



HALO

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TARADALE

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September 2011

Annual report from Rev Brett Walker

This year we have had a Congregational Review and half of a Minister Review. I say half because we filled in the forms and had the meetings but six months later I still haven't seen the report! Last year for my annual report I used the categories a church needs to be healthy so this year I thought I might share some of my responses to the eight competencies a minister needs to thrive in parish ministry.

1. Vision "Without a vision the people perish." Proverbs 29:18.

I have thought a lot about whether I/we need a special vision beyond the church's mission statement "to be reaching out in love to God, each other and the Community" especially when the PCANZ has one about "Making Jesus known..." When people ask about our vision they usually want a more targeted goal – such as grow four new home groups. I have to admit I am less comfortable with quantitative goals rather than qualitative ones. As a church we are trying to be faithful followers of Jesus and to make him known. We are trying to be kids friendly and see the younger age groups of the church grow to be a better proportion of the whole. The challenge is to turn general goals into action points and not get caught up in the ordinary things of pastoral visiting or planning services so that nothing happens that will achieve the goal.

One of the challenges identified this year is the need to have better governance in place and to do things in a more professional manner. This is behind the need for more time for the AGM so that we can really engage with our church goals and mission and the way this is reflected in the budget. As someone has said – your bank statement and your diary shows more about your priorities than any words. Part of my vision is not just to be a competent minister – but to also gather a team of key leaders who will contribute their gifts and passions to the ministry of the church. My job is to sustain these leaders and to ensure they are resourced and encouraged.

2. Change "Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant." Heb. 8:8a.

It is interesting that one of the competencies of a minister is their ability to bring change. Most of us prefer the status quo. Over the years we have developed an experimental attitude such as when we tried having two morning services or monthly communions. Some experiments work - others didn't. It has been good to see the development of the youth band and the creative services, and the development of the pastoral visiting team. Some changes are forced upon us such as when Wim resigned as youth worker and Mark Seek has seen the youth side of the church grow and change. Wim was awesome and it is good to see things go from strength to strength. Mark has been keen for other developments in the youth area and so the Session are looking at developing a youth trust that can source additional funds to buy a van and add to the hours for Mark and other youth workers.

3. Implementation "I do it all for the sake of the gospel .." 1 Cor 9:23

One dilemma this year was to juggle the expectations that I am a worker/ a team leader/coach or am I the "CEO" which is what some expect me to be. I am convinced that the church belongs to Christ and he needs full authority, yet as one called to proclaim the word of Christ I do get to exert influence and lead as He directs. I think I am growing in ability to see others motivated and encouraged in the importance of their work. "Planning your work and working your plan" was quoted at the last Board of Managers meeting and I think I am growing in my ability to be more strategic in the use of my time and skills. I am very grateful for those who are more systematic than myself. Especially to Pam as Session Clerk. Colin Zachan also has done a very good job as interim Session Clerk when Pam had six months off. .../

Material for October Halo in by 11 a.m. Wednesday 21st September 2011 please

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4. Faith "My life is lived by faith in the Son of God ... " Gal 2:21

One of my challenges is to find time to read widely or at depth so that I can be sustained in my spiritual walk and provide meaningful sermons. Personal spiritual growth is hard to measure as you cannot stand on a set of scales and say you have added 2cm or 10 kgs.. Doing the e100 project with the Bible Society was a new way to sharpen my bible reading disciplines and I like using youversion.com which allows you to do your scripture reading over the internet or cell phone! There have been plenty of issues that have sent me to my knees in prayer and to the bible and wise counsel of others this year. Because I am convinced that faith must find expression in our daily lives I am always asking two questions of the Bible - what does this mean (and especially what did the writer intend for his first audience to understand) and how does it apply today. It is my hope that sermons and other interactions with people will convey these two realities and that as we put the scriptures into practice we will all grow spiritually.

5. Context - I have made myself servant of all" 1 Cor 9:19.

This area of competency is about self awareness and awareness of the background and circumstances that affect others and groups. I am conscious that if I was planning worship just to suit myself it would be a little different than the way we normally do it on a Sunday. I am aware of our congregation demographic profile and its variance from that of our community. We are always asking "How do we serve/connect with a younger generation (30-55s)?" While St Columba's is a Presbyterian Parish I am well aware that many people come from different church backgrounds yet people find a home with us. This means that for some celebrating communion more frequently is a preference. I was intrigued that the voting figures were almost exactly 50/50. In our worship we try to include many style preferences. My prayer is always that there will be something for everyone in a service, and that the congregation will also have this same servant attitude which looks to the interests of others.

