

NEWSLETTER

Sharing information from 10am Leaders' Meeting

Welcome



Two weeks ago, Uiesemaalii (Ese) Holmes joined the administration team for Wellington Methodist Parish. This means that our administration team for the Parish consists of Murray Harnan, Sarah Laursen and Ese. In this month's newsletter, we are pleased to be able to introduce Ese to you.

Talofa lava, Kiaorana and greetings.

My name is Uiesemaalii (named after my late Aunt) but most call me Ese for short. I'm a Mother to a handsome 7 year old young man Ezekiel who has recently claimed the staff room as his 'office', so feel free to book in for a drawing lesson.

Describing myself is one of the toughest tasks for me to do, but interesting. I am the youngest of 3 siblings, my father Harry and Mother Maveve. As most know, I grew up in the Samoan congregation and I am still a member. I have always been energetic and lively so I find no problem in making conversation. I am very pleased that I was given the opportunity to work within the parish and I am so delighted to work with each congregation.

THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."



From my desk ...

Recently I read a Facebook post from a friend. The post shared with me said:

"The cells of your body aren't old, they keep regenerating, they are new.

Your body has the potential of being as young and as vital as it has ever been, you see ...

You don't have old cells, you just have an old attitude about your new self.'

My immediate thought was, what is my friend trying to tell me! Then I started to think about this in the context of planning for the parish. In a booklet written about the history of the Wesley Parish, a former Parish Superintendent, Rev Dr Lynne Frith notes that " Wesley is a parish with 'great energy.

Great energy with a strong commitment to right relationship with each other and with God, with a passion for justice, and the determination to be a lively presence in the city.' Parish Council is about to undertake a strategic planning process. A workshop for Parish Council and Leaders Meeting members will be held in October. In two weeks time, at Cafe Church, we will also start to think about what is important for us as the 10am congregation. I encourage you all to join in and continue our tradition of being a parish with 'great energy.'

Arohanui, Nicola.

The banquet raising money for operation refugee raised \$690



Drama Christi - 75 years

by Daphne Pilaar

Many members of Wesley church have special memories of involvement in Drama Christi over the years and on the weekend of 5/6 November we are celebrating that Drama Christi has actively presented drama and dance portraying ideas and ideals for 75 years.

Drama Christi originated with Don and Tim Priestley, committed Wesley Church members with experience in theatre, presenting 'The First Crib' in the church in Dec 1947. Members of Wellington Repertory played the leads and congregation members made up the crowd. Consequently, the members of the church who took part were keen to experience more of 'this art'. The group took the name 'Drama Christi' in 1949 and has produced drama and dance performances every year since.

Drama Christi has the unique commitment of including anyone who wants to be involved in production. It operates on a collective basis. Everyone is welcome to come and be involved in the selection of plays. Any member interested in directing or other specific roles are mentored and supported to do so.

Over the decades Drama Christi has taken on many bold ventures. It produced powerful dance/dramas that were performed in a wide range of venues. In 1982 Drama Christi created 'Whanautanga', a major project involving a cast of 150 representing the five major ethnic groups of Wesley church. It was a celebration of their ancestors' journeys and the lands from which each group came and was performed in the Wellington Botanic Garden.

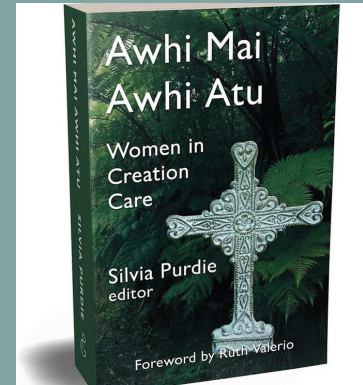
There have been members who had their first acting experience with Drama Christi and went on to become professional actors or directors. For many of us Drama Christi has been a family affair.

We started and over the years brought our children and grandchildren into the fold. Others became 'roped in' through their children's participation.

I have been actively involved in Drama Christi since 1978. Apart from the 9 years I lived in Levin, I have either acted, choreographed, directed, looked after props, etc, every year. I so value what Drama Christi provides and achieves. I have seen so many people develop and flourish through Drama Christi. I have stretched my own creativity and confidence to lead and coordinate productions and of course I have experienced deep friendships, meaningful connections, a lot of support and fun.

If you are interested in finding out more about Drama Christi see <https://www.dramachristi.org.nz/>

Book of the month



Awahi Mai Awahi Atu: Women in Creation Care. Silvia Purdie editor; Ruth Valerio Foreword. Pbk. 342pp. ISBN 9781991027115. PGPL (2022).

Print books \$35.00. eBooks \$20.00. Order at www.pgpl.co.nz

Awahi Mai Awahi Atu tells the stories of 30 women of faith from many cultures, living in Aotearoa New Zealand, who are leading in environmental action. Through their experience a powerful story emerges of God at work in a rich diversity of ways. This book encourages Christians to receive God's love – awahi mai – and to share God's love – awahi atu – in human community and with the natural environment.

For churches and community groups who are keen to get involved but don't know where to start, the book offers 81 action points and ideas which your church or group can act on today. It also includes:

- Vibrant stories of hope and creativity in the face of local and global problems
- A wealth of prayer and poetry that connects heart and soul
- Discussion of theology in ecological mission, and
- Information about the Eco Church NZ movement.

A selection from the 81 Action Points is being posted every two or three days on the publisher's Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/philipgarsidepublishing>