

THE OLIVE BRANCH

September 2016 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

> Meditation

Spreading the rumour of peace

In 2006, Meredith and I were working in Dili, Timor-Leste. In early April, over a matter of days, what had been a sleepy, tropical paradise descended into looting, violence, house-burning, and general chaos. At the time, many people in Timor were still traumatised by the memories of 25 years of Indonesian occupation and the hellish violence that followed the vote for Independence in 1999. In 2006, these deep feelings of trauma led to suspicion, violence in the streets, gang warfare, a pitched battle between the police and the army and the sudden movement of over 100,000 people in the city. People rushed to places which they thought might be safe: the port, military barracks, Catholic schools and churches or perched outside Embassies.

Initially, Meredith and I sat in our home, dazed by what had just happened. When we made contact with friends, we realised not everyone had gone into hiding. Some had started taking people into their homes, or were buying sacks of rice and bottled water to take to makeshift camps. For us, there was a sudden dawn of realisation that we had a choice about how to respond, that we too could choose to reach out, instead of just seeking our own protection.

I started planning how my organisation could buy supplies from the two supermarkets which were open and take the food to the churches and schools hosting the internally displaced people. The only problem was, we didn't have any money and Francesca (not her real name) the finance officer, who had the key to the safe, would not answer her 'phone. Eventually someone located her; she and her family literally camped outside the US Embassy, hoping to get in, should the situation deteriorated.

I called her, explained what we wanted to do and proposed that I come by the Embassy and pick up the key from her. She replied, "No, I will join you. I will meet you at the office to get the money and come with you to the supermarket." Out of her fear, with memories of earlier trauma and a natural desire to protect her family and herself, she chose a different course of action. She did come with us and I still remember the great smile she had, as she travelled out to the Catholic school with its makeshift camp, to help hand over the food and water.



from The Age, April 2006

She had many reasons to be fearful, but she chose to move beyond her fear.

It took a long time for Timor-Leste to recover from the violence of 2006 and it is still recovering from the decades of earlier trauma. People like Francesca continue to have an important role in moving beyond fear and resentment and instead seeking peace and stability.

I like to think that peace making is contagious, it's a story, an example or alternative, which we see or hear from others and catch for ourselves. In Timor, after Meredith and my initial focus on self-protection, we finally saw beyond our needs, to see an alternative response in the actions of others. People like Francesca also caught that vision, although the stakes were much higher for her.

In peacemaking, it is usually other people's actions which inspire a change in us, because they go against the grain, they refuse to accept the herd instinct. They challenge the dominant messages about enemies, about people who must be feared, about the need for self-protection at all costs, about showing strength and pre-empting weakness. Their actions help us analyse our own situations and the fears that dictate our actions and they offer an alternative way to see the world and to act.

Maybe that is why Jesus said "Blessed are the Peacemakers", because they are the ones who spread the rumour of peace to us? This rumour is at the heart of the Good News. Can we listen to that rumour and pass it on?

Tim Budge



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> Sharing our Faith



Exclusion & Embrace Conference

When I heard the program roll out for Exclusion and Embrace* – spirituality, disability, justice I decided to go. There was already some excitement around the Art Show that was part of it, and I was keen to hear David Tacey and Lorna Hallahan and to tune into ideas that may apply in our congregation. My husband,

Andy Calder, was immersed in planning and convening the conference so it had a big place in my awareness!

Thanks to the assistance of several folks at BUC I was able to leave early on Sunday August 21 in order to volunteer with the registration desk at the Jasper Hotel in the CBD (near Victoria Market, previously the YMCA building). Those hours on the desk were memorable to me. People arrived into the



hotel foyer, fresh from the cold winds into a warmth of place that welcomed them with ease. They came by car or from trams at accessible tram stops and they rolled out of taxis alone or with companions.

I witnessed the most beautiful array of humanity in that

welcome. People who were blind and spoke articulately about the format of information they needed. People who were deaf spoke for short exchanges before turning to the Auslan signers whose beautiful gesturing hands translated for them. Wheelchairs rolled in easefully with their freight of humans large and tiny.

There were fashionistas and plain dressers, hats and brilliant scarves – hijab among them. People were so magnificently various it felt like a taste of heaven. But what struck me most of all was the sense of place, here was a place where to be disabled, to have particular needs for access was the norm, not the exception. There was no going round to the back entrance, no pained looks on the faces of the hotel reception staff, it was as if, for a moment, in this temporary community there was no shame about difference.

I was delighted by something so simple as a ramp at the right sloping angle along the front of the stage. To speak from the stage people arrived smoothly, elegantly turning in their electric or hand driven wheelchairs. Here at last, a space that was easeful. I knew Andy has previously refused to use ugly noisy inappropriate hoists at a Parliament House event (thanks Government of Victoria, we know you can do better than that!) This ramp felt symbolic to me. A simple way in which the environment declares that you still fit, that you are not awkwardly out of kilter with the rest of the world.



Oh that that were so. After the end of the conference, I wondered out loud why it is that physical and intellectual disability still remains so constantly pushed to the edges. I asked Bill Gaventa, one of the keynote speakers and a long time researcher in the field. 'Do you think the disability sector will get any benefit from the current widespread awareness of LGBTI issues? Will difference become more acceptable?' He sighed, 'Julie, the pecking order is so strongly defined. And especially when it comes to intellectual disability, people are on the bottom of the pile.'

I long for more tastes of heaven, I can only imagine how that absence of welcome feels to people whose constant experience is to be the awkward exception.

*The name of the conference was taken from a theology text by Miraslav Volf.

Julie Perrin

Exclusion & Embrace Art Exhibition



Dr Libby Byrne opened the Exclusion and Embrace conference art exhibition with an inclusive thought: 'We all know what it is like to be excluded'. This brief introduction opened a heartfelt and personal revelation as Dr Byrne talked about the isolation, the denial and exclusion of her own physical changes even while she was being diagnosed with multiple

sclerosis. Over time, it was through art making and spiritual practice, that she found a way to be in touch with herself, find reconnection and accept and embrace her disability. It was a deeply moving speech.

All of us have experienced that feeling of being separated, alienated and isolated at some time in our life. Sometimes, it has occurred in the context of situational events or during a time of flux and change. In addition, the sense of exclusion can be related to experiencing physical or mental disability and as a result of injustice and marginalization.

The Exclusion and Embrace art exhibition showcased sixty artworks curated by Christina Rowntree (CTM Artfull faith coordinator) which are the living voices and stories of those experiences.

To find the words to describe the depth and breadth of the work is very difficult. Each piece is a personal journey in colour, form, line, shape and space and an exposition on a range of emotion from pain and struggle to courage and hope. It was

overwhelming to take in the strength of each work given the complexity and depth in each one. Together the exhibition stood as a collective statement about resilience. This was uplifting, inspiring and stirring.

In particular, we were thrilled that seven of the artworks were created by our artists from the Artstop programme which runs weekly from The Olive Way. From the artmaking process through to applying, framing and being selected for the exhibition, it has been an exciting time for our artists who are bonding together and forming a strong group identity. It continues to be a privilege to learn from them each week and to see their talent unfold so freely and shared generously with each other.

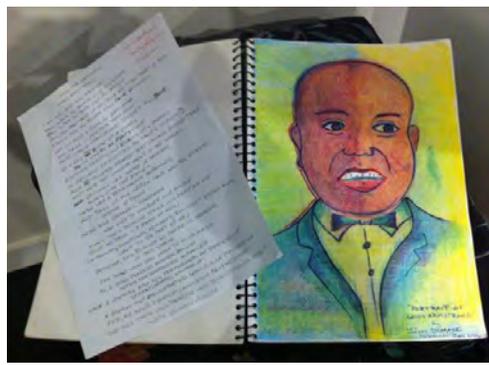
It was great to attend the exhibition launch with some of our Artstop artists and to see their works displayed alongside so many from all over Victoria. Here are some of the works which are still on display at CTM in Parkville until the end of September.



A number of artists from the Wednesday morning Art Stop program entered work in the exhibition for the conference.



Athena Her work is a very colourful work titled "Here is the Church". Beautiful bright flowers and sunshine with the Cross centred in her art work. She loves flowers and when she thinks of them, it makes her happy and relaxed.



Giovani His work is a pencil drawing of Louis Armstrong. It features beautiful hues of yellow, green and blue. Giovanni has written a very moving poem about Louis Armstrong to accompany his art work. Louis Armstrong was an important figure not only in the emergence of the jazz scene but his advocacy in the civil rights movement and fight for inclusion.



Ann The work is titled 'In the Shelter of Each other'. Inspired by the Irish saying, the work expresses the isolation of exclusion, using the circle to symbolise the spiral of darkness, when one is marginalized and alienated from others.

