



Shepparton  
Uniting Church

Seventh Edition  
Winter 2016

# on the *Vine*

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

## MISSION

Listening for God's call



Prayer Points

Focus

Synod Snippets

World Environment Day 2016

Faith in Action

Vanuatu Volunteer Experience

Assembly Action

Uniting Women- Finding Hope in Adelaide

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“

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.

”

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## Understanding the Misunderstood

Welcome to the Winter edition of On the Vine.

As we slide sideways through May, hurdling towards June, Christmas seems but a distant memory with Easter not far behind. It can be easy to see how the disciples may have felt then, in those weeks since Jesus' death and resurrection. We, like many others in that time and place, have moved on with our busy lives. They have not. They still met together as a group, finding solace in the fellowship.

As a comfort, a reminder, a sense of distraction, the Holy Spirit comes to them and all of a sudden the disciples are speaking words they themselves

may not understand. Best part is, it's not gobble-de-gook! Others nearby are understanding them. People who may not have heard their native tongue for a long time. Others who may have dismissed the 'Jesus Story' as they did not understand it, or it was not in an accessible format. They got it.

We too can be like this sometimes. We don't always make ourselves accessible, don't stop and listen to those who may differ from us.

This month On the Vine, we look at a wide variety of stories. We hear from Cam after his trip to Vanuatu; look into a different format of worship with the Youth

Focused Service; read another faith story from the pews; find out more about the Uniting Women's conference; as well as take time to reflect and pray. Take a moment too to have a look through our calendar and perhaps find something new in the life of our church to perhaps engage in.

This Pentecost I urge you to take time to speak with those on the boundaries of culture, of society, of our church. Take time to let the Pentecost dove work towards understanding. And in the same way, may you also find yourself understood.

Peace. Jen Shields.



Artistic interpretations of 'pentecost', created by the MADAS Youth Group.

# From the Minister's Desk

## A Season of Listening

The word 'pentecost' means different things to different people. For many, including the Jews, it is an early harvest festival celebrated by people in the ancient Near East. For others, it is a festival celebrated fifty days after Easter or, in Judaism, seven weeks and one day after Passover. Many Christians refer to it as the birthday of the church, the last day of the liturgical year and the beginning of ordinary time. But, what is it all about?

Now this word has been embarrassing, because different groups in the church have, with sincere motives in most cases, sought to implement that term by imitating the experiences in Acts 2. They believe that the way to be 'Pentecostal' is to reproduce the first Pentecost.

That is not only embarrassing, it is also tragic. Some have tried to manufacture the enthusiasm and achievement of Pentecost, which Luke describes in Acts 2 in their Sunday liturgy, which I believe, is misguided. Because we all know that Pentecost is a gift of God. Pentecost cannot be generated from 'below'; it was at the initiative of the Holy Spirit from 'above' that there was a Pentecost.

A closer look at the text (Acts 2), it is clear that Luke starts the story by describing the listeners before he presents the preacher of the sermon. Pentecost, according to Luke, begins at the ear of the listener rather than the mouth of the preacher. This is sobering for those of us who prepare sermons. Karl Barth, in a lecture to his students in Germany said, "Don't prepare introductions

to your sermons. What are you trying to do, get them interested? Don't get involved in the idolatry of preaching, trying to be interesting. Just present the Gospel. God prepares the ear, God gives the message; trust totally in God for all of it; that's it".

I would like to propose that the season of Pentecost for us in Shepparton Uniting and Shepparton Rural Congregations is a season of 'listening'. This season of Pentecost comes as Gospel and grace for those who listen. Of course, the Gospel will engage, disturb, and may be resisted by those who listen. But, it is the Holy Spirit of God that will make it truly 'Pentecostal'.

Shalom

Loni Vaitohi.



# Reflecting On...

## A Reflection on Reflection

Reflect, reflection, reflecting.

All the same word, right? Well, yes and no. The 'reflect' family of words often occurs in dialogues, monologues and addresses given in faith communities. In fact, most Sunday services will have some sort of reflection (noun) on the lectionary readings. In this sense, the address is an expose of the worship leader's knowledge, ideas and thoughts about the readings. There are often analogies and anecdotes to illustrate and exemplify the reflection, to make it more clear. Reflecting is a good and healthy thing to do, both personally and as a church, but it must be done without criticism or derision.

Another feature of Sunday (and other) services is prayer. Prayers can be a reflective expression of our thoughts, pleas and gratitude to God. Praying reflectively is a way to help us to not just ask God for what we want, but to give thanks for the things we have been given – and even the things we have NOT been given.

You know, just between you and I, sometimes I find it difficult to concentrate and focus on the words of the praying person

(usually the minister or worship leader). My mind quickly wanders to the day ahead - planning, scheduling, prioritising. Try as I might to make pictures in my mind of the words of the speaker, it doesn't take much to derail my thoughts! Sometimes I wonder if others have the same problem. In my job, I'm often reminding students to try to 'stay focused' on the task at hand. Maybe I need to remind myself to stay focused during prayer time...

Prayers are also an expression of our current attitudes to life - a reflection of our needs, concerns and thankfulness. Each prayer is a personal (or collective) communication to God through Jesus. Confessional prayer is also reflective – a time to take stock of and be accountable for our thoughts, words and deeds. I know there are many in our congregation for whom the power and comfort of prayer is their 'daily bread'; life would be very hard without it.

