

As promised here is the completed word search. How well did you do?

St J's Kids -Anna Davis	Website -David Galt	Tuesday night House Group -Paul Ramsay
Communications -Ross Davis	Moring Tea & Greeters -Betty Roberson	Library -Swee Ee Ong
Flowers -Aliksa Salt	Senior Youth Group -Ryban Prasad	Bell Ringers -Linda Van Milligan
Womans' Association -Mary Gibbs	Christian Education -Geoff Annals	Pastoral Worker -Margret Gilkison
Junior Youth Group -Alice Potts	Monday Night House Group -Margaret Galt	St John's Council -Ted Cizadlo
Stewardship for Mission -Rob Ewan	Garden Roster -Lesley Shaw	Pastoral Committee -Cynthia Krogh
Finance Committee -Ross Chesney		Property Committee -John Irvin

WHNI VRI NHOJ ORS MN N
L GOL DAZI CDET SDAI A
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FABLSGYRSDLGLSRIS
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SCEVAETHBDSBFATDR
AYBDWTYOALATOPASS
SENSRRVDHVI EYRAI
AI IENDI AMARYGI BBS
LRROSSDAVI SYDRSLT
TAEMRORASATEBALAI
RASTDYKLDNTAAAGIA

Calendar of Events

- 14 September**
Quarterly Communion
- 2 October**
General Assembly Service at St John's
- 4 October - 7:30pm**
Boys' Brigade 125th Anniversary Service at St John's
- 18 October 5:30pm**
Church Annual General Meeting, beginning with Pot Luck tea in The Conference Centre.
- 25 November, 11am**
Women's Association Christmas Service
- 27 November, 7:30pm**
Ordination of Allister Lane as Senior Minister of St John's.

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Views expressed in
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The Messenger

September 2008 St John's in the City, Presbyterian Church

Olympic Editorial

The Beijing Olympics were a wonderful showcase of sporting achievement as years of dedicated training and meticulous preparation culminated in some extraordinary feats. The medal ceremonies with anthems, flag raising and the exaltation of competitors on the dais invariably brought a 'lump to the throat'.

The ancient city of Corinth was the site of the Isthmian Games, second in fame only to the ancient Olympics. People from all over Greece would visit the games. One can speculate that the apostle Paul attended the games not just as a spectator but the opportunity to preach the gospel to a large crowd would have been almost irresistible. Whether he did or didn't attend the games it is apparent that Paul took obvious delight in athletic performance. Paul uses sporting metaphors to highlight aspects of the Christian life. Nowhere is this clearer than in Paul's vivid descriptions of running races. The rigorous discipline of training that athletes

go through is described in 1 Timothy 4, the joy of the victor is described in Philippians 4 and the prize of the laurel crown for the victorious athlete is found in 1 Corinthians 9. After being 'Olympic junkies' for the majority of August they are images to which we can relate.

The stirrings of spring after a winter of sustained miserable weather is welcome. Later this spring after a long vacancy we shall be inducting Allister Lane as Senior Minister of St. John's in the City. I perceive a sense of excitement and optimism among the congregation as we anticipate Allister's ministry. In 1958 St Johns minister Kingsley Fairburn wrote; "St Johns Church, situated strategically as it is in the centre of our city, blessed by a glorious heritage looks forward to great days ahead." That promise holds true 50 years later.

Rob Anderson



Run in such a way as to get the prize. 1Corth 9:24



Nick Willis runs the race for Bronze in the 1500 Meters.



Michael Phelps swims the race for Gold, 8 times.



The Evers-Swindells row the race for Gold, again.

The Life and Times of Allister Wyclif Lane

"YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU"

COME TO THE A.G.M.
5:30 PM Saturday 18 October
Begins with a pot luck tea

Recently during one of those rarest of winter days when the sun shone and there was not a breath of wind, I met up with Allister Lane at a downtown café. While we sipped our coffees I asked Allister about his life. Allister described himself as a Wadestown boy. He was a foundation pupil



Allister, Naomi & Pearse Lane

at Wadestown kindergarten, a student at Wadestown School and brought up in Wadestown Presbyterian Church where his parents, Roger and Heather, continue to be stalwart members. Following secondary school at Wellington College and a Bachelors Degree in Commerce and Administration majoring in

accounting from Victoria University, Allister began work in the commercial world. He was employed first in the ANZ bank and then as an operations manager for Sovereign Insurance. Allister may have remained in the commercial world, but Wadestown minister Mark Johnston issued Allister a challenge. Allister was heavily involved in youth ministry at a local and regional level and Mark challenged him by asking; "Where is God taking you with all that you are doing?" Allister responded to the challenge by considering the ordained ministry and so enrolled in some distance papers in theology. He then chose to leave the corporate world behind and with wife Naomi moved to Dunedin in 2004 for full time study. Allister graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Theology with Honours majoring in Christian thought and history. For the past two years Allister has been studying

at the Knox Centre for Ministry and Development. He has found his time at Knox to be stimulating as he has put his theology into practise in the context of ministry and parish life.

