

A photograph of a woman with glasses and a white t-shirt holding a young child in her arms. The child is wearing a light blue bucket hat with a green and blue pattern and a red t-shirt. They are outdoors on a grassy area with other people in the background. A dark blue vertical bar is on the left side of the image, and three white dots are in the top right corner.

# ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRAL BAPTIST  
2024

*Followers of Jesus, called together to grow and go*  
190 Church Street, Palmerston North

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## Senior Pastors Report

Kia ora CB whānau,

As I write this report, I'm on a packed train travelling from my first teaching week in Germany with YWAM, to my second location. My time away has given me the opportunity to reflect on 2024, and the word that keeps coming to mind is growth. While I won't be able to cover everything that has happened this year, I would love to share a few highlights with you. From the outset of the year, we have seen consistent growth in the number of people attending our Sunday morning services. Meeting new people each week and hearing how God has led them to our community has been a joy. I keep hearing from people who come to our services that they feel welcomed and that it's a warm, friendly, relaxed and authentic place. It's great to see people from different generations together, worshipping, engaging in conversations, and growing closer as a community. Our vision to be a community "Called together to Grow and Go" is being realised across our generations and the increasingly diverse cultures represented at CB.

I am particularly excited to see more young families coming to CB this year. During our annual Big Day Out, which grew into the Big Weekender, we saw families come, pitch tents, and stay over on Saturday evening. There was such a buzz with people of all ages getting to know each other and kids running around the place playing together; I thought, wow, this is a community in action. Our Matariki celebration under a perfect starry night at the Passey's farm was another opportunity for our generations to come together. There was such a buzz as children, families, singles, youth, and our older generation gathered around a massive bonfire to roast marshmallows, talk, worship, and grow closer together. I am so grateful to God for events like these that bring our community together and provide opportunities to grow our relationships with each other.



Seeing our growing children's ministry this year has also been an absolute joy; I love our kids, and each one is such a gift from God to us. It has been great to celebrate more baby dedications this year. Our Mainly Music ministry is seeing more families from our wider community coming along, which is excellent. Being a welcoming community that embraces children and families and supports parents in the challenges and successes of parenting is so important. Having our children actively participate in our community reminds me of Jesus' words to his followers as Matthew records them in Matthew 19:13-14, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." This year, we

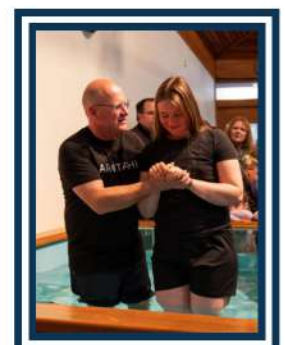


have also seen growth in youth and young people joining our Sunday services, which has been fantastic! Growth has extended beyond Sundays for our youth and intermediates at CB. Friday night programs and combined youth events across the city churches have grown as well. I love seeing their vibrancy and passion for Jesus, and I look forward to this generation leading us and sharing their faith journey with all our generations.



The growth we are experiencing isn't limited to our younger generations. I have enjoyed being part of the Gathering this year, where more and more people join us each month. One of the aspects of the Gathering that I appreciate most is hearing the life stories of those who attend. I am encouraged and challenged by what God is doing amongst our older generation and the wealth of experience they bring us as faithful followers of Jesus. I have also loved being part of our men's ministry, Mates, this year. Our biweekly Mates coffee and kōrero and monthly Mates breakfast are great spaces to connect across our generations and share life together. Our women's ministry events have seen increased growth this year by adding their version of coffee and kōrero. While I haven't managed to sneak into one of the women's events, I have popped in to say hi at the coffee times which are abuzz with great conversations and connections.

Growth is more than the number of people attending services, gatherings and events. Spiritual growth is challenging to measure; one growth marker is the number of people baptised. This year, we have seen fourteen people baptised, the highest number since I joined the team at CB. I have loved hearing about each one's faith journey. Each time, I am amazed at the grace of God in their lives. I love seeing God at work in the most remarkable ways in people's lives. Who would have thought that God would bring Elina all the way from Germany as an exchange student to stay with one of our CB families? God met her and became real to her as she joined our CB youth and became part of the CB family, and she was baptised in the process. Or Daniel, who was part of one of our Alpha courses at CB. Seeing God meet Daniel as he wrestled with questions and grew weekly in his faith was an incredible privilege. It was such a joy for Nigel and me to baptise Daniel in the Turitea stream last winter, albeit on the chilly side.





This year, we have focused on the growth aspect of our vision, “Called together to Grow and Go.” Our teaching series this year has aimed to grow our community by shifting our focus from the inside to the outside through three elements: Connect (Me whakawhanaunga) and Support (Tautoko mai) Learn (Me ako Tonu) and Engage (Kuhu mai), and Neighbor (Manaakitia ai) and Serve (Me mahi pono). This year, we developed our teaching series around these three elements. We have received so much positive feedback from the teaching series Inside Out, Generosity, Who’s My Neighbor, Break of Day (Hope) and In the City. Our Grow Month this year has been spread over several months, focusing on some hot topics facing us as a faith community and a wider society. Alpha Marriage this year has been another way that we have been intentional about growing our community by focusing on growing solid marriages. We have also continued to focus on growing our community through our weekly and bi-weekly Connect groups, which are the “backbone” of our discipleship at CB. I’ve loved seeing the growth of our international Connect groups and how they have intentionally joined together with other Connect groups to grow together across our cultures.



We have had opportunities to grow closer as a community across our different cultures by regularly having those from other cultures share in our services, which has been fantastic. I think it is important to celebrate the nations that are part of our CB community; in one sense, it’s a foretaste of heaven. I love having different countries introduced, hearing the scriptures read, and praying in multiple languages. I’m thankful to our intercultural team for leading the way and helping us grow together across the various cultures that comprise CB. One of my highlights this year was our Chinese community leading the combined mid-Autumn festival service. Akang told me that this was the first time our Chinese community organised and led the whole service, which was brilliant! Restarting our community lunches this year has been another way we have intentionally brought our community together across our cultures and generations, a massive thank you to Ernest, Ming Ming and the team who faithfully serve us.

As I reflect on serving this year, I'm thankful for everyone who serves and gives their time and resources to the community. Many people, in a multitude of ways, serve and support CB's ministries. Without each, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. I'm grateful to everyone who supported our mission month this year, during which we raised over twenty-one thousand dollars for international missions. With growth comes challenges. As we see ministries grow, there are even more opportunities to serve and discover our gifts and talents as we invest our resources in serving our community and beyond. This year, we embarked on the first phase of our plans to upgrade our building by having an earthquake assessment. I'm thankful for the team led by Stuart, who is working through the process step by step. No doubt, this project will be a significant faith journey in the years to come, one that we will have to believe that God will provide for through the generosity of our community in a variety of creative ways.

