






KAEO **UNION PARISH** **KERIKERI**



Methodist Presbyterian
Newsletter



April/May 2018

Today you are you! That is truer than true!
There is no one alive who is you-er than you!

Dr. Seuss



AUTUMN HARVEST SERVICE

Sunday 8 April at 9.30am

**at Cornerstone –
Whare Karakia o Manako**

All are invited to contribute to the Autumn Display with special emphasis on cans, cereals, etc for the Kerikeri Kaeo Community Foodbank. Any fresh fruit/vegetables, flowers etc are also welcome for table.

The Service at Kaeo (11.15am) will also focus on Harvest with similar contributions for the Foodbank welcome.

KERIKERI FLORAL ART GROUP

Autumn Floral Designs

will be on public display from Wednesday 4 April at Cornerstone.

KK WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Autumn Display

Thursday 5 April all welcome to attend Kerikeri Women's Fellowship meeting at Cornerstone at 10.00am and help to set up their display. Morning Tea provided.



GOD'S KIDS AT CORNERSTONE



Our lovely little “God’s Kids” group has had only one get together this year – on Sunday 25 March, when they worked on the whole story of Easter, from Holy Week and Good Friday through to Sunday.

Next term we’re keen for more. If you can help, lead a session or be part of a team, get in touch with Robyn. Mary has set up resources cupboards in the Tamariki room and she’ll help find what you need.

We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one’s life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.

Sandra Day O-Connor.

Robyn's Ramblings

Ko te Karaiti te pou herenga waka
Christ is our mooring post

Whakapaingia te Atua tō tātou Kaihanga
Whakapaingia te Atua tō tātou Kaitaurima
Whakapaingia te Atua tō tātou Kaiwhakamana

Praise to God who creates us
praise to God who cares for us
Praise to God who gives us strength

We give thanks for those have gone before us, even
as we grieve their loss. Takoto rangimārie.

Huri noa ki te hunga ora, to us the living, greetings
and blessings in this Easter season, te wā Aranga.

* * * * *

It's been more than a year now since the Kerikeri congregation experienced something unique in the life of a congregation. Coming to church on Sunday morning meant coming to a place that was not only fresh and new and unlike any traditional building but fresh and new to everyone attending. Those who had been part of the Sunday group as if forever and those who came along for the first time, plus everyone in between, we equally could make ourselves at home.

And for me, leading as much as I can through words and actions, I could feel an equal open relationship with everyone present. I could sense the even greater variety and difference among us.

We weren't all "church" people. We knew we didn't all have a common history. We could each be present with our own histories and life experiences.

In theory we can acknowledge that we are each unique and there are differences among us. But an established church congregation develops an inner culture, a sense of shared understanding, and a common voice that probably reflects more the strongest voices than the voices of all. You'll hear phrases like "We all know that..." "We remember when..." "We believe..."

But what if you're present and you don't know that, or remember when, or believe the same?

That's the feeling of being an outsider. I've known it often over the years, particularly attending church services elsewhere, and have worked hard to express something different, something that gives room for everyone, including this odd-bod me.

So the Kerikeri congregation had a unique opportunity at the turn of the year 2016/2017 and we

took it and I've been told it was working. I felt it – here was church that I could want to be part of always (and would miss terribly when I left).

I have a feeling that we're now settling in, settling down. And we're at risk of losing something very precious. I've felt the pull towards familiarity, regular patterns, sameness. I'm told others are feeling it. Could be that we're not as inclusive as before.

Being present on Sunday mornings – at Kaeo and at Kerikeri – does mean being part of something that has familiar elements and something of a regular routine. New people have always been joining our groups, and they seem soon to find their way to belong. Often they've come with experience of church elsewhere and that gives a link – being familiar with church culture.

The biggest barrier to growing participation, from beyond those already "churched", is this church culture, this sense that we all know what's going on, or if we don't we're not really part of it yet.

As church, our chosen mission (God's mission for us) is to be "Community Commons" and that's as a *community of faith* as much as through our buildings. "Commons" by definition are places open to all, all equally belonging. Traditionally they were places to bring live-stock to graze; here and now it's for people coming for spiritual refreshment.

We will grow our congregations when we are this for any who come. We simply need to remember that we are all different. This is a "we all" statement we can safely make: we all come with our own unique stories. We build connections, but we don't lose our individuality, and we can never presume what I know or think or feel matches the other person alongside me. We build community by listening to one another's uniqueness, sharing our own stories, marvelling at the diversity, and enjoying the spiritual richness that results.

In this we experience a unifying spirit among us. That surely is the Spirit of Christ, weaving continuing and growing threads of Christ-like people.

