



This congregation has worshipped on this site for just three decades, and it's getting closer to its community by the minute. Discover who it is, and their secret, on page 4.

How a near-death surgical bungle led this woman to a new type of rehab that we can all choose when we need it. Pull down to page 7



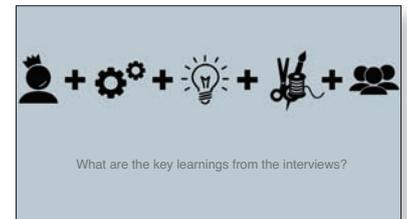
for more on this amazing story.

## Choosing the right direction

by Greg Fry, Convenor  
Mission Development  
Committee

ONE way to reflect on where you're heading is to look at how others have initiated change in their own worlds. So, as part of the action steps in implementing our "Cultivating a New Future" strategy for our presbytery, Phil McCredden, of Ecclesia Leadership, conducted research on how other denominations are engaging in the changed mission context we live in. Having completed the research, Phil was to present his findings to the Mission Development Committee (MDC), as this would shape the future missional focus of the committee. The MDC suggested that instead of just sharing the research with them, that we invite other people from the life of Presbytery to hear and discuss Phil's findings. The MDC invited all of presbytery to

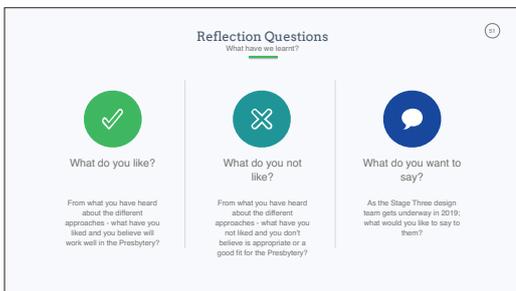
his research learnings. There were around 20 people who joined the MDC to hear Phil's presentation, a copy of which is available on the Presbytery website <http://www.ucappep.org/> on the Events page, or click on the relevant slider image on the Home page.



**There is a follow up meeting on December 4th, 7.30pm at Noble Park**, for all who would like to be part of the further discussions on the learnings from Phil's research.

Phil, commended the presbytery for asking the question, "What does it mean for the church to confront the realities of the changing context in which we live?" The question is an important one for us all, as we explore, discern what it means to be part of God's Church in our context.

More on back page



come to a gathering on the night of November 14th, to hear Phil's sharing of

## Stable setting at the Festival of Lights

UNITING By The Bay - Chelsea-Carrum UC's Stable recently ventured down the freeway to participate in the Frankston Festival of Lights once again.

There were more than 330 changes of costumes and even more photos taken from 4pm to 9pm.

This is the fourth year we have participated in the craft area, which includes crafts provided by all of the local Churches including High St Uniting Church, Frankston.

We have a beautiful selection of costumes to fit all ages along with props and very well-behaved furry animals.

**Date for your diary:** On the 9th of December we will be participating in the Kingston Council Carols for the first time.

This year the Carols will be held at Bicentennial Park Chelsea and we are very excited to be part of such a big event. *Pictured above getting into the Nativity swing are some of our Stable team and a few helpers from other churches who jumped in to have their photo taken.*



## 'Luke' to travel

Since 1998, Rev. Philip Liebelt has been performing a collection of stories from Luke's Gospel. These come from the beginning of Luke to the end; about 90 minutes in length (perhaps a third of the Gospel).

There is some concentration on stories that are unique to this Gospel. These are told 'by heart' according to the methods of the Network



of Biblical Storytellers, of which he was national co-ordinator for 12 years. In this time he has told in churches across most states of Australia.

As we enter a new Lectionary year of Luke, Philip is offering the churches of the Presbytery, to share this amazing experience in their place.

Philip says: "It is something you can invite other denominations to, and gives people a good sense of how the Gospel fits together. How the stories bounce off each other, and themes are developed through the book."

If you would like to hear these captivating story from Luke's Gospel at an event contact him on 0400 631264 or philipliebelt@gmail.com.

## Christmas trivia

- A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.
- According to a 1995 survey, 7 out of 10 dogs get Christmas gifts from their dotting owners.
- During the Christmas buying season, Visa cards alone are used an average of 5,340 times every minute in the United States.
- After "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, one each year, but none was as successful as the original.
- Christmas trees are edible. Many parts of pines, spruces, and firs can be eaten. The needles are a good source of vitamin C. Pine nuts, or pine cones, are also a good source of nutrition.

