



ANNUAL REPORT

2020 / 2021

All members and adherents are warmly invited to attend the Church's Annual General Meeting, to be held on Sunday 28th November 2021 (via zoom), following the morning live-stream service.

Greenlane Presbyterian Church

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Minister's Report

This has, in many ways, been a year in two halves. The first part of the year, stretching from November 2020 – July 2021, was full of effective ministry, with home groups, Band of Brothers, Sharpening your bible knowledge, and full church services. Our church was thriving and in full stride, then lock down came once again, so that much of what we normally do in our active, busy church, has been put on hold.

However, I am pleased to say that our church continues to do ministry, though somewhat differently. Online services provide the weekly sermon, which is being viewed, not only in N.Z., but also in various parts of the world. Our bible studies are working well on Zoom and our leadership meetings and missions meetings continue on Zoom.

What I am particularly pleased to see is the level of ministry, care and pastoral interest people are showing to each other. Our church elders have all been tasked with a small group of people to contact and care for, which they are doing with love and concern, but what I have also noticed, is that many of our congregation have spontaneously taken it on themselves to contact and care for each other. This is truly New Testament church life, as this is just how the 1st C church behaved. (Acts 2:42-43)

I believe our church has grown stronger through lockdown as people have shown the love of Christ for each other. Our children's and youth workers have shown creativity and been innovative by engaging our children and youth with online activities on Fridays and Sundays. We are very grateful for their continued ministry to our young ones.

Although we, as a church, have adapted well to lockdown and I believe have even grown as a church, I very much look forward in anticipation to being free to gather in Christian fellowship once again.

During this lockdown period Mr Wally Ritchie went home to be with our Lord and saviour in September. We were able to have a very small family funeral for him at church. Our prayers, love and support are with Audrey and the family at this time. When we are allowed to gather in bigger numbers, we plan to have a memorial gathering in memory of him and his life.

The finances of our church have remained strong and consistent despite the massive challenges that Covid-19 has thrown at us. This is an indication of our church's loyalty and commitment to our Lord.

It was also good to have the addition of 3 young students join as part-time staff to help with the children's and youth ministry. Tala, after 7 years of diligent work, has stepped back into an oversight role as Mikayla, Lidia and Dion have stepped up. It has also been good to have Cherise and Hardi join our leadership team. We are also sadly in the process of saying farewell to Phil and Csilla who are moving to Christchurch.

I am truly grateful for our team of elders and their help, encouragement and support over this past trying year. G.P.C. is blessed with servant leaders, who work so well together behind the scenes. Sue has been a wonderful help and loyal partner in the work this year, especially as she continues to partner with me in the online services.

My life's verse is a verse that is pertinent and relevant to us all in these challenges times

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

Ben Dykman

Session Annual Report 2020 – 2021

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever”. (Psalm 107:1)

The year to June 2021 was one where we were greatly blessed in New Zealand and at GPC with relative freedom from the ongoing challenges of the global Covid19 pandemic. For most of the year, New Zealand was covid free, aside from two brief periods in August 2020 and February 2021. As a result we were able, by God's grace, to continue with our lives in a relatively “normal” pre-covid manner, while other nations were ravaged by the virus. As a nation we have benefited from the advent of vaccinations, meaning that even the subsequent outbreak from August 2021 has had less impact on our wellbeing and health system than it otherwise would have. In our church life, we were able to continue holding services and other church activities largely as if covid didn't exist. By contrast, a friend of mine pastoring a church in Scotland has not had a physical service in the church for more than a year! Indeed we have much to be grateful to God about, for the lives we have been able to live.

Within the life of GPC there is also much to be thankful for.

We firstly give thanks to Rev Ben Dykman for his ongoing ministry with us. Ben has continued to tirelessly challenge and encourage us with his weekly sermons, seeking to bring God's word to life for us all, exhorting us to love the Lord with all our heart, and demonstrating this by living Godly lives. Thank you Ben for your amazing drive and commitment to your ministry at GPC, together with your pastoral care. Our thanks also extend once again to Sue for her ongoing work in the church office and her support to Ben.