Rangimarie Peace Shalom, Robyn

There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless'. There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard.

Arundhati Roy

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

From the meetings on 20 February and 20 March 2018.

NOTE: All committees and groups carrying out activities within the parish are asked to submit their project plans for the year 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Any budget implications can then be presented to the Finance Committee in time for their preparation of the next financial year's budget.

Mission Priorities: In February we studied the collated list from the First Birthday Brainstorm with a view to selecting some specific projects to get on and do. A four square (hand ball) grid was chosen – and has since been drawn up, with discussion underway with Hope Church to get a basketball hoop in the same location. Among the priorities for the future, encouraging Hope Church got lots of support as did workshops on basic skills. In March we heard about a plan to research ways to invite people new to Kerikeri to be part of our church activities. Kerikeri's Pastoral Morning Teas would be one of the options to join in on, alongside Sunday worship.

In February Robyn shared ideas for enabling Mission Projects to be undertaken, given we have been unable to continue to employ a Community Mission Project Facilitator. Essential to these is that they be in partnership with community groups or agencies. Our primary contribution would be the facilities, along with facilitation to get things going and support according to our abilities. We continued the discussion in March and the driver licencing idea initiated by Paparangi last year is to be continued. A series of cooking workshops will be investigated. We are considering establishing a Mission Project fund each year in the budget to cover costs like food.

Property Planning Group reported on a recent meeting at which the latest issue in relation to the

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

James 2:17

KERIKERI HOME GROUP

As we keep watching and praying we open up for new challenges. These will help boost our enthusiasm and drive the heart to "press on, keeping on" with our Home Group gatherings, sharing

Funeral Parlour was reported. A matter is currently before Council to ensure compliance with Firewall requirements. The Hall at Cornerstone was not fitted with a heat/fan/aircon unit and 15 months of use has shown that it should have been. It was agreed to fit two units in the area above the sliding doors. **Finance Committee** have given the go ahead that funds are available for this.

Tonga Appeal: following the devastation in Tonga from Cyclone Gita parish council voted to send \$1,000 from the parish to the Methodist Church's special appeal. Congregation members were invited through the weekly bulletin to add to this donation.

Cornerstone Management agreed at the February meeting that the rental arrangement with Hope Church be ongoing. It includes their Sunday services and Band practice on Tuesday evenings (or another evening as available and preferred by either them or us). Sunday services are subject to us not needing the whole facility as we occasionally do for special services.

The lights in the men's and women's toilets have been disconnected from the sensors so they now need to be switched on and off with use.

Monthly meetings with volunteers are to begin as soon that the first one can be arranged.

The Committee asks that everyone please take care in the carpark at all times, with a special concern being after church on Sunday mornings when many children are arriving with the Hope Church families.

Minister's Report: Robyn reported there was a glitch in St John communications which has meant her study leave is yet to get underway. Hopefully at the end of April. Approval has been given for the Baptism in Kerikeri of granddaughter Amelia on Sunday 13 May. Amelia's other grandparents are very involved in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Inglewood. It will be wonderful to have them with us for this occasion, alongside Amelia's Mum Laura and Dad Jeremy, and perhaps other family members,.

We all participate in weaving the social fabric; we should therefore all participate in patching the fabric when it develops holes.

Anne C. Weisberg

experiences, food, and otherwise enjoying fellowship with one another.

To kick start our home group for the year 2018 and to farewell the Summer Season, we came up with the thought of having an Alfescho Picnic kind of

dinner. This was held on Friday 23 February and it turned out to be a very pleasant evening. The highlight was the guest speaker, the pastor of the Hope Church Tanerā Simpson, with his “life experience testimony”. Bless you, Tanerā, in your ministry.

Then out of the blue Margot Ngan invited the Home Group for a buffet lunch at their beach house Tapuaetahi, which was very nice of her. Everyone enjoyed it very much, as a matter of fact we did not want to end our lovely time with Margot.

A special thank you to Margot and Jo Ngan for their friendly loving kindness and their hospitality, which was very much appreciated by all Home Group members and everyone that attended. What stunning weather that day, which added to the treat, topped

off with a view to die for. God bless you both. And thank you to Mary Fenton for the help with the transport, and to everyone who made it happen.

A thank you to those who represented the Home Group in participating in the combined churches service for the World Day of Prayer on 2 March.

With God on our side and without a doubt we’ve seen positive and encouraging outcomes, therefore we look forward to taking on any challenges this year will bring. We look forward very much to preparing and conducting the Sunday service on 29 April. May God’s name be glorified.

