

NEWSBEAT



JULY 2018

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Why our students are sleeping out for social justice. Read all about it on page 3 to warm your heart for the future.

Widows helping widows across the seas. How sharing skills and the spirit can combine church communities. Turn to p6 to discover more.



15th Assembly meeting held in our home town



THE Assembly is coming to Melbourne in just over a week, and it should prove to be stimulating and spiritually nourishing for the life of the Uniting Church in a rapidly changing environment.

Assembly representatives - many from Port Phillip East Presbytery - will be gathering at Box Hill Town Hall for the 15th triennial Assembly meeting to prayerfully discern the Holy Spirit and make decisions together.

Among the Assembly's hot topics this year are discussions on same gender marriage in Uniting Churches, an important statement on climate change

and a proposal on Aboriginal Sovereignty.

The Triennial Assembly is a meeting of approximately 265 members of the Uniting Church in Australia, held in a different state every three years. Discussions and deliberations centre on the direction and priorities of the Uniting Church in Australia for the next triennium. These will affect us all, so it is important to follow the proceedings.

On Sunday, July 8 the opening evening service at St Michael's Uniting Church will install Dr

Deidre Palmer as the new National President.



When announcing her theme of *Abundant Grace, Liberating Hope*, Dr Deidre Palmer stated: "In a time where we could focus on scarcity – fewer people and less financial resources – God's gift of abundant grace calls us to be a people who share our gifts, resources, time and energy generously.

"In a time where our world is overshadowed by violence, hatred and suspicion of the other, the Church is called to live an alternative narrative of hope, reconciliation and love.

"*Liberating Hope* is an action of God in us, and it is a call for us to participate in God's mission in the world. Liberation movements around the world have been inspired by the Gospel of Christ, to be communities of resistance and protest in the face of injustice and inequality."

For six days Assembly members will meet at the Box Hill Town Hall to receive reports, consider proposals, and build a Christian community of discernment and discipleship.

As host, the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania is



*Dr. Deidre Palmer
Christian Educator,
Social Worker,
Moderator Synod of SA*



New life for old seats in Mornington

Our Men's Paper Tie-Up Group accepted an offer from Osborne Primary School of over 350 chairs in good condition for recycling, writes Rev John Haig. Previous offers from schools in the Mornington area have been sent to the Pacific Islands and on June 20 the men hired a truck and loaded the chairs, with help from staff and students, and transported them to Keysborough for placing in containers and sending by Second Life Pacifika. One of the team commented: "It was heart-lifting to observe the enthusiasm of the children and teachers helping to move the chairs, particularly when they found out where the chairs were going."

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. on page 2

Musical magic at Monash



A pleasant Sunday at Monash UCA. The wonderful Canterbury Tongan Mens Choir performing



along with other artists, with an offering taken up for the Share Appeal (Uniting).

Taking a stand on refugees



On World Refugee Day, we remember all the refugees throughout the world who are separated from their families or trapped in indefinite detention. As followers of Christ, we believe we are called to welcome the stranger and speak out on behalf of the marginalised. Visit your local MP and share your desire for a more compassionate and humane refugee policy - <https://assembly.uca.org.au/refugeeweek2018/item/2843-resources-for-mp-visit>

Cont. from front page

Volunteers are still needed to help out in various capacities. Anyone who would like to volunteer some spare time (even a few hours or just one day) and contribute to this major event in the life our church please email Lisa Carey at Lisa.Carey@victas.uca.org.au Assembly proceedings are open to anyone who would like to observe as a visitor. There are also two public lectures and a marketplace of information stalls on offer. To find out what's going on and when, check out the Assembly website <https://assembly.uca.org.au/>



Spotted on facebook

Somers Camp is on this week, of course, so let's all add some prayers for this wonderful annual gathering connecting youngsters with fun times, old and new friends and the goodness of church life. Spotted this fabulous photo on the SomersCamp Facebook page from last year, and it really made me smile. Keep up to date with Camp activities through their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/somers.uc/>



