

## *Faith That's Real*

How often does our Christian faith connect with our everyday lives? To what extent does our experience on a Sunday spill over into the other six days? How well does our faith guide us through a life filled with challenges and complexity; pressures and demands?

Rather than church being a pious haven, I would love us to see church as equipping us for all we do. Christian faith ought not to be bland, nostalgic, or docile; our faith becomes meaningful when it locks horns with the big questions of our world.

Our Reformed tradition has always seen the importance of our mission and ministry engaging thoughtfully with real life issues; this is faith that's real. We bring our experiences together as we hear the Gospel proclaimed again, checking our assumptions; aligning ourselves to God's will; and drawing inspiration and hope. Or, to put it more succinctly: we seek to have our lives participate in the life of God.

The St John's Public Issues forum on the 21st June brings together a panel of very experienced people to address issues of ethical investment.

William Cavanaugh's visit at the end of July, as the first St John's Visiting Scholar, will be a particularly potent opportunity to see our faith as real, as we benefit from one of the world's finest contemporary theologians, who can express ideas with surgical accuracy helping us join the dots between our real faith and real life.

I urge you to hear as much from Professor Cavanaugh as you can during his visit, as he encourages us to take seriously current issues such as free market economics and the Global Financial Crisis – and to do so

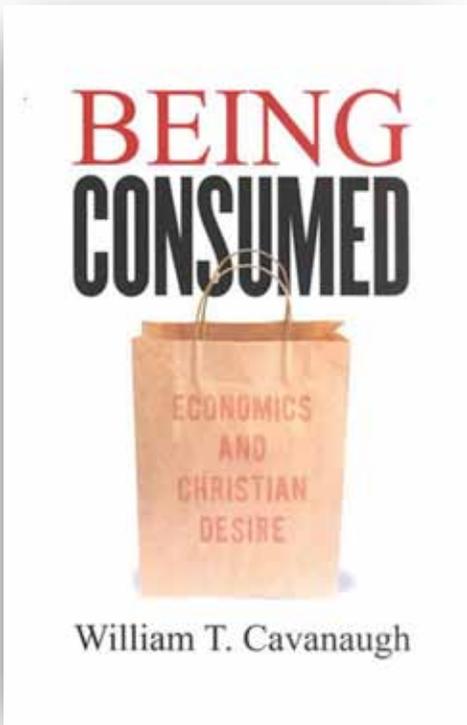
with the expectation that, with our desire located in Christ, we will form and be formed by alternative practices.

Together may we urge each other on – recognising that real life demands real faith.

Yours in Christ,

**Allister Lane**

*See the St John's website for details of the St John's Public Issues Forum and the St John's Visiting Scholar Programme.*



**BEING  
CONSUMED**

ECONOMICS  
AND  
CHRISTIAN  
DESIRE

William T. Cavanaugh

# EDITORIAL

Some friends advised me to arrive at church early, for the guest preacher that Sunday was ‘something of a theologian.’ Despite taking their advice I still experienced difficulty finding a seat. When the preacher strode to the pulpit to deliver his sermon there was a buzz of expectation among the large congregation. He was a Church of England vicar and resplendent in his garb he grabbed either side of the pulpit with great authority. He cleared his throat and began his sermon with: “If I concentrate hard enough I can make my ears wiggle.” He then made good his boast. It was certainly impressive, but not quite what I had expected.

This July and August St John’s is hosting the eminent American theologian, Professor William T Cavanaugh from De Paul University in Chicago. Professor Cavanaugh is the 2012 St John’s Visiting Scholar in Religion at Victoria University. While in Wellington Professor Cavanaugh will preach at St John’s, deliver a series of four public lectures at Victoria University and present a Saturday morning seminar in the St John’s Conference Centre. The theme of his lectures is: ‘Migration of the Holy: Questioning the myths

of the Secular Age.’ We are privileged to have someone of the calibre of William Cavanaugh as our inaugural visiting scholar and we look forward to his arrival with much anticipation.

The Visiting Scholars Programme is one of the portfolios of the Outreach Committee. The Outreach Committee is capably co-chaired by Ailsa Salt and John Atkinson. It is a model of chairing a committee that other groups could well consider. As well as the Visiting Scholar programme, the Outreach Committee also oversees the Victoria University Lectureship in Christian Theology, The Myanmar and other overseas mission initiatives, the St John’s Public Issues forums and considers the applications for the distribution of funds from the Outreach budget. The agendas for the monthly meetings are full and the subsequent discussion lively.

