



HALO

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TARADALE

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

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Vol 20 - No 5

June 2010

FROM THE MINISTER

Charity or Membership

I attended part of the Charities Commission regional forum and was amazed to learn that there are 25,000 registered Charities in New Zealand, 804 in Hawke's Bay alone. I have been involved with three of them (the Church, Napier Foodbank and the Chaplaincy Trust at EIT). Nationwide the income of all charities is \$10 billion which is twice the size of the New Zealand manufacturing sector. This excludes all the volunteer hours which is 1.2 million hours per week (worth over \$15 million per week).

Do you wonder that the things you do for the Church, for your neighbours, or for any charities you support are not important? Do you ever feel you are "just a volunteer". Do you ever wonder whether anybody notices? When someone thanks you do you say - "it was nothing!"

These statistics show that what you do is part of something huge. You are part of something significant - more important to the economy than the manufacturing sector! More importantly, vital to the quality of life of those you help.

It was amazing to learn that because of the donations and income the charity sector employs the equivalent of 4035 full time workers in Hawke's Bay alone. St Columba's employ me, Rhonda in the office, Wim with the youth, Peter and all the KFC staff, plus a cleaner. Wages at St Columba consume the biggest portion of our income by far. Good staff and volunteers are vital to achieve our goals. Good staff have accountability, continuity and a bigger range of responsibilities. Good volunteers know that what they do makes a difference and enables great things to be done. Good volunteers know that in an organisation like the Church we couldn't pay for everything that gets done - and most wouldn't want to be paid. For many their service is a part of belonging - it's like doing the dishes at home - it's everybody pitching in and helping out. For others it is the sense that they are making a difference - achieving something great. The Church needs to find the right balance between paid staff and volunteers and to focus on what is important. Pristine buildings with no one using them are not much value. But buildings that enable staff and volunteers to work efficiently and that speak about the value we place on the work we do can be great asset.

I was thinking about my own role in the Church and trying to be clearer about what we are trying to achieve and what my part is. Here is what I wrote down:

At St Columba's we aim to help people to become fully devoted followers of Christ

- By providing worship and teaching that enable all people to reach out to God and know God reaching out to them
- By providing small groups and pastoral care to enable people to reach out to each other and build a strong community
- By providing social services that enable us to reach out to the community using the gifts, skills and passions of the congregation

If you know our Mission statement about reaching out in love to God, to each other and to the community you will see how I have adapted it.

As you consider your own contribution to St Columba's of time and money and talents may you again know the gratitude of the Church and community, may you know that you are a part of something big (not just the Charities sector - but also the Purposes of God) and may you know God's blessing and continued provision (for we give of what we have been given.)

Brett

Material for July Halo in by 11 a.m. Wednesday 23rd June 2010 please

From the Moderator of the General Assembly

A few weeks ago, I attended a meeting in Temuka called by the Anglican Church's Christchurch Diocese; the Diocese is concerned about some of the cooperating parishes in the Canterbury region. Most of these churches were formed at the height of the movement towards Church union in the 1970s, when Anglicans and Presbyterians in several rural areas and small towns across the region came together to form cooperating parishes. The question, then and now, is how these parishes relate to the partner Churches that gave them birth, especially when many or most of these parishioners today no longer regard themselves as being either Presbyterian or Anglican. The problem here is not just one of denominational identity. It's about what takes place in worship; and it's about how we understand the nature and function of ordained ministry. The Anglicans expressed particular concern about the non-sacramental nature of the Presbyterian form of worship. The infrequent celebration of the Eucharist or Holy Communion is a concern for them, as is the tendency they have observed for Presbyterians to treat Communion as a memorial meal rather than a sacrament in which Christ is truly present.

These concerns need to be taken seriously. Part of the 'Reformed and Reforming' theme during my Moderatorial term has been to advocate a recovery of a proper sacramental theology in the Presbyterian Church. John Calvin, whose 500th anniversary of his birth we celebrated last year, did precisely that. Taking his lead from scripture, he advocated a proper balance between word and sacrament, and he believed very strongly that our being in union with Christ was inextricably linked to the act of being fed by Christ at His Table. This, he said, should occur whenever the Word is proclaimed.

