

Study Leave – A Minister making time

After five and half years since my ordination to Ministry I am very pleased at the chance to make time for my first period of Study Leave. All Presbyterian ministers are encouraged – actually *required* – to continue their own education and growth for the sake of the Church we serve. And so from half-way through June this year I am making time for some Study Leave – one month, to be precise.

The purpose of Study Leave is to maintain an educated and creative ministry to resource the mission of the Church. And making time for continuing education and growth provides the intentional space apart from the regular rhythms for refreshment and reflection.

As well as having clear requirements for Ministers, the Presbyterian Church has resources to help enable meaningful and valuable experiences of Study Leave. I have

been granted money from the Presbyterian Church's Bill Best Fund to travel to Fuller Theological Seminary in the United States for a two week intensive course. Fuller Theological Seminary has an international reputation for credible engagement with critical issues of Christian thought and practice. Participating on campus will give me the opportunity to hear world-class teaching staff as well as interact with a range of interested students stimulating my love for theology and my imagination in ordained ministry.

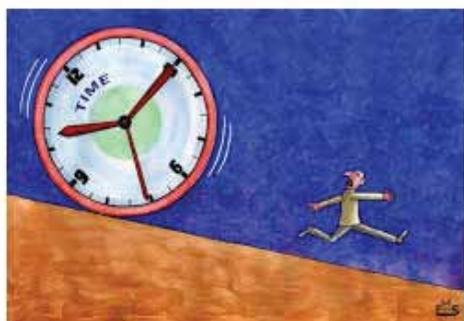
My thanks to all who are supporting my Study Leave – and, as one of our elders commented “Allister, we hope to see a marked improvement upon your return!”

Allister

Allister is one of the ministers at St John's, since 2008. He is married to Naomi and they have three children.

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EDITORIAL: “MAKING TIME”

When I was at university in the mid 1970s I attended a lecture where a visiting professor gave a lecture where he presented his vision of a future, 40 years hence. He believed that technology would replace human labour. Most manufacturing would be undertaken by robots, working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He predicted that computers would replace many people in the tertiary sector. Consequently employment would be slashed. The 40 hour working week had been introduced in 1935. In the mid 1970s ‘Glide Time’ with a 37 hour, 50 minute working week had been introduced in the civil service. The professor believed that by the second decade of the 21st Century the 3 day working week would be the norm. He said it would be ‘an age of leisure.’ People would use their new found leisure time constructively; to undertake further education, do voluntary work and pursue leisure activities. I did the arithmetic, calculated my age and thought; ‘bring it on.’ It hasn’t quite worked out as anticipated. In fact most people are working longer hours than ever before.

Whether we look at time as a commodity, a resource, an asset, a healer or a tyranny one thing is certain, how we use it varies and can be an interesting exercise. Several members of our congregation will be showcasing their individual and collective musical talents in a 24 hour ‘Musicathon’ to be held on 9-10 August. Details of this appear elsewhere in the Messenger, but busy people will be giving up their time, in order to keep ‘in time’ and on time for a cause that is timely. It is hoped that members of the congregation will make time to come and have a good time supporting the musicians and organisers in this innovative and ambitious fund raising venture.

Speaking of time, there once was a clock in St John’s Church. It was on the balcony in a space now occupied by a ceramic of that most timeless symbol of God’s continuous presence, the burning bush. The ceramic was fashioned by the Rev. Maurice Brown, the 10th Minister of St. John’s. Maurice’s remarkable artistic talents were not confined to ceramics. He was equally adept at painting, pottery, floral arranging and weaving. Maurice decided to replace the clock with his ceramic when he discovered that the clock had not worked for many years and was beyond repair. An earlier Minister Rev. Bill Temple once told me that he found the clock quite disconcerting. During his ministry the clock was in good working order. Looking down from the pulpit he was acutely aware of members of the congregation who would surreptitiously and sometimes none too subtly turn around and glance or stare at the clock if they thought that the service was taking too much time.

To me having a clock in the sanctuary is a curiosity. If nothing else, I suppose it is a reminder of Jesus’s promise that, “I am with you every day, even unto the end of time.” (Matthew 28 v 20.)

Rob Anderson



Where a clock once was

Address by Principal Youth Court Judge, His Honour Judge Andrew Becroft

St. John's Conference Centre

7:30 pm, Thursday 24 July

We are exceptionally fortunate that Judge Andrew Becroft has accepted the Outreach Committee's invitation to come and address us on the issues challenging youth today from his unique perspective as the current Principal Youth Court Judge of New Zealand. This should be of interest to everyone.

