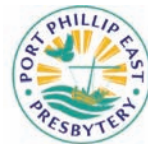
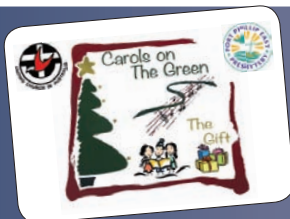


NEWSBEAT



DECEMBER 2014

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Don't forget Carols on the Green on Sunday, December 6. Check out the full details on page 9

Belinda receives a warm, family welcome at OPMA. See story on page 5.



A FEW months ago the Presbyteries of Port Phillip East, Port Phillip West and Yarra Yarra were invited by the Presbyterian Church of Korea to send representatives to attend a special celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the mission to Korea which launched out of Melbourne.



Representatives from Port Phillip East and West Presbyteries and invited guests assemble for a photo opportunity in Korea.

This celebration was to be held in Busan - a coastal city in south east Korea - where the mission was focused.

Our Presbytery and Port Phillip West both agreed to send representatives while Yarra Yarra was unable to. The Presbytery Chair, Rev Dr Paul Chalson, and Ms Kelly Skilton, a young person currently working with Koornang Uniting Church in youth ministry, represented our Presbytery. As well as the Presbytery representatives, Rev Allan Stewart, who had served in Busan as a missionary, attended with the support of the Korean Church of Melbourne.

Cont. on page 2 and 3

If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to helen.beeby@gmail.com



Cont from front page

While in Busan we were able to see the fruits of the work of the missionaries and how the church has flourished as we visited universities, schools, a hospital and churches which had grown from their ministries. We also visited a memorial gravesite where missionaries who had died in Korea were buried and where the stories of missionaries to Korea are remembered in a memorial building. On Sunday I preached twice in the morning and the whole group participated in the special celebration in the afternoon in which Alan and I again spoke.

Throughout our visit we were well looked after by our hosts in the Presbyterian Church of Korea who provided accommodation, meals, transport and showed us around. It is hoped that this will mark the beginning of an ongoing relationship between the PCK presbyteries in Busan and the Melbourne presbyteries of the UCA.

We can in Australia sometimes be a bit casual about the effort of missionaries but they are remembered with gratitude for the contribution they made to Korean society through bringing the gospel and advancing healthcare and education. I was impressed by the seeds planted all those years ago and by the fruit that has come from that work and believe that we have much to gain and much to continue to give from an ongoing relationship. For their part the church in Busan also believes there is much to be gained from such a



Rev Paul Chalson continues the story - from Melbourne to Busan



both parties but in particular wish to keep the story of the mission to Busan "alive".

Images from Seoul, Busan and the 125th anniversary taken by Paul Chalson



Musical magic during Mental Health Week



IT WAS music to our ears when we heard a nearby school was to accompany our dining experience during Mental Health Week, writes *Rev Ian Savage*.

St Michael's Grammar School year 7-9 chamber choir and flute quartet visited Hartley's community dining room at UnitingCare Prahran Mission in October to celebrate Mental Health Week, so that we could 'eat our lunch to the sound of

music'. I think this was the first time the students had performed in a dining room over lunch but they gave assured performances - despite the background sounds of eating and chatting.

It was probably the first time that many of us had heard Jacobean (1600s) choral music, too. In fact they loved the dining room experience - and we loved them! Life is about embracing new experiences. And they are coming back next year!

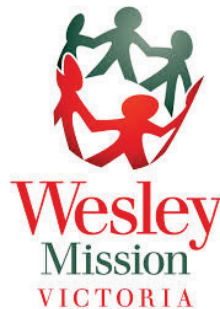
Family values

IN THE lead up to Christmas, Wesley Mission Victoria is collecting food and toiletries for families at risk of homelessness. Wesley's annual Food For Families appeal is in its 23rd year and aims to collect 60 tonnes of food for distribution throughout 2015.

Please donate non-perishable foods and toiletries at the red collection boxes at your local Woolworths store.

For more information, including a list of participating stores and suggested donations, please visit www.wesley.org.au.

On behalf of families at risk of homelessness, Wesley Mission Victoria thanks you for your generous support.



