

NEWSBEAT



September 2012

PRESBYTERY OF
PORT PHILLIP EAST



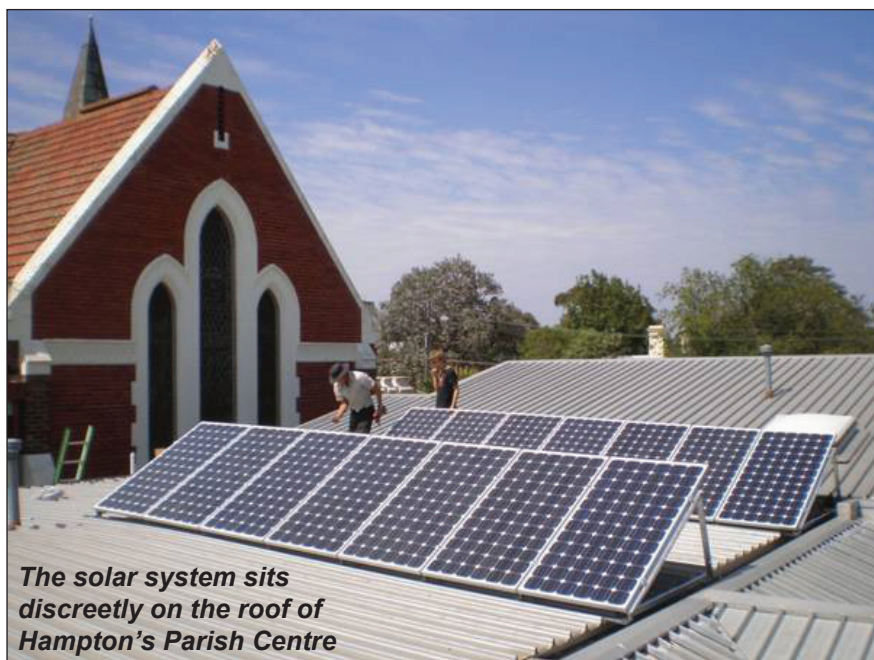
First class
response
to College
comeback,
see page 3



KCM
welcomes
Andrew
and Todd,
see page 4

Out of Africa - Watoto
Children's Choir brings
the beat to St John's,
turn to page 2 for the full
story

Solar panels shave thousands off Hampton power bills



CLIMATE change and sustainable energy are definitely hot topics and one church in the Presbytery is reaping the benefits of its decision to go green.

For in October 2009 Hampton UCA installed a solar electricity generating system atop their parish centre to help the environment and save money.

They are thrilled with the results as electricity costs have been reduced to a third of what they were. Just look at the bills for the last four years:

2008	\$2301
2009	\$2346
2010	\$733
2011	\$779

Rev Kim Groot says: "As our 'bought' electricity costs are rising this year by 32% for Off-Peak and 19% for Peak rates, Hampton is even happier to be enjoying the savings made by our solar system."

Solar power for Churches is a practical guide for churches considering installing solar panels or solar hot water. Visit greenchurch.victas.uca.org.au/what-are-churches-doing/solar-power/ or phone the JIM unit on (03) 9251 5271.

New hub strengthens Connections

A NEW centre to help families navigate their way through community care options threw open its doors recently.

Connections UnitingCare opened its new 'hub' offices in Dandenong last month and more than 100 guests and staff enjoyed the hospitality and stylish new buildings at 51, Princes Highway.

A variety of staff and government reps came together to celebrate the joint offering of services to the community from this single office building at the event - services that include Family Services, Early Childhood Services, Youth Services and Early Childhood Centres.

Connections UnitingCare is one of several UCA agencies active in the Presbytery and a partner with several congregations such as Hampton Park and Officer-Pakenham Mission Area.

Angela Forbes, CEO, says: "Connections is excited about the potential of our new Dandenong hub. Our hardworking caseworkers have been making an impact on Dandenong families for over a decade and we anticipate this impact will only grow with our new larger location."



Angela Forbes, UCA member and CEO of Connections UnitingCare.

If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to newsbeat@ucappep.org





CHILDREN from the Watoto Children's Choir reveal that energy, rhythm and smiles cannot be extinguished despite being orphaned at a young age

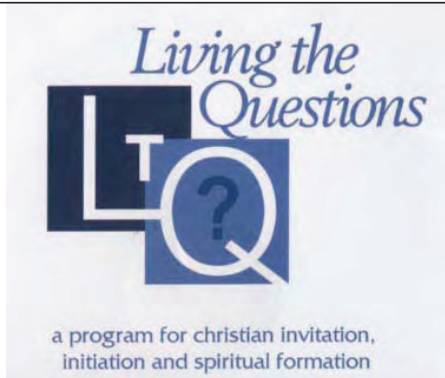


African dance and drumbeats delight Elsternwick crowd

ST John's UCA was full of vibrant music, dance story and people when the Watoto children's choir from Uganda shared their story with an enthralled audience. All of the children in the choir are orphans and are cared for by the Watoto programme, which provides homes with a 'house mum', education, health care, family and community.

