

NEWSBEAT



March 2013

PRESBYTERY OF
PORT PHILLIP EAST



This month's
prayers for the
people, page 8



Somers seeks
sponsors...
See feature on
page 3

Ann pours new life into growth corridor

IN a celebration to remember, the Rev Ann Scott was inducted into ministry in the Officer-Pakenham Mission Area, OPMA, writes Rev Alan Mathews.

With musical accompaniment by the Cardinia Civic Concert Band, the service on February 10, 2013 began in Main Street, Pakenham, then moved to the 'green' for a meal attended by more than 180 people. Well-wishers and supporters from the communities and congregations of Pakenham, Officer and Pakenham Upper attended the service, joined by local government and OPMA partners.

"As people moved into the church, images of the Mission Area were projected onto the ceiling to remind people of our mission context and to bring the people and places close. Banners and artwork from OPMA, community service partners - ConnectionsUC, UCHarrison and UCCommunity Options - and Beacons Hills College illustrated some of our community connections."

The Induction was led by Presbytery Chairperson, the Rev Paul Chalson, and the preacher was Rev Steve Terrell - chair of both the Joint Nominating Committee and OPMA Council.

"Ann will be in team ministry with me - Officer-Drouin Growth Corridor Minister - and I am looking forward to developing this area with her. The service was a joy-filled celebration which sets us anew on the journey of ministry and mission in this rapidly growing region."



Spotlight grows



THE expansion of the Spotlight group at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston appears to be decrying the myth that the church isn't appealing to young people.

For the Spotlight crew has grown even more this month as new children 'come of age' and move onto the next level of church life.

With the sterling efforts of Youth Minister, Rev Jay Robinson, her sidekick, Michael Downing, Chaplain at Dromana College, and continued support from HSUC Minister, Rev Dr Robert Johnson, the group of teenagers is growing from strength to strength.

The combination of community support, a cross-cultural mix, connecting with the needs of modern teenagers topped off with a good dollop of fun seem to be a winning formula for the group to build stronger bonds and enjoy church life.

Several newcomers to Spotlight were presented with Bibles at a recent Sunday morning worship to mark their advancement and the team is pictured receiving some deserving applause...

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



Meet thy neighbours in Perth this year

If you've never been to the fabulous city of Perth by the famous Swan River, now is your chance.

For the UCAF National Celebration is being held this year from October 16-20 in this stunning WA city, *writes Lencie Harding*. Attendees will enjoy worship, bible studies, guest speakers, outings and activities around this year's annual theme of 'Who is my neighbour?'

Assembly and Synod insights will be provided by speakers UCA Assembly President, Rev Prof Andrew Dutney, Assembly General Secretary, Rev Terence Corkin, Uniting World National Director, Rev Dr Kerry Enright and WA Synod Moderator, Rev Ron Larkin. Bible study is with Rev Dr Elizabeth Raine and Rev Dr John Squires. The Esplanade River Suites at 112



Melville Parade, Como, are beside the Swan River about 5kms south of Perth with a bus route nearby for easy access to the city centre. For information and a registration form contact David Wang - Tel:

9251 5255 or email: david.

wang@victas.org.au. For information about Pre or Post Tours please contact John Perkins, Australian Wildflower Tours, PO Box 229, Greenwood, WA,

6924 or 0437 377528 quoting UCAF



Lecture circuit

The Richard McKinney Memorial Ecumenical Lenten Lectures Speaker this year is **Dr. Muriel Porter OAM**

Title: Twenty years of women priests in the Anglican Church - was it worth it?

Lecture 1: Tuesday March 5, 2013 at East Ivanhoe Uniting Church Cnr. Maltravers and Lwr. Heidelberg Rd. E. Ivanhoe.

Lecture 2: Tuesday March 12, 2013 at St. Georges Anglican Church 46 Warncliffe Rd., E. Ivanhoe.

Lecture 3: Tuesday March 19, 2013 at Mother of God Catholic Church 63 Wilfred Rd., E. Ivanhoe.

All lectures begin at 8pm. Fellowship and supper at 9.15 pm. Gold coin donation.

Dr Porter is a journalist, author and layperson in the Anglican Church.

For more information, please contact Rosemary on 03 9497 1017.

