

THE OLIVE BRANCH

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

> Meditation

Prayer in Worship

There are so many different ways to pray, reasons to prayer and intentions around prayer. I can't even begin to speak with any sort of authority about the vast majority of them. So I won't do that in this meditation. What I do know a little about is writing and offering prayers for worship.

At the end of each year the worship committee reflects on the year that is concluding and from there we set out our hopes and dreams for the next year. An ongoing hope and dream is that we will 'nurture new liturgists and prayer leaders'. Being a liturgist or prayer leader (offering prayers of the people) is such a privilege, a joy and, if I over-think it too much, can be quite an alarming thing to do. I sometimes ask myself questions like: 'Where does my authority come from to be doing this role?', 'How do I know if my prayers are appropriate?' and so on. In the end though I trust the process, the many years of nurturing and encouragement I have received from our ministers, the worship committee, other liturgists and members of the congregation.

My personal prayer life is, I confess, quite unstructured. I rarely directly ask God for anything specific. If I'm having difficulty sleeping or going back to sleep I often say the Lord's Prayer over and over or sing blessings to myself (not out loud because Ray might find that a bit disturbing). When I my heart is breaking that feels like a prayer without words. Sometimes I think of living faithfully as a prayer, a response to the life that I have been blessed with. Years ago the women of the South West Brunswick congregation used to go on annual retreats. One year we invited a Catholic nun to lead us. She told us that to live is to pray but to eat chocolate is to pray twice!! Sometimes when I'm cooking or taking my dog for a walk or looking out the window during the group fitness classes I participate in I try to be intentionally grateful for what I'm seeing, doing or simply experiencing.

And so, I look forward to being the liturgist for worship every month or so. I relish the responsibility, the need to be intentional about prayer. As liturgists we meet or speak with Ian or whoever is preaching to discuss which readings are to be used, the theme for the sermon and children's time and any other

details specific to that worship service. We have an order of service which shapes worship and a set of guidelines so that we have a shared understanding of what is required of the role – both creative and administrative tasks. (The Prayers of the People leaders also have guidelines to support their preparation.) We have Natalie Sim's amazing blog 'Singing from the Lectionary' to help with choosing songs to fit the readings. And then it's up to each of us to follow our own process.

For me liturgy preparation is an invitation to be immersed in the theme, to dwell in a space apart from the rest of my overly busy life. I start by reading the readings and choosing songs that fit the readings and the theme. Then a beautiful thing happens – the words from the Bible and the words from the songs start to weave themselves together with ideas from the previous couple of weeks, the theme of the day and, if we are in a particular liturgical season, the theme of the season as well. I sit in front of my computer and start to type and the words flow out onto my screen. The Trinity provides a framework. A shape emerges, my background as a maths teacher encourages me to create patterns with my words. I draw on words from the songs and the readings and they start to appear throughout the liturgy. And then when I'm finished I sit back and read and am often amazed that something quite lovely has emerged. The words, the prayers, the songs feel like a gift. When I stand up in front of the congregation on Sunday speaking the words out loud, offering them in corporate prayer feels like a gift. And I don't mean that I feel gifted because that's not it at all, far from it actually. No what I mean is that these words, the prayers that I have written are a gift that I've been given and privileged to share in worship. They are not my words, they are our words, our prayers to God, our prayers of adoration, of confession, of longing, of thanksgiving, of blessing.

Prayer in worship is an invitation to dwell in a space that is set apart from the rest of our lives. It's an opportunity to be intentional, to claim a few minutes to be still and be in God's presence in a very beautiful way.

Saide Cameron



> Worship Calendar

October

Responding to the **Death in October series** being offered by the Discipleship & Education series:

- Ian will introduce and explore the theme on 7th October.
- We will remember pets we have loved and lost on 14th October and remember species lost through extinction.
- We will pay attention to the them during Prayers of the People each week.



On **21st October** we will welcome Areej Masoud to worship. Areej is a Palestinian Christian from Bethlehem who currently works as the Development & Communications Department Coordinator at Bethlehem Bible College. Areej is the speaker for the [Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Speaker Tour](#)

Areej will speak briefly during worship and then lead an early lunch forum focussing on the tour topic '**Any hope for Palestine, now or ever?**'

We are 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 Assis (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.

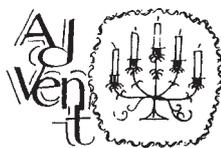


After worship you are invited to ride or simply come along to Temple Park, Grey St. Brunswick where the Community Team will host our annual **Spring Picnic**. Bring your own lunch or something to share. A bike ride will follow.

November

We will welcome **Graeme Garrett** as our preacher on **4th November** while enjoys a long weekend away. Graeme will also preside over Holy Communion.

After worship on **11th November** the worship committee will host an **Advent worship planning meeting**. If you are interested in learning about the themes of this season come along and join us as we reflect on the readings for the four Sundays and how they speak to us in our place and time now.



We'll plan an overall theme, identify some theme songs, talk about candle lighting and a whole lot more.

If you are interested, want to know more or are ready to say 'yes I'll be there' please email saide.cameron@bigpond.com or call 0407 096 743

On **18th November** we will celebrate the **baptism of Jack Bottcher**, son of Fiona & Evan Bottcher.

And finally on **25th November** we celebrate the last Sunday of the liturgical year - **Christ the King**.



This service will include a **Celebration of Ministry & Future Directions**. See Special Events for an invitation to participate in an informal conversation as part of the consultation of Ian's ministry - he has been our Minister since February 2013!! Where have those five years gone?

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> Sharing our Faith



Bonita, Frances, Kat, Chris, Indra, Leo, Astrid, Andrew, Martin, Kirsty, Tom, Valentina, Michelle, Fernando, Monica, Jione, Diya

Welcoming Ceremony

During worship on **Sunday 16th September** we offered a welcoming ceremony (we do this twice a year) during which nineteen people accepted the invitation to name Brunswick as their spiritual home.

Ian reminded us of Paul's writing in Romans inviting us to '*glorify God by welcoming these people to our congregation today*'

As part of this ceremony we were privileged to receive their stories.

Kat Bowden, Meadow & Sparrow – After introducing herself Kat acknowledged her daughters Meadow and Sparrow and her partner Donna. She said '*We are excited to be part of a community that welcomes us as we are thank you*'.

Chris Magee – (Chris offered this fuller story for the Olive Branch Welcoming Ceremony story.) *A grandchild of Anglican missionaries to Nanjing, I was born Yangon (Rangoon) in Myanmar to American parents. My childhood was spent in British colonial Hong Kong.*

After boarding school and then University in the US, and a couple of years working in Miami, I drove to Los Angeles to become, over 22 years, a cinematographer working on television commercials and films. I then married an Australian woman, moved to Australia, and adopted 2 daughters from China whom we raised in Rye for 11 years.

Having studied and practiced Buddhist, Hindu and Taoist enlightenment philosophies over the years I've returned to Christianity to focus on the healing of the mind and heart that Jesus' teachings of love and forgiveness offer.

Chris spoke of making Brunswick UC his spiritual home because of the community – '*of all of you*'. He said '*I'm delighted to be here, to have found a community to join with and join with in Christ*'.

