

News from the Somervell Community

April 2017

Flame Newsletter

Our Mission

....where faith inspires life . . .

Flame

is produced for the friends and
parishioners of
Somervell Presbyterian Church

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The Final Flame

The Flame burst into life during our centennial year, 2005. Sypko Bosh and Robert Tingey breathed life into the embers of the previous Church newsletter which was called just that, 'The Newsletter'. They christened the new publication 'Flame'.

The Flame has had a patchy career in the years following. Some years it has burned bright, while in others its light has been dim. Last year it spluttered and died.



1st edition of The Flame

Over the years it has been in production, there have been approximately 33 issues. Several different people have edited it, and Robert, Sharon and Gwynne have been the production team. Robert has been in charge of layout and typesetting, Sharon in charge of printing and postage and Gwynne in charge of correcting the minister's many spelling mistakes.

In 2016 the Flame ran out of oxygen. For the last two or three years, the editor had noticed how

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Easter Services at Somervell

9 April 2017
10.00am Palm Sunday

14 April 2017
9.30am Good Friday

16 April 2017
10.00am Easter Sunday
Communion Service



much harder each time it was to get congregational members to write the sorts of articles that were needed to make the Flame worthwhile to print. Other problems that we had were related to sourcing photos that matched the articles, and the competition the Flame had from other media.

Communication is now a many varied thing, and in the 11 years of the Flame's life the context has changed. Web sites, Facebook, email news letters are now the norm, while a print media newsletter seems dated.

These new media have advantages and some disadvantages. The advantage is that they are immediate. Images and comment on an event can be placed on a web page or on Facebook almost on the day the event happened. The disadvantage is that people must be on Facebook or confident with the internet to see the photos and other content. The other disadvantage is that they are short pieces, not the longer articles that people who read the Flame enjoyed.

Given the struggle to keep the Flame going, Session decided to bring it to a close. They also asked that other means of communicating with the Congregation be explored, and that some new form of print newsletter be looked at. This is happening and Sharon and Brett are working on the new Flame for launch after Easter. This version of the Flame will mimic some of the aspects of the new media, in that it will be shorter, and contain more photos.

We hope you enjoy this, the last issue of Flame, and especially our trip down memory lane in our **'Pictorial Review—Highlights of the Flame Years'**.

Blessings.

Brett

Flame Editor



Going Further 2017

I seem to be someone who can't do something once, as this year proved to be my third time attending Going Further, a discipleship camp for young adults. Truth be told, I originally wasn't going to come this year, but after discovering that many of my friends were going and not-so-subtle pressure from Gordon Fitch, the National Youth Director, I gave in and signed up. It turned out to be a fantastic and very rewarding week.



Unlike other Going Furthers, which are usually a magical week spent somewhere extraordinary, such as Great Barrier, 2017 was based in the centre of Christchurch. Called an "Urban Pilgrimage", it was a risk on the part of the organisers and a challenge for us. It is easy to connect with God when you are in somewhere as beautiful as Great Barrier, or Wanaka, but harder when you are in the middle of a city, and especially a city such as Christchurch, that is in a constant state of being rebuilt. That was the challenge of the week, how to maintain spiritual practices and connect with God in the middle of the hustle and bustle that we face in the modern city.

The two speakers were Andy and Kara Root, a theologian and minister from Minnesota, America. Andy spoke of the challenges about recognising and rejecting the "way of fear", translating roughly to society says that we should view ourselves and each other, and being part of the "way of God", how we are seen through God's eyes. Kara Root discussed the old Presbyterian belief of how we "belong to God and to each other." Kara also took us through different

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Farewell from the Pettigroves



In May of last year I received an e-mail from the Head of the Philosophy Department at the University of Glasgow inviting me to apply for a job they would soon be advertising. I occasionally receive such e-mails and have been accustomed to responding with a polite, 'Thanks, but no thanks.' Three things made this invitation different. First, the job was the Chair in Moral Philosophy, one of the most storied positions in my field, whose previous occupants include Francis Hutcheson (1730-46), Adam Smith (1752-64), and Thomas Reid (1764-1781). Since I teach and write on the works of a number of its prior occupants, and since it would be a big step up from my current role, it was an enticing post. Second, I have friends in the department at Glasgow who wrote the letter of invitation as much to Kaila and the kids as to me. They highlighted the affordability of housing in Glasgow, the tuition fee support for Scottish residents to attend Scottish universities, and easy access to historic sites and cultural events. The third contributing factor was that budget cuts at the University of Auckland had doubled my teaching load last year and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts had promised further cuts in 2017 and 2018. So things were unlikely to get better any time soon. After a good deal of deliberation, and a lot of prayer, we decided I should apply. And when the job was offered me in September, we accepted.

