

SIGNPOST OCTOBER 2021

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Minister

Rev Jin Sook Kim

email: jinsook.kim.nz@gmail.com

mob: 021 02952589

Administrator

Liz Lyell

Office Hours 9 – 1 pm weekdays

ph: 868 5513

MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER



Pause in the faith journey

In his book titled, *How much land does a man require?* Leo Tolstoy explores not about land but more about things in human minds and hearts. The key person is a peasant named Pahom, who overhears his wife and sister-in-law argue over the merits of town and peasant farm life. A short time later, a landlady in the village decides to sell her estate, and Pahom himself purchases some land. But he becomes very possessive of his land, and the relationships with neighbours are getting worse. Then he hears about a huge amount of land owned by the Bashkirs, who are considered simple-minded people. Pahom goes to them to buy as much of their land for as low a price as he can negotiate. Their offer is very unusual: for a sum of one thousand roubles, Pahom can walk around as large an area as he wants, starting at daybreak, marking his route with a spade along the way. If he returns to his starting point by sunset that day, all the land his

route encloses will be his. But if he does not reach his starting point, he will lose his money and receive no land. He is delighted, as he believes that he can cover a great distance and has chanced upon the bargain of a lifetime. That night, Pahom experiences a surreal dream in which he sees himself lying dead by the feet of the Devil, who is laughing. The next day at dawn, he begins to walk with a spade. During the whole day, he never stops to rest, nor to drink, nor to eat. He stays out as late as possible, marking out land until just before the sunsets. Toward the end, he realizes he is far from the starting point and runs back as fast as he can to the waiting Bashkirs. He finally arrives at the starting point just as the sunsets. The Bashkirs cheer his good fortune, but exhausted from the run, Pahom drops dead. His servant buries him in an ordinary grave only six feet long, thus answering the question posed in the title of the story.

Had Pahom been sensible enough to know his capacity to walk, or know what he really wanted to do with the land, or if he had time to rest to eat and drink, and to see how far he had walked so far, and how much he could go; he may have done it differently. All he needed was to pause for a while. The same is applied to our faith journey as the church. Pause is essential to have

rest, reflect on the past, plan for the future. Pause is meant to continue, not to stop something entirely. A pause allows us to assess things that we have been doing for many years so that we will do things better for the coming years. May God bless us with a godly pause!

Rev Jin Sook Kim

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS TO WHICH ALL ARE WELCOME

WALKING GROUP



meets at the community hall 9 am every Monday to enjoy a leisurely walk around town. Everyone, any age is invited to join the group and to enjoy a cuppa together afterwards in the lounge.

OPEN DOOR



is our Parish weekly get together on Tuesday mornings from 10am in St Andrew's Lounge for a cuppa, friendship and chat please come and join us!

PASTORAL CARE



If you have a pastoral need please phone Rev Jin Sook Kim: 021 02952589

MAINLY MUSIC



Wednesday mornings are a time of organised chaos in the church lounge when pre-school children and their parents and grandparents enjoy a musical time together. **Cost is \$4 per family.**

MATAWHERO GARDENERS

Members of GPP and friends are weeding, prayer/discussion

3rd Monday of each month at 9.30am Matawhero Church.

together. Next meeting 18th October.



ZOOM KORERO ON FRIDAYS



Join in the fun every Friday at 10.30 am for **ZOOM korero** from your computer. A link and passcode number will be sent out with the Order of Service each week.

'CELEBRATION POT LUCK' SERVICE

is held in the community hall on the 4th

Sunday of the month at 10.30 am.

Please invite friends and family also

bring a plate to share or donation/koha if preferred.



CARD MAKING GROUP meets Mondays
9.30am – 12 noon on November 1st &
November 29th (no meetings in October
or December)at Lynnor's 062143945

HAVE A GO'



at Matawhero
Church lounge
every 4th
Wednesday at
3 pm. Next meeting
27 October

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Linda Savage, Alvin Hall, Annette Lamont,
Jan Ewart, Trish Groves,
Don McConnochie,
Colin Matthews
Hope you have a lovely
celebration!



Best wishes from your Church family.

**Monster
Garage Sale**

(THERE IS NO EFTPOS -CASH ONLY)
St Andrew's Community Centre
176 Cobden Street

Saturday 20th November

From 8.00 am

Linen
Cakes
Books
Plants
Bric a Brac
White Elephant
Arts + Crafts
Produce + Much More

See you there!

