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March 2025 Newsletter

Minister's Message

OCC Mission Prompting in 2025

While enjoying my time away in January, the world seemed to explode with frightening geopolitical news. In a world overflowing with information, we are often challenged to discern truth from falsehood, essentials from distractions, and hope from fear. As we look toward 2025, this challenge invites us to consider how intentionality—both in prompting and mission—can shape the future of our faith community.



In artificial intelligence (AI), prompting is a vital skill. A precise, thoughtful prompt can unlock robust responses, offering clarity and actionable insights. This principle holds a striking parallel to our mission as the Onewa Christian Community. Just as AI requires clarity of input, our work as a church depends on focused, Spirit-led direction. We are called to ask the right questions, seek Christ's wisdom, and respond with purpose to the needs of our world.

However, there is a significant difference between AI prompting and OCC mission prompting. While AI operates on algorithms and quantitative data, our mission must address the deeply human aspects of faith, community, and discipleship - aspects that cannot

simply be measured or computed. Our prompting is shaped by prayer, collective discernment, and a commitment to Christ's vision for the church and the world.

As we reflect on our mission for the coming year, it's clear that sustainability and care for creation are at the heart of our calling. We will embrace this mission with creativity and passion through our Eco Church initiative. Activities such as the Repair Café, the Zero Waste initiative learning from Para Kore, and participating in the Chip Packet project exemplify how we're making a tangible impact in caring for God's creation. These efforts are not just "projects" but expressions of our identity as a church deeply rooted in stewardship and love for our community and environment.

In essence, eco-consciousness is already part of who we are. Our DNA as a church is marked by a commitment to sustainability, hospitality, and transformation. The year ahead is an opportunity to deepen this identity, aligning our actions even more closely with the values of the Kingdom of God. By doing so, we live out the Gospel in ways that resonate with our congregation and the broader community.

As we navigate the complexities of our time—political unrest, environmental crises, and social inequalities—our mission prompting must remain grounded in Christ. Through Him, we find the clarity and courage to respond to the world's needs.

Let us be a church that prompts action and inspires others to live with purpose and hope. Let us ask bold questions, dream big dreams, and step into this new year with hearts full of faith and hands ready to serve. Together, we can embody the change we wish to see, living as a testament to God's Kingdom here on earth.

Rev Jin Sook Kim

OH! WHAT A WEEK WE HAD!

After months of planning and preparation David and Rosemarie were married in the backyard of David's beach house, at Waihi Beach on 1 February. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon and the ceremony commenced at 5.00 pm. It was a simple ceremony with the Bride and Groom both resplendent in new outfits. David's 3 Grandsons jointly gave a humorous reading about two dinosaurs. David and Rosemarie also gave a reading, lit a candle and of course signed the paperwork.

After the ceremony it was time for a round of champagne, relaxing and enjoying a BBQ. This was a family affair, both of us had our brother and sister present plus their partners, David's two daughters with their families (one family had come from North America) plus David's brother-in-law and partner, you could say a family affair!



Sunday was a bacon and egg BBQ breakfast and then just relaxing, playing games and a swim. Some departed, the rest stayed ready for Monday's exercise.

Without going into too much detail, on Monday a group of us cycled from Hamilton to Cambridge for lunch and then back to Hamilton for the drive to Auckland. We were on e-Bikes of course! On Tuesday we boarded David's boat and headed up harbour to the Riverhead Tavern for lunch, the timing organised to coincide with high tide of course. On Wednesday we went to Waiheke, Thursday to Tiritiri and Friday to the Botanic gardens to view the sculptures. Saturday was, as they say, a lay day with a celebration in the evening. This was a joyful affair, lots of people catching up and making new acquaintances, a great way to round out an unforgettable week!

And now it's back to reality.

David and Rosemarie.

Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal

Some St Aidan's folk may remember the trainee ministers from the South Pacific Theological College that were supported by the church way back in the 1970s. I remember our family hosting Reuben Makikon from Vanuatu among others.

In a recent Global Mission update sent to Church Council there was a reminder of the earthquake in Vanuatu last December and a description of the damage and trauma resulting from it.

Pastor Reuben Makikon is, sadly, already deceased but I found this mention of him with a picture of his wife casting her vote at recent elections with the accompanying message.



Mrs. Leonie Makikon, widow of the late Pastor Reuben Makikon, cast her vote today. Pastor Makikon was a pioneer of faith who, through the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, played a vital role alongside Vanuatu's freedom

fighters, church leaders, and traditional leaders in fostering unity and harmony during the nation's journey to independence. Mrs Makikon still carries on that legacy serving as a Presbyterian Women Missionary Union (PWMU) leader, who serves with love, dedication and honour.

Her participation today served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices and contributions made to secure Vanuatu's democracy.

If you would like to contribute to the Vanuatu earthquake appeal funds can be banked into the Global Mission account, 02 0500 0086963 10 with the reference PCV Earthquake Appeal. Please send an email to Katrina Graham, katrina@presbyterian.org.nz confirming the donation so a receipt can be emailed.

Cathy Fraser

Children's Day

February kid's church had a lovely group of children in attendance. The focus of the session was love and God's beauty. The children had the usual welcome and prayer. They played fun games, saw God's beauty in creating colour art, shared food, and wrote beautiful messages and drew pictures to hang up in the Church hall. The kids are looking forward to the new eco-kids church initiative that is starting in a couple of months!

Kimberley Knox



The Chip Packet Project – February Community Breakfast



Terenna Griffiths gave a lively presentation to our gathering on Sunday 16 March beginning with some alarming statistics about rates of food insecurity and housing deprivation in New Zealand.