Reflecting on his calling to ministry Allister commented "I was surprised by the very real pathway that was evident in my personal history that led unequivocally on to training and formation toward ordained ministry." Allister's commitment to the PCANZ runs very deep. "I have a very strong sense of belonging to this body that faithfully strives to witness to God's goodness. The wider issues of recent decades leave me under no illusion as to the challenges the church faces. I have experienced the pain and frustrations along with my brothers and sisters and my desire to love and live with each other in the journey of faith is paramount. I believe this stance is more crucial to effective ministry than any other skills that can be offered."

Allister married Naomi Pearse in St John's in May 2001. Naomi and St John's have a warm association. Naomi grew up at St. John's, taking

on leadership positions at a young age and becoming an elder. Naomi studied Law and Human Resources. She is also an accomplished hockey player. In January this year Naomi and Allister's child Pearse was born. Allister and Naomi have travelled extensively. Allister lists travel as one of his personal interests. He also enjoys home renovating and landscaping, fishing and watching films.

Allister and Naomi are thrilled to be returning to St John's. Allister is excited at the prospect of being involved in the programmes happening here. He is encouraged by session's initiative to target the 18 to 30 year olds as he observes that they are the age cohort absent from the Presbyterian Church throughout the country.

And so our time ended. After I had farewelled Allister and was walking up Cuba Street I considered our meeting. Allister is a person who exudes warmth and gentle humour. He is a clear thinker who is able to articulate his thoughts. I look forward to the ministry of Allister Lane with a great deal of excitement.

Robert Anderson

From the Youth Group The Blessing of Revolution



Tom Cuthell farewells his 'rainbow congregation'

Tom Cuthell writes...

Tom Cuthell is now well ensconced back home in Edinburgh preparing for his next journey to Assisi. Tom writes (July 31):

"I've thoroughly enjoyed myself catching up with family and friends since my return. A couple of Sundays ago I took my four year old godson David on a steam train excursion. I was truly in my element recapturing my childhood days. Last Sunday was the first occasion I had conducting worship since St. Johns. It was the church where I had been reared as a child, so it was a bit of a homecoming. I've just e-mailed the Presbytery of Europe informing them that I'm available to do some short term locums...It was quite an emotional parting for me leaving the good folk of St John's. There will always be a significant place in my heart and in my memory for all you Kiwi Presbyterians- my 'rainbow' congregation as I called it."

Tom Cuthell

On Queen's Birthday Weekend, the youth group attended the Fuse Talent Quest (previously CTC) where we watched many talented young New Zealanders perform and exhibit their art, music, dancing, acting, skateboarding, magic shows and the list goes on. This also included our very own Talia, accompanied by Matt, Pete, Sam and Jesse. They put on a great show which the youth group and the audience loved.

Last term we also had the Garden of Gethsemane, which consisted of a pitch black maze filled with smoke following a puzzle. It was great fun for everyone, and a little bit scary for some. Many people attended, including

the junior group, St J's kids, and some daring adults.

Term three started off with paintball. With the girls making up one team, and the boys and the adults making up another three, it was game on. Everyone played hard and there were bruises to show it, including a mammoth one on Paul Ramsay's head, shot by Matt Potts. It was a great night, and great to have some adults along to play.

At the moment, we are working on our movie for the annual JYMC Film Fest which is in a few weeks. We hope to produce a good film and hopefully we can show it to the congregation when it's complete.

Lulu Potts



Above: Geoff & Kathryn Annals sell tickets to 'Children of the Silk Road'



Moses' first day and last day as a lifeguard.

A Kiwi connection with the Children of the Silk Road: More than a Movie

Those of the congregation who saw the film Children of the Silk Road will be interested to know that it has two very strong New Zealand connections. George Hogg taught and ran schools established by Rewi Alley at various stages of his time in China, and it was from one of those schools he made the long trek of 700 miles away over mountain ranges of up to 16,000 feet, to Shandon, between Mongolia and Tibet. If you Google on the Internet the name of George Hogg whom the film was about, you will find interesting material. And you will see the name of Kathleen Hall mentioned. Kathleen was an Anglican missionary nurse who was born in Napier in 1896 and trained as a nurse. In 1922 she was accepted for missionary work in China and after language training was appointed Sister-in-Charge of Datong provincial hospital. She was caught up in the



Kathleen Hall

Japanese-Chinese war nursing the sick and wounded and time and time again smuggled medical supplies to Dr Norman Bethune the Canadian surgeon who was in charge of medical services for the Chinese 8th Route Army. She is credited as being the first of the famous 'barefoot doctors' who later became famous throughout China and the world. Kathleen knew Rewi Alley and met George Hogg and 'diligently' nursed him when he contracted typhus. She met and became good friends with General Nie Rongshen of the 8th route army (also in the film) and it

was he who wrote the tribute at the base of the statue that has been erected in her honour at the village where she started a cottage hospital, Songjiashuang. That reads "To heal the wounded and rescue the dying, she worked with selfless dedication. Her deeds in support of the War of Resistance will go down in the annals of history. She was a remarkable woman." The exploits of the girl in the film seem to be loosely based on Kathleen's deeds, but not the romantic interest nor was she on the long walk. She did long walks of her own through China as you will see from the articles on the web site. Go to the website www.nzchinasociety.org.nz and you will see Kathleen Hall's name on the index. There is fascinating reading. Kathleen was a great New Zealander and as Rewi Alley says, "If she had been a man she would have been famous."

