

OUR STORY CONTINUED 1961 – 2011

The memories which have been gathered from our members and others who have been involved in St Andrew's over the years, as well as the reports about the different aspects of our church life all help to fill out the picture of what events have been significant during the past 50 years.

To give some structure to our story, the list of ministers, and the dates they were at St Andrew's is as follows:

Rev A C (Robbie) Robinson	until 1962.
Rev Stuart Wyness	1962 - 1969.
Rev Charles Naylor	1971 - 1978.
Rev Karel Lorier	1979 - 1994.
Rev Tino Scanlan	1995 - 2002.
Rev Fei Taule'ale'ausumai Davis	2003 ongoing.

Events of some significance during these 50 years are:

- 1964 The original church hall was moved from Railside Ave to the present site in Tara Rd & Sunday School hall added to the church
- 1972 The building of the manse adjacent to the church
- Phoenix House was placed on our land, fronting Great North Rd
- 1979 - 80 The Church helped resettle a Refugee family from Cambodia
- 1981 – 1999, and 2003 Church camps over a period of 15 years.
- Men's dinners held monthly.
- 1982 PIPC Niuean Congregation started sharing our buildings
- 1984 The Church Shop opened in Trading Place and the kitchen, foyer and Sunday School Hall were added to our church building.
- 1989 Parent Support Group started
- 1992 Church involved with Lovelink, a Presbyterian Support Initiative
- 1999 - 2000 ESOL Conversation Group for new immigrants
- Waitakere Church services discontinued, and the building subsequently shifted to St Giles' Presbyterian Church, Te Atatu South.
- 2001 Seniors' Fellowship started.
- Annual St Andrew's Day celebration followed by lunch with Piping in of the Haggis began
- 2002 Waitakere Church site land sold.
- 2005 Sharing Passover Meal on Maundy Thursday evening began
- 2006 Mainly Music started.
- 2008 Group from the church travelled to Samoa for a holiday.
- 2009 Rev Fei and Rewi Davis married.
- 2010 Storage garage built behind church.

TRANSITION TO TARA ROAD

In the early 1960's St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Henderson, was situated in Railside Avenue and as the name implies it was very close to the railway line. The train drivers delighted in shunting the wagons around on the sidings with extensive hooting at the level crossings right on Church time. The parish decided that enough was enough and came up with a grandiose scheme to purchase a block of land up the hill from the Henderson township, divide it into sections and reap sufficient surplus to build a grand church. To enable the land to be purchased, the manse was sold and the Church set about meeting the council requirements for underground services, drainage and road construction of what is now Tara Road. A mortgage was taken out against the land to carry out the work and the interest started mounting.

In 1964 the church hall was moved to the present site, and has been used as the church ever since. The original kauri church building was deemed unable to be moved and was demolished. Section sales were slow and there was a government restriction that subdivided land could not be sold for more than £750 per section. The minister at the time, Rev Stuart Wyness, was leading the scheme. He went to America to look at a parish to which he had been asked to move, and when he returned he was faced with a church up on blocks, and a large mortgage.



That is when Presbytery got involved, with Ward Buckingham being part of the commission, and Rev Ken Evans as Moderator. St Andrew's was virtually bankrupt with its only real assets the mortgaged church land and two unsold sections. Ward, as Presbytery Treasurer, had the job of going through the Henderson accounts for the previous few years. While there were many strange financial and unauthorised decisions, such as selling the manse, he didn't find any evidence of embezzlement. Rev Wyness returned from America to a very hostile congregation and a torrid congregational meeting. The eventual outcome was that he resigned from the parish. Rev Ernie Walsh was then appointed Interim Moderator. He was a great preacher and worked very hard as a pastoral minister.

The congregation was unable to call a minister until there was a manse, so

during the next year or so, and with a loan from the bank guaranteed by the Presbyterian Church, a manse was built. The Rev Charles Naylor was then called and rebuilding the congregation began.

Later on, in exchange for the Waitakere Church building (which was moved o St Giles, Te Atatu South), a Keith Hay relocatable building was placed on the Great North Road frontage, replacing the original house that had been used for Sunday School. This was let out for use by a group of counsellors, and has been a valuable ongoing source of income for the parish. The building was named Phoenix House because of the large phoenix palms on the property.

THE CHURCH AT WAITAKERE VILLAGE

We initially gathered at Waitakere Hall on Sunday mornings for a worship service, led by whoever was the minister of St Andrew's at the time. An elder usually came as well to help with the service and serving communion.

We would wait for the Roman Catholics to finish their service before ours started. We usually chatted together and got to know a lot of them. Later on Auckland Presbytery gave us a Keith Hay building which then became our church. This was on McEntee Road and worked well for quite some time.

There was often a competition about how fast the minister and elder could get from Henderson to Waitakere. Rev Charles Naylor was usually the winner.

Mr and Mrs Brown were very staunch members of the Waitakere congregation and contacted newcomers to encourage them to attend the Church services.



Unfortunately, numbers dwindled until we were not a big enough congregation for the Waitakere Church to be kept going. Some of the members moved closer to Henderson and became members of St Andrew's.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 1960 to 1990

Sunday School was held in the church hall alongside the church when it was

*Our Sunday School in 1964
Rev Stuart Wyness centre front*

in Station Road. There were about 30 children divided into two groups – up to 7 years, and the 7 to 13 year olds. The older children were in the main hall. It was a vibrant and enjoyable group. When the church hall was



moved to Tara Road in 1964, the Church used that building to meet in. The Sunday School classes were held for some time in rooms of the original house on the property. Eventually, the present hall was added to the building, and Sunday School classes were held there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 1991 to 2011

St Andrew's has supported a Sunday School for as long as I can remember. I attended the Sunday School myself, as a child and have been associated with the Sunday School when my own children were part of an active Sunday School.



Activity time May 2011

We have a team of committed and passionate teachers who are rostered on a 'team teaching' basis. Classes are prepared each week, based on the lectionary readings and supported by the 'Seasons of the Spirit' materials purchased by the Church. These materials link to the sermon and follow on from the 'Family time' segment our Minister prepares each week.

We have a Sunday School hall and we use the same solid tables and forms my generation used – they were obviously well made! The walls of the hall are often brightly decorated with the craft and activities the children complete in the half hour that they are in Sunday School.

The format of the lessons has changed over time, with more informal sharing

time together. Bible memory verses are less frequent and puzzles and crafts are used to reinforce the message of the weekly lesson.

