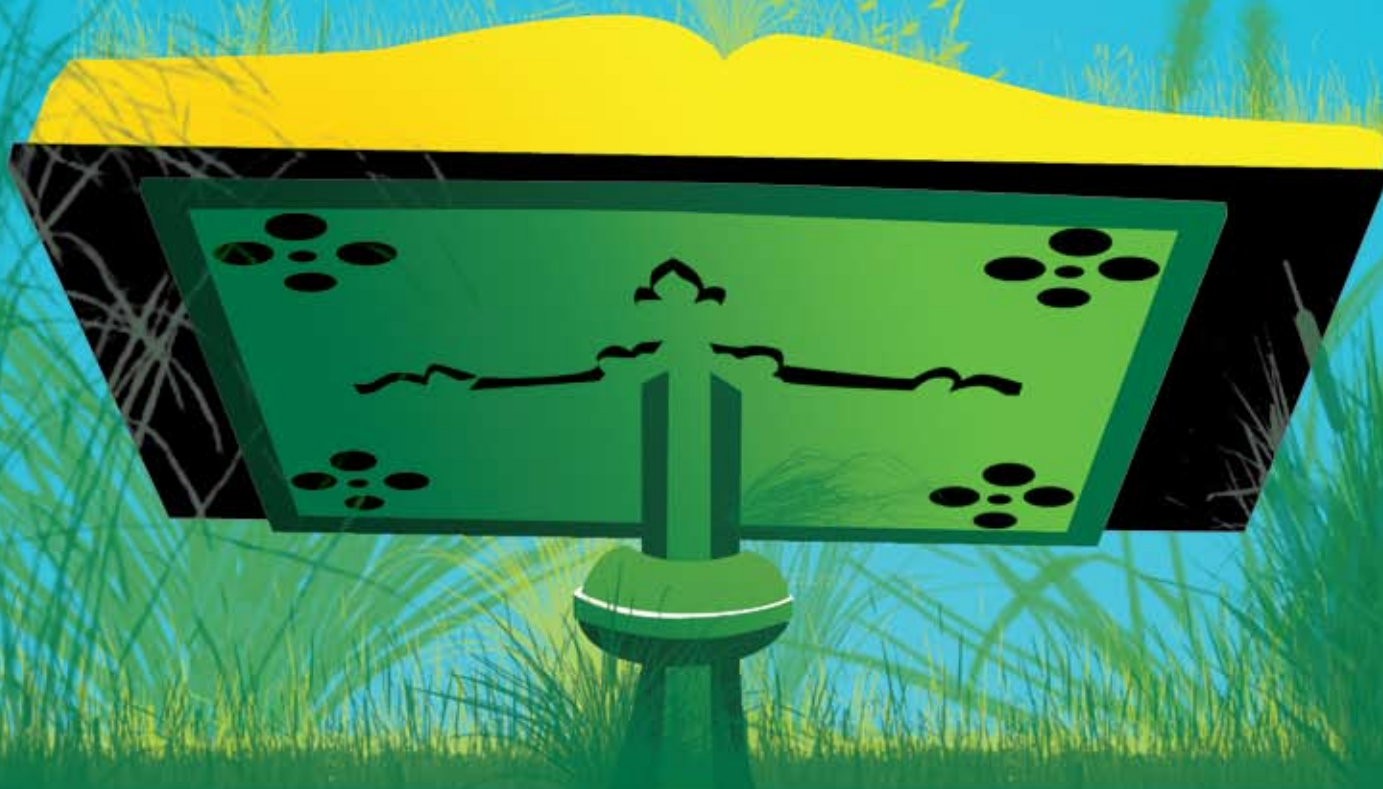


Colossians 1:10

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.



St John's
in the City
Presbyterian Church

156th Annual Report 2008/09



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.





Foreword

156th Annual Report 2008/09

It is my very great privilege and pleasure to introduce the 2008/09 Annual Report (another 'first' for this first-time minister!).

My ordination and induction occurred part-way through the last twelve months, and since my return to St John's in a new role as senior minister, Naomi, Pearse and I have felt very welcomed by you all.

This personal sense of belonging at St John's coincides with the theme of 'Belonging' for 2009 – a feeling that I hope you similarly share.

When we talk about belonging, this is not about being owned. The latter is slavery, while the former is about mutuality. As a church family we understand our relationships as mutual. Like any family, our inequality actually enriches our belonging to each other. As people of different ages and stages we have different responsibilities in our belonging to each other.

We also recognise this mutual belonging in the covenantal relationship between humanity and God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This relationship enables human freedom, and the dependency we have on God is not a challenge to that freedom but a valid aspect of the relationship.

The relationship of belonging to God is expressed in the New Testament as being:

1 Children of God

"...you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God..." Romans 8:15-17

2 Friends of God

"I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." John 15:15

In both of these examples the relationship with God is directly contrasted with slavery. In our relationship with God and in our relationships with each other, the reality is that our belonging is essential to our human freedom. Our dependency on each other, like our dependency on God, does not challenge our freedom but is the context for us to experience and express true freedom.

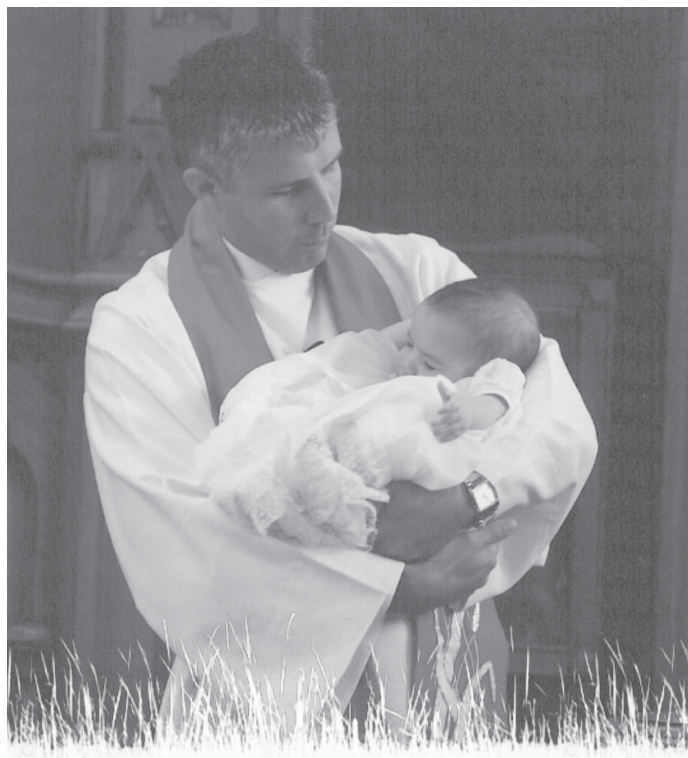
As the community of St John's we live in this freedom of creativity, encouragement and enthusiasm. Since being back as senior minister I have often found myself just trying to keep up with the momentum!

Over the vacancy there has been no reduction in your commitment to share, to grow, to dream, and to serve. Whilst there is always more that we can do to witness to God's goodness and to authentically express who we are called to be in our baptism, you are to be commended for your faithfulness. We celebrate initiatives such as the new role of Children and Families Ministry Worker, and the intentional ministry with young adults.

I want to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to Muriel Ewan for her considerable service (both in quality and duration), and ongoing gratitude to Paul Ramsay for having taken over the role of Session Clerk, bringing his own considerable gifts of leadership and generosity.

This Annual Report is a splendid celebration of the last twelve months. We look ahead to what the Holy Spirit is guiding us toward in the next twelve months ... and beyond.

Yours in Christ
Allister Lane



Session Report

It is a somewhat daunting task to sit down and write my first Session report, reflecting back over what has been a truly exciting period in St John's journey of faith.

The highlight has undoubtedly been Allister's arrival after a vacancy of just under two years.

In my speech following Allister's service of ordination and induction, I noted that:

"We have worked hard and waited long for this day. But now it has finally arrived, and it is simply great to have Allister, Naomi and Pearse with us, and to have Allister suitably ordained and inducted as our new minister.

While St John's in the City has a long and honourable past, our focus now – at this moment – is on today and the future of our church tomorrow, and this is reflected in our call and commitment to Allister.

We know the church faces many challenges, but rather than dwell on these, we seek to take advantage of the unparalleled opportunities these same challenges present us with.

We celebrate the start of Allister's ministry with us, and we look forward to sharing this journey together.



The ordination and induction service for Rev Allister Lane, November 2008



While tonight is very much Allister's night, I also want to take the opportunity to also thank and acknowledge three people in particular:

- + Denzil Brown, who has been our interim moderator for more than a year and a half. Denzil has worked incredibly hard for St Johns, and to ensure that everything is ship-shape and ready for Allister's arrival.
- + Chris Nichol, who served us – and continues to serve us – as the Convenor of our Ministry Settlement Board. Together with the other members of the Board, Chris has helped, guided and encouraged us throughout.
- + And then there is Muriel Ewan. Every church has its "rock" – I am sure Muriel would prefer a somewhat more elegant metaphor! – and, as our Session Clerk, Muriel has borne a phenomenal load through the vacancy.

Thank you to you all.

We have also been well-served by the wider church – many of you who are with this evening – and for this we are eternally grateful.

Once such person is Martin Baker, who gave some specific instructions to the congregation at church last Sunday about how to treat our new minister. However, as you may have already guessed, I wasn't there on Sunday, so I don't feel suitably constrained!

Edgar Jones offered his own advice when he said that:

"He needs the heart of a lion, the hide of a hippopotamus, the agility of a greyhound, the patience of a donkey, the wisdom of an elephant, the industry of an ant, and as many lives as a cat."

So, with these qualities, I am sure that Allister will fit well with the menagerie that is St John's.

Finally, this has been the "Year of the Good Shepherd" at St Johns in the City, and it is fitting that as we come to its conclusion, that we should be celebrating the arrival of our own Good Shepherd.

We give thanks for Allister's arrival, we pray for God's blessing on his life and ministry, and, together with Allister, we commit as a congregation to love and serve the life of Christ in others."

We have been truly blessed by Allister's presence among us, and he has very quickly established himself in the role of Senior Minister. His warmth and humour are always evident, as is his judgement and discernment.

Allister has also quickly sought to develop good working relationships with the various groups within St John's, as well as beyond in the wider church and community.

February 2009 saw me taking up the role of Session

Clerk, and I want to acknowledge once again the tremendous debt of gratitude we owe to Muriel Ewan. Muriel was Session Clerk for nine years, and she has served St John's beyond expectation. As the Right Rev Dr Graham Redding – to give him his full and illustrious title! – noted in his acknowledgement of Muriel, “few people will realise just how demanding the role has been.” Thank you, Muriel.

Sandy Lawson stepped down from Session after 22 years, and was appointed an Elder Emeritus in recognition of his on-going service to the church. Thank you, Sandy. We were also pleased to welcome Ani Prasad, Allie Crombie and David Wood who returned to Session after an extended leave of absence. It is good to have you back!

Thank you, too, to our staff of Grant Garner, Barbara Newdick, Phil Cassin and Lou Radich. Your dedication and support is much appreciated. Our thoughts and prayers are with Grant in particular, as he currently undergoes treatment for cancer.

In March 2008, Session held a planning day which identified three key areas that we wished to focus on over the following twelve to eighteen months:

- + Children and families
- + Young people (intermediate and secondary)
- + 18 - 30s.

All of these were underpinned by a commitment to pastoral care and outreach.

St John's has been blessed for a number of years now by a very diverse and highly creative children and families ministry. This was strengthened in February 2009 with Anna Davis's appointment as our first Children and Families Ministry Worker. From St J's Kids to Starlight Story Time, we have continued to provide a wide range of challenging and innovative programmes to our children, and beyond to their families and friends.

We have also continued to provide a strong youth programme, with our junior and senior groups. They have also been actively involved in a wide range of activities beyond St John's including Parachute, Easter camp, Connect and Film Fest. All of these events give our young people the opportunity to share, develop and celebrate their faith with others.

You only need to see the church empty out on a Sunday morning as our children and young people leave for their various programmes to realise both the impact and the potential they have in the life of our church. We thank all those involved in these ministries which are vital to the future of the church.

In March 2009, we relaunched our Evening Service which is now targeted at 18-30 year olds – although anyone is warmly welcome to attend! This is part of a broader ministry to this age group, and follows the

secondment of Ryhan Prasad as our 18-30s Ministry Worker at the beginning of the year. The service has gone from strength to strength, with an average of 32 people attending each week, and as many as 50 some weeks. As one attendee wrote:

“In a new community, people have been so courageously honest and generous with sharing their stories in discussion. It feels to me that this openness has allowed God to fully hold us, challenge us and reveal more of himself through our deepening fellowship. As we feed each other you can almost feel God feeding his church. It's a very special thing that is happening.”

There are also other opportunities to grow and develop this ministry through small groups and other activities, and we look forward to exploring this in the year ahead.

With all this youth and enthusiasm, it is also important to acknowledge the value of age and experience! The older members of our congregation are the foundation of St John's, and are a vital link between our past and the present we share together. They are a “taonga” – a treasure – who actively contribute to the life of the church in so many different ways. Thank you for all that you do.

The Pastoral Care Committee, which includes our Pastoral Care Worker Marg Gilkison, is to be applauded for their wonderful work. Following on from “The Year of the Good Shepherd” in 2008, this year is the “Year of Belonging”, and the Pastoral Care Committee has continued to provide a programme of regular district lunches as well as organising a number of special events.

Prayer is an important element of pastoral care, and the prayer chain and the pastoral prayer that is provided after the service each Sunday are a vital part of this ministry.

The importance of pastoral care – which is something we are all responsible for – was reflected in Session's decision at the beginning of 2009 to bring pastoral care directly under Session's oversight (together with Christian education and outreach).

Pastoral care was also the subject of two “theme discussions” at our opening Session meetings of the year.

