

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

June-July 2021

Our Mission in this Parish is to demonstrate the Love of God to all people, and by our actions and words to encourage them towards a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our faith stories: Faye Flegg

The last few years have been an emotional roller-coaster for Faye, but as she tells it, she highlights the times when heaven-sent, living, breathing 'angels' have come to help.

Born in Palmerston North, Faye McLeod's father was of Irish Catholic stock, and her mother was Methodist. "My father was cut off from his family when he married Mother," Faye says. She went to Sunday School at Trinity Methodist Church and from an early age Faye loved the organ music and the singing. "I remember the lovely old Sunday School hymns - Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, Jesus loves me, etc. When I questioned Mum about God, she would say, 'Faye, I am a woman of simple faith.' That's my faith too," Faye says, "simple but deep. I believe with my whole being. It is what keeps me grounded.



"I have always loved the 18th century classical composers. My aunt introduced me to them all, Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, and the great singers of the day, Caruso and Mario Lanza. I'll walk with God is a particular favourite. On Sunday afternoons we sang round the piano accompanied by my older sister Pam and my father, playing an old-fashioned swanee whistle. Not many people have heard of that instrument. "I loved to sing The Holy City. One day I'll sing it in church. I learned piano and ballet, and had singing lessons with Sister Mary in Palmerston North."

At school Faye learned shorthand/typing. She worked for 4 years with National Mutual Fire Insurance as their sole office person, before becoming P.A. to the Manager at Farm Products Manawatu, with lots of privileges, and the use of the company vehicle.

Faye loved it until the job changed. Then an opportunity opened up in Whanganui. "I was guided there for a purpose," Faye says. She boarded with a family who were involved with the Four Seasons Theatre, and through mutual interests Faye met the love of her life, Brian Flegg. She was 24. He was a lonely 34-yr-old farmer. They shared interests in music and

theatre. After 3 months in Whanganui, they got engaged, then married and settled back in Palmerston North.

In 1974, Faye and Brian co-founded the Centrepont Professional Theatre and restaurant with a small group of Arts enthusiasts. "They were exciting days, doing groundwork, researching and door-knocking to gauge local support for a professional theatre. We got QE II Arts Council funding, and that theatre is still going today. We were both very proud of that and I am proud to say Centrepont Theatre is the only provincial professional theatre still going today."

Brian and Faye moved to Mt Eden, where their son Daniel was born. "We weren't connected with any church then, but Brian was a very spiritual person. He was a hobby artist and took pleasure in all of nature. I know he shared my awareness of a caring Creative Intellect." Faye has very happy memories of a family trip to Brian's home in the UK, and of cruising down the Rhine with Brian in 2016. Memories that have carried her through the hard times. She took up a career in Real Estate in Auckland, and was a successful salesperson "for 25 stressful years." "I worked all hours, sometimes into the night with people of different cultures on the phone to relatives across the world. Brian was my rock."

Friends had a holiday home in Matarangi and the Fleggs were often invited to stay over Christmas for house parties with friends. They got to know the area and loved it. Nine years ago Faye and Brian sold in Mt Eden and bought a house at Matarangi. "We knew no-one locally, but we both felt it was meant to be. I'm sure we were guided to that house." Four months later however, disaster struck. On a visit to Auckland Brian, aged 74 had a serious fall – a two-metre drop onto concrete. "I am sure that fall triggered his later decline into dementia." Shortly afterwards, Brian was diagnosed with prostate cancer which eventually metastasised and they were given the very bad news that nothing more could be done for him. "On the 19th December 2017 we had a fabulous trip to Brian's sister Sue on Waiheke Island. The Christmas decorations were up, it was a beautiful day. We sat down to dinner, and then began the worst 30 hours of my life. "Brian suffered a stroke and at 3 am we were helicoptered to hospital, where he spent the next five days. I thought I had lost him then, but he rallied. After that, there were times when I thought it would have been kinder for him to have died.

"I wasn't allowed to take Brian home to Matarangi, and that was desperately sad. After a frantic search round some really horrible places, a place finally opened up for him in Edenvale Home, Mt Eden. It was an answer to prayer, absolutely the best place for him, so much like our own home – but it wasn't his home." Faye felt very alone. Their son Daniel, a pharmaceutical brand manager disagreed over Brian's care, adding to Faye's stress. She had to quickly find a place to live near to Brian and it is here that the 'angels' came to help her. First, Matarangi friends offered their house in Papatoetoe. It was a long way from Mt Eden, but it was

Faye's to use. Edenvale Home was run by the Open Brethren. Faye took Brian to the services on Fridays and Sundays and the pianist recognised Faye from her Real Estate days. She contacted her friends who were Pastors.