Finally, I'm thankful for the team I serve alongside Nigel, Akang, Victoria, Jeremy, Bryony, and Sheryl. Thank you all for serving us and for using your gifts for the growth of our community. This year, we said farewell to Tricia, our Church finance person. Tricia, thank you for the way you have served our community. I am thankful for our finance deacons who have stepped in to help with our church finances. Led by our Treasurer, Mike, this team is doing a fantastic job. I'm thankful for our Elders, David, Brent, Toni, Jono, Lily, Ronan, Nic and Gemma. Thank you for serving our community as we grow into all that God has for us. It is such a privilege to serve with you. Most of all, I am thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ, who ultimately leads our community and grows us. Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 3:7 come to mind, "It is not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow." I look back with thankfulness to God and look forward to all God will do to grow us in 2025.

Ngā mihi,  
Steve  
Senior Pastor



## *Agapanthus Housing Trust (AHT)*

Agapanthus Housing Trust (AHT) is a registered charitable trust established in 2017 to provide suitable housing for refugees in NZ, to support them to become integrated into the community and ultimately to give them the opportunity to meet with God.

At our AGM in March 2024 we reluctantly farewelled Anne Cleland who had been an original trustee and had been Acting Chair for 2023-24 year. The trust is grateful to Anne for the years of work involved with being a trustee and being acting trust chair. Keith Aitken was then voted in as trust chair at the AGM in March 2024. As the trust housing portfolio has grown this year we would like to invite anyone who has governance skills onto the trust. The trustees are a well oiled machine and this is an exciting time to be involved in christian community outreach housing the refugees and looking after their welfare. A passionate love of God and a willingness to do His will is what ignites the trustees. We recognise this is a calling to provide suitable housing for people who are in unfamiliar territory, who need language skills, financial skills, everyday skills so that they can adapt to life in NZ.

Current Trustees are Audrey Shepherd (Property Portfolio), Kevin Cleland (Project Manager), Keith Aitken (Chair), Margaret Rollinson (Secretary and Committee Member), Alessia James (Treasurer and Committee Member), Kiri Clark (Committee member), Mike Clark (Committee Member).

AHT has increased the property portfolio in 2024. In January 2024, after Kainga Ora demolished the house on the adjacent property to 74 Manson Street we asked them if we could transport a relocateable house across their land to position this house at the back of the AHT section at 74 Manson Street. This had been impossible previously. Kainga Ora agreed to our proposal. With very little cash we put a deposit on a suitable house in Britton's yard in Wellington. After Britton's were told what the house was going to be used for they transported that house up to Palmerston North, transported it across the Kainga Ora section, dug the pile holes and positioned it and secured it on the piles for just the price of the house. This meant huge savings for AHT.

However the electrical, plumbing, sewerage and drainage services still had to be connected and pass inspection. Palmerston North City Council consents had to be passed, the house had to be painted, long fences had to be built as well as a deck and car ports, landscaping and a concrete drive had to be laid. We simply did not have the money to do all this work. However AHT trustees fearless Faith in God moved that debt mountain. The Trust was given donations from our faith community to almost cover this necessary cost. What a wonderful God we have. By the time you read this the Healthy Homes Certificate will have been given and we should have new tenants. This house will be almost mortgage free.





When we contacted Kainga Ora they wanted to know all about us and what we were doing. They are very excited and want to share our story throughout their organisation. Not only that, they put AHT into contact with local media people who would like to run a story about the AHT work. We are mindful of our tenant's privacy and will manage this media work accordingly. The media will be alerted once we have the new house ready to tenant.

We also have a banner raising AHT presence in the foyer of the PNCBC. This was also donated to AHT. There may also be a display of photographs and other material. The AHT trustees and committee members will have name badges so people can identify who they are.

AHT has moved very slowly from a purely volunteer based organisation to one where AHT can employ people to do routine maintainance. As we grow, because there is such an urgent and pressing need for refugee housing in Palmerston North, we need to be able to employ people to do the practical work required to keep the houses up to healthy homes standard. AHT is actively looking for more land and houses to buy so we can fill this need.

The new family in Plymouth Street have settled in well and keep the house very tidy. They are adapting to life in Palmerston North well and are integrating well into the local neighbourhood.

The Manson Street family have settled into their home and have recently welcomed a new baby boy in August 2024. AHT organised a gift basket for them with gifts from PNCBC.

Both Manson Street and Plymouth Street houses have been fully tenanted this year. Red Cross inform us recently that they have more families here (and also about to arrive) that desperately need housing so there is great need.

AHT has been an important factor in reuniting families in our homes this year. It is very satisfying to know that AHT played some part in God's work to make this happen. May God's love continue to show through.

AHT appreciate very much PNCBC's continued support of AHT. There are many support pathways: financial, prayer, time, skills, gifts. Together we are the Body of Christ sharing God's Love with those people who find themselves refugees from their own land and culture. AHT is eagerly looking forward to 2025 to see what God has in store for us.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees, committee members, contractors, Brittons, Palmerston North City Council for all the time and skills often selflessly given to achieve a great goal this year. Lastly I would like to thank those people who have given financially, often sacrificially and also those who have given of their time in all sorts of ways from the faith community here in Palmerston North. We owe you a real debt of gratitude.

Keith Aitken,  
AHT Chairperson

## *Baptist Missionary Fellowship (BMF)*

We continue to meet monthly to pray for Arotahi missionaries plus our own church member missionaries. We are pleased to receive weekly up to date news from the Arotahi national office which is distributed to all members plus some other interested church members.

We continue to support one missionary couple but they are returning to NZ at the end of the year. Declining numbers for our group have led to the decision to finish meeting as a group at the end of 2024.

Over many years our numbers have varied but we have had many missionary speakers and maintained a faithful prayer and information sharing group We have given many hundreds of dollars in support of our overseas missionaries. We thank God for the privilege of meeting and praying for international missionaries. We will continue to distribute the weekly prayer news to anyone interested.

Thanks,  
Ruth Bucknell  
BMF Convenor



## *Best Years: The Gathering*

The Gathering seems a good name for the monthly meeting on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month of older people in some way associated with Central Baptist.

The Gathering was the new name for Best Years when it began in March 2023 and with the exception of January 2024, the group has met each month. Participants are eager to come and quite regular in attendance, although with this demograph where the majority are over 75, illness and frailty take a toll. There are more than 60 on the roll and attendance is usually 40+

In 2024 we have listened to presentations from people passionate about working with young people, children, pre-schoolers, prisoners, planting and harvesting and personal stories of life with God. We sit around tables, sing, talk and enjoy afternoon tea together. The preparation of that has been through the faithful service of Ruth Bucknell and Barbara Allen. Edith Rose-Collis has been our pianist at most sessions and has encouraged Hardi Wirawan, Blanche Lauridson and Bernice Collis to lead the singing. A huge thank you to all these people who have made my task of putting the programme together much easier. I feel satisfied that we are meeting a real need among the senior citizens among us.

Also a big shout out to our three pastors, Steve, Nigel and Akang, who every month faithfully set up the South Lounge with chairs and tables and make sure the sound system is operational for a generation whose strength and technical skills are limited. It would be wonderful if there was a younger person or two able and willing to relieve them of these tasks.

