

HALO

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TARADALE

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

Email: stcolumba@xtra.co.nz



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Photographs by Cary Montheath/The Press

Think too of all who suffer as if you shared their pain.

Hebrews 13:3 (J B Phillips)

To donate money towards the Earthquake disaster, if you have not already done so, the PCANZ have opened an account 02 0500 0086963 00 reference CHQUAKE or you can mail your gift to: Financial Services, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, PO Box 9049, Wellington 6141.

Material for April Halo in by 11 a.m. Wednesday 23rd March 2011 please

From the Minister

A theology of place

The Christchurch earthquake has seen many churches destroyed. Presbyterians have seen four churches with major damage. Many of the ministers, and others, have been heard to say the buildings are less important than the people - and this is true, but the loss of the buildings will significantly change Christchurch. Napier is grateful for its Art Deco heritage and the future for Christchurch can be better than it was - but on the other hand so much is lost, and with change and loss there is grief. There will be grief because the place where you worshipped is gone or changed, the familiar streets and look and feel will be different. Can we mourn these losses as well as the human one - and why is place important to us?

In Maori culture, Tūrangawaewae (a place to stand - home soil - our roots) are places where we feel especially empowered and connected. It is **our** mountain, **our** river, **our** iwi's land. They are our foundation, our place in the world, our home. In the concept of tūrangawaewae, the external world is a reflection of an inner sense of security and foundation. We belong here, this is our identity. Mountains and rivers last longer than buildings but similar emotions are involved - we say - that is the house where I was born, that is the church where I was married - and these things become part of our identity, and losing them, or seeing them changed, challenges our understanding of ourselves.

A Christian theology of place starts with the planet we are on (earthquake faults and all). Some Christians see the planet as an unimportant holding place where we await eternal salvation. The ignoring of the environment flows from that, although the command to rule and subdue the earth (Genesis 1:28) could better be interpreted to care for it rather than older attitudes of taking what you want and conquest.

The biblical forefathers such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, also had a strong sense of place, particularly because they didn't have a place of their own yet God had promised them one. When Jacob had a vision of a ladder to heaven he set up a rock as a memorial and reminder so that when generations later passed by they would remember the vision and its meaning. The Jerusalem Temple became a symbol of God's presence and promised protection even through Solomon, in dedicating the temple, said that God was too big to reside in one place or building (2 Chronicles 2:6)

This confusion of a place / Church with God's presence is also seen in the hymn

*We love the place, O God, wherein thine honour dwells;
the joy of thine abode all earthly joy excels.
It is the house of prayer, wherein thy servants meet;
and thou, O Lord, art there thy chosen flock to greet.*

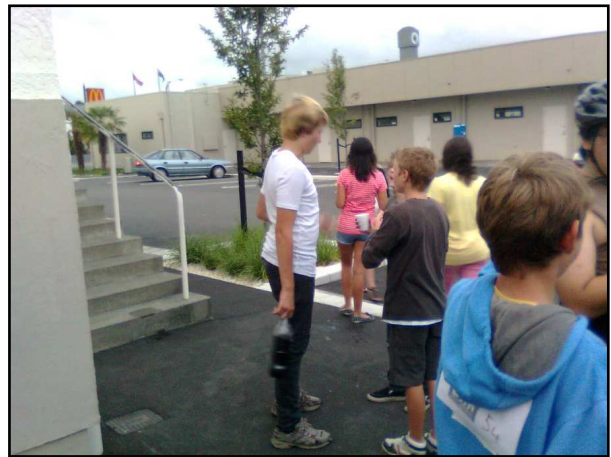
So Christians have this dilemma. A sense of place is important - but not that important. God can be encountered on the golf course or in the garden or coffee shop as well as in the church building. We live with the tension between the real significance of place and the greater significance of relationship. We are both a pilgrim people, like the people during the exodus, and a rooted people.

There were no buildings for the first three centuries of the Christian church other than people's homes. So it was the relationships with God and with each other that defined "Church". It was not where do you belong - but with whom. So for some the association of Church with a building is an inferior idea to that of relationship. We need to allow the people of Christchurch to grieve both the loss of lives and the loss of their buildings and heritage - but to remind them also that we are a pilgrim people. As Presbyterians we are both reformed and also reforming, and that we are rooted in the past but ever ready to move forward.

Please continue to pray for the people of Christchurch with the myriad of losses and the challenge of rebuilding lives and churches for a better future.

