



St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2020



"This do in remembrance of Me."

Services of Holy Communion

We look forward to sharing communion together again when we return to Level 1 from the Coronavirus Pandemic.



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From the Minister's Desk

Partners in God's Mission of Love

Reverend Sally Carter



This election we face two significant referenda; one on the End of life Choices Bill and one on legalising cannabis.

I have found both of them were challenging to think about. Both have pros and cons. Both try to balance individual choice and what is good for society as a whole.

After I started working on this article, I faced another choice... Would we travel to the South Island for our planned holiday when the changes in alert levels were announced? We waited anxiously for the announcement at 5:30pm on Friday, 14 August. Again, New Zealanders were being asked to balance individual choice with the good of the country as a whole.

It is tricky as everyone hears information differently; through different political lenses, and, importantly for this article, through different lenses of what a faithful response might be. In all of these questions, Christians have offered points of view on both sides claiming their view for Christianity. And, again, some Christian points of view seem to lean towards individual choice and some towards the good of society as a whole.

I wondered what a good starting point is to consider these important questions. I thought about Luke 4:16-21, sometimes called the Nazareth Manifesto. 'the spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. Here has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind.' Jesus' healing and teaching focuses on those who are in the margins of society; those who are poor, deaf, blind or lame.

Perhaps a point of view that we as followers of Jesus can start from in these complex questions is where Jesus starts...with

those who are least privileged. It may not make our choices much easier, but perhaps consciously starting our thinking where Jesus starts may help us in our response.

With every blessing as you vote thoughtfully and faithfully

Sally

Editorial

Rae Wildbore & Pam Clare

Welcome to our September edition which, following the very positive response to the June edition, will again be emailed so it can be enjoyed in glorious colour. The delivery team will also be out there ensuring you receive a paper copy as well.

In the June edition, an entertaining variety of Level 3 and 4 lockdown experiences was shared by parishioners as we prepared to move to Level 2. Like the rest of the country, this seemed to involve a great deal of walking, bird watching, gardening, baking and zoom meetings.

Kerry Marshall described how piping lessons and band practices continued in a virtual way, so it was a pleasure to attend the Napier Pipe Band return concert held in St Paul's recently and to hear the culmination of all that effort in extraordinary times.

Elaine Brown's grandson Ezra was occupied with a completely different activity, so in this edition read about the unexpected gift she received from him.

Anne Silson continues her historical series on local Presbyterian churches linked to St Paul's and Jill gives an account of St Paul's Fireside Group which held their last meeting in June after 65 years of fellowship and service.

Thank you once again to all our contributors. The closing date for articles to be emailed to the church office for the December edition will be 17 November.

In these uncertain times, let us continue to look ahead with faith, hope and love as we see the promise of spring around us.

There is hope

Fakaofu, Moderator



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Greetings

As we find ourselves in a place we’d rather not be as a nation – an extension of alert level 3 in Auckland and alert level 2 in other parts of the country – we must remember that there is hope.

As we move through another period of lockdown, many of us are anxious or fearful of what the future holds – anxious about our jobs, about our businesses, and about how we will cope. When we have faith, we have hope.

Please do not be anxious. Do not fear. Remember that God is with us - always. It is part of life’s journey to face difficult times, and to quote Desmond Tutu: “Hope is about being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness,” and I encourage us all to look for the light in our circumstances today.

The good news is that we have been here before... we have been successful - perhaps more so than any other nation - in getting Covid under control, and if we remain vigilant, we can do it again.

I ask you to abide by all government directives and all guidelines issued by our Church.

In Auckland, where we can no longer gather in person for another 12 days, we must once again move to virtual or online services. Embrace the opportunity to reach out in this way – I have been offering online devotions every Sunday since the first lockdown, and have enjoyed being able to reach so many people.

In other parts of New Zealand, large gatherings of more than 100 people are prohibited. If this affects you, I encourage you to look at new ways of coming together.