Frances Tapueluelu – *Malo lelei my mane is Frances Tapueluelu, i grew up in the Siasi Uesiliana Tau'ataina 'o Tonga in Auckland and when i moved to Australia it was the first time i had attended a service in English. I would like to thank Rev Ian and the Congregation for the welcome. This is my spiritual home and i have been coming to church for three years*

Bonita Best - Bonita came to worship for the very first time and responded spontaneously to the invitation to participate in the Welcoming Ceremony. She spoke of moving to Melbourne from Queensland in December to be nearer to her family and grandchildren. She shared that she had been praying a lot about finding a community to join and was drawn to our congregation after doing an internet search and finding all the groups and activities that are part of our community. She said that she was particularly interested in the Death & Dying series and the opportunity having conversations with people about the topic. Bonita concluded '*This is where I want to be*'.

Indra Liepins & Andrew Gemmell, Astrid & Leo – Indra introduced herself and her family – Andrew, Astrid and Leo. She said '*We've made a decision as a family to make this our spiritual home and it's just because we like it here*'.

Martin & Kirsty Brown - Martin began by telling us that he had come from Edinburgh although he lost his accent before learning to talk. He shared that he and Kirsty had moved 13 times, five of them to Melbourne and that we come from the other side of the tracks in Kensington. And his reason for being at Brunswick UC – '*Why? Why not?*'.

Kirsty spoke of Brunswick a great place to be due to their social justice focus. She said '*my big passion are people seeking asylum and marriage equality so it's a perfect fit. It's really great to have a congregation of a good size and where we fit in and have been so welcomed.*'

Valentina Satvedi-Leydon & Tom Leydon - Valentina and Tom introduced each other. Tom comes from the shores of the land of the Wurundjeri people and he brings with him an ecumenical faith, outlook and tradition. And Valentina comes to us via the USA where she is an ordained Anabaptist minister but originally hails from the shores of cosmopolitan Mumbai, India. Tom commented *'I feel very welcomed here, it is a spiritual home in that the theology embodies social justice'*. Valentina concluded *'We were collectively drawn because your justice is grounded in your theology and you believe and practice it well. Thank you for the welcome'*.

Fernando & Michelle Torres – Michelle and Fernando come from Brazil, Rio de Janeiro. Michelle commented that although she's only been here for four months she feels very welcome. She said *'my theology is very aligned with yours in general in that way that we see life, nature, the other, our self so I feel very welcome and call Brunswick Uniting my spiritual home for now'*. Fernando began by commenting on two things that are very important to him – coffee and bush dance. He then went on to speak of the beautiful community that they come from in Brazil and their desire to find a beautiful community here as well. He said *'And I'm here because of you, because of your love and feel very welcomed, especially from Emily and thank you so much for receiving us. Thank you'*.

Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, Jione Havea and Diya Lakai – Monica introduced herself, her husband Jione and daughter Diya. They have been coming to Brunswick UC on and off since January. Monica teaches Old Testament studies at the Pilgrim Theological College and has already preached here once which she said does make the congregation feel like home. She has lived in the country for over 6 years now, while Jione has been in Australia much longer. Monica comes from the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran church in India and she is a minister in that church. Jione is an ordained minister of the Free Wesleyan Church in Tonga which Monica said makes them an ecumenical family. She spoke of their desire to find a congregation that has an ecumenical spirit and that this spirit is *'manifested in the diversity that is reflected here in this congregation'*.

She went on to comment on our stance on various social justice issues, of being warmed by the *'welcoming spirit of this place'* and being *'touched by the creativity and the innovation of worship under the leadership of Pastor Ferguson'*. Monica concluded by speaking of their desire to find a place where her daughter could be nurtured in the faith and her hope that she will soon join in.

Saide Cameron

> Special Events

- **Death in October** - [D&E series reflecting on Death](#)
D&E News, p 7
- **7th October** - Cafe Style Morning Tea & Appreciative Enquiry (Community), *PC Community News, p 7*
- **14th October** - [Blessing the Animals](#)
Worship Calendar, p 3
- **14th October** - Student House Working Bee,
CYYA News, p 5
- **21st October** - PIEN Speaking Tour & Lunch
JAM News, p 8, PC Community News, p 7

- **28th October** - [Blessing the Bikes](#) & Spring Picnic
Worship Calendar, p 3, PC Community News, p 7
- **11th November** - Backyard Band Party
JAM - FUNdraining News, p 9
- **18th November** - Baptism of Jack Bottcher,
Worship Calendar, p 2
- **18th November** - Ministry Review Informal discussion
- **25th November** - Congregational Meeting
- **2nd & 9th December** - Christmas Bowl Appeal stalls

5-year review of Ian's ministry at BUC

Informal discussion on **18th November**

Can you believe that way back in February this year it was 5 years since Re Ian Ferguson joined us at BUC? Both Ian and the Church Council are keen that we take time to reflect on the gifts he has brought, the growth he has helped to foster, and directions for his ministry with us into the next 5 years.

Please join Church Council and Rev Peter Gador Whyte (Presbytery representative) for discussion along these lines, at an informal gathering following worship on 18 November. Bring along your reflections, themes to celebrate, and any concerns you may have. If you'd like to bring a creative response - a poem, artwork, story, etc - that would be most welcome!

You're also welcome to share your thoughts with the Elders/ Church Councillors at any time, to feed into our ongoing process of discernment.

Congregational Meeting

After worship on **25th November** everyone is invited to stay on for a Congregational Meeting.

The key agenda item is election of Elders. The Church Council is made up of ten elected Elders and the Minister of the Word. The Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month and also participates in a retreat in February.

Many people have served on Council over the years and it is an excellent way to learn more about how we function as a congregation as well as an opportunity to share your gifts.

Nominations will be called at the end of October. Meanwhile if you want to find out more about being an elder you can talk to one of the current ones: Daniel Broadstock, Linda Wannan, Claire Foley, Kate Scull, Helen Rowe, Gwen Arnold, Shawn Whelan, James Balsillie, Steph Gesling.

> Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

Student House

Working Bee - 2nd time lucky!

The August Working Bee was cancelled due to the weather so we're hoping for much better weather on **Sunday 14th October**. Join us at the Student Houses after worship from 11:30am-1pm. The focus of the working bee will be gardening and general cleaning up. Bring along your gardening tools (Fork, spade, rake, trowel, secateurs/pruners etc. and gloves). We also need some strong folks to join us on the day, since we are going to remove some unwanted furniture from the houses to be picked up in hard rubbish.

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 11th October to assist with catering for lunch.

Sunday Morning Program

Hi gang! I'm off hiking in Nepal & Europe - some great SMP is happening in October. Ann Soo & Valentina are looking after KP1s, Faye & James are doing some great sessions using the Mystic Bible, and Tim Winkler and his team of assistants have good things in store for the year 6/ secondary group. In the school hols & on the Cup Day



weekend you'll find all sorts of activity sheets plus I hope you enjoy our new pencil case collection.

The SMP roster has been organized although there are a few gaps. If you have any questions about SMP while I'm away please contact Anita Brown-Major (chair of the Children, Youth & Young Adult Committee, 0424 034 096).

Janet Watson Kruse, Children & Families Worker

> Pastoral Care News

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care oversight committee did not gather this month but will meet next in late October. In the meantime, the ongoing work of care is coordinated by our three Pastoral Care Teams: Hospitality ministering to newcomers, Compassion responding to particular needs, and Community facilitating the social and group life of our congregation. Below you will read about some of the amazing things these teams bring to our community.

