

Wellsford Co-operating Parish

FEBRUARY 2020

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

<http://wellsfordmethodistpresbyterian.weebly.com>

ALL SERVICES START AT 9.45AM



Church Office Phone: 09 423 8076
Church Centre,
253 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900

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.

WHAT'S UP IN FEBRUARY?

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

Women's Fellowship: Women's Fellowship meets **Tuesday 4th February at 10:00am** followed by the inter church Women's Fellowship at **10:30am** at the Co-Op church.



Service at the Heritage Rest Home: This month's service will be held on **Tuesday 11th February at 1.30pm.** Heritage Rest Home, 1 Olympus Road, Wellsford.



Parish Council: The Parish Council will meet at the church centre on **Tuesday 11th February at 4pm.**



Birthdays: If your birthday is in February, a very happy birthday to you!



Shared Lunch: This will be held on the **2nd February** at the home of Jocelyn and Dennis Daken. You are cordially invited.



PARISH MEETING: This will be on the **16th February** after the church service.

COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES: This year Wellsford churches will continue to hold the combined evening services every two months at 7:00pm.

23 Feb 7:00pm at the Church of Christ, Rodney Street, Wellsford

5 April 7:00pm at the Catholic Church, Matheson Road, Wellsford (Scriptural Stations of the Cross)

28 June 7:00pm Co-operating Methodist/Presbyterian Church, 253 Rodney Street, Wellsford. Please mark these dates in your diaries.

Programmes for Shine Television are in the foyer and on the notice board. Thanks to Pat Bennett who supplies the programmes.



IN MEMORIUM

In late 2019 two of our members suffered the loss of loved ones. Pam Tod lost her mother-in-law and Jocelyn Daken her mother.

Our sympathy goes to Pam and Jocelyn on their loss.



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

Loaves and Fishes: The Food bank has been very busy. We put together 89 Christmas Parcels for organisations to distribute in our area.

We had already done 29 food parcels in November but food parcels for December were under 10.

Please continue to donate food as the demand has already started and in January we have done 11 parcels already. Thank you to all the helpers that get these parcels to families in need.

Happy New Year and all the best for 2020.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Where would we be without your light?

Losing our way in darkness.

Where would we be without your peace?

Caught up in this world's wisdom.

Where would we be without your love?

Looking for your warm embrace.

Where would we be without your word?

Searching this world for freedom.

Where would we be without your power?

Struggling in our weakness.

Where would we be without you, Lord?

Lost and in need of grace.

We give you thanks for light, peace, love, word, power and grace.

BIBLE QUESTION: What's the most helpful new way you could strengthen our church?



Pastor's Blurp:

Chris and I read the bible together last thing in the evening before going to bed. We have been reading our way through Haggai, of late, and something about the book Haggai really spoke to us, and it spoke to both of us, and it spoke to both of us deeply. We have been spending a great deal of time of late, on our house. We have a house in Sunnynook (we bought it 20 years ago, because we worked on the North Shore, and we naively thought we would work there for the rest of our lives). With our role as servants of the church, we have been living in church houses for the 20 years, and so we have been able to use our house in Sunnynook as a rental. And we have been so remiss that we have just let it go to rack and ruin. So – in our lengthy landlordian neglect, we have sown the wind and reaped the whirlwind. So for the last few months we have been spending a lot more money than we would have liked, and – much more grievously – more *time* than we would have liked – on the house. The house in Sunnynook is a house of cedar.

Seven evenings ago we opened Haggai and read, 'Is it a time for you to be living in your panelled (of cedar) houses, while this (the Lord's) house remains a ruin?' The fact that we were both struck by the reading was obvious because we both referred to it again and again and all times of the day. And then, because we owned it, as speaking directly to us, we understood the rest of the reading as well. The Lord warns the children of Israel, 'you earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it' (Haggai 1:6). We saw that no matter how much we were prudently striving to make our house give a good return for the investment, the bank balance wasn't rising. And we saw that the 'wages' were not increasing because the Lord had His hand in it. And Chris and I both realized that we had been spending far too much on our house of cedar, and neglecting the Lord's house, which, if not in ruins, demands our top priority, and the best of our time, and the cream of our labour.

