



# Children of God



**St John's**  
in the City  
*Presbyterian Church*

**St. John's in the City**  
Presbyterian Church  
159th Annual Report 2011-2012

# Foreword

St John's is a community. But, importantly, a *specific kind* of community.

There are many different ways to define who we are, but the most important is that we are a worshipping community. It is the worship of God that constitutes us and shapes us as a church community. We are both a local community, embodying Christian faith every place each one of us lives, as well as a community that spans all distance and all time, united as the Children of God.

The theologian Stanley Hauerwas<sup>1</sup> said in an interview:

*"The last thing in the world I want is a personal relationship with God. Our relationship with God is mediated. And that's the reason why, without the Church, we know not God ... Our faith is a mediated faith through people formed by Word and Sacrament. So I would never trust myself to have a personal relationship with God."*

He is speaking of human membership of belonging at the deepest level. This understanding of our relationship with God through the faith we share with each other in this community is an understanding we express whenever we baptise someone. Faith is critical for baptism, but it is not primarily the faith of the individual that matters; it is the faith of the church community. This is why we baptise babies, who obviously have very little awareness of what is happening at their baptism. It is our common baptism that is the clearest sign of the faith we share in Jesus Christ.

This distinctive character of our community is not a cause for arrogance and pride. Rather, it is a responsibility to live as witnesses to God and God's love for the whole world. We gather together to

worship God and to encourage each other to live as disciples in the world – wherever we are and whatever we do.

This annual report is evidence of all that we do as a community, a specific kind of community, to worship God with all that we share together. It tells our story as a community, who gather together in formal and informal ways, in large and small groups; as well as a community dispersed in many different contexts, each of us using what we have to witness to God's love.

And, in a world afflicted with all sorts of horrendous abuses and distortion, the church is a community of hope, bearing witness to a greater reality. As you read through these pages we hope you glimpse the reality of the Kingdom of God.

*Yours in Christ*

**Allister and Stuart**



St John's Ministry Team (clockwise from top) Dave Adams, Rev Stuart Simpson, Nga Larsen, Margaret Gilkison, David Galt (Session Clerk), Heather Walker, Anna Davis (not in photo) and Rev Allister Lane (photographer)

1. Professor Hauerwas is the Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at Duke Divinity School, and supervised the doctoral studies of William Cavanaugh, the inaugural St John's Visiting Scholar in Religion at Victoria University who visited us this year.

# Session Report 2011/12

St John's in the City has had a Mission Statement for around ten years, which reads:

*"St John's gathers in prayer and fellowship to worship God in central Wellington. Through the power of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit we seek to care for and strengthen our members and help them to a growing relationship with God. In this way, just as God cares for us, we seek to empower our members to share their talents, to meet the needs of those who come to us and those who we can reach out to in the community."*

Over the last six months, Session has actively sought God's direction for St John's, starting with a planning day in March 2012, to which other St John's leaders were also invited. We know that we need to stay close to God's leading to achieve our purpose.

We also have a statement on who we are and where we are heading:

"We are a community to belong to:

- We are a gathered community. We are drawn together in all our variety to joyfully worship the one God.
- We are a learning community. We seek to follow the way of Jesus and grow in understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith.
- We are a restless community. Discontent with the status quo, we grapple with questions of life and faith as we search for new and more effective ways of conveying the Gospel of Jesus to the people of greater Wellington and beyond.
- We are a caring community. We are committed to the well-being of those who are hurting in body, mind or spirit."

You can find all these statements on the St John's web site at [www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz/about/goals.htm](http://www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz/about/goals.htm)

Session felt in March 2012 that these long established goals are still relevant. One part of the statement that has always challenged us is the contention that we are a restless community, looking for new and more effective ways of conveying the gospel of Jesus.

So you might well ask what have we been doing to find those effective ways?

Session has reached three broad conclusions about future priorities – that we want to be involved in growing faith; encouraging participation; and building community – both St John's and the community we live in, in Wellington. We have been thinking about these, in part, because of results from the Church Life Survey in which we participated, which showed that there was scope to grow in faith as a congregation and strengthen our commitment as members that would in turn strengthen our outreach, particularly when we compared our results in the Church Life Survey to those of other churches. You can find the results here: [www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz/about/links.htm](http://www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz/about/links.htm)

It has been a privilege to be entrusted with the role of Session Clerk since 1 February 2012. I've learnt much in that time that is worth highlighting in this report. Some highlights follow.

We can give grateful thanks to God for the leadership and teaching of our two Ministers, Allister Lane and Stuart Simpson. They are both real men of God, provide great teaching, work very hard for us as a Congregation and listen carefully to what the Congregation is saying – the foundation of the teamwork between the Congregation and Ministers that we constantly see. They give generously of their time to activities beyond St John's, including Presbytery (the wider regional governing body of the national Presbyterian Church). This year, Allister has taken on a role providing introductions for graduates in the ministry of word and sacraments to Congregations seeking Ministers while Stuart has led Presbytery's Joint Youth Ministry Committee.

It is also a pleasure to record that Ryhan Prasad was licensed as a Minister at St John's and Carlton Johnstone was accepted for Ministry training with St John's support.

Our wider Ministry team members give generously of their time and achieve great results. Anna Davis and Heather Walker have developed a vibrant children's Ministry, with a large team of volunteers, very highly rated by the Congregation as we saw in the Church Life Survey, helping to attract a young Congregation. Marg Gilkison provides excellent

support in pastoral care, with the emphasis on organising teams to provide support to those who need it most. Dave Adams and Nga Larsen lead our youth group on Friday nights and Sundays, supported by our valuable BGI relationship, with outreach far beyond the Congregation. Committed leaders in our Boys and Girls Brigades also continued to provide faithful service to young people, led by Matthew Bayliss and Kathy Sutherland.

The life and work of St John's is well supported by our office staff of David Coplon, Barbara Newdick, Fennie Dewar, Graeme Coppel and Mark Farrow. We greatly appreciate your work.

Increasingly, newcomers to St John's have not necessarily come from a Presbyterian background, so it is worth reiterating that Session is the main governing body of St John's, elected by the Congregation. In Session, almost all our 33 members have a role in St John's beyond the first Wednesday of each month meeting that they commit to the leadership of the Church. Much of our more detailed work is done in committees that report to Session, including Christian Education, led by Geoff Annals; the Outreach Committee led by John Atkinson and Ailsa Salt; and Session Executive, led by the Session Clerk. Much of the ongoing management of Church activities is carried out through the St John's Council, which also reports to Session and has representatives of all major Church Committees on it, including a number of Session Committees. Session decided this year that its Pastoral Care Committee would cease to meet, given that its functions were being managed in other ways, but is grateful to Judi Ferguson as Convenor and the committee's members for their work.

Outreach is very well managed by the Outreach Committee. Session was delighted to endorse and celebrate some substantial outreach over the year. We committed to provide \$300,000 to assist the redevelopment of the Knox-Waitara Presbyterian Church building complex, supporting the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand Press Go campaign to strengthen the wider church. In the process, we received humbling inspiration from the dedication of Knox-Waitara's people, reported to us by our representatives in an ongoing relationship – Ted Cizadlo, Beth Beard and Lesley Shaw – and increasing numbers of other members of St John's who like to include Waitara in their travels.

Not all outreach can be mentioned but particularly exciting events included forums on voluntary euthanasia and ethical investment; Chris Marshall's lectures on Jesus which attracted an average audience of approximately 120; developing prison

Ministry proposals, outreach in Myanmar and elsewhere overseas; and the lively Indonesian group in St John's, including Jeff Liando, who hosted a service attended by 100 members of the Wellington Indonesian Christian community.

Special mention is needed of Paul Ramsay, who served as a very hard-working Session Clerk for three years up until February 2012. Paul is much loved within the Congregation, and continues to provide a warm greeting to many on Sunday mornings as well as providing wise counsel within Session and its committees.

Sadly, Session lost Lynn Pollock from its membership during the year, in a sudden death, after suffering from Parkinson's disease for many years. Lynn will always be remembered as a faithful photographer, minute secretary and carer for others, as well as being Session Clerk in the Kelburn Church before its congregation joined with St John's. Rob Ewan, also a former Session Clerk, stood down from Session and was elected Elder Emeritus, recognising his large contribution. He continues to serve in other ways.

A feature for Session this year has been an increase in prayer for the Congregation – also part of the ongoing process of seeking God's direction for St John's. Session's work is very different from the corporate planning that we might see in other Wellington organizations.

Ailsa Salt has ably represented St John's in Presbytery, while Mary Gibbs has played a valuable role as Session Minute Secretary and Muriel Ewan has managed well the parish roll and Elders' pastoral care lists.

A substantial parish survey, managed by Muriel and Marg Gilkison, resulted in a big change in our pastoral care, as Session moved to change the pattern of quarterly visiting to provide regular home visiting to those who value it (73 people), with distribution to others of our quarterly Messenger magazine, faithfully edited by Rob Anderson, by email and post where that was preferred. Members of the congregation can continue to enjoy pastoral care from Elders in a variety of ways, including other catch-ups and telephone and other contacts. Following the survey, which had 334 replies, we had 18 requests for membership of St John's.

Guy Jansen stood down as Choir Director during the year to take up overseas opportunities. We have been very well served by Eric Sidoti, appointed to a new role as Choir Conductor, jointly leading the work of the choir with Eleanor Carter as Music Director. St John's is very fortunate to enjoy the talents of many fine musicians in its worship, including

Dayle Anderson and the morning music group, the increasingly polished evening service music band and choir members. Session considered a music review by Rev Rodney Macann during the year and adopted new principles for music in worship, including looking for wide participation, variety and accessibility. Continuing consideration is being given to the refurbishment of the TC Lewis Pipe organ.

St John's is much more than the Congregation at our two regular Sunday services. Together, these attracted an average 227 members each Sunday over June 2012 and continue to grow in attendance.

Over twice this number attended our 23 small groups meeting over June, ranging from the dynamic Starlight Story time to the many house groups and excluding all Church Committees. We had 389 members and associates on our roll.

Everyone has contributed in some small way to our witness and Christ's presence in Wellington. Thank you all for your ongoing contributions. I look forward with excitement to stepping out with you in faith in the journey that God has for us next year.

**David Galt**  
Session Clerk

## Council

The Council of St John's in the City is responsible for making sure the financial and property operations and other administrative matters of St John's proceed smoothly. Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the St John's Centre. The meetings usually last about 90 minutes and are open to observers.

Key decisions made by Council in 2012 included the decision to proceed with short term earthquake insurance once this became available through the Presbyterian Insurance Group and the decision to contribute financially to the proposed renovation of the Boys and Girls Institute offices in Troup House. Council also revisited its 2011 decision regarding the location of the Church office, and decided the office should remain where it is and the downstairs of Spinks Cottage be refurbished and used as a space for St John's youth. Many of Council's other decisions in 2012 will be covered at greater length elsewhere in this report, under the reports of the various individual committees.

Session approved a revised Terms of Reference for Council on 4 July 2012. This codified Council's existing practice, reaffirmed consistency with the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand's Book of Order and brought together the various policies Council has approved over the years.

### Council membership

Council is made up of the conveners of the standing committees of St John's, the Ministers and the Chair. The Finance and Administration Manager is the *ex officio* secretary.

In 2012, Elizabeth Gibbs joined the Council as Convener of the Communications Committee and David Galt replaced Paul Ramsay as Session Clerk and Convener of the Staffing Committee. The Council therefore currently comprises the following:

Anton Ojala	Chair
Rev Alistair Lane	Minister
Rev Stuart Simpson	Minister
Mary Gibbs	Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand
Geoff Annals	Christian Education
Elizabeth Gibbs	Communication
Ross Chesney	Finance
Ailsa Salt and John Atkinson (co-conveners)	Outreach
	Pastoral Care
David Wood	Property
David Ensor	Social
David Galt	Session Clerk (and Staffing Committee Convener)
David Coplon	Secretary (Finance and Admin Manager)

Although the Pastoral Care Committee disbanded during 2012, the Committee position remains on the Council list, subject to further consideration by Session of St John's approach to the work previously undertaken by the Committee.

Council is currently looking for a replacement for Malcolm Shaw in his role as Roster Coordinator. Malcolm has performed this important role for twelve years, effectively ensuring there are volunteers for each of the various tasks which form part of Sunday morning services, and the Council is most appreciative of his contribution over that time.

The Annual General Meeting will be asked to ratify the appointment by Council of Anton Ojala as the Chair of Council for a further year.

## ***The Year Ahead***

Major forthcoming issues for Council include oversight of the balance between income and expenditure as investment returns decrease; contributing to decisions on the future of the organ; and, in particular, managing the ramifications of the forthcoming seismic survey of St John's buildings. All three of these decisions will require careful, prayerful consideration by the wider church leadership, including Council.

### ***Anton Ojala***

Chair of Council

## ***Music***

Music at St John's encompasses diverse groups of people coming together to offer their talent to God. All these people work extremely hard for many hours each week to consistently provide quality music for each service at St John's.



The Senior Choir sings at most morning services, leading hymns and providing anthems where appropriate. In October last year, Guy Jansen resigned from the role of Choir Director, a position he had held for six years. We wish him well as he spends more time with his family overseas.

It was decided to discontinue the paid position and until April this year, the duties were absorbed by the Music Director. It is a relentlessly demanding job, requiring specific skills and knowledge, both musical and liturgical, coupled with an ability to work

easily with a group of people. Eric Sidoti fulfils this role wonderfully well and we have been enjoying his talents permanently since April this year. He is introducing us to some modern American repertoire, thus adding to the choir's traditional English Cathedral standard repertoire.

Eric conducted Colin Gibson's *Spirit Within* Pentecost Cantata, when we performed it at the Pentecost evening service, combining with choirs (string quartet and piano) and congregations of St Peter's and St Mary of the Angels. This was only the second time we have performed this work that was commissioned in 2000 as part of St John's Millennium celebrations. Joining forces with other choirs and enjoying worship together is always an enjoyable experience, and is a tradition that we keep up at Christmas and Pentecost every year.

The Junior Choir meets every Sunday morning at 9am – an impressively early start for so many young families. The children range in ages from 3 to 14. I am extremely impressed by the patience of the older children with the younger ones. We sometimes have to cover words many more times than some need to, but the finished product is always something for the choir to be proud of.

At the Christmas Carol service in 2011, the soloists from this choir (Manda Simpson and Benjamin Carter) brought tears to eyes because of their angelic voices, singing an extremely difficult solo in a Brazilian Carol – *Accelando Jesus*.

