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Presbytery Update

Southern Presbytery Spring Gathering Update from Anne!

The Presbytery Gathering is open to all Presbyterians – you do not have to be a minister or the commissioned elder from your parish. The Moderator of PCANZ, Right Rev Fakaofa Kaio, will be joining us, and leading us in devotions on Saturday morning. The workshops will provide practical encouragement, opportunity to learn, and to share our experiences together.

We have learned so much about what it means to be church when we are physically apart. The Presbytery Gathering gives us an opportunity to come together to give thanks to God for the privilege of being able to meet together. But we will also take this opportunity to experiment with how we can use technology to bring us together across distance. So come to St Enochs, Alexandra or join in from Calvin in Gore or at Leith Valley in Dunedin – though we are many, we will be one.

On Saturday morning you will have the opportunity to participate in two practical workshops - and if you are in Alexandra, you will be choosing from six workshops on offer. Two of these will be available to those who join the Presbytery Gathering in Dunedin or in Gore. You can find a list of our workshops below.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER AND GET MORE INFORMATION FOR THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY GATHERING](#)

Presbytery Gathering Workshops:

- **Teaching Like Jesus**

Led by Rev. Stephanie Wells (Presbyterian Church Schools Resource Office)

For years schools have been using the latest research on how we learn, to educate young people. But how many churches use this knowledge to teach the gospel, even though Jesus demonstrated multiple methods? Come and workshop ways to modify or develop worship and congregational life in order to tap into people's differing learning styles.

- **Life beyond Kids Friendly and Cheryl**

Led by Rev Robin Humphries (Children and Families Ministry director for PCANZ)

Cheryl Harray may be retiring, but the work of reaching children and families with the gospel continues. Robin will explore new directions for this work nationally and in our congregations.

- **Eldership – a practical workshop**

led by Rev Ken Williams and Rev Erin Pendreigh

An opportunity for elders to explore some scenarios they may encounter in their role. A time for learning and encouragement.

- **Reforming our understandings of contemporary evangelism and conversion**

Led by Dr Lynne Taylor, Jack Somerville lecturer in Pastoral Theology, University of Otago

This workshop explores why previously unchurched people become Christians today. It outlines what motivates them, the process they follow, and how other Christians help their journey to faith. It will encourage and equip you – because people DO still come to faith, and real people like you can help the process (without doing anything scary!).

- **Mission, innovation and signs for a new normal**

Led by Rev Dr Steve Taylor, Principal, Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership

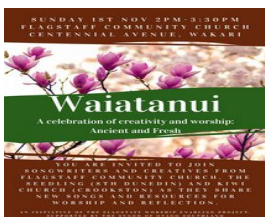
What does good mission leadership look like? Why is innovation in mission important? What might we learn from the signs of missional hope emerging during lockdown?

- **Caring for Creation**

Led by Rev Selwyn Yeoman and Marissa Kelderman

How can our local congregation, and our Presbytery, actively care for creation as an integral part of our mission? An introduction to some of the resources already available.

What's Coming Up



Waiatanui (Big Sing) Event

Sunday 1st Nov. 2pm - 3:30pm

Flagstaff Community Church, Dunedin

For more information, [click here](#).



Children's Ministry Network Meetings

Invercargill - 8th Nov. 2pm - 4pm

Dunedin - 11 Nov. 7pm-9pm

For more information [click here](#).



Presbytery Gathering

Friday 13th Nov. 7pm - Saturday 14th Nov 3:30pm

Alexandra

For more information, [click here](#).



Helping Hurting Teens

Nov 16th, 17th, & 18th.

Invercargill, Cromwell & Dunedin

For more information, [click here](#).

Have you Heard?

The Sir Lloyd Geering Scholarship in Religion

On behalf of Dr Geoff Troughton - Programme Director, Religious Studies at Victoria University Geoff writes:

It's 50 years since Lloyd was appointed the foundation Professor in Religious Studies here at VUW. Recognising this landmark, our new scholarship will support postgraduate students to conduct meaningful, high-quality research. We're fundraising with the aim of generating a fund that will support award of a substantial annual scholarship, in perpetuity. We hope to make a first award next year.



They would like to connect with folks who might be interested to support the scholarship. If you are interested [click here](#) for more information.

Presbyterian/Catholic Dialogue

Maureen Smith has written an update on the Presbyterian and Catholic dialogue.

"For the past 10 years, I have enjoyed being part of the Presbyterian / Roman Catholic Dialogue. This was established in New Zealand in 1981 and centred in Dunedin. The aim of the Dialogue was to bring about friendship and a greater understanding between the two churches."

