

ST MARGARET'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM



NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018



FOR
unto us a
Child ^{is} born,
unto us a *Son*
is given; and the government
will be upon *His* shoulder. And
His name will be called
Wonderful
MIGHTY *Counselor,*
LORD
Everlasting Father
PRINCE OF PEACE
ISAIAH
9:6

Happy New Year!

Advent marks the beginning of the church's New Year. It precedes the calendar New Year by about a month - perhaps proof that the church is in fact ahead of the times! The season of Advent (the church calls these different periods "seasons") is characterised as a period of waiting and preparing. Obviously the waiting is for Christmas. As I write there are 32 sleeps until Christmas. That being the case (depending on how well you sleep and perhaps how old you are) it is not long before Christmas arrives. So, along with a new year Advent heralds a period of waiting.

Advent is also a period of preparing. Now preparing is something that we are all familiar with - preparing for Christmas. And we require preparations regardless of whether we are staying at home or going away, what with food, social events, travel and accommodation arrangements and did I forget gifts - there is no shortage of things to prepare.

It's speculation really but I wonder what impact the Roman government's demand that everyone return to their ancestral home had on Joseph and Mary especially as she prepared for the arrival of her first child. The writers of the Gospels don't give us very much detail at all but Jesus was certainly not born "at home" surrounded by domestic stability. The prospect of walking some 130 kilometres (the donkey is a traditional extra) and then finding there was no room in the village inn must have played havoc with Mary's domestic preparations. And I also suspect both

Mary and Joseph where completely unprepared for all the attention the birth of their baby received.

As part of your preparation for Christmas, while you wait if you like why not read the Gospel stories (Matthew chapter 2 and Luke chapters 1 and 2). If you do you may like to note how many things we associate with our traditional Christmas story have been added in - like the donkey. You could also ask yourself, the question "where do you see God's presence in the stories?" And another question you could ask "is what character in the story do you identify with and why?"

So Advent is a time of waiting and preparing. And then comes Christmas which quite rightly is a time of celebration. God has given us a gift, an incredibly precious gift in the form of a human child. but Jesus is more than a human child because he is God in human form, given to us because God wants to have a meaningful relationship with each and every one of us human beings! Wow, what a gift! So we celebrate Christmas then the world catches up and we celebrate a new calendar year. Sadly however, the vast majority of people miss the point of the Christmas season.

My prayer is that as you wait for, as you prepare for Christmas you do so with minimal stress. Please relax as much as you can and enjoy yourselves. If you are away over the seasons of Advent and /or Christmas may you travel safely.

Season's greetings to you all.



Personal Notes

- **Condolences**
 - We farewelled Jeannie Peattie at Kingswood on 9 November and our condolences to her family - Heather, Margaret, Ali, Craig and Grant as you grieve the loss of your mother, Ma and Grandma.
 - Our condolences also to Christine Grinter at the death of her husband Richard. Richard was an active member in the congregation until the onset of his ill-health and eventual move into care. Christine you are in our thoughts and prayers.
 - Also in our prayers are Martin and Jo Rothbaum, Zoë and Peter as they grieve the recent loss of Martin's mother
- **Congratulations** to Sian Scannell on her completion of a Bachelor of Theology degree. Well done, Sian!

Building Strengthening - Work is progressing on the strengthening of the Hall. The under-floor work on the piles is done and the bracing in the ceiling and end wall are underway. Work is likely to start in the church in December with work to upgrade the toilet area occurring in the New Year. Completion of all the strengthening work is scheduled for mid-2018.

Scripture Challenge - Continuing with the backgrounds to support your Bible challenge:

Corinthians

The Greek city of Corinth was the subject of two letters from Paul. The letters are perhaps most notable for their practical content and personal style. The first letter is a response to the circumstances and backgrounds of Paul's converts in Corinth. They were a cross section of the Corinthian population which had little or no middle class, a few wealthy people at the top of the social pyramid and a large number of poor. Most were Gentiles.