Many churches around the world are struggling in the covid world, seeing reduced attendance as people are perhaps tentative about being in large gatherings. GPC has not been totally immune from this, but overall our attendance and involvement in the life of the church has held up well. The table below sets out some of the key statistics gathered during June, which we include in our Statement of Service Performance within the financial statements. Some of these statistics are also provided to the PCANZ in Wellington as part of our annual reporting. All the statistics include both the 9.30am service and the Tongan Service.

	2021	2020
Average weekly attendance at worship (adults & children):	232	224
Average weekly attendance at worship (children <13):	55	60
Average Weekly Views of Online Sermon:	22	57
Number of members:	114	123
Number of associate members:	105	88
Youth Group attendance (13-17):	12	29
Children in Mainly Music:	8	10
Attending Mid-week home groups & other Christian formation groups: (this includes Band of Brothers and Sharpening)	85	98
Ministry Staff FTE :	1.9	1.5
Other Admin/ mission staff (not ordained) :	1	1

We give thanks for the financial support that all of our congregation has provided throughout the year. Our offerings income for the year was once again 1% above budget, this at a time when some are experiencing financial difficulty.

Session once again held its annual retreat in June, seeking to set aside our normal day to day activities to focus on where God is leading us at GPC. We again confirmed our strategic plan, affirming our six focus areas of Prayer, Intentional evangelism, growing Christian maturity, Youth & Families, Pastoral Care and Working with our community. We listened to an address by the Anglican Bishop of Wellington, The Rt Revd Justin Duckworth, talking about the challenges facing the modern church in an increasingly idolatrous secular society, and the need for us to be open to God's leading for new ways to engage with our community so that the message of the gospel may become relevant and impactful to our generation.

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

- **Children & Youth Ministries team** which includes Tala Page-To'oala, Mikayla Peak, Dion Price and Lidia Overton, all in part time roles. We recognise the vital importance of this ministry as a key element of GPC's ongoing mission – a church without young people is on a very slippery slope! We give thanks to all the team involved in this important ministry, including our volunteers who assist in a multitude of ways.

- **Pastoral care committee** – The pastoral care team continues to care for the needs of our congregation through a variety of means and to organise all our social events throughout the year. A highlight was the International Lunch in June which was perhaps the largest yet, being a truly wonderful celebration of the ethnic diversity within our church and a demonstration of what the Kingdom of God is all about for us at GPC.

- **Finance & Admin** - We remain blessed to have a very competent Finance & Admin team who prudently and carefully take stewardship of the church's expenditure, manage our facilities so competently and also help us to navigate the Health and Safety obligations on our church.

· **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 again 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.

· **Music** - We greatly appreciate our music teams who lead us in worship every week. We remain blessed to have so many musically talented people and we appreciate 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. We thank everyone who serves in a multitude of ways to help make GPC function as it does.

In any given year there are always new comers to our church, and sadly there are always some who leave us as well for a variety of reasons. It is not possible to mention all such movements, but it is appropriate to acknowledge our sadness at farewelling Megan and Justin Farmiloe during the year after nearly 25 years involvement at GPC. Megan and Justin served in a multitude of ways, including for Megan as an elder for most of that time, as well as treasurer for ten years. We wish Megan and Justin God's blessing for their future.

We 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. Earlier in 2020 we invited four congregation members to be seconded onto Session for a time to learn what is involved in being an elder. We are excited that Cherise Stevens and Hardie Halim have indicated a willingness to become elders and we look forward to going through the process with a congregational meeting as soon as we are able to commence holding services again. 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, Iki Haunga, Ewen Hutchinson, Johnny Lee, Narend Nair, Alastair Peak, Tim Roberts, Alex Robinson, Csilla Saysell, Cherise Stevens (seconded), Hardie Halim (seconded),*

Alastair Peak (Session Clerk)

Pastoral Care Team Report

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

Over the past 12 months our team has provided support for our GPC family and the wider community in many ways. Some of the ways we have provided this care includes: our foodbank, baby care packs and visits for new Mums, hospital visits and delivery of home cooked meals (mealtrain). Our team continues to work alongside Session to meet pastoral care needs as they arise during these very challenging times many are facing due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Thank you to Sue Dykman for her continued role in co-ordinating GPC pastoral care needs. When pastoral care needs arise please let Sue know if our team can support in anyway. Our thanks also goes to Christine McBride for her co-ordination of our mealtrain (delivery of home cooked meals to others in need).