On a more practical and physical note, looking at ourselves in a



mirror can also be illuminating. Our reflection can tell us much more than how we look. It can reveal how we feel about ourselves and others. And this is the person that others see. They see our (grey) hair and wrinkles, but what else? Do they see and feel the love for and of the Lord expressed in our faces? Do they sense that we are genuinely interested in and care about others? If so, this is the reflection of the love of Jesus that we feel and know – and want others to feel and know. So go on, next time you look in a mirror, take a really good, hard look at yourself! I hope you like what you see.

Heather Shields.



# Prayer Points

## Focus

Since our Christian life is a journey of constant change and growth, so we are continually learning about PRAYER. Prayer teaches us that there is more to life than what we can see and hear; that there is a deeper level of reality.

My understanding of prayer is much broader now than it was in my youth. I've been greatly helped by the growing realisation that prayer is primarily about being united with God. That means we need time to be silent in God's presence; to listen, not just to

speak. Since God is within us, at our deepest centre, making time for silence increases our awareness of what God is saying to us. We discover that God is 'closer than breathing, nearer than our hands and feet.'

Sister Joan Chittister's book 'The Breath of the Soul – reflections on prayer' teaches that the purpose of prayer is 'to steep me in the thoughts of God, in the sense of the presence of God, in an openness to the will of God, in the likeness of God. TO PRAY IS TO

RIVET MY MIND ON THE THINGS OF GOD.'

What we focus our minds on will shape the person we become. So it follows that when we focus our minds on God through prayer, change happens in US.

Just as breathing is essential for life, so our prayer becomes essential for spiritual life and growth, drawing us always closer to the heart of God.

Rev. Joan Fisher



# Interfaith Action

## 2016 Climate Change Statement

Last December, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was approved by 196 nations. On April 18, 2016, the Interfaith Climate Change Statement to World Leaders was handed to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, signed by 250 faith leaders. The statement outlines the positive judgment of religious leaders and faith communities; it urges governments to sign and ratify it.

Over 270 leaders of major religions have so far signed the Statement. They include the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Tutu, the heads of many churches around the world, and leaders of a wide range of faith groups. The 19 Australian signatories include the President of the Uniting Church, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist leaders and other church leaders.

The Interfaith leaders prepared this statement because faith groups around the world are very aware of the need to care for the earth and to move towards

the use of clean, renewable energy sources. Individuals are urged to reduce their carbon footprint. Since the Australian Government repealed the carbon tax, pollution levels have risen rapidly.

Six Key Points in the Interfaith Climate Change Statement:

1. Urge governments to rapidly sign, ratify and implement the Paris Agreement, and to increase pledges to reduce emissions in line with keeping the global temperature rise to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels;
2. Insist on rapid emissions reduction and peaking by 2020, in order to keep the 1.5C goal within reach;
3. Strongly advocate for greater flows of finance, especially for adaptation and loss and damage;
4. Urge the swift phase out of all fossil fuel subsidies and a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050;

5. Encourage faith communities to reduce emissions in their homes, workplaces and centres of worship and to support and stand in solidarity with communities already impacted by climate change

6. Call for fossil fuel divestment and reinvestment in renewables and low carbon solutions, including within our own communities and/or by engaging companies on climate change.

GreenFaith.org

If you would like to sign and add your name to the 2016 Interfaith Climate Statement, go to

<http://www.interfaithstatement2016.org/>

Joan McRae, who has signed the Statement.



## Rural Round Up

### Harvest Thanksgiving Service



Dookie Harvest Thanksgiving service was held on Sunday 28th February 2016. The food received was given to Rev. Loni to give to the people in need. The loaf of bread in the shape of a sheaf of wheat along with a bread mouse was made by Helen Wall. It was beautifully done by Helen. We cut it up and sold little squares of it, also some was served at morning

tea, as it would not stay fresh, a few other items were also sold as they were perishable the money raised was also given to Loni. We had a very happy morning, we were down on members because of various reasons, but the hearts of the people were generous.

Dawn Harmer.

# Assembly Action

## Uniting Women- Finding hope in Adelaide

Over the weekend in Adelaide 400 women and one 'token male' gathered to hear stories of hope, along with a bit of 'Dancing Queen'.

Sharing Stories of Hope was the theme of the four-day UnitingWomen conference that wrapped up on Sunday.

Clarence Uniting Church minister Rev Ann Perrin left from Tasmania to make the first day of the conference last week. She said the event was well worth the 3.30am alarm to make her travel connections.

"It was great," she said on Thursday.

"It was a way for women to feel safe and be willing to be vulnerable to share stories. It was very powerful to have women gathered in a safe place to find those stories. We gain strength from vulnerability and having the hope of God moving in lives to build a better future."

Ms Perrin said she was particularly inspired by the stories of the First People's and Pacific women.

"It was very moving to hear a litany of all that has happened and is still happening and how they are trying to rebuild those lives," Ms Perrin said.

"Hope definitely came out of lament."

She has come away from the conference with "...a commitment to engage more fruitfully with the Indigenous

population".

Ms Perrin nominated the Saturday night Q&A session, 'Where there is life there is hope' – hosted by former broadcaster Julie McCrossin and including Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Senator Penny Wong among those on stage – as a highlight.

The closing Sunday worship session was led by moderator for South Australia and event organizer Deidre Palmer and Uniting Church President Stuart McMillan (the event's self-declared 'token male').

Dr Palmer said the speakers and workshop leaders inspired and challenged all who attended.

