

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

Newsletter October-November 2019

Our mission in this fellowship is to share the Love of God with everyone, and encourage all people to follow Jesus

Our people and their stories:

Kevin Pringle ONZM, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.A.C.S.



Kevin was born at the Paeroa Maternity Unit, “before it closed” – and he’s been involved with hospitals almost ever since. Kevin, the fourth in a line of five boys, says, “I was always going to be a doctor.”

His parents were Anglican, and Kevin went to Sunday school and youth groups at St Paul’s in Paeroa. Kevin has traced the hand of God throughout his life. “God looked after my father too. He was trained in Bomber Command in WW11, but having three boys he was not sent to fight overseas. Later he got a job as Ministry of Works paymaster, and he had to drive all around Hauraki and the Coromandel, personally delivering brown envelopes to the workers, carrying big amounts of cash in the car, with no protection.”

Kevin went through school in Paeroa, and while still at High School the local GP saw Kevin’s interest and allowed him to attend at the surgery. He went through St John’s training, from young cadet to senior rank, before going to Otago University to begin his long medical training. “The second and third years in Dunedin were fun. Four of us in the flat, and 27 instruments between us, including three sets of bagpipes. I played drums and the trumpet. Both badly!”

In his third year, Kevin went along to the Apostolic Church. On the first night there, he made a commitment to Christ. “My life was changed. For a start, I stopped smoking. I became a youth leader, and later a (very young) Elder.”

There was a nurse named Carol in the youth group. When Carol went to Waikato as a Ward Sister, Kevin realised he was missing her. The National Church Convention was coming up in Wellington, so Kevin wrote a formal

letter to enquire whether Carol might be there? That was Easter 1968. Kevin was booked to go on the Wahine, the day after it foundered on Barrett Reef. So instead he flew to Wellington, and Carol was there.

Three days later Kevin proposed. In Paeroa he introduced her to his Mum and Dad. "It was Mum's birthday. She got a daughter-in-law for her birthday that year." On Queen's Birthday weekend Kevin and Carol announced their engagement. The wedding was planned for November.

Kevin was still a fourth year student, and Carol was a Ward Sister. "Professionally, she was miles above me." Carol also had a sister named Clare, who planned to marry a youth leader from the Dunedin church. So they made it a double wedding, "Much to their father's delight. It saved him heaps."

In his fourth year, Kevin attended a lecture that proved very important. "It was the only lecture on paediatric surgery in the course, given by the general surgeon who looked after paediatric cases in Dunedin. That set me on the road to specialising in paediatric surgery. I'm sure God was leading me." Kevin's work and study schedule was hard. In term breaks he worked as Acting House Surgeon at Dunedin Hospital to help the budget. Their first daughter, Julie was born in Kevin's sixth year of Medical School. After graduating M.B., Ch.B., Kevin worked for a year as House Surgeon in Dunedin, and then went on to teach anatomy for a year. He sat his finals in 1975.

Kevin took up a position as a paediatric surgery registrar at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. By this time they had three children, Julie, Fiona and Craig, and the duty schedule was tough, with Kevin sleeping in the hospital a lot of the time. After 2 years there were more job offers, and they opted to go to Chicago, where Kevin took a Paediatric Surgical Fellowship at The University of Chicago. The family lived in a second storey apartment on the university campus.

"It was a very hard time for Carol. The city was unsafe, the children couldn't go out to play on their own and Carol knew no-one. There were armed guards in the hospital, where I had to sleep when on duty. We came to understand the meaning of 'wrong side of the tracks.' There were rich white areas, and black ghettos. We went to a

Pentecostal Church where there were only six white faces – and five of them were ours! The service went on for three hours, and we decided it wasn't for us. We then found a Methodist Church with a full choir and four paid soloists. That was our first white Christmas, and it was 40 below."

Money was tight for the Pringle family. The children went to the well-protected, but expensive schools on campus. "I bought a clapped-out Mercury Comet for \$50." Their fortunes changed when Kevin took up the position of Assistant Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Illinois, Chicago with a joint appointment at Cook County Hospital, for roughly five times the salary of a Fellow! Again God stepped in, with the offer of a loan from friends, to put a deposit on a modest house. "Our lawyer said we were mad, but this was God's provision," Kevin says.

In 1979 they experienced a memorable Chicago blizzard. The first snowfall, 14 inches, was followed by a second, with another 24 inches falling in 24 hours. "I entertained the kids, dropping them from the 2nd floor balcony onto the soft snow. They didn't want to stop."

The family took a 3-day journey to Marco Island in Florida, travelling over the Tampa Bridge the day before a ship ran out of control and demolished it. In Florida Kevin attended a conference of American Paediatric Surgeons that again led to an advancement in his career. "I made a very simple suggestion as to how the various universities could streamline their exam marking. That led to my being recruited to the University of Iowa as an Assistant Professor. On the way home from Florida, we took a holiday with the kids and narrowly avoided two more disasters – the Miami riots and a series of tornados! God was certainly looking after us.

We went for a drive to check out Iowa City. The road ran through lovely countryside. A road sign said 'Iowa City Limits'. From there we could see one farmhouse, three barns and corn everywhere. Carol said, 'If you don't take this position, don't bother coming home.' As it turned out, they wanted to interview Carol too." Kevin took up the position in January the following year. They bought a house and stayed seven years in Iowa.

Kevin was one of two paediatric surgeons working with a population the size of New Zealand. "We joined a big Presbyterian Church and Carol joined the choir. We made friends with lots of Kiwi ex-pats, and entertained up to 50 of them every Christmas at 40 degrees below.