For two weeks in September this year a group from the Uniting Church in Australia attended a ministry conference in Jerusalem and traveled extensively in the West Bank and Israel. We met Palestinian Church leaders and members, peace activists, human rights monitors, United Nations and Palestinian Authority representatives. Come and hear about our experiences.

When?

**Friday 12th December
7:30 PM**

Where?

**Brunswick Uniting Church,
212 Sydney Rd, Brunswick**

Supper provided.

**Palestinian souvenirs
available to raise funds for
local organisations.**

**Is there hope
for peace?**

Photo: In the gutter at Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem - stones for throwing, spent tear gas canisters and a withered olive branch.



Dates for your diary

- (a) Fijian Minister Chadstone – induction TBC
- (b) Carols on the Green - Sunday, December 7 at Cornish College, 4pm - 7.30pm
- (c) Ministers Gathering 2015, 23-25th June at Pallotti College

Rapturous reception for Tom at High Street UC



TOM Sutherland paid a welcome visit to Frankston Uniting Church recently during one of his rare trips back to Australia.



Tom has lived in Kerala, South India for almost 40 years - helping the destitute, disabled and Dalit communities through his Banyan Tree charity.

He told a story of meeting a man called 'Jesus' and his family on a station platform. They were incredibly happy and Tom made a donation to their collection, which was carefully noted in a ledger. Later he saw Jesus' son 'relieve' himself in the middle of the train carriage, splashing people nearby, and his father gave him a wallop.

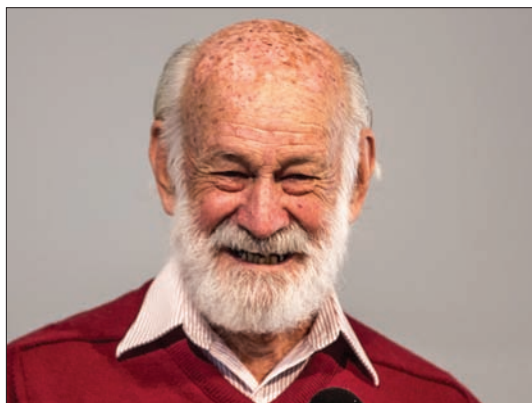
"I didn't know whether I should interfere with Jesus chastising his son," Tom, a devout Christian, joked.

He went on to thank the Frankston congregation for their generous support of The Banyan Tree for the 40 years it has been running.

"When I ended up in India I realised I could not do much on my own. I sent out a cry for help and the very first help I received was from this congregation," he says.

"You have been a continuous source of strength, support, encouragement and inspiration. So I say thank you to God and this congregation for all that has been done for us."

After the service members of the congregation, John and Marion Coulson, held a special lunch and shared meal for Tom at their home for people to enjoy more fellowship and stories of Tom's life and work in Kerala and other parts of India.



Above left: Rev Robert Johnson greets Tom. Above: snapshot of Tom by Rod Carruthers

Stable on The Strand



Chelsa Uniting Church Parish

invites you to come along to

The Strand, Chelsa

(Chelsa Shopping Strip)

to share our stable and costumes for your

FREE Christmas Nativity Photos.

Saturday 6th December

10am – 1pm

BYO Camera and Smiles

Details 9580 3049



Celebrating a special partnership

IT was a delight to see students commending their students at Pakenham recently.

For Year 8 students from Lakeside College in Pakenham handed out certificates and books to 'their' students at Pakenham Uniting Church - marking the last *Homework Club* for the year.

After much negotiating and planning the homework club commenced at the start of term 3. Much work went into the planning stage and Rev Ann Scott says it could not have happened without the input from Bask Cassar from Connections and Chaplain Kathy at Lakeside Lutheran College.

Planning dates for next year are already in place. The newly

Commissioned pastor in the Officer Mission Area, Belinda Clear, will work

with Connections worker Kelly to continue and build on the Homework Club.

Initial funding for the project came from Toorak Uniting Church. The hard work has paid off and everybody involved has been richly blessed in the process. Rev Ann Scott will attend the School Assembly next week to present Certificates to the volunteers from the College and to thank them.



Playgroup appeal

CARRUM Uniting Church will have a new low cost playgroup starting next year but is in need of books, toys and equipment. They are collecting donations from the parish op shop but if you have any items that are suitable for a number of children to play with and love (ie, not fragile!), please contact the parish office on 9772 6010.

