



Methodist Church of New Zealand

Connexions July 2023



Welcome to the monthly newsletter of the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana Aotearoa

Please send your articles to reception@methodist.org.nz



Remember in your Prayers

It is with sadness that we advise you that Maurice Hight of Te Aroha (husband of Deacon Dianne Hight) had passed away.

We give thanks for his long commitment to the parish, specifically at Waitoa and regular attendance at Synod over many years. As well he has been an integral part of Dianne's diaconate ministry at Waitoa, for over 40yrs.

We share our condolences and support with Deacon Dianne Hight, their family and friends

It is with sadness that I write to advise you that in the early hours of Thursday June 29th, at WesleyCare, Christchurch, Rev. Dr. Dame Phyllis Myra Guthardt died peacefully, just short of her 94th birthday. Her career within Methodism, indeed within the Christian churches in New Zealand, is quite unique. Born and raised in Nelson, she was influenced towards ministry by both Ashleigh Petch and Charlie Hailwood at St John's Church, Nelson. She led Bible Class there and in turn influenced a younger generation.

After training at Christchurch Teachers' College she taught in her home-town, and then offered for the ministry and spent three years at Trinity College. She was the first woman of any denomination in New Zealand to be ordained. Her first appointment was in the Riccarton Circuit, and while there completed her M.A. with 1st Class Honours. She received a scholarship to the University of Cambridge, was a student at Newnham College, and completed her PhD in biblical studies. While in the UK she tutored at Homerton College.

On her return to NZ she was stationed at Melville, Hamilton and acted as a Hospital Chaplain. In 1969 she became the first ecumenical chaplain at the University of Waikato, lectured in English and religious studies, and thus began her long connection with the NZ Tertiary Education system.

From Hamilton she moved back to Christchurch, serving at Upper Riccarton Church and then with the Presbyterian congregation at Knox Church, Bealey Avenue. From that time, she became part of the University Council (for 21 years) and was the University's Chancellor from 1998 till 2002. She received an honorary doctorate from Canterbury University, and also from the University of Waikato. She was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1993.

This is a mere outline of an extraordinary career, and more must be said on the occasion when her life is celebrated. Phyll was exceptionally gifted, and exceptionally well prepared for anything she undertook. And she was a consistent, faithful, and loving friend whose loss will be felt by untold numbers of people in this land and overseas as well. To those who mourn we give our prayers.



Peace Sunday

Peace Sunday is the time in the church calendar where we give special attention to peacemaking. This year it falls on August 6, the anniversary of the use of the first nuclear bomb.

Witness for Peace with prayers, images, stories and actions for Peace Sunday will be available shortly. The worship resources will look back at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, explore issues about nuclear testing and waste in the Pacific and

include prayers for peace on the Korean peninsula to [mark](#) the 70th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement.



AUG 26, 2023
9:30AM – 12:30PM

TeRito Peyroux-Semu:

My Journey as an LP

Te Rito Peyroux-Semu: My journey as a Lay Preacher

We all need to reflect on where we have come from, who nurtured us and the tales we can tell. It's all tied in with our roots and our upbringing.

TeRito will reflect on how her Vice presidency goes hand in hand with Lay Preaching.

How can we develop and grow in our calling? We are always focused on our congregations but need time to self-reflect.

TeRito Peyroux-Semu is currently the Vice President of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa – The Methodist Church of New Zealand. She has a background in education and church youth work and is part of the leadership team at Kingsland Methodist Church. She is of Rotuman, Cook Island and French descent and lives in Auckland with her NZ Samoan husband and their young son.

An Ecumenical workshop open to all. Suggested Koha \$10, please bring a plate. Come and be part of this learning opportunity.

Venue: St Paul's Methodist Church, Saint Vincent Avenue, Remuera, Auckland.

RSVP: Linda Hall 09 521 5360 or email: lindajeanhall00@gmail.com by Aug 19, 2023

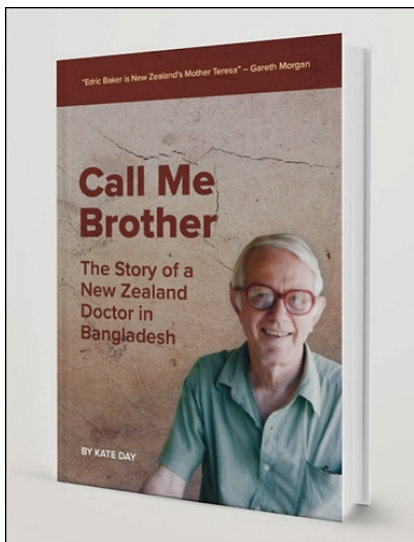


Retired presbyter, Dr. Merv Dickinson, now a resident of Russley Village in Christchurch, conducts, on the third Sunday of each month, what is known as "the Sunday Gathering"

It's held in the Russley Village Pavilion (73 Roydvale Avenue) from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. This is not a religious service. Nor is it a private function. All are welcome.

