

Wellsford Co-operating Parish

SEPTEMBER 2020

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19

View this bulletin IN COLOUR, 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

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 SEPTEMBER?

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: This will be held on the **1st September at 10:00 am** at the Co-operating Church. **10:30am** for the Inter Church Women's Fellowship.

Service at the Heritage Rest Home: Heritage Rest Home 1 Olympus Road Wellsford will be on the **1st September at 1:30pm.**



Parish Council: The Parish Council will meet on Wednesday the **8th September at 2pm at the Co-Op church centre.**



Birthdays: Our editor Mark Lorenzen's birthday is on the 3rd September and Eryl and Ann have a birthday on the 26th - so Happy Birthday to them all! If your birthday is also in September, a very happy birthday to you!



Shared Lunch: This will be held at the **Church Centre** after the A.G.M on the **6th September.** All are most welcome.



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

Pastor's Message for September:

The gospel is not politics. Nowhere in the bible are you are commanded to change the world. *What the bible does tell us to do with regards to the world is* (a) to evangelize the world (Matthew 28:19,20). (b) not to judge the world. 1 Corinthians 5:12,13 says, 'What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside.' *What the bible tells us to do with regards to ourselves is*, 'Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.'(1 Corinthians 10:31) William Wilberforce was a Christian, and the Lord called him into politics, and Wilberforce committed his political endeavours to the Lord and conducted his politics for the glory of God.

Another reason that the bible does not tell us to change the world, is because we *can't* change the world. Ecclesiastes tells of two worlds: the world above the sun, where God is, and the world under the sun, where we are. With God everything will be restored one day, all loose ends tied up, and justice done. But under the sun, 'Vanity, vanity, all is vanity.' (Ecclesiastes 1:1). That word *vanity* means vapour-like, vanishing, enigmatic, incomprehensible. The sun rises and the sun sets, and everything stays the same, and humankind cannot understand the meaning of life. You cannot fix a fallen world.

So the wise thing to conclude is, 'Just be happy as long as your meaningless life endures.' As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.' (Ecclesiastes 11:5).

So let me sum up this far, with regards to the Christian's involvement with politics: The bible doesn't command it. If the Lord calls you into it, do it the glory of God. But you can't really improve the world, because everything stays the same in this fallen world.

Let me add one thing more to do with political involvement in day and age. Black Lives Matter is in the news everywhere. When you read their manifesto, you will find that they promote the disruption of the nuclear family. They demand reproductive justice (in other words, abortion). If you listen to their rallying cries, they shout for defunding and removing

Pastor's Blurb Continued: ...the police. I would question whether you could subscribe to the organization of *Black Lives Matter* and do it for the glory of God.

But one has to have something to say. Now, possibly more than ever before, Christians have to have *something to say*. This is where we need the help and the support of the Lord. And we have it. And what do we say to our mates and loved ones and friends and neighbours, or what do you say when some stranger meets you? Tell them that Jesus said, (Matthew 11:28,29) 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will you rest. Take my yoke upon and you learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Regards
David

Community Focus Prayer – July

O Lord,
you promise the peace of a still lake
even in the midst of a storm.
You promise the peace of a slumbering child
even in the middle of tension and disagreement.
You promise the peace of a poppy field
even in a place of heartbreak and devastation.
Your promise is a peace that surpasses
our human understanding.
So may we choose to be restored by the still waters,
to lie down and rest among the poppies.
Your resurrection declared peace over trauma,
power over death and life everlasting.
We trust in you.
Amen.

(Thanks to the Wellsford/Mangawhai Anglican Church)

AFRICA

*When you have acquired a taste for the dust,
and the scent of our first rain,
You're hooked for life on Africa,
and you'll not be right again.
Until you can watch the setting moon
and hear the jackals bark,
And know they are around you
waiting in the dark.*

*When you long to see the elephants
or hear the coucal's song,
When the moonrise sets your blood on fire,
then you've been away too long.
It is time to cut the traces loose,
and let your heart go free,
Beyond that far horizon
where your spirit yearns to be.*

*Africa is waiting – come!
Since you have touched the open sky
And learned to love the rustling grass
and the wild fish eagle's cry.
You'll always hunger for the bush;
for the lion's rasping roar,
To camp at last beneath the stars
and to be at peace once more.*

Author unknown

Submitted by Ria

Greetings Te Haahi Weteriana, tēnā koutou katoa,

Oh how loved are we!

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, not anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8: 35-39

These days we have all had to experience some type of disconnect from people and places. Whether it is a separation from the work place or from the classroom or from friends and family. It has been an ordeal, to say the least. For many

there has been the very difficult situation of being apart from loved ones who are sick. We have likely all seen the heart-breaking images of individuals keeping their distance and looking in on a family member or friends through a window –

so as not to potentially spread any disease or get it from someone else.

For believers, separation from others in the family of faith has its own difficulties too. We draw special strength from gathering together in the Name of Jesus (see 1 Thessalonians 5: 10-11; Hebrews 10: 24-25; Colossians 3: 16).

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of "the holy Christian church, the communion of saints," which gives us spiritual uplift and fellowship with one another.

You may have noticed in your own life how the recent suspension of church services has impacted your faith in some ways.

How good it is to know that there is nothing that can come between Jesus and His love for us. Whatever life brings our way—trials, persecution, a worldwide virus—we are secure in God's embracing and unchangeable love for God's people. God has made that plainly known to us by sending The Son to save us from our sins. Jesus came specifically to bridge the distance that separated us from God. Having taken on our flesh and blood, God entered our world for the sole purpose of bringing us back to our God so that, never again, will we be separated from God.

As we continue to deal with the persistent threat of this virus all be it in less seriousness than other countries, may we lay hold of the riches God has given to us. God has reconciled us to Himself (see 2 Corinthians 5:18); God has given us all things we need to live a godly life (see 2 Peter 1:3); and God promises to be with us always (see Hebrews 13:5). These are the things God has done for us, God's children, people who can in no way be separated from the God who loves them.

'Ofa atu fau, Nga mihi nui.
Setaita and Nicola

Service Schedule for September 2020

The Preaching Plan:

6th September: Rev.Verna Healey (A.G.M)

13th September: Rev. David Balchin

(The Wellsford Co-operating parish will attend the Community Bible Church and David Balchin will be preaching)

20th September: Multimedia Service

27th September: Rev. David Balchin

Wellsford Duty Schedule for September- Duty Stewards

6th Sept.	13th Sept.	20th Sept.	27th Sept	4th Oct.
Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	W & R MacGillivray	Albert & Ria Olivier	Ann Clegg / J Daken	Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke

Morning Tea

6th Sept.	13th Sept.	20th Sept.	27th Sept	4th Oct.
Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan/ K Lennon	Ann Clegg / J Daken	Steven and 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

Bulletin: Mr Mark Lorenzen

Minister: Rev David Balchin 423 7150

Ria Olivier: 423 9396

Treasurer: Mr Willis MacGillivray: 423-8273

Secretary: Ann Clegg: iresyn@yahoo.co.nz

For contributions, e-mail the editor Mark at marklorenzen73@gmail.com