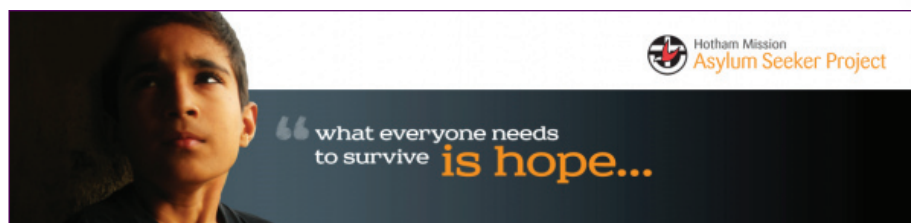
Chapel concerts

Haileybury College will be running Free Public Lunchtime Chapel Concerts on Wednesdays from 1.20 - 2pm on

- **6 March**
- **20 March**

Come and be inspired by some of the finest classical and romantic music performed in one of the architectural jewels of south-eastern Melbourne.

Enquiries: 9213 2222.



THE Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project, ASP, has joined forces with Lentara UnitingCare to ensure that the Asylum Seeker Project has the continued capacity to deliver support and much-needed services to people seeking asylum. Lentara UnitingCare is an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia, serving the people of the North and West of Melbourne. Lentara UnitingCare supports some of the most vulnerable people to access the resources they need for improved wellbeing and participation in the community. Its mission is to create opportunities for children, families and individuals to flourish in a fair and generous community. Lentara's main services include: Children's Services, Family Services, Financial Counselling & Emergency Relief,

Two heads are better than one

Care Leavers, Bargain Centres and The Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre.

The joining of the organisations is subject to customary regulatory approval and has been sanctioned by the Uniting Church of Australia. We will keep you updated as we progress toward the closing. In the meantime, we will continue conduct business as usual.

For more information please give Helga Svendsen a call 9326 8343 to discuss.

Helga Svendsen says: "We remain committed to providing Asylum Seekers with the highest quality services and to working with you to improve the lives and circumstance of service users. We look forward to working with Lentara UnitingCare further to meet this goal."



Somers here and the time is right for helping with the fees

IT'S a new year and the Somers camp leaders are gearing up to get ready for the first week of the July school holidays when 120 children from the presbytery make the annual migration to the Mornington Peninsula for a week of outrageous fun and fellowship, writes Claire Dawe.

For anyone who has been living on Mars for the last 55 years, Somers Camp is the Presbytery children's camp which is run by young adults, many of whom have

been campers themselves in their younger years. We take children from school years 3 to 9. Year 10 students can apply to be 'slushies' - helpers - for the week and our leaders are taken from years 11 and above.

Everyone volunteers and the leaders even pay their own camp fees for the privilege to go on camp! There are cooks, camp mum and dad, a camp nurse and a camp Rev plus slushies and camp leaders.

Some of the leaders also run youth groups around the Presbytery during the year and there are 2 KIBS day camps – Kids In Between Somers – run by the same leaders.

But we need your help. We never want to turn away a family from camp who is experiencing economic hardship and so we raise money throughout the year to support them. We have been so grateful for the generous support that has been shown to the camp over the years by churches and by individuals in congregations.

Please consider Somers Camp as you look at your budgets and consider having one of our leaders visit your church to speak at a service. If you'd like to see our you tube promo videos from last year follow the links <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utxCCTz47ck> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTr9Le91kvl> or visit www.somerscamp.com.au For more information, please phone Camp Dad on 0418 513 580 or email somerscore@yahoogroups.com.au



SOMERSCAMP NEEDS YOU!!

Somerscamp is looking for a Camp Rev.

They are looking for someone who has a passion for young people, is willing to talk and explore faith experiences and is not scared of having fun!

You would need to be available for the entire time of Somerscamp (1st week of July school holidays), as well as being able to attend some meetings and other events.

Expressions of interest for more information can be made to the Mission and Outreach Task Group convenor Rev Jay Robinson on 0410 465 836 or jay@robinsonfamily.id.au



Fresh ideas

A NEW ecumenical course backed by the Uniting, Lutheran and Anglican Churches should help people to establish fresh expressions of church across Australia.

Suited for youth leaders, church council members, ministers, home group leaders, anybody wanting to reach out in new ways: teaching to equip, worship to resource, stories to encourage, panels and discussion to ground, friends for the journey and ideas to take home.

Stay tuned for registration info.