The second work is about embrace, and that being in the shelter of others, the holding of each other in our journeys, is what carries us through. It reflects what God has commanded us to do. To love one another. The work is in pencil, pastel and charcoal.



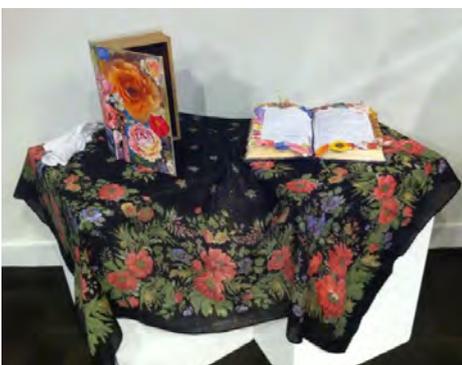
Cathy Her work is beautiful bright shades of pink painted flowers against a very pastel pink almost white background. The flowers glisten in the light. Florals are her interest and focus and this drawing in pastels reaches out beyond the page as though the flowers are part of a larger array of flowers in a garden.



Richard His work is bright, colourful and playful. The figure has an amazing, brightly coloured afro hairstyle set amidst glorious sunshine and multi coloured tear drops. His work is titled 'In the Embrace of cosmic Love' in reference to God's encompassing love for us that stretches above and beyond our understanding. This work is in fine tipped texta pen.



Yveane The work is untitled and the artist would like the audience to come up with their own understanding and reflection of the work which is painted in Japanese inks and pens.



Leanne The decoupage book reflects the importance of literature and fine arts in the artist's life and what gave her inspiration, comfort and hope in managing the challenges.

It has been an absolute privilege to see the artists developing and working towards this exhibition. We encourage you to speak with them about what art means to them and how it has changed their lives.

Keep the 9th of October FREE to attend the opening of the In2Art Exhibition at Brunswick Uniting Church. Many thanks for the encouragement you offer to the Arts Access program conducted at Brunswick Uniting Church on Wednesday mornings.

Ann Soo and Leanne Salau

Journeys

During the Refugee Sunday service on **Sunday 28th August** we reflected on the journeys that various people have had to endure. Being displaced from their land or fleeing due to the conflicts that rage. Where they go they are then the stranger in a strange land. How are they treated, where they travel on their journey, this tells us a lot about the people that they encounter.

As I travel the Camino Frances from Saint Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, then onto Finisterre, Muxia and then back to Santiago I will be a stranger in a strange land. Each day I will take up my pack and walk along a route that pilgrims have walked for thousands of years. At my destination for the day I will then need to find a bed for the night and food. The majority of the locals in the rural areas only speak Spanish. Only 0.7% of the people that walk the Camino de Santiago de Compostela are Australian.

I've only ever travelled overseas for work more than 20 years ago so this is the first time I've travelled just because I want to and it will be all new to me. I won't know anyone, my limited Spanish (thank you Duolingo & the Spanish Dude) may be more of a source of amusement for the locals than an effective source of communication and I'll be entirely out of my comfort zone. I'll be a stranger in a strange land. The big difference of course is that I'm doing this because I've chosen to.



This journey started when Saide & I watched the movie 'The Way' a couple of years ago. I loved the whole idea of pilgrimage and started reading and researching the Camino de Santiago. It was a logical next step to, with Saide's encouragement, begin planning for my own pilgrimage, following in the footsteps of countless people who have walked The Way before me.

Writing this reflection the night before I'm due to fly out my emotions are a mixture of excitement, nervousness, anticipation and expectation. I have faith that God is with me and within me. I have faith in my own ability to walk the 1,000 km having walked 2,880 km in preparation. I feel very open to the wonder of this experience, of seeing and experiencing God in new ways, in the daily changing landscape, in the people who I will meet and maybe even walk with along the way. I'm open and looking forward to the unexpected which is the nature of this pilgrimage. I've read so many books, blogs and travel guides but I still feel like I know so very little of what this pilgrimage will teach me about myself, my faith and my relationships.

There's a saying along the lines of 'a one hour km is the same distance as a two hour km'. This saying tells me that it's more about the journey than the destination. I'll be walking as slowly as I can so that I can take it all in.

See you mid October.

Ray Cameron

> Worship Calendar

Holy Communion

We will welcome Rev. Dr. Sunny Chen to preach and preside over Holy Communion on **4th September**.

Welcoming

At least once, and often twice, a year we offer people who are new to the congregation an invitation to share their story and publicly express their desire to be part of this community and say that it is their spiritual home for now.

After people have shared their stories these questions are asked:

To those who are being welcomed: "Do you name the Brunswick Uniting Church congregation as your community of faith and do you commit yourself to actively participating within this community?"

To the congregation: "Do you joyfully receive these people as fellow travellers along the way of discipleship, and do you commit yourself as a community of Jesus Christ to maintain the life of faith?"

Our second formal welcome for 2016 will be during worship on **Sunday 11th September**.

Please note that this is not formal church membership although people who do have UCA membership are encouraged to do so.

Please contact Ian Ferguson 0438 547 842 to indicate your interest in participating in the welcoming ceremony.

Season of Creation

Throughout **September** and **October** we will participate in this season taking a different approach to previous years.

See page 6 for all the details.

Blessing the Animals

Bring your pet or a photo of your pet along to worship on **Sunday 9th October** to receive a blessing for them. This service will be planned by a special worship team including younger members of the congregation.

Blessing of the Bikes

After worship on **Sunday 16th October** we will bless our bikes and other forms of non-motorised transport. Gather on and around the steps. It's loads of fun. Photos will be taken.



> A Season of Creation

Throughout September & October there will be opportunities to participate in the Season of Creation in worship, in theological conversations & a Bible Study hosted by the Discipleship & Education Committee and at workshops hosted by the Justice & Mission Committee

Creating a Spring time feast of Bible and theology part 1

8th September, 7:30pm

[Sally Douglas](#) will help us to explore how Jesus as Sophia, Woman Wisdom might inform our faith and worship. Sally is Minister of the Word at Richmond UC

Creating welcome

11th September

We will reflect on the welcome that we offer and receive as God's people in response to our twice yearly Welcoming Ceremony

Creating a Spring time feast of Bible and theology part 2

15th September, 7:30pm

[Geoff Thompson](#) will help us explore how the teachings and truth claims of our faith interact with our modern pluralistic world. Geoff is a member of our congregation and Professor of Systematic Theology at Pilgrim College

Creating justice, creating peace

18th September

To begin the World Week for Peace Tim Budge will help us to explore issues of peace and justice with particular reference to Palestine-Israel.

Creating a space for God's Mission

29th September, 7:30pm

Join us for a Bible Study lead by Ian Ferguson and Steph Gesling during which we will explore the question 'How do we embody God's world-transforming purposes in this time and place?'

Creating connections with the more than human world

9th October

As part of our bi-annual Blessing of the Animals we will celebrate and consider our relationship with all God's creatures.

Creating cooler homes for Summer

19th October, 7:30pm

Come and learn about easy and efficient ways to keep your home cool in summer at this community workshop facilitated by Lucy Best. Lucy is the Communications & Community Engagement Manager for the Positive Charge Team, a not-for-profit energy saving and sustainability advice service, run by [Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd](#) and supported by local councils.

Creating care for the environment

23rd October

After our annual Walk or Ride to Worship Sunday we will joyfully gather on the steps to participate in Blessing of the Bikes (and other forms of wheeled, non-motorized transport!)

Creating a community garden

date to be advised, 7:30pm

Join in the fun of exploring ways of engaging and working with the wider community to help create community gardens on our church property. Details about the facilitator and format to be advised.

Creating harmony with all creation

30th October

To conclude the series we will welcome Graeme Garrett as our preacher as we bring all our reflections on creation together.

> Happy Birthday

Oscar Batch, Sheila Calwell, Zac Coverdale, Bruce Findlay, Scott Findlay, Joan Gilchrist, Patrick Hall, Peter Hornby, Jenny Hunter, Dave Kruse, Amanda Lees, Hamish Macrae, Julie McKinnon, Archie Moore, Jill Moorhouse, Joshua Mullen, Stephen Mullen, Gwen Rogers, Cathryn Goode, Nathan Watson Kruse

> Mission Planning News

Later this year, the Church Council will create plans from the contributions that are currently being collected and collated through:

- consultations with committees and groups
- a series of three congregational workshops on mission
- the story wall looking at the history of BUC and how our stories might fit with God's story
- the 'what if...' box where ideas and hopes for the future can be shared
- individual input via email and one-one conversations



The first mission workshop began with an outdoor activity to help us reflect on incremental change and to practice celebrating milestones. We then moved through a process of reflecting on what mission might mean in the context of Brunswick Uniting. The [Synod Vision and Mission principles](#) provided a framework for thinking this through.