Like pastoral care, outreach is also an important part of everything we do. The Outreach Committee has been particularly active this year, and has made significant contributions to a number of organisations including Presbyterian Support Central and the Downtown Community Ministry. The Outreach Committee is looking to actively involve the congregation in supporting a number of outreach initiatives locally, nationally and internationally.

With the BGI celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, Session is exploring how we can continue to develop and strengthen this very important relationship, and how we will work together into the future. This will ultimately be reflected in a suitable partnership agreement between the BGI and St John's.

In June 2009, the Rev Martin Baker, Assembly Executive Secretary, gave a thought-provoking presentation on developments in the wider Presbyterian church. While it is very easy to focus on the aging and declining nature of the established church in New Zealand, Martin highlighted a number of exciting developments throughout the country. These are focused on growing the church, and on reaching out and building new faith communities.

The common features of these churches were that they had strong leadership, as well as congregations that were prepared to take risks and were open to exploring new ways of engaging with the community.

Session also approved the Rev Leanne Munro conducting services on a monthly basis through until the end of the year. We are very grateful for Leanne's ministry, and she has already made a valuable contribution to our worship at St John's.

In conclusion, there are two recurring images which have repeatedly come to mind in writing this year's report. One is "the tapestry of faith" and the other is "the church as a body".

There are so many different threads that come together to weave the ever-changing tapestry that is St John's. Each thread is important in its own right, and woven together we create a community of strength. Scripture reminds us that "a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12).



Paul and Louise Ramsay

Likewise, our diversity in all its forms and colour helps to create a much more beautiful picture. In some cases, its full beauty only becomes apparent when we are able to stand back and see what we have woven together.

In last year's report, Denzil reminded us that we were the body of Christ, and that the health of the body depends on all parts working harmoniously together. Likewise, each part of the body is important in its own right. "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26).

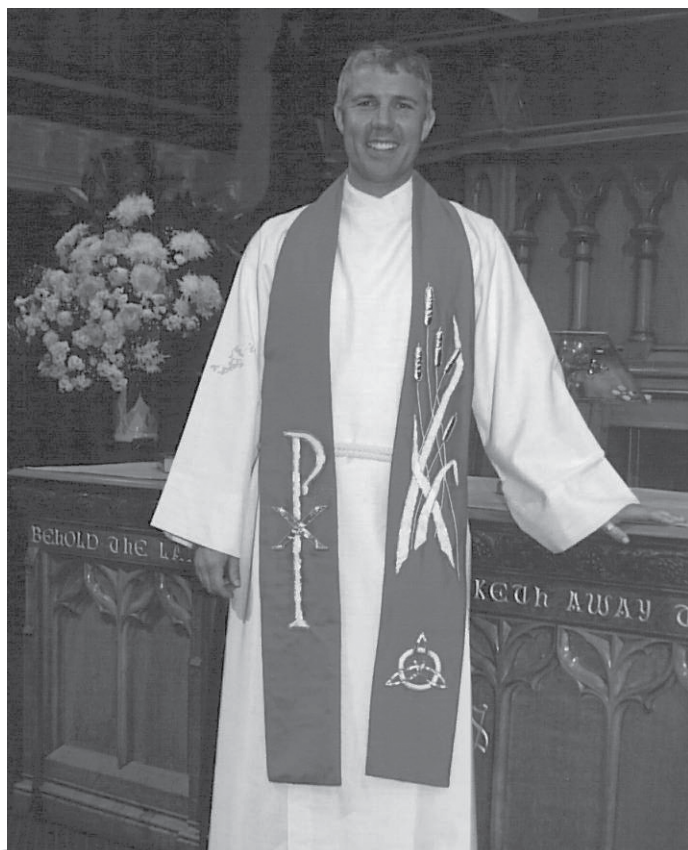
Never is this more apparent than when we gather for worship. From the moment you are welcomed into the church, there are so many people who work together to make each service special. There are those who have prepared the church beforehand with its flowers and linen; those who are on the door; those who enrich our lives with the gift of music; those whose words speak to us in readings and prayer; those who operate the sound system so we can hear it – the list is seemingly endless. Look around next time, and say a prayer of thanks for all that you see.

For me, both images illustrate the importance of each and every person – women and men, old and young – to our life as a church. The tapestry would be the poorer and the body would be the weaker without you as part of it.

Thank you for being a part of St John's in the City. You are an important part of our church family.

May God bless you all.

Paul Ramsay
Session Clerk



Allister wearing the beautiful red and gold stole embroidered and presented by his mother at the induction service

Council

It has been my privilege to serve another year as the Chair of the Council of St John's in the City. This has been my 5th year as Council Chair, and in my opinion it has been the best. A number of changes have taken place at St John's during this last year, which give me great hope for the future of St John's in the City.

One of the changes was the results of a review of the role of Council. There has always been some ambiguity about which items of business are best decided by Council, and which should be referred to Session. Three areas of overlap were identified, and as a result Christian Education, Pastoral Care, and Outreach Committees now report monthly to Council and also quarterly to Session. This arrangement allows Council to deal with the operational issues while giving Session an overview of the activity in these areas.

Another big change this year was the appointment of Allister Lane as Senior Minister. I cannot emphasise enough how much stabilisation Allister's presence has brought to the activities of St John's.

Council Membership

Council is made up of the Convenors of the standing Committees of St John's. These were:

+ Finance	Ross Chesney
+ Christian Education	Geoff Annals
+ Women's Association	Mary Gibbs
+ Mission and Outreach	Rob Munro
+ Social	David Ensor
+ Communication	Ross Davis
+ Pastoral Care	Cynthia Krogh
+ Session Clerk	Paul Ramsay
+ Pastor	Allister Lane
+ Property	David Wood*
+ Sustainability	Andrew Johnston**
+ Staffing	Muriel Ewan***

* David Wood began as Property Committee Chair in August 2009.

** Andrew Johnston resigned as Convenor of the Sustainability Committee, and Council decided that in the absence of a Convenor the Sustainability Committee would be disbanded.

*** Muriel Ewan is not the Convenor of the Staffing Committee, but attends Council on behalf of the Committee.

Finances

Finances are covered in Treasurer's report, but I wanted to mention one item of a financial nature in this report. I would like to underscore the effect the annual rate of inflation has on the St John's financial picture. This year St John's is in good financial shape with a hefty

surplus, largely due a low inflation rate. It is important that we recognise this dependence on something that is completely outside of our control and plan accordingly. We must resist the urge to make short term changes in our spending patterns based on a surplus or deficit caused by fluctuations of the inflation rate.

Space Usage Policy

The catastrophic water damage to the gym floor has meant that we have had to do without a gym for the majority of this year. This in turn caused us to relocate groups which used the gym for their activities. In some cases off site venues were found, and in other cases other parts of the St John's Centre were utilised, creating tension between building usage for Church events, and commercial rentals. As a result Council determined that a clear policy regarding use of the Church buildings should be developed. The policy, available from the Church office upon request, basically states that Church activities are prioritised ahead of commercial activities.

Council asked the question whether a gym was the best use of the upstairs of the St John's Centre. An ad hoc Space Usage Committee was formed to look at how space was used across the buildings of St John's, and particularly how the space needs of the Youth groups could be better met. The initial findings of that Committee were that the gym is indeed necessary. They are currently developing a proposal for a youth area in the downstairs of Spinks Cottage.

Looming Decisions

Finally I see some large decisions on the horizon for St John's in the City. During this next year I believe a decision will need to be made regarding the Church organ, and a dedicated youth space.

An ad hoc committee led by Glen Labrum is carefully working through a proposal process with Council and Session, considering various options for repair or replacement. This will be a challenging decision for our Church.

The need for a dedicated space for our youth has been signalled by the Christian Education Committee. Options for creating this space are likely to involve proposals to change the layout or usage of our buildings, which is an area which has proved challenging in the past.

Final thoughts

I am optimistic about the next year for St John's. Although we face some difficult decisions, we do so with a strong and positive leadership team, which is dedicated to clear and transparent and inclusive decision making.

Ted Cizadlo
Council Convenor

St John's Evening Service

5:45pm, St John's Conference Center, Cnr Willis and Dixon St

The evening service at St John's explores ways of relating to God in a Eucharistic setting that is flexible and discussion based. This ministry is also about exploring authentic and innovative ways of worshipping God. It seeks to follow a theology of Hospitality, with strong emphasis on welcoming and fellowship.

It's all about: ***Making space For God***

This is what we do:

1. TLH - Talk, Listen, Hear – over food and coffee, sharing faith with others who are exploring and connecting with God

"Talk with not preached at"

5:45pm	Worship
6pm	Coffee and discussion, bring a plate, Talk, Listen, Hear.
6:45pm	Shared Meal

The Session planning day identified that St John's would be starting a ministry for young adults (18 - 30's) at the start of 2009.

And so on the 8th March 2009 we kicked off our first new evening service. The service comprises both a formal contemporary worship time and a more relaxed interactive discussion time that includes coffee and food.

We are wanting to express worship that is authentic to the people we seek to engage. This service seeks to explore faith issues in a contemporary and creative environment.

The *forms of worship* are shaped and moulded by the needs of the people attending but the *functions of worship* are grounded in authenticity, the exploration of faith issues and Discipleship.

This is about breathing some new energy and life into our Church and integrating that energy and life fully.

Below are some of the Successes, Opportunities and Challenges we have identified so far:

Successes

- + I think we have successfully established a sustainable ministry
- + We are seeing more young adults at worship now than in the last five years

Opportunities

- + We can be more wide ranging with our advertising if we so choose
- + There is the possibility of starting some more home group ministry



- + Flexibility of services doing some more contemplative stuff.

Challenges

- + Could use more people to help set up and pack down as well as do the projector
- + A big challenge for the future is where does the evening service go if and when it outgrows the hall? Where can the church find a bigger space to replicate the ministry that is working without compromising the factors that make it work?
- + So all in all a great start and I think we are on the right track and I am loving the challenge and hope this ministry is offering.

Thanks to the Session for their leadership and support and also to Rev. Allister Lane for his encouragement, advice and passion to see this ministry succeed.

And a big special thank you and shout out to all the awesome volunteers that have dreamed and visioned about this service becoming a reality and also for being there week in and week out to make it happen! Without you there would be no service, thank you, you all know who you are!

Mā te Atua manaaki - God Bless

Ryhan Prasad
18 - 30s Ministry Worker



Sharing dinner after an evening service

Music

Having been away for six months of last year, I was privileged to play my first service back on the organist's bench at St Mary of the Angels. This was our annual combined Christmas Service at the beginning of December. Our choir always enjoys our combined services at Christmas and Pentecost. In May this year, Guy led us through two choruses of Haydn's *Creation* for our combined Pentecost evening service.

The choir, at present, is very well travelled. It seems that we are constantly losing personnel overseas for long periods of time. We have, however, been fortunate to secure a tenor scholar – Robert Gray. He is a gifted young student who is very willing to join us and we are pleased to welcome him.

We are also happy that Allister encourages all the musicians in the church to use their gifts as much as possible. He is keen to help us integrate contemporary worship songs and traditional hymns in Sunday morning worship and to involve children and youth as much as possible.

This is the kind of thinking that keeps our musical community at St John's alive.

Eleanor Carter
Musical Director



Eleanor Carter

Choir

It has again been a privilege for the Choir to help lead the singing of songs and hymns in the worship of God on Sunday mornings and at special services. The church has a very loyal Choir, members coming out to additional events and extra rehearsals as well as arriving early on Sundays and staying until midday. The church also has a very mobile choir with seven members currently overseas. However, we have managed to provide choral offerings for almost all services within the usual February - Christmas Day period. I am particularly grateful to Linda van Milligan for her excellent work as our main soloist through the year and to Eleanor and Dayle as regular rehearsal accompanists. Social activities have included a get-together at our home in Paraparamu, and six members attended a Royal School of Church Music Dinner at the Parish Centre in Plimmerton when the speakers were Roy Tankersley former Organist at St John's and Advisor to RSCM, and the Very Reverend Pamela Tankersley former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Music, chosen as appropriate to Lectionary readings, has ranged from Tallis, Weelkes, Schubert, Goss, Fauré, Sibelius, Rutter, Charles Ives, Douglas Wagner and Bob Chilcott, to gospel, spirituals, global songs and contemporary worship songs. These have included *All My Trials* (with soloist Beth Cizadlo), and two South African pieces: *Freedom, Oh Freedom* - introduced by Canadian Donna Dinsmore when she assisted in a July service, and *Sanna, Sannanina* ("Hosanna") on Palm Sunday. At Easter a special offering of Leonard Cohen's popular *Hallelujah* with the contemporary music group was well received, but it will need to be repeated as most of the young people were at Easter Camp.

Douglas Mews' classic Kiwi anthem: *A sound came from heaven* was sung on Pentecost Sunday morning from the North Gallery. Then, that same evening, three choruses with trio from Haydn's oratorio masterpiece, *Creation*, were sung by the combined choirs of St Mary of the Angels (Director: Robert Oliver), St Peter's on Willis

(Director: Dianne Halliday) and St John's in the City. The occasion was part of an annual series of Pentecost Sunday Evening Services involving those inner-city churches. The Trio comprised Janey MacKenzie, William McElwee, and Roger Wilson, and the Organists were Eleanor and Dianne Halliday. Pentecost Sunday this year happened to mark exactly 200 years since the death of Joseph Haydn (31 May 1809), and choirs around the world had been encouraged by the International Federation for Choral Music to present *Creation* on that exact day. The piece is arguably the devout Haydn's finest composition. As far as is known our small effort was (because of New Zealand's time zone) the world's first celebration of the musical work.

It was a particular honour to be involved, on a Thursday morning in October, in the Opening Service of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand with the Rt Rev Dr Graham Redding as new Moderator. An augmented Choir assisted with the traditional and "contemporary" hymns, and the service music by James MacMillan. A memorable presentation of the Taizé chant: *O Christe, Domine Jesu* by the choir with Linda as Cantor, supported the reading of names of church leaders who had died since last Assembly.