Does Haggai speak to you too? Let's devote 2020 to building the Lord's house. And He will give the increase – even for your own houses of cedar! (Matthew 6:33).

With warmest season greetings, David Balchin

Spotlight on our Living Bible

I will love you, oh Lord my strength- Psalms 18: 1

Honour the Lord, for the glory of his name, worship the Lord in the Splendour of his holiness- Psalms 29: 2

Rejoice in the Lord always again I will say rejoice - Philippians 4:4

Bible Quiz Question Answer: BIBLE QUESTION:

While we often stress the fact that individual believers are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:15), the New Testament actually says seven times to one that the *church* is the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23). We mustn't let our frequent emphasis on our personal relationship with Christ minimize the importance of our service to Jesus through his body. How can our church be stronger this year because of you? Serving? Giving? Praying?



Featured Story behind the Hymn- **“WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”**

In 1844 a young Irishman, Joseph Scriven, had completed his college education and returned home to marry his sweetheart. As he was traveling to meet her on the day before the planned wedding, he came upon a horrible scene—his beautiful fiancée tragically lying under the water in a creek bed after falling off her horse.

Later, Scriven moved to Canada and eventually fell in love again, only to experience devastation once more when she became ill and died just weeks before their marriage. For the second time, this humble Christian felt the loss of the woman he loved.

The following year, he wrote a poem to his mother in Ireland that described the deep friendship with Jesus he had cultivated in prayer through the hardships of his life.

The poem was published anonymously at first under the title, “Pray Without Ceasing.” Ten years later, he finally acknowledged this well-loved text had been written by him and his friend, Jesus. In 1868, attorney Charles Converse set the text to a tune and renamed it “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” Ken Osbeck tells the story in his book *101 Hymn Stories*.

Instead of thinking God was punishing him, Scriven cherished God’s friendship through all of this hardship—a friendship he discovered in prayer.

May we learn that our relationship with God will grow the same way—in prayer.

Listen to this hymn and read the lyrics on the next page...

“And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”- Philippians 4: 7

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we
bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our
refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake
thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield
thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be
discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every
weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast
promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
All to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,
There will be no need for
prayer—
Rapture, praise, and endless
worship
Will be our sweet portion there.

Listen to this [hymn here](#), or [another version here](#), or this [version](#).

Download this copy of the bulletin on our [church website](#)

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



Some Bible Verses of Renewal and Hope for the Coming New Year <https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/a-prayer-to-keep-god-first-this-new-year-10-verses-of-hope.html>

"And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." [Rev. 21:5](#)

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." [Lam. 3:22-23](#)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." [2 Cor. 5:17](#)

"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them..." [Ez. 11:19](#)

"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." [Ps. 20:4](#)

Service Schedule for February 2020



The Preaching Plan:

- February 2nd:** Ann Hunt
- February 9th:** Rev David Balchin (Communion)
- February 16th:** Rev Verna Healy (Parish Meeting)
- February 23rd:** Rev David Balchin, Wellsford
- February 23rd :** **Wellsford Combined Church Service**
7:00pm at the Church of Christ, Rodney Street
- March 1st:** Multimedia Service

Wellsford Duty Schedule for February- Duty Stewards

Feb. 2nd	Feb. 9th	Feb. 16th	Feb. 23rd	March. 1st
S and N Duinkeke	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan	Ann Clegg / J Daken	S and N Duinkeke

Morning Tea

Feb. 2nd	Feb. 9th	Feb. 16th	Feb. 23rd	March. 1st
S and N Duinkeke	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan/ K Lennon	Ann Clegg / J Daken	S and N Duinkeke

Parish Directory: For Ministry please contact a member of the Parish Council. **Church Centre Office: 253 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900.**

Phone: 09 423-8076

Bulletin: Mr Mark Lorenzen

Minister: Rev David Balchin 423 7150

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