At the end of the workshop individuals wrote something they wanted to take away, a next step they'd like to take or made a commitment to listen for God in and around Brunswick Uniting Church.

The invitation to take a selfie with their note or to photograph the words in a place of significance and share them was taken up by some people, including Linda Fisher.

Linda writes, "I think we, as followers of Christ, should "welcome back" those in the congregation regularly because I think everyone may have walked away from Christ (church) at some stage and then come back."

She also included a note for the "What if..." box, "Could we have communion in silence sometimes?"

Anika Jenson supervising the construction of coloured letters made from our written reflections on mission.

They are on display on the dividing wall as you come into the hall from the Olive Way. These reflections were written on Sunday August 14th by participants who took part in the first of the three congregational mission workshops.



"Make faith, hope and love intentional" **Daniel Broadstock**



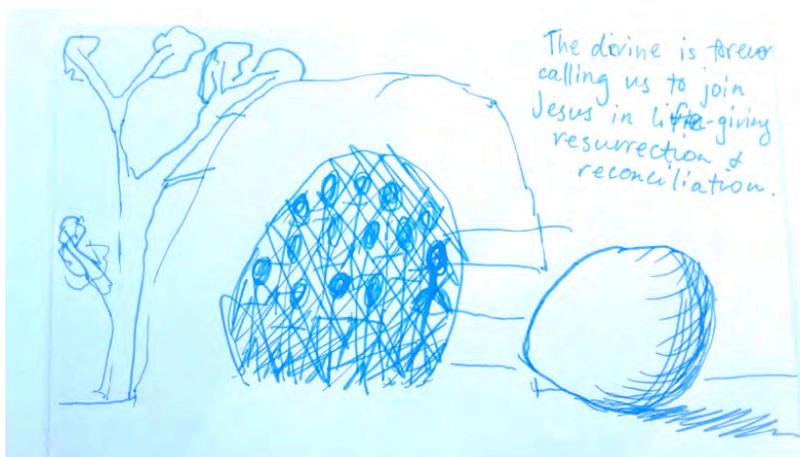
"I will pause to celebrate along the way" **Shawn Whelan**



"I will look for ways to go more slowly with this community – to listen without distraction, to ask thoughtful questions, to listen to the truth that children and bodies tell" **Julie Perrin**

An Introduction to Christian Meditation took place on Saturday August 20. This event was included in the Mission Planning program to invite contemplation and silence to be entered into and valued alongside conversation and action. Mission planning is about listening and being, as well as talking and doing. See below for the story and photos

Anyone who would like to read and reflect on the reports from groups and committees, and the other documents, photos and ideas that are feeding into the mission planning process, is heartily encouraged to do so. There is an online folder containing all the materials. Please contact Steph or Shawn or Saide to request a link to the folder.



Steph Gesling, Mission Planning Co-ordinator

Mission Planning Workshop

You're warmly invited this **Sunday 4th Sept** to the Mission Workshop led by Steph Gesling at the church after morning tea. 11:30am – 12:55pm

An interactive congregational workshop: Who are we? Where is God calling us? How can we be continually transformed by, and part of the amazing stuff that God is creating, in, around, through (and regardless of!) Brunswick Uniting Church and the communities that gather here?

All welcome. Come as you are. That's how we love you.



> An introduction to Christian Meditation

Around 35 people met at Brunswick Uniting Church on **Saturday 20 August** for an Introduction to Christian Meditation day. It was pleasing to see a number of Brunswick people as well as visitors from a number of Uniting Churches around Melbourne.



Richard Arnold welcoming people to the day

Christian meditation has a long history in the church going back to Jesus' own practice (see Matthew 6:6). It was widely used by the Desert Fathers and Mothers in the 4th Century, and within monastic movements throughout the history of Christianity. The Orthodox Church has a long history of meditation. It was re-discovered in the western church by a number of Christian teachers during the 20th Century; people such as Thomas Merton, Thomas Keating and John Main have been particularly important.

Guest Speaker was Clare Boyd-Macrae who spoke on "My life and writings as a Meditator". It was wonderful to hear Clare speak from the heart and share how meditation had made a real difference to her faith journey and her life.

Participants were informed about the John Main tradition of meditation and the work of the [World Community for Christian Meditation](#), and during the day there were opportunities to actually try meditating. There were also times for questions and discussion.

Thanks to all who helped on the day, and especially to Clare who so graciously shared her time with us.



Clare Boyd-Macrae sharing her story about meditation

If you are interested in finding out more about Christian Meditation or joining a group in Brunswick, please contact Richard by email: richarn50@gmail.com or by phone: 0407 796 429

"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10



> Special Events

SSS Dinners

Final call for anyone interested in being a guest or host at the Super Spicy September Dinners being held over the weekend of **9th, 10th & 11th September**. Email your responses to saide.cameron@bigpond.com

FUNdraising for Peace



The focus for our regular after worship stall will be Ecumenical Accompaniers Program. The stall will be offered over two Sundays, **11th & 18th September**.

See *FUNdraising News*, p13 for all the details.

Food Co-op AGM & Wine Tasting

The Annual General Meeting will be held after the September pick-up on **Saturday 17th September**.

See *Food Co-op News*, p13 for all the details.

Working Bee & Lunch

The Property Committee and Community Team of the Pastoral Care Committee have joined forces to bring you an excellent way of being community on **Sunday 9th October**.

Stay on after worship to help do some work around the church grounds including: stone & rubbish removal, weeding & gardening, rehang shade cloth, repair of table tennis tables, cleaning windows, signs, pumps & tanks. Contact Andrew Moorhouse, 0401 696 112 or James Clough, 0424 054 610, to find out more and even more importantly to let them know that you will be there.

And if this kind of work is not quite your thing put your hand up to help prepare for & cook a BBQ lunch or serve and clean up afterwards. Contact Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743 to make your offer.

IN2ART

Save The Date: Mark the **9th of October** boldly on your calendars as BUC and Arts Access Victoria join forces to bring you an art exhibition to open Mental Health Week 2016!

The exhibition is entitled IN2ART and it is all about engagement, inclusion and empowerment. Our artists working weekly at the Olive Way will showcase their diversely creative body of work in the Youth Hall. The doors will open at 3pm on 9/10. Please join us for the official launch with words, poetry and nibbles at 5pm.

It is a free event and we are working towards the exhibition being inclusive and embracing of our wider community as well. More details to follow very soon!

Ann Soo and Leanne Salau

Local Government Election Forum

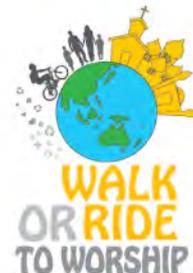
Local government elections will be held on **22nd October**. JAM/ABCD are not able to organise a pre-election forum for this election. Please contact one of the JAM/ABCD members (Leanne, Abi, Saide, David, Meredith, Kirsty) if you would like to take the lead and do this.

The Federal Election Forum was very successful and attended by many people from the wider community.

Ride to Worship Sunday

Each year everyone is invited to find a way to come along to worship that doesn't involve using a car on one **Sunday in October**. This year we've chosen **23rd October**.

With our regional church it's not possible for everyone to fully participate however there's usually about a third of the congregation that can participate either by walking, riding, skateboarding or using public transport. A group photo is a highlight of the event and every year the group just gets bigger!



Crafternoon

Ever wanted to make your own Christmas decorations and gifts?

Have you admired the handmade ideas for Christmas in the magazines?

Never found the time because it was too involved?

Well, here is an idea! Glenice and I are gathering together a small group who would like to create some handmade gifts for the Christmas Bowl craft stall. The stall will be held on the first two weeks of December. We have made it easy for you (ideas, shopping, sample item) and welcome all skill levels or even if you would like to learn a skill.....please join us as your interest and effort is all we require. We will be holding a crafternoon soon (date to be advised next week) but if this is not your preference, we also invite you to craft from home!

Just let us know if you are interested by sending us an email or come and see us any time after church.

Ann Soo and Glenice Cook

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held after worship on **20th November**. The agenda for this meeting will include the annual Election of Elders and presentation of the Mission Planning report.

> Pastoral Care News

Compassion - Personal Prayer Ministry

From time to time we are all confronted with situations which are stressful and with which we feel overwhelmed. The PC team has gathered together a group of caring members who have promised to spend some time each day lighting a candle and praying a prayer which includes the names those who have requested this.