There is much to eagerly anticipate over the winter months. In particular William Cavanaugh’s visit promises to be stimulating and enlightening. Whether he can wiggle his ears or not remains to be seen.

**Rob Anderson**

## Presenting William Cavanaugh

William T. Cavanaugh is the 2012 St John’s Visiting Scholar in Religion at Victoria University. So, who is William Cavanaugh? He is a Senior Research Professor at the Centre for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology, and Professor of Catholic Studies at De Paul University in Chicago.

William received a BA from Notre Dame in 1984 and an MA from Cambridge University in 1987. After working as a lay associate with the Holy Cross order in a poor area of Santiago, Chile he worked at the centre for Civil and Human Rights at

the Notre Dame Law School. William Cavanaugh then studied at Duke University, where he received a PhD in religion. His dissertation was on: ‘Torture and the Eucharist in Pinochet’s Chile.’ He taught at the University of St Thomas from 1995 until 2010. His areas of specialisation are; political theology, economic ethics and ecclesiology.

William has published an impressive range of books and articles, which have been translated into French, Spanish and Polish. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, describes a recent book that Cavanaugh wrote on religious violence as an ‘exceptional monograph’, that is ‘subtle and challenging.’ Cavanaugh is co-editor of the journal of Modern Theology.

As well as his writings, William Cavanaugh is celebrated as a popular speaker. He has been invited to speak at dozens of universities throughout the United States, as well as speaking engagements in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Sweden.

William Cavanaugh is married and has three sons.



## Professor Cavanaugh’s Programme in Wellington

William Cavanaugh will be delivering four public lectures at Victoria University. The theme of his series is Migrations of The Holy: questioning the Myths of the Secular Age

In addition to the lectures Professor Cavanaugh will hold a less formal seminar in the St John’s Conference Centre on Saturday August 4, 9:00 -11 am. Professor Cavanaugh will answer questions at this forum.

Morning tea will be served.

1

The Myth of Religious Violence: Does Religion Cause Violence?

Mon, July 30, 6.00 pm,  
Council Chambers,  
Hunter Building, Kelburn

2

The Myth of the Free Market: The Unfreedom of the Free Market

Tues, July 31, 6.00 pm,  
Council Chambers,  
Hunter Building, Kelburn

3

The Myth of Prosperity: The Economy of Fantasy and the Current Global Financial Crisis

Wed, August 1, 12.00 pm,  
RH2, Rutherford House

4

The Myth of Consumerism: Christianity and Consumerism

Thur, August 2, 6.00 pm,  
Council Chambers, Hunter  
Building, Kelburn

# Seeking God's Direction for St John's

Time has flown swiftly since I became Session Clerk on 1 February. I've learnt a lot in that time.

The first lesson is one most of us already knew – that Paul Ramsay did a superb job as my predecessor, with many well-organised systems in place.

The second lesson is just how well-blessed we are with our two Ministers, Allister and Stuart. Both put in lots of hard yards on behalf of all of us and provide very sound, God-centered leadership. St John's leadership works in a very different and refreshing way from your average corporate or Government agency with the defining difference being seeking God's will for our future direction, firmly based on prayer and reflection. That doesn't mean we don't use God's gifts of skills developed in the non-Church parts of our lives – we do with gratitude to God, but there is so much more to what we are doing.

I've been delighted to find that same emphasis amongst other Church Leaders, including those in Session Executive (the 7 Elders and Ministers who help to organise Session) and in other leadership roles in St John's, including in youth-work and Council and Session Committees.

Two things have brought this home to me.

First, last year, we carried out a Church Life survey at St John's services. The results are on the St John's web site at <http://www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz/about/links.htm>. This told us that we really value our Ministers as worship leaders; our worship, music and singing; wider community care; and ministry for youth and children. It also showed we are much less likely to read the bible daily than other Presbyterians (29% versus 42%) and less likely to pray most days (20% versus 27%). Session has seen that as food for thought.

Second, when Session and other Church leaders met at a planning day on 10 March, we considered those survey results, we worshipped and prayed together, and considered our resources and Church goals. From that Session came up with three priorities for our direction as a Church. They are:

- Growing Faith (including in personal devotions and Christian understanding)
- Encouraging Participation (which includes participation in Church activities)
- Building Community (including additional aspects of pastoral care and use of gifts within the congregation)

We're thinking now about how to take these forward. It promises to be an exciting journey!