# facebook

## Dinosaurs roar at Narre Warren North

Spotted on



THINGS turned prehistoric at Narre Warren North Uniting Church recently.

A couple of weekends ago, between 10am and 4pm, visitors got up close and personal with eight large replica dinosaur skeletons.

The wooden models are the work of church member Phil Martin, seen above posing with some of his creations.

Each one of the brightly coloured models took between 30 to 40 hours to complete.

The **Dinosaur Fossil Experience** in the church grounds featured a fossil hunt, colouring activities and plenty of information about dinosaurs.

Phil also pulled one dinosaur apart and asked the children help to put it back together.

*Editor's note: If your church is interested in having a Jurassic visit then email [newsbeat@ucappep.org](mailto:newsbeat@ucappep.org)*

Mt Waverley Chadstone InterChurch Council invites you to

7th  
Community  
**Carols  
in the Village**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Hamilton Place, Mt Waverley  
**Come One, Come All!**

Community Singing from 6.30pm to 8pm  
plus a Children's Activity Tent

Supported by Monash Council and Mt Waverley Traders

[www.mtwaverleychadstonechurches.org.au](http://www.mtwaverleychadstonechurches.org.au)

# Welcome to the family of the church...

Over the past few months, Rev Ann Simons from the Officer Pakenham Mission Area has been working with a number of families towards baptism of their children. When Ann needed to take time off, retired Rev Dr Denham Grierson, a member of the Pakenham congregation, stepped forward on a part-time supply basis, and had the joy of performing the planned baptisms. Pakenham UC is multicultural, and two Sundays of baptism allowed choirs comprised of families and friends from the Fijian community, and then the South Sudanese community, to sing songs of praise in their own languages.

On 28th October, Hezekiah was baptised, and on 18th November, there was a baptism for Mercy, Omot, Emmanuel and Faith – that's five children welcomed into the Church Family at Pakenham UC.



welcomed into the Church Family at Pakenham UC.



Clockwise from top left: Rev Dr Denham with Emmanuel and Godparents Glynis and Puot, Denham with the Mum Narout, Dad Gai, and their children Mercy, Omot, Emmanuel and Faith, the South Sudanese choir, Hezekiah and his family, the Fijian choir

## Useful resources

The Act for Peace Christmas Bowl resources are designed to be used by ministers, church leaders, families and groups and include weekly worship resources to guide or include sections in your services. These resources can be downloaded to assist with planning Christmas services. Visit [www.actforpeace.org.au/Christmas-Bowl/Resources](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/Christmas-Bowl/Resources) for the full toolkit, posters, clipart and even print Christmas tree decorations. Or see their Gifts for Peace catalogue to obtain fun colouring-in cards for children via the [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au) Home page.



# Community pulls together for a month of Sundays

NOVEMBER became Community Month at the Village Church as the congregation focussed on its pastoral life, its community building and care of its facilities in readiness for Advent and Christmas.

On November 11th the church gathered together with the families of those whose funerals we had conducted through the year, we remembered all who had died, those no longer in our sight, but closer to God and carried with us through faith and love. We lit remembrance candles and at 11, the congregation paused to remember the end of World War 1 a century before, to pay respect to those who had died, and to pray for peace.

Across the weekend of November 16-18, the congregation held its annual Church Camp at Cape Paterson.

About 70 camped, brought caravans or stayed in cabins in the camp ground. The weather was kind and campers enjoyed beach activities, before welcoming Safina Stewart, a local indigenous artist, who challenged everyone with her words as she told us about Cape Paterson's history, and invited us to partner in reconciliation.

With Safina's encouragement we painted rocks which became the centre of our Sunday service. We gathered for community time, singing, a spit roast, and relaxing time together. On Sunday morning we focussed on the presence of God with us, listening and being present in this beautiful place and together as a community.

The last Sunday in November was Community Sunday. This was the 30th anniversary of our Canadian Bay Road site and facilities. We had a shorter morning service, and then the whole community went to work, gardening, cleaning, doing minor maintenance and

preparing our worship space for Advent and Christmas. We enjoyed a sausage sizzle together, and of course a birthday cake with long time members Gordon & Margaret Barrow, and the youngest member present Edward Driver (3) blowing out the birthday candles. It's been a very special month at the Village Church, as we seek to live our mission to build community both within and beyond the church.