A Clear winner

Belinda Clear is pictured right at her recent commissioning ceremony conducted by Rev Liz MacMillan, Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care.

Belinda will be working part time with OPMA's Minister Rev Ann Scott

- working with young families, mainly playgroup parents and also with baptismal families. Belinda is a great story teller and

shares her bubbly personality with all that meet her.



Seven years rich

JUST on seven years ago the new Presbytery of Port Phillip East called its first Presbytery Minister - Mission & Education (PMM&E).

The new position was part of a bold experiment across the Synod to change the nature of the relationship between presbyteries and congregations particularly, and resource the church for mission into the future. No one really knew what the PMM&E job would be like, and those who answered the Call to eight of those roles across the Synod took a deep breath and dived in - and so

Pioneer PM Steve Terrell writes a farewell feature for Port Phillip East

ministry, I am pleased to say that I didn't drown, and in fact have thrived in the experience. Every day has been an unpredictable encounter with the whimsical move of the Spirit touching, igniting, uplifting and cradling the lives of people seeking to be faithful. I think most of my work has been as an observer or curator of God's amazing action.

This role is unlike any other in the church. In congregational ministry many of the skills gained in one place are transferable to the next. In contrast, most of the skills needed for this role can only be learned on the job, or at a college we don't have yet. Nothing can really prepare you for this ministry.

(Somewhat scarily, I think I'm moving on to another role that is likewise a specialist role and

can really only be
“learned into” in
much the same way!
More about that in a
moment.)

I really enjoyed the change in the nature of the Presbytery's relationship with church in its area from what had

become “regulatory oversight” back to the original intent for presbyteries as “relational oversight”. It’s really important that people understand that presbytery is just a grouping of congregations, agencies, and to a lesser (sadly) extent schools. It’s not “them and us”. It’s “us and us”.

In this context, the role of Presbytery Minister can really be about companionship, and a sense

of working things out together. This is especially so for the PMM&E role. If the PM Pastoral Care role is characterised by compassion and care, and the PM Admin role characterised

by attention to detail, sorting out problems and assisting with compliance and resource deployment, then the PMM&E role is about seeing opportunities, fostering enthusiasm and hope, and creating a positive, safe space for new ideas. The character of each role is a significant difference. (I have to say, it's really interesting when all the PM's of our various types get together!) Let me share with a little of what I've seen from the lovely space created for the PMM&E role.

I have seen the faces of people who at the start of a meeting were downward, gloomy, even afraid - and by the end of the meeting looking up, a twinkle in their eye, a smile touching their lips as they regain a sense that God is still present, and they are still called and equipped to go on being faithful.

I have been energised by the phone calls that come after the meeting - the caller brimming with new ideas they've thought of during the night. God's Spirit has made

them restless - a holy
restlessness.

I have seen the small
seeds of an idea

take root and grow into
effective mission strategies
- sometimes over night -

sometimes taking years - some now just budding after all that time.

And I've loved telling stories about what some parts of the church have been up to so that other parts can be inspired - not to do the same - but to learn the principles and have a go.

After I began in this role the Presbytery set some priorities. In particular I was asked to focus on how we discern mission, conduct

Cont. on page 7



goodbye

thank you

regards

farewell

cheerio

ciao

sayonara

adieu

cheers

see ya

toodle-oo

Auf Wiedersehen

bye-bye

codas

come after the meeting - I

new ideas they

night.

Arrivederci

so long

culmination

adios

godspeed

conclusion

www.kauai

and

ef

Cont. on page 7

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mission studies and to look at how that integrates into the processes around a ministry move, often referred to as a “vacancy”.

Among the first assumptions we had to negotiate were the ones around vacancies. The word “vacancy” suggests the automatic replacement of a minister. That is a concept we have to move on from, and most congregations are liberated by the idea that they have options. Not one congregation has chosen to exercise that freedom by not calling another minister. But they did often use the moment to do a quick review of priorities and to give expression to what they wanted in a minister. More and more they’ve been looking for a coach.