*David Galt*

# Congratulations

We extend congratulations to the following members of our congregation:

Denzil Brown. A service was held recently to commemorate Denzil's long and distinguished years of service to and Ministry in the Presbyterian Church. Denzil was ordained 56 years ago. Denzil served for 2 years as the interim Moderator for St John's during our last vacancy.

Betty Robertson and Bruce McKenzie also join with Denzil in celebrating recent birthdays. Without divulging their ages I can say that their aggregate ages exceeds 250 years!

Katie Lee, Jemma Simpkins and Jonathan Anderson all graduated recently with Bachelor of Arts.

Bronwyn Wood and Dayle Anderson who both work in the Faculty of Education at Victoria University of Wellington, have completed their PhDs. The title of Bronwyn's PhD is: 'Citizenship in our place: Exploring New Zealand young people's everyday, place-based perspectives on society.'

The title of Dayle's PhD is: 'Teacher Knowledges, classroom realities: Implementing sociocultural Science in New Zealand Year 7 and 8 classrooms.'

Fiona Coughlan has been made an Associate at Gibson Sheat Lawyers. Her specialist area is Commercial and Property Law.

Caitlin Walker along with three of her

## Partnership between St John's and DCM

St John's has long-standing partnership with Downtown Community Ministry (DCM). At the end of last year, the Outreach Committee undertook a review of this partnership to ensure that all aspects of the mission partnership were consistent with the original intended purpose and the mission of St John's.

DCM's primary purpose is to support disadvantaged and marginalised people living in and around Wellington city to achieve greater wellbeing. DCM aim to address and prevent homelessness and support people, for example, via the food bank, help with housing circumstances, as well as helping advocate for those with Work and Income related issues.

St John's contributes \$4,500 annually to DCM, as well as raising funds through ad-hoc events such as the Blackboard concerts, the

"pantry raid" and the food basket as part of Sunday morning offerings. Thanks to all of you who have supported these. The financial and prayer support of St John's are much appreciated by DCM.

The recent review of the partnership found that DCM is indeed fulfilling the original goals and vision for the partnership with St John's, and that the work of DCM is consistent with the overall mission of St John's.

### Want to get involved?

Bring along non-perishable food to go in the Sunday offering basket (keep an eye out in the bulletin as specific DCM food bank needs will be communicated there).



# Friends in Myanmar

How many of you know what is going on in Myanmar at the moment? Maybe you know the country as Burma. Over the last couple of months this country has been in the newspapers and other media because of some significant changes taking place at both the political level and the social level. You may be asking the question now 'what has it really got to do with us?' or 'why is Stuart talking about this in the Messenger?' The simple answer is because St John's has a relationship with the Christian faith community in Myanmar, therefore we care about what is going on with our brothers and sisters in Christ in that country. Moreover, we seek to support, encourage and even challenge their involvement in God's mission in that part of His creation. Furthermore, we hope to walk alongside them as they proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed to all the people in Myanmar and, let me hazard to say, vice-versa, as we as God's people in Wellington seek to proclaim, through word and deeds, the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This may sound easy to do on paper but what does this look like in a practical sense?

- Over the last year St John's has sent two people to Myanmar. Matthew Potts and Petra Malcolm travelled in November 2011 with a team to the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar.
- We hosted the Rev Go Suan from Myanmar in December 2011: Go Suan shared with us his faith and the challenge of being a Christian in Myanmar. When asked if it would be better to send money rather than people, he laughed and said that friendship is more important. Sure money would be helpful but meeting fellow Christians face to face renews hope.
- We hosted Angela Norton who is the Myanmar Partnership Co-ordinator for

the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Angela will be moving down to live in Wellington later this year.

- We have raised funds for the 'rice bowl fund' which provides financial support for Aid and Development. St John's provided new fishing boats, nets and scholarships.
- Members of St John's were invited recently to take part in a strategic planning day which was held in Auckland to discuss the relationship the PCANZ and the PCM have and the future of this relationship. St John's has now been invited to join the Oversight Group to help guide the direction of the relationship.

As you can see we have been very busy as a faith community. I give thanks that not only can we grow in our relationship with the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar but they with us. If you would like to know anything more about this relationship or what is going in Myanmar then please talk with a member of the Myanmar group (Petra Malcolm, Gina Williamson, Stuart Simpson and Mary Hutchinson).

Yours in Christ,

*Stuart*

## Gerry Janes

Among our congregation are a number of remarkable people who have lived remarkable lives. Gerry Janes comes into this category. In the Autumn issue of the RSA Review, journalist Kelly Deeks profiled Gerry Janes under the heading: **'Under-cover man and the Queen go back a long way.'** The following are extracts from the article that Kelly Deeks wrote.