6. Communication Skills

This year I was greatly helped by watching a Willowcreek seminar on communication and being able to discuss and apply what I was learning with some other ministers in the area. I am really looking forward to having a brighter data projector that will allow for a greater use of pictures or even movie clips as there is so much available today that can enhance our worship. At Christmas we tried making the walk into the service an "experience" having different creative stations to tell the story of the journey to Bethlehem.

When we say thank you to a list of people at the AGM such as Amanda Druzianic who retires after about five years as Treasurer (this time) my hope is that people will not just hear the words but the heartfelt gratitude for their efforts.

7. Interpersonal skills "we heard of your love for one another" Col 1: 5

I like to visit and I go to the hospital weekly. Even more importantly I like to see a good network of care in place for the pastoral care because I am only one person and we have nearly 400 members and associate members. Having the pastoral visiting team is such a bonus along with the Elders and visitors who do the quarterly visits to everyone. I am particularly grateful to Robin Arnold who acts as pastoral care coordinator who keeps me up with any issues in the parish. I have also enjoyed hosting people at home for meals. I find standing at the door before and after church services also provides a great opportunity to talk with people and catch up even if the conversations are a little short. I am usually available at the church office in the mornings and if you want to talk I do want you to contact me.

8. Character "The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. " 1 Tim 1:5.

Could I achieve more if I were better organized or had a tidy office or some new skills - no doubt! Yet the church is never made up of perfect people - just forgiven people! It is always my aim to work to the highest ethical standards as expected of someone in my position.

A Minister's Review is not about awarding a pass or fail mark but about seeing where we can grow in the future and identifying areas where we need to learn more. When my Minister's Review finally comes I am sure that some learning goals will be identified and I will take some time to grow and become the sort of minister Christ wants.

Thank you for your participation in the church and for allowing me to be your minister. May we all become the people Christ wants us to be- people of grace and love, people who are gifted and have a servant heart, people who are being changed from one degree of glory to another (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Reverend Brett Walker (Moderator), Robin Arnold, Nancy Bryan, Hans Marnewick, Dot McLeod, Sue Read, Barry Thrupp, Pam Thrupp and Colin Zachan (Session Clerks), Peter Wooten **Patoka Elder** Roger Thomsen
Minute Secretary Pam Watkins

SESSION REPORT July 2010/June 2011

With 2011 already well into the eighth month it is time to reflect on the year gone. Is it that as we get older time flies or does everyone feel that way?

Once again we have farewelled good and faithful friends of St Columba. Many who have been members of this Church Family for such a long time. Our love and sympathy go out to their loved ones left behind.

We have welcomed many new comers and it feels good to see new faces. The more mature who bring wisdom and the younger ones with their lovely children.

A farewell morning tea was held for Margaret Dorrington earlier this year. Margaret has moved to Masterton to be closer to her family. She had served as an Elder for 27 years and was also a valued member of the flower arranging team.

Reverend Brett Walker and the Session, who are ordained Elders, are entrusted with the spiritual well being of St Columba's. We have been a small group this year with the retirement of Nancye Munro, who at the age of 80 felt she had done 'her bit'. Thank you Nancye for all your wisdom, love and caring over so many years.

In February St Columba's hosted an Elders training workshop for all Elders within the HB Presbytery. Bruce Fraser, Mission advisor of the Otago and Southland synod convened this workshop, which was well attended.

We are grateful to Brett, as our Minister, for his work in this Parish and in the wider community. Brett visits people weekly in the hospitals and the Hospice and he is a caring and compassionate man who brings the love of God to many through his actions. Thank you Brett for all the work you do. Many things you do, we would never be aware of, but we know you so often touch someone's heart with your kindness. Brett is also involved in community work and he is faithful and loyal to the work of our district Presbytery.

Session was asked to look at the frequency of communion served at St Columba's. After trialling Communion monthly, for six months, a vote was put to the congregation to decide on what the people wanted. It was almost evenly split so Session decided to compromise and serve Communion every two months. Visiting and delivering invitations however would be done on the same basis as before.

I was very grateful to Colin Zachan for agreeing to take over the role of Session Clerk so that I could have a break for six months. He has done an excellent job and we, the Session, thank him very much. The support Session has given us as their Session Clerks has been very much appreciated.

There is much wisdom among Session members, with several having served for many years. As a small group we work well together in a relaxed manner, with one purpose in mind, to bring the love of Christ to all who attend St Columba both through worship, the children's programmes and through pastoral care. It is our prayer and our hope that others will be called into Eldership in the near future.

A Bridge Builders course was held in May. It was run by the Caleb Ministry team and it was all about learning to build relationships with each other. It was well attended and was a very worthwhile course to have been a part of.

In June the five yearly Parish Review took place. It was conducted by Reverends Paul Loveday, Sally Carter, Colin English and Kerry Marshall on behalf of the HB Presbytery. The results will be communicated to the congregation at a date fixed by their team.

