

NEWSBEAT



SEPTEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Turn over a new leaf, or two, to ask What's Your Story? Find out how on page 4.



Folk at St Mark's were feeling sheepish last week. Jump over to page 3 for the full story.

Speed-Date-a-Moslem is a winner in the eastern suburbs

IT may sound like an unusual concept, but the **Speed-Date-a-Moslem** events by Hana Assafari, pictured standing on the right of the photo, has become something of a phenomenon.

So 'The Side Door' Social Justice Hub was delighted to bring the concept to the eastern suburbs on Sunday, August 20th. St John's, Elsternwick, has hosted a couple of speaker events focussed on Israel-Palestine relationships this year, through the Jewish member of the Steering Committee, so Hana Assafari's initiative (that began at her Moroccan Soup Bar in North Fitzroy) seemed like a fabulous follow up.

Rev Philip Liebelt says: "The event enables people to sit with a Moslem woman and ask respectful questions during a single hour (that went all too quickly). The gathering of nearly 40 people that gathered at St Johns consisted of about a third Moslem, a third Christian and a third Jewish, some having travelled a long distance to be there.

"Hana was really pleased to be doing this in a Christian church complex. Some of her team even took the opportunity to pray in the church after conversations had ended."



The Side Door fosters interfaith dialogue

Table talk stimulates thinking at St Kilda

LOVE to debate ideas around the dinner table? Then the **163 Table Conversations: Sharing Food – Sharing Ideas** evenings could be just the thing.

The next Table Conversations at St Kilda Uniting Church will be on Tuesday, September 12 at 6.15pm and the speaker for the evening will be Chris Booth from Indigenous Hospitality House (IHH), Carlton North.

The House provides accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have hospital business in Melbourne. The address is 163 Chapel Street, Balaclava, near the corner of Carlisle Street. All welcome. Please RSVP to Janet: 0417 670132 for catering purposes. A donation to the IHH on the night is also encouraged. BYO drinks, or a bottle to share.



INDIGENOUS
HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Philip was able to announce afterwards that on Sunday, September 17th at 5pm St John's will be hosting an Interfaith Peace Gathering in the week of the United Nations Peace Day, hopefully as a forerunner to regular Interfaith Prayers for Peace.

On that day, folk will be invited to participate in a shared meal afterwards. A strong affirmation was given for this event by those at 'Speed-Date-a-Moslem'.

"Hopefully another small step has been taken for increased understanding, awareness, tolerance and, therefore, peace in the world," Rev Liebelt adds.

Port Phillip East Presbytery's vision & purpose: "Encouraging, resourcing and giving pastoral oversight to communities of faith and ministers entrusted to our pastoral care."



Celebration of a congregation

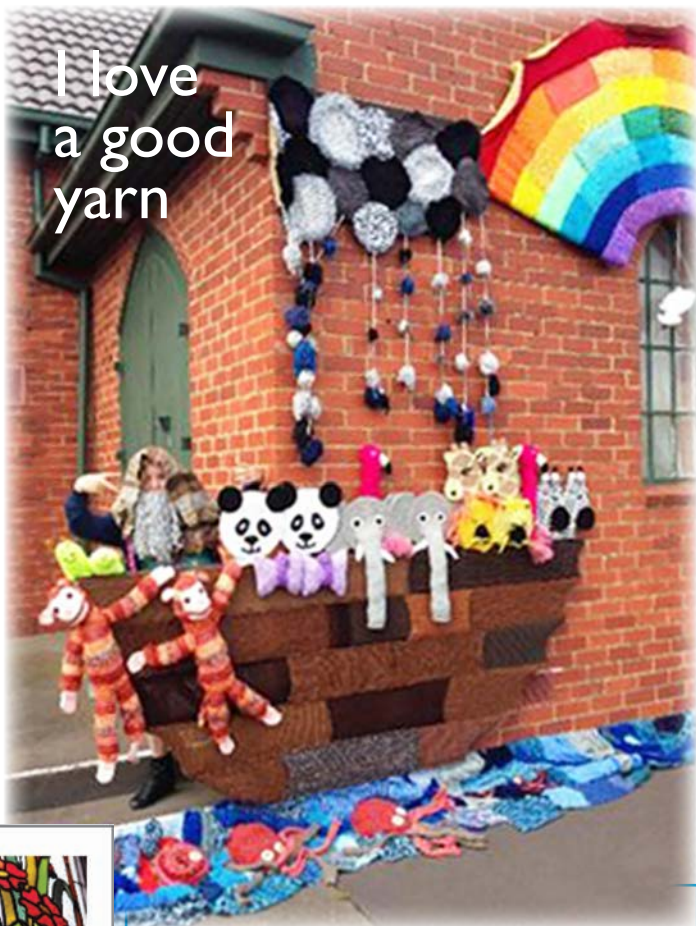
Revs Bruce Crowle and Ineke Gyles will lead a final service of celebration at the Dandenong North Uniting Church on Sunday, October 1st at 2pm. The church is on the corner of Birch and Holly Avenue, Dandenong North, 3175. Refreshments will follow the service. Please come along to mark the occasion.