One of them was a chap from the ENT (Ear, Nose & Throat) department at Wellington Hospital, and that led on to our next move.

“I was watching for a suitable job to come up, preferably in Wellington. A letter arrived from the ENT guy, with a position advertised for a Senior Lecturer at the University of Otago, Wellington, with a Joint Clinical Appointment as a Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at Wellington Hospital. I had ten days to get my application in, by air mail letter. It was touch and go, but it got there. We came to Wellington in 1987. It was quite a contrast from the plains of Iowa to the hills of Wellington. From 40 degrees below, to 40 knot winds!”

When he arrived in Wellington, Kevin was the only paediatric surgeon south of Taupo. He immediately set about establishing a regional paediatric surgery service covering the lower North Island and the top of the South Island. Carol went back to work as Deputy Head Nurse at Hau Moana private hospital in Lyall Bay, and later as Practice Nurse for an Eastbourne GP.

Kevin and Carol lived in Wellington for almost 30 years. They moved to Whitianga permanently in 2016. Both are now totally involved in the community. Carol with Op-shop and Golden Girls, and Kevin with the Medical Centre planning. Kevin is still in demand at medical conferences around the world, and yet Kevin still finds time to lead our worship sometimes. We are blessed to have them worshipping with us at St Andrew's.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 13th

After morning service, lunch to follow

All are invited to attend, who have an interest in the future
of this Fellowship

Please plan to attend this important meeting

A Generous Gift...

Many of you will know that our dear church organist, Heather, is now a resident at Continuing Care. For the past 38 years, Heather has played for every service, every wedding and every funeral.

She is missing all the creative things that have filled her life, her music and stitchcraft, gifts shared so freely with so many people.

Now Heather has time to reflect, and she has decided to make another generous gift. Heather wants her lovely baby grand piano to come to grace the chancel at St Andrew's.

John, Linda and Helen are supportive of this decision, and the piano will be moved in the near future.

"Heather has decided this," John says, "and she wants to see it happen." We are greatly indebted to the Stephenson family for this wonderful contribution to our worship.



St Andrew's Church Op-Shop
helping the whole community

Grand Clearance Sale

Saturday October 27th

Includes 50 cent clothing, bric-a-brac,
books, etc.

In the Church Hall - 8:30 to 12:30

Please support your Op-Shop

Did you know? We support local churches and many other groups.

If YOU can help on the day, you will be very welcome - contact

Madeleine on 866 0169



An Upside-Down World

Alistair Rogers introduced this in a service at St Andrew's. Written by Brian Bilson, it was published in *Grapevine*.

THEY HAVE NO NEED OF OUR HELP
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me,
should life have dealt a different hand.
We need to see them for what they really are,
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves.
Cut-throats and thieves.
They are not
Welcome here.
We should make them
Go back where they came from.
They cannot
share our food,
share our homes,
share our countries,
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out.
It is not OK to say
These people are just like us.
A place should only belong to those who were born there.
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way.
(...Now try reading it backwards...)

***Jesus turned the world on its head:
"The last shall be first, and the first last" in God's Kingdom of Peace.
Matt 19:30; Mark 9:35***

Worship @ St Andrew's - Sunday 9:30am

Families with young children are always welcome

Oct 6th - Communion - Rev John Twemlow - Fellowship Lunch

13th - Dorothy Preece

10th - The Ladies' Bible Team

27th - Peter and Dorothy Chaffin

Nov 3rd - Communion - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby - Fellowship Lunch

10th - Rev John Twemlow

17th - Alistair Rogers

24th - Dorothy Preece

Samaritan's Purse - Christmas Child Boxes

We are now collecting suitable items to be packed
after service on Sunday, 21st October

Please refer to the brochure in church for guidelines on
what can be included

Pick a box up from church if you would like to pack your
own box at home

ALL BOXES MUST BE RETURNED BY SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER

For further information ring Robyn Balfour 020 409 39674



Funerals

Our sympathy and prayers are with the families

3 Oct - Jenny Christensen, at St Andrew's.

John Twemlow officiating



Parish and Community Activities

Newcomers are cordially invited to join any of these friendly groups

AA DRIVER LICENSING - all day 2nd Friday of each month. See notice board for dates

CANCER GROUP COFFEE & CHAT - first Friday of every month. For those diagnosed with cancer, and their carers. Contact Penny 027 684 0004

CHURCH OP-SHOP opens Tuesday-Saturday 8:30-12:30, now with EFTPOS! Enquiries, ring Madeleine 866 0169

COMMUNITY MEALS served in the Church hall from 5-6pm every Monday. Meals phone (attended Mondays only): 021 0294 2234

ENLIVEN (Presbyterian Social Services for seniors) every Thursday, by arrangement only. For more information, ring Jenny 866 0556

HALL BOOKINGS contact Dorothy Preece 869 5452

LADIES BIBLE STUDY Wednesday at 10am. Ring Julie for further details on 021 169 1637

SCRAP BAGS (Quilting) every Wednesday from 11am in the Hall.

STITCH N' CHAT every second Tuesday in the Hall. To join this friendly group, ring Julie 021 169 1637

UPRIGHT & ACTIVE Friendly exercise sessions for seniors, held in the Church hall Mondays, 9:30am - exercise for more active seniors.
Tuesdays, 10am - exercise for the less active.

WHENUAKITE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP For venue and times ring Beryl 866 3739 or Annie 866 3711

Church and Parish Donations: Mercury Bay Co-operating Parish
BNZ Whitianga: **02 0496 0062562 00**

Monday Meals Donations: Mercury Bay Community Support Trust
Westpac Whitianga: **03 1578 0108901 00**

St Andrew's service 9:30 every Sunday

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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