NEWSBEAT



NOVEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP FAST



World Communion Day brings people together in faith. See how St. Mark's brought it to life on page 6.



Music man, Paul, provides a melodic send-off at Mt Martha... Make a note to turn to page 2 and share more of his Release of Ties.

Fantastic forum

IMAGINE a politician openly sharing his own personal relationship in public! Federal Member for Goldstein, Tim Wilson, did just that at a public forum on marriage equality organised by Ormond Uniting Church on the first Tuesday in October.

Four other speakers also told short but powerful stories. Jacqui Tomlins, a long-time LGBTQI advocate, related the experience of herself and her partner, as an 'unmarried' gay couple, raising their three children. Cath

McKinney spoke of dealing with prejudice towards gay couples in her church. Ormond UC minister Andrew Boyle observed that the Biblical witness portrays



no single image of the structure of marriage and

law. Dr

suggested the church's role should centre on the blessing of marriages previously enacted under secular

by Rev Ron **Townsend**



Grand Final Day didn't dampen the spirit at the Italian-Korean Choral **Experience**

Trinity Brighton Congregation recently hosted a successful choral concert, on the Saturday evening of grand final day. A group of 15 young Korean music students studying in Milan, Italy gave an incredible performance

for more than 90 minutes. The OBC Choir - Our Beautiful Church belongs to their Korean congregation and has been travelling to many different countries, mainly in Europe, for Christian mission, but this was their very first time to visit Australia, where they had four concerts. Trinity Congregation hosted this event as a ministerial project of "Brightening Brighton as a singing church" and hopefully this marvellous choir may come back in the near future. by Rev Kevin Kim

Robyn Whitaker, a UCA minister and theologian, told of her transformation, from initially being opposed to same sex marriage to being strongly supportive, based on her experience of interacting with gay people and appreciating their depth of love for each other. Tim Wilson related the story of his proposal to his longstanding partner when he placed a ring on his partner's finger as a sign of commitment until the day they can be married in law. The speeches were followed by a question time. Eighty people attended and many commented on the respectful way the forum was conducted. One gay couple who attended sent a message of thanks and a CD of a song written and sung by one of them, about the pain of being

Cont. on page 2



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

Cont. from front page

precluded from being married because of their sexual orientation. The song was used as part of Ormond's Sunday worship.

Following the forum. OUC (with

help from Jellis Craig) placed a billboard outside the church which read 'SAY YES TO LOVE', pictured. By the following morning it was defaced and read 'SAY NO TO HOMOS.' The board was quickly restored.

Clearly, through the forum and the billboard, people had been engaged and encouraged to think about the issue.

Paul and Betty also bid adieu and head to Canberra



ANOTHER well-known face around the Port Phillip East Prebytery, Rev Dr Paul Chalson, concluded his placement at Mt Martha UC. As well as his ministry placement, Paul has served as both Deputy Chair and Chair (twice!) for the Presbytery during his seven

and a half years and represented us at Assembly,

Synod and missionally in Korea and India. His wife Betty was also extremely active in life at Mt Martha and beyond. In a moving and colourful service, peppered with music, laughter and meaningful prayers, Paul thanked his congregation for 'the rich memories", "being encouraged and enabled" and "sharing in the high points, low points, sadness, grief, celebrations and festivals."

Presbytery Minister Rev Liz McMillan presided over Paul's Release of Ties and a superb lunch was served in the idyllic setting at the church.

John takes time out to say goodbye



AT our Presbytery Meeting on 18th October, I made the announcement that my ministry in the Presbytery of Port Phillip East is to draw to a close.

I have received and accepted a call from the Burwood Uniting Church Congregation, Warrigal Rd, Burwood, in the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra. For me, leaving one placement for another is an unusual mix of emotions. It is about the joy and excitement for being recognised for your skills, talents and dedication to ministry as being worthy for another challenge in meeting the needs of another placement in the life of the Church.

It is also mixed with a great sadness too as I prepare to leave behind the work that I have done and all the valuable and endearing friendships that I have made over the years in the current placement.

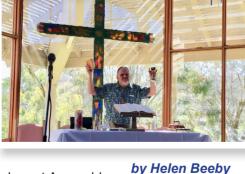
I will very much miss this Presbytery, its members, my colleagues and

ministry contacts. There aren't adequate words to describe how my time in ministry in Port Phillip has shaped and changed me in my humanity as a person of faith and as a professional minister. Like all ministers I hope that there will be at least some small. lasting legacy of my time spent here. Emotionally I will be leaving a part of me behind as I go.

