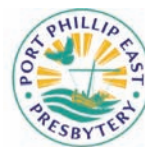


NEWSBEAT



MAY 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Discovering precious metals in Southern Mornington. Find out more about their amazing sculptures on page 4.

Joining together in cross-cultural harmony. Get your diary out on page 5.



New leader to take the helm at Cornish

CORNISH College has found a successor to current principal, Kerry Bolger, who has vowed to build on the school's strengths and unique educational qualities.

Reverend Dr Robert Johnson, Chairperson of the Cornish College Council, announced the appointment of Ms Vicki Steer to the role of Principal of Cornish College when Mr Bolger retires at the end of 2015.

Ms Steer is currently Principal of the Ravenswood School for Girls, a high performing day and boarding school located in Sydney, New South Wales. "Ms Steer is a passionate and experienced educator and the Council is confident her leadership will ensure the unique elements of a Cornish College education, including the emphasis on sustainability, inquiry based curriculum design and personalised learning for every young person, will continue to provide the ultimate learning and life experience for our students", said Rev Dr Johnson. The Council conducted an extensive international search and was delighted with the number and high quality of applicants for the position. During 11 years at Ravenswood, Ms Steer fostered a culture of excellence based upon professional learning, contemporary practice and an approach to education marked by its global focus, during which time the school gained a nationwide reputation as an innovative independent girls' school.

Ms Steer has earned a reputation based on her capacity for listening to and engaging with others. She is a strategic thinker, motivated by the challenges of the present and the future.

Rev Dr Johnson said Ravenswood School and Cornish College share a very similar educational ethos. "Cornish College's motto is Make a Difference and it was clear that Ms Steer shares our dedication to the development of independence and resilience for students to make



a positive contribution to the world they live in. Cornish College's outgoing Principal, Mr Kerry Bolger, has warmly welcomed the appointment and has indicated that he is

delighted his successor is someone with such a wealth of experience in education and leadership", said Rev Dr Johnson. Cornish College is a rapidly growing leading independent school in Bangholme, Melbourne, with 543 students from a wide range of bayside regions. It will be the third Uniting Church School in which Ms Steer has worked in a senior role. Prior to Ravenswood School she was Vice-Principal of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School (PEGS), a co-educational school in the north west of Melbourne.

Vicki Steer holds combined English and Politics honours degrees and a Master of Arts in English - specialising in Australian and American literature - from the University of Melbourne. Vicki commenced her career as an English teacher in Victorian schools before moving to the Victorian Public Service. She returned to teaching in 1992 as Head of English and subsequently head of the senior school at Lowther Hall Anglican Girls' Grammar School.

Pictured: Vicki Steer has big plans to 'Make a Difference' in her new role at Cornish College



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





Dates for your diary

- (a) Release of Pastoral ties Max Champion, St Johns Mt Waverley Sunday May 3, 10am
- (b) Synod PM's Conference 29th April - 1st May 2015: Venue TBA
- (c) Release of Pastoral ties Rev Ian Cayzer – Brighton Trinity 24th May at 10am
- (d) Release of Pastoral ties Rev Dr Apwee Ting Dandenong UC TBA
- (e) Ministers Gathering 2015, 23 - 25th June at Pallotti College
- (f) One Great Sunday of Sharing 20th July, 2015 – across congregations
- (g) Cross Cultural celebration 10th October, 6pm - Dandenong UC



Could you survive on refugee rations?

UP for a challenge? "Cause Act for Peace is promoting its Ration Challenge event which takes place during Refugee Week - from 14 - 20, June.

One of PPEP's own, Rev Claire Dawe, has already registered for the challenge and parishioners of Chelsea parish have offered to support her while she is 'grumpy' as she lives on the rations of a Burmese refugee for a week in June. Claire has already registered via <http://actforpeace.rationchallenge.org.au> and is anticipating that she will be at 'less than optimum cheerfulness' during that time. During the week Claire's diet will consist of rice, flour, split peas, chilli, fish paste and vegetable oil, while her only drink will be water. Her intention is to raise funds for Act for Peace partners in Thailand and raise awareness of their inadequate diet.



"It's ridiculous that refugees have to live on so little. If it's not adequate for us, then it's not adequate for them either," she says.