Reflections on Faith

“The reading from Luke 13:31-35 gives us a couple of different pictures of Jesus. When Jesus calls Herod a fox and states that he will continue what he has to do, Jesus is showing us a tough, determined and resilient side to his character. It’s a toughness that we need to emulate as we journey through the challenges of being a disciple of Christ in the world today. However in the next couple of verses we get a very different picture of Jesus. Jesus shows great compassion as he weeps for Jerusalem and its people. The image of Jesus opening his arms out wide to encompass the people of God, regardless of how vulnerable that makes him, is one of great love. Toughness and compassion. Images that we can look to as we journey through life. Pictures of Jesus that can help us in our journey to follow him. A journey without compassion is not a Christian journey and a toughness without gentleness is not from God.”

This month’s Reflections on Faith column is by Rev Jay Robinson, High Street Uniting Church, Frankston

Holy Spirit and Seat of Wisdom

Holy Spirit and Seat of Wisdom help us in the great endeavor that we are carrying out to meet on a more and more mature way our brothers and sisters in the faith.

Through all the means of knowledge, of mutual respect, of love, may we be able to rediscover gradually the divine plan.

Teach us constantly the ways that lead to unity. Help us all to proclaim Christ and reveal the power of God and the wisdom of God hidden in His Cross.

How greatly I desire to entrust to You all the difficult problems of the societies, systems, and states - problems that cannot be solved with hatred, war and self-destruction, but only by peace, justice, and respect for the rights of people and nations.

Amen.

A Prayer by John Paul II



Dates for your diary...

March

- 7th - Ministers in merging congregations: Continuing Education event for those whose congregations are undergoing or considering restructuring, CTM
- 8th - 10th - Family Camp: Meet other UCA families, explore your faith and experience Christian community, Creswick
 - 9th -10th OMP 1 - Orientation to Ministry formational program, CTM
 - 15th - Introduction to Theological Studies (2/3), UFT subject introduces key concepts of Christian theology, CTM
- 15th -17th Surrender: Three-day YA gathering focusing on social justice, radical discipleship and mission, Belgrave Heights
- 16th - Lay Preachers Association AGM & Continuing Education, Annual General Meeting of the LPA in Vic/Tas Synod, CTM
- 16th - Geelong Refresh -Major Children & Families training event, Highton
- 16th - Connect - Tasmania: 4th annual conference of the Tasmanian Children’s Ministry Network, Launceston
- 16th - Artists Network Gathering: Claire Renkin will lead a conversation on the relationship between artists and faith communities, drawing on historical examples.
- 23rd - Stories of Childhood: Children’s Ministry conference for those involved in serving families with children aged 0–5, CTM

For more information: ctm.uca.edu.au/whatson; 03 9340 8800; info@ctm.uca.edu.au

Quote

“Billions are wasted on ineffective philanthropy. Philanthropy is decades behind business in applying rigorous thinking to the use of money.”

Michael Eugene Porter

of the month...

Tasty Snack

Snack’s newest album with 12 fun original songs for primary-aged children has just been released. For those already fans of *Snack* and for those who are not yet *Snack* fans, *Four Plus Three* is especially targeted at the upper primary school age. There’s a great variety of songs and all sheet music, lyrics and PowerPoints are available free of charge for download. If you are not already familiar with *Snack Music*, you might also like to check out their previous albums and website... <http://www.snackmusic.com.au>

...from front page

Great Scott!

New blood for OPMA as Ann Scott is called to join the growth corridor team



ON the day...
 Pictured far right,
 from the top: the
 congregation sings
 out, tea and cakes
 on the 'green'
 and Rev Paul
 Chalson adds his
 blessing to Ann's
 new ministry.
 Above, from
 the top: Rev
 Steve Terrell is
 all smiles as
 Ann is joined
 by ministry
 colleagues for
 her induction,
 attendees
 extend
 a warm
 welcome. Right:
 Young people show their support.



JIM scores a victory

The Victorian Government has announced a proposal for a new Mental Health Act that will put patients at the centre of decision-making on their treatment and recovery.

The announcement has been welcomed by the Justice and International Mission Unit, JIM, which has been campaigning for such reforms.

How DEEP is your love?

Are you interested in deepening your understanding of indigenous issues and how you can respond?

The Australian Development Education Experience Program (DEEP) will be offering two trips in Queensland (22 - 29 June) and to Central Australia (10 - 17 August) to meet indigenous people, hear their stories and visit their communities.

TEAR Australia is a movement of Christians in Australia responding to the needs of poor communities around the world.

