

NEWSBEAT



FEBRUARY 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Joyce marks her centenary with continued church service. Turn to page 4 to learn more about this remarkable woman..



Bruce dances his way into Narre Warren UC. See the story and pictures on page 5.

When heartbreak requires healing

MELBOURNE was left reeling in shock on January 20, 2017 when a seemingly 'crazed' driver recklessly ploughed through crowds on the busy shopping street of Bourke Street Mall.

Six people died, including two children, and scores more were injured. The city still mourns. Throngs of people have laid flowers,

letters and soft toys at the various memorial sites, in an effort to come to terms with the incident and to pay their respects to those who suffered most on that fateful Friday lunchtime.




Many people have turned to God, prayer and counselling in the wake of the incident and the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry has deployed 100s of ministers, chaplains and lay people in the city to offer comfort, solace and a listening ear. Port Phillip East and the UCA have provided a significant number of volunteers in and around Bourke Street and also at candlelit vigils in Hastings and other local communities. One prominent member of the VCC-EM, Michael Downing, reports that up to January 29, VCC-EM has already deployed 45% of the person/days that were used in the whole of 2016. Stuart Stuart, CEO of VCC-EM, says: "VCC Emergencies Ministry has been working each day in the CBD supporting affected persons. Each day 30 Chaplains and Personal Support Workers (PSW) in two shifts, are walking Bourke St from Swanston to William St, making contact with many affected persons. Our volunteers have also been at the memorial in the Bourke St Mall and at the Vigil held at Federation Square, where 25+ Chaplains and PSW's were walking through the crowd. VCC EM has been afforded a seat at the State Control Centre gaining and providing intelligence on

the event as well as our capability and capacity.


"The media has taken a keen and positive interest in our work, and we have provided 2 interviews on camera with ABC



Cont. on page 2



The United Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania



PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST
PO Box 696 Noble Park, Vic 3174

**PRESBYTERY
CROSS CULTURAL NETWORK**

is hosting a

CROSS CULTURAL EVENING FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 7th February
7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Springvale Uniting Church
Cnr Balmoral & Albert Avenues
Springvale

**"How will the UCA
be a cross-cultural missional church
by the 50th Anniversary of the UCA?"**

This is open to the whole Presbytery
and members of our congregations/agencies

We welcome all congregations which are culturally specific
as well as
those who have a variety of cultures
within their worshipping community

Further details available from
Rev Hoon You
Convenor Cross Cultural Network PPEP
Email: hoonyou@gmail.com
Phone: 0403 369 781

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



Cont. from front page

“The media has taken a keen and positive interest in our work, and we have provided 2 interviews on camera with ABC News TV, and phone interviews with the Herald Sun and The Age newspapers. Many social media connections have been made through Facebook and Twitter. This is very difficult work and we are doing all that we can to ensure our volunteers are cared for as well. The stories that are being retold are very raw and deep. Our volunteers are doing an outstanding job. We have had stories on the public spontaneously hugging our Chaplains and PSW’s in thanks for their amazing support. We have had many requests by people to pray with and for them too. It’s an honour and privilege to be in this ministry. Thank you for your thoughts. Please pray for VCC Emergencies Ministry and the affected people.”

It is expected that the volunteer work will continue at least until February 7th. **by Helen Beeby**

VCCEM - compassion in action

SINCE the tragic event in Bourke Street on 20th January, members of the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry [VCCEM] team has been offering care for people as they’ve told their stories of grief, anxiety, anger, compassion and loss of innocence.



As thousands of people came, cried, waited, prayed and left flowers, cards and gifts, VCCEM volunteers have listened and been signs of hope at accident

sites, along Bourke and Swanston Streets: to city workers, shop keepers and visitors, to homeless people, police and other emergency service personnel.

It has been my privilege to be part of that team. The stories I heard touched my heart. There were a number of times I was grateful for Christ’s promise to be with us always.

On the Saturday after the tragedy, nearly 600 significant conversations were held by the two VCCEM teams who were each present in the CBD for 5 hour shifts. At the time of writing, VCCEM volunteers have been asked to indicate their availability till 7th February.

**Words and picture by
Alan Mathews**

Fiesta time comes to Koornang Uniting

THE Sonder Collective community held a Fiesta at Koornang Uniting, Murrumbeena, in the ‘Garden Chapel’ to welcome in the New Year and kick off 2017 with amazing food and friendship, writes Kelly Skilton.

Many who attended NCYC welcomed the opportunity to come and reconnect on January 22nd with the friendships they had built over the time away at Yurora, Sydney at the start of the year.

