

The Clarion

St Andrews Presbyterian Church – Telephone/Fax 03 208-6396
Address: cnr Devon and Ardwick Streets

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Website: www.standrews.church.net.nz

A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words

Our family has just arrived back from our holiday in the North Island visiting the whanau in Wellington and Auckland whom we have not seen in 4 years. We had a lovely time catching up with everyone and noticing the changes in them as they have grown older.

We took many pictures and one of the great advantages of computers and digital cameras is the ability to take and store pictures easily, not to mention bothering large numbers of people by sharing them through email.

I have a lot of pictures stored on my laptop and as some of you have seen, I use them for my desktop screensaver. But of most important to me is the ability to have them appear randomly in the lower right hand corner of my screen. And so from time to time I will look and there will be a picture of one of the whanau, or Asher smiling, -which is a rare moment- or some event that the family celebrated together. Every once in a while, a picture that I had completely forgotten will come up and I am blessed with the recollections that come with seeing the picture, the memories of what took place, the joys of that moment.

We are a people shaped by our histories and the memories of the events that make up that history. And from time to time we need to recall the memories that have been overlooked or misplaced. In this issue of Clarion, you will find two articles about memories. Doug Dixie reflects on his journey as a Christian, in particular the people and events which had some significant impact on his life. Also in this issue is a copy of a speech given by the late Margaret Logan at the Centenary celebration of the Otama Primary School back in the mid-eighties. She draws on the solid foundation of values upon which her generation was reared—values which are hard to come by and yet still relevant today.

The Christian year is designed to remind us of those significant events that serve as guideposts for our faith. The various readings in the Common Lectionary serve as snapshots of various points in our faith history, some of which we have overlooked or misplaced. Their recollection revives the memory and enriches our faith once again. It is that enriched faith that prepares us for life in our present and for our future. May we continue to be blessed by memories. May each day offer new memory possibilities that will return and enrich us in the days to come.

Grace and peace
Karima Fai'ai

An Invitation

In the name of Jesus Christ,
The Minister and the Session of
St. Andrew's invites

to join us in celebrating
Communion
on Sunday 8 March, 2009
at 10am and 2pm.



*"The future belongs to those
who believe in the beauty of
their dreams."*

-- Eleanor Roosevelt

The View From Here

This Is My Life

Some time ago I spoke at an evening service about my journey in the faith. I only had a few notes, so I am sure this requested record will be different in many places.

My life journey has not been in isolations and I sometimes think being a monk would have been an easier option. Teaching, athletics, gardening, family and church have been worked together.

Mum and Dad met at Seacliff where they worked as nurse aides and by the time I was born Dad was a full time ambulance officer and worked shifts that often had him getting home as we were off to school.

I was born in Christchurch a few months before the war and my first church recollections were going to some sect in central Christchurch. It didn't last long and the family moved to East Belt Methodist Church in Fitzgerald Ave a short walk from home. I have no idea why we went there because neither parent had connections, but they found it very welcoming. I went through Sunday School there and started Scripture Union examinations.

I was five years old when my twin brother and sister arrived, followed by twin sisters 18 months later. I became an expert in washing napkins, heating up the copper and using the old wooden scrubbing board.

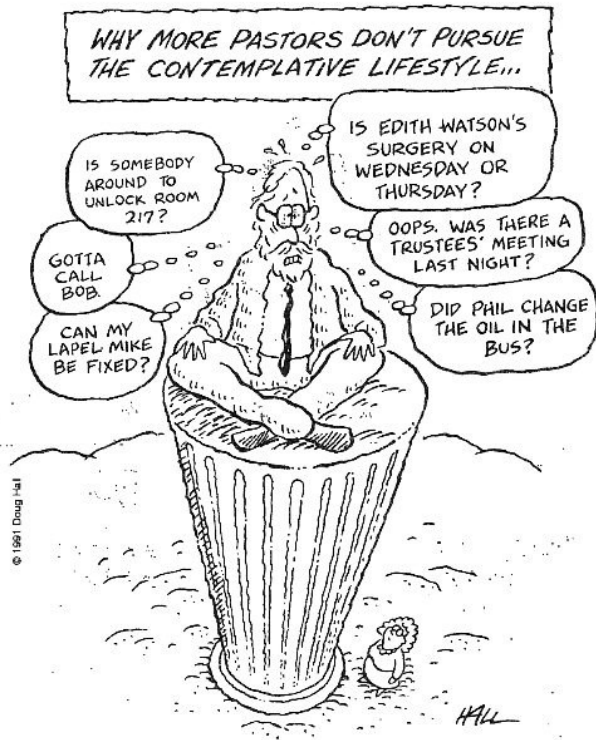
I was about seven when the whole family was christened

When I was in Form 1 we moved to North Beach and we lived in a bach. Dad's carpentry skills were required.

