



ANNUAL REPORT

2018 / 2019

All members and adherents are warmly invited to attend the Church's Annual General Meeting, to be held on Sunday 3rd November 2019, following the morning service.

Greenlane Presbyterian Church

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Minister:

Rev Ben Dykman

Session Clerk:

Alastair Peak

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Minister's Report

By God's grace it has been a privilege and honour to serve Him as pastor and bible teacher at G.P.C. this year. I am amazed that God continues to allow me to serve Him in this way. Over this past year I have had the privilege of teaching through the Apostle's Creed, something I have never done before. My purpose was to re-establish in the hearts and minds of our people the foundational truths of the Christian faith. More recently I have also taught a series on the life of Gideon, and currently I am teaching from the letter to Titus, which will take us into the new year.

It has also been a joy to team with Csilla Saysell, teaching overviews of the N.T. and O.T. in our popular monthly evening, Sharpening your bible knowledge meetings. It would seem that the recorded sermons on the web and U-tube are steadily reaching more and more people as they tune in.

This year, in March, I attended The Shepherds Conference in the USA as study leave. The conference theme was on the same subject as my study leave – Faithfulness in Ministry. It was a wonderful encouragement to me to hear others teach God's word with clarity, passion and authority. There were 5000 in attendance and it was a huge blessing that enriched me.

I have been away on 2 short term mission trips this year, one to the Philippines with Voice of the Martyrs, and the other in India. On both occasions I was able to teach church leaders and church planters from the word of God. My focus was to enrich them by opening up God's word.

The church at Glendowie has taken quite a lot of my time as I fulfil my presbytery responsibilities in helping them transition with their new pastoral couple, Chris and Becky Heale. This responsibility should come to an end in 2020 when they will be formally inducted.

Our church hall is in the midst of a total refit and earthquake strengthening. The project is proving to be bigger and more complex than we anticipated, but with Ewen's oversight and a very competent building contractor, it is moving on well. I am so grateful for the input, help and time given by others in our church who have expertise in the building and architectural industry. We have also seen a number of people who have willingly stepped up to help at working bees.

As a pastor it continues to be of concern to me to see the ongoing move of people out of Auckland. Although we may see a steady stream of people joining us at GPC, equally a steady stream moves out of Auckland and are forced to find other places to worship. As I have spoken to colleagues around the churches in Auckland, this seems to be a common feature of the Auckland spiritual landscape.

The recent innovation of the Hospitality Sunday is proving to be a good initiative to assist us in spending a little more social time together and taking seriously the N.T. call to exercise hospitality. As we are essentially a gathered church with people coming from Pukekohe in the south, North Shore in the north, and St Helliers to the east, it is important for us to find ways for spending time in Christian fellowship with each other.

I am thankful to God for the dedicated and committed team of elders who, by God's grace continue to work so cohesively together. G.P.C. is blessed with gifted and godly leaders who are dedicated and committed to gospel work at our church. Some have served our church community for many years.

G.P.C. is also blessed with an army of volunteers and helpers who work so well together to make our church the spiritual home that it continues to be. As you read the reports it is evident that many hours are given in a whole host of different up-front and behind the scenes avenues of service. I am particularly grateful to Sue for her constant support and teamwork at our church.

It is my prayer that God would continue to bless this work for the year 2020. I long to see more people won to Christ and built up in the faith.

Ephesians 6:19 Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth words may be given me so that I might fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel

Ben Dykman

Session Annual report 2018 – 2019

“Your love O Lord reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies”. (Psalm 36:5)

The GPC Session once again gives thanks to God for His love and goodness to us. We have much to give thanks for as we reflect on another year of ministry at GPC. Some highlights include:

- The membership service which saw 17 new members added to our numbers in June
- Increases in some of the key membership and attendance statistics reported to the PCANZ annually.
- The introduction of the Sharpening series which has seen Rev Ben Dykman and Dr Csilla Saysell share on alternate months in teaching an overview of selected biblical passages, raising the level of biblical knowledge for all those fortunate enough to attend.
- God's faithfulness to us financially, as we exceeded our budgeted giving by 5% through the generosity of everyone who supports GPC through your regular giving.
- The opportunity to support our minister Rev Ben Dykman on two overseas mission trips throughout the year, and also to attend a conference in the USA while utilising his study leave. We are blessed to have a number of members who are capable of preaching when Ben is away.
- Many answers to prayer in the lives of congregation members and their loved ones.

