



HALO

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TARADALE

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From the Minister

A few weeks ago about 40 people attended a seminar here in the church on conversation skills. A team from Caleb Ministries taught us how to be relational Bridge Builders. We learnt some great open ended questions that can open up a conversation.

"Tell me about your family?" This is a great question as you don't have to guess whether they are single, married or divorced or whether they have children...

What do you do with your time? Again another great question as they can tell you about their hobbies or their work or....

Other general questions included **"where have you travelled?"** and **"what do you do for recreation?"**

The challenge is to move from the important general questions onto the deeper areas and again we were give useful pointers. The first area was to ask about a person's **Concerns or Frustrations or Challenges**. These should arise out of the earlier conversation so there is no set question to ask. They gave a word picture to remind us to ask about these three areas – **Chicken for Christmas = CFC = Concerns Frustrations Challenges**. Again by asking open ended questions such as "what challenges you about that? Rather than are you challenged by that? To which they could reply "Yes".

Another area that can take a conversation to a deeper level are to ask about their dreams and goals.

The course was called "Bridge Builders" because relationships are the bridge across which it is natural to share about our relationship with God. If you talk about their challenges or concerns or frustrations it is our opportunity to respond with love. Sometimes the loving thing to do is to offer to pray, sometime the loving thing to do is something practical, and sometimes the loving thing is to introduce them to Jesus who also loves them and wants to help.

Being willing to talk about Jesus is hard for many people so it is often good to share your own story about how Jesus has helped you deal with a similar issue, or to connect their story with the story in the scripture. You could say "that reminds me of a story in the Bible where Jesus met a person facing the same issue and he said or did" Sharing stories – your story, God's story is appropriate after you have listened to their story.

I have found that since doing this course I am braver about asking open ended questions. I have also been interested to read and listen to a speaker talking about how Jesus invariably answered a question with another question? For example in Luke 20 :2-4

The high priests, religion scholars, and leaders confronted him and demanded, "Show us your credentials. Who authorized you to speak and act like this?"

Jesus answered, "First, let me ask you a question: About the baptism of John - who authorized it, heaven or humans?"

or in Matthew 22 :17-22

A few of Herod's followers mixed in, to ask, "Teacher, we know you... teach the way of God accurately, . So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Jesus knew they were up to no good.... Why are you trying to trap me? Do you have a coin? Let me see it." They handed him a silver piece. This engraving—who does it look like? And whose name is on it?" They said, "Caesar." "Then give Caesar what is his, and give God what is his."

The Pharisees were speechless. They went off shaking their heads.

So may you learn to relate to others as Jesus did by asking great questions.

God bless, *Brett*

Material for July Halo in by 11 a.m. Wednesday 22nd June 2011 please

2 **What does it mean to be part of a Presbyterian Church?**

Congregations today recognise that people who attend have a multitude of denominational backgrounds (or none at all) and so may not understand the way things are done here or why. My hope is that the following may be a useful insight into the St Columba's and the Presbyterian Church.

The word "presbyter", from which the name "Presbyterian" is derived, is a New Testament word, often translated as "elder" (James 5:14, Acts 20:18ff, 1 Peter 5:1ff & 1 Timothy 5:17). The Presbyterian Church is a church ruled or governed by elders.

Historically, the eldership's task has tended to consist of three main elements: (1) pastoral care; (2) discipline; and (3) spiritual oversight.

Pastoral Care

The church council (aka the Session) takes responsibility for ensuring pastoral care is carried out in the parish, individual elders may or may not be involved personally in the conduct of that care.

Discipline

Discipline, in a church context, is concerned with the formation of *disciples* - people whose lives are ordered by the gospel. Nurture, encouragement, pastoral care and even correction, are appropriate means of strengthening faith and forming disciples.

Spiritual Oversight

In modern language, this is leadership and governance. This involves seeking the mind of Christ through consultation and prayerful deliberation. The church council is a body of spiritual leaders concerned for building up the body of Christ and advancing the mission of the Church.