RSVP to Margaret Swaby, DNUC Secretary by September 23, 2017 via e-mail: samaswaby@bigpond.com or telephone 03 9707 0631.

Wise words



I love
a good
yarn



HISTORY EXHIBITION & SPECIAL EVENTS *The Very Reverend Dr Alan Watson - A Great Church Leader*

1 - 29 September 2017,
Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm
Kinross Arts Centre,
603 Toorak Road, Toorak, 3142

A rare exhibition of primary material about gifted Church leader and communicator, the Very Rev Dr Alan Watson CMG (1900 - 1976). The exhibition celebrates Watson's rich contribution to Australia's religious life including Ecumenism, foundations of the Uniting Church and his much loved "Saturday Reflections" published for over 17 years in *The Age* newspaper.

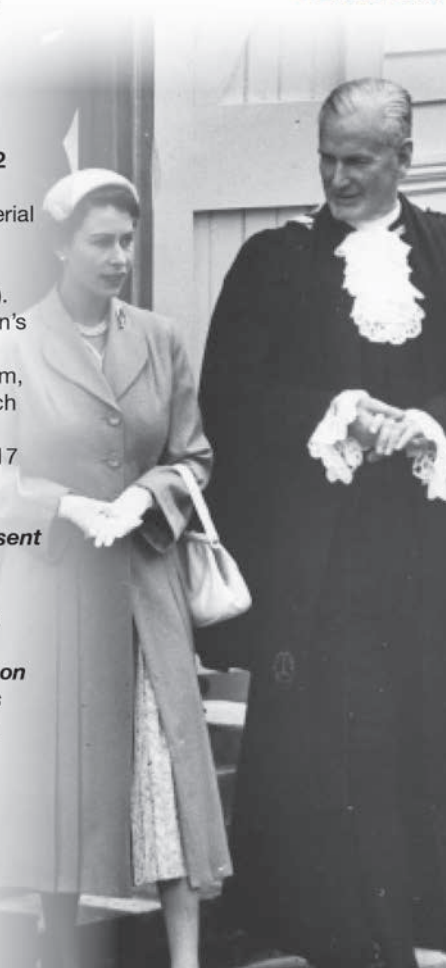
Panel Discussion - Past & Present Models of Church Leadership
Friday, 1 September, 9.30am - 12.30pm, including Morning Tea

Worship Service - Reflections on Rev Dr Alan Watson's Writings
Sunday, 3 September, 10.15am, followed by Official Exhibition Launch

Bookings & Enquiries:
TUC Office
P: 03 9829 0300
www.toorakuc.org.au



Kinross Arts
Centre



"Queen Elizabeth II with the Very Rev Dr Alan Watson, Warburton Presbyterian Church, 1964"
Image: courtesy of Margaret St John (nee Watson)

COMMUNITY Yarn Art will be hitting the Chelsea-Frankston area once again from the beginning of October, writes Rev Claire Dawe.