Our thanks to Rev Ben Dykman for his ongoing ministry at Greenlane which continues to be a huge blessing to us. Ben's ability and hard work to preach & teach the gospel on a weekly basis continues to amaze and inspire us. On top of this we greatly appreciate Ben's pastoral concern for all our congregation, his heart for mission and the time and energy he puts into ministries such as the Band of Brothers and home groups. We again thank Ben and Sue for their

continued hospitality, regularly opening their home to visitors and for church events such as Newcomers' lunches. We are also grateful to Sue for her ongoing work in the church office.

We give thanks to all the active ministry teams within GPC:

- Children & Youth Ministries led by Tala Page-To'oala - We give thanks to Tala for the way she has led our Kids Club and Junior Youth throughout the year, supported by a large team of volunteers. We also thank Dorothy Davidson and Isaac Hardijanto for stepping up to lead our High School aged Youth on Sunday mornings as a result of Tala dropping back her hours slightly to accommodate her continued study at Laidlaw College. Everyone involved in children's and youth ministry is having a positive impact on our young people during the critical formative years of their lives.
- Pastoral care committee – The pastoral care team continues to care for the needs of our congregation through a variety of means and organise all our social events throughout the year. We are grateful for the pastoral care team's efforts to trial a new Hospitality Sunday idea as a means to encourage everyone in the congregation to build a stronger sense of community within our GPC family.
- Finance & Admin - Our F&A team continues to look after our facilities, provide financial stewardship and also help us through the Health and Safety obligations on our church. We thank all team members who give their time and expertise for these purposes. We thank all the team for their prudent financial management which has allowed us to commence the Hall refurbishment project.
- Missions – The Missions committee continues to uphold and encourage the variety of people working on the Mission field who are supported by GPC as a means to fulfilling our outward focus. We thank the committee for their continued oversight of this ministry
- Tongan Fellowship - We are again grateful to our Tongan fellowship for their ongoing contribution to GPC. We are thankful to the leaders within the Tongan fellowship for their continued service. We are encouraged to see some growth in the numbers reported in the annual statistics for this ministry.
- Music - We greatly appreciate our music teams who lead us in worship every week. We are blessed to have so many musically talented people and the variety they are able to bring to our worship.
- All others who volunteer - Every activity in GPC relies on congregation members who volunteer their time and talents. There are many other forms of service at GPC such as morning tea chefs and servers, door welcomers, home group hosts & leaders, Mainly Music leaders, technology providers, crèche supervisors, pray-ers, and many more. We thank everyone who serves in these ways to help make GPC function as it does.

Within Session we briefly welcomed back Kerry Hales after her time in the US in 2018, and then bid her “Au Revoir” as she requested leave of absence for another year. With somewhat heavy hearts, we were able to formally farewell Gregor and Heather Coster following their move to Wellington, and to thank them for their extraordinary service to GPC over the years.

We are blessed with a united eldership team, and are grateful for the abilities and time given by all our Session members, every one of whom makes a significant contribution to the life of GPC. For our devotions this year we have commenced studying a book called “The Master’s plan for the Church” by Dr John Macarthur. We are only a short way into it, but have already been challenged personally and corporately as we consider some of the foundations for an effective and powerful church ministry. As a Session we continue to earnestly seek to know and do God’s will in GPC.

On Behalf of Session: *Ben Dykman (Chair), Malcolm Boyd, Megan Farmiloe, Iki Haunga, Ewen Hutchinson, Johnny Lee, Narend Nair, Alastair Peak, Tim Roberts, Alex Robinson, Csilla Saysell*

Alastair Peak (Session Clerk)

Pastoral Care Team Report

We give thanks to God for our valued team as they continue to serve and care for our GPC family.

Our team has endeavored to provide support for our GPC family and wider community in a variety of ways as needs arise. Over the past year this has included our foodbank, baby care packs and visits for new Mums, hospital visits, delivery of home cooked meals (mealtrain) for those needing this support. Sue Dykman has kindly offered to be the person within the team who co-ordinates pastoral care needs; when needs arise please let Sue know if our team can help in anyway.