Organising of various social events throughout the year continues to be part of the pastoral care team role. We organise these events with the aim of developing friendships and fostering community within the GPC family. Social events during 2020/21 have been limited at times due to Covid-19 restrictions. Unfortunately, our quiz evening and picnic earlier in the year had to be cancelled due to Covid gathering restrictions. However, we are thrilled to report that subsequent social events including our Christmas lunch, newcomers lunches and our amazing internationally lunch went ahead very successfully. A big thank you to all the 'helpers' involved in supporting these social events.

GPC monthly 'Hospitality Sundays' have continued when possible. It has been very encouraging to hear of others in our congregation building friendships by inviting people into their home or going out for lunch or coffee together.

Our team keeps in regular contact and usually meets at the manse every 2-3 months, face to face meeting have been fairly limited this year. Our thanks go to Ben and Sue for their continued support, encouragement and hospitality.

New members are always welcome to join our team. 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, Cynthia Fuge

Janine Peak (Chairperson)

New Babies

On the birth of new babies in our church we provide gifts to the family and some flowers from our church. Most total in value of \$60-\$120 plus donated baby items. We haven't had so many babies this year. We get wonderfully knitted items from Veronica. All contributions by any of our lovely knitters out there to knit for newborn items will be greatly appreciated (sets would be wonderful if possible). If you could still keep this in mind that would be amazing, thank you.

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

Melissa Martin

GPC MISSIONS REPORT 2021

As a member of GPC, you supported the following:

Overseas Mission

Ira and Kate Hopkinson, Sylvia, Jonathon, Lucy & Emily - with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Ira is engaged in language development. They are based in Chang Mai, Thailand

Erin and Melanie Payne, 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.

Anne Bowie – Oceania Regional overseer for Evangelism Explosion – an organization providing training to church groups in conversational evangelism. Anne maintains regular contact with 6 national EE leaders - Australia, Fiji, NZ, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

Child Rescue NZ - whose goal is to rescue children from sexual exploitation and human trafficking and help them stay free.

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 each month.

Anne Bowie – supports Evangelism Explosion –by assisting their training of conversational evangelism to NZ church groups

Isaac Hardijanto – based in Christchurch_ with Student Life- an outreach to NZ university students.

General Support to Bible In Schools, Christian Broadcasting(CBA), Hope Project, Open Doors, Voice of the Martyrs

Missions allocation from your general offering giving was \$34,140 for the year. The Committee prayerfully apportion these funds to the missionaries and outreach activities and general support. Spent \$28,767. 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 Buckingham, Rev Ben and Sue Dykman, Hardi Halim, Jin Wang, Eric Han, Kwame Boakye

Malcolm Boyd

Worship Team Report

“Prior to the Covid restrictions, the worship team enjoyed another year of great harmony and a wonderful, dedicated group of people serving week after week in this ministry. It is a great joy and blessing to serve the Lord and the congregation in this way. However, it has now been quite some time since we have been able to corporately sing God’s praises and worship together in God’s house.

As a worship team we long to be back together playing music and singing His praises together and are hopefully of being able to sing the timeless Christmas carols this year.”

Thanks,
Cherise Stevens

Home Group Reports

Group Meeting at Selwyn Heights Village – 7.15pm on Mondays.

Study wise it has been off and on with Covid 19 lock downs – We have met when we could. During the year we have been using the Life series and following on from Colossians we did a very interesting 13 weeks on Angels. We had just started on a Study of Ecclesiastes when we locked down again and are currently in recess. There is a shared leadership within the group with four of us taking a turn.

The shut down has not all been bad as we meet each day at 2pm and we walk round the village which means we see each other seven days a week instead of just on Mondays. Unfortunately Anne Bowie can’t join us as we are locked in with a guard on the gate and Don who is 96 is unable to walk more than the hallway on his floor. Some of us go round the once and others go round four or five times – Occasionally we go out a side gate into Monte Celia “next door” and walk around there to see the birds and people picnicking in the park. Members of the group are very loyal and I enjoy having them in my apartment at Selwyn Heights Village.

Anne Bowie, Indrani de Silva, Leon Noland, Edith Arcus, Edna Probert, Ian Boshier, Don Caradus, Ian & Elaine Stewart, Ward Buckingham.

