

NEWSBEAT



SEPTEMBER 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Watch the birdie...
Cornish Golf Day
brings Independents
together. Swing to
page 2 for more
details.

Parting is such sweet
sorrow. Monash Uni
students share their
joys about Jay on
page 4's full photo
feature



Breaking new ground in Living Leadership

A HEALTHY crowd turned out on the Peninsula recently to hear and share ideas on Living Leadership.

Jenny Byrne, Executive Director of the Centre for Theology & Ministry for the UCA VicTas, braved a cold midweek night to head down to St Mark's, Mornington to enlarge on this energising development program, *writes Helen Beeby*.

After a shared supper of hearty home-made soups, crusty bread and dinner-table conversations the question was asked: "What makes us distinct in the Uniting Church?"

Jenny elaborated by taking us through an interactive session that explored our submerged beliefs and values underpinning the outward symbols and behaviours that inhabit our churches and sacred spaces. She referenced the Basis of Union; that we are 'People of God on the way' - a movement not an institution - and explained the concept of a sigmoid curve. This is an 'S' shaped line where the curve initially declines in a time of experimenting and learning, then rises in a straight line of growth and prosperity, and finally curves in decline, leading to the end. Unless you do something vital in the final phase to create a new upward curve it spells an end to the organisation. This can be a time that leads to conflict between the old and the new.



Jenny says: "During the latter half of the 20th century the UCA was on the straight upward line of the sigmoid curve - all we had to do was steady the ship. Now we are at the point where we need a new upward curve."

She added: "Only 3% of space travel is on the correct flight path; all the rest is just correction."

"Sometimes we are fearful of taking a step because we are unsure if it is the right step. What we need to remember is the whole carpet is God, not just where we step."

All this, and more, can be explored on the Living Leadership page of the CTM website at <http://ctm.uca.edu.au/living-leadership/> Rev John Haig, of St Mark's, Mornington concludes: "It was good to have the CTM come to us and it was great for the church leaders to get together - we plan do it more often."

Church Council Secretary, Sue Davies coordinated the evening and St Mark's will be prepared to host a similar occasion next year.

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



Cornish tees off for College first

CORNISH College hosted the first Southern Independent Schools Golf Competition recently with teams from 10 schools playing the Cornish Links course and enjoying practice sessions too.

Chaplain Jarrod Davies also acts as a coach for the Golf Leadership program, working alongside a PGA Golf Professional, to help children learn positive values and leadership skills through playing golf.

Cornish College is the first school in Australia to have its own golf course on site, which was opened by TV and radio celebrity Andy Lee (of Hamish & Andy fame.)

The recent event was a great success and included students with a range of skills.

Jarrod is pictured on the golf buggy with Cornish College Principal Vicki Steer.



Action stations

CHURCHES took public action in the community last month in response to the government's inaction over the Nauru files.

In seeking justice for refugees a crowd gathered at Frankston Railway Station, pictured left, to stand in solidarity, offering prayers and songs for justice and compassion and making a public statement. The paper dolls - representing children held in detention - were later taken to the office of the local Federal member and offered with a request for a meeting to discuss asylum seeker policy.



Make it Messy! Messy Church Training Day Saturday October 8, Parkville

Make it Messy! will assist those already engaged in Messy Church, churches contemplating beginning a Messy Church and people genuinely curious about the Messy Church phenomenon take the next step in their Messy journey.

Join with others from churches across the state for a day of active engagement, stimulating discussions, encouraging stories and helpful electives that will empower your ministry in your local context.

Elective options will include...

- Introducing Messy Church
- Messy Church and Discipleship
- Teenagers & Messy Church
- Messy Church as "church"
- Maximising Messy Craft
- Follow-up of Messy Families
- Multi-age Messy Worship
- Feeding your Messy Church
- Starting a Messy Church
- Getting the most out of Get Messy! resources
- Building on the beginning (for Messy Churches up to 4 years old)
- Keeping up the energy (for Messy Churches over 4 years old)

Event Details

What: 2016 Messy Church Conference
Date: Saturday, 8 October
Time: 10am – 3pm
Cost: \$30 (Register by Monday 3 October \$25)
 \$20/person if already part of a registered Messy Church.
Register and pay online:
<https://ucavf.goregister.com.au/messychurchconference2016>
Registrations appreciated: Friday 30 September
Location: Centre for Theology & Ministry
 29 College Crescent, Parkville Vic 3052
Contact: 03 9340 8815; explore@ctm.uca.edu.au

Make it Messy! 2015 was an excellent day, well prepared and well presented, which provided inspiration; an opportunity to find resources; and the chance to exchange ideas and learn from the experiences of others.

