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Greetings

Dear Southern Presbyterians,

As we begin 2018 there are some plans in place for our year. So I ask you to note those listed and follow the links to the website where you can see more information on our Events and Calendar pages. Please update me with any plans in your area for the our next newsletter.

I share with you these familiar and encouraging words for congregational life

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

I pray that love will be shared more and more among those in your ministry settings.

Grace and peace,

Alan



A New Website

Apparently everyone needs a website these days. The Synod needs a website. The Presbytery needs a website. Well, common sense has prevailed and we now have one website for everyone! A few conversations lead to the birth of Southern Presbyterians. More than just a website. It's a description of all things Presbyterian below the Waitaki River. Within Southern Presbyterians we are Presbytery, we are Synod, we are the OFTB, we are parishes, mainly musics, youth groups, resource groups, and so much more.

The website, www.southernpresbyterians.nz, is a shared space designed to resource parishes and keep people updated with what's going on around them and what's coming up in the future. Need a funding form? You'll find it on the website. Want to know when and where your next Resource Group meeting is happening? You'll find it on the website. Need a resource for a children's talk? You'll find it on the website. Want to hear some of the inspiring things that are happening in our neighbouring parishes? You'll find that on the website too. On the Southern Presbyterians website you will see that your church has a presence. Every church is located on a map which is linked to some basic information about each church. If someone googles your church looking for a start time...they'll be able to see it on the website!

So go take a look around and get familiar.

Click here: www.southernpresbyterians.nz



Latest News & Coming Events

NEWS

First Church Invercargill completes rebuild after fire.

Youth Leaders attend retreat in Queenstown.

Baskets of Blessing in Arrowtown doing exciting work.

Camp Columba celebrates its 60th birthday.

Full story and more news, click [here](#)

COMING EVENTS

re:Gen - Youth Ministry Training, March 3

Cromwell Induction of Rev Douglas Bradley, March 7

Childrens Ministry Network Gatherings, March 7 & 11

Gillian Bremner PSO Farewell, March 20

For more details and events, click [here](#)



Childrens Ministry

Otago Southland Children's Ministry Network

It is always encouraging for those involved in children's ministry of ALL denominations to get together to share stories, ideas and resources, to pray and encourage one another. So CONNECTING will be the focus of our first meetings this year.

DUNEDIN - March 7th. For more info, click [here](#). **INVERCARGILL** - March 11th. For more info, click [here](#).

Presbytery Wide Childrens Ministry Survey

Recently your church leader received a letter explaining a review of children's ministry that is underway and then your church should have received an email with a link to the online survey. The review group is hoping for a response from EVERY church so we can gain a snapshot of what is currently happening, listen to your comments and make some suggestions for next steps and guidelines for the future. Got questions... contact Christine Harrex: harrefam@gmail.com

Lent Resources

The season of Lent is upon us. To see Kids Friendly's wide range of resources and ideas, click [here](#).



Youth Ministry

Easter Camps 2018

There wouldn't be a single Presbyterian church in NZ who didn't have a member that claimed an Easter Camp as a significant moment in their faith journey. For 80+ years, we have been blessed in Otago & Southland with fantastic Easter Camps. This year is no different. Both Camp Columba & Camp Tirohanga host fantastic Easter Camps, although this year the Dunedin Easter Camp has moved out of Tirohanga and down the road as it has outgrown the campsite (you can read more about that [here](#)). If your church has a youth group or young people in it - get them to an Easter Camp! And better still, go with them and be a part of their journey! Get more information directly from each camp's website.

Pukerau Easter Camp: more info, click [here](#)

Dunedin Easter Camp: more info, click [here](#)

W.O.F

"A young person says they would like to tell you something but first asks you to promise that you will keep what they say confidential."

