

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6

10.00am Morning Worship Reverend Tokerau Joseph
 DUTIES: Foalima Lemalu (453 4210) Toga Solofa, Gifford Brown,
 Loraine Denniston and La Faaotese Finance: Nan Rickard
 TEA/COFFEE: Maureen and Les Green
 12noon - Cook Islands ` - Reverend Anne Thomson
 2.00pm - Samoan Service Reverend Tokerau Joseph

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13

10.00am -Morning Worship Reverend Tokerau Joseph
 DUTIES: Brian Williscroft (453 1257) Noeleen Williscroft,
 Isobel Napper Finance: Brian Williscroft
 TEA/COFFEE: Lily McDonald and June Evans
 12noon - Cook Islands ` - Reverend Tokerau Joseph
 2.00pm - Samoan Service Reverend Anne Thomson

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20

10.00am -Morning Worship Reverend Tokerau Joseph
 DUTIES:Ian Mitchell and Margaret Mitchell and June Evans
 Finance: Margaret Mitchell
 TEA/COFFEE: Isobel Napper and Zena McKie
 12noon - Cook Islands Reverend Tokerau Joseph
 2.00pm - Samoan Service Reverend Tokerau Joseph

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27 Advent 1

10.00am -Morning Worship - Reverend Anne Thomson
 DUTIES: Ian Robertson (454 4513) Jenni Elmes,
 Finance: Tony Stevely
 TEA/COFFEE: Isobel Napper and John Takacs
 12noon - Cook Islands ` O Richard
 2.00pm Samoan Service - N Vaitupu

Mondays
 Mon & Thurs
 Fridays

WEEKLY EVENTS
 1.30pm Mah Jong - McLean Room
 7.30pm Bells Practice
 6pm Youth Group Burns Hall

NOVEMBER

TUES 8 4.30pm Property Committee
 WED 9 6.00pm SESSION
 Thurs 10 Craft group meets
 Thurs10 2.00pm Friends of First Church
 Mon 17 4pm Finance Committee
 WED 16 7.30pm DEACONS COURT
 Sun 20 12 noon cafe lunch Ross Home
 (Contact R Duff 476 3494)
 Thurs 24 Craft group meets

Friends of First Church Committee meeting,
 Thursday 10 November 2pm, McLean Room



Entertainers at the Family Fun Day (photo R Duff)

A Church in Atlanta was honouring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the Church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a shuffling gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak...

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50 odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heart break and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me... the only thing that would comfort was this verse.....



"Jesus loves me this I know,
 For the Bible tells me so.
 Little ones to Him belong,
 we are weak but He is strong.....
 Yes, Jesus loves me...
 The Bible tells me so."

When he finished, the church was quiet. You actually could hear his foot steps as he shuffled back to his chair. I don't believe I will ever forget it.

"Senior version of Jesus Loves Me"

Here is a new version just for us who have white hair or no hair at all. For us over middle age (or even those almost there) and all you others, check out this newest version of Jesus Loves Me.

JESUS LOVES ME

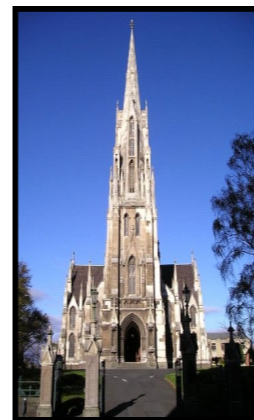
Jesus loves me, this I know,
 Though my hair is white as snow
 Though my sight is growing dim,
 Still He bids me trust in Him.
 Yes, Jesus loves me.. yes, Jesus loves me..
 Yes, Jesus loves me for the bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
 With my hand in His I'll go
 On through life, let come what may,
 He'll be there to lead the way. (CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,
 In my heart He puts a song.
 Telling me in words so clear,
 "Have no fear, for I am near." (CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
 And life's victories have been won.
 He will take me home above,
 Then I'll understand His love
 (CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?
 Have I ever told Him so?
 Jesus loves to hear me say,
 That I love Him every day.



FIRST CHURCH OF OTAGO

415 Moray Place, Dunedin

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2011

FIRST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

"We are striving to become a truly multi-cultural community, providing a warm, creative and affirming home base, enabling us to reach out with the Good News to those working and living in the inner-city and beyond."