We have also been involved in organizing various social events throughout the year with the aim of developing friendships and support within the GPC family. Social events have provided opportunities to invite friends from the wider community. Our awesome annual international lunch continues to be a highlight for everyone, we would like to thank Valerie Boyd for all her assistance with the lunch this year. Unfortunately, our picnic earlier in the year was cancelled due to poor weather. Other events our team have organized include the delicious Christmas Breakfast and our ladies afternoon teas.

We are excited to be currently working alongside Session in developing our monthly ‘Hospitality Sunday’ initiative, encouraging our congregation to invite others into their home or go out for lunch or coffee together.

Our team keeps in regular contact and meets at the manse every 2-3 months, our thanks go to Ben and Sue for their continued support, encouragement and hospitality.

We are thrilled to report that we have three new team members, Camille Chun joined us earlier this year and we have recently welcomed Rochelle Arthur and Cynthia Fuge. New members are always welcome. We would also welcome any new ideas/suggestions for social events.

Committee members: *Ben Dykman, Sue Dykman, Anna Faireka, Lauris Lee, Camille Chun, Melissa Martin, Janine Peak, Jo Price, Natasha Konoplenko, Tala Page, Rochelle Arthur, Cynthia Fuge*

Janine Peak (Chairperson)

Meal Train

If you would like to help set up meal trains, please get in touch. The website to organise meals is mostly used with new babies and helping to lighten the load where there is a lot of change in a family. It would be good to use this more in cases of sickness or ailment i.e. surgeries, but for whatever reason it doesn't get asked for in these circumstances as much. I would like to encourage us to use it more in this way.

It has worked well also for situations such as providing supper for various church events. Again, it required volunteers to take up a date to provide a meal. It's also a great way to contribute to our church family in a one-off situation if you're not as yet involved in service of our church.

Thank you to all those who have provided meals, your generosity is so very much appreciated.

Melissa Martin

New Babies

If there is someone who would like to join me in this area, that would be great. I found it difficult arranging visits with little babies while Jacob himself was sick. So, it would be really good to have someone else on board prepared to source, wrap and deliver presents to parents of newborns. We provide gifts to the family and some flowers from our church. Most total in value of \$60 plus donated baby items. We have had the wonderful knitting skills of Veronica of late who has been busy putting out lovely outfits. I can't knit anywhere near as fast so I have to ask please for knitted contributions by all our lovely knitters out there to knit newborn items (sets would be wonderful if possible). If you could still keep this in mind that would be wonderful, thank you.

Please continue to pray for these ministries and services in our Church family.

Melissa

Missions Report 2019

As a member of GPC, you supported the following:

Overseas Mission.

Ira and Kate Hopkinson, Sylvia, Jonathon, Lucy & Emily.

Ira is engaged in language development for Wycliffe Bible Translators based in Chang Mai, Thailand

Erin and Melanie Boyd missionaries to the Middle East, with Interserve-engaged in supporting refugees.

Ambassadors for Christ- support for a campus of 24 students at Fiji Bible college.

Local Mission

Rev Mele Tavelia- one of five chaplains at Auckland Hospital, under the Council of Churches Chaplaincy. GPC members assist with bringing patients to a service on 2nd Sunday of the month.

Wycliffe Bible Translators-NZ - Wayne and Caryl Freeman – Wayne works with the new national director and is in charge of Kairos- a course informing churches about God's heart for Missions. Caryl acts as liaison support to translation workers overseas.

Anne Bowie – Oceania Regional overseer for Evangelism Explosion – an organization providing training in conversational evangelism

Bible in Schools- financial support for this ministry to school children

Grapevine magazine, Christian Broadcasting(CBA), Bibles for Mainly Music families; Hope Project – financial support for these activities.

Missions funds are allocated from your general offering giving.

The Committee prayerfully allocates funds to the missionaries and outreach activities.

The total budget for the year was \$32,220, compared to \$32,917 spent. Overseas Mission \$12,875; Local Mission \$20,042

We are grateful for your support and prayer during the year.