Claire has already started fundraising through her online sponsorship page at www.everydayhero.com.au. She encourages other members of Port Phillip East Presbytery to consider supporting the challenge by registering themselves, by sponsoring her, or having a one-off 'refugee meal' as a fundraiser for the campaign. To offer support you can contact Rev Claire Dawe on clairedawe@hotmail.com or for information and resources on the Challenge contact Development Officer, Jeff Wild on jwild@actforpeace.org.au.

Jools is coming to Melbourne!

May 6th to 10th 2015

Wednesday 6th May

@ Koornang UC (117 Murrumbeena Rd Murrumbeena)
7pm - Pizza and discussion Cost \$5 per person
For those in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Thursday 7th May

@ 30 Bayles St Parkville
Inservice for University Chaplains
4.30pm followed by dinner

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th May

@ Merricks Lodge (3670 Frankston/Flinders Rd Merricks)
Stories of our Faith Camp
For those 16 years old and up.

Sunday 10th May

@ High Street UC Frankston (16-18 High Street Frankston)
9am and 10.40am services
5pm Young adults gathering - Exploring our missional imagination

For more details contact Rev Jay Robinson 0410 465 836 or jay@robinsonfamily.id.au



Julian (Jools) Hamilton is a Methodist minister from Ireland, a gifted speaker, thinker, and story teller. You can check him out at www.joolshamilton.com

Teamwork binds Cranbourne quilters together for Anzac masterpiece

ITS finished!! The Gallipoli triptych created by CUPS (Cranbourne Uniting Patchworkers) is now complete, in a race against time countdown for Anzac Day.

Combined Cranbourne Quilters, encompassing St John's Anglican, Cranbourne and the Tooradin Anglican Church Quilters plus some local ladies, made 13 Quilted banners together finishing about 5 m x 2 1/2m for display in the Cranbourne RSL building. Designed by Artistic Director Rev Wendy Snook, she says: "The quilt is quite significant, a lot of my congregation were not as aware of some of the stories from the war and the quilt helps to bring the past into the present. My hope is that we learn from the past and never repeat it, if we remember it so we don't do it again, we've certainly achieved something."

The Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL Social Welfare Committee and the State RSL representative are so pleased with it, they suggest it be toured around all RSL branches in the state during 2015 before it returns



back to the Cranbourne RSL. All the team, particularly Rosemary Kreun, Dianne Mitchell, and Lorraine Jacques are to be congratulated for their work, and they hope many people will have an opportunity to see the Anzac Centenary Triptych quilts when finished.

"It has been a wonderful bonding and learning experience with the group of ladies. Many of them hadn't used fabric like paint before with the water colour technique and they can now use it themselves in the future," Wendy adds.

For information contact wsnook1@iinet.net.au

Casual enquiry unearths war hero at Hampton UCA

EXPLORING the history of the Anzacs and researching those who served, and often fell, in the Gallipoli campaign has increased dramatically in this the 100th anniversary year.

Hampton UCA decided to look into the history of names on the church's WWI Honour Roll for this reason and found that Lieutenant Harold Alexander Letch, MC had been a local hero. Harold Alexander Murley Letch was born on 3 May, 1894 in Donnybrook Victoria, second youngest of the nine children of William James and Elizabeth Ann Letch. His family lived at 26 Littlewood St, Hampton.

Harold was a clerk with the Electrical Engineers Branch of the Victorian Railways, and enlisted on 19 August 1914 at Melbourne. He had two years previous experience as a sergeant with the Signals Section of 19th Engineers, Victorian Militia. An early volunteer (he was assigned service number 6), he embarked for overseas service with 1 Signal Troop, (1 Light Horse Brigade) from Melbourne aboard Transport A10 Karroo on 20 October 1914; he was promoted to Corporal the same day. This unit had a good percentage of men with previous militia signals experience and

served on Gallipoli from the landing, with Letch maintaining one of the wireless sets landed.

Letch was appointed a temporary sergeant on 21 July (confirmed on 12 November). One day later he was withdrawn to the Rest Camp at Mudros. Once Gallipoli was evacuated and his unit transferred to Egypt, Letch was promoted to Second Lieutenant (9 May) and transferred to 1 Signal Squadron, 2 Light Horse Regiment, Anzac Mounted Division, at Romani on 25 May 1916 as Regimental Signalling Officer.