Church Councils, Presbyteries and the General Assembly

Two key words can be used to describe the Presbyterian form of government: "conciliar" and "connectional". The word "conciliar" refers to an ordered structure of church councils. The highest of these is the national council known as the General Assembly; then there is the regional council or presbytery; and finally there is the local council or Session. The word "connectional" refers to the reality of congregations being in connection with each other through presbyteries and the General Assembly.

Because of its conciliar structure the Presbyterian Church is often said to be a democratic Church. But this is true only in part. Yes, it involves many people in its decision-making processes and congregational meetings are held for some things (e.g., to consider calling a minister), but for most operational matters the congregation trusts its elders to "rule" wisely and prayerfully. The mind of the elders may reflect the mind of the congregation, but not necessarily so, for their task is to seek the mind of Christ. That is why attendees at the General Assembly are called commissioners, not delegates. The role of the commissioner is to discern what the Spirit is saying, not merely represent a particular constituency or view point. For the same reason, proxy and absentee votes are not allowed in any of the church councils, including congregational meetings. Discernment involves listening to what the Spirit is saying through discussion and debate. How can you do that if you've already decided what your vote will be?

Elders and Ministers

Elders are set apart for life to their role of sharing with the ministers in the task of providing Leadership, Care and Discipline. Collectively they share the responsibility and give expression to the multiplicity of gifts and ministries that build up the body of the church (Eph 4:11). Ordained Ministers are first of all Elders, but with their extra training and particular gifts are also set apart for a special role within the Eldership. What distinguishes elders and ministers is the function they have in the church, not their prestige or rank. The Minister is not the CEO of the church – leadership is collectively the role of the session. In a session meeting, the minister is the Moderator or chairperson. The functions and responsibilities for pastoral care, discipline and spiritual oversight belong to the Eldership first and not primarily to the minister. The Minister is however responsible for the worship and in particular the preaching and has complete control over

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What does it mean to be part of a Presbyterian Church? cont...

who preaches. Elders and Ministers are ordained for life, but do not have an automatic right to be on the Church council if they shift parish. When a minister moves parish they are inducted into their role in the new setting. The same is true for Elders who have come off a session or move – they need to be inducted not re-ordained. **Elders and other Leaders**

One of the insights of the reformation was the rediscovery of the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9). This is the recognition that all Christians have the Spirit and have Spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12, Eph 4:11-12). All are called to use their talents to serve and witness and follow the example and teaching of Jesus – not just a select few. All members are called to ministry (some are paid to enable them to do it - such as youth workers, Parish administrators or “ministers”). At St Columba’s we have many parish visitors who share the work of pastoral care under the direction of the Elders. We have many who offer their time and talents leading home groups, or working with our children or youth – but it is under the care and direction of the Elders. We have many on service teams who make tea or clean halls etc... but ultimately they are responsible to the session via their team leaders or the Board of managers.

Brett

Much of this text has been taken directly from the handbook for elders but edited. The full text of the Handbook for Elders can be downloaded from <http://presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes> (see about halfway down the page). It is written by Graham Redding former Moderator of the general Assembly and now Principal of the Knox centre for Ministry and Leadership.

Golden Thank Offering

The Board of Managers prays that you give serious consideration to the Golden Thank Offering in June. Currently we are running a deficit budget. This is due to a downturn in giving, as the world’s financial troubles impact on our daily living, and the rise in costs of running the church.

As a Church, we undertake a number of activities that not only assist our congregation, but also enable us to reach out into the community. Many of our activities go unnoticed by some in the congregation, but we are making an impact on our surrounding community and the lives of others. Make no mistake; St Columba’s contribution to society is noticed outside our membership.