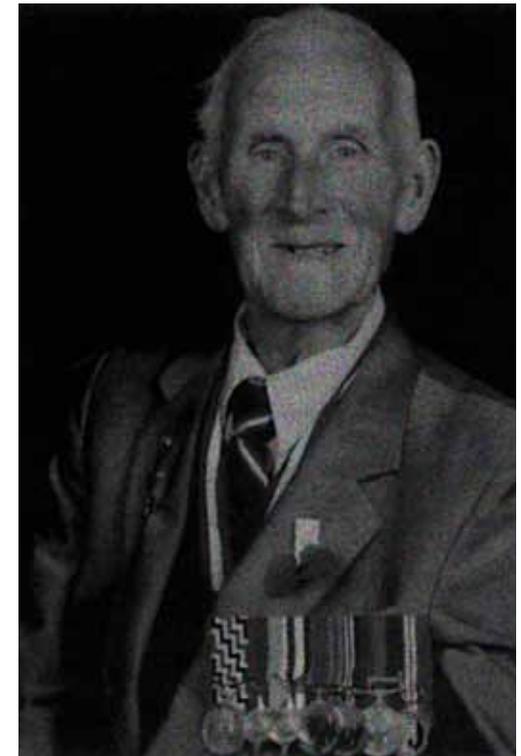
Gerry Janes was one of those charged by Winston Churchill in World War 2 with 'setting Europe ablaze.' As a Special Operations Executive operative, Gerry gathered information on heavy water in Norway, and worked with Nancy Wake and the resistance in France. These days he volunteers at Wellington's Mary Potter Hospital, advocates for Maori land rights, and keeps in touch with Queen Elizabeth... who he used to look after when he was a soldier and she was a teenager... Gerry Janes was one of the SOE agents who went to Norway to gather information about the heavy water with an extra hydrogen atom... Back in England his senior officer was responsible for the well-being of the royal family. 'We had to follow them wherever they went,' says Gerry.... His work with the SOE took Gerry Janes to France near the end of the war. Part of his role was working with Nancy Wake, the most decorated Allied servicewoman of World War 2.... While in the RAF in England Gerry met his future wife Nancy, who was Welsh. Although he pursued her for a date, she wasn't too keen on Englishmen... About 30 years ago the couple returned to the Janes family roots and immigrated to New Zealand.... Gerry went to work on the waterfront, where a lot of his workmates were Maori. Talking to them sparked his interest in advocating for Maori land rights. In 1992, Gerald Norman Janes was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for community

Brooklyn School classmates won the Greater Wellington, 'Kids' Lit quiz.' The national finals will be held at parliament on 14 June. We wish Caitlin and her team all the best in the finals.

Bruce Cunningham has been selected along with 19 others to represent New Zealand at a Bomber Command Memorial in London. We wish Bruce well in his travels.

### *Marg Gilkison*

service.... When Nancy died 15 years ago at Wellington's Mary Potter Hospice, Gerry got involved there, and still volunteers his time in fundraising, cleaning, washing dishes-anything that needs doing.'



*Gerry Janes*

# What's happening at St. John's

## June

7	Men's Prayer Breakfast
10	Quarterly Communion All Age Worship
13	Property Committee Meeting
15	Starlight Storytime
20	Council Meeting
21	ESL Study Group
21	Public Issues Forum – Markets and Morals – Ethical Investment
21	Men's Prayer Breakfast
26	Women's Association
27	Session Executive Meeting

## July

4	Session Meeting
5	Men's Prayer Breakfast
8	Communion
11	Property Committee Meeting
18	Council Meeting
19	Men's Prayer Breakfast
19	ESL Study Group
25	Session Executive

## August

2	Men's Prayer Breakfast
4	William Cavanaugh Seminar, Conference Centre 9:00-11:00 am
12	Communion
15	Council Meeting
16	Men's Prayer Breakfast
16	ESL Study Group
29	Session Executive

## Weekly Events

<b>Sun</b>	10:00am - Morning Service 5:45pm - Evening Service
<b>Mon</b>	5:45pm - BB Juniors 6:30pm - BB Seniors
<b>Tues</b>	Girls' Brigade
<b>Fri</b>	6:30pm - Epic 6:30pm - Thrive Youth

St John's in the City Presbyterian Church - Corner Willis & Dixon Sts  
385 1546 - [info@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz](mailto:info@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz) - [www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz](http://www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz)

Views expressed in The Messenger do not necessarily reflect those of St John's in the City.