

# MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

**Newsletter June / July 2016**

*Our mission in this parish is to share  
the love of God with all people*

## Day Camp 2016

*by Charlotte Christensen*

In its sixteenth year Day Camp saw some major challenges, and none bigger than the absence of Mary Petersen with her cheery smile and ability to keep track of everything going on. These were big shoes to fill and there were a few small stumbles along the way, but in the end Day Camp ran beautifully, 308 kids had a fantastic and memorable (and safe!) time, and we've now got a strong team to carry on for the future.

With Mary's encouragement and blessing, Amanda Roche took on the very important role of tent time leader, which—for those who aren't familiar with Day Camp—is the opportunity to ensure there is a Christian message for the kids.

This year's theme was faith, and the teenagers ably acted out short scripts to engage the kids in some well known bible stories, such as Noah's ark and David and Goliath.



Here's a photo of one group of teenagers sharing Matthew 19:2— with God all things are possible

Although there were changes in leadership, the main aims of outreach and fun without technology were upheld, and as you can see in the photos on the following pages, everyone had fun!





And here's a sample of one of the craft activities. Sadly this one was left in the lost property and we weren't able to track down the child this who made it for their mum, but maybe they'll see it here and she'll get it belatedly.



## Tech notes

You may be aware that over the past few weeks, we have been experimenting with some new ways of presenting information at church.

Last year it became very obvious that families using our church for weddings, and particularly funerals were disappointed that we didn't have the latest technology for presenting their choice of music, and in particular, for screening their DVD slide shows of favourite photographs.

Over the last months we have been working towards updating our technology.

A digital projector was given to the church a while ago, but families still had to use their own computers to show their DVDs. If they wanted accompanying music, it had to be separately streamed and synchronised from the sound desk, using a CD player that frequently let us down.

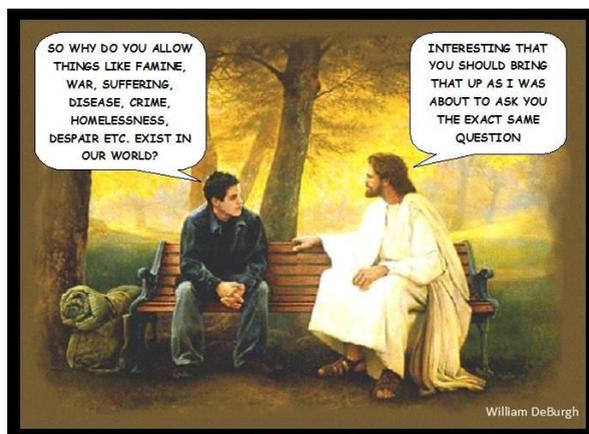
Recently we purchased a new laptop to be used for exclusively for presenting media. It has its own CD/DVD player and can also play You tube videos using wireless.

Lately, we have been trialling the use of some very clever software called **ZionWorx** that has been specifically designed for use in churches. It smoothly presents songs, images, videos, Bible passages and PowerPoint slideshows. There are many other applications that will be of great benefit as we grow as a church.

This software and further cables to permanently install the projector and computer have been kindly donated. Many thanks, Damon and Charlotte.

Once we are using it confidently, we will be looking for people to help operate it on Sundays.

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## Parish Council News

### **That horrible 'F' word – Finance.**

St Andrew's Parish Council tries not to let finance side-track our core mission - *'To share the love of God with all people'*.

Our first priority is a determination to keep the church doors open, not just on Sundays, but every day. Our quiet lounge and gleaming kitchen are warm and welcoming. Most groups who use the church are non-profit, and pay what they can towards escalating compliance costs and overheads. We have never been a wealthy church, but we have always been there for the community, and we want that to continue! This is God's work, and God calls us all to be partners in the future plan for this church.

There are no large investments or bequests to fall back on. On Sunday mornings people give faithfully, but we need more givers!

If you are not yet contributing, we encourage you to give *regularly* to St Andrew's, so that we can be there for everyone into the future.

Our giving should reflect our gratitude for all God's goodness to us.

If you already give regularly, *Thank you!* You might find automatic bank payments more convenient than offertory envelopes. It is a good way to ensure that the church has a reliable working budget. If you need help with this, please see Dorothy.

Our Monday Meals Mission runs a stand-alone account and continues to be self-supporting, thanks to some very generous individuals, and regular funding applications. Monday Meals is a continual reminder that God does provide when we step out in faith!

The church bank account is: **BNZ Whitianga 02 0496 0062562 00.**

Please tag your donations to 'general fund' or 'Monday meals'.

*God bless you in your giving.*

## Parish Register

### *Funeral*

20th May—Alan Trevor Thomas at St Andrew's.  
John Twemlow officiating



## Food for thought

We are currently blessed with the opportunity to hear a wide range of speakers, each of whom bring a different perspective. This variety is an opportunity for us all to hear God's Word in a new way.

