

THE OLIVE BRANCH

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

> Meditation

Breaking down the wall

We now have marriage equality in our nation and in our church. Last week our Assembly meeting decided “to honour the diversity of Christian belief among our members, by holding two equal and distinct statements of belief on marriage” – one that says marriage is between a man and a woman, and a new one that says it is between two people.

How is it possible for the Uniting Church in Australia to hold two different and contradictory views on marriage simultaneously? – and to say that “both are faithful to the gospel of Christ”? At least one of them must be wrong. Can we allow such disagreement, and possibly error, to exist as doctrine in our church? The answer our Assembly gave was “Yes we can” – we can allow differences of opinion to exist among us in matters which do not enter into the substance of the faith [Basis of Union 14(d)].

This is not unheard of in our church. We are a union of three denominations with different traditions and practices – in order to form the Uniting Church, we didn’t ask everyone to become Presbyterian or Methodist or Congregationalist, we held these three similar but different traditions side by side as we travelled forward together. Living with difference is part of our formational identity as a church. And we are not alone in this among churches if Paul’s letter to the Ephesians is anything to go by (Eph 2:11-22).

In ancient Ephesus Jewish and Gentile (non-Jewish) followers of Jesus were separated by a wall of doctrine, ritual, religious law, culture, tradition and history. Representing, as they did, two completely different embodiments of faith and Christian identity, how could they be united in one church? Should Gentiles have to convert to Judaism to be Christian, adopt Jewish practices like circumcision for males, kosher food and purity laws? Frankly, the arguments for this are pretty strong. After all, Jesus was a Jew, all his first followers were Jews, they claimed him as the Jewish Messiah, the anointed King of Israel, the hoped for ruler of the world in Jewish mythology. How does any of that make sense outside of Judaism? The other faction made the preposterous claim that anyone should be able to follow Jesus regardless of culture, religion, race, gender, nationality or social class. And it was this faction that wrote the New Testament

with its outrageous open border policy. All you have to do to get in to the church according to the New Testament is have faith in Jesus. There are no rules you have to obey, no values test you have to pass, no residential requirements, no oath of allegiance, no dietary restrictions, no wardrobe stipulations. Just faith.

Paul writes: Christ is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups [Jew and Gentile] into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. Christ breaks down walls, erases borders, bringing peace. That is what he’s about in his church. The Gentiles don’t have to convert, the Jews don’t have to give up their Judaism, but in Christ, their difference is held, in Christ they are unified in their diversity, in Christ they are one. Because, writes Paul, He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace. A new humanity – one diverse people held in the love of Christ, a new rainbow humanity where differences thrive.

Of course, this doesn’t mean that anything goes. There is still right and wrong, still the need for justice and reconciliation. Some might say, by opening itself to the full expression of marriage equality, the Uniting Church has placed itself outside the circle of God’s love in Christ. But my sense is that the circle of grace is bigger than us, bigger than the Uniting Church, bigger than all the various different and imperfect manifestations of Christianity together, bigger than the world and all human frailties and failings. We might mark borders and build walls, but the love of God excludes no-one. God’s love breaks down walls, erases dividing lines, making peace with justice.

And, according to Paul, God does this through the cross. Christ makes peace, reconciles and recreates through the cross, writes Paul, putting to death the hostility that divides us. On the cross God takes the divisions, the injustice, the hostility, the hard heartedness and violence of humanity into God’s own body.

So the question becomes, not who is in and who is out of the church, but how do we respond to God’s self-giving love for all in Christ? How will we become cocreators of peace with justice under the sign of the cross which points in all directions and holds us in love as one crucified and risen body?

Ian Ferguson



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> Worship Calendar

August

Ian & Beth will be enjoying a two week holiday in August.

We will welcome **Carlynn Nunn**, member of our congregation and candidate for the ministry, as our preacher on **12th August** and **Geoff Thompson**, also a member of our congregation and Co-ordinator of Studies - Systematic Theology, as our preacher on **19th August**.



Join us for a **Singalong** on **12th August** from 1-3pm with afternoon tea. If you have any favourite songs or songs you want to learn please contact Natalie Sims, 0457 054 807

September

We will engage with the lectionary readings and consider what they offer us around the theme of how our faith enables us to 'look at things differently'.

During worship on **16th September** we will offer a **Welcoming Ceremony**. This will be an opportunity for



people who are new to the congregation to name Brunswick UC as their spiritual home. More details next month or contact Ian Ferguson if you want to find out more, 438 547 842.



We worship twice on **30th September**. The **9:30 morning service** will have a **reflective shape** and feel. Morning Tea will not be provided. We will join the **Brunswick Indonesian congregation** in the afternoon for **worship at 5** and for the meal after worship.

> Happy Birthday

Rosemary Brown, William Coulson-Burke, Hannah Denison, Ian Ferguson, Kristin Flint, Jeremy Hardman, Ingrid Hollis, Christine Hornby, Chelsea Hunter, Bridget McNamara, Kilian McNamara, Clancy Moore, Andrew Moorhouse, Meg Moorhouse, Caitlin Mullen-Beagley, Genevieve Mullen, Kirsten Parris, Philip Potter, Jan Sebastian, Monty Winkler

October

Responding to the **series reflecting on death** being offered by the Discipleship & Education series Ian will engage with the theme during worship on one or more of the **Sundays in October**.

We are also looking forward to two big blessings

- **Blessing the Animals** on **Sunday 14th October** - Bring your pet(s) or a photo if that's easier/safer to worship for a special blessing. We offer this blessing in response to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (4/10).



- **Blessing the Bikes** on **Sunday 28th October** - Ride (or walk) to worship if you can. We gather out on the steps after worship to have our non-motorised wheeled transport blessed. This is one small way of showing our care and respect for the environment.



After worship you are invited to ride or simply come along to Temple Park, Grey St. Brunswick where the Community Team will host our annual **Spring Picnic**. Bring your own lunch or something to share. A bike ride will follow.

Join us for another **Singalong** on **21st October** from 1-3pm with afternoon tea. We'll be learning and singing songs in preparation for Advent. If you have any requests or suggestions please contact Natalie Sims, 0457 054 807.



> Special Events

Save these dates for **August to October**

- **29th July & 5th August** - [Art for the Heart](#)
JAM News - BUC Arts, p 8
- **5th August** - Congregational Meeting re Olive Way Kitchen
JAM News - Olive Way, p 7
- **11th & 25th August** - [Safe Church Awareness Training](#)
CY&YA News, p 4
- **12th August** - [Sunday Singalong](#) - just for fun
Worship Calendar, p 2
- **19th August** - [Student House Working Bee & Lunch](#)
CY&YA News, p 4
- **26th August** - [Sunday Lunch](#), *Pastoral Care News, p 5*
- **14th-16th September** - [SSS Dinners & Lunch](#)
Pastoral Care News, p 5
- **16th September** - Welcoming Ceremony
Worship Calendar, p 2
- **30th September** - 9:30am Reflective Service, and later 5:00 pm Combined BIUC service, *Worship Calendar, p 2*
- **Thursdays in October** - [D&E series reflecting on Death](#)
D&E News, p 11
- **14th October** - [Blessing the Animals](#)
Worship Calendar, p 2
- **21st October** - [Sunday Singalong](#) - preparing for Advent
Worship Calendar, p 2
- **28th October** - [Blessing the Bikes](#) & Spring picnic
Worship Calendar, p 2

> Presbytery News

Steph Gesling and I attended Port Phillip West's Presbytery-in-Council meeting together on Saturday 21st July in Hopper's Crossing. As usual, the meeting began by welcoming new members, and both of us were delighted to find old friends among the newcomers, including Robyn Hodge and Paul Stephens (part of the old 'Bairnsdale bunch' with me) and Steph's mate Will Nicholas, whose induction we had attended in Geelong a week before.