Message from The Reverend Tokerau Joseph

It's good to be back. The last three months have been hard, but productive in terms of bringing my doctoral studies closer to completion and submission before the end of the year. After nearly a year of deferring, due to all kinds of pressures, I've enjoyed looking at my research again with fresh eyes. The walking to and from the university library with Tangi has helped oxygenate the brain while keeping up some fitness and stress relief. Thank you for your support towards Tangi and me and our family during this period. It is much appreciated and deeply humbling to know that people of First Church are praying for us and constantly offering words of encouragement. It's also been great to see the support for Rev Anne Thomson who had taken on a much heavier than usual workload in my absence and has done an exceptional job for which we are truly grateful and thankful to God. While on leave, I hope she is enjoying a well-deserved break.



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I've only been back for two weeks now and it seems I've hit the ground running. As well as preparing for and leading three services last Sunday, I also attended two funerals. Our prayers and condolences go out to Graeme and Jean Kirk and their family in the passing of their father, the late Angus Kirk. The funeral service was wonderfully led by Rev John Sinclair and well supported by family and friends. I also supported our Cook Islanders' group for the funeral service of the late Mrs. Mii Tairea from Invercargill who always attended our 12pm service whenever she came to Dunedin. She was well-known to our Cook Islanders' community and will be greatly missed.

On a happier note, Tangi and I and our two younger boys attended the annual Putokotoko camp held at En Hakkore near Waipiata. This year, Rev Arii Taimataora and her husband Tai were the guest speakers who did a fantastic job of helping young people and the older generation in working together. The theme for the camp was "My faith, my culture" which was explored through interactive learning during workshops, concert and devotionals. It was truly inspiring seeing how the different generations expressed their understanding of theme in ways that also helped bridge some generational differences.

Another blessing, as an unexpected surprise, was a short visit to Auckland for the Rugby World Cup Final. What a game! Yes, and what a relief! Tangi and I went to the parade and will never forget the experience of being among over two hundred thousand people in one place.

It was such a "buzz" as our children would say and the "feel good factor" just seemed to be infectious wherever you went. After a year of some tragic events, such as the Pike River mine disaster and the Christchurch earthquakes, it was good to have something like winning the Rugby World Cup to pick up our spirits as a nation. But, more than that, we give thanks to God for being with us through the good and tough times. This is the God whose love and mercy towards us, as the psalmist has said, is new every morning.

May God's grace continue to work in us and through us to bless others whom we meet.



Family Fun Day First Church (Photo R Duff)

Christmas Stall



This combined effort for Friends of First Church and APW funds will be held after church on

Sunday
 December 4th.

Any support is appreciated
 Contacts are:
 Nan Rickard
 (455 6099)
 Dorothy Sinclair
 (473 9950)
 Brian Williscroft
 (453 1257)

SENIOR MINISTER: The Reverend Tokerau Joseph, phone 477 7792 cell 027 371 4733
 PART TIME ASSISTANT MINISTER: The Reverend Anne Thomson 477 7150 cell 027 467 5488
 PART TIME PASTORAL ASSISTANT MINISTER : The Rev John Sinclair (473 9950 or 027 436 9204)
 FIRST CHURCH BELL RINGERS - Practice 7.30pm Monday and Thursday nights;

Tokerau



Greetings in the name of our Lord.

Well, it is over. The Rugby World Cup 2011 tournament is over, and with the correct result, at least for us in New Zealand. Not so for the French who were gracious in defeat. The flags in our Church will come down, and life will return to normal. We are ready once again to face the problems of the world, natural disasters, financial crisis, poverty and personal times of difficulty. For one evening of glory we could immerse ourselves in great joy and celebration and now can relax and take up the tasks that await us.

And speaking of the Rugby World Cup, in conjunction with the 'Hidden Dunedin Festival' we held our Family Fun Day. Although the expected crowds did not turn up those who participated really enjoyed themselves. My sincere and grateful thanks to those loyal and

committed members of the congregation who once again worked diligently to make the day a success. Also we acknowledge the participation of the Dunedin Junior Rugby Club and Sport Otago. They had a great day and would like to be involved again.

