



ST MARGARET'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

LITTLE LIGHTS

Jesus spoke of little lights, candles, lamps,
not great bonfires, just small steady flames
to brighten some dark corner of the house.
Come to think of it, Jesus always preached little -
children, flowers, sparrows, the widow's mite,
mustard seeds, loaves and fishes. He didn't
expect people to make great gestures.
I guess he knew that little is the currency
of everyday living.

So let's thank God for little lights,
the warm smile, the hug, the phone call,
a wave from a passing car, a cup of tea,
an open door, a talent freely shared.
How often, when my own candle has gone out,
has someone relit it from their lamp of kindness.
That can't happen with a big light.
I mean, how close can you get
to a supernova?

Joy Cowley - 'Psalms for the Road'
Publisher:
Pleroma Christian Supplies
Otane. Hawkes Bay.



Greetings

Here we are in March already. It's a month that is supposedly associated with madness – well for hares at least and that's simply because in the northern hemisphere, where hares are to be found naturally March is the beginning of spring and all that that involves. To be fair though March certainly doesn't have a great reputation after all according to Shakespeare Julius Caesar met his demise on the ides of March. And on the same date two years ago we were unwilling participants in the tragedy that occurred in Christchurch.

But rather than focus on the mental status of hares perhaps we can use March as an opportunity to take time to ponder and ask questions. For the church March is usually part of the season of Lent, being a period of reflection and preparation. After Jesus' baptism he spent some forty days in the wilderness, alone. Frederick Beuchner, in his little book "*Beyond Words*" describes the forty days that Jesus spends in the wilderness as time spent asking "himself the question of what it meant to be Jesus. Christians are supposed to ask one way or another, what it means to be themselves. "

So who are we?

One of Shirley Murray's hymns I enjoy expresses it this way: as Christians
we're the proof of God's good humour,
we're the twinkle in God's eye,
made to shine, reflect the glory,
given light and space to fly .

I rather like that neat and positive summary of who we are as Christians. Created by a God who likes what was made and who has given us the ability to choose for ourselves. We are loved even though frequently our choices are not what God would want us to do – we are loved though so absurd human, foolish, chosen people, God still takes us at our word. In our absurdity we frequently do make foolish decisions and it's in those situations that I so closely identify with the child, who admits the mistake and turns and seeks the comforting arms of a parent..

So as a suggestion, how about during this month of March, this period of Lent spend a little time to think about who we are as Christians. You could even remind yourself the next time you look in the mirror that you are made in the image of God, the God who loves you and in whose eye you are truly a twinkle.

Blessings.



Personal Notes

- We welcome some new faces to the congregation. We trust that those who are new will find the St Margaret's community a caring, welcoming and supportive one. For those of us who have been here for a while could I encourage you to introduce yourselves to new faces and set yourself the challenge during the week to try and remember the names.
- Our condolences to Leonie Fletcher & family on the recent death of Alan. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all as you grieve.
- March is not a busy month for birthdays, well as far as my records show. Only two people with birthdays this month: Ron Allen and Ann Pemberton. Our best wishes to you both as you celebrate the completion of another twelve months.
- Our best wishes to all those who are starting tertiary study whether that be from home or away. In particular we think of those who are away from home for the first time. Our prayers are that you are able to settle down, find people who will support you and that you will successfully enjoy your study.
- I have no doubt that most of you will have caught up with the fact that I am intending to retire at the end of July. That will be exactly 7 years after I was commissioned as a lay Minister and six years after I was ordained. It has been an intriguing period we have a building strengthening, financial challenges, to say nothing of a completely new role for me. My future remains very uncertain at this point.

Lectionary

7 Mar. Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

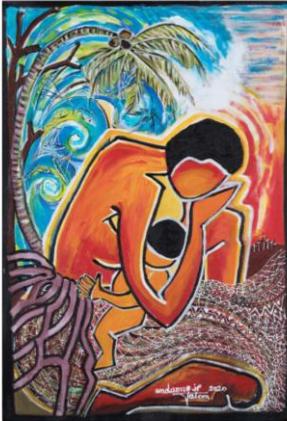
14 Mar. Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3,17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

21 Mar. Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

28 Mar. Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philipians 2:5-11 Mark 11:1-11



Build on a Strong Foundation

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 5 March 2021
The Salvation Army Church,
695 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt at 1.00 p.m.

A 'cuppa' will be available at the end of the Service. This year the Service has been written by Women of Vanuatu and is sent around the world by the World Day of Prayer International Committee, and a Committee in each country then prepares it for use in their own country.

Men, Women and Youth are invited to join in the Service.

Offerings will be used to support projects in Vanuatu and New Zealand as well as to contribute towards local and international World Day of Prayer.'

