



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 12 January 2014

"Being the Gospel to all People"

A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns.

Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy some time with us.

Today's theme: Turning Points

Focus Matthew 3:13-17

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43



What made the baptism of Jesus so important? Did it mean that Jesus was impure, and that he needed to "repent" and be cleansed? After all, "repent" was certainly the word John the baptizer used when calling people to baptism.

This leads us to the word repent and a very common Christian misconception of repentance. Rather than meaning "feeling sorry for doing bad things," the word repentance in the Greek (*metanoia*) means "go beyond the mind" or "go into the larger mind." What a different perspective this opens on a familiar Christian word. Rather than "Change your bad ways!" we now hear "Look! Look! God is inviting you to a new way of seeing! Come into the larger mind, see how God sees!"

Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV) The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

NEXT WEEK:

Sunday Worship: 19 January 14

Theme: Listen, God is calling

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-73:13-17

Other Readings: John 1:29-42; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Prayer Points: Please pray for: Avril and her knee replacement's healing; Sheila as she recovers from her shoulder operation; George Morrison as he recovers from the removal of a growth on his kidney; Marie Davis for her recovery with her ongoing hip issues, John Pybus for the serious bruising on his leg, Steven Chaplin for a speedy recovery (shoulder/s) after being squished between a car and a bus, while riding his bike home from work, and for the car driver. Joy Rzoska with her ongoing medical concerns whilst in hospital. Jeannine's Family with the passing of her father in law.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

Holiday Programme:- The Holiday programme will be running from 20-24 January and we would really appreciate any donations of baking for the morning and afternoon teas. Thanking you in advance William and Jeannine.

Church Picnic:- Sunday 16 February from Midday. The Hancock house will be open for you to bring your picnic lunch and enjoy some time together with games for the younger ones or younger ones at heart and the BBQ will be on.

Our Web site is up and running – go on line and have a look www.stjohnsbb.org.nz

Volunteer Hospital Chaplaincy Assistants training Course for Auckland City Hospital

The course covers areas of

- ❖ A confidential listening ear.
- ❖ Safe and supportive help to look at issues.
- ❖ Spiritual support
- ❖ Encouragement
- ❖ Ward visits during the day.
- ❖ Pastoral skills which are transferable and professional

Auckland 2014 1 day a week for 2 hours training from March– July

Enquiries to the Course Co-ordinator Mary Lythe on 09 818 2792 or

021 123 0568 Email at lythe@xtra.co.nz

Applications close 18 January 2014.

Selection Interviews during February 2014.

State of St John's financial position at the 30/11/2013

	Month of November 2013		1 July 2013 → 30 November 2013	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	13,470.38	17,997.00	73,859.34	86,249.00
INCOME	12,523.19	14,977.00	79,734.41	80,198.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	(947.19)	(3,020.00)	5,875.07	(6,051.00)

Comments (November):

- **"Free Will Offerings" for the month of November** fell short of Budget by (\$1,733.17).
- **"Free Will Offerings" for the five months [year to-date]** are short of Budget by (\$5,560.95).
- The significant reduction in funds received over the first five months of this financial has seriously affected St John's cash flow.
- For the first time in several years we had to defer payment of several invoices at the close of November. These invoices have been held over for payment in December.
- Early forecasting of Offerings and other income for the month of December indicates that cash flow will be extremely tight again. There is a significant risk that further deferment of payment of expenses for the months of December and January will be necessary. The Finance Team are reviewing the situation regularly.

Please continue to pray for an improvement in our immediate financial situation while continuing to give thanks to our wondrously gracious LORD for the gifts that he bestows upon us here at St Johns.