There are over 100,000 Kiwis living on the streets, in cars or in garages right now in New Zealand that are in need of a warm night's sleep.

Foil lined chip and biscuit packets are turned into thermal blankets, pillow pouches, sleeping bag covers and more. When you throw these 'away' they take 80 years to decompose in landfill.

Instead, please cut them open down one side and carefully tear the bottom open, so that you have a rectangular strip. Don't worry about little tears or shape irregularities – they can still be used. Wash and dry them with warm soapy water and bring them to church.

Terenna demonstrated how to join the packets together with a simple two second swipe with an iron. The long strips are then joined together to make blankets.

We hope to have a chip packet fusion party at OCC soon where we will be able to make



lots of strips at once as the volunteers on the project struggle to keep up with the demand. Once we have practised the technique it will be something we will be able to do at home. The project aims to make 1500 blankets this year.

Volunteers working on the chip packet project make something out of nothing for those that have nothing.

Cathy Fraser

Fund Raising

The church has received a large bequest and we do not have a Director of Community Engagement.....

WELL - for many years the church has deferred a lot of expensive maintenance on its buildings - because we have been blessed to receive a large bequest, we have been able to start on these long overdue repairs and maintenance. We have been able to do roof replacements and have started painting our church at 172 Hinemoa Street. Next on the list is repairs to the tile roof of the church at 97 Onewa Road. We will keep you posted about progress on other repairs.

We are currently advertising for a Community Engagement Manager. We have previously received a grant to assist with the expenses related to the role, however that has run out.

Our income from traditional sources is not keeping pace with inflation.

Above all else - OCC is a charity. In order to continue meeting our objectives and deliver the community outreach services, we need to have different income sources and fund raising is but one.

Fund raising is an opportunity to involve members of the public and your friends and family in OCC's activities. We urge you to invite others to join in the fun that happens at each fund raising event.

First fundraiser of the year – Fashion Parade



* FASHION PARADE *

a ladies night
but men are also welcome!

- Participate in a raffle
- Light refreshments on arrival
- Ballentynes discount voucher

Ticket : \$15
For tickets, contact Barbara @ 0274775778

Wednesday 09.04.2025 at 6:00pm (door opens at 5.30pm)

Ballentynes Fashion Central 110 Don McKinnon Drive, Albany

OCC Fundraiser
10% of proceeds are donated to De Paul House

 www.onewacc.org.nz

Bible Talk Supper (BTS) with Bible 52 (Bible Society New Zealand)

March Bible reading schedule

Week 5

Read

Genesis 12:1-20

*Additional readings: Matthew 1:1-2, John 8:56-58,

Galatians 3:10-14

Look

- What does this passage say about God?
- What does this passage say about you?
- Which verse/passage stands out to you most and why?

Live

The Bible is full of incredible promises from God to His People. Can you find 10 and spend time meditating on them this week?

Week 6

Read

Genesis 15:1-20

Additional readings – Genesis 22, Galatians 3:15-4:7,

Hebrews 7:11-12

Look

- What does this passage say about God?
- What does this passage say about you?
- Which verse/passage stands out to you most and why?

Live

Step outside and look up at the stars this week. Find the wonder of God's creation and share it with others.

Week 7

Read

Genesis 37:1-36

Additional readings: Genesis 38-50, Psalm 77:2,

Matthew 27:27-31

Look

- What does this passage say about God?
- What does this passage say about you?
- Which verse/passage stands out to you most and why?

Live

Learn Genesis 50:20 as a memory verse. "Genesis 50:20

Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good to preserve numerous people, as he is doing today." Watch a movie related to slavery and find biblical themes there.

Week 8

Read

Exodus 1:1-22

Additional reading: Exodus 2, Genesis 35:11-12

and Matthew 2:13-23

Look

- What does this passage say about God?
- What does this passage say about you?
- Which verse/passage stands out to you most and why?

Live

Learn John 16:33b as a memory verse. – “In the world, you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!” Pray for healthcare workers.

BTS will meet at 5 pm on 23 March (4th Sunday) at the church lounge on Hinemoa Street. We'll have a light supper, share our reflections, and learn from one another. **All are welcome.

Roster for the month – March 2025

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Reading	Prayer	Morning Tea
2	Jocelyn Colinge	Rosemarie Dawson	Rosemarie Dawson	Jocelyn Colinge	Barbara Wesley/ Dale Kerr
9	Rachel Hurr	Garry Pash	Garry Pash	Rachel Hurr	Lynn Carter/ Robin Baxter
16	Community Breakfast				
23	Margaret Larsen	Robin Baxter	Robin Baxter	Margaret Larsen	Pauline Fish/Robyn Thornton
30	Cathy F	Karen D	Karen D	Cathy F	Jocelyn Colinge/Linda Buckthought

*Serving elders: 23rd March, Rosemary Bold, Rachel Hurr, Cathy Fraser and Robin Baxter

Thank you for everything you do, team!

Also, drum roll please ...



**News and opinions for the newsletter always welcome:
please think about contributing for next month's edition.**

**E-mail all articles to Pauline (admin@onewacc.org.nz)
by 20th of the month**

OCC values

Community

We focus on people, personal connection and treating everyone with respect in practical ways ('manaakitanga').

Diversity and inclusion

We want to reflect and support the community around us.

Open heart / open mind

We make space for personal and spiritual growth. We promote real and meaningful connection with others.

A living faith

Active faith begins at the point where certainty ends. A living faith involves faith in oneself, faith in others, faith in the future and faith in God.

If you need a contact directory, please contact your elder