Pastoral Care at BUC is not just done for us by our teams but carried out by all members - we are all carers through Christ's Spirit of hospitality, compassion and community.

Karlien Kok & Ian Ferguson

Compassion Ministry

We were saddened in August to hear of several members experiencing the death of close ones, both family and friends, and offer them our continued love and prayers.

We were really sad to hear of the death of Gwenda Booth, an elderly lady who was a long-term member of South West Brunswick and had offered wonderful pastoral care to many over years of faithful service. Unfortunately, once we moved Gwenda was unable to come to worship and we lost touch. As we did not have names of her daughters (now married) we could not visit her in her last years. This has again highlighted how helpful it would have been if we had had a contact number for her next of kin. Please consider filling in the card available at the moment to aid us in our care for you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you hear of someone who is experiencing difficulties. If we do not know it is hard for us to respond as we would like to.

Glenice Cook, (0414319649)

Welcome ...

A very special welcome to Student Households to Bethany Davey and Samantha Scicluna. Bethany is returning after some time overseas. Samantha is new to the program

We look forward to blessing them during worship in the near future.

YUCY

Have a look at the YUCY [Facebook page](#) for all the details for activities in term 4.

If you are in Grade 6, Years 7-10 please save the dates for the [end of year camp in Queenscliff](#), **30th November - 2nd December**.

Gwenda Booth

Ian was invited by Gwenda's daughter to preside over a private graveside ceremony. He offered these words in remembrance of Gwenda, a truly remarkable woman, much loved by the people of the South West Brunswick congregation.

I invite you to remember Gwenda as you knew and loved her.

Her good, long, gentle, no fuss life – temperate, clean living, impeccably groomed.

Her love of home and family, house and garden, the birds and the trees.

Deeply loving of her parents, her husband Bill, and all her family, Jan and Rowan and their partners John and Jannece, and Alicia and Juliette whom she enjoyed as young children and delighted to see growing up and becoming successful women in their own right.

Community Ministry

September

Four **Spectacularly Satiating September Dinners & Lunches** gatherings were held, two each on Friday 14th and Sunday 16th with thirty four people participating. Everyone had a lovely time sharing delicious food and truly excellent company. Watch out for dates next year and join in this totally delightful way of being in community.

October

Join us for three very different gatherings this month ...

- During **Cafe Style Morning Tea** after worship on **7th October** you are invited to participate in an '**Appreciative Enquiry**'. This will be an opportunity for our team to investigate, reflect on and analyse our group life and opportunities for connectedness in the congregation. Save the date now so you can stay on and participate.
- After worship on **21st October** we'll be hosting **lunch** in support of the **Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Speaking tour** forum (see JAM News). RSVP 18th October to saide.cameron@bigpond.com so that we can make sure there is enough delicious food for everyone. We'll be placing an order at A1 bakeries and providing fruit platters as well.
- We finish the month off with a **Spring Picnic** after worship on **28th October** (see Worship Calendar for news about Blessing the Bikes). Ride your bikes, walk or drive to Temple Park, Gray St., Brunswick. Bring food and drink to share. After the picnic the BUC Cycle group will head off on a leisurely Sunday afternoon ride. Come along and enjoy an afternoon in (hopefully) Spring sunshine.



Remember her faithfulness to God – a true Methodist and stalwart of the church community, with a long and deep commitment to the church at South West Brunswick which her father built.

She was part of the history of Brunswick, a foundation student at South West Primary and Uni High, who always felt safe and at home there.

Remember her strength and independence, her lack of attachment to material things, her commitment to her daily work even into old age, and the respect and high reputation she earned among those who employed her.

See her walking everywhere.

Remember also how she was when the difficulties of life arose – she did know loss and frailty at the end – but she was never one to confide, ever protective of her privacy.

Remember her ... hold the precious memory of her in your heart ... feel the love ... give thanks for her life.



November

Lots more opportunities in November to enjoy each other's company ...

- On **Sunday 11th November** everyone is invited to a **Backyard Band party** in support of the Olive Arts Collective with the altogether fabulously famous covers band - Terry Towelling and the Tank Tops. The party will be held at 8 Winifred St, Northcote from 2-6pm. Your hosts will be Trish, Kylie and Saide. (Trish and Kylie are friends of mine who are long time supporters of our FUNdraising events.) Anyway save the date and come along to enjoy the music, the dancing and the afternoon tea. Make a donation and let's have fun.
- Church Council will host a conversation during morning tea after worship on **18th November** for anyone interested in reflecting on Ian's ministry over the last five years. See Special Events ...
- A **Congregational Meeting** will be held after worship on **25th November**. See Special Events .. Everyone is invited to stay on after lunch - the menu is yet to be organized.



If you have questions about any of these events or activities please contact Saide Cameron, 0407 096 743.



Rachel & Kathryn

What a joy it was to attend Rachel U'Ren & Kathryn Dan's wedding ceremony on **Saturday 15th September** and to celebrate their deep and abiding love for each other. In welcoming everyone to the ceremony Ian offered these words:

Welcome to this church, welcome to this celebration of love, welcome in the wonderful rainbow diversity of your humanity and your families.

A few of things by way of introduction before we start.

First, you may be aware that the UCA very recently made a decision to allow its ministers to perform all marriages that are recognised by law in Australia. This wedding was scheduled before that decision was made in the hope of it. And I am delighted, and the congregation that meets here, of which Rachel, Kathryn and Thomas are a special part, is delighted that this ceremony is one of the first to be officially recognised, embraced and celebrated by both State and Church. That being said, we stand in an administrative grey area today. The Attorney General's Department and the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages will accept certificates signed by UCA ministers from next Saturday (missed by that much). Instead I have the pleasure

of sharing this ceremony with my friend Cheryl, who was a member of the Assembly that made the decision to eventually allow me to do what she is going to do today. Welcome Cheryl.

Secondly, let me acknowledge that churches have not always been welcoming places for everyone's love. That breaks my heart, and if that has been your experience, I pray that today this congregation's desire and efforts to be a safe, welcoming and healing place might mean that you feel free to be yourself here.

We are here today to celebrate a love which makes two one, embracing each of us as we are and all of us together. As a Christian minister I name that love God. Perhaps that is not the case for you. But faith or no faith, I invite you to find in this ceremony the words and the actions that connect you with love and allow you to celebrate it with all your heart.

The ceremony was entirely beautiful - ritual, words, vows and music. The flowers were arranged in rainbow colours and the hall amazingly decorated. Rachel told me that many a craft afternoon had been held creating all the pom-poms and dream catchers still on display in the hall.



> Justice & Mission News

From the committee

The Olive Way

- The planned Kitchen Renovation trial is on hold until the new sheds have been completed as we believe the clearing out and tidying up of the hall will provide a clearer indication of what is possible.
- The Olive Way review is going well with five OW participants on the team. The consultative process being used has delayed the final outcome of the review. We are very much looking forward to the outcomes.
- An edible garden will be developed in the south-west corner of our property fronting on to Sydney Rd. Olive Way participants are looking forward to growing food that can be used in the Wednesday lunches.

FUNdraising

- We noted with some disappointment the cancellation of the 'My favourite ...' cake stall. The cancellation was due to insufficient responses to make the cake stall workable.
- The Church Council has supported our recommendation that the congregation takes a break from the big FUNdraising events which have been held for many years now.
- Council will discuss the implications of this for our commitment to financial support of the Olive Way and Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre.

Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre

- The final amount raised through the Bush Dance was \$4,194.70. The donation from the Brooch Lovers' Big Day Out was \$5,000. This money has been made available to the ASWC this year.
- Saide met with Andi Jones, Asylum Seekers Programs Manager Vic.Tas Uniting Lentara to discuss potential uses of this money. The following projects have been identified by the ASWC team and approved by JAM and Council: a Driving Program which will allow 19 people to gain their licence, a Saturday excursion to learn more about Indigenous Culture and a Tuesday dinner reusable containers project.
- The raised garden beds in front of the ASWC and the area around them will be rejuvenated with the support of a team made up a tertiary student on work experience, a volunteer and a group of secondary students from Caroline Springs. Once cleared the gardens will be planted with the produce to be used for Tuesday dinners and Thursday and Saturday lunches.
- We noted our disappointment that the paper submitted to Uniting by the Reference Group has not been responded to as yet.

Stewart Lodge Ministry

- The ongoing necessity and viability of the Sunday Driving roster is still under discussion.
- We have decided to continue organizing the Stewart Lodge Carols and supper but have requested via the Ecumenical Clergy group that another church take on responsibility for the gift bags. We will still invite the congregation to make a financial contribution to the preparation of the bags.

ReGen

- We have re-engaged with ReGen. This has historically been an important relationship with members of the congregation serving on the Board of ReGen, the Overdose Awareness Day being held in our church and direct support through FUNdraising and the Christmas Hampers.
- A lot has changed over the years and most particularly recently with the creation of Uniting. We will now explore possibilities including mutual support for clients and volunteer training through Olive Way, provision of education and information about the work being done at ReGen and renewed support for the Christmas Hampers.

Pick my Project

- Voting closed on 17th September. We should hear the outcome some time in October.
- If we are not successful in receiving funding we hope that there is enough excitement within the congregation for at least some of the features of the proposal to go ahead. At the very least we'll have a shed that needs a mural and the fences will be gone.

Climate Action



- With the change of date and our iconic BUC banner missing we had a very reduced presence at the Rise for Climate rally on 7th September. If you know where the banner is please let a member of the committee know.
- Richard Arnold has provided 'Just say no to Adani' postcards. Please fill one out at worship and send it in as soon as you can.

Saide Cameron

Sydney Road Opera Company

Quirky Circus was quite simply a moving, insightful and engaging exploration (with lots of laughs) of how the challenges we face in life affect us and how we can, with support and encouragement, work through and respond to them. If you ever get the chance go to an SROC performance. A possible theme for a future performance is relationships. Meanwhile enjoy Ian's photos ...



BUC Arts News

ArtStop Review

The ArtStop Review was conducted by Beth Shelton and Liz Johnson with the support of Colin Hunter and Saide Cameron. The report was presented to the JAM committee at a special meeting on 30th September. The review of our partnership with the ArtStop program was commissioned as part of our forward planning for arts and community development programs at BUC. The report prepared by Beth and Liz provided us with a range of insights and new understandings about the purpose and function of the ArtStop program. They wrote *'The ArtStop program is a unique pop up studio; a program of Arts Access Victoria (AAV). ArtStop is a dedicated art space for artists from supported residential services (SRS).'* We acknowledged that ArtStop has a focus on the development of the artist and production of their work and that relationships are a secondary focus. Olive Arts, which offers a space for artists between the funded ArtStop programs, has a focus on nurturing relationships with the making of art a joyful outcome. Beth and Liz acknowledged this in their report writing *'Each group has a distinct but equally valuable way of working with artists'*. We offered our thanks to Liz and Beth for the time committed to meeting with the various stakeholders in our Wednesday programs, their thoughtful reflections and the presentation of the report.

After much discussion the JAM committee prepared three recommendations. These recommendations have been shared with leaders of the Olive Arts Collective. Further discussion resulted in some minor additions to the accompanying notes. Our recommendations will be included in our report to the October Council meeting. Watch this space next month for the outcome. The JAM committee takes our responsibility for the committees and programs in our care very seriously. We believe that nurturing and supporting development of arts programs within our congregation is a high priority and will work to ensure that it remains so.

Olive Pesto

The Olive Pesto Group have their sights set on all things Christmas in preparation for the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl appeal stalls to be held after worship on the first two Sundays in December. If you want to join in the fun of creating Christmas craft join the group on the first Saturday of the month in the Youth Hall. Contact Linda Wannan, 0405 470 568, for more information and/or check out the [September newsletter](#).



Saide Cameron



Grief can be an isolating experience and its expression can be unintentionally silenced by well-meaning people saying it's time to get over it. Art for the Heart is a way to creatively express what grief is all about by using silent but powerful expression through art, craft and writing.

BUC has contributed three works: **Ways of Remembering, Tell Me Your Story and In the Light and Shade.**

More than Cut & Paste

Collage – techniques and skills training with Priscilla Manthey and Ann Soo

Shut down your computer! Get back to cutting with scissors and pull out the paste! Discover collage, learn its history, experiment with papers and themes from nature and more!!

How? We are offering a safe and comfortable space for those interested to learn and further develop the technique of collage in a supportive group setting.

When? The workshops will be run over a six-week period from late September through to November after worship on the following dates: 30/9, 14/10, 28/10, 4/11, 11/11 and 18/11.

Note - the start of this series has been postponed. The new start date will be advised when available.

Where? The workshops will take place in the Youth Hall from 11am – 1.30pm on the dates listed above. All are welcome to the workshops and there is no cost involved. Each session will have a focal point or theme. Participants are welcome to create individual works or collaborative pieces.

Art in the Community

The Kinross Arts Centre at Toorak Uniting Church hosted a gathering of art program providers and artists recently. The Director of Kinross, Lyndel Wischer welcomed participants and talked about Kinross and some of the exhibitions they have held in the gallery there.

Natalie Dixon- Monu spoke about the program that is run at Habitat Art Studio in Kew. One of the artists spoke about what discovering and practicing art has meant to her and how it has transformed her life. I found it a very moving and inspirational presentation.

Dakeno Mark, the Mentor Artist at Habitat Studio spoke about the program and ways in which he assists the artists develop their work.



The BUCArts committee encourages you to set aside some time to visit the exhibition and engage with the art which gives beautiful and creative expression to grief.

Dates – **October 6th – 11th**

Location – Meat Market - 3 Blackwood St. North Melbourne.

Meat Market Stables – 2 Wreckyn St. North Melbourne

Opening hours – 9am – 5pm. This event is free and open to the public. No bookings necessary. It is wheelchair accessible, step free access and toilet accessible.

Please contact or see Ann Soo if interested – 0422 842 244 or annsoo11@tpg.com.au

No previous skill is required. There is no need to book for the workshops but please let us know if you are interested. Please contact Ann Soo annsoo11@tpg.com.au or Priscilla Manthey priscillamanthey@gmail.com for more information.

**Come and join us.
All are welcome!!**

With Who?

- Priscilla Manthey is a trained artist and art teacher from the Camberwell and Slade School of art in London. She has 10 years of teaching experience at Enfield College in art (TAFE equivalent in the UK). Her experience and skills in collage will be shared with participants including use of colour, tone and shape, creating aesthetic through to framing the work.
- Ann Soo is an untrained curious art maker, social worker and transpersonal art therapist who believes in facilitating gentle and safe spaces where everyone can feel inspired for creativity to emerge. Ann will co-ordinate this event.