This is a personal and confidential act and we do not need to know why you have requested prayer if that is your wish. We believe that God knows the innermost workings of our hearts.

If you wish to be included and prayed for please just telephone or email Glenice Cook or Ian Ferguson. Prayers will be offered every day and continue until you request to be withdrawn. Each Friday the Prayer group will be emailed the names of those participating.

If you know of someone who may need prayer please feel free to ask them if this would be helpful and forward their name to us.

If you would like to join this prayer ministry please contact Glenice, 0414 319 649.

Glenice Cook

Compassion - Love & Support

We pray for Helen Burnham, her son Nick, partner Alice & grandchildren Hazel & Oscar following the death of Claire Ryan, mother, grandmother & great grandmother at the wonderful age of 98 on **Thursday 25th August**.

We also pray for Christine & Peter Hornby and their extended family following the death of Christine's stepfather, David Smart, on **Saturday 27th August**.

Gathering as Community

The Community Team continues to be delighted and amazed by all the different ways that we gather as community. Our work is almost, but not quite effortless.

Our role is mostly that of oversight, looking out for gaps and ensuring that all the groups offering ways of being community are well supported. We do take particular responsibility for cafe style morning teas, congregation lunches and dinners.

The **SSS dinners** being held in **September** promise to offer lots of Super Spicy fun. It's almost but not quite too late to get in your response, offering to be a guest or host. Saide, Caitlin and Rachel are planning to meet on Tuesday 6th September to match guests and hosts so please reply by Monday 5th September at the absolute latest. Sooner is better of course. Email saide.cameron@bigpond.com.

The next **Cafe Style Morning tea** will be held after worship on **2nd October** will feature the displays from the BUC Expo. We hope that you will take the time to look at the displays to find out about the various groups and committees that shape our community life. There will also be an opportunity respond to a couple of discussion starters provided by the JAM committee.

And finally we have two lunches in term 4. The first links in with the Working Bee on **9th October** and will be a **BBQ lunch**. We are keen to hear from anyone who wants to help with preparing, cooking, serving and/or cleaning up. Offers of salads are also welcome. 'Many hands make light work' as they say in the classics. Also it's a great way to contribute to the working bee if gardening is simply not your thing!! Contact saide.cameron@bigpond.com to get involved.

The second lunch links in with the **Congregational Meeting** being held after worship on **20th November**. We haven't discussed the format for this lunch as yet but it may well be along the lines of 'Bring a Plate to Share' so that everyone can be involved in the discussions at the meeting.

Saide Cameron

Farewell Claire Ryan, 6/11/1917 - 25/8/2016



Claire offering a presence in the Tower Room Window during the Reclaim the Night March on 20th October 2012

On Wednesday 31st August we celebrated the life of Claire Ryan. Colin Hunter welcomed us to the service speaking of Claire's life and her involvement as a volunteer in the Olive Way Kitchen program. He spoke of the affection and high regard in which she was held. Her grandson Nick and his partner Alice shared the story of Claire's rich and generous life and the constant support that she, with her husband Arthur, was to Helen as she developed her singing career and later to her family including a journey to Bouganville which woke in them a love of travel. Colin spoke of Claire's life as a sermon about the love of God developing this idea through 1 Corinthians 13 saying that she exemplified those values in her living, seeking to live authentically according to what she thought God was like.



Saide Cameron

> Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

Sunday Morning Program



SMP looks at the story of the bent woman and wonder about chains and freedom



Student Minister Sarah Tomilson conducts the breaking of the chains!

This month has seen the return of some of our travellers as well as the arrival of new families and overall a slightly more regular attendance. This makes it a lot easier for volunteers and when the children come regularly the group settles into an exciting learning and growing space. Thanks to Faye Findlay, Jill and Andrew Moorhouse, James Clough and Sarah Tomilson for leadership this term – you will see both the group glee and the quiet attention in the photos.

We have been delighted to welcome more volunteers onto our team. Chantelle Matthews has taken up the camera to document some of our gatherings – thanks Chantelle! Helen Burnham has joined us in the full immersion of becoming a regular assistant – and she tells us she is enjoying her new role. Tabitha Roberts from the

student house is also about to begin, so we feel very fortunate. Thanks too to Michael Cameron who has been assisting this term, particularly with some of the games Ian David taught us. And to Julie McKinnon warm thanks for boldly volunteering twice for All Age Worship – much appreciated and enjoyed by the children.



James Clough and Andrew Moorhouse with the SMP in August



and the grand finale, with a Moorhouse style installation – thanks to Jill and Andrew Moorhouse

Secondary SMP

The secondary SMP group seems to be gathering momentum, but still wildly fluctuating in attendance. Colin Hunter and Rachel U'Ren have stepped into this role this year with back up from Janet Watson Kruse and Anika Jensen. From all reports it is an enjoyable privilege to be in conversation with the young people in this age group.

Meditation for children

At the meditation retreat at BUC on August 20, there were reports of meditation for children in Melbourne Catholic schools. In SMP we have periodically come into the joy of periods of silence and stillness but never in a consistent practice. If you have an interest in this and would like to explore it with SMP please talk to me!

Julie Perrin

Student House Faith Spot - Samuel Rauert

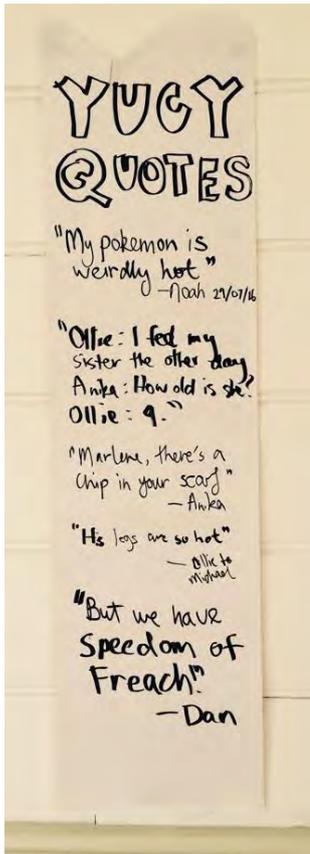
“Hi everyone. I’m now in my second year at the BUC student house, and my second year studying a Bachelor of Design at Academy of Design in Collingwood. I’m still really enjoying the course and look forward to completing it next year. I’m off to Europe in a few weeks time as part of a two week study tour for my course. It will be my first time in Europe so I’m very excited.

I moved from Warrnambool last year and the BUC community made the transition to city life much easier, and I’m very thankful. I love that the Church has such a wide range of age groups and how actively everyone is involved in the community. I’ve been volunteering with the sound system and laptop during Church services as well as creating numerous designs for the event posters, postcards and leaflets you see around.

Come and say hi after Church, I’d love to get to know you all better.”



Student & Youth Update



What a month August has been for the youth and students of the BUC community. We've had YUCY hide-and-go-seek excitement, refugee rallies, stories of endings, journeys and new beginnings, so much in one month I can't believe it.

Student House members are very much in the swing of semester, the endless essays, teaching placement for Lloyd and Emily, very exciting study tours for Sam and Abi, and Tabitha got to study cadavers for the first time last week. Yeesh we have a busy and bustling crew. This month we've also been having catch ups with each of the students which have been incredibly fruitful and thought-provoking for the members, myself and the committee moving forward as a community. We're also coming to terms with the fact that Rose is leaving us in September and the houses will be seeing even more new faces next year with many members finishing up their study this semester.

YUCY and YUCY OG crews have been very busy too! The YUCY meet-ups for this term are almost at an end, with our awesome visit to the Islamic Museum of Australia coming up next Saturday September 10th! The gang have had so much fun this term that we had to start a YUCY Quotes page for all the funny things that are said (see pic). The OG are busy bees with constant assignments and general life happenings, Chantelle and Jacqueline are studying like champs, Josh is in a cool band - no surprises there and Hannah and I were overwhelmed and excited at the Refugee protest last week!

For my part beyond hanging with the awesome younger generations of BUC, I've been doing some good reflecting on the role this year and through this, have started to document the random happenings and life of BUC in a blog! You can find this blog at standingonthepews.wordpress.com. I'd also love if you have any moments in the life of the church that you'd like to share on this forum, reflections, pictures, quotes from conversations, poems, please send them to me at anikajensen1@gmail.com.

Blessings, **Anika Jensen**

> Olive Way News

Olive Way has been buzzing this month, with new faces to greet, new stories to tell and new skills to be learned. Oh, and LOTS of toasties. I have mentioned that they're the best in Brunny, haven't I?

In Ezme's dance sessions there's been plenty of moving and grooving: sitting, standing, whatever way you want it, there's something for everyone. Wednesdays at 11am, all welcome!

