

HALO

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TARADALE

Church Website: www.stcolumba-taradale.org.nz

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Vol 20 - No 7

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FROM THE MINISTER

If a person commands their dog to "Fly!", the dog doesn't stand much chance of obeying. And it wouldn't help to first tell the dog, "Be a parakeet!" The dog does not have the capacity to obey either command. But if they says to their parakeet, "Fly!" the parakeet won't have much trouble taking flight.

When Paul tells us to "be transformed!" he's not talking to a dog without wings. He's talking to people who are hard-wired for transformation. He's not telling us to try really hard to become something we're not. We may need some practice flapping our wings, and we may run into a few walls. We may even fear leaving our cage. But we do have within us what it takes to live the transformed life.

I read the above in an email and it made me wonder – why is change so hard for us? As they say above we are called to be transformed (Romans 12:1-2), and when we become Christians Paul says we are a "new creation" (2 Cor 5:17). But then I remember my Theology. We are called to become what we are in Christ. The Kingdom of God is inaugurated not completed – we are a work in progress. So that raises the how question – how do we change? How do we change ourselves? How do we change others?

I then read a review of a book called "Switch" in which they give the metaphor of a man riding an elephant. To get the elephant to move in a new direction - to change - we have to:

Direct the rider (the brain – the intellect)

Motivate the elephant (the emotions)

Clear the path (create an environment in which change is easy)

If you are anything like me I can think about all the change I would like to see in myself, in others or in the world around me and yet I don't see much change. This elephant metaphor reminds me that I need a clearer vision on what I want - where I want to go. But the elephant is not going to move unless it has reason to. Will power alone is like trying to push the elephant – not a good recipe for success. Allowing Christ to work in me by the Spirit so that I want to be more like him, so that I see that I am destroying my relationship with him or others by my bad behaviour or have the opportunity to achieve something great if I do the right thing. I now find myself asking not just what is the right thing to do – but what is the feeling I need to do it. It is recruiting emotion as motivation for the elephant – not being directed or driven by our emotions – but recognizing the role they play in change.

I have been thinking Christians are environmentalists. That is, we have to create the environments that make it easy for ourselves and others to be more like Christ, and to serve him. How do I create the environment where God honouring change is easy. How do we make the Church a place where people can take small steps towards following Christ. How do we avoid being a toxic environment where nothing will grow because the air is full of judgementalism or criticism.

May we all be changed and instruments of change so that the world might indeed see us as like Christ in every way.

Best wishes

Brett

Material for September Halo in by 11 a.m. Wednesday 25th August 2010 please

Session Memories

*After more than thirty active years on Session Nancye Munroe is retiring shortly.
We sought her memories of those years.*

When you've belonged to a group for over 35 years, it is not easy to look back and remember, in detail, what changes have taken place. There will always be people who stand out for their behaviour and wit and it is a wonderful way to find out what priorities, beliefs and attitudes make them the lovely friends they are and to know those with whom you can confide.

Leonie Sanders and I were ordained and inducted as elders at St Columba's on September 9th 1973, a few months after Bruce McLeod and three years before Sue Read. Helen Andersen paved the way for us twelve months earlier, so the men had already come to terms with women joining.

Duncan Jamieson was our minister. He was wise and perceptive and truly a "teaching elder". Meetings were run in his formal way, with committees reporting back to full Session making some meetings quite lengthy. We were encouraged to support all Presbytery activities as well as ecumenical occasions within our district. At that time, the clergy of the area worked well together. Most Session members took an active part in other church groups – youth work, choir and women's groups – it was like an extended family! For a period, two of the senior youth group, Geoff King and Chris Ross, attended as observers (without voting rights). Geoff is now an ordained minister; I wonder if he was influenced in any way by that experience? Session and Board of Managers worked closely together and at times Session members held office on the Board.

In order to keep in contact with the Patoka elders and make them feel part of Session, the Taradale members travelled to the country, on occasions, to hold meetings there.