As a Presbytery we made two important decisions on Saturday, both involving a secret ballot. In the first, we approved Brent Pelton's request to be considered at the Selection Conference as a potential candidate for ministry (Deacon). Brent spoke movingly about his faith journey, especially the influence of growing up poor in Iowa while being taught about a judgemental and distant God. Later, he came to know that God is with us and on our side. Through these experiences, he has developed a strong passion for social justice and 'building the Kingdom of God', especially among the marginalized and oppressed. For years, he has been acting on his convictions by teaching refugees and immigrants, but now feels called to add the 'faith element' by ministering to such communities as a deacon, and has recently found encouragement and a real sense of spiritual belonging in the UCA, at Pilgrim UC in Yarraville. (Can you tell that I was hugely impressed by him?!) The Presbytery approved his inclusion in the Selection Conference unanimously.

The second decision was trickier. We had been asked to approve (or not) an extension of up to 5 years for Charles Gallacher and Kerrie Lingham's joint ministry in Queenscliff/Point Lonsdale. They have already been in placement there for 20 years, while the usual UCA practice is to move on ministers after a maximum of 10 years. The reasons for this practice include sharing a minister's gifts throughout the church, and ensuring congregations won't get 'in a rut' under one minister's leadership. However, UCA regulations don't actually preclude the possibility of extending a placement indefinitely. Each request

for extension should be judged individually, and it boils down this: is an extension a) best for the congregation and b) best for the minister(s)? Before the decision comes before Presbytery, a special consultation process is held with the congregation and ministers for their own discernment about where God is calling them in the immediate future. In this case, the consultation team strongly advocated the importance of the extension for both the ministers and congregation. We heard that Queenscliff/Point Lonsdale are certainly not stagnating, but have come through a 'paradigm shift' from a traditional (small) Sunday-morning congregation to a 'community of communities' meeting throughout the week, and with a particularly strong emphasis on links with the wider community. This includes the hugely impressive annual SacredEdge festival. The unusual nature of this ministry means that a clumsy change of leadership could be devastating. Thus, our discussion crystallised around two 'transitional' foci; first, the benefits of long-term leadership in helping a community 'transition' to a new way of being church, and second, how crucial it is to strategize for 'transition' in church leadership, to ensure that progress made does not depend on any one person, whose sudden absence could make the whole thing fall in a heap! Presbytery expressed concern that currently 'we don't do transition well'. Ultimately, we approved the extension of up to 5 years, but also minuted the Presbytery's intention to investigate the issue of 'planned transition' in detail, inviting Synod's input and possibly using Queenscliff as a test case to help develop some 'best practices' to smooth transitions in church leadership.

One more event is worth mentioning – Presbytery members who attended Assembly were asked to comment on the meeting. All of them agreed that the worship and bible studies permeating all the events of the week were wonderful and inspiring, and helped to shape the meeting into a community of faith. Go Ian, and all the Brunswick musicians who helped lead worship!

Kate Scull

> Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

SMP



Janet Watson Kruse, our Interim Children & Families worker, hosted a meeting for everyone involved in the Sunday Morning Program after worship on 15th July. This was an opportunity for Janet to provide an update about the program, share joys and concerns and plan the term ahead. If you are interested in joining the SMP as either a leader or assistant please contact Janet, 0425 71 71 79.

YUCY

YUCY is thriving under the leadership of our Interim Youth Support Worker **Janet Hogan**. Teenagers from Years 7-10 gather fortnightly on Friday evenings in the Youth Hall for fun and fellowship. Dates for the remainder of the term are: **3,17, 31/8 and 14/9**. Contact Janet if you want or need more information, 0423 338 674.

> Culture of Safety

Safe Church Training – two opportunities!

Workshop No 1 – A Basic Safe Church Awareness Workshop will be offered on **Saturday 11th August** at 1.30-4.15 pm. This Workshop is for all who have never attended Basic Training including all leaders and volunteers in Children and Youth activities and all Appointed leaders at BUC.

Anyone who is interested may also attend. The trainer is Rev Tony Duncan.

Have you attended Safe Child training in your workplace or in another volunteer role?
Please speak to Helen Rowe about how this can be credited to your involvement at BUC.

Any questions – contact Helen.

RSVP by Sunday 5 August for either of the workshops to: Helen Rowe 0423 009 813 or Email helen.rowe@rocketmail.com

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

If any member of the congregation – young or older has concerns about the safety of our children, in particular 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 Culture of Safety 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.

Student House

It's time for a **Working Bee at the Student House**. Everyone is invited to head on down to the Student Houses after worship on **19th August**, from 11:30am-1pm. The focus of the working bee will be gardening and general cleaning up. Your rewards will be time spent working together and a delicious lunch at 1pm. Bring whatever tools you think will help with the work and please RSVP to **Valentina Satvedi Leydon**, our Interim Student House Support Worker, 0456 099 448 by 15th August to assist with catering for lunch.



Updates

To learn more about our Interim Support workers visit '[Meet the Team](#)' on our website.

To learn more about the Children, Youth & Young Adult ministry visiting '[Growing in Faith](#)' on our website.

To offer to join the Children, Youth & Young Adults Committee and so support this ministry please contact CYA Chair, Anita Brown-Major, 0424 034 096. At the Congregational Meeting in May Shawn Whelan, Church Council Chair, encouraged us to consider where we currently focus our energy and gifts and if this might be an opportunity to change focus even for a short time.

Please see the Church Council report for details of the JNC formed to call an ordained person to the role of Children and Youth Pastor.

Saide Cameron

> Pastoral Care News

Pastoral Care Committee

The committee met early in July to discuss several items, such as – how the three Pastoral Care Ministries were travelling; promotion of the 26th July “Mainstream and Margins” Workshop; updating the Pastoral Care Contact card and the next joint meeting in August of all Pastoral Care teams together. We also sent cards on behalf of the Brunswick Uniting Church to those who had lost a family member. We send our warm sympathies and blessings to Catherine Mullen, Clare Boyd-Macrae and Alison Nixon who all lost a beloved parent.

Jane Allardice

Hospitality Ministry

The Hospitality team of Ian Ferguson, Jane Allardice, Ray Cameron, Sheila Calwell, Graham Lawrence and Michael Rigby, seeks to welcome and to nurture a culture of welcome, for those who are wondering about joining the Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) Community and for visitors. We in the team also seek to assist newcomers make connections within the congregation through such things as the multitude of activities at BUC as well as introductions to others in the community. In doing this, we take on the role of a host offering hospitality, but also the role of a guest asking permission to enter the space and life of another.

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, one of the Hospitality team would love to assist you.

Jane Allardice

Compassion Ministry

June/July has been quite a busy month for the Compassion Team. We are continuing to work towards our goal of speaking to many of the groups within our congregation with an aim to give them information about both what we do and how they can be part of the Pastoral Care within our community.

We have distributed both food vouchers and food from our freezer to those requiring it. Contact has been maintained with those experiencing some difficult issues and the prayer group is continuing to offer daily prayers to those who request them. The freezer food supplies are getting low and we will be replenishing it shortly.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if either you or someone you know needs our assistance. A call to Ian Ferguson, Leanne Salau or Glenice Cook will allow us to act.

Glenice Cook

Community Ministry

During **July** we enjoyed a number of community gatherings, alongside all the usual ways we gather - committees, food co-op, groups, worship, etc.

- On **8th July** the **BUC Cycle group** enjoyed a ride along the Merri Creek Bike path up to the Ring Road and then back along Moonee Ponds Creek. It was great to have Hoth and Thomas, a couple of young riders, joining in. The next two rides will be on **9th September** and **28th October**.
- Cafe Style Morning Tea** was offered after worship on the **15th July**. Interestingly most people stood around chatting as usual instead of sitting at the tables. All good though.
- The **Bush Dance** was another excellent community event on **21st July** whilst also serving as a FUNdraiser for the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre.
- We swapped the Soup & Rolls lunch which was on the calendar for 29th July for a **post Bush Dance Sausage Sizzle** after worship on **22nd July** - an excellent and enjoyable way to use up the left-overs from the Bush Dance and Brooch Day.