"These angels met me the next day and offered me accommodation in their home close to Edenvale. They were so kind, they really were angels." Brian had a couple more little strokes and his dementia got steadily worse. "One day he climbed over a wall and was found by the police. It was terribly distressing. I spent every day with him from 9 – 3pm, as he gradually lost strength. One Thursday I got a call that Brian was failing. Those last days at his bedside were shared with his sister Sue. I had written a Eulogy and Sue asked me to read it. For the funeral, Sue had chosen Brian's favourite poem, Wordsworth's Daffodils. Before she read the word, Brian said it – 'daffodils'. That was his last word. He died on Sunday with me and my new angel-friend Kerianne at his side. I sang the Lord's Prayer and 23rd Psalm, and released him to God and to Jesus. I had talked with Brian about Heaven. I know it's real, and I know he is there now.

"I had to organise his funeral and again our son didn't agree with my choices. It was on the Thursday before Easter 2018. Easter – a time of hope. My sister-in-law had her partner, my son had his wife, but I felt so alone." All alone after the funeral, Faye went immediately to pack up from the Papatoetoe house. The suitcase was too heavy for her to lift into the boot. She called to a young Indian couple to help her. "They were so kind. It reminded me that in fact, I was never alone. The Lord knows what you have need of..."

I was in a bad way for the next four months. Then I began to remember the good times – especially the river cruise, where we were so happy and so well looked after. I decided to take a cruise on the Danube. There were only two berths left on the boat, leaving from Bucharest. It was the first time I had travelled alone, but again, in the airport I met two more 'angels' who were on the same cruise and offered their friendship! The cruise was peaceful and very therapeutic, and we are friends to this day."

Back home, Faye decided to join with a church. "I knew for certain that God had been with me through the terribly hard times, and I knew that I needed to belong to a faith community. I had looked at the church from across the road at the Doctor's. I liked the church but I had no idea what a Co-operating Parish was! I came to St Andrew's all alone. I found I already knew Nicole and Elizabeth and I knew immediately that I had come home."

Faye's faith story is far from finished. She is a member of the Community Choir (naturally) and has joined a book club in Matarangi. Life is beginning to be an exciting adventure again. "I walk on the beach most days, I see the beauty of nature in this place. I have made lovely new friends at St Andrew's and I know I am truly blessed."

Church maintenance

Parish Council is currently seeking quotes to paint the exterior of the church and lounge. 120-yr-old window frames have already been repaired, new wood inserted to address rot, gaps filled and all made ready for painting. It will be an expensive exercise, but necessary. Watch this space!

Op-Shop AGM

At the Church Op-Shop Annual Meeting held on May 17th, two new committee members were elected: Carol Pringle and Marilyn Allen. Thank you, Ladies!



The Op-Shop continues to support not only St Andrew's, but many other churches and community groups around the Bay. Five teams of volunteers (around 30 altogether) keep the shop open every morning from Tuesday to Saturday. The shop is often inundated with donated goods, which volunteers work hard to sort. Madeleine Saunders is our Manager, making sure there are enough people on duty each day. Some days, numbers are low, especially on Fridays and Saturdays. If you know of anyone who might like to volunteer, please call into the shop for information.

Out of the mouths of babes....

Some years ago Jan Bates took her two grandchildren, aged 6 and 8, to church. There was a celebration of Pentecost, a birthday cake and the children were given balloons. At home they told their auntie the balloons were for 'compost day.' There's a sermon in there! Pentecost – the Birthday of the Church - the day when the Holy Spirit came into the world to breathe new life and growth into every Christian life!

Church and Parish Donations: Mercury Bay Co-operating Parish
BNZ Whitianga: **02 0496 0062562 00**

Monday Meals Donations: Mercury Bay Community Support Trust
Westpac Whitianga: **03 1578 0108901 00**

Two letters from recently re-located Friends : Pat and Alistair

Greetings St Andrews!

It has been two months since we moved from Boat Harbour Road to 52 Sare Cres Fairfield Hamilton. We are finally feeling settling down to a new lifestyle in our little granny flat. After 30 years of living the country lifestyle on the farm in Whenuakite the whole experience was quite traumatic. We knew it would not be easy but we also knew that it had to happen. Our family were marvellous helping in so many ways: preparing the farm for sale, sorting through 30 years of treasures, organising sales through Buy Sell and Swap and Trade Me, transporting trailer loads of rubbish to the dump, preparing the property for open home viewing, and finally packing our treasures into a hired furniture van and heading for Hamilton. We are still in the throes of arranging things the way we would like them, continuing to weed out things that we thought we needed, and searching for "lost" items amongst the boxes yet to be unpacked.