To read more [click here](#)

Relentless Kindness - By Paul Eden



Why are people reluctant to speak of their burnout experience, especially when they hold positions that are in the public eye, such as in Christian ministry? How can the crippling power of shame, guilt and failure be overcome to speak without criticism, and with vulnerability and hope?

Paul has tackled these questions and produced writing intended to enable individual and corporate healing; while pointing to a future which embraces and experiences God's relentless kindness.

If you are interested in reading this book [click here](#).



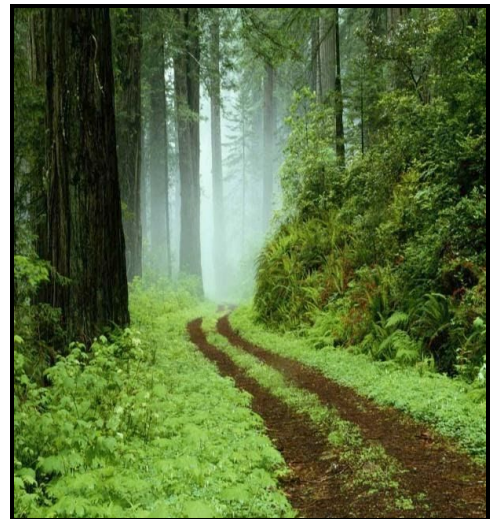
Childrens Ministry

Final Reflections from Cheryl!

In November as you know I will be retiring. It has been a privilege to serve as the Children and Families (Kids Friendly) Advisor - full time since the establishment of the Southern Presbytery in 2010 (and part-time for Dunedin-North Otago for 2 years before that)

12 years is a long time! Obviously, before I finish I can't revisit every church and person I have had the privilege of walking alongside but I am halfway through last visits around the region as well as planning for a key children's leaders retreat in October.

I am valuing the conversations with others about the many changes that have happened. In my reflections, I have intentionally asked: 'What do I want to share before I finish? What really matters?



So I have FIVE things to share that I believe really matter- they always have mattered but in the last 12 years, I have seen research and practice reaffirm the importance of the **HOME** and **INTERGENERATIONAL** ministry as foundations for **LIFE LONG FAITH**. Not only **CHILDREN**, but all ages grow best in these contexts. We have much to learn from each other across all generations and each of us also needs to invest and tend **OUR OWN FAITH** for healthy ministry practice.

I have summarised my reflections in a short document under these 5 key words called

‘5 Matters of Children and Families Ministry for Leaders 2020 and beyond’ (attached... link here?)

Out of the myriad of resources that are available under these headings I have selected just a few key ones that I highly recommend. I would love you to read and share it widely in your church leadership for ongoing discussion about what really matters in YOUR church. Hard copies will also be available at the Presbytery Gathering and wherever you find me in the next 6 weeks!

Thanks for ALL the ways we have shared together the vision and practice of a church that welcomes, celebrates and nurtures children and families. It’s been a fun, challenging and rewarding adventure.

Journey on!

Blessings

Cheryl Harray



5 ‘Matters’ of CHILDREN and FAMILIES Ministry

1. Life-long Faith Matters

II Timothy – Paul shares wisdom with Timothy

Passing on faith is core to the church’s purpose. Keep a long view of discipleship in your church from babies to older adults. Understand the “whys” before launching into the ‘how and what’ No one size fits all. No recipe. Listen, plan, practice, review.

Two excellent websites with a HEAP of resources, being added to all the time:

HERE2STAY from Australia - <https://here2stay.org.au/>

LIFELONG FAITH from USA - <https://www.lifelongfaith.com/practices.html>



2. Children Matter

‘Let the children come to me and do not stop them’ Luke 18:15-17

Children are spiritual too and able to explore faith from an early age. Highly recommend: “Children’s Spirituality – What it is and Why it Matters”

Dr Rebecca Nye shares important research and challenges what that will mean for our



content, programmes and relationships with children.

Helpful 6 point SPIRIT checklist:

- Space – physical and auditory (time to think and answer)
- Process – spiritual life is not a product
- Imagination – encourage users to help them go deeper
- Relationship – at the core- with God, with one another
- Intimacy- creating safe spaces to question and share
- Trust – God is at work- take a long view of ‘results’

3. Families/households Matter


Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

It's widely recognised that PARENTS are the primary nurturers of their children's faith. Church's role is to support, encourage and equip the home/households of faith to flourish.


There is no shortage of resources available but that can be part of the challenge. What do churches choose to focus on to support their parents without sending them on a guilt trip about all the things they are NOT doing? Below is ONE idea and resource that could make a big difference if practised regularly.

FAITH5 Faith Acts In The Home is a simple, easy-to-implement faith practice. When done over time, the FAITH5™ carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding and promote mental, physical and spiritual health for everyone in the family.

