

HALO



JUNE 2016

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TARADALE

Words of Wisdom from the Minister



One of the books I enjoyed reading during my study leave was on personal story telling and how your stories could be used to assist another person. This writer suggested you use the P.R.O. acronym: Describe the **P**roblem, describe what **R**esources you might use to solve the problem, describe the **O**utcome. The hope

is that people will learn from the story some resources they can apply to their own problems.

It made me think about the stories we tell about St Columba's. The Problems might be something like an aging congregation or a shortage of volunteers or limited funds or buildings needing repair and our solution might be to employ a youth worker, have more social events, have better services, more fund raisers, more pastoral visiting.... Hopefully resulting in more young people, better relationships, better buildings, more workers...

The problem is if we tell stories like that – nobody in the community around us really wants to hear it because those outside the church don't really care about the church. What they care about is their own problems. What if we learnt to tell different stories such as these:

- X & Y found acceptance and a place of belonging. Where they are making genuine friendships.
- Z & A feel there is a real safety net around them of care and practical help when things are tough as they tell about their experience of getting meals delivered after X's surgery.
- B & C tell of encountering the living God, and are growing in their understanding of his truth and how to apply his wisdom and how it helps them face their daily struggles with courage and hope.
- D & E are being equipped to be a better followers of Jesus through the opportunities they got to lead a small group discussion.

- F & G described how daily Prayer is becoming more meaningful, and helpful so that we can see greater impact in the world through their prayer.
- H & I feel they have discovered their purpose in life and find a real delight in serving the poor and needy through serving at a church sponsored budgeting course.
- Young people from Taradale High school are reported as having lower incidences of alcohol abuse, suicide and self harming because they are connected with the youth programs at St Columba's.
- The Smith family feel they are stronger as a unit because they are learning to work and worship together, and their devotions around the dinner table have deepened their understanding of each other.

If these are the sort of stories we want to hear about church then we need to learn to talk about the difference God and involvement in the church has made to us.

We also need to count different things – not how many people turned up and how much money was given, but how people's lives are being changed and helped.

The secret of a good story is more than describing the problem and the happy ever after (outcome) but the how did things change from the initial problem to the outcome.

As an exercise you might like to try writing your God story:

P: What was life like before?

O: How did things change?

R: What happened to make the difference?

May we all discover the love and power of God who has a larger story that we are caught up in – the story of his love for the world and his plan for its rescue and redemption.

Best wishes

Brett

The Mother Duck

Mother duck liked to get up every morning at precisely 6am.

She was a duck who liked her routines and she demanded everyone keep to her schedule.

First breakfast of nuts and seeds;

Second, rouse and feed the children;

Third, preen yourself – always left side first then right side;

Finally, she was ready for the day.

The first part of her routine was to swim up river to her special feeding ground where the weeds were just right, not too bitter and not too sweet.

Mother duck quacked her goodbyes as she did every day. Popped into the water and started paddling. Today was an easy day the river was flowing upstream towards her special spot and she was happily feeding within 15 minutes.

Last week the river was flowing the other way for this was a tidal river. It had taken two hours and she was exhausted by the time she got to her special place. Worse than that after a few hours feeding, when it was time to go home the river was again flowing in the opposite direction to which she wanted to go to that was another two hours battling the tide .

Mother ducks friends told her it was the tide from the ocean. The river would flow in for about 6 ¼ hours and then flow out for 6 ¼ hours. This meant each day the tide changed its time by one hour. Which means sometimes the tide was flowing in the direction she wanted to go and sometimes it was flowing the opposite away.

But mother duck was a duck of routines. She did not want to be wasting time until the tide was flowing in the direction she wanted to go. So if it took 15 minutes or it took two hours she would always set off at the same time every day – 8am.

Her ducklings said “mother duck, you look so tired when you go against the tide”. They didn’t tell she was also very grumpy on those days.

They said “why don’t you go with the tide?” “No”, she replied “I always depart at 8am.”

“Well why don’t you fly instead of swim?” “No”, she answered “I always

do it this way – 8am swim to feeding grounds, see it says so here in my diary.

It doesn't say wait till 11am swim to feeding grounds or 8am fly to feeding grounds, it says 8am swim to feeding ground."

One day after mother duck had come home late after swimming against the tide. The ducklings got together and had a meeting.

One said "I'm sick of mum being so grumpy when she swims against the tide."

Another said "she comes back so late our dinner is cold".

The third said "yes, she makes us go straight to bed after dinner on those days. I want to keep playing, but I think it's her that is tired."

What shall we do? They all said together.

"Maybe we could change the clock one hour every day so she always catches the tide?" said one.

"Maybe we could change her diary so it says fly to the feeding grounds" said another.

