



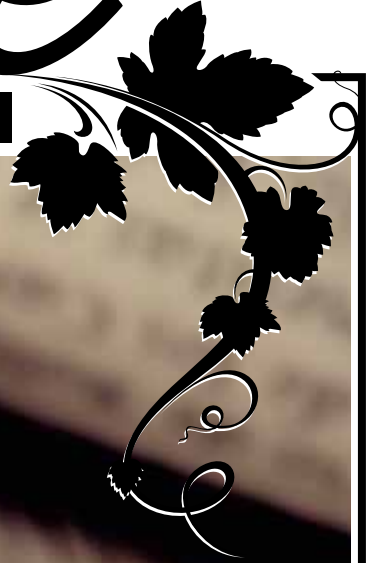
Shepparton
Uniting Church

Fourth Edition
September 2015

on the *Vine*

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

*We are the
people of God*



Faith in Action

Walk for justice for refugees

Prayer Points

Madas Youth Group

Getting to Know...

Arthur Willmott

Assembly Actions

Hearts On Fire
Stories of Joy and Sorrow



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
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Contents

- 3 Welcome to All**
An introduction
- 3 From the Minister's Desk**
Dear friends in christ?
- 4 Prayer Points**
Madas Youth Group: Prayer!
- 5 Shepparton Uniting Church**
Redevelopment
- 6 Getting to Know...**
Arthur Willmott
- 8 Interfaith News**
Indonesian Interfaith visitors
- 9 For The Kids**
Have fun!
- 10 Assembly Actions**
Hearts on Fire; Stories of Joy and Sorrow
- 12 14th Assembly**
Hearts on Fire
Group Profile
Thursday Afternoon Fellowship
- 13 Reflecting On...**
Genesis
- 14 Uniting Care Kildonan**
*Yanyun LotipanYapenyeba:
Walk and Talk Together*
- 15 Around The Congregation**
*Congratulations to
Keep in our prayers
Looking Back*
- 16 Synod Snippets**
A strategic review of UCA VicTas Synod
- 17 Faith in Action**
Operation Christmas Child
- 18 Preaching Plan**
September/October 2015
- 19 Upcoming Events**
September, October 2015
- 20 Upcoming Events**
November 2015

Welcome to all

As we write this the Uniting Church has just completed its' fourteenth Assembly. Hearts on fire was the theme of the Assembly and it led us to think about what sets our hearts on fire.

As we begin to defrost as the beginning of spring unfolds we find that we once again are energised to find the things that we are

passionate about.

As you read the articles within we hope that you find something that will ignite your faith journey and fuel you for the road ahead. We also encourage to metaphorically spread the fire by sharing your stories, ideas and dreams with those you encounter along the road or at the dinner table.

There is so much passion within our congregation with so many events happening each day that our calendar quickly fills up, however be sure to remember why we are here and take a moment to stop and find out how best you and God can be as one.

Melissa and Jen

From the Minister's desk

Dear friends in Christ

In this edition of the 'Vine' I wish to share with you some thoughts on 'why we do what we do' as the people of God. It is hoped to shed some light in the ordinary things that we Christians do which are often taken for granted because we are used to doing them all the time. Having said that, I must state here that all the things we do, we do them in response to God's saving act in history, which was ultimately fulfilled in the Christ event. This saving act of God continues in and through His church in the power of the Holy Spirit.

My intention is to write a series of commentary on those things that we do, and one of those is, WORSHIP. It is fitting to begin with 'worship' because worship is at the centre of our being as a community of believers, and worship is the very thing we were created for, and to do. This means, that we are most the people of God in worship.

It is our ongoing practice and experience of faith. It is how we, as people of God practice our reliance on our Lord. We come together in worship, we pray, we listen to God's word, we confess our sins, we make peace with each other, we lift up our hearts, we hold out our hands, we are fed, we give thanks, and we go forth.

It is in worship that we practice and live out the patterns of our life together before God, rehearsing every little bit until they become second nature to us. In the liturgy of the word, we are taught that the God who has been involved since time began is involved with us still. Through the liturgy of the Lord's Supper, we experience the incarnate Lord who feeds and forgives and calls us to follow him into the world. Through this encounter we understand what it means to be human, and enabled to live our lives into the fullness

of our heritage as sons and daughters of God.