Schools, nursing homes, community centres and Uniting Churches will be displaying the most amazing yarn art imaginable.

Chelsea and Carrum Uniting churches have been involved since it began - this is our 4th year - and it is our way of sharing a message of hope with the local community. For the past two years we have helped a local primary school (where we run the Kids Hope programme) to create their installation. All ages and abilities are involved in the creation of the art work, which is co-ordinated by Chelsea Uniting member and professional artist Elizabeth Alexandrou.

Maps and trail routes will be available from the end of September - we'll let you know through Newsbeat - so you can plan your walk or drive past.





Hannah's flock grows as her role gains support

A LARGE group of family, friends, Presbytery representatives and members of St Mark's attended a very special Messy Church on August 20 for the Commissioning of Hannah Dungan as Pastor for Children and Families in Mornington, writes Rev John Haig.

The theme for the evening at the church was *Messy Sheep* which was reflected in the crafts, worship and cupcakes shared during the community meal.

Rev Andrew Boyle presided over the Commissioning, in his role as Presbytery Chair, in which representatives of playgroups, Messy Church, congregation, family and Presbytery participated in the laying on of hands, pictured right.

St Mark's invited Hannah into this role last October and was encouraged by receiving a BOMAR grant that has enabled the church to expand its mission to the 70 families that attend the three weekday playgroups.



Messy Sheep knitted the community together at St Mark's, Mornington recently

Finding Your Voice Telling Your Stories

9 to 11 October 2017

Korean Church of Melbourne



Share your story

ANGELINE M.G. Song is a former newspaper journalist and associate news editor turned biblical scholar, and she is encouraging you to **Find Your Voice** next month.

She earned her PhD from the University of Otago, New Zealand, and is an Honorary Research Associate of Laidlaw College in Auckland, New Zealand. Until recently, Dr Song was a lecturer at the Manukau Institute of Technology in Auckland, where her students were mostly from ethnic minority groups, socio-economically unprivileged backgrounds and refugees. She has also worked with students with disability issues. Angeline Song will share significant aspects of her own unusual life story and help people to find their voice and share their stories.

Dr Song's research includes Empathy studies, Post-colonialism, Focalisation Narratology, and biblical contextual interpretation.

VENUE: Korean Church of Melbourne

23-27 Glendearg Grove, Malvern, Vic 3144

TIMES: Start: 9:30 am

Monday 9 October

Finish: 1:30 pm

Wednesday 11 October

REGISTRATION

Early-bird (before 5

September 2017): \$125

From 5 September: \$135

Includes AM & PM Tea,

Lunches & Dinner Tuesday

Register online

if possible, at:

[http://bit.](http://bit.ly/2vjPZ5T)

[ly/2vjPZ5T](http://bit.ly/2vjPZ5T)



"Finding your voice is about choosing to become visible when you choose to tell your stories. Remember, your voice is the connecting force between your inner and outer worlds."

Dog days...



HEATHERTON-Dingley UCA is holding another Bark and Chat

Group on Saturday, September 16 at 10am. Giving dog lovers and their dogs a chance to become best friends with like-minded others. There will be a guest speaker on the day and morning tea for dogs and owners. All welcome.

They'll also hold another of their successful Home Produce and Craft Markets at the church on the corner of Kingston and Old Dandenong Roads, Heatherton on Saturday, 14th October from 10am to 1pm. There will be lots of stalls, including sausage sizzle, cakes, jewellery and morning tea.

Jesus and the Christ day

The next Dadirri Labyrinth Reflection Day will be September 9, 2017, where the focus will be on Jesus and the Christ - was the historical Jesus more than a man. But you can do your own thing too. All welcome. Contact robron@pryor.org.au or 0412 301450 for details.

