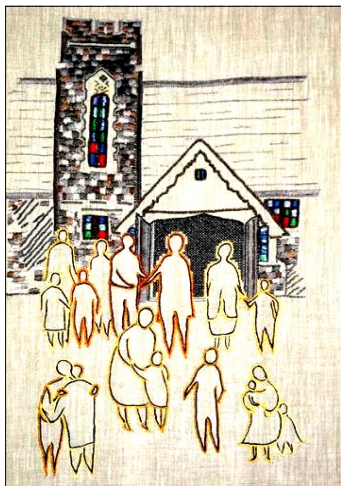


Cashmere Connection

Cashmere Presbyterian Church—linking with its community

Issue Number Eighty eight—Autumn 2017



From the Minister—The Burning Bush



What's with our logo? After our fires this week it seems like a good time to figure out why a bush on fire is the symbol for the Presbyterian church.

You'll remember the story—Moses was out with his sheep one day and he spotted a fire. He rushed to check it out, then realised that the bush was not blackening or burning out. The fire just stayed there and kept on burning. He came close and heard God speak to him out of the fire, and the conversation changed everything for Moses and for his people.

Our Presbyterian ancestors chose the image of the burning bush as the logo for our church, and with it the motto, "*Yet not consumed*" (Exodus 3:2). For them, this was a powerful statement that no matter what the church faced we would endure. Suffering, attack and hardship will not overcome us, we will yet burn with faith and love for our Lord.

Christians have also seen in the burning bush the dynamic presence of God, the coming of the Holy Spirit, a personal experience of holy power. At Pentecost the people appeared to be on fire, but not burned.

The word for bush in the Hebrew is 'thorn' (for us a gorse bush), which echoes the lostness of humanity (Genesis 3:18). Fire was an important means of purifying; so Christians have made connections between the thorn bush and the cross. Christ suffered and died ('was burned'), burning away our sins with him, but as the bush was not consumed, neither was Christ destroyed.

In the Orthodox tradition it is called the 'unburned bush'; the flame is God's uncreated energy, which sustains the universe, which Moses glimpsed through

the bush.

So much for symbolism and high theology—what have we in Cashmere learned about burning bushes this week? What does a burning bush actually look like?

Our images of the Moses story are mostly tame, a static single bush, able to be safely approached. This painting by UK artist Mark Wiggin is rare in expressing the wild power of actual fire, the utterly terrifying possibility of encountering the living God close-up.

If we imagine the burning bush as a bush-fire rather than a glowing pot-plant, then Moses's actions seem quite insane; walking towards the fire, taking his shoes off (not a good idea near fire!), staying close to the fire. How did we get the idea that faith was safe?

Being close to the fires will be an indelible memory for us. We are so grateful that we have come through with our families and homes intact, even as we mourn with those who did lose their homes, and with the family of Steve Askin. We grieve also for our precious forest that was burned, and the



© Burning Bush by Mark Wiggin
www.veritasse.co.uk

ongoing impact on our birds and wildlife. We are confronted with our own vulnerability, and how quickly things we treasure can be destroyed.

Our logo of the burning bush reminds us that suffering will come, burning is pain, but that God is with us through this. We know the sustaining, renewing power of God. It is not a 'nice' logo, but it is strong. As we change and grow as a church some things will be burned away and other things will endure. As Paul puts it, "*These three remain: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love.*"

Silvia



Communion Service: We extend an invitation to all to join us for the quarterly Communion Service on Sunday 5 March, and for Easter Communion on Sunday 16 April.



Dave Mattheson, President of the Rotary Club of Cashmere, with the defibrillator

Rotary donate Defibrillator

Thanks to the generosity of the Rotary Club of Cashmere, there is a new defibrillator (AED) installed in the foyer at the Cashmere Presbyterian Centre.

The AED was sourced from St John, who also provided a training session on it's use and basic CPR, which was attended by representatives from our congregation, Rotary, and other groups who regularly use the premises.

Whilst we do hope, of course, that we never have cause to use the defibrillator, we are very grateful to the Rotary Club of Cashmere for their generosity.

Fair

The decision has been made to *not* have a fair this year, as the commitments and energies of those who would have been involved are currently focused elsewhere. We will, however, be having various other social and fundraising events, so keep an eye out for details of these in due course.