"The conference affirmed the Uniting Church conviction that every member is engaged in ministry," Dr Palmer said.

"This was demonstrated in the body of Christ working together as one, the 50 volunteers, 29 speakers and 22 workshop leaders. The conference brought together different age groups, from 18 year olds through to 80 year olds and also brought together different cultural groups, including our Sisters from partner churches in the Pacific Islands."

Ms Perrin said the closing session imparted a strong message of hope for the Church.

The liveliest session, however, was undoubtedly Saturday night when the choir, which Ms Perrin

sang in, 'rocked' the Kent House Wesley Uniting Church.

A selection of songs from, appropriately enough, Hollywood feel-good flick *Sister Act* along with a medley of Abba hits had everyone on their feet and dancing beside the pews.

Ms Perrin said the UnitingWomen conference has a very important role.

"It is about consolidating women's voices and encouraging women to speak into the life of the church," Ms Perrin said.

"It's about creating solidarity for anyone who has felt marginalised, without the courage to speak up. If you know others are speaking up, you might be able to."

The conference was only the second of its type in recent years. A group of determined Uniting Church women got it going in 2014 after noting that the last women's conference was in 1996.

At this stage there is no definite venue for the 2018 UnitingWomen, but Victoria and Melbourne have expressed interest.

Ms Perrin, for one, intends to go even if it means another rude awakening.

"We're all waiting."

*Original article taken from <https://crosslight.org.au/2016/05/05/finding-hope-adelaide/>*



# Kildonan UnitingCare

## Getting Back on Track

Detour is just one of the many programs offered here in Shepparton by Kildonan UnitingCare, one of the largest providers of welfare and assistance in our own backyard.

Detour identifies and addresses the root-causes of homelessness risk factors for young people, aiming to permanently divert them away from homelessness and get them back on track

Detour Youth Coaches work with newly homeless young people and those at risk of homelessness to enable them to access and develop resources, strengthen their family and social networks and enhance life opportunities. They can provide access to intensive support – including family mediation, links to counselling and community support, and access to accommodation options (e.g. Kids Under Cover). They will help stabilise employment and education and provide ongoing youth coaching/case management support.

The program provides access to integrated services with

individually tailored support packages.

The support packages are tailored to address the individual needs and provide extended family, school and community support.

Detour's Primary Objectives are:

- To provide easy and early access to early intervention and prevention services;
- To implement a new approach that helps young people develop the skills and resources they need to achieve their potential;
- To ensure young people commit to an integrated plan that creates a pathway to successful independence;
- To connect young people to their families, community and the right support at the right time.

### How to Access

Eligible young people are aged between 12 and 25, newly homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, have connections in the North and West metro Melbourne or Greater Shepparton and Moira Shire regions, and want to work with our service.

For more information about Detour, or to receive a referral form, contact a Detour worker at Kildonan UnitingCare on (03) 5831 6157 or email [sinfo@kildonan.org.au](mailto:sinfo@kildonan.org.au)

The Detour innovation project is based in the inner western metropolitan region of Melbourne- Sunshine (employed by Melbourne City Mission) and the Hume region- Shepparton (employed by Kildonan UnitingCare).

Visit the Detour website for further information.

### Program Partners

Detour homelessness early intervention and prevention program is delivered in partnership with Melbourne City Mission and Kids Under Cover and is an initiative under the Victorian Department of Human Services' Homelessness Innovation Action Projects .

Via <https://www.kildonan.org.au/programs-and-services/child-youth-and-family-support/youth-services/detour/>



# Faith in Action

## Vanuatu Volunteer Experience

In March of this year, I went to Vanuatu for one week with the aim of improving a church-owned accommodation building. The building is used as affordable family accommodation and the money from the rent split in half, one half used for ongoing maintenance and redevelopment projects and the other half to go towards disaster relief and to help the church develop programs to deal with natural disaster when it next strikes.



*Cam and Alan the Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, member of the recovery team and friend of Tom Tali (Cobram UCA).*

After cyclone Pam struck in 2015, the Presbyterian church of Vanuatu established a disaster recovery team who developed a list of works required on church properties and schools throughout all the islands, the result being 68 projects. The project I worked on was only one of them and now a little over a year since cyclone Pam, they only have 14 projects left to complete, thanks to the support of UnitingWorld, the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand and other

aid organisations.

I arrived in Vanuatu at 11:30 pm Saturday night and was met at the airport in Port Vila by Neville and Gloria, a couple from New Zealand who moved to Vanuatu for mission work at a local school three years ago. When cyclone Pam struck, Neville soon found his roll was changing from teacher to a member of the disaster relief team, organising projects, materials and looking after the teams who come to help.

Our accommodation for the week was basic but clean and dry, unlike the weather most of the week. We lived in the high 20's with 89% humidity, no air conditioning or fans, and no hot water.



*The team- 11 from NZ, Neville, Gloria and Cam.*

Sunday morning I met the team-eleven members from the Tauranga Presbyterian Church in New Zealand. Not long after cyclone Pam hit, they decided to help but to complete this project, they needed a good electrician. Then we went off to church Nivan style-

fourteen people loaded into the back of a dual cab ute and this was how we got around the whole time we were there, just like the locals.



*One way to get to work.*

The church was packed. They sang hymns I knew, but in Nivan, and the service went for 2 hours! All in all, it was a great experience to be a part of worship in another language. The offering that was collected that day was going towards disaster relief in Fiji. Here we have a church full of people who less than a year ago survived cyclone Pam and are still recovering, helping their neighbour in need. That is how you show the Love of Jesus.