Those who attend enjoy music and singing, a time for personal sharing, and always some vibrant group discussion. At the next Gathering, on Sunday 16 July, the discussion will focus on a video talk by Max Rashbrooke titled "Three Ways to Upgrade Democracy."

Given the current threats to democracy around the world, and our own upcoming election, it seems a timely topic. Those who attend are welcome to remain then, if they wish, for some informal socialising over a cuppa and a shared lunch.



Call me Brother

CWS recommends a new biography which tells the story of New Zealand doctor Edric Baker.

Written by Kate Day, Call me Brother relates his years of service overseas, most recently in Bangladesh where he set up the Kailakuri Health Centre. Edric trained people from the local community to run the centre which treats over 20,000 a year at little cost.



Operation Refugee Update

Thank you for joining us for Refugee Sunday and donating to the Operation Refugee Appeal.

[Operation Refugee](#) runs until August 30. The Winter Walk is proving the most popular challenge so far. Talk to your community and discover what you could do together to stand with refugees.



But you came and cared

A few years ago former staff member Trish Murray met a group of Syrian mothers in Jordan.

One woman bravely read out a speech she had prepared in English. Her final words have stayed with Trish. Knowing people from far away cared about them and their families meant so much to these women. The Winter Story, [But you Came and Cared](#), focuses on the psychosocial support

provided by our partners in the Middle East, Nicaragua, South Sudan and Tonga. Please pray for people who need community and specialised help. If you can please support the [Psychosocial Appeal](#).

Climate Justice Working Group

The CJWG is pleased to note that the Auckland Synod has organized its School of Theology this month on climate change and sustainability.

Speakers include Rev Siosifa Pole (Chair of CJWG), Chloe Swarbrick MP for Auckland Central, and Adam Currie, Climate Communications Specialist at Greenpeace Aotearoa. The CJWG would be pleased to receive reports from other Synods around the motu on actions they are taking to observe Te Haahi's decade of Rekindling the Va of Papatuanuku.

Chair - Rev Siosifa Pole at siosifa@missionresourcing.org.nz

Secretary – Marion Hines at marionhines@xtra.co.nz



E tū te mana o Te Ao: Building a Climate of Hope

Webinar Series Wednesdays 14 June – 5 July, 7.30-8.30pm NZST

Aotearoa New Zealand can play a key role in efforts to address the climate crisis globally. Like all countries our top priority must be to cut our emissions quickly because they are the key driver of climate change. Given our abundance of nature, though, our most distinctive role is to help nature restore itself, which in turn brings climate and many other benefits. How fast and well we do in this role helps to give hope to the peoples of other countries.

This four-part webinar series features inspiring speakers and respondents, including: **Dr Jane Goodall** DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace, **Rabbi Dean Shapiro**, **Mary Moeono-Kolio**, Climate Activist, Pacific Climate Warriors, and the **Rt Hon Helen Clark**, Former PM of NZ, Former Administrator to the UNDP. Webinars 1, 3 and 4 will be moderated by Rod Oram, respected journalist and RDC Climate Action Group member.

Together they will discuss the shorter- and longer-term effects of climate change in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific Region, and the World, and most importantly help build a climate of hope by sharing suggestions for climate action with us.

[Register today](#) for all or any of the series.

We are initially seeking a ¾ time minister (preferred option)

Motueka Uniting Parish. This appointment will be under Presbyterian administration To be Christ Centred and Community focused .

We are initially seeking a ¾ time minister (preferred option) for supply of up to 2 years.

This may lead to a permanent appointment.

We are seeking a minister who can:

- Stimulate the congregation with his/her contemporary worship and preaching style.
- Connect with parish members and others within the community.
- Is prepared to work in an inclusive manner with a ministry team and the congregation in sharing worship
- Be a spiritual leader who empowers the congregation through their ministry
- Will be active in building networks in the wider community
- Develop a ministry that is inclusive, warm, encouraging and welcoming.

If you are that person and have an interest in growing God's vision for our town then please contact us on oaklandsnz@gmail.com

A full Parish Profile is available on request



Look out for this at the August Synods

The Methodist Alliance working group campaigning to increase benefit levels and abatement thresholds has finalised the resource for Parishes and the wider Methodist Church and it will be coming to you soon.