During the vacancy, we had Shirl Butler (USA) as interim minister and he left his mark on St Columba's. Meetings were conducted with military style and I know that on one occasion, the seating arrangements were different with long trestle tables and I think we might have had a flag? Shirl encouraged us to take part in services and he also put much energy into restoring the monthly publication Halo.

When Rachel came, we were made aware of situations outside New Zealand because of her involvement with the World Council of Churches. The table had a feminine touch with flowers, worshipful – a cross, and sometimes jellybeans appeared to lighten some heavy yet necessary discussion. She kept in tune with the Book of Order and was wise and prayerful as she kept us in order. Guided by her, we began to take part in Sunday Services with our prayers of dedication and intercession – this we have continued. Fearful at first, we realise how members have matured and grown in this part of our service for it is not only a responsibility but a real privilege.

With Brett, we have a more relaxed style of meeting. Members take their turn with the devotional time and a member of the Board attends each meeting. Initially we had committees meeting on their own and reporting back, but this was considered to be time consuming and unnecessary. Our agenda has taken on a new format and time is available to discuss important issues, which often come at the "eleventh hour". .../

Reading and Prayer

(looking forward to our next Communion service on Sunday, 5th September)

Reading: "Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them saying 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.' In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying 'This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you'." Luke 22:19 & 20

Prayer: Our Father in Heaven, we thank you that we can come to your communion table and give thanks for what you have done for us all. May we offer our lives for your service, giving you praise and glory. Amen



We are a small group with respect for each other and bound together in God's love. Coffee and tea are never far away and sometimes Brett produces a cake!

Duncan, Rachel and Brett have one thing in common – a really good sense of humour!

The number of Session members is half that of the 1990's but the same work continues. Visiting both members and associates four times a year is too big a task for Session members alone and we value the help given us by our many helpers. Many of the elders emeritus, within our area, are valued for their continuing support and wisdom.

For me, eldership has brought with it many blessings, privileges and experiences – lasting friendships, protection and guidance.

A good way of expressing what an elder should aim for is summed up in this prayer (modernised) by Ignatius Loyola (1491 – 1556)

Teach us good Lord to serve You as You deserve

To give and not count the cost

To fight and not heed the wounds

To toil and not to seek for rest

To labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do Your will

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thank you Nancye

E100 Bible Challenge

With the Old Testament portion of the E100 Bible Challenge complete, Halo sought participants' views to date. There was no need for attribution but where supplied we have acknowledged. We posed the following questions:

Have you read something you have not read before

Have you learnt anything from the readings

Has what you have read made you want to read further portions of the OT

Can you see how reading the OT may/will be pertinent to the New Testament readings still to come

Have you done the Challenge alone or as part of a group

Has discussion as a group, if you are part of a group, helped you to better understand the readings

If doing the readings alone do you think belonging to a group would have helped you

What do you feel the next step should be if the NT readings affect you the same as the OT ones have.

Wim replies:

1. I enjoyed doing it but feel pressured by having to do it daily, otherwise I will be behind Brett and the House Group

2. I had read most of the Bible passages before but I do enjoy the commentaries that come with the book.

3. By reading so many passages in a short space of time, I tend to forget what I read the previous day or week (old age or too much of a good thing?)

4. I read it mainly on my own as I have missed a month of House Group due to other youth commitments.

5. The group discussions are useful but again it is a lot to cram into one session and one gets rushed for time. I prefer to draw things out a bit.

In nutshell: It is great but a bit too much "like homework" for my liking.

.....
: **The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not keep you.** :
.....

Children's Story

"Come on lazy bones," said the voice. "Time to get up. Today's Sunday and if you don't get a move on we'll be late for Church."

Sean recognised his mother's voice but it would be cold up and he could hear the rain beating against the bedroom window. His bed was warm. Outside would be cold and miserable.