We joined a House Group run by Mr and Mrs Lord – an English couple. They filled their house and the garden on fine days and it wasn't long before they were fund raising to build a small church. Cake stalls, concerts and all the usual activities took place. When the church was completed, one of the back rooms became my classroom every Sunday for my group of 3 – 6 year olds during my High School years. I had a job delivering groceries by bicycle and trailer and I picked up extra pupils from the homes in the area.

I was lucky to be near to sister churches and along the coast we had a very active Youth/Bible Class. We had many social activities and camps, and for some time I organised monthly Bible Class dances for the Christchurch area. Easter Camps at Amberly were an important part of my routine and at Amberly we always had athletic sports. So I was welcomed into the Methodist Harrier Club at the age of 14. The club was mad up of mainly Bible Class members and we had lots of fun together. So left behind all my other sports and became a serious training athlete. I was able to travel a lot with club and Canterbury teams.

Perhaps my running development started when I was about 12 because I would miss the bus after St Johns meetings often on purpose, to save the money for pocket money and run the six miles home in the dark. Buses ran every half hour and I could get home running in 45 minutes.



The Clarion is a publication of the
St Andrews Presbyterian Church
2 Devon Street,
Gore 9700, New Zealand
Phone/Fax (03) 208 8302
Email: st.agore@woosh.co.nz
Website: www.standrews.church.net.nz

Worship Services

10:00am service each Sunday morning

Programme Staff

Rev. Karima Fai' ai-	Minister
Rev. Murray Marshall-	Assistant Pastoral Visitor
Rev. Allan Morgan-	Chaplain –Resthaven
Joy Creighton-	Sunday School
Sandra McPherson-	Office Secretary

Session Clerk-	John Falconer
Clerk of Deacons Court-	Beth McCann
Treasurer-	Colin Mackay

Editor

Sandra McPherson
Email:c.mcpherson@xtra.co.nz

Webmaster: Jim Creighton

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Please include name and phone number.

The View From Here

At the end of my 6th form year I went to Teachers College with my four classmates. Teaching was my calling and my first choice although career advisors did suggest radiology because of my years as a St John Ambulance cadet. My final Teacher Training year saw me training for the Billy Graham Crusade so that I could help young people who came forward to offer their lives to Christ.

By that stage I was well into training to be a Local Preacher.

In 1958 I won N.Z. titles in Auckland for the 1 mile and 2 mile events and held a number of Canterbury records. Soon after my Auckland wins, Daphne and I met at an Easter Camp.

My running interest influenced by trial sermon when I was a 19-year-old: "Many take part in a race but only one receives the prize. Run so that you may obtain it"

I moved to a farm house at Ermedale in January and taught at Fairfax School and improved my cooking and farming skills. Daphne arrived down in August.

I kept up with running and especially the Dunedin Festival Mile which I was invited to. We worshipped at Riverton Methodist and I took a junior Bible Class in the old clothing factory. I also took services all over Western Southland and Otautau. Sports days were also a highlight. We had to move because of a roll drop and ended up teaching a large Special Class at Timaru Main School and studied for my Teaching Diploma by correspondence. We attended Woodlands Street Methodist Church opposite our home. Again we had a Bible Class but this time in our home on Sunday evenings. I was also involved with Boys' Brigade, while Daphne kept our two girls, Delwyn and Gaylene in order and also helped out at Girls' Brigade.

I revived the Timaru Methodist Harrier Club and many of my Bible Class did well. I also took on administration for the South Canterbury Harrier Committee. There were lots of preaching opportunities in and around Timaru.

From Timaru, we went out to Five Forks, North Otago which wasn't far from the Maheno area where I spend my school holidays with my Grandparents and worked for a chinaman planting out cabbages and cauliflowers. I now became a Presbyterian and Daphne played the church organ. I have always tried to support the local church and it was important social meeting place at Five Forks. There were plenty of preaching and church committee work challenges in Oamaru and surrounding areas. Dunedin became my centre for sport. William arrived while we lived there. Next we went to Leithfield and Rangiora Methodist became base for church activities. Daphne got back into Girls Brigade.