Session recognises the help given from the congregation in delivering communion invites and being a listening ear to those you visit. We are very grateful to you as it lightens the load for the Elders.

In September I attended General Assembly in Christchurch as the representative for St Columba. This is held every two years and it is the national church's conference. It was an amazing Assembly, friendly, informative, with outstanding guest speakers and excellent accommodation. Thank you for the opportunity and the privilege to attend.

The monthly Creative Family Services have added another dimension to worship. It has allowed the children and young people to extend themselves into drama roles, readings and .../

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feeling relaxed and comfortable in front of their Church Family. I think they have even won over many who weren't so keen at the onset of these services. Thank you to all those involved - Kirsty, Heather, the singing group and Brett who happily takes on board all suggestions, to the Kool Kids leaders and to you the congregation who encourage and support the children.

In September last year Wim made the decision to retire as the Parish Assistant for Youth. He had done a wonderful job with the young people and we as a congregation were sorry to see him stand down.

After advertising the position we were blessed with the appointment of Mark Seek and his wife, Jeni. Mark is very committed to the youth and to his deep faith in our loving God. The young, funky outlook he puts into his programmes has drawn many young people to the youth group. Thank you Mark for the time and commitment both you and Jeni put into the youth both of our own Church and the wider community.

Kool Kids – see separate report

KFC (Kids Friendly Care) has proved to be an important outreach to the community. After school care has now reach 20/30 children and the holiday programme takes in 50. This shows the huge need for good, safe childcare with so many working parents.

KFC is self-funded and pay a reasonable rent for the use of the rooms so that in turn assists the church's finances. KFC also pays for the majority of board expenses for the volunteers from overseas. They have proved to be a great asset to the church and for the work they do, in and around the church. Daniel, who has just left, became a very good friend to many. He was a valuable worker to both KFC, Youth Group, Mainly Music and to people in the community.

A mid winter dinner was held at the end of June for the Parish and as a farewell for Daniel. It was well attended (100 in all) with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Mainly Music is also an outreach to the community and the number of children who attend on Wednesdays and Thursdays is challenging and heart warming. It is good to see new mums meeting together. Many of the congregation are involved in assisting with this programme and we thank you for your efforts. Thank you to Karen and Margaret who run these two programmes.

The Pastoral Committee, led by Robin Arnold, serves a very important role in the life of St Columba.

A group of people meet every Wednesday to discuss the needs of the Parish and those people who they feel should be visited during the week. These can be new members to the Church, the sick, bereaved or lonely. Hospital patients are visited twice a week, by either Marjory Yelverton or Robin Arnold, and by Brett. Yvonne Laing, Glenn McLeod, Peggy Flack and Heather Russell are valuable members of that team. They have organised three men's breakfasts over the year with good attendances from men both from our congregation and the community.

Thank you to this committee for the way you show Christ's love and compassion to the people from St Columba.

We owe a huge thank you to Robin for his time, commitment and care, for the pastoral welfare of St Columba's.

The Board of Managers has once again made sure that the grounds and buildings are well maintained, rosters drawn up and budgets adhered to. St Columba always looks so well cared for and we thank you and all those on the rosters, for all your efforts. Amanda has done a wonderful job caring for the finances. As she retires from the position as Treasurer we extend a huge vote of thanks to her. After five continuous years and five years previously in the position as Treasurer, she has been a very loyal and committed worker. It is a huge job and especially for someone as busy as she is. We are so grateful to you Amanda, thank you.

There are many people who work so hard around the church and so we thank the flower ladies, the cleaners, the lawn mowers, the sound people, the music makers and organists, and the tea makers and the youth and children workers..

To the Prayer Group who meet weekly to pray for the needs of our church, community, country and world, bless you.

The Op Shop ladies do a fantastic job. The financial support they give to St Columba's is so .../

important. Your outreach to the community is important and valued. Thank you to Verna and to your great team.

The Halo continues to be a good source of information and is well read and distributed. Thanks to Jim Payton (the Editor) and his team who put it all together and get it out to so many people.

Session minutes are well documented and presented by our cheerful minute's clerk, Pam Watkins. Thanks Pam.

The Church office is well run by Rhonda Holt. Rhonda is always available to answer questions and is an ear for those who need someone to chat to. She is always helpful cheerful and approachable. Thank you Rhonda for the work you do.

St Columba's is a Church family to which one feels a strong sense of belonging. It is made up from a diversity of ages and different opinions and cultures, but generally it works well together, embracing and acting on our Mission Statement "A family reaching out in love to God, each other and to the community".

May God continue to bless this Church Family, helping us to put Christ first in our lives, in our worship and in our work.

On behalf of Session

Pam Thrupp and Colin Zachan

Session Clerks

HOUSE GROUP REPORTS

Bishop's Close House Group, (having divided and grown from the Sloodens group).

