



‘Vision and a sense of Call’ earn new Synod role for Mark

Godly Play conference is back by popular demand

SUCH is the growing interest in Godly Play that last year’s first National Conference in Sydney sold out.

This year’s National Godly Play Conference - from July 7-10 - is being held in the beautiful Adelaide Hills.

Timetable:

Godly Play Open Day and Expo
Sat 7 July, 10am - 4pm

Godly Play Conference Dinner
Sat 7 July

3-Day Core Training Provided
by International and Australian
Godly Play Trainers
8 - 10 July: Children’s ministry,
teachers, school and aged care
chaplains and ministers receive
accredited certificate.

8 - 9 July: Godly Play
storytellers to network, practice
storytelling, receive/provide
feedback, and share ideas. All
events at Nunyara Conference
Centre, Belair. Accommodation
and meals provided for those
attending the Core Training or
Trained Storytellers Gathering.
Further information and costs
from Children and Family
Ministry Team, Uniting Church
South Australia on 08 8236
4281 or email children@sa.uca.org.au

THE Synod convened at a special meeting last month to put the appointment of a new General Secretary to the vote - and elected Port Phillip East’s Presbytery Minister – Pastoral Care, Rev. Dr. Mark Lawrence, to be appointed to this role.

Mark, pictured right, will take up the position on November 1 for an initial five-year appointment. The role encompasses a wide-ranging remit of pastoral, advisory and administrative duties and is regarded as a senior role in the Uniting Church.

Mark’s name was put forward by the General Secretary Nominating Committee and a report by its convenor, Rev Sue Withers, stated: “Mark has a sound knowledge of the structure of the UCA and an understanding of ministry within the UCA - particularly the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. He has considerable experience in pastoral care and an



understanding of the relationship between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress with the rest of the Church. He has well-developed verbal and written communication skills, administration and organisational skills and a proven ability to lead and manage change effectively. In addition he has excellent interpersonal skills, experience in mediation, enthusiasm, vision and a sense of Call for the ministry of General Secretary.”

Following the Synod vote, Mark said: “This process of discernment, and the result of the vote this afternoon, has been a humbling, affirming, challenging, and encouraging journey for me. I feel honoured, excited, somewhat daunted, and very enthused to be called into the role of General Secretary and to exercise the ministry and leadership intrinsic to this placement.

In this election, I am also thankful for the good wishes, support, and encouragement of people from across Synod – bearing witness to God’s faithfulness, as together, we take this step in faith.”

Mark’s colleagues in the Port Phillip East Presbytery are thrilled with his appointment, with Rev John Mann telling Newsbeat: “Port Phillip East Presbytery is extremely pleased for Mark and we feel he will make an excellent General Secretary. Not only has he been a very effective Presbytery Minister – Pastoral Care, he is also a good friend and we are really going to miss him. Of course, we will still see him but we are now going to have to share him with the other Presbyteries.”



St David's Parkdale delivers warm welcome for husband and wife team



AGM

Special Guest Speaker
Stephen Mullen

Director of Human Resources-Synod

'Creating a Values Based Organisation'

All Welcome

Wednesday 4 July 2012

11:00am

Bethel Pastoral Centre
59 Doncaster Road
NORTH BALWYN

RSVP

Phone/Fax: 03 9859 8700
E-mail:
bethel@victas.uca.org.au

THE sun beamed through the church at the service of commissioning for Pastor's Anna White-Atkins and David Atkins recently.... prophetic indeed.

Anna and David - who come from Careforce Church (Churches of Christ) Mt Evelyn - will now lead the congregation at St. David's Parkdale and are blessed to have a newly renovated church building to carry out their duties.

Ministers from across the Presbytery joined the commissioning service and blessed Anna and David with a special laying on of hands to pray for the future of their ministry.



Book Bash

Dromana UC has a Monster Book Fair of pre-loved books on the weekend of June 9-10, 9 am till 2 pm.

Donations appreciated.

Come and browse.

Dromana Uniting Church,
Nepean Highway, Dromana.

Fellowship and faith with UCAF

IT turned out to be a superb day on Wednesday, May 9 when more than 60 members of the Presbytery UCAF met at Trinity Uniting Church in Brighton for the Annual May Gathering.

The group took part in worship led by Werribee's Rev David Withers and heard uplifting accounts from Lencie Harding and Ann Connan on their attendance at the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Women. Their talks were backed by a wonderfully illustrative presentation of slides. After lunch, those present were entertained by some delightful piano duets from sisters Joan and Joyce. Followed by Alan Clark telling the story of 'Sammy Stamp' and Erica Myers-Davis speaking on the work of Prahran Mission.



All in all it was a special day of Fellowship and Mission Support where an Offering was taken and shared between the Prahran Mission and the cost of transporting containers to the Pacific by the Mission Liaison Group. special thanks to all the Trinity folk who made the day such a success.

Participants sought for discussion on Evangelism for Today

THE Rev Peter Whitaker would like to meet with other colleagues or interested parties to discuss the issue of evangelism and missional church for the Church today.