All presenters were most professional and passionate about Messy church. Very well organised! Make it Messy! was well run, valued our time and was a Saturday well spent.

29 College Crescent, Parkville Victoria 3052 | Telephone 03 9340 8800 | Facsimile 03 9340 8805
 info@ctm.uca.edu.au www.ctm.uca.edu.au | facebook.com/ctmvicats | twitter.com/ctmvicats

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



Are you a young person between the ages of 16 and 25 years old?
 Would you like to spend 4 days at a great convention with other 16 to 25s?

Then NCYC is for you!

The Presbytery of Port Phillip East is offering some funding to help young people attend Yuora NCYC 2017 and cover the registration costs for this event.

If this funding would help you go to NCYC 2017 please contact the Mission & Outreach Task Group (Jay Robinson is the contact)

If you want to go to NCYC 2017 please fill in the form below and return it to Jay Robinson (jay@robinsonfamily.id.au or 13 Macorna Street Frankston 3199) by Monday 19th September.

Once your form is in Jay will contact you with more details.

Transport options are currently being sorted out, so more details to come on that!

YES, I WANT TO GO TO NCYC!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Congregation/School/Agency: _____

I would like some financial assistance to go to NCYC: Yes/No

Life after asylum...

Working capital

THIS year's Justice and International Mission Unit Convention will be exposing issues connected to the workplace.

The Convention will be held at the **CTM 29 College Crescent Parkville Victoria 3052 on Saturday, 17th September** and will explore the theme of making working lives better, and will explore this issue from a Christian perspective and what the world could look like if it was based on values of love,

compassion and justice for all. The future of work will impact on our whole society, including our children and grandchildren. The church needs to be part of shaping the direction of the future of work and its social impacts.

Keynote speaker is Rev. Brendan Byrne from Mountview Uniting Church in Mitcham. Rev. Loni Vaitohi and Rev. Lavingi Tupou will also be part of the panel and will be workshop leaders on the day. Further details about Fiona Macdonald, David Tuffley and David Kerin, the other panel members, and the different workshop leaders as well, can be found on the registration form online at: <http://bit.ly/JimConFB>. The Convention also represents an opportunity to help shape the work of the JIM Unit to be more effective in supporting the social justice and international mission activities that you are initiating, supporting and leading. One of the afternoon sessions will be a discussion on the work areas of the The Unit would very much appreciate having PPEP input in shaping the future work of the Justice and International Mission Unit.

Registration is also available by e-mail/post by contacting Jill Cooper-Ruzbacky at 9251 5200 or jill.ruzbacky@victas.uca.org.au



A SPECIAL guest spoke at St. Mark's Uniting Church on the last Sunday in August.

John Gulzari, pictured at the lectern, was a boat arrival from Afghanistan a decade ago and he addressed listeners at an extended Morning Tea/Brunch at St Mark's, Mornington following a Refugee and Asylum Seeker morning service. The guest preacher for the day was David Spitteler from the Dandenong Refugee Asylum Seeker Centre. David and his wife, Yvonne, were accompanied by Mahmood, Nazi and Fatima who are asylum seekers from Iran. St Mark's supports the Dandenong Centre through its missional outreach and the Mornington Social Justice Network.



Walking together in the *Paths of Peace*

Christianity & Islam

Similarities & Differences

Themes within Christianity and Islam

Rev Dr John Dupuche is a senior lecturer at Catholic Theological College where he is the co-ordinator of the Graduate Certificate in Guiding Meditation within the Department of Pastoral and General Studies. He is also an Honorary Fellow at Australian Catholic University in the Inter-religious Dialogue Network of the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy.



WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER
6:30 – 8:30 pm

\$15 / \$12 in the Parish Centre,
Hampton UCA, 17 Service Street Hampton



Please join us for dinner at 6:30 pm.
Following dinner John will speak with us about
basic themes common to Christianity and Islam

RSVP would be appreciated to assist with catering:
Tim Angus 0400 383 628 or Ian Menzies 0403 727 080

Beautiful goodbye for Jay

HUNDREDS turned out for Rev Jay Robinson's Release of Ties send-off.

