

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was out at Onerahi on Sunday and was asked after the service about where we are at with the 'redevelopment process'. I had said that we would keep people well informed after the congregational meeting and people really hadn't heard anything. Firstly let me apologise for not being more communicative. Secondly, the main reason for that is that we are sort of in a limbo stage.

Because of the amount involved (at the meeting it was approved to spend up to \$150,000 on this next stage) we are having to get Presbytery and Church property trustees approval to move on to the next stage. While we have been keeping both the regional and national bodies up to date with our thinking, planning and project, this takes time. Presbytery's Property and Finance meet on the third Monday in the month and Church Property trustees will need to wait till after Presbytery. While this may seem like a laborious long process, it does allow for a good rigorous review process.

Also in our last pastoral newsletter Lorne reported about the decision about earthquake prone buildings at the general assembly, and while to a certain extent it takes a bit of time pressure off, we still do not know from the Church property trustees what the decision will mean for the business block. The other important thing is that while the earthquake regulations were catalyst for this project, I believe that they have really asked us to ask some important deeper questions. What kind of Church do we want to be? How do we use what we have to serve and bring kingdom transformation? What is the legacy we leave for the next hundred years?

Also with the acceptance of Adrian Whales' report his contract with us comes to an end and we are in the process of looking for people with the skills and abilities to take us to the next stage of developing a business plan. A business plan robust enough to be presented to partners, and prospective funders. In early November the governance group will be meeting with some possible professional groups and people who can provide us with the expertise we require. Please continue to keep this project in your prayers. Praying for the Holy Spirit's leading and guiding, as we move forward.

Alongside this project however we also have the call to revitalise our church and continue to grow and green (ie change our demographic). A matter for much prayer thought and careful action. The northern Presbytery is in the process of exploring a partnership with a group in Australia called 'City to City', which originated out of Tim Kellers Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York, which provides assistance, and coaching for Churches to be revitalised by the gospel and to be about haring that with the city around them. The Presbytery will be looking for churches to be amidst the first cohort for being involved with this group.

Here are the notices,

[Worship Sunday October 15th](#)

Come and join us for worship at one of our three sites this Sunday. Each site has its own distinct feel and style, yet at each there is a real sense of God's presence and fellowship with one another. Come join us to worship, pray and be transformed as we hear the scripture read and expounded.

10:00am HopeTikipunga Mark 1:29-39 (Howard Carter) communion.

9:30am HopeCentral Mark 2:13-17 (Colleen Poyner)

9:30am HopeOnerahi Mark 2:1-12 (Lorne Campbell)

Zoom service 9:30am Sunday October 15th

The zoom service this week will be the 9:30am service from HopeCentral.

Here is the link for the service <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84819102883>

If you are using the zoom app on a mobile device or smart phone the Meeting ID is 84819102883

If you are joining by landline, dial 09 8846780 and follow the Instructions, again the meeting ID is 84819102883.

Childrens programme @ central

With the fourth school term our children's ministry is happening again as part of our service at central on Sundays. We have a wonderful team of people who lead this programme. For the past year the team have been working through the bible book by book with the children. Giving them a good overview of the bible as God's big story and how each book fits in, highlighting wonderful stories along the way and engaging the children with creative activities each week to help them think and reflect on what they are exploring.

Combined Gospel and Healing Service 10am Sunday October 29th HopeCentral

October 29th is the fifth Sunday in October and as such we will be holding a Gospel and Healing Service. Over the year we have held these services at Onerahi and Tikipunga and at Central, once a year we hold a combined Gospel and Healing service... Please pray for this event and invite friends and family along who you know need a healing touch from the Lord.

Church AGM 2pm Saturday October 28th

Come join us for a wonderful afternoon tea (bring a plate) and reflect and celebrate on the past year as a church with our AGM. The reports and financials will be available online and at the church from Sunday October 15th.

Testimony of Divine healing?

Do you have a testimony of Divine healing in your life, or one that you have witnessed?

At the end of October, we have a Combined healing service at Central, and it would be good if we heard from anyone in our three fellowships that would be willing to share a 3-minute testimony.

Please can you get in touch with Lorne at lorne@hopewhangarei.nz or ring the office on 09 4381667 if you would be like meet to talk about this possibility.

Hope Tikipunga Christmas

Morning Tea Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 10.00am

Come along and enjoy a nice morning tea

Kathryn & Margaret will be with us and bring some

New Christmas crafts/decorations for you to make.



Enquiries to Helen 4373656 or 0274373016

Listening in the neighbourhood

The groups in Tikipunga and Onerahi have been exploring ways to observe God's Spirit at work in their communities, through walking and talking.

The last group meetings are this week.

Thursday 12 October 10.30am in Tikipunga, and Friday 13 October 5.30pm in Onerahi.

The "Neighbourhood Canvas" will be drawn up and presented to Parish council on October 18.

If you want to know more, contact Pauline Hampshire.

Giving

Giving to the end of September is \$55804.10 against a budget of \$56373.00.

Blessing

A couple of quotes that have encouraged me recently are

“true grace always results in changed lives of holiness and justice” – Tim Keller (Centre Church)

“if your dreams don’t scare you, then perhaps they’re not big enough” - U2 ‘Atomic City’

They reflect what Paul tells the church in Ephesus in Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Nā te aroha noa hoki koutou i whakaorangia ai i runga i te whakapono; ehara anō hoki tēnei i te mea nō koutou: he mea hōmai noa nā te Atua: Ehara i ngā mahi, kei whakamanamana te tangata.

10 He mahinga hoki tātou nāna, he mea hanga i roto i a Karaiti Īhu mō ngā mahi pai i whakaritea e te Atua i mua hei hāereerenga mō tātou.

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER

HOPEWHANGAREI

October 10th 2023

PS:- Hihiaua along the Hatea river was known as the gathering place of herring. On my walk along the loop track last Wednesday I watched the mirror still river start to explode with ripples as the small fish came up to feed. Then there was a chirp and suddenly a Tara (A white fronted tern) dived and caught a fish... I managed to get a photo of it as it took off again fish in mouth...



