



*Our motivating vision is...  
'To be Love Light and Life'*

**Sunday 28 January 2018**

**10:00am – 'All Sufficient Provision: Father, Son & Holy Spirit'**  
Luke 12:1-12

**Children – Holidays DVD for you is on during the message time**

**Leading: Stewart Patrick      Preaching: Stewart Patrick**  
**Duty Elder: Stewart Patrick**

**Elders Team**

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 Mangapapa Church, P.O. Box 2146 Gisborne

**Stewart Writes...** So I have come to my last week in my position as 'Church Leader', with my last day being this Thursday 1 February. Gosh, this 'retirement process' is not easy, with lots of emotions and things to put in place for those who follow. I have written a supplement to go with this Newsletter, explaining some more of our plans and thoughts in this 1<sup>st</sup> year of retirement, which will primarily be a sabbatical. My final message to the Church centres on this Scripture; [Luke 12:8 AMP](#) *"And I tell you, Whoever declares openly [speaking out freely] and confesses that he is My worshiper and acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man also will declare and confess and acknowledge him before the angels of God."*



I know there will be some apprehension among you, as to who is going to fill this role of Church Leader? Two pointers I give you;  
 1) Trust the Lord, He has this Church in His hands. (A word given us 1 year ago).  
 2) Your new Leader must be one who declares openly Jesus Christ. Look for that.

**There is nothing the nearness of Jesus cannot overcome.**

**Key Dates to Remember – 1) 10am Sunday 25 Feb.** New Church Leader applicant comes to preach & to meet with the Church leadership.  
**2) Sunday 4th March** - a special Congregational Meeting, straight after the morning service where a recommendation to call will be considered.

**Church Family, we have planned a Farewell Weekend for Stewart and Marilyn on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> February:**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February - BBQ/Pot Luck**  
 At: Mangapapa Church @ 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm  
 Meat and drinks will be provided  
 Please bring a salad or dessert  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Family Farewell Service**  
 At: Mangapapa Church @ 10 am  
 For more information, please contact Debora Dobbie or Sepoima (not Stewart and Marilyn please)

**Elaine's Tuesday Small Study Group** will meet for their first session this Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 10am in the church office lounge. All welcome to join them. Contact Elaine Oates for more information.



**MUP Weekend Camp @ Tolaga Bay**  
 When: **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
 Where: Tolaga Bay Campgrounds  
 Who: Everyone!!  
 More details to come but ring now to book your spot!  
**Tolaga Bay Holiday Park 06 862-6716**

**MUP Newsletter** - Our church newsletter will remain as is, in the single two-page format for the time being. If you have 'Prayer & Praise' notices, event photos or other newsworthy items that you would like made mention in the newsletter, then email your news item to Sepoima by Thursday morning at the latest please.

**It's a new year for 'MUP Youth Group 2018'**, and it's a different year. An exciting year that includes a Youth Mission trip, and a possible part-time Youth Worker, but as always there are changes and challenges too, so we are inviting you all to a meeting to hear it all and discuss what will happen, and what we hope can happen, with help. **This meeting will be held next week on Tuesday 30 January, 7:30pm at the Mangapapa Church House lounge.**

	<b>TODAY 28 January 2018</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK 4 February 2018</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Al Clement, <i>volunteer</i>	D Whibley, <i>volunteer</i>
<b>Explorers crèche</b>	<i>volunteer</i>	N Hawkins
<b>Ministry Team</b>	J McHardy	J Newman
<b>Cups of Tea</b>	A & D McLean, A Alder	N & C Coffey, S Tulia
<b>Flowers</b>	B Bowis	B Bowis
<b>AV &amp; Sound</b>	D Russell, <i>volunteer</i>	P Oram, G O'Neil
<b>Counters</b>	N Coffey	A Radcliffe

## Retirement thoughts and comments from Stewart & Marilyn Patrick

Dear Mangapapa Church members,

With my retirement on 1 February, I thought it would be good and wise to advise our plans in retirement, how we see our connection with MUP Church continuing over the next 2 years or so, and to share some of my 'Church heart thoughts' and encouragements, with you.