Brett Walker

St Columba's Youth - Pimp my Ride and Contact



Hi, here are some pics from our Bike Ride for Charity (LIFELINE). We raised nearly \$100. We had burgers and soft drinks, 40 of us showed up! It was fantastic to hear LIFELINE stories. It gave the young people who had used their services, and there were a few, the chance to tell LIFELINE they were grateful and contribute to their ongoing work.

PIMP MY LIFE continues to be a challenge to both me, the facilitator, and to those young people who regularly attend introducing relevant subjects with a little controversy, but always directing the youth to God's word, and applying his ways in their personal lives. Our numbers are steady at 12 or so. We use the description to PIMP one's life as in actively making changes to better cope with life. Some of the subjects we have covered are GRIEF AND LOSS, ETHNICITY/CULTURE, YOUTH CULTURE, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY as a young person and ANGER MANAGEMENT.

Daniel has been a huge help to me. We work well together. He needs to be credited for some of our work and also thanks to Steve D and to Jeni for their support.

We thought it would be great to support RELAY FOR LIFE so some from the youth group are attending. We have organised on 4 March for CANTEEN to come and talk to the youth which is going to be our youth day contribution.

A Youth Van is something we desperately need. We have been offered a very good van for \$4500. I would like to think that at that price we could purchase one. I guess a fundraising team needs to be created.....

Regards, *Mark*



"Welcome, O weary searcher for truth!
Say, have you ever worked with kids?"

Cartoonist: Ed Koehler

I think Pam, Mark, Richard or Peter sneaked this in. (Editor)

Children's Area

Dinosaurs and Elephants

by Jim Payton

A long, long time ago, there was a time when earth did not exist. There was nothing. It did not matter how hard, or long, you looked you would not have been able to find earth anywhere. There were no stars, no moons, no planets, no Mums and no Dads. There were no television sets or play stations. There was nothing. Then God made the universe. When he made the universe, he also made the planet we live upon and called it earth. It was not as it is today. It was very dark and there was no land. The Bible says that instead of land there was just raging water. God was there though. Over the next few days, God made the earth much like it is today. He made the sky, and night and day, with the sun for the day and the moon for the night and stars to keep the moon company. He made land and separated it from the water so that there was land and sea. God then made all kinds of creatures for the sea, big ones like whales and little ones like sardines, and birds for the sky. After that, he made animals for the land. He made elephants, dinosaurs, cows, dogs, cats and lots of others.

After all that, God made a man and then to keep the man company, and have some one to marry, he made a woman.

Some people do not believe this story but I do. It is told in the Bible. If you get Mum or Dad to get the Bible for you, and read the first book, called Genesis, from Chapter 1, verse 1, to verse 4 in Chapter 2 you will see it is the same as the story written here.

Now, see if you, with Dad or Mum to help can do the puzzle on the next page. The instructions must be read carefully or you will end up with something that makes no sense. My first attempt was rubbish, and made no sense because I thought I was clever and did not have to read the instructions. Men are famous for not reading how to do things aren't they? Ask your Mum and see what she says.

Best of luck.

IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1-2:3

Follow the directions carefully, When all the spaces are filled in correctly, God's thoughts about creation will be revealed.



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- If God made the dry land to appear on the second day, write A in space 17. If not, write E (vv. 9, 13).
- If God created man in His own image, write R in space 18. If not, write L (v. 27).
- If God made two lights, one to rule the day and one to rule the night, on the fourth day, write O in spaces 2, 21, 22. If not, write E (vv. 16, 19).
- If God created whales on the fifth day, write S in spaces 4, 15. If not, write D (vv. 21, 23).
- If God called the firmament earth, write V in spaces 6, 13. If not, write W (v. 8).
- If God created grass and fruit trees on the fourth day, write G in spaces 7, 10, 12. If not, write T (vv. 11, 13).
- If God created cattle on the sixth day, write A in spaces 5, 9, 14. If not, write O (vv. 24, 31).
- If God created the birds on the sixth day, write R in space 16. If not, write V (vv. 21, 23).
- If God divided the light from the darkness on the second day, write N in space 19. If not, write Y (vv. 4, 5).
- If God gave man the fruit of the trees for meat, write G in spaces 1, 20. If not write F (v. 29).
- If the Spirit of God was present at creation, write D in spaces 3, 23. If not, write W (1:2).
- If God blessed the seventh day, write I in space 11. If not, write E (2:3).
- If God created the stars on the fourth day, write H in space 8. If not, write C (vv. 16, 19).