We have not needed money from the church budget but our gold coin collection each month has enabled us to buy a music copy of a song book with some of the songs we like to sing and help our children with their collection for the child they support in Zambia. Others have contributed regularly to our tinned food to help needy people.

Margaret Bates, Edith Rose- Collis, Ruth Bucknell and I meet with our Senior Pastor two or three times a year to talk through suggested programmes. We are eager for input so that The Gathering can continue to meet a felt need. With gratitude to our loving Heavenly Father

Margie Dennis

## *Cafe*

Our priorities at the Cafe continue to be providing hospitality on Sunday mornings, and raising funds for our church community.

We also served the community of Xtend (a youth camp that we have hosted for the last few years), helping them to raise money for Joyya.

Throughout 2024, we trained up some new volunteers to serve our CB community. I am continually grateful for our cafe team who volunteer their time before and after church each week to serve with a smile. Their warmth and energy is so lovely to encounter on a Sunday morning - so thank you to everyone who serves on our Cafe team!

Bryony Large  
Cafe Coordinator

## *Community Food*

Firstly thank you to those that give to this ever increasing need in our community. Life is really tough out there. More so than ever. As our food basket and freezer are totally empty of food and meals can I please ask for your help!

If you are in a position to make a contribution, however small, whether that be food, vouchers, finances, or a simple meal I would absolutely love to hear from you!! Thank you so much in advance!

These families are so blessed by your generosity at a time in their lives when they need it most. I am also blessed to have the privilege of sharing and helping them on their journey.

Thank you CB!  
Karen Morris



## Children & Families

A highlight of my week is spending Sunday mornings with the CB children! We love to spend time at the beginning of the programme just hanging out showing whanaungatanga – developing connections and getting to know one another at a deeper level. We value what each child offers and it's exciting to see their spiritual gifts developing.



Our curriculum is planned to align with the teaching series of the wider church. This is in the hope that conversations around what has been taught, will happen on the way home and throughout the week!

I appreciate all the leader's individuality and their investment into and care for each child. Having parents rostered on to help in our programme gives them an opportunity to get an insight into what we do. Thank you to the volunteer leaders and parents for all their support.

Most mornings end with the children completing a craft to take home, which acts as a good reminder of the lesson and also as a conversation starter! While the younger children work on their craft, my husband Alex and I go into a breakout room with a small number of Year 7 and 8 intermediate aged children. This provides a great space for discussing the mat time lesson at a deeper level and relating it to their own lives. I have been blown away by the deep and critical thinking that the children display during this time and I even feel personally challenged by them. Some of these children attend Soar (our intermediate programme) and this is a really great way to continue the connections made on a Sunday morning. Another highlight is when I visit Ngā Kākano (the 3 and 4 year olds) in the East Lounge. This programme has been run by a very capable team of leaders and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Rebekah Higgs for her mahi in there as she finished up at the end of Term 3.





The Prayer Pals who meet once a term after the service, continue to be a big support to the children and their families. I love hearing stories from parents about how the relationships with these mentor-like prayer warriors are flourishing!

Throughout this year, we have seen opportunities for the families to connect through different ways but in particular, the CB Mums group has thrived. Thank you to the amazing planning team who have catered for women in a variety of ways.

A large focus this year, to invest in families, was the seven week long Marriage Course. I couldn't recommend this more and I encourage you to attend the next one, if you are married. In a world that is rapidly changing, please continue to pray for the children and their families, that the children will know their self-worth in Jesus Christ and that parents will feel confident and equipped to navigate this challenging but exciting parenting journey.



Soar runs two-weekly during term time. This year we switched Soar from being on Sunday evenings to Fridays from 5-7pm. Our intention was that it may suit more children and the numbers attending would increase. Also, in conjunction with the "called together" part of CB's mission statement, we hoped the children would see CB Youth start at 7pm and realise that they are part of something bigger. We will review this decision at the end of this year looking ahead to 2025.





My husband Alex and I, along with the Woodmass family, Jonny and Helen Orr, Kelsey, J and Isabelle are part of our Soar group of leaders.

The evenings are fun and interactive and they also include dinner! It's been really exciting to see non-church families invite unchurched friends along. Please continue to pray for this amazing outreach, that the children from church will invite others and that they will feel a sense of belonging as God's love is revealed to them.



In Term 4, the Year 6s are invited along to Soar and the Year 7s are invited to CB Youth to help the transition into the new year. We continue to use our PNCBC Intermediate Parents Facebook page to communicate upcoming events. Here in the photos, you can see the various goings on!

Victoria Kitchen,  
Children & Families Pastor

## *Chinese Congregation of Central Baptist (CCCB)*

**Vision for the Year :** This year, the Chinese congregation adopted a fellowship-based approach. Each group is encouraged to develop its own direction for ministry, and then come together to support one another.

**Levin Fellowship :** We started a Bible Study class for the Levin Fellowship group. It takes place every first Sunday of each month after the Sunday service, providing members with deeper biblical teaching and understanding.

**Whanganui Fellowship :** The Whanganui Fellowship meets every Sunday afternoon at a local church. The first and third Sundays are for fellowship, the second Sunday is for Bible study, and the fourth Sunday is for a Sunday service. Besides the speakers from CCCB, we also invite local pastors to preach. We thank God that the attendance of the fellowship is very stable, and we regularly welcome new friends into the group.

Chinese Young Adult Group : We hold weekly group meetings every Sunday after the service. During these meetings, we engage in Bible reading and devotionals. Additionally, we organize special events such as drama performances, hiking trips, and barbecues. Our goal is to create a loving environment that attracts young people, encouraging them to know Jesus more deeply.



Evergreen Fellowship : The Evergreen Fellowship provides Bible studies, life-topic sharing sessions, testimonies, and visitation programmes. Our aim is to offer a healthy activity for the elderly, bringing them joy in the Lord and fostering a strong sense of community.

Cantonese Fellowship : Our Cantonese Fellowship focuses on Bible study, meeting online every other Tuesday. The group is not limited to Cantonese speakers from Palmerston North but also includes participants from different parts of New Zealand.  
Men's Group : In addition to our regular meetings, we introduced a monthly lunch gathering this year, inviting more friends to join. For instance, Steve and Nigel have participated in these luncheons and shared their life stories, enriching the fellowship experience.



Mission Month : The theme for our Mission Month was "Mission in Community." We hosted couch conversations with students, mothers, and fathers, discussing how they share the Gospel in their daily lives. We also produced two testimonial videos—one on marriage and another on healing. These stories were impactful and inspired many in the congregation.

Combined Service : We prepared for a Chinese-English combined service on September 15th, with the theme of "Festivals." The service explored the relationship between festivals and God through the lens of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival. Our hope was to encourage the Chinese congregation to take a more active role in ministry and strengthen the church's cross-cultural work.





