

# ***Wellsford Co-operating Parish***

## **AUGUST 2023**

*View this bulletin, view video clips and other information on our website:*

<http://wellsfordmethodistpresbyterian.weebly.com>

**Church Office Phone: 09 423 8076**



**Church Centre,  
253 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900**

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***If you know of someone who was absent from church today, or who is new to our community, would you kindly deliver a copy of this bulletin to them... To Show We Care... Thanks.***

***Our Mission: 'Love God, Love Each Other, and Extend that Love beyond our Church'***

# ***What's Happening in August?***

**PASTORAL:** Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those who are sick and recovering currently. If you know of any person who is ill or would particularly appreciate a visit, please contact a member of the Pastoral Care team.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** The Parish Council Meeting for this month will be on **the 13<sup>th</sup> August.**

**We are on FACEBOOK!** Yes, we are! Please like the page for important updates at this [link](#), or go to Facebook and search for Wellsford - Methodist Presbyterian Co-Operating Church.



## **HERITAGE REST HOME SERVICE:**

The Heritage Rest Home service will be from 10:00am until Noon on the first Friday of each month.

**BIRTHDAYS:** If your birthday is in **August**, a very happy birthday to you!



**SHARED LUNCH** after Church will be at the Church on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. The Church Luncheon for **next month** will be combined with the Church of Christ.



## **REMAINING PARISH MEETINGS FOR 2023**

20 August- AGM      19 November

**Our Mission: 'Love God, Love Each Other, and Extend that Love beyond our Church'**

## PASTOR'S BLURB FOR AUGUST 2023

'... be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.' So ends the first verse of the beloved hymn *Rock of Ages*. Most of us know the gospel, and could encapsulate the good news with the well-known illustration: 'A judge finds you guilty, and sentences you to paying a huge fine. A rich person who loves you pays the fine, and you can go free.' (Some illustrations have the judge paying the fine. In other illustrations, you are sentenced to death, but a wondrous loving person takes the execution for you, and you can go free, and so on). Those popular stories illustrate the first half of the gospel. They illuminate the first phrase of Toplady's hymn: 'cleanse me from its *guilt*.' But I am interested in the second half of the line: 'cleanse from its *power*'. It is an infinite blessing to be cleansed from sin's guilt, even if the guilt was the only thing that you were cleansed from. To be free to go. To be free from the destiny of hell. What an infinite blessing. But what about being free from sin's power? Ever since God said to Cain, 'Sin is crouching at the door. It desires to have you, but you must rule over it,' mankind has been held in sin's power. New Year's resolutions to give up bad habits, turning over new leaves, going on anger-management courses – all of it is of very limited value indeed. That is because the natural person is a 'slave to sin' (John 8:34). But the astoundingly good news is that once you put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are *united* to Him. That means that, because of God's divine magnanimity, God makes you a partaker of everything that Christ has done. Jesus lived a perfect life. God imputes that perfect life to your account, so that your heavenly Father views you as having the perfect righteousness of His Son. Christ died. God makes you a partaker in His Son's death. I'll return to this in a minute. Jesus rose from the dead. God makes you a partaker in Jesus's resurrection. And because *Jesus* will never die again, *you* will never die again. That's why we rejoice as Christians. But I very much desire to turn your attention to the middle transaction that I mentioned a moment ago. Because Christ died, God very kindly made you a partaker in Christ's death. And I want very much to urge you, best beloved, to realize that fact, and dwell upon that fact, and celebrate that fact every bit as much as you realize, dwell upon, and celebrate the fact that because Christ lives eternally, you live eternally. Because this is the secret to realizing and enjoying freedom from sin's enslavement. When we were baptized, our 'burial' in the water symbolized burial with Christ. God (by His Spirit) very kindly put your old sinful nature *to death*, and something that has died has not got the power to enslave you anymore. Isn't that a mightily wonderful truth? You don't *have to* be lazy. You don't *have to* be greedy. You don't *have to* lust. You don't *have to* be resentful. You don't even *have to* be scared of what people will think of you. Let us rejoice in what, I suspect, is a much underrated transaction that God gave to us, and pay ever more attention to the fact that we have been buried with Christ. Then rejoice as you realize an increasing freedom from those old sinful practices. And rejoice when you hear Jesus say to you, 'Neither do I condemn you. *Go and sin no more.*' because you know that you will be able to obey Him.

Your brother, David

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**The Story behind the Hymns**  
**History of Hymns: 'What a Friend we have in Jesus'**  
**Source: Chat GPT**

The hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" has a touching story behind its creation. The lyrics were written by Joseph M. Scriven, an Irish poet and hymnist, in the mid-19th century.

Joseph Scriven experienced profound personal tragedy throughout his life. In 1844, he was engaged to be married, but the day before his wedding, his fiancée drowned. Devastated by this loss, he sought solace in his faith and found comfort in prayer and in his relationship with God.