*Before the work began: a family will live in this typical two room unit, with a bathroom, kitchen and lounge room-cum-bedroom.*

Over the next 4 days the team set to work repairing ceilings; cleaning

walls, ceilings and floors; replacing the windows and shutters; replacing the fly wire and security screens; and painting.



*The team hard at work repairing and replacing louvres on each unit.*

Each day we would start work at 7am, work until 11:30am, have a 2 hour break time to eat and rest, then work from 1:30pm till 4:30pm.



*Cam busy connecting power to each unit to test his work.*



*Beautiful, sunny Vanuatu. The tourists don't see the destruction that still remains, one year later.*

I set about checking and repairing the electrical wiring in every unit—some units weren't too bad and just needed the switches and power points replaced. Others needed to be rewired or have the switch board replaced.

We were lucky that we had all the power points, light switches and light fittings required donated by Watters Electrical and Middy's, an electrical wholesaler in Shepparton, which I then took over with me.

Each night we took turns to cook and we ate as a team. Meals were mainly fish and rice with lots of fresh veggies. After dinner every night we would have a short devotion and some singing.



*The inside of one unit painted, cleaned, fixed and awaiting new tiling in the kitchen.*

At the end of a very busy 4 days we had finished what we set out to do. 7 units completely fixed and the electricals fixed and tested in all 9 units.



*The outside of each unit with fixed louvres and new fly screens.*

I would really like to thank the congregation and presbytery for the financial support I received to make this happen, as well as the prayers which were prayed while I was away. This was a really great experience, being able to experience another country and culture, and see how they deal with disasters. It was also great to be able to assist a partner church with such practical skills, just using my gifts. Who knows what the future might hold for me with mission work, but one thing I do know is that the idea of mission work doesn't seem so scary anymore. I am listening for God's call.

Cameron Shields.



# Synod Snippets

## World Environment Day 2016

The world is facing an unprecedented ecological crisis. Figures released by NASA over the weekend confirmed that last month was the hottest April ever recorded globally. With 2016 on track to be the hottest year on record, the need to care for God's creation is more urgent than ever.

World Environment Day, celebrated annually on 5 June, falls on a Sunday this year. Many congregations will be preparing environment-themed services to commemorate the occasion.

UnitingJustice has released a resource pack to assist congregations in their worship. It contains theological reflections, action ideas and stories of hope and inspiration.

Worship resources written by Cath James from the Synod's Justice and International Mission unit are also included. These are designed to be accessible for children, with ideas such as creating a gardening poem and building a prayer tree from leaves.

The 2016 theme is 'Together for a world made whole' and the

resource features voices from the church's Indigenous, Pacific and Asian communities. It highlights the importance of learning from Indigenous Australians, whose traditional knowledge can be used to fight environmental degradation.

Local congregations are tackling climate change through a range of grassroots initiatives. The resource pack illustrates the different ways congregations are caring for the environment, from creating community gardens to transitioning to solar power.

One of these congregations is the Tecoma Uniting Church, who installed a solar panel on the roof of their church. Since 2008, the solar panels have prevented 57,000 tonnes of CO2 from going into the atmosphere. It also saved the church approximately \$25,000 in electricity bills.

"The desire to be self-sustainable and to reduce our carbon footprint was the major reason for this project," Tecoma Uniting Church member Brian Broughton wrote.

"We wanted to undertake a

practical project that would show the community that we were serious about caring for the earth and this community."

Many environmental activists were disappointed that climate change was not mentioned once in the federal budget. The resource pack contains ideas for political action including letter-writing templates and links to petitions. These action ideas aim to inspire congregations to engage with their local politician and advocate for change.

To find more out about how your congregation can get involved in World Environment Day 2016, contact Cath James at [cath.james@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:cath.james@victas.uca.org.au).

*Original article from <http://crosslight.org.au/2016/05/16/world-environment-day-2016/>*



# For The Kids

Have Fun!