MISSION WORKSHOP

Friday 8th
and Saturday 9th OCTOBER

Purpose: To work towards putting together a mission plan for GPP

“Lead the Parish into the next phase of our lives and come up with a structure for this”.

Facilitator: Rev Sally Carter

Fri: 5-9pm: Shared meal, generate stories & ideas, prepare for workshop on Saturday

Sat: 9am-3pm Workshop bring & share lunch

**PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE ALL
THOSE INTERESTED TO JOIN THEM AT
THIS WORKSHOP**

BIBLE STUDY – BOOK OF REVELATION

Tuesdays

October 12,19, 26 & November 2

4.30pm – 6.00pm

St Andrew's Lounge

*Please read the Book of Revelation at least once
(to three times)
for the study*

CARBOOT SALE



9th & 23rd October
starting 8.00 am in the
carpark – St Andrew's
church

“Symbolism is the foundation of all church art. It is a visual language with the power to convey beliefs and concepts of worship.”

-KATHLEEN WHYTE, “DESIGN IN EMBROIDERY”

These two pulpit falls were designed and made by Gwenda Crawshaw.

SPRING



Spring was one of a set of four pulpit falls that were made during Pamela Tankersley’s time of ministry, to celebrate the four seasons.

The purple was used to symbolise kingship, the three clematis and the three crocuses symbolise the Trinity.

PATHS OF THE SPIRIT

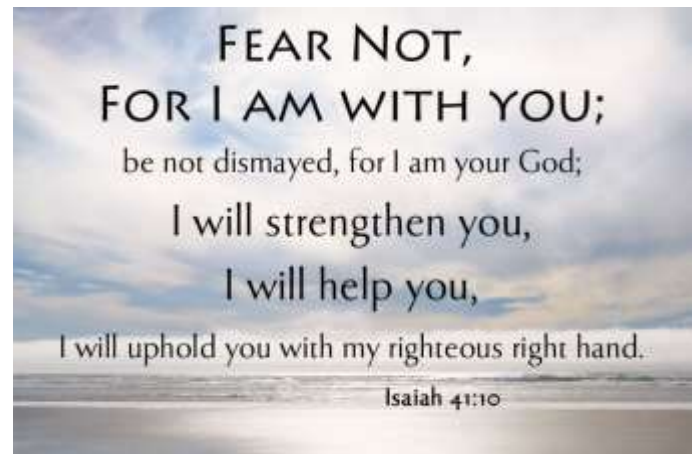


Its medium is applique and quilting.

Our spiritual journey takes many twists and turns and everyone’s journey is different, and there is no clear right way.

These are the ideas that have been depicted in this fall.

Gwenda Crawshaw



ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE for our combined congregation RAIN OR SHINE

SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER 10.30 am
MATAWHERO HISTORIC CHURCH
Church Lane Matawhero



*The bond between person and pet is
like no other relationship*
All animals welcome





My Faith Journey

I was surprised to receive an email from Jin Sook asking me to write My Faith Journey. My first reaction was NO!!! but as I thought about it I decided I to give it a go.

I was born in Gisborne and two months later was baptised at the Bright Street Methodist Church. As a very young child we seldom attended church but when I was seven years old a friend asked me to go with her to the Mission Hall Sunday School. I went, loved it and remained there until I left school. I have so many happy memories of my time there. It was run by Graham Morris's family and they were so kind and generous to the children. They gave us a good grounding of the Bible but also organised Saturday Evening hobby groups and fun nights. Each December they arranged a Prize Giving/Christmas Party and later in the summer a picnic was held at the Show Grounds. At the picnic there was a tandem bike which only the bible class could ride. How I longed to be old enough to ride that bike.

At last that day arrived but to my horror the bike was broken and didn't make an appearance at any future picnics. I was gutted!!! I often think of the dedication of the teachers. They would collect the children for Sunday School, drop them home afterwards then rush back for their own service. That's going the extra mile!!!

