
News & Views



The Auckland Unitarian Church

DECEMBER 2011 & JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES.

- Sunday Services begin at 10 am **EXCEPT for the Christmas Eve Service, which begins at 8p.m.**
- Religious education is provided for school-age children during the service
- We have a toddler play space where parents can listen to the service

4 December: Service Leader: Mary Mason. This special service is presented by the children of our congregation.

11 December: Rev Clay Nelson: 'The curse of being progressive'. Our guest speaker from St Matthews in the City, is a former UU minister.

18 December: There is no service today, we will open the church at 10 a.m. to decorate it, and for the choir to practice songs for the Christmas Eve service. Please join us to sing or decorate.

SATURDAY 24 December: 8 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. All welcome, please invite friends & families. The service is followed by supper, please bring food to share.

No service on Christmas Day, 25th December.

The church will be opened each Sunday in January, at 10 a.m., for informal services/discussion groups. The first will be led by Willem Laman-Trip, on 1 January. Others will be led by Sally Mabelle and Lini Nyenkamp.

6 February: Water Service. This is a "Welcome back" service. Please bring a small container with water from somewhere you went on holiday, or that has some significance for you.

We wish everyone a peaceful, safe and joyful summer, and look forward to seeing you again next year.

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Management Committee News

We have all enjoyed our all-too-brief time with Rev. Bill Darlison and Morag. Bill's sermons have been outstanding, offering spiritual sustenance, intellectual stimulation, and deep reflection laced with Bill's delicious English sense of humour. We shall miss them both. Bill has been particularly supportive of the MC, offering advice, wisdom and wonderful words of praise for the organisational structure of our church. Well done everyone. Bill especially mentioned how lucky we are to have the incomparable Betsy at our helm. We *know* we are Bill.

We were delighted to receive an update from David Ford of the Royal University of Phnom Penh on their new chemistry lab that so many of our members contributed to

as part of our social justice outreach project. One interesting item concerns the theses topics of some of their post graduates students on the use of pesticides by the local farmers. Do read about it on the Notice Board.

The management committee has been acutely aware that our congregation for a long time did not have any one person who had accepted responsibility for pastoral care of our members. Many of us do contact people when they are unwell, or if they are experiencing a difficult time in their lives, or if we have not seen them at the church for some time. But often we are unaware of the difficulties people are experiencing. Thankfully Donna Miers is willing to take on this position. In the coming months she and Lini Nyenkamp will be developing this group. If you are interested in being part of a group, please contact Donna or send an email to Auckland@unitarian.org.nz. Being a lay led congregation gives us all a wonderful opportunity to offer our particular strengths for the benefit of us all.

Our Treasurer, Brenda Bendall, with her usual dedication and thoroughness presented an update on the Financial Structure and Reporting of our church at our recent November meeting. The key points regarding our status as a charitable trust and a registered charity including our obligations as a registered charity are included below.

Structure:

The Unitarian Church of Auckland Trust Board, also known as the Auckland Unitarian Church is both:

- a registered Charitable Trust - # 463019 with the Companies Office (Ministry of Economic Development), and
- a Registered Charity - THE23802 (registered charitable entity) with the

Charities Commission (soon to be part of the Department of Internal Affairs).

Charitable Trust status means the Church's Trust Board is a legal entity in its own right. Obligations as a Charitable Trust are that all changes to the Deed or Rules must be lodged with the Companies Office. Rules are not legally binding until these changes have been registered. Annual returns, or changes to Trustees are not required.

Registered Charity status helps to maintain confidence to the public in the charitable sectors. There are links to the IRD, and the Church has a tax exempt status. Donations are tax deductible.

Obligations as a Registered Charity require an Annual Return to be submitted in September each year. The return includes the Financial Report; changes to Trustees, and changes to the Deed or Rules (only after they have been lodged with the Companies Office first).

Our sincere thanks to Brenda for following up on this vital information.

Finally, this is our last newsletter for the year. On behalf of the MC, we wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Warm regards,
Shirin Caldwell for the Management Committee.



From the Sunday Services/ Worship Committee

We farewelled our visiting minister, Rev Bill Darlison and his wife Morag on Sunday 27th November. Although it was very sad for us that they were leaving, it was wonderful to see the church so full. Bill gave an inspiring and rousing sermon to over fifty adults; there were also thirteen children downstairs with Ander, Orion and Mary Mason.

