

THE OLIVE BRANCH

May 2018 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

> Meditation

An Easter Reflection

Mark's telling of the Easter story is a miserable accompaniment to our ongoing Easter Celebrations. It holds out on us – there's no joy or hallelujahs, and we don't get to see Jesus at all. There's just an empty tomb and terrified women, the end.

Grumpy old Mark is mainly concerned with the failure of human faith and love. The Psalmist proclaims, "God's steadfast love endures forever," but says Mark through his gospel, that divine love looks for a response in us and seldom finds it. As the women flee afraid from the tomb is this the final failure of human faithfulness and love?

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear", writes John (1John 4:18). A very Markan thing to say – do you remember the little girl who died, Jairus' daughter? Jesus said to Jairus, "Do not fear, only believe." Then he took her by the hand and raised her from her deathbed.

Do not fear, only believe. The women at the tomb fail to do this. What about us? There is so much to be frightened of in our world, but I hear a challenge to us all from the gospel of Mark, as he ends abruptly on a note of fear and failure, I hear him saying, how will this story play out in you? Will the reality of your fear paralyse you, or will you rise despite it in response to the love that calls you to join in the Easter transformation of the world?

Michael Leunig has a well known poem about this:

There are only two feelings. Love and fear.

There are only two languages. Love and fear.

There are only two activities. Love and fear.

There are only two motives, two procedures,

two frameworks, two results.

Love and fear. Love and fear.

And in Mark's Easter reality the two go together.

There is love. There is the love of the women who are there at the end and the new beginning, and there is the love of God in Christ who dies and rises and goes ahead of them. Yes there is fear and failure too, because the story is not over. That story of world transforming, death transcending, fear conquering love is still being told in the reality of your life, my life, and our life together with Christ.

Ian Ferguson



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> Culture of Safety

Who needs a working with children's check and safe church training at BUC?

The April Church Council meeting adopted the following approach to Working With Children's Checks and Safe Church Training at Brunswick Uniting Church.

Background

Synod Keeping Children Safe policy specifies that all "appointed leaders" must hold a WWCC and attend Safe Church training every 2 years, regardless of their actual interactions with children. "Appointed leaders" are: "people who are in a position of trust, influence or authority because of their leadership role within the congregation, including but not limited to elders, church councillors, worship leaders, anyone involved in children and youth events/programs/ activities, anyone commissioned by the Church Council to perform a leadership role, music leaders and organists, bible study and small group leaders". Synod policy meets the Victorian Child Safe Standards and the Royal Commission elements to create a safe environment for children.

What we require at BUC

- At BUC, all employees (regardless of role title), all members of the Church Council (Elders) and all "active children and youth leaders and volunteers e.g. SMP, YUCY, in child-related programs and activities (regardless of whether they would be defined as a "leader" above) must have a WWCC and attend training every 2 years. This includes members

of the Children Youth and Young Adults Committee (CY&YA) that makes decisions in relation to children's activities.

- Church Council clarified others who we understand to be covered by the definition of "appointed leaders" – these are Music Leaders (i.e. Co-ordinators, not all musicians), Worship Leaders (i.e. Liturgists and Childrens' Talk/AAW leaders, not all who read or pray from time to time) and Pastoral Care Leaders (including all of the Pastoral Care Committee and the members of its three Teams) need to have a valid WWCC.
- Church Council has not made a policy that all members of all committees are "appointed leaders" or otherwise required to have WWCC/attend Safe Church training.
- Obtaining a WWCC and attending Safe Church training for individuals not fitting the definition of "appointed leaders" is not compulsory but is encouraged for the community benefit this offers.

For further information about BUC's Working With Children's Check requirements, Safe Church Training or other matters relating to the safety of children and young people at BUC, please contact Helen Rowe 0423 009 813 or helen.rowe@rocketmail.com.

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

If any member of the congregation – child or adult - has concerns about the safety of our children, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse, or the welfare of vulnerable adults, you may report this in confidence so that support can be provided. You may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Culture of Safety Contact 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 at 0423 009 813

> Sharing our Faith

This is not fake news – it's truly 'Good News'

I never met the late Joan Gilchrist. She was a member of our Congregation before I joined the church.

However, I offered to assist with catering for her funeral. This gave me an opportunity to meet some of her family and a chance to chat with members of Brunswick Uniting Church that knew Joan.