In recent decades many Presbyterian churches have moved towards a more regular celebration of Communion. Many now celebrate monthly rather than quarterly but I think there is still more scope to discuss the role of Communion in the life of our Church and to reflect on the Biblical and theological underpinnings of our practice. The meeting in Temuka made me realise that this sort of discussion might be forced upon us by our ecumenical partners, whether we're ready for it or not.

Graham Redding

PCANZ Moderator

From the Bush Telegraph, via Brett

Reading and Prayer



Reading: "Decide today whom you will serve... As for my family and me, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Prayer: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23,24)

A Personal Profile

*Nancy Bryan has been nominated for Eldership in our Congregation.
We asked her for a profile which she has provided.*

I was born in Waitara, Taranaki and have one older brother, who has now retired to the Coromandel. On leaving school, I tried my hand at office work but soon decided to move to Auckland where I trained at Middlemore Hospital as a nurse. In advancing my profession, I was able to travel and work in England, first in Public Hospitals, and later as a live-in carer to families around Oxford and near Winchester. I also underwent training as a midwife and when I returned to New Zealand, worked at National Women's Hospital before moving on to community nursing.

Plunket has been my employer for the latter part of my working life and fortunately a job became available in the Hawke's Bay so I was able to move to Napier three years ago to experience life outside the 'big city'. My love of gardens and walking certainly has had a boost living in the Hawke's Bay.

Now in partial retirement, I continue to do a little relief work for Plunket as required when nurses are on leave. As a volunteer, I assist in the Hospice shop in Napier which helps to raise funds for staff visiting terminally ill people in their homes. Napier Host Lions Club has also become an important part of my life. Our projects include raising money to support the Alzheimer's Society, ATC, Little Elms and other important community causes.

I attended a Presbyterian Church in Waitara as a young child and was baptized there in my teens. The rigid beliefs of the small church could not be challenged so with regret I moved away from church attendance. It was not until I had lived in Auckland a while that I joined St David's-in-the-Field, Hillsborough. This family church has a combined Presbyterian-Methodist congregation, and is warm, friendly and welcoming to strangers. Therefore, moving to Napier, my first task was to find another 'church family', which was what I found by attending St Columba's.

When I was in the United Kingdom I was fortunate enough to visit Iona and learn about St Columba and how he brought Christianity to Britain. A wonderful place to stay for meditation and Christian retreat.

GOLDEN THANK OFFERING

Enclosed in this issue of Halo is our annual Thank Offering envelope; the dedication will be during the service on Sunday 20th June.

This year the funds raised from the Golden Thank offering will be used for maintenance. The Manse roof needs some patching and the whole roof needs repainting. We are finding, as the congregation ages, that we need to pay for some of the maintenance to be completed - this year we are going to have to get some painting on the church buildings done and pay to have the trees trimmed. So, your generosity would be appreciated and you will be able to enjoy the results for years to come.

Thank you for your contribution.



Kia ora children of St Columba's

Instead of writing a story for you this month I have taken a story sent to me by the Radio Station, Radio Rhema. A man called Bob Gass tells it and every day he sends me e-mails about God. In this one, which I have changed a bit, he talks about angels.

In the Bible, it says 'He will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.' Psalm 91:11 NLT.

Every two weeks a missionary went to the city to purchase medicine for a small hospital where he worked. On one of his trips he saw two men fighting on the street. One was seriously hurt so he stopped, bandaged his wounds and told him about God's love. Then he headed back home, stopping in the jungle to camp overnight. When he visited the city two weeks later, a man approached him. It was the same one he'd helped on his previous trip. The man said, 'I knew you carried money and medicine with you, so our gang followed you to your camp planning to kill you for the money and the drugs. But just as we were about to attack, we saw twenty-six armed guards surrounding you.' The missionary replied, 'That's impossible; I was all alone.' The man replied, 'But my buddies saw them too. We counted them.'