We hope it will be a well-used resource for you to facilitate discussions on income security, debt to government, and wealth distribution in Aotearoa New Zealand, and to ask well informed questions of your political candidates coming up in the election 2024. DISCUSSIONS ON: Income security, Debt to Government and Wealth distribution in Aotearoa New Zealand



Music Programmes offered by Wesley Broadway Community Radio in partnership with Manawatu People's Radio (MPR) June/July 2023

3-part Series on the Trinity in songs and words God the Creator, Jesus the Man, Holy Spirit Shared by Gillian and John Thornley Each half hour presentation includes two hymns by New Zealand hymnwriters, two songs by Dave Dobbyn, NZ

singer/songwriter, and Bible passages.

How to listen to the programmes Live: These can be heard in the Manawatu area at 11 A.M., Tuesdays and Saturdays, Frequency AM999 Online: Programmes can be downloaded via the station website: www.mpr.nz/show/wesley. Programmes stay for 2 to 3 months, listed by topic and date.



'Over the hill' in Whitianga

The Community Church in Whitianga started its life in 1998, as the 'Undenominational Church'. These days, we are the sole congregation in Mercury Bay Co-operating Parish.

In February this year, we celebrated our 125-Year Anniversary, drawing on our long history with the scattered communities of Mercury Bay to build history displays. Photographs and stories poured in, with weddings and baptisms prominent in the community-resourced archive, including antique wedding dresses and treasured family Bibles. The event was so well received, so many local stories told and people reconnected with 'their church' that we decided we needed to keep up the momentum and awareness in the wider community.

So it was, that on the weekend of June 23 -26, we staged a 'Made By Hand' exhibition. Invitations were sent out to all in the local district who wished to display or advertise their work. Once again, the community at large responded with enthusiasm, filling our church and hall with every kind of handcraft. The church walls were adorned with quilts, blankets and wall hangings and tables were filled with exquisite needlework and woodwork, knitting and sculptures, blacksmithing, macramé, soaps and jewellery. Community groups advertised their charitable causes and cottagers advertised their work for sale. Once again, the community was buzzing and people were crowding into 'their church'.

Our small team of workers are still on a 'high' as we can see that the Lord is teaching us something new. We started life 125 years ago as the church for the community. Today St Andrew's hall caters for community groups five days a week – it is a lively community hub – and we are learning to strengthen the connections with those groups.

Our congregation has grown in recent years. We are gaining recent retirees who are moving from the cities to live by the sea – yes, most of us are 'over the hill' in more ways than one, but we are experiencing a new enthusiasm and we know the Spirit is at work here and blessing us mightily in Mercury Bay.

Isaiah 43:19 'Behold, I will do a new thing... shall you not know it?'



Exploring the Transformative Power of Godly Play Core Training

A Workshop at Ellesmere Cooperating Parish Hosted by the Central South Island Synod on the 19th till 21st of May.

We are delighted to share the exciting news of a recent Godly Play workshop held at the Ellesmere Cooperating Parish in Leeston. From May 19th to May 28th, eight passionate individuals from across the Central South Island Synod gathered to embark on a transformative journey of discovery

and exploration.

The workshop brought together participants from various backgrounds, all united by a shared desire to deepen their understanding of Godly Play and its potential impact on their respective parishes. What made this workshop even more special was the presence of skilled trainers who travelled from Auckland and Australia to lead the sessions.

Throughout the course of the workshop, participants immersed themselves in the principles and practices of Godly Play. Engaging discussions, hands-on activities, and thought-provoking reflections served as catalysts for profound insights and spiritual growth. The trainers, with their wealth of knowledge and experience, expertly guided the group, igniting a genuine passion for incorporating Godly Play into their ministries.

The energy and enthusiasm within the workshop were contagious, as participants eagerly shared ideas and contemplated how Godly Play could shape the future of their parishes and the wider synod. The connections forged during the workshop fostered a sense of unity and collaboration among attendees, inspiring them to continue this journey together.

As the workshop concluded, a sense of anticipation filled the air. The participants are now eager to explore how Godly Play will play a pivotal role in their parishes and synod moving forward. From creating sacred spaces for children to facilitating intergenerational worship experiences, Godly Play promises to deepen relationships, nurture spirituality, and foster a sense of wonder within their faith communities.

The Central South Island Synod extend their gratitude to the trainers who shared their expertise and journeyed alongside the participants. Their unwavering dedication and passion have left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all those who attended.

As we embrace the future with renewed excitement and inspiration, we anticipate witnessing the transformative power of Godly Play unfold within our parishes and synod. We invite everyone to join us on this remarkable journey of faith and exploration.

May God's grace and wisdom guide us as we embrace the wonders of Godly Play in our communities.

- Hall
- School
- Early Childhood Education Centre
- Camps
- Meeting rooms
- Aged care facilities

Then the building **must have** an [Emergency Response Plan](#). Contact Trudy if help is required to create the ERP.

Is your building one that **must** have a FENZ-approved evacuation scheme?

Requirement

Example

Where 100 or more people are able to gather

This is most of our churches and most of our halls if they can fit 100 or more people.