We bring all of whom we are to worship. It is not only a spiritual experience; it is a physical one also. There are faces to be smiled at, hands to be touched, bread to be tasted, and wine to share. We stand when we could just as easily be sitting, sometimes we kneel, like troubadours, like lovers, like servants, we kneel before the Lord our Maker and our hearts follow. Then, we stand and sing, and we sit to listen, dancing the peculiar ballet of the people of God.

Our worship is the medium of our identity over time. Like a family album, our liturgy bears the marks of those who have gone before us-portraits of those we have never met, inscriptions written by many hands left for us by our ancestors in the faith.

(To be continued in the next edition...)

Loni

Prayer points...

Madas Youth Group: Prayer

As a youth group we have discussed what prayer means to us. What we found is that it is different for everyone. A common idea is that we pray when others say we should and read what someone else has written for us. However most people don't naturally connect to this and it puts people off prayer entirely. What we don't notice though, is that we pray all the time without even realising it.

Praying is whatever you want it to be. As Christians, we have the ability to pray by ourselves in quiet meditation, or we can experience prayer in a group through music or discussion. Also, we can connect with God without the formal restraints that we are typically brought up with. During our youth groups conversations, we uncovered that a few of us feel closest when we have little revelations and we send a tiny thank you to God, rather than hailing a few Marys.

When asked 'Why do we pray?', of course the first answers were 'why not?' and



'YOLO' (You Only Live Once), but once we got deeper, we came up with things like 'self need' and 'enlightenment'. Our youth group leader, Cameron Shields, told us that when he was looking for inspiration, he prayed for help and suddenly it got a lot easier. Sometimes we can't find the words, so it's better to just ask god to look in your heart for them.

Tom Sargent, one of the older members in our group, says that it is extremely important to acknowledge that you can pray "by yourself, with others and with others, by yourself".

By this, he means that there are times when you should focus on your own, there are times when it's good for you to share your prayer with everyone who wants to listen, and sometimes you should be with others and make little personal prayers (especially when you are 'the random loner at the party').

So there are many different ways to pray but the main thing is that you find the way that works for the two of you.

Madas Youth Group



Shepparton Uniting Church

Redevelopment

We are happy to report significant progress. On June 26 the Shepparton City Council issued a Planning Permit for the project. It lists a number of conditions which are to be complied with before we can occupy the completed building. Such conditions are common for projects of this size.

Preparation of documents needed for the tender process is continuing. Our principal designer Peps Plans is organizing this process. Consultants engaged to prepare structural & hydraulic design have completed most of the work required. The audio-visual design work has commenced. Electrical & Mechanical services design work is to be obtained from local consultants. All of this design work is required as part of the tender process.

We would anticipate calling for tenders to construct the building before the end of October this year.

It is possible that some of the design consultants could rebate part of their design

fees if they are successful in obtaining work on the construction of project.

Travelling expenses for Synod Consultants have been reimbursed to our investment account.

The sale of St David's is scheduled to be finalised in early November. We have picked up a bit more money from Property Sale Proceeds than we had originally anticipated.

Part of the Business Case for the project was presented to the Presbytery Property Committee on July 30. We expect a favourable outcome from this presentation.

The full Business Case is to be presented to Synod Property Services when the tenders have been received. You can be assured that both Presbytery and Synod want to see this project proceed.

Thank you for your patience with our committee as we push to continue the redevelopment.

Zane Streeter Secretary PPTG



Getting To Know...

Arthur Willmott

Born: August 1933 at the Tocomwal Hospital NSW.

School and working life:

Attending Tamleugh North Primary School life was pretty simple, no buses, pushbikes or being dropped off by car so Arthur rode a pony to school! The pony spent the day in the "pony/horse paddock" this being an essential inclusion in all country schools.

Arthurs secondary schooling was completed at Shepparton High School leaving after completing year 10 to begin work on the land doing anything and everything

just as his father had done. With a great infinity for trucks tractors and all things mechanical it was no surprise that in 1954 Arthur was employed by the local bus company Taylforth's. As well as doing a bit of everything Arthur was the driver for the Karamomous/ Caniambo school run, his childhood school run.