The age range of the children also changes from year to year. This provides challenges for the teachers to create interesting lessons that cover a wide age range. At times we have had to alter the class sizes and run two separate classes for the younger children and our youth. We currently have a number of babies and toddlers as well as a number of school aged children. The older children are now helping with the little ones. Often children build firm friendships during their time at Sunday School.

We have enjoyed many outside events over the years, including social trips away or games evenings at Church. Preparing for special events such as White Sunday has involved learning new songs, drama, dances or Bible verses, and provided the opportunity for our children to impress a proud congregation.



With an active and growing Sunday School it is a pleasure to be part of what is a very positive and fresh aspect of our Church: our future Church congregation.—*Diane Bussey*

ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

At St Andrew's there were two women's groups: the Ladies' Guild and the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU). In 1964 the National Women's Group decided we would be more effective if we combined, and so the Association of Presbyterian Women (APW) was formed.

In our congregation, we continued meeting as two separate groups, with some people attending both meetings. We affiliated to the National Group and still received their publications, maintaining the link to the national body.

The younger members of the congregation who were unable to attend day meetings started a Young Wives Group, and we met in the evening at members' homes. Our children used to moan when it was their mother's turn to host the group. The complaint was, "You make so much noise that we can't get to sleep." It really was a fun group with plenty of laughs.

In recent years we have changed our names to Steel Magnolias, and Seniors Fellowship. We still keep in touch with what is happening around New Zealand, and a few of us still attend Presbyterial meetings.

JUNIOR MISSIONARY GROUP

In 1960 at St Andrew's a Junior Missionary Group called Busy Bees was started for children. The first meeting, held in the church hall in Station Rd, was in June 1960, and thereafter on Wednesdays after school. Meetings started with afternoon tea, and this was followed by a time of devotions. Then the children worked on handcrafts. These were sold at a gala at the end of the year. The first sale of work raised just over £26.

Each year we met with other Busy Bees at a rally held in various churches around Auckland. There were usually missionaries on furlough, and they would speak to the children about their experiences on the mission field.

In 1964, after the church moved to Tara Road, we started meeting in private homes. This proved to be more convenient for all concerned, so we never went back to meeting in church premises.

By 1972 most of the leaders' children, who formed a large percentage of our roll, were moving on to other interests, so it was decided to close the hive. We had started in 1960 with a roll of about 25; when we closed there were 19 on the roll.

This group was a really worthwhile outreach to the children in the community, enabling all involved to learn more about mission work.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

In the 1980's Noelene Brens thought that we, as a church, needed to provide something for our young parents with pre-school children.

On 6 July 1989 we began a support group and met every Thursday morning during the school term for about three hours. The parents used the lounge room at the church and the children were looked after in the hall.



The parents had morning tea and various activities or speakers, or even a chat about different ideas on parenting. The children were entertained by a few older members of the congregation.

It was a very successful venture and appreciated by the parents, especially those who did not have family in Auckland. As time went by there was no longer a need for this group and it was discontinued.

HENDERSON PACIFIC ISLANDERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Out of a vision by Reverend Lagaua Talagi to spread the Gospel within the Niue community in West Auckland, a consultation process was held in 1981 between the local Niue leaders and several churches, in order to establish a branch of the Niue Pacific Island Presbyterian Church.

The churches which were involved in this consultation process offered to share their facilities, but none of them shared Rev Talagi's vision more than that of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Thus, with the approval of the Parish Council and all formalities confirmed, Henderson Pacific Island Presbyterian Church was officially opened on 28 February 1982.

Since then, Henderson PIPC has been involved with several major projects jointly with St Andrew's contributing 50/50 or a percentage of the cost and labour towards these projects. These include the church re-roofing, car park sealing, kitchen and meeting room extension, and the exterior painting of the church building. Also the PIPC is involved in working bees, flower rosters, cleaning rosters and other activities involving the two congregations. In the past, it has always been a privilege and a pleasure when the two congregations have met together because they were very memorable times. However, it is unfortunate that only a few of these combined worship services and fellowship have happened over the years. We continue to build on our



Rev Leomana Tongatule

mutual relationship which led to the support of St Andrew's during our 10 year celebration some years ago, and more recently, the PIPC Henderson 25 years celebrations in 2007.

Even though a lot of hard times were endured during the years, nonetheless, through prayer and staying close to our brothers and sisters in Christ at St Andrew's, we have collectively managed to fulfil the vision to establish Henderson PIPC within another Presbyterian church.

The PIPC Henderson Congregation and its present minister, Rev Fieta Ikitoelagi Faitala, wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the St. Andrew's people for their great support for God's work in the PIPC Henderson. It has been a privilege to work alongside them, sharing the church facilities.

On behalf of the PIPC Henderson, it is with great pleasure and an honour that I acknowledge Rev Lagaua Talagi, the initiator member of the PIPC Henderson; Rev Leomana Tongatule, the former minister of the PIPC Henderson, and last but not the least, our current minister, Rev Fieta Ikitoelagi Faitala and her husband Rev Sione Lagigie Faitala, both ordained ministers of the PCANZ. We thank them all for the work of God in the PIPC Henderson.—*Neville Luisi*

YOUTH GROUP 1987—1994

From the beginning of 1987 until the end of 1994 I had the privilege of taking the Youth Group. We met fortnightly for social activities, usually on Friday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. Youth from Form 1 upwards attended. During those years there were three school terms, so we averaged seven or eight meetings a term. The youth knew how to make their own fun and had some wonderful times together.

A programme was arranged at the beginning of each term, and there was a wide variety of activities including tramping, sailing on the Freemans' yacht, abseiling, games evenings, ice skating, ten pin bowling



and sleepovers.

Several times a year our meetings involved dressing up – themes such as Back to Front, Outrageous, Clashing Colours and Bad Taste – with games and supper to match!



Our Youth helping to clean up Pollen Island

Food was an important part of our programme, so when a Snack Track, Taste Trek, Grub Crawl or Speed Feed was planned, the youth knew they would be treated to a progressive dinner.

Our members were very talented and when we put on concerts we presented a range of musical items (clarinet, piano and singing), dances and of course the usual skits.

We were grateful to members of the congregation who showed a keen interest in the Youth Group and were a wonderful support, along with the parents. The youth enjoyed visiting Heather Smith who welcomed us into her home on several occasions. She had a great sense of fun. We also had memorable times with Peggy Hill. Once when we visited her she greeted us at her door dressed as an old woman with a shawl over her head. Needless to say, some of the youth were rather startled!

The Youth Group members were delightful young people. Looking back, I realise how fortunate they were. Life was slower than it is now, and the youth derived great enjoyment from being involved in simple activities.