After a number of other acts of heroism, Second Lieut. Harold Letch was sadly shot down in an aerial dogfight over Palestine and was buried in Ramleh Cemetery, Israel on August 22, 1918.

For complete details of Harold Letch's campaigns and Anzac history write to Ian Menzies at menzies.ian.robe@gmail.com



Precious metal...

'TWISTED metal' might sound like the name of a heavy metal rock music band but it was the formation of Lawrence Marshall's latest metal sculpture.

Lawrence creates sculptures from scrap metal. Bits and pieces many of us might simply see as scrap metal or junk. Lawrence sees beauty and shape in all manner of cast-off metal and disused machinery parts. Lawrence proceeds to bend, weld, grind and sculpt these cast-offs into beautiful artworks. At Lawrence and Maureen's home in South Rosebud there are life-size creations of eagles, emus and kangaroos set amongst meandering garden paths and shrubbery, along with windmills and weathervanes. Lawrence's creations are entered into shows and competitions state-wide. A favoured source of scrap metals is cutlery with spoons, knives and forks being shaped into beautifully featured feathered emus and broilgas, forks for fish fins and much that dazzles and glints reflecting light and sunshine. His latest creation, was the feature visual in the service at Rosebud on Resurrection Sunday.

The (as yet) un-named sculpture brought gasps from the congregation as



The Mission Development Committee of the
Presbytery of Port Philip East presents a



ONE DAY SEMINAR

with Rev. Dr. Gerald Rose

RE-IMAGINING CHURCH:

DISCOVERING HOPE AND DIRECTION FOR OUR CHURCHES

THURSDAY 28TH MAY, 10 – 4pm,

Drawing on his PhD research Gerald will guide us in exploring how, as ministry practitioners and congregational leaders, we can begin to re-imagine church. Starting with our personal and collective experiences we will draw from our past, listen in the 'now' and find spiritually effective ways for the future.

to be held at the Port Philip East Presbytery Offices

1 Allan Street, Noble Park – close to Noble Park Railway Station

Catered lunch will be provided; Cost \$20

Bookings to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/re-imagining-church-with-dr-gerald-rose-tickets-16743847298>

The Seminar Presenter - Gerald Rose has lived and ministered through both the buoyant and difficult times over the past few decades. As an ordained Minister of The Churches of Christ he has served in congregational ministries in South Australia, Victoria and New Zealand and has served in Conference positions, as Director of Christian Education, in S.A. and the USA. He has recently completed PhD research through Monash University, exploring the changes in Western culture and their implications for ministry and churches. His research grew out of his own concerns and confusion over what in the world was happening to clergy and churches in Victoria and Tasmania.

it was slowly unravelled from being bound with gold-coloured cloth.

It certainly became something of a revelation, within the context of worship and, as art is meant to do, evoked many insights as to its 'meaning'.

Pictured here in the worship space, the sculpture of a globe, made of many distorted, shapeless pieces is standing upon twisted and bent metal yet emerging from this global 'tomb' is a sign of hope and peace in the form of a dove holding an olive branch in its beak. The piece within the Rosebud Church, forms part of the 'Visual Arts' of the Southern Mornington Peninsula Congregation. Lawrence stands alongside his most recent creation above. He described the evolving idea for the 'peace' sculpture as he thought of the tragic and twisted events of the world that come from people's hatred and warring attitudes toward others. This idea grew into the globe standing on a bent and twisted steel base, strands of steel bent and twisted around each other to the fragmented globe, but from within it all is still to be seen the essence of peace and love. Released from the tomb that people create it becomes an over-riding symbol for the world.

Here is Easter, a symbol of hope, love and peace.
*Written by
Rev Chris Meneilly.*



Celebrating 30 years of multi-culturalism... together as one

GENERATIONS 2 - the Generations Youth Conference - was held at the Clayton Uniting Church recently - and a group of young people from Brisbane even flew down for the occasion, writes Faye Sanderson.