With this in mind, we would urge you to contribute to the Golden Thank Offering as you are able, in order to further God’s work among not only the congregation, but those we are reaching out to in His name. *Board of Managers.*

*Count your many blessings, name them one by one
Count your many blessing see what God has done
and it will surprise you what the Lord has done*

I am constantly amazed at what God can do when we put our lives in his hands. I am amazed at what God has done through people of the Church. I am amazed at the blessings we have received. One of our Blessings has been Mark Seek who has carried on the excellent youth work from Wim Slooten. He has seen new young people join the group so that sometimes they have up to 50 young people on a Friday night, plus he oversees the Youth Band and the Discussion Group on a Wednesday. Mark is really keen to have more hours as sometimes he works nearly 40 hours and only gets paid for 25. He would also love to have a van, as his little Toyota is not suitable to take groups of young people on outings. Like Mark, many of us see the great potential to make a difference in the lives of young people and to the Church. This has stretched the Church budget and the Session and Board are would love to see this well funded. *Brett*

***The Golden Thank Offering will be taken up on Sunday 19th June.
Envelopes are included in this issue of Halo***

Children's Story

Armour

I can remember the day well. How old was I? Oh, about nine or ten. I was a bit of a strange kid. I did not have many friends and I was never the first one picked in any side. Gee, it is awful to be the last one picked. Even at my schoolwork I was only average. I was scared of the teachers. I remember when Mum and Dad took me to a dentist. They had some shopping to do, so while I only had two fillings, I ended up being away from school for the whole day. The next day, at school, a teacher asked me how many fillings I needed. I believed I would be in trouble if they thought I had been away from school the whole day for two fillings, so I said twenty-six. That little lie got me into more trouble than if I had stuck with the two fillings. I was called names by some of the other kids and lost fights. When we got into trouble at school, we would get the cane. It was a length of bamboo. Teachers would use it to hit you on the bottom. I got it a few times and it hurt. One day I saw another boy getting the cane, girls did not get it, and he had put some newspaper down his shorts so that it did not hurt him. I remember thinking it was funny having newspaper as armour. It did stop the cane from hurting him though.

The next Sunday, I read in my Sunday school lesson about spiritual armour. Spiritual is a big word isn't it? Do you know what it means? If you do not know what it means, ask Mum, Dad, grandparents or your Sunday School teacher and see if they can tell you. If they do not know, then write a letter to Halo and ask. I said that I read my lesson because we lived a long way from a church so we did our Sunday School lessons by correspondence. I knew that armour protected you because I had read about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and Robin Hood. In both stories, the Knights were protected by armour. The Bible story talked about the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, shoes of peace, a shield of faith and a helmet of salvation. It said that if I wore that armour, I would be safe from harm. I liked the bit about the belt of truth. If I had used it when asked about my fillings, I would not have got the cane.

I know that the Knights of the Round Table were protected from arrows, swords and lances (spear-like weapons,) by their armour. I also knew that the bible did not mean that we had to dress up in real metal armour like King Arthur's Knights. I knew that it meant that if I wanted to be a Christian, and do God's works, then I would be attacked by people who would try to make me do wrong things. I found that the best armour was to learn my memory verses. By knowing them, when some one said something bad, or tried to make me fight, I was able to remember those verses and instead of being hurt by what people said, my armour protected me. How do memory verses do that? Well, if you see people fighting, then you might remember a verse that says, 'Blessed are the peacemakers', so you will try and stop the fighting. That would be using your 'shoes of peace'. As I have said, if I had used my 'belt of truth' about my fillings, that piece of armour would have protected me from the cane.

by Jim Payton

Dream **BIG**

5

Last month Halo published the thoughts of Peter Wooten regarding to his vision for the Afcare and Holiday programmes with extensions into St. Columba's if he had an unlimited amount of money. As promised Halo asked Mark Seek his thoughts for his Youth if the same situation applied.

An open cheque book all right!!

I like to think that I could spend some of that fictitious money on....

Redeveloping the old Hall space- you could incorporate the existing roof structure which I quite like (it has character) pushing the wall out further would give us the space required to host larger groups of teens. It would then become a space with multiple uses catering for indoor sports and for music practice etc.