- Catherine Connell

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St Andrew's has long been involved with the World Day of Prayer in the Henderson area. The first recorded meeting of a WDP service in Henderson was in 1954 with most churches participating. The WDP minute books I hold as Convenor date back to 1967 when Mrs Wyness, wife of the minister, Rev. Stuart Wyness, represented us at the planning meeting. For several years ladies from St Andrew's took it in turns to represent our church on the planning committee.

In 1982 ‘Mrs Martin’ was mentioned for the first time. Lillian Martin faithfully led our involvement for the next 15 years, most of those as Convenor. The preliminary planning meetings during that time were hosted by Lillian mainly at her home. Lillian invited me to come to the 1997 preliminary meeting. I left that meeting with a bemused smile having been introduced as St Andrew’s new representative. Lillian had also announced her retirement from the position.

Three years later I became the Convenor, a position I still hold. I felt inadequate taking over from Lillian but I am now thankful that she introduced me to such an enjoyable and rewarding role. – *Linda Johns*

CAMPS AND WEEKENDS AWAY

From 1981 to 1990, from 1996 to 1999, and in 2003 we held church family camps. Eleven times we stayed at Houghtons Bush in Muriwai, and four times we went to Karanga Camp in Swanson. These venues were chosen because they were close enough to Henderson for non campers to come to a Sunday church service at each camp.

Over the years we had some very inspiring speakers, and a wide range of interesting themes, such as “We Belong Together”, Creative Listening” and “Restorative Justice”.



The cooking was shared by the campers. We all had wonderful meals and ate well. At one of the camps we even had a Passover meal.

Concerts and Fiafia nights were the highlights of camps, with games, skits, dancing, karaoke, and people showing their talents.

Occasional Saturday nights away to Coromandel, Waihi and Mt Maunganui were arranged. These places were chosen because of their connections with past members. We stayed in the church halls and attended the Sunday services.

Sadly, in 2003 we held our last camp. We were finding it difficult to encourage enough people to commit to a weekend away.

These enjoyable times spent together were most worthwhile, and great opportunities for getting to know each other.

500 EVENINGS



Because there were several keen 500 players in the congregation, it was decided to hold 500 evenings in the church hall. The first evening was held on 1 October 1997 and players paid \$2 each – an easy way of fundraising.

In 1998 we were so enthusiastic that we played each week from 14 January to 16 December!

By 1999 when numbers were lower, we began meeting in Vera White's home and played 500 regularly until the end of 2002. Regrettably Vera's health became unstable in 2003 so we did not meet as often. We played our last games on 17 September 2003.

These evenings were wonderful times of fellowship, when we would catch up on news of members of our congregation.

CHURCH SHOP

On 1 September 1984 we opened our church shop (then called Support Shoppe) in Trading Place with the help of Presbyterian Support, who organised the venue, fittings for the shop and goods to sell. Our opening hours were 10am to 4pm on Monday to Thursday, 10am to 6pm on Friday, and 10am to 12pm on Saturday. From Monday to Friday we worked two three hour shifts with an extra shift on Friday from 4pm to 6pm. After a while we decided to stop the late night Friday shift.



In May 2005, because of a shortage of staff, we had to reduce the hours, and opened from 10am to 2pm with one shift per day. At the end of 2008 the shop turnover was down, so from 2009 it was decided to increase the hours till 4pm on Tuesday to Friday. This has made a big difference to our takings.

Memorable things often happen in the shop. One day a lady hurried in and told us she had donated some ring boxes which she wanted back. We thought that it could be an impossible request, but when we looked in the counter there they were (with no prices on)! On opening them we found some precious jewels inside – the lady was incredibly relieved. She was going to be late for work, but had been too embarrassed to tell anyone what she would be doing.

We are now grateful for the generous donations which are provided by the community, from the smallest items such as plastic bags, to expensive treasures. We could not exist without these gifts.

Although the shop is a vital source of income, it also provides a wonderful outreach and community service. We enjoy the company of some regular customers who come in just to have a chat.

We look forward to many more years of service to the public.

MUSIC AT ST ANDREW'S

For 16 years there have been three organists sharing the playing for the services at St Andrew's using the Rogers 2-manual organ and the Kawai piano which was donated to the church by Linda Hogsden. The organ was purchased in the 1990s to replace the harmonium which had been used for many years. Often both piano and organ together are used in the services.

Hymn singing has changed over the years from the days when hymn books were used. The hymns were first put on slides and projected onto a screen in Karel Lorier's time. After that, the words were on overhead transparencies, and again, projected onto a screen. Now in the 21st century we are using powerpoint, and enjoying the special computer effects that our efficient secretary, Linda Johns, includes to brighten up the text.

Hymns are chosen now from a wide variety of hymnbooks, including the NZ Hymnbook Trust publications. St Andrew's takes on the challenges of new hymns, as well as keeping connected to what we know as the heritage hymns

that have stood the test of time. We have singing services where we learn new hymns; sometimes these services have been preceded by soup, or a pancake breakfast.

Since 1996 we have kept a logbook of the hymns and songs used in all regular and some special services. This is an interesting record of our musical life at St Andrew's, dating from the time that the three musicians, Catherine Connell, Lavea Clarke and Alison Coates started sharing playing duties.

While our worship tends to be traditional, we have at times enjoyed more up to date music presented by the Youth. This has usually been made possible by using Afoa Tuuga-Stevenson's band, the renowned "Five Stars".

We also tap into the enthusiasm of the Mainly Music group that meets in our church weekly, by including one of their songs in our services.

Over the years musical evenings have been held at St Andrew's drawing on the musical talent of many members of the congregation. Some of our members have been involved in the Many Choirs Festival held annually at different major churches in the Auckland area. In 1994 several of the congregation joined with others in Waitakere City to form a choir for a recording of Praise Be, held at Holy Cross Catholic Church. This was part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Henderson and a joyous ecumenical event in which to be involved.

Music has always played, and continues to play an important part in the life of St Andrew's.

SENIORS' FELLOWSHIP—Friendship grounded in fellowship



Our group in 2011

To return to New Zealand after many years working, first in Samoa, and then Fiji was a real challenge to Bruce and me to make new friends. Two of our children had discovered West Auckland so we bought a house there too, and having left St Andrew's, Suva, joined St Andrew's, Henderson.

We were encouraged to find people of all ages in this welcoming and inclusive congregation, but there was not a particular group for older people like us. We found that most of our age group was involved in community activities outside the Church, such as U3A and Probus. We began to join such groups ourselves, but still felt the need for a Church group in which we could find the depth of friendship we were looking for.