POP UP Study

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN RESPONSES TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE

17

SEP 2017



SUN
DAY

2
PM

SPEAKER REV DR SUNNY CHEN
LECTURER IN NEW TESTAMENT
GREEK AT PILGRIM
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

WITH A POSTAL VOTE COMING THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY
TO HEAR DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW, TO THINK, TO BE
STRETCHED IN A SAFE AND RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT.
THIS IS NOT DESIGNED TO CONVINCE YOU BUT EXPLORE
THE ISSUE. A CUPPA TO FOLLOW.

Sten Waverley Uniting Church
c/n Bogong Ave and Kingsway

www.uca.org.au
p. 9560 3580



by
Rev Claire Dawe

Breaking bread to bring generations together

MESSY Church is an intergenerational expression of worship which is led in many different faith communities around the world.

Messy Meal
Sunday,
October 15,
5 - 7pm

Lecture call

THIS year's JD Northey Lecture will be held on Thursday September 21, 2017 at 7pm.

The lecture will be on **Christian Witness in an Age of Violent Competing Fundamentalisms**

by Lecturer: Prof Sathianathan Clarke, Bishop Sundo Kim Chair in World Christianity, Professor of Theology, Culture and Mission Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC, USA.

Further information,

In Australia, we are organized into regional areas so we can meet up as the different denominations and messy teams to share ideas and encourage each other. My region is a little power house of energy from the Salvos, Anglicans and Uniting Churches which takes in the area of Sorrento up to Parkdale.

To honour the work and commitment of the people already engaged in messy

worship, and to encourage others to find out more and have

a go, we

are hosting a special Messy Meal from 5-7pm on Sunday 15 October at Chelsea Uniting Church, 2-4 Sherwood Avenue.

All are welcome to learn and share more about this burgeoning area of discipleship and ministry but RSVP is essential for catering purposes. Please e-mail clairedawe@hotmail.com or call 9772 6010.



Monica Melanchthon at Pilgrim Theological College melanchthon@pilgrim.edu.au 03 9340 8835



Quote

"Being a father has been, without a doubt, my greatest source of achievement, pride and inspiration. Fatherhood has taught me about unconditional love, reinforced the importance of giving back and taught me how to be a better person."

Naveen Jain

of the month

Music to get your feet tapping!



Celebrate the Centenary of the historic Fincham pipe organ of St John's Uniting Church, Elsternwick as internationally renowned organist

David Johnston

plays all your favourites and light classics!

Sunday 17th September 2:30pm

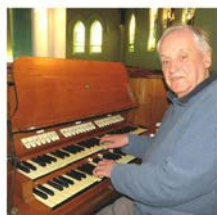
567 Glen Huntly Road Elsternwick, 3185

Admission \$20, Children under 16 yrs free

Contact Ken Wallis 03 9528 1743

Try Bookings —

<https://www.trybooking.com/RNEC>



It's all in a name

Last month we asked if anyone had any alternative names for the new Mission & Capacity Building Unit (working title) soon to be launched at Synod, 130 Lt Collins Street. The wonderful Rev Bill Pugh - who will be celebrated at this year's Synod meeting next Sunday, September 10, 2pm for 60 years since ordination - came up with some interesting suggestions. Pick your favourite and let us know...

- Maintaining and Enlivening Unit
- The Future of the Church
- Ensuring Revival
- A Living Spirit-filled Structure
- Enlivening, Building and Growing the church
- The Kingdom Building Unit
- Resources and Plans for your Church Growth
- Resources for Every Church
- Building up the People of God
- Practical Help for your Church
- Enabling the Church
- Community and Mission Outreach
- The People of God - Here and Out There
- Mission Today, Tomorrow and On.

Children's hour that means the world to little ones



Making a difference in their community...Mentors and Prayer Partners... Above L-R: Julie (hidden) Robert, Carole, Chris, Max, Margaret, Mal, Kaye, Ken, Gaye, Lorraine, Margaret (coordinator), Kate (deputy coordinator), Sally, Bill and David. Absent: Ronda, Val and Barbara.



HOW much difference can an hour make?