As events have now unfolded, I am so glad I had that opportunity to learn a little about a woman 'ahead of her time'. Joan had an amazing life, she gained her Leaving Certificate majoring in maths, physics and chemistry, she then studied nursing, midwifery and Obstetrics, social work and was later ordained as a Uniting Church minister.

Brunswick Uniting Church has been truly blessed by receiving a generous bequest from the Estate of Joan Gilchrist in the order of \$75,000.00 earmarked for the Olive Way outreach program. Church Council have decided to invest these funds long term and use both interest earned and a proportion of the capital (\$5,000.00) annually to assist in underwriting the operating costs of that Ministry over future years.

This has an effect on the financial stability of the Olive Way and, more generally, Brunswick Uniting Church. It helps alleviate pressure from decisions that need to be made regarding the filling of current vacancies within the congregation. Also, by drawing these funds down over a period of time the effect will be long-lasting.

This will be an on-going and wonderful legacy from a very generous woman.

Joan

Joan was a loved member of BUC and participated fully in the life of the congregation. She was a volunteer at the Olive Way for three years before being admitted into care.

Glenice Cook shared these words at Joan's funeral: "Speaking with some of those who knew her, they remembered her wonderful talent for creating beautiful crocheted blankets.



Usually knitted from wool from the sales of unpicked jumpers bought at the op-shop. Some remembered her love of 'a bargain' and the pavlovas or other delicious foods that had to be consumed that day because they would be out of date by tomorrow. Joan's house was full of many items that had been purchased cheaply to enable her to give to those in need. Others remembered her loving hospitality hosting the weekly bible study and

her understanding of the texts offered in her gracious way. All remembered her beautiful smile of welcome."

Are we challenged by the gift of another?

If this story leads you to think about your own arrangements regarding money that can still be used for good here on earth once you have been laid to rest then that is a good thing.

There may be members of the Congregation who are preparing to make or revise their own Wills and may also wish to support the future costs of Ministry in this way. One couple has already been challenged by Joan's generosity and have nominated the Congregation to receive 5% of their estate when distributed after their death.

Such Bequests can be left earmarked for a particular purpose eg Ministry of Word: Pastoral Care; Children and Youth Ministry; Olive Way or any other future Outreach Ministry or left unmarked to support the current priorities of the Congregation when received.

Appropriate wording for such a Bequest

A fixed amount of \$----- or -----% of the residue of my estate to Brunswick Uniting Church at 212-214 Sydney Road, Brunswick 3056 to be applied by Church Council towards the annual cost of ----- (nominate particular Ministry) or alternatively for use at the discretion of Church Council.

For your prayerful consideration.

Claire Foley, 25/4/18,

with thanks to Barry and Glenice Cook for their contributions.



Joan with Karin Coverdale at the final South West Brunswick UC service on 13th March 2005

Joan with Barry Cook at her farewell from BUC on 13th November 2011



Farewell John Venning



Our much loved friend John Venning moved to a nursing home in Berwick earlier in the year and now lives close to his sister Dulcie. John and Dulcie came to worship on **22nd April** so that we could both formally bless and farewell John and also to celebrate his 71st birthday.

Our thanks to Sophie Delaney and Andy Calder who drove out to Berwick to respectively pick up and take John and Dulcie home.



Amazingly and so appropriately the reading from John's gospel was The Good Shepherd story. Talking with the children Ian commented that John, through his love of being a sheep in the Christmas Eve pageant each year, reminds us that we are all sheep of the Good Shepherd. He talked about the difference between how sheep were cared for in Biblical times compared to now in Australia and said that *'Being a sheep means having a shepherd and John reminds us who the Good Shepherd is by the way he's been part of this congregation. John has reminded us that we are loved by the Good Shepherd. We are cared for, we are held and that nothing can separate us from the love of our shepherd. This was a lovely segue into John's favourite [gestured blessing from Romans 8](#) that he had asked Julie Perrin to do with him every Sunday for five years 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Not height. Not depth. Not life. Not death. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Amen.'*



Later in the service Ian invited 'Team John' to come forward, the people who picked up John on Sunday mornings to bring him to worship. Vince & Rosa and other friends from Stewart Lodge also came out to share in the time of farewell and blessing.