Our piano lessons, started by Dave earlier this year, are going strong with the multi-talented, and just all 'round awesome, Abi taking on the job. The lesson schedule is now full (sorry to those who missed out this time) and the students have been very keen, even coming in to practice.

And speaking of new skills, here's Bill: who told me not so long ago that he'd never be able to learn how to use a computer.



He's now Googling like a pro and knows more about Jack Thompson (the jockey, in case you didn't know) than you could ever imagine.

And finally, on a sad note, this month we said our final farewells to one of Olive Way's dearly loved volunteers, Claire, or "Helen's mum" as many regulars remember her. I don't think a week has gone by without someone asking after Claire, and the memories shared have reflected her kindness, hard work, and warm welcome to all. Rest in peace Claire, and our condolences and love to Helen and family in their time of grief.

Our doors are open to everyone and we hope to see you at Olive Way soon.

Fi Bottcher, Olive Way Coordinator

feigh.b@gmail.com 0421 027 467



> FUNdraising News



Sausage Sizzle

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Sausage Sizzle and Busking FUNdraising event at the Albert St. Woolworths supermarket on **6th August**. After an epic 5 hours we had raised \$359.70 for the Act for Peace Syria Appeal.



FUNdraising for Peace

A bumper after worship FUNdraising Stall will be held on **11th & 18th September**. The target for our FUNdraising is the [Ecumenical Accompaniers Program](#) which is currently part of the World Council of Churches and soon to move under the Act for Peace.

The stall will include: a clothing bargain table, preserves, baked goods and plants.

Donations to any of these stalls will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Glenice Cook, 0414 319 649, or Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743 to find out more.



Act for Peace - Christmas Bowl

Each year we support the [Christmas Bowl Appeal](#) in a variety of ways including worship, prayer and personal donations.

We are also active FUNdraisers. This year there will be three opportunities to directly support FUNdraising efforts:

- participate in the Crafternoon, see *Special Events*, p9
- contribute to or make purchases from the after worship FUNdraising stalls in December
- enjoy a fabulous evening of Christmas carol singing, stories at poetry at the Manse.

Dates for these events will be advertised in the coming months. Meanwhile think about how you would like to get involved.

Saide Cameron

> Food Co-op News

The Brunswick Food Co-op began in 2000 as a constructive initiative to foster responsible use of the earth's resources. The Co-op's main aims are to reduce packaging and, where possible, purchase organic and Australian grown foods and to care for the earth as a co-operative community. Since its humble beginnings it has grown in both membership size and the variety of products offered. For more information about the Co-op visit the [Food Co-op page](#) on our website: The Food Co-op AGM will be held after the September pick-up day, **17th September**. Bring along lunch to share using ingredients inspired by the Food Co-op.

A special feature of lunch will be an organic wine tasting. The AGM lunch is open to the whole church community. Read [more](#).



Also, the committee is in the process of assessing some of the ways in which we do things. As part of this process we need your advice. Please take a few minutes to complete the [survey](#) and let the committee know your thoughts and ideas.

We'd like to compile your responses and report on them at the AGM, so the sooner you complete the survey the more helpful it will be for our planning and decision making. The survey has been designed with members in mind however there is a comments section which non-members are very welcome to contribute to.

For more information contact **Christine Hornby**, 9386 8919

> JAM News

September!!! Wow – life moves on too fast. So here’s a short contribution from the JAM committee. August finished with a timely and much needed focus on refugees. Thank you to those who attended the Refugee Rally on Saturday 27th August. BUC is always a valued and respected representative body at refugee rallies. Our simple BUC sign is featured in many a diverse rally photo collection.

Refugee Sunday followed with a beautiful service (28th August). Kirsty Bennett, Olivia Potter, Helen Burnham and Hannah Alvis led a soul searching reflection on our lives as journeys. About how we have all come here from somewhere – that we were all one of ‘them’ – once – from over there. Now here... And that we are all, ALL... welcome at God’s table. So who are we welcoming to our dinner tables?

World Week for Peace

Along with the worship committee and FUNdraising team we are supporting the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel which has the theme ‘God has broken down the dividing walls’.

As part of the Season of Creation in our worship on 18th September, the beginning of the World Week for Peace, we will reflect on the question ‘What does it mean to be a peace maker, to love our enemy?’. We will look for ways that we can engage in the practice of ‘Creating justice, creating peace’.

The three commitments that shape the World Week for Peace are praying, educating and advocacy. In our worship and in our response we want to explore and develop an understanding of how we can be peace makers here in our own lives and so contribute to the global movement for peace in Palestine Israel and throughout the world.

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum asks participants in the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, from 18 to 24 September 2016, to join with churches around the world to send a clear signal to policy-makers, community groups, and their own parishes about the urgent need for a peace settlement that ends the illegal occupation of Palestine and secures the legitimate rights and future of both peoples so that Palestinians and Israeli’s can live in peace. Although our worship will not focus solely on these issues we will acknowledge and pray for peace in this region.

> Culture of Safety

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

If any member of the congregation – young or older has concerns about the safety of our children, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse, or the safety of vulnerable adults, you may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Safe Church Concerns Person appointed by Church Council. Brunswick Uniting Church has a process for following up any concerns raised. Please contact Helen in person or by telephone on mobile number 0423 009 813.

We also welcomed Steph Gesling to our last JAM/ABCD meeting to think about the Mission reflections for BUC. We are meeting again next week to spend more time in discussion and thoughtful prayer about how JAM/ABCD can contribute to a deepening sense of community amongst all the wonderful things that are already happening at BUC. (Remember the great BUC expo?) Exploring art, connecting more deeply with our Olive Way friends and supporting Love Makes Away and the refugee experience in our midst, could be the way forward for us... Time to dig down rather than spread out? There is a little blackboard at my work from a community arts project that asked community members what they would like to do before they die. Someone has written in chalk on the little blackboard “be enough...”. Perhaps that is what mission and community will be about for JAM and BUC. To be enough.

Meredith Budge

Tim Budge, member of our congregation and Executive Officer of the [Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network](#) will lead us in our commitment to work and pray for peace.

For more information visit [World Week for Peace](#)



We are delighted that the upcoming FUNdraising stall (see page 13) after worship on 11th & 18th September will support the Ecumenical Accompaniment program in Palestine Israel, a program through which volunteers witness life under occupation, offer a protective presence to vulnerable communities and monitor and report human rights abuses. They join Palestinians and Israelis who work in nonviolent ways for peace and support the local churches. When they return home, EAs use their first-hand experiences to open the eyes of the world to the realities of occupation and campaign for a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict based on international law. EAs range in age from 25 to 70 years old and are of many different backgrounds, but what they all share is a deep dedication to human rights.

Find out more about the EAPPI visit [here](#).

Please share the Facebook post about worship and the stall with your networks.



Saide Cameron

> Regular Events

Singing The Sacred Harp

The Sacred Harp Singing is a group of people who meet to sing from a book called "The Sacred Harp". This music is participatory, a cappella, loud, folk hymn singing, which originates from the USA. The book "The Sacred Harp" is a collection of shape note songs from various sources, from the 1770's to the present day. All singers of all abilities are welcome to come as often (or as infrequently) as they are able.

The style of music sounds something like a cross between Eastern European and Irish folk music. For more information on Sacred Harp music please visit www.fasola.org

Come along & join us on the **first Sunday** of every month, from 4pm-6pm in the hall. Contact Natalie Sims or Shawn Whelan, ph. 9495 6120, or email sacred_harp@yahoo.com.au

Table Church

We gather to share a simple meal of soup & bread and dessert alternating on **Friday** (7-8:30pm) **and Sunday evenings**, (6-7:30pm), shaped by a liturgy that invites us to reflect on the week that has passed and to pray for each other. The shape of the evening is informal and low-stress.

Everyone is welcome and you can come every week/fortnight or just as you are available. If you are interested, or just want to know a little more, please contact Tim (0412 051 574) or Ann (0422 842 244).

Mulling

This month we are meeting on **Tuesday 13th September**, 7pm at 27 Laura St. Brunswick with Geoff Thompson as the guest conversationalist.

Mulling is our monthly catch up/discussion/mulled wine appreciation club for young adults 25-35.

Talk to Sarah Curnow for more info, 0422 223 842.

Meditation

There are four Meditation groups available

With Andrea: **Tuesday** at **9.30am** in the Youth Hall. Contact Andrea Alvis, 0413 950 619, for more information.

With Richard: **Wednesday** at **8am** or **5:30pm** at 29 MacFarland St.

On-line every **Monday night** at **9.30pm** to **10.00pm**
Contact Richard Arnold, 0407 796 429, for more information.