Our house group are finding it a very interesting and meaningful exercise, studying Whitney Kuniholm's book on the 100 day readings of Essential Jesus.

When all present, there are ten of us, but average about eight, which is a good size for discussion and for everyone to contribute. The quality of the material is such that we won't be able to get through it in 100 days, but feel it is better to deal with it thoroughly and in depth. We also share the leadership.

Robin Arnold

Our group meets twice monthly for a meal and a study at the home of **Heather and Ron Sim**. The eleven members have found by sharing a meal we develop new depths in our relationships with each other and by studying together as a family, listening to various interpretations and thoughts on the Word, we have gained deeper understanding of ourselves and of God.

The result is that as a family we look forward to our time together, have helped each other through the lows and celebrated the highs in life.

Barry and Pam Thrupp's home group meets each second Monday night. We are a group of 10-12 and enjoy fellowship and studying and learning from God's Word. Currently we are working through a series called "Laying the Foundation" by Derek Prince which entails watching 10-15 minutes of teaching on a DVD and then sharing our thoughts on the accompanying Scriptures in the study book. Having just completed the first section of the book, our next meeting will be a fun night where we will share a potluck tea and watch a Billy T James DVD.

Pat Gordon

contact person

Our group is, Barry and Pam Thrupp, Bob and Jean Wilson, Deniece Marshall, Anna Robins, Bruce and Janice Tucker, Bruce and Pat Gordon and Keith and Esther Woodcock, (when they are here). |

Board of Managers Report 2011

The Board has completed an overall successful year within its role of maintaining the Church property, and financial resources of the parish. The financial matters of the Parish are the main item in our monthly agenda and we need to continue to be aware of the constraints of the Parish and the recession.

We are acutely aware of the ageing of our congregation and especially those members who volunteer to assist us all. We need to have more regard to the use and payment of outsiders, in future, especially in the maintenance of our buildings. Unfortunately we have had to discontinue the services of the commercial cleaner due to financial constraints.

We ask all users of our facilities to be aware of their power consumption. We are ever mindful of the risk of fire and how the design of the complex could help spread such a fire. All users of the facilities are required to close all doors, turn off heaters and lights upon leaving the building.

The 'Manse' is in good order and is rented out at market rates. Recently we removed the dining room carpet and had the tongue and groove flooring sanded and lacquered. It is a great improvement.

It is with regret that we accept Amanda Druzianic's resignation as Parish Treasurer. Amanda has worked tirelessly for us but now finds that family and work are consuming her time. The Board of Managers extends its very best wishes to Amanda and her family.

Thanks to Roz Snijders for the organisation and distribution of the offering envelopes.

Our gratitude, also, to the team of money counters who count and record the offering each week. The new computerised system is working well and the integrity of information surrounding offering amounts is maintained.

Due to Ian Scott's kind offer of help with personal tax returns we have some happy parishioners and several more people contributing their offerings via direct credit.

The food fair, garage sale and Golden Thank Offering all contributed to our finances this last year. Our special thanks to Two Fold for their continuing generosity to the Parish. We are indebted to all who help with our fundraising endeavours and to the congregation for their positive attitude towards financial matters and the challenges thereof.

Our sincere thanks to Robin Arnold for his continued work maintaining and upgrading the sound system. We have recently purchased a new more powerful projector and look forward to an improved image on the big screen.

The Board is ever mindful of and appreciates all those folk who volunteer their time and energy to the smooth running and maintenance of our Church – the cleaners, the flower arrangers, the folk who mow the lawns, the door greeters, the money counters, those who make the tea, the folk who work at Two Fold, and the team who attend to all those repairs that need to be done from time to time – we thank you all.

A very special thanks to Rhonda, our office administrator, who has a major input into the smooth running of the Parish.

New members to the Board are still required and would be most welcome.

I would like to thank members of the Board for their support over the last year, and for their willingness to undertake various duties.

Barbara Stewart

Board Members 2010 - 2011

Yvonne Dobbie

Annette Jennings

Mike Latter

Barbara Stewart, **Chair**

Anne Tristram, **Secretary**

Deborah Greenwood

Amanda Druzianic, **Treasurer**

Brian Kirk

Brian Neilson

Jenny Ziebe

Sarah Atley, **Minute Secretary**

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

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It is a pleasure to present my annual report which shows the finances of our Church are in a fairly healthy state. The final result of the year's activities was a surplus of \$5,549.22 which came in ahead of our budgeted deficit.

Total income of \$179,540.82 was higher than last year.

There are two main reasons for this increase.

1 there was a significant increase in offerings from \$104,813.90 last year to \$110,371.10 this financial year.