Karn is finalising the Christmas Eve service during the first week of December, please contact her if you want to take part in the readings or music. There won't be a service on Christmas Day, then from New Year's Day through to January 30th, the church will be opened at 10a.m. for less formal service. Leaders will include Willem, Lini and Sally, and if anyone else would like to volunteer please contact Karn or Sally.

The first formal service for 2012 will be the first Sunday in February, the 5th. This will be a "Welcome back" service, and will include a water ritual. Please bring a small amount of water from somewhere you went during your holidays (or some water that represents a dream of where you wish you had been). This service will be followed by our traditional pot-luck lunch at Christine Whelan's house – more details later.

During January, Karn and Sally will be contacting voting members for an informal survey – we need to know how you felt about our trial of 5 p.m. services at the end

of the month, before deciding whether to continue them next year.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season,
Karn & Sally - Sunday Services Committee



Child Religious Education Programme Update

By Ander Alrutz-Stierna

Hello Everyone! In R.E. this past month, we finished the "Windows and Mirrors" Section of the Tapestry of Faith Curriculum. What a fantastic year. The Children Service is a review of what we have done this year and a way of sharing the talent and growth of our youth. I hope you got a chance to see the children led service. I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

Social Activities

By Willem Laman-Trip



(November walk)

DECEMBER WALK- SUNDAY DEC 18 2PM- WAITAKERE PIHA

The Kitekite Waterfall & Bush walk - With refreshment after at the PIHA Surf club. A great walk in the bush along a stream and onto the waterfall. Duration 1 hour walk or 2 hours for the longer walkers. Meet afterward at the PIHA surf club for holiday drink/ food with stunning ocean/surfing views. Bring along - snacks- a friend and yourself.

Meet at 2pm at end of Glen Est Road – at entrance to walk.

For carpooling meet at Byzantium lunch no later than 12.30.



(November walk)

JANUARY WALK- SUNDAY JAN 15 2PM- OKURA BUSH WALKWAY

Meet at 2pm at end of Deep Creek Road. For carpooling meet at Byzantium lunch no later than 12.30.

Another lovely walk along Okura River and through bush.

Bring along sun block- snacks- a friend and yourself.



(November Walk)

FEBRUARY WALK- SUNDAY FEB 19 WAITAKERE TRAIN RIDE

Great Family event with a train ride through bush, tunnels with glow worms and onto the Dam. We hired this train 2 years ago and will do it again, as all enjoyed the experience.

Cost:

Preschoolers- Free

Child 5 to 15 - \$ 5

Adult - \$15

Tram leaves at 2.30 pm.

Early booking is essential as limited places only (about 20)- RSVP on Meetup or send an email to Willem.



(Lunch Bunch)

LUNCH BUNCH- TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER & 10 JANUARY - noon

Join us for Lunch Bunch at Mozaik in December and January. Plenty of parking around back and a great menu which we tried last month.

<http://www.mozaik.co.nz/Grafton.aspx> 8 Nugent Street, just off of Khyber Pass in Grafton. Meet at noon on Tuesday the 22nd of November. The café is located between Khyber Pass and Boston Rd. Hope to see you there. Also remember if you have a restaurant you would like lunch bunch to try, please send suggestions to Dawn Elvidge or Auckland@unitarian.org.nz!



BYZANTIUM LUNCH after each Sunday Morning Service

Join us at The Byzantium (80 Ponsonby rd) after each Sunday morning services for lunch, to reflect on the service and to enjoy good company. Please check the church calendar for possible relocation due to special events or pot lucks. This lunch is cancelled when the church has evening service. Hope to see you there.

SAVE THE DATES!

Summer Camp will be 3-5 March 2012.

Ski weekend will be the 14th-16th September 2012.

CIRCLE GROUPS

Would you like to join a Circle Group? We are looking for a few new participants in our current group. Circle Groups are small groups, whose main objectives are to strengthen our congregation by drawing us into mutual ministry.

To join or to find out more please contact Shirin Caldwell



(November Walk)



SERVICE AUCTION WRAP-UP

The church's 29th October Service Auction was a great success. Not only was the evening entertaining and enjoyable, we also raised a lot of money for the church.

More than \$4,500 was raised thanks to the generous events, items and services offered up by church members. The next several months will be full of dinners, lessons, camping, boat rides, gardening and much much more! These activities promise to be a good way for church members and friends to continue strengthening our church community both socially and financially.