**Words and pictures by Rev Cameron McAdam**



*Clockwise from top: What a cake!; gardeners, young and old, work together; a stitch in time from Chris Johnson; stars in the making... and some of the best people are carpenters.*

## Musical musings



FOR musical inspiration for the festive season visit this amazing

resource compiled by UCA member Dr Natalie Sims. For those who are

unfamiliar, the website pairs hymns, carols and songs with the lectionary, plus lots more.

Click on <http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com/>

## St John's gets the keys to the door...

end of November to celebrate our Cafe's 21st Birthday. The speaker on the day, June Robilliard, led us through the years, and the innovation that started this community idea. She described how in



September 1997, a committee of 10 talented cooks and caterers at St John's decided to turn the Foyer into a bright, inviting area where people of Mt Waverley could enjoy a simple, reasonably priced lunch every Wednesday. At the time they did

by Margery Kennett

not aspire to raise money; the motivation was to provide a midweek meeting place for the locals of Mt Waverley. The initiative really took off and by the fourth Wednesday St John's Cafe was not only a social hit, they were turning a profit!! It became clear, although the prices were very modest and there were few overhead costs, that the bank account was growing. Light dawned. They had the means of allocating grants to charities. The Cafe has grown and grown, and its support for local, state, interstate and overseas causes is legendary. The giving to date is \$204,400, a miraculous achievement. Most of this success is of course thanks, not only to the committee, but to the fabulous volunteers. Nothing is wasted from the Cafe. Meals are regularly donated to church people going through tough times, and any other goodies not served are set aside for the helpers. Happy 21st Birthday, St John's Cafe



WE had a very happy party at St John's, Mt Waverley at the

## Reflections on Faith



CHRISTMAS pudding... We prepare ours in October. An old recipe, tried and tested.

Suet, dried fruit and brandy. All take a turn at stirring. Then it is poured into a large pudding basin, a piece of calico tied round the top



### Christmas pudding by Bill Pugh

and put into a pot of water and boiled for some time on the stove. It smells inviting. Last, our Christmas pudding is placed in a top kitchen cupboard, till Christmas Day, when it is again slowly boiled till it is served with brandy sauce, custard, cream, ice cream, any, or all of the above.

In the good old days the cook laced the pudding with silver threepences, which had been collected and sterilised. Sometimes tiny trinkets were there also. Everyone hoped for a slice with a threepence and a surprise. Not possible since

decimal currency. The new coins are not suitable. On Christmas Day there was an empty bowl in the middle of the table. After everyone had finished. Dad mentioned the Christmas Bowl Appeal at Church: "We have had a great Christmas, lots will be hungry. Let's all put our money into the empty bowl, count it and I will double it and we will take it to Church on Sunday, and give it to the Appeal." Not all the kids were happy about this. They had something to think about.

*Reflection:* It is never too early to think about what we can do for others at Christmas. As we give our thanks offering today, please remind us that we are blessed with so much in Australia, and challenge us to make Christmas happen for those who have little means or reason for celebration.



O God, in the beginning you gave birth to the universe, setting it free to expand and evolve into a

myriad of wonders great and small. And now in the midst of your creation of joy and pain, plenty and poverty, we bring before you the needs of those around us and the needs of those so far away. We pray for all who embody your good news in word and action, especially those the Christmas Bowl inspires and enables.

Amen



**The Christmas Bowl is coming**

**Order your own Christmas Bowl**

On Christmas Day 1949, Reverend Frank Byatt placed a bowl on his table and asked his guests to give a gift for people suffering around the world. This year, keep this tradition alive by placing a bowl on your table in remembrance of others in need. **Order your bowl today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101  
VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



LEST we forget... Peace Prayers from Remembrance Day fluttering in the breeze at Sandringham Uniting Church.

## Remembering the fallen...

ON Remembrance Sunday, November 11 2018, all at Sandringham Uniting Church were honoured to listen to Pamela Sharp read the entry from her father's World War I diary for the same date 100 years ago - November 11, 1918. Pamela's father was grateful they could continue their work without having to look over their shoulders all the time. We listened to the names of those who had died in the two World Wars, and now have their service details and some of their stories in four Memorial Books, thanks to dedicated research. Peace Prayers of the People were written on images of red poppies and these are now fluttering in the breeze on red and white ribbons, pictured left.

by Rev Christine MacDowall

## but life goes on too...

P.S. The Hippopotamus on our roof has gone into hiding as she heard on the grapevine that our tower is about to be dismantled and rebuilt! (I thought about asking the architect to add a chaise longue for her up in the tower so she could eat her Christmas cake in peace. I will let you know if we get a planning permit for it - Christine, minister!)