During **August** the Community Team will host a **lunch at Cafe Marcella** (just a few doors up from the church) after worship on **26th August**. Main course and a drink will be a maximum of \$20. All are welcome, the food is delicious and pizzas are on the menu. Look out for RSVP details in the Olive Press 16/8.

In **September** our next **triple letter meals** will coincide with the second **Welcoming Ceremony** for the year on the weekend of **14th-16th September**.

More details next month.

SSS

Saide Cameron



> Justice & Mission News

From the committee

BUC Arts - The main focus for our July meeting was the **ArtStop review**. We welcomed the review team - Beth Shelton, Liz Johnson and Colin Hunter - to our meeting together with special guests Tim Hoffmann and Ian Ferguson. We appreciated the opportunity to share our reflections on the relationships between Arts Access, Olive Arts Collective, Olive Way and our congregation. More details next page.

We offered our appreciation for Leanne Salau and Tim Hoffman's work in preparing an application for **Pick my Project**, a government initiative. The \$46,000 application is for a project to develop the meditative garden (a project of the worship committee) which will feature the planned mural on our new sheds and a sculpture. We await with anticipation the response to our application. If successful a campaign to secure votes for the project will be implemented.

Ann Soo has prepared an abstract for the **Australia & New Zealand Therapy Conference** focusing on community engagement and development with reference to the World Wide Knit in Public. We look forward to the outcome of this submission.

Saide Cameron prepared an application in collaboration with Damien Coleridge (co-ordinator of the Sydney Rd. Opera Company) for the **Brunswick Music Festival program**. Although our application was not successful it was fun to think about the themes of place, community, inclusivity, space and neighbourhood. Our proposal was titled '**Big Show Topper**' with the intention of bringing together the groups involved in

Olive Way News

From our OW Co-ordinator

Just recently I had a week's holiday visiting family back home in Queensland. By the end of it I was exhausted. Between satisfying parental expectations in having sufficiently allocated time with the grandchildren and the endless communication and planning required for every trip and excursion, it was a relief to be home. The thing I missed the most was the familiar routine of Olive Way, the people who come in and grace the place with their presence, the challenging behaviours, the wonderful volunteers, and the beautiful environment in which we host it. I really missed it.

In my absence I heard that one of our guests was beaten quite badly in Brunswick leaving him bloodied and bruised. He was quite a mess when I saw him. I heard that others turned up who had been absent for a long time, while others were not seen at all. There is always something going on in Olive Way, and it was the buzz of the place that I missed. As important as the time away was, I couldn't wait to re-immense myself in that hive of activity.

the Olive Way and our congregation. Of course there is nothing to stop us doing something ourselves for the Sydney Rd. Street Party next year. Stay tuned!!

Olive Way - We acknowledged Church Council's approval of our recommendations relating to the **Olive Way Kitchen Renovations** and our proposal to make the **Olive Way Co-ordinator role** a Lay Pastor position. See *Olive Way News* for details.

We also discussed the composition of the **Olive Way Steering Committee** and succession planning for Richard as Chair of the committee. We identified a number of people who we plan to approach about joining the committee.

FUNdraising - We noted plans for the Bush Dance and the contribution of Brooch Day as FUNdraisers for the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre. This was the final FUNdraising event for the year.

Climate Action - We strongly recommend that our congregation follows Pope Francis' call to speak out against global warming and for Climate Action on **Saturday 8th September**. Further information will be provided about actions closer to the time."

Tower Room Window - Thank you to Abi Benham-Bannon for the **Refugee Week** display. Church Council will prepare a display in the next week or so in response to the **Assembly's marriage decisions**. JAM will organize a display to link into the **Climate Action** activities. In between these two displays we look forward to seeing some of our artists' work on display.

Saide Cameron



In the coming weeks I again need to be away from Olive Way, this time for two weeks, and they will not be fun. I am scheduled for some surgery to my airways for sleep apnoea. The recovery will be lengthy and very painful, and I'm not great with pain, I'm very nervous about it.

I know that Olive Way is in good hands, Pete Murphy and my amazing volunteers keep Olive Way humming along in my absence. After this absence I will be truly glad to be back in the gentle and challenging hum of Olive Way.

Peter Blair

Olive Way Kitchen Briefing – next steps

Background The final report of the Olive Way Kitchen Briefing by an External Consultant advises against modifying the Olive Way kitchen to solve issues of safety, food handling and congestion. The report notes that the cost would be significant - \$30,000 to \$50,000 – and the modifications would actually take away space from the existing Olive Way area. The author states that “the Olive Way drop-in service has outgrown the space it currently uses”.

The report recommends a trial relocation of the Olive Way to the existing Hall space. The author notes that issues of storage, access, suitability of larger kitchen (in the Hall), and ambiance may be addressed through adjustments to existing facilities. A trial would highlight what changes might be needed and potentially where further spending might be needed.

Some of the issues which have already been identified to make a smooth transition include: having portable furniture which is easily moved and stored, maintaining the “homely feel” of the Olive Way, sharing the kitchen with other users (the ASWC currently has the kitchen booked on Thursdays from 11 am to 2 pm), cleaning out the West end of the hall, improving the West end doors to make entry more inviting, access to computers.

It should be noted that the Hall space is seldom used during the day at present. If the trial relocation is successful, it would free-up a valuable space (the existing Olive Way) for other creative purposes such as SROC activities, Creative Writing, meetings, ASWC programs.

Recommendations The Church Council approved the following recommendations at their July meeting:

1. That a Relocation Task Group be established consisting of the Olive Way Steering Group and any other interested people (which would probably convene in early August), to plan a trial relocation of the Olive Way
2. That the Relocation Task Group consult with interested parties before starting the trial, and include consultation with BUC Bookings Officer, Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, Sunday Morning Program, Children Youth and Young Adults committee.
3. A four-week trial relocation of the Olive Way to the Church Hall be implemented, preferably after the new Storage Facility has been built (which could mean later in 2018)
4. That a congregational meeting be held with the author of the Olive Way Kitchen Briefing report on **Sunday 5th August** after church, to hear about the rationale for the relocation trial, and have any questions from the report answered.

Note - the External Consultant’s full report is available on the [Resources & Reports page](#) of the Members section. Scroll down to Olive Way Kitchen Briefing report.

Richard Arnold
Chair, Olive Way Steering Committee

Olive Way Co-ordinator

For some time JAM has been in conversation with Church Council about the role of the Olive Way Coordinator. JAM is of the mind that there are aspects of the current Position Description which do not recognise the complexities and the ministry leadership aspects that are required of this position.

JAM believes that many of these aspects are currently being performed by the existing Olive Way Coordinator, and some other aspects would make the role even more effective. JAM believes that it would be helpful to redefine the role of the Olive Way Coordinator in terms of a Lay Pastor role (with Peter Blair continuing in this new role).

To this end we made a number of recommendations to the Council’s July meeting seeking support and guidance to explore the possibility of redefining the role and the steps that would need to be taken if Council agrees to go ahead with the redefinition. We are delighted that Council has approved our recommendations and further that Shawn Whelan will be addressing them with us.

Olive Way Steering Committee

In brief the committee is responsible for

- maintaining position descriptions for staff
- ensuring processes are in place for contracts, pay and leave
- ensuring that there are clear lines of communication between all involved in the Olive Way ministry
- providing support for the Olive Way co-ordinator
- supporting volunteers
- supporting training for staff
- attending to health & safety issues
- managing the Olive Way budget
- supporting clear relationships between the Olive Way and other related activities
- maintaining a framework for exploring strategic directions
- developing and regularly updating a Strategic Plan for the Olive Way

The committee usually meets in the afternoon on the third Thursday of the month. Current members are Richard Arnold (Chair), Peter Blair (Co-ordinator), Kirsty Bennett and Ann Soo.