Maybe we could all tell her "mother, we love you and you are a very good mother duck, and we are sorry you get so tired swimming against the tide. We don't like it when you come home grumpy and we know you don't like being grumpy because you are a good mother duck. Could you please change your routine to fly or to swim with the tide."

That night the ducklings and mother duck talked together and they told her what they thought and they made their suggestions.

The mother listened to her three ducklings. She didn't like being tired. She didn't like being grumpy with the ducklings or sending them to bed early.

But she did like her routines.

"I know" she said, "bring me my diary". She crossed out where it said 8am swim to feeding grounds and she wrote two things:

1. After 8 AM when the tide is flowing upstream swim to feeding grounds.
2. Give my ducklings a big hug every day because family are more important than routine.

And that is exactly what she did.



Youth Ministry Update – Steve Demetrius

The Youth Groups of St. Columba's are going well this year. Here is a summary of the year so far:

- The 678 youth group has been transformed into the 6789 youth group as we have added Year 9 students (first year of High School) into the group. These Year 9 students are still able to come to the High School group if they wish, but they were feeling a bit lost in that group as most are older Seniors (age 15-18). This year we have done the following activities: Easter party, Inflatable world, Laser Force, River Float, Cardboard sliding, Disc Golf, and Games night. There are usually about 10-15 students in this group. We have been talking about what it means to be a Christian and how to live that out in life.
- McBible Study: The High School Bible study meets on Tuesday nights at McDonald's in Taradale. We have finished a series on the basics of what it means to be a Christian. Now we are looking at what the Bible says about some topics that connect well with youth – Peer Pressure, How to be successful and Dealing with Anger, and Being Honest.
- Massive High School Youth Group: This meets on Friday nights. The group continues to grow with new students coming most weeks. We average about 30 students each night. This year we have had Pizza and Planning Night, Cardboard sliding, Games nights, Ultimate Frisbee and Water balloons at the Park, Making Games for the Church Fair, Design our own Burger night, Banana Split Night with another youth group, Soccer and Treasure Hunt at Taradale Park, Laser Force, Karaoke (with another youth group joining us), Chair Games and Movie Night. The youth are full of energy and seem to enjoy anything that we do. There is a real family feel to the group and students look forward to being together each week.
- Staff: We are so thankful to have Job, Luke and Laura helping out at youth group. The students have lots of energy, so it is good to have these young adults come along to help keep an eye on everyone. These leaders do a great job relating to the students and making them feel welcome.
- Need for more Help: The Youth Groups of the Church are going well, but we need some help. We have about 30 students coming each

week to the High School group on Friday nights and a few coming to Tuesday night Bible Study. We need to bridge the gap between these groups by having the students discuss spiritual issues. To do this we want to start small groups fortnightly on Fridays. We are looking for volunteers to help lead these small groups. We also are looking for volunteers to be part of a roster that come to Friday nights to help with oversight and get to know the students better. If you would be interested in either of these roles, please talk to Steve and find out more how you could help.

We are so thankful for the vision that St. Columba's has to invest in reaching out to the youth of the community. While we do not see these students attending on Sunday mornings, at the youth groups they are hearing the gospel and being challenged to know and follow Jesus. May the Lord continue to work in these young people's lives.



"We have plenty of young people in the church ...
why, Loretta and Roy aren't a day over 65!"

Church Organ

Over the past weeks we, the organists have noticed problems with our church organ. Perhaps some of the congregation have as well.

The problem is with the keyboards and these would have to be replaced.

The present organ is 20 years old and has served us well. These keyboards can be replaced at a cost of around \$5,000. We feel this money would be better used to update the organ. On Sunday 19 June we would like to hear your views.

Golden Thank Offering

Every Year in June the church takes up a golden thank offering. This year it will be on Sunday 26th June.

When it comes to giving - some churches emphasise giving as planting seeds – the more you give – the greater the harvest God will give back to you. They might quote Luke 6:38 “give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” They ask you to think about your own self interest and give generously.

Other Churches emphasise giving as a way of participating in the Mission of God. They might talk about how the church and the giver are partners in the work of teaching youth or caring for the aged or helping the poor, and that peoples giving of their money and time is a real partnership with what God is doing to bring hope and truth and justice to the world. They might quote Philippians 1:5 where Paul says he gives thanks for “your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” We might think about giving because you can see the changes God is making in the lives of the young people through Steve Demetrius’s youth ministry, or because you can appreciate the potential a men’s shed might have to deepen relationships as men work together. Or because you are aware of the increasing demand on Anna our office person’s time and how she is unable to do all the work that is being asked of her on her current hours. Or because you know that the church organ has come to the end of its life and will need replacing soon. And we still have to get an earthquake assessment on the old church and it may need some strengthening.