The Olive Way

Our congregation's outreach program is open on **Tuesday to Thursday** from 10 am - 1:30 pm. Community Kitchen, Dance & Art programs - Wednesday, Writing Workshop - Thursday.

New volunteers are always welcome.
Contact Fiona Bottcher, ph. 0421 027 467.

Book Club at BUC

7.30 – 9 pm, Wednesday 26th October

(N.B. no meeting in September)
Olive Way, Brunswick UC

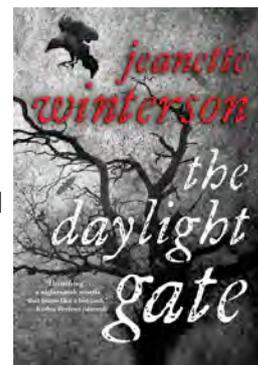
With two months till our next meeting, we have chosen Jeanette Winterson's *The daylight gate*, a wonderfully atmospheric, intricately woven, magical modern-day tale of the Pendle Witches, plus 3 short stories by Leo Tolstoy:

- How much land does a man need?
- Three hermits, and
- Two old men

all of which can be found [online](#) or in 'Master and man and other stories' by Leo Tolstoy.

Faye or Christine would be happy to talk to you about book club if you would like more information.

Faye 9379 1317 faye.findlay18@gmail.com
or Christine 9386 8919 christine@hornby.id.au



Out and About Group

A social group for older, active women and men. The group meets monthly to visit places of interest or simply enjoy sharing experiences over coffee. There is no membership fee. Some activities may involve an entrance fee or refreshment purchase. New members are always welcome. Contact Helen for further information.

Mobile 0423 009 813 or email helen.rowe@rocketmail.com

Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Have you been to Food Co-op yet?

Opening Dates: **17th September, 15th October**

Olive Way, Saturdays, 10 am – 12 pm.

For more information speak to Christine Hornby, 9386 8919 or Nicole Lowe, 9354 5045

Saturday afternoon coffee

Meet at Manakish, 161 Sydney Rd. Brunswick, at 2:30 pm, usually on the **first Saturday** each month. It's very informal, and all women are most welcome. For any queries regarding transport, contact Leanne Salau, 9386 1484.

> Reports

Church Council

Dear Congregants,

Yet another month has passed under the serene administration of Church Council's benevolent dictatorship. The following edicts for the coming month are now in effect:

- The Minister of the Word has been exiled to the wintry shores of New Zealand. He shall return when Council is persuaded that he has learnt his lesson. We look forward to welcoming a number of guest preachers over the coming weeks.
- The mission discernment process is now well underway. The timeline of our church is a beautiful addition to the worship space and we would love to see further additions made to it. A number of us joined Steph for a great mission workshop in August, in which we began to think about what God's mission looks like for us. We are considering a number of different means of continuing to engage and invite BUC members into the discernment process.
- Council approved a request from CERES to display a board advertising the Holi Celebration of Spring Festival to be held on the 5th of November, subject to final approval of the signage.
- We have granted a new three month-one month ongoing lease to the tenant of 1 Bucknall Court. We intend to begin thinking about what medium-long-term plans we may wish to make for the properties we own, particularly as maintenance costs continue to rise.
- Council considered a discussion paper for considering how we provide hospitality to vulnerable people in our community.
- We look forward to the Season of Creation beginning this month, and the numerous related events that will take place in September, beginning with sessions with Sally Douglas and Geoff Thompson.

Your humble servant, **Secretary Broadstock.**

Finance Committee

"Giving" is used to describe the money passed to the Church by people in the congregation regularly via the weekly offerings at worship services ('open' and 'envelopes') and regular payments by people from their bank accounts 'direct' to the Church's bank account. (Most direct giving is done by a standard UCA Funds form, money goes from the individual to UCA Funds and then one payment from all the direct givers comes at the end of the month from UCA Funds across to the Brunswick UC bank account. This maintains a standard across UCA and allow for more confidentiality for the direct giver.)

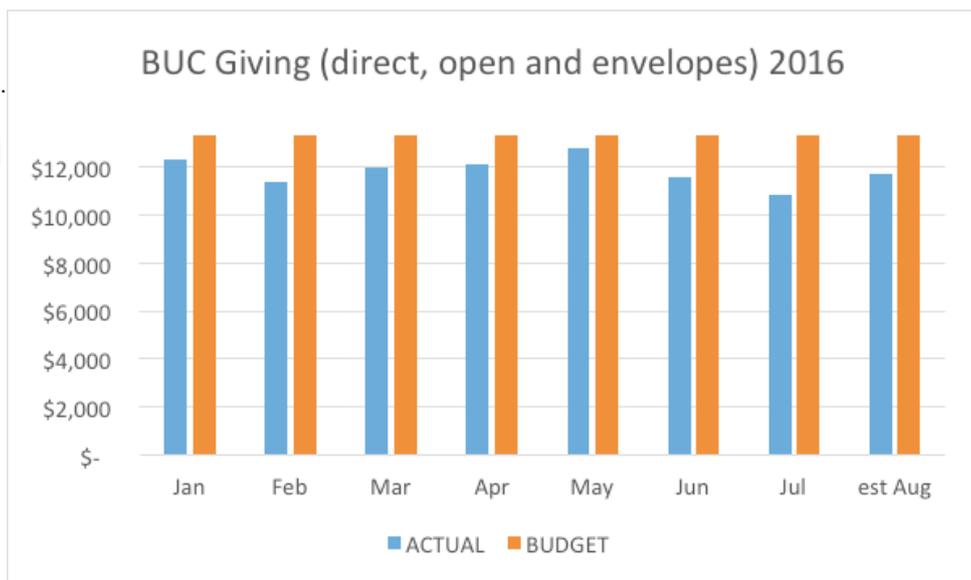
Direct giving can be \$5 a week up to hundreds of dollars per month; no matter how small or large, its regularity is useful. Direct Giving accounts for almost 70% of Giving; open and envelopes are about 15% each, and vary from week-to-week. (We may even do a correlation analysis of the liturgists' 'style' and the open and envelope collections. Just joking!)

Our Giving this year has not been up to expectations, as per this graph:

While Brunswick UC has sources of funds other than from Giving (for example, rentals on properties and interest on investments) these other funds tend to be allocated to property expenses and special-funded projects like The Olive Way.

The core functions of the Church (Ministry of the Word, Pastoral Care Ministry, Children and Youth, Justice and Mission, Discipleship and Education) tend to rely on Giving for their funding.

An update on Giving, a graph with more months, will be provided to you in late Spring. It is anticipated that this will contribute to our Mission Planning.



Linda Wannan, Treasurer 2016-2017

Property Committee

The following activities have been undertaken/completed over the past month:

- The roof works have commenced; the works are estimated to take 8 weeks.
- Replaced the thermostat controller, which had recently been installed to enable individual day settings. New controller is a Robert Shaw ps4000
- Negotiating with Lentara for their agency to undertake the professional cleaning of the church.
- Labelled the hall switch board.
- Replaced the gas heater in 4 Merri Street.
- Garden working bee scheduled for Sunday 9th October, in conjunction with a BBQ.

The following activities are being attended to over the coming months:

- Manse cracks filled and painted.
- Organise to have the faulty down light dimmers repaired/replaced as required.
- Remeasure the moisture in the soil under the church.
- Youth Hall works to continue, painting, flashing etc.

- Finalise the proposal to make the church more secure, installation of vertical grills.
- Investigating the professional cleaning of the hall kitchen multiple times per year to maintain them in a clean state. Jenny to ascertain if another clean is required. Intention is to split the costs with main users of the kitchen.
- Continuing Investigating childproof locking arrangements for the gates on the youth hall front yard, self-closing arrangements.
- David Stephen and Nick Burnham have developed a proposal for the lighting arrangements for the tower room to complement the displays. The proposal is to be submitted to church council.
- Have the stones in the pit in the front yard of the youth hall removed, given away.
- Resolve the church's noisy phone service
- Repair the heater on the south wall in the west end of the hall. Initially the gas is ignited, however it won't maintain the gas flow.
- Investigate cigarette bins for the front of the church near the indigenous recognition sculpture garden.

Ray Cameron

Worship Committee

To begin our August meeting Ian invited us to share our reflections on Sabbath after which he offered us a glimpse of his sermon for the coming Sunday.

We responded to the prompts provided by Steph for the **Mission Planning process** identifying our strengths as a committee, the impact of our work on people outside our walls and how it all relates to our understanding of being part of God's mission. We have shared our responses with Steph and would be very happy to share them with anyone who is interested. Email saide.cameron@bigpond.com for a copy.