Through bus driving Arthur was the first to take a bus through the Snowy Mountains with students from Shepparton North Technical School; saw the installation of bus license through an

"assessment", in the form of an interview with the local police officer; dropped off Melbourne Olympic torch runners on the Tatura - Rushworth leg of the relay for the Melbourne games in 1956. Arthur had to make sure the runners were in their positions to pass the torch on then he had to pick them up again and get them back to Tatura.

Arthur was involved with the Scouting Movement for over 30 years as a scout and district leader and later as an administrator for the movement.



Family Life: In 1961 at the Wesley Church in Shepparton Arthur married the love of his life Glenys Wisely and with the help of relatives built the comfortable home (adding to it as needed) he still lives in today. Sadly Glenys passed away in 2002. Arthur is the very proud father of four children - Kim, Peter, Jodie Christian and an extremely proud grandfather of nine grand children!

Faith Journey: Arthur has enjoyed a strong journey of faith throughout his life beginning with his baptism at St Alban's Anglican Church Tocumwal NSW.

Arthur attended the Baptist church at Karramomous he described this as an early example of a Community Church of all faiths!

Arthur worshipped at Kialla East Methodist in the sixties and was confirmed during these years at Mooroopna.

From 1961 until 2003 Arthur and Glenys worshipped at the Tallygaroopna Uniting Church and when that closed St David's Uniting Church Shepparton became his place of worship.

Arthur was not in favour of "our four churches coming together" but has embraced the change whole-heartedly and is our ever reliable, quiet and unobtrusive "go to man" for many aspects of worship at the Wesley site. Arthur is a member of Church Council and Elder of our Congregation .



Arthur has a deep and profound faith that was significantly developed and strengthened within his marriage and Glenys' influence as well influences from Sunday School Teachers Anne and Hilda and the Reverend Rob Haley. This has given Arthur enormous gratitude and a firm belief

as he commented, "that God has had something to do with a lot of things that have happened in my life."

Since his wife's passing Arthur has devoted more time and energy to be involved with church activities.

*Prepared by Jeni Fitzgerald
August 2015*

Interfaith News

Indonesian Interfaith Visitors

The Revd Yanne Erika and Moh Akbar from Centra Java spent six days with us during their time in Australia as part of the Interfaith Programme of St Stephen's Uniting Church Wodonga.

Our warmest thanks to Alan English and to Rucci Dewi and Kim Stokie for offering hospitality to Yanne and Akbar.

At the Congregational Gathering on May 17, Yanne spoke about her experience as a minis-ter in the Protestant Church of Java. Previously she was a minister in a congregation; at present she runs the small boarding house for the day school run by her congregation. Akbar is a Muslim

human rights researcher who has published many books and papers. Both work for PERCIK, an interfaith organisation in Salatiga, Java. Also on May 17, Yanne and Akbar spoke at Mass at St Mel's and afterwards at an evening meal with that congregation and Shepparton Interfaith Network.

On May 18, Yanne and Akbar were guests for Shepparton Regional Reconciliation Group's visit to the Njernda Aboriginal Corporation at Echuca. There we saw the medical and legal centre, met some of the 100 indigenous staff and were entertained by several Aunties. The Corporation's

Berrima Child Care Centre which has 25 kinder and 25

child care places was of great interest as the house in which it began was a gift from the Uniting Church thirty years ago when church

property was divested and given to Indigenous communities. (29 Edwards Street Shepparton was another.) All staff are trained Aboriginal child care workers. At a visit to the TAFE College we met Aboriginal students in Art, Teaching, Child Care and Nursing courses. The return trip was through NSW and took in Cumeragunja and the Medical Co-operative there. Yanne and Akbar were

extremely interested to see these Aboriginal Co-operatives because their work with the Indigenous people in Java is a high priority for them.

On Tuesday, Rucci took Yanne

and Akbar to the Grammar School where they met students, visited Indonesian classes and conversed with students.

Yanne and Akbar also visited the Albanian and Turkish Mosques for Akbar to pray. They were hugely impressed to meet the People Helping People who provide free meals at the Lake each evening.

There was insufficient time to fit in all the planned activities. The final engagement for our visitors was the Presbytery meeting held at St David's, where they made presentations to the meeting and met members over lunch, before returning to Wodonga for their final week before their journey home to Java.