The Missions committee meets at 7.30PM on the 4th Tuesday of each month, in the Sunday School room (anyone is welcome to attend or to join this committee)

GPC Committee: Malcolm Boyd-Chairperson, Margaret Black, Anne Bowie, Ward & Julia Buckingham, Rev Ben and Sue Dykman, Hardi Halim, Simon Neethling.

Malcolm Boyd

Worship Team Report

By God's grace we continue to have a wonderful group of musicians, singers and technical support who give of their time to serve in the worship ministry. We have enjoyed learning several new songs this year along with singing our old favourites. It brings great joy to the hearts of all those involved to worship God and is a true blessing. We strive not to play and sing perfectly, but rather to give our best in worshipping with all our hearts, minds and souls.

We are always looking for more people to be involved and would welcome anyone looking to use their God given gifts and talents who wishes to be involved as either a musician, singer, sound technician or projector operator to get in touch.

Cherise Stevens

Home Group Reports

Group Meeting at Buckingham's – 7.15pm on Mondays.

When we joined GPC we commenced a home group of mostly GPC members in our Villa at Selwyn Heights. Those people have gone on, some to start other home groups, others are still involved in groups. We have had a couple of relocations within the village and our home group has become a Selwyn Heights home group, but we treasure Ann Bowie. During the year a 95-year-old joined our group and boy does he know his bible. Yes, our home group is made up of very mature Christians who attend four different Churches. Members of the group support a number of missionaries both in prayer and donations. We were delighted when the daughter of one of our members came home on furlough and we were able to share confidentially some detail of her work in a very difficult area near Yemen.

During the year we have been using the "Life" series as a guide and worked our way through 2nd Samuel, Amos, Jonah, Micah and we are currently going through Philippians. We meet for two hours every Monday evening with at least 10 people present, starting with supper and finishing with a prayer time for missionaries and people in the village who are not well.

Julia and Ward Buckingham

The group meeting Wednesday nights at the Dykman's

The home group that meets at the manse on a Wednesday night in school term continues to be a blessing. There is a healthy degree of fellowship and a good desire to study God's word together. Our numbers fluctuate widely from 12-22 depending on all sorts of factors that impinge on our busy lives.

I am grateful to Barbara, Megan and Doreen who provide musical accompaniment for our time of worship in song.

This year we began with the Freedom in Christ course and were blessed to have the help of Stuart Turner, who lead the group while I was away overseas.

The second half of the year we have been immersed in an in-depth study of the letter to the Ephesians. We have enjoyed many nights of grappling with the text of this remarkable N.T. letter. All being well we should just manage to complete it by the end of the year.

I strongly believe the home group model of study and discipleship is vital for growth and meaningful fellowship in a growing church.

Celestine & Doreen Arasaratnam, Margaret Black, Graham Brookes, Ben & Sue Dykman, Megan Farmiloe, Anna & Pita & Monika Faireka, Hardi & Sri Halim, Eric & Camille Han, Barbara Hope-Cross, Joseph Lee, Simon Neethling, Wally Ritchie, Ripa Seu, Mohammed Shabani, Liz Sia, Sue Slane, Nigel & Ella Reddy, Ricki Wu

Ben Dykman

The group meeting Monday nights at the Lee's

We are grateful to God for the opportunity to meet and have weekly fellowship with this wonderful group of people. This year, we welcomed a new family into the group and at the same time, bid farewell to two other families. We're happy to have Jonathan and Rochelle Arthur join us on our Monday night meetings and we value the biblical knowledge they bring into our discussions. Sadly, we said goodbye to Dan and Jen and their family as they went back to the United States. We also farewelled Alasdair and Jane MacLennan and their family as they moved to their new home in Cambridge.

As with the previous year, we use bible study materials from RightNow media. RightNow media is like the Netflix of Christian bible studies. It includes short videos (usually 20 minutes long) and then followed by bible readings and discussions, which perfectly suit our small group.