"I'm sick," said Sean. "I don't think I will be able to go to Church."

"Tough," said his mother as she pulled back the blankets. "Up."

Whining and moaning Sean got up, had a really quick wash, where the flannel barely touched the water and did not quite make it to his skin.

Cereal and toast were on the table but in an attempt to make his Mum feel bad Sean didn't touch them.

"My tummy hurts," he said.

His mother put the cereal away and the toast went out to feed the birds.

"At least some of God's creatures will appreciate your feeding them," said his mother.

As the birds enjoyed the extra food, Sean regretted his stubborn actions.

"Why do we have to go to Church?" asked Sean. "None of the others at school do."

"Whoa," said Sean's mother. "Big question young man. Do none of your friends go to Sunday School or Church?"

"No," said Sean although he did not know as he had never asked and they have never said. "So why do I have to go?"

His mother looked at the clock. If they did not leave now then they would be late. This was important though, and she knew God would rather she dealt with Sean's question than be on time for the start of Church.

"Come on Sean," said his Mum. "Come and sit down. Let's have a milo and biscuit while we talk."

They settled down at the kitchen table and in between sips at her milo Sean's Mum talked, while smiling at how her son's tummy had suddenly become right.

"A long time ago Sean there was no earth. There were no birds to feed, no beaches to go to, no parks to visit, no supermarkets to buy food at, and no people. There was nothing. Then God spoke. He spoke for six days. During that time, he made this earth we live on. He made night and day. He made the sun, the moon, and the stars. He made the sea and the dry land. He made plants, fish, animals and birds. Then he made us, humans. It took him all six days to make everything."

"Our teacher says it took millions and millions of years to do that," said Sean.

"Is that right?" asked his mother. "Well that shows how little he knows."

"The books at school say it too," said Sean.

"Well," said his mother. "That is why we go to Church on Sunday. The book we read at Church is called what?"

"The Bible," replied Sean.

"Yes," said his Mother. "The Bible and who wrote the Bible?"

"God," said Sean.

"God," agreed his Mother. "Some people like to say that the Bible was written by humans, and while to a degree that is true, the words came from God. Numerous attempts to prove the Bible wrong have failed. Not only that, the longer we live on this earth the more it is proved correct. The Bible, our book, has been here longer than the books at school.

"As I was saying, God made everything in six days and then, says the Bible, he rested on the seventh day and made it a special day. That special day is Sunday and we go to Church to learn about God who made everything and to say thank you for doing that."

Connect Conference

5

Brian (Walker) and I were privileged to attend the annual Presbyterian Conference for Youth Ministers and leaders in El-Rancho, Waikanae, July 2nd - 4th.

We were 160 in all, representing the whole country. We were treated to four keynote addresses, and over 40 workshops.

It was not only theory though, as we participated in prayer, worship, communion and we all got down on our knees to wash each others feet in a very symbolic ceremony.

Each of us could chose eight out of a possible 40 odd workshops (not an easy choice to make!)

Brian and I could this way "cover" 16 of them ranging from topics like "Reading the Bible for all its worth", "the Emmaus Road; a journey with Jesus", "understanding group dynamics", "different stages of a person's faith", "being interactive" to "Music writing" and "If I could start my ministry from scratch". We learnt heaps!

We slept in dorms with eight others and Brian kept telling the youngsters in our room that he wanted breakfast in bed with his eggs sunny side up and two pieces of toast.

We got to know many others who are involved with youth work, including quite a few immigrants from far away places.

The food and general atmosphere was very good and encouraging. It was a pity that there were no other representatives from our "kneck of the woods" (Napier, Hastings or Havelock North) as it is a great opportunity to mix, mingle and get ideas of working together and sharing resources. It was nice to catch up with our friends from Waipukurau.

Wim

Curtain Bank

The Curtain Bank is a major success story in Hawke's Bay. Many thanks to Energy Options, our steering committee, referrals agencies and volunteers.