While we are excited about our new adventure, we will be leaving a large part of ourselves behind. Home is where your church is. This was true in a fairly literal way for me as a boy, since I spent nearly as much time at church as I did in the manse that stood adjacent to it. It continues to be true as an adult. And our church is here. Leaving

Auckland means leaving home, and all of you, whom we love. If you could see us in the months ahead you would see eyes that were often bright, sometimes with delight at what stands before us and sometimes with tears for those we have left behind.

We have asked each of the kids to share some of their thoughts with you as we go.

I am grateful for our Somervell family because ...

Sophia: ...I can be myself around them without being judged.

Vivian: ...all of the support I get from everyone. I feel a real sense of belonging.

Gabriel: ... they are kind.



I'm looking forward to ...

Sophia: ...the rain. That'll be great. (Sarcastic tone)

Vivian: ...a fresh start and making new friends.

Gabriel: ... making new friends and playing in the snow.

What I'll miss most are...

Sophia: ...the people here.

Vivian: ...knowing the area, getting to see my friends every day, and MY CATS.

Gabriel: ... my Auckland friends (and warm weather).

My happiest memory at church is ...

Sophia:...joking with friends from Som Youth.

Vivian:...spending time chatting with Sarah A. and Sarah B.

Gabriel:... going to Sunday school.

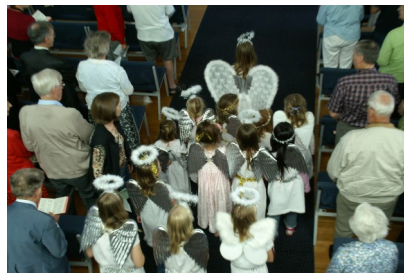
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A Pictorial Review—

2005—Our Centennial Year



2006—Elders and the Children



2007—Cars and Quizzes

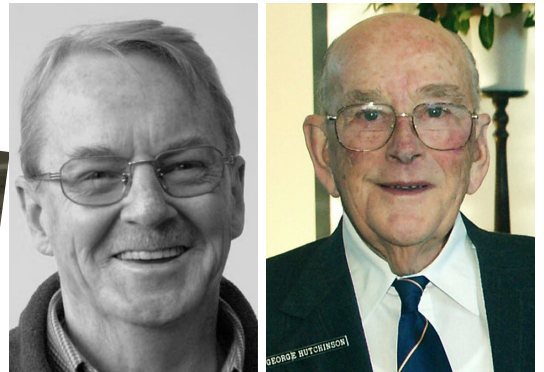


2008—Servants in our World



Highlights of the Flame Years

2009—New Spaces and Sad Farewells



2010—Getting Involved



2011—Honours and Heroes



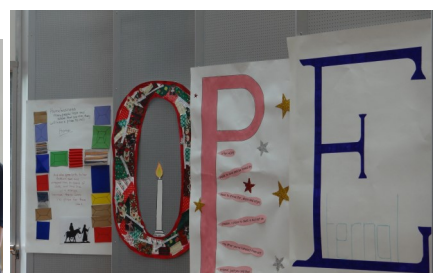
2012—Tower Repairs



2013—Camps, Sabbaticals and Superhero's



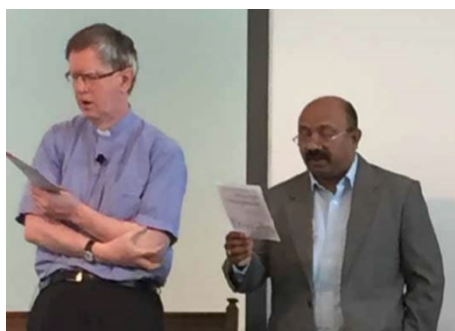
2014—Hope and New Beginnings



2015—Kindy Celebrations and Reaching Beyond



2016—Looking Ahead



Tribute to the Ministry and Service of Dr Glen Pettigrove to Northern Presbytery

Rev Dr Glen Pettigrove has been a member of Northern Presbytery since he became recognised as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand almost five years ago. Prior to that he has been a minister within the Presbytery of Santa Clara California. Glen has served this Presbytery informally as an Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department at the University of Auckland. Before that he was at Massey University in Palmerston North. In his professional role as teacher and researcher, he is a world authority on grace and love, meekness and ambition, anger and moral judgment and forgiveness – all areas of course, in which we as Christians have a particular interest. His most recent book on forgiveness is now into its second printing and has been highly acclaimed within his profession. Glen leaves Northern Presbytery and New Zealand to hold the Chair of Moral Philosophy at University of Glasgow, a particularly esteemed position.