They work in partnership with other Christian groups to involve the most marginalised and exploited members of each community, regardless of their religious or political beliefs.

For more details visit: www.tear.org.au or call 1800 244 986.

Eco-ministry seeks fertile soil

A GROUNDBREAKING new program in pastoral care is to be launched in 2013 and applicants are being sought to spearhead this exciting new direction.

Applications and host placements are now being sought for a new **eco-ministry training program** - but interested parties need to be quick as the closing date for applications is April 12th.

Heading up the program is Uniting CPE - The John Paver Centre Director Andy Calder, pictured, who says: "Pastoral care has until now been understood as care within the context of the *human* community. Critical ecological damage is exposing the devastating consequences



of our western world-view in which the human is disconnected from the environment. Pastoral care here acknowledges the condition of the environment and our human presence within it as fundamentally of religious, spiritual and ethical concern.

"People who apply for this program will be concerned about the ecological crisis; for the Earth as well as for people affected by unprecedented events and impacts. They will be people who wish to find time and space to attend to their own

responses, who want to become better equipped to provide care with those experiencing eco-distress, and who appreciate a caring peer-group learning context."

A person in such a placement will offer pastoral care for approximately two days a week for the duration of the program, in addition to regular Thursday peer-group learning.

Interested applicants should forward the materials below to andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au by April 12.

- A brief autobiographical statement: include some information about your faith development/influences, family, educational background and professional goals.
- Mailing Address, and telephone contact details.
- Faith Affiliation
- Current Employment/any Pastoral Involvement.
- Education details, including Level, Institute and date of completion.
- An example of a recent pastoral relationship and your responses.
- Any current understanding of Supervised/Clinical Pastoral Education, your hopes/ expectations and possible goals for your learning. Also say why you wish to be considered for this program.
- Any mobility or health issues you believe we need to be aware of.
- Referees: Names and contact details of two persons to vouch for your work, character and interest in this program.

The Centre welcomes enquiries - contact Andy Calder on andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au or 03 9251 5489.

Sharing the journey - further thoughts on Lent

LENT is a time of deep reflection.

It is a period in which we journey with Christ towards the Crucifixion, writes Rev. David Peel.

At the beginning of Lent we had Shrove Tuesday (mardi gras, pancake day) on which we cleaned out all the fat and greasy stuff and prepared for Ash Wednesday. In many places Christians mark themselves with ashes indicating their awareness of their frailty and brokenness and their willingness to allow God to cleanse them of their sin.

Allowing God to address the deep issues of your life is not always easy for everyone. Adam found it hard to admit to God that he was naked.

He further confounds his difficulty when he blames God for his folly.

"The woman you gave me..." ... she made me do it! In fairness (and God is always fair) God was not too impressed with that answer, you can read about the rest of it in the Bible.

You have to hand it to God, God set in train a resolution to the very brokenness symbolised by the actions of the first man. It is the brokenness of relationships which causes us to avoid God, other people, even our very own selves. Reconciliation, peace, joy and love are what God is doing in Christ.

This is good news you need to check out at your nearest church this Lent. Just do it.

Synod news....

Dear Friends,

As we commence another year, the gospel passage (Luke 4: 14-21) reminds me that our essence as a church calls us to always place God's mission expressed by Jesus in this reading at our core.

Developments:

During 2012 and the start of 2013, there have been some developments within the Synod's life that are good to share. At the December 2012 Synod Standing Committee meeting it was resolved to:

- approve early release for Rev Dr Peter Blackwood to conclude his placement as Associate General Secretary and retire from 31 May 2013; and
- appoint Jim Milne as the Synod Property Officer commencing 1 March 2013.

In the wake of the fires down south, January brought with it another time of devastating floods in Queensland and northern New South Wales. This natural disaster, so soon after the floods of two summers ago, has caused great adversity and trauma for many individuals and communities. Let us continue to uphold those individuals and communities who have experienced this hardship in our prayers and in any practical action that we can possibly offer. It is with much pleasure that we have welcomed Michael Walsh to the role of UCA Funds Management Executive Director. Michael brings significant experience of ethical investing leadership and practice into this role.