Months later, when the missionary told this story back at his home church, a person interrupted, 'Exactly what day did this take place?' he asked. When the missionary said the day and date, the person was amazed. He said, 'On that exact night in Africa it was morning here, and I felt a strange urge to pray for you. It was so strong that I phoned some people to come to the church and pray with me. Would all of you who prayed with me that day please stand up?'

One by one the missionary counted them; twenty-six, the exact number of the armed guards.

The truth is: 'He will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.'

So, you want to know what angels do. Okay.

(a) Angels are God's secret service detail watching over you constantly. Your early cancer detection, that narrow escape. Those were more than just lucky breaks. Listen, the Bible says, 'He will order His angels to protect you wherever you go.' (Psalm 91:11 NLT)

(b) Special angels are given jobs to watch over children. Now you know why you survive things that make your Mum and Dad go weak at the knees. Listen, the Bible says, "Do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father.' (Matthew 18:10 NAS)

An angel went before Israel's army making sure they won. An angel shut the mouths of the lions for Daniel. An angel opened prison doors for Peter, saving his life on the eve of his death. An angel showed up in a storm to let Paul know that he'd be okay.

So, did God suddenly do away with His Secret Service Department? Are they sitting having cups of tea somewhere in heaven? No, they're still on the job. You just need to become wise enough to know that they are there looking after you.

Library

As you well know we do have our own library situated in Fish Hall. There are books of all types there and from time to time they are worth dipping into.

Recently Jim Payton purchased, at another church's garage sale, a book titled 'Hard to Believe' by John MacArthur. We have added it to the library. We have also added another book that Jim returns to time and time again; 'Born Again' by Charles Colson. He reviews these books below.

Hard to Believe by John MacArthur published in Nashville, Tennessee by Thomas Nelson, Inc in 2003.

After reading this book, I would probably classify MacArthur as a fundamentalist's fundamentalist. Having said that I would agree with what he says, and some of the conclusions he draws.

He is described as a self-styled Calvinist and is best known for his radio programme 'Grace to You'. His basic belief is that to be a Christian you 'must receive Jesus Christ for who he is, both Lord and Saviour, to be truly saved' 2 Peter 2:20, and 'once saved always saved is not true if you have no regard for what you believe and do'.

He is critical of current church leaders such as Robert Schuller, Rick Warren and Bill Hybels who run what he terms 'Seeker Friendly' churches. MacArthur states that there is a high cost to following Jesus and he believes that the majority of those who currently attend Church will be very surprised to find themselves in Hell when they die.

I found this book to be quite thought provoking and it will challenge you to recheck your beliefs and how you reflect and display your Christianity to this world.

Born Again by Charles W Colson published by Hodder and Stoughton in 1976.

This book is subtitled; What really happened to the White House Hatchet Man. Colson is well known for serving seven months of a one to three year prison sentence in relation to events that occurred while he was Special Counsel to President Richard Nixon. Since leaving prison, he has devoted himself to his non-profit organisation Prison Fellowship.

When Colson converted to Christianity during the Watergate Affair, it was widely held that he did so in an attempt to minimize any sentence he might receive if charged with a felony. This book attempts to repudiate that belief and describes one man's path to Jesus.

This gives a fascinating view of life in the White House and the manoeuvrings of the American Political machine. I am sure that many of those are mirrored in our own system.

I love this book and I love the work that Colson now does, so you will have to accept a degree of bias in my review. This book will make you seriously look at yourself as regards that terrible sin of 'pride'.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

LEADERSHIP

The following comes from The Word for Today via Radio Rhema and is written by Bob Gass Ministries. It is not in anyway intended to refer to anybody at St Columba's but is included for those aspiring to leadership in God's Church.

If God has given you leadership ability - Romans 12:8 NLT

Pastor, you know you're having a really bad day when you finally remember the name of the person you promised to visit in the hospital - while reading the obituaries; you can't find the book of Obadiah while leading a Bible study; your treasurer sends you a postcard from Geneva; you are informed that the youth group used steel wool sponges for the car wash; at a wedding, you call the groom by the bride's former boyfriend's name; your personal parking spot gets relocated - to a restaurant half a mile away; you preach the same sermon for the second week, and nobody notices; the church votes to change your day off to Sunday.