2 the fair and garage sale raised \$7,250.17 and the golden thank offering raised \$4,772.00 which were both substantial increases from the previous financial year.

Of this total income \$975 was collected for the Christian World Christmas Appeal and \$1,112 was collected for the Whitestone Chapel in Zimbabwe.

Once again a huge thank you goes to all the Opportunity Shop ladies who donated \$15,000 to the church which as always helps the finances tremendously.

Total expenses at \$173,991.60 were only slightly higher than the previous year.

Property expenses were significantly lower this year as in the previous year there was a lot of renovation work.

Salaries and wages were higher this year due to staffing changes.

Working expenses were slightly higher due to general inflationary increases plus the purchase of cordless microphones – which were funded by additional donations.

In the next financial year the Board of Managers have budgeted a \$4,082 deficit. This includes a budget of \$14,652.37 for insurance as invoiced to us by the Presbyterian Insurance Group which, as predicted, is an enormous increase from the \$4,427.99 paid last year. The board have decided that additional funds must be raised before undertaking the two major projects budgeted for, which are the roof repairs and the update of the Projector screen.

Thank you once again to Gary Berntsen for auditing the church accounts.

After approximately 10 years of being the church treasurer, over two five year stints, I am resigning and wish everybody and the church well.

Amanda Druzianic

Treasurer

Mid Week Service Report 2010 - 2011

Once again the Mid Week Service, held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, has provided an outreach to the elderly folk in our Retirement Homes. We usually have between 35 and 40 attending from ten Retirement Homes. Firstly I must thank the Divisional Therapists and their folk for attending our service. It must take much will power for many who find their mobility is limited, (wheel chairs, walking frames, walking sticks to assist) but to see the delight on their faces as they arrive, the gentle murmur of conversation between friends and the care they show for each other is inspirational.

We have a good team of helpers both on the day and also those on the roster for providing the morning tea - the elderly love the home made cooking! Brett's service is really appreciated along with the well known hymns. Thanks to you all. Also thanks to Rhonda in the Church office who so efficiently sends out the notices to the Homes each month and compiles and prints the Order of Service.

This year four of our long time helpers retired from "active duty." Alys and Tom Wares, Emmy and Andy Cornelius have been helping for many years, they loved their involvement, but the time has come for them to sit back and relax. We thank them for their devoted dedication and look forward to having them as our guests at any time.

Pam Watkins joined us this year and with her energy and cheerful personality is now a valued member of our team. One person in place of four you may ask? We would like another one or two to help us on the day if possible - you would love it.

Jeanette Barker - Co-ordinator

MISSIONARY GUILD REPORT 2011

It is with much pleasure and with a thankful heart that I present this report for the year 2010 – 2011, on behalf on the 25 members of St Columba's Missionary Guild.

As Grace commented several years ago, it would be great for Missionary Guild to get to 2011. So, here we are today, after 102 years, continuing to have the mission of the Church as an important part of our fellowship. 2011 is 100 years since the first Ladies' Guild met to support the work of the congregation in a financial role. This aspect of our fellowship has changed but many of our members are involved in the outreach roles of the congregation.

Throughout the past year we have focussed on the current APW projects – Habitat for Humanity and Haiti for fundraising, as well as continuing to support various Church and community charities. Each month, we inform members of a current concern in the global mission work of the Church and we participated in the local World Day of Prayer service.

Last July, we enjoyed a surprise visit by Nan Fountain and, as an added bonus, Nan's daughter, Kay, updated us on her mission work in the Philippines and Mongolia.

Our monthly programmes have featured having fun in a campervan; life and hopes of a young German/Kiwi; growing up in Greenmeadows/Taradale; growing up in Wellington; travelling in Eastern Europe; the challenges and rewards of the Beacon; the drama of the Easter Story; a garden party and a fun-filled Christmas party. We are grateful to friends in the congregation who have supported us with any of the above subjects.

We are about to thank Grace Burns for her many, many years of commitment and service to our group as Missionary Guild Treasurer. Grace, your rest is well and truly earned.

Speaking of finance, I feel that it is necessary to record our thanks to Margaret Madill for her wonderful support of our sales table during the time she attended our meetings. The ladies of Mt Albert's loss was our gain!!

Another financial year is about to begin. Being blessed with two new members this year has been a boost to our group – thank you Jean and Pat. Thank you all for your support of each other.

These words of Isaiah are of encouragement to us all - ***“And I will always guide you and satisfy you with good things. I will keep you strong and well.”*** Isaiah 58:11

Arohanui, Anne Lanigan

Napier Community Foodbank Report

Maggie Ronchi, the Administration/Manager of the Foodbank, wrote in her recent newsletter: “Foodbank has been in operation in Napier for 23 years this month and in that 23 years the New Zealand economy has been up and down several times but it doesn't seem to matter how good or not so good the economy is, there always seems to be a need for Foodbanks.