Dr. Holly Allen in Australia

27 & 28 JULY
10 AM - 4 PM
MELBOURNE

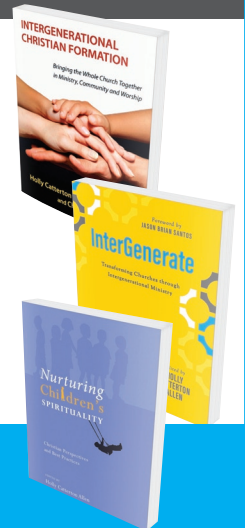
Embracing Intergenerational Ministry



Holly Allen, author of the seminal Intergenerational Christian Formation, editor of the upcoming Intergenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry and previously well known for *Nurturing Children's Spirituality* will be in Melbourne over Friday July 27 and Saturday July 28.

One of the most significant voices globally in the growing area of intergenerational ministry, Holly will bring her passion, knowledge and experience to Melbourne for two days of stimulating engagement.

Especially suitable for those in any ministry leadership role, participants can register for either or, ideally, both days. For best value, participants are encouraged to register with others from their church or organisation before July 5.

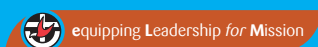


- Day 1 Friday, 27 July
Embracing Intergenerational Ministry – The Why and How
 - Day 2 Saturday, 28 July
Embracing Intergenerational Ministry - Bringing Change, Growing Practice
- Venue:** Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville
Time: 10am–4pm (each day)
Catering: Lunch provided (each day)
Cost: \$70/day
Early Bird Rate: \$60/day or \$110 for two days if registered by July 5*

*= a group discount rate of \$100/person is available for groups of 2 or more from the same church/organisation registering for both days if registered by July 5.

More information & Registration:
<https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/embracingintergenmin> or ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au | 9340.8815

REGISTRATIONS APPRECIATED
BY FRIDAY 20 JULY



Community comes together for a common cause

MOST of us have been affected by cancer in some way - through a friend, family member or even personally.

This is why The Hub at Glen Waverley Uniting Church chose to be a venue for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday 24th May. Around 100 people attended, including members from GWUC and people from the wider community.

There was a great atmosphere, a real buzz, as people chatted and enjoyed a delicious morning tea together. We wrote the name of someone we know who has been affected by cancer on little cut out figures, and we put them together on the poles at our morning tea.

We then took time to remember family and friends who have been affected by cancer.

Donations totalling a wonderful \$1535.90 were received for Cancer Council Victoria.



by Judith Greenwood
Co-ordinator of The Hub



Bringing words to life

"Poetry is a little incarnation that gives a body to what beforehand had been invisible and inaudible."

C.S.Lewis

All welcome to attend the POETRY WORKSHOP WITH POETICA CHRISTI PRESS SATURDAY 21 JULY, 2pm - 4pm. At Armadale Uniting Church, corner of Kooyong Rd and Clarendon St, Armadale. 3144.

This workshop aims to provide practice and encouragement for those who already write poetry and for others interested to learn more of this craft. It will be led by Janet Fernando, poet & Managing Editor of the Poetica Christi Press. For bookings contact P: (03) 98227703. Registration fee \$10.

Planning Ahead Information Sessions

Advanced Care Planning & Palliative Care

FREE community information sessions to help you make informed decisions

Uniting AgeWell want your wishes to be respected, even if you are unable to speak.

Advanced Care Planning involves writing down your wishes about your care and treatment options, to ensure your decisions are respected if you are no longer able to speak for yourself.

Palliative care is for someone who has a serious illness that cannot be cured. It covers the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of that person, and their families.

Hear from our Palliative Care Specialist Kerry Whitlock, a local palliative service and Advanced Care Planning specialists.