Rev Christine Clinch explains: "They told their stories and how they had experienced Jesus's love through the practical care that they receive daily. It is a fabulous project because it is committed to these children long term, until they become independent adults who will undoubtedly make a significant contribution to the Ugandan community."

One of their stories told how their grandmother had struggled to look after them when their parents died and some days they would go completely without food. During a follow up interview with Stephen Lewis, previously UN Ambassador to the UN for HIV and AIDS, Mr Lewis spoke of his project supporting the grandmothers. They have identified a number of grassroots projects in 15 countries supporting grandmothers, so St John's has decided to support his Grandmother Campaign. Christine adds: "They also have Grandmother to Grandmother groups in Canada, UK and Hong Kong. The Stephen Lewis Foundation have asked if we would be interested in starting one here. Anyone interested?" E-mail Christine on stjohns.elsternwick@ucapnep.net if you'd like to get involved.



Love God with your mind!

Join a group at
Bentleigh Uniting Church
and let the love of God
fill your mind.

Check out our Website
www.ucapnep.net/Bentleigh
for details and contacts.

The practice of collegial gathering: support, invitation, expectation?

There are plenty of pressures on ministers.

We all know this. But as we continue faithfully in ministry, how might we understand our role in relation to others in ministry? Where do we find time for theological reflection, discerning 'the one thing needful' over all the other things appealing for our attention and hearing words of grace and challenge?

In a reflection prepared for our next Presbytery meeting, Kylie Crabbe discusses these questions and more and outlines the Presbytery Standing Committee's invitation to all Ministers and Pastors to be a part of a collegial group. The full reflection will soon be up on the PPE website and we will be covering the full story on this in the October edition of Newsbeat and be inviting responses on the website. So watch this space and begin to consider your own response to these questions...

Robust restoration period at Cornish College forecasts major growth

THE renaissance of Cornish College is reaching new heights with the announcements of the doubling and trebling of class numbers at numerous levels for 2013.

Situated on 42 hectares of land adjacent to the National Water Sports Centre at Patterson Lakes, with its own farm, wetland and excellent facilities, Cornish College is the Uniting Church's newest coeducational, ELC to Year 12 (2015) school.

With its mid-level fee structure and nationally recognised educational programs, the College has experienced significant growth in its first semester and has had to expand class



numbers for 2013. Principal Kerry Bolger says: "Our emphasis is on creativity and the development of thinking skills along with a differentiated curriculum to cater for multiple intelligences, different learning styles and sees students and teachers working collaboratively in teams.

"In what is a unique educational setting, parents work in an

active partnership with the College to ensure that every student has the best possible opportunities to realise their potential"

School tours this spring

We invite you to come along to a Cornish College school tour to see what everyone's talking about!

On Saturday 15 September, 10.00am
and Saturday 27 October, 10.00am

at Cornish College
65 Riverend Road
Bangholme VIC 3175
(Melways Ref 93 J12)

Please visit www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au
to register or call 03 9773 1011.



CHRISTMAS isn't too far away, scary though it seems, and Cornish College is already getting into the festive spirit by staging a Carols on the Green concert for all members of the Presbytery and the wider community to come along and have some fun.

The yuletide festivities will be held on:

Sunday 2nd December 2012 at Cornish College,
65 Riverend Road, Bangholme, VIC, 3175.

- 4pm - children's Christmas program of fun and activities
- 5pm onwards - BBQ and refreshments available for sale
- 6pm to 7.30pmish - Community Carol Service on the greens of Cornish College.

Multifaith and Disability Series

Featuring the keynote speaker Professor John Swinton from the University of Aberdeen. The inaugural event is on the theme:

"What will it take to welcome people with disabilities?"

on

Monday 24 September

2.00 - 5.00 pm

UCA Synod building

130 Little Collins Street

RSVP: by 19 September, E: elyse.lecerf@victas.uca.org.au

Service of celebration at KCM



PRESBYTERY members celebrated the recognition of Andrew Hwang as a Uniting Church Minister and the commissioning of Todd Kim into the ministry team during an enjoyable and spirit-stirring service at the Korean Church Melbourne, KCM, recently.