We are continually thankful to the Napier community for their generosity in supplying the food we need to do what we do, as has been said before, it really is ‘community helping community’. So Foodbank continues to supply emergency relief to those in need, the emphasis being on emergency. We do not see ourselves as an organisation for clients to become reliant on but we are here to offer relief in an emergency. This is why we have the systems in place whereby clients can access two food parcels a year and a third if undertaking a certified budgeting programme. In this way, we believe we contribute positively to the client's current situation. We believe we also have a responsibility as stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the community to distribute them fairly and equitably to all who access our service.”

This congregation is well represented in many capacities in its service to the Foodbank. The Sunday food basket provides a regular boost of food and money. The Op Shop gives a regular donation and the monthly parcel-packing roster shows the names of many of this congregation whose generosity of time, food and money enable the Napier Foodbank to provide the outreach to those in need. Christian service is about caring for one another and the Foodbank exemplifies this. The Napier Community Foodbank sincerely thanks the donors, helpers and supporters whose commitment is invaluable.

Tom Wares

St. Columba's Evening Fellowship Annual Report 2010-2011

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I am pleased to present this year's annual report of St Columba's Evening Fellowship for the year 2010-2011.

We continue to meet every fourth Tuesday of the month.

It has been another great year and I would like to thank you all for your support and especially my great committee.

We have a membership of 43 with an average attendance of 22.

Once again we have had a varied programme of speakers and entertainment.

July: Coffee and Desert with play readings by our members was a lot of fun.

August: Christine Franklin "Driving Miss Daisy"

September: Margaret Goodwin Spoke about her trip to Russia.

October: Renee Morgan "The Garden Depot"

November: Christmas Party. Three girls with a bracket of Abba songs and W.I with their "My Boomerang Won't Come Back."

February: Another great bus trip to Keirunga Gardens for a picnic lunch and then out to the Bird Gallery.

March: Margaret Dorrington spoke on her Central Otago Railway Cycling Tour

April: A fund raiser. Annette Elkins was our auctioneer for our bottle auction.

May: Jeanette Barker told of her recent trip to India.

Fundraising this year has been the bottle auction and once again the E.I.T. International Students Dinner.

At our monthly meetings we continue to support local organisations this year, The Beacon, Mahana, Foodbank and Women's Refuge.

Monetary donations were made to A.P.W. project, Red Cross, (Christchurch Earthquake Appeal), Microphones for our church, The Beacon, Parkinson Society, Cranford Hospice, Mahana and Food bank.

Dot has continued to be our A.P.W. Rep. but will now retire from this position. Thank you Dot.

Thank you once again to my committee for taking a turn to present devotions. This is always well done.

Our thoughts have always been with those members who have been unwell or have had other concerns.

We also congratulate those members who have things to celebrate.

Once again thank you all for your continued support and may God bless us all.

Peggy Flack

TWO FOLD OP SHOP REPORT (2010 -2011)

It is with a twinge of sadness I write my last report for Two Fold. After twenty-one years – nineteen as convenor – I am resigning. I have given my committee time to make a replacement for a new convenor. A smooth changeover is very important to me.

I'm sure you will agree that Two Fold is an important part of St Columba's. If you have studied the yearly donations you will be aware of the many worthy groups we have been able to support.

The friendships I have made amongst the customers has been a real bonus. A sincere thank you to all the committee members I have worked with. To John McLay for his quiet guidance and weekly banking, a big thank you. I know the atmosphere of caring and fun will continue at Two Fold. God bless all the volunteers and customers,

Verna Gillum (Convenor)

Worship Band

Worship band is a dedicated group of people that meet and sing on the second and fourth Thursday each month unless it is holiday time. Our purpose is to lead the singing for our service the following Sundays and to enjoy our fellowship together.

We have an open door policy where people can come and go as they are able and enjoy meeting new people and learning new songs. At present we are working with the Youth Band to encourage them to be part of our services and to support them when needed.

Anybody is welcome at any time to come along and join us.

Kirsty Jamieson

PRAYER GROUP REPORT 2010 – 2011

We were sorry to say goodbye to Janice Turner who returned to St Paul's. We have Prayer Group from 11 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. every Tuesday morning. We would welcome you to come and share our prayers together.

We pray for the Church in each area of its life and witness, the people who have asked for prayer, our families and friends, and giving thanks to God for answers to our prayers and guiding us day by day in His service.

If you have a prayer request please give it to Beth Mitchell, Rita Coates, Bobby Lythgoe, Ernest Hedley or Marjory Yelverton.

