

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lorne, Pauline and I are away this week at the Presbytery Minister's retreat at Long Bay. I'm back at the office on Friday, but of course Lorne and Pauline have Friday off.

So I'm writing the pastoral email on Sunday after the service at Central. As part of the service and a special morning tea we celebrated the 30th anniversary of Te Aroha Noa Medical Centre. It was special to hear the story of God's calling and provision of this wonderful outreach from our church to the city and people of Whangarei. It also provides encouragement as we face the future and challenge of the most missional use of the Business Block. How can we use this resource for the kingdom of God? It is matter of prayer and trusting in God.

Here are the notices...

Sunday Worship March 26th

Come join us at one of our sites as we continue with our journey through the book of Nehemiah.

10:00 am @ HopeTikipunga - Nehemiah 9-10 (Howard Carter)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Nehemiah 11-12 (Lorne Campbell) Communion

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Nehemiah 13 (Pauline Hampshire)

9:30am Good Friday April 7th - Gathering at the Cross



It really hasn't been the year to organise outside events, but we are planning to have our combined Churches Good Friday Service around the cross in the green space in front of HopeCentral. If people are wanting to march down to the service people will be gathering up by Church Unlimited and the Anglican Church at 9:00am to walk.

The theme this year is "Behold the man upon the Cross" focusing on Jesus and using the "I Am" sayings in John's gospel as a lens to give us insight to who is Jesus who gave his life for us. Pastors and Ministers from our church and others will be sharing two minute reflections on those passages and we will hear John's account of the crucifixion. We will also be celebrating communion.

Easter Sermon series - Witnesses to the Resurrection

From resurrection Sunday through to Pentecost we will be exploring Paul's list of people and groups who met the risen Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) and in particular looking at the gospel narratives of those encounters. I am hoping this will give us assurance of the physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead which is the central event of our faith and enable us to be confident in sharing this with people. In his Book *the Verdict*, UK lawyer and Christian Val



Grieve says "A famous QC once said, 'when I have a poor case in court, I make a long speech; but when I have a really strong case, I simply call the witnesses.'" For the resurrection the witnesses provide us with a strong case for its validity.



Urgent accommodation request

A retired lady who is a member of our congregation and her son are urgently needing a 2 bedroom place to live, preferably with lock up garage and of road parking if at all possible. She will consider any area in Whangarei. **Ph. 027 7253363**

A chance to use your art to help us in our prayer life

In May each year from Ascension to Pentecost 18th -28th May the church is involved in a worldwide prayer movement called Thy Kingdom Come. This year we are inviting artists in the church (floral artists, painters, photographers etc.) to help us with our prayer. Each day in the season of Prayer has a different theme (focusing on the character of God) and we would like to invite you to produce a piece of art to be a focus for each day's theme in the church (Central) as it is open for prayer. A list of the themes will be put out at our services this week for people to look at and put their name down besides one of the themes... We will coordinate the days if we get more than one per day...

Alpha Team meeting - This Sunday, March 26th @ 11:15am in the Lounge at Central

For all who attended the leaders meetings at BOB café on Feb 18th and March 11th and any others that couldn't ... please come and be part of the decision making for the upcoming course.

Apologies from those at Onerahi and Tikipunga who will have to travel ... a cuppa will be waiting for you!

Lorne and Sue Campbell

Community Wellbeing Initiative - Thursday April 27th and May 4th (6-9pm)

This is a course being run at HopeWhangarei in partnership with Lifeline and Presbyterian Support Northern. It is for a maximum group of twelve people and we have room available for people who may wish to attend. The vision for the initiative is 'to build a network of people within the church who have the confidence to support others emotional wellbeing.'

It is described as ..

The Community Wellbeing Initiative has been developed for people who are 'natural connectors', that is, those who already play an active role in community-facing activities within or beyond the church and/or provide pastoral care to their congregation.

The Community Wellbeing Initiative will give participants skills, tools and resources to look after their own wellbeing as well as be able to support others safely within their church and the wider community during times of stress or distress.

As well as the two in person sessions there will be two online sessions as well. One beforehand and one afterwards.

If you are interested please contact Howard for more information or register with Sharon.rossensor@psn.org.nz

Can you help with Child care during the Alpha Course?



Is there anyone in the fellowship who could serve the Alpha Course by **being part of a team** to provide childcare for parents who would want to attend the Alpha Course?

This would be a 2 hour commitment most likely on a **Wednesday evening from 6pm – 8pm.**

The course starts first week in May for 11 weeks.

As we seek to be a flourishing Christian Community, we would like to make the Course attractive to younger couples who may have children.

If you can help ... please contact **Pauline Hampshire** 0272672155 or pauline@hopewhangarei.nz or let **Colleen** know in the office ph. 4381667 or colleen@hopewhangarei.nz

Stories of JESUS - all about life

A visual display of creative arts and crafts telling stories from the Bible



You are invited to come and see

@ St Johns' Golden Church, 149 Kamo Rd.

Daily 10am – 2pm

from Palm Sunday (2 April)

to Easter Saturday (8 April).

St Johns' Golden Church is planning a display over Holy Week, leading up to Easter to encourage us all in our walk with God during Easter.

It will be open, free of charge, to everyone. Please come and be encouraged. Bring your friends

Blessing

Paul finishes his letter to the romans with a long list of greetings to men and women who were co-workers with him for the gospel and his final words are to give Glory to God... a great affirmation of what is the focus for our communal and individual life.

To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Waiho atu ī te Atua, ko ia nei anake te Mea mātau, te kororia i roto i a Īhu Karaiti, ake ake, Āmine.

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER

HOPEWHANGĀREI

March 21th 2023

Ps:- Last Wednesday I came across a very patient Matuku Moana (white faced Heron) who caught a fish along the banks of the Hatea River.