Ward Buckingham

The group meeting Wednesday nights at the Dykman’s

This year we decided to move our study group to the GPC lounge, and met there while not in lockdown as we studied the letter of 1 Corinthians. It was a long study with many fascinating truths that were challenge and confronting in its 16 chapters. While in lockdown we have been meeting via Zoom.

During the last term we are looking at the short letter of Titus. We are most grateful to Barbara Hope-cross and Doreen Arasaratnam for providing music for our worship time.

Celestine & Doreen Arasaratnam, Margaret Black, Kwame & Vivian Boakye, Graham Brookes, Ward Buckingham, John Chen, Indrani da Silva, Ben & Sue Dykman, Anna & Pita & Monika Faireka, Barbara Fraser, Hardi & Sri Halim, Eric & Camille Han, Barbara Hope-Cross, Simon Neethling, Liz Sia, Sue Slane, Ben Dykman

The group meeting Monday nights at the Lee's

For six years in a row, our homegroup had a lovely start to the year and had a family camp out of town. On Auckland's anniversary weekend, seven families visited Athenree Holiday Park in Bowentown, Waihi. It was a lovely time away and both adults and children (12 in total!) enjoyed each other's company and fellowship.

For term 1, our homegroup continued on the "Sermon on the Mount" by John Stott. This helped us understand the Christian value system, ethical standard, religious devotion, attitude to money, ambition, lifestyle and network of relationship - all of which are the total opposite of the non-Christian world. For most of term 1, our homegroup met via zoom meetings on Monday nights due to lockdown restrictions.

From term 2 onwards, our homegroup decided to move our weekly meetings from Monday to Wednesday nights. We were glad that we were able to meet in person at Stonefields during term 2. We started a new series called "Encountering The Gospel's Power", also by John Stott. This book is helping us go through the book of Romans by providing a set of readings and then followed by questions for group discussion.

Due to covid restrictions, our group went back to zoom meetings for terms 3 and 4. Although it is not the same being online, our group continued our weekly fellowship and has been blessed with the richness and wisdom from the book of Romans.

Johnny Lee

Home Group Wednesday evenings at Alastair and Janine Peak's

Throughout the year we continued to use Ligonier Ministries for our various studies. We started early in the year with an audio series by R.C. Sproul on 'The Providence of God'. Although there was no video or discussion questions provided, we found R.C. very engaging and easy to listen to and the topic generated lots of questions, so we were not short of discussions! This was an encouraging and uplifting set of talks much appreciated by the group. We are now well into a second series, this time a video with discussion questions by Sinclair Ferguson on the topic of 'Union with Christ'. The series has a particular

focus on Christians being 'in Christ', a phrase frequently used by Paul in the NT. Sinclair Ferguson explores what it means for our Christian life that we are 'in Christ', rather than how we often think of it, as Christ living in us, and the difference this makes. Again, this has been a thought-provoking series that helped us reflect on how biblical truths impact our lives.

We marked the end of last year with a meal out and started this one with a BBQ at the Peaks', as well as had a mid-year meal out. We also welcomed Wendy Hawke and Jasmine Ye into our group. Our numbers have been quite steady this year and especially since the lockdown as we continue to meet weekly on Zoom.

Ajit Arulambalam & Nerupi Fernando, Wendy Hawke, Hamish & Joy Howden, Ewen & Lesley Hutchinson, Alastair & Janine Peak, Alex & Ivy Robinson, Phil & Csilla Saysell, Jasmine Ye.

Csilla Saysell

Sharpening your bible knowledge

Over the past years we have enjoyed monthly Sunday night gatherings where we take an in-depth look at various books of the bible or doctrines. These have sadly been paused by Covid-19 as we have only had 5 meetings this year. We will also miss the input and teaching of Csilla Saysell who has so often fascinated us with her clear exposition from the Old Testament as she and Phil relocate to Christchurch.

Ben Dykman

Band of Brothers

Although we have only met 6 times this past year, the breakfasts have proved popular, with 25-30 men in attendance. We have enjoyed a hearty cooked breakfast, kindly prepared by Johnny, Kwet, Hardi and other helpers.

This ministry tends to draw older men who are not involved with school sports on Saturday mornings. We have enjoyed the teaching input of various speakers from around Auckland.

