

St John the Baptist Anglican Church

Newsletter November 2017

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A note from Stan...

Bums on Seats Do Matter

While social media, and even traditional media, are still preoccupied with megachurches and multisite churches, the reality is that most churches in Aotearoa New Zealand are quite small.

The average Protestant church size varies considerably. A colleague of mine takes communion at a small church in the King Country that has only two people. Others are worshipping to standing room only. There's **nothing wrong with being a small church**. I just know that almost every small church leader I speak to wants his or her church to grow. I am no different. I want our church to become more effective in reaching one more person with the hope that's in Christ.

So, why is it that most churches never break the 200 attendance mark?

It's not:

Desire. *Most leaders want their church to reach more people.*

A lack of prayer. *Many small church leaders are incredibly faithful in prayer.*

Love. *People in smaller churches love people as authentically as anyone else.*

Facility. *We have the resources to enable growth.*

Let's assume we have a solid mission, theology and heart to reach people. Why then can we not increase our numbers? According to Gary Nieuwhof of Church Leaders.com, there is a simple reason... **We organize, behave, lead and manage like a small organization.**

There's a world of difference between how you organize a dairy or a supermarket. In a dairy, the family runs everything. Want to talk to the CEO? She's stocking shelves. Want to see the director of marketing? He's at the cash register. The business is organised to stay small; which is fine if you're a dairy.

One can't run a supermarket that way. It's organised differently. You govern differently. There's a produce manager and people who only stock shelves. There's a floor manager, shift manager, general manager and so much more.

So what's the translation to church world? Here are eight reasons churches who want to grow end up staying small:

1. The vicar is the primary caregiver.

If we just push past this one issue, Gary Nieuwhof believes we will have made a *ton* of progress. When the vicar has to visit every sick person, do every wedding and funeral, and make regular house calls, he or she becomes incapable of doing other things.

If we do grow the church to 200, we risk disappointing people when the vicar can't get to every event any more. Or he or she will just burn out. It creates false expectations and so many people get hurt in the process. The answer, is to teach people to [care for each other in groups](#).

2. The leaders lack a strategy.

Many churches today are clear on mission and vision. What most lack is a widely shared and agreed upon strategy. Vision and mission answer the why and what of our organization. Our strategy answers *how*.

We need to spend time working through our strategy. Be clear on *how we* will accomplish our mission and don't rest until the mission, vision and strategy resides in every single volunteer and leader.

3. True leaders aren't leading.

In every church, there are people who hold the position of leadership and then there are people who are truly leaders (who may not hold any position in the church). Perhaps we should release people who hold titles but aren't advancing the mission, and hand the job over to people who have a track record of handling responsibility in other areas of life. Give them the job of leading the church into the future with the vicar.

4. Volunteers need to feel empowered.

Small churches may not have the budget to hire staff, but we have people. Once we've identified true leaders, and are clear on our mission, vision and strategy, we need to identify people to accomplish them. If we can empower volunteers around an aligned strategy we will see progress.

5. The governance team (Vestry Committee) micromanages.

Most Vestrys who micromanage do so because that's where most people simply default to. Vestry needs to guard the mission and vision, empower the team to accomplish it and then get out of the way.

6. Too many meetings.

As well as the operational issues of the church, meetings need to be about vision and reorganization. If we're going to meet, let's meet on purpose for the future. Free up time so the team can accomplish something significant.

7. Too many events and programs that lead nowhere.

Activity does not equal accomplishment. Just because we're busy doesn't mean we're being effective. If we check into most small churches there are a lot of programs that accomplish little and lead nowhere. We need to examine them in the context of our strategy.

8. The pastor suffers from a desire to please everybody.

Some vicars are people-pleasers by nature. Courageous leadership is like courageous parenting. Don't do what your kids want you to do; do what you believe is best for them in the end. Eventually, many of them will thank you. This is where governance, through feedback from vestry, discussions and even interventions from wardens becomes valuable.

Conclusion

This article may appear to go against what I was saying last Sunday. However for me, increasing numbers has a two-fold objective; we introduce more people to the word and provide the ability to create resources to love our neighbours. Having been here for just over a year, perhaps it is time for a retreat at Vaughan Park with vestry and wardens to hammer out a strategy that will enable us to achieve the summary of the law...

Kindly,

Stan Pilbrow

Nieuwhof, Gary. "Why Churches Cannot Break 200." *church leaders.com*. 26 October 2017. <http://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastors-articles> (accessed November 2, 2017).