After two years there the message came to move on and I got promotion to Five Rivers and a friendship with the Kingston Flyer that went past our boundary fence. There was plenty of school work, good training roads, snow and preaching in all the preaching places in the Lumsden Parish. Once more we were Presbyterians and I was an associate Elder.

The school seniors went to Lumsden School and so I was over scale and moved Pukerau where we were a four teacher school. Once again there were local and district preaching opportunities. We had a thriving Youth Group and a very active Christian Education Committee. We held our annual camp at Camp Columba and the one I remember the most was based on the show Joseph. The art and drama was magnificent. We also had family camps and we experimented with many forms of worship at Pukerau, Kaiwera and Waipahi. I became an elder there and have been one since except for a one year break. Presbytery called for a few years. I was also the treasurer for the parish. We had our own home built there and space for a garden I could call my own.

After a stint as Deputy Principal at West Gore, I went as Principal at Tapanui while my church activities were still based on Pukerau or Matura Presbytery duties. I survived the introduction of Tomorrows Schools, Tapanui musicals and running sports events for West Otago.

In 2000 I officially retired but after an overseas trip I found myself in demand as a relief teacher which I did for another six years.

Finally I arrived at St Andrews determined to be more low-key but ... The fellowship we found at St Andrews helped make us decide to retire to Gore. I have just finished my seven years as Matura Rep on Synod Education Committee. So that is one less task – but one which I enjoyed.

I look forward to the future with family, church friends and the ability to reach out to our wonderful community.

Douglas Dixey



Our Ministry

Working For The Common Good

It is hard for us, who are so used to our comforts and all the material benefits we owe to modern science, to realize what hardships those who have gone before us had to face. Hard work was necessary and they learnt to depend on one another and from this interdependence, developed the community. They realized that no man lives unto himself. No matter how self sufficient we think we are, if we really think about it, we realize how much we are dependent on others.

We all need to work. How do you look on your work – a curse or a blessing? The Christian tradition of work came from the Jewish tradition. Work for the Jew and the Christian is the making of life.

First our work is what we are and where we are. There is nothing commoner than for a person to wish that his work was other than it is. Carlyle, was one of Scotland's great thinkers and writers, his father was a stonemason and bridge builder; and Thomas Carlyle used to say that he would rather have built one of his father's bridges than written all his own books.

Rita Snowden quotes a poem in one of her books; she says that it was written by a girl of nineteen years of age.

Lord of all pots and pans and things
Since I've no time to be
A saint by doing lovely things
Or watching late with thee
Or dreaming in the dawnlight
Or storming heaven's gates
Make me a saint by getting meals
And washing up the plates

Thou who didn't love to give men food
In room or by the sea
Accept this service that I do
I do it unto thee

So then our work is first and foremost what we are and where we are. The best way to a greater job is to do the one we have supremely well. The New Testament is quite sure that there is no better test of a man than the way in which he works again and again, this is the key point of the parables of Jesus. All that a man has to show God is his work – and that does not mean what he has done but how he has done it. It has been truly said that God does not so much need people to do extraordinary things as he needs people to do ordinary things extraordinary well.

The test of a man is work and we can put that in another way – the test of a workman is “Does he earn his pay?” or

“does he try to earn his pay?” We are getting perilously near the situation in which a man is thinking not of earning his pay but of getting more and more pay for less and less work. If this were an ideal world we would all be more interested in the quality of the work we produced than the pay we got for it. We are at a stage just now, when the right to be paid is demanded, when the right to bargain for more is demanded and when the obligation to earn the pay is seldom admitted.

There is one thing which would go far to make work what it ought to be, and to cause it to be done in the spirit in which it ought to be done and that is if we look on our work as a contribution owed to the community. We have different skills to offer. If each man does his part the whole makes up an efficient society. It is a case of each for all and all for each. This is not only good economics but good Christianity. Too often in our modern society, this community feeling is lacking and we are out to further our own interests regardless of the interests of the community.

It is easy and it is unfair to point out all the faults and to give the impression that the faults are all on one side. Just as a man had obligations which he must satisfy and responsibilities which he must fulfill, he has certain things which are due to him, and if these things are not given to him, there is bound to be trouble.

