

Dear Church,

26<sup>th</sup> October 2012

As promised last week this Sunday I will be continuing with discussion '**Spiritual Disciplines**' or '**practices**'. These are practices that a **disciple** of Christ should be developing for their Christian maturity.

As mentioned these Spiritual Disciplines are any practice that helps us make space for God in our life; or to put it another way 'Disciplines are simply practices that train us in faithfulness...' (Marjorie Thompson in Soul Feast).

So this week we turn to **Thankfulness**. How appropriate that we will be at Lake Hayes catching our breath after the fair - I suggest we will have much to be thankful for.

Thankfulness may not sound like a discipline but it is certainly an attitude that can be developed and it is definitely an attitude that draws us close to God. Thankfulness helps keep us in right relationship with God in that by thankfulness we remind ourselves of our position before God: blessed, humble, needy - every breath we take is a gift of God.

We read today [Colossians 3:1-17](#)

Much of my insight for these sermons is coming from Lynne Baab. Lynne lives in Dunedin where she writes extensively, offers supervision and spiritual direction and teaches pastoral theology at the University of Otago. Her book '[Joy Together](#), Spiritual practices for your congregation is very helpful'

As you prepare for worship give some thought to your basic attitude:

- are you thankful?
- do you give thanks often?
- can you be thankful even when times are hard? In these times what are you thankful for?

Think about your prayers, or our corporate prayers.

- is thankfulness evident?
- even dinnertime grace - is this a moment of thanksgiving or are we once again asking God to do something for us.

On Sunday come with a thankful heart, come to worship our God.

Arohanui  
Ian

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<h2>Services Sunday 28</h2>	Manna Café	Team	9am
	Wakatipu Community Church THANKSGIVING SERVICE Lake Hayes.	Ian Guy	10.30am
	There will be a shared lunch to follow the service		

Please note copies of previous sermons are normally posted on our [Facebook](#) page or on in our [web page](#). Feel free to look, to comment, to share.

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**Families: Light Party - Wednesday 31st October** at St John's. 5:30pm to 8pm

Dress up in fun costumes but please no witches, wizards, etc.

Family Fun games and prizes.

Gold Coin donation per family will be appreciated plus please bring something to share on the BBQ.

enquiries to Neil or Jenny 409 8969

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**Women:** Have you registered for Season's Of Grace.

Seasons of Grace is a weekend just for women offered by Dr Deborah Bower in association with Wakatipu Community Church. It will be held at St John's Arrowtown over the 9th and 10th November.

I warmly recommend this opportunity to 'come and discover afresh God's delight and favour for you ... encounter a renewed vision of who you are in God.'

Enquiries to: Deborah Bower, Soulscape PO Box 170, Queenstown - 027 211 4671

[soulscape.queenstown@gmail.com](mailto:soulscape.queenstown@gmail.com)

[www.soulscape.co.nz](http://www.soulscape.co.nz)

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**Men:** **Brassknocker Road Camp** – 2-4 November. A Southern Men Ministries event designed for males of all ages. Check out the details at [www.smm.org.nz](http://www.smm.org.nz) or contact Allistair Meikle 208 6954.

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**ALPHA** this Saturday 6pm at St Andrews:

We still do need helpers: for another 3 weeks. Offers of meals, and baking is gratefully received as are offers to help in the kitchen. There are always dishes to be washed.

We are also slightly short on leaders, especially so over the next 2 weeks so if you could give some time for this it would be greatly appreciated. Full 'deep-end' training provided - if you get my drift!

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**Fair Update:** this Saturday 27th October at Lake Hayes is our FAIR DAY!

- This is it!

**As many people as possible are needed to:**

- **Saturday: be involved, attend, tell your neighbours.**
  - **Sunday 28th: Combined Worship at Lake Hayes**
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**HOW FAR IS HEAVEN** documentary

HOW FAR IS HEAVEN is a documentary about The Sisters of Compassion who have lived in the remote village of Jerusalem / Hiruharama on the Whanganui River for 120 years.

Dorothy Browns Cinema is delighted to be welcoming the films directors Christopher Pryor and Miriam Smith for a Q&A session at a screening to be held in the main cinema on Thursday 1 November at 6pm. Ticket prices are \$18.50 adults, \$12.50 Senior/Student and \$8.00 children. Bookings can be made by calling 03 442 1964.

Here is a link to the website:- <http://howfarisheavenfilm.com/>

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**Celebrate 130 years of the Knapdale Parish**, which originally also included the Waikaka and Waikaka Valley districts. Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013. 10am service followed by photos and lunch. Please register your interest by contacting either Elinor Collins 208 9443 [egcollins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:egcollins@xtra.co.nz) or Jeanette McIntyre 207 1833 [jjmci@woosh.co.nz](mailto:jjmci@woosh.co.nz).

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**The Marriage Amendment Bill.** The issue of redefining marriage should be of concern to all New Zealanders. Among national Church leaders there is widespread agreement that changing the definition of marriage away from one man and one woman would not be in the best interests of society.

A media statement to this effect was issued by 70 national leaders, including meself, Protestant and Catholic, on 29 August 2012; others have added their names to the list since then. The statement has been posted on New Zealand Christian Network's website [www.nzchristiannetwork.org.nz](http://www.nzchristiannetwork.org.nz).

It is important that as many submissions as possible be sent to the Select Committee dealing with this bill, and also to write letters to MPs. Submissions are due by **26<sup>th</sup> October**.

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Please feel free to share these e-notices with others you believe will be interested.

Remember you can also find us on the Web, either our own [site](#) or on [FaceBook](#)

As a regular member of the groups and congregations associated with Wakatipu Community Church you are very important to us. These emails are sent out to keep you informed and to encourage your participation. If for any reason you'd prefer not to receive this type of communication please let me know by reply email.

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