To explore the possibility of interest we invited people to meet at our home and were gratified to discover that they had lots of ideas. We agreed that we would meet monthly, beginning each session with a chance to catch up with each other informally, with lots of conversation and laughter. After a shared lunch we would then have a previously advertised topic that would enable us to share our life experiences. Lillian Martin, one of the church's stalwart Elders who has since passed away, said that we needed to hear now about the lives we had all led and not wait until the day of our funerals! She had some interesting tales to tell about farming life in New Zealand and about her travels in the Holy Land. Cath Anderson was also a foundation member who could tell us much about the history of St Andrew's. John Keir was an enthusiastic member who told us about the ships he had sailed on and the books he had read. We remember the memorable skit we did, with John as bus driver, to raise funds for the youth trip to Ruapehu. Margaret Dickie, who was also originally from Scotland, enjoyed sharing experiences with him during the time that she met with us.

Margaret was brought by her friend Isabel Clarke who came to St Andrew's with her husband nine years ago. She tells us that she, "felt very comfortable here as people made us most welcome. An invitation was extended to attend the Seniors' Fellowship, so I came along to a meeting and found a small group of people who were very nice and friendly. I am sure the group will go on for many years and I thank everyone for their friendship." Isabel warmly welcomed us to her home for one of our meetings, as did Ailsa Freeman. Over the years we have had a lot of laughs and hilarity and it is Ailsa who always instigates the jokes. Nowadays it is also Ailsa who is usually first into the kitchen to get the lunch organised. There is always a variety of food contributed and it is only during the eating of it that the group is silent for a few minutes. More recently we have enjoyed the hospitality at his home of a valued new member Pete Lovell and also of Beryl Hughes. Beryl has a great capacity for remembering our past activities saying, "I have enjoyed our sessions about houses we've lived in, books we've read, precious objects we

own, places we have visited, old photos, recipes to swap, stories about Christmas and Easter experiences and Anzac Day memories.”

Rev Fei Taule’ale’ausumai kindly invited us to the manse during the year when a number of us began to find the flat ground and ample parking there easier to manage. Fei also keeps us in touch with a previous loved member, Helen Gray, whom she visits in her new home. We all appreciate Fei’s pastoral care for us. As Barbara Chapman explains, “We now meet in the church meeting room which is central for folks and hosts alike. For about ten years now I have tried not to miss a meeting where the fellowship is always open, informal and welcoming and I find it of good value for our church. I pray it will survive for a long time.”

As time went on we invited speakers from our congregation who spoke about their lives and careers: Lavea and Tuaepe Clarke, Violet Tuuga Stevenson, Diane Bussey, Alison Coates, David and Glenys Mather. This helped to strengthen links across the congregation and enabled us not to become too inward looking. More recently we have had speakers from outside our Church too. Ian and Christine Deverell, on holiday from France, spoke about their cross-cultural marriage, John Deverell about the Bahai faith and Jane Iverson (a friend of Jackie Natusch, to whom we are grateful for bringing such a memorable speaker) enlightened us about her conversion to Islam. We have also made visits to Waiheke Island and to Devonport together, starting with a train ride to Britomart and then walking to the ferry buildings

Finally, a long time member, Muriel Coppins said: “As an older person coming into a new community and a new church, I found the Seniors’ Fellowship with its mix of discussion, humour and conversation a great help in feeling at home here. I thoroughly enjoy the monthly meetings with the opportunity to get to know people really well.” Muriel travels in the car with our much loved foundation member Jean Jenkins who gives us piles of well chosen books to read when we are ill and amuses us with incidents from her life story. As we all grow older we receive great spiritual and emotional



Snow Fundraiser 2010. Members of senior fellowship, youth and also past youth members performing.

support from each other, and also continue to stimulate each others' minds with discussion. Our challenge now is to integrate new members who have not been on this journey with us.

YOUTH GROUP PRESENT

Over the years, St Andrew's Youth Group has organised and participated in numerous events. Through annual youth services, Bright Sundays, fundraising events and participation in Presbyterian sports games and youth nights, the youth here at St Andrew's have dedicated numerous hours to the building of God's work within our Church and wider community.



Youth Performing at Youth service 2010. Youth singing, Playing in the band and dancing.

Annual youth services and Bright Sundays are days where the youth are able to take lead in worship. At our last youth service, in 2010, the church was packed right out to the foyer. Every year Bright Sunday is a chance for the Youth and Sunday school of St Andrew's to put on a service which features original plays, dances and worship leadership.

Our youth group has also had the opportunity to go to the snow. This was a fun experience for us, most being first timers. By joining with Te Atatu Union Church, both youth groups were able to fundraise and head down for a fun weekend of fellowship, sightseeing and skiing. Fundraising events included talent quests at Church, where the whole Church family got together and performed items. This was a fun way for the Church to join together and have a good time.

We have also expanded into participating in regional youth services where different Presbyterian Churches take the lead in youth services. This has given us a chance to perform and meet other youth groups around Auckland. In 2010 the youth also participated in the Presbyterian



Presbyterian Sports Games 2010

sports games. Numerous sports were played including touch, volleyball and soccer.

Despite the fluctuating numbers over the years, Fei has made sure that the youth are able to have space within the church to get together, through the Friday games and DVD nights. Fei has given us all the opportunity to lead. It was an honour for me to be selected as the Auckland Presbytery Youth representative to GA 10, the Presbyterian Church's National General Assembly, which was held in Christchurch, October 2010 just after the first earthquake. We have also attended youth camps over the years, these experiences being both inspiring and beneficial for our own personal spiritual growth. We have grown in confidence over the years through reading the Bible in Church, starring in plays and taking part in leading worship.

- Falen Tuuga Stevenson

STEEL MAGNOLIAS GROUP 2003 – present day

This informal group for women was formed in Fei's first year as minister of this Parish. It came out of a conversation she had with her sister, Helen Fonua, and their close friend, Malama Solomona. They saw a need for a social outlet for the women of St Andrew's to get together and enjoy time away from the pressures of family life.



Our regular members in 2011

The group's name was inspired by the magnificent magnolia tree that stands outside the Manse. Thinking of the diversity of ages of the women who

were likely to join, Fei thought of the movie based on Robert Harling's play of the same name and suggested Steel Magnolias would be an appropriate title. Thinking back over the subsequent eight years of often hilarious fun, it was a very intuitive choice!