Ailsa Salt

In July we were privileged to have Chris Marshall preach a series of three sermons on The Beatitudes. Chris is The St John's Associate Professor in Christian Studies at Victoria University. Here is the conclusion to a paper that Chris wrote on "The Moral Vision of the Beatitudes, The Blessing of Revolution" published in Faith and Freedom: Christian Ethics in a Pluralist Culture.

Too often in Christian usage the beatitudes have been domesticated into comforting platitudes directed to solitary individuals. They are far from that. They are not a list of private virtues for isolated believers but wisdom sayings addressed to a discipleship community. They describe what the church, the social embodiment of God's kingdom, ought to look like when it is true to its vocation. They are the characteristics of a messianic community prepared to be radically different to the world around

it. They express a perspective on reality which the world does not accept as normal, but which the eyes of faith may grasp as the way things really are when seen from God's perspective. When the Christian community today takes the beatitudes as its charter for life, it will once again start to look different to the prevailing social order. It will look different because it will look like Jesus.

When Jesus blesses the poor in spirit, the pure in heart, the meek and the merciful, he underscores the importance of moral character and commitment, the supreme value of integrity, humility, compassion and sincerity. The beatitudes do summon individual moral transformation, but not merely as a private subjective experience but as the result of belonging to a transformed, beatitudinal community, a society that nurtures the ongoing conversion of its members in service of its

redemptive mission in the world.

When Jesus blesses those who grieve over the world's pain, those who hunger and thirst for God's justice, and those who strive to be like God in making-peace, he blows apart any narrow restriction of the gospel to merely spiritual matters. Each beatitude implies an engagement in the affairs of the world in the name of God's encroaching kingdom.

When Jesus blesses those who are persecuted for the sake of justice and because of their loyalty to him, he reminds us that serving the cause of the kingdom is no Sunday school picnic. For the gospel of the kingdom confronts the whole of life with an agenda of radical change, and calls us to invest all that we have and all that we are in God's work of renewing and changing the world.

What are your responses to Chris Marshall's challenges?

125 Years Old and as Creative as Ever

Have you ever wondered where some of those things we take for granted came from. Take for example Post-it notes. Accidentally invented in 1968 when Dr. Spencer Silver failed to create the world's strongest glue. Or take your every day biro pen first designed by Galileo Galilei in the 17th century. Isn't it fascinating that things we take for granted often have a great history, and we can't imagine life without them.

Firstly, some readers will be aware that the Boys' Brigade is the world's first uniformed youth organisation. The first Company being formed in Glasgow, 4 October 1883. It started when Sir William Smith (a Sunday School Teacher and part time soldier) saw a need amongst the unsettled boys in his class. He

created a program to develop "Christian manliness" by the use of a semi-military discipline, order, gymnastics, summer camps, religious services and classes.

It is from the BB that all other uniformed youth groups branched off. Incidentally a quick Wikipedia search for "uniformed youth group" returned 1440 results. One of which are The Boy Scouts. Founded by former Brigade Vice-President Robert Baden-Powell, his original concept was to introduce more Scouting activities into the BB program.

Secondly, camps. In 1883 city boys stayed in the city, there is a fantastic quote from a mother when Smith informed her about the planned Company camp. "My son has always had a roof over his head,

and as long as I'm around he always will!" School camps are now an integral part of growing up in modern life. But it was Smith's military back ground and willingness to think outside the box and take a risk that started the culture of camping which is now synonymous with youth activities.

This year we are celebrating our 125th anniversary. It is an appropriate time to take a moment and think of the great work which was started in Glasgow, and is still in play here at St John's Wellington 125 years later. Remember too the creativity that St John's has bought into by supporting the past and present members of the 2nd Wellington Company.

David Jackson



Celebrate with 125 Years with BBWGTN

4 fantastic events, 4th October

- 12:30 - 5:00pm- **Red vs Blue** for boys year 7+
- 1:30 - 5:30pm- **Ultimate Dodgeball** at St John's in the City for boys year 2- 7
- 6:00 - 7:30pm- **Dinner** at St John's in the City for everyone (Tickets \$15)
- 7:30 - 8:30pm- **Celebration Service** at St John's open to all.

For more details contact David Jackson
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