We are slowly finding that Hamilton is not the place to stay away from. It does have its good points. There is more variety in shopping, cinemas, and dining out places. The Medical Centre is just around the corner. We look out onto a huge park with access through the back gate, the church we have chosen is within walking distance, and the many walks along the banks of the Waikato are only a couple of kms away. Navigating around the city was a bit scary to start with but we are gaining confidence especially with help of Google maps and my daughter who is an excellent driver. We decided to try "Discovery" Church with our daughter and son-in-law Jo and Ross. Nominally a Presby church, but as with many churches these days they decided a name change would be a good idea. With a wider range of cultural groups than St Andrews and in the quest for new members it was felt the label "Presbyterian" was too old fashioned. We were warmly welcomed and felt at home among the grey haired members. There are a few teenagers, some younger families with children and this is very refreshing. We enjoy the style of worship which is not too different from what we have been used to. The message is shared by different people each time we attend and this seems to be the pattern. The music is led by an older couple with guitar, young guy on base guitar with a mixture of traditional and modern songs. There appear to be many groups in operation and a very strong community outreach. Altogether Pat and I will be happy here I'm sure, especially since 3 of our family are closer. (1 onsite, 1 just

around the corner and 1 in Tokoroa). If you are in the area and have an hour to spare please call in for a cuppa and a catchup. We look forward to returning to Whitianga occasionally.
God Bless you all.

Alistair and Pat

.....and from John and Robin

Since leaving the Coromandel in mid-March, it seems our feet have hardly touched the ground.

While our base is with family in Auckland, we've probably spent more time elsewhere. Warkworth with John's youngest brother and his wife, driving them to and from North Shore Hosp for on-going treatment.

We had a week at Piha, at a friend's bach. While the weather was not the best, it was nice to sit, relax and look out at those huge waves near Lion Rock.

We went go back to Annie's place in Purangi, in early May for doctors' appointments, and a game of golf for John.

The following week we helped our daughter Anna and family in Hamilton, clean up their house in preparation for shifting on the 15th.

That same day we flew to Invercargill for John's "Sibling's Celebration." With all getting older, (7 between 69 and 86 years of age) a decision was made to get together for what could well be the last time.

Lots of laughs and tears, this made the occasion well worthwhile.

We're both worshipping at Manurewa Baptist, (our son is Pastor there) and enjoying our time.

In relation to our new plans after buying a section in Waihi township, we are waiting for an architect to put plans together. It is likely that work itself won't start until Spring.

Patience we understand is a virtue!!

Our love to all.

John and Robin

Funeral:

Pauline Simpson – May 10th at St Andrew's.

Rev Mary Petersen officiating.



Sunday Worship @ St Andrew's

9:30 every Sunday

Families with children are warmly welcomed. Quiet toys are provided in Church for the little ones, and Bible-based activities for older children

Worship Schedule:

June	6th	Rev Peter Chaffin - Communion
	13th	Kevin Pringle
	20th	Pastors Jim & Tonia Butler
	27th	Pastors Jim & Tonia Butler
July	4th	Rev David Rolinson - Communion
	11th	Rev David Rolinson
	18th	Dorothy Preece
	25th	Ladies' Bible Study Group



Our visiting preachers

Here at St Andrew's we are truly blessed with a group of good friends who voluntarily come to lead our Sunday worship from time to time.

On June 20th and 27th **Pastors Jim and Tonia Butler**, friends of Christine and David Christie will take our services for the first time. They live in Tauranga, and have a holiday home in Tairua, so are in the area regularly.

Tonia runs the 'Beauty for Ashes' ministry to women. We look forward to meeting them.

Rev Russell Grainer, a friend of the Wharton family, conducted our Communion service on May 2nd. He spoke on the Gospel account of four friends who brought a paralysed man to Jesus. Unable to get through the crowd, Russell said, "they had the audacity to remove the roof of somebody's house!" Mark's account of the story (chapter 2) says, "*Jesus went home to Capernaum, and the news spread that He was home.*"

Russell reminded us that Jesus' closest friends and family would have been first in the house, crowding around Jesus, so the visitors who needed to see Him were forced to break through the roof. Could it be that *those closest to Jesus, the ones who knew Him and loved Him best* were, albeit unconsciously, blocking the way of those who really needed healing? Are we sometimes so engrossed in our church ways, that we make it hard for others to approach?

Parish and Community Information

Community Groups:

- Monday **Upright & Active** 9am weekly exercise for active seniors
Contact Carol 867 1097
Community meals takeaway only, every Monday 3:30-5pm
Contact Maureen 027 246 6164 (*Tuesday after Easter Monday*)
- Tuesday **Sit and be Fit** 10am weekly for the less active
Contact Viv 869 5295
Stitch n' Chat fortnightly 1:30-4pm in the Hamilton Room
Contact Julie 021 169 1637
- Wednesday **Ladies' Bible Study** 10am weekly
Contact Julie 021 169 1637
Inter-Church Women's Fellowship Monthly.
Contact Annie 866 3711
Scrapbags quilting group 10am weekly.
Contact Robin 866 5029
Parkinsons Support 6-weekly.
For dates and times contact Keith 027 459 8683
- Thursday **Enliven** (Presbyterian Support for the Elderly) weekly
Contact Jenny 866 0556
- Friday **Cancer Support Coffee Morning** First Friday of each month.
Contact Ruth 021 363 840
AA Driver Licensing Second Friday of each month.
(11 June, 9 July). No bookings allowed.

***THE CHURCH OP SHOP is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9am-1pm
Supporting local churches and many non-profit community groups
Manager: Madeleine Saunders 866 0169***

St Andrew's service 9:30 every Sunday

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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