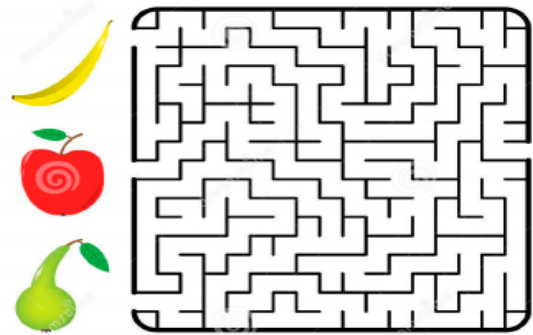


But the fruit of the spirit is

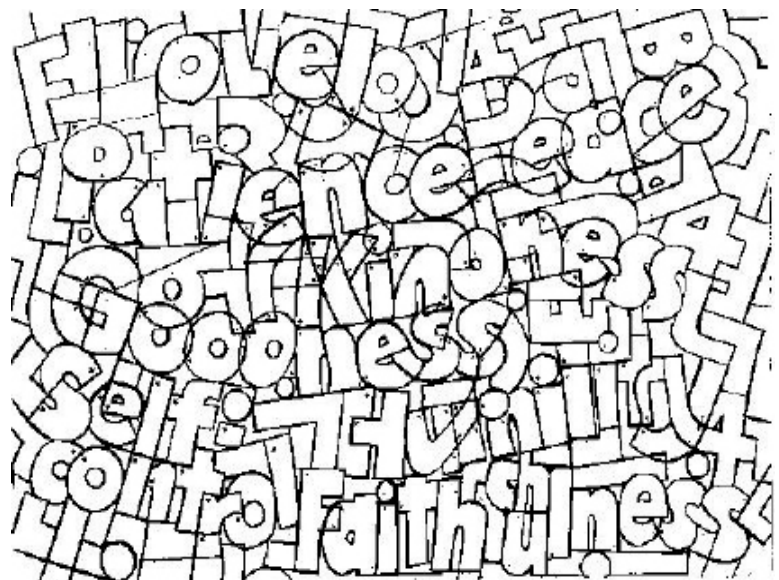
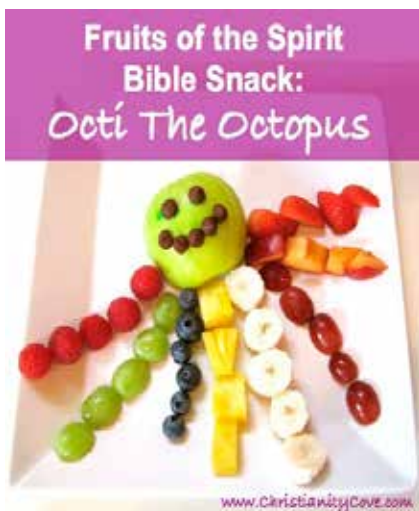
**LOVE JOY  
PEACE  
PATIENCE  
KINDNESS  
GOODNESS  
FAITHFULNESS  
GENTLENESS  
SELFCONTROL**

against such things there is no law.

1. **Love** is unselfish and loyal. We show love by doing things for others and being nice to family, friends and pets.
2. **Joy** means being happy and not grouchy.
3. **Peace** is being content with what God has given us. Be happy with what you have.
4. **Patience** is listening quietly and speaking thoughtfully.
5. **Kindness** is giving and helpful. How about saying something nice to someone that you see is feeling down?
6. **Goodness** means caring and understanding. Do a little something extra to help out at home.
7. **Faithfulness** means to be true to God.
8. **Gentleness** is being tender and calm. Again, being kind to your family, friends and your pets.
9. **Self-control** is managing your wants and emotions. Be careful how you act and what you say.



Download from  
Dreamstime.com





# Group Profile

## Youth Focused Service

At the beginning of this year the senior youth group decided it was time for a change of pace and to create a new expression of church, one focused on them. While Sunday morning worship is the social norm, many of the youth lamented that the themes were either not of interest or not at a level where they felt pushed and encouraged to think and relate. So Tuesday nights were chosen for the new youth focused service.

The aim of the youth focused service is to create a church service which is aimed at youth, making it accessible for youth. Looking at topics which affect youth and building the leadership and participation of youth. This does not however make it exclusive to youth!

The service is held on the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between Shepparton and Mooroopna. Each congregation is responsible for having a team organise a meal for everyone to share and also for organising the service.

A meal is shared from 6-7pm and then the service from 7-8pm.

So far we have had three of these services, looking at how we engage with prayer, the bible stories and how they relate to our lives. Our May service took on an interactive element, encouraging us to pray for others in our community

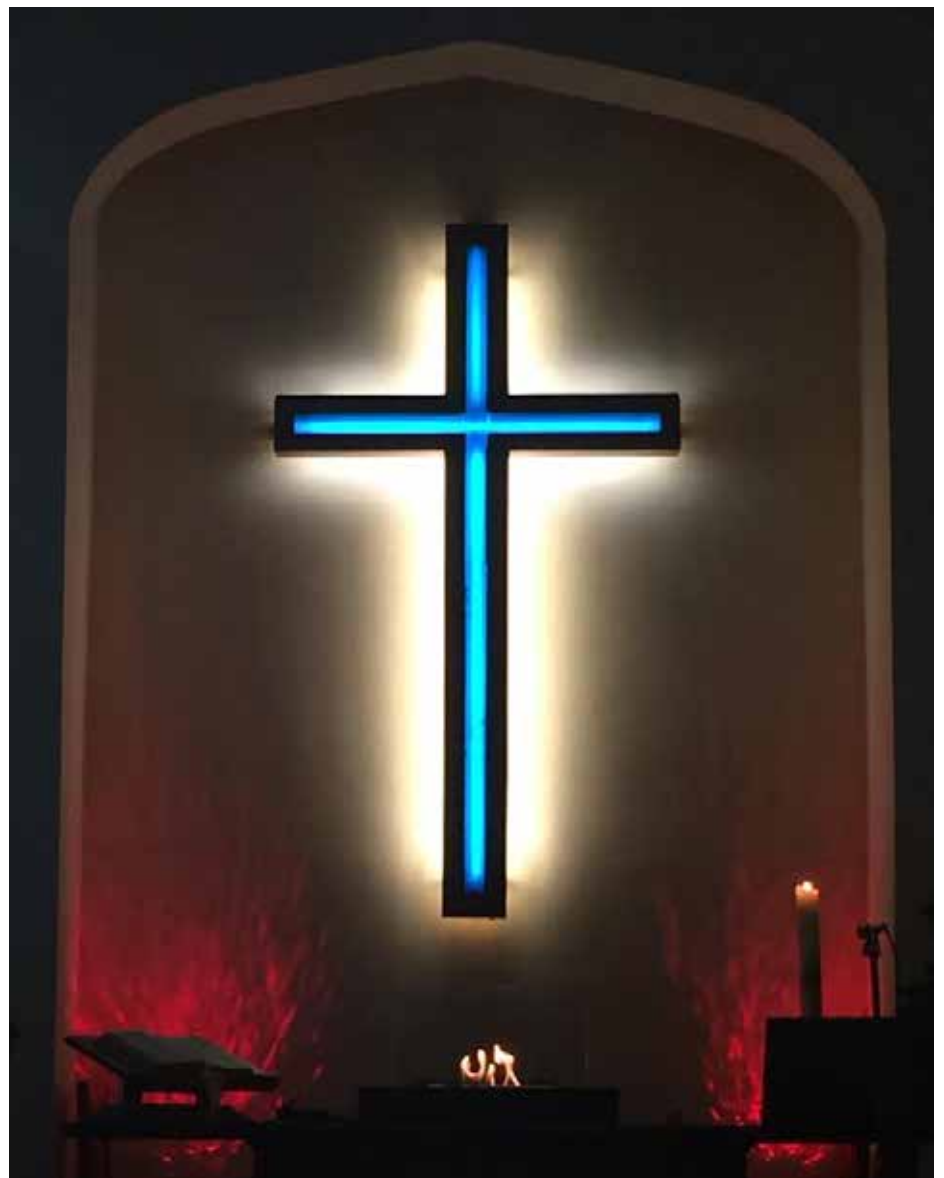
and world; putting perfume on our hands to remember that the Holy Spirit follows us and permeates wherever we are; watching bubbles float away on the breeze taking our prayers and burdens with them; and learning new songs which were easy to follow and with a more modern feel.

