What a sad, sad tragedy. Polly now meets under the magnolia tree in spirit only. She died at Waimarama on Sunday, 27 May 2018. May Polly Rest in Peace.

News from Taiwan

Jill McConnochie

In August, the Fireside Group received a letter from Judith Jackson, Our Associate Missionary in Taiwan, in which she told us of her very busy schedule especially with Church Youth Groups and training days. At a recent camp she fractured the radius bone in her left arm and was in a plaster which she was able to be removed for showering. I replied to her letter and received this e-mail in response. "I am busy with planning new school year activities these two weeks. The students start school on 30th August. Expect to have a short Home assignment next year. Will be in Napier 16-19 March and hope to see you ladies if you are free. Enjoy the spring flowers and weather. It has been a mild summer here and only 31 degrees these last two weeks. My plaster is off my arm but am not to lift anything heavy for two more months. Love and God bless, Judith." Last time Judith was here, we thoroughly enjoyed her visit and I hope that as many as are possible will come along to hear of her and her work when she is with us in March. Please remember to pray for Judith and the work she does with youth in Tainan, Taiwan.

Parish Register

Rae Wildbore

Funerals

Kathleen Marie Ransom died on 28 May Ann Ellen Eaton died on 14 June Jean Rattray died on 22 June Freda Mary Brady died on 27 July Lauris Margaret Varney died on 18 August

We extend our loving sympathy to the families of these members.

Christ's Compassion - healing and teaching

Kerry Marshall

"Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow." Marty Haugen

The bible readings 2 Samuel chapter 7 and Mark 6:30-34 & 53-56 can be seen as a return to the message of Jesus as the true shepherd, a theme we have encountered many times. In Samuel, there is a personal message to David reminding him of his call to lead the people, to be their shepherd and not to go to all the trouble of building a permanent house on earth. After all, David is told, God had no permanent house on earth, instead moving from place to place with a tent as a dwelling place. A shepherd was not likely to have a fixed abode, moving to where water and grazing were available.

This theme continues in the reading from Mark's gospel: "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd." These words echo Moses's prayer in Numbers 27 in which he asks God to appoint his successor, someone "who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep without a shepherd".

Jesus is called to minister to the people whenever and wherever they gathered. We are told that he and his apostles are planning to go to a quiet place and get some rest, but when they arrive and news of his coming spreads, people come from all around the region, bringing their sick with them. Where ever he went they wanted to hear him and to be healed by him. "So, change of plan lads, instead of a quiet day to ourselves we're back in business; bring it on."

I find it interesting that Jesus, moved in compassion for these lost sheep, "began to teach them many things". At that time the food for which the people hunger is the word of God and in his teaching Jesus the shepherd is feeding them. And where did Jesus do this work? In the market places of the villages and towns and in the countryside. The market places were important areas, controlled by the powers that be, so the subversion of these places of economic power to healing and teaching was a significant provocation. These political and commercial spaces become occupied by those with the least, not the most as had been the tradition. This is something that still happens today – the sic, the mentally ill, the poor and the homeless pushed to one side, excluded from the market places by those who wield the economic power.

In the passages from Mark that we have heard today, how has the compassion of Christ been demonstrated? By teaching and healing; and for me this is a strong statement about the importance of the work so many people do in caring for others, in teaching and healing. Many in our congregation heal and teach and we can all be encouraged to have compassion – our caring words, heartfelt service and loving concern are all signs of our Christian journey.

Psalm 145: The Lord is loving and merciful, full of constant love; good to everyone and with compassion for all...

May we be full of constant love, good to everyone and have compassion for all.

Regular Events

- Sunday Services: 9:15am and 10:30am services each Sunday and 7pm evening service on the 1st Sunday of the month (NB: 9:15am service not held on statutory holidays)
- Stitch in Time 1st and 3rd Mondays from 1:30-4pm in the church lounge (April October)
- **Fireside group** meet on the 2nd Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the lounge (February to November)
- **Bible Study** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the church lounge at 10:30am (3 Oct 5 Dec)
- Cards 500 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays in church lounge at 1.30pm
- Afternoon Fellowship 4th Wednesday at 2pm
- Lunch group meets monthly on the 1st 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
Sun 2	7pm Communion service
Sun 9	9:15 and 10:30am Spring Flower and Communion services
Sat 15	8:30am Suffrage Day Breakfast (St Thomas More's Heavey Hall)
Sun 16	11:30am Church AGM and lunch after 10:30am service
Sull 10	7pm Taizé worship
	October
Sun 7	World Communion Sunday
	Communion at 9:15am, 10:30am and 7pm services
Sun 14	160 th Anniversary Celebrations
C 21	Labour weekend and Hawke's Bay Anniversary
Sun 21	No 9:15am service
	November
Mon 26	Annual Stitch in Time Hi Tea and Christmas afternoon

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