The JAM committee is actively recruiting new members for the committee and would love to hear from anyone who is interested in supporting the Olive Way ministry in this very active and intentional way. Every few months the committee also meets with Peter Murphy (our highly esteemed chef), volunteer and visitor representatives.

A Manual for Members is available to guide the work of the committee. If you are interested in finding out more or offering to join the committee please call Richard, 0407 796 429.

Saide Cameron

BUC Arts

ArtStop Review

The review is an opportunity to look at how the arts works in our community and in particular the relationship between ArtStop and the Olive Arts Collective. Members of the review team - Beth Shelton and Liz Johnson - have met with people involved in both these programs as well as the Justice and Mission committee.

The meeting with Ozlem Kesick, Arts Access Arts Development Office, George Akl and Eleanor Purseglove, Art Studio Facilitators, provided information about: the structure of SRS programs, how ArtStop is run, what the program looks like when it is working well, relationships with volunteers and artists, some of the challenges and difficulties, evaluation and record-keeping.

The meeting with four artists provided insights about what they value about each of the programs and how they have grown as artists through their participation.

Ann Soo and Leanne Salau provided valuable information about the evolution of the Olive Arts Collective and their own particular involvement in both ArtStop and the Olive Arts Collective.

The JAM committee members appreciated the opportunity to share their reflections on both programs with Liz, Beth and Colin at the July meeting. These reflections ranged from personal experiences through to observations about values and the relationships between the two art programs and also Arts Access relationship with the Olive Way. We also valued the reflections offered by Tim Hoffmann, Phil Kreveld and Ian Ferguson.

The Review Team will return for a special JAM meeting on 30th August. They will provide a number of options for our consideration. The options will be discussed and a recommendation made to the September Council meeting.

Saide Cameron

Olive Pesto

The BUC Youth Hall, with its 2016/2017 freshen-up, with the sun streaming in (and, OK, the heating on), with people interested in making, learning, sharing and giving: what better place to spend a winters day?! Thank you to Children Youth and Young Adults group plus Property Committees.

Linda Wannan

Banishing the winter chills with the warmth of community crafting and connection with the Olive Pestos. Thank you Linda Wannan for a beautifully organised morning with over thirty people turning up on a bleak winters' day! And more knitted goodies for Knit One Give One aka KOGO! Great work everyone!

Ann Soo

See the [Creating blog post](#) for more photos.

On **Saturday 4th August** the Olive Pesto feature activity will be **Cross-Gen Crochet**, where the experientially-advantaged will teach those with little or no crochet skills. There will be crochet hooks and yarn to share. All welcome in the Youth Hall, 10am-noon
For lots more Olive Pesto news & photos check out the [July newsletter](#).



Art for the Heart

Art for the Heart is an art exhibition that honours the use of creativity as a powerful source of healing and expression. It offers a space for people to tell their stories of loss, love & hope in new ways and to bring the community together to share the often hidden experiences of grief. This year the exhibition is held in **October 6-11** at the Meat Market Hall in North Melbourne.

Proceeds from sales will go to Uniting VicTas

What can I do?

Take part in this exhibition by submitting a piece in any creative form. eg a piece of knitting through to photography and writing.

How?

- Two more Sundays after worship in the youth hall **July 29, August 5**
- Ann Soo will facilitate these four sessions in a safe and reflective space. All materials supplied or bring your own
- The sessions will be for one and half hours from 11.00am – 12.30pm.



- Works can be individual or collective and support will be offered as desired
- Suggestions have been a group felt or group collage and individual works also encouraged. First meeting to discuss these and other possibilities.
- Works can be submitted for exhibition if desired but not compulsory.
- The focus is on using art making and not about artistic merit but living from the heart

Support provided for submission to exhibition as requested

More Information? Please refer to this [link](#)

FUNdraising News

Bush Dance



The second of our two major events for the year was the Bush Dance on **21st July**. Our congregation is committed to raising \$5,000 each year for the **Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre** for projects not covered by other sources of funding. In the July Olive Branch we reported that the funds raised in 2017 were used the Development of the ASWC Community Edible Garden, Safe Food Handling Course participation and Refugee Week activities. Andi Jones, Asylum Seeker Programs Manager, had planned to come along to the Bush Dance but woke up very unwell that morning. Ian Ferguson spoke about the work of the centre and our relationship with them to ensure that we all knew why we were coming out to dance on a cold winter's night.



The **Bush Dance**, the whole focus of the evening was loads of fun, successful both as a FUNdraiser and a community event. It was absolutely delightful to see people of all ages joining in the dances especially in the earlier part of the evening with lots of young children learning the steps alongside the adults. We enjoyed the Circassian Circle, Heel & Toe Polka, Virginia Reel, Hokey Pokey, Jubilee Jlg, Opera Reel, Scottish Man o'War and Pride of Eri. We particularly enjoyed the hilarity of messing up the steps and, in typical BUC fashion, problem solving along the way to keep the dances moving. Check out these you tube clips of two of the dances: [Jubilee Jig](#), [Virginia Reel](#)



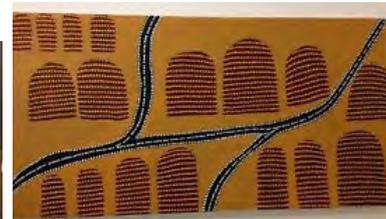
The **Sausage Sizzle** before and between the dancing was hugely popular. Many thanks to Ray Cameron and Chris Emanuel for spending most of the evening out in the cold cooking sausages & onions for our enjoyment. Thanks also to Chris for donating all of the supplies.



Our iconic **BUC Pop-up Op Shop** was a mutually beneficial experience, allowing people to clear out their cupboards and providing the rest of us with the opportunity to snap up some bargains during the evening and in the following Sundays. Many thanks to Helen Burnham for her enthusiasm for the Op Shop. Saide's preserves were popular as always.



The **Silent Auction** gave local businesses the opportunity to support the ministry of the ASWC. Saide sought and received donations from Bus Stop Shoe repairs, Woolworths, Cinema Nova, La Manna Fresh, Mind Games, Pental Soaps, Anamaya Health, Brunswick Health, Emma's Unisex Hair Salon, Royal Nut Company, Lush Cosmetics, Commuter Cycles and Pet Love. See [bush dance businesses here](#). We also received donations from members of the congregation; our thanks to Tim Hoffmann, Julie Perrin, Jenny Cook, Jenne Perlstein and Saide Cameron. We are particularly grateful to Rosalind Smallwood for the donation of the painting 'Eight Warriors of Bedford Downs' by Aboriginal artist Maria Malay, from the Halls Creek area in the Kimberley which was offered for live auction on the night but passed in and subsequently purchased the next day during lunch.



Thank you to the **Bush Dance band** - Natalie Sims, Shawn Whelan, Catherine Leslie, Alistair Hunter and Elaine Potter. Thank you also to Alistair for moving furniture, setting up the hall and packing everything away late into the night after we'd all gone home. Special thanks to our caller Teresa Connelly. And finally thank you to Daniel Whelan for the stunning bagpipe medley offered towards the end of the evening. We all wanted more and I felt very sorry for everyone who left early and missed out on this very special treat.



Together we raised \$3,493.50 for the work of the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, not quite our target of \$5,000 - but wait there's more ...