Planning for the **pageant** continues including script development with the YUCY groups followed by a meeting of the brainstorming team followed by a production meeting in October. Saide and Caitlin are contacting the families of all the younger people to find out about availability before issuing a general invitation. If you have any questions about the pageant please call Saide, 0407 096 743.

31/7 - Pentecost 11: Hosea 11:1-11 In the morning for our reflective service we responded to Hosea's image of God as a loving, nurturing parent and a roaring lion. Worship was shaped by the four movements of Praise & Adoration, Confession, Forgiveness and Thanksgiving. We watched scenes from the movie 'The Lion King' and used our pipe cleaners in response to Ian's invitation to shape them first into a symbol of God's love, then with a neighbour to create a shared shape related to challenging situations and finally to bring the shared shapes forward to create a web of connections praying that the love of God would bring the world to peace. We celebrated Holy Communion.

We discussed the **Worship Planning Teams** that have been set up for particular services acknowledging that we need to be intentional in our preparation for the planning meetings to ensure that we enable and encourage the contributions of all members of the teams.

David Stephens has been working with Nick Burnham on the **Tower Room Window Lighting project** to ensure that the lighting enables the displays to be enjoyed by passers by regardless of the time of day. We will be putting a budget submission for this project to the September Council meeting.

We also responded to the **Discussion paper** which seeks to address challenging behaviour and safety on our properties.

We hope you enjoy the **Season of Creation**, please have a look at the calendar of events on p6 and pick up a copy next time you are at worship.





The worship committee feels very strongly the value of this type of service and we received a lot of positive feedback. We hope to identify other Sundays or occasions when we can worship together in a similar reflective and interactive format.

31/7 - Pentecost 11: **Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Luke 12:13-21** At the combined service with the Brunswick Indonesian congregation service in the evening Ian invited the children to go on a treasure hunt with him. Amazingly they found that, by looking in the Bible on his iPad, X marks the spot for the treasure, taking them to the Cross of Jesus.



The BIUC congregation has a practice of offering testimonial songs from individuals and groups. We were privileged to receive the gift of one such song from a much loved family who have, by now, returned to Indonesia.

Ian introduced his sermon stating *Jesus says 'Where your treasure is there your heart will be also'*. He went on to show us a treasure – the sculpture *'For the love of God'*, made by British contemporary artist Damien Hurst. Ian commented that it is *'a symbol of unimaginable wealth and a symbol of death'*. Turning our attention to the Gospel reading he asked us where our treasure is and pointed us towards one of the great themes of New Testament that *'wealth gets between us and God'*. He spoke of the disease of affluenza and the challenge of responding to Jesus call in the context of our wealth based society reminding us that Jesus says *'Strive for the kingdom and God will give you what you need for life.'*



Ian spoke then of his first encounter with 'Prosperity Theology' at the opening of a new church sharing his naivety in not realising that people actually think in this way. He reminded us of Jesus' sayings about wealth, the way he lived and died. Reflecting further on Prosperity Theology he said that it *'takes the thing that is at the heart of our culture – the amassing of wealth and turns it a Christian virtue demonstrating how remarkably adaptable the Christian faith is.'* He commented that we all adapt the gospel to work around the parts that are too demanding and asked *'What are we missing out on? Are we losing a treasure?'* in doing so.

Concluding Ian asked again *'So where is your treasure? Where is your heart? Wrapped up in wealth, possessions, invested in death? Or do you, will you strive for the kingdom? Giving everything? Perhaps for us that means giving what we can, giving our hearts, our minds, our possessions for the love of God. For the love of God – Damien Hirst may not have had this parable in mind when he was making his sculpture but it seems very fitting. For God so loved the world that God gave the only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not die but may have eternal life. What will you give to share in that treasure? In Christ's Holy Name, Amen.'*



7/8 - Pentecost 12: **Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40** We began worship with our now familiar ritual of lighting the candle responding in word and action.

We appreciated the shared offering of prayers and Bible readings.



Julie shared some of her favourite Bible verses with the children. They spoke about the need to be careful of plucking verses out of the Bible and to make sure they we look at the bigger story around them. The children shared an active chant about the Bible that they had learnt. Later in the service they made special bags with Bible verses for the all age activity in the Gathering Space.

Ian began his sermon telling us that *'We are invited to Christ's table, to Wisdom's table here as slaves'* and asked *'What do we know about being slaves?'*. He shared his experience of dancing professionally on stage as a slave in Spartacus and went on to tell us of the story of Spartacus and the 1960 movie of the same name, showing us the famous 'I'm Spartacus' scene. Ian reminded us that when Jesus tells his parable he's speaking into the Roman world where slavery is the accepted norm with members of the household on a continuum from slave to master. Showing us a beautiful photo he painted a picture in words of a slave waiting for her master to return asking if this could be us – *listening prayerfully for the movement of Christ in our hearts?* Using this picture of expectant waiting Ian brought the master home and subverted the continuum as Jesus does with the master putting on his apron to serve the slave. He went on to tell us of the story of Dalton Trumbo, multi-academy award winning script writing and writer of 'I'm Spartacus' explaining that Trumbo *created a parable from slavery to give us a vision of the way he believes his world should be. ... a world of loyalty and faithfulness where the lowest of the low claim of their humanity and their freedom even though it costs them dearly.* Ian then declared *'But friends I'll tell you who is a bigger threat to our way of life ... a certain Jesus of Nazareth who some call the Christ.'* Ian shared Jesus' vision of radical equality, and then moving to the Communion Table he said *'Today we will set this table for him, for our Master and receive his welcome and hospitality here. ... We will receive what we are and become what we receive declaring together 'We are the body of Christ'. So friends come like slaves and be served by your Master here. Our Master who is Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



14/8 – Pentecost 13: Hebrews 11:29-12:2 We joyfully celebrated the baptisms and confirmations of Jacky and Saeed.



We appreciated the support of Roozbeh with translations for the baptism service and offering of readings. We sang songs in Swahili and Persian acknowledging Saeed's and Jacky's home countries.



In the midst of the Olympics, and in response to the baptisms of Jacky and Saeed, Ian introduced his sermon by sharing that he was famous adjacent with Eric Liddel, one of the subjects of the movie 'Chariots of Fire'. Ian told us a little of Eric's story and his struggle to reconcile his desire to run in the Olympics with his call to ministry. Ian reminded us that *'running the race is a key metaphor for the Christian life'*, referencing Hebrews which was written to encourage a community of Christians during a crisis of faith, reminding them that the hope of their ancestors (the great cloud of witnesses) was in the promise of God's future.

Ian went on to share stories of grace and perseverance from past and present Olympics including Kate Campbell's *cry for grace* following her fourth placement in her event, of [Gabriella](#) from Switzerland placed 37th in the first women's marathon in the 1984 Olympics which he said *powerfully embodies the race described in Hebrews* and the first ever Olympic Refugee Team being the first team to enter the Olympics in Rio, a tribute to all those forced to flee their home country.

Ian also spoke of the perseverance *particularly demanded of those who seek asylum in Australia* and honoured Jacky and Saeed's courage and perseverance commenting that *'we support them and we run together the race that is set before us, the race initiated by the love of God for us expressed in baptism'*. Ian said that *'we might extend the metaphor of the day and call Jesus the gold medal winner in the marathon of faith who yet is found at the back of the field with the last and the least so that they may share in his victory'*.

He concluded: *And friends that is the victory that honours God. All God's children reaching the goal of divine love together. That's the victory that honours God. Through baptism we all share in the victory won by Christ and we run his race for all creation. That's the hope of our faith. Thanks be to God, the source and the finish line of our living. Amen*

Ian concluded the service by presenting Saeed and Jacky with their certificates and baptism candles before offering the final benediction.



21/8 – Pentecost 14: **Luke 13:10-17; Isaiah 58:9b-14** Daniel and Ian talked with the children about going on journeys from one new thing to another and how God goes on the journey with us. We had fun singing 'One more step along the world I go'. They drew the children's and our attention to the journey that we are on as a congregation and symbolically processed up alongside the timeline on the wall, past the baptism font and around out the door to the Sunday Morning Program.

