

Motueka Uniting Parish Newsletter Feb-Mar 2012

“To be Christ Centred and Community Focused”

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Editorial:

A New Cosmology

Lord Jesus Christ, you truly contain within your gentleness, within your humility, all the unyielding immensity and grandeur of the world. And it is because of this, it is because there exists in you this ineffable synthesis of what your human thought and experience would never have dared join together in order to adore them - element and totality, the one and the many, mind and matter, the infinite and the personal; it is because of the indefinable contours which this complexity gives to your appearance and to your activity, that my heart, enamoured of cosmic reality, gives itself passionately to you.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

“For, in God we live and move and have our being.”

Acts 17:28.

Franciscan Friar Richard Rohr claims, something very important is happening to Christianity. This something, he argues, is a revolutionary change in Christian consciousness. It is a change of mind and a change of heart that has been a long time coming, but he believes it indicates a new receptivity towards the Holy Spirit. However the question is: “can we keep this consciousness at the dynamic movement level?”¹ Unfortunately the dynamic movement, Rohr talks about, is not in evidence. How can such a movement be initiated? Rohr points to a number of changes that need to be made. There needs to be a recognition of the unnecessary limits that Church protocols and historical idiosyncrasies have put on the reading and living of the Gospels. There also needs to be an awareness that Jesus was clearly teaching non-violence, simplicity of lifestyle, peace-making, love of Creation, and ego-stripping by offering a radical social critique to the systems of domination, money and power. There needs to be a recognition that Jesus was clearly concerned about the specific healing and transformation of real persons and human society, “on earth as it is in heaven”, and not just intellectual belief in doctrines and moral stances, which ask almost nothing of us in terms of real change. There needs to be an understanding that true spirituality is not a search for perfection or control or the door to the next world; it is a search for divine union now.

¹Richard Rohr, The Emerging Christianity Movement: Catholica Forum, <http://www.catholica.com.au> Accessed 31 January 2012.

Christian spirituality is about our own inner transformation as we become more and more present in our relationship to God. Rohr refers to it as falling into and undergoing God. Spirituality is a new level of awareness within ourselves of God's presence and action in the innermost parts of our being. Many have become disenchanted with the fundamentalist theologies that have taken over the institutional agenda because for them this view of God, or the Divine, is too limited and small. Our view of what we are a part of is being radically rearranged. What is emerging is a 'new cosmology' which helps people of faith appreciate the importance of living in harmony with God's creation. In the Old Cosmology, salvation largely became a kind of heavenly transaction that took place by your moral behaviour, by belonging to the right group, and by having the right rituals. It wasn't really relational. You didn't have to connect with God; you just had to pay dues to God. You didn't have to really love God at all. You just had to obey His commandments. The wonderful good news is that this New Cosmology is really the old cosmology. Nature, science, and parts of Scripture validate the shape of the New Cosmology. We're recognizing from many of the scientific disciplines that the entire nature of the biological and physical universe is completely interpenetrating and relational, one big ecosystem. Suddenly, God is not "out there," but God is in all, and through all, and guiding all. That's surely the ultimate therapy: when you know not only that everything belongs, but that you belong to everything.

God is a River by John Mayer

In the ever-shifting water of the river of this life I was swimming, seeking comfort; I was wrestling waves to find
A boulder I could cling to, a stone to hold me fast
Where I might let the fretful water of this river 'round me pass

And so I found an anchor, a blessed resting place
A trusty rock I called my savior, for there I would be safe
From the river and its dangers, and I proclaimed my rock divine
And I prayed to it "protect me" and the rock replied

God is a river, not just a stone God is a wild, raging rapids
And a slow, meandering flow
God is a deep and narrow passage
And a peaceful, sandy shoal
God is the river, swimmer -
So let go

Still I clung to my rock tightly with conviction in my arms
Never looking at the stream to keep my mind from thoughts of harm
But the river kept on coming, kept on tugging at my legs
Till at last my fingers faltered, and I was swept away

So I'm going with the flow now, these relentless twists and bends
Acclimating to the motion, and a sense of being led
And this river's like my body now, it carries me along
Through the ever-changing scenes and by the rocks that sing this song
God is the river, swimmer
So let go