There continues to be a good level of fellowship among the men who meet with some traveling a long way to be part of our breakfast fellowship.

Ben Dykman

Ladies Bible study

This is a group of ladies who usually 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.

As with all our bible study groups, the ladies group has also needed to adapt to the Covid-19 changes and have moved our meetings to Zoom during this recent lockdown. This has worked well for us, enabling us to stay connected and be an encouragement to each other despite not being able to meet in person since August.

During the last part of 2020 we finished a study looking at various Psalms and what they teach us about our relationship with God. We began the new year with a study looking at Jesus' final week, which took us up to the Easter break. We then did a study on Ephesians, and are currently studying the gospel of Mark. Our studies are dovetailing well with the Sunday sermons on Matthew's gospel and we have enjoyed how the stories in Mark fill out what we are learning in Matthew.

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, Adrienne Hartfield, Leslie Hutchinson, Lauris Lee, Beryl Maskell, Audrey Ritchie, Ivy Robinson, Csilla Saysell, Kathryn Stevenson, Jin Wang, Sue Dykman

Sue Dykman

Youth and Families

Kids Club

This has been an exciting year for Kids Club with lots of changes and new initiatives. We kicked off this year continuing our gospel project curriculum, covering stories through 1 & 2nd Kings, Daniel and Jonah. We then moved into our units on the New Testament, which was great to get our kids engaged with the story and person of Jesus. Our Sunday morning has followed a similar structure to previous years, with games, songs and a message as a big group, and crafts and discussions in age groups with a small group leader. It's been great to have a few new parents involved as small group leaders, as we know the value of these more personal settings for our kids. Since we've been in lockdown, Kids Club has continued in an online form with a zoom call every Sunday morning and family activities and devotionals sent out for parents to use. We know this has been a really tough time for our kids, so it's been great to continue to be able to provide a safe, fun place for our kids to spend some time together and learn more about Jesus.

A massive highlight this year was our first every school holiday program that was run in the July School holidays. With over 60 kids in attendance and a packed programme, this was a huge effort and I am so grateful for everyone who supported us in making this dream a reality. A special shoutout to our youth leaders who gave up their holiday to be small group leaders in this program. We were able to offer our community an incredible service, and impact so many kids with the reality of Jesus who otherwise might never have

stepped into a church. As we head into the Christmas and summer season, we're excited to see how we can continue to engage with our community and the families who attended the program. Thank you to everyone who baked for us, prayed for us, helped with set up and pack down, washed dishes, and so much more.

Finally, a massive thank you to everyone who has been involved in leading in our kids ministry in any capacity this year. Your care, time and energy has a huge impact in our kids' lives, and their growth in their faith journey. And to our kids - thank you for being awesome! Every one of you has a significant role to play in our church community, and in the kingdom of God. It's been so cool seeing you all grow through this year, even if it has been a tough one, and we can't wait to be able to hang out together sometime soon!

Nga mihi nui,

Mikayla

Youth Ministry

Youth Church: 1st & 3rd Sundays

Our young people requested to study the book of Ecclesiastes and so this year we have been seeking to understand it from the Old Testament perspective, what it meant for the people in the New Testament and finally for us. In the other Sundays, we have been helping in our Kids Club ministry.

Youth Group: 2nd & 4th Fridays

We have been using the popular game of Among Us to connect teens with important Spiritual truths and challenge them in their everyday lives. We have looked at: 'Among us, as followers of Jesus, the expectations of greatness are characterised by being a servant' & 'Jesus not only taught us to love everyone, including our enemies, but he modelled it for us with someone who was "sus" – Judas'. Lidia has come on as one of our key youth leaders this year and has jumped right into every aspect of our ministry; from painting to playing bench ball, from prayers to dancing, from kitchen prep to youth sleep overs – she has been an absolute champ in the way she serves God and in our ministry. Thank you Lidia for partnering with me in this sacred work, it is an honour to have you by my side.

Youth creative: 1st & 3rd Fridays

Fortnightly we have explored different ways of worshipping our Almighty God. Tala led us in a UV hand mime to the song 'Mighty to Save'. In term two we jammed on a range of instruments and practised playing 'How Great is our God' in different languages, this was led by Johnny & Aileen. We even performed in church for the International service. Before the lockdown in term three, Lidia took us through our paces as she taught us a creative dance to the song 'This is Amazing Grace'. Huge appreciation to Johnny & Aileen Lee, who together dreamt and prayed for such a ministry to be offered in our church – thank you for your support and encouragement.