Over the next few weeks, the congregations will be asked to participate in a few questionnaires. One of these is the Church Life Survey which is undertaken by PCANZ every five years. This is a very simple questionnaire and gives an overview of who makes up the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand in 2011. The second questionnaire is from the Southern Presbytery and is connected with the five year Worship Review process, and the third you may have already completed at the Annual General Meeting, is a short request for assistance in some areas of the Church. Please keep your pens at the ready. Thank you also to Rev Anne Thomson for so graciously chairing the Annual General Meeting and to all those who attended. We have many challenges ahead, and we pray

*Stretch our vision to include the improbable
and strengthen our wills to take the next step on your road.
Assure us again that you can do exceedingly more than we can ever ask or imagine
Glory be to your loving purposes, now and forever! Amen.*

COOK ISLANDS COMMUNITY NEWS

Kia Orana. Talofa lava and Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Where has the last 11 months gone? It will be Christmas next month. Apologies for no newsletter posted last month everyone, as we were in sunny Cairns for the wedding of Mere Teira and Dave Thompson. Enoka, myself, Ioaba & Miro Dean and Taiarahi & Mikara Dean attended the wedding of our niece Mere and Dave on September 24th, and got to meet all the families on that side. Cairns is such a lovely sunny and tropical place which reminded us of back home in the Cook Islands.

The **Family fun day** held at First Church on October 1st was enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to Tony Stevely and Nan Rickard for making it such a success, with the help of Otago Sports and the Dunedin Rugby Club for donating prizes towards the fun day.

Our last **foodbank** for the Minister Tokerau Joseph and family was well received on October 15th and thank you very much to Mrs Dawn Ibbotson for your gift towards the foodbank.

Happy birthday to all those who celebrated your birthdays in the month of October, Rouru Henry and daughter Bridgette, Lana Takapi and Mrs Vaine Hosking who celebrated her 60th birthday on October 12th. She will be travelling to the Cook Islands for a break away from Dunedin and should be back sometimes in November.

Some of our members from First Church, Ioaba Dean and family, Mrs Opara Richards attended the **headstone unveiling** of Mama Oremetua Vaine Tere Tourangi in Auckland on October 21st. Her brother Mata and his wife Mii Taurarii also attended this occasion.

The **Putokotoko Camp** was held this **Labour weekend** with Congregations from Christchurch to Invercargill attending. The theme was My Faith, My Culture with the guest speaker being Reverend Arii Taimataora from Christchurch. About 80 members, adults and children attended. Even though a lot of our First Church members attended, it was Service as usual on the Sunday. Welcome back Papa Orometua Tokerau Joseph, who took all three services that Sunday.

Congratulations to mama Tae Takapi and papa Ngarā Peraua who will tie the knot on Saturday 29th October. About time na tera reo ei. We are expecting an influx of guests from out of Dunedin to attend this happy occasion.

On a sad note, we farewelled Mrs Miimetua Tairea who passed away on Monday 17th October in Invercargill. Quite a few of us travelled to Invercargill to attend her family service on Wednesday 19th and her funeral on the Thursday 20th. Mrs Tairea was a regular visitor to our Sunday services in Dunedin whenever she got the chance to visit. She is survived by her loving husband Patuariki Tairea, her daughter and son Mavis and Paul and five grand children. She is a past Secretary for the CICC Church of Invercargill. She was also the voice of Invercargill on the radio Te Kura Mareva every Monday nights. Our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences goes out to her family in Invercargill, New Zealand, Australia and the Cook Islands. - *Go well all till next time Tere Taana*

Below is a poem for those who grieve

*I Have a Place in Heaven
Please don't sing sad songs for me
Forget your grief and fears
For I am in a perfect place
Away from Pain and Tears
Its far away from hunger
And hurt and want and pride
I have a place in Heaven
With the master at my side
My life on earth was very good
As earthly life can go
But paradise is so much more
Than anyone can know
My heart is filled with happiness
And sweet rejoicing, too
To walk with God is perfect peace
A joy forever new
(Author unknown)*



October APW Meeting

Following his interest in the Hat and Accessories Display held recently in the Heritage Centre we were privileged to have **Lindsay Kerrett** as our guest speaker. Born in Queenstown and brought up in Glenorchy during the Depression, Lindsay has spent a lifetime in the fashion world, first as a fashion illustrator but probably better known as an internationally recognised milliner. While pursuing his career in hat making for over 40 years in Auckland he was called by the press a 'society milliner'. Since retiring from business and returning to Dunedin permanently in 1990 he has been busy having hat shows and exhibitions of fashion drawing and paintings. (He is frequently called upon to talk at various functions and clubs).

We were given an entertaining insight into his skill as a milliner and artist as he displayed his amazing collection of hats and paintings.