Brooch Lovers Big Day Out

Anyone who was on our property on the morning of the Bush Dance would have noticed the buzz of Brooch Day in the hall. Julie & Peter McKinnon's daughters Kate and Sharni organized this extraordinary event

which saw people from across Australia gathering to share their love, passion and enthusiasm for brooches. Kate & Sharni decided that they wanted to support the ASWC and offered to donate \$800 if we could provide four or five people to help serve morning tea and lunch. We are grateful to Amelia Ware, Emily Evans, Amanda Lees, Maggie Haines, Ann Soo and Leanne Salau for so generously giving of their time in this time. However there was a twist to come in this initially simple plan. Kate decided to run a raffle to raise the money. The prize for the community of brooch enthusiasts was that the winner would be allowed to shop for a whole hour before the doors opened. The raffle raised \$2,676 with the winner flying all the way from Perth with her mother to enjoy this privilege. And on top of this the brooch makers generously donated ten brooches each, the sale of which was further donated to the ASWC. The end result of all this abundant generosity will be donated for the work of the ASWC. Watch out for the final total in the next week or so. We offer our thanks to Julie, Peter, Kate & Sharni for their support of the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre in this very unique way.



Looking ahead ...

The FUNdraising team will only be running two major events this year instead of three. Each event is a significant undertaking in terms of time, effort and energy. We are a very small team with many other commitments and, with all the varied ways our congregation gathers and the vast array of activities we engage in, it is always very challenging to attract assistance to run the events. So for the remainder of the year we look forward to

- an after worship stall for **World Week for Peace on 23rd September** - you will be invited to make and donate your favourite cake, slice or biscuits, write a story about why it is your favourite and then buy another person's contribution to take home
- a **Backyard Band party on 11th November** for the Olive Arts Collective
- and the **Christmas Bowl Appeal Stalls** after worship on the **first two Sundays in December**.

Saide Cameron

> Communication News

Olive Pages

The Olive Pages (our Directory of contact details) was updated in July. It is available in the [Members Area](#) of the website from both the Publications and Who's Who pages. Signing up to join the Members Area is easy - consider doing so today.

Photoboard

The photoboard on the west side of the Gathering Space has been updated with photos of our Interim CYA workers. Have a look next time you are at worship. The board includes photos of our Ministry Team, Church Council and Congregation leaders.



Website

A number of updates have been carried out on the website in the past month. Here's some highlights

- the vastly improved Finances Resources page in the [Members Area](#)
- restructure of the [BUC Arts](#) page with links to new [Olive Arts Collective](#) and [Olive Pesto Craft Connection](#) pages
- the inclusion of profiles for our new Interim workers on the [Meet the Team](#) page
- the ongoing inclusion of upcoming events in the [Events](#) page, there's lots coming up.

If you are regular visitor to the website you will be well aware that sermons and Sunday prayers are posted weekly on the [home page](#) and the [Sermon & Stories](#) page. These pages include Ministry Stories and Our Stories posts which are created on a more occasional basis.

The Olive Press is emailed weekly via Mail Chimp and is also available on the [home page](#).

Saide Cameron

> Discipleship & Education News



A series reflecting on death

The committee invites you to save Thursdays in October ...

- **4th October** - Death over Dinner, a formal dinner and discussion program
- **11th October** - Voluntary Assisted Dying Panel discussion about the legislation, practical and ethical issues
- **18th October** - Advanced Care Planning workshop. Practical "how to" advice on the processes
- **25th October** - Grief and loss, an experiential workshop

> Regular Events

BUC Cycle

Join an enthusiastic group of cyclists after worship every 5-6 weeks and explore Melbourne's bike tracks. We head off after worship and cycle for about two hours and usually stop off for icecream and/or a drink along the way.

Join us on our next cycles on 9th September and 28th October.

For more details contact Colin Hunter, 0407 522 587.

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 on **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.

We are meeting on the **second & fourth Sunday of the month**. Everyone is welcome and you can come every 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 Helen (0423 009 813).

Mulling

Our next gathering will be **Tuesday 7th August** from 7:00pm unless advised otherwise. For details, contact Daniel Broadstock, 0479 039 640.

Meditation

There are a number of opportunities to be involved in Christian Meditation in Brunswick.

There are weekly meetings at 29 MacFarland Street Brunswick each **Wednesday** at 8am and 5.30pm (meetings go for 30 minutes). **August** dates: **1st, 8th, 15th, 29th**

Sunday meditation times, meeting at the church at 8.15am are offered usually monthly. This month: **5th August**.

New meditators are welcome and teaching is provided.

For more information contact Richard on 0407 796 429

The Olive Way

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

New volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Peter Blair, ph. 0431 193 810.

Book Club at BUC

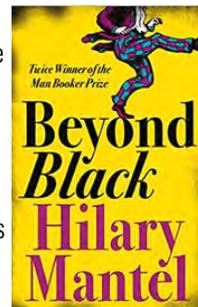
facilitated by Jeanette Acland

7.30 – 9 pm, **Wednesday 22nd August 2018**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

Our **August** book is Beyond Black by Hilary Mantel.

Mantel summons up the living and the dead in her extraordinary novel, Beyond Black. She has done something extraordinary. She has taken that ethereal halfway house between heaven and hell, between the living and the dead, and nailed it on the page... She's witty, ironic, intelligent and, I suspect, haunted. This is a book out of the unconscious, where the best novels come from.



Fay Weldon - The Guardian

Everyone welcome. 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

Out and About is a monthly social group for older, active women and men. We visit places of interest or meet up for lunch or coffee. New members always welcome. Contact Helen Rowe for further information about this month's activity. Ph. 0423 009 813 or email helen.rowe@rocketmail.com

Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Next Distribution Day - **Saturday 18th August** 10 am-12 noon.

Reduce plastic packaging going to landfill. New members welcome! We buy in bulk and you bring your re-usable containers to fill with the quantity you want. Reasonable prices for products. We meet in the Olive Way space.

Further information from Helen Rowe 0423 009 813
or Meredith Budge 0403 717 714

Church Council

Somewhere in Russia...

Colonel Lavrenty Petrov looked around proudly at the intelligence officers arrayed around his conference table. Every man and woman was a veteran of a hundred operations. Political espionage, misinformation, Eurovision vote tampering, they'd done it all.

He banged the table. 'Alright, people, settle down. Look, we all know that the American division has grabbed a lot of headlines lately, with their success with Agent Big Orange 1. The Australian division needs to start producing results, or there's going to be trouble. Captain Ivanov, where are we with Agent Auckland?'

Captain Anna Ivanov leaned forward in her seat. 'Well sir, we've had a lot of success with Barnaby, but I don't think we have any leverage left there. I don't see how he could be embarrassed any further. I mean, we've tried, sir, we really have. But we can't find any more skeletons in that closet.'

Petrov's deputy, Captain Vasiliev spoke up. 'Sir, we believe we may have a valuable new asset in Melbourne's inner north. We have succeeded in inserting an agent into Brunswick Uniting Church, which has already produced some valuable intelligence. I have here a report of their most recent Church Council meeting, if you will permit me.'

Petrov nodded.

In its July meeting, the Brunswick Uniting Church Council enjoyed one of our less formal dinner meetings, in which we got to know our new staff in the Children and Youth space in their roles.

Make sure you take the opportunity to check in with JJ, Janet and Valentina to see how they're settling in. It was great to hear that they were each enjoying their roles so far, and we invited them to let us know how we could support them specifically.

Church Council also took a number of other decisions:

- We agreed to nominate representatives from Church Council, the CYYA Committee, and the Student House Committee to sit on a Joint Nominating Committee with members representatives from Presbytery, as we move toward seeking an ordained candidate to fill the vacant Children and Youth Coordinator position in the church.
- We received a report from JAM committee suggesting that the proposed renovation of the Olive Way Kitchen is not feasible. Our architect concluded that there just was not

enough space to do what we had hoped to do. Therefore, Church Council has given the go-ahead for a four-week trial relocation of the Olive Way to the Hall. We will be holding a congregational meeting in the near future to discuss these issues.