I will be 65 in February and we advised the church in February last year, that 2017 would be our final year as the full-time Church leader/pastor.

### **First, our retirement plans (the Lord willing of course) -**

· **We are staying in Gisborne**, and MUP will still be our 'home church', but we won't be here a lot in 2018, as of course we will be giving the new leader & leadership, space. I will of course give any commencement assistance needed to the new Leader, when they arrive. Marilyn desires to continue running the 'TOSS Open Shed Sales' for local mission, and purchase for the Foodbank when reqd. Stewart will be a MUP 'Te Hahi' call-out volunteer, and do the Turanga FM 'Gospel Show' on occasions.

I would say this – embrace your New Church Leader when they come, and allow them to be your leader/pastor to all. I will not be officiating weddings, baptisms, dedications or funerals here at MUP. There may be times I participate, but not officiate. (An exception to this may be, in the interim before a new Leader comes).

· **2018 will primarily be a sabbatical year.** A time to rest, enjoy our family and grandchildren coming here in Feb/March, from the UK & Australia. We have work to do on our house, we will catch up with family members and friends around NZ, and we will have 3 months with our children and grandchildren in the U.K., July to September.

· **We have a desire to encourage Church leaders/pastors/ministers.** I believe there is a gap here in the support systems of Churches/denominations & denominational leadership structures. If I can sit with or go for walk with a pastor/leader and encourage them in their heart in Christ, and hear their heart, that's what I/we would love to do. The 'City by City' Network that Colin Shaw heads up, is something I would like to support around NZ, as part of this desire.

· **'Abiding Life' Discipleship Counselling** - We plan to continue to work one-on-one with folk and with couples, and teach this in groups. This has been a major part of our journey, which grew out of my near despair at finding real help for 'broken

Christians', that is believers hurt and struggling, or caught up in sinful behaviour patterns and or depression, etc. Most of it hidden stuff. The aim of Abiding Life is simple; to get people to see the roots of and deal with their 'baggage', and point them to the abiding, moment by moment walk with Christ.

### **And some final thoughts from me about 'Church', (these I have shared recently with Ministers/Pastors/Church Leaders in Gisborne) ...**

**1. Keep Jesus Christ at the centre of your Church.** I discovered that it is actually not easy to do this, but requires diligence from the leader. There is always some 'good' thing vying for our attention away from the 'best', and the world always wants to set the churches agenda. But believe me, I grew to understand, that '*What gets your attention, gets you!*' Give Jesus Christ your attention above all, personally & corporately, and everything else will take its proper place. Revelation 3:20 is a word to His Church (not to an individual in the first instance). It is a frightening image to think of Jesus Christ relegated to outside your Church door.

**2. Keep faithful to Christ and the gospel, for the sake of this city and region.** 'The Church' can only be the body of believers who hold to the Divine, resurrected Lord Jesus Christ as Head of His Church, alive and leading us today. If that faith is lost (and I have seen it lost in ministers/leaders/churches through such movements as 'Progressive Spirituality'), what hope is there for the city?

**3. Keep the simplicity of the gospel. It has to be for the least of us, or it is not the gospel.** (*Hebrews 8:11 ...for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.*) There are no great men & women of God, but men and women who know they are weak, and they have a great God!

**4. I believe the historic foundations of the gospel within Maori of Tairāwhiti, will arise in a greater measure.** The celebrations of 200yrs of the Gospel in Aotearoa/NZ, in 2014, were a revelation for me and I have developed a sense that those wonderful roots - the gospel coming first to the East Coast by Piripi Taumata-a kura & others - will rise up again in the descendants. I pray for that. Keep telling that story.

**5. A word of thanks to Ray Sheldrake** who has selflessly given much time and resources from his business, to coordinate, communicate and help keep the various Churches here in touch through his [KCN website](#). His work in preparing the e-book '[Christianity on the Coast](#)', (which gives the context to 4 above), is a great resource and will be given to the next MUP Leader.

Blessings, Stewart Patrick