The service was held at the church in Glenderng Ave, Malvern on August 12 and the assembled ministers and members of the congregation gave their blessings to Andrew and Todd's ministries with a 'laying on of hands' during the prayers.



Above: blessings during the service.
Right, from the front left: Rev John Mann, Rev Ian Ferguson, Rev Richard Wootton, Rev Andrew Hwang, Rev Todd Kim
From back left: Rev Swee-Ann Koh, CFM, Rev Paul Goh, KCM, Rev Greg Crowe.



Father of the Year?

MURRUMBEENA COMMUNITY MARKET



Saturday 6 October 2012

9am – 2pm

117 Murrumbeena Road (Melways 69 A5)

Celebrating yesteryear items with a new touch. Hand Tools, Reconstructed Fashion, Books along with Cakes, Confectionery, Cards, Gourmet Foods, Quilts, Eco-Products, Fresh Produce, Olive Oil, Honey, Jewellery, Kidswear, Bath Products and so much more. Entry - Gold Coin.

Next market – Sat 8 December 2012



The Rotary Club of Caulfield
 PO Box 281
 South Caulfield VIC 3162
 ABN 97 475 631 429
 Reg. No: A0018911C
 Fundraiser Registration No: 11289

Uniting Church in Australia
Koornang Uniting Church
 Murrumbeena

PO Box 3063, Murrumbeena 3163

ABN 31 447 568 698



Nils Pickert made headlines around the world last week when pictures of him wearing a red skirt while out walking with his 5 year old son, who was similarly attired in a red dress, circulated on the internet.

Like many small boys, Pickert's son prefers wearing dresses, and was being bullied at school. Rather than just give his son a pep talk about being true to himself and not listening to what anyone else says - or worse, ordering that he 'man up' - Pickert led by example, donning a red skirt in the street with his son in a very public demonstration that it's not only okay to be yourself, but it ought to be encouraged.

Some abusive responses came through, but mostly his action was applauded; proving that unconditional love and support for those with differences is the only way forward.

Visit the Presbytery website at www.ucappeg.org for news & events, leadership education and more....

WALKING TALL FOR GRANDMOTHERS

FOLLOWING the success of *Let's Walk for Africa* last year - highlighting the plight of African refugees in the Horn of Africa and raising \$11,000 for the **Uniting Care Crisis Appeal** - St John's decided to organise another walk to support the unsung heroes of Africa, the **grandmothers**.

Rev. Christine Clinch, minister at St John's Elsternwick, says: "Members of the church heard stories from African children during a recent concert who had been orphaned and cared for by their grandmothers. "Many of them went hungry and struggled to provide the basic needs of food, health and education for the children. We decided to do something about this and we decided to raise funds for Stephen Lewis' grandmother grassroots projects. The projects provide food, transportation, home visits, medical care and school fees to orphaned families, as well as providing Grandmothers with HIV awareness training, counselling and testing, parenting and business skills workshops, micro-credit grants, bereavement counselling and support groups.

"Interestingly, last year, our grandmothers who participated in the walk said how good it was to ask their children and grandchildren to sponsor them for a change," added Christine.

Let's Walk for the Grandmothers of Africa was on Sunday, September 9 and participants could walk 10km, 5km, or 2 km or around the church building. If you would like to make a donation to the Stephen Lewis Foundation for the Grandmother

Campaign visit https://secure2.unxvision.com/SLF/eDonation/index.asp?DONATION_FORM_ID=16.

Climate Change science symposium

Friday 21 (9-5pm) and Saturday 22 (9.30am 1.00pm) September, Basement Theatre, 'The Spot' Business and Economics Bldg, 198 Berkeley Street, Carlton, Melbourne

Information, W: <http://www.icms.com.au/climatechange/>



*Above: Melanie and David Flatman with Rev. Christine Clinch
Below: Jan, Heldi, John, Denise and Bev after last year's walk*



Frontier Services strikes the century mark

AN official celebration to mark 100 years since the establishment of the Australian Inland Mission, and the continuing work of Frontier Services will be held in Melbourne this month. Staff, board members and guests will be travelling from all over Australia, and we invite you to join us.

Wednesday 26 September @ 7.00 pm
Dallas Brooks Centre, 300 Albert Street, Melbourne

The evening will consist of a special centenary liturgy, including commemorative songs and worship, followed by supper.

RSVP: Kate Higginbotham, E: kate.h@frontierservices.org, Ph: 1300 787 247 or W: www.frontierservices.org/centenary

Visit the Presbytery website at www.ucappep.org for news & events, leadership education and more....