Joan McRae



Pictured: Yanne, Akbar and Rucci

For The Kids **Have Fun!**



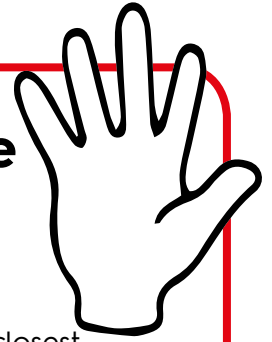
Christ the King!

This is a story about a King who was born many years ago. This king was different from most. What made this king different? Well, for one thing, he didn't live in a palace. He didn't wear a beautiful robe or a jewelled crown. He had no servants to wait on him -- and no soldiers to fight his battles. He didn't even have a country over which to rule and there were no coins engraved with his face or his name.

I imagine that most of you have probably guessed who this king is. The King is Jesus. He is not just any king, he is the King of Kings. His kingdom is not on earth, his kingdom is in heaven. That is why many people never chose to make him their king. When Jesus was here on earth, the people were all looking for a king who would set up a kingdom on earth. A kingdom where they would share the wealth and power.

Jesus finally wore a crown, but it was a crown of thorns. A cross became his throne and above his head was a sign for all to read, "This is the King of the Jews."

The Five Finger Prayer



Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, ministers)-ask for wisdom & support.

Index: (tallest) Those that lead us (government)-ask for guidance & wisdom

Ring: (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble or in pain.

Pinkie: Our prayers for ourselves and our own needs.



At Shepparton Uniting Church, 150 Maude St, Shepparton
Every 3rd Sunday of the Month
4:30pm - 6:30pm (tea provided)

Come along and join us for a creative new approach to worship, with craft, games and other activities.

Christ the King!

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals - one on his right, the other on his left. Luke 23:33 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



CHRIST THE KING

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

crucified
paradise
king
Christ
kingdom
forgive
criminals
saved



Assembly Actions

Hearts On Fire; Stories of Joy and Sorrow

Assembly I assumed it would be business stuff and regulations which it was but what I didn't expect was the human touch the stories of such joy and such sorrow and pain and the sense of the holy spirit been amongst us, it was with in this community the body of Christ that we were able to discern.

The bible reading for our daily study was Luke 24 13-35 we had it read to us each day in a different Language and the a different guest speaker would reflect on the reading, which I will paraphrase.

The story of two people traveling a road with heads so full and hearts so full of sorrow having had Jesus handed over by their Chief Priests and rulers and sentenced to death, they did not notice the stranger that had joined them was Jesus, and they only realised that it was Jesus once they shared a meal together.

In some ways parts of the Assembly were like this. We heard from the head Commissioner of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. As we sat and listened to the facts of the mistreatment of the victims, everyone in the room sat in such silence and focus to what was being said and as the body of Christ we all felt a deep sense of hurt that the victims bear. With heads so full and hearts so heavy it was hard to see where Jesus

was, yet he was there with us as we travelled the road and though this sense of hurt we as a church can show compassion and sharing and start to work with the victims in giving them justice they deserve.

The theme of the Assembly was hearts on fire- it only takes a spark to set the heart alight and for it to be the light in the dark. It was often over meals and drinks that we heard each other's stories and the road travelled together. It was where I meet such compassionate, loving people of Jesus all with different stories, some of joy and some of pain. It's these stories that have shaped my faith, people so passionate

about making a change in the church and in the world though social justice; people with such burning heart full of passion. I have built lifelong friendships with these future leaders of the Uniting Church.

In the young leaders group were people from Congress and all different cultures. At the start of the week we decided as a group it was important to bring a proposal forward to the Assembly about the closure of indigenous communities. This was very well received by the Assembly. One part of the proposal was that the president of the UCA would meet with state premiers and the prime minister, the other was that as a group we





would take the opportunity to get a large group photo to be used in promoting the new proposal to the wider community to show the Uniting Church's support to keep communities open. Photo 2 whole Assembly

One off the hardest proposals that took the longest to work though was the marriage proposal, some points that were raised from the report had been that congress and

multicultural communities need more time to talk and discuss same sex marriage in culturally sensitive ways. The other was to continue to look at how as a church we see ourselves in today's changing world and how our theology supports our views and understanding and how we interpret the bible.