Shalom Peter

Creating a Shared Vision meeting: The next Vision meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 February, 7.00 pm in the Church lounge. The results of the Community Survey conducted by Motueka High School students will be presented. An update on an initiative that came out of those results will be given and we will look at the progress made toward attaining the remaining goals. While plans to upgrade facilities have been shelved, the Parish has been forced into having to make some important decisions about the future of our Church building. **Our vision for this parish will need to inform any future building program.**

As Peter Gamlin, our Treasurer, has left Motueka, the position has been filled, until the AGM, by Euan Grant assisted by Catherine Dunkley

Caring Fund:

We collect money for this in numerous ways, as well as a plate collection at Church on the last Sunday of the month. It is a fund to be used in emergencies and unforeseen circumstances. For immediate need you might say. The recipients are most grateful. The Motueka Family Service Centre is one of those. The Minister or any member of the congregation may come across a need at very short notice. The fund also gives money to the food bank twice a year, for milk powder (\$500 plus). It has also funded the breakfast club at Motueka High School, providing breakfast for students who don't have breakfast at home. It is a very useful fund, often used for small amounts, but much needed. Donations can be made any time, but particularly in the special plate on the last Sunday of the month.

Envelope system:

If you are a regular giver at Church and don't belong to our envelope system, it may be worth thinking about. You can either give *via* a physical envelope (provided by the envelope secretary) or by direct debit from your bank account. At the end of our financial year you get a tax receipt and this can be used to receive a tax refund. It is well worth considering. Need to know more? Speak with Lynda Frater, our envelope secretary or phone her on 528 7876.

St Andrews Choir:

Practices will commence on Sunday, 12 February, so you can all finish off your holiday adventures. Practices will be after Church at 11.15 am. The music is being prepared for a post Easter celebration with the St Peter Chanel Choir on Sunday afternoon, 15 April. New members are welcome, especially those with their photos in the choir on the new St Andrew's brochure!

Stitch & Chat:

How much needlework have you done over the holidays!! Probably none. We are starting our informal "get togethers" again on Tuesday, 21 February at 2.00 pm in the lounge and will meet thereafter on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month. It will be really good to have a time to chat with everyone and it would be great if you could bring a friend. Phone Bar-bara for any queries, phone 528 7788.

Standsmen: watch Weekly Bulletin for details.

Social Issues Group: watch Weekly Bulletin for details.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church met for the four weeks of Advent, "Footsteps to-wards Jesus". Using the themes Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, each Sunday appropriate activities and discussions were followed.

Also over the weeks, the children who attended regularly decorated a shopping bag. These were gift wrapped and labelled with a card to be given to a special person as a gift.

The children sang on two Sundays on their return into Church.

Produce was collected and shared with our Tongan friends.

In total, 14 children were involved at least on one of these Sundays.

Regular Children's Church is on the 3rd Sunday of each month, being 19 February. From 18 March, for three Sundays leading up to Easter, there will be Children's Church, ie. 18 & 25 March and 1 April. Weekly activities will be available for children in Church.

Proposed Worship Services for Feb-Mar 2012

FEB 5 9.30am Family Worship. Communion (pews)

Waitangi Day, 6 Feb.

12 9.30am Family Worship.

19 9.30am Family Worship. Children's Church.

26 9.30am Family Worship. First Sunday in Lent.

Picnic Day.

MARCH 2 World Day of Prayer—first Friday in March.

4 9.30am Family Worship. Communion (front)

Second Sunday in Lent.

Harvest Thanksgiving.

11 9.30am Family Worship. Third Sunday in Lent.

18 9.30am Family Worship. Fourth Sunday in Lent.

Children's Church.

25 9.30am Family Worship. Fifth Sunday in Lent.

Children's Church.

APRIL 1 9.30am. Family Worship. Communion (pews)

Palm Sunday. Children's Church.