The group meets over dinner early in the year to plan that year's events. An activity is chosen for each month of the year except December. A few choices have become firm favourites and are included every year such as our Games and our Music nights. Over the years we have been to the Movies, watched DVDs, visited the Art Gallery and Museum, attended theatre

productions, walked along beaches and through the bush, reviewed books, gone 10-pin bowling and enjoyed day trips to Devonport and Warkworth. Food seems to be an important part of these gatherings - be it a potluck dinner before the night's entertainment, a picnic after church or a leisurely lunch in a café. The one element of the activities that never changes is the great fun we have together.

MAINLY MUSIC

We started a Mainly Music group in February 2006, with a dedicated team of 4 – Jenny Collins, Caty Ferguson, Fei Taule'ale'ausumai Davis and Jean Pascoe. Mainly Music is a church based music oriented playgroup, supported by a national organisation. We provide families in the community with a music session followed by morning tea and a time for play. Our first family to join were Annie and Loghan, followed by Anita and Caitlyn. For a long time we were a very small group. Frequently Alexa (Caty's daughter), Ella (Jenny's daughter), Loghan and Caitlyn were the only children there.

Initially we met in the hall using the old sound system, with Caty putting music on an MP3 and playing it through the speaker. When the church got the projector we moved into the church, moving chairs each day and buying a carpet to make people comfortable. We gradually figured out how the lap-top and projector work.

In 2008, we started to see an increase in families attending, and knowing that Caty would be off for some time when William was born we asked Janette to join us. She has taken over the organisation of props for our group, ensuring that our sessions are well stocked with beautifully made resources.



Spring Theme Day 2009

Last year we ended up closing our roll for a time when our group size reached over 25 families. We find if we get 25 children attending, the church starts to feel quite small and the noise level becomes uncomfortable for us. We also welcomed Isabel Clarke and Catherine Connell to our team, giving us extra help in the sessions and in caring for our families.

EASTER PASSOVER MEAL/LAST SUPPER

For the past 8 years we have looked forward every Easter to our Passover meal. We sit down to celebrate the Jewish Passover meal complete with the lighting of the Menorah by the mother of the house. Each year a different mother of the Church is invited to light the candle and recite the opening prayer. We sing psalms of praise. During the meal the children ask the questions about Passover, and we re-enact a combination of the Jewish and Christian traditions from both the Old and New Testaments.



Our meal is unleavened bread, bitter herbs, roast lamb (which the Bussey family generously provide from their own farm each year) and grape juice or wine. We celebrate communion in a similar manner and style that Jesus might have done on that night when he was betrayed. We listen to Jewish music and generally have a wonderful relaxing time of feasting, fellowship and fun.

ANNUAL ST ANDREW'S DAY LUNCH

On the nearest Sunday to 30th November every year we celebrate St Andrew's Day complete with Haggis and recorded bagpipe music. It used to be John Keir's role to recite the "Ode to the Haggis" and ceremonially stab the haggis before we had a shared lunch. Sadly John passed away in 2009. However, his memory lingers on in our tradition.



Alan Bussey now recites the Ode for us with something resembling a Scottish burr.

HENDERSON PARISH 1972-1978—Helen Naylor

In 1972 the Henderson Parish invited Charles Naylor to visit the parish with a “view to a call” as a minister. It was time for a shift and he decided Henderson had possibilities, though I wasn’t too sure about Auckland traffic and humidity. The parish then proceeded with the call.

A new manse was being built and we eagerly studied the plans. There were only three bedrooms because the church couldn’t afford to build the fourth. As we had three boys and one girl we would have to use the study as a bedroom and send Charles off to work in the vestry in the church.

The church property extended back from Great North Road, which ran down the hill into Henderson Township. An old house on this site was used for Sunday School and beside it was a pedestrian access to the main road. Behind that, the section broadened out to the church and hall complex with the newly built manse behind. Beside the church was a big empty section, great for the boys to chase balls around.

Between the church and house was an area over 4 metres wide, bare earth just waiting to become lawn and garden. During the spring we worked hard to set up gardens, plant them, and sow lawn.



Back of church and hall

Many of the people in the parish were in the older age group though they were still very active. There were three women’s groups, the Guild, Women’s Fellowship and the Young Wives Group. The Session Clerk was Norman Conquer, and his wife, Doris, led the Guild. Joe Remiens was especially good on the working bee team, and Ngaire and Frank Hogsden were involved with the choir and youth work. Lillian Thompson played the piano and organ, and Helen Tracy looked after the Sunday School. Her husband, Brian, had built our very comfortable house.

Finances were tight as the new house had to be paid for, and the congregation was not large. There were the inevitable fairs where the baking and sweets stalls, jams and preserves were popular. We sewed all winter making aprons, oven cloths, children’s clothes and knick knacks for presents, hoping people would buy. Once we tried an Art and Craft Fair where painters and

craftspeople sold their goods, and we took a percentage of the takings. It was a lovely show, but I don't think we made much money. There was also the worry of a break in, so Charles slept in the church hall to keep guard. The men had working bees, bagging manure to sell to garden lovers. The Stewardship Campaign asked people to pledge a set amount of money each week, so that the finance committee could make a budget.

I remember many happy times in Henderson. We made some lovely friends there.

BELONGING—Linda Johns

One Friday afternoon a few years ago, I came across an elderly Muslim woman peering through the church hall windows. Her English was limited but I understood enough to realise that she would like to see more. I took her inside and was extremely moved by the reverence and joy this woman showed toward icons in our church – items that I had grown so used to that I rarely noticed them anymore. I found myself looking with her, as though for the first time. I am thankful for the experience because this time the feeling hasn't left me.

I first came to St Andrew's in late 1987, a young mum with two small children clinging to either side of me. The first thing to strike me was the way the seating faced the side wall and the fact that the seats were padded chairs, not pews. Next I noticed that the book I had been handed at the door was a Bible, not a hymn book as I expected. The hymns were (and still are) projected on a screen in the corner of the church. It all seemed very strange but then I saw the familiar Burning Bush, the Iona Cross and the Baptismal font and I felt more at home. Over the years I have seen other symbols of our faith added to the walls such as Jean Jenkins' tapestry of The Last Supper, The Lord's Prayer embroidery produced by the late Vera White and, out front, our shiny metal cross which was made and erected by the late Taito Numia.

In the more than 23 years I have been at St Andrew's I have gone from feeling very much a stranger in an unfamiliar place to being as much a part of the furniture as the communion table. This is because of St Andrew's most important feature - the friendly, caring attitude of its members. Many of the wonderful people who first welcomed me and my children have moved on or passed away but the sense of family remains.

HENDERSON FAMILY CHURCH—Elsie Jones

I am so lucky because I belong to a large family. Many who are part of this large family are my biological family and others are my Christian Family. St Andrew's Church, Henderson is one of my Christian Church Family homes.