Other churches may talk about the Law – The bible says to give 10% of your income in Exodus and Malachi, so be obedient and give. They may quote Malachi 3:8 “Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions.” They may struggle to find such verses in the New Testament other than Jesus’s reference to the Pharisees even Tithing herbs but forgetting the weightier matters like justice and mercy but the bible is the bible right!

Other Churches emphasise the benefit and value of counting your blessings picking up the idea that God has given us all things richly to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). And that we are Stewards of what God has given. They may quote verses like Deuteronomy 8:18 “Remember the Lord your God,

for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” Or 2 Chronicles 29:31 “Come near; bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the Lord.” And the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all who were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.” They may even quote CS Lewis *“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.”* - *From Mere Christianity*

Our annual Golden thank offering is our opportunity to ask you to reconsider your planned giving for the year and to ask whether you would join us in making a special offering. Our hope is not that you will do it out of self-interest (though Luke 6:38 is still true) nor out of fear and legalism but because you do want to be a participant in what God is doing and as an act of worship and thanksgiving. It is always good to count your blessings and spend time thinking about what God has done for you and the ways he has blessed you and to respond in an appropriate way.

Special Golden thank envelopes will be included with the Halo or you could give online using the churches bank account (03 0631 0174357 01). All donations will be receipted with your annual donation receipt unless you request otherwise.

Kids Friendly Care



We provide a FUN and safe enviroment for children aged 5-13 years old.

Before School: 7.30am - 8.30am
After School: 3pm - 5.30pm
Holiday Programme: 7.30am - 5.30pm
WINZ APPROVED

Our doors are always open so feel free to come in and meet the team!

176 Gloucester Street, Taradale Erin Combrinck: 022 643 1691

“The History and the Mystery of St. Columba’s” Part 1

We started our monthly dramas titled “The History and the Mystery of St. Columba’s.” The kids from Kool Kids played famous detectives trying to find out more about the Church history so they could find the hidden treasure. Here is our cast (so far...we may be adding more detectives in as we go!):

- Christine as Nancy Drew
- Nicky as James Adams (of the Cherub book series)
- Jayden as Agent J (he made that one up himself!)
- Zach as Zac Powers (of the book series)
- Nyssa as Veronica Mars (of the TV show)
- Elijah as Sherlock Holmes
- Alanah as Watson
- Jonathan as Batman
- Boudica as the Super Villain

Our Detectives did not know that there were others working on the case, but now they are joining forces to find the treasure. The Super Villain is lurking around for some mysterious reason.

Here is what they have found out so far:

- Agent J - The year that the Church was started...1866 (and that the Narrator is not very good at his Maths)
- Zac – A picture of the original building (which looks a lot like the building around the back of the Church)
- Veronica – The original Church was in the Meanee area, but now there are just fruit and vege stands and a restaurant that looks like an old Church
- Sherlock Holmes and Watson – The original Church was made of Kauri wood
- Batman - The first Minister of the Church came from Ireland. He was named John McMichael and he only stayed for two years. There was a terrible flood. The story is told that Reverend McMichael was marooned in the upper story of the Manse so that members of the congregation rowed out to him in a boat and passed him food by means of a pitchfork! I am sure we would be willing to do that if Brett was stuck in the 2nd floor of his house! Anyway, the damage was so great from the flood that Reverend McMichael felt he could not stay any longer.

- James Adams - The next minister was a real Shepherd...his name was Alexander Shepherd. After this was William McGregor. Next he uncovered an important riddle. Not a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. The next minister was named Patrick J Riddle
- Nancy Drew - One of the early ministers was named Samuel Douglas. Sadly, he died in a flood. He is buried in Taradale. The Church had a tough time in its early years. Another early minister was named Charles Connor. He was short in stature with bushy eyebrows so he was known as Charlie Eyebrows. The clues are telling us that they all knew about the incredible treasure and how to find it!
- Super Villain – she is following those detectives so she can get the treasure all for herself!

Some Questions that were asked at the end of Part 1:

- Will the detectives solve the mystery and discover the treasure?
- Will the evil villain get there first?
- Just what is this treasure and why is it so valuable?
- Will people remember to register for the 150th Anniversary Celebration?
- Will the Narrator keep asking question after question as Brett wonders if the skit is cutting into the sermon time?

All these questions and more will be revealed in future dramas. Stay tuned for Part 2 of the St Columba's Great Treasure hunt.



Parish Review 2016

Every five years Parishes are asked to go through an exercise of self-review facilitated by the Presbytery. It is our turn this year and a team of Kay Craig, Paul Loveday and Evan Huggett will be coming to us in July. They will meet with the **Session on Wednesday 5th July at 7pm** and you are invited to participate on **Friday 8th July starting with a potluck meal at 5.30pm**. The discussion time is about 2 hours in length.