Tuesday, 14 August
2pm - 4pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community

1312 Heatherton Road
Noble Park 3174

Light refreshments provided

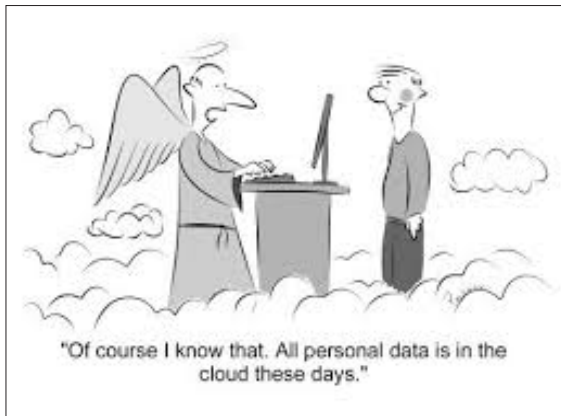
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unitingagewell.org/planning



Next month: Grief & Loss
Tuesday 11 September, 2pm - 4pm

Laughter lines



Heart-warming results at this annual sleepout

Compassion is one of the four values at Cornish College, and compassion is what warmed hearts recently as more than 60 students, alumni and staff braved the cold



temperatures to sleep outside for Cornish College's Winter Sleepout. Their dedication to the cause raised \$23,000 in support of Australians experiencing homelessness, a record for the annual school event!

All funds are donated to the charity Backpack Bed for Homeless who have an award-winning backpack/swag design (known as a Backpack Bed) that charities can distribute to those awaiting accommodation.

Mr Jarrod Davies, Chaplain at Cornish College and organiser of the Winter Sleepout, says: "We are very grateful for the opportunity to make a small difference through this community event.

Cornish people are generous, and we are ecstatic that this record amount of funds will help 240+ people sleep safer and with more dignity".

On the night, 51 students from Years 6-12, two former students and 10 staff slept outside in cardboard boxes plus a program aimed to encourage conversation and action; from a campfire on the College island, to night-golf, to discussions about homelessness.

The team also reached another record of preparing 850 sandwiches from food donations, distributed to schoolchildren without lunches and others in need by charity Eat Up Australia founded by Lyndon Galea, pictured above left with students.

Year 7 student Patrick became involved saying: "It's really important to appreciate what we have in our life and help other people that aren't as lucky. To spend one night sleeping in the cold, really makes me understand what it would be like to be homeless and cold. It makes me want to raise as much money as I can". Principal Vicki Steer adds: "Our school motto is

'Make A Difference'.

The fact that this event reaches capacity within just a number of days proves how empathetic our students are. This is very much in line with the Cornish vision, providing an education to develop citizens who make a positive difference and contribute to a sustainable future."



TOOLBOX PARENTING GROUPS

" The Middle Years. "

A course designed for parents with children between 6 - 12 years old.

6 WEEK PROGRAM • THURSDAY NIGHTS
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & September 6

SETTING THE SCENE	BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE	ORGANISING CHAOS	UNIQUE FAMILIES	MOVING FORWARD
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7PM - 9PM • \$90 (\$150.00 FOR COUPLES)
Includes Parenting Manual • Course Material • Face-to-Face 6 Week Program

117 MURRUMBEENA ROAD, MURRUMBEENA
Book at: trybooking.com/UFAU • By: July 30th
For more queries contact Tai • 0402 352 235



The right song for the right service

If you haven't already, check out this amazing resource compiled by UCA member Dr Natalie Sims. For those who are unfamiliar, the website pairs hymns and songs with the lectionary plus lots more. Visit <http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com/>



Stuart salutes bravery of sexual abuse survivors

The current President of the Uniting Church in Australia Stuart McMillan - until July 8, 2018 - recently announced that the Uniting Church will opt in to the **Federal Government's National**

Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

"We acknowledge the impact of child sexual abuse in the lives of those who have been abused in our institutions or those of our predecessor Churches. To each survivor and all of their families, I am truly sorry," said Mr McMillan. "It is our sincere hope that this National Redress Scheme will allow survivors of institutional child sexual abuse to access support to help them in their lives," said Mr McMillan. All seven Uniting Church Standing Committees have resolved to opt in to the National Scheme. The WA Synod's entry is conditional on the WA Government also opting in, something which is expected to occur within weeks.