Kid's Friendly Care

Kid's Friendly Care has just published their first magazine, which is being handed out to parents, local schools, and the St Columba's congregation. The magazine talks about what we do, why we do it, as well as stories about staff, parents and children. Make sure you get a copy. At the moment, we are busy with Before and After School Care with an eye toward the April School Holidays. We would also like to welcome Candi Hughes to our team on a six-month contract.

Peter Wooten

Church Fair and Garage Sale

St Columba's traditional Church Fair will be held on Friday evening, 18th March at 5.30 p.m. Come and have dinner with us. There will be a variety of food stalls – sausage sizzle, hamburgers, pizzas, waffles, jellies, Asian food, and Devonshire tea [or coffee]. There will also be the usual range of other stalls – books, cakes, jams and preserves, linen, toys, plants, produce, jewellery and a wonderful range of goods in the White Elephant stall [which will be in the old church with larger items out on the lawn]. The Op Shop will also be open and all proceeds for the evening will go to help our deficit budget. On Saturday morning 19th March the garage sale will start at 7.30 in the morning. An early start!! If you have good quality SALEABLE items you wish to donate to any of the above stalls, bring them to the church office or ring 844-9025. We would also like sponsorship for some items we will need to buy, so if you or your business can help in any way, please ring 844-9960 or the church office 844-5004. We will acknowledge business sponsorships at the fair.

If you would like to come on Friday but have no means of getting there, ring 844-9960 and we will see if we can organise a ride for you.

See you there!

Annette

Halo by Hand, E-mail or Snail Mail

We know that in this day and age, the written word upon paper is starting to take a back seat to the electronic media. If you would prefer to receive your copy of Halo electronically, then please let the office know. It would assist in keeping down paper and ink costs and save the forests. If you know of people who do not currently receive Halo, either in the Church or otherwise, who you think might like a copy, please let the office know their details and we will arrange to contact them and see if they would like to receive one.

Good News and Inspiration via E-mail

I daily have a number of inspirational e-mails and video clips arrive at my computer 'In Box'. The truly good ones are passed to a small circle of friends both within and outside the congregation. If you would like to receive these then please reply to me at jaewai@xtra.co.nz. As well as inspirational, I forward appropriate amusing ones. I make every effort to ensure that the final part of them relating to forwarding it to 300 people within 7 minutes or you will have bad luck, and receive nothing, etc are removed. Actually, it surprises me the number of Christians who forward e-mails scared that they might have bad luck if they do not do so. Did I mean 'Christians'?

Jim Payton

Reading and Prayer

Reading: "Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise. Let us be concerned for one another to help one another to show love and to do good." **Hebrews 10:23 & 24**



Prayer: Thank you Lord for your promises that you are always with us. May your Spirit lead us to love and help those we come in contact with, showing your love and concern for those in need. Help us to be the people you want us to be, for Jesus' sake, Amen

View From Under the Pew By Church Mouse

7

I am sad that Christchurch has suffered such tragedy.

I heard the other day that the Youth Group needs a van rather badly. To me this would seem such a worthwhile cause. That Mark fellow is doing some wonderful things. Maybe you should ensure you keep him and sign him up for 35 or 40 hours a week. He's clearly doing more than his 25 anyway.

With the Church finances in need of bolstering, maybe a dedicated fundraising group is needed. I know that money is short because the amount of crumbs left these days is not as it was. If you need a paw then let me know. Sitting where I do I hear a lot. The problem is that I hear it but I don't see much of it being done.

St Columba's is envied by many of the other churches in the area according to my under-pew sources. While our youth is a source of that envy, the atmosphere and 'Christianess', a mouse word, of the congregation as a whole speaks volumes. Instead of singing the hymns, just try listening occasionally. God loves the praise.

'Learning'

by Joy Cowley

Spirit of Love, you are strong and true, a constant wind to my sail.
Your power will never fail me.

But the direction I take depends on the way I set my sail,
and that skill can only come from practical experience of journey.

Yes, I've studied manuals, examined charts,
listened to the advice of others,

but in the end it's a matter of getting out there and doing it.

And I can be sure that just as I think

I've got everything under control,

I tack the wrong way and capsize.

That's how it is with learning.

Spirit of Love, strong and unchanging
you teach me that the trough of the wave is as important as its crest.

Thank you for giving me the freedom

to learn through trial and error,

and thank you for showing me that if I don't make mistakes

I don't make anything at all.

Taken from the Knox Church, Christchurch Bulletin for 7 February 2010.

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village,

He worked in an obscure carpenter's shop until he was 30

He became a travelling preacher

He never held a position in an office

He never had a family, or owned a house

He didn't go to college, or university

He had no credentials but himself ...