Seriously, if God has given you leadership ability, remember what sets great leaders apart. First, they're facilitators. They realise that nobody will ever be what they ought to be until they're first doing what they ought to be doing, and that the way to fulfil your calling is to help others discover and fulfil theirs.

Second, they're courteous. They never look down or talk down. They don't have one set of manners for important people and another for the less important. To them, everybody is important because everybody has God-given potential; they just work to bring it out. Third, they're decisive. As a leader you'll be remembered for two things: the problems you created and the ones you solved. Yes, you'll make mistakes, so learn humility, hunger for personal growth, draw strength from God, and hopefully do it better next time.

You can receive TWFT via e-mail. Simply type Radio Rhema into your search engine and click on The Word For Today.

Updated Roll for St Columba Taradale

Thank you to everyone who responded to the letter we sent out asking for your membership status and your address and phone numbers. We have had over half the congregation return their forms but about 130 are still outstanding. We would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to fill out and return the forms to the Church office as soon as possible. If we don't receive your forms, your Elder or Visitor may ask if they can return them for you.

The information is purely so that we can update all the information we need to be efficient when it comes to voting, mailing or sending out emails.

Thank you for your cooperation

Pam Thrupp

Session Clerk

THE OLDER CROWD

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. 'Is it true,' she wanted to know, 'that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?' 'Yes, I'm afraid so,' the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, 'I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition. Because this prescription is marked "NO REPEATS"..'

Growing Old

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We were unable to ascertain the name of the contributor of this article apart from the letter J. Thank you J.

Growing old is perhaps the hardest task we have to face in this life. As the saying goes, "Getting old is not for sissies". Mainly growing old is about losses. We devote most of our early life to acquiring things, but they are merely things we will lose as we age. We lose our strength, our looks, our friends, and our job. We may lose our wealth, our health, our home, our spouse, our independence and perhaps our greatest loss of all, our sense of dignity and self-worth.

But there is one thing that you and I will never lose – the love of God. 'Even in your old age I am he,' God said to Isaiah, 'and even to grey hairs will I carry you'. Isaiah 46:4.

On my niece's fridge door is the following:

*Jesus loves me, this I know
Though my hair is white as snow,
Though my sight is growing dim
Still he bids, trust in him.*

View from Under the Pew by Church Mouse

I have noted that some of the Golden Thank Offering is to be used to attend to much needed maintenance on the Manse. The reason given is that the congregation is growing old and unable, like me, to shimmy up drainpipes, ladders and various things as they used to.

I wonder if this is doing God's work.

We currently rent the manse out for an acceptable sum and this supplements the housing entitlement for our Minister. However, do we need to keep the manse? In this day and age most Ministers purchase their own residences and I believe are encouraged to do so in order to establish family security so what need do we have for this building? We do not need to be landlords. It seems to me that it has become an expense we could well do without. I am aware that to sell it would be quite an exercise but maybe the Board of Managers could give it some consideration.

I also note the comments made by Moderator Redding. I had a favourite pew at one of his previous congregations and enjoyed many a service from there. There is much in his letter and it would do those in our own leadership to consider his comments seriously.

When our granddaughter Katrina told us she was to have a water baptism, I thought - 'I would like to do that too'.

Then our daughter Carol told me she was to have this also, and I knew I wanted to share this wonderful experience with her.

So on 16th May we joined nine other "young" ones to have this done.

I was pleased the water was warm!

It was a great joy to have this done, it makes you feel a great happiness to receive this special baptism. A new start in life with the Lord, a forgiveness of sins of the past.

Thank you Brett and Marjory for coming along. It was a great surprise to see you both there.

Bobbie Lythgoe

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

8 RACISM AND REPENTANCE: ONE CHURCH'S STORY

Elsewhere in this edition of Halo we have made mention of Chuck Colson and here we print a copy from his BreakPoint radio programme to give you an idea of how his mind works, among other things.

BreakPoint April 16, 2010

But humans being what they are - fallen creatures - we will always struggle with sin, and racism, like all sins, will be always be crouching at the door. Even within the church.