"I want to specifically acknowledge the pain and the courage of survivors who retell and relive their experience whenever there are changes to redress schemes or public discussion on child sexual abuse." Discussing these issues can raise difficult emotions and past memories for some people. If you or someone you know needs help, please call: 1800 RESPECT on 1 800 737 732 Lifeline on 13 11 14 Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800 MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978 Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467

Verse

"The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving."

Psalm 28:7 (New Living Translation)

of the month

Everyone loves a good story

As part of the Glen Eira Storytelling Festival and the programme of Sunday afternoons at St. John's UCA Elsternwick, there will be a special event which will bring together Christian, Jewish and Muslim storytellers to share stories of faith and identity.

- Storyteller, lawyer, entrepreneur and parent, Dalit Kaplan has worked and studied in the US, Israel and her native Australia. She teaches storytelling, and exploring gender, identity, culture and trauma (usually with humour).
- Yousef Alreemawi is a Palestinian lecturer and interpreter with a background in community outreach and working with refugees. He produces and presents at Radio 3CR discussing the Palestinian situation. He was once national co-ordinator of 'Network of Biblical Storytellers',
- Philip Liebelt is a writer, teacher and minister who tells classics, bible stories and his own stories.

Sunday 8 July, 2:30pm.

All tickets: \$10 from www.trybooking.com/UMES



NB: There will be a special meeting of Presbytery in Council to approve new governance and staffing proposals and BOMAR applications on Wednesday, July 18th, 7.30pm.



St John's Uniting Church Elsternwick Social Justice Lunch



David Manne, Executive Director of Refugee Legal

**Sunday
29 July 2018**

12pm for 12.30pm start

Refugee Legal's David Manne will update us on recent policy changes, their impact on asylum seekers and what is being done to support them.

As a human rights lawyer, David has defended the rights, dignity and lives of asylum seekers, refugees & disadvantaged migrants for over twenty years.

567 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick

TICKETS: \$25 - all proceeds go to Refugee Legal

INFO: stjohns.elsternwick@ucappp.org

BOOK: www.trybooking.com/VWDJ

BYO wine; soft drink provided

REFUGEE RIGHTS

Widows connect across the Pacific through shared craft

SEWING, patchwork, embroidery, and knitting... in Fiji! We were asked who wants to knit wool in Fiji; but far be it from us to question why this was the request from a Methodist Church Women's group in Suva.

A group of six ladies from Southern Mornington Peninsula, spent three weeks in Suva working with a group called 'Marama ni Sarifaci', meaning the 'widows of Zarephath'.

Six women from the Rosebud, Red Hill, Hastings area, had a very productive experience in Suva working with a group of 18 Fijian women and building ongoing contact which the Southern Mornington Peninsula congregation is willing to encourage.

Members of the Suva based group are mainly the widows of Methodist clergy. When the Minister (husband) passes away, the remaining family suddenly are faced with a serious drop in income. The Women's ministry arm of the Fiji Methodist Church is responding to this need through the above named group.

The Rev's Eseta and Chris Meneilly of SMP, facilitated a large project group three years ago of 30 people and again this current smaller project. The SMP group took extra cases of clothing, shoes, haberdashery items, fabric, knitting needles and yarns etc. and donated two new sewing machines to the Fiji group.

The time we spent together was full of excitement, learning and sharing a variety of skills. Designs and ideas for various garments and practical items were taught;

Pictured centre are the SMPUC group members. Standing behind Rev. Chris Meneilly, L-R: Janet May, Jill Phillips, Ros Morton, Mardie Akers, Gwen Smith, Rosalie Cowan. The group was presented with these colourful outfits called 'tiamba' (dress and sulu/skirt) for the women and a shirt for Chris. It is common Pacific island practice for a group to all be dressed in the same material. In this photo the group were speaking of their experience to the SMPUC congregation.

by
Ros Morton

and of course basic knitting.

