



CELEBRATING YOUR CONGREGATION'S ANNIVERSARY

There are a multitude of possibilities when planning activities for your celebration. The key point is plan within your resources of people and finance. An anniversary can be a time to reach out past members who are no longer active as well as inviting new people to participate. An anniversary if well planned can be a time for healing and restoration. An anniversary is about catering for all ages and groups within your congregation, plan special activities for the 'at home' members, the children and teenagers, young families, or retired members. It is also a time to look ahead.

"Above all an anniversary celebration should be marked with the three R's – reverence, revelry, and remembering"

SOME IDEAS THAT YOU CAN DEVELOP (if you have any to add do let us know)

DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS

- An anniversary celebration is time to bring out our treasures of the past and place them on show. Photographs, the old pedal organ, a fashion display or even a fashion show through the decades, communion ware and tokens, bibles and hymn books and music, offering plates, Sunday school material and equipment, awards, competition cups, banners, cushions. Displays and exhibits are wonderful but the layout is essential to make the most of the material available. See guidelines below.
- Make a **Time Line** showing significant events in relation to what was happening in New Zealand and the rest of the world. There is some great software for making time lines, seek them out.
- **Home Movies** many members took early movies of parish activities, Bible Class and Sunday School activities and other social events.
- Set aside a **room for pre-schoolers** during the festivities where they can 'express themselves in art and activity'.

BANNERS, QUILTS, FLAGS

- Present a new pulpit fall or communion cloth
- Have a history patchwork quilt
- Tell the parish story in a Banner
- Make Flags which represent each decade and these can be hung around the Church or Hall for the year of celebrations.
- Hold a competition for a special symbol and slogan for the celebration. This symbol could be used on the parish stationery.
- Place a large banner outside the church announcing your forthcoming event. Be Bold!

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- **A Story Telling Day:** Journeying through the past with a variety of presentations: oral presentations, videos, PowerPoint presentation, interviews, displays & exhibits.
- Throughout the write an historical column from the various parish groups of the past for **the parish newsletter**.
- **Write articles for the local Newspaper** about the congregation's faith journey throughout its history.
- **Write a Parish History** (see below)
- **Interview older members** and gather their memories on worship, fund raising activities, women's organisations, what did the men do?
- **Publish stories of faith and life** where people reflect on the significant experiences of their faith journeys. This can be an opportunity for evangelism.
- **Write a letter** to a younger member of the congregation on "What this church has meant to me".
- Write and present an **historical pageant or play**
- **Compile 'cyclopedia of biography'** of people of the congregation. An editor could be appointed and contributions asked for from members about themselves and their forbearers if members of the congregation, include children.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP:

The Jubilee Services: Anderson's Bay, Dunedin 125th Anniversary Committee

Our fellowship together from Friday night and through Saturday culminated in our worship on Sunday. Our first Service was Communion at 9.30am... [we] reflected on the theme 'Reconciliation'.

Between services we had morning tea - our hosts were a group of women from our neighbouring Catholic parish. The church was filled to capacity for the main service - morning worship at 11.00am. The sermon "The living stones" was a thought provoking and sensitive address...

The Evening Service was an 'Ecumenical Service of Praise" in which we welcomed various neighbouring ministers to take part... A special thank you to the Jubilee Choir. The singing was truly magnificent... The Youth Orchestra added another dimension to our morning worship.

- Hold an **Organ recital**
- Make sure to use the musical talent in the congregation; bring the musicians of all ages together and **form a band or orchestra**
- Have a **children's choir**
- **'Hymn sing'** of old hymns
- Plan significant **celebration service**, this can vary from a service including old traditional hymns to a celebration service that is quite diverse in its approach. A service can bring together the different points of focus of the celebrations. It can also be a time to conclude the celebration and for the congregation to officially make the transition from celebrating the past to look forward to its future ministry.
- A hymn, choral work, dance, or piece of functional liturgical art could be commissioned.

MEMORIAL HYMN

Written for Milestone
125 by
Professor James Munro
Bertram, 1910 – 1993



O God of oceans, by whose light
The pilgrim ships were led,
Let us remember in your sight
Our living and our dead.
This valley where our fathers came
Where first your praise was heard
This Church they built to bless you
And house your living Word.