Philippians 4: 6 & 7

Don't worry about anything but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

Marjory Yelverton

Taradale Mainly Music Annual Report June 2011

I am pleased to report that we have had another extremely successful and fun year with Mainly Music at St Columba.

We have two weekly sessions that are held in Fish Hall. The Wednesday session is co-ordinated by Margaret de la Haye and I co-ordinate the Thursday session.

Our Wednesday group has a regular attendance of an average 21 families per session, approx 30 to 40 children. Thursday numbers are similar to last year with an average 26 families per session, approx 40 to 50 children. Both sessions are very busy if everyone turns up!

We have had the following Theme Days over the last financial year: - Pirate and Princess Day, Fathers Day Celebration – Hats, Hats, Hats, Down on the Farm, Christmas Celebration, Beach Day, Easter Celebration, Mothers Day Celebration, and 'This is my Body'. We always have an extra special morning tea on these days and the children get a 'themed' gift or activity to take home. Our theme days are always a lot of fun and very enjoyable to all that attend.

During this financial year Mainly Music has been very fortunate to have the assistance of our International Christian Youth Exchange student, Daniel. His joyful enthusiasm, maturity and helpfulness were very much appreciated by Margaret and myself and all those that help at Mainly Music. All our music families were sad to see him go home but really enjoyed his time with us. Mainly Music donated \$450.00 to our church to help with Daniel's boarding costs during his stay.

Our Attendance Certificates for each child are very popular and say 'well done' to those that attend music on a regular basis. After attending ten sessions the child is presented with their certificate that they love to take home. We celebrate every child's birthday and they are given a special birthday pendant to take home and share with their family.

In May our district conference was held in Palmerston North which Margaret and Mary Miers attended. This was a very interesting day full of new songs, relationship discussions, team building exercises, yummy food and good company.

Our sessions are very successful due to our church helpers who meet and greet at the front desks, undertake kitchen duties, play the piano and help set-up the hall and assist with props, etc. We thank them all for their time, energy and dedication.

Taradale Mainly Music is a great team effort and we all enjoy working together to bring music and happiness to the children and parents who attend.

Attached is a copy of our groups audited annual accounts.

Karen Jensen

Kool Kids has a roll of approximately 12-14 children, with eight or nine who attend regularly. With so much competition for the kids' time these days with sport and recreation, often Kool Kids comes a poor second. However we continue to encourage and support the children with fun activities and teaching them good life skills through love of Christ.

This year we have focused on the Tongue, No Fear, Celebrating Children, putting on the Armour of God and what it is to be a good neighbour.

At the end of each term we have a fun time of games and party food. It is a good time to come together as a whole group so that we get to know each other better.

The children have grown in confidence through the creative family services and love to take part in the readings and dramas. This service is so important for our Kool Kids to know that they **really are** members of this church family where they are loved and accepted by the congregation. Thank you to everyone who embraces the children and makes them feel so much a part of St Columba's.

We are blessed to have Richard and Steve as teachers. They both have a great love for God and kids. Steve takes an intermediate age group, Richard 9-11 yr olds and Pam the 4-8 yr olds.

Jim Payton, Sheila Argent, Cynthia-Louise Demetrius and Karen Vickery (who has recently agreed to come back to help) are all willing helpers and we are very grateful to them.

In Christ, *Pam*

THE YEAR FOR KID'S FRIENDLY CARE (KFC)

Have you read our Sunday bulletin lately? The piece about a third of the way down called Mission Statement – "A Family reaching out in love to God, each other, and the community". So why have I asked this – well I would like to relate KFC and the year that has gone in terms of our Mission Statement – of what we are all about as a Church.

I firmly believe that KFC is a family in itself and of the Church. From our Management Committee of Brett, Pam, Mike and Amanda (who we sadly say goodbye to), to our staff of Peter, Amanda, Lydia, Lynda and Daniel (now Asta), then to our adult volunteers during the Holiday Programmes of Deneice, Jim, Norma, Pam, Margaret, Anne and those I can't remember including those who leave the lovely baking on our kitchen table, our volunteers from the Youth Group such as Vincent, Henry, Petra, Emily, Dallas and Isabeau, to Steve and his Taradale Intermediate children who join in on a Wednesday after school to our champion Administrator Wim – we are one big family whose ultimate reason for being is to love and honour our God. If this was not the case then we would simply operate a secular care programme in a building down the road. But we don't and never will. Our primary purpose is to provide some knowledge to our children about our God and that no matter what he will always love us, through thick and thin, through tantrums and arguments, and even when disobeying our parents or teachers (or Afcare leaders!).

Many of our leaders are young (either just left school or still attending) and have fledgling but a growing Christian faith. Through the opportunity to work within a Christian workplace with others of similar belief has provided an opportunity to each other to connect, to share ideas, to make friends and to grow in knowledge in terms of Christian faith.