I remind you: "Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up." (Proverbs 12:25). This is as true now as it was when it was written. Have a kind heart in your interactions with others. Reach out to those in need in whatever way you are able. If you are in Auckland, make lockdown the best it can be by enjoying time with those in your bubble.

Lastly, I also ask you to pray for our government leaders, for those who are unwell, and for our essential workers who are working hard on the front-lines of the fight against Covid.

St Peter's Presbyterian Church

Anne Silson

Early in 1949, the first building sections in the suburb of Onekawa were sold thus marking the beginning to the expansion of Napier City west of Riverbend Road.

On land that was hitherto marsh and tidal swamp, largely reclaimed by the 1931 earthquake, began the development of the suburbs of Onekawa, Maraenui and Piriwai. By the end of the 1950's, the expansion was such that the need to provide a second centre of worship for St Paul's Parish became evident. Sunday Schools and Bible Classes were established using school buildings in the area. The City Council had allocated land for a Presbyterian Church in Onekawa. At the same time, the present St John's Cathedral was being built to replace the temporary wooden structure which had been built



immediately after the earthquake; thus, the temporary wooden structure became available for removal or demolition.

St Paul's Board of Managers negotiated the purchase of this church for one thousand pounds. The original site provided by the City Council for a church complex, being on the west side of the Kennedy Road and Wycliffe Street intersection, was deemed to be unsuitable because of the rapid development of the area and the associated traffic and parking problems. Plans were made to swap the church complex site to the Wycliffe Street / Morris Spence Avenue corner. Thanks to the efforts and expertise of the late Mr Duncan White, the negotiations were successful. Plans were then begun to move the wooden building. This involved cutting the church into four sections and transporting them by a circuitous route to the present site. Due to the height of the building, this exercise was not without its problems involving trees, power lines and telephone lines which were all overhead in that era. The winter of 1960 was one of the wettest in living memory and the reconstruction was a long and arduous task for the contractors. The site was a sea of deep cloying mud for most of the time and the streets were often flooded, therefore impassable.

However, by mid-1961 the job was completed. Many willing hands had scraped, scoured and scrubbed away the accumulated grime of 30 years, before applying gallons of paint and varnish to bare woodwork. Windows were repaired and made workable again. Also, many backbreaking working bees had laid out the grounds with paths, lawns and shrubs. No attempt will be made in this narrative to name the many men and women who gave countless hours of time and effort to the project, because a dimming memory may well miss someone! Later, when searching for a name for the church, in view of the massive clean-up job in preparing the building, it was suggested

it be named "St Mungo's" after a well-known soap powder of the day, which it is understood, was manufactured in Napier!

Thus, was developed a second worship centre for St Paul's, Napier. A centre which was in good heart with a strong management committee, a Women's Club with some 50 members and a Sunday School boasting a roll of approximately 150. Regular services were commenced and the centre was a going concern with all the usual ancillary groups and organisations. The church was dedicated on 23 July 1961 at which time the total cost had reached approximately nine thousand pounds. This was a modest sum indeed for a recycled building which has served us well for thirty years. This was only made possible by the enthusiasm and leadership of the Rev Ron Hay and the generosity of the congregation of St Paul's Church along with the sheer hard work of a band of dedicated and loyal people.

The continued development and growing population of the new housing areas caused thoughts to turn to the establishment of a new and independent parish, so the first serious discussions took place in October 1962. The enthusiasm was such that the discussions became reality. The parish of St Peter's was formally constituted on 1 July 1963 with the Rev. Duncan Jamieson as Interim Moderator. The Rev Ian Hewson of Takapau - Norsewood accepted a call and was inducted as the first minister of the parish in September 1963. We were up and running, debt free, as a fully-fledged parish of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

St Paul's Fireside Group

Jill McConnochie

The group came into existence 68 years ago, primarily as a junior group of the PWMU (Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union). I joined the group in 1956 when we used to meet in the home of Mrs Olive Wiig. At this time there were four women's group in St Paul's.