ROSTERS

Morning Tea

7 March Youth Group
14 Riek Kleinjan/Pam Hurly
21 Lynn Russell/Jan Hill
28 Lin Coleman/Karen Coleman
4 April Jacqueline Kitchen/Lorna Moir

Church Cleaning

7 Mar. Rosenda Upton
14 Margaret Opray
21 Carol McConnell
28 Shirley Harrison
4 April Fono Williams

Audio Visual

7 Mar. Lee Don
14 Alfred Enslin
21 Lynley McInnarney
28 David Lottering
2 Apr. Scott Taylor-Hall (G.Friday)
4 Lee Don (Easter Sunday)

Lawns

6 Mar. Rhys West
20 Malcolm Foster
3 April Vern Bennett (Easter)

Help needed please - As you can see from the above list of volunteers, there are a large number of people (including those not listed this month) who willingly volunteer to help in various ways each month on the various rosters. If you are not already volunteering, and are willing to help, please contact the people below. A reasonably urgent need is for more younger men & women to mow the lawns. You would get a turn approx, 3-4 times a year, and less if more people volunteer.

Morning Tea: Lynley McInnarney 5288213
Church Cleaning: Carol McConnell 5279462
Lawns: Hazel O'Brien 5289117



Winter Warmers

8 May 2021
10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

**We will be selling anything that
reflects the good things about
winter**

**warm clothes (old and new);
jackets, hats, scarves, beanies,
bedding, books,
puzzles, soup**

**Start sorting, but please hold
onto your things until
nearer the time**

**Lorna Moir
528.2681**



Children, Youth & Families @ St.Margaret's March 2021

PLAY GROUP - Playgroup is up and running again. The numbers have been small, but we have had three new families attend, along with our regulars. With the lovely weather, the children have been able to be outside. We welcome all new families.

GIRLS' BRIGADE - Our first planned night was Tuesday 16 February, but with our part of the country going back to Level 2 and two of our leaders having been in New Plymouth over Waitangi Weekend, we took the cautious approach and postponed for a week. Consequently at time of writing, we are yet to start! With 21st Hutt Valley closing at Upper Hutt Baptist Church, we potentially have another 10 girls starting and with the five new ones from last year it is a big boost to our numbers.

Leadership wise we are going to be tight this year. We have lost Grace, our Young Leader; she is off to Uni and cannot commit to coming each week. Gillian is taking some time for family during Term 1, so we are two leaders down. We will definitely be relying on parent support to get us through!

YOUTH GROUP - Youth Group has started well and we have a great growing group of young people who are awesome! We started the year by establishing who we are, what we want to do and how we want to do it! We are looking forward to a BBQ on Sunday 14 March and other activities throughout the year.

CONTACTS

Sunday School Nicki - 5288106

Youth Group Jo - 021616376 or Delena 9776338

Playgroup Ainsley - 5278090

Girls Brigade Delwyn – 9769116 and Emma - 0210 822 0990



- **Afternoon Fellowship** - Wednesday 3 March 1.30 p.m. Marilyn Anderson will speak about her experience in a pharmacy. Riek Kleinjan would like donations of lemons and small jars for lemon honey, please.
- **Evening Fellowship** - Wednesday 10 March 7.30 p.m. Thank you to Malcolm Foster for his interesting talk at our last meeting. The speaker for our March meeting will be Steve Goodman from Volunteer Service Abroad.
- **Scrapbooking & Cardmaking** - Sunday 21 March 12.00 noon - 3.00 p.m. BYO lunch if starting at noon. Bring your photos and album plus equipment to work with. If making cards then bring along your card, papers, scissors, pens etc. Cost for the afternoon is only \$2.50. Enquires to Pam Hurly 5285461.

Social Justice Group - The social justice group put in a submission to the UHCC brothel bylaw from this group. The Council have met and the decision was made to revoke the bylaw and use the district plan to monitor brothels in the Upper Hutt region, this is in alignment with other local authorities and the purpose of the laws put in place for brothels in New Zealand.

Housing Crisis- The social justice group has decided to look at the housing crisis and where St. Margaret's may be able to help in our region. The group has been speaking with the Upper Hutt Housing Trust and will meet to discuss our options on Thursday 18 March at 7.00 p.m. If you are able to come along we would love to have you there. For more information please contact Delena or Sheryn.



How can you access support?

If you or someone you know needs support from the pastoral care team, please contact:

Sheryn Jacques	021936067
Shirley Main	5282636
Delena West	021332449/9776338

3whirinaki@gmail.com
Delenawest6@gmail.com

How can you offer support? If you are able to offer your time to help with making meals, transporting people to church, hospital appointments etc., visiting or calling people, prayer or in other ways and would be happy to be contacted for this, please let Sheryn, Shirley or Delena know and we will add you to our list of volunteers.