Glen's ministry has served this Presbytery with distinction as Hon Associate Minister at Somervell Church. He has led many services both there and at other Auckland and Palmerston North congregations but just as importantly he has provided much appreciated support to local ministers with whom he has engaged in Auckland and Palmerston North. He has served the national church as a member of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership Advisory Committee for the past six years including the past four years as its Convenor. Locally Glen has served this Presbytery as a valued member of the Saint Kentigern Trust Board representing Northern Presbytery. The church in New Zealand has been fortunate to have had Glen involved as a Christian teacher within a largely secular institution where he has shared amazing insight into areas of key interest

to us but also as a quite outstanding presenter and preacher in some of our congregations. Glen appears to speak without notes in a very engaging but authoritative style. I have heard him quote large tracts from ancient philosophers and Bible passages for minutes on end without notes as he engaged with his congregation. He makes listening to him and thinking about his words enjoyable.

I don't believe I have come across a preacher with a wider Bible knowledge. All this has been very much appreciated by local congregations and at KCML. We give thanks to God for Glen's contribution to the life of the Church during what seems to many of us to have been an all too short stay in New Zealand.

Glen and his wife Kaila and three school aged children leave next month for Glasgow. Kaila has been active in serving Somervell as a youth and family worker and also on the staff of Kids Friendly in which roles many of you will have met her. While we are disappointed that they are moving away we do congratulate Glen on his notable appointment in Glasgow. But I guess also a bit of the pipes and drums of Saint Kentigern caught his fancy and confirmed his decision to move to Scotland.

We thank Glen for his service to us as a Presbytery and wish God's blessing on his future endeavours and for his family's transition to Scotland. We have been privileged to know them.

John Kernohan



From Kaila:

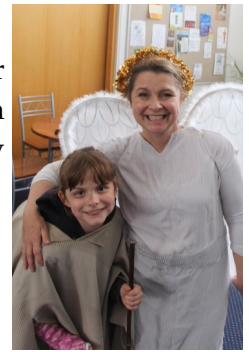
For the last nine years, Somervell has been my home, my family, my ministry and my work. How does one find anything more integrated into one's life? As Sophia said, I have truly "been myself" at Somervell, for better or for worse. God has made me grow in so many ways since we first came through the front doors in 2008. I want to offer heartfelt thanks for each and every one of you who have supported us and have been patient with my wild schemes and dreams – as well as my shortcomings. I am also immensely grateful for each of the children who have come through Triple S, Transformers, and Thursday Playgroup; and have enlarged my heart to bursting. I have truly loved each of these fabulous young people as though they were physically related to me.



It wouldn't be me if I didn't offer you a challenge as well: Don't underestimate the ministries that take place during the week. You may not see these people sitting in the pew on Sunday, but they are still people that God has brought into our community. PLEASE prayerfully consider getting involved in one of these ministries if you are not already. Tuesday Walking Group, Uplands Kindergarten, Thursday Bowls, and Thursday Morning Playgroup are all wonderful ways to share God's love with people around us. You may or may not see them on a Sunday morning, so you may have to meet them during the week.

While it is exceedingly difficult to leave behind people I love so dearly, the comfort I have in going to Scotland is that God is already there creating a place for us. God has called us there, and God will meet us there. I already have a collection of stories about ways in which things have "fallen into place." Please know that we treasure each and every one of you and

you are always welcome in our home if you find yourself in Scotland. (Just give us a few weeks to unpack the boxes. ;-)



Going Further continued.....

spiritual practices each day, challenging us to find something that we could use every day, every week and every month.

This year was a much smaller group than other Going Furthers, and some of the group were from our partner churches in Vanuatu and South Korea, which added an interesting dynamic to the group's atmosphere. However, as with all Going Furthers, I formed a close bond with many of the people there, and, best of all, caught up with old friends from around the country. For me, this is the best part of any Christian Camp; the chance to meet new people and form lasting friendships with people from around New Zealand.

Unlike last year, where I spent my free time kayaking, failing at rowing a dinghy and going for beautiful walks, this year we spent our afternoons at museums, the Margaret Mahy playground, looking for new coffee shops and looking for the incredible murals that have been painted all over the broken CBD.

I have come back from Going Further 2017 very content with life and ready to face my (potentially) final year in Auckland, which is what the week is all about.

Iona Robinson