For those wondering, the Sonder Collective is a collaborative youth and young adults ministry initiative exploring ministry in a different way. We are church communities, growing ecumenically across Victoria, who gather together on small scale, such as youth groups, services, bible studies, and big scale, like camps, missions, getaways. This is so our smaller church communities of young people can develop wider friendships, networking, spiritual growth and wider Christian community – all while uplifting our ‘home church’ communities when we gather together for such events as a Fiesta! People drove to meet in Murrumbeena from as far as Phillip Island, Bendigo, Horsham, Werribee, Geelong, Healesville, Shepparton, Frankston, Greensborough, Mount Waverley... and Brighton (haha!). We ate some delicious Mexican food, had some amazing conversations, drank some beautiful coffees from Sir Hamlet (facebook.com/sirhamletcoffee), all whilst we listened to the amazing

stories and music from PIPER, an up and coming Christian artist from

Bendigo, and the well known social justice musician Levi McGrath. With such an incredible

turn out, we are sure that there will be another gathering in the ‘Garden Chapel’ soon, so stay tuned; or if you would like to know any more about the Sonder Collective feel free to contact Ps Kelly Skilton – 0432 714 758; kelly@skiltons.com



Kharis Susilowati's ordination... at last

AFTER commencing her ministry journey back in 2009, Kharis was ordained as a minister of the word in a service at Trinity UC, Dandenong on 10 December 2016.

The service reflected Kharis' Indonesian background with a verse of the opening hymn, the first reading and part of the Benediction sung and read in Bahasa Indonesia.

The preacher was the Rev Sue Withers whose address commenced with the words "at last". In her remarks, following her ordination, Kharis also started with the same words and reflected on the highs and lows of the two and a half years since the Presbytery determined that she should be ordained following her acceptance of a placement. With Kharis accepting a call to the Mitchell River Parish in Gippsland Presbytery her ordination was able to be conducted.

It was fitting that representatives of both the Gippsland Presbytery and the Mitchell River Parish were present to both celebrate Kharis' ordination with her and also to "receive" her as a new minister in the Presbytery.

There must be something happening in Gippsland Presbytery as Nathaniel Atem, who was ordained a few months back, went to Orbost which is also in Gippsland.

In a nice family touch to the service, Kharis' father, the Rev Benjamin Susilo stood alongside his daughter to help with the distribution of communion.



Rev Kharis Susilowati becomes a Minister of the Word after seven years of study

Changes in Aged Care

What older people need to know

The way the government funds in-home aged care changes on Feb 27. What will these changes mean for you or someone you know? Prahran Mission & lifeAssist are holding FREE public forums to discuss:

- in-home services – what is available and how to choose,
- how to access and navigate the aged care system and more.



Tuesday 31, Jan 10am – noon
Chirnside Park Country Club,
68 Kingswood Drive

Tuesday, 7 Feb 10am – noon
Manningham Function Centre,
699 Doncaster Road

Tuesday, 14 Feb 10am – noon
Kingston Links Golf Club,
14 Corporate Ave, Rowville

Thursday, 23 Feb 10am – noon
The Betty Day Centre,
67 Argyle Street, StKilda

Thursday, 2 March 10am – noon
Caulfield Park Pavilion,
Balaclava Road

Tuesday, 7 March 10am – noon
UnitingCare lifeAssist,
Brandon Business Park,
530-540 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley

FREE with morning tea provided. To book, call lifeAssist (03) 9239 2500

UnitingCare
Prahran Mission

lifeAssist

For further information:
www.lifeassist.org.au/events

Artist in residence unveils his first works at preview day

Calendar coming soon

THE increasingly popular Port Phillip East Prayer Calendar (2017 version) - which calls us to uphold and support all members across the presbytery in prayer - will be on the ucappep.org website next week. Due to a number of new, and welcome, placements across PPEP the calendar - so thoughtfully created by Rev Ian Cayzer (and originated by Rev David Peel) - has had to be revised. Hence the slight delay. We will send round notification when the calendar is available on the website.



IT'S time for the inaugural art exhibition at one of our PPEP churches - entitled "Springvale in Transition".

Artist in Residence, Brendan Nicholl, has been painting in the studio at Springvale Uniting Church for the past six months. "He paints street scenes mostly, to capture the beauty and uniqueness of our town." says Paul Creasey. "Come and see if you recognise some of the local scenes that he has painted. Some scenes have already changed as the seasons come and go." A light lunch will be provided, and all are welcome. The show will be held at the Uniting Church, Corner Balmoral and Albert Streets, Springvale. **When: 11am - 1pm * Sunday 12th February**



The Pink House on Balmoral Street

The Labour of Love - Lenten Studies on Following Christ at Work

THE Creative Ministries Network Congregation has published a series of studies for Lent that follow Christ's mission to today's world of work.



