

### **Confession**

*A duke once boarded a galley ship and went below to talk to the convicts manning the oars. When he asked several of them what their crimes were, almost every man claimed to be innocent, blaming someone else, or even accused the judge of taking a bribe.*

*There was one young man whose reply was different. He said, 'I deserve to be here, sir. I stole some money. No one is at fault but me. I am guilty.'*

*When the duke heard this, he shouted, 'You scoundrel! What are you doing here amongst all these honest men? Get out of their company at once!' The duke ordered the young prisoner to be released.*

*So the young man was set free, while the rest of the prisoners were left to tug on the oars. The key to his freedom was his admission of guilt.*

Confession leads to absolution. Absolution can come from God or it can come from our fellow citizen whom we have hurt. Absolution sets us free; it releases the burden of guilt. It is so very important that we acknowledge our mistakes, our wrong doings. It's not always easy to do, but in terms of moving forward, it is crucial.

**'If we confess our sins to God, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and will purify us from all our wrongdoings.'** 1 John 1:9

### **Fundraising Social**

We had a productive and fun evening last Friday. We raised approximately \$2,500, but just as importantly, it was a lot of fun with dancing, singing and story-telling. We are grateful to the Samoan Methodist congregation for boosting our numbers and wonderful singing from their youth group. A big thank-you to those who were able to support us.

### **Christmas Services**

Sunday 22 December 4.30pm (tbc) Carols in the Park

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Carol service 11.00pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day 9.00am Holy Communion

### **Build**

Coming along nicely. Roofing iron will be going on very soon. We are still on track to be open for Easter!

### **Volunteers**

The work of our church depends hugely on the goodwill and efforts of volunteers. If you would like to have your name added to the rosters for cleaning the church and hall on Saturdays, or preparing and serving the Sunday morning tea, please let me know.

### **Mainly Music**

It is hoped that a Mainly Music group will get under way once our new community centre is up and running next year. Mainly Music is a well-established weekly programme run by many churches. It involves songs, rhymes and movement designed to engage pre-schoolers. It does require volunteers to run it. Give it some thought and if you might be interested, please do let me know.

### **Scout Leader?**

If you would like to consider helping out as a volunteer scout leader, please give Trudie Graham a call – 021 764 232. The scouts meet in our hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

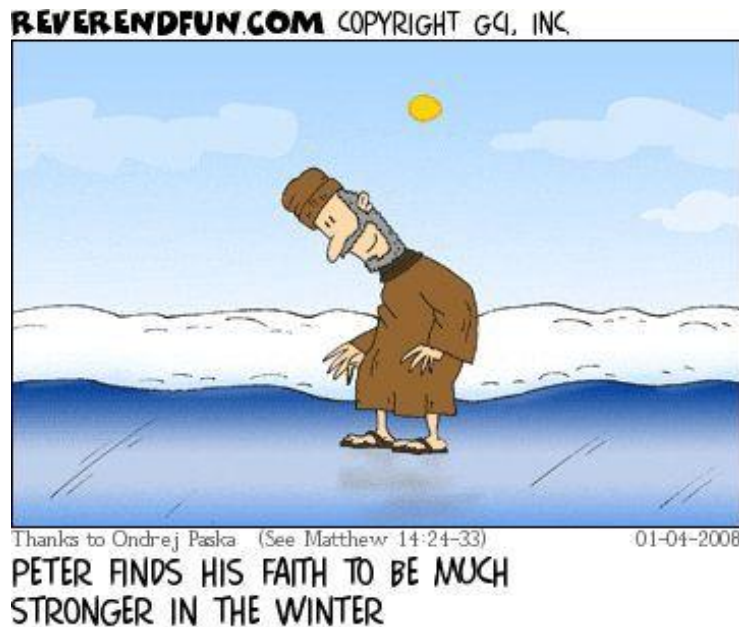
### Time for a Smile

One day, a little girl asked her mum, 'How did the human race appear?' Her mum answered, 'God made Adam and Eve and they had children, and that's how all mankind was made.' Two days later, the girl asked her father the same question. Dad answered, 'Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved.'

The confused girl returned to her mother and asked, 'Mum, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said we developed from monkeys?' The mother answered, 'Well, darling, it's very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his!'

### Five Interesting Questions

1. Why do religions that support love cause so many wars?
2. If happiness was the national currency, what kind of work would make you rich?
3. When was the last time you noticed the sound of your own breathing?
4. If you had all the money in the world but still had to have a job, what would you choose to do?
5. What lifts your spirits when life gets you down?



### To Ponder

'The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.'

Winston Churchill

Reverend Warner Wilder

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