Frank O'Loughlin, author and priest, currently at Sandringham, will be speaking about his recent book *This Time of the Church* at a Dayspring evening on:

THURSDAY 13th September
7:30 - 9:30 pm at
Hampton UCA Parish Centre
17 Service St
Hampton.

Tickets cost \$10 (\$7 concessions) with supper provided. All welcome. No bookings are required. For more details phone 9598 3369

Baby, look at you now

Faye Sanderson has turned 60 and, as you can see, she celebrated the milestone birthday in some style!! Faye has served the UCA in a number of ways over the years including Secretary of Nepean Presbytery, Secretary of Port Phillip East Presbytery and Office Secretary of Koornang Uniting Church. Many of



you will know Faye from her various roles and we're sure you'll wish her many happy returns on this momentous anniversary.

Calendar pearls



STRUGGLING to keep your diary up to date with church and presbytery activities? Then head straight to www.ucappep.org/calendar to find all the details of what's on, where and when. It's updated in real time too, so there shouldn't be any reason why you don't make that meeting or commissioning ceremony on time and in the right place. Make a note of the website and pin it to your noticeboard too, for future reference.

Quote...

"There are three stages in the work of God: impossible, difficult, done."

James Hudson Taylor

...of the month

AN EXHIBITION OF ICONS ABOUT
FESTIVALS WE SHARE
 BETWEEN
 ORTHODOX, CATHOLIC
 AND REFORMED CHRISTIANS



PRESENTED BY UNITING CHURCH ICON SCHOOLS
 AND VIC/TAS ART AND SPIRITUALITY NETWORK

OPENING FRIDAY 21ST. SEPTEMBER AT 7.30 PM.

AT,

AND IN COLLABORATION WITH,

HABITAT UNITING CHURCH CENTRE FOR SPIRITUALITY
 2 MINONA ST., HAWTHORN (MELWAY 45 E11)

SPEAKER MS. SOPHIE MATTHIesson OF NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

OPENING HOURS 10 - 4 PM. 22ND SEPTEMBER - 5TH. OCTOBER

ENTRY BY DONATION (SUGGESTED \$10)

Come join the party at St John's 125th birthday - that's a lot of candles!

St John's Uniting Church Elsternwick celebrates 125 years of being church in October and has a week of celebrations planned, so put the dates in your diary...

- **Saturday 20 October 2012, 7.00pm–9.00pm**
- Supper dance in church hall \$10 ticket.
- **Monday 22 October to Saturday 27 October 2012, 10.00am–3.00pm** each day Memorabilia display at the church.
- **Sunday 28 October 2012 at 10.00am** - Service of Thanksgiving led by Pastor Christine Clinch. Preacher Rev Dr Mark Lawrence, General Secretary elect of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting Church of Australia and former minister at St John's.
- **Sunday 28 October 2012 at 12 noon** buffet lunch in the church hall.
- **Sunday 28 October 2012 from 1.00pm** Centenary tennis fun day.

For more information, contact Audrey on 9523 8413 or email Christine on stjohns.elsternwick@ucappep.net.

Mark your calendar

The Induction service for Rev Dr Mark Lawrence, currently PPE's PM Pastoral Care, as General Secretary of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania will be held at **3pm on Sunday 11 November 2012 at Wesley Uniting Church 148 Lonsdale St Melbourne.**

The Rev Sue Withers, former Moderator, will preach at the service.

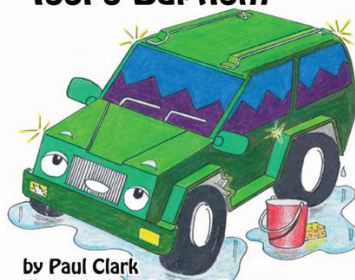


Letters to the Editor

Dear churches

The latest Car Park Parable book Issi's Baptism is now available! Over 20,000 Car Park Parable books are now in print and Issi's Baptism is a great gift/resource for Baptisms.

Issi's Baptism



by Paul Clark
illustrated by Graham Preston
CAR PARK PARABLES
WWW.CARPARKPARABLES.COM

To celebrate we have an exclusive deal for churches. Purchase 10 books for only \$4 each [RRP \$5.95] + postage and receive the power-point for use in worship free. Purchase 20 books and get postage free too.

