

June 2022

SOUTHERN HEADLINES

Southern Presbyterians Newsletter

Kia ora and welcome to the Southern Presbyterians newsletter for May 2022. This month due to our Presbytery Gathering we have a smaller newsletter. If you have a story, article, or advertisement you would like to share, please contact Gabe at office@southernpresbyterians.co.nz.



From the Moderator of the Synod of Otago and Southland

Debra Clark

Ngā mihi nui

Greetings to you all,

As this rather extraordinary polar blast is making its presence felt, I trust you and your family are all able to keep warm.

Amidst writing this letter, I have been also watching the trees and shrubs in my garden working hard to stand firm against the fierce winds. When storms come into our lives, we too have to stand firm and I am reminded of the old hymn “Will your anchor hold in the storms of life” – by Priscilla J Owens. It is well worth doing a google search if you don’t know it and having a listen.

It’s also a time to offer up praise to the One who gave us the seasons and all that is unique within each one.

As we are reminded in Scripture, in Ecclesiastes 3:1 “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:”

I have witnessed a few seasons within our church here in the south. My own parish recently made the difficult decision to close, and I empathise with all who have gone through or are on a similar journey.

It’s not easy. I return to the words in Ecclesiastes 3 and find comfort and hope for the future. A new season of waiting to see what the Holy Spirit is going to do next.

In April, I was invited to attend the St Andrews’ Presbyterian Church Gore 140 years of the Presbyterian Church in Gore, and to join with them in a very special time of celebrating the seasons of their long Christian witness to their community.

This year due to COVID the 2022 AGM of the Synod of Otago and Southland was held via zoom. Thank you to everyone who attended online. I especially would like to thank Rev Andrew Howley, and Brad Kelderman for their expertise in setting up all the gear we needed to bring the first zoom AGM to you. Technology is great when you are surrounded by such knowledgeable people. Thank you to East Taieri church for the use of the Oak Lounge.

The executive certainly appreciated the time taken by the invited speakers to prepare their excellent pre-recorded videos. Kia ora to: the PCANZ Moderator the Right Reverend Hamish Galloway; Acting AES Reverend Phil King; interviews profiling some of

the Synod funded work that happens at the Otago University led by our Synod Moderator Designate Professor Murray Rae; Mandi Geustyn -the Children and Families advisor; Rev Gabe Hawker- Southern Presbyterians newsletter; Rev Tom Mephram and Student Soul.

If you missed the AGM, you can find the pre-recorded videos on the Southern Presbyterians website.

June is usually 'thank volunteers' month. I would like to take the opportunity now to thank everyone who volunteers their time to the work of Synod, for the glory of God and His kingdom here in the south.

In October/November this year there is going to be a Synod Roadshow. The upcoming roadshow will be connecting with the regional resource groups. This is something we have been wanting to do for some time but has been delayed by COVID.

This is an opportunity for you to find out who are we as a Synod. What is our role? And many more answers to questions I'm sure many of you will have. We are keen to hear your questions.

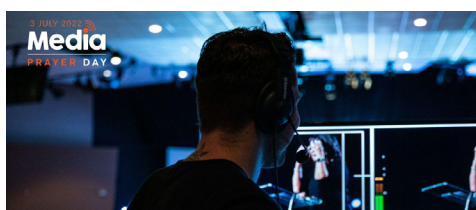
The roadshow will be well advertised by email; on the website; in this newsletter; and a phone call.

The Synod Executive is continuing to explore where the future accommodation for the Synod is going to be. The Lease for the current office suite at Evan Parry House is expiring at the end of this year. The Executive will be presenting to the Synod members, all the options for a future venue once all possible options are made available. Please look out for further updates.

Finally, a reminder about the applications for funding. Please check the Southern Presbyterians website for the dates of when the applications either electronically or via the post need to be sent to Fergus our Executive Officer. If you have any questions or queries, please contact Fergus. He is a wealth of knowledge.

Ma te Atua koe e manaaki

Debra Clark



MEDIA PRAYER DAY 2022



MODERN ANTI-SLAVERY



PYM RESOURCES



YOUTH LEADERS CATCH-UP



WOF TRAINING

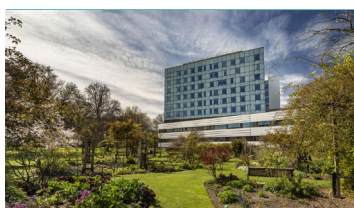
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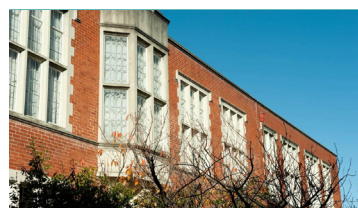
FAMILY WORKER



LEAD PASTOR



CHAPLAIN



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