



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 17 May 2015

"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: "Flourish"

Focus Scripture: Psalm 1

Other Readings: John 17:6-19



The book of Psalms, just like the Hebrew Scriptures themselves, begins with creation. Western culture tends to think of metaphors as merely an illustration of a point, but wisdom reflection on Creation understands humans and trees as intrinsically related because they are both created by God. Humans, like trees, depend on water; a just and happy life and society are difficult to establish without access to abundant, clean water. The material and spiritual are interrelated and interdependent. Trees and water are spiritual.

Psalm 1:1-6 (NIV)

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 24 May 2015

Theme: “Be a Prophetic Witness for a Flourishing World”

Focus Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Other Readings: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27; 16: 4b-15

Prayer points: Give thanks for an increase in the numbers attending Mainly Music. Please pray for: Youth Band for more band members please; Margaret Morrison for surgery recovery, Ron Ashton’s family in their time of loss. Jan and Peter Hancock for the death of Jan’s Dad’s wife. Ian Pinel and his recent cancer diagnosis. Pray for the beginning of a new start for our Children and Youth Leader – Sonja and family. Cory (Jeannine’s son) for surgery recovery. Judy Qiu needs rental accommodation, please.

Give thanks to the Lord please, because we have just been informed that Ron Ashton left a gift of \$10 000 .00 for St Johns in his will. This gift has eased the spirits of the Finance Team beyond measure. As Shelia reminds us, ‘...when my people pray..’ and I would add that when God’s people share what they have, it is good news for the whole community. Lorraine

Holiday Programme Leader: Please pray for a leader for our School Holiday Programme. Shirley and William have been carrying this role but are unable to for much longer. Sonja has not enough hours to fulfill this role so we can’t ask it of her, although she can offer support. We can probably manage to arrange cover for this coming July but the September – October one will be very difficult.

Children and Youth Leader. We are pleased to share with everyone that we have Sonja Schlebusch starting with us in this position. It is a faith step financially – so please ask for God’s provisioning to enable this ministry among us. Sonja will be working 10 hours per week – which will be such a boost for our current ministry teams – we thank the Lord.

Annual Anglican-Methodist Covenant Service to celebrate the covenant between Anglicans and Methodists. This is one of the few times in the year when we give some visible expression to the relationship between our two churches. There is a service on:

Sunday 17th May, 7pm: Pitt St Methodist Church. It will be led by Synod Superintendent, the Rev Marilyn Welch. The preacher is Bishop Ross Bay.

Inspire Pentecost Gathering – Sunday May 24th 6pm St Stevens Ponsonby. The flyer for more information is on the column in the foyer.

Food Bank – They food bank is in need of Toothpaste, Plain Sugar, Flour and Milk powder. If you could please add these to your shopping list they would greatly appreciate it. They currently have plenty of canned goods and cereal.

Pakuranga Choral Society Inc: Concert: "Schubert, Haydn, Hamilton" to be performed on Sunday 24 May in All Saints Church, Howick. It is being performed to celebrate 40 years of Music in Pakuranga and Howick. Guest Conductor is David Hamilton with Michael Bell as accompanist. St Georges Choir from Thames will be joining the Pakuranga choir to give a combined choir of 100 voices

MARCH FINANCE REPORT TO CONGREGATION from THE FINANCE TEAM

NOTES

1. Giving in March was well above budget but so were expenses due to costs of church house and section maintenance.
2. Giving for Special purposes has amounted to over \$10,000 so far this year. This has met the costs of the chairs for the upstairs hall and enabled us to start to build up a fund to cover the costs of the Children and Youth Leader. We have enough to cover about 4 months and beyond this we are praying for more giving - otherwise we shall draw upon our reserves.
3. The accounts are still to be done, but, April is looking good!
4. **OVERALL TIGHT BUT MANAGEABLE. THANKYOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT AND PRAISE THE LORD!**

MARCH 2015	YEAR TO DATE (9 MONTHS)			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
<u>INCOME</u>				
OFFERINGS	11391	7435	76058	71897
SPECIAL GIVING	1050	208	10380	1872
OTHER INCOME	6846	7710	64161	58920
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	19287	15353	150599	132689
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
REGULAR/NORMAL	19351	13587	137869	130356
SPECIAL PROJECTS	-	-	6425	754
<u>SURPLUS(DEFICIT)</u>	(64)	1466	6304	1579