The studies provide an opportunity to reflect on God's presence in our work using lectionary scripture readings, prayer, quiet reflection and group discussions. Each study concludes with a simple ritual and prayer. It encourages participants to reflect deeply on what God is calling us to in work. This bible study is a resource for deepening the faith of those who desire to be better equipped for their mission and ministry to their world of work. That this is an urgent task is evidenced by a finding from the National Church Life Survey, which found that 'only five per cent of leaders/church administrators said their church offered targeted programs on faith and employment, so this appears to be a minimal intention by their churches to address the formation of members' faith for their work concerns.'

This study is a small step in addressing this lack. To obtain the study for your congregation or institution, contact the author, Rev. John Bottomley for an order form at johnbottomley@netspace.net.au

A century of smiles, singing and sharing from one inspirational lady at Sandringham UC

Friends at Sandringham Uniting Church joined with family to celebrate the 100th birthday of Joyce Evans. Joyce lives at Wesley Grange and is an active participant in activities at the church, taking her turn on the morning tea roster and singing carols with the local inter-church group for residents in local aged care facilities! Her living faith is an inspiration to us all.

A “dancing” induction at Narre Warren North

THERE was a decidedly different aspect to the induction of the Rev Bruce Crowle at Narre Warren North

in the form of a liturgical dance performed by three young members of the Congregation. They provided a very expressive interpretation of the well-known song, Power of Your Love.

The Rev Ian Cayzer, the Chair of the Joint Nominating Committee, preached on passages from Isaiah and John’s gospel. It was only a month ago that Bruce was ordained by the Port Phillip West



Presbytery, so it’s been quite a busy time for Bruce and his wife Mary.

Also present were members of Port Phillip West Presbytery and the Craigieburn Congregation, where Bruce and Mary were members.

After a long period of loving and caring intentional supply ministry provided by the Rev Ineke Gyles, the Narre Warren North Congregation is well equipped to work with Bruce in its mission and outreach in the community.

**by
Ian Firth**

Try your hand at sustainable systems

MAKE a bee hotel, microbat nest box, butterfly decoy or learn more about your garden soil... at **SkillFest 2017**.

Local experts from the Simply Living Community Garden, St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Co-op and Port Phillip EcoCentre will lead free hands-on activities and workshops about the creatures that live above and below and our gardens and help them to grow. SkillsFest “Life in the Garden” is on Saturday, 18th February, 10 am – 12.30 pm, at the Simply Living Community Garden, Port Melbourne Uniting Church, 144 Bridge St Port Melbourne. This is a Sustainable Living Festival event.

More information and program details can be found at these links: Facebook: www.facebook.com/SkillsFestPortMelb or Web: www.spuc.org.au/skillsfest.



SkillsFest 2017

- Free workshops
- Fun, practical, sustainable
- All ages & abilities

Program & bookings: www.spuc.org.au/skillsfest
 SkillsFestPortMelb
 Ph 9690 1188

Saturday
 18th February
 10 am – 12.30 pm

Port Melbourne Uniting Church
 144 Bridge St

“Life in the Garden”

Quote

“Let us never know what old age is. Let us know the happiness time brings, not count the years.”

Ausonius

of the month

Fifth Community Carols yet another singing success

Words by Margery Kennett.
Photos by Ian Bock



MEMBERS of the Mt Waverley Uniting Churches were very busy over one weekend in December.

They worked with the Mt Waverley Chadstone Interchurch Council from December 9-11 in presenting the fifth Community Carols in Mt Waverley Village. This has been our "best" ever, with about 400 people attending although it was very cold by the night's end.



Rev James Douglas of St Luke's UC was the MC. As well as all singing

Carols led by the Monash Chorale and Oakleigh Brass, there were items by local Primary School Choirs and the Mt Waverley Secondary School choir and stage band, church and local groups and the Windjammer Brass Quintet. Members of St John's UC joined the congregation of High Street Road UC on December 11 for the morning service and the musical "Popa Panov's Christmas Dreams" based on the story by Leo Tolstoy, with music by Shirley White. On Sunday evening, St John's UC presented the 38th Carols by Candlelight in the Sanctuary. There were Carols sung by all as well as items by the Treble Tones and St John's Choir and readings by people from St John's. People from all the Mt Waverley Chadstone UC Cluster churches and other locals attended.