- * Collapsible stage with lighting rig and speakers would be on the shopping list
- * Musical instruments would be on the list too as many young people are inspired and motivated through this medium.
- * Art space - including endless supplies of art materials
- * **YOUTH VAN** - required to provide transport to specific small group events critical to developing relationships with youth.
- * Wages for fulltime youth pastor, family worker, intern and Mainly Music coordinator.
- * Office space for the above pastoral team and possibly other youth/family ministry teams e.g. Youth Line, Canteen etc...
- * **YOUTH LOUNGE** - Wednesday night and Friday night

As many of you are aware, I'm the "new kid" on the block and I like the idea that we are part of the community, so spending zillions of dollars to me is outrageous and not necessary because if we can use the facilities the community has to offer then we remain salt and light. Alongside that though, to have some key facilities makes us all more effective in our work and I have to believe that you, the congregation, want that too... One thing I have learnt over the past 24 years as a Christian, you can't out-give God. Try it, put it to the test.

Blessings, *Mark*

Way To Go Mark



And ye shall find: Artist Mark Seek and Raffles Cafe owners Annemarie and Guy Morris.

Imagine Halo's surprise when we opened our Napier Mail to find this photograph. We have long known Mark to be talented in a number of areas but his ability as an illustrator is one he has kept hidden. As he says, "The glory is God's." An exhibition of pencil drawings by Mark showed at Raffles Café in May. Although Mark, whose background is in furniture restoration, graduated in costume design from the Nelson School of Arts, he rekindled a love of drawing while there, and has been involved with Waiatarua Publishing as a freelance illustrator. Truly, a man using God given talents in many areas.

Christchurch Earthquake

Yvonne and Ron Laing were travelling to Christchurch to work and assist in the recovery after the first earthquake when the second hit. Yvonne wrote a number of e-mail letters to family and friends detailing their daily routines and observations. In all, there are nine letters, so we have edited them down to selected observations. We are sure that if you want more detail Yvonne will be happy to oblige.

Letter 1

We were on the ferry crossing from Wellington to Picton when we received a text from family in Christchurch telling us they were safe. Another family on the ferry received a text at the same time stating that their home was demolished!

Our intention to assist after the September earthquake immediately changed and we headed to family at Kirwee, about 30Km out of Christchurch. Everyone else was heading AWAY from Christchurch. My twin, Lorraine, and Lyndsay were shaken but not much damaged as they were further from the epicentre this time. Our niece Phillipa, in the city, had her home slightly damaged but her business premises demolished for the second time in 6months. She and six others lay under, and hung onto, a strong table on the upper floor of a mall where a wall had fallen out and were tossed around violently. When they got out and lay on the ground to recover, it started to open up beside them.

Instead of auditing repair work done after the September 'quake, Ron is now going into the damaged residential areas to assess and advise whether homes are safe to stay in. (red/yellow/green sticker assessments).

I am impressed with the caring and professional way the emergency teams etc are pulling together. As well as the holes in the garden, (I'm pretty skilled at that now!) and in addition to the portaloos, there are 5,000 chemical toilets coming for where mobility is compromised, and accessing a portaloos is too difficult.

Letter 2: 04/03/11

People are overwhelmingly patient and grateful to be alive. People are digging the liquefaction, checking on people house to house, delivering water, giving away food and other essentials, listening, comforting. Generous folk (some quite elderly) who have no power, water or sewerage are still cooking sausages on bonfires and offering them free to neighbours and aid personnel like Ron.

Two of our niece's six staff have left town for good, and others are traumatised. e.g., ones best friend has had both legs amputated and will probably lose an arm. In addition, they had to take her baby prematurely at 25weeks gestation.

Lorraine's church, in the worst hit area of town, has lost over 50% of its congregation in the exodus. Forty-five people, many frightened and traumatised, attended the service held in the church car park.

Letter 3: 06/03/11

Another 199 houses on Ron's list for urgent inspections.

Everywhere people are working, and pulling together. The apparently slow progress in the eastern suburbs is a reflection of how vast the damage, and how complex and complicated the work is! There is this almost "ghost-town" atmosphere. Some people are not even managing to get to the water distribution centres. Others are too scared to venture out. One elderly lady hadn't left her bed for over a week; another was just living on boiled water and stale bread up until today.