Website

Thanks to the efforts of Catchlight Design Ltd, with photographs by Handmade Photography, our website has been updated. Please do check it out and let us know what you think!

www.cashmerechurch.org.nz

BRIDES @ CASHMERE

Gala Evening

Friday 7th April, 7-9pm

at the Cashmere Presbyterian Centre

- ✻ Fashion Show from *To Cherish* Bridal Boutique.
- ✻ Showcase of wedding suppliers
- ✻ Display of historical wedding gowns

Tickets \$30 pp

(light supper & welcome glass of wine included)



To book: phone (03) 332 7129; email: cashmere.church@xtra.co.nz

Evening Lenten Bible Study Group – 6 weeks

Would you like to participate in a small Bible Study group for six weeks during Lent? On Wednesday evenings, from 1st March to 5th April, from 7:30–8:45pm, Anne Shave will lead a group through a series of studies, based on the book of Acts, which have been written by a range of writers within the Anglican Church in Christchurch. The cost of the booklet is \$10.

Please phone Anne on 3397-300 or email shavea6@gmail.com if you are interested in attending, or if you would like to ask any questions. If you would like to attend, but would need a babysitter to make that possible, please let Anne know.

Risk: Through Lent with Acts (A study series published by Theology House, Christchurch)

1st March – Acts 4:1-22 Risking Standing up for Jesus

8th March – Acts 8: 26-40 Risking Following the Spirit's Lead

15th March – Acts 9:1-22 Risking Welcoming the Adversary

22nd March – Acts 15:1-21 Risking Debate in Order to Seek Reconciliation

29th March – Acts 17:22-34 Risking Rejection for the Sake of the Gospel

5th April – Acts 20:17-38 Risking the Present for the Sake of the Future

Time with God this Lent

A gift for you—a 'Journey with Psalms'. This is a personal study guide leading through the next seven weeks to Easter. It is an invitation to take time to read and to pray. Each week there is a Psalm to focus on, some other suggested readings that tie in, and questions to reflect on. There will be plenty of spare copies in the foyer of the church centre, so by all means take extras to give away.

For each study you are invited to read Silvia's poetic re-working of the Psalm, which is available online or in printed form at the church office.



Services for Easter

Thursday 13 April (Maundy Thursday)
7.30pm: Tenebrae service, with handwashing, at Cashmere Presbyterian Church

Friday 14 April (Good Friday)
10am: Service at St Augustines Anglican Church, with Procession of the Cross to follow.

Sunday 16 April (Easter Day)
10am: Holy Communion

Sunday Worship Programme March to May

Date	Time	Service	Focus Psalm for Lent
5 March	10am	Communion	Psalm 131
12 March	10am	Harvest Festival Family Service	Psalm 126
19 March	10am	Morning Worship, with Baptism	Psalm 2
	11.30am	Healing Service	
26 March	10am	Morning Worship (Preacher: Geoff King)	Psalm 121
2 April	10am	Morning Worship	Psalm 51
9 April	10am	Palm Sunday Family Service	Psalm 149
16 April	10am	Easter Communion	Psalm 18
	11.30am	Healing Service	
23 April	10am	Morning Worship (Preacher: Alistair Donaldson)	
30 April	10am	Morning Worship (Preacher: David Carmichael)	
7 May	10am	Morning Worship (Anne Shave & team)	
14 May	10am	Family Service (Preacher: David Coster)	
21 May	10am	Morning Worship (Preacher: Rev David Coster)	
	11.30am	Healing Service	
28 May	10am	Morning Worship (Preacher: Glenn Livingstone)	

Healing Service with Communion

Held at 11.30am on the 3rd Sunday of every month. All welcome.

HARVEST festival

Sunday 12 March Family Service

Bring produce or crafts for a display, especially anything you have grown or made.

There will also be a special collection for the Food Bank





Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

Kids Friendly Cashmere!

We are on the way to becoming a “Kids Friendly” church. Kids Friendly leads the Presbyterian Church children’s mission nationally. Over the past 12 years, local churches, have benefited from the resources and support provided.

Becoming ‘Kids Friendly’ here in Cashmere means reflecting on all that we do as a church in the light of how children experience it, and setting clear plans and goals to grow in mission to families in our community, and to build up the potential of the children we already know and love. National Coach Jill Kayser led us in our first ‘Self Review’ meeting on Tuesday 21st February, which generated lots of great suggestions and energy. A ‘dream team’ small group will continue to work through the year to consult the congregation and families and provide leadership for this excellent new initiative.