Watch Dr Rich Melheim enthusiastically unpack what each of the 5 steps is about and get started straight away! www.faith5.org



Here is the FAITH 5 (five minutes and five steps) that can change a family



1. **Share** your *Highs & Lows* of the day (the best and worst thing that happened)
2. **Read** a Bible verse or story
3. **Talk** about how the Bible reading might relate to your *Highs & Lows*
4. **Pray** for one another's highs and lows.
5. **Bless** one another before turning the lights out each night

What if ALL the households of faith in your congregation started practicing Faith5 regularly!

4. All Ages Together Matter -Intergenerational Ministry

Psalm 78:1-7

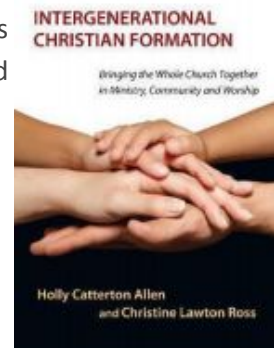
Doing more TOGETHER is the other key challenge and focus of direction and resources in the 21st century. Research is showing that alongside INFORMATION, experiences that encourage FORMATION are needed for ALL ages to grow in faith as life-long followers of Jesus for TRANSFORMATION.

Faith is caught more than taught and is passed on best when churches “intentionally bring the generations together in mutual serving, sharing and learning in order to live out being the body of Christ to one another and the greater community.”

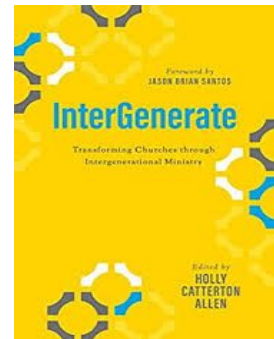
“Intergenerational Christian Formation”

By Holly Catterton Allen and Christine Lawton Ross

(a dense read but highly recommended)



‘Intergenerate’ tackles the important question ‘How can we bring the generations back together?’ Each chapter is a keynote address or workshop from the Interenerate conference (2018) representing multi ages, countries and denominations. Read taster summaries of each chapter under resources/thinking intergenerationally at www.pcfm.org
(Both books are also available on Kindle)



5. YOU Matter!

“Come to me. Get away with me and you will recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me, work with me and watch how I do it... learn the unforced rhythms of grace.”

Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)

You can’t keep giving out in Christian ministry if you are empty and worn down. Take time to discover and regularly practise rhythms of spiritual nurture that help YOU keep close to God and ‘fill your tank’ (Bible reading, study, prayer practices, physical exercise, sharing with friends, rest and refreshment)

Finally from Cheryl:

THANKYOU for all you do to support and encourage ministry with children and families in your church and community.. It has been a pleasure to walk alongside you for part of the journey.

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24–26



Youth Ministry

**HELPING
HURTING
TEENS**

A workshop on how to
help young people when
they are hurting.
Presented by Neville Bartley
(Scripture Union, NZ)

Invercargill

Mon 16th Nov
@ROSEDALE BIBLE CHAPEL
6pm - 8:30pm

Cromwell

Tues 17th Nov
@CROMWELL PRES. CHURCH
6pm - 8:30pm

Dunedin

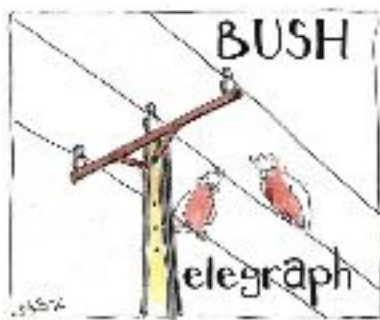
Wed 18th Nov
@EAST TAIERI PRES. CHURCH
6pm - 8:30pm

For More Info & to Register

[CLICK HERE](#)

National Church Updates

Click on the following links to see the latest news updates from the various resourcing and ministry departments of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.



BUSH TELEGRAPH

[October Edition](#)



PRESBYTERIAN YTH MINISTRY

[The Buzz](#)



TREASURERS NEWSLETTER

[September Edition](#)



BUSH FIRE NEWSLETTER

[October Edition](#)

International Rural Churches Association Newsletter

The IRCA has just released its latest newsletter. The newsletter has a collection of pieces hoping to encourage and inspire hope. If you are interested in reading it [click here](#).

The Southern Presbyterians Newsletter is released monthly.

Any comments or concerns about the newsletter or the website, or to unsubscribe,
please email office@southernpresbyterians.nz

If you have news and stories of great things happening in your parish, don't be shy, others would love to hear and be inspired! Please feel free to send through any photos, videos and text and we will do our best to share it through our website with the rest of our parishes.

email to: office@southernpresbyterians.nz



We are also on Facebook. Make sure you 'LIKE' us!

To go to our Facebook Page, click [here](#).