This has proven already to be a successful service style which attracts people from a range of ages who have come and

enjoyed the fellowship which comes so freely.

If you would like to join us for a Tuesday night for fellowship and to look at worship in a slightly different way, please come and join us at Mooroopna UCA on the 14th of June or in Shepparton at Wesley UCA on the 12th of July from 6pm.

Jen Shields.



# Individual Profile

## Peter Davis

Our story with Peter begins during his teenage years. Around this time Peter began a very long absence from church which came about because of a close friend's untimely death. This event led Peter to lose all sense of trust, belief and faith in God. During a number of other very unpleasant events Peter struggled with life itself.

During his working life Peter has been employed in a wide variety of jobs including a railway driver, a builder, a picker, a boiler attendant and work in a blacksmith shop.

Like the Israelites travelling in the wilderness Peter spent nine years travelling around the Australian outback wilderness with his faithful little four legged companion Molly. She sat beside an old sick koala for three days before it quietly passed away.

At one stage whilst Peter was in a very remote part of the bush his battery died. He was completely stuck for three weeks, miles from anywhere (with no modern technology) when help arrived

from a most unlikely source. A very kind Aboriginal man not only went and purchased a new battery but returned with it to an extremely grateful Peter. He said it was a powerful lesson regarding judgement!

A series of unexplained falls in 2010 eventually resulted in Peter being diagnosed with a throat tumour. He very quickly found himself in St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne where he stayed for five months and spent Christmas 2011 in Peter McCallum hospital.

There were very many dark dark days – and he recalls that time being “where everything I loved was taken away.”

Peter is a medical miracle and now speaks with the aid of a special voice box in his throat.

After reconnecting with a Tech School Teacher a friend of the teacher's was asked if they would consider being a support person for Peter which occurred and so his spiritual recovery began a little over two years ago. Peter says one of his favourite hymns is “One Day at a Time.”

Peter is enjoying his time at Church and says that now with God back in his life along with the friendships and fellowship that he is developing and enjoying, everything is falling into place. He especially likes the small weekly Bible study group that has been formed.

Writers note : Peter is sorry he doesn't come for a cuppa as it is impossible to converse at times. A wave, smile and a short chat, however, are always possible!

Prepared by Jeni Fitzgerald.



## Around the Congregation

The Vaitohi brothers have been busy again, breaking records and winning medals all over the country. Lately, Antonio participated in the Australian Little Athletics Championship in Adelaide. He won a bronze medal in the 400m and was part of the gold medal

winning 4x100 relay team. This comes among a string of sporting achievements for the pair who have also competed in local interschool competitions, Christian in the Primary School's, bringing home a first in the 80m sprint and setting a new time; second places in both the long and triple

jump, and then third in the 300m; before finishing the day with a second in the 4x100m relay. Antonio competed in the High School's interschool carnival, with a first in the 100m, 200m, 400m and 4x100m relay as well as a second in the shotput. Well done to both the boys!

If you have some news, event photos, past or present, articles, prayers for others or thoughts that you wish to share with the congregation please feel free to contact the publicity committee at [publicity@sheppartonuc.org.au](mailto:publicity@sheppartonuc.org.au) or drop it off into the box in the front foyer of the Shepparton Uniting Church. Our next issue will cover the months of September, October and November.

# Respect

## How can we Live Together?

We don't expect everybody to be our most intimate friend, but there is every reason to respect one another. Unfortunately it can be easier said than done. Those who have mistreated us or persons who have behaved despicably are hard to respect. We may view ourselves as sensible and disciplined in our own behaviour, but our thoughts are not always pure or our attitudes healthy. None of us see ourselves as others might see us; thus it is worthy of us to give others the benefit of the doubt even if their failings hang out. Let's put aside our criticisms and endeavour to live with one another. Qualities such as loyalty and words of encouragement and comfort can be important. Forgiveness for old grudges is essential to healing. We don't always forget old hurts easily, but at least we need to put them aside and move on even if another doesn't recognise the hurt that has occurred. Reconciliation isn't always possible, but if we can achieve a measure of respect we are more than half way there.