For more details on Kids Friendly, see www.kidsfriendly.org.nz

Proposed: a Family Worker

A key part of our Mission Plan is to grow our ministry with children and families here at Cashmere Church. We already do heaps with kids: the families who come for baptism, our preschool Music Group, our Family Services and special events at Christmas, our links with the wider community and through our local school and Parents Centre. We have so many opportunities to connect with families and to resource them in growing in faith. However, as the Kids Friendly review meeting identified, we are struggling to attract children and families to our Sunday morning worship, and Silvia just doesn’t have the time to do more with our families.

Parish Council decided last year to begin to explore employing someone to lead our family ministries. Two funding applications have been successful; we’ve been granted \$11,000! A small group is working, with Finance Committee and Parish Council, to bring to the congregation a detailed proposal, and to seek more funding. The biggest issue is that currently we just can’t afford it. The only way we can employ a Family Worker is if we, the congregation, are willing to invest in it (while continuing to support our current budget). Without your support we may have to return the grant funding unspent. It is a big challenge, with significant opportunities for growth and our future.

Silvia’s Big Trip

After Easter Rev Silvia Purdie will be heading overseas, combining a time of paid study leave with some holiday. She will be spending a week each in Italy, Israel and the UK.

Whilst in Israel she will be doing a course called “Introduction to Bible Lands” at St George’s College, Jerusalem.

At Kids Friendly Churches:

- ☺ Children are welcomed, celebrated and nurtured.
- ☺ Children belong and participate in the life and worship of the faith community.
- ☺ Children are encouraged to explore, learn and experience the love of Christ.
- ☺ Children are valued for the immense love and life they bring to the whole church family.
- ☺ Children create opportunity for people of all ages to learn from, respect and appreciate one another.

Kids Friendly Churches have:

- ✓ A Heart for Children
- ✓ Vision
- ✓ Kids Friendly Sundays
- ✓ Mission Culture
- ✓ Valued Children
- ✓ Valued Children’s Ministry Leaders
- ✓ A Safe and Healthy Environment
- ✓ A Partnership with Parents
- ✓ A Commitment to Self Review
- ✓ A Kids Friendly Minister

People Events

Weddings:

We congratulate and extend our best wishes to:
Ran Yoshida and Kazunori Kirayama (22 November)
Jessica Davenport and Reuben Marshall (3 December)
Annabel Ireton and Aaron Blyleven (10 December)
Hiroko Hirose and Masaki Hirose (30 December)
Rebecca Thomas and Arron Smith (5 January)
Sarah Rawson and Sean Kennedy (6 January)
Sapphire Craig and Shaun Switalla (7 January)
Anna McNab and Paul Lynch (14 January)
Lynda McAlister and Blair Hinman (3 February)
Sharlene Wenmoth and Steven Tullett (4 February)
Denise Clark and Peter Wade (11 February)
Yoshimi Kato and Motoki Yasui (17 February)
Erica Stark and Cameron Suddens (25 February)

Baptisms:

We welcome into the family of the church:
Henry Christopher Dy and Robert Fraser Dy,
 sons of Eric and Justine Dy (7 January)

Deaths:

We extend our sympathies to the families of:
Ian Hunter (2 January)
Carol Cree (9 January)

Community Barbecue

"What can we do??" I asked myself in the aftermath of the Cashmere fires. The obvious thing, it seemed to me, was a Community Barbecue. So with enthusiastic help from a wonderful team of folks in our church we hosted about 60 people for dinner on the evening of Sunday 19th February. A complete spread of ages came, as well as some from other churches, our neighbours and community leaders.

The best thing was the real sense of joy as people shared good food and talked. As one dear little lady said to me as she left, "It is so important to come together and support each other after all we've been through this week."

My prayer for the event was that it would be a taste of the Kingdom of God, just like Jesus talked about people gathering for a feast - and this prayer was indeed answered.

The Barbecue was a partnership with CREST (Cashmere Residents Emergency Support Team); thanks for the sausages, Rik!

Many thanks especially to Don McAra for painting a sign, and Rob and Margie Lambourn for the bouncy castle, which was a great hit with the young ones.

Silvia Purdie



A prayer in the time of fire (from Psalm 61)

**Hear our cry, O God!
You listen, you hear
the anguish of those whose homes are ash,
the loss of a good, good, brave man,
our tiredness, our stress,
our cry of fear.**

**Our hearts are faint, O God.
Lead us to the rock that is higher
than the flames.
You are our refuge,
the strong tower against our fears.
We crawl into your safety in the shelter
of your wings.**

**Your steadfast love and faithfulness
watches over us,
you have carried us through.**

**So we will praise your name,
and find courage and strength in you,
this day, and tomorrow,
and the day after that.**

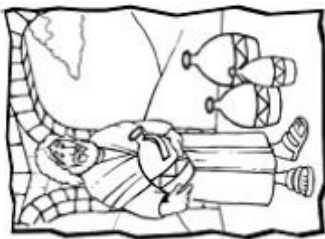
Cashmere Primary School Soiree

In November we hosted the Cashmere Primary School for their soiree—they were unable to use their own hall due to the building works that have been taking place there. It was great to see the children enjoying themselves, and to hear their talent as they performed!