I know that I leave the Presbytery at a difficult time. There is still much to be done and there is uncertainty about how the future resourcing of the Presbytery will impact its work and its congregations, schools and agency activity. I am sure that God will enable the Presbytery to call a suitable person to meet its needs for the future.

So I wish you all well. My prayers and good thoughts I leave for

you. May your journey of being the Uniting Church in this place continue and be of a rich and sustaining value to yourself, your congregation and the community we call this presbytery. My release of pastoral ties will occur at the next Presbytery meeting on Wednesday, November 22, at Noble Park UCA.





Advent Stations

Chelsea Uniting parish is once again running an Advent workshop on Wednesday, December 13 at Chelsea Uniting from 11am to 7pm. Reflective and interactive stations are set up in the hall and people are invited to work their way around at their own pace. There are activities for all ages at each station, so it is truly intergenerational. Probably the guiet times to come are from 11am until 1pm and from 5.30-7pm. You should allow 20-30 minutes. In addition, there are stations outside the church forming a trail from December 4 until January 4. The final station is the full scale lit stable scene in the picture windows at the front of the church between the street library cupboard and the yarn art rainbow.



congregations.

Rev Ineke Gyles

preached and all had

a wonderful afternoon

renewing acquaintances,

re-living some of the

memories and of the

60+ vear history of the

congregation.

Death in the afternoon

'Conversations about death' over coffee on a Sunday afternoon - slotted between the lower house and upper house debate on the 'Dying with Dignity' legislation

- was fortuitously good timing. This was the latest event organised by the Side Door Social Justice Hub

This time they met at 'Next of Kin' coffee shop opposite the church. Guest presenter was Ms Nina Springle, pictured, MLC for the SE Metropolitan, and deputy leader of the Greens. Nina, having been involved on the parliamentary

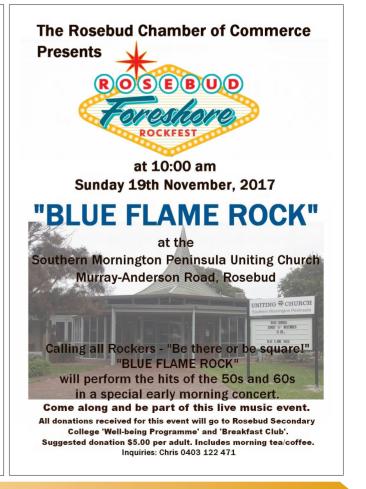


committee which drew up the 500 page report that led to the wording of the Legislation, was well equipped to talk people through it. Relaxed, sipping coffee and eating cake, all were comfortable to engage in

conversation about the legislation and how they were feeling about it; and what it meant for their own views and lives.

"Death Cafe is a world-wide phenomenon which I came across in the USA." explains Rev Philip Liebelt, minister of St. John's and co-chair of The Side Door. "We were not able to officially register the event with them, because they expect just conversations about end-of-life issues in a relaxed setting; not a presentation."





Advent Inspiration

Janet Morley's "Haphazard by Starlight" (SPCK, 2013) offers a poem a day from Advent to Epiphany plus Janet's insightful, biblically sensitive, commentaries. It was a joy

last year to read the poem for each day, consider Janet's thoughts and then ponder the question she poses.

The book has a northern hemisphere focus, the approach of winter and darkness, and the Christine MacDowall Sandringham Uniting Church christine@macdowall. com.au

coming of the light. I wonder what poems might be included in a southern hemisphere version?

I will be using this gorgeous resource for my Advent and Epiphany contemplations again this year. If you would like to get a copy of this book (I found mine on Fishpond \$18.97) and join me, send me your email address and we can share our discoveries through e-mails, perhaps once a week. We could also share southern hemisphere poems and commentaries that might make a book for another Advent. (Janet's companion book for Lent is called The Heart's Time).



"Alzheimer's and Spirituality"
St John's Uniting Church, 37 Virginia St Mt
Waverley

1.30pm to 3.00pm on Friday November 10th.

Rev Brace Bateman, a minister of the Uniting Church, will discuss Alzheimer's and Spirituality as part of a group seminar. Brace was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2016. He will consider what resources the Christian faith has to help with Alzheimer's. Tea and coffee will be available. Please advise of your intention to attend.