The November Ordination and Induction of new Senior Minister, Rev Allister Lane, included a choral arrangement of a song that Allister had chosen for that important occasion: *Jesus, All For Jesus*.

December saw a combined Christmas service at St Mary's of the Angels, and also the Choir singing Rachmaninoff's *Teybe Poyem* ("To Thee We Sing") at "Yulia's Christmas" concert. Additional choir members from the congregation joined us, with Jonathon Abernethy as soloist. A mere ten hours later we appeared with Yulia on TVNZ's "Good Morning" programme at Avalon Studios in my arrangement of *Silent Night*. The segment with its gentle Christmas atmosphere was broadcast again later the same morning. All in all, an enjoyable four-hour commitment.



The Choir of St John's in the City (including four guests) leads the singing at a special service. Conductor Guy Jansen.

Flower Group

Early this February, tenor Robert Gray, studying voice at the New Zealand School of Music, was appointed as a Choral Scholar, and later in the month an informal recruitment rehearsal was held in the church. It was promoted as *a little SING!* “for anyone interested in singing in a choral group at St John’s in the City, for special occasions, or regularly, or just now and again”. Whether it was the free Saturday lunch which attracted the 30 people (young and old), or the promise of the inclusion of contemporary pieces with backing group, or the leadership! (Dayle, Rosemary Russell, Eleanor and I) we’ll never know, but certainly the new vocal warm-ups and new repertoire seemed to be enjoyed by all. Full marks for the organization of the event to the Choir Committee: Jeanette, Linda, Beth, Dayle and Judy.

On the occasion of *a little SING!* and at a later whole-church Music Forum I floated the concept of an “Occasional Choir” with intending members signing up for available Sundays. In this kind of way I would like to increase the number of singing groups, as well as to grow the Church Choir to a point where, because of its size and resources, it could offer a more diverse selection of musical styles and genres. The Church Music Committee is continuing to discuss the possibilities of such variety.

Would that we could, one Sunday, offer with the St John’s Band a quality soft-rock Christian song composed in the last year or two, and the next Sunday, Herbert Howell’s classic psalm setting: *Like as the hart desires the waterbrooks?* The phrase that comes to mind is “excellent eclectic”. The purpose? To cater for as many tastes and preferences as possible as we engage in corporate worship for the adoration, glory and praise of our Triune God.

Guy Jansen
Choir Director



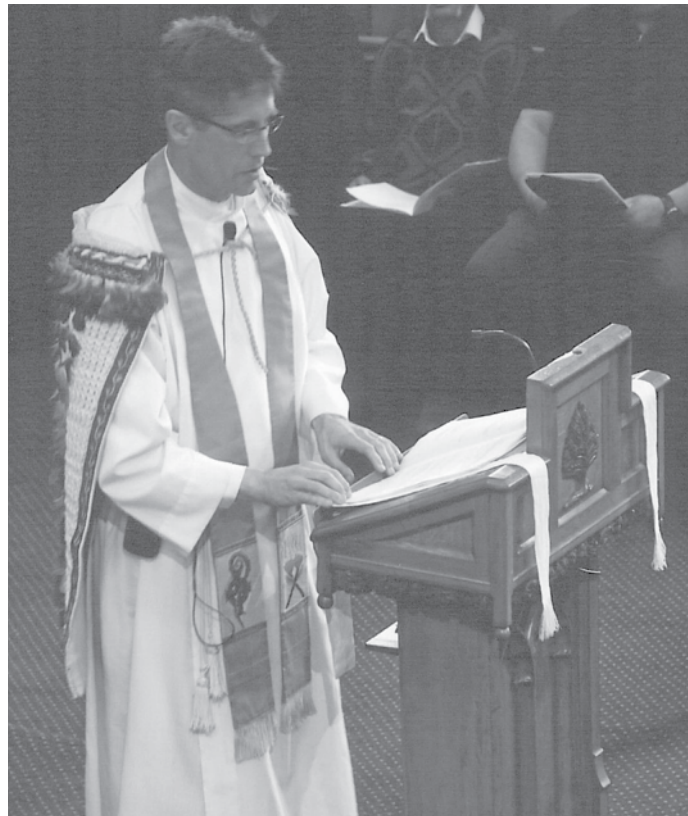
‘Out with the old and in with the new’
Right Rev Dr Graham Redding with Rev Allister Lane

The fifteen members of the group which provides the flowers for the church on Sundays and as required for weddings and funerals, has continued to provide beautiful floral arrangements to grace services and bring some of God’s bounty into the church. They are an acknowledgement of the wonderful land in which we live, a reminder of the joy that trees and flowers spread in our world and what we would miss if our management of our environment does not improve.

Thanks go to the team for their efforts this year as it takes three to four hours to achieve the results the congregation sees – collecting greenery and flowers, emptying out the previous arrangement (and those vases are heavy), getting the new vases ready and doing the arrangements, then cleaning up afterwards. And those large arrangements are certainly challenging to do. We had seven weddings during the year for which we did flowers, and a number of funerals.

To those who supply flowers from their gardens during the spring and summer and to those who express their appreciation of the floral arrangements, thanks from the team. We like knowing we have done a good job.

Ailsa Salt
Convenor



The Right Rev Dr Graham Redding at the opening service of the General Assembly where he was inducted as Moderator. He is wearing a stole specially made for him by the embroidery group of St John’s and presented to him on this occasion.

Outreach

A similar pattern of grants has been continued this year following the existing (2002) guidelines approved by the congregation.

In broad terms, ongoing partnerships plus a more substantial measure of global outreach has continued. The global mandate was achieved by responding to calls from The Moderator and the Presbyterian Church Global Mission Office in the wider work of the Church overseas. Investigative work by Ailsa Salt has facilitated this.

Continued finance by way of grants within New Zealand was provided to Presbyterian Support Central, Mt Cook School (Swimming Instruction), Wellington Women's Health Collective (for Counselling), Wellington Rape Crisis, Boys and Girls Institute, with increased support for Downtown Community Ministry in this time of economic recession. Ongoing support for the VUW Lectureship in Theology continues in accordance with the decision of Session.

Current members of the Committee are Dayle Anderson, Muriel Ewan, Rob Munro, Chris Parkman, Ailsa Salt and the Minister and Session Clerk (ex Officio).

Rob Munro
Convenor

The Birthday Mission

About a hundred years ago the Rev H J Fletcher, working in the Presbyterian Church Maori Mission made the suggestion that if every Presbyterian gave one shilling a year, all the financial needs of the Maori Mission could be met. The church women's groups responded to the challenge and called it the "Birthday Mission". All these years later the Birthday Mission is run by the Association of Presbyterian Women throughout New Zealand.

For those who support the Mission Birthday Gift, we would like to thank you for your generosity and assure you that your gifts are very much appreciated. As individuals we may feel that our contributions are small, but gathered together and allocated to so many organisations, they have a considerable impact. For St John's in the City, the amount given rose from \$894 in 2008 to \$967 in 2009. Wonderful!

I would like to express my thanks to Brigitte Hicks-Willer, my fellow Mission Birthday Convenor last year.

Over the years, members have passed on or moved away so we would very much like to welcome some new members. If you would like to contribute to this valuable mission by joining, please contact the convenor.

Tricia Hastings
Convenor

Prayer Chain

The St John's Prayer Chain, currently with 22 contacts, is continuing to function extremely well.

As all but three are on email, we now use this method of communicating prayer requests. I either phone the others or send by post.

Requests for prayer are varied and we appreciate receiving feedback about people for whom we have been praying, as well as expressions of gratitude.

Personally I have been grateful for much support and encouragement since taking over this role.

We would welcome requests for prayer as well as new members to our team.

Blair Rodgers
Co-ordinator



Pastoral Care Committee

The *Year of Belonging* St John's is the theme promoted by the Pastoral Care Committee for 2009 and approved by Session. The Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank David Jackson of BGI and Rev. Allister Lane for developing the logo which features weekly on our Order of Service. 'The Year of Belonging' follows on from the *The Year of the Good Shepherd* in 2008 and we, the committee, strive with the support of the congregation to foster good fellowship.

I wish to thank members of the Pastoral Care Committee, who are so supportive, in addition to their other roles in achieving our goals.

Committee Members are Anna Davis, Judi Ferguson, Margaret Gilkison (Pastoral Care Worker), Cynthia Krogh (Convenor), Lynn Pollock, Anne Simpson, Mindy Simpson.

The Committee appreciates the work and coordination of care by our Pastoral Care Worker (Margaret Gilkison) and her many initiatives that have seen fruition.

Sunday Lunches

Four Pot Luck Lunches were organised by the Pastoral Care Committee, for Central in July and Eastern Suburbs in late 2008, Southern (April) and Northern (June) in 2009. The Committee is encouraged by the participation of the congregation and our ability to welcome newcomers and visitors. A morning tea was provided by the Pastoral Care Committee in September 2008 after the morning service.

An early communal Easter breakfast was provided in April by the Social Committee and the Pastoral Care Committee.

The Pastoral Care Committee wishes to thank Ms B Wood for her donation of a freezer which is being well utilised. Frozen meals are provided by the congregation for members in need and given out by the Pastoral Care Worker. We thank Judi Ferguson for setting up an efficient system. The meals have been gratefully received.

New Comers Booklet

Margaret Gilkison has developed and provided information about the activities at St John's to give to newcomers. BGI has produced a booklet which has been checked by Convenors and leaders. The production costs need to be revised and a date for release will be given to Session.

St John's in the City Pamphlet

The pamphlet has been amended with current information and updated. The pamphlet is available in the foyer of the church.

Communication and Education

The Pastoral Care Committee Convenor presented an initial report to Session regarding the work and goals of the Committee in May 2009. This will be a three monthly initiative by Session.

In May, Margaret Gilkison and I attended a workshop on visiting Older People in the Community and Rest Homes. The workshop was lead by Rev. C Brockett and gave many skills on listening and tips for enhancing Spiritual Care in Rest Homes, which reminded us of the role of advocacy.

An evening Seminar on Compassion Fatigue was held on the 27th June 2009. The speaker Meesch Holwich from Case Consulting and colleague from Mental Health gave their perspective of what it is like to live with a mental health illness and interact with health services, family and church.

Cynthia Krogh
Convenor

Pastoral Care Worker

I am only one of many people at St John's helping to care for our congregation and their families.

Firstly, there is the leadership team, and it is wonderful to now have our Senior Minister, Allister, at the helm. We also have Anna Davis, the Children and Families Worker, and Ryhan Prasad, the Youth Coordinator.

Secondly, we have you, the people, sharing in the care of each other and the wider community. Pastoral care is a vital part of our church community, and each and every one of us plays an important part in providing this care. This happens in so many ways quietly in the background. Thank you to you all.

This past year has been steady. My role has been one of doing, coordinating and liaising. I have found it a privilege to lend a helping hand or listening ear in times of need, in times of sadness and in times of joy and celebration.

A big thank you to all those who have supported me in my role, especially Cynthia Krogh and the Pastoral Care Committee.

Marg Gilkison
Pastoral Care Worker

Christian Education Committee

Last year St John's Session identified three areas as development priorities; children and families ministry, youth, and ministry to 18- 30 year olds. These three areas became the focus for much of the work of the Christian Education Committee and led to the establishment of two new lay ministry worker positions. Anna Davis was appointed to the position of Children and Families Ministry Worker in September 2008 and Ryhan Prasad was seconded to the position of 18 – 30s Ministry Worker in November 2008. Under the skilled and inspired ministry of these wonderful leaders the new roles have quickly become well established alongside the ministry leadership of our Senior Minister, Allister Lane. Specific reports on these new ministries may be found later in the annual report. And of course reports on each of St. John's major Christian education programmes

follow. This year we also have revised and renewed the partnership agreement with BGI for the provision of youth leadership at St. John's. Our partnership with BGI continues to enable St. John's to deliver a highly successful youth Christian education programme.

As you read on, take a moment to thank God for our many hard working and committed leaders and the wealth of joy they bring to the life of us all at St John's. We are indeed a richly blessed community of worshippers! To our very many dedicated and skilled leaders, on behalf of us all, thank you and may God's blessings be with you all.

Geoff Annals
Convenor



Wellington's Boys' & Girls' Institute

Tēnā koutou e hoa ma

From our beginnings 126 years ago, BGI has had close ties with St John's. As many of you will know, The Boys' Institute (as it was back then) was established by a group of young people from St John's who fundraised to set up bathing facilities for disadvantaged children and youth in the area. Our Tasman Street swimming pool was built in 1883, the first indoor pool in the Southern Hemisphere, and the gymnasium on Arthur Street followed soon after. In 1999 these assets were sold in order to fund a wide range of youth and community projects. With the support of the church, BGI moved in a new direction, employing a Director of Youth and Community Projects to create a range of projects that the church could be more involved in.

Since then we have built up several programmes and projects and have developed a reputation for innovative youth development. We work with young people and their families from throughout Wellington, ranging from those with very high needs to those who are young leaders in our community. We are also widely respected in the youth sector for our youth participation and mentoring practice, and provide training to youth workers around the country. In all our activities, we work alongside young people to develop their strengths. We address any challenges that arise in a positive, youth-friendly way and assist them to build strong and healthy relationships with their families/whanau and the people around them.

Currently we have a paid staff of 16 full time and part time permanent and contract staff. We also continue to attract many long term, committed volunteers – young and old. The office is often filled with a creative “buzz” that visitors remark upon. We have a ready supply of doorknockers, job applicants and volunteers that attest to our reputation as a good employer and an enjoyable place to work. We work hard to foster a culture of support

through weekly staff meetings and good communication. Our youth workers also receive professional, external supervision.

This year we have supported three of our youth workers into new roles within the youth sector where they can follow their passions, and grow their skills. We haven't lost their experience completely however – all three are still involved with programmes on a part time or voluntary basis, and of course Ryhan still remains very involved while taking on his new role with St John's. Our volunteer governance board has also remained stable over this year, however we are pleased to have attracted two new members who bring a Pasifika perspective and some youth representation to the board. This means we now have youth participation happening at all levels of the organisation. We appreciate the involvement of St John's with the board.