Here's an excerpt from a recent sermon by Jenny Chisholm:

We looked one day at how different we as individuals are as God's creation and as God's children.

What we believe may be different from what our neighbour believes – but it has been said *'Faith... is not a set of beliefs but an attitude – the attitude of trust'*. We are each travelling on our own pathway. We arrived at our faith in different ways. Each has their own concept of God and their own relationship with God. We pray in different ways – do we talk to 'Loving God' or 'Dear Jesus' or 'Lord'? A local newspaper lists eight churches in Whitianga. Why do I come to this one? Are the others in error? It is not for us to judge other people or other churches. Each gives members the spiritual food they feel they need, or their style of worship feels right, or the warmth of welcome attracts the visitor.

Jesus prayed that we would be one. We feel grief that this is not so, but we try to live by the message as we have received it, and to remember in brotherhood all those Christians both here and beyond our shores, who worship in great cathedrals or in schoolrooms or someone's home or in a meeting room in a shopping mall, who call the same God in their native language Dieu if they are French speakers, Ishwar if they speak Hindi, Allah if their language is Arabic, and so on in a myriad of tongues.

And for those who are not part of the Christian community, we do not condemn them but remember that they too are in God's hands. Even when terrorists use the name of Islam, a peaceful and compassionate creed around the world, to do dreadful things, we can remember the Christians who burned one another at the stake and slaughtered other Christians and Jews on the way to the Crusades.

All we can do is to live as Jesus taught us, to respect and understand those who are different, and trust God to care for all created beings.

## Worship Opportunities

### Services at St Andrew's

*Families with children are always welcome at St Andrew's. A child-friendly area is set aside at the back of the church where children and parents can sit together, with Bible related activities and quiet toys provided.*

June	5	Communion—Rev Logan Craft (Tauranga)
	12	Dorothy Preece
	19	Janice Purdie (Paeroa)
	26	<b>Volunteers' Sunday</b>
July	3	Communion—Jacqui Cavit (Tauranga)
	10	John Twemlow
	17	Lynnor Cooke
	24	Dorothy Preece
	31	Ross Millar, <i>and</i> Combined service 5pm at C3 Church, Coghill St.
August	6	Communion—John and Robin Twemlow

**Volunteers' Sunday, 26th June** is the day we invite all of our community volunteer groups—and everyone else—to come and give thanks for all the work they do. It will be a special day, and there will be something special for the children, too. So please pass the word, and let's get everyone involved in this annual celebration!

**Combined Churches prayers for the community:** everyone is welcome to come and pray. Hosted by the Churches, first Wednesday each month at 10am, beginning with morning tea.

**Wed 1 June** at the St Peter's Anglican Church, Dundas St.

**Wed 6 July** at C3 Church, Coghill St.

### **Worship at Continuing Care**

A short service of songs and prayer is held every Wednesday at CCU, led by the Churches in turn. St Andrew's leads on the first Wednesday of the month.

**Supporters and helpers are warmly invited.**



# Parish and Community Activities

*Newcomers are cordially invited to join any of these friendly groups*

**CHURCH OP-SHOP** (behind the Church building, on Owen Street)

Phone 867 1104 **Open 9–12:30 Wednesday to Saturday.**

**COMMUNITY MEALS** in the Church hall from 5-6pm every Monday. Providing free, hot, nutritious meals and friendship. Volunteers & donations welcome.

Enquiries to Val 027 252 4453 or phone the Church on Mondays 867 1102

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP All welcome.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month 1:30pm. For programme/venue details: Beryl Wharton 866 3739 or Ann Harsant 866 4740

**FAMILY COUNSELLING** Anyone who needs advice or family counselling is encouraged to contact Nicole 866 5119

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY** Wednesday 10am Please ring Julie for details: 984 9140

**MESSY CHURCH** An exciting Sunday experience for all the family, including food! For info & session dates, please contact Robin Twemlow (869 5054) or Val Ransome (027 252 4453)

**P.R.O.P. People Relying on People.** Supporting families battling mental health and substance abuse issues. For confidential support, freephone 0800 127 359.

**TE KOROWAI GRAB GROUP** meets Thursdays, 11:30, at St Andrew's hall. For more information ring Judith Godwin 07 808 0033

**UPRIGHT & ACTIVE** Friendly exercise sessions for seniors, held in the Church hall Mondays at 9:30am Leader Carol Melrose 867 1097  
Tuesdays at 10:00am Leader Greta Fox 866 4382

**WORSHIP AT CONTINUING CARE** A Combined Churches event providing devotions every Wednesday at 11am in the residents' lounge. Supporters are welcome on any Wednesday. St Andrew's leads on the first and fifth Wednesday of the month.

**MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH -St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church**

Corner Albert and Owen Streets, Whitianga / PO Box 368, WHITIANGA

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