



Special National Business Meeting of A.P.W.

Early on Saturday 19 May about 45 APW members gathered at Seatoun, Wellington. It was a time of meeting and sharing among friends. After devotions and explanations about process we received the Convener's report which will be copied and distributed to Presbyterians/regions. There were three principal items of business:

- Election of Convenor - Heather Tate of St. David's, Palmerston North was elected.
- The recommendation of a Study Fund to assist women in training for Christian Ministry. This was agreed.
- Confirmation of Jill Little as Secretary and of Diane Croft as Treasurer. These appointments were agreed.

The decision regarding a Deputy Convenor was deferred as the NCG in their preparation had neglected to seek nominations from parishes. It was decided that parishes would be contacted and replies are to be with the Secretary by **31 May 2007**.

The Moderator of General Assembly was unable to be present as she was representing the Church at the funeral of the Head of State of Samoa. The Rev. Lynn Russell chaired the meeting. Next month it is hoped that fuller details of the meeting will be available, as well as the name of the Deputy Convenor.



Heather Tate—NCG Convenor

Pentecost is with us

Pentecost Prayer:

Holy, sprightly Spirit of God we delight at your dancing among us, filling the world with joyful possibility, revealing the music of the Creator.

We rejoice at your daring spontaneity and find ourselves caught off guard by your unexpected communications.

In a world that can seem predictable, you spark into being new possibilities:

You gently purge our sin in the warmth of your breath, freeing us from our bondage to past wrong.

In a world that can seem drab, you weave your ever-changing patterns into the fabric of our beings.

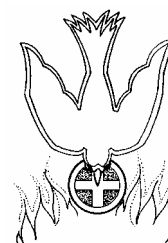
In a world that can be hostile, your mediating love builds a path from loneliness to conviviality, from antagonism to co-operation.

In a world that can appear purposeless, your vitality shouts out a mighty 'Yes' to life and declares the source of all living to be the One from whom you proceed, the Father and Mother, Creator and Lover of all.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, who promised your coming and reigns with you in the eternal fellowship of the Creator, one perfect Trinity of love. Amen.

John McLuckie *Fire and Bread*

Wild Goose Publications, 2006, p.161



Mission Update

In its latest report to Christian World Service, the Women's Development Resource Centre in South India (our Special Project of 2003-04) highlights two large meetings during the past year. These meetings motivated women to undertake measures to improve their standard of living, and created understanding of the need for women and men to work together to bring about the necessary structural changes for poverty alleviation through seeking representation in government.

Working women were also helped to organize groups in seventeen places to find ways of facing their employment problems. A training programme was organized to emphasize the importance of regular savings and of setting up their own credit facilities.

The video '*Now We Are Fearless*' which many of us watched relating to this Project is still available. A complete list of CWS videos/DVDs can be found on the website www.cws.org.nz

Alison Linscott

United Nations Committee ...

Last month Mary McIntyre wrote an informative report of her attendance at the UN Economic & Social Council in New York. She reminded us that the focus this year is the Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the Girl Child.

Mary also attended a number of Ecumenical Women 2000+ events. The focus of these groups is on the global intersection of religion and human rights with a gender perspective. The group seeks to:

Work within our faith traditions to raise the status of women and human rights.

Promote dialogue between the UN and our faith communities

Bring a perspective of liberation and justice for women to the UN

"This organization is a very positive, supportive group and one that APW could work well with at the UN. I feel that the voice of APW would be strengthened by joining with Ecumenical Women and that as a supportive New York based group, it could provide valuable information to APW throughout the year".

Mary McIntyre

Regional News:

- **Columba APW, Oamaru** welcomed friends from other groups in Oamaru to their Autumn afternoon in March and all enjoyed a happy afternoon. The speaker was Anne Wilkinson, energetic President of the local Save the Children Fund, who spoke of the many ways in which they are involved to help their many commitments. Other activities in the past month have been the visit of the Moderator of General Assembly and a meeting with the local MWF and the women of St. Paul's APW to support the work of the Stroke Foundation as part of their Mission Project.
- **Ohope, Bay of Plenty** share their activities. They meet bi-monthly and combine with Whakatane's Knox Fellowship to raise funds for the Special Projects. Most of their members provide 'hard labour' for the annual Knox Church Fair every October—pickles stall being a speciality for many years. Marion Powley and a team of singers provide monthly worship and song for residents of the Ohope Retirement Lodge. At Christmas a mobile team carol into the homes of the elderly and disabled members of Ohope Church.

The women also help to run the Opportunity Shop in Whakatane which provides funds for the community as well as the parent church. Also combined services have been held with members of the Anglican and Christian Fellowship Churches and of late, a service in the wharehau of the Te Maungarongo Marae at Ohope.

- **St. Margaret's, Silverstream Upper Hutt** recently responded to the appeal by CWS. The Church of Uganda animal husbandry programme had appealed for donations to help poor rural families. Over \$700 was raised from retiring offerings over two Sundays. This will help the people in Uganda provide milk for their children; enjoy meat in their diet; access organic fertilizer for growing vegetables and bananas; generate income from selling goats. During the fund-raising St. Margaret's had their annual Harvest Festival and a large smiling cardboard goat looked very much at home among the produce.



Turakina College News

Congratulations are extended to pupils and staff for the excellent results in last year's NCEA results are a joy. Levels 1, 2, & 3 brought 83.8%, 80% and 82.5% respectively.

Over the last months of 2006 there have been three new staff members - Jackie Paenga-Rennie, Carmen Morrell, and Anna Torrie, and at the beginning of this year the college welcomed Heather Mataamua as Chaplain.

The 2006 College Magazine is available and offers good reading, excellent photos and lots of information. Cost is \$12.50. More interest is available on the website at <http://www.tmgc.school.nz>

Greetings to all, and please continue to send reports of your parish activities - Editor