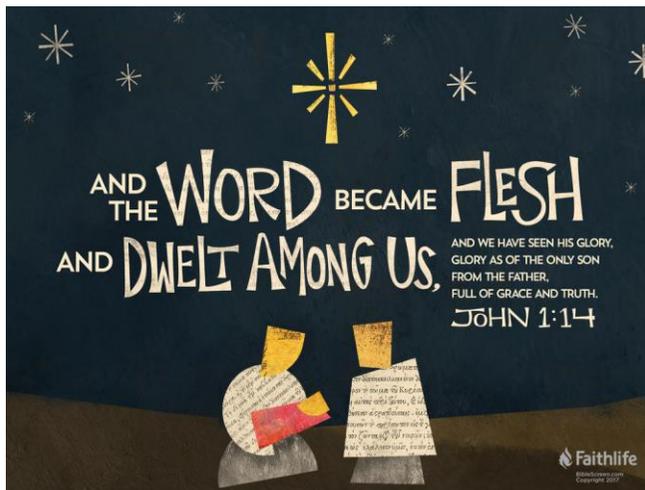


Stewart writes... It's time for our 'Family Christmas Services', today and next Sunday – which is Christmas Eve. I do love this advent season with its incredible phrases of Scripture, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Today is; "The Word became flesh and dwelt among US!" Debbie and the children will bring some touching moments for us all on this theme. Here's a spoiler, sort of – *Watch for Mary and what she does...!*



Tonight @ a Beach, 6pm – The Sunday evening Fellowship Gathering finishes the year with a Shared meal and BBQ at a Beach picnic spot with lots of flowering Pohutakawas (if the weather is kind), or otherwise it will be on here at the Church. The venue decision will be made on Sunday morning and announced in the Service.

MUP Christmas Parade Float – A superb effort, complete with live praise & worship! Our thanks to the Viljoen Home Group for organising this entry in the City Christmas Parade. Phil Viljoen says... *"Well we didn't win but I must say we had a GREAT time along the way !!!! Neat to see that 'Noah's Ark' float (St Marys Philippine Choir), took out first place - they were amazing Sunday evening our household was filled and overflowing with love and joy - we know the Lord was with us and feel so privileged to have had this opportunity to share our love for Jesus with our community! Thank you for your love and support."*



View online? You can Ctrl+click the photos to see more on our Facebook page.

There is nothing the nearness of Jesus cannot overcome.

For Prayer & Praise this week...

- **'Deano' (Dean Boyd)** has moved to Hamilton to live, in a home where he will get one on one care and professional help. We will miss Deano's enthusiasm in our Services, which we grew to understand, and his love of music. For parents, Peter & Rae, it is a massive adjustment and we pray for them.
- **Mangapapa Church is 'On-Call' with Te Hahi/Police**, from Christmas Eve to Sat 30 December. Callouts involve us most often in giving a food parcel, prayer and encouragement. An interesting time to be on call.
- **Our 'New Church Leader Search Team'**, has been interviewing a second applicant this weekend, for the position here in 2018. Our prayers for this.
- **Sonja van Wijk** has been accepted as a leader/counsellor @ 'Qwanoes Summer Camp' in Canada next year, and heads there in June 2018. Congrats!



The 'Angel Tree' project has been completed for this year, with 165 presents wrapped & delivered to children with a parent in prison this Christmas. Some lovely stories of interaction with folk have come out of the delivery process last week.

Euthanasia Bill Before Parliament – On Wednesday, Stewart sent an e-mail to our East Coast MP's - Kiritapu Allan & Anne Tolley, stating; "Please receive our thoughts on this Bill, which come from the overwhelming majority of folk in our Church of some 200 people. 1) We do not support the introduction of this Bill. 2) Within our Church we have the founder of the Palliative Care Service in Gisborne in the 1980's, Dr James Carstens (retired) who has shared in some detail with the congregation, on why this Bill should not be supported. With proper Palliative Care, there is no need for anyone to suffer excessive pain or anxiety in the dying process. 3) We believe Hospice/Palliative Care throughout N.Z. is vital and must be funded well. Incidentally, I am interviewing James Carstens on his story and journey with Palliative Care, 8am this Sunday morning on Turanga FM 91.7, here in Gisborne. Yours truly, Stewart Patrick.

One reply received from MP Ann Tolley: Thank you for your email today raising your concerns. I always try to represent the views of my electorate with a conscience vote and to date I have not been able to get a clear picture from the East Coast Electorate. Consequently, I will support the bill to go to a select committee so that the public can submit their views on the actual legislation being proposed, and so that I have time next year to do a proper survey of the voters to get a better understanding of their preference. I shall make a note of your details now as opposed and may well contact you again next year. Thank you for taking time to send me your views, I really appreciate hearing from you. Kind regards,

Nicola's CAPtion – The CAP Debt Help Centre has closed for another year and will open again on 1st February 2018. Thank you to everyone who contributed to its success in 2017. Your support has seen many lives touched by God's love. Four people have become free of debt this year and 13 people are currently on their journey out of debt. Well done, good and faithful servants!