What has been said applies to more than individuals. Within society we have at worst crime,

and prisoners need to be rehabilitated and returned as fit to live normal lives. It doesn't always happen, but at least all possible should be done to achieve this.

Politics is something that is regularly in the media. It isn't always held in high respect, but yet as the governing bodies of our land it should deserve our attention. We might as well live under a dictatorship if we don't care. At the very least we need to give careful thought to voting. There are important issues and calls for justice that through groups lobbying can obtain results. Complaining is easy, but getting involved to remedy a situation is more important.

Now, more than any time before, we need to respect the cultures of peoples in all parts of the world. For too long there have been the rich and the poor, with the poor being the majority. A balance is not in sight, but at the very least we can hope to see food and the basic necessities available for all. Even that is a dim hope. Respect and dignity is deserving to all people. Concern and respect are bed-fellows that belong together. If we are not prepared to share we

can hardly claim to be showing respect. Concern doesn't feed a hungry mouth unless food is provided one way or another.

There is something deadening about war that leaves many to feel that this is not happening to them, therefore it is not their concern. Sadly we are in crisis with a flood of refugees leaving war zones. They drown at sea and are treated as criminals as they seek refuge. It is a sorry state with no quick fix. Most of us feel somewhat helpless. However what we can't do can be done by joining hands with any of the major non-government organisations. Lobbying the government and other governments can help. Respect and concern has a ripple effect that keeps expanding to encompass the whole wide world. RESPECT: "where can it be found?" Should any of us have a flat tyre on the road we are quick to use our mobile to summon the R.A.C.V. road-side service.

A WAY is found to help us in our need. A WAY can be found equally to HELP others.

Alan English.

# Building Project Update

As of 17/5/2016

On the 18th of May members of the PPTG will be meeting with two people from Synod Property Services. An agenda item will be the appointment of a Project Manager for the re-development. The proposed appointment will be another significant milestone in the re-development.

In the meantime we have been following a process especially created for us by Synod in November 2014. This entails preparing the Full Business Case for the project. This process is rigorous because it needs to safeguard the interest of our congregation as well as the interests of the wider church. There are 14 separate areas that

are to be considered in order to complete the Full Business Case.

Work on the Business Case is nearing completion. When it is finished it will go to PART (the Property Acquisitions Review Team) then possibly the Finance Committee and finally Synod Property Board.

Note that Synod has the final say in the approval process. They are providing a Consultant to work with us at no cost to the congregation to assist with the preparation of the Full Business Case and approval process. The (Acting) Director of Property Services is also taking a close interest in our project.

It is anticipated, providing we have done our homework properly, that our application will be approved by Property Board. After approval is given and contracts are signed construction will commence.

We are cautiously optimistic that a builder will be on site in August (this year).

If you have any queries or concerns please talk to members of the PPTG.

Thank you for your patience.

Zane Streeter.

Secretary PPTG.

## Preaching Plan

June 2016

| June 2016                            | 5th Pentecost 3   | 12th Pentecost 4  | 19th Pentecost 5  | 26th Pentecost 6  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening | Joan Fisher HC  | Rosalie<br>Tues 14th<br>7:00 pm Youth Focus Mooroopna                   | Loni<br>4:30pm Messy Church Rosalie                                   | Rosalie & Loni<br>2.00pm Kialla G Rosalie HC                                  |
| Dookie 9.00am                        | Joan Hall   | Loni HC   | Joy Sims  | Shirley Marven  |
| Pine Lodge 11.00am                   | Joan Hall   | No Service  | At Katandra West  | No Service  |
| Kialla West 11.00am                  | No Service  | Joan Hall   | No Service  | No Service  |
| Katandra West 11.00am                | At Pine Lodge   |   | Joy Sims  | No Service  |
| Lectionary Readings                  | 1 Kgs 17:8-16.<br>Ps. 146.<br>Gal. 1:11-24.<br>Lk. 7:11-17. | 1 Kgs. 21:1-10, 15-21.<br>Ps. 5:1-8.<br>Gal. 2:15-21.<br>Lk 7:36 – 8:3. | 1 Kgs. 19:1-5, 8-15a.<br>Ps. 42 & 43.<br>Gal.3:23-29.<br>Lk. 8:26-39. | 2 Kgs. 2:1-2, 6-14.<br>Ps. 77:1-2, 11-20.<br>Gal. 5:1, 13-25.<br>Lk. 9:51-62. |