We are continuing to receive curtains from our drop off points and other places. Thank you to St Columba's Two Fold Shop who continue to be an extra drop off point.

The shelves are reasonably full with a selection of smaller and middle-sized window curtains. To date we have bagged over 1065 sets of curtains! Although most are very suitable and do not require any repairs or alterations at this time, we do now have quite a pile that require machining to some degree. Several need new linings, others require new tapes and a huge pile of very large curtains need to be cut down to smaller sizes. I would like to say a big thank you to the St Columba's Presbyterian Women's' Fellowship group who have washed and measured pre-used tapes for us.

The team of volunteers is a wonderful group to work with and very giving of their time. They have become experts at measuring, bagging, stacking, sewing and paperwork.

The latest statistics are; 107 homes referred, 71 homes in Napier/Westshore and 36 homes in Hastings/Havelock North with 99% going to Housing New Zealand homes, and 1129 curtains have been given away. We started the Curtain Bank mid August 2009 and you can see it is proving to be a very valuable and well-used service. The clients receiving the curtains are very grateful that they have something to keep the warmth in and the cold out and are often close to tears when they pick up their curtains.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Janice Zachan

Back to Church Sunday - 12th September

⁶ *Among the many articles that arrive on the Halo computer was one from David Burchett.*

David Burchett, is an Emmy Award winning television sports director, author, and Christian speaker. He is the author of When Bad Christians Happen to Good People and Bring'em Back Alive: A Healing Plan for those Wounded by the Church.

We have printed the article for you to read. For some it could lead back to Church while for others it may simply encourage you in your journey.

God Will Bless the Broken Road

We have been watching a miracle of God's healing grace in the lives of some dear friends. It made me think of a favourite 'go to song' during difficult parts of the journey. The song, Bless the Broken Road, became a hit for the group Selah. Here are some of the lyrics.

*I set out on a narrow way, many years ago
Hoping I would find true love, along the broken road
But I got lost a time or two, wiped my brow and kept pushing through
I couldn't see how every sign, pointed straight to you*

It is so interesting to look back over the landscape of over three decades of this journey with Jesus. I can see God's hand in so many events and even heartbreak in my life. My early church experience was a broken road of legalistic and judgmental Christians who crushed the spirit of a young and fumbling Christian. That experience became the basis of my books. I have found many friends who have shared my journey. C.S. Lewis once said, "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, "What! You too? I thought I was the only one!" Sadly, many of us bear the wounds of dealing with imperfect people in the dysfunctional little gathering we call church. Still, God has blessed that broken road.

The broken road for me included the devastating death of a beloved nephew thirty-four years ago. At that point, I was at a crossroads in my faith. Turn my back on God or get serious in my pursuit of Him. Along the broken road, God brought a man named Wendel Deyo into my life (Wendel now heads up a retreat center in Southern Ohio). His life challenged me and he helped me stay on the narrow way. That relationship led to my association with Athletes in Action. While on staff with AIA I met the lovely future Mrs Burchett. And again, God blessed the broken road.

*Every long lost dream, led me to where you are
Others who broke my heart, they were like northern stars
Pointing me on my way, into your loving arms
This much I know is true
That God blessed the broken road
That led me straight to you
Yes He did*

It is hard to imagine life without Joni. Her cancer forced me to realise the possibility of that. Now that she is a four-year survivor, I am grateful but I pray I will never again take her for granted.

*I think about the years I spent, just passin' through
I'd like to have the time I lost, and give it back to you*

I remember with great sadness the years I spent working too much, taking my bride for granted, telling her that the schedule would soon "ease up", but it rarely did. I really wish I had that time back. I would give it to her in a heartbeat. If I could say one thing to young couples and parents, it would be to make time for your mate and your children. It took me too long to realize the truth that our schedule reflects our priorities. Somehow, Joni hung with me. She had travelled her own broken road.