The national task group appointed to frame the Uniting Church's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse held its second meeting in Sydney on January 24, 2013.

providing guidance to the Church on how to prepare for and participate in the Royal Uniting Church statements on the Royal Commission are available on the Assembly website at <http://assembly.uca.org.au/royalcommission>

As the year unfolds may we be encouraged by the call to be people who strive to give witness to the good news of God's way in Christ. May Christ's ministry of prayerful and inspired compassion, justice and inclusion continue to guide us in our discipleship, leadership, partnerships and risk taking.

Grace and peace,

Rev Dr Mark Lawrence, General Secretary



Immerse yourself in the fascinating and diverse Indigenous Bunun culture as we spend time with UnitingWorld's partners in the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan. Participants will meet with leaders of the Bunun Cultural and Educational Foundation and hear of the transformational ministries happening among local Bunun communities, as well as have the opportunity to see traditional crafts, singing and dancing!

The aims of the trip are:

- To see first-hand the work of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and learn about the history and role of the church in Taiwan
- To learn about the fascinating indigenous Bunun culture of Taiwan through the Bunun Cultural and Educational Foundation
- To explore what it means to be in partnership and in a mission and development context
- To share stories with local people, learn about their everyday life, participate in activities, meet with local church leadership and learn something of how faith in action is expressed in a different context
- To support partners and encourage them in ministries

InSolidarity:
International exposure visits to partner churches

**Presbyterian Church
of Taiwan**

May 2013 (dates TBC)

If you want to know more about InSolidarity visits, check our website at www.unitingworld.org.au or contact:

Laura McGilvray
Projects & Administration Officer,
UnitingWorld Experience
lauramc@unitingworld.org.au

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ABN 16 939 630 947

UnitingWorld is an agency of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Caring for the spirit of working people

An innovative program called “Spiritual Companioning for Working People” - the brainchild of UnitingCare’s Creative Ministries Network - has been developed to care for the spirit of working people.

Spiritual Companioning involves one person, a “guide”, journeying with another, a “traveller”, in an intentional relationship as companions. The

word “companion” comes from the Latin “sharing bread”, so as companions there is sharing in the “stuff of life”. Therefore in spiritual companioning all matters of life can be shared: for example family issues, crises of faith, the search for meaning and vocation, and work issues. The role of the guide is to be fully present for the traveller and create a safe space in which a traveller can

become open to the whole of life, feel supported and held in both the challenges and joys of everyday life, and discern the movement of the life-spirit in their lives whatever their circumstances.

In the first year of the program six participants will be involved, meeting individually with a guide for one hour each month. Participants may be church members working in the wider community (for example engineers, builders, train drivers, farmers, nurses, factory workers, shop assistants, teachers), church agencies workers, or other interested people in the workplace.

The program will be evaluated after one year using reflections from the guide and travellers, and these will become part of an action-reflection process leading to further development of the program. If you are interested in becoming a participant in this program please contact Rev Richard Arnold on 9386 0292 or email arnclan2@bigpond.net.au



**In Port Phillip East Presbytery we pray for one another.
In the Spirit of the Risen Christ.
Let us pray for the following congregations, agencies or schools:**

- **March 3** - Lent 3 - Bentleigh congregation, Rev David Peel; Berwick congregation, Rev John Payne
- **March 10** - Lent 4 - Officer – Pakenham Mission Area (Pakenham, Pakenham Upper and Officer congregations, Rev Alan Mathews
- **March 17** - Lent 5 - The Assembly: Andrew Dutney (President), Rev Dr Mark Lawrence (General Secretary)
- **March 24** - Palm Sunday - Brighton Trinity congregation, Rev Ian Cayzer; Uniting Care ‘Connections’



OneWorld WonTok

Youth Poverty and Development Conference

Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne

Melbourne Conference

Friday 15th March 2013 9am-3pm
Trinity Grammar School
40 Charles Street, Kew, VIC

Please submit school registrations by
Thursday 28th February to Fiona Johnson
Email: fiona@unitingworld.org.au Phone: 8267 4267

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE, PLEASE BOOK EARLY.



The 2015 MDG deadline date to halve poverty by 2015 is only 2 years away ...
What then? We need to finish what we started. We need to

FINISH THE RACE



ABM Anglican Board of Mission - Australia
Working for Love, Hope & Justice



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life



Australian AID

The Anglican Board of Mission and UnitingWorld (the overseas agency of the Uniting Church) have combined to offer schools access to development educators with extensive real world experience of the complexities and challenges of successful development.

The OneWorld WonTok conference is supported by the Australian Government, AusAID.