



Shepparton
Uniting Church

Fifteenth Edition
Winter 2018

Vine on the

Seeking to be faithful to Christ in worship, community life and serving the wider community.

PRESBYTERY FIELD DAYS

Telling our Story

Reflecting on...

Intergenerational Relationships

Assembly Action

40 Days of Prayer and Prayerful Action

Prayer Points

Paschal Candle

Faith in Action

Publishing On the Vine

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Rev.
Loni Vaitohi
(03) 5822 4602



Rev.
Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt
(03) 5821 2077



We are here as part of God's church, not because we are good enough, or because we are better than others, but because we recognise the need for God in our lives and seek to learn together what it is to walk the way of Christ in love and service of others.

We come from a variety of backgrounds and are at different points in our faith journey. This all adds to the richness of our lives together. Whether you are here as a visitor or looking for a place to be your spiritual home, I trust that you will find a welcome and something that nourishes your inner being.



Shepparton Uniting Church
150 Maude Street, Shepparton
P.O. Box 7032, Shepparton, 3632

Editorial

Communicate

Welcome to the Winter edition of on the Vine.

This edition comes to you a little later than it has done previously, as we take a new look at how we create On the Vine. After three and a half years of due dates and editing, the decision was made to reduce the frequency to three times a year, rather than four. In that lies the hope of renewal and invitation. I invite you to think as you read through this edition of On the Vine, what you may have to contribute to it.

As I was putting the final touches on this edition, I was drawn to the

idea of communication. Perhaps because I come off a report writing season, with comments written to summarise a Semester of adventures and learning and a strong focus on communication skills. Perhaps because many of our articles have that undertow. You are invited to think about how we share our faith in an intergenerational church. About the impact our symbols have to our worship and what they say to us. About the ways our lives tell our story, even when we're not talking. About the ways in which we can share in an Interfaith

forum, learning and strengthening our understanding of our neighbour. And when we are done with thinking and reflecting, how we can talk and share together.

Let this edition take you on a journey of wondering and encourage you to share with each other the ways in which God moves in your lives, each and every day.

Peace. Jen Shields.

Prayer Points

Paschal Candle

The Paschal (Easter) Candle is the large, special candle which is the first candle to be lit at Easter, traditionally at the Vigil service late on Holy Saturday evening. The new fire and the lighting of the candle symbolise the triumph of the resurrection over the darkness of sin and death. We light the Paschal Candle from the fire at the Dawn Service (the first service of Easter).

When the candle is lit, there is a joyous welcome to the Light of Christ at the Resurrection and the candle is blessed. A new candle is purchased each year. What makes the Paschal Candle special? It is large - ours is 24 inches tall, but they have come much larger!

(One in Salisbury Cathedral UK was 11 metres tall!) On the candle are decorations. Central is a large cross. The year (2018) has one number in each corner made by the cross. The year signifies that God is present in the congregation. At the top of the candle is the Greek letter alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet; below the cross is omega, the last letter in the Greek alphabet. This is a reference to Revelation 1.8 and 22.13 where Jesus says 'I am the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the ending.' At the Vigil service in Catholic and some Anglican churches, five grains of incense are inserted into the wax, representing the five wounds of Christ.

The Paschal Candle stands in a prominent position in the sanctuary

and burns for the season of Easter, that is, from the first service of Easter to Pentecost. Then, technically, it is lit for baptisms and funerals, 'red days', like an induction service or the anniversary of the Uniting Church; it can stand by the coffin at a funeral service.

The Paschal Candle signifies Resurrection, so it is alight before people come to worship. Its role is not to accompany the beginning of a church service.

However, some Uniting Church congregations like ours choose to light the Paschal Candle at services held throughout the year.

As you look at the Paschal Candle, think Resurrection! Christ triumphed over sin and death! Alleluia!

Joan McRae

From the Minister's Desk

Engage

Dear friends in Christ,

We live in a world that is more and more characterized by unbelief.

Furthermore, we live in a society where religiosity takes precedence over true faith and trust in God.

Many so called 'Christians' can practice Christian rituals and observe religious practices without the substance of faith. For them Christianity is a life that can be

engaged at surface level without any real impact on their personal lives. For those, the gospel and its desire for complete trust in God is not on their priority list and they would let go of their Christian commitments at the first sign of any inconvenience.

I pray that during this season of Pentecost, we would, in faith and trust engage the gospel at a more

interesting, challenging and risky but much more rewarding level than we've done before. I also pray for those who are finding it difficult to trust in God and believe in the liberating power of faith in the Good News.

Blessings to you all in the name of Christ.

Rev. Loni Vaitohi.

Individual Profile

Muriel Burns

Muriel Bingham Burns was born in Shepparton at her midwife aunt's home in St Georges Rd in July 1919, the elder sister of brother Ron. Her family home was in Edwards St. She recalls a happy and carefree childhood!! The Rev Paul baptised Muriel and at 98 Muriel is not sure whether this occurred at home or at Scots Church.