Here is a quick run-down of some of the things we've been doing this year:

Footsteps: Our Adventure Therapist provides tailor-made programmes to adolescents who find themselves on the periphery of society - new migrants, mental health consumers, severe offenders and young people at high risk of suicide or self-harm. We focus on promoting the strengths of these young people and their families by bringing out their attributes through adventure-based learning and recreation activities. More than 720 young people and their families have participated in Footsteps initiatives over the year including high ropes courses.

SOS: This new programme in partnership with Snowsports New Zealand will use trained volunteers to mentor young people on the mountains of New Zealand. It is based on the highly successful USA - based SOS





Jacob and Casey from the Challenge for Change mentoring programme, from Matiu/Soames Island

outreach programme. This year we have been developing partnerships, training and finding funding. We look forward to reporting on our first trips next year.

Challenge for Change: Through this early intervention mentoring programme, young people 9-13 years are matched with volunteer mentors who act as positive role models (we're always looking for more mentors if you're interested!). Children are referred to the programme by schools, Police Youth Aid, Child, Youth & Family and community agencies. Parents/caregivers attend a concurrent parenting programme. Last year another 32 young people and their families benefited from the programme, as did their 32 mentors.

Strengthening Families: When Family and Community Services called for expressions of interest for a host organisation for the Strengthening Families Coordinator, we were encouraged by a number of community organisations to apply. We took this as community endorsement and a reflection of our reputation. We were successful in our bid, ahead of a number of strong contenders, and employed the new Coordinator in March. As a result, BGI's networks are growing and we have seen an increase in referrals to our existing programmes.

Confidance and Guidance: The BGI Dance project is a mixture of two programmes called ConfiDance and Gu+iDance. ConfiDance has five all-boy dance crews ranging from 5 to 16 year olds. Gu+iDance which stands for God, you & I dance is a faith based dance programme for girls aged 11-19 years. Over the last year we have grown from three programmes to now six and are enjoying taking the ConfiDance programme into Berhampore School through the contact of Nicki Read, one of the teachers at the school who is also a St John's member. We have been involved in over 20 performances including Starlight Storytime. We are very grateful for the use of the St John's Centre and this has become a home away from home especially for some of

our boys who have been involved in the programme for over four years. We have enjoyed the interconnectedness of relationship that we have with St John's and this is evident with five children from St J's kids & several Youth Group members. Zander Beard, a St J's Kid, has invited all his friends from school which now makes up most of the Urban Bandits crew, which is a group of 10 boys from the ages of 6-10 years. It was a joy to witness eight St John's Youth group boys, who had never danced before, performing a Krumping routine at our end of year concert. The BGI Dance project has also benefited from the help St Johns has provided in time of need through the prayer chain and also the pastoral care freezer. Many families who have experienced tragedies & sicknesses have enjoyed various meals provided by the freezer along with a card with our thoughts & prayers. This has been a great practical way to share our care and love and we very much thank St John's for opening not only its home but its freezer to us also.

Link: In 2008 we trained a group of young people in action research, building upon the success of the Wellington Youth Project (WYP) in 2001. The young people from Link, with the support of youth workers, established a research framework, developed and administered a survey to their peers, then analysed and reported their results. The Wellington Youth Survey 2008 is a valuable snapshot of young people in Wellington. Other projects of Link include a poster of youth services and 'Think Inside the Box', a sustainability summit for young people which was held inside a recyclable cardboard structure.

Youth work at BGI is about building relationships with young people and their families. This means we do not just 'provide services for youth' rather we are 'in service with youth'. Thanks to St John's for their ongoing support over the last year. We look forward to our continued relationship with you.

Ross Davis, Director and Tanya Duncan, Board Chair

St John's Youth

Well it's been a full on year so far and shows no sign of slowing down, it was with sad hearts that we farewelled Alice Potts from the ministry team this year. Alice has relocated to Australia and is experiencing the sights and sounds of Melbourne. Fortunately we were able to bring Ngahuia Larsen on to continue the Junior group coordinator role and Jesse Boyce has continued excellently to assist her. We also finally farewelled Andrew Johnston from his youth ministry role as he took on his position with Christian World Service and larger University commitments. Mark Edgecombe also bid us adieu as he launches into engaged life. We pray God's blessing on all who have left as they continue their journey elsewhere.

This year has been highlighted by the number of young volunteer leaders we have. We also had three young people graduate from 'Going Somewhere' the JYMC (Joint Youth Ministries Committee) leadership course. It was awesome to see a large contingent of the leaders attend the amazing 'snowed in' CONNECT youth leaders conference in Christchurch and this really helped everyone learn more about youth ministry. We have twelve leaders involved in youth ministry at St John's, all at different levels of experience and leadership. It is inspiring and encouraging to see such a large committed and passionate ministry team, especially when compared to the national picture. It is the exception rather than the rule to have such a committed team of leaders. Our leaders are people to cherish and be thankful for, we are blessed to have them serve so faithfully in our community. If you get the chance invite one of them out for coffee, find out what makes them tick and let them know they are appreciated.

Another highlight has been the confirmations of eight our young people here at St John's and we once again celebrate and affirm their decision.

The Junior group or *EPIC* has also continued to grow and form as a unique group within the youth ministry. It is actually becoming quite hard to sustain the high level of commitment to both groups within the forty hour paid contract. I look forward to the guidance of Session in addressing this need.

Another huge challenge this year has been the closing down of the St John's Centre Gym. This has hugely impacted the delivery of our youth programmes especially the Juniors, who really enjoy sports and games in the Gym. Once again we are thankful for the creativity and support from BGI in helping us come up with creative solutions and the use of the BGI van to allow us to go offsite.

Our Ministry model – Looking In, Around and Out



Look In: Encourage young people to grow in a Christ-centred faith in God

Sunday Programme:

Building young people in the knowledge of God and his living word.

Youth Services: Discovering God together

We held two morning youth services this year, a first as I can recall in my time here. The essence of the youth services is to serve the St John's community by sharing and worshipping together with a more youth focused emphasis. The young people enjoy the challenge of learning what the scriptures are saying and how we can discover what they are saying as we plan out the service together. Some highlights include: the introductions of 'Adults' Time', hearing our young people preach the word and having our youth band lead worship.

Youth Alpha Ski Trip

This was a great opportunity to get away from it all and have some focused time exploring our faith over an entire weekend. We hit the slopes during the day and worshipped and discussed faith at night. It was so encouraging and inspiring to see so many good questions and robust discussion occurring during this time. It was also amazing to see our young leaders lead worship and facilitate discussion in small groups.

Friday Night Programme

In June junior youth group gathered together with a whole lot of bags of material donated from families and created their own fashion out fits which were then paraded for judges from the Senior group. The night was amazing and all members got into the design and creation of outfits, great to have such a diverse programme to see our young people explore their talents.

Friday night social groups: Making a place for people to belong

Junior group and Senior group meet on a Friday night during term time.

In May the Junior and Senior groups joined together and went to Cuba Mall to build a cardboard disco. It was a great night that was designed to get out and show the community who we are and what we're about, we were supported by Wellington City Council through sound



and staging equipment and BGI joined us with a table of information letting everyone know about all the projects we are linked into.

The youth group also helped and participated in Starlight Story time with the children's ministry and helped make pizzas for the pastoral care freezer.



Joint Youth Ministry Committee: Doing youth ministry with others

This committee aims to offer training, support and the facilitation of large events to grow Presbyterian and Methodist youth ministries regionally. St John's youth leaders are part of this committee (Ryhan Prasad is the Convenor) and help with running various events like the Film Festival and Easter Camp.



Look OUT - encourage young people to grow Christ-centered mission hearts to serve

We held an overseas mission workshop that was facilitated by Andrew Johnston. A result of this, some of our young people are planning and exploring mission opportunities overseas

We have also continued to sponsor Dennis our World Vision child.

Statistics

These two groups run at St John's during term time between 10-11am on Sunday mornings. We meet in the youth group rooms in Spinks' Cottage and also the Mackenzie Room in the Conference Centre

Junior yr 7-8 (ages 10-12)

Under Pastoral Care	32
Attend Friday on average	10
Attend Sunday on average	6

Senior yr 9-13 (ages 13-18)

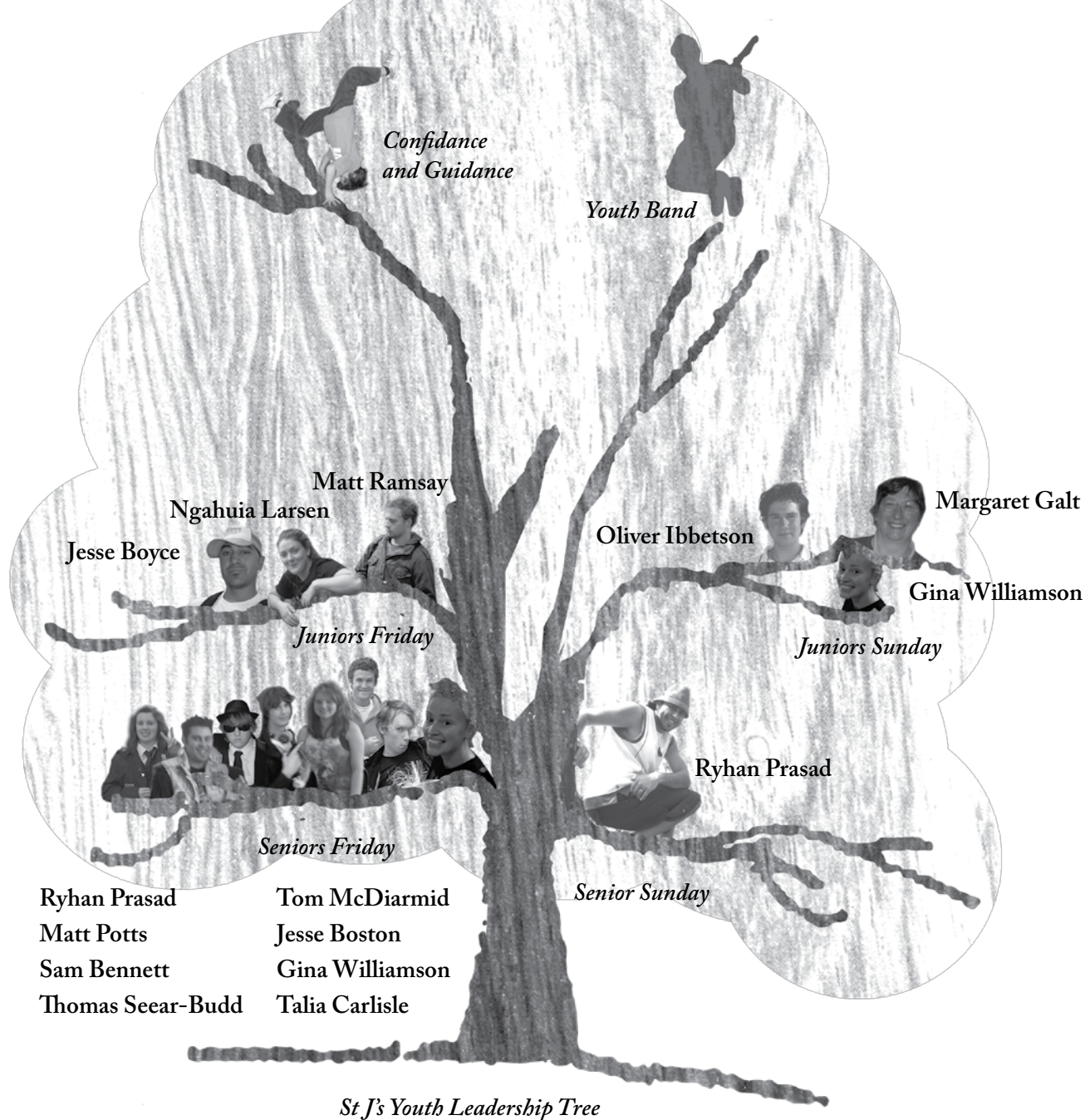
Under Pastoral Care	52
Attend Friday on average	23
Attend Sunday on average	10



The group of leaders that attended the Connect Conference for Presbyterian Youth Leaders, in Auckland, 2009



Thomas modeling the St John's group t-shirts for Connect 2009



The Year Ahead

I am sad to say that the year ahead will include my farewell from youth group. Though not lost to the parish I will be stepping down as the youth coordinator here at St John's. Due to my ordained ministry training I will be posted at St John's as a ministry intern so will not be able to keep up my youth group role as well. However work is well under way to fill the role, and BGI and St John's together are exploring the best possible way forward.

Again the future for youth ministry here at St John's looks bright. We have reached a situation where we have a

committed talented and passionate team of leaders both paid and volunteer. I cannot stress enough the need to nurture and continue to maintain this level of leadership. With the amazing support and creative environment of BGI and the continued support and vision from St John's, young people will continue to be cared for, included and well served.

Ryhan Prasad
Youth Co-ordinator



Children and Families

"If I have the belief that I can do it, I will surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it at the beginning."
Gandhi

Jill Kayser, Kids Friendly coach reflects on this theme of leadership with children when she writes "Ask the children of your church "Who wants to be a leader?" and most will put up their hands. Children don't hold the stereotypical ideas around leadership that most adults do. They believe they are capable of leading and contributing in our churches, it's us that need convincing."

Jennie McCullough (youth worker at Knox Waitara) continues this thinking and believes that everyone is destined to lead, no matter what their age and is expressed when we "share our passion for God and use the gifts He gave us to make a difference in our world". Jennie believes that all children have the potential "to influence others in a positive way" and "we need to provide opportunities in our churches for young people to contribute as servant leaders."