The teaching of Jesus has certain implications. They are specially prominent in the Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard. (Matt 20:1-16)

There is the right of a man to work; there is the right of a man to a living wage; there is a right of a man to reasonable working conditions. The simple fact is that it is impossible to build an industrial community on an industrial ethic which is not Christian.

But now we must bring the matter home. You must ask yourself – What is work to me?

It can be that my work is everything and that for it I live. Carlyle said, “Blessed is he who has found his work, let him ask for no further blessedness.”

But this is not true for everyone. We have to look afresh at our philosophy of work. A doctor, a teacher, a farmer, an artist, a craftsman, a motor mechanic may find this satisfaction. We have to think of those whose jobs are repetitive and monotonous. The more automation takes over the more jobs there are in which a man is a machine-minder, a presser of buttons, a manipulator of switches. The plain fact is, we cannot find life in this existence.

Our Ministry

The machine replaces the craftsman, an automatic process replaces individual skill and a man is left doing things in which it is impossible for him to take pride. A man's work may well be a process in which he earns his living and nothing more and therefore he must find real life outside his work.

The situation is arising in which a man needs education for leisure as much as he needs education for work. The dream of education is that education should be a golden key to unlock the doors, not simply of the skills which are necessary to make a living but to the things of the human spirit, of art, of music, of drama by which men and women will find life.

We can't all be a Churchill or a Mozart or a Vangoph. Yet the mood of this age urges us to be indignant if we are not, or to be full of self pity, and the result is a barren philosophy of envy which leads people to believe that rewards come as a right and not as a consequence of talent, luck and endeavour. The cult of 'Mr Average' taunts us to disregard ourselves as individuals but remember each one of us has a slot to fill.

The one thing that could give meaning to life is service – the service of the community. If the mature would remember what they could do for the young, if the young would remember what young hands can do for the lonely, the aged and the helpless, if the strong would remember the weak and if those who have too much would remember those who have too little, if there was an inbuilt obligation to service there would be no problems at all, for it is in living for others man finds himself.

It is the law of the universe that all belongs to God. Whatever we use and seem to possess is a trust from God for which we are responsible. We brought nothing into this world and we will take no material possessions out of it. We do not really own what we have. We are merely entrusted with it. We are trustees, stewards. It is how we use our time, talents and possessions to the glory of God and the blessing of humanity that determines the eternal wealth we will take with us into eternity.

The church is the largest agency in the world for the promotion of righteousness. Give it your support.

(Speech by the late Margaret Logan delivered at the Centenary Celebrations of the Otama Primary School)



Mainly Music

will commence on Monday 2nd March at 10am. We have held a training session on Tuesday 10th February. The Team are visiting Calvin Mainly Music group on Wed. 18th Feb. and we are looking forward to joining with them. We plan to hold another training day on the 24th Feb. Murray and I visited the toy library Tuesday afternoon and were overwhelmed at the choice available to hire. Maybe parish folk have toys suitable for under 5's which they no longer require. Our M/M team are looking forward to our opening morning. Your continuing prayers would be appreciated.

Ruth Marshall

Casserole Club

As the Casserole Club freezer has had very little use recently, and food has become outdated, it has been decided to suspend the service in the meantime. But if items are required when parish visiting, please contact the convener Jean McGuigan, phone 208-0235 to arrange supplies.

Consequently, if anyone is willing to provide food items when required please hand your name in to Jean. Thank you for your past help with this service.

From the Flower Room

I would very much like to have some help with the Church flowers. We don't aspire to create glorious modern works of art, rather just keep to the traditional styles which I think suit our church nicely. If you would like to "have a go" I am willing to pass on a few tips or even hold a little class. It would be nice to have enough willing ladies to make up a roster. Remember "Girls can do anything!"

My phone no. 208-0118. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Betty Burns

Band Members

We invite anyone who is willing to join our music team and band for Sunday services. Music is an important aspect of our ministry at St Andrews and the band plays a significant role. If you are a musician we would love to have you.

Evening Services

A reminder to everyone that Evening Services have started for the year and they are held usually twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays. We invite you to come along to St Andrews to these services and enjoy the experience. Starts at 7pm.

Stewardship Focus



.....to uphold this congregation by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. Each quarter of the liturgical year, St Andrew's Church focuses its attention on one area of stewardship. Stewardship is the act of recognizing that all that we have and all that we are is a gift of God, and using those gifts as caretakers of God's kingdom here on earth. This quarter we focus on PRAYER.