She attended Scots Kindergarten and Scots Sunday School - and explained there were lots and lots of children. Anniversaries were a special highlight for Muriel with three services on the day to mark the occasion. Mrs McKinnon was her Sunday school teacher and Muriel was awarded a special prize (which she still has) for remembering all the books of the Bible.

Later on Muriel became a Sunday School teacher herself and loved working with the younger people. Her parents were keen Churchgoers and Muriel assured me that she has a strong faith

and God has always been in her life. Her Dad lost his job when Muriel was quite young so the family moved to Wagga for work. Eventually they returned to Shepparton where Muriel's father worked at the cannery for thirty-seven years.

Muriel was married to Walter Burns at Scot's Church in 1945 and they became parents to Margaret in 1946 and Doug six years later. Muriel was a stay at home Mum but worked hard at making beautiful dresses and gained the reputation as a great dress maker, hotly sought after and a lovely honest person. Most of Muriel's friends came from Scot's church where over a very long period of time she was a choir member and performed in many memorable church concerts where many of the costumes were her creations!!

Muriel became involved in other church activities including UCAF and Crazy Whist, which she derives great enjoyment from. She has been involved in the Guiding

Movement and is a founding member of the Shepparton Trelfall Guild, which she is still associated with. Muriel is also a very long standing member of CWA.

Muriel is indeed one of our Uniting Churches living treasures!!!

Prepared by Jeni Fitzgerald .



Faith in Action

Publishing On the Vine

December 2014 marked the start of a new adventure as On the Vine was born and available at the entries of Shepparton Uniting Church for the first time. A magazine aiming to merge together the stories of our congregation with the life of our wider church, to be shared with anyone who opened the cover.

To be honest, I don't really remember how it all came about in great detail - I just remember that it happened. The idea was formed, people approached to contribute, a name was chosen and people with gifts and skills came forward. On the Vine has always been steered by the Publicity committee and had the creative flair of Corey Jinnette to set it out and give it the incredible appearance and design you see today. Scope was set out to include a range of different areas: Faith in Action, Ecumenical or Interfaith Focus, Group Profile, Individual Profile, Reflecting on..., From the Minister, Kildonnan Uniting, Assembly Actions, Synod Snippets, Prayer Points as well as space to include the calendar and preaching plan. Before we knew it, On the Vine had been embraced by our church community and we now print 160 copies every edition.

Today, On the Vine is compiled and printed by the Publicity Committee - in main part, Melissa Graham and Jen Shields - who source the items you read today. This is through a great deal of shoulder tapping, promoting, searching online for articles of interest from within our church, as well as our regular contributors. This precedes countless hours of clicking, copying, pasting, rearranging, finding photos to match and spacing out the articles to fit the page - not to mention the reading, rereading and then sending it to John Hewitt to give the final proof edit, before printing. Because of the large workload, Jen and Mel alternate the magazine as much as possible as it's really a one person job at the computer. The biggest, most exciting part is printing - these days we have a new printer which collates and staples the magazine as it prints, but it still takes around four hours to print it all and needs to be supervised in case of a jam or error. Despite the large amount of work put into the magazine, it really is something we love doing. Our first editions were collated by hand and were always an exciting and social night, with people popping by to join in the production line and chat.

One of the most amazing parts of On the Vine has been hearing stories of how people come across it.



A handful of people received On the Vine via email as a way to keep in touch with Shepparton Uniting Church as they have moved away (if you would like to receive On the Vine via email, please let us know!). Others use it as a Pastoral Care aid, taking it to those who can no longer make it to church, helping people feel connected with our community. For others, they collect it on a regular Sunday and leave it on their coffee table for visitors to read. Then there are some who collect it when they come into the church for a midweek visit, who may not be connected to our Sunday morning service but are still connected to the wider life of our church. This is Faith in Action.

This edition is not the normal quarterly edition you may have become used to. Due to the large amount of work required to keep On the Vine coming, the decision has been made to cut it back to every four months. This is where you come in. We need help to find the information you find interesting. To feature the stories of the things that happen in our wider church community. We have some regular contributors, to whom we are very thankful, but we are always looking for more. Just because an article may not suit the tone of one edition, does not mean it won't suit the next. So please send us your photos and stories (photos on their own are tricky to use) or ask us for a copy of the scope you may be interested in filling. We look forward to hearing your stories!

Jen Shields.

Ecumenical Action

Indonesian Interfaith Visit

On May 4, the two Indonesian Interfaith Visitors, Cicilia and Haqqi, who spent a week with us in March, flew home to Java. Their Shepparton hosts, Shirley and Vern Marven, Elaine Brewster and Loni and family and I had numerous email chats with them in their last week in Wodonga. They have greatly enjoyed their time in Wodonga, and sharing with us was a highlight.

Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim country. Christians are a very small minority, but are one of the six religions approved to worship. The PERCIK Institute is in Salatiga, Central Java where there are many more Christians - 20% of the population. Ruci Dewi attended the Christian University there! PERCIK'S main research area is in helping people of these six religions to live together harmoniously.

During their Shepparton visit, Haqqi explained what it was like to suddenly become part of a minority because of his faith. He delighted in the mosques and Muslim contacts here - there are none in Albury-Wodonga, although his hosts took him to an Albury Islamic group for Friday prayers. On the other hand, Cicilia equally suddenly became part of a religious majority and greatly enjoyed that experience, as her report to St Stephen's Wodonga indicates. Haqqi was very moved by sharing in the 'full Easter' - Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter, as these Interfaith Visitors do everything together.

Cicilia has sent me the presentation she made to Wodonga TAFE and also details about her work with the PERCIK Institute. She works in the Conflict- Religious

Relationships area. The other part of her work is with SOBAT, with women and children. Her report to St Stephen's Church includes a couple of pages about Shepparton, its multicultural life and Interfaith Network as well as their experiences here. I have shared these reports with those who hosted our guests. Others who would like them should contact me.

One of the things which greatly impressed me was that Cicilia's husband, who is often away with his work with the Institute, ensured that Cicilia also had the opportunity to travel, while he cared for their three sons.

We look forward to St Stephen's next Interfaith visit from PERCIK!

Joan McRae



Indonesians Haqqi El-Anshary and Cicilia Wuryaningsih were on an interfaith visit hosted by St Stephens Uniting Church. Picture: MARK JESSER, The Border Mail.

Presbytery Points

Field Days: Telling our Story

About eight years ago, the presbytery co-hosted Wisdom's Feast with the Centre for Theology and Ministry. We, the Mission and Education Committee, offered to host it the following year but, being told others must share, we decided to run our NEV version, Field Days. Since then, we have run Field Days a number of times as well as co-hosting Wisdom's Feast again in 2017.

Field Days 2018, Telling Our Story, was held June 1-2 at Shepparton Uniting Church. Friday evening began as we gathered with drinks and platters of nibbles and much animated conversation as people met those from many parts of the presbytery. Following a wonderful roast meal, our guest the Revd Dr Sunny Chen (Melbourne University and the CTM) enthralled us with part one of Telling a Wedding Story: The Departure. Not what we were expecting, but breathtaking! Then we talked it over while enjoying Janette Smith's delectable desserts.

On Saturday Sunny continued, with worship and Telling a Wedding Story 2: The Reunion. For some, this was even more captivating than Part 1! After morning tea, we worked on The Wall of Wonder, led by Mission and Education Committee Chairperson, Brian Spencer, Waranga minister. Armed with a book of Post-Its, we each added stickers to name significant events for the world, Australia, the local community and the church for each decade in the

last 50 years. Then we explored their significance and their effect on us and our faith journey.

Field Days Saturday afternoon is always two sessions of workshops. In the first session, we discovered the Indigenous story through the Aboriginal Street Art Project, Bobby Nicholls, nephew of the late Sir Doug Nicholls, telling the stories of the five people celebrated in street art and sculpture. (The project had won a HART Award the previous night.) Jen and Cam Shields presented a workshop on The Sonder Collective and Presbytery Minister Mission and Education Jeanne Beale explored the role of Powerpoint in telling the story. The second series included Jeanne matching presentation on Facebook. Christina Rowntree, from the CTM, explored story-telling especially in relation to the Street

Art Walk. Emmanuel and Joan told the Congolese story - did you know Emmanuel was only 14 when his mother sent him alone, without money, from Congo to find a safer country to live in?

We had fewer participants this time - less than half the usual number - but some found the numbers even better for sharing. It was a joy to welcome members of this congregation to their first Field Days, as participants and three as presenters. The committee, Brian Spencer, Joan McRae, Lorraine Threlfall, Janette Smith and Jeanne Beale thank Shepparton for their hospitality, and especially the Catering Committee for afternoon tea - and look forward to welcoming more from this congregation next Field Days!

Joan McRae



Assembly Action

40 Days of Prayer and Prayerful Action

Uniting Church in Australia President-elect Dr Deidre Palmer invites all UCA members into 40 days of prayer and action in the lead up to the 15th Triennial Assembly meeting.

"We offer these prayers to you recognising that there will be many words flooding over us all as we prepare for this journey together," said Dr Palmer.

"Each prayer equips us with space, silence and action we need to contemplate the 15th Triennium's theme Abundant Grace, Liberating Hope."

We will pray together for renewal for ourselves, our communities, our world and our Church.

Prayer 1: We journey together towards our Assembly. We give thanks for God's abundant grace and we are set free with the liberating hope of Jesus. Today, take a moment to think about your journey in the UCA. When did it begin? Where has it taken you? What keeps you present?