St. Margaret's Easter Choir



**We'd love you to join us in weekly rehearsals
from Thursdays 4 March
7.30-8.30 p.m. in the church
for the service on *Easter Day 4 April***

Please contact Pat 938 0374 or Marilyn 527 8601
to let us know you would like to come,
or for more information

Report from Board of Managers -

GIVING - The level of giving is pleasingly ahead of Budget. Thank you.

CWS CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020 - Contributions in December amounted to \$670 and \$240 was added in January 2021. The total of \$910 has been forwarded to Christian World Service. This compares with \$958.20 for the 2019 Appeal. Receipts will be distributed to those members who requested them once CWS sends them to us.

LOUNGE/HALL/TOILETS CLEANER - Nicola Morrell has been offered the position, taking over from Kathy Smith with effect from 1 March 2021. Kathy has fulfilled this role admirably since 1 February 1999 and we thank her for this.

CHURCH EMERGENCY SIDE ENTRANCE / EXIT PROTECTION - We now have new wind and rain protection for the side door thanks to Malcolm and Greg Foster.

HALL REDECORATION - The scaffolding has now been taken away and the hall is available for use once again.

*Rough hands or smooth?
 I think the rough, Lord.
 The craftsman's hardened hands,
 the hands of one who held a plane
 and trued a plank of wood by eye,
 met the demands of customers,
 and felt the satisfaction
 of a job well done*

*I'm comforted to think you knew the world of work,
 your muscles tired at the end of day,
 and that you felt the trail of sweat
 that wet your back in Nazareth.
 I'm sure the yokes you made
 were smooth and fitted well,
 were light as any yoke can be.*

*And, just in passing, Lord,
 may I observe
 you said your yoke was easy,
 but forgive me when I say
 I'm not so sure of that -
 I question whether any yoke is weightless -
 eve yours.*

*Or is it that I'm not yet used to carrying it, and maybe
 if I were more willing
 it would sit a little lighter
 on my neck?*

*But rough or smooth
 I'm sure your hand was gentle
 as you let him down the road he couldn't see.
 A warmth of touch that reassure
 and gave him
 what he never thought to have.*

*Lord, take my hand
 and hold me in the dark
 when I can't see the way ahead.
 And if at times I stumble, as I know I will,
 tighten your grip on me
 and don't let go.*

From: 'Encounters' by Eddie Askew

REPORT FROM BOARD OF MANAGERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
ACTUAL v BUDGET 7 MONTHS JULY 2020 – JANUARY 2021

	Jan-21	Total	Budget	Gain (Loss)
	Mth	7 Mths	7 Mths	Actual v Budget
<u>INCOME</u>				
Giving				
Envelopes	1,231	8,831		
Automatic Payments	6,134	45,416		
	7,365	54,247	52,500	1,747
Loose	352	1,885	2,917	(1,032)
Donations General	1,155	5,175	5,833	(658)
	8,872	61,306	61,250	56
Fund Raising - see below	0	23,055	17,000	6,055
Interest	0	901	500	401
Church & Hall hire	0	3,796	2,917	880
Mission - Bible Society/CWS	240	1,106	800	306
<u>Total Income</u>	9,112	90,165	82,467	7,698
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Administration	870	7,576	7,682	107
Christian Education	0	484	350	(134)
Ministry	8,279	57,293	58,817	1,524

Mission Incl.Pinehaven School	0	502	900	398
Property Expenses	511	9,196	16,033	6,838
<u>Total Expenses</u>	9,660	75,050	83,782	8,732
<u>Net Surplus(Deficit)</u>	(548)	15,114	(1,315)	16,430

Fund Raising analysis

Plants (Net)	3,063	2,000	1,063
Fair	16,747	15,000	1,747
Masks	3,245	0	3,245
	23,055	17,000	6,055

Funds available for general operations amounted to \$57,803.08 at 31 January 2021.

March 2021

Minister: Rev. Chris Rosanowski 971.7530 **Family Team:** Contact the Minister
Session Clerk: Marilyn Anderson 527.8601
Website: <http://stmargaretschurch.net.nz>
Hall Bookings: Carol McConnell 527.9462 **Facebook:** St. Margaret's Family Page

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Friendship Ctr	2 Girl's Brigade	3 Aftn. Fellowship Session	4 Play Group Choir practice	5	6
7 Communion	8 Friendship Ctr	9 Girl's Brigade Probus	10 Evng. Fellowship	11 Play Group	12	13
14 Morn. Worship Shared lunch	15 Friendship Ctr	16 Girl's Brigade	17 Bd. Managers	18 Play Group	19	20
21 Morn. Worship	22 Friendship Ctr	23 Girl's Brigade	24	25 Play Group	26	27
28 Morn. Worship	29 Friendship Ctr	30 Girl's Brigade	31			

Retirement Home Services - Manor Park 4 March; Summerset 12 March; Heretaunga 23 March