Letter 4: 12/03/11

With the horrific 'quake and tsunami in Japan yesterday we can only be grateful that the Christchurch 'quake didn't trigger a tsunami here too.

More than 60,000 of the 340,000 population have now left. Many people still have no water, sewerage, or power. They are 'camping', and have makeshift barbeques made from fallen bricks to boil water for drinking. Some abandoned houses are actually structurally sound but liquefaction, entering through the bathroom, is up to 3 feet deep.

Those left to struggle on while waiting for assessments or help, include folk already struggling e.g. caring for a family member who has had a stroke, is terminally ill, or has dementia or short-term memory loss. Physically disabled folk (amputees and on crutches or wheelchairs etc) are still waiting for a chemical toilet (some can't fit into or manage the portaloos out on the street).

.../

Letter 5:

One of the problems developing is that mosquitoes or other insects, which have been in infected water, are biting some folk. Those bites are becoming nasty infections or cellulitis requiring antibiotics. The realities of third world type conditions.

I visited an 86 year old 'evacuee' on Sunday. She lived alone and was traumatised when the chimney, and part of the roof, fell into her house. Furniture, crockery, food stores etc all crashed down. When I left, she was smiling ... she had talked for 2.5 hours! She was a tutor sister and then supervisor at Christchurch Hospital when I trained there 47years ago... and she remembered me!

Letter 6

We continue to be busy. Ron has another 800 houses to inspect. By the time each house is checked thoroughly it's only possible to do about 12 per day.

Last week seven of the youth group from Linwood Ave Union Parish came out to Lorraine and Lyndsay's. These young folk haven't had a school to go to for a month so their normal peer support group is missing. They have kept in touch by text and by "face book" where possible. Many have been, communicating their fears, asking deep searching questions, and checking on and encouraging each other through this venue. Lorraine has supported/ mentored a number of young folk in this way.

Two different schools use the same buildings: One from 7am –noon and another for the afternoon. A 7am start is a challenge for many adolescents - especially when they have to travel across the city via damaged roads and traffic jams. Many family cars are still behind the barriers in the 'no go' CBD. At least 700 frail and elderly folk have been moved to rest homes all over the country. Some will probably never return. This is particularly difficult with confused or incontinent patients.

Today an elderly man, in his mid to late eighties, came out for a much needed escape. Although uninjured physically, he is too frightened to go inside, let alone sleep inside, and described himself as "a bit of a wreck" (embarrassing for him as he is intelligent, highly skilled and knowledgeable). He has been sleeping in a neighbour's shed/sleep-out in his old sleeping bag held together with tape. He was distressed and shaking at times when talking about his fears.

Letter 7

I enjoyed helping at the Salvation Army centre at Linwood so am hopeful of helping there again. It was good to be able to help make a difference. Things seem to be moving past the immediate emergency relief work and into a pattern that may well become the new normal for a while. The acute stage might be almost past, but the reality is that there is a lot of very real hardship to be faced in the coming months and years. Personal trauma is very evident with many not sleeping, and showing symptoms of anxiety with many scared to return to, or sleep in their homes. Many homes, though damaged, have been assessed as 'structurally safe', so tenants still need to pay rent (even if too scared to return to them), or end their tenancy. Many are also too nervous to shop at supermarkets with their high stacked shelves for fear of another quake. Families who have doubled up, or had neighbours/relatives to stay, are under pressure (financial and relationship) as the adrenaline wears off and the day-to-day lack of finance and privacy takes its toll.

Unemployment is rising, putting a huge strain on families with rent or mortgages to pay. ... And so the challenges go on!

Letter 8

Another nasty after-shock last night - 5.3 and shallow/violent. It's really un-nerved folk again - tears and fears are rife. More power cuts, burst mains and pipes, road and buildings damaged. There was plenty of evidence of fresh damage and more liquifaction on our way to and from church. It took 1hour to travel what normally takes 10 mins (from church to the campsite). Five of the younger youth and two of their young leaders are being sponsored to an Easter camp in Auckland It was lovely to see the excitement on some of the children's faces at church. .../

8 Christchurch Earthquake cont...

Letter 9

Christchurch hospital is saying 'officially' that they fear we are in for 'the worst flu epidemic since the terrible 1919 one', as so many people are living in damp cold homes, with overcrowding (families and friends doubled up). High stress levels mean people are "run down", and have lower immunity.