Prayer 2: *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27*

Stand as you are, in your body. Breathe. Know that you are part of a great body of hope journeying together towards Assembly. Know that you are connected. Breathe.

Prayer 3: Commit today to taking a carbon fast as you journey towards Assembly - whatever is possible in your life - driving less, eating less or no meat and walking more.

Prayer 4: *You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:19*

The Dalai Lama says:
"This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy." "Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness." Speak with kindness to a stranger today.

Prayer 5: Christ's body is planetary as well as congregational - so pick up 7 pieces of rubbish today.

Prayer 6: *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,*

and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Think about God today, walk with God today, talk to one person about God today.

Prayer 7: *The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2*

Today. For just a moment. Be still. Can you feel the movement of the Holy Spirit breathing across the waters of the earth and in the water of your own body? How does becoming aware of this truth change you?

Prayer 8: *Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. Matthew 4:11*

Who are your angels? Give thanks today for the seen and unseen angels in your life and in the life of our Church.

Prayer 9: *Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10*

Today. In all the business leading up to Assembly, in all the whirlwind of daily life, in the moments ticking by - sit down and have a rest - you are already here. We all are. The Kingdom of God is within you.

Prayer 10: *"Only Christ could have brought us all together, in this place, doing such absurd but necessary things." Kathleen Norris, poet.*

Today, do something necessary, with Christ.

Prayer 11: Our story tells us that Jesus was in the desert, without water.

Drink a glass of water. Slowly. Really slowly.

Give thanks for water. Prepare yourself to join with the Assembly in exploring how our church will grapple with the reality and ongoing threat of climate change.

Prayer 12: *...truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 2 Corinthians 6:7*

Jesus spoke truth to power. This led to the cross.

Where does our Assembly and our church need to speak truth today?

Prayer 13: At its Greek root, "to believe" simply means "to give one's heart to." If we can determine what it is we give our heart to, then we will know what it is we believe. Today, can you give your heart to God?

Prayer 14: *Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Exodus 33:11*

Go for a walk. Doesn't have to be a long one. Even around the block. Where is God on this walk? Pay attention. Can you speak to god as to a friend?

Prayer 15: *"I not only live each endless day in grief, but live each day thinking about living each day in grief." C.S. Lewis.*

Today, allow yourself to grieve, really grieve. Grieve for those you have loved and lost, grieve for our planet, grieve, lament and rest.

Prayer 16: *"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people" Martin Luther King Jr.*

Today: be the good, stand up (there are opportunities all around you).

Prayer 17: *He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:1-4*

Today, buy extra groceries and put in food bank at your local supermarket.

Prayer 18: *"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself." Dietrich Bonhoeffer* Meditate on how our whole Church can be a spoke in the wheel.

Prayer 19: Today, pray without ceasing. Every breath, every step, every action.

Prayer 20: Today we pray for those who explore Christian Unity, Doctrine and Worship.

We give thanks that they provide theological leadership in the Uniting Church in the three related areas of ecumenical activity, theological reflection and worship resourcing. Help us to be open to their teaching and reflection.

Prayer 21: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

John 1:5

Sometimes we are called to go, with each other and with our God, into the valley of the shadow. We are called to be the light in the dark that the darkness may not overcome it.

At this Assembly we will be brave.

We will not be afraid. And if we are afraid, we will look to each other and to our God and we will find our way forward, together.

Prayer 22: Today we give thanks for our sisters and brothers in the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress from all over Australia.

We commit ourselves to walking alongside this nation's First Peoples, to speaking the truth about our past and to dreaming together into a just future.

Prayer 23: Sit in a chair, feet resting on floor, legs uncrossed, arms uncrossed. Close your eyes.

Repeat *Jesu Christe*, over and over in your mind. Do this for 5 minutes. Be Still.

Prayer 24: *He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Isaiah 2:4*

The National Committee for Defence Force Chaplaincy provides members of the ADF and their families, as well as patients and staff of repatriation general hospitals, with Christian ministry, in order to meet their spiritual needs. We give thanks for their ministry and for the work of those in the armed forces and their families. We pray together for a time when nation will no longer rise up against nation.

Prayer 25: *"Lighthouses don't go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining."* – Anne Lamott, novelist.

Today: can you stand and shine?

Prayer 26: *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12*

We pray today for and with our Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry communities.

We rejoice with the Holy Spirit for our unity in diversity and for the great gifts that together we can all share with our world.

Prayer 27: *"You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert repenting"* – Mary Oliver, poet.

Today, can you remember, in your very bones, that you are loved?

Can you share this love with those you meet?

Prayer 28: *"People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child – our own two eyes. All is a miracle."* – Thích Nhất Hạnh, Vietnamese monk.

Today: See the miracle, tell someone about it.