Andrew Becroft is a graduate of Auckland University. After practising law in Auckland with the firm Fortune Manning and Partners he helped establish and then work in the Mangere Community Law Centre. Andrew then worked as a criminal barrister in South Auckland until his appointment in 1996 to the District Court bench sitting in Wanganui. Judge Becroft was appointed Principal Youth Court Judge in June 2001.

Andrew Becroft is the Patron of the New Zealand Speak Easy Association inc., which assists those with various forms of speech impediment and is the Chairperson of the Board of the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship. He is an avid sports watcher and administrator and strong advocate of youth issues.

The Outreach Committee are delighted to host Judge Becroft in St John's and hope that you put 24 July in your diary, come along and invite others to do likewise.



"It [Principal Youth Court Judge] is a privileged position because you have the opportunity to genuinely make an input that can result in positive lasting change."

- Judge Andrew Becroft

Musicathon

Sometimes an idea comes out of the blue that kicks off something big. That's what happened when St Andrew's on the Terrace approached St John's to jointly support Christian World Service's Water for West Bank project, www.cws.org.nz/ part of the projects supported by the 2014 Christmas Appeal. Palestinians on the West Bank have water severely rationed in the dry summer months to families with little income. We have agreed to jointly raise \$5000 to help install water tanks.

That's where the Musicathon came in: We looked for something that could be sponsored as well as being fun. So the idea of a 24 hour Musicathon fitted the bill nicely – we have lots of talent and friends who are willing to help too. There will be many in St John's helping out by contributing music and supporting through catering, gathering in donations, sponsoring, sound systems, marketing and more.



The Musicathon supporting CWS's Water for West Bank project

*Saturday 9 August 10 am to
Sunday 10 August 10 am, 2014*

*St John's in the City,
Corner of Willis and Dixon Streets*

This is a project that everyone in the Congregation can support. We need:

People for the audience over the 24 hours so it would be great to have everyone there sometime over the 24 hours. Please encourage your friends to come too. And listening is free! (Contributions are voluntary.)

We need people to sign up as sponsors – forms are coming soon. Our musicians will be looking to get you and their friends outside St John's to sponsor them. We hope the non-musicians in the Congregation will take sponsorship forms too to help sign up other sponsors. You can sponsor the whole event or a particular performer or just donate.

We need helpers at the event. Forms are available on the St John's website front page at www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz to sign up.

With some bleary-eyed musicians signing up to play between 1 am and 7 am for this cause, can you see your way clear to help too? Most people will be there at more civilised times though!

Congratulations

For the Baptisms of:

The Dunstan Family – Ashley and Bonnie and their children, Ava, Pearl, Primrose and Florence and Simon Chiaroni

For the publishing of “Embedded Faith” by Carlton Johnston

For Brigitte Hicks-Willer becoming a first time Grandmother

For the 60th Anniversary of the Ordination of the Reverend Denzil Brown into the Presbyterian Church of NZ

For their graduations from Victoria University:

Ella Atkinson, Sam Bennett, Brett Reid, Hannah Van Dorp

For the wonderful garage murals created by members of Thrive and Epic, our senior and junior youth groups, lead by their great leaders – Dave Adams and Nga Rolston.

The entertainment is going to be great – all styles. We have St J's Kids, St J's Youth, our music group and individual members, evening service members, the Choir and its individual members and Congregation members. You know who we are – come and find what we can do!

And we have St Mary of the Angels Choir; Cantoris, Orient Express (The style is old Shanghai Jazz who include exquisitely played ancient Chinese instruments – you'll love it), New Zealand Symphony Orchestra members, Tim “Big Daddy” Brown, St Andrew's Musicians, other superbly talented friends and more coming.

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for details or see St John's website.

A New Mural in the Carport

Under the supervision of Youth Workers Nga Rolston and Dave Adams a group of young people spent several hours over several weeks re-designing and then painting a new mural in the carport. The finished work was duly opened following worship on 18 May. The appreciative and constructive comments by the congregation and others who have viewed the mural is that it is a; 'job well done'. Thanks for all your efforts guys.