A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

More information from St John's UC Office 9888 2295 or Margery 9807 4084 mbkennett@bigpond.com

Stories through yarn

THE Chelsea Uniting Church Parish, once again participated in the Longbeach Storybook Yarn Art Trail. This trail is a community event that involves all ages and community groups, including Schools, Kindergartens, Playgroups, Aged Care Facilities, Scouts & Guides, Churches and Community Centres. The trail

event is a celebration and an awareness of Senior's Month, Children's Week & Mental Health Week, that all fall in October.

This year Chelsea/ Edithvale Church in Sherwood Ave Chelsea depicted a scene from the



story of 'Peter the Fisherman', and Carrum Uniting Church created bunnies for the story 'Guess How Much I Love You' written by Sam McBratney and illustrated by Anita Jeram. Kid's

Hope run by Rev. Claire Dawe created a display with the students to celebrate our Indigenious culture, with the book by Jim Poulter called 'The Secret of Dreaming'.

The congregations from each church, young and old, all worked together to create pieces or knitted or crochet shapes. The installations were put together by Textile Artist, Elizabeth Alexandrou a Chelsea Edithvale Member, and the Bunnies for Carrum were made under the direction of Kay Searle. In



addition, church members helped local scouts, guides, schools and a nursing home with installations and our yarn art from previous years was used around the Chelsea area in different locations.

> Pictured clockwise from top: Frankie Alexandrou playing the part of Peter hauling in the big catch

of 153 fish - not possible without help from Jesus; Protesting with yarn! Our yarn art Great Barrier Reef, made in a few days, and presented to local MP Mark Dreyfus QC for minister Josh Frydenberg as our protest against Adani; Yarn painted Australian animals by Chelsea Heights Primary School with the help of parish craft group members and Kids Hope volunteers.

Success story

Thanks so much for publicising St
John's Dementia and Pastoral Care seminar in July. We were
amazed that 67 people attended from Leongatha, Berwick and
the City of Monash. We used the DIY workshop material from
Uniting AgeWell and CTM. At the end, people were asked to
think how they could plan ways to include and support those in
their congregation with Dementia and their carers.
We plan to follow up with a seminar led by Rev Brace Bateman,
see left.

by Margery Kennett

Singers raise the roof at St David's in special service

THIS year the St David's, Oakleigh, congregation celebrated Uniting AgeWell Sunday on October 8 – the opening weekend of Seniors Week, *writes Faye Sanderson*.

We were very pleased to have Rev Dr John Broughton, Director of Mission, Uniting AgeWell, to lead our worship for the day. He was very passionate that we should all have an enjoyable time during worship – as he said "If you cannot do that on Sundays, when do you celebrate our love for our Saviour, Jesus Christ?"

Although we are few in number, we nearly raised the roof while John enthusiastically conducted the singing of our hymns - traversing the sanctuary, hymn book in hand. Some members were surprised that we could sing so well!

Our older folk, with hearing aids, heard every word as John shared in prayer and word. He also gave a short presentation on Uniting AgeWell and was pleased to meet several clients – some attending AgeWell in Oakleigh and others residents at Nangare Independent Living Units in Burwood. After the service he eagerly thanked all who participated in the service and for what they did from the Choir members to the AV tech, organist, Vestry Elder and even our 'bean counter.'



John must have made a good impression as word spread to those unable to be present on

the day with rave reviews from those who had enjoyed the experience and all want him to return so we can share his enthusiasm once again.



Uniting AgeWell is holding a FREE community information session about residential care and where to start.

This information session will explore what is involved, where to get the information you need and important issues to think about when making your decision.

It will also help you understand the My Aged Care website, prepare for the assessment needed and the documents required in preparation for an admission into residential care.

Receive advice from a panel of residential care experts including Uniting AgeWell's Residential Services Manager, Admissions Manager and a Financial Information Officer from the Department of Human Services.

Residential Care

Considering residential care? Tips and guidelines

Tuesday 14 November 2pm – 4pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community
1312 Heatherton Road, Noble Park
Light refreshments provided

For more information or to book a seat, contact the Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community on 9554 0700.



unitingagewell.org



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Applications should be submitted via email to: HumanResources@DriverGroup.com.au



Breaking bread provides global connection

ST Mark's, Mornington, celebrated World Communion Day on the first Sunday in October.

The church was suitably decorated and members of the congregation presented loaves of bread for sharing during the communion service: A loaf of corn bread representing African nations, pitta bread from the Middle East, banana bread from the Caribbean, panini from Italy, damper for Indigenous peoples and a loaf purchased from a local hot

bread shop locating the congregation within its immediate community. These loaves were placed on the table and then broken at the appropriate time and the congregation was invited to come forward and take a portion from whichever loaf they would like to pray for, or identify with. Rev John Haig, *pictured above right*, then took half the local loaf to those unable to come forward.