Paul had brought the Good News of Jesus Christ to Corinth and the first letter was written some three years

later. In the letter Paul responds to a series of problems set out in an earlier letter from the Corinthians. Overall the first letter attempts to persuade the Corinthians to change their behaviour and their thinking about particular matters. He calls on the Corinthians to live their faith more fully and wholesomely speaking as a father might to children.

This so-called second letter is Paul's third longest letter. Paul's theology around consolation, reconciliation, and theology of weakness is shown in the letter in its strongest forms. The letter is described as "giving us the stuff of real life in the apostolic generation:

e.g. painful conflict between Paul and his community.”¹ The cracks that were apparent in the first letter have grown wider with the Corinthian’s animosity directed not at each other but at Paul. There is discussion about the second letter’s structure with thought being that it is an amalgamation of several letters e.g. chapters 8-9 may be two different letters, chapters 1-7 another and chapters 10-13 yet another. But while that may explain the sudden changes in subject within the letter that can also be a result of the style of ancient rhetoric which was designed to lighten a discussion that was getting too heavy.

Galatians

With its focus on justification by faith this letter is one of the most significant writings of the New Testament. Prior to his conversion Paul was an ardent defender of the Law of Moses. On his conversion Paul believed that God had revealed his Son to him in order that Paul could tell the Gentiles about what God had done. Paul wanted the Gentiles to become followers of Jesus but that did not mean that they needed to become Jews with all that observance of the Mosaic Law meant. Paul did not consider that a person’s relationship with God was put right by doing what the Law requires. Rather he considered that having a trusting faith in Christ was what God wanted. Paul argued that by having a trusting faith then a person leads a life of good works.

Ephesians

The church in Ephesus was probably established by Priscilla and Aquila. Paul was in Ephesus from about 54 to 57 CE teaching first in the synagogue. He faced opposition from Jewish exorcists and from Demetrius whose business was damaged by Paul’s teaching. There is debate about authorship. The Greek sentences in this letter are longer than those of other letters and there is the inclusion of some 90 words that don’t appear in other letters recognised as Paul’s. Nevertheless, presuming Paul is the author it is thought he wrote it at the end of his life – about 58-59 CE.

The letter sets out the wealth there is in being a follower of Christ. It describes what being “delivered from sin” means emphasizing the nature of the Church as the Body of Christ.

Philippians

This is one of the most personal letters from Paul. It places an emphasis on virtues such as loyalty, sharing, harmony, and reciprocity. A letter of friendship it contains moral instruction and encouragement. The church in Philippi was, it is thought experiencing similar persecution from non-Christian Gentiles to that which Paul was facing in prison.

Enjoy the ongoing Challenge.

¹ Carolyn Oisek, *The New Interpreter’s Study Bible*, (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2003), p 2062



Lectionary:

3 Dec. Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

10 Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2,8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

17 Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28

24 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 Psalm 89:1-4,19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

31 Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

7 Jan. Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11

14 1 Samuel 3:1-10 Psalm 139:1-6,13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51

21 Jonah 3:1-5,10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

28 Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

4 Feb. Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11,20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39



Clarice & Lynette Cameron

would like to thank very much, all those who attended Don's funeral and extended their kind expressions of sympathy following the very sad loss of our dearly loved husband and father.

Many thanks to Minister Chris Rosanowski for his wonderful service and to John Morrison who played his brilliant music for the funeral.

Thanks to Ray Betteridge and Peter Ritchie among the Pall Bearers for their kind services. To all those who helped with the refreshments organized so well by Hazel O'Brien - Thank you - it was so kind and very much appreciated.

Once again many thanks to you all.

Clarice & Lynette Cameron.