During my last year at School I still attended bible class but also went to the evening service at the Wesley Methodist Church. I was soon

very involved, becoming Minute Secretary for Parish Council and Stewardship Recorder as well as knitting for the Goodwill Store. I also played tennis, badminton and later indoor bowls. Then one day a young man walked into Church and sat in the front row. I always sat near the back so thought he must be a bit strange. However as I got to know him I found him anything but strange – he was a very kind, gentle, thoughtful man. His name was Alan Benson and I was fortunate to become his wife. After we married, I sometimes felt jealous when he was always away helping others but soon realised I was never going to change him so why bother trying. I did have one success, he no longer sat in the front pew, we compromised and sat in the middle of the church. Later when we had young children, we sat in the back row so we could keep them quiet so as not to disturb the rest of the congregation.

We were blessed with three children and while most people would have found Alan very quiet and reserved, that was not the case when he was with his family. He was noisy, mischievous and funny so our house was often filled with laughter. Life was great!!!! Wesley Church played an important part in our family life. Alan was Parish Steward for many years and we both taught Sunday School as well as serving on various committees. Both girls belonged to the Girls Brigade. Later Wesley split into three fellowships, Samoan, Tongan and Palangi (English Speaking) and although there were sometimes problems with the three cultures, there were lots of positives. Most people appreciated the uniqueness of the Parish and came to enjoy the combined monthly communion service. It was a very sad day when the Palangi Fellowship accepted the inevitable that we should close. The final service held on

the 5th February 2006 was very emotional as everyone was going to different churches and would no longer be worshipping together. We were also losing the Methodist beliefs and traditions that were so important to us.

Alan and I decided to go around the other churches to find a new home. The first Sunday we went to St Andrews as we knew others who worshiped there. Our son had attended the youth group led by his friend's grandmother Mrs T. The following Sunday we decided we would go back to St Andrews. Alan quickly volunteered us to help with the Sunday School, put both our names on the Tea Roster and became a member of Parish Council. He only helped with morning tea twice as he would go to collect the empty cups and never return. He couldn't accept that if people spoke to him, he couldn't stop to talk. I was left to cope on my own so I sacked him. While we were still at Wesley, Alan told the Rev Ken Wall he was willing to test and tag electrical appliances donated for the annual garage sale. He did that for a number of years then after joining St Andrews we ran that stall. Alan would take his tool box so he could test any appliances that came in on the day. I wasn't impressed when someone asked him if it was for sale and he replied "Hell No, I would rather sell my wife than my tool box". One Sunday we decided to go to a service at Matawhero and started attending both churches. We were grateful to belong to a Parish that offered two very different services. It was our faith that helped us through the stressful years of Alan's ill health but after his death I found attending Church difficult especially singing the hymns. It was the kindness and support I received from both congregations that got me through a very sad time.

So now I have made some huge changes in my life. Within a week I had retired from the job I loved, packed up and moved from the city I was born and downsized to Whakatane. I love my new home which is in a complex of eight flats. All my neighbours get on so well. I love living close to Sharon & Craig and being part of little Joshua's life. I'm closer to Michelle & Tim in Auckland and it's roughly the same distance for Mark to drive from Wellington. I miss my friends but grateful that technology makes it so easy to keep in touch. I have enjoyed two visits from parish folk and if anyone is passing through Whakatane and would like to visit, they will always be most welcome. I belong to a number of groups and volunteer at the Presbyterian Op Shop. I worship at the Anglican / Methodist Parish and although the services are different to what I'm used to, the people are very friendly. On my second Sunday, two ladies greeted me by name. That was huge!!! That week we sung 'The Servant Song' and although I had sung it countless times before, the words 'let me be as Christ to you' stood out. I found myself remembering the people in my life who showed me the importance of living our faith. I try, don't always succeed but am grateful to have had some amazing role models. And the verse that was particularly comforting

*I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this Journey through. ...
.....My journey continues.*



Helen Benson

Joshua

GIVING IS A GIFT

www.methodist.org.nz

‘There’s no such thing as a free lunch - or so we’re told. But Christians take a different view. Life itself is a gift of God, part of His creation. It cannot be bought, money alone cannot extend it and being able to thank God for it is an act of faith and grace. This leads on to the practicalities about how we live. In the Old Testament, the Israelites were instructed to offer a proportion of their harvest (the first fruits) in thankfulness to the Creator. It was a reminder of stewardship of the Creator’s world, and through ‘thanks-giving’, they were promised blessings; they knew Whose they were and Whom they served. A little later, in the history of Israel, the people were instructed to give 1/10th of their income - a tithe. Tithing has never been universally practised in the Christian Church, but a number of Christian traditions and many individual Christians adopt it as a pattern and testify to its influence on their faith journey.

