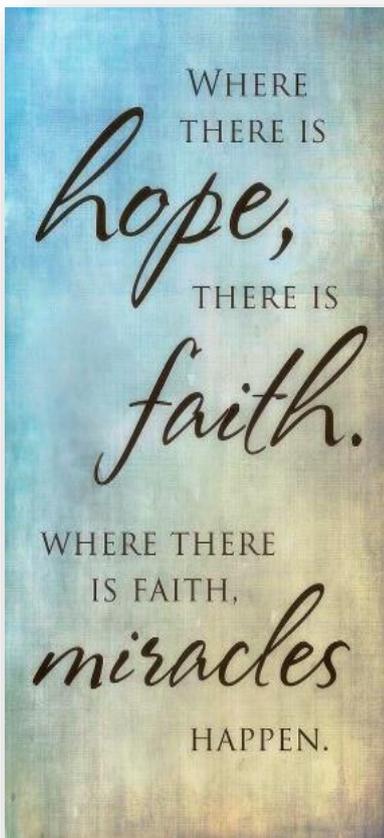


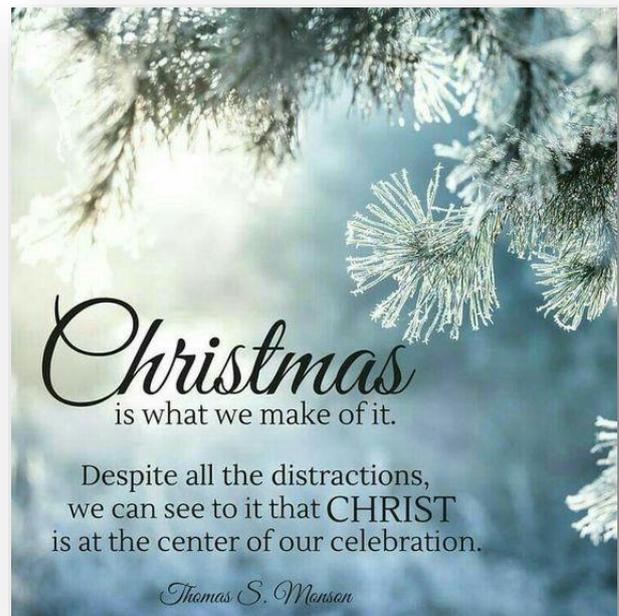
Bush  **Fire** December 2021
**Newsletter of the
National Coordinating Group
Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand**

Kia Ora!

We've made it this far, haven't we! Reflecting on the past 11 months, we're grateful for God's miraculous healings to our minds and souls whilst coping with a yoyo thread of uncertainties. With gratitude, thank you all for your prayers and recommendations, and remaining in the loop of networking with us, via emails and panui newsletter.



We



acknowledge the legitimacy of members who wish to continue with individual affiliation, regardless of recess with local groups.

We send Condolences to members (and families) who have gone before us. May you seek God's inner peace in times of sorrow.

It is with hope that early 2022 will enable us to proceed with 2021 AGM and a Gathering later in the year. Keep safe & keep well in this summer holiday. God bless you all.

Faaolataga Leasi



As we approach Christmas the [Advent Conspiracy](https://adventconspiracy.org/) offers resources to help families, small groups, and churches celebrate a more stress-free, Jesus-centred Christmas. Since small beginnings in 2006 the movement has spread to almost every country. The tenets are simple:

Worship fully Before anything else, let your heart be prepared to receive the gift of our Saviour Jesus. The way we spend, give, and love will radically change when it comes from a place of true worship.

Spend less Resist the consumerism of Christmas. This is an invitation to say no to overspending, to open up to a new way of celebrating by spending compassionately and responsibly.

Give more Give gifts with meaning and significance. Give of our time, our energy, our memories, our talents, our presence. Celebrate the people God has put in your life.

Love all As followers of Christ, we are called to radically love others because we have personally experienced the radical love of God. In practical ways we can share God's love, maybe by donating the

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Love all As followers of Christ, we are called to radically love others because we have personally experienced the radical love of God. In practical ways we can share God's love, maybe by donating the money saved by spending less to Christian World Service or volunteering in our local communities. We are invited to be part of a revolution that says there is a better, fuller, richer way to celebrate Jesus. Ideas and resources at <https://adventconspiracy.org/>

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General Assembly 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly was held online 29-30 September, 2021. Faaolataga Leasi and Mavis Duncanson attended as Presbyterian Women Commissioners.

The Rev. Hamish Galloway was installed as the Moderator for 2021-2023 in an online service. Hamish chose 'Empowering Generations' as the Moderators' theme. A highlight was the keynote address by Rev Dr Theresa Cho <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8596507/video/616773477>. Theresa spoke passionately about her experience at St John's Church in San Francisco. Intergenerational ministry uses creativity and sensitivity to create spaces where people of all ages can come 'as they are'.