When we 'let children in' by taking the time to come alongside them, to listen and support their enthusiasm by involving them and being involved ourselves it begins to shape our way of being as a community. At St John's this is beginning to happen with activities that have begun as children's events growing into intergenerational experiences such as Starlight Storytime and the Prayer Labyrinth. It becomes a two way process and everyone benefits.

Anna Davis
Children and Families Ministry Worker



*Games using the Shrek swamp cloth, Wheels
Afternoon May 2009*

St J's Kids

Our theme for 2009 is 'Shrek and Belonging', loosely connecting with our lifetime journey of living in God's Way and our need for 'Belonging' as we journey. Shrek (an Ogre and the main character in the movie with the same name) went on a journey to get his home 'The Swamp' back and subsequently to find Princess Fiona. Along the way he had many challenges. At times he wanted to give up but kept going. Although Shrek belonged to his swamp he reluctantly realised he needed other people to help him on his journey, i.e. the 'stubborn' friendship of Donkey, then Fiona and finally the Fairytale creatures. We need our community of family and friends including our church family to help us with our faith journey, for company, wisdom and encouragement along the way. Hmmm, aligning St John's with Shrek's swamp?! – dubious you may think but St John's should be the place kids can call 'home' or feel at home in and in so doing experience something of Christ's Kingdom. Children can only grow into leadership when they experience belonging – that is, the support, well being and encouragement of a community around them. The aim of St J's Kids this year is to foster belonging so our children will have the resilience to continue together on their life journeys.

Curriculum

We continue to use the lectionary based 'Seasons of the Spirit' which provides continuity with the morning and evening worship services in what we're learning.

Dynamic Leadership team for 2009

Children's Door Greeters: Catherine Galuszka, Alex Read

Casual Assistants: Olive Alexander, Shirley Carran

Puss-in-Boots: 0-5 yr olds:

Leaders: Heather Walker, Ani Prasad

Assistants: Mindy Simpson, Brigitte Hicks-Willer

Dragons: Yr 1 & 2s (5-7yr olds):

Leaders: Janie Pack, Bronwyn Wood

Assistants: Nonie Murwanto, Cynthia Krogh

Blind Mice: Yr 3 & 4s (7-9yr olds):

Leaders: Iris Webster, Chris Purchas, Ingrid McEnaney

Assistant: Teena Waller, Melisa Webster

Gingerbread Men: Yr 5 & 6s (9-11yr olds):

Leaders: Nicki Read, Sean O'Connor, Ross Davis

Assistant: Jeff Liando

Thanks

There have been many highlights within the children's ministry since last year's report, this is mainly due to the enthusiasm and commitment of the highly skilled leadership team who deliver high standard small group times week in and week out giving of their time on Sundays and throughout the week. You are crucial in laying that foundation of belonging which is instrumental in faith development. So thank you for all that you do.



Judi Ferguson reads 'Mrs Parata rides again' at Starlight Storytime 2008



Kaumatua Ethan Palendeng, Oliver Greig, Harry Troughton and Gregory Wang with shepherds, Tyler Gibbs and Jacob Beard at our Pacifically Aotearoa Pageant



David Burton, Mary Gibbs, Margaret Gilkison, Malcolm Shaw, Eve Davis, Beth Beard, Sean O'Connor act out 'The Frog Show' Starlight Storytime 2008



Line up of Kaumatua and Shepherds at our Pacifically Aotearoa Pageant



Sheep and farmer

Under 3s at St J's Kids

The initiative begun last year of involving children under 3 and their parents in St J's Kids continues to be popular with families who have children not keen to stay in the chapel crèche without their parent. The over 3s are benefiting from the added dimension of music and movement and morning tea in their group time. It has helped build community among the parents of preschoolers and we have seen an increase in attendance.

Numbers

Number on roll aged 0-2yrs attending St J's Kids: 9

Number on roll aged 3-11yrs: 71

Number of families represented: 48

Average weekly attendance: 35

Sunday holiday programmes

An average of 25 children attended during the holiday breaks.

Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday (Queen's Birthday Weekend): more intentional holiday programmes were run due to high numbers attending on these days and the importance of these festivals. Approximately 55 children attended on Easter Sunday and approximately 30 children on Pentecost. Thanks to Jessie Boston for co-leading with me and to Ginny Abernethy for providing the music. Many thanks to Jinny Irvine, Lesley Shaw, the Boston/Hutchinson family, the Riddle/Budd family, Linda Shaw, Cynthia Krogh and Vera & David Burton for running the holiday programmes throughout the year. The children enjoy connecting with others in the congregation and having a less structured programme.

Leadership Training

Faith Inkubators Conference, Auckland. August 2008: three leaders attended this Growing In Faith Together 'GIFT' conference and came away with practical ideas to enhance our children's ministry on Sundays and to think beyond Sundays in the way we 'do' children's faith education.

The concept behind 'Faith Inkubators' is incubation(!) Building faith in our children is costly and takes time and effort requiring years of consistency to grow their faith which is fragile. We were challenged to see children's faith education as not limited to a weekly church programme, but taking place routinely at home. This means educating and equipping our parents to be faith mentors and guides for their own children.

The challenge for this year is to organise a workshop event to begin equipping parents to share their faith with their children amidst the chaos and demands of every day life.

Kids Friendly workshop: "Tell Me Another One" September 2008

On sharing scripture through creative storytelling. Hosted by St John's, 19 people from five churches attended, seven of which were St J's Kids leaders. It enthused us to present scripture in more active and engaging ways with our children in their small groups.

Social events:

Have been well attended providing opportunities to invite friends, build relationships and network with families and with their leaders.



Children being introduced to our Shrek theme for 2009, 'The Year of Belonging'

Starlight Storytime in September 2008

This was a truly intergenerational night. Confidance and Boys Brigade contributed for the first time with dancing and hangi preparation/serving respectively. This was the first year we ran two sessions back to back enabling us to remain in the Chapel for the storytelling to maintain the ambient atmosphere. 52 adults and 85 children attended over the two sessions (approximately 37 families were represented). St J's Kids families invited friends, St John's Grandparents brought their Grandchildren, Confidance families attended as did preschool M&M families. St J's Kids 'Wheels Afternoon' at Kilbirnie Rec' Centre in May went well with the leaders creating a great afternoon of organised games. Approximately 70 children and 30 adults attended mainly St J's Kids families and friends with some representation from the preschool M&M group.

St J's Kids in Worship

Highlights have been the children actively serving and engaging in worship in different ways. Three unique worship experiences stand out.

Christmas Pageant 'Pacificaly Aotearoa'

Written by Iris Webster and expertly narrated by Alex Read and James Ramsay from Junior Youth group. The Aotearoa/Pacific theme added significance to the Nativity as we watched children dressed as native birds in the choir, Kaumatua in dramatic cloaks, Fred Dagg style farmers chewing on straw, parents crawling beside their preschool sheep, pacific flowers drifting down from the Angels dressed in lava lavas etc.

The highly interactive 'Picnic church' at Otari/Wilton's Bush in March when we celebrated the wonder of God's creation in song, agape meal, and floating leaf prayers down the river – a particularly child friendly venue! Many families asked when there would be another.

Prayer labyrinth and games afternoon June Quarterly Communion

A first for St John's and the experience took on a life of its own.

Onslow Anglican (Ngaio Khandallah parish) generously lent us their fabric labyrinth.

The greatest challenge was to make this an authentic prayer experience for the children which involved preparing the children in the weeks before, with discussion and activities on prayer and an introductory 'walk' the Sunday before.

The prayer labyrinth became a powerful worship experience for the leadership team. Firstly as we walked it together on Saturday night to prepare for Sunday and found ourselves spontaneously kneeling at the foot of the cross together, and secondly as we guided the children through each station as they walked it and responded to this kinaesthetic prayer experience.

The adults walked it after church (morning and evening services), followed by the Gui+Dance Girls and Youth Group on Friday. It was left in the Chapel the following Sunday morning for those who had missed the previous week. Many people asked when we could do it again. Games after lunch seemed to enhance the whole experience as all ages mixed over board games and table tennis.

There was a positive organised family chaos about this day as people negotiated with each other to make space for various activities such as lunch serving, labyrinth walking and games coordination and in the midst of this was a tangible sense of God's Spirit at work.

Thinking about others at St J's Kids

The focus for Lent was a six week 'Lenten Flower challenge' where the children were to intentionally practise Acts of Kindness they had identified in different aspects of their life. Parents were asked to encourage their children over the six weeks to honour the challenges they had identified for each week.

Thanks

To all the people in the congregation who support us in our children's ministry with encouragement, positive feedback and practical help and who make an effort to welcome and look out for the children. I'd particularly like to acknowledge Judi Ferguson for her constant support on so many levels, one of the biggest jobs was making a massive Shrek swamp cloth at the beginning of the year, and Lesley Shaw for her ongoing support particularly in her commitment to coordinating the Creche.

May we continue to create opportunities for the children to contribute and belong to St John's in authentic ways.

Anna Davis
Children and Families Ministry Worker

Preschool Music and Movement

We continue to grow and develop. Since the beginning of 2009 numbers have steadily increased with 40 families (56 children) on our roll with an approximate average of 30 adults and 35 children regularly attending.

Leadership and Training

In December it was with sadness we farewelled Kerry-Lynn Sorrell who was leaving after leading the music for four years, this was the end of an era. Heather Walker, Nicki Read and I continue to lead the sessions on a rostered basis and in May, Jean Clark, parent of two children under two joined us in this.

Lesley Shaw and Mindy Simpson attend regularly to provide support in any way they can from holding babies to welcoming parents and their children or helping to serve morning tea.

In March, St John's provided the venue for the Kids Music Company workshop on their latest CD, 'Break Out'. Four of us attended and learnt different techniques for leading the new songs.

Group involvement

Shared involvement of group members through morning tea and music leadership rosters continues. As does attendance at wider church events such as Baptisms, All Age Worship and St J's Kids social events.

The group baked for, compiled and delivered Easter Baskets for elderly parishioners in April during a Coffee & Chat morning. This continues to be a much enjoyed 'tradition' of our group. The many thank you cards written by the recipients are very much appreciated.

Thanks

Many thanks to Betty Robertson and Lynn Pollock for supporting our group with Coffee and Chat and for staying connected with so many of the parents. Also to those who have helped Betty and Lynn, in particular Mary and Elizabeth Gibbs. Your commitment to supporting our group is crucial for maintaining links with the wider St John's community.

Anna Davis

Children and Families Ministry Worker

Creche

As part of the new intentional ministry approach to crèche this year, I have taken on the role of Convenor. Now that the St J's Kids preschool group is open to under 3s, the crèche is mostly patronised by 'real' babies.

I have taken a more active approach in the running of the crèche by:

- + rostering two crèche volunteers each week
- + pairing volunteers with someone they may not know very well to build the sense of community
- + encouraging the volunteers to wear their name tags
- + asking volunteers to contact me if they cannot do their duty to arrange a substitute
- + checking every Sunday morning that all is well, introducing people to each other and welcoming new parents
- + enlisting the help of the Sunday Duty Convenors to open up the chapel, turn on the heaters and bring in the toy trolley and change table
- + arranging for the church caretakers on Fridays to set up the crèche space in the chapel ready for Sunday
- + purging the toys and disposing of those that were broken and unsuitable, and adding more appropriate picture books to the supply.

The cooperation from all areas of the parish has been encouraging.

Our crèche is a lovely place to be. It is proving a good place for relationship building between parents of young children and others in the congregation and between the crèche volunteers.

Lesley Shaw

Creche Co-ordinator



*Keeping the rhythm , Preschool Music & Movement
August 2008*



Participants in the most recent Alpha Marriage Course

Alpha Marriage Course

We run two eight week courses in the middle two terms of the school year. This year 14 couples have attended over the two courses. Participants have connections with preschool M&M; St J's Kids; 18-30s group, the morning congregation, Confidance and from the Alpha Marriage Course website on which St John's is listed.

Facilitators: Anna & Ross Davis, Nicki & Richard Read, Kate Fox & Tom Duncan.

Thanks goes to the Facilitators who continue to give of their time and skills to make this course happen. Also to those of you from previous courses who have generously provided desserts which play an integral part in the evening.

Anna Davis
Children and Families Ministry Worker



2009's highly interactive Picnic Church at Otari-Wilton's Bush

Social Committee

Another year has flown and once again we can reflect on a job well done by a Committee who always rise to the occasion and provide such excellent service. Particular mention must be made of Grace Jarvie whose organisational abilities were much appreciated. The Quarterly Communion lunches were well supported and thank you to all those who brought such a great variety of food to the table. The highlight of the year was the Easter Sunday breakfast – an excellent turnout and, judging from the feedback, could become an annual event. Finally, our thanks go to all those who assisted the Committee with advice and setting up for the special occasions.

David Ensor
Convenor



The Girls' Brigade - 8th Wellington Company

Junior Report

This year the Junior Girls' Brigade girls have had a jam packed year which included Tongan dance, craft and also learning about Tonga itself. Learning about Tongan culture has been a great experience for the girls. Although more enthusiastic some weeks than others the girls overall enjoyed the experience.

The juniors this year almost started off as a one girl bandwagon. But thankfully with a whole lot praying and a bit of luck we were honoured to have three new members, Lily, Yusi and Mikayla. So with three new members joining is our one girl band wagon has become a four star rock band.

Senior Report

This year the seniors have had an amazing year. From painting pot plants to making different types flowers, animals and planes in origami. There may be only two girls but their willingness to have fun and learn new things makes up for the missing members. Overall the girls have had a wonderful year so far and hope for more exciting years to come.

Pioneer Report

Being the big girls on the block this year has been a challenge for the new girls joining pioneers, but they have managed to step up to the plate. This year the girls have done a range of activities from cross stitching to learning from the Bible about commitment. Overall this year has been a very relaxing and enjoyable year for the girls who will keep on striving to meet their goals.