We continued through "Work as Worship" by J.D. Greear at the start of the year. This is a six-part Bible study resource that challenged all of us to consider the reason God calls us to work. This was then followed by "Attributes of God". In this 16-part teaching series, Ligonier Teaching Fellow Dr. Steven Lawson articulates a biblical understanding of divine attributes and explores how a right understanding of God can affect every aspect of our lives. It served as a reminder to us that God has revealed His character in Scripture, illuminating the attributes that define Him. This brought about numerous deep and thought-provoking discussions that kept the group talking until late at night! Following this, we're now venturing on a new series called "God's Crime Scene" where we join J. Warner Wallace, a former atheist, seasoned cold-case detective, and popular national speaker tackle an important case. J. Warner Wallace examines eight critical pieces of evidence in the "crime scene" of the universe to determine if they point to a Divine Intruder.

Our home group also enjoys a number of social events – shared dinners, night outs where the ladies successfully escaped "Dreams of Alice" room in the city and "Snatch a Dad" night where the guys enjoyed a round of mini golf and dinner. In addition to that, the group is continuing on its annual camping event during Auckland Anniversary weekends, and is now on its fourth consecutive year.

The group meets every Monday night from 7:30pm at Stonefields. If you'd like to learn more, feel free to chat with any one of us - *Calvin and Cherise Stevens, Carol MacDonald, Gavin and Tala To'oala, Jonathan and Rochelle Arthur, Johnny and Aileen Lee, Andriy and Natasha Konoplenko, Stephen Hogg and Sarah Jones.*

Johnny Lee

Home Group Thursday evenings at Alastair and Janine Peak's

We worked our way through the Book of Acts this year taking turns at leading each session with the help of a study booklet. Reading about Paul's missionary journeys, we reflected on evangelism in our post-Christian world and how we can share the gospel more effectively. During this time, we also took a session out to discuss the recent bill on euthanasia.

Next we did part of the 'Freedom in Christ' video series, exploring what it means to be 'in Christ' and the practical difference this should make to our lives. We are now starting a 6-part video series by R.C. Sproul, a Reformed theologian, on "Dealing with Difficult Problems". Topics cover the will of God, suffering, forgiveness, dealing with guilt, anxiety, and anger.

This year we said goodbye to the Costers (now in Wellington) and welcome back Hamish and Joy after their two-year stay in Christchurch. Apart from our weekly studies, we enjoyed several takeaway meals and restaurant dinners during the year.

Ajit Arulambalam & Nerupi Fernando, Tom and Marianne Gilliam, Hamish & Joy Howden, Ewen & Lesley Hutchinson, Alastair & Janine Peak, Alex & Ivy Robinson, Phil & Csilla Saysell.

Csilla Saysell

Band of Brothers

Band of Brothers has become a regular part of the ministry of GPC. Over this year we have enjoyed a wide variety of bible teachers and missionaries who have challenged us from God's word. I am deeply grateful to the team of kitchen workers – Johnny Lee, Hardi Halim, Kwet Siman, Alex Robinson and Celestine Arasaratnam, who serve us so selflessly and then tidy up afterwards.

We continue to see 25-30 men at our monthly breakfasts. I remain committed to the idea that a strong church needs a strong and committed male component and by God's grace we have that.

Ps 133:1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Ben Dykman

Ladies Bible study

A group of ladies meet weekly in the church lounge during school term on a Tuesday morning from 10.00-11.00am to enjoy fellowship around our bibles with other ladies, prayer and a cup of coffee or tea.

We started the year with a study of the book of Esther and are currently working through the letter to the Romans. We use the Life guide study booklets as a basis for our bible studies so that everyone is able to contribute and to

stimulate discussion and reflection on the bible passages. Our time together always includes prayer for each other and our families. All ladies are welcome to join us.

Margaret Black, Val Boyd, Muriel Goodare, Leslie Hutchinson, Lauris Lee, Audrey Ritchie, Ivy Robinson, Csilla Saysell, Kathryn Stevenson, Jin Wang, Sue Dykman

Sue Dykman

Youth and Families

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our mission is for our children and young people to belong, believe and become lifelong followers of Christ.

In December of last year, parents, volunteers and elders were invited to partake in an evening of prayer and thanksgiving upon our children and youth ministries. We reflected on three prayer stations:

- Vision – Belong, Believe & Become
 - What does belong mean?
 - What does believe mean?
 - What does become mean?

From this, vision statements will be drawn up, and strategic direction

- SWOT analysis of kids & youth ministry
 - What are our strengths?
 - What are our weaknesses?
 - Are there opportunities?
 - Are there any threats?