Kerrie Graham spoke about the Sacred Edge Festival, an annual event at Queenscliff which includes art, drama and music. Sacred Edge is a lived experience of how we can treasure each other in all our glorious diversity and find our hearts and minds expanded and enriched. It was interesting to hear about some of the challenges involved in hosting this event which has grown significantly over the last five years.

Listening to these participants about their experiences of practicing art and the benefits it brings to peoples overall wellbeing made me feel proud about how we value and approach art at Brunswick.

Picture in my Head



Through the Arts Access Art Stop Program which we host and the Olive Arts Program there is an amazingly supportive and creative environment offered to emerging artists. On the 6th of September Arts Access Victoria held the exhibition 'Picture in my head' showing work from all their programs at Neon Parlour in Thornbury.

A number of our friends - Gavin Jackson, Cathy Lim, Richard Phelan, Barbara, Giovanni and Theo Psathos (pictured) all had works on show.

Leanne Salau

Stewart Lodge friends

Sophie Delaney visited **John Venning** at his nursing home in Berwick on the **9th September**. She reported that he seemed well and sent love to all.

Kirsty Bennett shared news that **Tracy** had hip surgery on **14th September** and is already up and about and was probably going to be in Royal Melbourne Rehab in Poplar Rd until the end of the following week. Kirsty arranged for flowers to be sent to Tracy.



Saide Cameron

> Culture of Safety

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

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

> Discipleship & Education News

Death in October

Why are we doing this? Conversations about death often don't happen until it is too late. It can be a taboo subject in our society, and its avoidance results in assumptions being made about what people in general and Christians in particular do or should think about death. This series provides a space to open up the subject before we have to, discussing end of life and the complex feelings and choices that surround it. We are not pushing a particular moral line (other than it is good to have opportunities to talk about death!), but looking to provide a gentle supportive environment to explore this aspect of living. [Website post here for sharing.](#)



- **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

> Happy Birthday

Gwen Arnold, Alan Austin, Peter Blair, Frances Boreham-Delaney, Anna Calder, Benjamin Clough, Kirsten Connan, Steph Gesling, Isabel Jolley, Lucas Kramer, Mick McCarthy, Richard Moore, Cecilia Otarola, Mal Rowe, Christina Rugel, Leanne Salau, Holly Slattery, Maggie Somerville, Joel Townsend



> Presbytery News

On Saturday 15th September, Presbytery-in-Council gathered at Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre. Before the meeting proper, we were treated to a presentation about various traditional tools and instruments by one of Narana's staff, which was both entertaining and thought-provoking. However, in a deeper sense Narana was a wonderful place for Presbytery to meet to listen to each other and discern together, as Rachel Kronberger brought home to us while leading the opening worship. As the website says, "Narana" means Listening and Learning, but it's a deep, deep listening in which you take in and live out.' What an ideal tradition for us all to learn from and try to practice!

The meeting itself followed much the usual agenda, although reports from the various Presbytery Committees were interspersed with new 'Postcard' presentations – 5 minute updates from individual congregations about exciting things arising or happening in their communities, such as climate change-related forums and concerts, and new initiatives to form links with local communities. We also had to vote on one important decision – whether to accept the Joint Nominating Committee's recommendation of Jeanne Beale to become one of our Presbytery Ministers. The following paragraph is a recap about Presbytery staffing for those who haven't been taking notes on our previous reports (tsk tsk); if you know all about it, feel free to skip it (and get a gold star)...

Recently the Synod funding for Presbyteries changed, meaning that instead of providing for three Presbytery ministers, the money only stretches to two. Knowing this was probably going to happen, our Presbytery was quite proactive in trying to come up with creative staffing models so we can do all the good stuff the Presbytery should do despite having fewer permanent staff. One aspect of the new model is that instead of having three Presbytery Ministers with defined specialities (Pastoral Care, Administration, and Mission & Education) – which realistically all overlapped anyway – we will now have two 'generalist' Presbytery Ministers, who will work together to minister in all these ways to the whole Presbytery. Therefore, the 'team' aspect of the two placements is crucial, and ideally we wished to call two ministers with complementary gifts and graces (because although the call is for 'generalists', nobody is awesome at everything). Until the meeting, both positions were vacant.

In recommending Jeanne, the Joint Nominating Committee noted that she has worked in a range of different ministry positions including congregational, chaplaincy at Aitken College, and most recently as a supply Presbytery Minister for another Presbytery, and she is skilled in community development. We were also advised that the Joint Nominating Committee is already in conversation with another person regarding the other Presbytery Minister placement, who they think might complement Jeanne well in terms of their respective skill sets. The chair reported that our vote 'overwhelmingly endorsed' the recommendation.

After the meeting, I couldn't help buying a little wooden wombat at Narana's giftshop on my way out, ostensibly for my partner, Leigh – but I think I really just wanted to carry a little bit of Narana with me.

Kate Scull

> Communication News

The Communications Team is primarily responsible for keeping everyone in the congregation informed about what has, is and will be happening in our various areas of ministry.

The two main ways this happens are through the Olive Press (weekly newsletter) and the Olive Branch (monthly newsletter). Both documents are available by email and in printed form.

We operate an extensive email network for communicating with members of the congregation.

The team also prepares the Olive Pages (Directory), Olive Bite link (Welcome leaflet) and the Olive Harvest (Annual Reports collection).

Name Tags are made available for all people who attend worship on request. They are a great resource in helping people feel connected to each other.

We support the activities of other committees and programs through the design and preparation of postcards, posters, real estate boards and other material.

We also look after administrative matters like mail outs, copyright licenses, purchasing paper, toner etc.

The Communications ministry is supported by people taking responsibility for specific tasks. At the moment the team is quite small and we are looking for more people to join us and become trained in doing some of the communications work.

Possibilities include:

- copyright recording
- maintaining the song use database (a record of songs used in worship each Sunday)
- uploading events on the website for committees that you are a member of
- posting the Sunday prayers after worship
- archiving of Synod specified documents
- managing our Facebook page and group
- setting up and maintaining a Flickr account for our photo library

Guidelines have been or will be prepared for each of these. If you are interested in picking up any of these tasks or want to know more please contact Saide Cameron, 0407 096 7843, saide.cameron@bigpond.com

Saide Cameron

> 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 cycle on **28th October** (following the Spring Picnic, see Community News p ??)

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 5th September** from 7:00pm unless advised otherwise For details, contact Kimberly Fraser, 0432 415 424.

Meditation

Meditation Groups have concluded for 2018 due to family commitments

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 24th October 2018**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

Something light for October... *Girt: The Unauthorised History of Australia* by David Hunt

In this hilarious history, David Hunt reveals the truth of Australia's past, from megafauna to Macquarie - the cock-ups and curiosities, the forgotten eccentrics and Eureka moments that have made us who we are.

Our nation's beginnings are steeped in the strange, the ridiculous and the frankly bizarre. *Girt* proudly reclaims these stories for all of us.

Not to read it would be un-Australian.