Strength for the Human Condition—Prayer

The first quarter of the year we encourage folk to set time aside each day to pray. The disciplines of prayer, presence, gifts, and service are not a checklist so that we can fulfill some obligation, nor are they the means by which the church supports itself, but rather the practices that lead us into relationship with God. Perhaps it would be easier for us to view these practices as steps in supporting a church that does good in the world--feeding the hungry, providing support in times of stress, etc. Those things aren't quite as scary as going one-on-one with God.

Each of us has many choices for the place where we go about doing good. There are many secular institutions with missions of caring. The fact is, we have chosen the church of Jesus Christ, or it has chosen us, so somewhere in our being, we are seeking something more, even if we don't quite know what it is. Prayer helps us find out what we really want.

Our Church's slogan, "Open Doors, Open Arms, Open Hearts" describes not only the welcoming attitude of the St Andrew's Church, but it can also describe our attitude in prayer. In prayer we open our hearts.

--Karima Fai'ai

Book Reviews

"Complications—a Surgeon's notes on an Imperfect Science" (2003) and "Better—A Surgeon's Notes on Performance" (2008), both by Atul Gawande.

These two books (available from Gore District Library's Health section) are as gripping for the general reader as for the medical professional. Bill Bryson wrote, "I don't know if Atul Gawande was born to be a surgeon—I very much suspect so—but he was certainly born to write."

Only occasionally does one open a book at "Introduction" and be immediately immersed in gripping reading. These two books are crammed with fascinating easy-to-read stories that turn every case into a thriller.

The reader is taken to battlefield surgical tents in Iraq, delivery rooms, a polio outbreak in India and malpractice courtrooms (with surprising convolutions). Gawande charts the progress of extending the health of cystic fibrosis sufferers and discusses the ethical dilemma facing doctor's participation in lethal injections in U.S.; money in modern medicine, when good doctors go bad and the non-flashy discipline of hand washing. The five suggestions for becoming a "Positive Deviant" in the Afterword of "Better" are worth careful consideration by us all. (Don't be too taken aback that its dustcover shows a tuft of hair from the surgeon's cap; it's the theatre nurse's job to order him to tuck it in!).

These two books are warmly recommended to all general readers.

Bill Christie

Food Collection Days



The First Sunday of each month, we collect food for the Food Bank. These are hard times for many people, especially those who are less fortunate than us.

Sunday 19th April, we celebrate the harvest with a Harvest Thanksgiving service. There will also be a special food collection toward one of the youth camps at Camp Columba on the same Sunday. Young people need our help, and this is a good way to show that we care.

Supporting our Missionaries

Please continue to pray for Margaret and her work in Mongolia, Andrew & Kate Ure in Asia and also Bruce and Carol Symons in Australia.

Opportunity will be given at the March Communion to contribute to the support of our missionaries.

Please mark your envelope with the Mission you would like to support, otherwise all contributions will be divided equally. Please place your envelope in the offering bag or in the box in the Church foyer.



In Our thoughts & prayers

Pastoral Visiting

Happy New Year to you all. We have had a break from visiting for 2 months and will start again in February. Anyone who would like to join our group would be most welcome. We work on a roster system which you are only expected to visit once a month for two months and then the roster is changed again. So it gives everyone a bit of variety and we aren't visiting the same people all the time. It is most rewarding putting a smile on someone's face.

At the end of November we had our concert which everyone enjoyed. There were residents from the Gore and Wyndham Rest-homes as well as people from around this area present. Fred Sutherland sang along with his wife Judith on the piano. A lot of people hadn't heard Fred sing for some time so that was special. Marion and John McKenzie and Judith played a variety of old songs for all to sing along to. Karima was on the piano for a couple of tunes, quite a talented guy in the music world. We finished with Joan Harvey on the piano and had a sing-along of Christmas Carols.

We are most grateful to all these people giving up their time to come and entertain so willingly. The afternoon tea was once again a highlight with them all. A real credit to all who supply plates of food and to the kitchen ladies for their help. Wilson Brown does a lot in the background for these concerts also. Our appreciation to all who help in any way to make these afternoons so enjoyable for the elderly.

Margaret Scott 208-4904
Joy Carter 208-9639



"I heard you were here, Pastor, but I didn't want to cancel our counseling session."