When it comes to a child receiving some welcome support and attention it can be an eternity. The congregation at Mt Eliza Village Church recognise this and on Sunday, August 6th their Kids Hope Australia Mentoring team, with their Prayer Partners, was commissioned and their commitment acknowledged in a special part of the morning service.

Co-ordinator, Margaret Arnott, says: "From the time we all first heard about Kids Hope, with the concept of ONE CHILD, ONE HOUR ONE CHURCH, ONE SCHOOL, and how much difference that short amount of time each week could make in the life of a child, the whole congregation has supported and encouraged the program. Our partner school, Kunyung Primary in Mt Eliza, has been welcoming and appreciative and has already asked if we have any more mentors coming along! It's wonderful to have joined many other churches, on the Peninsula and around the country, who are part of this exceptional program."

Keeping the peace at breakfast

HEAR UN Peacekeeping veteran Laura Grant talk about Timbuktu, S. Africa, Liberia and Palestine at a breakfast seminar on Wednesday, September 20, 8am at St. Mark's UCA, Mornington. \$5 for all you can eat breakfast too. Call David Price on 0418 752093 for details.



Special FREE event on keeping your mind and body active into old age, and where to find support:

Event: Ageing Well - Use it or lose it!


When: September 12, 2pm – 4pm

Where: Uniting AgeWell Noble Park, 1312 Heatherton Road, Noble Park.

Speakers:


- Michelle Thompson, Community Programs Coordinator, Noble Park Community
- Steve Neal, Quality Officer, Uniting AgeWell

To book call Noble Park reception on 9554 0700.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Exploring some Personal,
Social and Technological solutions




Led by

David Rothfield

from the Bayside Climate Change Action Group


Venue: Parish Centre
Hampton Uniting Church
17 Service Street HAMPTON

\$10/7 includes supper



Wednesday 6
September,
7:30pm – 9:30pm

Enquiries: 0403 727 080 or (03) 9598 3369



Whoopee! We're 40! But wait...

by Rev Philip Liebelt
St John's, Elsternwick

IN June, the UCA turned 40.

On people's milestone birthdays they look back as well as forward. There is a lot of the latter happening - our membership diminishing and ageing; old methods of governance becoming unsustainable and suites of buildings under-utilised and unmaintainable. There has been much commentary to help us think about our future in a Church we know and love.

I believe rumours of a pending demise of the UCA are exaggerated. Yes, there are fewer congregations - and many are smaller and older. But look at ministry to youth and young adults in some places; at the influx and size of ethnic congregations; at the high regard we are held in for our social justice and social welfare. There can be renewed hope. Professor Andrew Dutney, past President and 'Basis of Union' scholar reflects: "The point of church union was renewal ... in faith and mission. Only Christ ... renews the church (paragraph 4). But we can make ourselves open to that renewal. 'The Basis' calls us to do just that - and shows us how."*

It was a document ahead of its time, using language still relevant today. Our Church has been renewing itself for 40 years. Think, for

example, about the declaration of multi-culturalism; our relationship with the First Peoples; how we handled the challenge that saw NCYC replaced by an event that was more manageable; the emergence of Lay Ministry teams to serve (mainly) rural congregations; the embracing of Fresh Expressions and regeneration of the Church. We are a Church of renewal - always

have been. It continues to renew or re-invent itself.

Dutney writes: "The Basis of Union was not trying to set up a new denomination... The Uniting Church was meant to be an interim way of being church, on the way to the end of denominationalism. It is not (us)... that (are) called to be a 'pilgrim people' (but)... Christians... always moving forward to the promise of the fulfilment of God's kingdom."**

Take this challenge as a possibility. In recent years Australia's birth rate has hit a 30-year high. Young families and children offer a huge mission field if we are alive to the potential. But there are parents and grandparents who have never been involved with church.

What we, who have stayed there, are happy to attend on Sundays, has no attraction or relevance to them.

The challenge is to reinvent ourselves using new ways of being church, like 'Messy Church' - a 'Fresh Expression' that is attracting such families.

