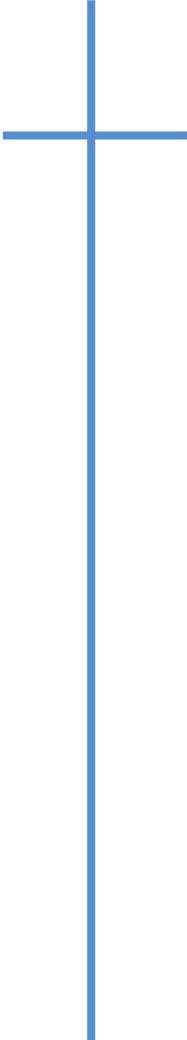




ST MARGARET'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023



When the Japanese mend broken objects they aggrandize the damage by filling the cracks with gold. They believe when something has suffered damage and has a history it becomes more beautiful.

Just imagine us being upcycled every time we receive a blow, where the cracks in our humanity, our relationships, our faith are filled with gold, or the spiritual equivalent such as grace or love. This is the way to mend people, to renew people, to redeem what has been bruised and broken.

<https://newkilpatrickblog>

I am working through a few books, each one for a different reason. Besides a novel for entertainment, I am reading Seeking God by Trevor Hudson. It is a book that is challenging me once again in terms of my own personal spiritual growth.

But there is another book, a lot harder and a lot more frustrating. It is a book that I am getting through very, very slowly. Stutteringly, if there is such a word. The main reason is the title is misleading and I am tempted to call it a lie. The book is 'Māori Made Easy' by Scott Morrison. Easy, I think not. I am hoping that my perseverance will pay off.

I am guessing that for many, school was a challenge, University a bigger challenge. Learning a new skill is also hard but the time invested in it is worthwhile when you can sit back and admire your creations and abilities.

So where am I going with this?

I believe that our own spiritual journey is just as challenging. Learning the skills to read, study and reflect on the Bible is challenging. The habits of prayer and meditation are activities that we often put in the 'Too hard-to-find time' basket. Probably the biggest challenge is developing the disciplined time to invest in the Bible and prayer. To say that the result is worth the effort and perseverance cannot be overstated. No matter how old we are, purposefully growing our relationship with God through a deeper engagement with the Bible and prayer is very much worth the effort! Can I encourage you all to consider upping your game just a little; to read your Bible just a few times more a week. Pray just once a week more than you normally do and I am convinced you will soon begin to experience the results of the time you have invested.

God Bless.



Personal

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Papillon & Greg Foster and their young sons as Papillon awaits surgery for a non cancerous lump on her brain. We also think of Heather-Lee & Malcolm Foster as they support their family.

Lectionary

5 Nov. Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7,33-37 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

12 Nov. Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

19 Nov. Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

26 Nov. Ezekial 34:11-16,20-24 Psalm 1000 Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

3 Dec. Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Matthew 13:24-37

New Elders

On 29 October we will be ordaining and inducting two new elders to St. Margaret's Session. Karen Coleman and Shirley Harrison. In case you are not sure who Karen and Shirley are, here's a reminder.



Shirley Harrison



Karen Coleman

Rosters**Morning Tea**

5 Nov. Sue Taylor/Delwyn Frederikson
 12 Selma Britz/Lynn Russell
 19 Pam Hurly/Lorna Moir
 26 Mathilda Hartzenberg/Jacqueline Kitchen
 3 Dec. Lin Coleman/Karen Coleman

Church Cleaning

5 Nov. Lynley McInnarney
 12 Jan Hill
 19 Ainsley Andrews
 26 Helen Bassett
 3 Dec. Jean Don

Lawns

4 Nov. Rhys West
 18 Vern Bennett
 2 Dec. Richard Harrison

Audio Visual

5 Nov. Alfred Enslin
 12 Chris Rosanowski
 19 Hazel O'Brien
 26 Alfred Enslin
 3 Dec. David Lottering

Coming Up

- **On the first Wednesday of each month** at 2.00 p.m. a group comes together at the home of Jacqueline and Lynn to share a simple afternoon tea and enjoy a chance to chat. The address is 2 Fendalton Crescent, Pinehaven.
- **Evening Fellowship** - Wednesday 8 November at 7.30 p.m. in the lounge. We will be welcoming Chris Upton, who will be speaking about Mangaroa Farm. All welcome.
- The last meeting for the year will be Christmas dinner at Te Marua Golf Club on Wednesday 13 December, 6pm. \$40 per person. To confirm a booking please put your name down at the November meeting or contact Lois Rowe. Members of the congregation most welcome



A cat passed away after a long life of being a perfect pet and went to heaven. At the Pearly Gates, God asked the cat, "If you could have anything in the world to make you happy, what would it be?" The cat thought about it for a moment and replied, "Well, I lived on a farm for my whole life and had to sleep on hard and cold wooden floors. So, I would love a warm fluffy pillow to sleep on." God said, "Of course you can have that." In an instant, a huge fluffy pillow appeared for the cat. She loved it because it was the softest and warmest thing she had ever felt in her life.