To whet our appetites for a reflection on the Sabbath Ian shared his experience of celebrating Shabbat-Shalom at the Australian Contact Improvisation Convergence in June this year with a group of non-practising secular Jews, commenting that he found it very moving. He then invited us to go with Jesus to the synagogue to celebrate Sabbath Peace first reminding us of the origin of the Sabbath, the seventh day of Creation and exploring the ways in which it has been variously observed. Ian introduced us to the women in 'bendage' oppressed, bent over by the *crushing burden of poverty, injustice and social religious exclusion*. Ian commented that there are only two stories in the gospel of Luke in which Jesus visits to the temple are described, this one and his reading of the swords of Isaiah in his home synagogue in Nazareth through he proclaims his calling, the beginning of the Jubilee of Jubilees with *the liberty of God's love and acceptance, good news for the poor, release for the captives, freedom for the oppressed*. In the synagogue today Ian said that Jesus sets the woman free after sixteen years held in bendage by the oppressive spirits of her age. He said that the gatekeepers don't get it that *'Sabbath is not about restriction, it's not about what we are forbidden to do. It's about what we are free to do. Sabbath means free for God'*. Returning to his story of the Convergence Ian told us that on the Sunday morning he went to the beach and *'... did what God does on the Sabbath. I rested and rejoiced in the goodness of Creation. God rests but not because God is tired. God rests in the completion and perfection of God's work. God revels in the what is good and we are invited to do the same even in this imperfect, incomplete and broken world of ours.'* And to conclude this Sabbath reflection Ian invited us to look at the women released from bendage, *'See her embracing her release, resting, revelling and rejoicing in her liberation, praising God, giving thanks. That is what Shabbat-Shalom looks like in the gospel. What does it look like in your living? What will the world see of God's liberating love through us, through our Sabbath observance?'* We stood and sang the immensely moving Canticle of Daniel in response. Note – if you decide to listen to the sermon stay through to the end and join in the singing.



[Prayers of the People](#) offered by Geoff Thompson responded to this Sabbath reflection.

28/8 – Pentecost 15: **Jeremiah 2:4-13; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14**

For Refugee Sunday Kirsty Bennett lead a team (Olivia Potter, Helen Burnham, Dave Stephens and Hannah Alvis) to plan worship. Throughout the service we reflected on journeys and hospitality.

We began in the Gathering Space standing between the Indigenous Sculpture and the font acknowledging the people who had been here before our journeys to Australia began. Olivia using her daily journey on tram 19 as a powerful image to shape and offer a beautiful and evocative [prayer of adoration and confession](#).





Saide spoke about the journeys that we take as individuals with the children and shared the story 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna inviting the children to comment on and notice the impact that leaving home and travelling for a long time to an unknown country had on the family in the story. We talked about being ready to welcome children like these into our homes just as Jesus' asks us to do.



Kirsty invited us into a time of reflection and response first showing a clip of Barack Obama speaking to the Canadian Parliament in which he emphasizes that ['We all come from someplace else'](#). She invited us to move and respond to a series of questions about journeys, placing photos and names of people in our families on the maps of the world identifying where they had come from. We also celebrated the positive experiences of journeys and lamented the negative experiences that so many people face.



Drawing our attention then to the Communion Table she invited us to reflect on hospitality showing us a clip of [Deng Adut](#) and the welcome that he had received coming to Australia. The worship team then very simply and beautifully set the communion table and we were invited to write on place cards celebrating who we include and invite and lamenting where and when we have not been inclusive personally, as a community and a nation.



We offered a Statement of Faith ['Welcoming the Stranger'](#). Hannah offered the Prayers of the People and Kirsty sent us on our way to continue on our journeys to support those who seek refuge and to show hospitality to strangers.

Saide Cameron

> Repairing the Roof



Have you looked up recently when you've been to the church and noticed the work on our heritage roof. The transformation is quite amazing. The whole job should be completed by **23rd September**. And the truly excellent thing is that it won't have to be done again for a very long time.



> Presbytery News

My trip to the Presbytery-in-Council meeting last Saturday, 27th August, began with tragedy when I left my BUC common cup, full of precious latte goodness, sitting on the kitchen bench. No doubt the lack of caffeine encouraged my next ineptitude. Without company in the car (since both Ian and Helen Rowe, the other Pres Rep, are away), I became engrossed in my audio book and missed the freeway exit to Hopper's Crossing. However, it was surprisingly easy to get back on the right track and I arrived in time to console myself with tea (and scones. So many scones).

After worship, the main business of the day was to discuss and adopt the final draft of the 2021 Strategy. This strategy, which will shape and guide the Presbytery for the next 5 years, follows logically from the 'Regenerating the Church' Strategy of the previous 3 years (which was recently reviewed by a team chaired by our own Shawn Whelan). It maintains the previous Strategy's emphasis on encouraging and resourcing churches to participate in God's mission, especially the idea of 'having a go' without being held back by fear of failure. However, the new strategy differs in a number of ways. Partly, this is because we've arrived at a new, possibly more challenging stage. The first stage was to get started; now we are in it for the long haul. So, for example, while the first stage emphasised one-off training days like Mission-Shaped Ministry, the new

strategy puts more energy into long-term coaching or mentoring of people trying out mission initiatives, and encouraging collaboration and networking to help share ideas and stories. Other changes reflect what was learnt as the previous strategy was implemented and evolved over time. For example, instead of talking about 'new' forms of church, or 'fresh expressions', it talks about exploring 'contextual' ways of being church. That is, the church doesn't necessarily have to do anything brand new and different to be at mission; rather, it's about working out how best to serve our communities in our own local contexts. The Presbytery's role will be to encourage, nurture and resource local congregations as they do it.

The meeting concluded with the 'severing of pastoral ties' service for our outgoing Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care (PM-PC), Ann Key, with many heartfelt words of thanks for Ann's work over her 10 years in this ministry. I should also mention that we welcomed Jenny Trehwella and John Evans as supply PM-PC and PM-Administration, respectively. Jenny is a Grandmother Against Detention and you should all sign the petition I am carrying about for her...

Buoyed up with tea, lunch and good company, I drove home without mishap. See how good it is to go to Presbytery?

Kate Scull

> Preaching Plan

September 4	Sunny Chen Holy Communion	October 2	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	October 30	Graeme Garrett
September 11	Ian Ferguson Welcoming Ceremony	October 9	Ian Ferguson Blessing the Animals	November 6	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion
September 18	Tim Budge World Week for Peace	October 16	Ian Ferguson	November 13	Ian Ferguson
September 25	Ian Ferguson	October 23	Ian Ferguson Blessing the Bicycles	November 20	Ian Ferguson

> Lectionary

After Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with feast of Christ the King

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
4/9	Pent 16	Jer 18:1-11	Ps 139:1-6, 13-18	Phlm 1-21	Lk 14:25-33	G
11/9	Pent 17	Jer 4:11-12, 22-28	Ps 14	1 Tim 1:12-17	Lk 15:1-10	G
18/9	Pent 18	Jer 8:18 - 9:1	Ps 79:1-9	1 Tim 2:1-7	Lk 16:1-13	G
25/9	Pent 19	Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15	Ps 91:1-6, 14-16	1 Tim 6:6-19	Lk 16:19-31	G
2/10	Pent 20	Lam 1:1-6	Lam 3:19-26 or Ps 137	2 Tim 1:1-14	Lk 17:5-10	G
9/10	Pent 21	Jer 29:1, 4-7	Ps 66:1-12	2 Tim 2:8-15	Lk 17:11-19	G
16/10	Pent 22	Jer 31:27-34	Ps 119:97-104	2 Tim 3:14 - 4:5	Lk 18:1-8	G
23/10	Pent 23	Jl 2:23-32	Ps 65	2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18	Lk 18:9-14	G
30/10	Pent 24	Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4	Ps 119:137-144	2 Thes 1:1-4, 11-12	Lk 19:1-10	G

September 2016 Diary - A Season of Creation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pentecost 16 Sept 4 9:30 – Sunny Chen HC, AA 11:30 – Mission Planning workshop 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W ^p	5	6	7	8	9	10
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – JAM Committee	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Pastoral Care C'tee	10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Theological Con'n	6:30 – SSS Dinners	** - YUCY Excursion 6:30 – SSS Dinners
Pentecost 17 11 9:30 – Ian Ferguson Welcoming Ceremony 10:45 – FUNdraising Stall 12:00 – SSS Lunches 5:00 – Indonesian W ^p	12	13	14	15	16	17
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 7:00 – Mulling 7:30 – Church Council	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Theological Con'n		10:00 – Food Co-op 12:00 – Food Co-op AGM
Pentecost 18 18 9:30 – Tim Budge World Week for Peace 10:45 – FUNdraising Stall 5:00 – Indonesian W ^p	19	20	21	22	23	24
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Worship C'tee	10:00 – Olive Way		
Pentecost 19 25 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 5:00 – Indonesian W ^p	26	27	28	29	30	October 1
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Property C'tee	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Pastoral Care C'tee	10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Bible Study		2:30 – Coffee
Pentecost 20 2 9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC, AA Café Style Morning Tea 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W ^p	3	4	5	6	7	8
		9:30 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 5:30 – Meditation	10:00 – Olive Way		