Kirsty shared John's story as a member of our congregation telling us that he has been a member for over 25 years, from the 1990s when he moved into Stewart Lodge. Jenny Trewella was the minister then and we were delighted that she came to worship with us for this special occasions. He began to play his tone block when Wendy Mills gave it to him during the time that David Mills was the minister. He has also been a member during the ministries of Richard Arnold, Ray Gormann and now Ian.

She commented *'John has come to almost every Sunday with people who are on the driving roster and has been a keen participant in baptisms, confirmations, Palm Sunday walks and, of course, the Pageant. We will miss him.'*

Richard reflected that when we planned this service about six weeks ago one of the main reasons was that it was John's birthday the next day and we thought that it would be a good opportunity to have a birthday celebration after the service. He said *'It was almost like the Spirit was there because we had a reading from 'John' and it was all about 'The Good Shepherd' and the sheep. One of the things that we remember about John is how he reminds who our shepherd is which Ian had spoken about earlier'*. Richard presented John with his sheep costume, a set of ears, (one of many versions over the years) in the hope that he gets to use them again. He also affirmed John's love of music and praising God which we see and hear in his playing of the tone block every Sunday. John was given his tone block to take with him to his new congregations in Berwick or wherever he goes.





Ian affirmed that we have commended John into the care of Berwick Uniting Church and invited us to stand to pray and sing in blessing. The drivers, Stewart Lodge friends and other important people in John's life gathered around him as we all reached out our hands in blessing. Ian prayed *'Living God we give you thanks for all that we share as part of your flock. We give thanks for the love that has held us together with John for these past 27 years. We pray your blessing upon him in his new home in Berwick close to his beloved sister Dulcie. We pray that he may find his home there to be nurturing and loving, that he may know you, his Good Shepherd holding him, leading him, guiding him, loving him there. Bless John, bless John as your faithful servant, beloved child, a sheep of your flock. We give thanks for all that we have shared.'* We sang *'May the feet of God walk with you'*.



Vince & Rosa with John



Stewart Lodge drivers: Barry Cook, Andy Calder, David Rees, Sophie Delaney, Kirsty Bennett, Ray Cameron, Richard Arnold, Kristin Dahl. Other drivers include: David Kruse, Mal Rowe, Klaus Fiedler, Louise Adams



After the service we celebrated John's birthday. Shawn presented him with a photo book in a very special bag which had Eva's photo of the church on one side and of John on the other. These gifts were prepared by Gwen Arnold, using photos contributed by a number of people. We also wrote messages of farewell in a notebook which had John's face on it. Kirsty made John's favourite chocolate decorated with dolphins, one of God's beautiful creatures, much loved by John.

Saide Cameron

> Special Events

Save these dates for May, June and July

- **6th May** - Celebration of Anika's ministry & Cafe Style Morning Tea
- **25th-27th May** - [MMM Dinners](#) (p10)
- **30th May** - [Worship & Prayer leaders workshop](#)
- **2nd June** - Pie Bake up afternoon (p17)
- **3rd June** - FUNdraising Stall for Uniting Winter Appeal (p17)
- **9th June** - [World Wide Knit in Public Day](#) (p15)
- **16th June** - [Trivia Night & Auction](#) (p17) FUNdraising for The Olive Way
- **15th July** - Cafe Style Morning Tea
- **21st July** - Bush Dance, Sausage Sizzle & Op Shop, FUNdraising for the ASWC
- **26th July** - Mainstreams & Margins workshop, (p18)
- **29th July** - Combined BIUC service (9:30am) with Soup & Rolls lunch

> Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News



Thank you Anika

Anika has been a life force within our Brunswick Uniting Church community. Her energy, zest for life is infectious to all around her and she literally provides a light that our young people are drawn towards. We are extremely grateful that although she will be going onto working as a professional Social worker that we get to keep her as an ongoing member of the community (after a well-earned break of course).

Anika's role was created with the merging of two positions, 10 hours a week student house support worker and 8 hours a week Youth worker. This role merger became the "Student and Youth support worker". On the outside these roles involve coordinating youth group, Senior high school hangouts (called OG) and working with the student house committee to support the adults living in the BUC Student houses program. Anika excelled at all these roles and but added so much more. She was instrumental in the first student house review, resulting in well needed insights and formalised policies. She

participated fully in the ministry team receiving encouragement from the other members while offering her own valuable insights and collegial support. She joined the liturgy roster bringing her innate joyfulness, insight, faith and passion to writing prayers and leading children's talks. (We are delighted she will be continuing in this role.) She does not shy away from conflict and was able to challenge the committee and community to create meaningful outcomes. In her spare time Anika participated (aka organised and ran) the Moreland Interfaith partnership.