Outreach : In May, we had an evangelical event at Napier Chinese Baptist Church. I had the opportunity to share my testimony, and the Cantonese Fellowship led the worship. Around 80 Chinese people attended the event, and two individuals raised their hands to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We give thanks to the Lord for His grace in touching hearts and for the success of the event. Also in August, we invited them to Palmy for a combined service. Around twenty brothers and sisters from their church attended. The combined service was a great success and, we believe, pleasing to God. These experiences were so meaningful that we plan to make the combined service an annual event. This addition further reflects the outreach efforts of our congregation, and we continue to thank God for His work through these events.



This annual report reflects our journey of growth and service this year. We thank God for His continued guidance and blessings, and we look forward to more opportunities to serve Him together in the future.

Akang Ko  
Chinese Congregation Pastor

## *Discipleship & Equipping*

Growing together as disciples of Jesus is a key part of being CB. This year we set goals to learn & engage together. This report follows these goals:

### **Prioritize small group connections**

In 2024, Life Groups and Connect Groups joined forces to become: CB Connect. Small groups that grow & go together. Each of our 25 small groups are different, with a particular mix of activities and flavour, including an indoor frisbee group, crafternoon, as well as groups that study the scriptures and do life together. It has been good to resource our groups with study materials based around our Sunday AM preaching series. In particular I was gladdened to hear how some groups picked up and ran with the practical implications of the Who's my Neighbour? series, looking to make a difference as they serve in their own neighbourhoods.

### **Engage in courses that provide relationship tools**

As part of the Baptist Churches of New Zealand, we "...believe that the Gospel of Christ breaks down barriers and brings people into new relationships. Because of this we have a definitive role in acknowledging and supporting the special relationship that was created by the Treaty of Waitangi, between Tāngata Whenua and the Crown." (see <https://baptist.nz/te-tiriti-o-waitangi/> ). Over two Sunday nights, 60 people from CB and Fielding Baptist Church discussed treaty basics from a Christian perspective, in a video based series called Belonging in this Land.

For the fourteen couples participating in The Marriage Course, seven Wednesday nights in term 3 became "date nights" where they could enjoy a romantic supper, engage in deep discussion together, and learn tools to strengthen their relationship.

In September we held a 3-week video-based conversation around Creation Care as part of what it means to follow Jesus as Lord and serve in God's mission as he renews creation in the wider redemption story. The 31 people in attendance held in-depth discussions and came up with some great ideas that we can engage with as a church as we steward God's creation.

### **Discover who Jesus is through Scripture**

First semester of 2024, eight people from CB & Hokowhitu Baptist Church met in the South lounge to learn together. We dived into the wild, exciting, and bewildering world of the Old Testament as part of Carey Local.

Our 2024 Preaching series included a varied diet including sections of Mark's gospel, 1st Peter, 2nd Corinthians, Old & New Testament passages on following Jesus, neighbouring, generosity, hope, God's heart for mission, and serving in the city.





Reflective engagement with Jesus in Mark's account of the passion was made possible in Passion Space , held during Holy Week, March 2024. We had 50 people to the Maundy Thursday service, over 350 people who came through the stations on the Friday combined services pilgrimage and an additional 109 individuals over the 3 days we were open. I was amazed at the level of creativity that we managed to reach, thanks to all who contributed to the planning and execution of the space.

### **Explore different ways to talk to God more**

New & old opportunities to pray together offered this year include: parents praying for adult children, participation in citywide prayer events, prayer pals for children, praying in pairs and small groups, regular intercessory prayer in our AM service, staff praying together regularly, prayer evenings with Simon Bate, In.house prayer stations, regular week day prayer meetings, Deeper & CB kids exploring different ways to pray. Learning and engaging in prayer together will become a key focus for 2025.

### **Learn as we neighbour & serve**

The Who's my Neighbour? and In the City series provided some tools to image how we can serve the mission of God together in Palmerston North and beyond. We continue to work this out together in 2025.

Nigel Webb

Discipleship & Equipping Pastor

## *Elders*

This year, the new elders have acclimated to their roles, infusing meetings and activities with their distinctive qualities. Their contributions have made regular long meetings more fun. Throughout this year, we have prioritised plain aspects of running and governing of the church, such as the fortnightly prayer meetings, constitution update and financial management.

Similar to previous years, we acknowledge the importance of the ministries in our community. We've been actively engaging with them, listening to their stories, and working on ways to support them. It's been wonderful to see God at work in various areas, especially as people's passion grows within groups like Launch Pad and the International Life group. Additionally, we had the chance to talk with Zara Isles and Jasmine Zhou about their internship at CB, and it's been a privilege to witness their enthusiasm for the community and the church.

The constitution working group, which started last year, continued its efforts this year. It's encouraging to receive regular updates from Nic and the team during seasonal conversations. We look forward to the changes to the constitution at the AGM. Being part of eldership and serving the community is an honour. Each year, we observe God's movement in our community. Last year, the community came together to fund and purchase a new projector, and this year, we've focused on the Earthquake Strengthening project. It has been inspiring to see a group of volunteers, led by Stuart, address the earthquake strengthening issue.

To our volunteers, your dedication and commitment are truly inspiring. The time, energy, and enthusiasm you bring are invaluable. Your contributions make a significant difference, and we are extremely grateful for everything you and your families do for this community.

To the dedicated pastoral and administrative staff and their families: It has been inspiring to witness your leader, Steve, steering you and this community with creativity and courage. We are grateful for your commitment to your calling.

Although financial challenges remain, we've seen positive changes. Late last year, Mike became our new Treasurer, and a group of finance deacons joined to manage the church's finances. It has been promising to see the Finance team tackle these challenges and make progress.

A huge thank you to the elders for their dedication and commitment to eldership, often on top of many other responsibilities. A special thank you goes to those elders who are finishing their terms.

In conclusion, the challenge posed by Charles Hewlett (National Leader of the Baptist Churches of New Zealand) back in 2023—to return to the basics of loving Christ and expecting Him in our daily lives—remains relevant this year and in 2025 as we journey together as Followers of Jesus.

David Zhou  
Chair of Elders



## *Fellowship Lunch*

First, we thank God for our awesome team, and many others who have helped to make this ministry possible. We deeply appreciate all those who have stayed after the church service to share a table and fellowship with one another. That's a huge support and encouragement to the team.

Next, we continue to strive for the two goals we set out: To create a "Table" for Fellowship and to encourage "Evangelism ". The Fellowship Lunch is a great place for connection, and people are definitely more open and alive to life when sharing a meal around a table. Newcomers are most welcome to have a free lunch.

Finally, for 2025, we pray and plan to have more Fellowship Lunch, maybe once a month. We also plan on providing "Doughnuts " for morning tea, maybe also once a month. Let's see how it plays out in view of our manpower and our CB calendar.

Our motto is always Colossians 3:23: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Ernest Ang



## *Help (The Square)*

We are about to complete our 3rd year and God is still using us. We have not been moved on by Council and we are able to meet rain or shine (with the use of the eave outside the Verdict or the bus shelters in the Square).