For me personally, I had not thought all that deeply about the subject till assembly. I

found the biggest change came when I meet two ladies in the young leaders group who are both in same sex relationships. One of them who got married in a church in New Zealand, and just like Jen and I, they both have a strong focus on having God at the centre of their relationship which left me realising there is no big difference between our relationships.

So, over the next 3 years the task group will continue to work on the marriage discussions paper hearing both sides of the story and report to the 15th Assembly.

If there is one important thing I can take away from Assembly is that "love works". (photo 3) When we love our neighbour like Jesus loves us we can start to make a difference, when we invite the stranger in for supper that's when we see Jesus.

During the Assembly, the co-ordinator for multicultural ministry for the UCA Rev Emanuel, taught us a Aramaic word which is Marhaba - which means God Is Love.

Cam Shields



14th Assembly

The Triennial Assembly is a meeting of approximately 265 members of the Uniting Church in Australia. Members are elected by Synods and Presbyteries across the country. These elected members join with office holders, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress members, youthful members and others to form a national decision-making body. Members of the Assembly meet for six days every three years in a different state or territory each time. The discussion centres on the direction and priorities of the Uniting Church in Australia for the next triennium. The outcome is a series of decisions that guide the life of the Church and its advocacy over the following three years.

In 2015 The Assembly was held at the University of Western Australia, Perth from the 12-18th July.

The following was the theme for the 14th Assembly taken from the Assembly website, <http://assembly2015.uca.org.au/>

Hearts on Fire

Fire is a rich symbol for the First Peoples of Australia. If you are to enter another Clan/Nation's country you light a fire at the Nation's boundary to make your request to enter or pass through. Fire sticks are used to care for country and pass onto others. Indeed fire is a symbol for most indigenous cultures - the many different cultural and linguistically diverse peoples who are the



Uniting Church in Australia. Fire, burning, shining and hearts are all rich symbols used in Scripture. For me this also speaks of our hearts and passion - the kind of "fanning into flame" which Paul spoke of; the kind of fire that a church which is no longer at the 'centre' of Australian society, needs to have on the margins, at the edges, to be relevant, to act and to speak in this space. To be a Christian is to care for the marginalised and oppressed in our communities and in the world.

Shepparton Uniting Church

Group Profile: Thursday afternoon fellowship

The group meets on the second Thursday each month in members' homes. A strong sense of fellowship and support for each other exists within the group.

Occasionally we go on a group visit to interesting places. At our April meeting 11 members enjoyed a drive to Benalla. We had a conducted tour of the Airforce Museum, followed by a luncheon at the art gallery and later a visit to the museum attached to the information centre.

The May meeting was at Ray and Judy Luscombes when the group trimmed stamps

for the Uniting Church's 'Sammy Stamp' fundraiser.

An open invitation is extended to anyone interested in coming along

to future events. For more information, ask June Beckham, Jean Liersch or Ray Luscome.

Ray Luscome





Reflecting On... Genesis

A Retreat for Church Council Members was held on Saturday 27th June at The "Business Edge Conference" meeting room in Toolamba.

Our facilitator was Geraldine Lemard, a retired minister with the Uniting Church based in Mulwala.

The day started with a cuppa, yummy nibbles and fellowship in front of a super wood heater which really set the atmosphere since it was a very cold day. We took time out for a hot lunch including Judy Luscombe's famous soup, a walk around a beautiful native garden before getting back into discussion. At the end of the day we served each other the bread and wine in Communion.

The following is a precise of my notes I took on the day.

Our study was of the first 11 chapters of Genesis. We looked at a precise version of these chapters. Chapters

1- 3: Creation, the Garden of Eden, and the fall of humanity from God's grace. Chapters 4 & 5: Adam & Eve's children, and their descendants. Chapters 6 - 8: The second creation story; the story of the flood as a result of utter chaos. Chapter 9: God's Covenant with Noah - the first Covenant. Chapter 10: Noah's descendants. Chapter 11: Tower of Babylon.

From this came the discussion - what it meant to us as Christians. It had nothing to do with the "big bang" theory, or "everything created in 6 days".

We talked about the nature of God, the plan of creation, made in God's image from the love of God. The creation was perfect. It was paradise.

But things got "mucked up"!