*Editor's note: I had to leave this PS in Christine... it's too funny. Merry Christmas one and all!*

\* One day spectacular \*

# Countdown 2 Christmas

Saturday 22nd December 2018

9:30am - 12:30pm

Book at •  
[trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com) • YNJS •  
 by 17th December

\$10 per child

Primary school age program with  
 drama • craft • music • puppets • games and more •

We also have our Mainly Christmas program for 0-4 yr olds •  
 Runs from 9:30am • 10:30am •  
 • 5 per child •  
 • parent or guardian must stay with child •

Let us know if you're interested in contributing to our  
 Christmas Eve service via the booking form

Any questions contact the office at •  
 office • [murrumbeenauniting.org.au](http://murrumbeenauniting.org.au) or 9568 8177 •



117 Murrumbeena Rd • Murrumbeena •



## TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKET

Monday 10 December 2018 - 3.00pm – 6.00pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park

1312 Heatherton Road, Noble Park

- ┆ Gifts
- ┆ Cards
- ┆ Candles
- ┆ Christmas Items
- ┆ Plants
- ┆ Craft
- ┆ Artwork
- ┆ Gift Wrapping
- ┆ Sausage Sizzle
- ┆ Café – tea/coffee/soft drinks/snacks
- ┆ Live Christmas Music



Eftpos facilities available

Anyone interested in booking a stall please contact reception on 03 9554 0700 or email [noblepark@unitingagewell.org](mailto:noblepark@unitingagewell.org)

## A tailored path to wellness - one woman's courageous journey to recovery

KATHY Bacsa came to Uniting AgeWell's Seniors' Gym at Noble Park earlier this year in chronic pain, only able to lift her leg three inches off the ground.

"I went in for a total knee replacement in October 2017 and they accidentally cut my artery," she said.

"I had half a litre of blood left and they put me in an induced coma on life support."

When she finally left hospital, the former rock 'n' roll and swing dancer visited specialists, was prescribed medications and visited other gyms to try to manage the pain and lack of mobility in her leg, but had little success until she found Uniting AgeWell.

"When I came to Noble Park I couldn't stand on my right leg and had no strength in it," she said. "The program and equipment have helped me so much; they're just what I needed." The gym contains state-of-the-art air-resistance equipment, designed to accommodate varying degrees of ability and physical conditioning, reducing stress on joints and connective tissues to ensure better outcomes for customers. Fitted with a smart card system, the



equipment automatically sets the correct resistance, while on-site allied health professionals regularly adjust workouts. While the equipment works wonders for Kathy's leg, she said it was the staff who made her feel comfortable. She arrived at Uniting AgeWell "a little bit lost" and in need of "sympathy", which was exactly what she got.

"They are all so lovely here and they don't push me, they encourage me," she said.

With the support of Uniting AgeWell's allied health professionals, Kathy is working towards getting back on the dance floor.



Uniting AgeWell has three seniors gyms at its AgeWell Centres across Melbourne. Regional Manager AgeWell Centres, Amanda Mehegan, said the Centres also offered exercise groups including Tai Chi, yoga, stretch classes and pilates, as well as allied health services such as physiotherapy, podiatry and massage.

### Dear Santa,

I've been a good mum all year. I've fed, cleaned and cuddled my two children on demand, sold 62 cases of chocolate bars to raise money to plant a shade tree on the school playground and figured out how to attach nine patches onto my daughter's girl guide sash with staples and a glue gun. I was hoping you could spread my list over several Christmases, since I had to write it with my son's red crayon, on the back of a receipt in the laundry room between cycles, and who knows when I'll find more free time in the next 18 years.