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

Early in October, the 4th, is the Feast Day of St. Francis. This year it was a Wednesday so the Morning Devotion Service was oriented to its observance. The following day I had services at each of Northbridge and Shoal Bay Villa. Both had the theme of St. Francis with Homer (cat) accompanying me in the morning and Belmonte in the afternoon.

Thank you again for keeping me advised of pastoral care needs. I endeavour to follow up as soon as possible especially if someone is in hospital. During the past month some visiting has been done by telephone and in one case text message.

Thank you also for assistance with updating the roll. It has been more of a major task than I first envisaged but significant progress has been made.

And a third thank you is to Natalie for all her wonderful work. For those whose email address is used for sending the Newsletter, from this one on there will be a note at its conclusion for people to verify this is agreed. It is a requirement under the Privacy Act.

I have to hand a few suggestions for developing the Pastoral Care role which I will work on putting into effect.

On Sunday 8th October I served as Locum Priest, and finally, looking ahead to another 8th, in December this year I observe the 30th Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate. Although superceded the following year by Priesthood I thought for this big "0" a small celebration would be appropriate. As a Deacon one is not yet able to celebrate Eucharist so in discussion with the Vicar the best option is Morning Worship (NZPB equivalent of Matins) on Friday 08th December at 10.00 a.m. in the Chapel. A notice will be on the Pew Sheets nearer the time.

Vivienne Hill (The Reverend)

In and around St John

Sunday Services: 8am, 9.30am, Eucharist.

5pm (study/discussion group). All welcome, come as and when able.

Fourth-Sunday School: 4th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Evening Women's Fellowship: 7.30pm 2nd Tuesday of the month

Men's Supper & Bible Group: 7.30-9pm twice a month on a Wednesday. Check the weekly service sheet for each venue.

Next Garage Sale: April 2018

Hall Users

Rowe Dance - ballet classes for 3-8 year olds on Monday 2.45-4.30pm, Wednesday 3.45-5.30pm and Thursday 3.30-4.30pm in term time.

Rowe Dance - dancing for adults, Friday 10-11am.

Rowe Dance - Personal tuition by arrangement.

Joy Russ Dance - Monday 8.30-9.30pm.

Positive Balance Yoga - Mon, Tues 6-8.30pm, Thurs 5.45-8.15pm in term time.

Weight Watchers - meet in St Jude's Room weekly, Tuesday 5.30-7.30pm.

Jumping Beans - Wednesday 9am-1pm in term time.

Scottish Country Dance - Wednesday 7.30pm - 10pm throughout the year.

Northcote Steps - meet in the St Jude's Room, Friday 7-10pm throughout the year.

Soccer for Tots - Sat 9am - 1pm during term time

Northern Performing Arts - Saturday 4-8pm.

English Folk Dance - 2nd Friday of each month, 7-10pm

Early English Dance - 4th Friday of each month, 7.30 - 10pm

AlAnon family support group - 3-5pm first Sun of each month.

The Korean Yaewon Church: Sunday 10am-5pm (hall), 1.40pm-3pm (St Jude's Room).

Plus occasional use by...

Northcote Residents Association

Northcote/Birkenhead Boat Owners Association

St Thomas, Syrian Church.

Readings for the month

November 5 Ordinary 31

Reading: Joshua 3: 7-17

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13

Gospel: Matthew 23: 1-12

November 12 Ordinary 32

Reading: Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13

November 19 Ordinary 33

Reading: Judges 4: 1-7

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

November 26 Christ the King

Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

Epistle: Ephesians 1: 15-23

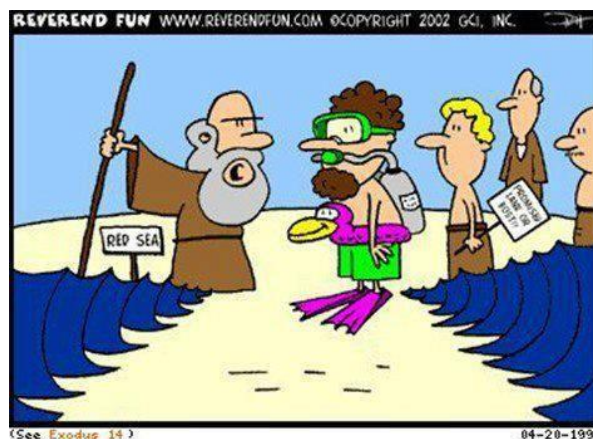
Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

December 3 Advent 1

Reading: Isaiah 64: 1-9

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Gospel: Mark 13: 24-37



I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS FAITH ISSUES

EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our Evening Women's Fellowship has its last meeting for this year on Tuesday the 14th November at 7pm.

