

THE STORY OF THE WESLEY BANNER

The idea grew out of a number of conversations and dreams from the people on the Worship Committee. The first dream started in n 2008 (we think), when Ngaire Southon and Rev Janet Marsh first discussed the possibility of a banner Hike a rose window that would hang over the glass doors in the church. They brought the idea to Worship Committee and it grew from there.

They hoped that:

- * members of the church community would help to make it
- * sections would look like stained glass and tell the story of the church community - who we were and what we did.

Just before Janet's ministry at Wesley finished, she sent an email out to a number of people asking if they would be interested in helping to do it. just three said they would like to be involved. Peter Hardyment drew up the first plan on a big blue tarpaulin, Ken Fay drew up a revised, full-sized plan on the floor of his garage in Katikati, with the help of a passing paperboy. Terry Kehely welded an 8 ft diameter circle together which languished in the hall for a couple of years, but was useful for social committee occasions to hold up decorations. Edna Evans said she would help, but not sew!

There were a number of attempts at trying to decide what aspects of our church life would be depicted — would it be group by group, or would we group our activities into various aspects?

Various members of the congregation were approached to draw up the 8 segments - Pat & Harry Payne, Peter Hardyment, Peter Church, Jill Manifold. Some designs had to be changed or adapted, but that was all part of the process.

There was an interesting afternoon in the Southon garage as bags of material were sorted through for making appliquéés — colours textures were all debated. Satin was chosen for the segments and a colour wheel was useful to get compatible colours.

Then Edna started on the mammoth task of cutting, shaping and appliqué-ing the pieces together. Without Edna and her sewing machine, the banner would never have made it to fulfillment. She sewed 7 of 9 segments, with sewers Shirley Gray and Margaret Savage completing another two. While a number of people were asked, the task seemed too daunting, or family and other commitments needed priority. The quilt/banner was professionally quilted and engineered' by Trish Wharry's Quilting Services and the MWF funded this. Then Ngaire, Marjorie Hardyment and Edna stabilized the back of the ring (like a bicycle wheel) and pulled and measured yet again, trying to get it to fit perfectly. But life is not perfect and neither is the banner, and so we live with

that. Because the banner was planned before the coming of the heat-pump, we have to live with that too!

There is lots to look at and think about. There are sections representing worship and outreach, all the different kinds of communicating in groups, be they study, pastoral care or committees of many kinds. There's something representing the young people, and of recreational activities, maintenance and music.

At the heart of the faith community is the resurrected Christ, in the symbols of bread and wine, along with the fish (the very earliest symbol of the Christian community) and the vine - a symbol of our connectedness, with Christ and with one another.

The cross radiates out, beyond our fellowship, beyond the community, to the whole world. And the Bible? This undergirds everything we do here. Ponder how many Biblical references there are - perhaps in modern dress.

Methodist theology stands on 4 legs — The Bible, Tradition, Reason and Experience - we find something of all that in our banner. We are a Connexional church and an inclusive church.

The banner was 'unveiled' on the 130th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the first Methodist church in Tauranga - on the corner of 1st Avenue and Devonport Road. Wesley, St Stephen's, and Tongan and Fijian congregations joined in worship together at Wesley at 930 am on Sunday 16 October, 2011.

We've done our best to tell the faith story of this community and we hope that people who use this church will understand a little of who we are and what we stand for.



Blue - pastoral care by the congregation - flowers and food, catering and cuppas, phone calls to one another.

Purple - central panel. Bread and wine remind us that Holy Communion is central to our faith. The fish is the oldest symbol of Christianity. The grapevine reminds us that we are all connected as Christian believers.

Orange - represents the work and oversight of the Property Committee - a very dedicated group of practical people,

Burgundy — Social activities such as dinners, film evenings, walking and tramping.

Teal - Outreach and Mission. Multicultural hands reach out to community and the world through prayer and practical means.

Club 72 - for adult disabled people, the teapot with forget-me-nots for the Alzheimers Society, the foodbasket for families in need, the towel and basin - symbols of Diaconate ministry.

Pink — represents all the various groups that meet. We value our office staff and all our forms of communication.

Green - for the new life the Wesley Kidz and Whatever youth group bring - Bible Study, Sunday learnings baptism, fun — 10 pin bowling indoor soccer etc. Many adults are involved with leadership.

Red - We are quite a musical church and Methodists have always sung their faith. This tells of music by choir and congregation, of the organists, pianists, and musical talents of others, even David Ansell's famous E-flat horn.

Mauve - This shows Moses and the bush that burned but was not consumed - Moses encounter with God to become a nation, This panel represents worship and personal experience with God, which leads to action,