Jesus told stories about a widow’s gift, good and bad stewards, and workers in the vineyard as parables of the Kingdom. Paul, writing to the congregation at Corinth appealing for the collection for the poor Christians in Jerusalem tells of the Macedonians “who, though they were very poor, gave as much as they could, and even more than they could... You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; rich as he was, he made himself poor for your sake, in order to make you rich by means of his poverty” (2 Cor.8:3,8). For too long Churches have ignored these patterns of the Kingdom and followed the ways of the world.

Giving in the Church has been limited to meeting the - small as possible - church budget.

The focus has been on what we think the church can just about manage on, and we have ignored our stewardship of all the treasure-trove that God has given to each of us. We have a vision of the time when members of our congregation gave in proportion to what God has given them; some of it to the Church but some, too, will be personal gifts to the work of the Kingdom elsewhere. We have a vision of Church Council meetings where the question “can we afford...?” and phrases like “budget deficit” and “balance the books” are never heard again. A vision of groups with a passion for mission, debating how best we can use the finances God has placed amongst his people. We long for the day when, for all of us, giving becomes an act of joy and is never again thought of as a tax extracted or a subscription due.

And there is a connection between the mission impact of the early Church and their gifts in their life together as a Christian community. “All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings... And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved”. (Acts 2:44, 47b). Of course, we all have more to give than money, but for now we are concentrating on money. Paul reminds us (2 Cor. 8:12) that God asks us only to give out of what we have got, not what we haven’t got (giving in proportion to your disposable income). Thus, the invitation is for everyone. No-one is exempt because of their levels of income; low or high.

Have you ever sat down to work out what proportion of the money at your disposal is used for what might be called Kingdom purposes; your church and charitable giving? Have you ever compared your weekly Church and charitable giving to the money you spend

on newspapers and magazines, holidays, theatre or a visit to a football match? Is your giving to “the work of God” the first priority in your spending or does it come out of your loose change? These are serious questions about discipleship as well as about money. Giving with a thankful heart, because God loves a cheerful giver, leads to a new freedom about finance and faith. It is hoped that all the members of the congregation will be willing to take a step in faith in considering Christian Giving. The amount you give is entirely a matter for your personal decision but it should be: Given thankfully and cheerfully • In proportion to your means • Regular and committed. Please pray for our church as we take these steps in faith and discipleship.’

From ‘Touchstone’ monthly Methodist Church Publication



REST HOME SERVICES

Lynnor and Val would appreciate some extra help at the October Church Services. The Services will take the form of a Hymnalong and last for half an hour.

The residents are always so grateful for these monthly Services.

Hymnalong

The dates and times are as follows:-

Tuesday	12 th October	1.30p.m	at Kiri Te Kanawa
Wed	13 th October	3.00p.m.	at Te Wiremu
Thurs	21 st October	3.30p.m	at Dunblane
Wed	27 th October	10.30a.m	at Beetham Healthcare
Thurs	28 th October	2.30p.m	at Leighton House

Pause and Remember

Every situation in life is temporary.

So, when life is good, make sure you enjoy and receive it fully.

And when life is not so good, remember that it will not last forever and better days are on the way.

-Jenni Young-

At St Andrew's Church



Gisborne Presbyterian Parish
assisted by

Marjorie Redstone Trust,

J.N. Williams Memorial Trust,

H.B. Williams Turanga Trust

proudly presents as part of the

St Andrew's Concert Series

Peter Shaw

CHRISTIAN SINGER SONGWRITER

LABOUR DAY

Monday 25 October 4.00 pm

All donations or koha to support

Family Works Guardian Angels Tairawhiti

For seat bookings contact:

Presbyterian Support 868 1399



SERVICE STARTING TIMES at St Andrews

At the AGM, it was requested that parishioners review the time they would prefer to start services. This matter has been addressed previously in June 2019 and January 2020

If you could **CIRCLE** the time you prefer and either return the result electronically to standrewsgisb@xtra.co.nz or place it in a marked box in the office or church before October 15th. The results will be collated and discussed at our next congregational meeting date yet to be notified.

I prefer the Service starting time at St Andrew's:

10:00

10:30