The content is not new, but the packaging is. Young people are asking the same big questions we are; they just don't expect the Church to have the answers. Find the right language, the right vehicle, and build relationships and we can be relevant to them.

New Life UCA on the Gold Coast is a mega church doing two things large churches have no monopoly on. Firstly, attracting the 'unchurched' (no experience of church), the 'de-churched' (who drifted from the church long ago) and the 'over-churched' (who the Christian church has hurt or abused).

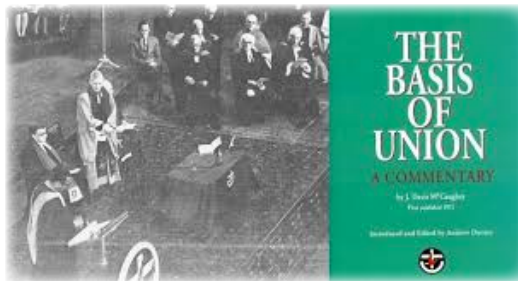
Secondly, they are starting ministries initiated by lay people (not ordained leaders) who have a passion to see a particular group reached or helped. They have ministries with the disabled; victims of domestic violence; those on society's margins and sex workers. What might it be for your church?

We need to be careful not to just play the numbers game, and do what will sustain us moving forward. Rather it is about being faithful to our calling to serve our community and share Kingdom values with it. Do that effectively and future sustainability will take care of itself.

* 'New Times' June/July 2017 p.9.

** 'Eternity' June 2017 p.7

Reflections on Faith



Do you know anyone from Shepparton High?



SHEPPARTON HIGHSCHOOL REUNION 1940'S, 50'S & 60'S

WHEN

Sunday, November 12th,
2017

Lunch 12pm \$20 a head

WHERE

The Royal Mail Hotel
47 McLennan Street, Mooroopna

RSVP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT:

TO JOY PHILLIS BY FRIDAY



I AM PART OF THE
NEW COMMITTEE
OF 1950'S EX
STUDENTS

The committee have
enjoyed organizing
this event & finding
students from our
classes down through



JOY PHILLIS
(SMITH)

