



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 28 September 2014

"Being the Gospel to all People"

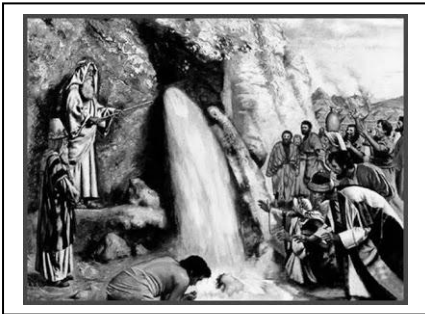
A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns

Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy
some time with us.

Today's theme: Thanksgiving

Focus Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7

Other Readings: Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16, Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32



The Israelites found themselves without water and they complained to Moses, their leader. They quarrelled with Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" They were angry at Moses and blamed him for taking them from Egypt where they had what they needed. What is it you thirst for? Perhaps you thirst for happiness, good health, peace or a miracle. Moses turned to God and asked for help. Most of the time we ask God to solve our problems or fill our needs. However, by asking God to help us we have to yield to God's solution, which may not be the one we want.

Exodus 17: 1-7 (NIV): Moses strikes the rock at Horeb

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 5 October

Theme: 'Words of Life'

Focus Scripture: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Other Readings: Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Prayer points: Please pray for: The kindergarten has a number of children going off to school so they need prayers for their role to increase again; Holiday Programme for the week of 29 September – 3 October; Presbyterian General Assembly 4-6 October; Someone to lead the Children's Church for the Christmas (4th) School Term.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME: 29 September – 3 October:

Where has this term gone? Once again we welcome the congregation's support for the Holiday Programme, by praying for us and the team and for your practical assistance with the provision of home baking. Thank you for your continued support.

Leprosy mission boxes are due in please hand to Joan Jones. Thank you

ALPHA: Today is the final day of the series. Please pray for those who have attended.

Thanksgiving Sunday 2014: This year our annual Thanksgiving project is to start growing a fund that will enable us to employ a Children and Youth Leader. This has always been on our hearts and although Stephen helped out for a few months – we have not had anyone in this position since Steph finished. We have worked, advertised etc but to date we have not made an appointment.

The Leadership Team decided this year to lift this ministry out of our regular annual budget and to approach the need for funds in two ways. 1. That we dedicate this year's Annual Thanksgiving Appeal to the establishment of a "seed fund". 2 That we ask for specific donations to be dedicated to this ministry on a regular basis – like we did when we first employed Steph.

We are committed to investing in our Children and Youth ministry by employing someone who can be dedicated to this specific ministry and when we employ someone we will need your continued support to maintain it. Please consider giving thanks – and growing our CYL fund. Thank you, Lorraine, the Leadership and Finance Teams.

General Assembly volunteers needed please. We are responsible for providing a Team to assist with the Sunday night Dinner at St Kentigern College, Pakuranga Road. **We need** 8 people from 5pm till 730pm to help with setting the tables, assisting with dinner service, and to assist with clearing tables. Can you **please** let Jeannine / Lorraine know and we can help with rides. Thank you. Lorraine

4eva@6: 28th September: On this Sunday night at 6 pm we are hosting a prayer and healing service. This is our regular 4eva@6 service time but with representatives from the Northern Presbytery to lead us. The Moderator Rev Roy Christian and Rev Sandra Warner lead the Presbytery Team who have offered this ministry to churches within the Northern Presbytery bounds.

We have been asked for to lend support with a prayer team – please see Lorraine if you could help – thanks. We also would invite you to come along, to pray for it, and to share in this ministry opportunity with those who you believe God is calling to come and be present. Thank you, Lorraine.

Honouring Age Celebration. On Sunday 19th of October we will celebrate the annual 'Honouring Age Service' for senior members of our congregation which will be followed by inviting those who qualify to participate in a special morning tea. Of course our usual morning tea and social time will be available for all those who do not yet qualify to attend this celebration. A letter of invitation to attend this special event has been mailed to qualifying congregation members this week. Please RSVP to the office 534 2305. For further information please phone Peter Hancock at 535 5355.

Sunday 5 October is a service of Confirmation into the Church– with Bishop Ross Bay (Anglican), Rev Marilyn Welch (Methodist) and Rev Roy Christian (Presbyterian) attending. It is a St Johns tradition to offer an opportunity for people to re-affirm their conformational promises at this time, or to be baptised. If you feel this is something you would like to do –please talk to Lorraine as soon as you can.

Real Life with John Cowan: This Sunday night (28th September) Sam & Jax will be filling in for John and their guest will be NZ entertainer, **Frankie Stevens**.

PRINTS FOR SALE My brother BRENT WONG, who is a well-known artist(his paintings sell for many thousands of \$) is offering a limited selection of his prints to us for \$25 each, half of this amount to be donated to St Johns. If you would like to see what he is offering, I have a catalogue from which you may order if you are interested. A clip board will be in the foyer. Loas