It's heart breaking to see well adjusted people now in this situation of fear and helplessness'. Children who were finally managing to sleep back in their own bedrooms were 'thrown' again by last week's after-shock, afraid to sleep in their own bedrooms or go to the toilet on their own. Some will not let their parents out of their sight.

In spite of hard work by dedicated and fantastic people, progress seems slow to those who need help. Much of the city is still in a changing, temporary, 'make do' mode. Those who still have jobs, are often suffering from "Quake Brain" – a new phrase, where, a person seems fine one day but can hardly think or string two words together the next.

However, challenging though things may be, bit by bit, progress is being made. Christchurch will come through this.

Thank you Yvonne, and keep up the good work Ron.

PW / MWF Fund Raising

The ladies of Evening Fellowship and Missionary Guild are fund raising for the APW / MWF special project for 2010 – 2011. These funds will support two causes: 'Habitat for Humanity N.Z.', and to support the on-going work of ACS Alliance in Haiti as part of the CWS Haiti earthquake appeal.

Since setting up in New Zealand, Habitat has built over 360 homes, providing warm, safe and affordable environments for families to thrive. In the first year of earthquake response, 600,000 survivors received support as wide-ranging as food, water, medicine, cash grants, home building, shelter, schooling and counselling. The ACS Alliance response has endeavoured to be as inclusive and complete as possible. They have provided tents, classrooms, school supplies enabling children to return to school, medicines, medical equipment, wheel chairs, and crutches to the elderly, wounded and disabled, thousands of seeds and seedlings to rural dwellers and water supplies for people in twenty-two camps.

If you do not belong to either of our groups, but wish to help these causes, you are welcome to make a donation – perhaps in an envelope in the offering bag, to Rhonda in the office, or to any of our members known to you.

The following is a prayer written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette in response to the Haiti earthquake and is currently pertinent to our world. It has been provided to Halo in conjunction with the APW/MWF article.

God, we've known such grief and anger
As we've heard your people cry.
We have asked you, "How much longer?"
We have sadly wondered, "Why?"
In this world of so much suffering,
May we hear your word anew:
"I will never leave you orphaned;
I will not abandon you."

By your grace comes resurrection;
By your love, you cast out fear.
You give strength and sure direction
As we seek to serve you here.
You give comfort to the grieving,
And you bless the ones who mourn.
May we trust in you, believing
Out of chaos, hope is born.

Hope is ours for, God, you love us!
You have claimed us by your grace.
And through Jesus, you have called us
To bring hope to every place.
In each rescue worker's caring,
In each faithful volunteer,
In each Christian's love and sharing,
God, we glimpse your kingdom here.

Seven Things We regularly Get Wrong About Worship

9

Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name (Psalm 29:2).

It's Sunday. As the congregation files out of church, listen closely and you will hear it.

"I didn't get anything out of that today." "I didn't get anything out of the sermon." "I didn't get anything out of that service." "I guess her song was all right, but I didn't get anything out of it."

Sound familiar? Not only have I heard it countless times over these near-fifty years in the ministry, I probably have said it a few times myself. Let's see if we can make a little difference where you and I live, in the churches where we serve and worship.

1. You are not supposed to 'Get Anything Out of the Service'

Worship is not about you and me. Not about "getting our needs met." Not about a performance from the pastor, singer, choir or musicians. Not in the least.

2. Worship is About the Lord

a) We are in church to give, not to get.

b) We are giving glory to God, not to man.

c) We do so because glory is His right. He is "worthy of worship."

This is the theme of the final book of the Bible.

3. Self-centeredness Destroys All Worship

If my focus is on myself when I enter the church - getting my needs met, learning something, hearing a lesson that blesses me, being lifted by the singing - then Christ has no part in it. He becomes my servant, and the pastor, (and all the other so-called performers), are there only for me. It's all about me.