2 Beattie Court,
Mooroopna, 3629
(03) 58 251 840
TBEPhillis@bigpond.com

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2017

18 October
29 November
All meetings start at 7.30pm and are at Noble Park UCA, Joy Parade. To know



more about being a Pres Rep

contact Ian Firth on 03 9558 4710 or e-mail secretary@ucappep.org

Mongolian missionary maestro shares music at Council

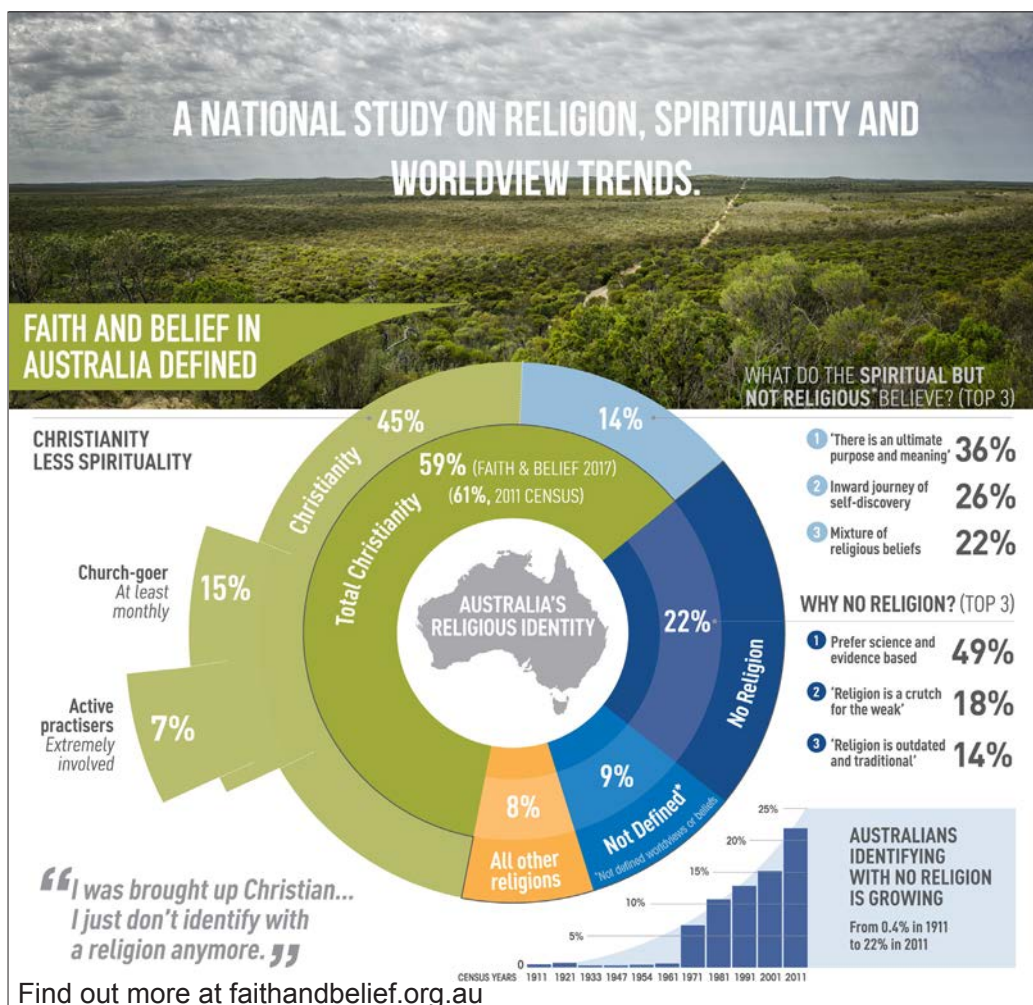
THE evening of the Presbytery meeting was cold and wet, which hopefully explains why the numbers were well down, writes Ian Firth.

Despite that the meeting got off to a bright start Mr Seung-Young Chung talking to the Presbytery about his experience as a Uniting World missionary in Mongolia teaching music. Mr Chung is an accomplished musician having been a member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the KBS Symphony Orchestra, Concert Master of the Dae-Jun Philharmonic Orchestra (in Korea) and the Whitehorse Orchestra. While in Mongolia he was the conductor of the Mongolian National Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr Chung's wife, Younn-Sin Chung went with him to Mongolia.

Mr Chung interspersed his talk by playing both classical and religious music on violin, viola and the Mongolian fiddle. The fiddle needs to be held between the knees and the sound is created by drawing the bow over the two strings. Mr Chung said that as a music teacher he had a freedom to speak about the gospel and about Jesus that would have otherwise been denied to him. During the supper break I asked him how he communicated given he spoke little Mongolian and that English is not widely spoken in Mongolia. The answer was Korean! So with a mixture of Mongolian, English and Korean Mr Chung managed to tell the gospel story. How much easier it is for us. We also had a presentation from Bronwyn Molloy from the Victorian Council of Churches. Bronwyn informed the Presbytery of the Emergency Ministry offered by the VCC in times of crisis. She talked about the training required and the fact that, to be involved in this work, a



person must be a member of a faith community. The Presbytery appointed the Revs Andrew Boyle, Jay Robinson and Pastor Hannah Dungan to the 15th Triennial Assembly to be held at Box Hill in July, 2018. Presbytery also adopted a change in policy concerning the distribution of the property sale proceeds following either the sale of redundant congregational property or major property development in Presbytery. Any funds remaining after approved mission and ministry projects of the congregation are now to be gifted to the Presbytery's Interest Only Mission Fund to be used for mission and ministry in the Presbytery. The meeting resolved to close Dandenong North from October 1 following a request from the Congregation.



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



The 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.ucappep.org and www.facebook.com/ucappep.org for news, events and more....