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 20th October**
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

> Reports

Church Council

This month your illustrious Church Council considered the following:

Ministry of the Word Review

- In line with our commitment to creating a culture of periodic review, we are moving toward a review of the Ministry of the Word. Of course, this is not an indication of any concerns about our current Minister!
- This has been instigated by Ian as an appropriate point at the halfway mark of his placement at BUC to have a look at questions such as how our congregation sees his role, whether it has or should shift to meet emerging needs, how the Minister can be effectively supported, etc.
- Rev. Peter Gador-Whyte has been appointed by Presbytery to lead this review, which will include some reflection with Church Council and committee chairs; a post-worship discussion meeting on 18 November (see separate invitation), and a liturgical celebration on 25 November.

Privacy Policy

- We are reviewing our privacy policy at the moment. Our current policy on visual images requires seeking permissions from BUC members to be featured in photographs that may be taken at events that they attend. It is an arduous process to obtain and maintain such permissions from every member of the congregation, so we are looking into the possibility of an appropriate opt-out policy.
- Church Council is also intending to bring together in one Privacy Policy questions such as the collection of personal information for the Olive Pages, medical contact data, etc.

Olive Way Co-ordinator

- We are moving forward with implementing our decision to reconstitute our Olive Way Coordinator as a Pastor role. We are working with Presbytery to complete this transition.

Finance

- We have happily endorsed the reclassification of Abi Benham-Bannon's work as an Income and Projects Book-keeper, with appropriate remuneration.

Support

- We reviewed and endorsed the ASWC's plans for the use of our annual donation, and approved a one-off \$500 grant to sponsor people to attend the Equal Voices Conference.

Church Council nominations

- Finally, and most importantly, it is coming to that magical time of year when we begin to seek out new candidates to join Church Council in 2019. It looks as though we may be looking for three or four bright-eyed new people to join the company of heroes that is Brunswick Church Council, so give it some thought!

Faithful readers may remember that last year, about this time, I presented a short story to inspire members of the joys of getting more involved in the church through our committee structure. It is with great pleasure that I offer the second instalment of that series.

Daniel Broadstock

DANIEL BROADSTOCK AND THE BRUNSWICK PROPHETIC SORTING HAT PART TWO

13 years later...

Steam curled around his feet as he approached Platform 9 & 3/4, the famous portal to the Brunswick Express. Daniel's face bore the imprint of age, and there was a touch of grey in his hair.

His two elder daughters, Press and Branch, whooped with excitement as they charged the ramp, owl-cages rattling on their speeding trolleys. Daniel looked down to see his youngest son gape with astonishment as they were swallowed by the magical barrier to the platform.

Daniel touched his son's shoulder gently. 'Together?'

The boy looked up. He nodded uncertainly.



They both took hold of the trolley and broke into a run. The boy closed his eyes at the last moment, expecting to crash into a solid wall, but then they were through.

They staggered out onto a crowded platform. The shining windows of the Brunswick

Express were already filled with congregants, trading consensus cards and sharing gluten-free bread.

Press and Branch already chattering excitedly with their friends, were clambering onto the train. Daniel looked around to see his son bent over his shoes, tying his laces. He crouched down beside him. His young face wore the anxiety that Daniel remembered from his own first year.

'Dad...' the boy began. 'What if I am sorted into Property Committee?'

Daniel sighed. 'Dad...' the boy began. 'What if I am sorted into Property Committee?'

Daniel sighed. 'Raymond James Andrew Broadstock, you are named after some of the bravest men I ever knew. They were on Property Committee.'

'But what if I am?'

'Then the Property Committee will have gained a fine young member.' Daniel lowered his voice to a whisper, 'But if you really want to be in Discipleship and Education, the Prophetic Sorting Hat takes your choice into account.'

'Really?' Raymond smiled hopefully.

Daniel watched as the boy straightened, took a deep breath, and walked slowly onto the train. He stood with his childhood companions, now themselves parents, and waved as the train slowly pulled away from the platform, carrying the members off to a new year in the most magical place in the world.

THE END

Disclaimer: I LOVE Property Committee. They're an amazing committee, they're looking for new members, and you should join. However, every time I do this I have to dig a committee for the lols and this year it was Property.

Next year I'm looking at you Pastoral Care!

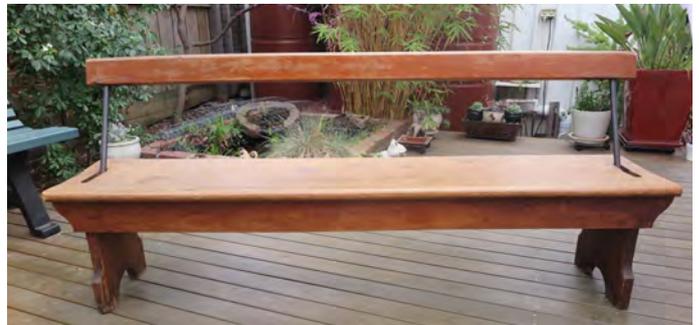
Property Committee

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

- Sheds are at the planning permit, awaiting additional planning information.
- A number of Japanese maples have been removed from the walkway, awaiting the others to be removed.
- Maintenance work to be undertaken at the student houses, 'blackout' boards installed.
- Olive Way sliding door has been serviced (currently a bit noisier than usual) and its two batteries replaced.
- Dual toilet roll holders are being trialled in a cubicle in the men's and women's. The one in the men's has been installed, the women's will be shortly.
- An oven in the hall kitchen has had another service call out and a control is faulty requiring replacement.
- Synod insurance company conducted an inspection of the church property.
- Information has been provided to the student house in relation to their telecommunication service.

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

- The Property Committee to manage the construction of the sheds in conjunction with the JAM committee.
- 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. GMK key to be fitted on the door.
- 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.
- Gutters and down pipes to be inspected and cleaned
- 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.
- Gas heater on the south and east walls of the hall aren't operating, to be repaired.
- Modify the hatches above the two doorways between the church and the Olive Way to aid in cooling in hotter weather.



- The hall bench seats are made from Kauri wood. Following the purchase of the stackable chairs we do not to keep all of them. The excess seats are being sold for \$200 per seat. They are available for members of the congregation to purchase. Measurements: 182 x 89 x 35 cm. Unsold seats will be placed on E-bay mid-October. If you would like to buy one of these seats please contact James Clough, 0424 054 610.

Ray Cameron

Worship Committee

Having missed a month there were a lot of worship services to reflect on at our September meeting. Again we express our thanks to Carlynn Nunn and Geoff Thompson who preached on the two Sundays while Ian was on leave in August.

Noting that 14 adults participated in the **Welcoming Ceremony** on **16th September** we wondered how we invite and encourage people to become more involved and engaged in the wider life of our congregation. The Hospitality Pastoral Care Team are going to take up this conversation.

We have already started thinking about the **season of Advent** (four Sundays in December) and the **Christmas Eve Pageant**. We are hosting an **Advent Planning meeting** after worship on **11th November**. Please join us as we look at the lectionary readings, reflect on them and the ways in which they connect with our lives now and begin to develop an overall theme for

2/9 Pentecost 15 Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Mark 7:1-8,14-23 The prayers of adoration and confession at the turning of the season offered us the symbols of light, water, wind and new life.

