

Our Talents: Al McChesney has given us a challenge . . . Did you get an envelope? Don't forget to be thinking & praying - and ultimately, sharing your stories of how you have invested this money towards the furthering of God's Kingdom! We would love to hear some stories over the next couple of weeks & in 2018.

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 9:30 am. Who wants to be involved? **On Sunday (24th December)**, we will be joining downstairs (also at 9:30 am). Because there will be no official combined gathering, it would be wonderful if as many of us as possible can participate in both. The congregation downstairs will be thrilled to see some kids, and they have been so supportive of us in The Upper Room! Still, from Christmas, until the 28th of January, we will be combining with downstairs - hopefully supplemented by lots of BBQ's, picnics, and summertime adventures! Check out the poster of these events on the notice board, and fill in your name if you'd like to organize or attend one of these events.

Keeping Connected...

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

TAURANGA CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

CONTACT: Pastor Andrew Maude
Mobile: 021 731545, Work: 578 0123 (ext.:103),
Email: andrewreevesmaude@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-12 NOON
Address: P.O. BOX 2275, TAURANGA, 3140
Phone: 578 0123 FAX: 578 4376
Email: TAURANGABAPT@GMAIL.COM
Website: WWW.TCBC.ORG.NZ

Kia ora, and big warm welcome to The Upper Room! We're so glad you're here! And welcome to Advent, the beginning of our journey towards Christmas!

Have you noticed that all throughout Scripture, God is the redeemer of His people? He is our redeemer too! He rescues us from our despair, from our brokenness and loss, just as He did for the Israelites. **God said to Moses:** "I have indeed seen the misery of my people ... and I am concerned about their suffering" (Exodus 3:7). So He brought them out of Egypt (Deuteronomy 26:8). **Hundreds of years later**, God's people were again in despair - their shattered homes and lives in pieces. But God always sees us and the suffering we endure (even when self-induced). He cares about us, and He knows each person by name. **Have a read of Isaiah 43:1-2.** Afterwards, consider the words (or phrases) that stand for you the most? It's a good idea to write them down. Then, feel free to read on - they are powerful words. The prayer of Nehemiah is also inspiring (Nehemiah 1:4-11). **I wonder what you need from our Redeemer today?** Can I encourage you to spend some time in prayer, and crying out to God for anyone or anything that's on your heart. The LORD is the one and only God who cares for our needs and provides. He cares about everyone, and He saves. **And so we look towards Christmas**, and to the birth of greatest move of salvation imaginable - what the whole Bible points to! Amen, Jesus come!

Pastor's Scribble...

welcome to
**TAURANGA CENTRAL
BAPTIST CHURCH**
in The Upper Room



Gathered, Dispersed, In Community: Existing to Bless

10.30am SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2017

Keeping Connected cont...

Prayer Retreat: this coming Saturday 9th December, 9.50 am to 12.30 pm at Gordon and Rosemary Mock's (in the Kaimais). See the directory or enquire for address. Our church is in a critical season of development and change, so we need to be praying - prayer, that is not just asking, but also listening for God's voice. Therefore, we are invited to a time of prayerful reflection and waiting on God, which will be facilitated by Juliet Maude. Morning tea will be provided at 10 am, for which you will need to be punctual. During this time, we will be encouraged to spend some quality time in prayer and listening on our own (somewhere on the property), and then, to re-join and be finished by 12.30.

Prayer Focus:

- Emma's Mission (care packs for those in need).
- David Hodgkinson (Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship).
- Robyn Cotton (International Needs, who are looking for a new national leader).
- People who have recently lost loved ones.
- The plight of refugees (especially from the Middle East and South-East Asia).
- The search for a new Pastor for TCBC + the process of calling a new Leader / Facilitator for Central Kids, Families, & Community Engagement.
- A safe, enjoyable, refreshing summer holidays in anticipation of a 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

UPPER ROOM ROSTERS FOR 10TH DECEMBER:

CENTRAL KIDS PRIMARY: Juliet M, Sharon C
[God Redeems (Luke 1—4; 6—9)]

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

COFFEE & TEA: Fleur L

SNACKS / BAKING: Juliet M