Later, Scriven moved to Canada, where he continued to face hardships. In 1855, while living in Ontario, he received word that his mother in Ireland was very ill. Since he couldn't be with her, he wrote a poem to comfort her and remind her of the presence and faithfulness of God. The poem, originally titled "Pray without Ceasing," was later set to music and became the beloved hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

The hymn speaks of the power of prayer and the constant companionship and support that Jesus offers to believers. It emphasizes the idea that in times of trouble and sorrow, we can find solace and strength by turning to Jesus, who is always there to listen and provide comfort.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" has since become one of the most well-known and beloved hymns in the Christian tradition. It continues to offer comfort and encouragement to people around the world, reminding them of the unwavering love and friendship of Jesus Christ.

**Use our digital edition to listen to...Link is hyperlinked**

Sing along with this hymn [here](#)

Or this [version by Alan Jackson](#)

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## PRAYER

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am getting older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but though knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for growing humility and lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

*(Source unknown, 17th century)*

**[Monthly Hour of Power online service: Holy Land Masada: Trust God by Loving Your Enemies](#)**

## Spotlight on the Bible

### Before the reading:

In the beginning was the word.

**And the Word was with God.**

**And the Word was God.**

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8. Matthew 7:7-8

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

9. Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope

Read more by [clicking here.](#)

### After the reading:

For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us; Thanks be to God.

*(‘Word of God’- page 21. A Wee Worship Book).*

### From the desk of Bobby Schuller:

Yesterday I shared that we often fail to understand the God-given power of the mind and the spirit being much more powerful than our bodies. Today I want to reinforce this truth! Whenever I write my sermons, I put on a farmer’s hat, grab a clipboard, paper, a pen, and prayerfully write down what comes to me. After I have thought about what I want to say, I begin to prepare. First, I study the scripture, and then I go out into the field, which is the Back Bay Nature Preserve. I walk and pray that the Lord will tell me what to share.

Recently as I was preparing my sermon, I saw a senior gentleman during my walk. We greeted one another as he stared pensively over the water. My clipboard caught his eye and he asked about it. “I’m writing a sermon. I’m a pastor.” And he replied, “I’m a pastor too, a retired pastor who performs burials at sea for all types of faiths.” We exchanged ideas, and he shared some amazing experiences. He noted that for Christian funerals there was an agreement of the afterlife in Heaven. But now performing burials at sea, he often witnesses the power of hope and despair. Despair is the idea that the greatest things in your life are behind you and not in front of you. And of course, hope and faith are the opposite — and there’s power in this.

Friend, as we age, as we face injury and illness, we should remember that our bodies are precious to God. We should love our bodies and take care of them. But at the end of the day, let me encourage you that the God-given mind and spirit are much more powerful!

## **Bible Exodus Quiz, brought to you by Chat GpT**

1. Who was the prophet and leader chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt?
  - a) Moses
  - b) Aaron
  - c) Joshua
  - d) Samuel
  
2. What event is prominently featured in the book of Exodus?
  - a) The building of the Temple
  - b) The Last Supper
  - c) The Exodus from Egypt
  - d) The Sermon on the Mount
  
3. How many plagues did God send upon Egypt?
  - a) 3
  - b) 7
  - c) 10
  - d) 12
  
4. Which body of water did God miraculously part to allow the Israelites to cross?
  - a) Nile River
  - b) Red Sea
  - c) Jordan River
  - d) Dead Sea
  
5. What miraculous provision did God provide for the Israelites in the wilderness?
  - a) Mana
  - b) Quail
  - c) Water from a rock
  - d) All of the above
  
6. What is the name of the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments?
  - a) Mount Sinai
  - b) Mount Zion
  - c) Mount Horeb
  - d) Mount Moriah
  
7. How long did the Israelites wander in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land?
  - a) 40 years
  - b) 7 years
  - c) 20 years
  - d) 12 years

**The answers are printed on the back cover of this bulletin.**

## The Preaching Plan for August 2023:

**6<sup>th</sup> August** Multimedia, Rheychille Reguyal

**13<sup>th</sup> August** Rev David Balchin

**20<sup>th</sup> August** Rev Verna Healy (AGM)

*After the Annual General Meeting, we will have a shared lunch in the church.*

**27<sup>th</sup> August** Rev David Balchin

### **Wellsford Duty Schedule for July Duty Stewards**

<b>6<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sept.</b>
Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke	Ann Clegg/ Maria Harrison	Eryl Nolan	Jocelyn Daken	Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke

### **Wellsford Morning Tea Schedule**

<b>6<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> Aug.</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sept.</b>
Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke	Ann Clegg / Maria Harrison	Eryl Nolan	Jocelyn Daken	Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke

**Parish Directory** for Ministry, please contact a member of the Parish Council. **Church Centre Office: 253 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900.**  
**Phone: 09 423-8076**      Remember to LIKE us on Facebook!

**Minister:** Rev David Balchin- email: [davidjbalchin@gmail.com](mailto:davidjbalchin@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Ann Clegg - email: [annclegg@proton.me](mailto:annclegg@proton.me)

**Treasurer:** Willis MacGillivray

### **Other Members of Parish Council:**

**Parish Bulletin/Website Admin:** Mark Lorenzen [marklorenzen73@gmail.com](mailto:marklorenzen73@gmail.com)

### **Answers to this month's Bible Book Quiz:**

1a) Moses      2c) The Exodus from Egypt      3c) 10      4b) Red Sea  
5d) All of the above      6a) Mount Sinai      7a) 40 years