From this, yearly activities will be considered

- Transitioning...
 - When your child graduates from children's / youth ministry, what does their faith look like?

From this, goals will be drawn up & reasoning behind programmes

Here is the summary behind our vision:

Belong

- Children & young people are welcomed, nurtured and celebrated.
- Belong & participate in the life and worship of GPC.
- Value children & young people for the immense love and life they bring to the whole church family.
- Children & youth understand that they are fully known and loved by Jesus.

Believe

- Children & youth have a genuine desire to know Jesus more deeply.
- A faith in Jesus that is appropriate to their age.
- Questions & curiosity are encouraged.
- Understand what they believe & why.

Belong

- Personal relationship with Jesus and a faith that is authentic and their own.
- Create opportunities to reach out, serve, include, celebrate and witness to Christian and non-Christian children, families and our community.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In response to our reflection evening, we decided we needed to go back to the basics and teach the children the biblical metanarrative as an overall storyline by which we can understand the Bible as a whole. We are using the Gospel Project curriculum to aid us in immersing the kids in the gospel through every story, theological concept, and call to mission from Genesis to Revelation. Ultimately, the gospel message changes everything; heart transformation can only take place when a child experiences the gospel. They will understand the Bible is not just a collection of stories, but one unified story—God's story of redemption.

My heartfelt thank you to our volunteers (adults & youth) who give so selflessly to our Sunday morning ministry. I appreciate how you serve with so much joy and passion and the genuine care you have for our children's spiritual formation.

JUNIOR YOUTH

We have been in a season of revamping our junior youth ministry so that it aligns better to our goals of discipling our young people into lifelong followers of Christ. So we decided to try a new concept where we split our Year 5-8 children into 4 smaller groups, that meet once a month and come together as

a large group once a term for a combined event. We have realised this change was needed to meet the needs of our younger people – authentic and real relationships that lead into hard conversations about being Christ in all aspects of our lives. We have had a positive feedback about this new change and will continue this into the new year.

A special thanks to our junior youth leaders – Isaac Nair, Ben Martin and Merlyn Seelam – it has been an amazing journey as we partner together to share God’s love to others but also drawing closer to Him too.

REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICE

In March we hosted the Presbyterian youth service where our young people were given the opportunity and space to minister to us. The theme was the character of Moses, and we were privileged to have Auckland Councilor Efeso Collins (Laidlaw College board member) as our guest speaker, who had us engaged throughout his talk. Thank you to our church family who provided a feast afterwards!

PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT NORTHERN

We have not been as involved with PSN like we have in the past, however, we do continue to help Anne Overton (Community Advisor) sort (and sometimes wrap) over 200 Christmas presents that go out to their different sites. This is always a highlight for our young people to serve in this way.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CAMP

According to our National Church statistics only a small number of young people who engage in church ministries make public confessions of faith through baptism or confirmation. We were moved to offer an open invite to young people in years 7-11 to explore issues of faith and provide the opportunity to profess their faith publicly. We partnered with our National Youth & Children’s Ministries (PYM & Kids Friendly) to pilot the confirmation material they have written together.

The weekend was filled with teaching, spiritual prayer practices, activities, beach, evening games, delicious food, great conversations and maybe little sleep! A highlight for me was the way our Yr 13 leaders – Mikayla Peak and Dion Price – were open to God’s leading during the preparation stages and at camp, and their willingness to be genuinely authentic as they shared about their faith journey and relationship with Jesus. We have arranged for follow up sessions to take place next month as we prayerfully prepare for their public confession of faith if they choose to do so.

Special thanks to Sunny and Karuna Naicker who provided transport with a minibus, and Megan Farmiloe for transportation as well. Thank you to Gavin who was our wonderful cook, and leaders Gabriel Siman, Mikayla and Dion.

I am just about to finish my second year studying at Laidlaw College, and while it has been a year of growth and stretching which I have thoroughly enjoyed; I would not have been able to juggle study and ministry if it wasn’t for the support of our elders. Thank you for the prayer support, words of encouragement along the way and the genuine care you have for my wellbeing.

Thank you also to our amazing volunteers – it definitely does take a village to raise a child – your commitment and heart to journey with our tamariki do not go unnoticed. Thank you!