They joined the local youth (of all ages – adult youth are people 35 years and over!!) including Baby Boomers, Gen X, Gen Y, Gen Z and Gen Alpha. The Praise and Worship Band really rocked and all joined in enthusiastically in the singing. While the icebreakers were short sections where participants broke away and played games or quizzes. Which kept people thinking and not 'dozing off.' The Main Speaker was Ben Williams, Cook Islands Christian Church Youth Director from Rarotonga supported by Rev Mata Makara from Clayton and other local ministers and lay people. Spontaneous items were many and varied there was singing, drama and skits and of course there was food – mandatory with Pacific Islanders!! Sunday night was a highlight. A Praise and

Worship gathering and the hall was packed with youths of all ages. Bob Williams gave the message and 55 young people came forward to accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Fantastic! If you would like to experience some of this enthusiasm and food, come along to the Intercultural Service of Celebration organised by the Intercultural Unit of the Synod. It will be on Saturday 23rd May at Glen Waverley Uniting Church starting at 4 pm. There will also be refreshments available from 2.30 pm which will feature several different foods from across the Synod. All proceeds will go the upcoming 2nd Gen China Contextual Learning Trip in September – a joint initiative of the Synod Intercultural Unit, UnitingWorld and our partner church in China.

Take up the 30-word challenge

This year we celebrate 30 years since we declared 'the Uniting Church in Australia is a Multicultural Church' at the 4th National Assembly in Australia in 1985.

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania is celebrating the 30th Anniversary.

Recently while in Singapore I came across a book written by Andre Yeo to celebrate Singapore's 50th birthday in 2015. He wrote in the preface, "With Singapore turning 50 in 2015, I challenged myself to write a book with 50 stories, each 50 words long, on our Singaporean cultures and experiences."

That book gave me an idea. Why don't we encourage members of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to write 30-Word stories as we celebrate our 30 years of cultural diversity this year?

So pick up your pen and paper, or whatever gadget you use and share your stories in 30 words then forward them to me at koh.sweeann@victas.uca.org.au.

We encourage you to write in your heart language and if need be we will translate them later into English. We will select 30 30-Word stories

from all the contributions and publish them. Shalom

KOH Swee-Ann Koh
Director Intercultural Unit,
Commission for Mission



30 years of cultural diversity
Celebrating diversity | 1985 - 2015

Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Let's celebrate our diversity

It is 30 years since the UCA declared itself to be a Multicultural Church.

INTERCULTURAL SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

4PM . SATURDAY

23 . MAY . 2015

GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
(Cnr Bogong Av and Kingsway, Glen Waverley)

MULTICULTURAL AFTERNOON TEA AT 2.30 PM
(Fund raising fellowship tea for the NextGen trip to China)

Women unite with Uniting Journeys



THIRTEEN women have just returned from India - six of whom live in the Port Phillip East Presbytery.

The Uniting Journeys trip included visits to the Mother & Baby Health Clinics Project that High Street Uniting Church supports. The church in Frankston has raised \$30,000 each year since 2013 to initiate the project and maintain it for a three-year start up phase, before it is taken on board by the Indian health authorities.

Gifts were sent from HSUC - including banners sewn by craft groups and a photo montage by Rev Alan Mathews - and the gifts were very gratefully received by the Bishop Pradeep Samantaroy, Dr Alma Ram and all in the Diocese of Amritsar

and staff who work in the project. The women chose to sing Amazing Grace during devotions - poignantly the same hymn sung by the Bali 9 as they were executed... Project donations are being used for vital 'health of the community' objectives: To improve health in mothers and children in villages (11,000 women and 7,000 children); educate re; health, hygiene, literacy, nutrition

and environment; smaller families and contraceptive methods/acceptance in all castes, creeds and religions.

- Reduce maternal mortality, child mortality and malnutrition/morbidity re-hydration.
 - Provide ante and post-natal care to 70% of rural women within next 5 years.
 - Provide health education to prevent STD and HIV etc
 - Encourage expectant mothers to have girl child (highlight dangers of female foeticide.)
 - Formation of monthly 'Health Posts' in 30 villages in 3 districts of Punjab.
- Says trip member Helen Beeby: "It made the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end to be actually visiting the Field Office in North India funded by our church, as well as meet the Indian women running the project there. Seeing the work in action was a real privilege and it was clear that these Dalit villages are really benefiting from the work."

Quote

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me."

Erma Bombeck

of the month...



Many hands make light work...

There was an excellent turn out at MLG recently when volunteers came along to donate goods and help pack boxes for a container bound for cyclone ravaged Vanuatu. Pictured MLG leaders Ann and John Connan with representatives from many PPEP churches. Lencie Harding of Ewing Memorial Uniting Church, says: "I was amazed at the quantity, good quality and variety of goods donated."