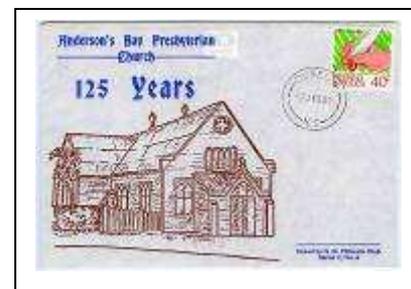
Beneath these hills where help was
With each returning day,
Still may your children gather round
To worship in their way.
O Lord, we thank and praise you
For that abiding grace
Which strengthens faith from year
And sanctifies this place.

For generations as they pass,
And those that yet may come,
We thank you, Lord, that in your
We find our lasting home.
And still by your eternal Light
May all our steps be led,
As we remember in your sight
Our living and our dead.

Knox Church. Lower Hutt, 150th Centennial

OTHER IDEAS

- **Citations:** Present a citation to some current members of the congregation who have contributed extensively in their life-time.
- **Church Stationery:** A major anniversary gives the parish an opportunity to offer a special run of greeting cards or envelopes. Approach the local philatelic Club to see if a special run of envelopes can be produced.
- **Souvenirs:** Pens and tee-shirts with a motto or image are easy to produce today
- **Recipe Book:** This is a fun way to gather people's favourite recipes and put together as a fund raiser for the celebrations.
- Put together a **time capsule** with materials that illustrate the present life of the church's members. NOTE that this has been undertaken and where the time capsule is placed in the Session/Parish Council minutes for future reference.
- **Heritage Fair**
- **Special Lecture Series**
- Organise a **Catch-up Time**. Such an occasion can assist in bringing people together.



St. George's Takapuna offers a suggestion for their **catch-up time** on the Saturday of their celebrations as follows:

11am	90s to date
11.30am	70s -80s
1pm	50s -60s
1.30pm	30s -40s
2pm	up to the 30s

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS:

The 150th was marked with the presentation of a gift to Wellington City with a tree planting of 150 trees at the Karori Sanctuary and 150 food parcels to be distributed to the Downtown Ministry.

St. John's in the City, Wellington

- Contact the local *Habitat for Humanity* and offer your contribution to the construction of housing.
- A parish 'Mucking In' to help out a member or members.

FOOD:

- Have an old-fashioned **Picnic/Barbecue** if the season is right. Children's races, games and fun.
- **Special afternoon teas** for different groups
- **Progressive Dinner** around the parish
- **Annual Meeting Centennial Lunch**
- **A Garden Party**
- Make an **anniversary cake**, maybe the oldest member present can cut the cake as part of the celebrations.
- Special **Dinner or Banquet**



Sefton Anniversary

The Jubilee Dinner, Anderson's Bay, Dunedin 125th Anniversary Committee

The organisation of the dinner had not been without considerable discussion and controversy. Murray Gardner had done a lot of early spade work researching possible venues, costs etc. We seemed to be faced either with paying \$30.00 (and more) to go to a restaurant, or having to set up a school hall (using outside caterers). Both options had real disadvantages - on the one hand the first appeared to be too expensive for many of our older members and the second involved a lot of setting up work and "lack of atmosphere".

When La Scala offered us a 3 course buffet meal plus a free drink (and including G.S.T.) all for \$20.00 it seemed that our prayers were answered. I am sure that all who joined us felt the evening was thoroughly enjoyable. As we had 236 attending not all could fit into the Main Room - as organisers we were a little apprehensive about asking mainly "younger" members of the congregation to dine in another room. Our fears were misdirected - rather than being unwilling to use this room; they were more unwilling to leave!!! ... Lulu Petrie's Tableau was performed between courses. This gave a humorous insight into the customs and thinking of the pioneer families of our district.. After the meal the rest of the evening was set alight by our very own dance band 'Low Key' ... there was simply something in it for everyone.

'DON'T FORGET TO CREATE MEMORIES BY RECORDING YOUR CELEBRATIONS'