Encouraging comments from folk indicated that it was a moving and significant time of sharing in recognising the reality of belonging to a worldwide faith community.



"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

Albert Einstein of the month



Furry friends receive another blessing on the Peninsula



MT Martha Congregation held its annual Blessing of the Animals service in the final weeks of Rev Paul Chalson's placement, *writes Ian Firth*.

As we have this service outside we were pleased that Sunday October 15 was a fine and sunny morning, although a little on the crisp side.

As you might expect, there are more dogs present than any other animal. But our minister, the Rev Dr Paul Chalson recognised that our property is home to many animals and birds and we acknowledged these as part of God's creation.

While there were a few barks (from the dogs) all got

along well and there were no unfortunate incidents. For those of you who don't know the Mt Martha church, it is set in natural bushland which provides a wonderful setting for open air worship in, as the pictures

reveal.



Lock stocktake required?

St Mark's, Mornington experienced a break-in on the evening of October 27. This was discovered when the Ballet School who hire the hall arrived on Saturday morning and the minister and local police were immediately notified. The criminals forced entry into the premises seeking to discover if monies were kept on the premises. Churches are reminded to be aware of, and check, their security arrangements.



From Burmese Refugee to Ministry in the UCA

by Rev Ian Cayzer





musings

WORKSHOP

INVITE - WRITING HYMNS & SONGS FOR OUR TIME.

Where: St Kilda Uniting Church, 163

Chapel Street, St. Kilda.

When: Saturday, November 25, 2017. 9.30am - 12pm music/melodies

1.00 pm - 4pm lyrics

When: Sunday, November 26: 10.30am Music Worship service with Robin Mann and Rev. David Pargeter. You are invited to be part of this exciting workshop to be led by the inspirational Robin Mann. Let's untap your theological imagination and faithfilled experiences and turn them into song. Australian songs for Australian expressions of faith.

The workshops are free but donations appreciated. Refreshments provided. Spread the word and bring your

For further information or to register, contact: Desleigh Kent: desleighk@ ozemail.com.au or 0413 158855

Books to give away

Bill Pugh is still downsizing his library. Available are some commentaries,



language resources (Greek and Hebrew), historical and fiction works. Please contact Rev Bill Pugh for a cuppa and mooch through the collection on 9598 5841.

NEARLY three years ago the Rev Gospel Ralte and his wife Grace arrived in Australia from Burma as refugees. They soon found Mularave Uniting Church, where they were welcomed, and began to establish themselves in Australian society. We soon learned that Gospel is an ordained Methodist Minister in Myanmar (Burma) and his calling was given space to flourish. Accommodation was found in Bayview Units. Chadstone and living essentials given from generous donors. Soon he met the Synod Admission of Ministers Committee who allowed his name to be presented to the Placements Committee. Negotiations ensued and in early November Gospel will be inducted to Ulverstone and Sprent in Tasmania. On Sunday, 29th October Grace and Gospel were farewelled from Mulgrave, sent on with our blessing and

a gift to enable them to continue to establish themselves in Tasmania. and we also celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Kaye Cosham, Chair of Church Council, said surely a larger congregation than Mulgrave should have helped Gospel into his

future ministry. But, no...God chose Mulgrave and this was a responsibility gladly accepted by a small band of faithful Christians. St Columba's in Noble Park needed supply help recently where Gospel learned more of Uniting Church ways. Gospel is pictured wearing the red stole out of the set presented to him by Mulgrave as red was the colour for Reformation Sunday. Rev Professor Howard Wallace, previous minister, and Rev Ian Cayzer, current Supply Minister have helped Gospel and Grace along the way. Gospel and Grace will soon meet the Department of Immigration, the end point we hope will mean their teenage children can come to Australia after three years apart.

Although Port Phillip West presbytery has run annual dinners for three years for their messy church communities, October saw a first for Port Phillip East. Forty people from different denominations and ages came together to celebrate the messiness that is taking place in churches all over the world. The free meal hosted by the Chelsea Uniting Church parish was to say thank you to all those running messy currently, but also as a taster for those wanting to know more. We ran a messy church with a Christmas theme so people could take away the activities and

BOOK LAUNCH: Sunday. November 19, 2017 at 12pm - following the 10.30am worship service. St Kilda Uniting Church, 163 Chapel Street, St Kilda

Return to Majaddin: a Kimberley homecoming.