Prayer 29: Today we give thanks and pray with and for UnitingCare Australia. Sing it out loud! TiS 650 Servant Song 87.87

Prayer 30: *We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Romans 14:7-9*

As we move towards Assembly, we open ourselves to hear each other's theological and heart perspectives on what it means to live and die as people of faith within the Jesus story.

Prayer 31: Buy a banana and give it to the person begging. Tell them your name. Ask them how their day is going.

Prayer 32: *For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12*

Hug a tree. Yes, a tree. Hold it and offer a prayer of confession. Just do it...and feel forgiven.

Prayer 33: *"My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my name be blest.' Could the world be about to turn?"*

(Canticle of the turning by Rory Cooney)
What is your soul longing for? For yourself? For our Church? Write it down.

Prayer 34: Go outside tonight, or look out the window. Even if it's cloudy and there are no stars, see the stars – say hello to God.

Prayer 35: *"The Christian leader of the future is called to be completely irrelevant and to stand in this world with nothing*

to offer but his or her own vulnerable self. God loves us, not because of what we do or accomplish, but because God has created and redeemed us in love." – Henri Nouwen, theologian.

Today – can you be yourself?

Prayer 36: We come to Assembly from our vast and wild land. Today we pray, for our Bush Chaplains, who journey across 86% of our country; visiting people on isolated properties, Aboriginal communities, mine sites and small communities.

Prayer 37: *Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Colossians 3:13*

Who do you feel distant from?

Can you reach out to them today? Call them, text them, send them love.

Prayer 38: *Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." Matthew 26:36*

Go and sit in a garden. Remember Jesus in the garden. Be bought back to yourself and God again.

Prayer 39: We acknowledge that there is a diversity of opinion in our Uniting Church community on the issue of same-gender marriage. We have always tried to maintain a respectful conversation on this subject between the councils of our Church and to work constructively across our membership. In our current conversations on marriage in the Uniting Church we are seeking to hold a 'Space for Grace' - engaging in respectful conversations with one another, guided by the Spirit, sharing our stories and understanding of marriage and same-gender relationships in culturally appropriate ways. Help us all to the Space for Grace for each other as we discern together, our way into God's future.

Prayer 40: *Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Today, what have you wrapped in grave cloth, what can be let go of? What is weighing you down? And what can we as a church let go of and what must we hold dear?*

The prayers were written by Rev. Alex Sangster from Fairfield Uniting Church in Victoria.



Reflecting On...

Intergenerational Relationships

Within the Uniting Church, much effort is being put into assisting youth to understand the heritage of Faith as of the gospel message that Jesus is the Christ now as at the beginning. Special activities appealing to youth are offered not so much as an inducement, but to establish a sense of belonging together. This is very commendable as is the opportunity given to meet with prominent people who offer inspiration.

It might be said that the older members of a congregation have had time to appreciate and give thanks for grace and enlightenment. If only that was a reality then that would be fine. Unfortunately it is too easy to become a habitual Christian going through the motions of worship and even sharing in activities together. Without question there are devoted members committed in all they do and in their daily lives offer prayers, consider the way of the Lord and are given to outreach to others. We do not ask of who is faithful; rather we should accept one another without question. Supporting and giving acknowledgement of one another is the very least that we can do.

The gap between youth and the older members of a congregation is significant. However, maybe that which is over-looked are the middle group of people between the ages

of 40 to 55 years of age. This is an arbitrary figure that can vary. At this stage people are often offering by their employment the best years of their lives. Often both husband and wife are working and have teen-agers to educate. Come weekends and both parents desire timeout to recuperate: sometimes enjoy social life with friends. Some are more physical to visit the snow. Others enjoy a musical night out. And within the Australian culture a night at the Pub with some entertainment is the go.

This is far the biggest gap in any congregation. The question is how do we restore balance between generations? To be a community of faith there is a need for unity. This doesn't mean everybody being together at worship at the same time. Rather it is a matter of devoting a more equitable effort at meeting the needs of all groups.

In some ways too much emphasis can be put on the word age. As people we are all different with our own personalities and gifts. It is better that we learn to accept one another and not put labels on ourselves as if we were goods for sale. The words "To love one another as I have loved you" need to be uppermost in our mind. More than surveys and questionnaires; something more genuine needs to take place. Friendship and hospitality: reaching out to visit one another we know are worthwhile.

To speak of renewal is a challenge to all of us at every stage of life. Let us work together and break the deadlock of inter-generational differences. The experts have fine words, but surely we can see for ourselves. Faith can move mountains.

Alan English



For the Kids

Have Fun!