May everyone be blessed by our God’s richest lovingkindness.

Michelle Tupou

You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.

Song of Songs 4:7

I am an expression of the divine, just like a peach is, just like a fish is. I have a right to be this way. ... I can’t apologize for that, nor can I change it, nor do I want to.

Alice Walker

THE TABLECLOTH

Found by Lorraine Stewart among her bits and pieces of interesting things

The new pastor and his wife had been newly assigned to open a city church. They worked hard - repairing pews, plastering painting etc. but a terrible rainstorm lashed the area. A large area of plaster fell from the front wall just behind the pulpit.

After cleaning up the mess from the floor the pastor headed home. On the way he noticed a flea market so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful handmade, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work including a cross embroidered in the centre. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the wall so he bought it and headed back to the church. An older woman was running to try and catch a bus. She missed it and the pastor invited her to wait in the warm church. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he put up the tablecloth as wall tapestry. It looked beautiful as it covered the whole problem area. The woman came walking down the aisle. Her face was like a sheet.

“Pastor” she asked, “where did you get that tablecloth.” The pastor explained and she asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initial EGB were crocheted there. They were. These were the initials of the woman and she had made the cloth 35 years ago in Austria. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do

people in Austria. When the Nazis came she was forced to leave. Her husband was to follow later. She was captured, imprisoned and never saw her husband or her home again. She asked the Pastor to keep the tablecloth so he insisted on driving her home. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day.

They had a wonderful service on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and spirit were great. At the end of the service the Pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door. One older man, whom the Pastor recognized from the neighbourhood continued sit in the pew and stare, and they wondered why he wasn’t leaving. The man asked the Pastor where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to the one his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war. He told the Pastor how the Nazis came, he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he would follow her but he was arrested and put in a concentration camp. He never saw his wife or his home again.

The pastor asked him if he could take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the house where he had taken the woman three day's earlier. He helped the man climb the stairs to the woman’s apartment, knocked on the door and saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

THANK YOU

A message from Peter and Karen Brookes who led the services one Sunday early in the year

Karen and I want to thank you personally for arranging the services at Kerikeri and Kaeo (January 21) for us to come and speak about CMCT (Christian Missions Charitable Trust) and give a word of encouragement from the Scriptures.

It was lovely to be there. A bonus was that Carole [Peter's sister, Carole Frear] "snuck-in" at the back after the service at Keri began and left just before the end.

We want to thank everyone for being so generous in supporting the Haven of Hope ministry of CMCT by generously buying handcraft items. So please pass on our thanks for that. Also, because Jenny was away (with her recent hip op), Michelle and others were very good at helping me get the tech side organized at Keri.

Please pass on our personal thanks also to both Diane Paterson and Clyde for doing such a fine job with the music.

As you can see, we are taking a while to catch up with many things since my two stays in hospital last year, one in India (severe Dengue fever and resultant seizures) and one in NZ (blood clots into the lungs.)

I have been quipping that because of Karen's quick initiatives in getting me into hospitals, that she has kept me out of heaven twice! She is doing a great job driving since I am not allowed to for the next 12 months. But she has reminded me that she is not at my "beck and call". Rather, I am at her mercy. I continue to treat my chauffeur kindly.

Blessings in Christ,
Peter and Karen Brookes

WHO OWNS YOU?

The Pharisees and Sadducees asked Jesus a question in order to trap him: 'Teacher, is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?'

Mark 12:14

Obviously, the answer was, "No way!" What could be more objectionable to the children of Israel than paying for their oppression by a brutal foreign overlord with pretensions to divinity? Saying that in public would be treason. Condoning Caesar's tax would be blasphemy. Clever trap.

So Jesus asked them for a coin (significant *they* had one of those idolatrous, God-mocking coins and Jesus did not). The coin clearly belonged to Caesar since it bore Caesar's name and image. "Give to Caesar what belongs to him," Jesus said, "and give to God what belongs to God."

What, then, belongs to God? That which bears God's image and name. That's us, of course! We are God's "coins," God's currency in the world. In addition to being a political statement against Rome, it was a statement of empowerment for the Jewish people. In effect, Jesus said, "No one owns you, but God."

And who doesn't need to hear that in a world awash in brands (I'm wearing half a dozen right now) and graven images vying for a piece of us, if not full ownership? Reciting "I belong to God" as our daily mantra might be as important in our time as in the days of Jesus. Idolatry never goes out of style.

Prayer

Lord, I give myself to you. May my day and my life be well-spent. Amen.