CHRISTMAS BAKING AND TOYS for Family Works



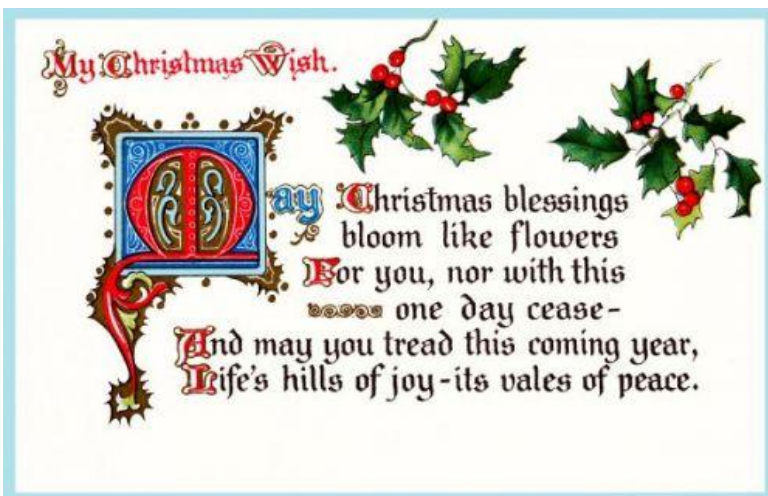
Everyone loves to celebrate at Christmas. Every family wants to build happy memories, and we all know, food and gifts go hand in hand at this time of year. St. Margaret's is collecting toys and baking for the families who use the services of Family Works, the Presbyterian Support Central's Upper Hutt centre. The Centre provides parenting support and education,

dispute resolution, social work, strengthening families, courses and resources for new settlers and youth programmes.

I will be collecting donations on Sunday 10 December for distribution the following week. Please wrap toys and label them with sex and age of children they are most suitable for. Enquiries to Pat Lerwill Phone 938 0374



Do you know Joey who placed and paid for an order for ginger beer at the St Margaret's Fair? He left a phone number for me to call when it was ready but when I tried to phone him it was the wrong number. If you know him please tell him to call Margaret on 5283280 to arrange collection of his ginger beer. Many thanks, Margaret Donaldson.





Christmas Lunch

**SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER
FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP**

**Everyone is invited to join together for Christmas Lunch
Just bring yourselves - all food provided**

\$5.00 adults - children free

**Please contact Hazel O'Brien if you intend to be there -
for catering purposes**

hazmic.ob@xtra.co.nz 5289117

If you have special dietary needs, still come and BYO

What's On

- **Afternoon Fellowship** - Wednesday 6 December at the home of Jacqueline & Lynn's. 11.30 a.m. (please note change of time). Please bring \$5.00 as a contribution to cover the cost of the lunch.
- **December Christmas Dinner** - The Evening Fellowship invite *all women* to join them for a Christmas meal, 6.00 p.m. Wednesday 13 December - Te Marua Golf Club. Cost \$30.00 pre-paid no later than Sunday 3 December to Joyce Castle, Jacqueline Kitchen or Hazel O'Brien. Car pooling will be arranged.
- **St. Margaret's choir** - If you enjoy singing, (no choral experience necessary) we'd love to have you join with our occasional "choir." We will be rehearsing some items for our Christmas music service. See you at the church at 7.30 p.m. on three Thursdays starting 30 November. The service is on Sunday 17 December. Further info, see Pat 938. 0374 or Marilyn.

Rosters

Morning Tea

- 3 Dec. Fiona Glover/Riek Kleinjan
- 10 No morning tea
- 17 Clive & Jeanette McGovern
- 24 Lynne O'Brien/Hazel O'Brien
- 31 Margaret Donaldson/Margaret Opray
- 7 Jan. Ruth Mackinder/Chris Scotton
- 14 Lynn Russell/Jacqueline Kitchen
- 21 Pam Hurly/Riek Kleinjan
- 28 Hazel O'Brien/Lynne O'Brien
- 4 Feb. Clive & Jeanette McGovern

Setting Up the Hall

- 3 Dec. McInnarney Family
- 10 Scott Taylor-Hall/Clive McGovern
- 17 Brian & Sharna Adams
- 24 Sue & Phil Taylor
- 31 Rosenda & Chris Upton
- 7 Jan. Alfred Enslin/Matt Radley
- 14 Dave & Lin Coleman
- 21 Lea & Stewart Turner
- 28 Ruth & Arthur Mackinder
- 4 Feb. West Family