Janet and Ian spoke with the congregation (in the complete absence of children being available to chat to at that time) about love songs and particular King Solomon's Song of Songs. The portion that we heard referred to the changing of the seasons. Janet spoke of the unhelpful imposition of four seasons on our land and reminded us of the 6-7 seasons used by the indigenous people. Ian suggested that *the whole of creation is God's love song to us and in creation we reflect that love back to God.*

In his reflection on 'Clean Eating' Ian asked *'So friends how pure are you?'* commenting that he was interested in our *'moral cleanliness'*. He spoke of the debate between Jesus and the Pharisees the ritual washing of hands, about what makes something clean or unclean. Ian went on to comment on the latest dietary trend called *'clean eating'* and the various ways in which our relationship with food and what we eat in our times is made so challenging. Ian explained that the question of ritual washing and other food laws were such a *'critical and deeply divisive issue for the early Christian church'* because of the diversity of their backgrounds as they struggled to become one community. This struggle Ian said *'focussed particularly on eating together. Eating together – notice that as we excavate this gospel text the question becomes not 'how can I be pure through my eating?', but 'how can we be one, eating together in our diversity?'. A shift from personal morality to communal responsibility.'*

He concluded drawing our attention to our celebration of Holy Communion *'So friends as we eat together today around this table let's practice Christ's kind of purity – purity not of the skin but of the heart. Let's pray for hearts that love rather than hearts that judge. Hearts that are open rather than closed. Hearts that pour forth the joy of being in communion with God and with one another whoever we are, however we are.'* Together we sang *'Create in us a clean heart'*.

9/9 Pentecost 16 Mark 7:24-37, James 2:1-10,14-17 In response to the gospel reading of Jesus and the Syrophenician woman Ian invited the children to divide into two groups to help them think about the question 'Who belongs in the family of Jesus?'. The children felt that everyone belongs. Ian explained that the Galileans and the Syrophenicians were two very different groups of people. Arriving at the point in the story where the woman who had asked for her daughter to be healed comments *'Even the dogs get the crumbs from under the table'* Ian invited the Syrophenician group of children to cram in under the table. And when Jesus changes his mind everyone else crammed in under the table to come out the other side and join in one big circle around the table, one family of Jesus.

this season of preparation. Caitlin Mullen has prepared a draft script for the Christmas Eve Pageant. It's going to be lots of fun. Invitations to participate as cast members or production team will be made soon. Please consider getting involved. Contact Saide, 0407 096 743, if you want more information sooner.

We're looking forward to reflecting on the first five years of Ian's ministry at our next meeting and planning for the **Celebration of Ministry** to be held during worship on **25th November**.

We discussed the particular challenge that **Direct Debit offerings** pose when visitors or newcomers see so many of us potentially 'putting nothing in the plate'. We have a few ideas which we plan to put in place soon.

There's lots happening during worship over the next two months. See the **Worship Calendar** on p. 2 for all the details.



Responding to this story in his sermon Ian asked *'What story do we tell and what do we include and leave out in order to tell that story?'* He went on to explore the stories told about the recent brawl in Collingwood and the racial profiling in the Gospel story. He spoke of the healing of the voiceless man in the gospel and of the people in our world now who are shut out and silenced. He shared his experience of a conversation with an Uber driver on this topic and also of attending the ordination of Rev. Paul Dow, South Sudanese Australian, formerly one of the lost boys of Sudan. Ian shared that during the ordination sermon *Randall Prior described how Paul's call to ministry emerged from his search for meaning. Randall said the experience of war left Paul with a deep desire, a quest to find hope, where his own hope and that of his people had been shattered, to find meaning in life where so much of life had been shockingly taken away.* And at the end of what Ian felt was a well deserved two and a half hour ordination service he told us that the *'South Sudanese youth had their moment and they gave us an exhilarating extra half hour of dance'* Ian concluded by sharing a very short snippet of what was a *'story of belonging to the diverse community of Christ's people'*.



16/9 Pentecost 17 Proverbs 1:20-33, Mark 8:27-38 Ian invited the children to think and talk about wisdom, Sophia. He referred to the reading from Proverbs which Amelia had read *"for she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the workings of God, an image of God's goodness"*. And so they talked about mirrors, reflecting light. In lighting the candles for Sunday Morning Program Ian reminded us the Jesus is the light of the world and that we are the mirrors reflecting light of Christ back into the world. We then welcomed 19 new comers to the congregation in our Welcoming Ceremony, see p.3 for the story.

In his sermon Ian invited us into conversation with Sophia to explore *'Mainstream-wisdom vs alt-wisdom'*. He explained that *'Sophia – Wisdom personified (is) the feminine divine who is present in the ancient faith world of the Old Testament and who came to have a very significant role in the development of Christianity.'* During the sermon we had three opportunities to respond in conversation with one or two others around us to a series of questions. Ian explained that there are two different streams that flow through the wisdom literature in the Bible. The Proverbs reading offered us mainstream wisdom - *'Those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease without dread of disaster.'* A reading from Psalm 73 was an example of alt-wisdom in which the psalmist is exploring the question so often asked *"If God is good to the upright", says the psalmist, 'why do the wicked prosper and the innocent suffer?'* Ian explained that the psalmist solves this question through the application of eschatology - God will sort it out in the end. Concluding by commenting on a current big movement in Christianity - prosperity theology - he reminded us of the first Christians' response to Jesus power and success, alongside his suffering and failure *'Here is Sophia giving us a way to follow while embracing the mystery of suffering. Here is God with us, here is Sophia. Let us take up our cross and follow this way of wisdom. God is with us and Sophia teaches us to be with God, to work with God even amidst the injustice and seemingly meaningless moments of violence. Is that enough for you?'*



23/9 Pentecost 18 Psalm 1, Mark 9:30-37 Responding to the mainstream wisdom Psalm in which the psalmist sings *'Happy are those ... They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.'* Ian invited the children to learn actions to the chorus of 'The tree song' speaking after each verse about an example the trees in each verse - a river red gum, a snow gum and a city tree. He prayed *'Dear God, make us to be strong trees with deep roots into the waters of your grace and leaves stretching up to the sunshine of your love bearing the fruits of faith. Make us strong trees by grace in Jesus name. Amen.'*

Ian took up the challenge of Grand Final Week in his sermon 'Losing is winning', speaking briefly about his football team (St. Kilda) segueing neatly into an exploration of how Christian faith can become a competitive sport through showing us clips from the TV series Rev. He spoke of the continuing argument about the decision made at the UC Assembly on marriage equality. He asked *'But what matters most? What do our theology and our Bible point us towards?'* He commented on the disciples' question reminding us that they were only doing what their ancient honour based society expects of them. Ian reminded us that we are called to follow Jesus *'the biggest loser of them all with his abject failure to a kind of winner takes all leader the world seems to be hungry for right now'*. He commented on Jesus' embrace of a child, a person with no status in that time and society, comparing this to the place our children hold in our hearts and the heartbreak of knowing that children are suffering in places like Naura - *'political footballs being kicked around in a game where winning is more important than humanity'*. He concluded referring to Adam and Nigel's (from Rev) particular struggles in life and offered this prayer *'I hope that your team wins the game and that in the parts of life that are not a game the Spirit may empower you to walk with life's losers, the last and the least to meet Christ there and to welcome him with all that you are. In his Holy name, Amen.'*

You can listen to all of these sermons from the website sermons & stories page <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/sermons-stories/> or by clicking on the links on these pages.