The Back Page

for the young and young at heart



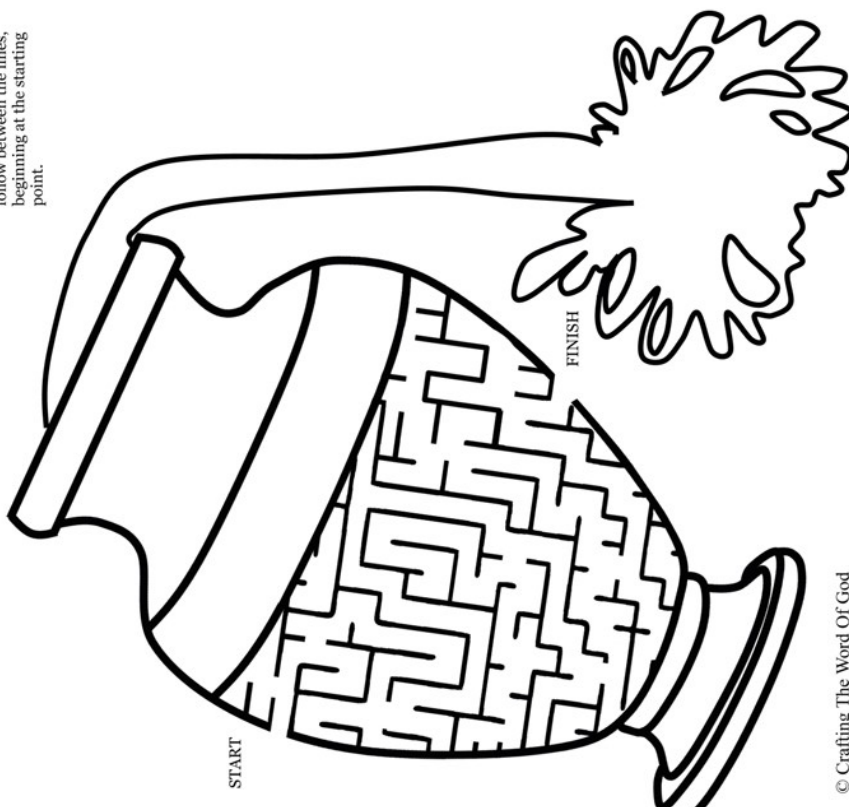
Jesus Turns Water Into Wine

"Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." John 2:10 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 2:1-11 (NIV).

WATER INTO WINE

With a crayon or pencil follow between the lines, beginning at the starting point.



X	W	T	N	A	J	A	R	S	X	Y	V	S	K	
U	E	K	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	K	L	E	U	D
H	D	L	A	S	T	M	O	I	F	A	L	S	K	Z
W	D	B	E	S	T	P	U	W	N	P	N	E	M	D
C	I	H	G	L	O	R	Y	A	I	G	R	V	M	
H	N	C	S	M	Y	C	C	I	L	L	V	T	A	
G	G	Z	W	A	X	I	S	S	T	Q	F	A	L	S
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L	H	O	W	E	D	H	A	A	J	I	T	I	E	
Q	V	S	W	D	M	V	B	T	C	A	T	S	L	R
X	A	K	A	M	H	O	A	K	A	U	H	N	L	D
S	D	B	T	Q	B	W	X	T	W	S	L	O	E	V
S	V	K	E	H	O	I	A	F	G	U	T	O	D	A
B	F	R	R	B	A	N	Q	U	E	T	P	E	U	Z
A	A	B	R	I	D	E	G	R	O	M	P	D	S	

Find these words:

wedding	tasted	servants	jars
Galilee	disciples	signs	Cana
wine	banquet	last	glory
Saved	best	filled	water
faith	bridegroom	master	miraculous

Minister:

Rev Silvia Purdie BA BTheol
Phone 027 242 1113

Parish Office:

Office Administrator: Gail Weaver
2 MacMillan Ave, Cashmere
Phone: 332-7129; fax: 332-7130
email: office@cashmerechurch.org.nz

website: www.cashmerechurch.org.nz

Your Visitor is:

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Phone.....