Taking Time Out: The Nothing Box

Taking time out to do something different or to do nothing at all; how often do we do this as Christians? One of the funniest stories I've heard recently is from a Christian comedian and Minister Mark Gungor. He often conducts marriage courses and one of the things he talks about is the different ways men and women's brains work. One of my favourite parts of his talk is about how men have what is called the 'nothing box' in their brains. Men have a box in their brains for work, for sport, for sleep and also for 'nothing'. Men can simply go into the nothing box and literally do nothing! We aren't thinking about anything, we aren't planning anything we are doing 'nothing'! This may be frustrating for some however I wonder if God has something to teach from the 'nothing box'?

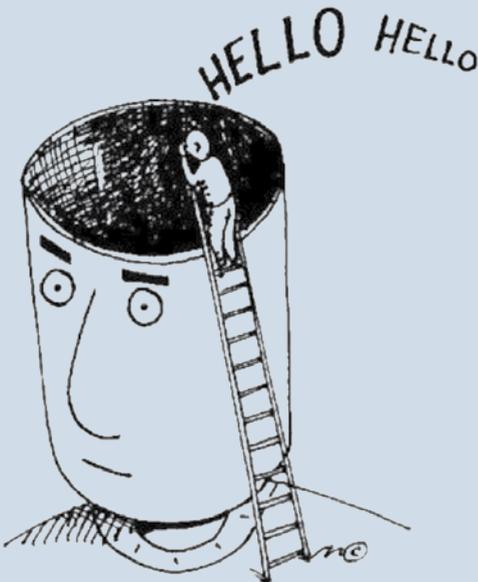
The evening service has been taking some time out from having music in worship. This doesn't mean we have been doing 'nothing' rather we have been doing things differently. We have taken time out from the usual to allow time to reflect on why we use music in worship. It has been challenging and at the same time rewarding as we have discovered different ways to worship God while also recognising how much we love music in all its variety (a variety that we can all enjoy at the Musicathon). How often do we take stock of what we are doing as Christians? How often do we stop doing what we have always done and reflect on why we do it? Maybe it's time for some of us to stop doing the usual and ask ourselves some question 'is this really what God finds important?', 'is this really the way God wants me to spend my life?' Or maybe we need to find time to simply be still, to do nothing, apart from listening to God as He tells us we are loved and worthy.

Stuart

Stuart is one of the ministers at St John's, since 2009. He is married to Lala and they have three children.

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Visit By Professor Richard Bauckham

Together with Victoria University, St John's is sponsoring the visit of Professor Richard Bauckham as the 2014 'visiting scholar'. Richard Bauckham was until recently Professor of New Testament Studies and bishop Wardlaw Professor in the University of St Andrews, Scotland, and is now Professor Emeritus at St Andrews. He studied at Cambridge and has taught theology at the University of Leeds, the University of Manchester as well as St Andrews. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He retired in 2007 in order to concentrate on research and writing, and is Senior Scholar at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, where he does some teaching for the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges. In 2009 he was



2014 visiting scholar, Professor Richard Bauckham

awarded the Michael Ramsay prize for his book *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony* (2006). This is also the title of the public lecture that he will be delivering.

Professor Bauckham's programme in Wellington is:

Sunday 17 August,
Preaching at St John's

Monday 18 August,
Church leaders lunchtime meeting, hosted by St John's

Monday 18 August,
7:00 – 8:30 pm,
public lecture at Victoria University.



Don't forget: mark these dates in your calendar today

What's Happening at St John's?

June

2	Queen's Birthday
4	Session
8	QUARTERLY COMMUNION
9	Stitchers' Group
11	Communication Committee, Finance Committee
15	Church Forum, Table Tennis & Badminton
18	Council
23	Stitchers' Group
24	Fellowship Group, Outreach Committee
29	All Age Worship

August

3	Table Tennis & Badminton
4	Stitchers' Group
6	Session
7	Men's Breakfast
9-10	Musicathon
10	Communion
13	Communication Committee, Finance Committee
18	Visit of Richard Bauckham, Stitchers' Group
20	Council
21	Men's Breakfast
26	Fellowship Group, Outreach Committee

July

2	Session
6	Table Tennis & Badminton
7	Stitchers' Group
10	Men's Breakfast
13	Communion
16	Council
20	Table Tennis & Badminton
21	Stitchers' Group
22	Fellowship Group, Outreach Committee
24	Men's Breakfast
24	Judge Andrew Becroft talk, Conference Centre

September

1	Stitchers' Group
3	Session
4	Men's Breakfast
10	Communication Committee, Finance Committee
14	Quarterly Communion, Church Forum
15	Stitchers' Group
17	Council
18	Men's Breakfast
23	Fellowship Group, Outreach Committee
29	Stitchers' Group