Note the earlier time, please. We begin with a short communion service in the church then off to the St Jude's room for our Christmas party! Always fun! Please bring a SMALL plate of festive fare to share.



MEN'S SUPPERS IN NOVEMBER

The first gathering will be on Wednesday 8th November and we will meet at Mike Wilkins home, 28 Northgrove Pl, Northcote.

The second will be on Wednesday 22nd. November at Peter White's home, 14 Vincent Rd, Northcote Point.

We meet at 7.30pm and you can be on your way home by about 9pm. Depends whether you stay and *chat* longer over supper!

If you haven't been to our Men's Suppers, come along for a *good time*. We catch up, we tell stories, we chat about life, we read a Bible passage and we finish off with supper (just bring a plate of shareable supper).

Any questions or queries, phone Peter on 419 4380
Come and join us for a Men-Only night out!



UPCOMING RSCM AUCKLAND EVENTS

Annual Dinner

The RSCM Auckland Annual Dinner will be held:

- On Friday 24 November,
- In St Andrew's Church Hall, 100 St Andrew's Road, Epsom.
- Beginning 6:30pm.

The cost of this catered meal will be \$38 per head, BYO.

Please advise of your attendance by 18th November to Neil Shroff, nesushroff@xtra.co.nz. We hope to see you all there.

Your newsletter is prepared by Natalie. You can contact Natalie by emailing her at sjbanglican@gmail.com. The newsletter is published on the first Sunday of the month and the deadline for submissions is the previous Tuesday.

Contacts

Vicar:

Rev Stan Pilbrow 480 7568

Wardens

Vicar's Warden: Doug Dempster 418 1448

People's Warden: Pru Giles 489 1998

Pastoral Care:

Rev Vivienne Hill 441-4325

Synod Representatives

Rosemary Saunders 489 5830

Louise Collenette 441 3055

Fourth Sunday School

Karen Perrett 418 3715

Hall Hire

Richard Lewis 419 9026

Recorder

Wendy McPherson 473 3448

Women's Fellowship

Rosemary Saunders 489 5830

Men's Supper and Bible reading group

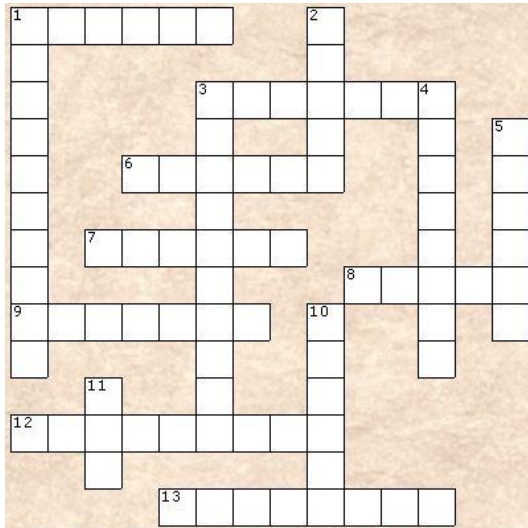
Peter White 419 4380

Catering Committee

Barbara McIlroy 418 4117

Office Admin, Newsletter and Website

Natalie Roffey 0226074376

CROSSWORD: THANKSGIVING**ACROSS**

- 1 Place of worship
3 Thanksgiving Day entertainment
6 Relatives
7 Favourite dish
8 Corn
9 Original guests
12 _____ sauce
13 Original hosts

DOWN

- 1 Horn of plenty
2 Potato topping
3 Favourite (American) dessert (2 words)
4 Dressing
5 Herbs
10 Blessing
11 American sweet potato

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD**(LOVE)****A BIT OF HUMOUR...**

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed between the pages.

'Momma, look what I found,' the boy called out.

'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: 'I think it's Adam's suit!'

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Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together during church services. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough.

'You're not supposed to talk out loud in church.'

'Why? Who's going to stop me?' Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, 'See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers.'

.....
A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

To fall in love with God
is the greatest of all
romances;
To seek him,
the greatest adventure;
To find him,
the greatest human
achievement.

- Raphael Simon

This Newsletter is sent to all email addresses as provided for the Parish Roll. If you do not wish to receive this communication by email please sjbanglican@gmail.com.