I was first welcomed into this branch of my family about 1973. Charles Naylor was the minister. I remember that he was very kind and helpful to us all. There were many things I enjoyed with friends at St Andrew's. When we first moved to Henderson I was very lonely, but very soon after joining the church and the Evening Ladies Fellowship I wasn't lonely any more. I gradually got more involved with church life. We met regularly once a month in each other's homes and had great fun together. We shared ideas for worship, for children's activities and social activities. I also became an elder.

One very special day for the children was when on Palm Sunday Charles Naylor managed to get someone to bring a donkey along to church. The children loved riding round as Jesus had done.

On Good Friday we joined with the other churches in Henderson and carried the cross through the streets, recognising the Stations of the Cross. On Easter Sunday we decorated the bare cross with flowers. All this was very special and brought the meaning of Easter to the whole community of Henderson.

Once a year we went to a church camp, generally in West Auckland. After our church friend, Jean Bowden, moved to Waihi Beach we camped there in 1991 and 1992. When Karel Lorier became our minister we had a camp in 1993 at Coromandel, where he had ministered before coming to Henderson. Peter and I moved to Mt Maunganui in 1996, so the following year all our



Waihi Beach camps 1991 and 1992

friends from St Andrew's camped there.

I have so many happy memories of my time at St Andrew's, Henderson.

JOHN & LOIS KEIR—Shiona Keir

John and Lois Keir moved with their four children to 43 Andrews Road (Buscomb Avenue), Henderson in 1960 and soon after became members at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

They attended church regularly and as a builder John became involved in many building projects: the sealing of the car park, the extension of the new kitchen and meeting room, the removal of the church from Waitakere, and helping to set up Phoenix House. Lois was always there making cups of tea, serving food and cleaning. They were involved in the social life of the church, the Burns' Suppers, family dinners, and barbecues at Ailsa Freeman's house.

John became an elder and spent nearly 45 years serving in the best way that he knew how, with his tools. He was a member of the Property and Finance committee for many years and gave his expert advice on building matters.



Lois died in 1990, but John continued his involvement in the Church, serving in the shop and working with Andrew Sinclair to replace the roof and paint the outside of the church, as well as the ceiling. More recently he joined the Seniors' Fellowship.

Through the years John continued doing repairs and maintenance when needed: the hall floor, repairing the fence at the manse and maintenance of Phoenix House to name but a few projects. His deep faith never faltered; his love of his Church was strong, as was his love of God.

John enjoyed Fei's preaching and appreciated her support as he grew more frail. The last outing he had was in 2009 to his beloved Church, to attend Fei and Rewi's wedding. It was very important to him that he should be there and so he fulfilled his wish to attend church once more. Sadly, he passed away soon after the wedding.

He was always available to help and spent 49 years in the service of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

MEMORIES OF MY TIME AT ST ANDREW'S—Karel Lorier

It is a privilege to be able to write an article for the hundredth anniversary of St Andrew's Henderson. I came to Henderson in 1979. The interim moderator, the Rev Alex Sutherland, had organised a planning day for the Saturday following my arrival in the parish however only two people turned up. This was not a good start, but I used his programme for the planning day a month later on a Sunday. This proved to be a great success. From then on we had a planning day almost annually during the time I was a minister at St Andrew's.



From the planning day emerged such things as the annual parish camps, where we had interesting speakers including Rinny Westra, Kate Birch, Margaret Reid Martin and Ray Galvin. They were people who engaged us in questioning a reflection of our Christian journey. Phoenix House emerged from discussions at the planning day, as did the decision to write our own Sunday School material based on the lectionary readings. This proved to be hard but rewarding work. Our team of teachers were of such quality that they were invited to write four lessons for the New Zealand and Australian Joint Board for Christian Education. I think the planning day was a very significant factor in the life of the parish. Many of our activities originated from this planning exercise and I realised that what happened in Church did filter out into the community.

After one planning day I was phoned by the owner of a clothing factory. Could I reassure the staff please that we did not want to buy the factory and close it down? Someone had remarked at our planning day that our church should be located more centrally at the site of this particular clothing factory. Members of his staff had heard this and were organising a stop work meeting until the matter was clarified. On another occasion I had transcribed the many flip sheets recording the suggestions made on the planning day. After I had distributed it on Sunday I discovered that we were going to organise a "choral sinning group." Some bright spark made sure that this found its way to the New Zealand Listener.

We were also experimenting with different styles of Bible study and worship. On one occasion I had prepared a dramatic Bible study on John chapter 4, the story of the Samaritan woman at the well meeting Jesus. I was to divide the congregation into groups to play the roles of the protagonists, Jesus, the woman, the disciples and the Samaritan villagers. On that Sunday a large group of visitors who had come to the area for a family reunion came to church. Our congregation had more visitors than regular members. However, the visitors joined in with great gusto. After the service one of them told me that if the Church was like this all the time he would start attending.

A few years after I was appointed, a Niuean minister, Rev Tongatule approached me and asked if his congregation could use the church. The Parish Council agreed and over some years the relationship developed into a joint use agreement. The Niueans did a great deal of work round the property. This was particularly so in the New Year, when it is the Niuean custom to meet in prayer very early in the morning and give the first fruits of their labour to God. One New Year the police arrived at the Manse very early in the morning. I was warned that our car park was full of cars carrying dangerous weapons and we had better not leave the house. The police had spotted the machete-like implements the Niuean people used in gardening. I told them that they were gardening implements and that they would find the Niueans in Church praying. I led them to the church. They looked in then rather sheepishly got back into their police cars and left.

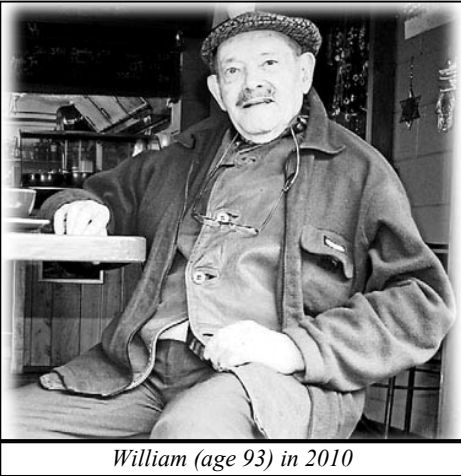


I remember the people of St Andrew's who attended faithfully, supported the church and community by providing music, organising and leading the Thursday parents' group, cleaning the church, working in the church shop, maintaining the buildings, looking after the finances, leading Sunday School and the services after I was a part time Minister. There was a decline in people attending public worship that was occurring nationally at the time. Also there was the natural cycle of a congregation when a group of young people who



have gone through Sunday School and Youth Group move out into the wider world. I do remember it, however, as a time of creative exploration of what it meant to be Christians in the 1980s and early 90s. St Andrew's Henderson was, through its members' involvement in the community, a small lump of yeast in the dough. May it continue to be so in the next hundred years.

