

By His Word and the Holy Spirit, and in Jesus, God continues to show that He is in control—and we can trust Him. The book of Esther shows this too, because without God's intervention, the entire Jewish race would have been destroyed—and the line of the Messiah lost with it. But as we read Esther, we see that God was in control the whole time.

Though everything seemed to line up against His people, God did not let them be harmed. Indeed, He used kings, servants, lost records, eavesdropping, beauty contests, banquets, bad decisions, and more, to work together for good, and to preserve the line of His promised Redeemer.

Though God is in control, He is not in a hurry; and now, in the days of the church, we have the blessing of being able to see how God has been at work from the start, to draw us all (and others) into relationship with Himself. This is God's mission, so spread the news! God is faithful to the end, and he wants relationship with everyone!

*Pastor's Scribble...*

**Christmas lights:** Join us on Saturday 2nd December @ TCBC, to install the Christmas lights! We want to build the relationship between our two congregations (and with each other), and this is a wonderful opportunity to do so. Join us at 930 am (it should take no more than an hour or two), and if you're interested we could deck out The Upper Room as well!

**Christmas + Summer with The Upper Room & TCBC:** This Christmas (falling on a Monday), The Upper Room will be hosting a relaxed, fun, worshipful Christmas morning at 930 am. On Sunday (24th December), we will be joining downstairs. From then on, until the 28th of January, we will be combining with downstairs - hopefully supplemented by lots of BBQ's, picnics, and summertime adventures! Please be in touch if you'd like to organize one of these events so that we can continue to be a welcoming, fun loving & gospel-shaped whanau! It'll be a wonderful chance to invite others along too.

**Advent** (preparing for Christmas as a family): Some of you have already posted some ideas, which is great! In addition, hopefully you have all received an Advent tree as a gift (instructions included). Enjoy! If you're interested in an additional family devotional which includes colouring, please contact Pastor Andrew.

*Keeping Connected...*

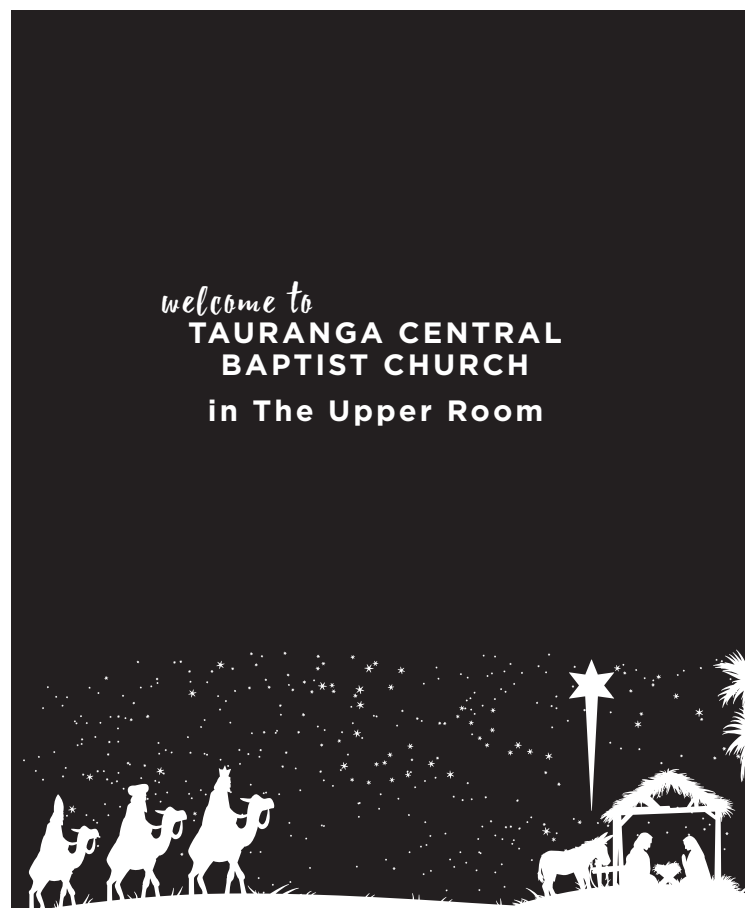
TAURANGA CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH:  
ONE CHURCH, TWO CONGREGATIONS,  
ON A JOURNEY TOGETHER.

# TAURANGA CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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## CHURCH OFFICE

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*Gathered, Dispersed, In Community: Existing to Bless*

10.30am SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2017

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## Keeping Connected cont...

**Prayer Retreat:** This is a crucial time for our Church, as we move through a season of significant transition and change. Therefore, it's important that we're committed to prayer; prayer, which is not just asking, but listening and waiting on God's leadership and voice. On Saturday 9th December (from 9.50 am to 12.30 at the Mock's home in the Kaimais) you are invited to a time of prayerful reflection and waiting on God, which will be coordinated by Juliet Maude. Morning tea will be provided at 10am for which you will need to be there on time. During this time, we will be encouraged to spend some quality time in prayer and reflection on our own, and then, to re-join, and be finished by 12.30. Gordon and Rosemary will be away but they have kindly allowed us to use their home.

## Prayer Focus:

- Emma's Mission (care packs for those in need).
- David Hodgkinson (TSCF).
- Robyn Cotton (International Needs, who are looking for a new national leader).
- TCBC's journey to constitution + our leadership, vision, and engagement with the community.
- The process of calling a Leader / Facilitator for Central Kids, Families, & Community Engagement.
- Safe, enjoyable, refreshing summer holidays, and our preparations for the new year.

### CONNECT GROUPS:

#### Welcome Bay:

*David Hodgkinson (for men): 0211363392*

*Ruth McChesney (for women): 021935600*

**Central:** *Andrew Maude (for men): 021731545*

*Juliet Maude (for women): 0211563549*

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### UPPER ROOM ROSTERS FOR 3RD DECEMBER:

**CENTRAL KIDS PRIMARY:** Judith C, Christine H [God Redeems (Nehemiah 1—4; 6—9)]

**CRÈCHE / U-5'S:** Katrina M, Sara S [Christmas Story – Jesus is here!" (Matt. 20:21)]

**COFFEE & TEA:** Sara S

**SNACKS / BAKING:** Sara S

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