Where 10 or more people work

Larger commercial buildings

Connexional Office

The MCNZ Auckland office

Aged care facilities

Missions

Where six or more people sleep, unless there are three or fewer households

Camps

Halls that host sleepovers

Storing over set levels of hazardous substances

Possibly our aged care or hospital care buildings

Used for early childhood, medical and disabled care services, unless the building is a normal home

Early Childhood Education Centres

Hospital care buildings

Health centres

The landlord is responsible for ensuring the upkeep and 6-monthly practice of the FENZ-approved evacuation scheme. Therefore if you are not the tenant in the building you manage, you are still required to ensure the evacuation scheme is in place and that it is practiced every 6 months.

Contact me if you would like assistance or to check if this applies for your building. Alternatively, [contact FENZ](#); they are very helpful!

Review your plans – this is important!

Some of our buildings evacuation schemes are from the last century! So, **resubmit your plans if:**

- the building or building complex has been renovated
- the contact person on record has changed
- the last submitted plan is over seven years old
- the last submitted drill was over five years ago

[Access the guidelines and templates for Emergency Response Plans, including the FENZ approval process, here.](#)

Contact me if you would like assistance, I am here to help.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Nā **Trudy Downes**

trudyd@methodist.org.nz

027 457 4196



We value what they value

“Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.” Isaiah 43:4

The Methodist Mission Southern staff play a crucial role in valuing our rangatahi by fostering a sense of self-worth and dignity, as expressed in Isaiah 43:4. Through their dedication and commitment, our staff empowers rangatahi to embrace their individuality, develop self-respect, and cultivate a positive

self-image, highlighting their worth and significance in the eyes of each other and those they connect with.

Phill Hemopo is the Kairuruku Whare - Kaupapa Rakatahi/Co-ordinator of the Mission's Youth Transition House in Ōtepoti. He believes in the principle of "We value what they value," which highlights the importance of understanding and respecting the unique perspectives, interests, and aspirations of the rangatahi residents. By acknowledging and appreciating what they hold dear, we can create a supportive, nurturing environment that aligns with their values.

Within the Youth Transition Houses, staff strive to add value to the lives of the rangatahi residents, generously giving their time as one of the ways they contribute. They understand that time is a precious resource and dedicating it to the rangatahi shows genuine commitment and care. Whether it's offering guidance, listening to their concerns, or engaging in meaningful conversations, our staff prioritizes the well-being and personal growth of the rangatahi.

Our staff also recognize the importance of encouragement and upliftment. They demonstrate patience and understanding, showing that they value the rangatahi's journey and growth above their own. By asking thoughtful questions, actively listening, and showing genuine interest, our staff creates an atmosphere of affirmation and validation.

One resident has just transitioned out of the house, after self-referring some eleven months ago, and now has the skills and growth to have a place of their own. They are working part-time in a job they love and have enrolled in a polytechnic course to get enough credits to start nursing next year. The feedback given to the staff underscored the immense value of the individual's time spent in the house and the valuable knowledge acquired from the dedicated personnel.

Laura Wilson, Kairuruku Whare - Kaupapa Rakatahi/Co-ordinator at Waihōpai's Youth Transition House, further affirms the worth and potential of the rangatahi by giving affirmation cards (alongside birthday and celebration cards) to the residents. Handmade by the Mission's supporters' club members, these cards offer words of encouragement and positivity, recognizing the profound impact that words can have on individuals and emphasizing the power of using language constructively to inspire, uplift, and heal. As Yehuda Berg aptly said, "Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate, and to humble."

The Youth Transition House plays a vital role in restoring the rangatahi's sense of self and agency by providing a safe space for them to freely express themselves without judgment. Within these walls, they find solace, humour, and meaningful conversations with caring individuals who genuinely value their well-being.

In the Young Mums' Transition House, life skills are a focus for the Mums each day with all continuing with their education and exploring what housing options may be available to them in the future. They are discussing how that looks for them and also investigating ways to manage the rising cost of living. They are currently working on food waste and how to avoid it or what options there are to help with having less. With staff guidance, it was decided to trial, freezing leftovers, making use of old fruit for baking, and changing some grocery choices, would make a good start.

Our wonderful staff embodies Albert Schweitzer's quotation, "The purpose of human life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others." They entrust the rangatahi to embrace their individuality and develop a positive sense of self-value, fostering increased self-confidence, resilience, and the ability to set healthy boundaries. Their commitment to creating an environment where rangatahi feel supported, valued, and celebrated for who they are, encouraging them to embrace their strengths, learn from experiences, and cultivate a positive self-image that can withstand life's challenges, is the value of giving to others.

Did you know you can read our *Kōrero Kete* directly in your inbox through our monthly newsletters? You can sign up on our website/Facebook or contact Julie julier@mmsouth.org.nz