During these last two and half years Anika has finished her Social Degree and is well on the way with her Law degree (over achiever we know). Anika has provided so much support and background work in all areas of youth and students, she is going to be dearly missed on the CYA committee. All of us on the committee did actually attempt to refuse her resignation letter! Go with our blessings Anika with the knowledge that you have truly touched the lives of so many people in your work at BUC. We can't thank you enough!!

Anita Brown-Major, for the CY&YA committee



From Anika

In writing this reflection, I tried to think about how I felt when I started in the roles of Student House Support Worker and Youth Worker in January 2016. I can recall feeling excited to be doing community-based work as I began my Masters of Social Work, super thankful for the incredible Ministry Team I was joining, and very aware of the immensity of this work. This was both in terms of the actual work of facilitating three communities within the broader Brunswick Uniting Church, becoming aware of the complexities and responsibility of what it is to do community organisation, but also in terms of what I could vaguely feel was going to be an enormous source of personal growth.



These past two and a bit years have marked such a time of change and learning in my personal, professional and theological life and founding so much of this has been the spaces of the Student House community, YUCY, YUCY OG and the surrounding supports of the community. I've become much more conscious of the truly radical call of our faith to live in community and bear witness to the lives of one another. Perhaps it's just been a part of growing up and knowing myself, but WOW such a call is not a simple one, it's a messy, fluid, communal act and one that by nature cannot be done without help.

We are super lucky to have such mature, reflexive, vulnerable and considerate young people in the Brunswick Uniting orbit. These young people, in youth group, the student house spaces and life in general, offer so much compassion, joy and enthusiasm to those around them and it's seriously incredible that BUC is able to devote a space for such friendship, pondering and community to blossom.

Surrounded by these young people and myself as a community facilitator has been splendid and thoughtful committees and, of course, the Ministry Team. I have to dearly thank my wonderful friend Anita Major-Brown specifically for all of her hard work as CYYA chair over the past year, and also throughout my whole time in this role being a wonderful and caring supervisor, mentor and kick-up-the-arse I forever need.

The broader CYYA and Student House Committees have been stellar supports for me and to the youth and young adults communities themselves also. Thank you so much for your hard hard work and care I want to talk about you all individually but I shouldn't. And the ever-changing Ministry Team of Ian, Julie, Fiona, Steph, Peter and Caitlin, thanks for being a thoughtful soundboard in how we do community here at BUC.

I hold the BUC community so tenderly in my heart and I'm so bloody glad I've been able to grow in faith and life under the guidance of so many caring, dedicated, strong humans. I'm so excited to return to the community as a member of the community without the distance of being a worker!! And I'm even more excited to see the young people of this community continue to be honoured for their God-given gifts, thoughts and flaws.

Anika Jensen



Student House Update

There have been some lovely things happening amidst the hectic study times as we head into the assessment and exam end of the semester. The informal joys and minutia of community living has brought combined dinners, house maintenance and various other activities to the houses of late. Huge thanks to the glorious Hunters for their hard work on the maintenance end of thing, and of course handy man Laurie!

Another thankyou is in order to the Hunters for hosting the most recent Student House Dinner. There was great food, conversations and provocative and thoughtful theological reflections! The hallmarks of a Student House dinner.

Beyond that, many of the students attended Church Camp last weekend! It was so lovely to enjoy each other's company, learn how to BBQ and be together with the BUC community.



YUCY and YUCY OG

We are well and truly into term 2 of YUCY!! For the first hang after the Easter break, we had a big combined catch-up at Coburg Uniting with their youth and young adults as well as our pals from Fairfield. There was a monstrous game of sardines (Coburg has a second floor!) and lots of meeting new mates! It will be nice, however, to have the classic crew this Friday for our usual hangs where we'll play all our favourite games and make some plans for new beginnings after I leave.



Speaking of, if you would like to help out in this between time before a new Youth Worker arrives, please get in touch with the CYYA committee! The rest of the term 2 dates are: May 18, June 1, June 15. Thinking ahead, the term 3 dates will be: July 20, August 3, August 17, August 31, September 14

YUCY OG have also been continuing study catch-ups and hangs, we've had 2 study sessions in the last month which have been FAB. Hannah Alvis wrote a whole new resume last time! There'll hopefully be more hangs coming up, Anita Major-Brown will be in touch.



