Welcome and greetings to all this spring morning! A special greeting to any who are visiting us during these school holidays. Please come and join with us after the service around a cup of tea or coffee and a bite to eat. That way we can get to know one another better.

Today in the Season of Creation we come to the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi. He was born in 1181 and, after a relatively frivolous life, rejected everything he had received from his wealthy father and embraced poverty totally. Gradually others gathered round him and he began his preaching tours around Italy. He prepared a simple rule of life for his followers and the Order of Friars Minor was born. It grew rapidly and spread all over Europe and beyond.

Francis combined many strands in his life: mission preacher, lover of animals, ascetic, mystic, dramatic fool for Christ, happy singer and troubadour for God.

Not so well known is the fact that he lived a life of fervent devotion to Christ that came to a climax in a seraphic vision of his crucified Lord and the marking of his own body with the very wounds of Christ (the "stigmata" which he bore till his death).

Our hymns and readings today all reflect various aspects of the life of this remarkable man. It's his Feast Day. Let's celebrate!

**Reading:** Erin Nicholson  
**Prayers:** Penny Guy

**Wesley Kidz and Youth Term Three programme continues after our time together in church**

**St Stephen's Diary— 2—9 October**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>3-5 p.m.</th>
<th>Girls' Brigade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10—4 p.m.</td>
<td>Allsorts Op Shop</td>
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<td>9.30—11.30</td>
<td>Care and Craft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1.30 p.m.</td>
<td>Usual MWF meeting, then at 1:45 pm</td>
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<td>Let's try again. Come and join Margaret Birtles as she travels the rivers of Europe. Wesley and St Stephen's people all welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10-4 p.m.</td>
<td>Allsorts Op Shop</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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**NOTICES**

1) Margaret is away from 1st to 4th October at Church conference.

**ST STEPHEN'S METHODIST CHURCH**

2 October 2016

**DEACON:** Margaret Birtles  Ph 576 0698  
**PASTORAL CARE:** Ralph Vickers  Ph 576 5171  
**PARISH STEWARD:** Geoff Warth  Ph 579 3637

Kia Ora, Malo e lelei, Goeiemôre and welcome to our service this morning. Geoff Warth is leading us in worship this morning. Thank you, Geoff. Please join us for a cuppa and fellowship after the service.

**KIDZ TALK**

Hi. Hope your are having a good break from school. Hope this rain is not stopping you have fun. Those who achieved success do not stop. They never become complacent, they keep learning and looking for the new knowledge. Never think you have made it, there is always more to learn and do.
Tuesday 4th
No MWF meeting today. We will meet at 1.30 pm on Friday 7th

Wednesday 10.00am Walking Group—Meet 10 a.m. at the church.
Contact Nora 571.1129 or Peter 579.5051

Sunday 9 October
9.30am MORNING WORSHIP
led by Viliame Naliva

LECTIONARY READINGS for 9 October
Jer 29: 1, 4-7; Ps 66: 1-12; 2 Tim 2: 8-15; Lk 17: 11-19

Reading: Valda Benfell Prayers: Maye Tucker

HYMN FEST
2 pm 16 October at Salvation Army Citadel
Featuring The Silver Singers and the Wesley Choir
An offering will be taken to help support Bible translation work overseas.

Tauranga Moana Interfaith Parish - Prayers for world Peace
Participating Faiths
Anglican, Baha’i, Catholic, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
Hindu, Hare Krishna, Methodist, Presbyterian, Islam, Quaker. Other faiths
still welcome to participate
12 October, 6:30 FOR 7PM, HISTORIC VILLAGE Hall, 17TH AVE, Tauranga
Entry Gold Coin donation. Please bring a Plate to share

M.W.F. Advance Notice:
Tuesday October 20 at 9.45 am.
Wesley Women’s Fellowship will be showing summer fashions from Gables
Fashion. All ladies and friends are invited. A Gold coin towards MWF
Special Projects is appreciated.

You are invited to remember St. Francis of Assisi - in a Song, Prayer and Contemplation
Come and join us in this quiet service based on the
style of
worship from the Taize Community in France.
7pm on Sunday 2nd October
At St George’s
Gate Pa.

FELLAS FUNCTION
Friday October 14 at 6 pm At Wesley
Tickets will be available from today and next Sunday $15 each
with proceeds to Women’s Fellowship Special Project.
Speaker: Rev George Bryant, retired school teacher/minister.
All men are welcome

Tauranga Civic Choir Presents
Mendelssohn’s ELIJAH
At Holy Trinity Church, Saturday 15 October at 7.30 p.m.
Tickets available from Jeremy and Civic Choir members $25.
Door sales $30.
At St Stephen’s we are looking for organists or pianists who would be willing to play for us on a regular basis, perhaps once or twice a month. If you are willing to do this it would be much appreciated as we are now preparing our third Quarter preaching plan. Could you please contact Geoff Warth 579.3637

Eleven Canadian volunteers will help build a new home for a local deserving family. The team members pay their own way and leave a donation behind to help build more homes.

Where: The home is located in Greerton. The street address will be advised nearer the date of the build.

When: The team will be working on site from 31 October to 4 November and the 7-9 November of the next week.

Why: Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide ecumenical Christian based volunteer organisation that helps deserving families own their own homes. Habitat builds and partners in 100 countries around the world.

What can you or your church or organisation do to help?

- On Tuesday 1 November provide an evening meal for two of the team members in your home (pick them up from 18th Ave Thermal Motel and return).
- Provide lunch for the international team/local team (20).
- Do some baking for morning tea?
- Would you be available to drive a van or an evening or weekend activities (5 or 6 November)?
- Do you have a van for use? (30 October—9 November)

Your generosity would be greatly appreciated
Please contact Ann Dowman by email jimdowman@xtra.co.nz or Phone 573.8541 (HFH Tauranga GV Coordinator)

If anyone can assist with any of the requirements for Habitat for Humanity please let Faye, Jocelyn or Margaret know and we can coordinate a Methodist Parish response.

Building Homes in Partnership with People in Need
Habitat Global Village Team
Coming to Greerton 30 October—9 November 2016

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