That same day, 12 mice appeared at the Pearly Gates after being involved in a terrible accident that took their lives. God asked them the same question, and they discussed it amongst themselves for a second. The mice told God, "Well, we were chased by dogs, cats, and even humans with brooms our wholes lives. We would love to have some little roller skates so we would not have to run everywhere." In a matter of seconds, 12 pairs of the little roller skates appeared. The mice were so excited and happy. Each mouse had their own pair that fit perfectly. They put them on and started riding all over Heaven.

A few days went by, and God decided to check on the new animal additions to Heaven, starting with the cat. He found her lounging on her pillow and asked, "Hey Cat, how have things been so far?" The cat responded, "Well, I have had the best sleep of my life on this pillow, and those little meals-on-wheels you send me each day are absolutely delicious."

WHO ARE WE? • We are married, not married, single, separated, divorced and remarried. • We are different generations of brothers, sisters, adults and children. • We are all genders and sexualities, lifestyles and experiences and a few prejudices too. • We are people very new to the church and many who have been here longer than they care to remember. • We are folks who know little about the Bible and those who know quite a bit about it. • We are Sunday morning only members and those who come to everything. • We are beginners on the journey of faith along with those who have travelled quite a distance. • We are people looking for something BIGGER in life. • We are a mix of explorers and traditionalists • We are people who want to be together: caring accepting and loving each other. But most of all... people who want to be together: caring, accepting and loving each other.

From: abbotsford.typepad.com

BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	Sep 2023	Sep 2023	3 Mths YTD	3 Mths YTD	3 Mths Gain(Loss)
For the 3 Months July - September 2023	Month	Month	YTD	YTD	Gain(Loss)
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	v Budget
2001 - Offering Automatic Payments	6,708	7,500	21,148	22,500	(1,353)
2002 - Offering Envelopes	1,210	917	3,027	2,751	276
2010 - Loose Offerings	1,009	333	2,063	1,000	1,063
Donations	-	-	-	1,167	(1,167)
2101 - Fundraising - Fair	-	-	65	-	65
2310 - Mission - Bible Society Appeal	-	-	325	200	125
2420 - Rent Received - Hall etc	1,570	667	3,797	2,000	1,797
270 - Interest Income	3,597	1,500	3,622	1,500	2,122
Total Trading Income	14,094	10,917	34,046	31,118	2,928
Total Operating Expenses	19,078	15,340	46,183	43,198	(2,985)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(4,984)	(4,423)	(12,137)	(12,080)	(56)

Pleasingly, income from Offerings for the 3 months is tracking very close to Budget.

Funds held for General Operations at 30 September 2023 amounted to \$221,036.23

Repairs to the exterior of the Church costing \$1,707.96 have been completed thanks to Greg Foster.

Repainting of the timber section at the front of the Church by Managers is scheduled for summer.

November 2023

Minister: Rev. Rodney Ramsay 0211259835 **Family Team:** Contact the Minister
Session Clerk: Marilyn Anderson 527.8601
Website: <http://stmargaretschurch.net.nz> **Hall Bookings:** Carol McConnell 0272210609
Facebook: St. Margaret's Family Page

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dance 4-5.30 Tea & Chat Session 7.00	2 Dance 4-5.30 Pilates 6-8	3 Youth Group	4 Dance 9-12
5 Communion	6 Friendship Gr. Dancing 1-2.30 Pilates 6-8 HV Singers 7-9	7 Dance 4-7	8 Dance 4-5.30 Evg Fellowship	9 Dance 4-5.30 Pilates 6-8	10 Youth Group	11 Dance 9-12
12 Family Service Shared lunch	13 Friendship Gr. Dancing 1-2.30 Pilates 6-8 HV Singers 7-9	14 Dance 4-7	15 Dance 4-5.30 Bd. Managers	16 Dance 4-5.30 Pilates 6-8	17 Youth Group	18 Dance 9-12
19 Morn.Worship	20 Friendship Gr. Dancing 1-2.30 Pilates 6-8 HV Singers 7-9	21 Dance 4-7	22 Dance 4-5.30	23 Dance 4-5.30 Pilates 6-8	24 Youth Group	25 Dance 9-12
26 Morn.Worship	27 Friendship Gr. Dancing 1-2.30 Pilates 6-8 HV Singers 7-9	28 Dance 4-7	29 Dance 4-5.30	30 Dance 4-5.30 Pilates 6-8		

Services available on Zoom each Sunday <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89367824002>

Full list of names and times for the above groups are on a chart on the notice board in the hall foyer.