The idea is to form a reading group(s) and inform discussion from the theological conversation both of traditional and contemporary theological thinking.

Peter, of leighmoor UC, says: "There is some very helpful and interesting reflection going on and we would like to develop this further through discussion groups around the area."

If you are interested contact Peter Whitaker at pgwhitaker@bigpond.com or 03 9585 0406.



HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign, and the sacrifice of Bruce Kingsbury VC at Isurava

ST. GEORGE'S EAST ST. KILDA UNITING CHURCH
4 CHAPEL STREET, EAST ST. KILDA

SUNDAY 19 AUGUST 2012
ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE
10:30 AM

Remembering the 14 Battalion and the 97th anniversary of the death at Gallipoli of their Chaplain, REV. ANDREW GILLISON

GUEST SPEAKERS

Theme: Personal stories from the Kokoda Track during WWII

Peter Holloway - 39 Battalion
Bob Iskov - 2/14 Battalion
Cam Thompson - 2/14 Battalion

Battalion flags and banners to be marched into the Church. Medals to be worn.

FEATURING

Candle-lighting for remembrance
Music by the Band of the 2/10 Field Regiment RAA
Presentation of a Commemorative DVD 'Healing the Wounds of War'

LUNCH

Hosted by the 2/10 Field Regiment RAA and St. George's congregation. Lunch \$7:00.
RSVP 9692 9426 if attending lunch

Lunch bookings: **RSVP** by 7 August by phoning 03 9692 9426
All other inquiries: Rev. Angela Tampiyappa 03 9731 0604

share

Winter Appeal 2012

Power bill hikes will hit hardest this winter

Quote...

Count your blessings.

*Once you realize how valuable you are
and how much you have going for you,
the smiles will return, the sun will break
out, the music will play, and you will
finally be able to move forward with
the life that God intended for you with
grace, strength, courage, and confidence.*

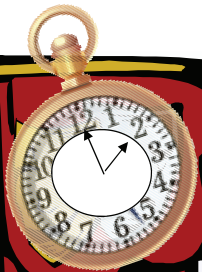
Og Mandino

...of the month

The annual SHARE Winter Appeal is happening in June. This appeal is vital to the future of a whole range of community support programs that governments do not fund. Without the support of SHARE grants many of these programs would be forced to close.

The theme this year is the rising cost of utility bills and the fact that when other bills are pressing food is often the first to be sacrificed. The main reason people visit welfare agencies is to obtain food and we have requests from agencies across Victoria and Tasmania for over \$376,000 for food and emergency relief programs.

We rely on the generosity of donors to meet these needs. Please vigorously promote the appeal in your congregation. Donation envelopes and posters have been mailed, if your congregation hasn't received them please contact SHARE. If you would like further information about the appeal please contact Angela Goodwin on (03) 9251 5285 or angela.goodwin@victas.uca.org.au



An Afternoon Tea in Wonderland

Saturday, 7th July 2012 - 2.00 pm

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"By all means" .. to The Uniting Church, High St, Frankston

- ♥ **Extremely! Delicious Afternoon Tea & Spectacular Musical Entertainment**
- ♥ **Mad Hats & Hatters - All Welcome to this Very Important Date!**
- ♥ **Lifting the Lid on a Teapot of fun and games** to help the members of LEGS Evening Group raise funds for outreach through **OPERATION LARDER** providing emergency relief in our local community & a maintenance project enabling us to continue sharing our facilities with many local community groups.

**Lucky Door & Lucky Tea Cup Prizes! * Silent Auction * Wear or Make Your Hat!*

Tickets available now : \$15.00



Letters to the Editor

I have long been concerned that the view of the church as promulgated in our media is extremely negative.

When a real estate agent approached us to say they would be happy to put up community notice boards outside our church I started to think of ways to encourage people walking by to think differently about what church is about. Hence the sign (right.) The idea was copied from a facebook post by Christ Community Church, USA.

A short while after this board had gone up, I was approached by someone to tell me how much she loved the board: It actually spoke to her about what we actually need, rather than the things we want. She spent about 10 minutes giving me a 'sermon' on what was wrong with the world and what was right about the sign!

It took several tries to get the picture correct before sending off to the estate agent. I left some discarded versions lying around in our church hall, and have since found that some of the hall users had actually torn off a word from the bottom – they were taking what they needed.

If I was to put this sort of sign up again, I would add, in small letters at the bottom, "and pass it on".

So my aim, to get people to think differently about church, was achieved.

Rev Eileen Ray,
Minister,
Sandringham Uniting Church.