This process also revealed a fair bit of stress around the timing of mission studies. My learning from this is that mission discernment should be an ongoing practice, and doing a mission study at the time of a ministry move feels for many, like blackmail. If their previous minister has already moved on, the resources are not then available on a day-to-day, close-up way to support the discernment needed. Not only do the congregation feel pressured to get this job done, they also feel unsupported. Hopefully the Presbytery can learn from this and move to other ways and times in a congregation’s life for discerning missional engagement, and responding more quickly when a minister moves. Vacancies are not all they’re cracked up to be, especially when congregations are becoming more and more vulnerable.

My focus on mission discernment also validated the power of stories. Humans make meaning and gain a sense of place and community by the stories we tell. That’s partly why selling property was so hard - the stories that give us meaning and identity are often told in and about the places we work from, ie our church buildings. We would do well to find stories to tell about the many other places we are in mission as well, such as our work, retirement villages, schools, etc. We could improve on the way we tell in those places the stories about God’s transformation

of our own lives. This would disperse the unhealthy concentration we currently have on church buildings as our primary place of meaning.

Stories do take time to tell. But action can be taken quickly when they connect. Time is of the essence now. There’s an analogy about urgency often used – that of the burning raft.

The idea is that our raft is burning and staying on board is not an option. We have to leap, and soon! As someone said to me at Synod this year, “More of the same equals less of the same.”

We need to make substantial change to how we organise ourselves for worship, witness and service. We’ve been saying this for a while, but often we don’t talk about what change could be made and why.

One of the best changes we could make is to liberate congregations from having to manage property. We know that we value most highly the things we invest in most strongly. It has an mirrored effect in that what we invest in becomes valuable to us. This spiral is out of control and killing the church. In the city we spend so much time managing the property that we have little left for effective mission. In the growth corridors the people there do not have the resources to buy a property even if they need one to work from. In the country there just aren’t enough resources anyway, and what they have by way of buildings is usually inappropriate.

What if that could change?

We say (and recently experienced



...of farewell

May The Road Rise Up To Meet You

(Celtic blessing)

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
Amen



Steve enjoys ideas at recent Mission-shaped Ministry courses

Cont. on

page 8

Cont. from previous page

rather traumatically)
that all property is

held in trust as part of the commonwealth of the church. What if we really practiced this by relieving congregations of the need to do anything other than conduct mission, worship, witness and service, and leave the property matters to presbyteries and Synod? In other words, move away from the current 'user pays' model, towards a needs-based model. Do this in genuine consultation, discerning together about the mission needs of the church, enact the best of what it is to be the UCA, and I think we'd liberate congregations to be genuinely missionary communities, expressing the Gospel in fresh ways that the world can both hear and be transformed by.

I love the imagery of a burning raft. Flame of course is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The raft/boat an image for the church. Water is a sign of baptism. Is God calling us out of our boat, urging us with the flames of the Spirit, to enter fully into our baptism as the called people of God? Is this the moment to take a deep breath and plunge in, knowing that Baptism is in fact a life-death-life experience?

There is so much more to share, and so little time left now to share it. What I do know is that I go to another role that is not a lot different from this one. Drop the word "Presbytery" and call me Minister of Mission & Education, and I think I have a notion of what as a Chaplain I can do in my new community - in a UCA college, relating to the wider church, engaging missionally with the wider community. Being called to chaplaincy in Tasmania was a bit of a surprise, a story I'm happy to share over a cuppa, but needless to say our God is a surprising God. I have said many times, I am not so much leaving this ministry, as going to another. I have loved every minute of these seven years. I have poured my heart and soul into it - my wife Kim thinks too much perhaps - and I hope I've made a difference in your lives and how the church joins in God's mission. Hopefully I've left enough of a legacy for my successor to step up to the Call. I commend this role of Presbytery Minister - Mission and Education to you. To those with projects and initiatives we've been working on together that are not yet complete, I'm sorry I can't see it through with you and entrust you to the various committees and guides into the future. Please let me know how



you go! Seriously, I would love to see the fruit of anything I have contributed to in some small way. As I said, I began from a base of reasonable incompetence for this role. It took a good two years to feel like I was reasonably effective, and I can assure you I am still learning! That also means I will have made mistakes, errors of judgement, stepped in where I perhaps should have stepped out, annoyed, offended and frustrated people, and botched up what should have been simple tasks. For all these shortcomings I ask your forgiveness. I thank particularly my PM team-mates over the years: Revs. Mark Lawrence, David Peel, John

Mann and Liz McMillan, and the various people who have stepped in when one or more of us has had to step out. It has been a joy to be in team ministry with you all. Never let anyone tell you team ministry doesn't work or isn't worthwhile. We have been evidence to the contrary. It requires work - but in my view the payback far outweighs the investment.