Sacredodge

Spirituality in Diversity

festival of arts, music, & ideas

QUEENSLIFF UNITING CHURCH
MAY 5-7, 2017

- Focus:**
- Indigenous
- Refugees
- LGBTI
- Wellbeing
- Sustainability

- Explores:**
- Living Together
- The Sacred
- Justice
- Mindfulness
- Inclusive Community

- Features:**
- Interactive Art
- Keynote Speakers
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- International Dinner
- Art for Wellbeing Exhibition

Enquiries: 03 5258 2854
unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au
 Register Online from December 2016
www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au

Early Bird tickets (Stage 1-\$119) available until 31 January
 Stage 2 (\$139) until 31 March

Christmas had something for everyone at St David's UC



WITH pre-community activities which included a petting zoo, nativity scene photo booth and lots more, St David's Parkdale Uniting Church had their Carols by Candlelight on 18 December 2016, and it was such a great night!

Perfect weather and a fantastic community, *writes Amelia Smit*. There were some carols started at 8pm, we celebrated and told the story at the heart of human history. The kids really enjoyed The Christmas Story by author/illustrator: Robert Sabuda, read by our "kids-whisperer" and were just



amazed about the pop-up pictures in the book. What an awesome night with awesome people and awesome music! Wonderful way to celebrate Christmas!

Prayer and meditation on offer at Leighmoor

A Taizé style service is held every first Monday of the month @ 7.45 p.m. at Leighmoor Uniting Church, 185 Wickham Rd. Moorabbin. All welcome. Enquiries: 0418 528 994

St Nicholas and the councillor



ST Mark's Mornington had a very special guest at their Social Justice Christmas Market, in the form of newly-elected Cllr Sam Hearn.

Sam opened the event and was joined by children's ministry leader, Hannah Dungan, St Nick, alias David Price and Helen Beeby.

Transforming young lives

THE next UCA young adults (18-35ish) Transform Conference will be March 17-19 2017.

Featuring Robyn Whitaker speaking on the theme "Empires, Evil, and Evangelism: thinking about discipleship and mission with the book of Revelation." For more information visit www.transformgatherings.com or contact Craig Thompson, the Transform team on 0408 389 751.

MINISTRY MATTERS

Part 1. LAY LEADERSHIP

by Robert Johnson
PM, Mission and Education (Supply)

I WAS sitting in a JNC meeting just before Christmas, and I was intrigued to hear the minister in conversation asking the congregational representatives about the ministry of Elders in their congregation, and then give a very clear explanation of why they are so important to the ministry and mission of a congregation.

Afterwards I reflected that this was not coming from someone who as a former Presbyterian had grown up with Elders, but from someone from a Methodist Pacific Island background, who was ordained in the Uniting Church.

This week, I was discussing with Presbytery leaders what the strengths of our Presbytery are. Firstly we spoke about the strength of our lay leadership across our congregations. I have seen, as I move around our presbytery, we have great lay leaders: Experienced, faith-full, caring, committed, but often very tired. This year the Mission Development Committee is looking at how we can help our lay leaders be renewed and find new vision for their ministry.

As I reflected on my ministry, in each of the five congregations I have served, the ministry of Elders and other lay leaders has been absolutely crucial. It was not just their strength as individual lay leaders, but it was when the Council of Elders or Church Council worked well; where they understood their role as sharing the spiritual leadership of the congregation with the minister; where they loved, supported and prayed for one another and for the people of the congregation, great things happened.

I learned this in my first placement. I was very young and inexperienced; the previous minister had left because of the fighting between conservative and liberal leaders. Somehow I trusted that Christ could reconcile us across these barriers. It took 3 years of working and talking together and finally listening to one another, but when the breakthrough came, the membership and attendance doubled in the next twelve months! The breakthrough started when the two key leaders realised they both had out of control teenage sons and neither had a clue what to do. Then we began to support and pray for each other, without all the answers, but with an amazing Lord in common!

We know there are great lay leaders in our Presbytery; but do we have great Church Councils – groups which talk and study and pray together so they can fulfil their key role - sharing with the minister in the spiritual oversight of the congregation and resourcing the people of God for their mission in community? How we relate as leaders is crucial to the life of the congregation.