Lawn Mowing

- 2 Dec. Chris Upton
- 16 Clive McGovern
- 23 Greg Main
- 6 Jan. Stephen Fletcher
- 20 Evan Shaw
- 3 Feb. Ben Ryan

Data Projector

- 3 Dec. Trevor English
- 10 Hazel O'Brien
- 17 Scott Taylor-Hall
- 24 a.m. Lynley McInnarney
- 24 p.m. Blair McInnarney
- 25 Hazel O'Brien
- 31 David Lottering
- 7 Jan. Hazel O'Brien
- 14 Trevor English
- 21 Scott Taylor-Hall
- 28 Lynley McInnarney
- 4 Feb. David Ross

**Note: If you are unable to do your duty
please make your own arrangements to swap with someone else**

**Normally during January we are able to leave the church set up, but because
of the necessity for the builders to have access, the church will have to be
dismantled each Sunday.**



A big thank you to all of you who helped out at our Annual Fair!!

Thank you to everyone who collected, donated, sorted, baked, set up, sold, purchased and cleaned up. Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise money and to strengthen our community.



Children, Youth & Families @ St.Margaret's DECEMBER 2017

PLAY GROUP

Play Group final date is Thursday 7 December. We will finish the year with a Christmas party.

GIRLS' BRIGADE

We had our final night of 2017 with prize giving on Tuesday 14 November. A wonderful evening, thank you to everyone who attended. We are incredibly proud of Emma Murray who received her Brigadier Brooch, the highest National Award. Well done Emma – best of luck at Uni next year, we will miss you a lot!



Messy Church

Christmas Messy Church is on! Friday 8 December, 5-6.30pm. We would love to see you all there; it's going to be jam packed with great Christmas activities and something for everyone to enjoy. Craft activities in the hall, followed by a mini-church and then dinner. Donations at the door. See you all there. For enquiries or offers of help, call Delena 9776338



CONTACTS

Sunday School, Rosenda – 5289851

Pause Group, Jo - 021616376

Playgroup, Pat – 9380374

Messy Church, Delena - 9776338

Youth Group, Sian - 0273631315 and Jo - 021616376

Girls Brigade, Delwyn – 9769116 and Emma - 0210 822 0990



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Term 4 has been all about the Pageant! This year our lovely Sunday School children have something a little different for you. Our nativity is set on the beach! We invite our congregation to join us on the beach wearing your beach attire for the pageant on Sunday 10 December.



As this will be the last day of Sunday School all children and their families are invited to stay and join in a Christmas lunch. Just bring yourselves!

To all our children and their families may beautiful moments and happy memories surround you all during the holiday season. Thanks again to all our fantastic teachers that help make Sunday School so much fun for our children we couldn't do it without you.

Sunday School for 2018 will commence on Sunday 4th February.





Christmas Services

Sun. 3 Dec.	10.00 a.m.	Worship & Communion
Sun. 10 Dec.	10.00 a.m.	Morning Worship Christmas Pageant
Sun. 17 Dec.	10.00 a.m.	Christmas Music Carols in the park with St Mary's - Silverstream Park
Sun. 24 Dec.	10.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m. 7.15 p.m. 9.15 p.m.	Morning Worship Picnic on the lawn Carols on the lawn Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Day	10.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service