Simata Fifita Murphy
Pioneer



Crafts are a regular and enjoyable part of the Juniors Tuesday night programme



Presentation of awards, November 2008



Juniors having a great time on Tuesday night



Bryan, David, James and Daniel on their tramp to Feild Hut, Waitangi Weekend 2009



James and Daniel cooking dinner at Feild Hut, probably for the photographer



This year's camp at Camp Ngati Awa was great fun



Boys learn that the 'simple life' often requires more work than their 'normal' lives



Special Awards at the 59th Presentation of Awards
Squad Shield - Squad 2
Miss Millia Cup, for Excellence of Character - Daniel Arnold
Sportsmanship - Frederic Strickland
MVP Company Section - Hyden Cho
MVP Team Section - Callum Riddle



We celebrated our 60th Anniversary with other Wellington BB groups on the Paintball field



All our team work training paid off as we managed to hold off the 'enemy'

The Boys' Brigade - 2nd Wellington Company

The Object of the Boys' Brigade is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

The years 2008 and 2009, could not have been more different for St John's Boys' Brigade. In fact it may be best to write two reports to give a better picture.

2008

2008 saw the 125th anniversary of The Boys' Brigade internationally. Boys from all over Wellington came to three events on 4th October to celebrate. First with games similar to the previous year's Red vs Blue activities. In the evening we were joined by old boys and leaders for dinner in the St John's Centre. The day concluded with a celebration service with speakers Sir Michael Hardie-Boys (former Captain of the BB in Hataitai), James Lewis-Pullin (a senior boy) and Al Ronberg (BBNZ). A special thanks needs to go to Rev Tom Etuata and the St John's youth band for making this evening a meaningful time of thanks for the past 125 years.

Apart from the major events of the year, 2008 was a year of growth. With boys joining at both Team (ages 7-11) and Company (ages 11-17) sections. It is great to hear feedback from boys and parents. All appreciate the activities and experiences, but more so the values, commitment and Spirit which BB operates within.

2009

The first six months of 2009 have been quite different. Team Section Leader Nathan Smith and Simon Anastasiadis have 'retired' for BB, both taking on more responsibility for young adults and youth groups in their respective churches (Equippers and Life Point). Both Nathan and Matthew Bayliss moved to Auckland in early 2009. Nathan is studying at Laidlaw College (formally Bible College NZ) and Matthew studying at Carey College (the Baptist equivalent). It is saddening that the only way we can attempt to replace this talent is with a senior boy from any other company.

As well as having four of the five leaders moving on to serve in new areas, our whole operation has moved for six months. We were forced to find an alternative meeting location while the gym has been out of commission. We spent some time at an ex-bowling green and building in Mt Victoria. Over the summer this was fantastic as it had two large playing fields. However as winter set in it has become increasingly difficult, as the indoor facilities are quite cramped.

The highlights of 2009 include:

- + The support from our new Minister and Chaplain Rev Allister Lane (a former St John's BB boy), and new leader James Lewis-Pullin (formerly of the Plimmerton BB Company).
- + This year's camp was held at Camp Ngati Awa in the Waikanae valley. Although there was only a small number in attendance, all involved had a great time. Personal and spiritual growth was evident.
- + Making connections with a BB group in Parramatta, Sydney.
- + The growth both Spiritually and numerically. In fact there has been such great interest that we now have a small waiting list. A problem that can be easily remedied with a few extra leaders.

In June of 2009 we celebrated 60 years of BB at St John's. The boys all enjoyed the all age worship service and it was great to see people from BB's past and present enjoying this special day. It is disheartening to think that our group may not see its 61st anniversary. Not through lack of boys, but without new leadership this ministry may need to go into recess until this leadership can be found.

To end on a positive note, a special thanks to all who supported St John's BB boys over the past 12 months through prayer and encouragement. I challenge you to increase your support by leading an activity, helping on Monday night, or mentioning this great ministry to a friend.

Ki a koutou i te mahi o te Ariki

Captain David Jackson

Honorary Captain Harriet Johnston

Lieutenant in Charge (Team Section) Nathan Smith

Lieutenants Nathan Bayliss & Simon Anastasiadis

Warrant Officer Tim Walbran

Staff Sergeants Matthew Bayliss & James Lewis-Pullin

Elders Sandy Lawson & Ross Davis

Monday Night House Group

This year Monday night housegroup is 25 years old. Not bad for a group that started up not knowing what was going to happen next! Reflecting on the 25 years it is clear that the group has been like the woodman's axe. It has had multiple new Heads and multiple new Handles (though we refuse to say who is which!) But there has been some continuity as well: the studies of course that form the bulk of the evening, and the takeaways for "tea" before the group. We truly are the best customers of Wing Long!! Food has always been important, notably desserts! And the Guy Fawkes party – which for many years began with Sandy playing the bag-pipes. But some things have changed as well. Like the parties no longer include games like "Chocolate Dinners" – and some of us have noticeably less hair! But the most important things have stayed throughout – the joy of getting together to learn more about being a Christian, the support we give each other, and the fun we have. And we have always thrived on having new members – so if you are interested, feel free to try us out.

Margaret and David Galt
Convenors



Housegroup 1988 Margaret Galt, Sandy Lawson, David Galt, Malcolm Leitch, Linda van Milligan, Kathy and Gavin Sutherland, Marion Longstaff, Judy Dumbleton, and Sarah and Paul Westropp



Tuesday Night House Group

This has been another good year for the group, and once again our studies and activities have been many and varied.

We started with an informal meeting where we were invited to bring along our favourite song, poem, scripture or story to share – "why do you like it and what does it mean to you?" Many also spoke about people who had been a major influence in their Christian journey. This was followed by a challenging and thought-provoking reflection on restorative justice lead by Dr Chris Marshall, our very own St John's Associate Professor in Christian Theology. Chris's reflection provided an ideal introduction to a brief study series on Christianity and violence. We finished the year by sharing some Christmas memories and carols as well as some suitable Christmas cheer!

We began 2009 with our traditional barbeque, and it was great to have Allister, Naomi and Pearse join us for this. After studying Galatians, we decided that food was once again on the menu with a mid-winter dinner – well, it certainly felt like mid-winter on a suitably cold and dark May night! – and then we prepared the meal for the Evening Service later in the month. Our next study was based on the documentary "In God's Name", where twelve of the world's religious leaders reflected on a wide range of issues including life and death, war and peace, doubt and belief, and the nature of God. This rewarding documentary has gone on to be used by other groups within St John's. We are now working our way through Philipians.

Prayer underpins the life of the group, and every time we meet we spend time in prayer and reflection. Anyone is welcome to attend at any time. 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, offering a unique and valued perspective on our Christian journey. The most important thing is that the group encourages and supports you in this journey.

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

Paul Ramsay
Convenor

Left: David Galt playing chocolate dinners at a housegroup party in 1984

Far left: Sandy Lawson piping for the fireworks, Guy Fawkes 1994

Women's Association

Our year has had its usual ups and downs for our members, particularly health wise, reflecting the age group of our members. I continue to pray that more women, especially those over 50, would attend our meetings. I do take some comfort in the fact that this concern is not unique to St John's. We continue to meet monthly (except December and January). Thank you to all who contribute in whatever way to ensure that our meetings are run smoothly and efficiently. Our current formula of short business session, guest speaker and shared lunch seems to be meeting the needs of members.

Guest Speakers

As usual a wide range of topics has been covered. In July 2008 Judi Ferguson wowed us with her rich and colourful collections of quilts and the stories behind the making of them. In August 2008 Faith Atkin officer of the Royal Society NZ spoke about her experience of a trip to Iceland and Greenland with three, Year 13 Otago Girls High School girls (who had won a RSNZ Science prize). A documentary film had been made of the trip and screened on TV. In September we reminisced about our own significant events and projects. What a varied life we all lead! In March 2009 Harriet Johnston gave us a very moving talk about the lives of some of the boys she was able to influence during her very long and unique involvement in the 2nd Company of The Boys Brigade here at St John's.

Church Services

The Christmas Service and the Easter Lenten Service were both taken by Rev. Allister Lane. Both in their very different ways provided spiritual food for thought.

Committee Meetings

We meet annually in January to plan the year's activities, including the APW special Project Appeal. The rest of the time we use good old telephone contact. A very big thank you to all the committee members. Many of you have been for many years carrying out the mission work which is a major part of our purpose.

Other Activities: Coffee and Chat

Betty Robertson and Lynn Pollock continue to organise the Coffee and Chat monthly morning teas in association with the Music and Movement group meeting on the second Thursday in the month. Offers to help on the day in the kitchen and doing some baking are always welcome.

Fund Raising

This year as a one-off event we catered for the Age Concern conference in September 2008. We raised \$540 The money was allocated by helping to send 3 Boys Brigade members to camp (\$150). The remainder provided two goats and clean water for a year to families in Uganda and providing seeds and tools for the Women's Resource Development Centre in Southern India, which help them to feed their families and provide a cash income.

APW/MWF Special Project Annual Appeal

A retiring collection was held on May 24th 2009 and \$600 was raised. Some of this money, through CWS will go towards supporting village women in Latur, Solomon Islands, to protect their way of life. Some will help provide the Hearing Association of New Zealand with funds to raise public awareness of hearing loss, especially in young people by specifically targeting educational programmes. Thank you to Rev. Allister Lane for helping to bring these appeals before the congregation.

National Council of Women (NCW)

Carolyn Goudswaard and I continue to represent the APW Wellington Presbyterial on the Wellington Branch of the NCW. It helps to provide a Christian perspective on a wide range of subjects and submissions.

Stamps

Grace Jarvie, Betty Robertson and Helen Nixon continued to sort, clean and sell stamps donated for fundraising.

Triennial Conference of APW

Thank you for sending me to the Triennial Conference as your delegate. I found it stimulating and well worthwhile.

The Aims of APW are

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 parent churches. To encourage an informed interest in worldwide mission and evangelisation.

I believe that the St John's Women's Association achieves these aims year in, year out, and I would like to repeat my thank you to you all for your ongoing commitment and involvement in the life of St John's Church and beyond.

Mary Gibbs
President

Property Committee

This year we experienced several crises. The major one was the warping of the gymnasium floor caused by water getting into the space beneath the floor boards. All the repair work to fix the wall, emergency exit door and alter some of the roof drainage has been completed at considerable expense to St John's and hopefully the floor will soon be relaid using ash boards.

A serious leak into the chapel caused by a blocked drainage gutter occasioned some unusual and unwelcome excitement one Sunday morning. This problem has now been fixed, we hope! Work continues on preventing some leaks which have developed over the years into the garage area below the courtyard.

During the year the St John's Centre had some new gear installed in the kitchen, a repaint and some recarpeting. With all this going on over and above the usual maintenance work it is as well that we have no manses to worry about as Allister and Naomi purchased their own home for use as the Manse (God bless them).

Some personnel changes on the Committee saw Ian Jolly doing valuable work on the church archives and briefly taking up the convenorship before leaving St John's. One of the caretakers, Lou Radich left and was replaced by Graeme Coppel. David Wood and family returned after spending three years in Singapore and to the joy of all concerned David accepted nomination to and convenorship of the Property Committee.

The most devastating event for our Committee was the sad news of the serious illness of our wonderful, efficient, hardworking workmate and friend, Grant Garner. Grant has been the Finance and Property Manager at St John's since Jan Stiebert left in 2008. Grant very courageously continued to do his usual superb work while in considerable discomfort and it is only recently that the progress of what has been diagnosed as very serious cancer has prevented him from continuing at the office. Grant's contribution to the work of the Property Committee cannot be too highly praised. A huge gap has been left and we extend to Grant our heartfelt thanks for all his efforts on behalf of St John's, and our sorrow at his illness. Our prayers are with Grant and his family.

John Irvine
Convenor (retired)



Grant Garner, Finance and Administration Manager



Parishioners are clearly able to find their way, thanks to our new sign for the St John's Centre



Sign created in response to Dr Chris Marshall's sermon series on the Beattitudes



Communications Committee

First, thanks to Gail Higgs-West, Ross MacKay, Lance Walker, Jesse Boyce, David Jackson, and Jessie Boston for serving on the Committee this year. The Committee has been mindful again of the tight church budget, reducing our expenditure by 33% compared with recent years, while at the same time being creative with publications. Thanks to David Jackson and BGI for providing the graphic designs at half what we used to pay. Thanks to Jessie Boston for doing a number of high calibre designs for free. Thanks also to Ted Cizadlo for the wise way he has led the church Council this year

Projects of the Communications Committee aim to grow the church by trying to break down commonly held stereotypes. At times we do this through humour and laughing at ourselves, at times by trying to be “clever”, using plays on words and making people think, and at times by challenging the status quo. We hope to give the impression that St John’s is “not what one expects” at a traditional church. We hope when the general public sees the projects that we have completed that they might say, “yeah that’s different, that’s interesting, maybe I’ll check it out”. Even more, we hope when they get here they also see something authentically Christ-like going on at St John’s in the City.

The sign board on the corner of Willis and Dixon Streets provides us with a great opportunity to reach a large audience. At times it has been difficult getting new designs up, as we are mindful of being edgy, funny and topical, appealing to a mainstream audience, and at the same time not wanting to upset anyone. One of the signs this year that generated a lot of discussion was a semi-political one based on Matthew 5:5, reading “Blessed are meek, for they shall inherit Aotearoa”. This was created in response to Dr Chris Marshall’s sermon on the famous beatitude. We heard the sign was highlighted at a Christian conference in Australia as a good example of the gospel and social justice. We received feedback from a Black Power member who connected with the sign, he said “The meek...? That’s us isn’t it, the peasants” Other successful signs included: “Maybe this is the sign from God you are waiting for?” designed by Jessie Boston, and “Jesus loves the All Blacks”.

Projects included the Annual Report 2007/08, Starlight Storytime bookmarks, Powerpoint presentations and the Welcome Pack for people new to St John’s (to be released soon). We have also been involved with promotion for the many events that have happened in the St John’s community over the past twelve months.