To those I have worked with in committees, task groups and on various events - thank you. It's been a delight working with you, and seeing your gifts and skills at work.

I am especially grateful for the ministry of John Emmett, Mission

Catalyst in the Synod office. John's generosity of time, commitment to Christ and to the PMM&E group, his deep understanding of the UCA and enthusiasm for the mission of God has been such a gift. Our work would have been impoverished without him, and I am so pleased to be able to call him my friend. (John, I'm buying a new motorbike. The roads of Tasmania are calling!)

Please pray for Kim and me as we move on. It's 20 years since I moved into ministry at Coatesville so our roots are deep here, especially given that Kim grew up in Huntingdale. Launceston offers us a new state, new community, new church, new work, and feels a long way from family. Dropping in or coming home for that all-important coffee and hug won't be so easy. However, we have bought a house just out of Launceston on the main road to Devonport or the airport, with a guest room, and you're all very welcome.

I will miss you all. If you can make it to my Release of Pastoral Ties (see pge 13) I'd love to see you to say goodbye personally. Thank you for having me. It's been a terrific journey and I praise God for the opportunity. Have fun!

SHARE scheme

A revamped CommunityCARE food voucher program, now known as Share it Local, has been introduced.

Through the scheme, SHARE doubles the value of food vouchers congregations are able to distribute to people in need. Visit

<http://www.ucappep.org/community/agencies/> for details and forms.

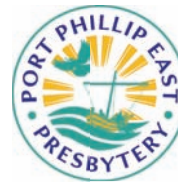
Whether you're 5 or 105, nothing says 'Christmas is coming' quite like an evening of carols.

The evening will commence with a sausage sizzle and festival activities from 6.30pm, with carols from 7.30 to 9.30pm.

There'll be local school choirs, a celebration of cultures, a reliving of the Christmas Story and, of course, an appearance by Santa himself.

Carols in the Park is staged by the Combined Churches of Oakleigh, sponsored by Rotary Club of Oakleigh and supported by the City of Monash.

*In the event of wet weather, Carols in the Park will be moved to Sacred Heart Girls College Hall, Latrobe Street



The Presbytery of Port Phillip East invite you to join us for
Carols on the Green @ Cornish College

65 Riverend Rd Bangholme

Sunday 7th December commencing at 4pm.

4-5/5:30pm

Family activities, craft area, music, Nativity Scene to have your photo taken in.

5-6pm

Bring your own picnic meal to have on the lawn, there will be coffee and soft drinks available to purchase.

6-7:30pm

Join in with our Carol time as well as hear items from Cornish College students and other groups in the area.

Friday 5th December 7:30 - 9:30pm



Proudly Sponsored by
**Rotary Club
of Oakleigh**

CAROLS In the Park



Warrawee Park Oakleigh
corner Drummond Street & Atherton Road

Wet weather venue: Sacred Heart Girls College Hall Latrobe St Hughesdale.
An event of the Combined Churches of Oakleigh: Ph 9568 5161



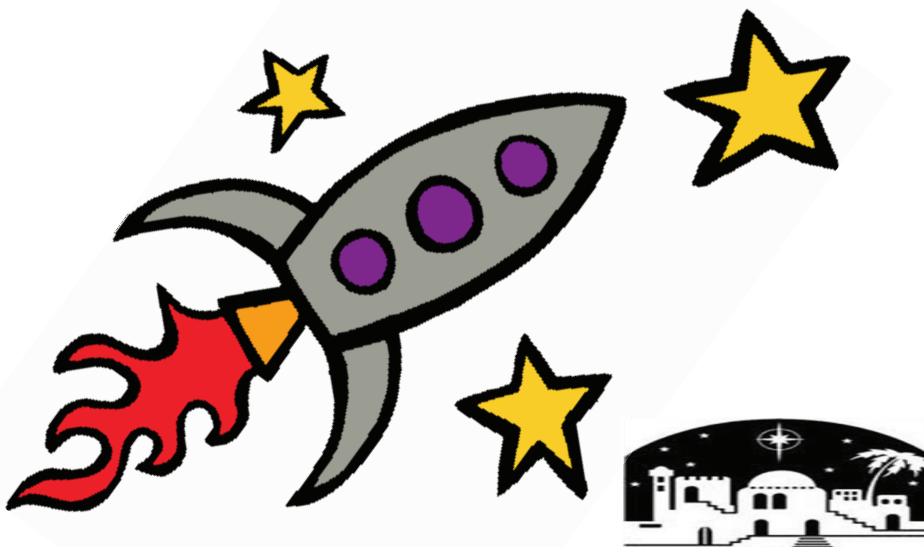
- Fun festival activities & Sausage sizzle: 6:30 pm
- Local school choirs
- Celebrating our cultures
- Appearance by Santa
- Reliving the Christmas story