I've spoken to this more in my reflection, but I'm going to miss these communities so much. I know the youth and students never read this, but you're all so loved by the BUC community and you're all fine and wonderful people always.

Anika Jensen, Student and Youth Support Worker

Thank you Caitlin



This week we farewell with a BIG Thankyou Caitlin Mullen-Beagley from her role as the interim Children and family worker. Caitlin stepped into the 10 hour a week admin role 6 months ago and have supported the children within the BUC community. She has been instrumental in the pageant (writing, directing and organising), Church camp, organising and leading many of the Sunday Morning program classes and general coordination for children in the community. We send Caitlin with our blessing into her new permanent role at a high school and are sure that her skills will be well used in such a role. We hope and pray that after a well-earned break we can convince Caitlin to come back as a volunteer role within the CYA program, our kids are actually insisting on it!



We are grateful to Janet Watson Kruse for agreeing to take on this same role. Please talk to Janet, 0425 71 71 79 if you are interested in being on the Sunday Morning Program roster as a teacher or assistant. You will need to have a Working with Children's Check. See below for details about this.

Anita Brown-Major, chair of CY&YA committee

Student House Faith Spot - Quilan Goff

Hi everyone, my name is Quilan. I'm currently in my third and final year of a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) at Victoria University. I was born in Melbourne but I grew up in Lakes Entrance, in East Gippsland. I lived in Lakes Entrance for my entire life until I moved to Melbourne for university.

One of my main hobbies is playing French horn and I have been given a very warm welcome into the music team at the Brunswick Uniting Church. I've loved living in the Brunswick Student House thus far and am looking forward to the rest of the year. I'm very grateful for the warm welcome that I've received and I look forward to meeting everyone throughout the year.



> Worship Calendar

May

Anika Jensen will conclude her role as our Youth and Student House Support Worker at the end of April. On **Sunday 6th May** we will acknowledge and celebrate her ministry during worship and with a presentation during morning tea.



We conclude the season of Easter celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit on **Pentecost Sunday, 20th May**.

Sounds, images, songs and stories will shape our worship. Be ready to wear something **red**.

During worship on **Trinity Sunday, 27th May** we will celebrate the **baptism** of Jacob Lourey, son of Ally Carpenter & Adam Lourey.



June

The **Uniting Winter Appeal** is held during the month of June and we will acknowledge the work of this appeal during worship on **3rd June**.

Ian will have other commitments on **10th** and **17th June**. We look forward to welcoming two of our own local regular preachers on these Sundays.

We will acknowledge **Refugee Week** and the **41st Anniversary** of the **Uniting Church** on **24th June**.

#WithRefugees is the theme for [Refugee Week](#) 17th-23rd June 2018 in Australia.

Uniting



> Happy Birthday

Chris Allan, Kim Allan, Peter Allan, Andrea Alvis, Sheree Anderson, Richard Arnold, Benedict Baker, Fran Barber, Michael Cameron, James Clough, Brian Conway, Malachi Conway, Gus Coverdale, Clara Hall, Anita Major, Aidan McNamara, Catherine Mullen, William Nankervis, Lauren Reader, Dieter Tieman

Please email saide.cameron@bigpond.com to have your name added to the birthday list. There are lots more people in our congregation than there are on the lists!!



> Pastoral Care News

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee met in April to again review how our journey with Pastoral Care and its ministries for Hospitality, Compassion and Community was going. These three ministries have the care of our congregation at the heart of all their various activities with an emphasis on a community of people caring for each other.

At the meeting the Committee members also laid out goals for 2018 and reviewed a list of people from the BUC Directory who we haven't heard from for a while and may need follow up.

Hospitality Ministry

April saw a continuous stream of newcomers and visitors warmly welcomed not just by members of the Hospitality team and our Minister, but also by you, our BUC congregation. Newcomers come to Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) by many different pathways. For example, knowing someone already part of BUC, seeing the BUC website, it is close to where they live, the Sunday School and Youth program, a future Baptism, they have seen something in the Tower window which has touched them, Olive Way, they have heard of BUC and want to check it out and so many more ways. Whatever pathway, all are welcome.

Many visitors were also welcomed particularly for John Venning's farewell on Sunday 22nd April. It was an emotional farewell to John as he settles into his new residence in Berwick. He will be missed.