Pentecost

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

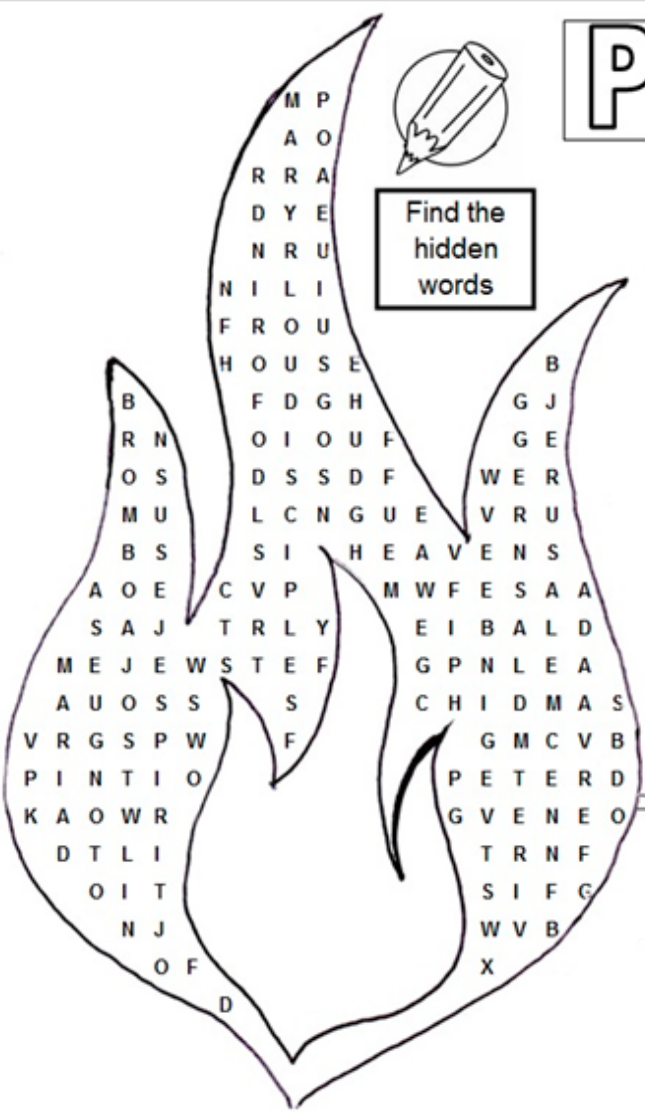


- Wind
- Heaven
- House
- Tongues
- Fire
- Spirit
- Jews
- Jerusalem
- Peter
- Jesus
- Wine
- Disciples
- Mary

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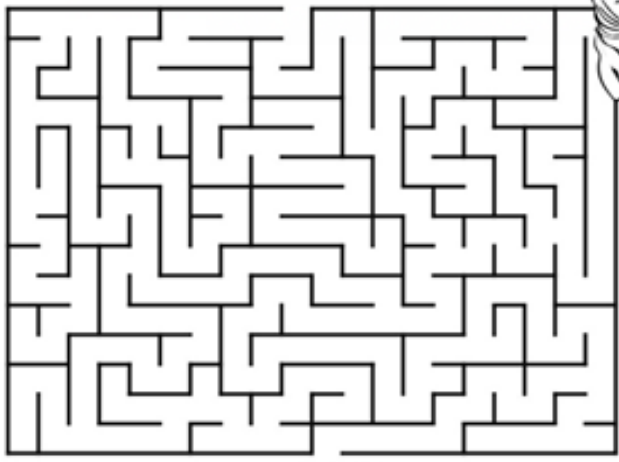
Find the hidden words



Acts 2:3

Guide the disciples to watch Jesus ascend to Heaven.

END



START



FRANK ©evanfrank.net



Rural Roundup

Turaton Singers



On Saturday 12th May, a cold and chilly night, in a lovely warm venue Dookie was treated to a delightful musical concert by the Turaton Singers. In two fifty minute segments the audience was entertained with songs of the sixties. A very popular segment was themes from the TV shows. The yellow polka dot bikini also made an appearance. There were choir, solo and group items. It was very obvious to us all that the singers were passionate about what they were presenting to us. It was all very professionally presented with an interesting back drop and magnificent lighting all set up by the Turaton group.

At the conclusion of the much appreciated music a country supper was served. The Dookie Uniting Church thank Turaton and all who joined us for making it a very memorable evening. We hope we will be able to host another such evening next year.

Joy Sims

Property Planning Task Group

As of 8/5/2018

In February I noted that the vision of the Congregation had become reality: the Opening had been held on February 4. Since then, the Property Planning Task Group has enjoyed settling in to the new premises and helping to iron out the little problems associated with a new building.

Of these, the dishwasher has been a problem - water insufficiently hot, dishes not drying, water draining the wrong way and so on. The problems were addressed early in May: the operational ones proved to be from incorrect installation of the machine. A lipped bench has been installed to deal with drainage problems. The cisterns in the men's toilets have been lowered. Some of you will have noticed that one of the car park grates did not drain effectively after heavy rain. This problem has been reported.

And the chairs arrived April 24! Our warmest thanks to all who assisted

in clearing the church, unpacking the new chairs and arranging them.