- We agreed to consider and investigate a recommendation from JAM to redefine the Olive Way Coordinator as a Lay Pastor role.
- We agreed to transfer HR responsibilities overall to the Finance Committee. We hope that this will bring some more consistency and organisation to those procedures, particularly at a time when our staffing arrangements are becoming more complex
- We agreed to welcome and endorse the decision by the National Assembly to permit same-gender marriages, and discussed how we might respond to this decision publicly.
- We celebrated the success of recent events in the Church, including the Barn Dance and the Trivia Night.

Silence.

Petrov frowned. 'Is that it? There's no actionable intelligence here. Who's idea was this?' The officers shifted uncomfortably in their chairs.

Ivanov cleared her throat, 'Well sir, we had intelligence that BUC might have a secret weapons program.'

'A weapons program? They have a drop-in centre! How much did this cost?'

Vasiliev sheepishly flicked through some briefing documents. 'Six...million rubles.'

'Sweet Lenin!' cried Petrov. 'Well what are we going to do now? If I go to the boss with a Bush Dance, he'll laugh me out of his office.'

A hand went up at the back. 'Sir, we did have one more idea. What about Northcote?'

The officers muttered appreciatively.

Petrov looked at Vasiliev, and a slow smile crept over his face. He nodded.

'Do it.'

Daniel Broadstock

Finance Committee



It's time for Text and Numbers, not Crosswords.
All feedback appreciated.

Web Stuff:

Have a look at the New Improved Finance pages on the BUC website.

Anyone with BUC member access can now see and download:

- Insurance Certificate (important for events and organising volunteers),
- Info on Bequests,
- "Financials" (budget 2018, actual 2017),
- Staff Annual Leave form,
- Reimbursement Request form,
- 6-month 2018 Income and Expenditure report.

Kudos to Naomi David and Saide Cameron.

Staff Stuff:

Tabitha Robert, our part-time Payments Book-keeper and Student House resident, has graduated B.Sc from UniMelb, and accepted a Nursing offer from QUT. We have enjoyed her company and skills for more than a year; she has learned heaps about basic accounting and MYOB systems, and we wish her God's many blessings in whatever direction her career and life take her.

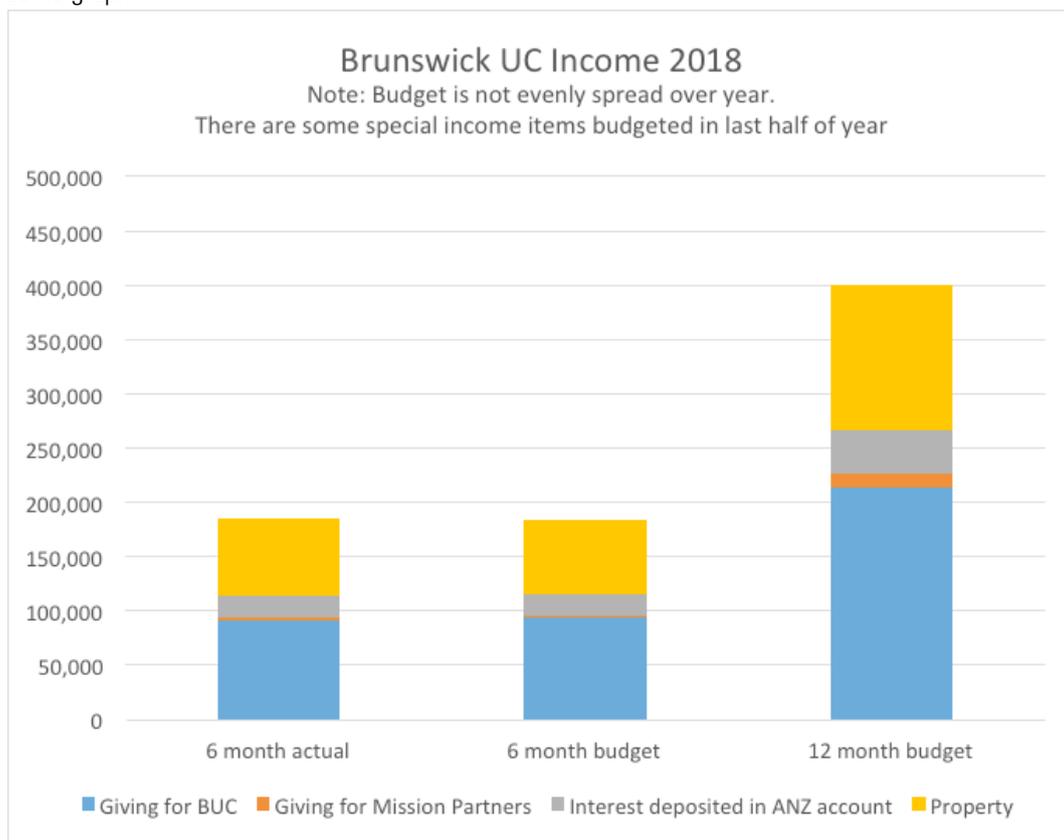
Abi Bannon-Benham, our part-time Income and Projects Book-keeper and former Student House resident, attended some Professional Development in June. She has come back from a one-day intensive "EmPower Your Mission" with contacts made and good ideas to share. An info sharing session is planned.

All staff employed by BUC, except Minister of the Word (Ian), are now to provide Staff Leave application forms to Finance to process. More will be communicated to Committees and individual employees late July.

How are we tracking? More detail is available on the BUC website, Finance pages

Income and Expenditure	6 months to 30 June 2018			12 months
	actual	budget	Note	budget
Brunswick UC				
Offerings	78,880	85,764	Budget is not evenly spread over the 12 months. There are several large items of income and expenditure budgeted in the last 6 months of the year.	201,600
Donations for BUC activities	1,913	3,920		7,800
Fundraising for BUC activities	10,251	4,000		4,000
Sub-total Giving to BUC	91,044	93,684		213,400
Donations for Mission Partners	2,036	140		5,600
Fundraising for Mission Partners	0	450		7,300
Sub-Total Giving Intended for Mission Partners	2,036	590		12,900
Interest	21,000	20,020		40,000
Property	70,731	69,140		134,100
Total Income	184,811	183,434		400,400
Expenses	184,905	202,165	410,406	
Surplus (Deficit)	(94)	(18,731)	(10,006)	
Summary: The 6 month deficit is significantly smaller than budgeted deficit, due to				
* Expenses being significantly below budget and				
* Giving to BUC (Offerings, Donations and Fundraising) slightly above budget, despite Offerings being less than budget.				

And here's an Income graph



And what about items paid from Reserves?

Brunswick Uniting Church

Purchases not expensed 01 Jan 2018 through 30 June 2018	
item	\$ incl GST
Display Boards	\$ 2,137.85
Nano-shield in S/House	\$ 3,393.32
Chairs, first payment	\$ 158.00
Chairs, final payment	\$ 4,911.93
AV system	\$ 12,705.15
Chairs, S/House	\$ 498.00
Green Bins S/House	\$ 110.75
Total	\$ 23,915.00
These were paid from Reserves, as planned	

And how are our investments?

Movements in UCA Funds 31 Dec 2017 through 30 June 2018	
Balance in UCA Funds as at 31 Dec 2017	\$ 840,264
plus Gilchrist Fund deposit	\$ 68,363
sub-total	\$ 908,627
less Redemption for payments from Reserves	\$ 25,000
sub-total	\$ 883,627
less Interest transferred to BUC ANZ	\$ 13,120
sub-total	\$ 870,507
plus Interest and Capital Appreciation retained	\$ 29,722
Balance in UCA Funds as at 30 June 2018	\$ 900,229

Peace, salam, shalom
Finance Group and Staff:
**Abi Bannon, Tabitha Robert, Tim Budge,
Naomi David, Mal Rowe, Linda Wannan**

Property Committee

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

- Presbytery and Synod have approved the Application to Build the sheds.
- The heater unit under the church was repaired.
- Gardening work has been undertaken, pruning etc.
- The water tank on the south side of the hall was recently drained to remove the silt that has accumulated. The active down pipe was also flushed three times to remove the silt build up inside the pipe.
- The excess screen has been collected by representatives from the Mount Macedon congregation who were very grateful for the offer of the screen.