Thanks to everyone who donated items or services to the auction. Together, we raised a tremendous amount of money in one

night! Thanks also to everyone who helped out on the day, be it by helping with set-up or clean-up or making a dessert. A special thank-you to Karn and Paul Cleary for preparing the delicious dinner and to the youth and children of the church for being our servers. It was great to have Tony Gilbert back as our very entertaining MC and auctioneer. Thank you, Tony.



Wishing everyone a lovely summer full of auction items.
Mary Mason





Music Committee

By Eric Stierna

Our choir's main purpose is to have fun while gathering together to experience the joy of singing and learning from each other about music. Everyone is welcome – including those that don't read music. People learn to sing a song by listening to a tune – join the choir, listen, hum the tune, sing with us, feel the energy that music unleashes inside your body and mind!

Choir practice starts **at 0900 hours each Sunday** except the last, when practice starts at 1600 hours. See you there!

In the new year I will be providing a monthly list of hymns that cover each service for the upcoming month. It will also include any additional choir or musical performances. If there are songs or hymns you'd like included as part of a service please drop me an email with the song name and/or hymn number at least two weeks prior to your service and I will do my best to incorporate the suggestion. If you don't have my details just send an email to Auckland@unitarian.org.nz

Below is a link to the list of hymns our musical team knows or is working to learn. Please email any additions and I will include them in the list.

Link: <http://db.tt/b0pEBkT>



Church Notices

FROM THE TREASURER GST Claims for Church Expenditure

Now that we are GST registered and are required to pay GST on all our income other than donations and bank interest; we can also claim GST on our Church Expenditure. To enable us to do this, we need to make sure our expenditure is recorded in the appropriate manner. The following information was obtained from the IRD:

- GST can be claimed on Tax Invoices for supplies or services provided to the Church, where that invoice is made out to the Auckland Unitarian Church, regardless of who has paid the invoice.
- If the Tax Invoice is made out to someone other than the Auckland Unitarian Church, or left blank; then we cannot make a GST refund claim.
- Till receipts for church related goods such as kitchen and administration consumables, that we have paid for, can have the GST portion claimed for, provided the Till Receipt is retained and can be produced.

It is therefore important that any member organising or paying for goods or services to the Church:

- Ensures that all Tax Invoices are made out to the Auckland Unitarian Church
- Keeps all Till Receipts, and attaches these to expense claim form

Bequests

Many people don't realise that bequests are the foundation of charities such as this Church, and indeed, we wouldn't be enjoying our lovely Meeting House without the hard work and generosity of earlier members.

While leaving a gift sounds easy, if you are planning to leave a bequest in your Will, there are a few things your solicitor will need to know before getting started.

Name: "The Unitarian Church of Auckland Trust Board", also known as the "Auckland Unitarian Church"

Address: 1A Ponsonby Road
Grey Lynn
Auckland 1011

P O Box 68967
Newton
Auckland 1145

Charities Commission Number: THE23802

You may choose to leave your bequest to a long-term endowment type fund, such as the Ministerial Stipend Fund, where rules are in place around use of such funds. Or, you may wish to leave it freely - with "no-strings" attached, so that the church can apply the money to the area of most need.

Please feel free to get in touch with the Treasurer or a member of the Finance Committee if you would like to discuss this further, in confidence. As always, your financial assistance now and in the future, is very much appreciated, and helps to spread the message of Unitarianism to the wider community.



(Bill giving the blessing, really!)

SERMON CATCH UP

Unable to make it to Church?

If you would like to listen to podcasts from previous services you can see them on our webpage under archives or visit our drop box for our most recent podcasts:

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/32648680/start.htm>

TECHNOLOGY



This is how you get up to date information about what our Unitarian Community is doing. You can also RSVP to events:

<http://www.meetup.com/Auckland-Unitarians/>



We are on Twitter! UnitarianNZ.



Are you on Facebook? So are we. Friend us and get updates in your newsfeed.

<http://www.facebook.com/unitariansNZ>

OTHER NEWS OF NOTE

Hymnal Dedications

Would you like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one or to honour someone? We are taking requests for hymnal dedications and will place an order in January. We are suggesting a dedication donation of \$40 per book. Please contact Stowe or send an email to Auckland@unitarian.org.nz

Thank You

Shaun, who is new to Unitarianism and our church would like to say a big "Thank You" to all who have made him feel so welcome.

Request for temporary lodging.