Over the last year we continued the new format of “The Messenger”. The Committee’s input is low-level thanks to the great work of Rob Anderson on this. Thanks also to David Galt for his ongoing work on the website. Again the Committee’s involvement is kept to a minimum as David keeps the website updated and relevant. Letters to the Editor are welcomed and it would be great to get more feedback from the congregation on the content of these two key communication tools.

In May 2009 David Jackson and I attended the Connecting Up Conference. This brought together a collection of new Internet experts to teach/show not-for-profit groups how to make better use of new technology. The conference focused particularly on ways to help create community and develop social justice initiatives and ideas. Rather than the flashy, whizz bang stuff we expected, the leaders of Google and Microsoft who spoke were more interested in how they could help create genuine human connection and enhance physical communities - almost as if the Internet is becoming more theological and more Presbyterian! For a copy of the full report on the conference, please contact the church office. In the mean time I will leave you with this quote (from the report) that sums up the major themes of the conference:

“Technology and organisational structures are moving from being hierarchical to collaborative networks. A philosophical keynote made us consider if the time of the dominant hierarchical structures (represented by things like the tower, the army and the steeple) were limited and the networked community which the speakers spoke about as “a cloud” will be the more dynamic force for social change.”

We are looking forward to future developments, especially the ways in which communications and new technologies can develop, and strengthening the connections between our church and the wider community.

Ross Davis
Convener



An Easter sign, playing on the fact that ANZAC Day was very shortly after Easter

St John's Website

The web site at www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz continues to grow in strength and usage.

Thanks to some great automated technology we have statistics kept which most other parts of the church can only dream of having for managing their work.

This year we had:

- + 30917 unique visitors, measured on a monthly basis (up 6%)
- + 36685 visits (up 6%)
- + 103,460 pages downloaded (up 3%)
- + 9327 MB of bandwidth used for downloads (up 44%)

At least we know the web site is still popular and worth keeping up to date. People still come to the site mostly for unique content.

They still come in droves for the free Sunday School plays and other original material. Over 11,000 visits were to our free Sunday School resources including plays and other activities written by Margaret Galt. It would be really good to add to these resources so if St J's Kid's leaders or youth group leaders are writing original material for their classes, I would encourage them to contribute the material to the web site. Other teachers want and use this material, which is indexed by several major international sites for Sunday School teachers. Documents with enticing titles like "The Trouble with Sin" and "Paul and Silas in Prison" really haul in the visitors.

Visitors also come for our marriage details with our nineteenth century registers long being a haunt for genealogists. Historians also have had a new resource this year with many of our annual reports from before establishment of the web site being included for the first time. As St John's has a near complete collection of annual reports available from 1878 on, we plan to include all we have for the public. Those still to be included are mainly from before 1930, having only recently been obtained from the Alexander Turnbull library, which holds many annual reports not held by St John's, although we already have many early ones online. The 1903 report for example has been downloaded 10 times.

Visitors also continue to come for the Church Diary page, where the messages from the weekly Bulletin can be found, normally from the weekend before the service – so you can see it all first on the web site. We also keep relevant material on site longer than it can be kept in the Bulletin.

The practical details are there too – how to book rooms, how to get married at St John's and how to find the Church site.

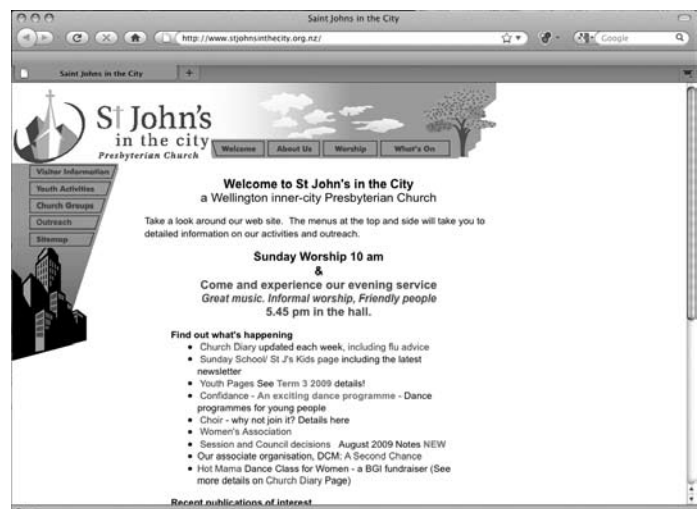
A great addition this year is many of Allister Lane's sermons, which are regularly being added. Older sermons, like older Messengers, continue to grow in popularity as they get better indexed internationally. Both represent a real outreach well beyond St John's to an international audience.

The major message to the congregation is that the web site is as up to date as you make it. So if your group within St John's is active and wants to keep its members informed as well as let people who might be interested in joining your group know about you, please keep the fresh information flowing to me.

I would also welcome interest from other people in helping keep the site up to date in uploading material and assisting with updating the look and feel for the site, which is still very similar to how it was at the inception of the site.

Finally, many thanks to all those who contribute regularly and especially Margaret Galt who put on the old annual reports, Barbara Newdick who keeps the weekly material flowing through and Allister Lane as the biggest contributors of new material this year.

David Galt
Webmaster



www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz is updated regularly

Register for the Year Ending 30 June 2009

Number of Baptisms: 11

Number of Marriages: 1

Members joined during year: 8

The deaths are recorded of the following members:

Mary Walker

Rev. Dr Harry Swadling

Margaret (Peg) Hutchison

Elaine Steedman

Robert (Bob) Young

Margaret Theoharis

Financial Committee

This time last year we were facing a severe global financial crisis with increasing inflation and rapidly declining stock markets and interest rates. Under these conditions we budgeted for a breakeven position. However, the outcome for St John's was much better than we predicted, mainly as a result of the Capital Trust and lower inflation.

As we anticipated, the Capital Trust continued to provide high returns through long term holdings of mainly fixed interest investments. Economic predictions of inflation levels continuing at more than 4% did not eventuate. Inflation of only 1.9% for the year ended 30 June 2009 has meant approximately \$250,000 more cash income available to St John's this year after inflation-protecting the fund.

During the preparation of the financial statements we found an error in last years accounts. This related to an under accrual of interest (interest earned but not received until maturity) in a Capital Trust investment amounting to \$108,815. This is an error of fact that significantly increases the surplus in last year's Statement of Financial Performance. An adjustment identifying the fundamental error has been made in the comparative figures in the financial statements to reflect the correct opening position for the 2009 year.

During the year, additional items were funded. The Children and Families Ministry Worker and the "18-30s" Ministry Worker both took up their positions, and additional funding was provided for BGI youth leaders for the Junior and Senior Youth Groups.

Several major unforeseen property issues resulted in additional expenditure. These included the major rebuild of the fire exit door to the gymnasium to prevent the water leaks that ruined the gymnasium floor, sealing of the courtyard to prevent water leaks into the basement garage and also washing and touching up the exterior paintwork of the church to extend the life of the paint for another two or three years.

Outreach was another key area where St John's extended its support during the year. This involved fundraising for the Downtown Community Ministry (DCM) with the Yulia Concert raising \$7,636 and Outreach Committee grants to several community organisations (\$9,000) and the Global Mission Office (\$10,000). Of significance was the Outreach Committee's use of legacy funds to provide additional support to DCM (\$15,465) and Presbyterian Support Central (\$15,465).

Legacy funds are often difficult to use because of the narrow terms under which they are gifted. St John's has a legal obligation to ensure these are used as intended which can be a time consuming exercise for the Committees who are always looking at how best to use these gifts. If you wish to leave a bequest, it is important that the intent is clear and broad-based to ensure the funds can be used effectively in future years.

The biggest disappointment in the financial results is the continued reduction in congregational giving. The current level of just over \$120,000 is very low in comparison with other similar sized congregations. The Finance Committee believe that a congregation should at least cover the cost of their Senior Minister and Sunday Worship. Currently, this is not being achieved. Looking ahead to 2010, we hope to see this position improved.

We expect some additional pressure on our cash resources over the coming year. Major items of expenditure are expected to include replacing our building security system (which is no longer supported) and the refurbishment of the interior of Spinks Cottage. The Finance Committee is also working with the Investment Advisory Committee to action a recommendation arising from Session's review of the Capital Trust. Session's recommendation is to research the establishment of a second fund with the aim of:

- + Earning a substantially higher return over time
- + Providing access to funds which could be used flexibly in the future
- + Providing some protection against possible future periods when inflation exceeds the returns available on the Capital Trust Fund.

Our current financial position and low financial markets creates the right conditions to consider such a fund this year.

We have again prepared a plain English financial summary which we hope make the financial statements easier to understand. Statutory financial statements are prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards which don't always make them easy to understand. Nor do they reflect St John's actual cash position or the various "rules" that St John's is required to adhere to in its day-to-day financial management.

Ross Chesney
Convenor



Investment Advisory Committee

The current global financial crisis presented a number of risks for the Investment Advisory Committee. The key risks facing the Capital Trust¹ are a loss of capital from an investment, an inability to replace maturing investments with equivalent or better investments and significantly declining interest rates. We are pleased to report that we have weathered these risks very well so far.

As you will see from Note 4 in the Financial Statements, there was only one change to the portfolio during the year and we were able to replace the NRMA investment yielding 7.2% with an equivalent investment with the Halifax Bank of Scotland at a yield of 8.7%. This helps to ensure that the fund continues to perform at a high level in comparison to current market returns.

Last year we identified an investment that had had a credit rating reduction below our minimum level of A. The Committee continues to hold this investment and all interest payments are up to date. The Committee continues to monitor this investment.

Forecasting the economy is always difficult but investment planning is a very important aspect of the Committee's work. Our research during the year resulted in two small investments after year end in an Australian equity fund. Timing of this purchase was at a low point in the market and, over the long term, we expect to see this grow and contribute to the consistently strong returns that support St John's ongoing activities. We will supplement this equity investment with further small equity investments at appropriate times. A broader range of investments should see increased returns in the longer term. Apart from these changes, we expect the fund to continue with the current level of returns in 2010.

In addition to the Capital Trust, the Committee invests other cash reserves, such as the proceeds from the sale of the manses, until those funds are required.

Bob McCay
Acting Convenor

¹ The Capital Trust was created from the proceeds of the plot ratio sale in 1987 and was the mechanism provided by the Wellington City Council at that time to enable organisations with historic sites within the central business district to create a fund to assist with the very high cost of maintenance of their historic buildings.

Plain English Summary of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	2009 \$000's	2008 \$000's	
St John's received income from the following areas:			
Weekly congregational giving by direct credits, envelope system and weekly collection	121	136	← Congregational giving declined again
Other donations & fundraising	21	20	
Rents received from leasing space in Troup House, St John's Centre and carparks	214	210	
Net interest income from St John's funds and the cash received from the air space sold above St John's in the late 1980's ("Capital Trust"), less the adjustment for inflation to protect the cash received for future years and administration costs	879	516	← Inflation protection decreased from 4% CPI to 1.9% CPI and increase interest
Total Income available for General Use at St John's	1235	882	
St John's incurred expenditure in the following areas:			
Church Activities			
Salaries paid to the Ministers and support staff	277	268	← Additional staff for families and 18-30s ministry
Contribution to Christian education	71	54	
Other costs	87	70	
	435	392	Higher property costs from Gym fire door rebuild, sealing basement garage leaks and exterior cleaning of church
Property Costs			
Expenditure on maintaining the Church, manses, conference facilities & Troup House including rates, insurances, and repairs	191	140	←
Depreciation to provide funds for future replacement	65	63	
	256	203	
Wider Work			
Contribution to the operations of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand	89	101	← PCANZ Levies reduced again
St Johns financial support for the Victoria University Lectureship	35	52	
St Johns financial support for the BGI	30	30	
Other activities	76	25	← Outreach increased to benefit DCM, Presbyterian Support Central and the Global Mission Office
	230	208	
Fundamental Error	-	109	
Net surplus available for use by St John's	314	188	
Other resources were used as follows:			
Funds available from / (transferred to) legacies	-12	-18	
Funds available from Planned Maintenance Reserve	17	26	
Net Surplus transferred to reserves	319	196	← Surplus enables recovery of reserves depleted by previous deficits and major capital items required during 2010



AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Congregation of St John's in the City (the 'Church')

We have audited the financial statements on pages 1 to 7. The financial statements provide information about the past financial performance of the Church and its financial position as at 30 June 2009. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 4 and 5.

Councils' Responsibilities

The Council are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which fairly reflect the financial position of the Church as at 30 June 2009 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date.

Auditors' Responsibilities

It is our responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial statements presented by the Council and report our opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes assessing:

- the significant estimates and judgements made by the Council in the preparation of the financial statements, and
- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Church's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We conducted our audit in accordance with New Zealand Auditing Standards issued by the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in the Church.

Qualified Audit Opinion

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

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 and Spinks Cottage, both 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 and Spinks Cottage over their economic lives.

We estimate that had the Church adopted this policy, depreciation for the year ended 30 June 2009 would have increased by a further \$26,680. The effect on the financial statements would have been to decrease the Net Surplus for the year by \$26,680 and decrease the Unallocated Reserves by the same amount. The carrying value of the fixed asset category, Buildings and Improvements would have decreased by \$213,440 which represents the amount of accumulated depreciation as at balance date for the remaining Church and Spinks Cottage assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of the departure from applicable Financial Reporting Standard No. 3 as outlined above the financial statements on pages 1 to 7 fairly reflect the financial position of the Church as at 30 June 2009 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date.