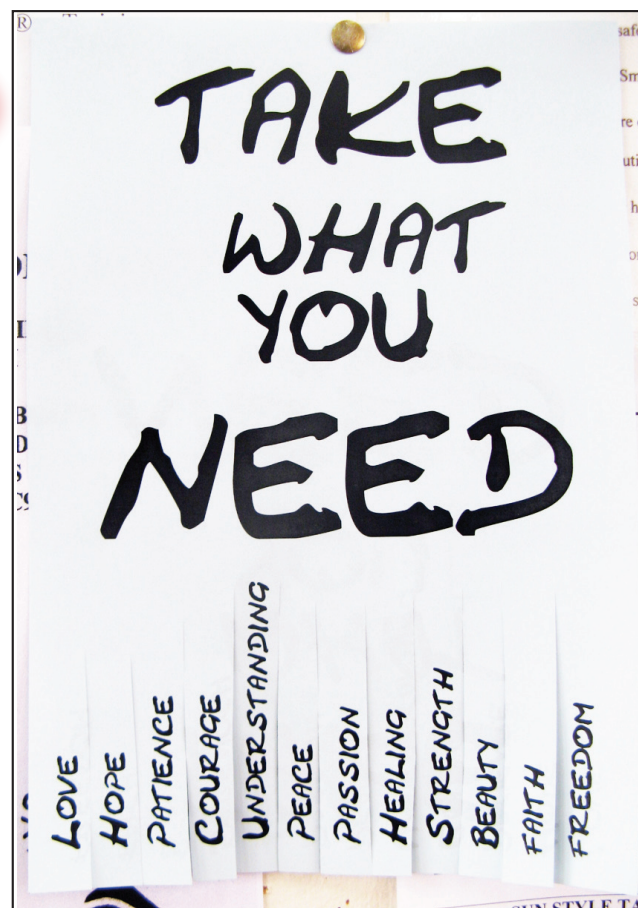
Time capsule planned for grand opening at Dandenong

THE excitement is building for the much-anticipated grand opening of Dandenong Uniting Church later this month.

On Sunday 24 June at 2pm Dandenong UC, 32 Scott Street Dandenong, will officially open its recently completed building extensions and refurbishment at a special Dedication Service followed by a delicious Afternoon Tea.

Moderator, Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson, will be the guest speaker on the day and she will also dedicate the buildings - along with the placement of a time capsule during the service.

Past members, ministers and people associated with the Dandenong Uniting Church are all warmly invited. Why not bring along someone new? Details and RSVP on 0430 744 811 or apweeuca@optusnet.com.au (by 8 June 2012 for food numbers.)



DANDENONG UNITING CHURCH



*It is with great pleasure
that we extend an invitation
for you to attend a*

A Dedication Service

for the

***Official Opening
of***

our New and Refurbished Buildings

**Sunday 24th June 2012
at 2 pm**

32 Scott Street, Dandenong

*A time capsule will be placed at the end of the service, followed
by light refreshments*

RSVP

Email: apweeuca@optusnet.com.au
Phone: Rev Dr Apwee Ting 0430 744 811
Mail: PO Box 7312, Dandenong, Vic 3175

By Friday 8th June 2012

Children's Corner

The Nurture and Spiritual Guidance of Children - Stirling Theological College

Elective Unit (Christian Life and Ministry) for MDiv

This unit explores the historical and current interest in the spiritual life and development of children. It examines links between Scripture, theological thought, spiritual and psychological development, neurobiology and ministry with children.

Details at http://www.cctc.edu.au/Subjects/DR_DS_219_319.html

The World of the Child - Whitley College

GradDip & MDiv : Specialised Unit

This unit explores the nature and practice of ministry with children. Drawing upon theologies of personhood, church, mission and formation, participants will consider the social, developmental and spiritual world of the child and how these factors impact ministry with and for children and families. Special focus on ethical and legal demands of safe practice in ministry with children.

Saturdays, 9.00 am - 4.00 pm.

Saturday July 28 - at Centre for Theology and Mission, (UFT) 29 College Crescent, Parkville

Saturdays - August 11 & 25; September 15 and October 6 & 20 - at Syndal Baptist Church, 588 High Street, Glen Waverley Details at <http://whitley.unimelb.edu.au/handbook/world-child-introduction-childrens-ministry-1>

BIG SCREEN FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Movie: **Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG)**

Date: Friday June 15

Time: 7 - 8.30pm

Where: High Street

Uniting Church, Frankston

Tickets: \$10 per person or \$40 family ticket (2 adults and up to 4 children)

Popcorn, lolly bags, soft drinks and lucky dip on the

night.... loose change and gold coin prices !!!

**ALL IN AID OF THE NORTH INDIA CHALLENGE
(FUNDS EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS' IN
NORTHERN INDIA FOR A WHOLE YEAR)**

**DETAILS/TICKETS ON 8774 4939 OR PAY ON THE
NIGHT. PARENTS MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN.**



Want a better grasp of church based children's ministry?

DM421/DM621

Issues in Children's Ministry

Develop a greater understanding of:

- Contemporary Issues with a bearing on church-based children's ministry
- Skills for working with church-based children

Plus: The opportunity to be supervised in children's ministry.

Lecturer: Beth Barnett

Location: Ridley Melbourne Mission & Ministry College

Intensive Format: 12-13th, 16th-18th July & 22nd September 2012

Registration & More Information: www.ridley.edu.au (03) 92074800



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