CRAFT BONANZA

24-25 August 2018

**After numerous date changes
the date has finally been set**

**Start thinking of ideas and putting aside
items suitable for the Craft Bonanza**

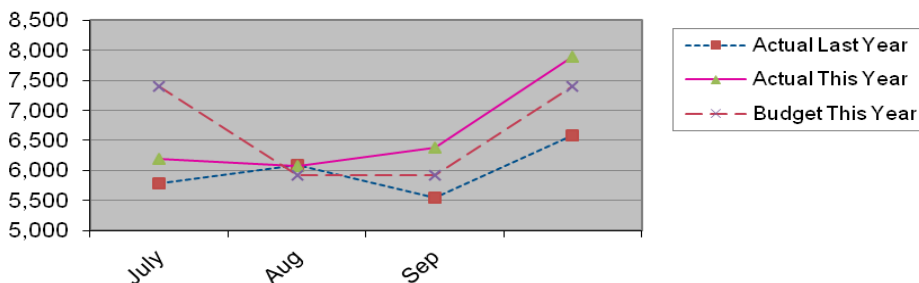
More details next year

Report from Board of Managers

Giving Analysis by Months 4 months July - Oct. 2017

Month	No. of Sundays	Actual Last Year	No. of Sundays	Actual This Year	Budget This Year	Surplus(Deficit) This Year
July	4	5,788.60	5	6,192.50	7,404.00	(1,211.50)
Aug	5	6,089.10	4	6,071.71	5,923.00	148.71
Sep	4	5,538.50	4	6,371.60	5,923.00	448.60
Oct	5	6,584.30	5	7,892.20	7,404.00	488.20
	18	24,000.50	18	26,528.01	26,654.00	(125.99)

Budget Giving for 12 months to 30 June 2018 \$77,000 as approved by the congregation at the AGM and does not include any contributions toward the Earthquake Redevelopment Fund.



Earthquake Redevelopment Fund - Donations totaling \$230.00 were received during the month increasing the balance of the Fund to \$68,235.74 at 31 October 2017.

Lounge Roof - The roofing contractor is being followed up for a response.

Plant Sale - Takings on the day and in the following week amounted to \$3,535.50. The cost Plants was \$2,000.43 giving a net surplus of \$1,535.07 at that point, but this was increased by subsequent Sales at the Church Fair (which are not able to be separated from other takings at the Plant stall). Thanks go to Lorna Moir especially, and to her team of helpers.

Church Fair - Another tremendous effort was rewarded with takings of \$13,486.60 in October. This figure is before expenses. Further income of \$221.90 has been received in November. Despite the limitations imposed by work about to happen around the Church, Melissa Potter worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone kept focused on the challenge, so thanks Melissa. And thanks also to all those who contributed to the success of this event.



Think on this when everything gets a bit busy over the next few weeks!

Interested in studying Theology?

The Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Otago offers a wide range of papers and qualifications, all available via distance learning. Some papers are taught via videoconferences, others include teaching days in Wellington. Others involve week-long intensives. For further information go to www.otago.ac.nz/theology or ph. 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8901.

Enrolments for Semester 1, 2018 are now open.

For details of papers go to: www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study.

To enrol go to www.otago.ac.nz

For enquiries, write to theology@otago.ac.nz or ph. 03 479 8901

Notice Of Upcoming Free Computer Recycling -

Once again we are planning a collection of old computers and cellphones for recycling in February next year. Since we have no storage options at the Church during the reconstruction we will be holding the collection on a specific Saturday in February. If you are replacing your old IT equipment this Christmas please remember to keep your unwanted computers, peripherals or cellphones for drop off at St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Dunn Street, Silverstream in February 2018. The specific date will be decided later. **No TVs please.** Any questions call David 971-6024.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

DECEMBER 2017

JANUARY 2018

Minister: Rev. Chris Rosanowski 971.7530
Acting Session Clerk: Malcolm Foster 563.7436
Website: <http://stmargaretschurch.net.nz>
Hall Bookings: Carol McConnell 527.9462

Family Team: Contact the Minister
Facebook: St. Margaret's Family Page

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Morn.Worship					1	2
3 Communion	4 Friendship Ctr	5	6 Aftn.Fellowship Lunch	7 Play Group Wgt.Watchers	8 Messy Church	9
10 SS Pageant Parish lunch	11 Friendship Ctr	12	13 Evg.Fellowship Dinner	14 Wgt.Watchers	15	16
17 Christmas Music	18	19	20 Bd. Managers	21 Wgt.Watchers	22	23
24 Morn.Worship Picnic - Carols Chr.Eve Service	25 Christmas Day service	26	27	28 Wgt.Watchers	29	30

Services during January 10.00 a.m.