Prayer is powerful and we are seeing God's hand move in many different ways. God is showing us that relationships (Kotahitanga) and family (whanangatanga) are key to everyone's well-being. We are living in a dysfunctional world.

We sit, picnic like, and people have to walk past so we can call out and offer a greeting, home baking or a sandwich. Some look at our phrase for the day so we can ask them what they think about it. Some just shoot some hoops with or without us. Some of our regulars have moved on but some still come for a catch up, appreciating our consistency and open conversation.

Our conversations vary from sharing the gospel, day-to-day chat to praying for people. In line with the direction the Holy Spirit is leading us His church we have recently been focused on the command "love your neighbour as yourself" and discussed how much better the physical world would be if we didn't litter and waste so much packaging. We were struck when someone told us not to pick up someone else's rubbish, and later thought that we should have said we don't want to live in a dirty world and care about what others have to look at or walk around. It is very selfish and uncaring to throw rubbish on the street.

If everyone helped each other more, our city would be a much better place. There are many organisations helping but still people are homeless and physically or mentally ill. Should wealth be distributed more evenly? Why do people expect others to help them but make poor decisions and so don't help themselves, maybe they need role models or to be given some new ideas?



We need friends/helpers to discuss things with even if we are in the church and aren't dysfunctional in any major way. Many people want to share their stories and struggles with us at HELP, but we are only available 1 day per week, so our prayer is that people find a friend to share with, a neighbour to love them.

One guy came to us hungry with a bad lingering cough, he didn't have any income, home or family after giving up his job and changing town to avoid his unfaithful partner. We prayed and gave him a sandwich and he was also able to get some food from the Massey Graduation table. He struggled not to cough the food up so we took him to Health Hub and were able to see a nurse to help organise an appointment and check on his GP transfer to them. We then took him to City Doctors to get an emergency appointment. He had to have a Covid test first so we helped with that and then paid for his appointment and checked he could be seen today. It was 3 pm and they had 2 less doctors on than normal so the waiting room was very full, but they were open till 8 pm, so our neighbour sat down to sleep while he waited for an hour or 2.

Knowing someone cares is important and knowing Jesus cared enough to die for us so we can have eternal life with him is the most important thing we can share. HELP, with the leading of Holy Spirit, is a platform God can use to draw people unto Himself. We just need to be willing servants.

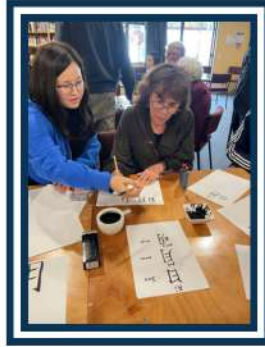
Kenneth Bidlake



## Intercultural Ministry

2024 has seen a significant increase in the intercultural focus of CB. Some key elements of this in 2024 were:

1. More leadership cohesion with the Chinese Community. We now have regular lunch catch-ups between the Chinese and the Non-Chinese Leadership Teams during the year.



2. The International Life Group has done bible studies on "Life Explored", and "Uncovering John", as well as related movies and social events. This is attended by people of differing countries and differing religious backgrounds.

3. A Chinese Life Group has had a combined event with the International Life Group, and the International Life Group has had a combined event with the Schaw's Life Group. We would like to see more sharing between the Life Groups in the future.

4. We held an International Service, a Philippines-focused service, a Japan- focused service, a Congo-focused service, and an Indonesia-focused service.



5. On the Saturday prior to the services mentioned above, we had cooking evenings to provide the Sunday morning teas, to which the entire congregation were invited to participate. We would certainly like to see more participation in these.



In the future we would like to see all of these programs continuing, but also to see more of the Connect Groups and the congregations giving invitations to, and participation in, each others events.

Blessings,

Brent, Lily, Brendon, Maki, Xiao Ou, Kenny, Graham, & Karlene



## International Missions Committee

This year we have continued to support our three missionary groups in their roles. We have also continued to increase the profile Arotahi which was previously NZBMS.

In 2024 CB supported the following Missionaries:

- Steve and Christina: Asia (OMF)
- Doug and Claire Gibbons: Thailand (Partners)
- Sarah Dunn: Townsville/Papua New Guinea (YWAM)

Sarah Dunn is working mainly in Papua New Guineas capital of Port Moresby, and some work in Townsville. She has been living on the MV YWAM PNG and organising and delivering health care, logistics and government level funding.



Doug Gibbons is the Director of Operations for Partners International Inc. This involves more travel and a larger responsibility with the organisation, Partners have been exploring and on the ground in some new countries this year. Claire has completed her Master's after 4 years of part-time study and had the honour of speaking a conference about her work. Claire takes on the fundraising role and is also on the board of trustees. They have two children in the local school.

Steve and Christina run an education centre in Asia. In February this year they have brought a group out to NZ from there centre to New Zealand. Eva settled into NZ school and had a trip back to be with her family in July. They have seen Gods' provision in the centre with a steady roll. Steve regularly teaches at a local fellowship in which they have had lots of growth, in numbers and in maturity.



The committee have continued to promote the work of our missionaries and raise their profile for prayer, one Sunday a month. We focus on one of our missionary's prayer needs, and this is highlighted in the newsletter, with the aim of stimulating congregational prayer, as well as connecting them in Mission month.



Refurbished education centre - Steve & Christina



## Mission Month

This year we partnered with Arotahi, with their Renew together programme, including a guest speaker Susan Barrett on the Arotahi mission council. We heard from the three of our missionaries on the topics of knowing, choosing and going with Gods heart. We were encouraged to spend time with God, hearing his heartbeat and going with what he is doing. Coasters were used to give practical ways of engaging with the content. We ended the month with our soup lunch and BBQ.



Sarah Dunn's PNG Crew



New Generators - Sarah Dunn

## Short Term trips

A quiet space this year. Steve headed off to Germany in October to teach at two YWAM bases. We are looking forward to supporting Brent and Lilly Norrish with their short-term trip in 2025.

The committee remains the same with Joanna Samson (chairperson), Lynette Olson (secretary), Bruce Gibbons (treasurer), Ruth Bucknell (BMF), Steve Fail (pastoral Support), Rebekah Higgs, Noeline King and Gemma Stewart.

We are all invited to be part of God's work in the world. God is calling each of us to our special part in God's renewal of all places & people, no matter where in the world we are located. The committee continue to count it a privilege to serve our missionaries on your behalf.



Flooding in Chang Mai - Gibbons'



Partners Offices - Gibbons'

Joanna Samson

Chair of the International Mission Committee

## *Library*

The library continues to be well used, mostly by church members, but also by some people who visit the church building during the week. The average number of issues each month (to the end of August) was 55.

To mid-September, I had added 62 books to the library, a lot of which were donated. Thank you to those generous donors. I try to find books to encourage spiritual growth, but also to provide a means of relaxation. Feedback and suggestions are welcome. I would like to make mention of one special donor and library user, Gill Webby, who is very much missed since her passing in August.