Reflections on Faith

THE withdrawal of theology from the world of secular affairs is made more complete by the work of biblical scholars whose endlessly fascinating exercises have made it appear to the lay Christian that no one untrained in their methods can really understand anything the Bible says. We are in a situation analogous to one about which the great Reformers complained. The Bible has been taken out of the hands of the layperson; it has now become the professional property not of the priesthood but of the scholars.

Lesslie Newbigin, Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture

Zooming to Bethlehem Advent Adventure



Wed 3rd & Wed 10th December
3:45– 5:15pm
Ormond Uniting Church
North Road Hall
Cnr North & Booran Roads, Ormond.

Who: Children aged from 4y.o.kinder to grade 4 inclusive.

What: Two after school workshops to explore the Christian story of Christmas through stories, music, drama and craft. Afternoon tea will be provided.

TICKETS: Child: \$10 Family: \$20 Limited places –book early!!

REGISTER & BUY TICKETS online at <http://www.trybooking.com/DTZB> or

ENQUIRIES: Margaret on 0409 783871

EMAIL: office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

★ **Come ZOOM with us!**



Quote

"I cannot think that we are useless or God would not have created us. There is one God looking down on us all. We are all the children of one God. The sun, the darkness, the winds are all listening to what we have to say."

Geronimo

of the month...

Zooming to Bethlehem is an Advent Adventure for children aged 4-10.

It allows them to explore the Christian story of Christmas through craft, stories, music and drama and will be held on Wednesday, 3 December 3.45pm-5.15pm. and (part 2) Wednesday, 10 December 3.45pm-5.15pm at Ormond Uniting Church Hall, corner of North and Booran

WHAT we can learn from our dogs was the message at a recent service for our canine companions.

About 40 dogs and their owners joined with the congregation of Heatherton Dingley UCA on Sunday, 16th November to give thanks for all our dogs do for us, *writes Chris Duguid.*

Rev Peter Whitaker in his message pointed out that there is just so much we can learn from our dogs - it seems that God knows that we are slower learners than our dogs are! We were also reminded in Psalm 8 that we have been placed in charge of their well being. It was wonderful to have Andrew Fielder from the Keysborough Shelter speak about their work.

We also had members of the group *Rescued with Love* present to tell of the needs that they have met in their caring of dogs that otherwise would have had their lives cut short. From the offering given at

Our canine chums can teach us a thing or two...



the service and at our **Bark and Chat** bi-monthly morning teas for dogs and owners we were able to give \$400 to each group towards the animal welfare work that is so very needed. A special song was written for the service *There's a Tiny Pup in Danger* by Dorothy Plummer to the tune TiS 276:

There's a tiny pup in danger
With his life close to an end
We will call a helpful stranger
Who is every puppy's friend.
*Now the puppy will be rescued
And his comfort be restored
But the cruelty and danger
We must nevermore ignore!*

There's a heartless, careless owner
With ambitious plans in mind
For a holiday to places with
no pets of any kind.
*But the household pup's a nuisance
And a hindrance to the plan
Now his cruelty and anger
Are not worthy of a Man.*

There's a wretched, starving kitten
Just abandoned far from home
From a litter all who perished
When left in the bush alone
*There are countless situations
When our animals are found
Close to certain death or torture
Such emergencies abound.*