Lesslie Newbigin was one of the great missionaries of the twentieth century – first in India and then even more significantly as a missiologist back in the UK, pointing the Church to its new missionary task of taking the Gospel to post-Christian Western culture, which he viewed not as a secular society without gods but as a pagan society with false gods. One of his key books was *Mission: Word, Deed and New Being*, in which he points out that it is vital that the Church ties word and deed together, but to communicate the Gospel we need to show the new reality of the presence of the Risen Christ. That is done by the church living out its new being, allowing the Risen Christ to change and shape the way we relate; to one another and to the community.

This year, will your Church Council move deeper than the important matters of finance and property, and begin to study and pray together about how the Risen Christ can help them to live out that new being, and so begin the releasing and renewing of our churches?

I would love to talk more with you about this – with your Church Council. Or you might like to join/post something on the Facebook page **Releasing the Church**. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/560499864144138/>

Some good studies are *A Fresh Look at Elders in the Uniting Church*. Download from the Assembly website <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/key-papers-reports>; Robert Bos' study book *Leaders in God's Mission*; Robert Schnase's studies *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, both from MediaCom.



Date for your diary

**Induction of Rev Kevin Kim at
Trinity UC, Brighton Saturday 4th
Feb at 2.30pm**

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2017:

- **Wednesday, 22 February at Hampton**
- **Saturday, 17 June at Noble Park**
- **Wednesday, 26 July at Noble Park**
- **Wednesday, 27 September at Hampton Park**
- **Wednesday, 22 November at Mt Eliza**

Organ donor calling for takers

LEGAL Services Trusts is offering a Thomas electronic organ which has been gifted to the Uniting Church and could be made available to any congregation in the Synod requiring an organ. The organ is currently located at 11 Hislop St, Keilor. It will be at the Congregation's cost to arrange transport. There is some urgency as the house where the organ is located is going on the market this week. If any congregation is interested please contact the PPEP office.



Situations vacant

KOORNANG Uniting Church Murrumbeena is seeking to employ an office secretary. The position is for 12 hours per week. For a job description and further information please contact Rev Jay Robinson on jay@robinsonfamily.id.au

THERE is a position now available for a half time chaplain at Monash University Peninsula Campus, as an outreach of High Street Uniting Church, Frankston.

This is continuing in a role that has been successfully operating over the last 9 years. Applicants should have appropriate qualifications and experience in Theology and Pastoral Care. For lay applicants, the position is equivalent to a level 3 Pastor position in the Uniting Church. Details are available from the High Street Uniting Church office, phone 9783 3400 or email frankstonchaplaincy@gmail.com. Applications are invited by 27 February 2017, and should be sent to the Secretary of the Church Council, High Street Uniting Church, 16-18 High Street, Frankston, 3199.

Or by email to frankstonchaplaincy@gmail.com.



COMING TO HEATHERTON-DINGLEY SOON!



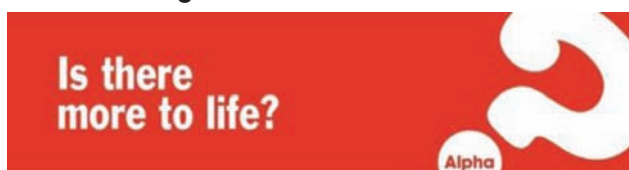
An opportunity for you, your family and friends to explore the meaning of life and faith in a relaxed and friendly environment.

One session per week for 12 weeks. Includes dinner, video presentation and small group discussion.

How can you help make Alpha a success?

Volunteers sought to assist with various tasks, and everyone is requested to spread the invitation to family and friends.

Starting date to be announced soon!



WESLEY COLLEGE
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA
SINCE 1858
A True Education

CHAPLAIN St Kilda Road Campus

Wesley College Melbourne, a Uniting Church school, is a diverse, dynamic, co-educational learning community committed to the care and flourishing of the whole person. The College reflects the multi-faith, multi-cultural composition of the broader community.

The College is seeking to appoint a Chaplain for the St Kilda Road Campus, which has approximately 1,500 students aged between 3 and 18 years. This is a full time position, with responsibilities in leading worship, contributing to assemblies, pastoral work and teaching.

The successful applicant will preferably be an ordained minister who can demonstrate:

- A commitment to Christian Religious Education and nurturing faith and spiritual development, having respect for the College's multi-cultural and multi-faith community
- An affinity with the values and ethos of Wesley College
- Relevant educational qualifications and registration
- Rapport with, and understanding of the needs of young children and adolescents
- A vibrant personality and strong communication skills

This is a rare opportunity to provide a ministry to a dedicated educational community.

Enquiries in the strictest confidence can be directed to the Principal, Dr Helen Drennen, on (03) 8102 6000. Apply online at www.wesleycollege.net by 5.00pm Sunday 12 February 2017.

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.