Our audit was completed on 18 September 2009 and our qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

BDO Spicers Wellington

BDO Spicers Wellington
Chartered Accountants

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	\$	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME				
Congregational Giving		120,782		136,042
Donations, Fundraising and Miscellaneous Receipts		20,895		15,134
Legacies Received		-		5,000
Rentals		213,862		209,512
Interest		43,841		52,088
Total Church Operating Income			399,380	417,776
Capital Trust Interest and Dividends	2	1,111,544		979,378
Total Income from the Capital Trust			1,111,544	979,378
Gain on Sale of Assets			-	2,946
TOTAL INCOME			1,510,924	1,400,100
EXPENDITURE				
Church Activities				
Staff Costs		277,280		268,455
Christian Education		71,139		53,625
Worship & Music		5,808		3,336
Congregational Activities		1,611		1,644
Communications		23,705		19,836
Session Costs		9,807		1,860
General Expenses		26,316		27,292
Audit Fees		8,990		7,985
Accounting Fees		6,634		6,190
Legal Fees		2,717		3,200
PCANZ Capital Trust Administration Fees		31,874		22,005
Total Church Activities			465,881	415,428
Property Costs				
Church Running Costs and Repairs		161,882		112,805
Church Improvements and New Equipment		1,781		2,078
Manse Rates, Insurance and Repairs		1,486		175
Troup House Running Costs and Repairs		26,145		25,258
Depreciation		65,000		62,954
Total Property Costs			256,294	203,270
Wider Work				
Presbyterian Church National Services, Parish & MMF Levies		89,177		100,933
Outreach Committee Distributions	3	49,930		13,500
Donations	3	18,282		9,920
Contribution to the BGI		30,000		30,000
Boys Brigade		6,413		43
Girls Brigade		1,493		1,121
VUW Lectureship		35,004		52,498
Total Wider Work Expenses			230,299	208,015
TOTAL EXPENSES			952,474	826,713
NET SURPLUS			558,450	573,387
Fundamental Error	2		-	108,815
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			558,450	682,202
Less: Transfers to Inflation Protect the Capital Trust	6		(244,017)	(493,963)
Less: Transfers to Legacies	6		(43,513)	(55,975)
Plus: Transfers from Planned Maintenance Reserve	6		17,449	25,972
NET SURPLUS TRANSFERRED TO UNALLOCATED RESERVES			288,369	158,236
Plus: Transfer from Legacies			31,069	38,112
TOTAL MOVEMENT IN UNALLOCATED RESERVES			319,438	196,348

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 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Net Surplus for the Year		558,450	573,387
Share Investment Revaluation	6	(86,078)	(179,470)
Total Recognised Revenues and Expenses for the Year		472,372	393,917
Total Equity at beginning of year		22,597,276	22,094,544
Fundamental Error	2	-	108,815
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF YEAR		23,069,648	22,597,276

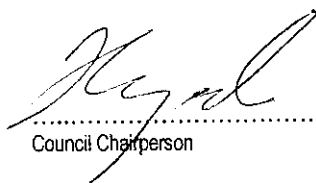
The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements.

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2009

	Note	\$	2009 \$	2008 \$
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank		35,401		42,293
Cash at PCANZ		708,842		665,329
Accounts Receivable		18,263		18,049
Interest Receivable		417,048		315,198
Capital Trust and Other Investments	4	<u>6,077,879</u>		<u>4,600,114</u>
Total Current Assets			7,257,433	5,640,983
Non Current Assets				
Capital Trust Investments	4	8,845,667		9,871,690
Fixed Assets	5	<u>7,099,340</u>		<u>7,142,324</u>
Total Non Current Assets			<u>15,945,007</u>	<u>17,014,014</u>
Total Assets			23,202,440	22,654,997
less Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable		<u>132,792</u>		<u>57,721</u>
Total Current Liabilities			132,792	57,721
NET ASSETS			23,069,648	22,597,276
CAPITAL AND RESERVES	6		23,069,648	22,597,276


 Treasurer


 Council Chairperson

18 September 2009

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 2009

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 stocks 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. The net effect of these adjustments is seen as the Stock Value Adjustment in the Statement of Financial Performance (See Note 3).

Investments in shares have been valued at current market value at Balance Date. Any increase or decrease on revaluation is recognised directly in equity through the Share Investment Revaluation Reserve.

Unrealised losses in the value of share investments of \$210,059 are included in the assets (2008 - \$123,981 unrealised loss).

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 2009 (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 1994.

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 – Fundamental Error: Interest Receivable

Interest on a Capital Trust investment was under accrued by \$108,815 in the Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2008. This was a result of an incorrect confirmation of interest receivable reported to St John's Presbyterian Church by PCANZ for the same amount. The affect of this error was an understatement of the Net surplus for 2008 of \$108,815 and an understatement of Interest Receivable of \$108,815 in the Statement of Financial Performance. The 2008 comparative figures have been amended to reflect the correct financial performance and position.

Note 3 – Outreach Distributions

Outreach distributions comprise:

Downtown Community Ministry	\$15,465
Presbyterian Support Central	\$15,465
Global Mission Office	\$10,000
Mt Cook School Swimming Programme	\$5,000
Catholic Social Services	\$3,000
Wellington Women's Health	\$1,000

Donations comprise:

St Andrew's on the Terrace Building Fund	\$10,000
Downtown Community Ministry – Yulia Concert	\$7,636
Mission and Ministry (PCANZ)	\$646

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009 (continued)

Note 4 - Investments

	Maturity Date	Maturity Value \$	2009 \$	2008 \$
On Call				
Presbyterian Investment Fund (including proceeds from the sale of the manes)			2,586,704	2,100,060
Stocks				
NRMA Corporate Bond	August 2008	1,000,000	-	1,000,055
BNZ Senior Bond	September 2009	1,000,000	998,693	992,334
HBOS Senior Bond	March 2010	1,000,000	992,482	-
BNZ Term Deposit	May 2010	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Powerco Corporate Bond	March 2011	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Waitakere City Council Bond	March 2011	1,000,000	969,510	951,844
Fonterra Corporate Bonds	April 2011	500,000	498,660	497,620
Westpac Bond	December 2011	500,000	499,132	498,781
Rabobank Bond	May 2012	750,000	750,000	750,000
Powerco Corporate Bond	September 2012	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Morgan Stanley Bonds	September 2012	750,000	701,742	686,609
ASB Bank Bond	November 2012	1,000,000	1,002,535	1,003,283
Telecom Corporate Bond	March 2013	500,000	500,000	500,000
ANZ Senior Bond	April 2013	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Shares and Notes	No of Shares	Cost		
NZSX 50 Portfolio Index Fund	368,772	634,147	424,088	491,218
			<u>14,923,546</u>	<u>14,471,804</u>

Note 5 - Fixed Assets

	2009 Cost \$	2009 Current Year Depreciation \$	2009 Accumulated Depreciation \$	2009 Net Book Value \$	2008 Net Book Value \$
Furniture & Fittings	50,468	2,938	44,034	6,434	8,750
Musical Equipment	70,126	4,675	29,565	40,561	50,235
Hall Equipment	65,873	5,079	49,489	16,384	15,769
Church Equipment	2,797	129	2,797	-	129
Office Equipment	145,907	3,063	137,342	8,565	8,218
Building & Improvements	4,934,490	49,116	357,094	4,577,396	4,614,223
Land	2,450,000	-	-	2,450,000	2,450,000
	<u>7,719,661</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>620,321</u>	<u>7,099,340</u>	<u>7,147,324</u>

Note 6 - Capital and Reserves

	Balance 2008 \$	Net Movements for the year \$	Balance 2009 \$
Capital Trust	12,843,013	244,017	13,087,030
Legacies	565,318	12,444	577,762
Unallocated Reserves	1,460,510	428,253	1,888,763
Planned Maintenance Reserve	356,648	(17,449)	339,199
Property Brought to Account	7,370,845	-	7,370,845
Share Investment Revaluation Reserve	(127,970)	(86,078)	(214,048)
Staff Training Reserve	20,097	-	20,097
Total Capital and Reserves	<u>22,488,461</u>	<u>581,187</u>	<u>23,069,648</u>

The movement in the capital trust of \$244,017 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 Trust Deed. Inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index for the year ended 30 June 2009, was 1.9% (2008 – 4.0%).

The movement in the Share Investment Revaluation Reserve of (\$179,470) represents the unrealised capital loss from the investment in units in the NZSX 50 Portfolio Index Fund.

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009 (continued)

Legacies are represented by the following bequests.

	Balance 2008	Interest income for the year	Movements for the year	Balance 2009
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Tied Legacies for Sunday School prizes/funds	3,302	254		3,556
A W Reed Memorial (Kelburn) for Ministers books	1,665	128	(139)	1,654
Endowment Fund	25,613	1,972		27,585
E Carter Trust	175,995	13,546		189,541
A Gordon Estate	7,684	591		8,275
D Chappell Estate	7,684	591		8,275
Joan Andrews Estate – Specific or Special Item for St John's	99,727	7,676		107,403
Joan Andrews Estate – Andrews Family Memorial Trust	140,131	10,786	(18,925)	131,992
Noel Woods Estate	93,775	7,219	(12,005)	88,989
Alford Dornan Estate	1,280	99		1,379
J E Hetrick Estate	3,402	262		3,664
JC White Estate	5,060	389		5,449
	565,318	43,513	(31,069)	577,762

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

- Presbyterian Support Central	\$15,465
- Downtown Community Ministry	\$15,465

Note 7 – Movement in Planned Maintenance Reserve

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Balance of Planned Maintenance Reserve	339,199	356,648
	339,199	356,648

Note 8 - Statement of Resources

The Church is the beneficial owner of a number of properties that are legally held by PCANZ. The reinstatement value for insurance purposes of the Church, Hall, Spinks Cottage and Troup House based on valuations prepared by Telfer Young are as follows:

Property	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Church, Hall & Spinks Cottage (reinstatement value for insurance as at 5 July 2007)	9,323,800	9,323,800
Troup House (reinstatement value for insurance as at 5 July 2007)	3,241,600	3,241,600

Note 9 - 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 Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand (PCANZ), although St John's in the City is the beneficial owner. All investment income generated by the investments is collected and accounted for by PCANZ to St John's in the City, less an administration levy.

Note 10 - Commitments

St Johns in the City has entered into a three year commitment with Victoria University to fund a Christian Theology lectureship. A renewed contract recommenced in January 2008. The commitments amount to:

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
- Current	\$35,000	\$35,000
- Non current	\$17,500	\$52,500

At balance date, there were no capital commitments outstanding (2008 – \$Nil).

Note 11 - Contingent Liabilities

There were no Contingent Liabilities at balance date for the current financial year.

Ministers

Interim Moderator, April 2007 - November 2008
Senior Minister, November 2008

Rev. Denzil Brown
Rev. Allister Lane

Elders Emeriti

		Inducted
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
Owen, John Mrs Norah	35 Philip Street, Johnsonville	1970
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

Kirk Session

Ferrier, Dr Robin	57 Wadestown Road, Wadestown	1974
Stewart, Mr Charles	42 Braithwaite Street, Karori	1979
Anderson, Mr Rob	137 The Ridgeway, Mornington	1980
Galt, Mr David	11 Lower Street, Karori	1981
Ferguson, Ms Judi	114 John Sims Drive, Johnsonville	1987
Galt, Mrs Margaret	11 Lower Street, Karori	1987
Goudswaard, Mrs Carolyn	20A Epuni Street, Aro Valley	1987
Ewan, Mrs Muriel	12/25 Tacy Street, Kilbirnie	1990
Ewan, Mr Rob	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
Pollock, Miss Lynn	49 Aro Street, Aro Valley	1993
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	9 Murphy Street, Thorndon	2003
Wood, Mr David	129 Parkvale Road, Karori	2003
Gibbs, Mrs Mary	61 Sutherland Road, Melrose	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
Prasad, Ms Ani	21B Sunshine Avenue, Karori	2006
Prasad, Mr Ryhan	21B Sunshine Avenue, 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
Parkman, Mr Chris	363 Bedford Street, Northland	2008

Council 2008-09

T Cizadlo, Chair; D Ensor, M Ewan, J Marshall, R Chesney, P Ramsay
R Davis, J Irvine, M Gibbs, R. Munro, G Annals, R Ewan, C Krogh

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
Right 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

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	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
25th Anniversary of the Monday Night House Group		2009

Interest Groups at St John's

Women's Association

Meets 4th Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. 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 fortnightly at various homes throughout Wellington city. Contact Paul and Louise Ramsay on 386 2755, or paul@clear.net.nz

Tuesday Young Adults Home Group (evenings)

Meets weekly at 7:30 p.m. 21B Sunshine Ave, Karori.
Contact Ani or Ryhan Prasad on 476 4822
or aniandraz@xtra.co.nz

English as a Second Language Bible Study

Meets every 2nd Thursday, evenings, at 7.30 p.m. in the church office lounge. Contact Rev. Allister Lane on 385 1546

Wine & Theology Discussion Group

Meets Monthly on a Friday at 7.30 p.m.
Contact Beth Beard on 389 1599

Topical Discussions

Information on topical discussions may be found in the weekly bulletin, or on our website www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

Move It or Lose It - Gentle Exercise Group

Every Thursday (during the school term) at noon in the St John's Centre. \$5 for exercise and lunch. Loads of fun.
Contact Marg Gilkison 476 3144 or 021 144 0494

Choir

Meets Sundays 09.20 – 09.50 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. – 12.00 noon. Monthly evening practices are held on Thursdays. Contact Dr Guy Jansen at gjjansen2003@yahoo.com.au

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 6 p.m. For girls aged from 5 yrs upwards. Contact Katherine Sutherland on 471 0202 after 5 p.m.

Boys' Brigade

Intermediate and High School Mondays 6 p.m. until 8.30 p.m. Primary School Thursdays 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. For all Boys aged 6 – 16 yrs.
Contact David Jackson on 237 9677 or 2wgt@bb.org.nz

St J's Kids

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

Pre-School Music and Movement


Meets weekly, on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the gymnasium of the St John's Centre. Contact Anna Davis on 934 2167

St John's Youth

Junior Group ages 11 – 13 yrs
Sundays at 10 a.m. and Fridays 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.
Senior Group ages 13 – 18 yrs
Sundays 10 a.m. and Fridays 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.
For more details on any youth activities, contact Ryhan Prasad on 385 9549

*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*





*We are a learning community.
We seek to follow the way of Jesus
and grow in understanding of the
Bible and the Christian faith.*