Using different types of patchwork and sewing methods, the women made cushions, quilts, vests, pot-holders, scarves and bags. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the Fijian group not only to learn knitting but their vision for developing the project to reach more women across their wider multicultural community and needs.



There was much talking, singing, eating a wide variety of nutritious Fijian foods and above all the building of friendships. As four of our own group also are widows, there was a deeper sense of walking and sharing a journey of life and faith together.

Rev Chris' knowledge of Fiji enabled our group to visit people in their own urban village, to participate in worship with them, attend family

gathering, experience the busy urban life of Suva, all adding to our knowledge during this wonderful cultural experience.



As a result of the workshops, the Fijian group are already producing items for their stalls at the annual Methodist Church Choir event in August. They are also planning toward sending four members to SMP in March 2019, toward which SMP is raising funds to help our new

friends visit and experience relevant craft programs in and around our region.



A prayer for hope

Lord Jesus,
Hope
overcomes,
Hope heals,
Hope
restores,
Hope inspires,
Hope conquers,
Hope frees,
Hope is your gift to the world.
Thank you
Amen



Reflections on Faith

IN the Church I attended every Sunday a long time ago the seats were numbered. Grandfather made sure we all sat there as a family. He guarded the entrance. Did he pay for it? I wondered if the seats in heaven were numbered. The other thing I remember was the large choir. Every Sunday, leading the singing and rendering an anthem. The choir sang Amen at the end of prayers, and led the threefold Amen after the Benediction. Sometimes there was a sevenfold Amen. I reckoned this must have been for special occasions.

The Bible mentions Amen at very important times. After worship and dedications. It is the people's Amen. A reverent response to the truth of the word.

So be it, we agree, that is true is its meaning. Sometimes the word is Verily, which means 'in truth.'

In the New Testament Jesus is called the AMEN. The true, faithful and trusty one. We can trust his every word. VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU signals his every word is God's Word which can be trusted. He is the true and faithful messenger.

In his Second Letter to Corinth, Paul says to Timothy and Silvanus: "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you was not YES and NO: but in him it is always YES. For in him everyone of God's promises is a YES. For this reason it is through him that we say the AMEN to the glory of God." (2nd Corinthians:19-20)

Reflection:

Amen is a special word, a sacred response in worship to the Word. Not to be spoken lightly. And in these troubled times for the world John's word in the Book of Revelation is a resounding prayer:

He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's holy people. Revelation 22: 20-21.



Seat Number 57, by Rev Bill Pugh (retired Melbourne minister)

Last call for a journey that will stay with you forever

If Joanna Lumley can enjoy India - then everyone can... Put the Taj Mahal on your bucket list - if it's not there already. Plus the Golden Temple and the Dalai Lama's house. All three are on offer on the Experience India Tour in September. India is an amazingly beautiful, spiritual place - as the posh British actress will tell you. On this tour you'll also experience responsible travel excursions, meet with Indian people and spend a few days connecting with a community health project run by the Church of North India. Staying in comfortable, clean, authentic and ethical hotels - all with free wi-fi - and travelling in comfort. Contact us for the full itinerary and pricing on 0434 412104 or helen.beeby@gmail.com



Dates - Thursday, September 06 - Tuesday, September 18, 2018



You are invited to attend UCA Funds Annual Investor Briefing **Investing for Impact** where you will learn how UCA Funds is creating better investments through company engagement and investing in positive companies. Also how it is contributing to a better world through advocacy programs and community support.

The session will include a guest speaker presentation, question time, and a meet and greet with the UCAFunds Management team.

Location: Rydges Melbourne, Broadway Room, 186 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. Discount parking available on-site.