The After School Care Programme is not so overt in its Christian content with grace before our food, the role modelling of values and beliefs, being in a church so that our children learn that this is a safe and fun place to be, parents who also appreciate that we go an extra mile for their children and for them as well (children to sports practices, music, homework, free firewood, fruit and vegetables, and support with problems at home – so we reach out to those in our community in need in many small but important ways), the playing of light children's Christian music, and AWANA on Wednesdays. With AWANA Steve brings in children from Taradale Intermediate to join our older children in fun and games with a separate Christian teaching while the younger children sit down as a group with a CD and a funky Christian book. .../

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Another huge benefit with establishing the After and Before School Programmes a few years ago (with daily attendance ranging from 20-30 from five different schools) is that they ensure the ongoing success of our Holiday Programmes with a ready-made source of children.

The Holiday Care Programmes have a more obvious Christian content and we advertise and promote them in this way. Last year with up to 50 children each day we operated Senior and Junior Christian Programmes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The Christian themes ranged from the Ten Commandments, to Giving, Survivor-Battle for Freedom and the Amazing Race.

.And all this was done at no cost to the Church!

YOUTH WORKER REPORT - AGM August 2011

It is with thankfulness to Our Lord that I present this, my first annual report on St Columba's youth activities.

Parish Youth Work

Pimp my life (Living life skillfully) - Proverbs

Wednesday discussion nights with high schoolers attract 12 or more youth. This is the platform from where we can share our faith with the larger Friday night group of teens, with drama, music and personal testimonies etc...

We have invited local MP's as guests to answer questions on life, faith and youth policies.

Massive Youth Friday night programme

Our Friday night programmes have focused on workshops and creative opportunities fused with social and community fundraising opportunities with over \$600 given to charitable groups.

I have been blessed to have Jeni, Richard Nicholson, Elizabeth, Daniel and various other volunteers making Friday nights a huge success.

In terms of numbers attending, 75 plus is our highest number. On any given night, realistically, we have high 50's, never below 35 young people attending.

Resources are always needed to run youth programmes. Thanks to St Columba's we have a \$1500 budget. In the last 12 months or so we have made some purchases including two acoustic guitars and a brand new bass and amplifier along with music books. We intend on buying more equipment too.

Some highlights!

- Parachute Festival
- Easterfest
- Youth Unplugged
- Winter camp (in the planning stages) September 23rd - 25th

Face book - Check out the youth Massive Youth Face Book page

Youth band Continually growing in confidence and ability. We do have the loan of a stage drum kit (provided by Atomic Centre) and thanks to Daniel we have some original takes (Reggae) on some classic Church songs!

Youth office/lounge I can see the need for the above, a place where I can meet and discuss projects, where parents can meet us to talk, and of course meetings with other youth workers. At the moment we have to set up every Friday afternoon and then take everything, including props etc down late on Friday evenings: 10.30 pm. It would be fantastic if we had somewhere permanent where we can be creative in "our space," where the high schoolers can bring friends along after 4 pm on holidays, weekends, etc. We could be doing more...

Church I counted some weeks ago and there were 15 new youth at a Sunday service, none were from other churches, just youth that come to our Friday and Wednesday programmes, surely an investment in their lives is top priority.

Thankyou to everybody that is involved in the concept of a Youth Trust.

May God inspire you?

Mark Seek

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the congregation is to be held on Friday 16th September at 6.00 p.m., starting with a potluck tea, a guest speaker and then the AGM.

1st OCTOBER CEILIDH

Remember the fun last year? Put a ring around the 1st October for a repeat. (NOTE: the Ceilidh has been put back a week because of the All Blacks' World Cup match.)

Robin Arnold

PROJECTOR SCREEN It has been very humbling to find how God has moved people to respond to the article in last month's Halo regarding the need to up-grade our church projector. A very big thankyou to those who have enabled us to achieve this project. It has made a huge difference to the quality of the presentation.

Robin Arnold

What's on in September

Thursday 15th September 1.45 p.m. Missionary Guild
Wednesday 21st September 7.30 p.m. Board of Managers monthly meeting in the lounge
Thursday 22nd September 7.30 p.m. Session meeting
Tuesday 27th September 7.30 p.m. Women's Evening Fellowship
Wednesday 28th September 10.30 a.m. Monthly Mid Week Service
Saturday 1st October 7.00 p.m. Ceilidh in the Youth Hall

Regular events

Mondays House Group 7.00 p.m. (fortnightly) Contact: Pat Gordon 844 2188
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. Contact: Bob Wallis 844 5630
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

Reading and Prayer

Reading: "Jesus answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment'." **Matthew 22:37**



Prayer: God of creation and God of salvation, please speak to our hearts today. Amen.

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 the church lounge.



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