4. Evangelism and Discipleship, Giving and Praying, Grow Out of Worship; Not the Other Way Around

5. We are to Give Him Worship and Glory in the Ways Scripture Commands

Singing, praise, rejoicing, praying, offering, humbling and loving; All these are commanded in worship at various places in Scripture.

6. We Are the Ones Who Decide Whether We Worship upon Entering the House of the Lord

Don't blame the preacher if you don't worship. He can't do it for you. No one else can eat my food for me, love my cherished ones in my place, or do my worshiping for me.

No pastor can decide or dictate whether we will worship by the quality of his leadership or the power of his sermon. Whether I worship in today's service has absolutely nothing to do with how well he does his job.

I am in charge of this decision. I decide whether I will worship.

7. Remember: Worship is a Verb

And, it's an active verb at that. Worship is something we do, not something done to us.

In the worst of circumstances, I can still worship my God.

In the Philippian's prison, while their backs were still oozing blood from the beating they'd received, Paul and Silas worshiped (Acts 16:25).

Even if a church has no pastor and has to make do with a stuttering layman or some inept fill-in, I can still bow before the Lord, offer Him my praise, and give Him my all. I can humble before Him and I can bring my offering.

What I cannot do is leave church blaming my failure to worship on the poor singing, the boring sermon, or the noise from the children in the next pew. I am in charge of the decision whether I will worship, and no one else.

Our insistence on worshipful music, worship settings, and worshipful everything are all signs of our disgusting self-centeredness.

It's disgusting because I see it in myself, and do not like it.

No one enjoys a great choir more than I. I love to hear a soloist transport us all into the Throne room by his/her vocal offering in the service. A great testimony of God's grace and power thrills me. And of course, being a preacher, I delight in hearing a sermon that you feel is direct from the heart of God.

But if I require any one or all of those before I can worship, something is vastly wrong with me. My friends, something is vastly wrong with us today.

Dr. Joe McKeever is a Preacher, Cartoonist, and the Director of Missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. Visit him at joemckeeper.com/mt.

From *Crosswalk Today*. Visit at www.crosswalktoday.com

10 View From Under the Pew

Roll on the 25th June I say. I remember the last Parish Mid-Winter Dinner. Couldn't move for a week afterwards. That is no slight on those cleaning up; it's just a comment on gluttony. My gluttony!

I am moved by what I have been hearing while I wait for the little bits and pieces that fall from handbags and pockets when the offerings are sought. There is a spirit in the Church that does care for others, and the things being done by the congregation and individuals for those in Christchurch is wonderful. The odd bit of cheddar will hopefully find its way into one of the shoeboxes for my cousins.

Bless You,
Church Mouse

A Quote

A speaker at the funeral of Mrs. Barbara Atley, held at St. Columba's Church recently, read the following quote. It is well worth acting upon! The quote is No.13 in a 'Book of Daily Readings'. The quote is from John Wesley.

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as you can.

Coincidences

Lord, I was intrigued
with the brilliant vocabulary
of the patient sitting next to me
in the reception room.
I don't remember
the start of our conversation
but suddenly we were discussing prayer.
I shared rather freely
your pertinent answers
to my day-by-day requests.
Labelling himself a sceptic
he smiled and said courteously
"What you consider answered prayer
I choose to call coincidence."
You know how it is with me Lord –

I'm always slightly ill at ease
in the Big Middle
of a theological discussion.
I'm much more at home in my kitchen
mixing muffin batter
or tossing green salads.
Frankly I was relieved
when the dentist called my name.
But one thing I do know, Lord
when I pray, "coincidences" happen.
When I don't prayer they stop ...
So thank You again and again
for ten thousand "coincidences"
always in the nick of time
when I pray.

Written by Ruth Harms Calkin in 'The One Year Book of Bible Promises' published by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, U.S.A.