In the PPTG report to the Annual Meeting in April, I paid tribute to all members of the Task Group, past and present, who contributed to the work done over so many years. Special tribute was paid to the late Kevin Jordan who was an original member, later becoming chairperson and retiring two years ago. Now I add further thanks to Zane Streeter for his wonderful work as treasurer, PPTG member, landscaper and more. And to all who assisted Zane and Vern Marven in making the grounds so attractive. The Rain Garden is well on the way, as is evident.

Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt and Zane have become corresponding members - for us to consult! - after years of huge commitment to the project: the PPTG greatly appreciates your contributions. Now the PPTG has been expanded,

with Val Gibbs and Geoff Thompson joining us for the special work on the Op Shop. Following a request from the Op Shop Committee that a new building be considered, the PPTG has so far looked at dimensions for a building on the present site, earning capacity per square metre, projected income and related matters. A draft design has been discussed and a cost estimate is being prepared. When funding possibilities have been explored, the proposal for a new building will be presented to a meeting of the Congregation. Their approval is necessary for any change to the extension and refurbishing work approved some years ago.

Joan McRae

Around the Congregation



Thelma Payne and Jean Liersch with the wreath laid on ANZAC day, on behalf of the Shepparton Uniting Church congregation. The service was attended by hundreds as we gathered to remember the fallen. Lest We Forget.



Congratulations to Damien and Chris Stevens-Todd who welcomed Fletcher Stevens-Todd to the world on Feb 28th 2018, weighing 7lb. We look forward to celebrating in her Baptism on the 1st of July 2018.



Over the June long weekend, Jen and Cam led the charge with 21 youth and young adults heading to Warragul for State Youth Games, run by the Church of Christ. They arrived to join in with groups from Brighton, Dingly, Murrumbena, Albury and a variety of other places, to create the Sonder Collective. The Collective had representation from 13 different congregations and 4 denominations, registering 60 individuals. Our youth joined in games of Basketball, Netball, Hockey, Bubble Soccer, Indoor Soccer, Ultimate Frizbee, Uno, Scrabble, E-Games, Four Square, Cross Country, the Beep Test, Dodgeball, Volleyball, Badminton and Lawn Bowls.



Upcoming Events

July - October 2018

July 2018

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| 30 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 31 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 6.30pm Youth Group | | | | | 1 9:30am Worship |
| 2 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 3 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 4 10.30am Mum's Group 5.30pm Church Council Executive | 5 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 3pm Together in Voice | 6 12pm Shared Prayer | 7 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 8 Assembly 9:30am Worship |
| 9 Assembly 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 10 Assembly 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 11 Assembly 10.30am Mum's Group 7:30pm Church Council | 12 Assembly 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 10:45am Worship Banksia L 1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L 2pm Fellowship Group 3pm Together in Voice | 13 Assembly 12pm Shared Prayer | 14 Assembly 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 15 9:30am Worship 4:30 pm Messy Church |
| 16 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 17 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 18 10.30am Mum's Group 1:30pm UCAF | 19 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 10:45am Worship at Mercy Aged Care 3pm Together in Voice | 20 10am Worship Ave Maria 12pm Shared Prayer 6:30pm Cafe Praxis | 21 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 22 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Gardens Service |
| 23 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 24 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2pm Worship Acacia House 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 24 10.30am Mum's Group 1:30pm Women's Afternoon Group | 26 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 3pm Together in Voice | 27 12pm Shared Prayer 5pm KUCA 6pm Dookie Family tea | 28 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 29 9:30am Worship |

August 2018

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | 1 10.30am Mum's Group 5.30pm Church Council Executive | 2 10am Multicultural Play G. 10am Cuppa and Chat 3pm Together in Voice | 3 12pm Shared Prayer | 4 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 5 9:30am Worship |
| 6 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 7 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 6.30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 8 10.30am Mum's Group 7.30pm Church Council | 9 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 10:45am Worship Banksia L 1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L 2pm Fellowship Group 3pm Together in Voice | 10 12pm Shared Prayer 5pm KUCA | 11 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 12 9:30am Worship |
| 13 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 14 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 6pm Tea & Youth Service 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 15 10.30am Mum's Group 1:30pm UCAF | 16 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 10:45am Worship at Mercy Aged Care 3pm Together in Voice | 17 10am Worship Ave Maria 12pm Shared Prayer 6:30pm Cafe Praxis | 18 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 19 9:30am Worship 4:30pm Messy Church |
| 20 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 21 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 6.30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 22 10.30am Mum's Group 1:30pm Women's Afternoon Group | 23 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 3pm Together in Voice | 24 12pm Shared Prayer 5pm KUCA 6pm Dookie Family tea | 25 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 26 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Gardens Service |
| 27 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 28 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2:00pm Worship at Acacia House 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 29 10.30am Mum's Group | 30 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 3pm Together in Voice | 31 12pm Shared Prayer | | |