We are fortunate to have a large pool of instrumentalists to form groups that accompany contemporary songs for morning and evening worship. Dayle Anderson organises the morning group and often leads from the piano. Sam Bennett organises the evening group, but also lends his singing and guitar playing skills to the morning services. These groups both have practices during the week, as well as meeting before the respective services to prepare music.

If you would like to belong to any of these groups, please speak to the organisers of them.

We have many excellent musicians, and I am going to attempt to list them as an acknowledgement of their time and talents. The risk, of course, is that I will offend someone by leaving them out or spelling names incorrectly, for which I apologise.

## Senior Choir

Conductor	Eric Sidoti
Sopranos	Linda Van Milligan, Tae Soon Lee, Beth Cizadlo, Pat Isherwood, Jeanette Westermayer, Elizabeth Lawes
Altos	Stephanie McHardie, Kathy Sutherland, Winifred Bain, Dayle Anderson, Bonnie Dunstan, Mary Gow
Tenors	Evan Dumbleton, Robert Gray*
Basses	David Galt, Rob Ewan, Tony Fuell, Rory Sweeney*

*\* 2012 Choral Scholars*

## Junior Choir

Jacob Troughton, Harry Troughton, Aria Troughton, Millie Troughton, Caitlin Walker, Amy Walker, Sarah Walker, Rebekah Wood, Haren Simpson, Manda Simpson, Aina Simpson, Archie Purchas, Joel Purchas, Yestin Ojala, Shelley Zeng, Kelly Zeng, Benjamin Carter, Kezia Liando.

## Instrumentalists

Dayle Anderson, Sam Bennett, Ted Cizadlo, Beth Cizadlo, Clem Cizadlo, Mary Gow, Tony Fuell, Alex Read, Andrew Chesney, Anton Ojala, Kathryn Ojala, April Ojala, Maddy Ojala, Elizabeth Lawes, Elliot Lawes, Jemma Simpkins, Jonathan Boston, Lala Simpson, Michelle Knight, Sophie Macaulay, Stephanie McHardie, Tessa Macaulay, Thomas Read, Zoe Henderson.

## Music at St John's Guiding Principles\*

Music is important in the life of St John's in the City as we worship God and grow in faith.

Music at St John's should:

1. Be **Meaningful** (theological, missional, purposeful)
2. Allow **Participation** (of both congregation and musicians)
3. Be **Accessible** (familiar)
4. Promote **Understanding** (make no assumptions; 'frame' the music; why it's being used in this way)
5. Be **Varied**
6. Reflect **Our Community** (ages, cultures, languages, connection to Communion of Saints)
7. Reflect an **Emotional factor** (including but not limited to):
  - a) fostering enthusiasm in each other; modelling authentic corporate participation.
  - b) expressing our joy, thankfulness, grief, grace, etc.
  - c) having different styles of music for different parts of the liturgy.
8. Be of a **High standard** (expecting from ourselves concerted effort to pursue these principles and supporting each other in doing so together)

*\* October 2011*

## Eleanor Carter

Music Director and Organist.

# Outreach

Members of St John's see outreach to our community and mission overseas as important commitments and are involved in many ways in giving time, talents, goods and money to help those who need assistance. In addition, we have a significant contribution in outreach to the Waitara community through the work of Knox Church Waitara. The following activities are those co-ordinated on behalf of St John's through the Outreach Committee during the 2011/12 year. If you are interested in knowing more of the work, talk with members of the committee who are Co-convenors, John Atkinson and Ailsa Salt, Dayle and Rob Anderson, Beth Cizadlo, Antonia Milkop, the Session Clerk and the Ministers.

## ***Partnership with Victoria University***

We have continued our close relationship with Victoria University through support for *the St John's lecturer in Christian Theology, Assoc. Professor Chris Marshall*, providing \$35,000 towards the cost of the lectureship. We actively fund raised for donations to the lectureship and fees from Chris Marshall's series on Jesus and the Gospels also went towards that. We were pleased to receive feedback from a representative of Tertiary Student Christian Fellowship that he saw the lectureship as the single most significant initiative on campus for engaging students in the Christian faith and encouraging serious faith inquiry. It had credibility with students



Chris Marshall

in that it is a recognised course of study within the University. Chris Marshall's personal character and interest in supporting personal inquiry into the Christian faith, as well as being willing to stand up for what his convictions are, are recognised as an important part of the value of the Lectureship.

A good deal of organisation was done during the year, in conjunction with Victoria University, for *our first 'visiting scholar', Professor William Cavanaugh, who will spend a week hosted by St John's and Victoria University in July/August.* He is a Senior Research Professor at the Centre for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology, and Professor of Catholic Studies at DePaul University in Chicago. He has published an impressive range of books and articles and is a popular speaker throughout North America and Western Europe. We look forward to his time with us. Rob Anderson and Allister have worked with Victoria University on the programme.



Professor William Cavanaugh

## ***Jesus and the Gospels***

Assoc. Professor Chris Marshall, gave an outstanding series of six lectures on Jesus and the Gospels at St John's in September 2011. There was an average attendance of around 120 people at each lecture, most attending the whole series with probably about a third from St John's. Chris Marshall presented material in a way that gave us new insights on the life and work of Jesus and the world in which he lived. Rob, Dayle and Beth were the team that ensured all went smoothly for the series.

## ***Edward Carter Legacy***

This legacy was given in 1991 by Edna Carter in memory of her husband, both members of St John's. It was essentially to provide 'second chance' opportunities and the Council agreed to terms of reference for its use that included assistance for women prisoners. The committee asked one of our congregation, Owen Dance, to see if he could find any organisations or activities within the Wellington area

that were working in the area of rehabilitation with women at Arohata prison. Unfortunately it appeared there was nothing that we could usefully support. So we contacted the head office of the Corrections Department, explaining the position and were asked to meet the new General Manager, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Services. The outcome of the meeting was an offer of funding for a pilot programme at Arohata, to be organised and overseen by a Prisoner's Aid Rehabilitation Society (PARS). That voluntary society has now been formed, and in 2012 a Field Officer was employed to work three days a week establishing, with the support of the PARS Board, an expanded rehabilitation and reintegration pilot programme at Arohata. There are 25 women on the pilot, but the activities being established will in many cases extend to most of the women there. We have been active in introducing the Field Worker to voluntary groups within Wellington who can contribute to the programme and will be able to assist with funding from the Carter Legacy for special projects for which PARS does not have money. This has been and will continue to be an exciting new development for St John's outreach to the community. If you want to know more, chat to Ailsa.

### ***Helping others in the Community***

The budget, approved at the AGM each year, provides money for discretionary funding for groups that apply for assistance. (See the St John's web site). This year grants went to *Mount Cook School* towards its 2012 swimming programme (\$4,000), the *Wellington Women's Health Collective* towards their office rental costs (\$1,500), *Berhampore Junior School* for buses for off site educational programmes (\$1,500) and *Downtown Community Ministry* for a power point projector and two computers (\$4,400).

### ***Noel Wood's and Joan Andrew's Bequests***

In addition to the above, interest income from these bequests was granted to *Presbyterian Support Central* and *Downtown Community Ministry* to support their programmes for people in need.

### ***Overseas Mission and Grants***

The budget also provides funds for mission overseas and, with the addition of individual donations from members of the congregation, grants this year were made to *St John's two missionaries overseas* (\$9,000), *Global Mission* (PCANZ overseas aid agency) for Ministry training of two women in Vanuatu (\$3,000),

*Myanmar Rice Bowl Appeal* for an a generator and other items for an orphanage (\$2,500) and the costs of two St John's members on a *PCANZ visit to Myanmar*, November 2012, (\$6,860).



Matt Potts and Petra Malcolm in Myanmar (second and fourth from left)

### ***PCANZ and PCM***

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand's partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar continues to strengthen and St John's contributes to that through its membership of the PCANZ Myanmar group and grants to the Rice Bowl Fund. In November 2011 Petra Malcolm and Matt Potts went to Myanmar for two weeks visiting projects which the PCM are involved with and learning about life in Myanmar. They led conversational English classes at the Tahan Theological College and were delighted to be able to report on the positive impact the funds from New Zealand were having. In December, Go Kan Suan, a minister of the PCM, made a short visit to Wellington. He is involved in the aid and development projects supported by the Rice Bowl Fund and spoke on what it was like to live and work in one of the poorest areas of Myanmar. Our Myanmar activities in St John's are organised by MOG (Myanmar Outreach Group) led by Stuart Simpson, Petra Malcolm, Mary Hutchinson and Gina Williamson. Members attending the evening service have been particularly involved.

### ***Public Issues Forums***

St John's Public Issues Forums held during the year were on:

- Voluntary Euthanasia: What are the Ethical, Medical, Legal, Social and Spiritual Issues?
- Ethical Investment: A Contradiction in Terms?

Jonathan Boston organised very knowledgeable speakers who discussed the complex issues in both of the topics which led to interesting question and answer sessions.

St John's also hosted Fulbright Scholar Professor Ted Davis, from the Central Pennsylvania for Religion and Science, who spoke on Darwin and Religion, considering the relationships between Christianity and evolution. Then, prior to the General Election, a Churches' Election Forum was held in conjunction with the Otago Centre for Theology and Public Issues. Speakers covered alcohol and advertising, our national identity and the treaty, families and relationships and crime and punishment.

## *Partnership Reviews*

The Outreach Committee is required to review St John's partnerships with other organisations and during the year looked our affiliation with Downtown Community Ministry. As an affiliate, we contribute \$4,500 to DCM's operational costs and provide funds from legacies toward their projects, as well as contribute to the food bank. We were impressed with the expertise of DCM in the work that it does to help disadvantaged and marginalised people in the city and we look forward to a long term continuing relationship. Dayle, Beth, and Allister were the review team. Another team (Stuart, Beth, Dayle, Paul Ramsay and Anton Ojala) is now talking with BGI on how we may facilitate our already close relationship. We presently give a grant of \$30,000 per year to BGI's operational costs.

## *The Wellington Boys' and Girls' Institute Incorporated*

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Greetings to you all,

Our Director's girls were looking to find a charity their school could donate to. Neither the Director nor his girls thought of BGI. BGI deals with some of the most troubled families in Wellington and some of the most thriving, however, because we take a strength-based approach, the families are never made to feel that way. So much so, that we tend to forget we are a charity; BGI has become one really big BGI whanau.

This year, as in other years, our vision has been to reach out to as many young people as we can.



Young People from JYMC's Going Somewhere 2010 Leadership and Discipleship Course on Camp

We find there is a sense in which we are guided to families that we are meant to help. This is confirmed by the often surprising, unknown connections we already have with them. We believe this guidance depends on prayer. We appreciate the regular prayers for BGI in the St John's services.

Through our strong community-based support, it is our mission to improve the lives of our children and young people who may be facing difficulties, or enhancing the lives of those who are doing well, by providing opportunities for them to serve in the community.

We are blessed with a talented group of core staff at BGI, committed to encouraging relationships of the families BGI works with and their wider community. Many of our staff have come from very challenging backgrounds; it's amazing how they have risen above this and are able to contribute so much to others.

BGI is strengthened through the relationship we hold with St John's. This year we have been doing a review of that partnership. During this process we have gained an increased understanding of each other's roles. It is our hope that, as the process concludes, things will be put in place that continue a positive working relationship with St John's and BGI.

## ***What we Do***

Challenge For Change, Mentoring

Positively Parenting

Can Control, Street Art Group

Anti-Bullying programmes in schools

Therapeutic Adventure

The Journey - Te Whakatika

St John's Epic and Thrive Youth

Link-Youth Civic Participation

In School Support

Community Development-South Wellington

Strengthening Families

ConfDance, GuiDance God you and I dance classes

Sports Break and SWAG Holiday Programmes for 9-17 year olds in Porirua and Lower Hutt

Holiday Programmes for kids with significant emotional and behavioural difficulties.

## ***Challenge For Change (C4C)***

We have almost doubled the young people we have helped in our C4C programme, with 24 families participating in the last programme. It is designed for a maximum of 12-14 people. We increased the size because we were so grateful to have 24 mentors, largely by word of mouth. We are aware many mentoring initiatives struggle to find sufficient mentors. We view the growth of our programme as a remarkable endorsement of its' reputation.



From left: Iris Webster, Paul Hermann, Holly Walker, Vaerua Mana, Ma'a Nonu

The current programme started in February and formally finished with a graduation ceremony in July.

The ceremony was a huge success - held in the Banquet Room at Parliament. Over 300 family, friends, whanau and supporters took part in this event, making it a truly memorable occasion. We were able to cater for this large number, held at Loaves and Fishes, for an incredible \$265.00. This was due to the generosity of some local bakeries. We were delighted that David Galt attended representing St John's. Other famous people also attended, such as MP Holly Walker and Ma'a Nonu. Not to mention Ma'a's ex-school principal, who came along in support of a pupil. Ma'a humbly addressed the audience and answered many questions the excited children fired at him. One such question asked of him was: "Who was your most powerful mentor?" He replied: "my parents".

*Positively Parenting-* Our mentoring programme is delivered in partnership with C4C to assist families improve their parenting skills. Positive Parenting is tailored to support the young people on the programme by improving interpersonal relationships with their parents and caregivers.

The families greatly benefit from the life changing lessons raised within this Christian based programme. It is always encouraging to monitor the worth of what we have achieved and witness the impact of the contributions we make. A quote from a parent: "I am definitely a better parent, a better mother".

## ***Historical Focus***

We had the intriguing opportunity of meeting Alf Holt, a former Programme Director of BGI in the 1960's. Initially Alf was disenchanted that the old Tasman St building had been demolished. He had poured his heart into the 9 years he spent there, scrubbing and painting the pool and acting as House Master to the Hostel above the pool. He described those years "as the best of my life". He had some colourful stories worth collating into a history of BGI that we would love a volunteer to offer to write. He was an inspiring person with some great practical ideas on how to grow boys in to active citizens. Alf took great interest in what BGI is doing; he left great friends, promising to be back.

## ***10 Years On***

The end of the financial year completed the first ten years of BGI Director's role. The role was first envisaged in 2001 when St John's and BGI jointly created and funded the role of Director of Youth and Community Projects. The aim was that this role would "initiate support and manage youth

and community projects on behalf of St John's and BGI". Generally the feedback has been that we have achieved 'more than we might have expected'!