Our own Sally Mabelle and her partner David are looking for temporary lodging from the last week of January onwards. Due to a rather unexpected renovation on their current rental they are hoping someone might need a house sitter for the end of January/February time frame while they figure out what their next step will be. Please contact Sally directly or if you don't have a directory send an email to Auckland@unitarian.org.nz

Men's Group

Men's Group will be taking January off. Join us again on February 1st.

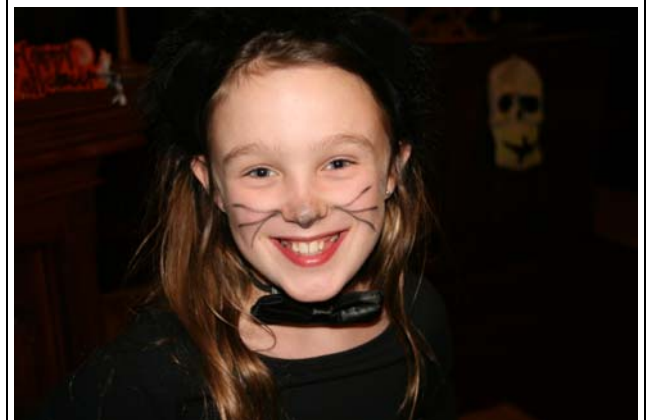
Library Clean Up- Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and pack books from the library for storage into boxes. This needs to be done before the library clean up can begin. It is envisaged that this will be done spending an hour after church over a few Sundays. If you are willing to help please contact Wayne Facer or Betsy Marshall. Or you can send an email to the church Auckland@unitarian.org.nz. We could use your help so we can begin to use this room again for meetings.



Suggestion Box

Do you have a great idea for the Meeting House? Do you have a suggestion for how to do something differently? We welcome your ideas! Paper and pen provided! Write it down & put it in the suggestion box. Not there on Sunday? You can always send us an email at Auckland.unitarian@gmail.com.







FEBRUARY NEWS DEADLINE IS 25 JAN. Send info to auckland@unitarian.org

Calendar Notes.

December:

4th - Children's Service 10 AM.

7th- The Auckland Unitarian Men's group meets every second Wednesday at 7:15 PM.

11th- Rev Clay Nelson is our speaker 10 AM. Choir Practice is at 9.

13th- Lunch Bunch at Noon.

14th- Management Committee Meeting 7:15 PM

15th- Circle group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7PM.

16th- Rafters Folk Club

18th- No service. Holiday decoration of Church while Choir practices. 10 AM. Walking Group meets at 2PM.

24th – Christmas Eve Service 8 PM followed by Supper (bring food to share).

January: (We begin our Summer Informal Services)

1st- 10 AM informal gathering at Church for those in town. No formal service.

8th- 10 AM informal gathering at Church for those in town. No formal service.

15th- Lunch Bunch Noon

19th- Circle Group

22nd - 10 AM informal gathering at Church for those in town. No formal service.

23rd – Programme Leadership Council Members update due.

25th – February Newsletter Deadline

29th- 10 AM informal gathering at Church for those in town. No formal service.

FEBRUARY 5th 10 AM WELCOME BACK WATER CEREMONY

Newsletter Calendar

Dec 2011 (Auckland)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	1	2	3 14:00 - Adult RE	4 09:00 - Choir Practice 10:00 - Sunday Service
5	6	7 19:00 - Men's Group - In	8	9	10	11 09:00 - Choir Practice 10:00 - Sunday Service
12 12:00 - Lunch Bunch @	13	14 19:15 - MC Meeting	15 19:00 - Circle group	16 19:00 - Rafter's Folk Club	17	18 10:00 - Church Decoration 10:00 - Special Choir 14:00 - Walking group
19	20	21 19:00 - Men's Group - In	22	23	24 20:00 - Christmas Eve	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 10:00 - Informal Service

Newsletter Calendar

Jan 2012 (Auckland)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 10:00 - Informal Service
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 10:00 - Informal Service
9 12:00 - Lunch Bunch	10	11	12	13	14	15 10:00 - Informal Service 14:00 - Walking group
16	17	18 19:00 - Circle group	19	20	21	22 10:00 - Informal Service
23 Programme Leadership	24	25 Newsletter Deadline	26	27	28	29 10:00 - Sunday Service
30	31	1 19:00 - Men's Group - In	2	3	4	5 09:00 - Choir Practice 10:00 - Sunday Service