This book is the work of Ngarinyin Elder, Eddie Bear, sharing his family story with Rev Dr Robert Hoskin over a seven year period. BBQ to follow launch. All Welcome. RSVP: Desleigh Kent; desleighk@ozemail.

com.au 0413158855

Messy magic



sheets and run it for themselves – they were even invited to take away craft resources no longer required by Chelsea. Jo Austin from Hampton Park and Chris Marsh from Cranbourne ran the messy worship time and we then sat down for a meal together. Chris Barnett came to encourage and resource! If there is sufficient interest and funding, we will run another messy celebration next year so watch out for news and invites.

by Rev Claire Dawe

Presbytery meeting showcases successful collaborations

THE October meeting got off to a great start, writes Ian Firth, with an inspiring presentation from the folk at Southern Mornington Peninsula Congregation (which will be featured in the December issue.)

They told the story of how they managed to bring congregations from Blairgowrie, Dromana, Flinders and Red Hill together on one site at Rosebud. And rather than sell the Dromana site, it has been renamed as the Dromana Welcome Centre. As such it hosts a large number of activities such as play groups. It also provides a regular lunch for members of the community.

Their Op Shop is another success. They often provide clothing to people attending job interviews and, in providing clothing they also provide a much needed confidence boost. PiC also decided to amalgamate the Chelsea/Edithvale and Carrum congregations into one congregation with one Church Council. This is to be effective from 1 November, 2017. With the Rev Dr Paul Chalson leaving the Presbytery (and his placement at Mt Martha) a Minute of Appreciation was passed recognising all that Paul has done during his time in the Presbytery.

Rev John Mann, Presbytery Minister-Administration also announced that he has accepted a call to the Burwood Congregation and will be leaving the Presbytery in late November.

Diary dates for inductions

- Rev Paul Dau at Springvale on Sunday 5 November at 2.30 pm.
- Rev Semisi Tauali'i at Mt Waverley (St John's) on Wednesday 8 November at 6 pm
- Rev Han Song at Korean Church of Melbourne on Sunday 12 November at 2.30pm.

meeting dates

Presbytery in Council

*22 November Meetings start at 7.30pm and are at Noble Park UCA, Joy Parade. Contact Ian Firth on 03 9558 4710 or e-mail secretarv@ ucappep.org



congregation at

THE Uniting AgeWell

Strathdon (Forest Hills) is looking for 20 Together in Song melody hymn books. I was wondering if you knew of any congregations in PPEP who might have excess and be willing to donate some copies.

From John Broughton, Director of Mission, Uniting AgeWell, 0417 060670, JBroughton@unitingagewell.org

Dear Editor



Music Director and Accompanist

Glen Waverley Uniting Church has been privileged to have a strong Choral tradition for many years. Our "Uniting Voices" choir has 25 members, rehearses on Thursday evenings and sings twice a month at 11 am Sunday services, presenting a mixture of traditional

> and contemporary works. Recordings of these services are provided to a number of country congregations. We are currently facing the departure of both of our Music Directors and one of our Accompanists. For each of these roles, we are seeking the support of individuals who share our love of sacred choral music. If you are able to assist, please contact Herb Fleming (0407 516 827) for further information.

We have worshipped at St. Mark's, Mornington around Christmastime two, four and six years ago, while visiting our son and family in Somerville. We are coming to Australia again this year, but because we are moving (in England) to a new house which is not yet ready, we are coming for three months.

We wondered if anyone in the church family knows of anyone who has a property to rent. furnished, 2 bedrooms (our other son is joining us for 3 weeks), in the Mornington-Frankston area, available December 1 - March 1 approx. We would, of course, be expecting to pay the 'going rate.'

With our best wishes. David and Rev. Rosalind Franklin storthman@gmail.com

Uniting Church in Australia CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PASTOR (0.5 FTE) **Brunswick Uniting Church** Brunswick Uniting is an outward looking Christian community in the heart of Melbourne's inner north. We strive to be an inclusive community, ever growing in faith, and working for justice, peace and reconciliation We are looking for a Children and Families Pastor (lay or ordained) to join our ministry team. The successful candidate will have experience in ministering with children, young teenagers, and their families The role, 19 hours per week, will focus on the theological nourishment of our younger members through direct leadership, volunteer co-ordination, pastoral care and broade community engagement. For more information visit our website www.brunswick unitingchurch.org.au, and contact Minister of the Word Rev. lan Ferguson (M. 0438 547 842 E: iferguson@icloud.com) or Children & Youth Committee Chair, Anita Brown-Major (M. 0424 034 096).

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.