At our last AGM we met with young people connected to BGI to discuss if we should remain in Troup House next to the church. Most felt that this would be good if we had our own identity and entrance. It seems fitting to be here as Sir George Troup, a St John's member, helped in the very early BGI years. A major revamp of the Troup House space has been developed to make the space more youth friendly, and to better cater for the growing numbers of families and young people who are part of the BGI extended whanau. The BGI board has allocated funds to support this; we have also sought funding from government and other areas. St John's has agreed to contribute to this in lieu of saved building maintenance. To date we have successfully been granted two thirds of our budget. We are still looking for offers of help to complete the fundraising before we proceed further.

## ***The Work We Continue To Do Together***

The youth group is the main way that we work together. We have found and trained great leaders to run the St John's youth programme for 9 years now. In more recent years we have also helped support St John's volunteers, mainly from the evening service. In this way BGI has contributed significantly to the life of St John's. The youth groups are really 'epic' and are 'thriving'!

St John's *Epic* and *Thrive* groups rub shoulders with our other more mainstream youth groups. This means the community youth often help out with church events and we involve the St John's youth in wider community events.

An exciting new initiative began this year to distribute donated food to people around us. Food collected, prepared and cooked by us is then offered to families, their children and groups we support. It's a simple and tangible way of helping those we come into contact with.

It is great the way some of the St John's Outreach committee events have been able to encourage and practically help some of the BGI staff not currently attending church. One example was the Crime and Rehabilitation seminar, which connected our Journey facilitator to Justice groups, such as Just Speak. These groups have Christian and Maori leadership and St John's members involved. These groups also helped practically with some encouraging outcomes

outlined in the Journey Te Whaka Tika below. Most of our staff also attended the Chris Marshall lectures.

We are always looking for ways of broadening the horizons of all young people we come into contact with at St John's and the wider community. A particular need has been work experience. This year BGI provided a stepping-stone for five young members of St J's congregation. These young people were employed at BGI while looking to realize their dreams in their chosen career paths.

As well as continuing various projects, outlined in previous years' reports, we are currently running two new projects, *Urban Art Connections* and *The Journey Te Whakatika*.

*Urban Art Connections* grew from a project started by the Wellington City Council, involving young artists in legal street art. This opened our eyes to a number of talented young people in our community who lack the formal skills and opportunities necessary to engage with their talent. Urban Art Connections offers these young people a chance to develop their skill and use it to benefit their community. In July they undertook the massive task of a seven story high mural in Lukes Lane. We are currently fundraising for a number of these young people to travel to Christchurch in October. They aim to work on some community artwork there for a church.

*The Journey* is designed for 17-20 year old, predominantly young men, who are at risk or are already offending. We have been encouraged that two extremely high needs participants have now found full time work. Another, from a gang background, is now working closely with Mayor Celia Wade-Brown, advising her on Maori issues. Our facilitator, Makere Derbyshire, went well beyond the call of duty by having a drug addicted, homeless young person living with her and her partner for a number of months.

## ***The Partnership***

BGI would like to thank St John's for the continual support that they have offered over the years. Looking forward, we would like to strengthen this partnership. We would love to grow our culture of active participation between BGI and St John's. We are proud, that while other organisations may work alongside Christian organisations, BGI is solely connected to St John's, a unique opportunity for us to complement each other. We look forward to future interaction in which St John's and BGI can join together in our shared vision; we are always open to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

One of the things we discussed in the review was the pressure in our society, for charities, which churches have set up, to slowly grow apart from the churches' preaching and worshiping communities.

The review this year has helped us go against this trend. St John's next door truly makes us different from the many other NGO groups in the community. Often these groups act in isolation without a loving, caring and prayerful partner like St John's. Thank you.

In some ways, I think this has been inspired from Chris Marshall's lectures at St John's. He spoke about "Jesus' preaching on the Kingdom of God and Jesus' works, as two sides of the same coin". He said "there couldn't be one without the other".

We are proud of our connection with St John's. It strengthens our culture of walking in the path of light and love. With this continued support it allows us to support others and galvanise the principles we share in our ever-developing relationship with our community.

On behalf of our Director, staff and Board, Soifua,

***Iris Webster***

Chair of BGI

## ***Pastoral Care Co-ordinator***

*Carry each others burdens  
and in this way you will  
fulfil the law of Christ.  
Galatians 6-2*

My role is to complement and co-ordinate pastoral care at St John's, ensuring individual needs are being met as we journey together and walk alongside one another. Pastoral care is relevant to all age groups and cultures and is shared in times of sadness and need, in times of celebrations and in our day to day lives.

This is a 4-6 hour a week position. I liaise with the ministers, the ministry team, elders, pastoral assistants, administration staff and members of the congregation.

At St John's we have Pastoral Assistants, who help with visiting, transport, phone calls, delivering meals and assisting in times of emergency. My role is to co-ordinate the assistants and I am very grateful for the valuable service they provide. Many thanks to you all for your willingness to help. If you are interested in joining this group, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

We also have members of the congregation who are on transport rosters assisting various members get to and from church. There are about 20 people

assisting with this at present. A big thank you to all of you providing this wonderful service.

Cynthia Krogh manages our freezer which is kept full of meals to provide in times of need. You (the congregation) are happy to make meals for the freezer when required and most recently a group of mothers from Music and Movement and St J's Kids provided meals from a big cook-up, organised by Naomi Lane. To all those who have provided meals through the year, many thanks. This is a well-used and most worth-while service. Many thanks to Cynthia for her work overseeing this.

To me, it is wonderful seeing so many members of the congregation assisting with pastoral care. And of course, quietly in the background, are many more showing God's love. May God bless you richly.

On a personal note, thank you for your support and encouragement through the year.

God has entrusted us to "journey with others" and God will be journeying with us, holding and strengthening us as we travel forward.

It is a privilege to assist with pastoral care at St John's.

***Margaret Gilkison***

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

# Christian Education Committee 2012

Learning about Christ and how to live as Christians is essential if we are to realise in full the potential God gives each one of us. Christian education supports such learning.

The Christian Education Committee is responsible to Session for the oversight of the spectrum of Christian education programmes and activities at St John's.

The reports from the leaders of our various educational programmes follow. They are the Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Child and Family and the Youth Group. We

are blessed to have many skilled and dedicated leaders who plan and run wonderful programmes.

As you read these reports I am sure you will be encouraged by the breadth and the depth of Christian educational activity at St John's and will join me in thanking God for all those who lead and participate in the Christian educational life of our St John's community.

**Geoff Annals**  
Convenor

## Youth Group

### Thrive Youth (Senior Youth Group)



The new Thrive Youth Logo

#### Introduction

Thrive Youth is the senior youth group of St John's in the City. We are an intentional faith based community who seek to do just as our name suggests...Thrive.

We have two youth sessions a week; Friday Nights (socializing central, packed full of games, fun, opportunities to meet new people and a brief faith-based thought of the week). Then for those a little more curious about the notion of 'faith' we have our Sunday morning session (where we take a deeper look into faith, the Bible, its application, answer burning questions and have fun at the same time).

As a youth group we have a mission statement that reads;

***Gather, Grow, Go***

#### Gather

At Thrive youth, one of our core missions is to gather and connect our youth. We want to be a community that is inclusive and one that cares. This year we have sought to connect youth within Thrive, between our Junior and Senior youth groups, to the wider church community of St John's and to other churches within our community.

#### PARACHUTE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The annual trip to Parachute Music Festival has become a part of the Thrive Youth staple diet. This event allows us to spend some quality time together as a youth group at the start of the year and to create memories that will last a lifetime.



Thrive at Parachute 2012

#### ST J'S GOT TALENT

This evening served to showcase all the hidden skills and talents within our youth group. We were very impressed with the calibre of skills we saw. The night helped us to better get to know one another within our youth group.

## **NINJA NIGHT**

On this night Thrive and Epic (Junior Youth) gathered and played a series of crazy ninja games. This was a very memorable night and served to strengthen relational bonds between the Junior and Senior youth groups.

## **ELDER'S TESTIMONIES**

Our mission to gather extends beyond youth group and across St John's as a whole. In term 1 this year, we invited a series of St John's elders to come and share their testimonies with us on Sunday mornings. This was both a great time of learning and a chance to connect Elders with youth.

## **REAL LIFE ANGRY BIRDS NIGHT**

On this evening we joined forces with The Massive (Youth Ministry of the Street City Church) to bring the popular game/app to life. A great opportunity to create interconnected relations between youth ministries.



The Thrive Youth Pants Party

## **Grow**

Our second core mission as a youth group is to grow and equip our youth and leaders. We want to help our youth to grasp onto faith and to make it their own.

## **THRIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

This year we started an initiative to create a programme/pathway by which we train up our senior youth group members to become leaders when they leave college. We have seen some awesome stuff come from this group and we have high hopes!

## **DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND AWAY**

In term two of this year we took a bunch of our youth away to stay at St Ronnan's Presbyterian Church in Eastbourne. This was a valuable time to teach on discipleship.

## **CONNECT 2012**

Each year we send our youth leaders (and also this year some of our youth from the Leadership Development Group) to the Connect Youth Leaders' Conference put on by Presbyterian Youth Ministry New Zealand. This is a valuable weekend that teaches practical skills of Youth Leadership.

## **WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH...?**

It is important to us that we give our youth practical skills and tools by which they can get onto the 'spiritual solids' by making faith their own. This term on Sunday mornings we have been conducting a series called 'What's the deal with...?' where we take a common faith based question and seek answers together as a youthgroup through the use of combined knowledge, the Bible, a Bible dictionary, an exhaustive concordance and the internet. Often educational and entertaining to watch.

## **SUPPORTING SCHOOL CHRISTIAN GROUP LEADERS**

One of our core aims this year has been to support our youth who are running Christian groups in their schools. We have provided mentoring, support, guidance and have connected them with fellow Christian group leaders.

Sometimes the best way to learn is to teach, so we see these youth as worthy investments of our time and energy.

## **Go**

Our final core mission as a youth group is to 'go' and put our faith into action and to give back to our community. Here are some of the ways that we have tried to do that this year.

## **RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS NIGHT**

We asked the youth to bring \$5 each this night; we split them into groups, pooled their money per each group, gave them a bit of time to brainstorm, and then sent them out into Wellington to creatively bless people with their random acts of kindness – a fun and easy way to put our faith into action.

## **SERVING AT EASTER CAMP**

Easter camp this year was all about putting our faith into action. As part of this, our youth spent a couple of hours on Easter Sunday serving the camp by helping to re-paint their front fence, weed their gardens and to help deconstruct a derelict bird aviary.

## **SERVING NIGHT**

On this night we split our youth into groups and sent each group out with a small spool of cotton thread. The youth traded the string for things of equal or greater value. They kept doing this throughout the

evening until they had a small bundle of goods. We then actioned these off on TradeMe, with the profits going to charities of the group's choosing.

## ***Year Ahead***

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on the areas of connecting our youth (gather), spending time equipping (grow) our youth/leaders and continue to challenge ourselves to put our faith into action (go) by giving generously of our time and efforts to our surrounding community.

## ***Volunteer Leaders***

We receive and rely on the support of our awesome volunteer leaders, whom we are blessed to have! This year has seen 1 addition (Rebecca Bullen) to the leadership team and 3 departures (Matt Potts, Bede Robinson and Katie Lee). After these changes, we

have 10 volunteer leaders in Thrive. We are always open to new leaders & in particular are currently looking for more guy leaders.

We also wish to acknowledge all the support we get from parents and members of St John's as a whole. We really appreciate all the times that you have volunteered to host youth for meals, provided vehicles for transport, and offered prayers and encouragement to us. It is much appreciated.

## ***Our youth***

We have youth attend from a multitude of schools around the Wellington region including;

Wellington East Girls College, Wellington High School, Wellington Boys College, Wellington Girls College, Onslow College, Tawa College and Rongotai College.

## ***Dave Adams***

Youth Ministry Worker

# ***Youth Group***

## ***Epic***



EPIC is Saint John's in the City's Intermediate Youth Ministry and is growing well in all areas! Every year it takes a very different shape depending on who makes up the group that year, as each term we aim to meet the needs of those involved on both Sundays and Fridays.

EPIC for the last year has been lead by myself as Coordinator, Nga Larsen, with Jack McCarthy and Michelle Knight. For part of that time we also had David Jackson and Andy McKegg.

As a leadership team our heart is in creating a safe youth group where our young people can grow and discover more about who they are and who our amazing God is. To do this well we believe EPIC needs to be part of and supported by the wider community of

the EPIC families and of the St John's congregation. To help grow this we are very intentional about providing and welcoming opportunities to connect with these important support networks.

Our programme runs at the same times as Thrive, on Fridays from 6.30-8.30pm and on Sundays during church. We have a range of young people in years 7 and 8 from the following schools: SWIS, EBIS, Queen Margaret's, Brooklyn, Ridgeway, Hataitai, Northland, Te Aro, Karori Normal and Karori West.

One of the biggest changes for EPIC over the last year is that Sunday morning now comes under St J's Kids. This is great as we believe it will help our transition between St J's Kids to EPIC from year 6 to year 7 and then from EPIC to Thrive in year 8 to Year 9. On Sundays we are connected with St J's Kids and Friday nights are strongly connected to Thrive, with combined nights three nights a term where we hang out together.

This also means that Sunday mornings is more supported with Nicky Read and Ross Davis stepping in to lead EPIC with Nga Larsen on Sunday mornings with the support of Anna Davis and Heather Walker with St J's Kids.



Crafty Time at Epic

This last year has been filled with many big adventures like creating a live drama skit for Starlight Storytime that was also made into a short film for JYMC's Regional Film Fest - all based on a children's storybook, "The Smartest Giant in Town". EPIC loved this as it gave them all different opportunities to grow and bring out their skills in different areas such as prop making, set dressing, editing, acting, narration, voice over, costume making, etc. It was hard work but a lot of fun.

We have also been Jousting Medieval style in the gym, joined in a games night with the Intermediate Youth Group at the Street City Church, had support from elders in making cushions for church spray-painted with stencils, the annual whanau dinner introducing Year 6's in 2011 to EPIC, playground parties, laser force, will it fly? These are just to name a few! Each

term we include a wide range of elements to ensure we get the best from each.

We aim for a good mix of onsite and offsite activities, combined nights with Thrive, activities with St J's Kids, nights mixing with other youth groups, quitter nights, creative nights, run around nights, inventive nights and adventure nights. We work to the strengths of those in the leadership team and connect with the wider community to gain more skills when needed or when offered.