EXCERPTS FROM WILLIAM WITSTYN'S MEMORIES



William (age 93) in 2010

I have many fond memories of St Andrew's. My wife, Willy and I emigrated from Holland in 1952. When we arrived we were living in Andrews Road (Buscomb Avenue), Henderson. I was an atheist, but later received Jesus as my Saviour. Willy and I joined St Andrew's soon after that.

A couple of years later, I was asked to take a Sunday School class. As a "new" Christian I felt inadequate, but by the grace of God had a wonderful time with the children, whom I loved. Then I was

asked to take over the Bible Class. Even though they were different from the young ones, I got on famously with them.

Next, I became a Manager and then was made an Elder. When our minister became ill, the Session was told that for baptisms, weddings and funerals we had to get a minister from an adjoining parish to officiate, but the Elders would have to take the other services. I thought it was a good idea until I was told I had to take a turn as well!

Later on, I did a lay preachers' course, studying part-time for three years, after which I was a licensed lay preacher of the Presbyterian Church.

May the Lord bless St Andrew's and all who worship there for at least another century.

CONNECTIONS WITH ST ANDREW'S—Jean Garriock

Jean remembers joining the church in 1951 when she married that year. Her husband and his parents were already church members. All their children

were baptised and attended Sunday School at St Andrew's. Jean was a member of the Women's Fellowship and was president for some time. She supported the children in Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade, delivering them to meetings, sewing on badges, and producing chocolate cakes for special occasions.

When the Church hall was moved to its present site to become the church, the Women's Fellowship members each made a pair of curtains for the windows, and Mrs Lilley, who was also the leader of the Girls' Brigade Cadets, made the big curtain that hung in front of the altar.

For the 50th Jubilee celebrations the minister made a fruit cake, and Jean decorated it as a replica of the original church building. Unfortunately, when the cake was cut, it was found to be not cooked in the middle. However, enough pieces were cut from round the edges to enable everyone at the dinner to have a piece.



Jean actually transcribed the diaries of Mr. L Pauling of Te Atatu for the Jubilee Booklet, for the years 1902 – 1915. She recalls that the entry for 1911 records the sale of tickets (2/- each) for a Social to help pay for the new Presbyterian Church.

An interesting recollection that takes us back over the 100 years of St Andrew's presence in Henderson.

MEMORIES—Heather Smith

I worshipped at St Andrew's for many years and loved the services - Max carrying in the Bible, Karel with his clipboard asking for items of prayer, and the lovely togetherness of the church family at morning tea after the service.

I was part of a team which took the services at Waitakere Church on Sundays for Karel Lorier. Mrs Brown took care of the church as though it was her own personal duty. I soon learned I could never begin the service until I had joined her in the kitchen for a cup of tea and freshly baked cheese scones. Time was not of the essence. The simple answer to the problem of having such a distant satellite church would have been to run a three vehicle car

pool, and shift the very small congregation to St Andrew's each Sunday, but to the folk on the hill that was unthinkable. I also remember a marvellous pianist whom I believe was an Anglican, a friend of Mrs Brown. She would arrive for the service and disappear afterwards, remaining for me a greatly appreciated mystery.

For a very short time I helped with Sunday School teaching at St Andrew's, taking the teenage group. I loved their intelligence and enquiring minds as they discussed Christ's directives for peace, love and fellowship.



From my own love of entertaining I remember helping with a few concerts for the congregation, one of which we called “Keenagers”. That meant anyone born before 1921. We had the church set up with four people to a table, red and white tablecloths, candles and the use of overhead transparencies. We sang old favourites and had a cake which was cut by the eldest in the room. Another concert included a Cinderella play written way back by my mother for the Women's Institute. The audience laughed themselves silly over this, especially when, while trying to blow up a brown paper bag, the good fairy's false teeth fell into the bag!

Everybody helped Karel with special church services. One Easter play which we wrote involved a group of women standing in a tight circle, turning their backs on a bikie who tried to come into the church. Karel's message was the danger of our church closing its mind against the stranger from the world outside.

One less successful bright idea was when I decorated the church with palm leaves for the Easter Sunday service. Karel told me later of his mad rush to vacuum up the seeds which had popped out all over the carpet during the night.

St Andrew's was a good place to have been.

OUR FAMILY'S MEMORIES—Senara Vaelua Te'o

My family came to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Henderson in 1997.

Reverend Tino Scanlan was the minister at the time. I remembered when our first Samoan service was held in 1998. After Tino and Ali'itasi moved to Manurewa PIC, Reverend Feiloa'igamatausala Taule'ale'ausumai was chosen as our new minister.

Our church had events such as church camps, church gala, carol singing and Last Supper celebrations. Once we had a talent night to raise funds for the Youth Group's Mt Ruapehu snow trip. Our church trip to Samoa was a wonderful experience.

One of my memorable, happy celebrations was Rev. Fei's blessing of my late mother's (Fualole Nanai-Tuivaiti) ninety-seventh birthday on Sunday 10th May 2003. Another happy occasion was the wedding of Rev. Fei Taule'ale'ausumai and Rewi Davis.



I'm very glad and happy that my family is able to worship at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and be part of its 100th year's celebration.

Congratulation to all and God Bless.

MEMORIES 1977 - 2006—David Mather

Our family enjoyed over 25 years membership of St Andrew's. Shortly after Glenys and I moved to Te Atatu South in 1977 with our 2 children we started attending the church. Glenys' parents Max and Margaret Robinson, retired missionaries from India, also joined St Andrew's at that time. It wasn't until the early eighties that we became regular worshippers. All our children, Hilary, Fiona and Nigel enjoyed many years in the Sunday School and later Youth Group through to their mid teens.



I became an elder in 1982, and Glenys was active in the women's groups. There were a number of young families at St Andrew's then, all of whom became good friends of our family, friendships which have endured. We also valued the older members of the congregation who enriched church life with their wisdom and experience.

The church buildings and facilities although simple were adequate for the needs of the congregation. In the mid eighties the church vestibule was rebuilt and enlarged, and the kitchen and meeting room added, a joint undertaking with the Niuean congregation. The old house on the Great North Rd frontage was removed and a Keith Hay relocatable building erected for counselling and other community use. This has provided a valuable link between the church and a number of community groups over the years.