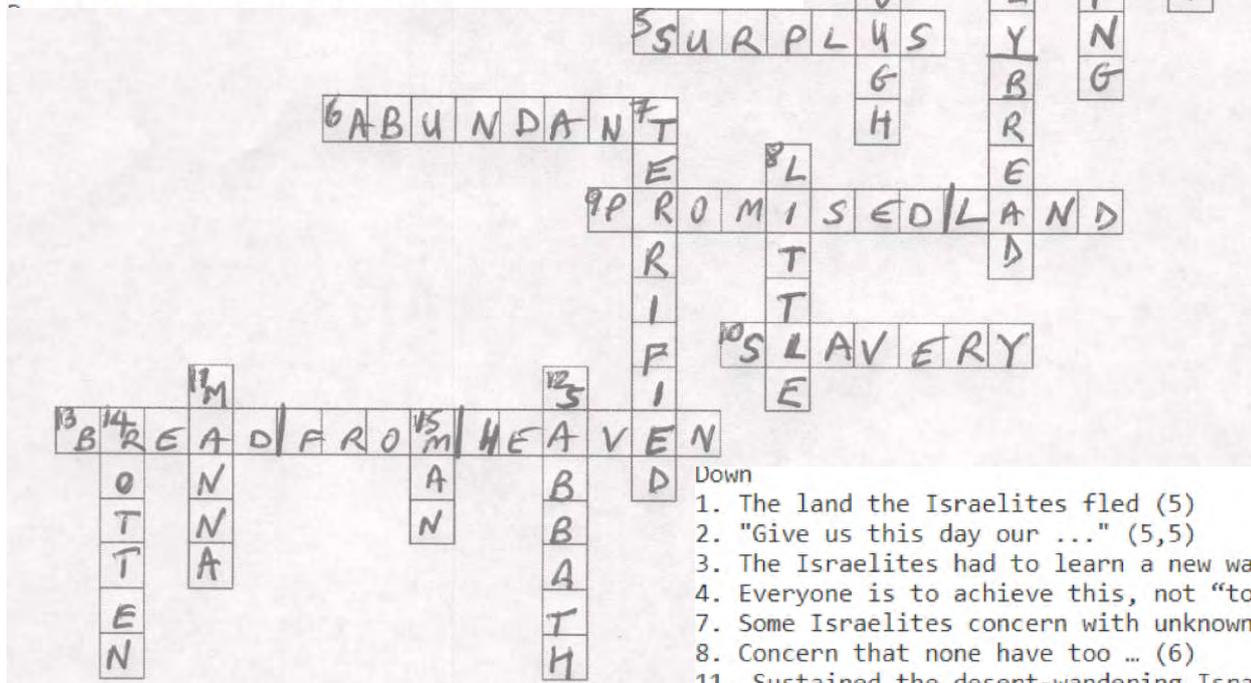
Saide Cameron

Finance Committee

The September Crossword Answers. From the Bible and http://www.mannagum.org.au/faith_and_economy "None Shall Have Too Much: The Strange Economics of Manna in the Wilderness", by Jonathan Cornford.

Across

4. "The aim is ..." said Paul (8)
5. Enormous extra production of Egypt(7)
6. "Can we learn resources are .." (8)
9. Deuteronomy 8 lessons before entering this place (8,4)
10. Working without freedom (7)
13. Strange new economy (5,4,6)



Down

1. The land the Israelites fled (5)
2. "Give us this day our ..." (5,5)
3. The Israelites had to learn a new way of(6)
4. Everyone is to achieve this, not "too much" (6)
7. Some Israelites concern with unknown (8)
8. Concern that none have too ... (6)
11. Sustained the desert-wandering Israelites (5)
12. Radical industrial relations policy (7)
14. Stored wealth turns ... (6)
15. Does not live by bread alone (3)

BUC's mission activity is growing: would you like to develop some skills?

BUC's mission activity is growing. We plan to expand our pool of people with skills or in-training to support this.

You may already have these skills, or you may not have any. Either way, we'll hold your hand while you learn.

And what better way to learn than with patient and skilled people whose credo is forgiveness?!



Counting and banking Sunday Offerings. Must be 18 or older. Flexible once-every-6-weeks confidential roster.

Learn about offerings, donations, FUNdraising; just some of our church income.

Excel spread-sheets. For analysis and graphing of Finance stuff; investments, growth, mission activity; no limit.

Office skills – scan/photocopy/filing, emailing; using the Ricoh (with features you can discover and *please share*)

Writing – recommendations, agendas, minutes, position descriptions, letters of offer; using MSWord.

Note that NONE of these tasks involve using MYOB accounting software or access to the ANZ account.

So, if you are interested in using or developing these skills as a volunteer, come talk with the finance team:

Naomi David, Tim Budge, Mal Rowe or Linda Wannan (lindawannan@gmail.com ph 0405470568)

Who knows where these skills may take you?!

Linda Wannan

> Preaching Plan

October 7	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion	November 4	Graeme Garret Holy Communion	December 2	Ian Ferguson Holy Communion, Advent 1
October 14	Ian Ferguson Blessing the animals	November 11	Ian Ferguson	December 9	Ian Ferguson Advent 2
October 21	Ian Ferguson	November 18	Ian Ferguson Baptism - Jack Bottcher	December 16	Ian Ferguson Advent 3
October 28	Ian Ferguson Blessing the bikes	November 25	Ian Ferguson Celebration of Ministry	December 23	Ian Ferguson Advent 4

> 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
7/10	Pentecost 20	Jb 1:1; 2:1-10	Ps 26	Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mk 10:2-16	G
14/10	Pentecost 21	Jb 23:1-9,16-17	Ps 22:1-15	Heb 4:12-16	Mk 10:17-31	G
21/10	Pentecost 21	Jb 38:1-7(34-41)	Ps 104:1-9,24,35c	Heb 5:1-10	Mk 10:35-45	G
28/10	Pentecost 22	Jb 42:1-6,10-17	Ps 34:1-8(19-22)	Heb 7:23-28	Mk 10:46-52	G
1/11	All Saints Day	Is 25:6-9	Ps 24	REv 21:1-6a	Jn 11:32-44	W
4/11	Pentecost 23	Ru 1:1-18	Ps 146	Heb 9:11-14	Mk 12:28-34	G
11/11	Pentecost 24	Ru 3:1-5;4:13-17	Ps 127	Heb 9:24-28	Mk 12:38-44	G
18/11	Pentecost 25 1	Sm 1:4-20	Ps 16	Heb 10:11-14	Mk 13:1-8	G
		1 Sm 2:1-10		(15-18), 19-25		
25/11	Christ the King 2	Sm 23:1-7	Ps 132:1-12,(13-18)	Rv 1:4b-8	Jn18:33-37	W

October Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 30	October 1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC Reflective worship 5:00 – Indonesian W’p Combined worship		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Death in October		2:30 – Coffee
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC 10:45 – Café Style Morning Tea 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Church Council	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Death in October	7:30 – YUCY	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 – Ian Ferguson Blessing the Animals. 11:30 – Student House Working Bee & Lunch 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 7:30 – Worship C’tee	10:00 – Olive Way 6:45 – JAM Committee 7:30 – Death in October		10:00 – Food Co-op
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:15 – PIEN Forum & lunch 5:00 – Indonesian W’p		10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Property C’tee	10:00 - Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner 7:30 – Book Group	10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Death in October	7:30 – YUCY	
28	29	30	31	November 1	2	3
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 10:45 – Blessing the Bikes 11:30 – Spring Picnic 12:30 – BUC Cycle 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way 12:00 – Community Dinner	10:00 – Olive Way		