We talked about God's willingness to start again out

of LOVE.

The Genesis story is not about "how". It is a "given" by those who believe in God.

Regardless of what happens in the world today we need to hold onto the belief that God creates, and so it is a story of HOPE, that God will prevail no matter what!

God's creation of humanity- God breathes into the nostrils of humanity the breath of God. The breath of God is what He gives when entering into the chaos and breathing into something of himself.

Life- being in relationship with God. "Let there be light". The glory of God here in the chaos.

Footnote. We all enjoyed the journey of the day; the location, food, fellowship AND the opportunity to explore what it means to be God's people in today's world.

Shirley Marven



Uniting Care Kildonan

Yanyun LotipanYapenyeba: Walk and Talk Together



On Wednesday 24th June 2015 24 staff from Kildonan UnitingCare attended the Bangerang Cultural Centre for a Cultural Awareness Session facilitated by workers from the Yanyun Lotjian Yapenyebak (Walk and Talk Together) Program. The session's purpose was a commitment developed through the organisation's Reconciliation Action Plan to have 85% of staff participate in Cultural Awareness Training.

The facilitators spoke on topics that included Local History, Constitutional Recognition, Apology to Stolen Generation, 1967 Referendum, the Burnum Burnum declaration and about David Unaipon's life achievements. The group where shown various aboriginal artefacts that were used in the past for hunting and gathering food and given the history of the each item and how they were used. This

was then followed with a tour of the Bangerang Cultural Centre which enhanced further understanding of the aboriginal culture.

This was a successful presentation, as participants stated that they learnt much more about the local history and current ongoing issues with in the nation.

Damien Stevens



Around the Congregation



Congratulations to...

Monga Mukasa who has been named UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador. Young Ambassadors are trained to consult with children about the important issues in their lives, to report on issues of child rights and

to represent the views of young people to decision makers at local, national and international levels. Well done Monga and we look forward to where the UNICEF program will take you.

From one founding position to another congratulations to Rowena Allan who in July was appointed Victoria's first gender and sexuality commissioner. Ro

was the founding CEO of UnitingCare Cutting Edge. A wonderful achievement for all your hard work. Well done.

Looking back

In last month's issue we featured Uniting Church Adult Fellowship and some of the work they have been doing.

Ray Luscombe has given us this photo of Annette, Rosalie and Loni on June 8th this year at the dedication service of the school back packs for Mission Liason distribution to needy islands, and craft items for sale at the Old Timers Fete in Alice Springs. Thanks Ray for sharing.



Welcome home

Joan Fisher after your time away with the ecumenical accompaniment program. We look forward to reading about your experience in the next issue.

Keep in our prayers...

The many that are sick and struggling with life and the carers that support them.

Those affected by war, fighting, abuse and violence in all its forms.

Those that are caught in the destruction of natural and man-made disasters.

Do you have news? Like to share?

If you have some news, event photos, past or present, articles or prayers for others that you wish to share with the congregation please feel free to contact the publicity committee at publicity@sheppartonuc.org.au or drop it off into the box in the front foyer of the Shepparton Uniting Church or see Melissa Graham or Jen Shields.

Synod Snippets

A strategic review of UCA VicTas Synod



Over the past months you may have heard the words Major Strategic Review or simply the letters MSR, but what does it all mean?

“The May 2013 Synod resolved that the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) undertake a Major Strategic Review (MSR or Review) to advise the Church on its vision, plans and sustainability into the future.

The Review seeks to understand the purpose of the church in the 21st Century and the changed and changing nature, shape and theologies of the church 37 years on from the adoption of the Basis of Union.

This Review process is prayerful, literative, reflective, and participative. It will involve considerable engagement and consultation with the whole of the Church.”

At the end of July the MSR have released to the Synod the new Vision Statement and Mission Principles that the Synod and all congregations and agencies within Victoria and Tasmania will be encouraged to use as a way of faith formation and discipleship in our own patches.

Vision statement and mission principles affirmed

Transcribed from <http://listeningpost.victas.uca.org.au/MSR>

The Synod Standing Committee (SSC) affirmed on 24 June 2015 a vision statement and mission principles for the Major Strategic Review.

The MSR will use the vision and mission principles to inspire and direct our proposals.