Transformers

We appreciate the value of the Transformers ministry and the camps we have been a part of the past few years. We value the importance in raising up young leaders using Jesus as our role model leader in the critical age bracket of 10-13 years old. And so we revamped the traditional Transformers camp to a year-long discipleship/mentoring plan with a camp in September. We met monthly and had planned for a camp in September, but unfortunately we've had to postpone the camp due to the lockdown. Special thank you to Lidia for her support in helping lead this ministry. We are very fortunate to have young people who are more than willing to journey with our younger kids in their faith development, big shout out to Ben Martin, Antra Naicker, Isaac & Janice Nair, and Merlyn Seelam for stepping into the role of small group leaders.

Youth Zoom

We have continued to meet via zoom twice a week during the lockdowns (in Feb/March and most recently) – Fridays for games galore, and Sundays for youth church. While a prolonged lockdown isn't ideal, we are thankful we can still 'meet' and interact with one another. Thank you to Lidia and Dion who play a huge part in leading this.

After 8 years of paid employment here at GPC, sadly, this is my last AGM report. I have now finished my counselling degree from Laidlaw College and so I will be transitioning into a counselling job in the new year and undertaking postgraduate studies.

There are **many** people to thank during this time, however, I do not want to run the risk of missing anyone out; and so I would like to thank the **whole church** for the way you have welcomed my family and me with open arms. We quickly found our place in the GPC family because of your warm embrace, and for that I am forever grateful.

Thank you to our GPC families who have allowed me to journey with your tamariki, it has been a real privilege, thank you for entrusting me with your precious children. Thank you for opening your lives, your stories, and homes to me.

Thank you to our church leadership, in particular Tim, who has been my support person throughout this time – thank you all for your prayers over our ministry, for your faith in God's leading over my life and the way He uses me in our kids and youth ministries.

Special thanks are reserved for three people who took a chance on me at the end of 2013 and continued to walk closely with me on this journey. Thank you Ben for your persistence in bringing me to GPC, your passion to teach the Word and share the Good News has been personally inspiring. And finally, Gregor & Heather Coster who right from day one mentored me.

While I have stepped away from paid ministry, GPC is very much our home, and we will be staying!

In these uncertain times of the pandemic, we pray that the spirit of the living God would strengthen us in your inner being. We ask that the God of all hope will fill

us with his abundant love – and that Jesus would reassure us in a deep and personal way that there is nothing that can separate you from his love. His mercies are new every morning.

Grace & peace to you all,

Tala Page-To'oala

Mainly Music

The team of Celestine, Monica, Lidia, Tala, Sue S and Sarah J have been a real asset to the group. Always willing to help out and we are able to offer an entertaining music session when we are able to convene. Covid19 has possibly affected us more this year than last year. We had 4 weeks lost in the first term and since lockdown in August, we don't anticipate being able to start again before the end of the year. As with how Mainly Music usually runs, we have newcomers, and we have families that leave to move onto school or other activities as their children outgrow the sessions. Without a larger group of older children, it's hard to tailor more towards them, so sessions are aimed at 2-3 year old and younger. Our families have been consistently more between 10 and 14 families. This year we saw one of our longer attending families move on as her last child reached school age. They attended for over 7 years and we are very sad to see them go.

My time at Mainly Music has also come to an end, where Melanie Olsen will come back into the fray and lead our sessions once again. She is able to offer a year of service for 2022 then will need to move on for her family so there is a need to have someone else step into this position at the end of the year also. Please pray for guidance for Mainly Music in GPC about this. Our donations collected will have decreased due to lockdowns. We were able to celebrate Easter and Mother's Day, however we missed out on celebrating Father's Day.

We still depend on volunteers from our church family to provide morning tea and appreciate all that have been so wonderful in providing their delicious treats for our adults, without the sharing of food it would be that much harder to start a conversation with our big people since inviting others to know God is all about establishing a relationship. Anyone who would like to help with some baking perhaps once a term please see Sue D. or Sue S., thank you.