I was reminded of this recently by a pastor I had dinner with in Mobile. He told me a great story about what happened to his former associate, who took over the First Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. His name is Dr. Stan Lewis.

First Baptist had struggled with racism since the 1960s. On Easter Sunday in 1963, the Rev. Earl Stallings, who was then the pastor, had welcomed African-American Freedom Riders to the church, but the ushers refused to seat them. Still, Martin Luther King commended Rev. Stallings later that week in his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

Things got worse when the 16th Street Baptist Church was bombed and four little girls were killed. Based on the reaction from First Baptist, Rev. Stallings was forced to write in his weekly newsletter, "The hearts of *some* of us [were] broken last Sunday when the despicable crime of the bombing of a house of worship and the taking of the lives of innocent children became a reality."

Stallings would later be honoured for his efforts at racial reconciliation, but the church, which he left in 1965, continued to be divided. As late as 1970, the First Baptist congregation voted to deny membership to African Americans. With that, the church finally split, and a new church formed.

But what of the old church? Dr. Lewis says, "Over the next few decades First Baptist Church would continue to decline in membership and influence." During these years the church "stumbled and lost its identity...The church struggled with strife over theological and cultural issues."

That's no surprise, is it? When a church follows cultural instead of scriptural standards, theological troubles are certain to follow. In 2009, Dr. Lewis, new in the church, decided it was time for the church as a body to repent of its sin. He preached a message of "corporate repentance" from Nehemiah chapter 1.

The deacons led the congregation in a "time of confession and repentance," and the church went through a period of prayer, fasting, and reaching out to other churches for guidance. "Since that time," Dr. Lewis told me, "we have seen more people baptized and join our church than ever before. There is a sense of freedom from past sin."

I think this is a wonderful model for any church to follow when it confronts corporate sin—whether it's the sin of racism or anything else.

As Christians, we cannot change the past. But we can be accountable to God for what we do now. We can appeal to Him for forgiveness, restoration, and direction. Then and only then can we really be free to be God's people.

Chuck Colson's daily BreakPoint commentary airs each weekday on more than one thousand outlets with an estimated listening audience of one million people. BreakPoint provides a Christian perspective on today's news and trends via radio, interactive media, and print.

Lord, Keep Your arm around my shoulder, and Your hand over my mouth.

DAILY SURVIVAL KIT

9

Items Needed: Mint, Candy Kiss, Tea Bag, Eraser, Rubber Band, Toothpick, Chewing Gum, Band Aid, Pencil. Why??????

TOOTHPICK - to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others. - *Matthew 7:1

RUBBER BAND - to remind you to be flexible.. Things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out. - *Romans 8:28

BAND AID - to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's. - *Colossians 3:12-14

PENCIL - to remind you to list your blessings everyday. - *Ephesians 1:3

ERASER - To remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's okay. - *Genesis 50:15-21

CHEWING GUM - to remind you to stick with it, and you can accomplish anything. - *Philippians 4:13

MINT - to remind you that you are worth a mint. - *John 3:16-17

CANDY KISS - to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug everyday. - *John 4:7

What's on in June

Friday 11 th June	1.30 p.m.	Op shop Committee meeting in church lounge
Sunday 13 th June	9.30 a.m.	Celebration of Holy Communion with morning worship
Monday 14 th June	7.00 p.m.	Parenting Course in the church lounge
Wednesday 16 th June	11.30 a.m.	Mid week Communion followed by lunch
Thursday 17 th June	1.45 p.m.	Missionary Guild
Saturday 19 th June	6.00 p.m.	Mid winter dinner and farewell to Armin
Monday 21 st June	7.00 p.m.	Parenting Course in the church lounge
Monday 21 st June	7.30 p.m.	Board of Managers monthly meeting in the lounge
<i>Please note change from third Thursday to third Monday</i>		
Tuesday 22 nd June	7.30 p.m.	Women's Fellowship
Wednesday 23 rd June	10.30 a.m.	Mid Week Service
Thursday 24 th June	7.30 p.m.	Session meeting in church lounge
Friday 2 nd July		Term II ends
Monday 5 th July		Children's Holiday Programme begins

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.



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