Date and time: Thursday 9 August 11.00 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. (check in from 10.30 a.m.) Includes lunch, tea and coffee Limited places available. Register today at <http://www.ucafunds.com.au/AIBLunch> or call 1800 996 888.

uca funds
UCA FUNDS MANAGEMENT

Money matters



Visit the Presbytery website at www.ucappep.org and www.facebook.com/ucappep.org for news, events and more....



Fond farewells for two fabulous female ministers at latest presbytery meeting

The meeting was off to a flying start with members from the Pakenham Congregation leading worship and sharing stories of some of their outreach with the community. We had a presentation from Phil McCredden from Ecclesia concerning the next stage of Cultivating a New Future meeting agreed the 4 strategic priorities – leadership structures, ministers, missional cultural change pilots and resources review and analysis.

Deputy chair, Rev Cameron McAdam says: “The four key areas for Stage 2 were agreed by consensus. The mood of the meeting was very much one of let’s get on with it, and let’s do it creatively.”

We had presentations for Juli Lincoln concerning her application to be accepted as a candidate for Minister of the Word and from Paulo Kwajakwan concerning his ordination as a Minister of the Word. Presbytery resolved

- **July 18 - Special Meeting, see p5.**
- **15 August**
- **17 October**
- **12 December**

Presbytery in Council meeting dates

ALL meetings will be held at Noble Park Uniting Church, jct of Joy Parade and Allan Street and will commence at 7.30pm.

All ministers and presbytery reps are asked to attend regularly. Thank you.

to approve Juli’s application and that Paulo should be ordained subject to certain requirements. Hannah Dungan was commissioned as the chaplains to Somers Camp and Minutes of Appreciation were moved for Rev Fee



by Ian Firth

Morrison as she leaves the Presbytery to move to Tasmania and for Rev Liz McMillan as she leaves for the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra. A Release of Ties service was conducted for Liz.

Correction: Marriage Equality Proposal

Dear members of Presbytery

This is the full and final proposal being put forward to the Assembly meeting from the Presbytery of Port Phillip East on the issue of Marriage Equality:

- (a) To acknowledge the changes made to the Marriage Act by the Federal Parliament of Australia in December 2017;
- (b) to note that Church Councils have the authority under Reg 4.4.1 to permit or refuse the use of any property held for the use of the Congregation for same-gender weddings and that Church Councils do not have the authority to require a Minister in placement in their Congregation or prevent a Minister in their Congregation from celebrating same-gender marriages; and,
- (c) To submit the following proposal to the 15th Triennial Meeting of the UCA Assembly 2018:
 - a) To acknowledge the changes made to the Marriage Act by the Federal Parliament of Australia in December 2017;
 - b) To acknowledge the diversity of theological views held in good faith among congregations, individuals and Ministers of the UCA
 - c) To affirm the work of the Assembly Working Group on Doctrine and the Assembly Standing Committee Report on Marriage
 - d) To request the Assembly Standing Committee to amend the Marriage Rites of the Uniting Church in Australia to include same-gender couples
 - e) To affirm that Ministers of the UCA may exercise the freedom of faithful conscience with regards to accepting requests to celebrate marriages of same-gender couples according to the Rites of the Uniting Church in Australia
 - f) To request the Assembly Standing Committee to amend and expand the Liturgy of the Marriage Service to include same-gender couples noting the concern of some ministers and congregations who wish to continue to affirm that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Children and Families Coordinator sought at Southport



South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission is seeking a Children and Families Ministry Coordinator.

Reporting to the Parish Mission Council Congregation South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission

Location: 325 Dorcas St South Melbourne and 144 Bridge St Port Melbourne

Terms of employment Interim Children & Families Ministry Coordinator, 1

year contract. Hours per week:

11 hours per week (0.3 EFT)

For a full position description visit <http://www.spuc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/PD-Childrens-Ministry-worker-SPUC-2018.pdf>

Uniting Church



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.