Please pray that the team have more opportunities to be involved with our MM families outside of MM and in the church. As Tala endeavors to serve in the community with her social work we will sorely miss her involvement and encouraging force. We thank you Tala for all your amazing efforts over the years and look forward to see where God sets you up next. If you are interested in working with children and their carers and look for opportunities to share your faith with this outreach please see one of the team. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Melissa Martin

Tongan Fellowship Report

- Ministry continues with weekly Sunday services at 12.30pm with Sunday school.
- Youth continues to meet every Friday evening during school term and meets with combined youth ministry once a month.
- The youth leaders will be attending the Youth Expo hosted by Northern Presbytery in June.
- Our 4 Home Groups meet once a month on the third Wednesday of the month, and all are going well.
- Tani runs a bible study every 1st and 2nd Sunday at 6pm and this is well attended.

Thank you

Ofa atu moe lotu

Saane Haunga

Tongan Fellowship Youth Report - June 2021

Leadership

It has been another eventful year with the Tongan youth group despite lockdown restrictions. Sela Haunga, Joseph Haunga and Paea Taufa continue to lead the Tongan youth group every Friday night. With the growing number of kids attending our youth nights, we are happy to advise that we have introduced a new member to the leadership team, Rachael Haunga. The youth group has been split in half. We have the senior youth group (kids from year 10-13) led by Joseph and Paea, while the junior youth group (kids from year 7-9) are led by Sela and Rachael.

Praise and Worship

A handful of children from the senior Youth have been actively involved in the Sunday praise and worship ministry. Assisted and guided by worship leaders, our senior youth were able to lead worship at the Fakame, our Annual Children's Sunday. They have grown a lot in confidence since joining the worship team and leading worship once a month during our Sunday Services. We have kids leading worship, lending a hand in vocals, bass and drums. We hope that they grow more in confidence and experience.

Children's Sunday

July 2020

Last year in May, there were still lockdown restrictions which meant we couldn't have our annual Fakame service. Because of this, we decided to move it to the last Sunday of July. Our Youth and Sunday School were therefore able to lead the Annual Fakame Children's service in July. Our Sunday School kids spent weeks learning and practicing their items, while our Youth groups spent time also practicing a song (Waymaker - Sinach), learning two action songs (Looku Looku - Marizu & You - Faith Evans, 112, Carl Thomas, Mario Winans, Thelma Guyton, Asia & Ashley, Cheri Dennis, Tammy Ruggeri and Hezekiah Walker), and rehearsing skits (Action skit: Oceans - Hillsong & Skit based on the prodigal song).

May 2021

This year, we were lucky enough to be able to have our Children's Fakame service on our usual date (Last Sunday of May). We used the same format we did last year. Our senior youth led the praise and worship, while our Sunday School kids prepared bible verses, songs and action songs. Our Senior youth learnt a song from the movie Safety called Hold us together - H.E.R and Tauren Wells. This song was led by senior youth members Karyn Lamipeti and Jamie Matagiaga. We also learned an action song to the song Waging War by Cece Winans, and also performed two skits; one to 'Lead me to the cross' by Hillsong and another based on the Sunday Reading.

Every year, the kids have a blast with the lead up to Children's Fakame service and have done amazingly well in presenting the gospel message on the day.

Camp

Early this year in January, we attended our annual church camp at Awhitu Presbyterian Camp. Activities included bible studies, quizzes, outdoor games, performing items based on the bible study from that day. This is always a highlight for the kids as they get to spend 3 days with their friends and church family.

Combined Youth

This year, we have been combining with Mt Albert Presbyterian and Mt Albert Methodist. Every second Friday of the month, we attend Mt Albert Presbyterian Church, where the kids are put into teams made up of kids from the different churches. We have a bible study, play games, participate in quizzes and can mix and meet members from other youth groups. It has been a pleasure working with the other youth leaders and we are excited to continue working with them.

Leadership Workshop

This past May, the children's ministry leadership team attended a leadership workshop organized by the Northern Presbytery Youth Ministry. We sat through 2 seminars of our choice and got to enjoy praise and worship! We were able to learn and hear a lot from the workshop while also meeting other amazing leaders.

We thank God for the opportunity to minister to our young people and look forward to the coming year

Regards

Sela Haunga