Compassion Ministry

The Compassion Ministry Team continued to work behind the scenes responding to needs of several within the congregation. The team meets and communicates with each other on a regular basis. At a recent meeting they also developed their goals for 2018. A new program within this Ministry is being developed by the team, whereby they will make a time to visit various other BUC groups to discuss pastoral care matters for the particular group. Also three of the Compassion team attended the two day Mental Health First Aid Course run at BUC recently and found it a very beneficial course.

The ministry of personal prayer also continued where members of the congregation, friends or family are prayed for on a daily

We also discussed an upcoming workshop about being on the Margins or in the Mainstream, suggested to the Discipleship and Education committee – keep an eye out for a July date.

On another topic, we discussed the need for emergency supplies of food to have on hand for Sunday morning tea when food generously given by those on the morning tea roster, find that their food runs out quickly. Hospitality provided in this way at BUC is an important part of our care of the community.

Jane Allardice

The Hospitality team met on 12th April to again discuss how the Hospitality Ministry was travelling, review the list of newcomers for follow up and arrange a new Sunday Hospitality roster for April and May. The Newcomers Card was also reviewed for current relevancy, as well as the development of an on-line form for people to complete. In line with all other Committees, goals for 2018 were developed and will be sent to Church Council.

If you are new or newish and have yet to obtain a name tag or to get onto the BUC email list, please ask for the Newcomers Card to complete from the welcomers at the front door on a Sunday morning or contact Jane Allardice or Ian Ferguson. Equally if you wish to become more engaged with the activities and life at BUC, the Hospitality team would love to assist you – Ian Ferguson, Jane Allardice, Ray Cameron, Sheila Calwell, Graham Lawrence, Alyce Verheijden and Michael Rigby.

Jane Allardice

basis by others in the congregation until a request is made to be withdrawn. It 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 or wish to join in praying, please just telephone or email (see compassion team names below). 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 support, for example, talking with someone, a lift to appointments, food at times of illness, please contact Glenice Cook, Leanne Salau, Claire Foley or Gwen Arnold.

Glenice Cook

Community Ministry

The community life of our congregation continues to provide ways for people to connect, interact, share food and conversation. In many instances our team has had nothing to do with organizing the events however we are very, very supportive and delight in acknowledging what has been happening.

May

In May we are looking forward to one small and one big event. After worship on **6th May**, Morning Tea will be offered Cafe Style making good use of the Olive Way tables & chairs. It's nice to, once a term, sit and chat with people around a table.

Everyone is invited to join in [Marvellous Mouth-Watering May dinners](#) (or a lunch) over the last weekend in May: **25th, 26th & 27th**. Invitations have been prepared and will be available before and after worship on 6th & 13th May. After these dates remaining invitations will be posted to your home.

So what's involved? In short you can be a guest or a host or you can actually be both on two separate dates. Everyone brings food to share and after that it's all about sharing a meal and conversation. It's a marvellous opportunity to get to know people you may not have met before. Make sure you collect your invitation. If you have any questions please contact Saide, 0407 096 743.



June

Save the date for two big FUNdraising events - a Pie Bake & Stall for the Uniting Winter Appeal on **2nd & 3rd June** and a Trivia Night for the Olive Way on **16th June**.

And now here's just a few stories celebrating community in April...

MS Melbourne Cycle

Thirteen riders (Colin, Alistair and Liz Hunter, Ray Cameron, Janet Watson Kruse, Dave Kruse, Fiona MacDowall, Hoth Benney, Simone Alesich, Michael Rigby, Graeme Lawrence, Courtney Rohde, James Balsillie) set off to participate in this annual charity event on **Sunday 15th April** making up Team Hunter Clan. Tim Hoffmann experienced bike issues and instead rode a short course numerous times. They experienced drenching rain but their spirits and enthusiasm were not dampened and everyone finished the ride.

This was Hunter Clan's tenth ride and Colin expressed his gratitude to the team *'Thank you each one for a wonderful effort today, it was such a delight to spend time with you on the ride, and then at the finish line as we warmed-down with our favoured beverage.'*

Gratitude and thanks has previously been expressed to the congregation for our generous support of the riders resulting in \$2,855 being raised for research into multiple sclerosis and support for those diagnosed with the condition and their families.



A visit to a local mosque

On the same day (**15th April**) Tim Budge invited anyone from BUC to come with him and Meredith to visit the Albanian mosque in North Carlton.