Reading and Prayer

Reading: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." **Hebrews 13:8**

Prayer: You are the light: enfold me. You are the darkness: embrace me. You are pain: hollow me. You are love: overflow me. You are all these things, my friend, God and I thank you. Amen.

Part of a prayer from 'Aotearoa Psalms' by Joy Cowley

Church and Family News

11

BEREAVEMENTS Our love and sympathy to the families of Ces Thomsen and Bill Beaton.

PARISH MID-WINTER DINNER The Parish Mid-Winter Dinner, and farewell to Daniel, will be held on Saturday 25th June and tickets will be on sale from 5th June. Costs will be \$15 per person, \$10 to students and \$5 for children 10 and under.

COMMUNION The results of a survey seeking to establish whether St Columba's Church should have Communion celebrated monthly or retain the quarterly status are available. Forty-five percent (68 votes) were in favour of monthly Communion, and fifty percent (77 votes) in favour of quarterly Communion, with eleven informal votes. Given those figures, Session decided to have Communion celebrated quarterly, with the two extra services of Easter and World Communion Sunday (October), but to bring the September Communion forward to August, making it effectively two monthly.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Recently the Pastoral Care Committee organised a special morning tea, which was held after the Sunday service. The purpose was, especially to welcome into our congregation, people who have joined us in the last six to eight months.

Also, at that time, they were given nametags. It is good, when talking to someone in our church family, not to have to struggle (as many of us do), to remember their name. It's so much easier to make conversation when able to glance at a nametag. So you are urged to wear your nametags. Pick them off the board as you go into church and leave them there on the way out. To obtain a name tag simply put your name on the list on the table in the foyer.

What's on in June

Sunday 12 th June	9.30 a.m.	Quarterly Celebration of Holy Communion
Wednesday 15 th June	7.30 p.m.	Board of Managers monthly meeting in the lounge
Thursday 16 th June	1.45 p.m.	Missionary Guild
Wednesday 22 nd June	10.30 a.m.	Monthly Mid Week Service
Thursday 23 rd June	7.30 p.m.	Session meeting
Saturday 25 th June	6.00 p.m.	Mid Winter Parish Dinner and farewell to Daniel
Tuesday 28 th June	7.30 p.m.	Women's Evening Fellowship

Regular events

Mondays	House Group 7.00 p.m. (fortnightly) Contact: Pam Thrupp 835 5785
Tuesdays	Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 Prayer Group 11.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Contact: Marjory Yelverton 843 5331 House Group 7.30 - 9 p.m. Contacts: Wim & Inger Slooten 844 9070 House Group 7.30 - 9 p.m. Contact: Robin Arnold 844 7808 Women's Fellowship meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month
Wednesdays	Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Margaret de la Haye 843 2272 Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 Youth - 'Pimp My Ride' 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Contact: Mark Seek 027 478 9404 Board of Managers meet at 7.30 p.m. in the church lounge on the third Wednesday
Thursdays	Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Karen Jensen 843 9447 Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 Missionary Guild meets on the third Thursday of the month Session meet at 7.30 p.m. in the church lounge on the fourth Thursday
Fridays	Youth - 'Contact' 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Contact: Mark Seek 027 478 9404

Church Office Phone and Fax 844-5004 Monday—Friday 9.30am—12.00pm
 If no reply, please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as we can.

Church Postal Address: P O Box 7136, Taradale

Minister	Rev Brett WALKER	844-2256
Acting Session Clerk	Colin ZACHAN	844-8050
Parish Assistant—Youth	Mark SEEK	027 478 9404
Pastoral Care	Robin ARNOLD	844-7808
Communication	Dot McLEOD	844-1211
Af Care/Holiday Programme	Peter WOOTEN (convenor)	843-7770
Change of Address	Church Office	844-5004
HALO - Editor	Jim Payton	843-3937
- Distribution	Wendy GOSLING	844-0282

Services – Sunday 9.30 am morning worship

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of March, August and December and the second Sunday of June, plus Easter and World Communion Day. On the Wednesday following, a Communion service will be held at 11.00 a.m. in Fish Hall.



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Inspiration, Information - Our Church Library

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