Centuries have come and gone and today he is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched,

All the ships that ever sailed,

All the Parliaments that ever governed,

And all the Kings that ever reigned

Have not affected the lives of people on this earth as he has ...

Forwarded by Margaret Madill – Thanks Margaret.

8 From The Word For Today

by Bob and Debby Gass

A mouse looked out through a crack in a farmhouse wall and was distraught to discover a mousetrap. When he went to tell his buddies, the chicken said, 'Sorry, pal, not my problem.' The pig said, 'I'll pray for you.' The cow was busy and said, 'Come back later.' Dejected, the mouse was left alone to handle his problem. That night, a poisonous snake was caught in the mousetrap and when the farmer's wife went to investigate, she was bitten. She developed a raging fever, and everyone knows you treat a fever with chicken soup. So the farmer took his axe to the barn for the main ingredient! As his wife's condition deteriorated and neighbours gathered, he had to butcher the pig to feed them. Finally she died. So many people came to the funeral that he ended up slaughtering the cow to make dinner for them all. In the end, everybody lost!

The Bible says, '...encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.' It only takes one thing to be an encourager: a willingness to '...bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves' (Romans 15:1 NAS).

Before deciding somebody else's problem has nothing to do with you, read this: '...If one member suffers, all the members suffer...' (1 Corinthians 12:26 NKJV). You can't sit on the sidelines while someone's hurting; tomorrow it may be you! We are told to 'Share each other's burdens...' (Galatians 6:2 NLT). When one of us is threatened, we're all at risk. Our lives are woven together for a reason; each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry.

'...encourage the fainthearted, help the weak...' 1 Thessalonians 5:14 NAS

TWFT comes via Radio Rhema.

Perks of reaching 50 or being over 60 and heading towards 70!

01. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
02. In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.
03. No one expects you to run - anywhere.
04. People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "did I wake you?"
05. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
06. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
07. Things you buy now won't wear out.
08. You can eat supper at 4 p.m.
09. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
16. Your joints are more accurate than the meteorologists' national weather service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
19. < SPAN style="FONT-FAMILY: Tahoma">You can't remember who sent you this list.
20. And, you notice these are all in Big Print for your convenience.

Church and Family News

9

BEREAVEMENTS Our love and sympathy to the families of Bill Whittle, Barbara Atley, Jock Aplin and Joan Sawers.



MID WEEK HOLY COMMUNION Mid week service on Wednesday 9th March at 11 am will celebrate Holy Communion.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Early Warning. Men's Breakfast Saturday 9th April 2011. Speaker to be advised.

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS Please note that the church email address has changed. It is now office@stcolumba-taradale.org.nz However, any mail sent to the old address will be forwarded to the new mailbox.

If you have a problem or a concern about something that's happening at church, or relating to the Church Family, there are **ISSUE OF CONCERN** forms in one of the pigeonholes in the foyer and you are invited to fill one in and express your concerns. Completed forms go in the Session Clerk's pigeonhole.

What's on in March

Monday 7 th March	7.30 p.m. - 9.30 a.m.	Six-week Parenting Course begins
Wednesday 9 th March	11.00 a.m.	Mid Week Communion
Wednesday 16 th March	7.30 p.m.	Board of Managers monthly meeting in the lounge
Thursday 17 th March	1.45 p.m.	Missionary Guild
Friday 18 th March	5.00 p.m.	Church Food Fair
Saturday 19 th March	7.30 a.m.	Garage Sale
Tuesday 22 nd March	7.30 p.m.	Women's Evening Fellowship
Wednesday 23 rd March	10.30 a.m.	Monthly Mid Week Service
Thursday 24 th March	7.30 p.m.	Session meeting
Saturday 9 th April	8.00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast

Regular events

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

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

Church Postal Address:	P O Box 7136, Taradale	
Minister	Rev Brett WALKER	844-2256
Acting Session Clerk	Colin ZACHAN	844-8050
Parish Assistant—Youth	Mark SEEK	027 478 9404
Pastoral Care	Robin ARNOLD	844-7808
Communication	Dot McLEOD	844-1211
Af Care/Holiday Programme	Peter WOOTEN (convenor)	843-7770
Change of Address	Church Office	844-5004
HALO - Editor	Jim Payton	843-3937
- Distribution	Wendy GOSLING	844-0282

Services – Sunday 9.30 am morning worship

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of March, 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 11.00 a.m. in Fish Hall.



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 There's sure to be something there for you.




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Phone 835-5078

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