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

- The Property Committee to manage the construction of the sheds after Presbytery and Synod approval. Tony Urwin is preparing the required paperwork, contracts, insurance etc.
- Ascertain the service requirements of the dishwasher's chemical pump also the replacement of the pipes.
- Modification to the ASWC west side door lock etc to make it usable.
- Maintenance work to be undertaken on 4 Merri Street.

Worship Committee

For the opening worship for our July meeting Amelia invited us to think about our community and the kinds of situations that give us an understanding of sharing with others. Our responses including working along side people, listening to stories about shared and different experiences and with respect to Assembly - the sense of the church gathered and the depth of the diverse communities and the land on which we live.

We reflected on **worship services** since our June meeting and noted

- our appreciation for the UCA Anniversary candle lighting liturgy and the reminder that it offers of our history and formation
- our appreciation for the new ideas and insights offered through the sermons and childrens' times each week
- the challenge of offering children's talks and all age activities when numbers are low
- our appreciation for both Monica Melanchthon and Sunny Chen's sermons

1/7 Pentecost 6 Mark 5:21-43, Lamentations 3:22-33 Daniel and Ian spoke about healing with the children in response to the gospel story. Dan spoke about a time he had broken something precious and how that made him feel separate from his mother. Ian reminded us that the woman was separated from the community due to her illness. He said that in her desperation she touched Jesus' cloak and was healed. This touched healed her and enabled her to be reconnected and brought back into the community.

- Laurie to investigate the requirements to repair, 1) stone capping on west wall, 2) lintel over west door entrance in the welcome space and 3) key stone repairs/replacement in a window in the chapel space.
- The trees in the walkway pots have lost their leaves and are now ready to be removed.
- It has been ascertained that the hall bench seats are made from Kauri wood. The current proposal is to be auction the excess seats on eBay.
- Gutters and down pipes to be inspected and cleaned
- Maintenance work to be undertaken at the student houses, 'blackout' boards to be installed.
- Obtain quote(s) for the painting of the hall floor. Stakeholders to be engaged to ascertain the most appropriate time for the works to be undertaken given that it will take from 1 to 2 weeks.
- Modify the hatches above the two doorways between the church and the Olive Way to aid in cooling in hotter weather.
- The faulty air dryer in the women's toilet is to be replaced with a blade air dryer.
- Olive Way sliding door to be serviced (currently a bit noisier than usual) and its battery to be replaced.

Ray Cameron

We also discussed

- **music in worship** noting that we have a repertoire that is particular to us; this observation arose from Ian's comments about the variety styles offered during Assembly and that the particular style that got people singing was Hillsong
- the **Christmas Eve pageant** - a date will be set soon for the initial brainstorming session
- the Brunswick Music Festival and Pick my Project **applications**, see JAM news for more details
- **taper lighting in the chapel space** - we are trialling new 'bowls' for the tapers to be placed in, feedback is welcome
- the development of **guidelines for Baptism Elders**
- the **Singalong** which we hope you will all come to on **Sunday 12th August**, see Worship Calendar p2

Have a look at the **worship calendar** for details of worship services and other related events in the newt three months, there's lots happening (as always).



Ian reminded us that the touch of Jesus brings healing to all of us and helps to mend broken relationships. Ian and Daniel flew the 'dancing curtain' over each section of the congregation as we sang 'Heal us, heal us today'. During the sermon Helen Burnham provided a beautiful all age activity during which the children made hands of love to reach out to the world.



Ian began his sermon speaking about the Trivia Night and the money raised which will help to feed the people who visit the Olive Way each week. Commenting on the *'long, complex and powerful interweaving of healing stories'* he said that they arrive at the point where Jesus says *'Why are you standing there? Give her something to eat.'* And on this first Sunday of the month he reminded us that we too were heading towards a meal table.

Taking us through the story he invited us to identify with the people in the story, asking along the way if we were faithful insiders, faithful outsiders, the silent child. He wondered if these possibilities were all muddled up together inside each of us. Ian reminded us that Christ recognizes and knows our needs and that he will give *'healing wholeness, reconciling salvation, transforming new life to any and all as they have need.'* And he also reminded us that we, with our needy bleeding souls, are the ones whom *'Christ sends out to be his healers, to reach out with his hand of salvation, to speak his word of life.'* He asked if we could be Christ's touching place in our woundedness.

Concluding Ian said *'For me the ending of this gospel story speaks powerfully into this place of frailty, uncertainty and vocation. This story comes to a place which says hope for new life in this world does not depend on us actually, it doesn't depend on us. It is Christ who gives life but we are part of that life giving movement.'* He spoke again of the feeding that happens through the Olive Way ministry and of the meal that we would soon participate in around the communion table saying *'Today as we gather around this meal table, sacramentally enacting Christ's feeding of the world I invite you to hold these questions in your heart. How are you fed and what food are you called to share? In the name of Christ the bread of life, Amen.'*



8/7 Pentecost 7 Mark 6:1-13, Ezekiel 2:1-5 Saide spoke with the children about Jesus coming home to Nazareth and how the people there weren't at all happy with what he had to say. We then talked about Jesus sending his disciples out to do God's work relying on the hospitality of the people they visited which somehow led to a delightful chat about the people involved in Love Makes a Way going out and doing God's work, engaging in holy naughtiness. And we reminded each other that we are all sent out to do God's work *to love people, to care for our friends and our families and to help people in whatever way we can.*



We welcomed Monica Melanchthon, regular worshipper with us and Co-ordinator of Studies – Old Testament at Pilgrim Theological College as our preacher. Monica began her sermon speaking of Jesus' homecoming and the response to his words. She noted that in the story Jesus is reduced to what the locals know of him, his birth and his trade, which leads them to believe that he can't be a prophet. Monica observed that *'all too often we are tempted to do the same, reducing someone who challenges us to a single attribute ... and therefore fail to receive the wholeness of the person God has created and redeemed and offered to us as a gift.'* She commented that Ezekiel had a similar experience to Jesus in his calling to speak to the people in exile - *'Perhaps the people will listen, but perhaps they won't. Ezekiel has the task of speaking the truth without regard to the response.'*



Throughout her sermon Monica emphasized the call to speak truth despite people's expectations, to take people out of their comfort zones, to not walk away from hard questions and hard conversations. She spoke of the radical faith required by the disciples as they were sent out and of Ezekiel in his sending out to call God's people back to repentance and obedience. Monica reminded us of the sensitivity and potentially divisive issue to be dealt with at Assembly in the coming week, commenting that *'we are all children of God and loved by God'*. She affirmed that the church community *could and should be a place where we are having those difficult conversations'*. She said that we take the steps that we need to take together as the body of Christ.

Concluding Monica affirmed *'Every single one of us in the family of God are a mix of saint and sinner, of struggle and victory, lost and found. None of us singularly have it figured out. We need each other. People who can think and act like us but even more particularly the people who are different, who do not think or act like us. For it is in our difference and diversity that the Body of Christ finds it's true strength. And it is in our unity of wrought by the Spirit that we find our strength. And so we may go out with the assurance of the Spirit. 'My Spirit abides in you, fear not' says God. The Gospel of the Lord.'*



15/7 Pentecost 8 Mark 6:14-29; Psalm 24 Natalie and Janet spoke with the children about the scary gospel story. Natalie took them the story identifying the main characters – Herod, Herodias and John the Baptist. She noted the crowd of rich people who had been invited to Herod and Herodias’ party and introduced us to Herodias’ daughter who was invited to dance. Leading up to the terrible moment when Herod orders his servant to cut off John’s head Natalie commented on the moments when the key characters could have made a different decision which would have led to a different ending. She reminded us that *‘sometimes we need to stick up for what know what is right.’*



We welcomed Sunny Chen, one of our regulars, and Co-ordinator of Chaplaincy at the University of Melbourne as our preacher. Sunny introduced us to what would be come a history lesson by speaking about Davis McCaughey, the founding father of the Uniting Church and his views on ministers and UCA regulations. He called his quasi-sermon ‘The Herods’ Drama’.