Epic looking at how the Church is the bride of Christ

The young people that come give us great feedback and love bringing their friends. EPIC grows throughout the year in numbers, but we also see every individual grow which is the real privilege that all of our leaders love to be part of.

***Nga Larsen***

EPIC Friday Night Coordinator

# Children and Families

*‘The people brought children to Jesus, hoping he might touch them.*

*The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus was irate and let them know it: “Don’t push these children away.*

*Don’t ever get between them and me.*

*These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom.*

*Mark this: Unless you accept God’s kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you’ll never get in.”*

*Then, gathering the children up in his arms, he laid his hands of blessing on them.’*

*Mark 10:13-16 The Message*



Our St John’s pastoral theme for 2012 this year is the ‘Children of God’. Why did Jesus encourage us to become like children a number of times? We can learn a great deal from the way Jesus welcomed and blessed children holding them up as an example of how we as adults can encounter God. Sometimes we think that’s ‘cute’ but like much of what Jesus did there’s more than meets the eye. If children are at the “very centre of life in the kingdom” then how are we bringing children into the very centre of our faith community so they can minister to us? How are we partnering with them as we encounter the living God *together as fellow Christians* along the way in our respective faith journeys?

This is some of what the St J’s Kids leadership team has been wrestling with this past year as we minister to the children in the context of the wider St John’s faith community.

Thank you to so many of you who have contributed your time and skills in so many different ways to the children and families ministry this past year honouring our commitment to make St John’s a Kids Friendly church. In particular, we want to thank and acknowledge our dynamic St J’s Kids Leadership team of 32 people who are involved on Sunday mornings and the 55 other volunteers who actively assist them in providing the backbone to the children and families ministry.

## ***St J’s Kids:***

### **LEADERSHIP:**

***Children and Families Ministry Workers:*** These positions remain unchanged, with Anna Davis continuing to work 20 hours/week and Heather Walker 15 hours/week. In July 2012, we will move offices from Spinks Cottage to Troup House to have better access to the office facilities and Administration staff. This will work well for us and we thank Stuart Simpson for giving up his office for us to share!

***Team meetings:*** Anna and Heather continue to seek input regularly from the St J’s Kids Leadership team for planning initiatives, which depend on the skills and energy of the current team. Our regular team meetings are not only planning forums but are used to reflect on our practice and have a training component to them. In June 2012 Anna attended a one-week block course at Carey Baptist College in Auckland, focusing on the nature and spirituality of children. Already Anna has shared some of the theory learnt at the block course at a recent St J’s Kids leadership meeting and we have been able to apply this to our Sunday morning practice.

***Faith@Home:*** In August 2011, 25 St J’s Kids parents/caregivers attended a Faith@Home evening workshop. Some parents were specifically asked to share their experience along with Jill Kayser, the National Kids Friendly coach. Many participants said they had found it helpful to have the time to discuss ways of sharing faith with their children with fellow parents/caregivers and that they had been able to implement some of the ideas shared that night.

**Transformers Junior Leadership Programme for young people aged 10-13yrs:** a Kids Friendly initiative where Mentees, or Leaders in Training (LITs), are matched with Mentors from their congregation to develop leadership skills in their young people. In November 2011 St John's celebrated the 'graduation' of our 10 inaugural LITs. This has been followed by a period of consolidation as these young leaders continue with some of the initiatives they began with their Mentor in 2011 and some that are new. We anticipate facilitating this programme again with a new group of mentees in 2013, and initial planning for this is currently being undertaken.

**EPIC Youth Group (Yr 7-8s, 10-13yr olds):** This calendar year we are trialing EPIC under St J's Kids leadership on a Sunday morning. This is to accommodate the Transformers programme more seamlessly, as there are natural leadership opportunities for this age group in the children's ministry, and also to help with the transitions between St J's Kids and the Youth Groups, i.e. the Yr 6 transition from St J's Kids to Junior Youth Group (EPIC) and the Yr 8 transition from EPIC to Senior Youth Group (Thrive).

**Welcoming children on Sundays:** This continues to work well with our team of several Thrive members welcoming and orienting the children to the morning's activities. We have been trialing the Duty Elders in inviting the children to lead in the Children's Bible rather than the Greeters from Thrive. This active involvement with the children is another way of making connections between generations. We hope this is something that will continue.

**Curriculum:** We continue to use the lectionary based 'Seasons of the Spirit' as it provides a connection with the morning and evening worship services. It tends to offer flexible leading ideas that can be easily adapted to incorporate intergenerational and inter-age faith learning opportunities which suits us.

**Leadership Team:** With only a few 'retirements' of long serving Leaders/Assistants, our Sunday morning team have continued their commitment to St J's Kids. We have also been strengthened with the addition of several new leaders during the year.

#### **Regular Leaders and Assistants:**

Adrienne Troughton, Alex Read (G), Alice McEnaney(G), Anna Davis, April Ojala(G), Ashley Dunstan\*, Belinda Gilkison, Brigitte Hicks-Willer, Bronwyn Wood, Cathy Screech\*, Chris Purchas, Claire Davis(T), Connor Driver-Purchas\*, Diane Shaw, Eve Davis (T), Farina Kusmana, Fiona Coughlan, Fiona Purchas, Heather Richardson-Barbour, Heather Walker, Ingrid McEnaney^, Iris Webster, Jack McCarthy (E), Janie Pack, Jeff Liando, Jemma Simpkins\*, Josiah Greig(T), Kathryn Ojala, Lala Simpson, Linda Shaw\*, Madi Ojala(G), Michelle Knight(E), Mindy Simpson, Nicki Read, Ngahua Larson(E), Nina Liando, Olivia Tuatoko\*, Ross Davis, Sarah Johnstone\*, Sarah Ramsay(T), Surya Kusjanto(T), Susan Prendergast^, Susana Pramana, Vicky Wood.

- ^ Stepped down during the year
- \* Started leading / assisting during the year
- (E) EPIC (junior youth group) leader
- (G) Children's greeter
- (T) Transformer leader in training who assisted in the younger classes

**Sunday morning holiday programmes:** This continues to work well, offering a break for the regular St J's Kids Leadership team and an opportunity for the children to get to know different adults, enabling new connections within the church community.

#### **Holiday programme Leaders and Assistants:**

Allie Crombie, Angela Garrity, Carolyn Goudswaard, Claire Davis, David Burton, Eve Davis, Jinny Irvine, Jonathan Boston, Julia Buck, Karen Honeychurch, Margaret Carmen, Margaret Gilkison, Mary Hutchison, Vera Burton

### **CHRISTMAS 2011**

**Travelling Nativity Set:** In its third year, 33 households signed up to host the Nativity figurines during Advent. This provided an opportunity for people to make connections with others they wouldn't usually see and to be reminded of the real meaning of Christmas. The hosts included St J's Kids families, our wider St John's faith community and some preschool M&M families.

**'ADVENTures':** St J's Kids families received a flyer with suggestions to help them observe Advent. One of the suggestions was to use the Christian World Service (CWS) 'reverse' Advent Calendar given to each family. Each day a pocket was opened on the calendar in which children placed a coin. The money raised was collected to support the CWS Christmas Appeal for fighting global poverty.

**Christmas Labyrinth 2011:** was set up on the final 'official' day of St J's Kids telling the events leading up to Jesus' Birth. Every child was invited to walk it and adults assisted the children to interact with each station. After church that day, members of the Congregation were invited to participate in this opportunity for Advent reflection.

**Christmas Pageant:** took the form of a movie. Preparations began early with a children's script writing workshop facilitated during the September school holidays that provided the narrative.



Filming day was one fine October Sunday afternoon when Sheep, Shepherds, Angels, Wise men and even a Star could be seen at Karori Park as Gion Quezon and Vivi Toumahuw filmed our inaugural St J's Kids Nativity movie. The end result was a fantastic short film, which was screened for the congregation on December 4<sup>th</sup>.



Thanks to Gion and Vivi (pre-school music and movement family) for their filming and editing expertise, Ani and Ryhan Prasad for hosting us during the filming, Elisabeth Auchinvole for the use of music from a band she had played in, and to all the 'stage parents' for ensuring their charges were in costume and available when they were needed for the camera to roll.

## **A NEW YEAR – 2012**

**St J's Kids theme 2012:** we have chosen to interpret 'Children of God' by using the metaphor of God's Wardrobe found in Col 3:12-14 - a response to God's grace and awesome love shown to us by acknowledging that we are all God's children no matter what.

*"So, chosen by God for this  
new life of love, dress in the  
wardrobe God picked out for  
you: compassion, kindness,  
humility, quiet strength,  
discipline.*

*Be even-tempered, content with  
second place, quick to forgive  
an offense.*

*Forgive as quickly and  
completely as the Master forgave  
you.*

*And regardless of what else you  
put on, wear love.*

*It's your basic, all-purpose  
garment. Never be without it."*

*The Message*

**St J's Kids 2012 launch:** Began on February 12<sup>th</sup> with a 'fashion parade' of children dressed in God's wardrobe (crazy and every day outfits with words attached such as compassion, kindness etc). Small groups were challenged to produce an outfit from newspaper to 'model' on the red carpet and choose their name for the year, in line with our theme. We ended up with 'The Tiny T-Shirts' (preschoolers), 'The Cosy Coats' Year 1-2 (5-7yr olds), 'The Mad Hatters' Year 3-4 (7-9yr olds) and 'The Jumping Jandals' Year 5-6 (9-11yr olds).

A Bouncy Castle and a sausage sizzle organized by the Youth Group, completed the morning. Approximately 75 children and 33 families attended (of these, 11 children were EPIC, junior youth group).

**Round The Bays:** Two weeks later a dozen families joined over 10,000 other Wellingtonians to complete the 7km Round the Bays event. This is the third time we've participated as a group, but missed the youth group commitment to the event this year. We hope they, and other members of the congregation, will join us in 2013!

## LENT AND EASTER

**Shrove Tuesday Pancakes:** our second annual pancake breakfast was held to mark the beginning of Lent. Approximately 100 people of all ages attended and serious pancake consumption was



undertaken before more light hearted games in the courtyard. Thanks to the Ministry team for sharing the organization, and to the cooks – the Read family, Margaret and Ian Garrett and Margaret Gilkison. Thanks also to a team of adults from the evening service who did the clean up. The breakfast also marked the start of the St J's Kids Lenten Challenge – a challenge for all members of St J's families to be more generous to others through small, everyday actions during Lent.

**Holy week drama on Palm Sunday:** The St J's Kids Leaders lead a dramatic re-telling of the events leading to Easter. This included a 'Last Supper' in the Hall, a hanging garden in the stairwell, a lit



brazier in the courtyard(!) and wailing women at the tomb. It was very powerful to see 65 children fully engaged in the storytelling - even toddlers sat quietly in the sacred space created around the table of the Last Supper as candles were lit, sacred music played and the leaders spoke in hushed tones.

**Easter Sunday:** A team of 8 St J's Kids leaders and parents led approximately 70 children, regulars and visitors, through an interactive story telling of the events leading to the Resurrection, followed by an Easter Egg hunt.

**Labyrinth:** This is the second year the labyrinth has been set up in the Chapel during Holy Week, with interactive stations. This provided an opportunity for children to walk with their parents/caregivers before or after church or during Holy Week. Thanks goes to Elise Fountain-Smith for providing the art work and Karel Van Helden for his creative input into the writing of some of the stations.

## ST J'S KIDS AND THE ST JOHN'S CONGREGATION

**All Age Worship:** in March 2012, St J's Kids families actively participated in Picnic Church at Otari Wilton bush. This continues to be a highlight for many families and is well attended.

The children and leaders continue to enjoy actively participating in other All Age Worship services throughout the year.

**KidsWorship@5:** the St J's Kids leaders with the Yr 6 children planned and lead this evening worship service. The thinking behind these services is for children to have the opportunity to worship in a way that is totally oriented to them and for it to be an outworking of what they have been learning about God in previous weeks. Approximately 30 families attended.

**Morning Teas:** St J's Kids, their Leaders and parents/caregivers have really enjoyed the opportunity to serve the congregation morning tea- we are now a regular feature on the morning tea roster, so look out for those 'special invitations' from St J's Kids to join us after the service. We love the opportunity to serve you all and we've found that taste testing is an important part of the process!

**Fathers Day 2011:** The children invited their Fathers/Grandfathers/Uncles/significant men in the lives to join them at St J's Kids for the morning. The morning began with Man/Child games loosely based on the theme of Joseph's 12 brothers then they joined the children in their small groups. It was great to see some of the men who usually don't come to church enjoying this time and we plan to repeat this again this year.

**Kids Friendly Status:** A review of our Kids Friendly status was undertaken with Allister, Stuart, Heather, Anna and Paul Ramsay. Following discussion, the paperwork was completed and the congregation invited to review and/or contribute to the final documentation. While the review identified that we are doing many things well, there is potential for development in some areas, e.g., how we're engaging children during the time that they are in worship and more of a visual presence of children in the church, such as artwork.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Wheels Day at Kilbirnie Rec' Centre 2011:** This Sunday afternoon event was coordinated by two Transformers' LITs, Josiah Greig and Daniel Read, with assistance from their Mentor Carlton Johnston. Approximately 40 families attended with families inviting friends and relatives. This continues to be a popular social event on our calendar.

## **OUTREACH**

**Pantry Raid September 2011:** In response to low foodbank stocks around Wellington, 7 car loads of St J's Kids' and EPIC youth raided the pantries of 60 houses. The following morning the church foyer was bursting with goods that were brought up to the Communion Table as part of our offering. After church, the goods were delivered to the Downtown Community Ministry (DCM) Foodbank where the children and parents/caregivers restocked the DCM shelves. Stephanie MacIntyre, the Director, gave us a real insight into the work of DCM and the valuable role the children had played in enabling this vital work to continue. Thank you to the congregation for their generous support of this outreach.

## **NUMBERS:**

**St J's Kids:** The average weekly attendance over the 2011/2012 year was 25 families and 39 children. These figures relate to children between the ages of 3-11 only and exclude EPIC youth, as we began recording their statistics midway through 2012. During 2011/2012, 41 families and 82 children attended at least once. In addition, 6 families (15 children) are in contact with us but haven't attended St J's Kids.

**M&M:** 60 families have been part of our group over 2011/2012. Average weekly attendance has been 23 adults and 29 children. Twelve of the regular families are connected to St John's in some way.

# **Preschool Music and Movement**

This year Preschool music and movement turns 10! As original members of the group, Anna and Heather continue to share their experience leading the group, and have been ably supported by several members of the current group – Jo Wu, Vicky Wood, Kate Wasson and Naomi Lane. In 2012, we have had several new families join for whom English is a second language.