Parish life in the eighties through to the early 2000's was active and rewarding. There were the committees (Parish Council, Property & Finance, Education, Worship), church camps at Houghton's Bush and Karanga, picnics, fairs, working bees, prison and hospital services, Carol Singing, and home visits, the church opportunity shop, and other activities either as a congregation or with other local churches. Glenys and I both taught Sunday School for many years..



A cordial relationship existed with the Niuean congregation which shared our church from the mid eighties. There have been joint services, and the Niueans shared in the maintenance of the property and the work of our committees.

From its establishment in the early 1970's the church at Waitakere township was under the wing of St Andrew's. Our ministers and a number of elders regularly took services there. Eventually after the congregation dwindled to a handful, services were discontinued. There were protests from the local community when the building was removed in the mid-nineties. This indicated the importance of the church's presence in the township even though few people there were active worshippers.

St Andrew's has maintained full time ministry apart from the last few years of Karel Lorier's ministry of 14 years. This is due to the ongoing financial support of a relatively small but committed congregation. When Tino Scanlan became the minister in 1995 a number of Samoan members joined the church. This continued with the second Samoan minister Fei Taule'ale'ausumai appointed in 2003. For the past 16 years St Andrew's Henderson has become very multicultural, an enriching feature of parish life.

Glenys' parents, Margaret and Max Robinson were active members of the church from 1977 through to their deaths in 1995 and 2000 respectively. Max's contributions in taking services, leading studies and providing the benefits of his many years of service in India were particularly valuable, along with Margaret's involvement in the women's groups.

Glenys and I ceased active membership of St Andrew's several years ago, but we have always valued our involvement there, for ourselves and our family. I am sure Glenys' late parents held the same view, as well as my father Geoff who was a member from 1994 until his death at age 90 in 1996.

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DAY—Anne Verry

I remember, several years ago, Fei asking the children to bring along their favourite pet to the Christmas morning service. My son Jonathan duly obliged by settling 'Ringo' one of his guinea pigs, into a carry box with straw and nibbles. He then took him to share Christmas Day at St Andrew's. Jonathan did this two years in a row. Ringo was a hit, and Fei proudly showed him off to the congregation!

SAMOA TRIP 2008—Fei and Viola Taule'ale'ausumai

A group of about twenty from our church went on an organised trip to Samoa for ten days in September 2008. We decided to stay in hotels and visit churches rather than stay with a church. We were met and hosted by Gatoloai and Tua Afamasaga who organised our trip and hosted us in the village of Samata, Savaii on our trip around the island.

On our first Sunday we visited Apia Protestant Church and shared morning tea with them afterwards. We had a wonderful dinner at Aggie Grey's hotel and were treated to a lively concert of song and dance. We went on a tour around the National University of Samoa. We also made our way around both islands Upolu and Savaii in our trusty mini bus. Rev Bruce and Gwen attended a formal dinner on our behalf which was organised by the Chairperson of the National Council of Churches, Rev Dr Oka Fauolo. They were given some beautiful souvenirs which we shared on our return.

The visit to the island of Savaii was a highlight; we stayed at Tanu Beach Fales, and Fei and Bruce were given celebrity status at the fiafia night, being garlanded with fresh frangipani just because they were ministers. On our tour around the island we drove straight into a raging bush fire in Asau. We

had to turn around and go the other way round the whole island just to get to the next village after Asau. It felt like the “long way to Tipperary.” Of course there were the wise ones who had chosen to stay behind and soak up the sun, lying on the beach (I wonder who they were)?



On our second Sunday we worshipped with the local EFKS (Congregational) Church in Avao. This was one of the parishes where Bruce and Gwen were based during their 14 years of missionary service in Samoa during the 1950's and 60's. Avao is also the village where the Bible was translated into the Samoan language.

All in all we had a relaxing time. The highlight for me was sitting outside the Tanu Beach Fales, guitar in hand, singing to our heart's content with the sun setting over the sea. Perhaps we can convince another member of our church to take us to their homeland for a visit soon!



Parish Council May 2011

L to R: Alan Bussey, Lavea Clarke, Ailsa Freeman, Rev Fei, Grant Connell, Linda Johns, Nele Mase, Shiona Keir, Alison Coates, Jan Saifoloi, Afoa Tu'uga Stevenson. Absent: Tearoa Ataela

ON BEING THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW

A Reflection on the 'Andrew Way'

At the beginning of John's Gospel
 there were two unnamed disciples
 who followed Jesus
 "Where are you staying?"
 "Come and see".
 and they stayed with Jesus for the rest of the day.
 'One of the two disciples was Andrew.
 Andrew finds his brother Simon
 and brings him to Jesus'.

In Mark's Gospel there were two family fishing partners
 the brothers James and John -
 Sons of Zebedee
 Sons of Thunder
 and the other two brothers, Simon and Andrew
 fishing partners washing their nets by the shore
 at the end of the night's fishing.
 called by Jesus to leave all and follow
 and learn to start fishing for people
 James and John
 Simon and Andrew
Andrew comes last

The one who had taken the first initiative to meet Jesus
 is often the one who comes last
 the one who is left behind.

At the home of Jairus:
 'Jesus allowed no one to accompany him except Peter, James and John'.
What about Andrew?

On the Mount of Transfiguration:
 'Six days later Jesus took Peter, James and John with him'
What about Andrew?

In the Garden of Gethsemane:
 ‘When they reached a place called Gethsemane,
 he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray".
 And he took Peter, James and John with him’
What about Andrew?

In the story of the feeding of the five thousand in John’s Gospel
Where’s Andrew?

‘One of the disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon and Peter, said to him,
 "There is a boy here who has five loaves and two small fish;
 but what are they among so many?"’
 While others are up front with Jesus
 Andrew is out there in the midst of the crowd
 looking for something ever so small
 that may be of help.

And Andrew was the one that others sought out to help make connections
 even across cultural and religious boundaries.

‘Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.
 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him,
 "Sir, we would like to see Jesus".
 So Philip went and told Andrew,
 and the two went to tell Jesus’.

*Still following Jesus in the Andrew Way
 St Andrew’s Church and People are called to be an Andrew sort of people
 watching to see what needs to be done
 waiting to take quiet initiatives,
 ready to offer practical help,
 quietly building relationships,
 even across cultural and religious boundaries
 and most of all responding to the invitation to stay with Jesus
 and inviting people simply to "come and see"
 and follow...*

*Prepared initially for the Centenary of St Andrew’s Church, Suva 1983
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Bruce Deverell

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