September 2018

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 2 9:30am Worship |
| 3 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 4 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 6.30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 5 10.30am Mum's Group 5.30pm Church Council Executive | 6 10am Multicultural Play G. 10am Cuppa and Chat 3pm Together in Voice | 7 12pm Shared Prayer | 8 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 9 9:30am Worship 6pm Faith Sharing Group |
| 10 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 11 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 6pm Tea & Youth Service 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 12 10.30am Mum's Group 7:30pm Church Council | 13 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 10:45am Worship Banksia L 1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L 2pm Fellowship Group 3pm Together in Voice | 14 10am Worship Ave Maria 12pm Shared Prayer 5pm KUCA | 15 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 16 9:30am Worship 4.30pm Messy Church |
| 17 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 18 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 6.30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 19 10.30am Mum's Group 1:30pm UCAF | 20 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 10:45am Worship at Mercy Aged Care 3pm Together in Voice | 21 12pm Shared Prayer 6:30pm Cafe Praxis | 22 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 23 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Gardens Service |
| 24 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 25 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2:00pm Worship at Acacia House 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 26 10.30am Mum's Group 1:30pm Women's Afternoon Group | 27 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 3pm Together in Voice | 28 12pm Shared Prayer 5pm KUCA 6pm Dookie Family tea | 29 | 30 9:30am Worship |

October 2018

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 2 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 3 10.30am Mum's Group 5.30pm Church Council Executive | 4 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 3pm Together in Voice | 5 12pm Shared Prayer | 6 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 7 9:30am Worship |
| 8 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 9 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 6pm Tea & Youth Service 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 10 10.30am Mum's Group 7:30pm Church Council | 11 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 10:45am Worship Banksia L 1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L 2pm Fellowship Group 3pm Together in Voice | 12 12pm Shared Prayer 5pm KUCA | 13 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 14 9:30am Worship 4:30pm Messy Church |
| 15 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 16 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 17 10.30am Mum's Group 1:30pm UCAF | 18 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 10:45am Worship at Mercy Aged Care 3pm Together in Voice | 19 10am Worship Ave Maria 12pm Shared Prayer 6:30pm Cafe Praxis | 20 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 21 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Gardens Service |
| 22 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 23 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2pm Worship Acacia House 7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 24 10.30am Mum's Group 1:30pm Women's Afternoon Group | 25 10am Multicultural Play G 10am Cuppa and Chat 3pm Together in Voice | 26 12pm Shared Prayer 5pm KUCA 6pm Dookie Family tea | 27 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 28 9:30am Worship |
| 29 7pm Indoor Bowls Pennant | 30 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist | 31 | | | | |

July/August 2018

| July 2018 | 1st Pentecost | 8th Pentecost | 15th Pentecost | 22nd Pentecost | 29th Pentecost |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| 9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening | Rosalie HC | Rosalie Tues 10th NO Youth Focus | Loni 4:30 pm Messy Church Rosalie | Sharing from Assembly 2.00pm Kialla G. Loni HC | Joan Fisher |
| Dookie 9.00am | Shirley | Joan Fisher | Joy Sims | Loni HC | Combined service 10:30 am at Pine Lodge Loni |
| Pine Lodge 11.00am | Shirley | | At Katandra | | |
| Kialla West 11.00am | | Joan Fisher | | | |
| Katandra West 11.00am | At Pine Lodge | | Joy Sims | | |
| Lectionary Readings | 2 Samuel 1:1,17-27 Psalm 130 2 Cor. 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43 | 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Cor. 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13 | 2 Samuel 6:1-5 12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29 | 2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37 Eph. 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 | 2 Sam. 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Eph. 3:14-21 John 6:1-21 |

Preaching Plan

| August 2018 | 5th Pentecost | 12th Pentecost | 19th Pentecost | 26th Pentecost |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| 9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening | Loni HC | Loni Tues 14th 7:00pm Youth Focus Mooropna | Rosalie 4:30 pm Messy Church | Rosalie and Loni 2.00pm Kialla G Rosalie |
| Dookie 9.00am | Joan McRae | Joy Sims | Loni HC | St. Lukes Anglican |
| Pine Lodge 11.00am | Joan McRae | | At Katandra West | |
| Kialla West 11.00am | | Joy Sims | | |
| Katandra West 11.00am | At Pine Lodge | | Loni HC | |
| Lectionary Readings | 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Ps 51:1-12 Eph 4:1-6 John 6:24-35 | 2 Samuel 8:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Eph 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51 | 1 Kgs. 2:10-12; 3:3-14. Psalm. 111 Eph. 5:15-20. Jn. 6:51-58. | 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43. Psalm 84 Eph. 6:10-20. Jn. 6:56-69 |



Shepparton
Uniting Church

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134-140 Fryers Street, Shepparton
P.O. Box 7032, Shepparton, 3632