**Group involvement:** Morning tea provision, as with Music leadership, continues to be delivered by the parents in the group. Many members of this group also belong to St John's. Others choose to participate occasionally in St John's activities, such as Baptisms, All Age Worship services, hosting the Nativity set and St J's Kids social events.



**Equipment:** We are grateful for the purchase of a portable microphone headset this year that enables the people leading music to be heard more easily without straining their voices. The group are also very appreciative of the high handle that has been recently installed on the internal foyer door to the St John's Centre ensuring children can't escape into the courtyard.

**Easter Baskets:** In partnership with Betty Robertson and her assistants, the group provided baking and compiled and delivered Easter baskets to members of the congregation unable to get out and about much. This is always well received and the group appreciated the many letters of thanks.

**Big Cook Up:** In June, M & M parents, along with some St J's Kids parents, met in the St John's Centre kitchen and cooked dinners to fill the pastoral freezer.

This was a great community building afternoon and prompted participants to suggest we cook together more regularly to fill our own freezers. Thanks to Naomi Lane for coordinating this event.

**Thanks:** Many thanks to Betty Robertson and the women who assist her to support our group with Coffee and Chat and for staying connected with so many of the parents. It is with sadness we no longer have Lynn Pollock with us – we miss her ‘naughty’ lollies put out for the children’s morning tea and her photographing the children.

## *Alpha Marriage Course*

Now in its fifth year, 6 couples attended one course finishing in October 2011. Other courses were scheduled in Terms 2 & 3 of 2012 but there hasn’t been the interest so both courses were cancelled. A number of people have expressed interest in doing the course in 2013.

Thanks goes to Nicki and Richard Read for facilitating the course held during 2011. Also to the St John’s office staff for preparing the space every Monday - it made a significant difference to the ease of running the course.

*Anna Davis and Heather Walker*

## *8<sup>th</sup> Wellington Girls Brigade Company*

*“GB empowers girls with skills,  
Christian qualities and values to  
succeed in tomorrow’s world”*

*(Girls Brigade Mission Statement)*

Girls Brigade at St John’s has been reaching out to girls in the city for over 60 years.

Sadly, Adrienne Carley who was the Second Captain of the Company died in October 2011.

In 8th Wellington, the majority of girls do not attend church, so weekly devotions are important for both juniors and seniors. We appreciate our Chaplain, Stuart Simpson, coming in to share devotions with the girls during the year.

### *Juniors*

This lively section for girls aged 5-8 years has learnt many skills. One of these included Sarah Bayliss taking them for cooking, where they made biscuits. They invited their fathers to supper and served them their baking and a drink.

For their Activity they learnt a Fairy Dance which was performed at breakup, complete with fairy costumes and wands.

At Breakup, our Area Chaplain, Brenda Watkin, enrolled 2 new Juniors (Cally Cheng & Helen Yang) and we promoted 3 Juniors to Seniors.

The 2012 Year began with Juniors joining with Seniors in three fun nights - a treasure hunt around St John’s Buildings, Wearable Art, and designing a company banner depicting what they like about Girls Brigade.

The journey section of their star point was a ride on the train to Johnsonville. The Juniors then made their own train, complete with tracks and a tunnel, all out of cardboard.



Mikayla and Helen

In God’s Book, the Juniors learnt about Moses and his sister Miriam, Naaman and the servant girl, and Esther. The girls invited their mothers for a games evening to celebrate Mothers Day where each mother received a handmade card and was served supper. The Juniors enjoyed washing cars at St John’s Church yard.



Cally Cheng and Helen Yang were enrolled at breakup by Brenda Watkins, Area Chaplain

The Juniors have enjoyed having Sarah Bayliss and Rebecca Howan teaching them as part of their Queens Award Company Service.

## ***Seniors***

The Seniors' (9-12 years) Badge work has included the girls learning the skills of knitting, photography using a digital camera, and floral art - making paper flowers and painting flower designs on cards. One of our parents taught them how to play badminton.

The Seniors have studied *The Rights of The Child*. A few of the rights they learnt about included education, what families should provide, food, and housing. They also considered the conditions and rights of children in other countries.

Sarah Bayliss and Rebecca Howan were presented with their Red Chevrons as part of their Young Leaders training, which they did after the Queen's Award assessment weekend.

Avis Marshall and I attended the Queen's Award Dinner with the Bayliss and Howan families.

The girls received their certificates at Government House and their badges were presented at the dinner and pinned onto their uniforms by their mothers. It is the end of a 2 year commitment by these girls who are encouraged by their parents as well as leaders.

The Queen's Award ceremony at Government House, dinner and Church parade are combined with Boys Brigade, as the Governor General is Boys Brigade Patron and his wife is the Girls Brigade Patron. At the combined Church parade, Rebecca and Sarah were part of the music team leading worship.



Avis Marshall, Rebecca Howan, Sarah Bayliss and Katherine Sutherland at Queen's Award Dinner

Sarah and Rebecca, who are studying at university this year, still come to Company to share their leadership skills with the girls.

I would like to thank Dianne Little and Avis Marshall for their work with Juniors over the past year, and Pauline Little, Sarah Bayliss and Rebecca Howan for their work with Seniors.

For our committed team of leaders it has been a pleasure to see how girls have developed over past year.

## ***Katherine Sutherland***

Team Leader 8<sup>th</sup> Wellington Company

# Boys' Bridage

We have had a small group of young men in Boys' Brigade, which has been growing in recent weeks. Some of the highlights of the year have been film-making, minigolfing, and swimming. In October we went tramping to the top of Belmont Trig. It was a long trek but a great view from the top. We had a lot of fun going geocaching around town (think orienteering with GPS).



Juniors at the summit of Belmont Trig

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> term we designed and made our own board games, and are expecting a call from Hasbro any day now. The Juniors' game revolves around the successful completion of a museum heist and avoiding the pursuing police car, while the Seniors' game attempts to solve the mystery of "Who Killed Chris?" (Was it Captain Jack Sparrow, with the Sonic Screwdriver, in the Chamber of Secrets?)

In devotions we have been looking at parts of the Sermon on the Mount, and how we can pray to our heavenly father. The boys enjoyed discussing the themes of sacrifice around ANZAC Day.



Seniors testing the board game they developed

The year has been challenging in terms of leadership at Boys' Brigade. At the end of 2011, Bryan Penlington stepped down from leadership, and Tim Walbran stepped up at the start of 2012. My deepest thanks go to these two legends, who have given so much into the lives of the young men. They have made my job as Captain much easier with their creativity, commitment, and hard work.

It is with sadness that I will be stepping down as Captain at the end of the year, in order to pursue what else God is leading me towards. Boys' Brigade has been a huge part of my life since I was six years old, and has been instrumental in my growth as a Christian, and I give thanks to those leaders who have been part of it. The last two years as Captain have stretched and challenged me, yet I have enjoyed the time very much. Because of the continued scarcity of sustainable leadership, the Christian Education Committee has made the decision to close the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wellington Boys Brigade Company at the end of 2012.

**Matthew Bayliss,**  
Captain: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wgtn BB

## Crèche

The crèche continues to run smoothly, with the people on the roster getting to know each other and being able to find replacements for times they cannot do their duties. It is good to have Claire and Eve Davis on the roster - they love babies and babies love them, so it's a win/win situation.

My thanks to all the people, mostly mothers and sometimes grandmothers, who give their time and are prepared to miss the service to offer this service.

**Lesley Shaw**

# Home Groups

## ***Monday Night House Group***

The Monday night House Group continued its long tradition of meeting on Mondays, beginning with Chinese takeaways and proceeding to have a discussion together on a topic of interest. This year we seem to have expanded in numbers with some newer members. Sometimes we actually manage to stay more or less on the study topic; more often the leader has to do some corralling. But whatever we do we have a lot of fun and many laughs. Some of the topics for the year have been Judges, Reviving the Flame (the new moderator's study for the forthcoming General Assembly), Daniel, Ephesians and some Lenten studies. As always, we mixed these with some social events, notably our Christmas party at Mary Gibbs' house, and our BBQ at Bruce and Elizabeth McKenzie's place.

***Margaret Galt***

## ***Tuesday Night Home Group***

The Tuesday Night Home Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from February to November at various homes around the city.

Most of the second half of last year was spent exploring the 'Parable of the Prodigal Son' before taking part in Chris Marshall's lecture series on 'Jesus and the Gospels'. We finished one year with a suitably spicy meal at Planet Spice, and started another with our traditional barbeque. We then joined with our wider St John's family in the 'Giving It Up' Lenten study series, which concluded with a wonderful Passover service and potluck dinner. Throughout the year, we have also watched a number of programmes from the locally-produced 'My God' series presented by Chris Nichol, as well as simply spending time sharing and reflecting on events in our own lives and in the wider community. We have just finished our latest study – on the Seven Deadly Sins! – in time to take part in Chris's next lecture series on 'Who is Paul?', and will resume our regular meetings on 23 October 2012.



There is an open invitation for you to attend at any time, and a warm welcome awaits you. It can be for just a single evening, for a specific study series, or for as long as you like. Each person is an important part of the group, and offers a unique and valued perspective on the journey of faith we share together. The most important thing is that the group encourages and supports you in this journey. Prayer also underpins the life of the group, and every time we meet we spend time in prayer and reflection.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Paul or Louise Ramsay on 386- 2755 (home), 494 3716 (work) or by email at paul@clear.net.nz.

Kind regards

***Paul***

## ***The Other Tuesday Night Bible Study***

Over the year this bible study group has met at Phil and Angela Garrity's home in Lower Hutt. Although we are a small group we have continued to meet every Tuesday from 7:30-9pm. The year has seen us study the book by Phillip Yancey: 'What's so amazing about Grace'. We have looked at 1 John and also explored topical issues drawn from some of the reading from William Cavanaugh. A big thank you to Phil, Angela and Abby for opening their home for the study and for Joy Pierce's company as we travelled out to Lower Hutt every Tuesday. Due to circumstances, the home group has decided to adjourn for the time being with the intention of starting again later in the year. If anyone is interested in joining a homegroup and lives in Lower Hutt or the surrounding areas then please let Angela or Phil know.

God bless

***Stuart Simpson***

## ***White-castle Home Group***

Since the last annual report, White-castle home-group has experienced a lot of changes. One of the big changes was Matt Potts, a co-facilitator of the group, being accepted to work in Vanuatu for 10 months as a part of the VSA programme. Matt has been sorely missed as he provided some great wisdom and challenging thoughts.

Needing to replace that wisdom, Ted Cizadlo joined the group at the beginning of this year to act as a co-facilitator. He has been a much welcomed addition, providing some great insights.

We have taken turns at facilitating home-group discussion, covering topics such as ethics, prayer, and the Sermon on the Mount. We have also watched a couple of films and come last at a quiz night in town.

This year our group has expanded significantly, though on most nights we have about 10 people. Many newcomers to the evening service have joined and there is a lot of diversity in who comes along with people having different backgrounds, different careers, and different interests. We have a dancer, a couple of IT workers, university students, a

physiotherapist, an English language student, and an electrician. We have found that this diversity brings a great richness to the group, providing different ideas and new ways of looking at things.

White-castle home-group is always looking for members; the more diversity the better. If this sounds like a home-group that you'd be keen to link in with, then please contact me on 027 3110 800 or email [petra.malcolm@gmail.com](mailto:petra.malcolm@gmail.com).

## ***English as a Second Language Bible Study Group***

The English as a Second Language Bible study group (ESL) is going very well although we have gone through a number of changes over the last couple of months. For a short period we changed from meeting fortnightly to monthly, where the monthly meetings were to be longer, thus allowing different types of studies to take place. However, it was decided by the group that the meeting monthly routine wasn't working as well as was hoped. Although the studies are longer, the community feel was lost. Therefore it was decided that the ESL study group will meet every fortnight from 6-7:30pm, where one fortnight will be a social gathering and the following fortnight meeting will be a Bible study.

Over the year we have had a number of studies covering an array of topics, including, angels, anger, and cultural influences to Christian faith. Infused with this study have been wonderful food, warm

fellowship and a willingness to learn from Scripture and from each other. We have around nine people who attend the group from different parts of the world. Some have been coming for quite a while while others have attended only over the last few months. As much as they say they learn from Scripture and from my teaching, I have learnt as much, if not more, from them. Being part of this group constantly reminds me that no matter where we come from, and no matter our cultural heritage, when we follow Christ we are brothers and sisters. The ESL group is a wonderful part of St John's and I feel blessed to be involved in it.

If you know of anyone who speaks English as a second language and would like to meet with some others for whom this is also the case, please let them know about the ESL group or contact me.

Yours in Christ  
***Stuart Simpson***

# St John's Badminton and Table Tennis Club

This club is one of St John's successful activities, and meets on the first and third Sundays of each month in the afternoon during the winter sports season.

There is no fixed membership - people come along when they are free. Altogether, at least twenty people have attended. The most at any one time has been 26, with eight different nationalities. It is a good mix with some being students from China with no St John's connection.

The photograph was taken after the end of season competition. The afternoon tea was provided by Indri Joeng.



**Kai Joeng** (Captain)

**Harriet Johnston** (Secretary)

## Prayer Chain

In 2012 and since its inception, the Prayer Chain has tried to fulfill Jesus' command, to love one another, by walking with one another in prayer. To intercede for others is a privilege; to be prayed for is a comfort. Both reveal the body of Christ at work.

For many of us this has not been an easy task. Oswald Chambers (Scottish Preacher) once said that "*We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties.*" Yet some of the folk that prayer has been requested for have had great difficulties. We have been extremely saddened by so many brave children that are in need of healing.

There is also great joy in our group when we hear of God's intervention in people's lives. We have been thankful for those who have arrived home safely after overseas journeys and we continue to pray for those of our congregation in hospitals and retirement homes. Our prayers go out to people all around the world. Let us know how we can pray for you.

Last year the Prayer Chain consisted of 26 members; today there are 35 members of our church family who have committed themselves to praying in a confidential manner for others. If you believe in the power of prayer please join us. (decision@clear.net.nz).

*I appeal to you, brothers  
(and sisters), by our Lord  
Jesus Christ and by the  
love of the Spirit, to strive  
together with me in your  
prayers to God ...*

*Romans 15:30*

*Therefore, confess your sins  
to one another and pray for  
one another, that you may  
be healed.*

*James 5:16*

Thank you to the volunteers in the Prayer Chain for your dedication and steadfastness.