Tim and Meredith were joined by Jenny, Meg, Joanne and myself. The mosque was open as part of the Islamic Council of Victoria's 'Mosque Open Day' 2018 with the aim of opening not only doors but the hearts of the public of all beliefs to strengthen community spirit, build better relationships with neighbours and breakdown misconceptions about Islam. There are an estimated 200,000 Muslims currently living in Victoria.

What a wonderfully hospitable experience it was to walk into this mosque in Drummond St, North Carlton. We had the opportunity to wander through and experience the simple, dignified architecture of this mosque. From what I was told a mosque will often have no iconology or statues in order to assist people in their prayer – by not being distracted from their connection with God in this holy place.

We were honoured to have the Mosque's Imam Dr Bekim Hasani talk to us and answer questions.

The mosque was built in the '60s – one of the first in Melbourne. The minaret (the tower) was added in the 80s. One reason a minaret might be built, in times past, would be so that travellers could see in the distance where a mosque might be. A welcome symbol for a traveller. Joanne commented to me that this is the same as a church tower.

As we had identified to Dr Hasani that we were a group from Brunswick Uniting Church he was very keen to draw on similarities between Christianity, Judaism and Islam. He explained a Muslim person must answer to God and God only for his or her actions - not to other people within the community.

One of the reasons why Muslim people pray five times a day is to maintain the link between Allah and themselves, reminding them constantly that the actions of their daily life is what is important ... not what they may say as a prayer when at the Mosque.

People of the Muslim faith fast at Ramadan. One reason is this is a way to connect with those people in the world that do not have enough to eat on a daily basis. Their community finds that fund raising is always increased during Ramadan because people's empathy is increased during this period.

Charity to those around you is also an important aspect of the Muslim faith. It was explained that it is not only important to give to others overseas but you need to be aware of your neighbour and their needs. The mosque has been supporting the Good Friday hospital appeal for many years ... this was just one example.

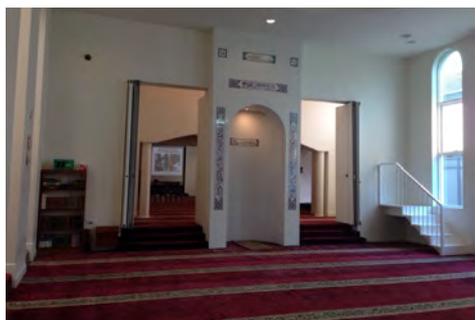
I felt sad that Muslim people, who follow a faith that has such strong values of peace; prayer; charity and personal responsibility - all so similar to our Christian faith - suffer a lot of prejudice in our society and in the Western world generally.

Our hosts were very keen to emphasise that a person who is violent is not following the Islamic religion. The Albanian Australian Islamic Society in Carlton runs information sessions to anyone who is interested eg school groups; out and abouters.

Once we left the mosque we all took up the very generous offer from Tim and Meredith to return to their home for lunch. We shared a lovely light lunch. The conversation was very enjoyable and I think we all felt inspired by the visit.

This was an unexpected outing for me and a really enjoyable one. Thanks to the initiative of the Budes and also to Meg, Jenny and Joanne for contributing to the energy of the day.

Claire Foley, 15.04.18



Working Bee & BBQ



A small hard working group of people stayed on after worship on **22nd April** to attend to some important maintenance and gardening tasks identified by the Property Committee. The Community Team provided a sausage sizzle & salads for the workers & others to enjoy.



The Property Committee:
James Clough, Andrew Moorhouse, Ray Cameron, Jenny Hunter, (& Colin Hunter)

Church Camp - Bearing Fruit

Our home away from home at the Adekate camp site, as always, provided us with the venue to spend a weekend together. This year our theme was 'Bearing Fruit' based on John 15:1-12. Over the course of the weekend approximately 70 people came & went or stayed to enjoy the bush setting and the company, laughter, food, conversation, board games, netball, werewolves, archery, music and worship.

Friday

A time to leave the city behind at the end of the working week, to relax and simply be in company with others.



Following on from afternoon tea the options were Taize worship in the Bush, Werewolves with Caitlin & Daniel or Concert Preparation with Rachel. Amelia offered this reflection on Taize worship:

Late on Saturday afternoon, a group of around twenty campers proceeded out into the bush to experience worship in the Taize style, which originated in the ecumenical Taizé community in France. We gathered amongst the trees, around a lantern and a cross built from bark and leaves foraged from the surrounding area. The cross had a curved form that suggested a dove in flight.