There's a caring group we know of
Who will rescue pets in need
With compassion and with patience
They will willingly proceed
*And with love and understanding
They will rally to the call
Of the helpless and the homeless
God's creations for us all.*

BETHLEHEM IN BRIGHTON

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH
10 AM TILL 1 PM**

FREE ENTRY

**INTERACTIVE NATIVITY
LIVE MUSIC
ANIMAL FARM
NATIVITY PHOTOS
CAKE STALL
CRAFT ACTIVITIES
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
PLUS MORE**



PRESENTED BY THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF BRIGHTON
IN THE GROUNDS OF ST ANDREWS CHURCH
CNR CHURCH ST AND NEW ST, BRIGHTON



Clockwise from left: the stoles worn at the Reconciliation Service, the blessing ceremony of the stoles, Nawjikuma Church in Fiji, Rev Eseta Meneilly was asked to make the 60 new stoles following the well-received presentation of this stole during a previous visit, the view along Kings Road, Fiji.



Partnerships bring hope and vision for Fijian ministry

HUSBAND and wife ministers in Port Phillip East, Eseta and Chris Meneilly, are leading a project visit to Fiji next year and there are still opportunities to join the group.

Rev Eseta and Rev Chris Meneilly maintain links with the Fiji Methodist Church and presented 60 stoles, designed and made by Eseta, at the Fijian Jubilee Conference in September. Chris explains: "At the September Annual Conference in Suva, the Methodist Church in Fiji recognised and celebrated 50 years as an autonomous conference. The late President Rev. Dr. Tuikilakila Waqairatu, who suddenly passed away earlier this year, had steered the Fiji Methodist Church through the difficult period of tense relationship with the interim Fiji Government."

The Jubilee Conference and celebrations of September saw a 12 point outline of the renewed vision and commitment of the church. Chris continues: "This was begun with a profoundly moving service of reconciliation held at the beginning of a week-long celebration. The strongly felt need of reconciliation was to name and heal

deep hurt dating back to what is called the 'Methodist Church coup' in 1989, when then President Rev Josateki Koroi was physically ousted from office. Symbolising these new directions of the church, stoles were commissioned and presented to the president, executive staff and each divisional superintendent minister. They were worn for the first time at the Communion service of reconciliation where the Superintendent Ministers, following a foot-washing service, administered communion to hundreds of people at an open-air service in Suva." Chris and Eseta are planning a 16-day group visit to Fiji for August 2015. It will be a cultural sharing-learning experience, including; voluntary work in an urban village church near Nadi, craft skill sharing, a trip around Fiji's largest island Viti Levu, sight-seeing around Suva and conclude with a few nights to debrief in a coral coast tourist resort before returning to Melbourne.

The trip is being organised in consultation with Synod of Vic/Tas group Uniting Journeys.

Further details from Eseta or Chris on meneillychris@gmail.com



Monica hangs up her apron after 20 years



WHEN it comes to dedication to duty and helping others they don't come much better than Monica Dick, from High Street Uniting Church, Frankston. For Monica has been volunteering for Operation LARDER Inc in Frankston for 20 years, and been president for 14 years. Their work includes providing food and clothes for needy families in the district and they put together 100s of food hampers for struggling families every Advent. Under her caring wing they have become a highly respected organisation in the community. Well done, Monica. Think you deserve a well-earned rest.

PROPERTY PROGRESS

The twin manses at Hampton are going up apace and now have a good sense of space and layout, says Ian Menzies. Less obvious than the frames, windows, guttering, tiles and bricks arriving and being erected are things like the sewerage connections (which were tunnelled under Service Street) and power connections. Meanwhile, the electrical switchboard upgrade will shortly be finished, with the main switchboard expected to be installed this week. At long last the hand dryers in the toilet block are operational: this was also part of the electrical upgrade.



Join us for Steve's big send-off

After many years of faithful, energetic and creative service in our Presbytery as Presbytery Minister: Mission and Education, Rev Steve Terrell and his wife Kim are setting sail for Tasmania where Steve will take up ministry as chaplain with Scotch Oakburn College in Launceston. A gathering and service of release of pastoral ties is being held to provide opportunity to gather, say thanks and formally mark the conclusion of Steve's placement with the Presbytery:

St Columbas Uniting Church, Joy Pde, Noble Park
Tuesday 16th December
6:30PM Bring and share meal
7:30PM service of Release of Pastoral Ties

Bethel Centre Workshop:

'Understanding the Effects of Hurt In The Church'

The Bethel Centre warmly invites you to this free workshop at CTM.