**Gail Higgs-West**  
Convenor

# St John's Women's Association

It is with great pleasure that I write this 124th Annual Report of the St John's Women's Association.

We continue, I believe, in good heart and achieve a significant influence within the local church community, as well as the national and international communities. Change is always with us.

The latest changes come from the National Gathering held in Christchurch in April, which I attended as a St John's delegate. The theme was 'Growing into the Future'. We are now to be called Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand. One of the reasons for a name change was to emphasise that all Presbyterian Women belong, not just those who attend Women's Association's meetings. We also have a new National Convenor, Jan Harland, from Dunedin.

On-going change will involve discussion with younger church women as to what form and structure they perceive will meet their needs in the future. They will be encouraged into deeper mission and ministry within the Church, as well as globally.

We continue to meet monthly from February to November, with a committee planning meeting in January. Our devotions this year are continuing with the theme of 'Women from the Bible'. These women were very interesting and diverse and are still good role models in today's modern world.

Our meetings are a mixture of special outings, invited guest speakers on a variety of topics and of course the special Easter and Christmas services. Everyone will have their own special speaker they remember the most. For me, it was given by Kate McGrath, Director of the MacDiarmid Institute, on 'How do we grow bones?'

## Activities

We are involved with other groups, both within the Church (eg Coffee & Chat, still organised by Betty Robertson), and locally. Carolyn Goudswaard and I continue to represent the Wellington Regional Presbyterian on the Wellington Branch of the National Council of Women.

Our group also attends the local regional APW gatherings of the Greater Wellington Area. These are often combined with the Hutt Valley regional meetings. The meetings are always an interesting mix of fellowship and friendship.

## Mission Report – Elizabeth McKenzie

St John's Women's Association continues to take an interest in Mission work both in NZ and overseas.

The Global Mission articles in SPANZ keep us informed of areas of particular interest as do the reports of the Outreach Committee.

This year Presbyterian Women/MWF special project supported Palestinian Women (Palestinian Maternal Mortality). Seventy per cent of the money raised goes to them through Christian World Service. Thirty per cent will be used in NZ by 'Kids Friendly' for the benefit of children's leaders in Presbyterian and Methodist churches and cooperating ventures.

The Women's Association especially thank all those who supported our retiring collection so generously enabling us to send \$626.00 towards the project.

## Stamps – Grace Jarvie

In the past, stamp collection, cleaning and selling has been a very good source of income for the APW wider mission work. In today's world, with a declining use of the postal services combined with a very minimal return for the work involved and the difficulties with finding a dealer, discussion on the future of this activity needed to be undertaken.

At the Annual General meeting in June it was agreed that St John's Women's Association would no longer collect and sell stamps. Other forms of fund raising would be initiated.

## Birthday Mission – Kathryn Sutherland

This is another way of raising money for APW global mission work. St John's has currently 57 members who instead of receiving a gift have agreed to donate money on their birthday to this vital mission work.

Last year \$982 was raised from our current members. Unfortunately our numbers are dwindling and we would love to have more members.



## ***Sales Table – Avis Marshall***

Money from the sales table partly contributes to Turakina Maori Girls School Scholarships. Money received is down this year, partly due to the small size of our group.

## ***Leprosy Mission Money Boxes***

*– Judi Ferguson*

Ten households have moneyboxes for their loose change. Collected twice a year the total for this year was almost \$400. Our loose change can make big changes in the lives of people afflicted with this disease.

I also believe we continue to uphold the aims of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand:

- To unite all in prayer, study, fellowship, and service, to enable them to make a Christian witness in home, church and community.
- To support at home and abroad the work of the parent churches.
- To encourage an informed interest in worldwide mission and evangelism.

Many thanks go to all who are involved in our meetings. Without you we would not continue to function and maintain our small contribution to the community of St John's and beyond.

***Mary Gibbs***

President

# ***Property Committee***

Along with the month by month tasks which come up when looking after built property, there have been a number of large items of work this year.

As I write, we are close to a start on the refurbishment of the lower level of Spinks Cottage. We think it is high time we followed through with this to bring this part of the building complex up to a standard that is sustainable and conducive to the use of the space.....helping young people to grow in knowledge of the Lord. A complete tidy-up, including new carpet, plastering and painting, installation of suitable heating and lighting, new furniture and upgrade of the kitchen will make a fresh start.

Another decent piece of work which is well under way is the Detailed Seismic Assessment of the church building. Our 1885 timber church, built mostly of kauri, was given a low rating by its initial assessment. This is because of the age of the building and several features, such as the bell tower/spire and the mezzanine, will probably need improved connection to the main building. We expect a detailed assessment report around mid-September which will give us a concept plan for strengthening work which may be required. We can expect that work to occur in the financial year beginning July 2013.

The St John's Centre was "child-proofed" by simple means of a high-mounted door handle and screens will be added to selected low-level windows to deal with the alternative means of escape, while allowing adequate ventilation during St J's Kids and Music and Movement in summer months.

Walkways were recently built in the ceiling space of the church to make light bulb changing safer. Over the years, this has been accomplished by walking on the top of the ceiling joists.....a somewhat risky manoeuvre.

Next year will see an exterior re-paint of the church, Spinks Cottage and parts of the St John's Centre. All of these are showing some signs of paint break-down as they approach their 10-year anniversary.

Being a property committee type has been interesting this year, providing opportunity to climb inside the spire to inspect the framing as part of the Seismic Assessment and crawl under the church floor to inspect framing for placement of the baptismal bath. Both enjoyable activities for those of the property persuasion. We're fortunate to have a number of those – thanks to the committee and our excellent staff.

***David Wood***

Convenor

# St John's Communications Committee

This report reflects on what has been happening and what is still to come during the year for St John's in the City from a communications perspective.

It has been a transition year for the Committee in many ways, with myself, Dane Nowitz and Paul Ramsay being new to the Committee. We also draw on the expertise of stalwarts Ross Davis, David Galt and Jessie Boston. With the team of people on the Communications Committee, we now have a representation of the different age ranges within our Church community, and lots of different perspectives to guide us.

One of our first tasks was understand exactly what the Communications Committee is all about, and to clarify what we are here to do. While the Church signs on Willis Street have a high visibility, and offer a good opportunity to challenge people's views, we believe the Communications Committee has a wider and important role to play. We're still working on some of the finer details, but at a higher level, our job is to support the Ministers and various groups within St John's in their endeavours relating to communication, and ensuring a common and consistent approach in accordance with the Church mission & goals.

Some of the ways we have done this so far include:

- Designing signs for the corner of Willis & Dixon Sts advertising various events (such as the Chris Marshall lecture series and the St John's Public Forums organised by the Outreach Committee), as well as more general signs
- Developing our Facebook presence so that we maintain an online presence in this increasingly social media-savvy world
- Producing a planner that can be used by all the Church to outline when various activities are happening - so that everyone can see easily what is going on in our busy church
- Supporting and guiding those who keep the website updated
- Working on a strategy for Communications across the Church and to communicate to others about the Church
- Designing & assisting in the production of the Annual Report

The Committee also took part in the Session Planning Day which was an extremely interesting, packed and thought-provoking day. Once the three main themes



(growing faith, encouraging participation and building community) have been developed further by Session, we look forward to helping communicate these to the congregation and beyond.

For the rest of the year and into 2013, the Committee will be focusing on making things happen. The website will be getting an overhaul, our Facebook page will be developed further, and signs that



hopefully make people think about God's message to us (while still amusing or challenging us) will be designed. We are working on communicating God's love for us all – no small task, but a very rewarding one in the end!

As Proverbs 12:18 says "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." We continually strive with God's help to be wise with our words, individually and as a Church, and we look forward to help spreading the Gospel using the many different forms of communication available to us today.



If anyone wants to help us in this endeavour, we always welcome new members to the Committee! Or if you have a suggestion for a sign or something we could be doing, please contact any of the Committee members or the Ministers.

**Elizabeth Gibbs**

Convenor, Communications Committee



Call **0900 33 200** to make a **\$20** donation to the Red Cross Canterbury Earthquake Appeal

## Website

The website at [www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz](http://www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz) continues to be a well-used resource, both by St John's members and those further afield in Wellington, New Zealand and beyond. There is a wealth of information available, from our weekly bulletin to Sunday School resources, historical documents and information on the conference centre and using the facilities.

Naomi Lane has been doing a great job adding the weekly bulletin, with David Galt updating other parts of the site (including the sermons). A big thank you goes to you both for your dedication and hard work. We can always use more volunteers to help these two, so if you have a spare hour or so a week, we would love to hear from you!

The statistics listed below show just how important the website is as a medium for providing information.

For the year ending June 2012:

- There were over 27,000 visitors, an increase of 13% from the year before
- 77,689 pages were viewed, with 10 gigabytes of data downloaded
- Over 33% of people viewing the site are based in New Zealand

The most popular pages include the Sunday School resources, our youth section, Church Diary, information on marriages at St John's, a play called Doubting Thomas, the sermons and information on the Church complex.

As mentioned previously, one of main projects for the upcoming year is to overhaul the website. We will update the look and feel of the site, overhaul the navigation so people can find information quickly and add more interactive elements to the site (including a link to and from our Facebook page). If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see on the website, or can provide some web IT/design skills (or know of someone who can), then please contact David Galt, or anyone on the Communications Committee.

## Register for the Year Ending 30 June 2012

Number of Baptisms:	6
Number of Marriages:	2
Members joined during the year:	9



The deaths are recorded of the following members:

Richard Carl Little

Adrienne Rae Carly

Alexina Lynn Pollock

Wendy Dorothea Gould

# Finance Committee Report

The financial results for the year ended 30 June, 2012 are significantly better than we budgeted. There are several reasons for this.

- Congregational giving achieved budget with the help of two very large donations amounting to \$10,000;
- Our Committee Convenors and the Church office staff were diligent in managing expenditure with Church activities and property costs slightly less than the previous year; and
- Inflation was much lower than expected at 1% which meant that more Trust Fund income was available to meet expenses.

Overall for 2012, St John's achieved a surplus, after inflation protecting the trust fund, of \$72,000. (This is set out in the Plain English Summary of Financial Performance.)

St John's activities continued at a high level with Christian Education and Outreach activities of particular note. Included in Outreach was our first instalment of our five year contribution to rebuilding the community facilities at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waitara. This is one of General Assembly's Press Go initiatives to which St John's Session agreed to contribute \$300,000 over five years. Overall, Knox has raised over \$2m and building is underway.

An area of concern for the Finance Committee and the Investment Advisory Committee is the adverse impact of the current economic conditions on the Trust Fund. The Fund has been well protected throughout the global financial crisis due to the long term fixed interest investments that have been yielding higher than average interest rates of between 6% and almost 10%. However, these investments are now maturing – three during 2012 and another five maturing in 2013.

Unfortunately, there have been few suitable A-rated replacement investments available over the last two years at rates and periods that are more attractive than the Presbyterian Investment Fund which now comprises a significant proportion of the Trust Fund. The Investment Advisory Committee is monitoring this situation closely, but little change to market conditions is predicted over the next 12 to 24 months.

The impact of declining interest rates from 2011 to 2012 was a reduction of income of \$100,000. The impact in 2013 will be a further reduction of income of \$200,000. A reduction of \$300,000 over two years will not be sustainable without reducing our activities or compensating with other sources of income.

If we wish to maintain our strength as a large, active worship community with high levels of Christian Education and Outreach, we will need to significantly increase our congregational giving and fundraising over the next three years. This will be a challenging period for us all.

**Ross Chesney**  
Treasurer

# *Investment Advisory Committee*

About 60% of the St John's Parish income comes from the Capital Trust Fund. The fund was established in 1987 and at its inception the St John's congregation made a prudent and visionary decision that the capital value of the Fund would be increased in line with the change in the consumer price index thus preserving in perpetuity the true earning capacity of the Fund. As a result the Fund has grown from \$7,038,000 in 1987 to \$13,738,501 at the end of the current financial year. Full details of the Trust Fund financial results can be found in the Parish Accounts.

The Fund is substantially invested in secure fixed interest bonds. Although the yield on bonds is at a historically low level, the Trust Fund maintained its financial position in the current year mainly because lower inflation reduced the amount of income required to inflation index the Fund. The income available from the Fund will be reduced in the 2012/2013 financial year as the remaining high interest bonds mature. Any increase in inflation will also have an adverse impact on the cash surplus available for parish use.

With the interest rates on fixed interest investments so low, growth assets such as shares become more attractive but the increased volatility associated with this category of investment limits the

amount of exposure that can be prudently made. Investment in growth assets can only be made when there are sufficient reserves to cover any adverse movements in capital values. Any reduction in reserves will not only reduce the income earned by the Fund but will also require a reduction in growth asset holdings.

During the year the administration and reporting of the Fund was transferred to Grosvenor Financial Services who also manage the Presbyterian Investment Fund for the PCANZ. We have been very satisfied with the quality, timeliness and cost of their service.

The Trust Fund has come through the financial turmoil of the last few years unscathed. Nevertheless the earning rate of the Fund is at an historically low level and it is not possible to improve the earnings without an unacceptable increase in risk. Distributions from the Fund are likely to reduce in the medium term and this will inevitably have an impact on some of St John's activities. Now is the time is to consider our personal contributions and also carefully manage future expenditure.

***Peter Isherwood***

Chair, Investment Advisory Committee.