*But you just smile and take my hand, you've been there you understand
It's all part of a grander plan, that is comin' true
Every long lost dream, led me to where you are
Others who broke my heart, they were like northern stars
Pointing me on my way, into your loving arms
This much I know is true
That God blessed the broken road
That led me straight to you*

The journey is not easy. Never will be! One of the big mistakes we make in sharing our faith is making it seem like all troubles are over when you embrace Christianity. That is not in the .../

God Will Bless the Broken Road cont...

contract. We will still have problems, heartaches, and even tragedies. But, God will bless ⁷ the broken road. King David wrote these words while escaping down a broken road...

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;

he rescues those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

C.S. Lewis also said that no one ever told him that grief felt so much like fear. Don't be afraid to continue down the broken road. God will meet you there.

Letter to the Editor:

10th July 2010

Dear Editor

What an awesome July edition of the Halo. It is exciting to see St Columba's now recognised nationally, as a Kid's Friendly Church. This means that the congregation and the Minister, have embraced, encouraged and welcomed the children as a part of the whole Church. They are *so* loved by our loving and gracious God who said to His disciples 'Let the children come to me and do not stop them because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'. Matthew 19:14. Surely, He has called us to do the same!!

The children look to the adults for acceptance - do they see the love of Christ shining out of our faces? How privileged we are to have children in our church when so many churches today have only mature adults attending. The kids bring laughter, (something we all need more of) and unconditional love.

The family service is an all age service, not just a kid's service and we try to have something for everyone in it. It is very noticeable that the numbers of people attending drop off on that Sunday. Why is that? Is it because you can't hear properly? We are trying to rectify that.

Children teach us many things and often it is the very simple things like laughter, fun and simple honesty, as we learn more about our loving God. Many an adult has been heard to say that they really enjoy the stories Brett tells the kids. News and celebrations embrace the whole congregation so don't be shy if you something to share. It is not just limited to the kids.

We always take the kids out before the Communion service, so those who are present can spend time quietly and reverently before God. We will, however, always bring them back in, to celebrate Communion with their Church family in a reverent and respectful way knowing that He embraces and celebrates with each child present. They are taught what Communion represents and we encourage only those with their parent's permission to partake of the bread and wine.

So bless you all for being a part of this wonderful Kid's Friendly Church. It is exciting to see a new family with three children joining us. Welcome to Michael, Jonathan and Christine and to their parents Steve and Cynthia Louise.

Thank you Jim for the great kids' stories you have been writing. We have been learning the Ten Commandments both at Kool Kids and at KFC and they all really enjoyed the last story in the July edition.

Pam Thrupp

Coordinator Kool Kids

Bible Society News

At our AGM in June Mr Merv Rive our District Organiser told us that 300 churches and 20,000 people are enrolled for the Essential 100 Bible Reading Challenge and many more are joining daily.

Napier Action Group have three main functions a year.

Dessert and Coffee Evening 26th June 2009 \$1491.00 raised

Sponsored Walkathon 22nd November 2009 \$1382.00 raised

Barbecue 9th February 2010 \$1270.00 raised

With money from donations and Christmas card sales, a total of \$7142.35 was sent to the Bible Society. Thank you for your support to spread God's Word to the world.

Marjory Yelverton

View From Under the Pew by Church Mouse

I know how much notice you, my readers, take of my modest writing efforts so I know you will have noted the somewhat smart comment by the editor regarding my 'dispensability'. I would like to point out to him that I know of his fondness for port cheddar and I know where he keeps his supply. To date I have left it alone but be warned Mr Editor.

I was happily chewing on a crumb the other Sunday when my attention was drawn to an extraordinary voice really moving a hymn along. I poked my head up and was amazed to see it was Brett. His microphone had been left on. He has a great singing voice don't you think?