ILLNESS

Our love and prayers are sent to Margaret Muir, Jessie Gee, Sid McPhail, Ngaire Cunningham, Margaret Chittock

DEATHS

Our prayers and sympathy are sent to the family of :

Margaret Logan	Ian Christie
Elsie McKay	Gilbert Wright
Ernie Gentle	Lilla Kirby
Noreen Harrington	Mervyn Harvey
Mervyn Allan	

.....who died recently.

CONDOLENCES

Ruth & John Falconer in the loss of a son-in-law
Bill & Diana Keown in the loss of a brother
Lorna Martyn in the loss of a grandson

SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Bessie Kubala on her 105th Birthday
Margaret Campbell on her 90th Birthday
David & Greta Stark on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

NEW TO OUR PARISH

Jack & Rosalie McLean ex Balfour
Ruth Bennie ex Ashburton

.....we extend the right hand of friendship

Easter Quotes

The great Easter truth is not that we are to live newly after death -- that is not the great thing -- but that we are to live here and now by the power of the resurrection; not so much that we are to live forever as that we are to, and may, live nobly now because we are to live forever.
-- Phillips Brooks

Resurrection is the ultimate declaration of God's grace. It is not natural. It is not automatic. It is wholly dependent upon the faithfulness, forbearance, and love of God. And just for that reason I am able to sleep at night.
-- Douglas John Hall

It's not his absence from an empty grave that convinces us. It's his presence in our empty lives.
-- Frederick Buechner

Dates to remember

APW News

The Ladies Christmas Dinner was held at the beginning of December with about 95 ladies present. We had a wonderful time. Thank you to all those who helped distribute the invitations and helped on the night.

The Floral Festival of Praise has been organised this year by Holy Trinity. Thank you to Jill Chittock for arranging our display.

We have recently purchased four more collapsible tables for the church and new cups for the kitchen.

Remember - the Morning Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 9.45 a.m. New comers are particularly welcome.

Joy Creighton

Mini Fair

The Mini-Sale will be held in early May in the Church Hall. The exact date will be confirmed later. We can tell you though that there will be three main stalls at the sale—Baking, Jams and Pickles and Produce. This is the time of year when you need to stock up on these things and surely at this year's mini-sale, you will find a good bargain. So pencil this date in now and remember to come along.

The contact person for the mini-sale this year is Stuart McGuigan –(208-0235)

Youth Camps

There will be two youth camps being run at Camp Columba in April 2009; called GALAXIES BEYOND 1 & 2. Galaxies Beyond 1 is for young people ages 5-9 starts on 14 to 17 April. Cost \$100 if registered before 16 March, otherwise its \$120.

Galaxies Beyond 2 is for Ages 10 to 13 starting on 20—24 April. If registered before 16 March its \$120, otherwise its \$140.

For more information contact Camp Columba on 03-205-3702, or email: info@campcolumba.org.nz

Morning Tea Duties

We urgently need a couple who would offer to setup and serve morning tea after church on Sunday mornings. We also need people who would be willing to help out occasionally, please contact Beth McCann on 208-4318.

We would like to thank Tom and Marion Falconer who have been our most reliable and friendly hosts for the last 10 years.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

Sunday 1st

Worship Services –10am

Congregational Meeting after service

Parish Picnic at Dolamore Park

Sunday 8th

Communion Services –10am, 2pm

Evening Service –7pm

Wednesday 11th

Session meets at 7:30pm

Sunday 22nd

Worship Services -0am, 7pm

Wednesday 25th

Deacons Court meets at 7:30pm

Saturday 28th

Elders & Deacons Retreat in hall 9:30am

APRIL

Wednesday 8th

Session meets at 7:30pm

Thursday 9th

Maundy Thursday Service 7pm

Friday 10th

Good Friday Service 10am –Combined churches (venue?)

Sunday 12th

Easter service 10am –combined churches (venue?)

Sunday 19th

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday 22nd

Deacons Court meets at 7:30pm

Saturday 25th

ANZAC DAY

Sunday 26th

Worship Services 10am, 7pm

MAY

Sunday 10th –Mother's Day

Worship Services 10am, 7pm

Wednesday 13th

Session meets at 7:30pm

Sunday 17th

Worship service –10am

Resthome services –1:30pm - Albany Home

Sunday 24th

Worship services –10am, 7pm

Wednesday 27th

Deacons Court meets at 7:30pm

Sunday 31st –Gold Guitars Weekend

Worship Service –10am

"O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?"

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!

Christ is risen, and Life reigns!

To him be glory and dominion through all the ages of ages!

(John Chrysostom)