The most popular book classifications are still fiction and biography. There are many great books in the Christian Living section, which I believe is sometimes overlooked, as it's on the shelf above the Children's Library.

Please remember that everyone is welcome to use the library, and it can be a great encouragement in your Christian walk. Just fill out a registration form so I'll have your details. Feel free to ask me if you have any questions. I am usually hanging around the library after church, and I'm always happy to talk about books.

Kathryn Pulman  
CB Librarian

### **Children's Library**

The most popular section of the children's library is the picture book section. These are borrowed by grandparents, parents, and children from the Church family and also by Mainly Music parents. There are many Bible stories for young children, Christian stories, and also many secular classics which help our children to delight in the world around them. They are found on the floor under the shelves and on the bottom shelf.

Also on the bottom shelf are many Bible stories for slightly older children and some other non fiction books, mainly biographies. There are some children's fiction but very few seem to be published now. If anyone has suggestions for this section please let me know.

On the higher shelves there are Teen novels and some Bible study/ Devotional type books for younger teens. Also next to the Children's Library a section on parenting.

Anyone may borrow these books if they fill in the card and place it in the plastic holder. Books should be returned to the basket to the lower right of shelves.

Christine Gibbons  
CB Children's Librarian



## *Lifewalk & Launchpad*

Hi I'm Mel Luoni and I'm the Regional Leader for Lifewalk and Launchpad here in the mighty Manawatu!

We began the year with 9 Chaplains in 8 schools and are set to end the year with 17 Chaplains in hopefully 12 schools so it's fair to say 2024 has been another year of crazy growth for Lifewalk! The three new schools are Winchester, West End and Linton Camp. We have two Chaplains at PNINS and Ross due to the large number of students and they only see maybe 5% of the roll. We would put more Chaplains there if we had them. We continue to be blown away at how keen schools are to have a Chaplain. We hear many wonderful stories of Chaplains caring for children through the "tough stuff" showing them they are not alone but have an adult who cares, encourages and supports them.

Sadly we lost another big Palmy school with the Launchpad programme (Bible in schools) due to a change in Principal and survey of the community. This leaves just Winchester School with a Launchpad programme operating at lunchtime on a Friday. We also have a small class within Awatapu School. However Launchpad is still thriving in our rural schools. Great turn out can be found at Bunnythorpe, Kopane, Colyton, Glen Oroua and Shannon schools. We are grateful to God for a new presenter for Bunnythorpe school. We also have a dedicated team of volunteers in Levin who cover two schools. It still amazes me in this "post Christian" country that we still have this beautiful opportunity to teach tamariki Bible stories.

I have had opportunities to promote these ministries in services through the year. I am so thankful to God for being in such a supportive church: four of our Chaplains are from CB (Colleen Reid, Ian McIvor, Neil Craig and I). Plus we are super blessed to have Jeff Rowan as the Chairman of our local committee that oversees these ministries and long time Launchpad presenter at Winchester School.

Each week these dedicated volunteers go into schools bringing the love and care of Jesus to a hurting world. Please continue to pray for them.

I would also like to thank the people of CB who financially support these ministries. We are very grateful for you helping us in this way and also to CB for hosting our events.

If you love children and have some time in your week to get involved in this rewarding ministry, email me at [manawatu@lifewalk.org.nz](mailto:manawatu@lifewalk.org.nz) and I can sign you up!

## Mainly Music

Mainly Music has been through a bit in the last few years, as have most ministries with a significant shift in world view in our post-Covid lives. I saw a meme yesterday that said “in less than four months it will be 2025, when actually I am still trying to process 2019, which is 6 years ago!” All those babies born in the height of the Covid lockdowns are off to school!



Over the last few years we have had fairly low numbers at Mainly Music and a fair few families that didn't commit to coming regularly. In the last year we have seen this start to change. Our numbers have grown from around 12 families per session to consistently 20-27. In the last few weeks we have outgrown the South Lounge and moved our session back into the hall. It has been wonderful to see some of our new families become regular families. Last year our key words were connection and ownership and our prayer often included a hope that our families would feel welcomed and comfortable in the MM space. Our growth in numbers would indicate an answer to prayer.

We have welcomed 4 new babies born to regular families and we had the joy of supporting them with some meals and gifts and enjoyed some new born cuddles.

One of our annual highlights is our Wheels Family Night, where we enjoyed a BYO meal together and the kids raced around the track on their bikes, scooters and skates. This is a fabulous opportunity to spend time chatting with the whole family, getting to know them better and really connect with our community.





Our second family night, which we usually schedule around Father's Day has been postponed until the next school holidays, and instead we celebrated fathers with a session filled with puns, dad jokes and encouraged everyone to dress up as their dad. We had an opportunity to talk to the carers who bring their children to our session about God as the ultimate loving father and pray that some seeds were planted and others watered.

Once every 6-8 weeks I gather with the leaders of 4-6 of the other Mainly Music groups operating in the Manawatu. We work through a devotional provided by MM head office and also have time to talk about our groups, share ideas and support each other. I find huge value in meeting with other leaders who are walking the same path as I am.

One of the challenges of our group growing has been the move back into the hall. We moved out originally as the well worn carpets had become a trip hazard and we had had a number of near misses. I am now working on a project to get the carpets replaced and while I know they will not solve all the issues in the space, I hope that new carpets will make for a safer and more welcoming environment for all the hall users. Prayers on this issue are appreciated.

Mainly Music runs every Tuesday Morning during the school terms. Sessions start at 10am and last for 30 mins. This is then followed by a provided morning tea and a time for the kids to play and the adults to connect. We are always after more volunteers, but are also keen to welcome our church family to pop in and just see what goes in this fantastic ministry.

Many Blessings

Erynn and the fantastic Mainly Music Team.



Photo from pyjama day 2024

## *Men's Ministry (MATES)*

MATES stands for Men All Together: Encouraging & Supporting

Men meet together in the foyer on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 10am for Coffee and Kōrero, with numbers steady. Then on the third Thursday of each month we have met at the Local café at 7am with breakfast and discussion on many and varied topics.



If there are any men who do not receive any communications from us, please let the following Men know so you can add ASAP: Amos, Kevin & Willie

Willie Bryant

## *Meals on Wheels*

The Central Baptist Meals on Wheels team has provided meal transportation for seven out of the nine areas of Palmerston North city covered by Red Cross every 5th Tuesday lunchtime throughout 2023/24. The Palmerston North Hospital provides the meals and Red Cross co-ordinates the volunteers (thank you Naw April Shain).

We have cheerful willing drivers and their support person going out to provide a service for short or long term clients who cannot cook for themselves. The clients are referred to Red Cross by GP or the hospital. Some clients have retained the Covid practice of placing a chilly bin at the door to receive the meal and mask wearing is variable now.