Why Parish reviews?

Churches have recognised that healthy churches grow. The PCANZ has identified eight categories of health and encourages us to identify areas where we can focus our energy and set goals that will help us be healthy and effective in what God is calling us to do and be.

A healthy congregation has:

- An **outward focus leads** attenders and leaders to be concerned for evangelism and wider community care. There is a readiness to discuss matters of faith with others. People act where there is a need. They invite others to church. The congregation acts as a good steward of creation and works with others for justice and peace.
- **A sense of direction**. Attenders know their congregation has a definite sense of direction and purpose.
- **An involving leadership**. The leadership (minister(s) and elders) has a strong sense of vision for the mission of the congregation. Attenders are committed to this vision also. Leadership is inspiring and purposeful yet puts a priority on listening to attenders' ideas and encouraging them to discover their gifts and use them. Those carrying out roles in the parish get good support.
- **Healthy relationships with the wider church** - locally, nationally and beyond. The congregation joins in mission and shares activity at these levels.
- **Worship** that is true to God, **enhancing** of **life**, promotes growth in faith, is **relevant** to the cultures/contexts in which we live, and is **inviting** to people unfamiliar with church.
- **A strong sense of community** among attenders embracing all generations, different cultures and diverse ways of being human - creating a sense of belonging. Conflict is managed well, people working towards reconciliation, healing, and renewal. Many are involved in small groups as well as people joining in community activities.

- ***A lively faith.*** Healthy congregations have more attenders growing in their faith or experiencing moments of conversion or faith commitment. Many attenders show high devotional activity like prayer and Bible reading.
- ***Newcomers and numerical growth.*** Healthy congregations attract and hold newcomers. They keep young adults and grow in numbers. For some congregations mission is seen to be in the many places/contexts in which its members live through most of the week. The outcomes of their activities and the ways the local congregation provides support are part of this sing of health for them.

Notices



Please let former Session and Board members, friends who sat beside you in church, sang in the choir, members of youth groups and brigades etc know about our 150th anniversary celebration. Registration forms can be printed from our website or collected from the Church Office or foyer.

Prayer Chain

There is now a group of people who are willing to pray on request, specifically for a person in need. These requests are confidential to the person doing the praying. Requests for prayer either for yourself or for someone you know, may be made to Pam Thrupp, Robin Arnold or Anna Neil at the office. You can also use the prayer link on our Church website.

What's On in June and July

Sunday	12	June	9.30am	Church Service - Communion
Sunday	12	June	1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Tuesday	14	June	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Thursday	16	June	7.30pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	19	June	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	23	June	7.30pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	26	June	9.30am	Church Service
Tuesday	28	June	6.00pm	Women's Evening Fellowship
Sunday	03	July	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	10	July	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	10	July	1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Tuesday	12	July	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	17	July	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	21	July	7.30pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	24	July	9.30am	Church Service - Family Service
Tuesday	26	July	6.00pm	Women's Evening Fellowship
Thursday	28	July	7.30pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	31	July	9.30am	Church Service



Regular events

Mondays	<i>House Group</i> Contact: Bob Wallis 844 5630	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Tuesdays	<i>Op Shop open</i> Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539	10.00am - 4.00pm
	<i>Youth Group Massive Bible Study</i> Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734	6.00pm - 7.00pm
	<i>Tuesday Church Service</i> 2nd Tuesday of the month	10.30am - 11.30am
	<i>Women's Fellowship meeting</i> 4th Tuesday of the month	7.30pm
Wednesdays	<i>Mainly Music</i> Contact: Margaret 843 2272	9.30am - 10.30am
	<i>House Group @ Church</i> Contact: Brett Walker 844 2256	7.00pm - 8.30pm
	<i>Op Shop open</i> Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539	10.00am - 4.00pm
	<i>Craft Group meet at the church</i> 1st Wednesday of the month Contact: Sue Walker 844 2256	7.00pm
Thursdays	<i>Mainly Music</i> Contact: Karen Jensen 843 9447	9.30am - 10.30am
	<i>Op Shop open</i> Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539	10.00am - 4.00pm
	<i>Board of Managers meeting</i> 3rd Thursday of the month	7.30pm
	<i>Session meeting</i> 4th Thursday of the month	7.30pm
Fridays	<i>Massive Youth Group</i> Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734	7 .00pm - 9.00pm
Sundays	<i>6789 Youth Group (fortnightly)</i> Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734	6.15pm - 7.30pm

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LIGHT OF THE
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ANGELA SEOL**

SPACE AVAILABLE

FOR A NEW AD