In March of this year, we decided, reluctantly, that with numbers fewer and members older, the time had come for the



Fireside group 2007-2008

group to cease to operate. Our last meeting was in June, when we distributed our funds to the various groups we have supported in the past, and letters were written to them advising them of our decision. We also

agreed that we would still support the

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand (previously the APW) by becoming individual members. Members of the congregation have contributed on their Birthdays to the Mission Birthday Gift and we've asked the Board of Managers to administer this from now on.

For many years, Fireside catered for the dinner prior to the Parish AGM and what sumptuous meals they were. And with the help of the congregation, we have raised funds for the Annual APW/MWF Projects which have benefitted deserving causes both overseas and within New Zealand.

Stitches in Time

Pam Clare



Shortly after the lockdown ended, Elaine Brown received an unexpected gift from her 26 year old grandson, Ezra.



While in his bubble, he had set about teaching himself a new skill resulting in this piece of embroidery which Elaine plans to have framed.

It's quite a feat, as he would have had to master satin stitch, stem stitch, and French knots.

Pastoral Care

Marian Eagle, Pastoral Care Convenor

In New Zealand we are now familiar with the terms “the team of five million” and “be kind to each other”. How blessed we are to live here in this place in the world where we have been encouraged to think in the way that Jesus himself taught.

All over New Zealand there are many small groups helping and caring for each other in daily life; be it in the work place, the marae, social groups or our churches. Here at St Paul’s, groups are fewer nowadays as the fabric of our church life changes; but several groups you see regularly listed in the notices still provide social opportunities to meet together.

As parishioners, we have many points of contact in our network of care - your elder, members of the pastoral care team and our minister, Sally. The pastoral care role is to add support and friendship whilst offering practical help. To make this happen we need communication and networking. If you, or someone else you know, would appreciate some extra help, remember there is pastoral care. It may be transport to church or to meetings, a few groceries picked up or simply going for a coffee or a having a chat on the phone.

Members of the Pastoral Care committee are Marion Fell, Penny Marshall, Rae Widlbore, Dorothy Finlayson, Anne Silson, Ella Haigh, Lesley Goodall and Marian Eagle with our Minister, Sally, guiding us. You are very welcome to contact anyone on the Pastoral Care team for a quiet chat or for help and support.

Of course, a lot of this already happens within our church, as you yourselves, many having years of long friendship, give love and care to each other. The pastoral care people are also here to provide an extra layer of aroha and care in our church life.

Care and Share

Dorothy Finlayson

A happy group of members gather every 3rd Monday to enjoy fun and fellowship. Do join us on 21 September to hear about and see Lynne Frith's beautiful display of 'Wool Art'.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel some Mondays due to Covid 19; however, we hope to have a special day of

making and/or buying cards. If you are interested please contact me on 843 1266 as this could be a one-off.



Step by Step

Barbara Rubera (submitted by Marion Fell)

He does not lead me year by year
Nor even day by day
But step by step my path unfolds
My Lord directs my way.
Tomorrows plans I do not know
I only know this minute:
But He will say "This is the way
By faith now walk ye in it."
And I am glad that it is so
Today enough to bear:
And when tomorrow comes, His grace
Shall far exceed its care.
What need to worry then, or fret?
The God who gave His Son
Holds all my moments in His hand
And gives them one by one.

Parish Register

Rae Wildbore

Funerals

Ian Charles Sayer died 27 June

Heather Margaret Chapman died 29 July

Robert Ayton (Bob) Foster died 16 August

We extend our loving sympathy to the families and friends of
Ian, Heather and Bob

Regular Events

- **Sunday Services:** 9:15am and 10:30am services each Sunday and 7pm evening service on the 2nd Sunday of the month (NB: Church services will not be held during Covid-19 Alert Level 2. First service (9:15am) service not held on statutory holidays)
- **Care and Share:** 3rd Mondays from 1:30 until done in the church lounge (February – November)
- **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 (depending upon Covid-19 Alert Level)

	September
6 th	Soup & Bun lunch followed by End of Life Choice discussion @ 12noon
	October
18 th	AGM after 2 nd service (TBC)
	November
	Nil at the time of publication

I finally remember what Zoom meetings remind me of.



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