When:

- Wednesday 26 November 10am – 1:30pm for Congregation and Church Council Members
- Thursday 4 December 10am – 1:30pm for Presbytery and Congregational Ministers

Presenters: Marcel Koper and Julie McDonald. Both highly qualified and experienced health professionals will explore the impact of hurt in the church and the challenges that may occur when it is not attended to effectively. The workshop will cover:

- trauma in its various forms
- understanding how hurt happens between individuals and in groups in the church
- relational dynamics
- exploring the steps we can take to repair the hurt
- avenues of support and care

Conducted in an atmosphere of warmth, safety and professionalism this interactive session will invite questions.

The workshop offers the opportunity to acquire new knowledge and information about hurt, recovery from hurt, trauma and how it can be prevented. It will also be an opportunity to catch up connect and to feel supported.

To reserve a place please email: Marilyn@bethelcentre.com.au or phone us on 9859 8700. Call CTM to book a parking spot. We welcome you to field any questions prior to the workshop.

Lunch provided

Join in vision workshops

WE need your help and support for this vital component of the Major Strategic Review (MSR).

The MSR team will be hosting a series of workshops so that we can collectively discern the vision for the Church. These will build on the learnings from previous consultations and whole of Church questionnaire.

The aim of these workshops is to refine our understandings for a broad collective vision, yet still allow local expressions to flourish. This process is about checking in with ourselves and ensuring our vision remains relevant and appropriate, particularly given the changing environment in which we find ourselves.

Sessions will start at 11am with two hours of facilitated discussion. Following this there will be lunch and an opportunity for an open discussion until 4pm on anything you wish to share with the MSR team.

1. Melbourne, 130 Little Collins Street – Monday 1st December, 11am start

2. High Street Uniting Church, Frankston – Friday 5th December, 11am start

3. Grovedale Uniting Church, Geelong – Saturday 6th December, 11am start.

We will be arranging more sessions in other areas in 2015. If there is currently no meeting scheduled near you, still register your interest so that we may keep you informed.



An experiential course of learning and relationships, exploring new ways of building communities around the Way of Jesus:

January 29th 2015, 7.00 til 9.00pm

To register contact Paul Stephens via email on paul.stephens@victas.uca.org.au or by phone on 03 9857 1000.

Venue: Koonung Heights Uniting Church, corner of Belmore Rd & Winfield Rd, Balwyn North 3104

New blood at Uniting World

UNITING World has a new face in Church Connections, and

it is a woman who has both corporate and charitable experience to bring to the role.

Rob Floyd, National Director of UnitingWorld is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Sureka Goringe as the new Associate Director of Church Connections.

Sureka comes to UnitingWorld with significant experience in both the business and charitable sectors and within the Uniting Church in Australia. She has served on the National Committee of the Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld for



five years, the last two years as Chairperson. Sureka was also the Executive Director of the successful UnitingWomen conference in September, a conference under the auspices of the Uniting Church that brought together more than 500 women from across Australia. Born in Sri Lanka and having lived in Bangladesh, Botswana and the UK before moving to Australia, Sureka has broad experience of our partner church contexts. This, coupled with her management and organisational experience will make her ideally suited to leading our Church Connections Unit in its work.

UnitingWorld's Church Connections Unit focuses on three main areas: Christian Leadership – helping our overseas church partners equip and resource leaders for the future; Ministry in the Margins – resourcing our partners to support the most vulnerable in their communities; and Education and Contextual Learning – partnering with churches to learn from one another, advocate together on global issues and develop culturally relevant theologies.

Sureka commenced her new role on 24 November, 2014.

The NEW Port Phillip East Presbytery website is an exciting additional resource tool for communication across our churches, agencies, schools and communities. We welcome submissions to the website, Newsbeat and Facebook, but should advise that photographs may be used across all unless instructed otherwise when submitted.

Visit the Presbytery website at www.ucappeg.org and www.facebook.com/ucappeg.org for news, events and more....

The views expressed by contributors and editorial to Newsbeat are not necessarily the views of the Presbytery.