The Rev Rose Luxford was announced as the Moderator-Designate, and will be Moderator of the General Assembly for the period 2023-2025. You can read about Rose here <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/about-us/general-assembly/moderator-of-the-general-assembly/moderator-designate-of-the-general>

A Special Assembly will be held in 2022 to attend to business submitted to but not dealt with at the 2021 General Assembly online, including the Presbyterian Women report.

Many of the presentations were pre-recorded and are available on the PCANZ Vimeo channel <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8596507>. This is an opportunity like no other to see some of the people and places around the motu where Presbyterians are living out their faith. We encourage you to visit and view the videos.

Mavis Duncanson
November 2021

A message from your administrator.

As we enter this busy time of our year in the southern hemisphere our Christian faith celebrates the birth of Christ. We can get very busy attending extra events, helping organize them, planning our time with family and friends. I find it helpful to remember that we were designed to pulse in our daily activities, to not always be on the go. Sometimes I take a moment to notice the clouds in the sky, the dewdrops on a cobweb, the smile from a baby, these are ways that help me pause and reconnect with what really matters to me. What ways do you have that help you pulse through your everyday life?

And now a reminder to keep your diary free for our postponed AGM in February. We have yet to confirm a date with Scots College but will let you know as soon as we have one. And please remember to RSVP whether in person or by zoom.

Please the AGM, an introduction from her is included

Relax, enjoy and pulse as you go through this busy season

Ruth Steven
Administrator

Who am I?

My name's Liz Chandler and I'm a member of the St. Alban's church family here in Palmerston North. I was brought up in the Anglican denomination, being baptised at St. Mark's Basin Reserve (in Wellington) and confirmed at St. Peter's, Palmerston North.

I believe in the pre-eminence of communication and contributing to the community. In recent years, I have spent time volunteering with the Hokowhitu Village Centre, Manawatu People's Radio as a continuity announcer and writing articles on behalf of the VRC for the Manawatu Guardian. As well I have contributing through St. Alban's as part of the welcoming team and with behind-the-scenes roles in the Buzz programme. I enjoy being a member of a house group, which meets on Wednesday nights. Previously, I was a lay minister at All Saints leading worship and preaching and member of the Vestry (like the Parish Council) as Vestry Secretary for several years.

I have lived and worked in different centres around the North Island, including Palmerston North, Dannevirke, Wellington, and Napier. I've worked in such places as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as a Systems Administrator, MidCentral Health as Payroll Manager, CSR as HR Manager at CSR Dannevirke, and latterly I've enjoyed being a Freelance Writer.

As a mature student, I returned to study completing a Bachelor of Communication through Massey University majoring in Journalism and minoring in Expressive Arts. I went on to complete an Honours degree in Journalism.

My paternal grandfather was a Dean of Waikato Cathedral and had written weekly articles for several years for a Sydney NSW paper and the New Zealand Herald. My paternal grandmother was a missionary to Samoa through the London Missionary Society. So, writing and contributing are in my DNA.

I enjoy travelling, COVID-19 allowing, and spending time with my labradoodle, named Charlie. I also enjoy researching my family history and helping others to track down their history and mysteries in their family. When COVID-19 properly allows, I'll return to a gym for regular workouts; I find it a great time to think while working out.

There are two key verses for me: Jeremiah 29: 11 "for I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."; and Matthew 28: 19 where Jesus tells his disciples (and us today) "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you, and surely I will be with you to the very end of the age." (NIV translation).

LOCKDOWN EASED



After weeks of online worship, in the Auckland area we have been able to meet for worship outdoors, with our picnic gear, with a limit of 25 attendees at each service, and men wearing hats!
We have been thankful for good weather.

So in Hibiscus Coast parish. we had two communion services with attendees providing their own elements. Self provided morning tea was enjoyed in smaller groups between each. While some people are cautious about gathering after all these weeks of lockdown, most were pleased to be together. The biggest delight was to have Yvonne and Bill Ambler who have recently moved to a neighbouring parish with us. They were celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary.

There is uncertainty about the form that Christmas worship will follow. Who knows what turns the virus will take. Meanwhile we navigate the issues of those who for very real reasons have decided for or against vaccination and we keep phone and email contact with each other.
We pray for people involved in essential services and the ones who have lost their livelihoods in these difficult days of forced unemployment.

Please pray for those who are navigating their unexpected struggles.

Rae

President	Administrator	Human Rights Convenor	Communications	United Nations Convenor
Faolataga(Ola) Leasi	Ruth Steven	Tausala Losefa	Liz Chandler	Mavis Duncanson
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