# Plain English Financial Summary

St John's in the City Plain English Summary of Financial Performance for the Year end 30 June 2012

	2012 \$000's	2011 \$000's	
<b><i>St John's received income from the following areas:</i></b>			
Weekly congregational giving by direct credits, envelope system and weekly collection	145	130	Congregational giving continuing to slowly increase over previous years
Other donations and fundraising	25	33	
Legacies received	3	10	Focus on Victoria University Lectureship and Arthur and Julia
Interest on legacy and reserve balances	56	37	
Rents received from leasing space in Troup House and the conference facilities	212	219	
Net interest income from St John's funds and the cash received from the air space sold above St John's in the late 1980s (the "Capital Trust"), less the adjustment for inflation to protect the Capital Trust for future years	734	385	Reflects very low inflation of 1% to inflation protect the Trust Fund
<b>Total Income available for General Use at St John's</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>814</b>	
<b><i>St John's incurred expenditure in the following areas:</i></b>			
<b><i>Church Activities</i></b>			
Salaries paid to the Ministers and support staff	356	364	Increased outreach through Press Go initiative to support new building at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waitara
Contribution to Christian education	144	150	
Other costs	87	112	
	<b>587</b>	<b>624</b>	
<b><i>Property Costs</i></b>			
Expenditure on maintaining the Church, manse, conference facilities & Troup House including rates, insurances, and repairs	170	179	Increased outreach through Press Go initiative to support new building at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waitara
Depreciation to recognise previous capital expenditure	76	69	
	<b>246</b>	<b>248</b>	
<b><i>Wider Work</i></b>			
Contribution to the operations of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand	91	85	Increased outreach through Press Go initiative to support new building at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waitara
St John's financial support for the Victoria University Lectureship	35	35	
St John's financial support for the BGI	30	30	
Other outreach including community groups, DCM, Presbyterian Support Central and overseas mission	114	66	
	<b>270</b>	<b>216</b>	
<b>Total expenditure to deliver programmes and outreach</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>1,088</b>	
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) before transferring legacies and planned property maintenance to reserves</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>(274)</b>	
<b><i>Other resources were used as follows:</i></b>			
Funds transferred to legacies	(30)	(28)	
Funds transferred to Planned Maintenance Reserve	(60)	(30)	
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>(332)</b>	

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**To the Congregation of St John's in the City**  
**(St John's Presbyterian Church)**

**Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the financial statements of St John's in the City on pages 1 to 8, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2012, and the statement of movements in equity, and statement of financial performance for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

This report is made solely to the congregation, as a body. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the congregation those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the congregation, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Council Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and for such internal control as the council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, as well as evaluating the presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion on financial position and financial performance.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, of St John's in the City.

**Basis for Qualified Opinion on Financial Position and Financial Performance**

As stated in the Statement of Accounting policies on page 4 of the financial statements, the Church has not provided for depreciation on the Church, Spinks Cottage and the Manse, all of which are heritage assets. This is a departure from Financial Reporting Standard No. 3 - *Accounting for Property, Plant and Equipment*, which requires that depreciation is charged on assets including heritage assets, against the Net Surplus so as to allocate the cost of the Church, Spinks Cottage and the Manse over their economic lives.

Had the Church adopted this policy, depreciation for the year ended 30 June 2012 would have increased. The effect of this on the financial statements would have been to decrease the Net Surplus for the year the Unallocated Reserves by the same amount. The carrying value of the fixed asset category, Buildings and Improvements would have decreased by the amount of the accumulated depreciation as at balance date for the Church, Spinks Cottage and the Manse assets.

**Qualified Opinion on Financial Position and Financial Performance**

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph above, the financial statements on pages 1 to 8:

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand;
- present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of St John's in the City as at 30 June 2012, and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

*BDO Wellington*

BDO Wellington  
19 September 2012  
Wellington  
New Zealand

# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for the year ended 30 June 2012

	Note	\$	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>INCOME</b>				
Congregational Giving		145,069		129,805
Donations, Fundraising and Miscellaneous Receipts		24,901		25,348
Legacies Received		2,500		10,424
Property Rentals		211,985		218,940
Interest on Legacies and Reserves		55,753		36,893
<b>Total Church Operating Income</b>			440,208	421,410
Capital Trust Interest and Dividends		927,497		1,019,637
Capital Trust Unrealised Loss on Shares and Units		(21,301)		-
Capital Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Investments		-		(194,377)
<b>Total Income from the Capital Trust</b>			906,196	825,260
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>1,346,404</b>	<b>1,246,670</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Church Activities</b>				
Staff Costs		355,562		362,442
Christian Education		143,784		152,584
Worship and Music		14,491		12,350
Congregational Activities		2,913		5,302
Communications		3,861		12,581
Session Costs		5,150		3,883
General Expenses		29,910		31,205
Audit Fees		10,345		9,370
Accounting Fees		7,160		7,318
Legal Fees		871		740
Consultancy Fees – Earthquake Assessment of Church Building		12,766		-
Capital Trust Administration and Brokerage Fees		34,236		28,392
<b>Total Church Activities</b>			621,049	626,167
<b>Property Costs</b>				
Church Running Costs and Repairs		127,884		147,076
Church Improvements and New Equipment		1,948		4,976
Manages Rates, Insurance and Repairs		5,773		3,848
Troup House Running Costs and Repairs		34,371		19,603
Depreciation		75,790		69,265
Loss on Sale of Assets		-		2,911
<b>Total Property Costs</b>			245,766	247,679
<b>Wider Work</b>				
Presbyterian Church Assembly Assessment		91,025		85,226
Outreach Committee Distributions	2	101,570		57,284
Other Donations		1,994		65
Contribution to the BGI		30,000		30,000
VUW Lectureship		45,445		35,000
<b>Total Wider Work Expenses</b>			270,034	207,575
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>1,136,849</b>	<b>1,081,422</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>209,555</b>	<b>165,251</b>
Less: Transfers to Inflation Protect the Capital Trust	5		(137,622)	(439,646)
Less: Interest and Bequests Transferred to Legacies	5		(40,296)	(46,646)
Less: Transfers to Planned Maintenance Reserve	6		(60,000)	(30,000)
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO UNALLOCATED RESERVES</b>			<b>(28,363)</b>	<b>(351,041)</b>
Plus: Donations Transferred from Legacies	5		10,449	18,150
<b>TOTAL MOVEMENT IN UNALLOCATED RESERVES</b>			<b>(17,914)</b>	<b>(332,890)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements.

# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY for the year ended 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
Net Surplus for the Year		209,555	165,251
Investments Revaluation Reserve	5	(143,266)	340,391
<b>Total Recognised Revenues and Expenses for the Year</b>		<b>66,288</b>	<b>505,642</b>
Total Equity at beginning of year		24,022,463	23,516,821
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF YEAR</b>		<b>24,088,751</b>	<b>24,022,463</b>


The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements.

# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2012

	Note	\$	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash at Bank		6,975		32,493
Accounts Receivable		41,045		48,912
Interest Receivable		77,574		99,769
Capital Trust and Other Investments	3	<u>12,492,873</u>		<u>7,417,666</u>
Total Current Assets			12,618,467	7,598,840
<b>Non Current Assets</b>				
Capital Trust Investments	3	3,724,397		8,592,412
Fixed Assets	4	<u>7,876,607</u>		<u>7,940,970</u>
Total Non Current Assets			11,601,004	16,533,382
<b>Total Assets</b>			<u>24,219,471</u>	<u>24,132,222</u>
<b>less Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable		<u>130,720</u>		<u>109,759</u>
Total Current Liabilities			130,720	109,759
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>24,088,751</u>	<u>24,022,463</u>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>	5		<u>24,088,751</u>	<u>24,022,463</u>

  
.....  
Treasurer

  
.....  
Council Chairperson

19 September 2012

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements.

# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2012

### Note 1 - Statement of Accounting Policies

#### General Accounting Policies

##### **Reporting Entity**

The financial statements presented here are for the reporting entity St John's in the City (St John's Presbyterian Church), Wellington.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

##### **Differential Reporting**

An entity is exempt from certain requirements of financial reporting standards if it satisfies the criteria laid down in the Differential Reporting Framework issued by the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants. Such an entity is called a qualifying entity.

St John's in the City is a qualifying entity by virtue of the fact that it has no public accountability and is not large as defined in the framework. The Church has taken advantage of all available exemptions.

##### **Measurement Base**

The measurement base adopted is historic cost unless otherwise stated.

##### **Basis of Preparation**

##### **Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards**

In December 2002 the New Zealand Government announced that New Zealand International Financial Reporting Standards ("NZ IFRS") will apply to all New Zealand reporting entities for the periods commencing on and after 1 January 2007. In September 2007 the Accounting Standards Review Board announced that small to medium-sized businesses which satisfy certain criteria would not be required to apply the NZ IFRS until further notice. St John's in the City satisfies these criteria.

All the financial information in these financial statements has been prepared in accordance with current New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, (NZ GAAP).

#### Specific Accounting Policies

##### **Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable are stated at expected realisable value.

##### **Capital Trust Investments**

The discount or premium on the purchase of investment bonds is amortised, on a straight line basis, over the term of the investment so that, at maturity, the book value of the investment equals its face value. Interest income is recognised in the statement of financial performance using the effective interest rate method.

Dividend income is recognised in the statement of financial performance when the right to receive income is established. For public traded securities this is the ex-dividend date.

Equity investments are held at market value and have been valued at market value at balance date. Revaluation increments are recognised directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except where the increment reverses a previously recognised decrement. In such cases the increments are recognised as revenue in the statement of financial performance. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance except where the decrement reverses a revaluation increment held in the asset revaluation reserve.

Unrealised gains in the value of investments of \$0 are included in the assets (2011 - \$143,267 unrealised gain). An unrealised loss of \$21,301 (2011: Nil) in the value of investments was recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

##### **Fixed Assets**

At 30 June 2001, previously uncapitalised Church Land and Buildings were included in the Financial Statements based on their Registered Valuations prepared by Telfer Young as at 30 June 2001.

The Registered Valuations of these specialised properties have been accounted for according to Historical Cost principles on the basis of these valuations, in accordance with FRS-3: Accounting for Property, Plant and Equipment. These Assets, with the exception of the Church and Spinks Cottage will be depreciated.

All other Fixed Assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2012 (continued)

### Depreciation

With the exception of the Church and Spinks Cottage, depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write off the cost of the fixed assets over their expected economic lives. The estimated economic lives are as follows:

Musical Equipment	15 years
Office Equipment	3-5 years
Furniture and Fittings	5 years
Church Equipment	5 years
Commercial Buildings	50 years
Building Improvements	3-10 years
Website	3 years

### Legacies

Legacies and Bequests are included within the Reserves of the Church. New Legacies, and income and expenditure specifically relating to legacies are recorded in the Statement of Financial Performance. The net surplus or deficit for the legacies in the period is transferred from unallocated reserves to the legacies.

### Edward Carter Funds

Income from the Edward Carter Special Assistance Fund is allocated to special projects. Any unspent income is carried forward to the next year and is available to meet future special projects.

### Goods and Services Tax

The financial statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis except for Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable which are disclosed GST inclusive in the Statement of Financial Position.

### Taxation

St John's in the City is exempt from Income Tax and Resident Withholding Tax by virtue of its status as a charitable organisation under Section CB 4(1)(c) and Section CB 4(1)(e) of the Income Tax Act 2007.

### Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policy. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in previous years.

### Note 2 – Outreach Distributions

Outreach distributions comprise:		<b>2012</b>
Special Mission – Arthur & Julia		
- Fundraising & donations	\$7,640	
- Underwritten by Outreach Committee	<u>\$1,360</u>	
		\$9,000
Myanmar Mission		
- Fundraising & donations	(\$5,045)	
- Project Costs	<u>\$3,970</u>	
Funds carried forward to 2012/13		(\$1,075)
PCANZ Global Missions		\$5,500
Downtown Community Ministry		\$14,424
Presbyterian Support Central		\$5,224
Mount Cook School		\$4,000
Berhampore Junior School		\$1,500
Open Home Foundation		\$1,000
Wellington Women's Health		\$1,500
Knox Waitara Church		\$60,000
King James Bible Lectureship Event		<u>\$497</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>\$101,570</u></b>

# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2012 (continued)

### Note 3 - Investments

	Maturity Date	Yield	Maturity Value \$	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>On Call</b>					
Presbyterian Investment Fund				7,745,418	5,662,439
<b>Stocks</b>					
Westpac Bond	December 2011	7.23%	500,000	-	499,831
Bank of America Bond	March 2012	8.73%	500,000	-	505,396
Rabobank Bond	May 2012	7.68%	750,000	-	750,000
Powerco Corporate Bond	September 2012	9.84%	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Morgan Stanley Bonds	September 2012	6.22%	750,000	747,168	731,925
ASB Bank Bond	November 2012	8.73%	1,000,000	1,000,287	1,001,043
Telecom Corporate Bond	March 2013	6.92%	500,000	500,000	500,000
ANZ Senior Bond	April 2013	9.66%	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Westpac Bond	November 2013	6.43%	1,000,000	1,007,461	1,012,753
Transpower Indexed Bond	May 2020	3.75%	989,200	1,047,406	1,043,903
		(+inflation)			
<b>Shares and Units</b>	<b>No of Units</b>		<b>Cost</b>		
ASX 200 Fund	16,602		860,787	812,632	926,890
Tyndall SRI Equity Fund	972,753		859,703	856,898	875,898
				<b>16,217,270</b>	<b>16,010,078</b>

The balance of the Presbyterian Investment Fund includes legacies (refer to Note 5) and the residual balance from the sale and purchase of manses.

### Note 4 - Fixed Assets

	2012 Cost \$	2012 Current Year Depreciation \$	2012 Accumulated Depreciation \$	2012 Net Book Value \$	2011 Net Book Value \$
Furniture & Fittings	57,810	2,755	52,863	4,947	6,302
Musical Equipment	80,526	3,063	48,269	30,203	33,266
Hall Equipment	84,429	6,813	70,260	12,731	13,447
Church Equipment	2,797	-	2,797	-	-
Office Equipment	171,215	6,514	154,394	14,554	17,137
Building & Improvements	5,379,815	56,645	515,643	4,864,172	4,920,818
Land	2,950,000	-	-	2,950,000	2,950,000
	<b>8,726,592</b>	<b>75,790</b>	<b>844,226</b>	<b>7,876,607</b>	<b>7,940,970</b>

### Note 5 - Capital and Reserves

	Balance 2011 \$	Net Movements for the year \$	Balance 2012 \$
Capital Trust	13,762,243	137,622	13,899,865
Legacies	652,410	29,847	682,257
Unallocated Reserves	1,698,619	(17,914)	1,680,704
Planned Maintenance Reserve	374,983	60,000	434,983
Property Brought to Account	7,370,845	-	7,370,845
Investments Revaluation Reserve	143,266	(143,266)	-
Staff Training Reserve	20,097	-	20,097
<b>Total Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>24,022,463</b>	<b>66,288</b>	<b>24,088,751</b>

# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2012 (continued)

### Note 5 - Capital and Reserves (continued)

The movement in the Capital Trust of \$137,622 represents the amount of Capital Trust income required to be reinvested to preserve the real value of the Capital Trust against inflation in accordance with the Rules to Govern the Capital Trust Fund. Inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index for the year ended 30 June 2012, was 1.0% (2011 – 3.3%).

The movement in the Investment Revaluation Reserve of \$143,266 is represented by the decreases in unrealised capital gains from the investments in units in the Tyndall SRI Equity Fund of \$50,311 and the ASX 200 Index Fund of \$114,257. Revaluation decrements recognised in the statement of financial performance totalled 21,301.