Testament to the many lives she touched during her nine years at High Street Uniting, Frankston. As half-time Youth Minister and half-time Chaplain at Monash University, Frankston campus, Jay's work reached out to dozens of groups and, literally, thousands of people. We wish her well in her new ministry at Koornang UC and feel sure she will still connect across the

Presbytery and Synod as before.

Pictured: anti-clockwise from top: smiles (and a few tears) from Jay and assembled guests; displaying Jay's unique qualities;

laying on of hands with stoles bearing prayers of good-wishes for Jay, Bruce and daughter Steph; Voices of Frankston (launched by Jay at HSUC) raise the roof; a packed house; a spectacular send-off cake; morning tea for farewell hugs; students from Monash Uni add their gratitude for Jay's chaplaincy; and colleagues and friends Rev Robert Johnson and Ross Huggard share their memories and gratitude for Jay's ministry at High Street UC, Frankston.



**Photos by
Rev Alan Mathews**

Riak will be linking local communities in vital new role

Vet the vet

LOOKING for fellowship for dog lovers and dogs?

Then head down to the **Bark and Chat Morning Tea** gathering on Saturday, 17th September at 10am. It will be held at the Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church, cnr. Kingston and Old Dandenong Roads, Heatherton.

This meeting offers an opportunity to "Ask the Vet" any questions you might have about dogs.

Morning tea, including dogs, is held

as part of the get together.

All welcome. For further enquiries contact Margaret Howse on 9551 9494.



Sign up for a Labyrinth Reflection playdate

THE next Dadirri Labyrinth Reflection Day for 2016 will be on 24th September. The subject will explore *Laughter and Playfulness* as 'even in the nonhuman kingdom, play is part of the creational mandate.'

Diane Ackerman says: "The more an animal needs to learn in order to survive, the more it needs to play."

"The core of all play is linking what is known (past) to what is yet to be created (future) with the freedom to risk, to fail, to recreate." writes Dan Allender in *Sabbath*.

Reflection Day Location: 60 Bass Meadows Blvd, St Andrews Beach 3941, Melway map 251 J5

10am to 4pm, including closing 'Love Feast'

Lunch: Please bring food to share; Morn/Aft tea provided.

Cost: \$10 (\$5 concession.)

Booking: please register by the previous Thursday evening: Tel. 5988 5257; email robron@pryor.org.au or visit the website <http://dadirri.pryor.org.au>

Accommodation overnight at 'mates rates.'



population in the region. Riak was commissioned during the morning service on the 28th August at Pakenham Uniting Church.

Happy days... Riak is pictured with his wife Rebecca.

BUILDING bridges in the South Sudanese community in the Officer Pakenham Mission Area will now be much easier.

For OPMA has much pleasure in announcing the appointment of Mr. Riak Gordon Kiir to the new position of Community Development Worker in the local area.

The part time .4 position has been funded by a BOMAR grant.

Riak will be busy building relationships between Local Government Agencies and Community Service Providers.

These connections, information and resources will be used to provide assistance to the South Sudanese

Spiritual Care Australia (Victoria)
presents a Twilight Seminar:

Bereavement Counselling: Learning to Live Again

Speaker: Mary Klasen

Mary has undertaken qualitative research into the effectiveness of bereavement counselling from the client's perspective – the first time such research has been conducted in an Australian setting. As a pastoral carer of almost 20 years, and since 2007 the Pastoral Care Manager at Mercy Hospital for Women, we can be sure that Mary will unpack the findings of her research in a way that is useful to people in spiritual care / pastoral care / chaplaincy / perhaps even pastoral ministry.

This material was first presented in May as a paper at the national conference of the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement with the title: "Clients' Perspectives on Outcomes and Mechanisms of Bereavement Counselling".

Date and Time:
Tuesday, 6 September, 4 pm - 5.30pm
Followed by a short Annual Meeting of SCA (Victoria branch)
(Please arrive in time to register and be seated)

Place:
Islamic Council of Victoria,
66 - 68 Jeffcott Street, West Melbourne
(Easy walking distance from Southern Cross or Flagstaff stations).
Please note – we apologise that this upstairs room does not have disabled access.

Cost:
Free to SCA members.
\$20.00 (cash, please) to non-members.
Organisational members are entitled to five free places.

Register by email to Annie.Forrest@svha.org.au.
Questions to Harriet Ziegler, 0433 152 994.