They can also be used as a framework for discussions by councils and groups within the Church and beyond. They offer us a space to discuss our diversity, unity, faith and mission. They also offer us a clear, accessible resource to engage and interact beyond our already formed community.

You are invited to engage with, reflect on and apply the vision and mission principles in your local context.

We would welcome your feedback regarding your approach and experience of using the vision and mission principles before we include them in our final report due at the end of 2015.

Following Christ, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation

God in Christ reaches out to the world and calls the Church in the Spirit to:

1. share the Good News of Jesus Christ

2. nurture disciples in life-giving communities of reconciliation

3. respond in compassion to human need

4. live justly and seek justice for all

5. care for creation

6. express the Gospel in fresh ways for each generation and culture

7. pursue God’s mission in partnership

More on the vision and mission

The vision statement is intended to lay the foundation and influence the activities of the Synod with its responsibilities for the general oversight, direction and administration of the Church’s worship, witness and service.

The mission principles seek to capture God’s big purposes for the loved creation and God’s call to the Church. They are not a creed but a tool to provoke questions and examination of the mission of the Church as relevant within your own context.

The inspiration and challenge of the vision statement and mission principles will not come from the words on the paper but from the reflection and discussions initiated.

Approaching that sort of statement with some rigour and determination would lead to some wonderful things – and some fantastic conversations on the journey.

(Vision and mission testing group, June 2015)

Inviting your response

We would welcome your constructive feedback on the vision statement and mission principles as we look to refine before forming our final report at the end of 2015.

We'd like to know:

- how you have engaged and used them,
- if you think something is missing,
- if something does not resonate in your context,
- if they have stimulated evaluation and action in your mission planning?

Leave a comment, share a story or ask a question on the MSR website, <http://listeningpost.victas.uca.org.au/MSR>

Join in the conversation in their facebook group - www.facebook.com/groups/msr.ucavictas (External link)

Email the MSR Team directly - msr@victas.uca.org.au

Resources available on the MSR Website

Browse the resource and documents section to access the vision and mission principles in various formats, including translations in Traditional Chinese, Indonesian, Korean and Vietnamese (coming).

They have also produced a PowerPoint presentation and will soon have a 'how to guide' offering suggestions on how you could approach the vision and mission principles.

Faith in Action

Operation Christmas Child



Have you heard of a place called Evans Head in northern New South Wales?

Have you heard of Operation Christmas Child?

I can hear you asking what the connection between these two questions is!

When I first heard of Operation Christmas Child and the idea of packing a box of items for a child in a country overseas, I was very excited. We were at church at our favourite holiday haunt, Evans Head. So that's the link between my two questions at the start of the article. The idea of a child, thousands of miles away, receiving a box of things just for themselves, which I had packed, filled my heart with great excitement, joy and love. Can you imagine the delight a child would feel, on opening a Christmas box, to discover perhaps a t-shirt, cap, knitted beanie, thongs, teddy bear or doll, or perhaps a brightly coloured ball, yo-yo or skipping rope, a notebook or colouring pencils? Some of these children have never received a gift for themselves before being given this special box.

When we arrived home from this holiday, I couldn't wait to tell the St. Andrew's congregation about this wonderful Christmas appeal and how we could send these boxes to some children overseas. That first year we collected about 50 boxes- over the years, this total has

grown to over 200 boxes each year.

Operation Christmas Child is a non-denominational, international Christian appeal which is organised by the Samaritan's Purse, who aim to help people all over the world in many ways.

A gift filled box brings great joy to kids living in desperately poor conditions, unlike our children and grandchildren, who are given so much, these children have very little in the way of material possessions.

Last year, Operation Christmas Child appeal sent 321, 526 gift filled boxes to South East Asian countries.

Some of you helped with knitted beanies, donations of money towards postage, or gifts to include in our boxes. Thank you to all who contributed to this appeal.

Originally we packed gifts into beautifully covered shoe-boxes, which looked so beautiful in their brightly coloured Christmas paper. Now the boxes are printed and produced and are more easily packed because of their universal size.

If you have missed out on helping with Operation Christmas Child boxes this year, don't worry!! I assure you, this appeal will happen again next year.