Study Group The Uniting Parish Group met for five study sessions in late 2011. This series was based on a DVD and Study Book titled *Embracing an Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What it Means to be a Christian*. Topics covered included, God, Jesus, Salvation, Practice and Community. This series was enjoyed by those who participated and it is now available for home groups. Another series of studies will be conducted later in 2012. Look out for further information.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2012

We are looking forward to meeting up again for the coming year. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm in the Lounge. The first meeting will be Wednesday, 15 February when Rev. Peter will lead us in a Communion Service followed by a short address. Over afternoon tea we will be able to catch up on what folk have been doing over the summer. Do come and all women are welcome. For further information, or if you need transport, contact Pat Moses or Barbara Loveridge.

STILLPOINT in the Church lounge, 28 February, 1.00 pm and 27 March, 1.00 pm.

In order to find the pathway that leads to intimacy with God, we need to rediscover the gift of silence, for it is in the silence of the heart that God speaks. In the silence we learn to shed the baggage that so easily clutters our lives and the noise that can be like spiritual pollution.

It is as we engage with the mystery of silence that we realise that our temporary withdrawal helps us to be more fully present with others. (*Martin Shaw*)

This is an invitation to come and learn how to discover the 'stillpoint' through music, meditation and silence.

Elizabeth Clark

Riwaka Home Group Our Home Group meets 1.30 pm on the third Thursday of each month at Graham and Heather Smith's home, Linden Place, Brooklyn. If we are all present there are eleven of us. We meet for fellowship and a chat. We catch up on what has happened in our lives since we last met. We hear about family, holidays, local events, "the Olden Days" and any-thing of particular interest. We had lunch at Jester House for our final meeting of the year. Afternoon tea is always a treat. We look forward to our first meeting in February this year.

Jennie Askew

Parish Council:

Meets in the Church lounge on Thursday, 23 February 2012, at 7.30 pm—please note the date change.

Pastoral and Home Workgroup Meeting: 10.00 am, Monday, 5 March, in the Church lounge.

Christian Education and Worship Workgroup Meeting: 4.30 pm, Monday, 19 March, in Church Lounge.

Parish and Community Meeting: meets Tuesday 7 February, in Church Lounge at 7.30pm

Property & Finance Workgroup Meeting: 7.35 pm, Thursday, 1 March and again on Thursday, 29 March.

Prayer Group

Continues to meet on Monday afternoons, 3.30 pm, at Shirley Lockhart's home

Bible Study Group

Bible Study commences for this year on Tuesday, 7 February. All are most welcome to attend each Tuesday, 10.15 am at Norma Hebden's home

Collect Stamps for Missions

Please give to Norma Hebden or leave on foyer table.

Home Groups

You are welcome to any of the six Home Groups. Some Groups have more serious studies, some are

more social. Leaders are:

Marlene Greenland 528 9254 Jennie Askew 528 7309

Richard Hayward 528 6496 Pat Moses 528 9802

Elizabeth Clark 528 6420 David Martin 528 7272

Marlene Greenland's Home Group commences on Monday, 13 February, 7.00 pm

Pat Moses' Home Group meets at 2,00 pm on Tuesday, 14 February .

Dave Martin's Home Group next meets on Tuesday, 21 February, 7.30pm and again on Tuesday, 20 March.

Jennie Askew's Home Group—meets again on the third Thursday each month at 1.30pm at the home of Graham & Heather Smith

Elizabeth Clark's Home Group—at Donald and Bob Hutchison's home, 24 February at 2.00 pm and 22 March at 2.00 pm. New people welcome. If you would like transport ring Elizabeth 528 6420. For our first meeting please come ready to talk about something interesting you have read over the holidays. (not compulsory)

Richard Hayward's Home Group—meets on the last Monday of each month at the home of Richard & Marilyn, unless otherwise notified.

REPORT ON THE CAMP SNOWDEN TRUST FUND

The Nelson Marlborough West Coast Methodist Synod has available to it, a distributable income of 80% of the interest available from the invested money from the sale of Camp Snowden. This amount varies according to current interest rates.

The Trust Deed states that the income of the Trust Fund be made available for Church activities being community family work, holiday programs, youth ministry, education needs and ministry to the elderly within our Synod area. There are 13 Parishes in our area that can apply for these funds.

Applications have been either approved or not, by a committee acting on behalf of the Synod. Applications need to fit the criteria. I have represented our Parish on this committee for the last nine years and we have been able to (with the backing from Parish Council) success-fully apply for funds during this time.