NZ has been operating Meals on Wheels since 1951 and we are happy to be part of that community service. The Red Cross pays our volunteers and that money goes to our young people at Central Baptist. We must acknowledge the tremendous service of Keith and Marion Jensen over the years and also the Margaret Meekin /Colleen Thurman team. We welcome Craig Hoare and Audrey White.

Cathy McIvor  
Co-ordinator



## *Ngā Kaitiaki O Te Taiao*

Ngā Kaitiaki O Te Taiao (NKT) is a group of people with a passion for God's creation, striving to follow His biblical mandate to care for it as best we can. The committee is composed of Helen Herron, Josh Kendrew, Georgie Rynhart, Bryony Large, and Grant Baldwin.

Throughout this year, the committee has been actively managing various projects. These include maintaining the church compost bin, washing the glass communion cups, and overseeing our recycling station in the church, where people can drop off batteries, Colgate dental products, and plastic lids for recycling. This initiative has been met with great success, with the bins being filled numerous times. Additionally, we continue to monitor the Goodnature rat trap in the church garden which has activated 26 times this year.

The Grow series on creation care was a great time for a wider group of people to spend some time learning about the biblical basis for creation care, the importance of it as foundational part of our Christianity, and thinking about our response to this both individually and collectively.

Looking ahead to the next year, we are excited to continue our stewardship journey, embarking on new projects and seeking innovative ways to protect and nurture our God's beautiful creation.

Grant Baldwin

## *Pastoral Care*

The pastoral care team of 22 people continues to respond to needs and requests as they are received. These are non urgent pastoral care needs in the life of the church community. Some of the team visit shut-ins and retirees on a regular basis. Others are visited when we are informed that they have asked for someone to connect with them.

Our goal is to encourage, to listen and to come alongside those who are lonely, those who need help, those who are unwell and those who enjoy a visit and a cuppa! On some occasions a card or a small gift has also been given. On other occasions meals have been provided when individuals or families are needing support. It's amazing how important it can be to take a small amount of time to make a phone call. This is something each of us can do.

A special thank you to all who have been involved in Pastoral Care during this past year.

Karlene McFarlene

## *PNCBC Trust*

Through the generous giving and lending of the church community, at little or no interest, PNCBC Trust financially supports ministries of the church and its outreach.

The PNCBC Trust was set up in November 1981 to assist in the building of the current church facility. At that time it relieved some of the impact of the mortgage. It has continued to this day to help facilitate new initiatives of church ministries by grants and loans. This has included loans over the years to developments at Te Aroha Noa and through some dedicated givers, has also made a loan to the 200 Church Street property.

The PNCBC Trust operates in the following way. It receives deposits which are made available at no interest, or if the depositor desires, at a rate somewhat lower than market rates. The deposits are pooled and invested in longer term bank deposits; the interest earned is used to make grants to outreach ventures and new initiatives. Note that, in addition, bequests can be made to the trust. Through donations and bequests over the years, the trust has built up funds which can be used to provide loans to church and ministry projects. If you desire to help the trust, please contact chair Alex Kitchen or one of the other trustees.

The most recent grant was made earlier this year. We made a grant to help support the Youth Group purchase four tents to go alongside the marquee, which was a grant made previously. These were a much needed addition to provide a safe and dry environment for youth at Easter camp and any other camping situations.



With a few members of the PNCBC Trust leaving this year we are continuing to search for more trustees. We have a couple of people interested in joining but are always looking for more. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the work that Alicia Hart has put in over the years and wish her all best as she goes off on her OE.

Trustees in 2024: Alex Kitchen, Alicia Hart, Gloriana Leung, Alan Baldwin, Alan McClean, Terry Southern.

Alex Kitchen



## Te Aroha Noa Community Services

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou. Greetings.

This year, we have stayed true to our mission of being an enduring whānau, providing a secure space to build wellbeing in our community - focus has been on aligning with our mission to create a dynamic, God-inspired community dedicated to unlocking the potential of all individuals. We have strategically directed our resources to enhance our social services, adapting to a constantly changing environment.

I would like to acknowledge the exceptional responsiveness and professionalism of our CEO, Donna MacNicol, and her dedicated team. In a challenging fiscal climate, they have remained steadfast in upholding the principles of Te Aroha Noa. Their commitment to the core values of compassion, care, and teamwork is the foundation of our continued success.

Looking ahead, we are more determined than ever to enrich our community's wellbeing and foster meaningful engagement with whānau. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our funders and sponsors, as well as all our partners, for their crucial contributions to Te Aroha Noa. Together, we make a profound impact on many lives.

Te Aroha Noa was founded on Palmerston North Central Baptist Church's concern to meet the needs of local community, through unconditional love, or "love with no strings attached". It's a love for all people, expressed in all that we do. We are grateful to the church for their support in so many ways, including prayer, service and donations. To Pastor Steve Fail we are grateful for his continued support to the Board. I also want to recognise the Trust Board: Grant Baldwin, Kenneth Bidlake, Angela Drake, Mark Easton, Stefan Speller, Garry Aiken and Louis Te Mete (Rangitāne). Their dedication is invaluable to our mission. Thank you all for being a part of this journey.

Ngā mihi,

Heather McClean

Chair – Te Aroha Noa Trust Board



## *University Chaplains (Massey Campus)*

Te Waioira – the Centre Massey Manawatu Chaplaincy

At the Centre, te Waioira (Water of Life), the Chaplains walk alongside students and staff on their journeys, offering support, friendship and a listening ear. We also offer ways for people to explore faith and spirituality, and to encounter Jesus, the living water – the water of life. (John 4:13-14, John 7:37-39, Revelation 7:17)

Each week I participate in a weekly feeding of around a hundred plus students where a free meal is prepared and served. Specifically I prepare, serve and clean up after the students and grads have had their meal. I also meet weekly with small English learning/Bible Study sessions with groups of students from a variety of different countries. Every Wednesday the Chaplaincy team meets for prayer, Bible Study and Professional Development times. I work alongside a team of Chaplains representing a number of city churches and denominations. Our vision, mission and values are below.

**OUR VISION:** We aim to be an authentic, supportive community of grace, forgiveness, compassion, generosity, listening, friendship, faith and hope that reflects the love of Jesus for all. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

**OUR MISSION:** We long to see people develop a relationship with Jesus: encountering, experiencing and journeying with Jesus through all of life. We love to do life with people and serve through hospitality, pastoral care and prayer. Our deepest desire is to see people being profoundly influenced by God in their academic, professional and personal lives. (2 Corinthians 5:11-21)

**OUR VALUES:** Our relationship with God, in and through Jesus, is the foundation of our lives and ministry. The Bible is our framework and compass and the story that we live out of. • We value a holistic approach to Christian life and ministry. We value every person's unique journey and create a safe and secure space to truly get to know people and walk alongside them. We offer students and staff, genuine, ongoing friendship with no agenda, timeframe, obligation or compulsion. • We are committed to our life together as a team; we pray for one another and our campus, support and care for one another, and work with and alongside one another in daily life, ministry and service.