Youth Leaders face ethical scenarios like this all the time. As well as trying to keep up with the latest health & safety laws, there is a side to youth ministry that is challenging and daunting. However, the PYM & Kids Friendly team have developed a 1 day workshop for all children and youth ministry leaders to equip them to do ministry safely and ethically. It's fun, interactive and practical. You will know what to do after having done this workshop. For more info on the W.O.F training, click [here](#).

2018 DATES: Wanaka 5th May, click [here](#). Winton 9th June, click [here](#). Dunedin...watch this sp

Presbytery News

Presbytery Gatherings 2018

There will be two full meetings of Southern Presbytery in 2018.

1. April 27th, Knox Church, Invercargill.

More info, click [here](#).

2. September 7th and 8th

More info, click [here](#).

Inductions & Commissioning Services

Induction of Rev Douglas Bradley

7th March. Cromwell Presbyterian Church.

More info, click [here](#).

Commission Services for New Interns:

Mar 4th - 10am Grants Braes – Gabe Hawker

Mar 11th - 10am East Taieri – Sebastian

Murrihy Mar 25th - 10am Leith Valley – Tom

Mephram

In addition Aaron Johnstone continues at Upper Clutha and Annie-Kate Williams comes back from maternity leave part-time and moves to Mornington Parish.

Learning Occasions & Workshops

- Elders and Leadership Workshop planned for Dunedin August 18th 2018
- Risk Management and Ethics Workgroup planned for Clutha in 2018
- Communion Workshop planned for Dunedin in 2018
- Lifelong learning needs of ministry leaders in Oamaru and Gore

Election of Presbytery Moderator

Both church Council's and presbytery members are being asked to provide nominations for Presbytery Moderator.

Cut off date for nominations is the end of March and the decision will be made at the Presbytery Meeting on April 27th.

To download a nomination form, click [here](#).

Nomination of PCANZ Moderator Designate

Presbytery also needs to make its nomination for PCANZ Assembly Moderator designate. We will make this nomination at the April 27th Presbytery and following this a selection process takes place involving Church Council's voting on a list provided by the Assembly Office. Parishes can write to Presbytery until April 8th with suggestions of names we may nominate for Assembly Moderator Designate. Two have been received so far.

General Assembly 2018 - Elders

25 parishes have been asked to commission an elder to this year's General Assembly in Christchurch. Presbytery is also able to commission 25 ministers (Those able to attend have been contacted). To see if your church is on the list and for more information about General Assembly, click [here](#).



SNAPSHOTS IN MISSION

This free booklet is a compilation of eight essays on mission in New Zealand from a Presbyterian perspective. Published by [KCML](#), it will be sent to all of the Church's parishes and can be downloaded from their website. Centred on concepts of 'home' – domestic, church, national and international – topics include home and neighbourhood, new mission seedlings, Maori responses to 'home invasion', migratory congregations, and reaching out to Christ through friendship.

Read more about "Snapshots in Mission" in the latest SPANZ Magazine. Click [here](#).

Read "Snapshots in Mission" online or download your own copy [here](#).

SNAPSHOTS LENT-INAR

During Lent 2018, KCML is offering (free) web-inars. Weekly, two of the contributors to Snapshots in Mission will be interviewed via online video conferencing. What sparked their writing? What piece of music speaks to their article? What are the implications, for church, ministry and mission? There will be time for Q and A, using video conferencing technology. Thursday's (February 22; March 1, 8, 15, 2018, 4:30-5:15 pm). Attend one. Attend them all.

Learn how to link to the Lent-inar by emailing rosemary@knoxcentre.ac.nz

The Southern Presbyterians Newsletter will be released monthly.

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

To unsubscribe, please email office@southernpresbyterians and ask to be removed from the newsletter database.

We are also on Facebook. Make sure you 'LIKE' us! To go to our Facebook Page, click [here](#).

Please note the following email address changes to resource staff:

Erin Pendreigh - erin@southernpresbyterians.nz

Deborah Bower - deborah@southernpresbyterians.nz

Brad Kelderman - brad@southernpresbyterians.nz