LECTIONARY READINGS

April 8
Acts 4:32-35,
1 John 1:1-2:2

April 15
Acts 3:12-19
1 John 3:1-7

April 22
Acts 4:5-12
1 John 3:16-24

April 29
Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:7-21

May 6
Acts 10:44-48

Easter 2
Psalm 133
John 20:19-31

Easter 3
Psalm 4
Luke 24:36b-48

Easter 4
Psalm 23
John 10:11-18

Easter 5
Psalm 22:25-31
John 15: 1-8

Easter 6
Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

May 13
Acts 1:15-17,21-26
1 John 5:9-13

May 20
Act 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34,35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27,16:4b-15

May 27
Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17

June 3
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6,13-18
2 Corinthians 4:5-12

John 15:9-17
Easter 7

Psalm 1
John 17:6-19

Pentecost

Trinity
Psalm 29

John 3:1-17

Pentecost 2

Mark 2:23-3:6

CALENDAR

Events Schedule can be found at www.kkup.org.nz/calendar

SUNDAY SERVICES: 9.30am Kerikeri Worship at Cornerstone – Whare Karakia o Manako, Kerikeri
11.15am Kaeo Worship at Wesleydale Memorial Church, Leigh Street, Kaeo

CAR BOOT SALES: On the second and fourth Saturdays in the grounds of Cornerstone, Kerikeri, in the Hall if wet. Contact Mary 407 1117 or carboot@kkup.org.nz.

Kerikeri Girls' Brigade contact Jodie 407 8353 or gb@kkup.org.nz

Kaeo Home Group second and fourth Monday evenings of month, contact Alan 405 0688

Kerikeri Home Group Plans for 2018 contact Michelle 0278874775.

Bible Study Group most Mondays 1.15-2.45pm, in Cornerstone

Kerikeri Retirement Village Chapel Services: Every Sunday at 4.00pm at the Ted Robinson Chapel.

APRIL

Wednesday 4 10.00am Cornerstone Management Committee meets
 Thursday 5 10.00am KK Women's Fellowship in meeting room at Cornerstone
 Sunday 15 to Saturday 21 **International Rural Churches Association Conference** at Lincoln University
 Robyn and Diane attending. Rev Les Ferguson leads services on 15 & 22 April
 Sunday 22 4.00pm Communion at Ted Robinson Chapel
 Thursday 26 1.00pm Worship Committee meets at Cornerstone
 Friday 27 11.00am Communion at Kauri Lodge

MAY

Thursday 3 10.00am KK Women's Fellowship at Cornerstone, room tba
 Monday 7 11.00am Cornerstone Management Committee meet
 Sunday 13 9.30am Baptism at Kerikeri – Kaeo Congregation welcome to join in
 Tuesday 15 7.00pm Parish Council meets at Kerikeri
 Friday 18 **Material for next newsletter due** (June/July newsletter available 27 May)
 Friday 25 11.00am Communion at Kauri Lodge
 Sunday 27 4.00pm Communion at Ted Robinson Chapel

	Kerikeri			Kaeo
	<i>Door and Tea Duty</i>	<i>Communion Prep</i>	<i>Readers</i>	<i>Readers</i>
<i>April 8</i>	Michelle and Akisi		Michelle Tupou	tba
<i>April 15</i>	Elaine and Ian		Helen Norman	
<i>April 22</i>	Arlene and Lloyd		Ngaire Allwood	
<i>April 29</i>	Gage and John		Neil Scott	week
<i>May 6</i>	Trevor and Ngaire		Jessica Scott	
<i>May 13</i>	Mary and Jenny	Michelle and Akisi	Duynhoven family	
<i>May 20</i>	Jan and Rilla		Bob Tayler	by
<i>May 27</i>	Bev and Bob		Lloyd Purdie	
<i>June 3</i>	Michelle and Akisi		Marie Cannon	week

Contacts

Phone for all communications : 09 407 8250

Parish postal address: PO Box 166, Kerikeri 0245

Ministers: **Everyone in the parish**

Minister to the Ministers: Robyn McPhail

Ministry Leadership Team:

Robyn McPhail 021 0247 6280 minister@kkup.org.nz

Bev Barke 4016625 027 5622211

Alan Robinson 4050688 022 3076922

Administrator: Sue Campbell admin@kkup.org.nz

Parish Council Secretary: Paula du Plooy
 021 0591513 pollydp@gmail.com

Kerikeri Pastoral Care: Jessica Scott
 09 4075555 jomscott2@gmail.com

BOOKINGS FOR THE BUILDINGS

Phone 09 4078250 or email:

Kaeo Bookings: wesleydale@kkup.org.nz

Cornerstone Bookings: cornerstone@kkup.org.nz