In Christ,

Tala Page-To'oala

YOUTH MINISTRY

Kia ora whanau, this has been an exciting year for the young people in our church. We meet twice a month for food, fellowship and Bible study. We started the year going through the Youth Alpha program to cement our understanding of the essentials of Christianity. We have spent time together as a group on camps and now are working our way through Bible studies tailored specifically for our young people. At present we are working our way through the Judges series and have covered Gideon and Deborah so far.

Reflecting on the year that has been, it has been a great start to creating a tight knit community where the young people in our church can come together, grow together and navigate their faith journeys together. We are grateful for all the support our church family have provided throughout the year. We are most grateful for all your prayers.

Our goal has been to provide our young people with a safe, supportive and faith filled space to understand their faith, to make a personal decision to follow Christ and to help them grow closer in their walk with God. We are daily seeing God at work in the lives of our young people and pray that we will continue to provide them with the tools they need to flourish in their faith journeys.

Dorothy Davidson

Mainly Music

We have been having another wonderful year at Mainly Music (MM). We have a large range of families that attend, from first time mums to grandmas and nannies bringing children in their care. We are thankful to God that as people leave he continues to add others to our group. We've been very grateful for the time that we had the signage out the front of church, it continues to help bring more people to MM. We have some families that try their best to attend every week and some average once every two weeks, between 17 and 24 families usually. We increased our session fee by a dollar to \$4 per family to help cover the increase in cost last year and we plan to revise that next year. We still depend on volunteers from our church family to provide morning tea and appreciate anyone who would like to do some baking perhaps once a term if we have enough volunteers.

Currently we have 6 members in our volunteer MM team, with the latest addition of Monica, and we really appreciate her and our other members'

commitment each week of the school terms. We are losing Tala's wonderful help next year to her studies, so we are on the scout for anyone looking for somewhere to serve and mostly talk with a group of ladies of all ages who are working hard looking after little children, and look for opportunities to share their faith with them.

We were asked by a previous mainly music mum (a Hindu) to pray for her as she had brain surgery and came to us for comfort, so we praise God for that opportunity, please pray for her and her family.

Melissa Martin

Finance & Administration Committee Report Year end June 2019

As you know, each year we approve an operating budget, and we work hard to operate within those parameters. In the past year, we budgeted for a 1% increase in general offerings, however we achieved an actual increase in offerings of 6.5% which was fantastic. This resulted in total receipts of \$286,729 which is 5% up on last year.

Our expenses in the operating account were 14.7% under budget, which combined with the increased receipts, resulted in a \$53,000 surplus being achieved for the year. We moved \$50,000 of the surplus to the savings account for the purposes of Missions, Earthquake strengthening, Future ministry funds, and Computer replacement funds. The remaining \$3,000 surplus has been retained in the operating account to assist with cash flow management.

The annual audit of the financial statements is substantially completed and our audited annual financial statements will be filed with the Charities Commission prior to our 31 December deadline; and made available on ours and the Charities websites.

We acknowledge the generosity of the John Millar and G E Hopkins Trust Boards who bless us year after year with grants towards our large projects.

We also thank you, the congregation, for your generosity and faithful giving.

As you know we are currently well through the earthquake strengthening project for the old hall and anticipate the completion of that work including an electrical upgrade, insulation and heating in the next few weeks.

For the coming year Session has recommended to you a budget which includes a 0% growth in offerings, a Mission allocation of 12% of operating income (last year 12%), and a range of capital items requiring upgrade or replacement, the major items being: \$2,500 towards the upgrade/replacement of church projectors, \$5,000 for a new sound desk and \$15,000 towards the earthquake strengthening savings.

Our thanks go to the many in our church who volunteer their time and talents to the operations of the church's affairs – especially those who do

cleaning and gardening, serve on the weekly rosters or do special projects on the buildings.

We also thank Sue Dykman who administers the hall rentals and a myriad of other things, and Sophia Wang, Sri Suganda and Dominic Davidson who assist in the office almost every week.

We also want to acknowledge the huge effort put in by Ewen Hutchinson and Alex Robinson in managing the Hall project over recent weeks.

Special thanks must go to our Finance Committee members for their ongoing support and advice during the past year.

Stephen Hogg