Spiritual Care Australia

Reflections on Faith



Tulsi Treat Indian Fundraiser

Enjoy a delicious meal at Tulsi Indian Restaurant
74 Station Street, Somerville
Thursday, September 8th, 6.30pm
while raising funds for the
Mother & Child Mobile Health Clinics
Project in North India.

\$45 per person, which includes a two-course meal. BYO wine.

Door prizes and a raffle.

Please call/SMS 0434 412104 for tickets or book directly at www.stickytickets.com.au/41371



Frankston Uniting Church - Christ in the Community

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL 中秋节同欢

2016年9月10日

10 September 2016

下午六时开始 from 6:00 pm

本特利 联合教会 Bentleigh Uniting Church

497 Centre Road, Bentleigh



欢迎大家 All welcome

请随意带食物来分享

Please bring a plate of food to share



Contact: Alice 0438 792 810

LOTS of us have trouble in downsizing.

Retiring ministers have a problem with their extensive libraries. I love looking at my study bookshelves. Commentaries, and weighty theology books, collected over nearly a life time.

With all due respect, my family are not really into reading theology. So when I go I reckon much of this will not be wanted. So I am advertising for students, and others interested to take their pick, FREE. It hurts a bit, not the free part. I just want these treasures to have a good home and be useful.

All of us, at one stage or other, will face decisions to downsize. Maybe to sell and buy a unit now the family have left, or go to a retirement village, many reasons. But what do we do with the harvest of the years? In the parable of the Rich Fool Jesus pointed out the futility of building bigger barns and sitting back and luxuriating in material success. Such a life was soul destroying. A harsh judgment. Surely we are not like the Rich Fool. From time to time it is a valuable spiritual exercise to examine our stewardship of time, talent and energy. And do something positive about it.

Reflection: Read Luke 12.16 -21. I am reminded of the words of the hymn

we sang fervently
years ago at Church
anniversaries: "It is
well with my soul." This has
become a question. Is all well
with my soul?



Bill, pictured, is a retired Melbourne minister, and is looking to downsize his theological books and commentaries.

If you are interested in browsing through his collection and taking material home - for free - please call 9598 5841 to book an appointment.

Quote



"In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of."

Confucius

of the month

Expressions of Interest

are being sought for tours of local UnitingCare agencies. If you and/or your congregation would be interested in seeing the vital community work of our agencies in action please call 1800 668 426 or send a message to newsbeat@ucapppep.org stating your name, phone number and address and the words Agency Tour Newsbeat in the Subject line.



Folk mark six decades of service

CONGRATULATIONS to Dandenong North Uniting Church which celebrated its 60th years anniversary for serving the community on the last day of July.

This included a Thanksgiving Service, with a sermon by Rev Ineke Gyles, followed by High Tea.

Many came to renew friendships and join in the time of fellowship in thanks for God's blessings through the years.

Photos by Judy Capsis.



Cuts run deep



AGED care residents in Victoria will be hit hard by Federal Government funding cuts which threaten vulnerable and sick older people, Uniting AgeWell Interim Executive Director Peter Folliot said today.

Peter said aged care providers would struggle to meet the health care needs of vulnerable and sick older people.

"These cuts to the Aged Care Funding Instrument which the Federal Government is proposing would reduce funding by up to \$18,000 for older people with the most complex health needs," Peter said.

Under the proposed cuts, critical health needs such as wound and skin care, mobility needs, arthritis treatment and end of life care will be under direct threat.

Peter adds: "Uniting AgeWell is one of Victoria's largest not-for-profit aged care providers and we are proud of our great staff who work hard to care for vulnerable and sick older people in Victoria.

"As an aged care provider in Victoria, we call on MPs to vote against these cuts."

save the date

September 14 - Intercultural Leadership - 10am - 3pm at the Centre for Theology and Ministry.

This Intercultural Leadership day will provide an opportunity for you to engage with key principles of intercultural leadership, explore leadership in the context of the Uniting

Church as an intercultural church and enhance your capacity for exercising intercultural leadership. Facilitated by the CTM, in partnership with the Intercultural Unit, this will be a particularly valuable day as we move towards being a genuinely intercultural church. Come along to explore intercultural leadership in the Uniting Church context and expand your capacity for intercultural leadership.

Costings

\$90 per night.
\$180 including Friday tea to Sunday lunch
\$320 couples
\$12 linen extra

Registration

Register with Pallotti College office,
Tel 5966 2585
[Emergency phone during retreat]

For more information,
Bronwyn Pryor,
Mob 0412 301 450, tel 5988 5257

Retreat runs from after 6 pm tea
Friday, to lunch Sunday.
Some dietary restrictions catered for.