# Preaching Plan

July / August 2016

| July 2016                            | 3rd Pentecost 7  | 10th Pentecost 8   | 17th Pentecost 9  | 24th Pentecost 10   | 31st Pentecost 11  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| 9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening | HC Rosalie   | Loni & Rosalie<br>Tues 12th 7:00pm Youth Focus Shepparton  | Loni<br>4:30pm Messy Church Rosalie                         | Lorraine<br>2.00pm Kialla G Brian                         | Loni   |
| Dookie 9.00am                        | Loni HC  | Elders   | Joan McRae  | Loni  | 10:30 am<br>Combined Service at Dookie                           |
| Pine Lodge 11.00am                   | Loni HC  | No Service   | At Katandra West  |   |  |
| Kialla West 11.00am                  | No Service   | Rosalie  | No Service  |   |  |
| Katandra West 11.00am                | At Pine Lodge  | No Service   | Joan McRae  |   |  |
| Lectionary Readings                  | 2 Kgs. 5:1-4<br>Psalm 30.<br>Gal. 6:7-16.<br>Lk. 10:1-11, 16-20. | Amos 7:7-17.<br>Psalm 82.<br>Col. 1:1-14.<br>Lk. 10:25-37. | Amos 8:1-12.<br>Psalm 52.<br>Col. 1:15-28.<br>Lk. 10:38-42. | Hos. 1:2-10.<br>Psalm 85.<br>Col. 2:6-15.<br>Lk. 11:1-13. | Hos. 11:1-11<br>Ps. 107:1-9, 43.<br>Col. 3:1-11.<br>Lk. 12:13-21 |

| August 2016                          | 7th Pentecost 12   | 14th Pentecost 13   | 21st Pentecost 14   | 28th Pentecost 15   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening | Loni Hc Next Gen<br>6pm: Comb Churches<br>Tues 9th 7pm Youth Focus Mooroopna | Rosalie   | Rosalie<br>4:30pm Messy Church Lorraine                       | Rosalie & Loni<br>2.00pm Kialla G Rosalie                         |
| Dookie 9.00am                        | Joy Sims   | Loni  | Loni HC   | Elders  |
| Pine Lodge 11.00am                   | Joy Sims   | No Service  | At Katandra West  | No Service  |
| Kialla West 11.00am                  | No Service   | Joan Hall   | No Service  | No Service  |
| Katandra West 11.00am                | At Pine Lodge  | No Service  | Loni HC   | No Service  |
| Lectionary Readings                  | Is. 1:1, 10-20<br>Ps. 50:1-8, 22-23.<br>Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16.<br>Lk. 12:32-40   | Is. 5:1-7.<br>Ps. 80:1-2, 8-19.<br>Heb. 11:29 – 12:2.<br>Lk. 12:49-56 | Jer. 1:4-10.<br>Ps. 71:1-6.<br>Heb. 12:18-29.<br>Lk. 13:10-17 | Jer 2:4-13<br>Ps 81:1,10-16<br>Heb 13:1-8, 15-16<br>Lk 14:1, 7-14 |



# Upcoming Events

June - August 2016

June 2016

| Monday                      | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  | Sunday   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|
|                             |  | 1<br>10am Church Council Executive                                      | 2<br>10am Multicultural Play G.<br>10am Craft Group<br>4pm Together in Voice  | 3 <b>Synod meeting 2016</b><br>Bus trip to the opening worship and the installation of the new Moderator, Rev Sharon Hollis. | 4 <b>Synod meeting 2016</b><br>1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls | 5 <b>Synod meeting 2016</b><br>9:30am Worship      |
| 6 <b>Synod meeting 2016</b> | 7 <b>Synod meeting 2016</b><br>10am Craft Group<br>10am Friendship Group<br>10am Worship Ava Maria<br>1:30pm Crazy Whist<br>7pm Youth Group<br>7:15pm Indoor Bowls | 8 <b>Synod meeting 2016</b><br>7:30pm Church Council                    | 9<br>10am Multicultural Play G.<br>10am Craft Group<br>10:45am Worship Banksia L<br>1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L<br>2pm Fellowship Group<br>4pm Together in Voice | 10<br>5pm KUCA   | 11<br>1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls                          | 12<br>9:30am Worship<br>6pm Faith Sharing Group    |
| 13                          | 14<br>10am Craft Group<br>10am Friendship Group<br>1:30pm Crazy Whist<br>6pm Tea & Youth Service<br>7:15pm Indoor Bowls  | 15<br>1:30pm UCAF   | 16<br>10am Multicultural Play G<br>10am Craft Group<br>10:00am Mercy Aged Care<br>4pm Together in Voice   | 17<br>6:30pm Cafe Praxis   | 18<br>1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls                          | 19<br>9:30am Worship<br>4:30pm Messy Church        |
| 20                          | 21<br>10am Craft Group<br>10am Friendship Group<br>10am Worship Ava Maria<br>1:30pm Crazy Whist<br>7pm Youth Group<br>7:15pm Indoor Bowls                          | 22<br>7:30pm Women's Evening Group<br><br><b>Anniversary of the UCA</b> | 23<br>10am Multicultural Play G<br>10am Craft Group<br>4pm Together in Voice  | 24<br>5pm KUCA<br>6pm Dookie Family tea  | 25<br>8am Men's Breakfast<br>1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls   | 26<br>9:30am Worship<br>2pm Kialla Gardens Service |
| 27                          | 28<br>10am Craft Group<br>10am Friendship Group<br>1:30pm Crazy Whist<br>2:00pm Worship at Acacia House<br>7:15pm Indoor Bowls                                     | 29  | 30<br>10am Multicultural Play G<br>10am Craft Group<br>4pm Together in Voice  |  |   |  |

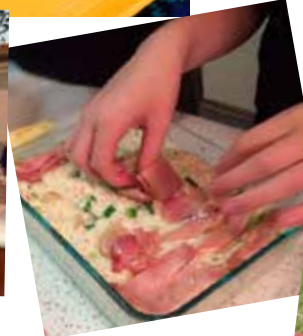
July 2016

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

# Upcoming Events

August 2016

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



Shepparton  
Uniting Church

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