Last year our Parish made application for and was granted \$2800. As a result we were able to help 17 families who were experiencing fi-nancial hardship. Each case is treated confidentially and their need assessed before we provide the help needed. It has been a wonder-ful outreach for us and those we have helped express relief and grati-tude. Any help given locally by us is always stated as coming from the Motueka Uniting Church. We are in touch with helping agencies and schools in Motueka who approach us occasionally to see if we can help. We also get requests for assistance through members and families in our own congregation. I need to add that the money from our Caring Fund and through concerts and donations add to the work our Parish does in outreach to others. There is a lot of need out there and many are feeling very real hardship. It is gratifying to know that our Parish is able to help in some small way. We can say we are tru-ly involved in "Mission".

I have enjoyed my time on this committee. The Trust Deed states that appointment is for a term not exceeding three years and I was reminded of this at our last meeting! Therefore I will need to step down and be replaced. If you are interested, let me know!

Dave Martin.

Summary of words spoken in farewell to Peter and Elaine Gamlin:

It is a privilege, on behalf of this congregation, to say farewell to Peter and Elaine Gamlin, who are moving to Christchurch on 20 January. They are two people who have given this parish a huge amount of time and energy.

They arrived in Motueka in January 1967, when their daughter Kim was eight days old. She is now 45, (they are moving almost 45 years to the day!)

Peter moved here from the North Island to work as a stock agent/auctioneer for Dalgety Co. Elaine was a nurse at the Greenwood Medical Centre for more then 25 years.

Both children, Kim and Richard attended Sunday School and Bi-ble Class through the years. They have always been a big part of this parish over the years.

Records I found, suggest Peter was appointed to our Parish Council in 1982 and remained until 1995, when we became Mo-tueka Uniting Parish. Previous to this, he was on Parish and Pas-torate Council for a number of years. He was very involved with the Motueka/Moutere Regional Co-op Parish with buildings, build-ing committee and financial matters.

He was our treasurer for at least 18 years, before the time of Eu-an Grant and June Vincent. In Peter's later years, Eion Lockhart assisted with data entry and accounting queries. Peter stepped into the breach during the last two years during June's absence overseas. His knowledge in building and financial matters has been invaluable.

Elaine organised the cleaning roster before Barbara took it over, more than 20 years ago. She has been doing the flowers for more than 30 years, a job which she loves and is very talented at – she will be missed.

Since my time here, they have religiously attended working bees, helped with Church fairs, and I have had the pleasure of their company at Dave Martin's home group. I think Elaine was instrumental in the Evening Women's Group a few years ago.

They would often be found cleaning the grounds, assisting at funerals and various events at Church. Peter would always be available to help in the community as the need arose.

We will miss them and the huge part they have played in our parish over the last 45 years. We wish them well in their new life.

Catherine
Parish Clerk

GOAL FOR DAILY LIVING

Live each day to the fullest,

Get the most from each hour, each day and each age of your life

Then you can look forward with confidence and back without regrets.

Be yourself, but be your best self,

Dare to be different, and to follow your own star, and don't be afraid to be happy.

Enjoy what is beautiful, love with all your heart and soul.

Believe that those you love, love you.

Forget what you have done for your friends and remember what they have done for you.

Disregard what the world owes you and concentrate on what you owe the world.

When you are faced with a decision make the decision wisely as possible then forget it. The moment of absolute certainty never arrives and above all remember that God helps those who help themselves.

Act as if everything depends on you and pray as if everything depends on God.

Unknown Author

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,

When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,

When the funds are low and the debts are high,

And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,

When care is pressing you down a bit,

Rest, if you must—but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,

As every one of us sometimes learns,

And many a failure turns about

When he might have won had he stuck it out;

Don't give up, though the pace seems slow -

You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than

It seems to a faint and faltering man.

Often the struggler has given up

When he might have captured the victor's cup.

And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,

How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is a failure turned inside out -

The silver tint of the clouds in doubt.

And you can never tell how closer you are;

It may be near when it seems afar;

So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -

It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

Author Unknown