You are invited....



Labyrinth Prayer Retreat
Pallotti College Retreat Centre

Weekend 7-9 October 2016

Bronwyn Pryor,
Uniting Church Retreat Leader

Setting things straight

THE Fourth Annual Combined Service held at St John's, Mt Waverley on 19th June celebrated the UCA birthday and togetherness – past, present and future.

The service is a tradition of the UCA Cluster in Mt Waverley/Chadstone/Mulgrave. The Cluster members are High Street Road

Uniting Church, St Luke's UC, St Mark's UC, Melbourne Fijian UC, Mulgrave UC and St John's UC. As I was the minister at both HSRUC and St John's UC at that time, this probably added to the confusion. Members of each of the congregations participated, and in addition, Rev James Douglas from St Luke's preached, Rev Scott Finlay from HSRUC did Early Word and led prayers and Rev Julie Ross presided at Holy Communion.

Julie says: "It was a wonderful celebration not only of the UCA birthday but of the closeness developing in our six congregations."



Dates for your diary

- Induction - Rev Jay Robinson at Koornang UC, Friday, September 2, 7.30pm.
- Induction - Rev Wendy Snook at Berwick UC, on 18 September at 3pm.
- Induction - Raj Perera at Noble Park on 13 October at 7.30 pm.
- Cross Cultural Network – International Dinner, Thursday, 15 October at Monash Uniting Church

ON the afternoon of Sunday, 31 July, members of Presbytery joined with members of the Armadale Congregation for Rev Fiona Winn's Induction.

The service was led by the Rev Fee Morrison, Deputy Presbytery Chairperson, assisted by members of the Presbytery and of the Congregation. The Rev Robin Yang, the Chair of the Joint Nominating Committee, preached on

Find us on 

WE'VE passed the magic number - 100 Likes - on our PPEP Facebook page, which boosts our reach. It would still help to have more Likes though so please visit www.facebook.com/ucappeg.org/ and hit Like. Do Share things that interest you.

SRI LANKAN ECUMENICAL SERVICE

We invite you all to join us as we continue our journey together



Date: Saturday September 17th 2016

Time: Service at 4.00 p.m.
(followed by light refreshments)

Venue: Korean Church, Melbourne
23-27 Glendearg Grove, Malvern 3144
(Mel reference: 59 C10)

PREACHER: REV. DEV ANANDARAJAN

Music and singing led by The ConChord Choir

RSVP (FOR CATERING PURPOSES) BY SEPTEMBER 4TH 2016

Dev: 9504 3077, gunam58@optusnet.com.au
Maheshini: 9801 4349, mheshini@optusnet.com.au
Noel: 0415 486 009, nrebera@hotmail.com

Presbytery placements feeding the spirit

Matthew 14: 22 -33, the account of Jesus walking on the water. Robin said this was his favourite Gospel story as he really admired the courage shown by Peter in getting out of the boat. He went on to say that the church is now in a time when it needs to be courageous.



With Fiona's induction and also inductions for Rev's Wendy Snook (at Berwick) and Jay Robinson (at Koornang) and the Rev Deacon Rajitha Perera (at Noble Park) the number of congregations without ministers has reduced markedly from last year.

by Ian Firth

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2016:

- **Wednesday, 28 September at St John's Mount Waverley**
- **Wednesday, 23 November at Cook Island Congregation at Clayton**



Rev Sharon Hollis
Moderator
130 Little Collins St
MELBOURNE
VIC
3000

Dear Uniting Church friends,
I am writing to inform you of a decision taken by the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) in December 2015, on advice from the Finance Committee, BOMAR and the Property Board, which is starting to impact on the life of the Church. As you may be aware, as a whole of Church we have been living beyond our financial means – essentially our expenses exceed our income and we have an operating deficit. That was one reason the 2013 Synod meeting decided to establish a Major Strategic Review, which was tasked with forming a vision and plan for the future of the Church and undertaking a holistic financial sustainability review to support that vision and plan. However, the MSR was future-focused, and it was clear from the advice of the key Synod reporting bodies, that the financial difficulties had become immediate and urgent. The Finance Committee informed the SSC in December last year that levels of proposed expenditure by the Synod were unsustainable...For the full letter click on: <http://www.ucappeg.org/newsbeat/notices/>

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....