I would also like to make comment on the Youth Group's skit about Jesus' walking on water miracle and their puppet sketch on miracles (Sunday 25th July). What a pleasure to see a group of young people enjoying themselves so much. If the Christian message is to live on then we need more of these youngsters committed to Christ. Well done you lot. Your cheese is safe.

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember....

- Noah was a drunk
- Abraham was too old
- Isaac was a daydreamer
- Jacob was a liar
- Leah was ugly
- Joseph was abused
- Moses had a stuttering problem
- Gideon was afraid
- Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
- Rahab was a prostitute
- Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- David had an affair and was a murderer
- Elijah was suicidal
- Isaiah preached naked
- Jonah ran from God
- Naomi was a widow
- Job went bankrupt
- Peter denied Christ (three times!)
- The Disciples fell asleep while praying
- Martha worried about everything
- Mary Magdalene was promiscuous
- The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once...
- Zaccheus was too small
- Paul was too religious
- Timothy had an ulcer....

AND

Lazarus was dead!

Now! No more excuses! God can use you to your full potential. Besides, you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.

And one more thing.... Share this with a friend or two...

In the Circle of God's love, God is waiting to use your full potential.

Thanks Brett

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• "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant." •

• *Robert Louis Stevenson* •

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BEREAVEMENTS

We extend our love and sympathy to the families of Dalrae McFarland, Val Pryor and Trevor Brown.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast will be at St Columba's Fish Hall, on Saturday 14th August at 7.45 a. m. Guest speaker Stephen Jacobi. This is an opportunity to hear an excellent speaker. Please come. We need a good number at this function. Expect a phone call for your commitment to be there.

Robin Arnold, Convener Pastoral Care

SEPTEMBER HALO

Would all committees please note that the September Halo is traditionally made up of your Annual Reports. Could you please have these in to the church office by Friday 27th August at the latest. Prayer Group, Missionary Guild, Women's Fellowship, Two Fold Op Shop, Mid Week Service, Community Foodbank, Mainly Music, KFC and Youth Group are all included please.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the congregation will be held on Sunday 12th September, after morning worship. We will shortly be calling for nominations for the Board of Managers, and forms will be available in the church foyer for this. Please remember that you must get the consent of the person you wish to nominate.

What's on in August

Saturday 14 th August	7.30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast in Fish Hall
Monday 16 th August	7.30 p.m.	Board of Managers monthly meeting in the lounge
Thursday 19 th August	1.45 p.m.	Missionary Guild
Tuesday 24 th August	7.30 p.m.	Women's Fellowship
Wednesday 25 th August	10.30 a.m.	Mid Week Service
Thursday 26 th August	7.30 p.m.	Session meeting in church lounge
Sunday 5 th August	9.30 p.m.	Quarterly Communion

Regular events

Mondays	House Group 7.00 p.m. (fortnightly) Contact: Pam Thrupp 835 5785 Board of Managers meet at 7.30 p.m. in the church lounge on the third Monday
Tuesdays	Op Shop Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 E100 discussion group 10.00 a.m. - 11 a.m. before Prayer Group 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 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 'Now We're Talking' discussion group 7 - 9 p.m. Contact: Wim Slooten 844 9070
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	'Massive' Youth Group 7 - 9 p.m. Contact: Wim Slooten 844 9070

Church Office Ph 844-5004 Monday—Friday 9.30am—12.00pm
 Fax 844-5409 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
Session Clerk	Pam THRUPP	835-5785
Parish Assistant—Youth	Wim SLOOTEN	844-9070
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, September 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 11.30 a.m., followed by lunch.



PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR HALO SPONSORS

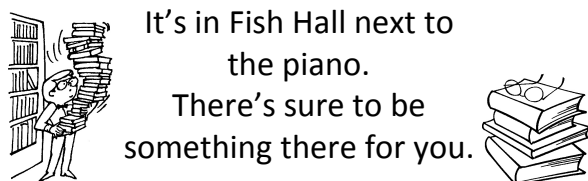
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