Congratulations and best wishes were extended to **Joyce Dyer** who recently celebrated her 95th birthday. *Joyce has been a member of First Church for over 80 years.*

November Outing Tuesday 15th

It is planned to take a drive to Grandview Gardens, Currie Road Outram leaving the Church at 1.30pm. As well as a garden there is a new indoor venue built for wedding receptions but also housing numerous horticultural artefacts on display. Afternoon tea will be served in this area.

Details to follow

Presbyterial - is holding a Mini conference on Tuesday 22 November 11am- 2.30pm, Mosgiel Presbyterian Church complex. *Bring your own lunch tea/coffee provided.* Speakers **Bartha Hill** - telling the story of her ancestor Guido de Bres who lived in Belgium during the Reformation and **Geoffrey Skilton** who spent his study leave last year at Cambridge (his study relates to the role of



elders in today's church) - *Welcome to all who are interested.*

Christmas Stall- this combined effort for Friends of First Church and APW funds will be held after church on **Sunday December 4th**. *Any support is appreciated* Contacts Nan Rickard (455 6099) Dorothy Sinclair (473 9950) and Brian Williscroft (453 1257)



THANK YOU FROM JOCYE DYER

My heartfelt thanks to Anne, Tokerau and John, to Session members, APW and my First Church family for their many kind expressions of love and caring on the occasion of my 95th birthday. The celebration has extended over many days with cards, phone calls, flowers and visits from family and friends both within and beyond New Zealand.

I have endeavoured to reach many well wishers by phone without success but please be assured, I treasure the caring messages expressed (though feeling so undeserved) My association with First Church (since 1930) has been the mainstay of my life and I pray God's continued blessing on its Ministry in this city and beyond .

NOTICES

An opportunity to launch your stage career?

Stageworks will present a new family musical, *Grimhilda!*, at the Mayfair Theatre, in **May 2012**. We will be holding auditions for two children's roles, and up to twenty adult roles. Apart from three non-singing roles, all parts, including the children, require singers. Auditions start at 10.am on Saturday Nov 5th. The two children should be able to pass for 8-10-year-olds. Auditionees should bring a piece of music to sing (unless applying for a non-singing role), and be ready to read lines from the script. Rehearsals will begin early in Feb, 2012. For more information, and to book a time, please phone Mike Crowl, 0210 641 081, or email mcrowl@gmail.com.

You are cordially invited to attend the Knox Centre for Ministry & Leadership's Valedictory Service at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, 30th November 2011 at East Taieri Church, 12 Cemetery Road, East Taieri.

The preacher will be Rev Jono Ryan.
11 Students graduating with a Diploma of Ministry: Margaret Garland, Rory Grant, Andrew Harrex, William Kang, Sun Mi Lee, Ryhan Prasad, Heather Simpson, Blair Stirling, Arona Tusega, Martin Van't Wout, Antony Wood
Refreshments will be served in the church hall after the service.
RSVP to the Registrar, Catherine van Dorp by Wednesday 23rd November.
Ph 03 473 0783 or email registrar@knoxcentre.ac.nz

EKT PRIORITY NEED FOR THE WATER CRISIS

The Islands of Tuvalu – north of Fiji and near the equator- are suffering a devastating drought. Always dependent on rain water, families are reduced to two buckets of clean water per day. The wells are polluted after the long drought and the well water carries the threat of disease. Emergency supplies and desalination machinery has been carried to the island but long-term solutions have to be found.

The Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (The Christian Church of Tuvalu) is one of the largest Non Government Organisations that exist in the country and is seeking help from ecumenical partners, church affiliations and all NGO's whom we considered as brothers and sisters in Christ to kindly look into this action plan and find what activity that your organization is more keen and willing to finance. The EKT is more than happy to provide all relevant details needed by your organizations to fully materialize this action plan. The EKT is working closely with the government of Tuvalu through the Disaster Committee which EKT has a representative. The number one priority is for a 1.5-ton diesel truck. In the past, as in the present, moving emergency supplies, rescuing families in danger of flooding from high tides has been exceptionally difficult. The EKT can afford to run a truck but the initial capital is beyond their resources. The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand is a partner with the Tuvalu Church.

Dunedin South Candidates' Forum – Thursday 17 November, 12.30 -1.45, Burns Hall, First Church.

The topic for discussion at the Forum is **Fair, Just, Caring?: Where does your party stand?**