Here are my Christmas wishes:

1. I'd like a pair of legs that don't ache after a day of chasing kids (in any colour, except purple, which I already have) and arms that don't flap in the breeze but are strong enough to carry a screaming toddler out of the lolly aisle at the supermarket. I'd also like a waist, since I lost mine somewhere in the seventh month of my last pregnancy.
2. If you're hauling big ticket items this year I'd like a car with fingerprint resistant windows and a radio that only plays adult music; a television that doesn't broadcast any programs containing talking animals; and a refrigerator with a secret compartment behind the crisper where I can hide to talk on the phone.
3. On the practical side, I could use a talking daughter doll that says, "Yes, Mummy" to boost my parental confidence, along with one potty-trained toddler, two kids who don't fight and three pairs of jeans that will zip all the way up without the use of power tools.
4. I could also use a recording of Tibetan monks chanting, "Don't eat in the living room" and 'Take your hands off your brother,' because my voice seems to be just out of my children's hearing range and can only be heard by the dog.
5. And please don't forget the Playdoh Travel Pack, the hottest stocking stuffer this year for mothers of preschoolers. It comes in three fluorescent colors and is guaranteed to crumble on any carpet making the in-laws' house seem just like mine.
6. If it's too late to find any of these products, I'd settle for enough time to brush my teeth and comb my hair in the same morning, or the luxury of eating food warmer than room temperature without it being served in a Styrofoam container. If you don't mind I could also use a few Christmas miracles to brighten the holiday season. Would it be too much trouble to declare tomato sauce a vegetable? It will clear my conscience immensely.
7. It would be helpful if you could coerce my children to help around the house without demanding payment as if they were the bosses of an organized crime family; or if my toddler didn't look so cute sneaking downstairs to eat ice cream in his pyjamas at midnight.

Well, Santa, the buzzer on the dryer is ringing and my son saw my feet under the laundry room door. I think he wants his crayon back. Have a safe trip and remember to leave your wet boots by the chimney, dry off by the fire and help yourself to the biscuits on the table but don't eat too many or leave crumbs on the carpet.

*Yours Always... Mum x*



# Ecumenism at its finest... learning from other denominations

Cont. from front page:

What an amazing range of insights and information Phil

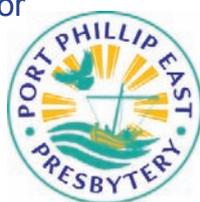


shared with us on Nov 14th. The input from Phil, and questions of clarification ended up taking the whole of our allotted time. The people who attended, decided that they wanted to hear all the information in one session, and save the discussion of implications for our Presbytery till a later session. Phil has organised access to his PowerPoint slides of his research on our website.

The slides provide opportunity to catch up with Phil's input.

Whether you came to the first session or not, you are welcome to continue the exploration on December 4th, 7.30pm at Noble Park by being part of this opportunity to:-

- Discuss learnings and insights; what is helpful for us in the future.
- What approaches would work, or not work in our context?
- What would be important to consider as we design Mission Pilot process with congregations?



**Final Presbytery in Council meeting date for 2018**

• **12 December, 2018**

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

**To see who represents Port Phillip East Presbytery on the current Standing Committee visit:**

<http://www.ucappep.org/about-ppep/key-people/>



## Belly laughs at SA Synod...?

I WOULD love to know what was said at the South Australia Uniting Church Synod to elicit this reaction from former Port Phillip East Presbytery minister Rev Dr Paul Dongwon Goh and Moderator Rev Sue Ellis as he was sworn into the role of Justice & CALD Multicultural and Cross-cultural Officer. It's such a fantastic snapshot moment... Congratulations on the appointment Paul. Go well and keep in touch...



## Sacraments for Lay Presiders Training

**St Andrews Uniting Church, 273 Barkly St, Ararat**

**Feb 21-22 - input/workshop**  
- Sacraments in the UCA  
**Feb 23 - workshop**  
- going deeper with the Sacraments  
**9:30AM-4:30PM EACH DAY**

**How do I know which days to attend?**  
*Interested in learning more about the Sacraments? Come Feb 21-22*  
*Already a Presider and need to do a refresher? Come Feb 23*  
*Asked by your Presbytery to train to become a Presider? Come Feb 21-23*

*Sessions will be live-streamed and recorded. Presbyteries are invited/encouraged to either send participants to Ararat, or set up learning hubs within their Presbyteries for the duration.*



There are a number of places in Ararat to find accommodation. Check comparison websites such as Trivago or Wotif to find deals.

To book or for more information about setting up a learning hub: contact **Mel Perkins** (Lay Leadership Development Coordinator, eLM)  
e: [mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au)  
p: 03 9340 8843

*Presbytery of Western Victoria in partnership with eLM.*



*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](mailto: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](http://www.ucappep.org) and [www.facebook.com/ucappep.org](http://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org) for news, events and more....**