We want to honour God by the quality of our relationships and, in the process, be a loving Christian community. (John 15:1-17)

Graham McFarlene



## Women's Ministry

Our first Women's event this year was held in April at Gillespie's barn. What an absolute blessing this was! A beautiful setting in Kairanga where approx. 80 women gathered. A very enthusiastic group of ladies all ages attending and absolutely buzzing! The ice breaker was finished before we'd even started the afternoon! Great connections and conversations were had and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We were treated to a truly amazing and delicious afternoon tea! Not forgetting our wonderful helpers!

Our next event is 2nd Nov where we'll gather and stroll around Greenhaugh Gardens for the afternoon.

Karen Morris



## Worship

The year started with The Big Weekender in March! This time it was an overnighter, with families tenting and worshipping together in the great outdoors, again under the views of the majestic ranges, admiring God's creation. Saturday night was a low-key acoustic worship set, which was an informal time of worship and praise. Then on the Sunday, more CB folk joined us for a great gathering.

In June, CB hosted the Lower North Island Hui. We had the privilege of leading a group of pastors and church leaders in worship for three sessions. Gosh, could they sing! The atmosphere was one of adoration, surrender and praise, and it was an honour to be a part of.

In September, the CCCB team, with a few from the CB team, led the combined service. It is always good to come together as one congregation and the joy this cultural diversity brings.

The online streaming service is a staple for many, and our 'stream team' work hard at making this engaging to watch.

We are always on the look out for people who have a gifting in the area of music, sound or tech, to join the team. So, if that sounds like you then we'd love to hear from you. The sound crew love training up people and there is training for the tech team also. Please email me to find out how you can help us out: [worship@pncbc.org.nz](mailto:worship@pncbc.org.nz)



All glory, all honour and all praise to God.  
Daryl Campbell

## *Young Adults*

In 2024, Liv continued leading our older group of roughly 22-26 year old's. She has done an incredible job at creating a safe place for these young people, nurturing their faith and building a strong sense of community. It's awesome to get to come alongside her in my role and see her passion for the people that she cares about. Massive thank you to Liv (and Nic) for continually opening your home and your hearts to our young people!

Our younger group was brand new this year, made up of a core group that are in their first year out of high school. It has been a privilege to journey alongside these young people in their studies or in their working gap years. Their questions and curiosity get me excited, and the wisdom that they often show is encouraging!



This year Abi, with the support of her service dog Rosie, got baptised! Isaac preached a sermon on a Sunday morning. Jasmine and Zara have served as interns in different areas of the church. Many of our other young adults continue to serve in many different areas of church ministry, including the Cafe, Worship team, Youth leading, Intercultural team etc.



## Youth

CB Youth is our high school ministry which focusses on caring for young people yr. 9-13, helping them find belonging, grow in their faith and challenging them in their day to day lives to reflect Jesus. We do this through a variety of events, weekly programs and camps.

### WHĀNAU NIGHTS:

We alternate our Friday evening program between social nights and what we call whānau nights. On a whānau night we begin by sharing dessert together because eating together is such a great way to build community. Following this, a small group will host the night; running a game, doing notices and praying. Our CB Youth band leads us in some musical worship followed by a short talk done by myself, a leader or sometimes a young person. We end the night in small groups based on age and stage of high school with designated leaders assigned to specific groups of young people. Whānau nights are designed to grow young people spiritually, and offer the chance for friends to learn about who God is, sometimes for the first time.

### SOCIAL NIGHTS/EVENTS:

We run a wide variety of events on our social nights, from MasterChef and Car Rallies to Overnights and the massive annual Youth Ball. These events are designed as a non-threatening space for youth to invite friends, build community, find belonging as well as have a bunch of fun!

### DEEPER (Bible Study Group):

Deeper looks radically different than it did last year. We have almost a completely new crew that come along this year since a large group of kids finished high school last year. We changed Deeper to be on a Sunday afternoon at our house and this has meant youth spend almost the whole day together, from church in the morning, to lunch together and then attending Deeper. It has been awesome to see young people dedicated to growing in their faith. At Deeper we have a strong dependency on reading scripture and praying together, as well as other aspects of learning and discussion. This year we have worked through the Easter story, the NUA series and then finished up the year by looking at spiritual disciplines.

In August we went away for Deeper Retreat in Taupō and had a guest speaker come and speak to us about how the history of relationship between Te Ao Māori and Christianity and how that can inform connection moving forward.



Deeper Retreat 2024



Easter Camp 2024

### CAMPS:

Each year the youth group goes away on a bunch of camps which are often great spaces to connect with each other and God more intentionally. Easter Camp was a big highlight where we managed to take our group up to Northern Easter Camp in Hamilton. The most exciting thing for me was seeing a relatively new-looking CB Youth grow together. Leaders were incredibly attentive to their young people, and we saw the youth encounter Jesus for the first time as well as those who were continuing to put Jesus first in their life.

Xtend was held in Palmy once again over the July holidays and we had the pleasure of hosting 250 young people from around the North Island for a week of discipleship and growth. At the end of the year we look forward to having our annual youth camp again at Highland Home, and of course the planning for that is well underway.

### YOUTH LEADERS:

Whether you're aware of it or not, I have the privilege of leading a phenomenal team of dedicated youth leaders who pour their time and effort into the young people who come along to youth group. Earlier this year we went away to retreat together, learning, resting and planning for the bigger picture of youth group, based on CB as a wider church.

Our incredible team over the course of 2024 has been: Scott Billington, Sam Couper, John Cagaoan, Ben Herron, Ashleigh Couper, Eliana Turu, Josh Kendrew, Matt Schaw, Jasmine Zhou, Zara Isles, Katya DeSilva, Alicia Hart and Nicolaas Portegys. Special mention to Kelsey Osbourne who often helps us out at youth with whatever is needed!

Thank you CB whānau for your continued support of CB Youth, on behalf of the team, we appreciate your prayers, service and love. It does not go unnoticed!





## *200 Church Street*

The 200 Church St committee is pleased to report a year of steady progress. The report from us can be brief because apart from a few niggles it really has been a smooth run this year.

We are, under Stuart Lind's expert supervision, edging ever closer to obtaining the BWOF and hope to have some good news to report on this in the near future.

Financially the property continues to make significant advances. It has been continuously tenanted throughout, notwithstanding that the Red Cross shop was shut for most of the last 6 months. The mortgage debt is currently \$563,000. At this stage we have \$80,000 on term deposits and a surplus over what we require as a float in the trading account to apply against the mortgage debt when it comes off being fixed in May next year. We are confident that the debt will be repaid before the end of the decade.

The building does not run itself. We want to thank those who have given their time and energy towards managing and maintaining it. In this we particularly want to thank Stuart who gives his time and expertise on regular, if not constant, basis. In all of this we acknowledge God's rich blessing who has given the church what is now a fine asset to manage for the Kingdom.

Glenn Mason



## **PALMERSTON NORTH CENTRAL BAPTIST**

*Followers of Jesus called together to grow and go*