UNITING JOURNEYS

Travel for thinking people

Faith Formation with Children & their Families

Tuesday May 5 from 7.30pm - 9.30pm at Mulgrave



Prayer for trust in Jesus

*O Christ Jesus,
when all is darkness
and we feel our weakness
and helplessness,
give us the sense of Your
presence,
Your love, and Your
strength.
Help us to have perfect trust
in Your protecting love
and strengthening power,
so that nothing may frighten
or worry us.
For, living close to You,
we shall see Your hand,
Your purpose, Your will
through all things.
Amen
by St Ignatius of Loyola*

Pew plea from Catholic church

I've had a request from a Catholic church starting up in Somerville who are looking at purchasing pews to seat 250 ppl. Do you know of any congregations that would be able to help in this?
Kind regards
Siobhan Reed
Property and Facilities Coordinator
Property Services
130 Little Collins St
Melbourne 3000
t (03) 9251 5419 | f (03) 9251 5421 | m 0427 436 640
e Siobhan.Reed@victas.uca.org.au

For ministers, pastors, parents and children & families ministry leaders, this is a great opportunity to engage with Dave Csinos. Dave, one of the emerging leaders internationally in the area of faith formation with children and their families, has authored Children's Ministry that Fits and edited Faith Forward<<http://faith-forward.net/news/book-from-2012-conferenc/>>. Dave is a co-founder of the Faith Forward Conference, has published articles such as Four Ways of Knowing God: Exploring Children's Spiritual Styles and is particularly passionate about...

- re-imagining faith formation
- faith formation in smaller churches
- the end of Sunday school (and why it's a good thing)

Go to <https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/davecsinosvisit2015/info/mulgrave/>



Responding to Climate Change

**What is the impact of climate change and how can we respond?
Come and hear an engaging panel of speakers who will explore the options and invite your questions.**

The panel will include:

Ellen Sandell MLA - Member for Melbourne, former CEO Australian Youth Climate Coalition
Prof Dr David Karoly - Professor of Atmospheric Science, University of Melbourne
Rev Sefarosa Carol - Manager, Church Partnerships Pacific, UnitingWorld
Susie Richards - Homelessness and Crisis Support team, Wesley Mission Victoria
Alex Tzelepis - Wesley College Environment and Sustainability Prefect

The forum will be hosted by Cath James - Social Justice and Environment Officer, Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

Where: Wesley Church Melbourne - 148 Lonsdale St Melbourne
Date: May 24th 2015
Time: 2-4pm (With musical entertainment from 1:45pm)



Justice & International Mission

Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



Bursary grant up for grabs

DO you know someone who would benefit from a theological or leadership study grant?

Applications are invited for a \$1500 Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary to be awarded to two suitable candidates for study in 2016. These awards which are now in their sixth year are offered annually at the discretion of the incumbent UCAF National Committee (based in Vic/Tas from May 2015). They honour Mrs Stott's contribution to the Uniting Church and UCAF.

Their purpose is to assist those who are committed to or who already are in formation for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church and who are under the age of 35 years of age at the date of application. The bursary will be paid to the 'Place of Study' except for accredited candidates. Applicants should indicate how the grant will be used, e.g. for study or tuition fees etc. A short faith journey statement and a précis of their ultimate goals at the end of their study are also requested. Applicants will be notified of the National UCAF Committee's decision by 31 October 2015. Application forms and an information booklet from Mr David Wang and should be returned to him by 31st May 2015. Contact david.wang@victas.uca.org.au or phone: (03) 9251 5255

The Uniting Church: Where from? Where to?



Would you like to understand the Uniting Church better? Why not consider taking this intensive being offered at the Centre for Theology and Ministry in June. It offers an introduction to the theology, history and life of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA).

Attention will be paid to the Uniting Church's

- emergence and roots in Congregationalism, Methodism and Presbyterianism,
- Jesus, Bible, Church and Mission in the Basis,
- polity and code of ethics,
- relationship to Australian culture and society,
- ecumenical commitment and outreach,
- approach to questions of ministry and mission,
- issues facing the Uniting Church in the future.