A great way to connect with families coming for Baptism. Follow up on the website www.carparkparables.com

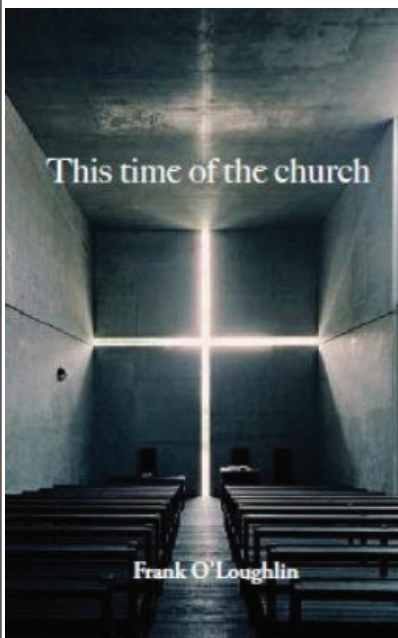
Paul Clark

Chief of Sinners

Redcliffe Uniting Church



THIS TIME OF THE CHURCH



Author Frank O'Loughlin argues that the decline in attendance and numbers of those entering religious life in the Western world can be attributed to a shift from Christianity to pluralism which originated in Western Europe.

"We are dealing with a changing situation which goes beyond the church while affecting it radically."

O'Loughlin, a senior priest currently at Sandringham, argues that the resultant social, cultural and political changes have enormous religious repercussions at a time when people are also troubled by the church's handling of numerous crises including the sexual abuse crisis, pastoral inadequacy and even pastoral failure.

Please join us to hear Frank talk about his book and these issues

THURSDAY 13th September 2012 7:30 pm

Hampton UCA, 17 Service Street Hampton. Enquiries 9598 3369. No booking required.



Christian Meditation

Please join us on Monday mornings at 10:30 am in West Room 2



Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Director John Stuart

Volunteers prove to be the biggest earners

Volunteering in Australia is now worth more than the mining industry - declaring the true extent of its monetary value to be more than \$200 billion a year.

Dr Lisel O'Dwyer, a Senior Research Associate in Adelaide University's School of Social Sciences explains: "More than 6.4 million people volunteer in Australia; double the number in 1995. The value of volunteering is difficult to measure- they gain a broad range of skills transferable to their workplace. They are healthier, fitter, more mentally alert and more socially connected than people who do not volunteer. These benefits may even act as a pathway to employment."

While the economic value of volunteering to Australia is huge, Dr O'Dwyer says the true value of volunteering goes far beyond a dollar figure. "One hour of a volunteer's time needs to be valued not just once but up to 9 times – and at different rates - from the society, the employer, the organisation, the

government program and the volunteer.

A previous study in 2003 revealed one of the less tangible effects of volunteering is a reduced crime rate. The study suggested that even a one per cent increase in social capital (including volunteering) was likely to lead to falls in homicides, sexual assaults, burglaries and vehicle thefts.

"If a volunteer fire fighter saves the life of a child, what is that worth? If environmental degradation is slowed because of trees planted by volunteer conservationists, what is that worth? And if an elderly person receives a hot meal five days a week, what is that worth?" Statistics show people aged between 40-54 comprise the highest bracket of volunteers, with slightly more women (40%) than men (37%) volunteering. Employed people are more likely to volunteer, as are couples with dependent children aged five to 17 years.

Dr O'Dwyer's research findings form a chapter in a forthcoming book, *Positive Ageing: Think Volunteering*, published by Volunteering SA & NT later this year.

**All creatures great and small,
You bring them we bless them**

Sunday September 30th 10 am

**Bentleigh Uniting Church
497 Centre Road Bentleigh**

**Let us know you are coming!
call 9557 4780**



www.ucappp.net/Bentleigh

Typhoon torture

Twin typhoons in North Korea have sparked fears of a renewed humanitarian crisis. Typhoons Bolaven and Tembin hit the North Korea Peninsula hard last week, with thousands of acres of farmland destroyed.

These typhoons come after heavy rains and flooding back in July destroyed tens of thousands of homes. North Korea is facing a crisis. Crops are being decimated and food shortages are very real. People are dying.

International agencies are responding. However, access to this "hermit kingdom" is difficult. North Korea is one the most isolated states in the world



and deep suspicions remain towards the outside world. Indeed, North and South Korea are technically still at war.

While the situation may appear to be hopeless, the good news is that UnitingWorld has access to North Korea. We are able to provide desperately needed food aid together with medical support to those who suffer.

Our mission workers serve in the north of the country where the land is barren and the winters are severe. Their focus is on caring for the sick, especially those infected with tuberculosis. Our mission workers are also engaged in feeding the malnourished and caring for orphans.