Lois Hardy
(More - Back Page)

Preaching Plan **September / October 2015**

September 2015	<u>6th</u>	<u>13th</u>	<u>20th</u>	<u>27th</u>
9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening	Joan Fisher HC	Loni 5.00pm Loni	Loni 4:30pm Messy Church	Loni Celebration of giving 2.00pm Kialla Gardens Loni
Dookie 9.00am	Loni HC	Brian Hardy	Joy Sims	Joan McRae
Pine Lodge 11.00am	Loni HC			
Kialla West 11.00am		James Carter		
Katandra West 11.00am			Joy Sims	
Lectionary Readings	Prv. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23. Ps. 125. James 2:10, 14-17. Mark 7:24-37	Prv 1:20-33 Psalm 19 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	Prv 31:10-31 Psalm 1 James 3:13-4:3,7,8a Mark 9:30-37	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 Jas. 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

October 2015	<u>4th</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>18th</u>	<u>25th</u>
9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening	Loni HC	Chaplaincy Sunday Rosalie 5.00pm Rosalie	Shirley Marven 4:30pm Messy Church	Rosalie 2.00pm Kialla G HC Rosalie
Dookie 9.00am	Joan McRae	Joy Simms	Don Gill	Loni HC
Pine Lodge 11.00am	Joan McRae			
Kialla West 11.00am		Joy Simms		
Katandra West 11.00am			Don Gill	
Lectionary Readings	Job 1:1:2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-6	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7 Psalm 104 1-9,24,35c Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8 Herews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52

Upcoming Events

Sept 2015 - Nov 2015

September 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	2 10am Church Council Executive	3 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	4 5pm KUCA	5 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	6 9:30am Worship
7	8 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	9 7:30pm Church Council	10 10am Multicultural P.G. 10:45am Worship Banksia L 1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L 2pm English Conversation G 2pm Fellowship Group 4pm Together in Voice	11	12 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	13 9:30am Worship 5pm Faith Sharing
14	15 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	16 1:30pm UCAF	17 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	18 5pm KUCA	19 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	20 9:30am Worship 4:30pm Messy Church
21	22 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2:00pm Worship at Acacia House 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	23 7:30pm Women's evening Group	24 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	25 Dookie Family tea	26 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	27 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Garden Service
28	29 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	30				

October 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	2 5pm KUCA	3 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	4 9:30am Worship Chaplaincy Sunday Daylight Saving Begins; Turn clocks forward 1 hour at 2am.
5	6 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	7 10am Church Council Executive	8 10am Multicultural P.G. 10:45am Worship Banksia L 1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L 2pm English Conversation G 2pm Fellowship Group 4pm Together in Voice	9	10 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	11 9:30am Worship 5pm Faith Sharing
12	13 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	14 7:30pm Church Council	15 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	16 5pm KUCA	17 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	18 9:30am Worship 4:30pm Messy Church
19	20 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2:00pm Worship at Acacia House 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	21 1:30pm UCAF	22 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	23 Dookie Family tea	24 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	25 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Garden Service
26	27 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2:00pm Worship at Acacia House 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	28 7:30pm Women's evening Group	29 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	30	31 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	

Upcoming Events

Sept 2015 - Nov 2015

November 2015

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30							1 9:30am Worship All Saints Day
2		3 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	4 7:30pm Church Council Executive	5 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	6 5pm KUCA	7 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	8 9:30am Worship 7pm Faith Sharing
9		10 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	11 7:30pm Church Council	12 10am Multicultural P.G. 10:45am Worship Banksia L 1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L 2pm English Conversation G 2pm Fellowship Group 4pm Together in Voice	13	14 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	15 9:30am Worship 4:30 Messy Church
16		17 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	18 1:30pm UCAF	19 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	20 5pm KUCA	21 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	22 9:30am Worship Christ The King 2pm Kialla Garden Service
23		24 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 12:15pm Worship at Acacia House 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	25 7:30pm Women's evening Group	26 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	27 Dookie Family tea	28 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	29 9:30am Worship 1st Sunday In Advent



Good News. Great Joy.

6 things that light up the world of a child in poverty

- ✓ something to **love**
- ✓ something to **wear**
- ✓ something for **personal hygiene**
- ✓ something for **school**
- ✓ something **special**
- ✓ something to **play** with



**Shepparton
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