The service incorporated meditative singing interwoven with readings and prayers.



Musical accompaniment was provided by Shawn on the guitar, James with his septavox and Courtney on the flute. In prayer and reflection, we appreciated being in a space filled with the sound of many voices, the rustling of the wind through the leaves and the light and shadows changing all around us at the closing of the day.



Saturday

The early birds met for morning meditation with Anthony.

Breakfast, more arrivals and the opening workshop to help us delve into the theme 'Bearing Fruit'. Ian invited us to find a partner who had the same favourite fruit - mango anyone? They taste like sunshine to me! Starting in small groups and building up to the whole group we moved in the circle 'grapevine' style. Moving on we shared the reading of verses from John 15:1-12 and found gestures and shapes to respond to them.

Morning Tea was followed by a few options: a Bush Walk, Craft Activity or Netball Skills training. It's so lovely to walk through the bush together, chatting and noticing the changes from one year to the next.

Lunch - wow, thank you to Courtney, James, Amelia and Kimberly for a delicious lunch of baked potatoes and spicy bean sauce with coleslaw on the side.

Free time was up next and it was such a beautiful day many of us found something to do outdoors. The afternoon continued with a netball tournament and archery. Competition was fierce and fun on the netball court. Thank you to Rachel and Caitlin for all the coaching, umpiring and encouragement. And thank you to Anthony for heroically coaching all would-be archers on both technique and safety.



Dinner was the very familiar and delicious, possibly traditional Pasta Bake (with gluten free & vegetarian options) followed by Sticky Date Pudding and Apple Crumble (also with gluten free options, next year dairy free as well!). Thank you Saide & Ray.



The entertainment for the evening began with a couple of songs in the Dining Room - I'm sure many of us still find ourselves humming Banana Phone, thank you Shawn, Natalie and Daniel! The concert was short & sweet this year offering jokes, songs and a hilarious rendition of 'King Bidgood's in the bath tub'.





We farewelled a number of campers and day visitors and then settled into a Board and Card games tournament in the Dining Hall, followed by a very enthusiastic sing along into the late hours of the evening.



Sunday

Breakfast saw an appropriately slow start to the day followed by preparation for worship which was done in three groups by people of all ages. With beautiful almost clear skies we worshipped outdoors, starting around



the camp fire with a prayer of thanksgiving, and then walking down to the amazing clearing in the bush. We gathered flora as we went, and laid the items in confession on the cross laid on the ground. We responded to the verses that shaped our Saturday worship with movement and gesture. Ian led our celebration of communion using the liturgy he had written for the Nourish series in which we say 'Thank you God', 'Remember Me' and 'Come Holy Spirit'. We prayed for the world and the community. Natalie led us in the hauntingly beautiful call & response [Lord's Prayer](#). We received, ate and drank in a circle. We concluded worship weaving our grapevine singing 'God is love' before being sent out again with this blessing:



*Abide in Jesus as Jesus abides in you
Go out to be signs of God's love
Shared God's love with those we meet
Help others. Talk. Listen to each other.
Be open. Warm.
Share God's love with those we meet.*



Anika together with Brianna, Liz and Cecily from the Student House sizzled sausages for our lunch. After lunch Caitlin and our very enthusiastic young people encouraged us to part with our money for the privilege of taking home leftover food.



They've obviously been watching Alistair Hunter very closely over the years as they were clearly channelling his style, language and enthusiasm! Nearly \$600 was raised!

Anthony Hinds, our camp coordinator, offered this reflection:

I really appreciated the space to walk and talk and reflect on where my faith journey is up to, with trusted peers, and through the shared liturgies.

And it was such a treat to see young people not only bite off and chew, but also master and really own, the different aspects of church camp life - whether it was preparing the brochure, writing parts of the camp worship service, auctioning off the food, or

planning, shopping and cooking the meals. The next generation (oof - how old am I?) are taking and making the camp their own.

So - many, many thanks to the committee - Anthony Hinds, Shawn Whelan, Courtney Rohde, Amelia Ware, Caitlin & Rachel Mullen-Beagley - for your dedication and enthusiasm in bringing us Church Camp 2018 - Bearing Fruit.

Save the dates for next year - **24th-26th May, 2019**

Saide Cameron