This is a Centre for Theology & Ministry (CTM) program and is open to people involved in church leadership within the Uniting Church (e.g. lay preachers, worship leaders, pastors). Led by Geoff Thompson and Rohan Pryor and resourced by CTM personnel plus a rich collection of people who have given key leadership to the Uniting Church (such as Norman Young, D'Arcy Wood, Graham McAnalley and Christiaan Mostert), The program will be taught as an intensive course from Monday to Friday with an additional project presentation day a couple of weeks later. Live streaming of sessions may be possible for those who can only participate online. Cost: \$130 - The CTM is pleased to offer this intensive at a subsidised rate. If cost is a factor why not ask your Church Council to subsidize your participation. Daily program: Monday 22 - Friday 26 June 2015 9:15am - 5:00pm. Worship site visit & class project presentation: Sunday 2 August 2015 9am - 3:30pm Details: CTM, 29 College Cres., Parkville VIC 3052 Ph: 03 9340 8800 Email: info@ctm.uca.edu.au

Colours of May

A Piano Concert Kaleidoscope

Saturday 23 May 2pm

Sunday 24 May 6.30pm

High Street Road Uniting Church
482 High Street Road Mt Waverley

Tickets: \$30 / \$20 conc / \$15 child

www.trybooking.com/GSVY

Proceeds for this concert go to
"Possible Dreams International", Swaziland, Africa

Enquiries/Bookings: 98022241 or 95699178
Email: dcjackson@bigpond.com

Sponsored by

Bernie's Music Land
SINGERS • ACTORS • TEACHERS
341 Convent Road, Ringwood VIC 3134
Tel: (03) 9872 3122 Fax: (03) 9872 3127
A B N: 28 117 328 561



Holy week harmony in Hampton

For many years the churches in Hampton have combined ecumenically to celebrate Holy Week.

This year's services included Tuesday's Catholic Reconciliation, Wednesday's Anglican Tenebrae, and on Maundy Thursday Hampton UCA's symbolic "Last Supper" meal, inspired by the Jewish Passover or Seder, followed by a traditional service of Footwashing. On Good Friday the congregations regathered for a Walk of Witness that included all readings and songs at all three churches as well

as in the centre of the busy Hampton Street shopping centre. Easter Sunday featured the "Greening of the Cross", with parishioners celebrating the resurrection by adding flowers and greenery to the cross. It proved to be a memorable and moving series of Easter events for the folk of Hampton.

The Mystery of Easter

On the Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, Officer Pakenham Mission Area held its first Easter Event for families at the Officer Hall. Over the two days 26 people came along and wondered about stories of Jesus life and made some fantastic craft creations. We explored together the Faces of Easter Godly Play story and children, parents and grandparents pondered about questions they had about the Mystery of Easter, initiating many great conversations.

The Uniting Church is well represented among ACLA membership.

Although we know that there are many churches out there which have collections of books and other resources, often so small that it is not regarded as a library, and cared for by people who have no formal library qualifications and therefore hesitate to call themselves church librarians. We wish to reach out to these librarians and assure them of a warm welcome. Perhaps those who have larger, well-established and well-run libraries may like to share their wisdom with those not so fortunate.

POPE FRANCIS' FIVE FINGER PRAYER

1.) THE THUMB IS THE CLOSEST FINGER TO YOU. SO START PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE CLOSEST TO YOU. THEY ARE THE PERSONS EASIEST TO REMEMBER. TO PRAY FOR OUR DEAR ONES IS A "SWEET OBLIGATION."

2.) THE NEXT FINGER IS THE INDEX. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO TEACH YOU. INSTRUCT YOU AND HEAL YOU. THEY NEED THE SUPPORT AND WISDOM TO SHOW DIRECTION TO OTHERS. ALWAYS KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS.

3.) THE FOLLOWING FINGER IS THE TALLEST. IT REMINDS US OF OUR LEADERS, THE GOVERNORS AND THOSE WHO HAVE AUTHORITY. THEY NEED GOD'S GUIDANCE.

4.) THE FOURTH FINGER IS THE RING FINGER. EVEN THAT IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, IT IS OUR WEAKEST FINGER. IT SHOULD REMIND US TO PRAY FOR THE WEAKEST, THE SICK OR THOSE PLAQUED BY PROBLEMS. THEY NEED YOUR PRAYERS.