Legacies are represented by the following bequests.

	Balance 2011	Interest income for the year	Movements for the year	Balance 2012
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Tied Legacies for Sunday School prizes/funds	3,972	230	-	4,202
A W Reed Memorial (Kelburn) for Ministers books	1,852	107	-	1,959
Endowment Fund	30,813	1,785	-	32,598
E Carter Trust	206,724	11,976	-	218,700
A Gordon Estate	9,244	536	-	9,780
D Chappell Estate	9,244	536	-	9,780
Joan Andrews Estate – Specific or Special Item for St John's	119,970	6,950	-	126,920
Joan Andrews Estate – Andrews Family Memorial Trust	124,115	7,190	(6,478)	124,827
Noel Woods Estate	93,355	5,408	(3,971)	94,792
Alford Dorman Estate	1,541	89	-	1,630
J E Hetrick Estate	4,094	237	-	4,331
J C White Estate	6,087	353	-	6,440
N Owen John Estate	30,975	1,794	-	32,769
W S Barrett Estate	10,000	579	-	10,579
Scott Trust	424	26	-	450
Lynn Pollock Estate	-	-	2,500	2,500
	<b>652,410</b>	<b>37,796</b>	<b>(7,949)</b>	<b>682,257</b>

The interest distributions made from the Joan Andrews Estate and the Noel Woods Estate were as follows:

- Presbyterian Support Central	\$5,225
- Downtown Community Ministry	<u>\$5,224</u>
	<u>\$10,449</u>

### Note 6 – Movement in Planned Maintenance Reserve

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Balance of Planned Maintenance Reserve	434,983	374,983
	<b>434,983</b>	<b>374,983</b>

The transfer to the Planned Maintenance Reserve has been increased to \$60,000 (\$30,000 in 2011) to provide for the planned refurbishment of Spinks Cottage (downstairs rooms).

### Note 7 - Statement of Resources

The Church is the beneficial owner of a number of properties that are legally held by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand (PCANZ). The reinstatement value for insurance purposes of the Church, St John's Centre, Spinks Cottage and Troup House are based on valuations prepared by Appraisal Property Consultancy Limited, as follows:

Property	2012 \$	2011 \$
Church, St John's Centre & Spinks Cottage (reinstatement value for insurance as at 1 June 2011)	12,244,700	12,244,700
Troup House (reinstatement value for insurance as at 1 June 2011)	3,504,500	3,504,500

## ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2012 (continued)

#### Note 8 - Related Party Disclosure

St John's in the City's premises and rental properties are registered under the name of the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees, although St John's in the City is the guardian.

St John's in the City has Capital Trust Funds and bank deposits that are managed by, and registered under the name of PCANZ, although St John's in the City is the beneficial owner. Day to day investment management, reporting and custodial services are provided by Grosvenor Financial Services in a similar manner to the services Grosvenor provide the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees.

#### Note 9 - Commitments

St John's in the City has entered into a three year commitment with Victoria University to fund a Christian Theology lectureship. The current commitment which was renewed in January 2011 will expire on December 2013.

At balance date, the commitments amount to:

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
- Current	35,000	45,000
- Non current	17,500	52,500

St John's in the City has pledged their support to help fund the redevelopment of the Knox Waitara Church complex. The commitment is to donate \$300,000 over five years.

At balance date, the commitments amount to:

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
- Current	60,000	-
- Non current	180,000	-

St John's in the City has committed outreach funds for the 2013 financial year for travel costs for two St John's members on the PCANZ Global Mission Myanmar visit (\$6,860); St John's Missioners home visit (\$3,489); and New Zealand Church Missionary Society (\$9,000).

At balance date, there were commitments to:

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
- Current	19,349	-
- Non Current	9,000	-

St John's in the City has agreed to contribute \$50,000 to BGI should they proceed with plans to upgrade Troup House.

At balance date, there were capital commitments to:

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
- Current	50,000	-
- Non current	-	-

#### Note 10 - Contingent Liabilities

There were no Contingent Liabilities at balance date for the current financial year (2011 – \$Nil).

## ***Ministers***

Minister	Rev Allister Lane	November 2008
Minister	Rev Stuart Simpson	January 2010

## ***Elders Emeriti***

Lloyd, Mr Roger	3 Winsley Tce, Churton Park	1979
Littler, Mrs Betty	40 Cheshire Street, Wilton	1968
McCay, Mr Robert	Flat 7/300 Oriental Parade	1980
Darroch, Mr Alan	50 Sefton Street, Wadestown	1975
Gould, Mr Russell	129 Barnard Street, Wadestown	1993
McKenzie, Mr Bruce	Unit 33/389 Adelaide Rd, Berhamphore	1993
McKenzie, Mrs Elizabeth	Unit 33/389 Adelaide Rd, Berhamphore	1993
Robertson, Mrs Betty	407/2 Karori Rd, Karori	1992
Hunt, Mr John	248 Kimbolton Rd, Feilding 4702	1968
Lawson, Mr Sandy	200 Pembroke Road, Northland	1987
Ferrier, Dr Robin	57 Wadestown Road, Wadestown	1974
Stewart, Mr Charles	42 Braithwaite Street, Karori	1979
Ewan, Mr Rob	12/25 Tacy Street, Kilbirnie	1990

## ***Kirk Session***

Anderson, Mr Rob	137 The Ridgeway, Mornington	1980
Galt, Mr David	11 Lewer Street, Karori	1981
Ferguson, Ms Judi	114 John Sims Drive, Johnsonville	1987
Galt, Mrs Margaret	11 Lewer Street, Karori	1987
Goudswaard, Mrs Carolyn	20A Epuni Street, Aro Valley	1987
Ewan, Mrs Muriel	12/25 Tacy Street, Kilbirnie	1990
Pearse, Ms Elaine	85 Beauchamp Street, Karori	1990
Van Milligan, Miss Linda	7 Colchester Crescent, Newlands	1990
Labrum, Mr Glen	114 John Sims Drive, Johnsonville	1992
Allen, Mr John	76 Weld Street, Wadestown	2001
Irvine, Mr John	39 Frederick Street, Wainuiomata	2001
Ramsay, Mr Paul	27 Arawa Road, Hataitai	2001
Shaw, Mr Malcolm	434 Evans Bay Parade, Hataitai	2001
Webster, Mr Lawrence	5 Ngahue Crescent, Elsdon, Porirua	2001
Crombie, Mrs Allie	4 Lytton Street, Wadestown	2003
Davis, Mr Ross	32 Talavera Terrace, Kelburn	2003
Poutoa, Mr Mila	78 Leicester Street, Porirua	2003
Wood, Mr David	29 Donald St, Karori	2003
Gibbs, Mrs Mary	7 Severn St, Island Bay	2004
Read, Mrs Nicki	200A Mitchell Street, Brooklyn	2004
Read, Mr Richard	200A Mitchell Street, Brooklyn	2004
Shaw, Mrs Lesley	434 Evans Bay Parade, Hataitai	2004
Cizadlo, Mr Ted	53 Ponsonby Road, Karori	2004
Annals, Mr Geoff	142 Rakau Road, Hataitai	2006
Chesney, Mr Ross	1 Rossiter Road, Tawa	2006
Gilkison, Mrs Margaret	5 Henderson Street, Karori	2006
Salt, Ms Ailsa	221B Karori Road, Karori	2006
Johnston, Mr Andrew	61 Bayview Road, Paremata, Porirua	2008
Beard, Mrs Beth	135a Washington Avenue, Brooklyn	2008
Atkinson, Mr John	14 Thorby Street, Northland	2010
Ojala, Mr Anton	64 Eden Street, Island Bay	2010
Milkop, Mr Ashley	119 Creswick Terrace, Northland	2010
Webster, Ms Iris	5 Ngahue Crescent, Elsdon, Porirua	2010

## ***Council 2011-12***

A. Ojala, Chair; D Galt, D. Ensor, R. Chesney, P. Ramsay, D. Wood, E Gibbs, M. Gibbs, A. Salt, J. Atkinson, G. Annals

# Historical Record

## Ministers of St John's

Rev John Moir	1853 – 1867
Very Rev James Paterson (Moderator 1902)	1868 – 1903
Very Rev James Gibb D.D. (Moderator 1901)	1903 – 1926
Very Rev Dr JR Blanchard B.A.	1927 – 1939
Rev P Gladstone Hughes B.A.	1940 – 1947
Rev William P Temple M.A., B.D.	1948 – 1957
Rev FH Liffiton B.A. (Assistant)	1954 – 1955
Rev Kingsley Fairbairn M.B.E., B.A.	1957 – 1968
Rev DTD (Jock) Kinloch	1968 – 1975
Very Rev Dr D Steedman M.A., B.D., Ph.D. (Moderator 1982)	1976 – 1985
Rev Dr J Veitch B.A., M.Th, Ph.D. (Hon Assistant)	1978 – 1985
Rev Maurice Brown B.A.	1986 – 2000
Rev Brett Johnstone B.A., B.D. (Assistant)	1989 – 1991
Rev Dr Ed Wulfekuehler B.A., B.D.-M.Dib., D.Min. (Assistant)	1991 – 1993
Rev Jane Griffith B.A., B.D. (Hon Associate)	1993 – 1994
Rev Neil Johnston M.A., B.D. Associate	1994 – 2002
Very Rev Dr Graham Redding B.Com., B.Theol., Ph.D. (Moderator 2008/10)	2001 – 2006
Rev Helen Martin B.A., Dipl. Rel. Educ., Post-Grad. Dipl.Theol. (Assistant)	2003 – 2007
Rev Allister Lane, B.C.A., B.Theol. (Hons)	2008 – present
Rev Stuart Simpson, NZCE Telecommunications, BMin	2010 – present

## Parish Counsellor

Rev Jane Griffith, B.A., B.D.	1991- 1996
Mrs Joan Baber M.A. Hons.	1993 – 2004

## St John's Own Missionaries

Very Rev George McNeur, Chinese Mission Field (Moderator 1926)	1913 – 1940
Sister Margaret Bear, India	1958 – 1979

## Deaconesses

Miss Lillian Lang	1905 – 1907
Miss Mabel Cartwright	1905 – 1911
Miss Norah Dick	1912 – 1915
Miss Nessie Morgan	1945 – 1948, 1951 – 1959

## Jubilees

Diamond Jubilee of Church	November 1913
Womens Association Golden Jubilee	August 1937
Young Men's Bible Class Golden Jubilee	1938
Young Women's Bible Class Golden Jubilee	November 1953
Centennial Jubilee of the Church	November 1953
75th Anniversary of Present Church Building	December 1960
Young Men's Bible Class 75 Jubilee	July 1964
125th Anniversary of Church	November 1978
Centenary of Present Church Building	8 December 1985
50th Anniversary of the The Boys' Brigade, 2nd Wellington (St John's) Company	1999
Opening of the St John's Centre, Troup House and Mackay Chapel	April 1994
150th Anniversary of St John's in the City	November 2003
125th Anniversary of the Wellington Boys' and Girls' Institute Inc.	2008
60th Anniversary of the The Boys' Brigade, 2nd Wellington (St John's) Company	June 2009

# Interest Groups at St John's

## ***Women's Association***

Meets fourth Tuesday of the month at 11am in the St John's Centre

## ***Monday Home Group (evenings)***

Meets at David and Margaret Galt's home. Contact 934 4422

## ***Tuesday Home Group (evenings)***

Meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from February to November at various homes throughout Wellington city. Contact Paul and Louise Ramsay on 386 2755, or paul@clear.net.nz

## ***Whitecastle Home Group (evenings)***

Meets Tuesdays at 7:30pm 6 Curtis St, Karori. Contact Ted Cizadlo on 476 7733 or Petra Malcolm on football\_fanatic\_3@hotmail.com

## ***Northland Home Group (evenings)***

Meets Tuesdays at 7:30pm 82 Creswick Tce, Northland. Especially for young women. Contact Rose Morris on 027 658 9868 or rolomo4@gmail.com

## ***Brooklyn Home Group (evenings)***

Meets Thursdays at 7:30pm, 24a Connaught Tce, Brooklyn. Young adults discipleship and dinner. Contact Carlton or Sarah Johnstone on 389 2467 or carltonandsarah@gmail.com

## ***English as a Second Language Bible Study***

Meets every second Thursday evening, at 6:20pm, in the church office lounge. Contact Rev. Stuart Simpson on 385 1546 or s.simpson@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

## ***Wine & Theology Discussion Group***

Meets Monthly on the first Friday at 7.30pm. Contact Beth Cizadlo on 476 7733

## ***Choir***

Meets Sundays 9.20 – 9.50am and 11.15am – 12.00 noon. Monthly evening practices are held on Thursdays. Contact Eric Sidoti at silverwyrn13@yahoo.com or Eleanor Carter at mcart@extra.co.nz

## ***Contemporary Music Group***

Guitars, drums, double bass, violin, flute, singers...and could involve you, too! Contact Dayle Anderson on 934 5786 or dayle.anderson@vuw.ac.nz

## ***Girls' Brigade***

Meets on Tuesdays during term-time at 6pm. For girls aged from 5 yrs upwards. Contact Katherine Sutherland on 471 0202 after 5pm.

## ***Boys' Brigade***

Intermediate and High School - Mondays 6:30pm until 8.30pm. Primary School - Mondays 5:45pm – 7:00pm. For all Boys aged 6 – 16 yrs. Contact Matthew Bayliss on 021 0278 3981 or 2wgtn@bb.org.nz

## ***St J's Kids***

Friendly Sunday School and crèche from ages 0 to 12 years, Sundays from 10am until 11.15am. Special events once per term. Contact Anna Davis on 934 2167

## ***Pre-School Music and Movement***

Meets weekly, on Thursdays from 10am until 11am in the hall of the St John's Centre. Contact Anna Davis or Heather Walker on 385 1546

## ***St John's Youth***

Junior Group ages 11 – 13 yrs Sundays at 10am and Fridays 6.30 – 8.30pm Senior Group ages 13 – 18 yrs Sundays 10am and Fridays 6.30 – 8.30pm. For more details on any youth activities, contact Dave Adams on 385 9549

## ***Men's Breakfast Group***

Meets fortnightly from 7.30 – 8.30am in the St John's Centre. Contact Stuart on 027 2155145

St John's in the City Presbyterian Church,  
Corner Willis and Dixon Streets, PO Box 27-148, Wellington 6141  
p: 04 385 1546  
e: enquiries@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz  
www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz