

# — KNOX PARISH —

Newsletter December 2024

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Bev Seales message from our Birthday Celebration Service. 17 November 2024

Good morning.

I'm Bev Seales and I go back over eighty years to Sunday School days at Kiwitahi. Peter Cameron and Harry Davison, both here today, were also part of this. The first Presbyterian Church on this site was built for just 284 pounds and dedicated in November 1910. The local committee included Charles Cameron, Peter's grandfather and Harry Seales, my father-in-law, with William Howie, DRF Campbell, James Bell and T. Reid.

Twenty years later the Church was blown off its piles and repairs were necessary by Mr V>A> Jack, an uncle of Bruce Jack, who was our builder some 50 plus years later.

The photos on the wall in the passageway show seventeen Ministers over the years. Rev. Currie I well remember, as my little brother was always keen to attend the services at Kiwitahi to see 'Mrs Currie's mad hats'. I note that in the Centennial book by Rev. McLeay he mentions Mrs Currie's love for remarkable hats, so it wasn't just the children who were intrigued by this fashion apparel.

During Rev. Currie's time dancing was introduced into the Church social life, but only three dances were permitted per evening.

Rev. Wilkinson followed and was here for some 11 years.

When he came to Morrinsville he boarded for some time with Ray's family. He officiated at the weddings of all four of us Watson sisters, Ray's three sisters were also all married in the Church, in the early 1950s.

Our three daughters, having had such great times at both Sunday School and Youth Group, all chose to return to Morrinsville and their home Church to be married, each being married by the Pastor of the Church they were part of at that time. Our daughter Heather and Graeme's wedding was the first in this Church.

Campbell Hall was built over what had once been the horse paddock and dedicated in February 1958. What a blessing this has been for over sixty years, for both Church and community groups. All who enter can clearly see the texts on the wall, and know it is a special place. It has been recently earthquake strengthened and reroofed and should last for many more years.

During the early 1980s consideration was given on how to move forward. Our Church building was deteriorating, and a decision was made to rebuild. Harry Davison was the driving force, and his enthusiasm was contagious. The estimated cost was \$350,000. And work could start when two thirds of this was raised. The existing Church was moved to allow the new building to be joined to Campbell Hall, sadly however meaning we lost our tennis court, and Construction began in February 1984. Bruce Jack, local builder and Church member, with two apprentices, one his son Roger, were engaged, at very reduced cost to the Church, and George Matchet organised 3 to 6 volunteers from the Parish to assist each day. Bruce soon found that these volunteers, mostly farmers, possessed many useful skills. The Church ladies provided delicious morning and afternoon teas, and we were underway. Tractors, trucks and other equipment were made available.

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*From pervious page*

Our local tradesmen and business community got behind this venture with generous discounts. I will quote what was written about the build on the Church booklet. 'With Harry at the helm and George behind the whip they lifted, carried, cut, banged, dug, scaped, painted, climbed, wobbled, raised, lowered, nailed, joined, cleaned, washed, scrubbed, polished, vacuumed, dusted and spun yarns until at last the task was done.

We were told that Rev. McRae fell in a hoe, and Roger the apprentice fell through the ceiling, but OSH weren't present, and the Church was build, opened on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1984. About \$100,000 was saved by all this assistance.

### **Parish Mission Statement**

To grow in Christ and make Him known  
To enable people to learn through God's  
Word and our actions and so develop a  
Christ-centred community.

*Christ Centred  
Word Based – Mission Minded – Spirit  
Led*

The opening was very moving with the Sunday service beginning in the Old Church, then a piper led the congregation across to the new Church for dedication. We were debt free, with furnishings, carpets etc all in place. Then the old Church was demolished by the Kereone Rugby Club members.

It is a sad fact of our times that Church attendance has declined over the years, with seven-day shopping and sports on both weekend days. My memories go back to the time when Vince Ashworth, Wyn Allison, John Stewart, Colin Young, Rex Clark, David Robins and many others, lovingly nurtured so many young folk in the Christian faith, and we are forever grateful to them and son many others who laid the foundation for the younger generation.

I also mention these special people who each left a lasting memory for me – Ceclia Gilmore, Klass and Adrana Kloeten, Jean Reid and Nancy Macfarlane.

Today a smaller group fill many roles, our Session and managers are much appreciated. Bible Study group and Prayer Chain are still active, our music group continue to lead us each week, morning teas following Sunday services are a great time of fellowship, Knox Café hosts any who call in for a cuppa and chat, Fill-a-bun monthly lunches are enjoyed, we provide catering for funerals, volunteers assist in Everybody's shop, our Fair is a highlight and we have members who undertake all manner of tasks from gardening and rubbish removal and flower arranging to painting car park lines, clerical work, visiting and various tasks as they arise.

We continue to give financial and prayer support to overseas and local missions, our local food bank, community House and other community causes.

It is my hope and prayer that the presbyterian Church in Morrinsville will continue to serve the people of this community long into the foreseeable future.

### **Christmas Celebrations**

A BIG Christmas tree will be erected next to  
St Matthew's the weekend of Nov 15, 16 and Sunday  
17th.  
A possible outdoor carols +@7:30pm

## Church Vision

*Our vision is to be a people with our hope firmly established in God, our souls firmly anchored to God; to be ready to hear from God and to carry out all He has planned for us, and to be the works that Christ did in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

The Town Christmas parade is on Sat 14 December. The Baptists will have their large float again. Other churches are welcome to put floats on or join the Baptists. Entries by Monday 25 Nov.

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Some of our congregation have put together a Christmas display in the foyer. It will be able to be used by the community as a photo opportunity of the Christmas manger scene.

## December Services

01 Rev. Clive Tompson  
08 Rev. Joe Beattie - Communion  
15 Tom Bougher  
22 Elders Carol Service  
25 Christmas Day – Baptist preacher – 9:30 start time  
29 No service

## December Duties

### Morning Tea Roster

01 Felicity Wilson & Fatima Lock  
08 Rena Bill & Vicki Smith  
15 Glenys Middlemiss & ?  
22 Joe & Frances Beattie

### Door Duty Roster

01 David & Dyan Robins  
08 & 15 Joe & Frances Beattie  
22 Jennifer Bills & Rena Bill

### Church Cleaning

08 Clare & David Walters

### Flower Roster

01 & 08 Lorraine Candy  
15 & 22 ???

**Duty Elder** Joe Beattie

## NOTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Session** meets on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December @ 3pm in the Church foyer for a Pot Luck Afternoon Tea

### Session News

**City to city** — David Rietveld from Wollongong Australia, who will be visiting us the weekend of **14 – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025** and he would love to meet as many of you as possible. David will be wanting to meet with the leadership teams on the Friday evening and Saturday, as well as join us for church on Sunday. **Thank You** to all who have already filled out the congregation questionnaire. If you haven't as yet, please do it as soon as you can. The elders are happy to anyone with filling out the questionnaire if needed.

If you feel God is inspiring and leading you to give a testimony during a Service, please contact one of the elders to organise it.

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**The Board of Managers** meets on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December @7pm. Meeting at Martins place.

### Board of Managers News

- Exterior painting – the ablutions block is still to be done
- lines on car park – the lines on the car park have not been completed
- Kitchen – the steriliser has now been installed and was put to good use at our anniversary lunch. The old bench has been removed and will be replaced by a new stainless steel one. One of our kafe@knox

## CONTACTS



Church office 889 7997

Please leave a message.



admin@knoxmorrinsville.org.nz

### Parish Clerk

Glenys Middlemiss



mob 027 453 3956



Tuesday Home Group

Jennifer Bills 889 4199

## Finances

If you would like to go on the envelope system for offerings, please contact Glenys. She will give you a number and you can use that for online giving, or envelopes for this purpose.

You are welcome to make online payments.

### General Account

01-0367-0007970-00 (use this for normal church offerings)

### Mission Account

01-0367-0007970-01 (use this for mission giving)

Building Fund Account 01-0367-0007970-050 (for donations towards Building projects)

## PARISH FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/KnoxMorrinsville/>

Website:

<http://www.knoxmorrinsville.org.nz/index.htm?d=50217>

regulars has offered to give us a price to replace the board around the sinks. The upgrading of the kitchen is an expensive undertaking, and although there is no pressure, all donations towards this would be greatly appreciated and can be deposited through internet banking (account # 01-0367-0007970-050). please use your name as a reference and “kitchen” in the particulars column. donations can also be placed in the collection box in an envelope marked “kitchen”. All donations are tax deductible. if you do not have an account set up for internet banking for the church and wish to do so, please note that the name of church bank account is **Morrinsville Presbyterian Church.**

- Anniversary lunch – this was a great day enjoyed by all who attended. A big thank you to the catering team – Helen Little, Clare Walters, Bev Seales, Gwen Weightman and Frances Beattie for a wonderful spread.

The flowers in the church and foyer were a delight – thank you Clare and Elaine.

- Quotations are being sought for the repointing of the tiled roof of the church and foyer.

## Mission Group News

### Bible Study Group

Mets at Jennifer's place on Tuesday mornings 10:15am. No meeting during the school holidays.

## Knox Kafe

This is held each fourth Thursday of the month at 10am in the church foyer. Please think about who of your friends, family or neighbours you would like to invite for a cuppa.

### Personal and Property Safety

We would like to remind people to keep a close eye on your valuables while in church.

There have been recent thefts from churches during Sunday services. Unfortunately there are some in society that do not respect others and their property.

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Advent leads to



Christ's Birth



### Everybody's Op Shop

The Annual Morning Tea for volunteers was held on Thursday 21 November. and 9 of our OP Shop volunteers attended. This is a small token of appreciation of all those who willingly give of their time to help. Our last stint for this year is the first week in December. This year we have given donations to Kids in Need, Rushton Road Kindy, Foodbank, a family whose two sons have Tourettes Syndrome, Budgeting Services, Community Patrol, Health Shuttle, and Community House. Thank you to all who at Knox who have contributed.

If you would like to be added to this roster, please phone Frances 07 888 7177

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### Prayer Chain

We have an e-mail prayer chain outreach for intercessory prayer.

If you would like to have a prayer included, please contact Jackie Cantley, via email [jacall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jacall@xtra.co.nz), Please include "prayer request" in the subject line. If the prayer is urgent, please indicate "Urgent prayer request". Or ring me on 027 227 5012. If I am unavailable to answer the call please send a text outlining prayer request, & your contact name & number'.

You may also like to become an e-mail intercessor, if so, please contact Jackie.

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