5.) AND FINALLY WE HAVE OUR 'SMALLEST' FINGER, THE 'SMALLEST' OF ALL. YOUR FINGER SHOULD REMIND YOU TO PRAY FOR YOURSELF. WHEN YOU ARE DONE PRAYING FOR THE OTHER FOUR GROUPS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR OWN NEEDS BUT IN THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE, AND ALSO YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PRAY FOR YOUR OWN NEEDS IN A BETTER WAY.

Words of wisdom from the ACLA

The Victorian Chapter of the **Australian Church Library Association**

is meeting on **Saturday, 16th May, 2015**
from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

at **St.Mary's Catholic Church, Greensborough**
204 Grimshaw St., Greensborough
(Melway 20 G2)

The program will include

- looking at the library;
- a session on resources to inform members about other faiths, and how we can relate to them;
- a session featuring books on the subject of Christians and war/peace;
- a birthday celebration (see over)
- a swap table - bring along books, videos, cassettes, CDs and other resources that you no longer need;
- and more!!

Please bring a plate of food to share for lunch

For more information please ring Rachel -
phone: 9850 4828 or email: alanrachelh1@bigpond.com

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Australian Church Library Association is an interdenominational organisation that seeks to promote the Christian faith through the establishment and development of church libraries. It was formed in Adelaide about twenty-five years ago, and has members in most states. **The Victorian Chapter was launched almost twenty years ago, in July 1995.** The second meeting for 2015 will be held on Saturday, 10th October, at Warragul Communiy Church.

A quarterly newsletter, entitled *Off the Shelf*, is distributed to members, and contains useful articles on running a church library, details of activities being held in the various states, and reviews of new materials.

We regard any collection of books and other resources at a church, no matter how small, as a church library, and the person in charge as a church librarian, regardless of qualifications, and all are most welcome to join our organisation.

Further information can be obtained from the website www.acla.asn.au, or from Rachel Hardie, email: alanrachelh1@bigpond.com or phone (03) 9850 4828.



Banners symbolise new life at St Martin's Beaumaris

Here are images of three further banners which the craft ladies at St Martin's created in preparation for Easter. These three follow on from the Lenten banner which featured in an article in the March Newsbeat (image 1).

Says Margaret Wade: "The banners represent a walk through the struggles of Lent to the Resurrection. Currently the Resurrection banner is being used by our supply Minister, Rev Jan Sebastian as symbolic of new life at St Martin's."

Treading Softly

Closing a Church, for whatever reason, is never easy.

Dissolving the pastoral tie. Special services crafted; very helpful. Are Churches ever really closed? Is the bond between pastor and people ended forever when the manse door is closed on a ministry? Of course there will be another Church, another welcoming congregation, and in time another settlement, a new ministry. And yet there is a kind of uneasiness in our hearts, deep down, about such ecclesiastical formalities. We still remember the friendships and influence of previous pastors which have moulded our faith. We know a new pastor will build on that and strengthen us as we journey. And we are told that the Church is only a building. Past its used by date, needing lots of maintenance, too expensive. No young people coming on and the elderly will soon be gone. The land is worth a fortune. Nevertheless, that old Church has a heart and a soul. It is loved. Built by years of sacrificial giving, maintained by mostly voluntary service, containing memorabilia and gifts, memories of the faithful, honouring the sacrifices of men and women in our services. Years of Sunday worship, Baptisms, the Lord's Supper, youth and family services, weddings and funerals – celebrations of the whole of life. Only a building?

Reflections on Faith

The words of the poet W.B. Yeats written for another setting are apposite in our approach to such issues: *"But I, being poor have only my dreams; I have spread my dreams under your feet; Tread softly because you tread on my dreams."*

And sometimes a wonderful solution emerges. Take Wesley Colac, a beautiful Church over 80 years of ministry, a tradition of preaching, choral music, organ recitals and community outreach came to the point where necessary maintenance was out of the question. With some sensitivity this historic Church has been adapted to use as a funeral chapel. Still a place for worship, celebration and remembrance, and with an outlook and ministry to the community. And the congregation feel comfortable about this. In their joining with nearby St Andrews they join in the mission of bringing people to Jesus as did Andrew when he introduced his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. It also happens on occasion that in a chance meeting, or through a card at Christmas, we are reassured of the enduring blessing of a pastoral tie of long ago. Long ago the poet John Fawcett put it thus: *Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love...*

by Bill Pugh

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