Sunny took us through five Acts

1. **Bloodlines** in which we learnt about Herod the Great, why the Romans chose him to be the Emperor’s proxy, the importance of Masada, of Herod’s murderous paranoia and jealousy and his need to find something for his remaining three sons to rule over
2. **The Head** in which we learnt about the conflict between Herod Philip and Herod Antipas, of Herodias and John the Baptist speaking against the marriage of Antipas and Herodias
3. **The Beloved** in which we learnt about Agrippa, grandson of Herod the Great, and his relationship with Caesar Caligula, and in particular of Caligula’s squandering of the equivalent of A\$532 trillion
4. **Game of Thrones** during which we learnt about the game played by Agrippa against his uncle Herod Antipas noting that Herodias was Agrippa’s sister, a fact which fuelled Agrippa’s drive for vengeance against his uncle – end result Antipas was exiled and Herodias followed him
5. **Finale** an affirmation that the early Christians hated these three Herods for differing reasons and that they all suffered unfortunate endings.

Herod the Great
Murder babies, Pursue Jesus

Herod Antipas
**Behead John the Baptist
 Trial Jesus, pass him to Pilate**

Herod Agrippa I
**Execute James, one of the 12
 Imprison Peter
 Imprison Paul, pass him to Caesar**

Sunny pondered on whether or not these endings were divine punishment. He then spoke of Martin Luther King who commented *on the contemporary church often being a weak ineffectual voice, an arch defender of the status quo.* Sunny reflected on how the gospel is set in history, about the heroes of the gospel who spoke against the power structure of the time. And in turn he spoke of his pride in the Uniting Church in response to the Assembly’s decision about marriage. He concluded with this quote from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King *‘Any religion that professes concern for the souls of the people and not for the slums that cripple them is a dead religion waiting for burial.’ And I’m so glad for the Uniting Church is not one of those. Amen.*

22/7 Pentecost 8 Mark 6:30-34; Ephesians 2:11-22 We celebrated the baptism of Rafa Hallinan, son of Tess Alston & Joel Hallinan and so Ian invited the children to come down for a brief moment to talk about baptism. He reminded the children and the whole congregation that the church is the people and that Rafa’s baptism is a way of welcoming Rafa into God’s family, a way of saying to Rafa ‘God loves and has always loved you’.

Janet Watson Kruse, Interim Children & Families worker welcomed Joel & Tess and presented Rafa for baptism saying *‘Rafa loves Thomas the Tank Engine. When we spoke before he wanted me to know that Thomas is number 1 and Percy is number 6! And he also loves eating spaghetti and dancing to the Wiggles. When he comes out to SMP I’ve noticed that Rafa strikes me as a true contemplative: he looks, he thinks, he watches and he gazes. He’s a joy to have with us.’*





Responding to Rafa's baptism and the Assembly's decision on marriage, Ian asked 'Where do you draw the line? ... the line of faith that marks our beliefs as Christian or otherwise?' He asked 'Have we drawn a line here today?', a line that says this side you are a Christian, that side, no guarantees. Ian reminded us that the promises made in baptism make no mention of marriage, gender of sexuality. And he said that he wasn't going to talk about same-sex marriage anymore – just marriage (to which the congregation responded with cheers and clapping).

Ian's comments which then followed in response to the Assembly's decision are offered in the Meditation at the start of this publication. However he did talk about the ways in which we build walls and draw lines in our brokenness. In response to Paul's writing, that we are all one new humanity in Christ, Ian said perhaps the line is drawn around us, a circle holding us in our difference.

Concluding he said *So if God's love is a circle then the centre of it is the cross, the cross that puts to death the hostility between us. ... You know actually we did draw a line today in our baptism ceremony or more correctly two lines. We drew them on Rafa's forehead with the anointing oil of the Spirit, the sign of the Cross which points in all directions and we said 'from this day forward the sign of the Cross is upon you', the sign of peace, the sign of reconciliation, love, hope, the sign of a new humanity, a new creation, the sign that says nothing divides us, nothing that ultimately matters divides us from God. In all our diversity of body, soul, culture and belief we are held in life, one body, the body of the risen crucified one in whose name God's people say 'Amen'.*



Saide Cameron

> Preaching Plan

August 5	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	September 2	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	September 30	Ian Ferguson Reflective worship
August 12	Carlynn Nunn	September 9	Ian Ferguson	September 30	<i>to be advised</i> Combined BIUC, 5:00pm
August 19	Geoff Thompson	September 16	Ian Ferguson	October 7	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion
August 26	Ian Ferguson	September 23	Ian Ferguson	October 14	Ian Ferguson Blessing the animals

> Lectionary

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 the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
5/8	Pentecost 11	2 Sm 11:26-12:13a	Ps 51:1-12	Eph 4:1-16	Jn 6:24-35	G
12/8	Pentecost 12	2 Sm 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	Ps 130	Eph 4:25-5:2	Jn 6:35, 53-56	G
19/8	Pentecost 13	1 Kgs 2:10-12; 3:3-14	Ps 111	Eph 5:15-20	Jn 6:51-58	G
26/8	Pentecost 14	1 Kgs 8:(1-6, 10-11)22-30, 41-43	Ps 84	Eph 6:10-20	Jn 6:56-59	G
2/9	Pentecost 15	Song 2:8-13	Ps 45:1-2,6-9	Jas 1:17-27	Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23	G
9/9	Pentecost 16	Prv 22:1-2,8-9,22-23	Ps 125	Jas 2:1-10,(11-13),14-17	Mk 7:24-37	G
16/9	Pentecost 17	Prv 1:20-33	Ps 19	Jas 3:1-12	Mk 8:27-38	G
23/9	Pentecost 18	Prv 31:10-31	Ps 1	Jas 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mk 9:30-37	G
30/9	Pentecost 19	Est 7:1-6, 9-10, 20-22	Ps 124	Jas 5:13-20	Mk 9:38-50	G

August Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 29 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:00 – Art for the Heart 5:00 – Indonesian W’p	30	31 10:00 – Olive Way	August 1 8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Lunch 5:30 – Meditation	2 10:00 – Olive Way	3 7:30 – YUCY	4 10:00 – Olive Pesto 2:30 – Coffee 2:30 – Community Team
5 8:15 – Meditation 9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC 11:00 – Congregational M’g 11:00 – Art for the Heart 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p	6	7 10:00 – Olive Way 7:00 – Mulling	8 8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Lunch 5:30 – Meditation	9 10:00 – Olive Way	10	11 1:30 – Safe Church Training
12 9:30 – Carlynn Nunn 1:00 – Singalong 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	13	14 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Church Council	15 8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Lunch 5:30 – Meditation	16 10:00 – Olive Way 6:45 – JAM C’tee	17 7:30 – YUCY	18 10:00 – Food Co-op
19 9:30 – Geoff Thompson 11:30 – Student House Working Bee & Lunch 5:00 – Indonesian W’p	20	21 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Property C’tee	22 10:00 - Olive Way 12:00 – Community Lunch 7:30 – Book Group	23 10:00 – Olive Way	24	25 1:30 – Safe Church Training
26 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 12:00 – Lunch at Marcella’s 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church	27	28 10:00 – Olive Way	29 8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Lunch 5:30 – Meditation	30 10:00 – Olive Way	31 7:30 – YUCY	September 1 2:30 – Coffee