

NEWSBEAT



JANUARY 2019

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Reflections on Faith

More words of wisdom from our resident, thought-provoking retired minister Bill Pugh on page 5.



Excitement builds in anticipation of this Intergenerational Ministry teacher and author's visit to Victoria. Turn to page 4 to learn more about him and how you can register for these special events.



Churches together are stronger than solo

THE festive season has seen a welcome number of examples of Christian denominations coming together to carry out the Church's mission in our communities.

Pulling together in these situations reinforces our shared Christian faith, whatever our tradition, and highlights to those who may not be regular worshippers that churches can, and do, work together in harmony.

Interchurch Councils are not a new concept, of course, and the two images to the right are examples of long-standing commitments to ecumenism - Christians working together to spread the Word (see full stories on page 2 and 3 for more details of these annual activities.) However, the Port Phillip East Presbytery is renewing its focus on the value of Churches working together with the development of a vibrant new Ecumenical Task Group. We will share more on this development in the next issue of Newsbeat, but for now why not put your thinking caps on about ways to strengthen links with other Churches in your area.

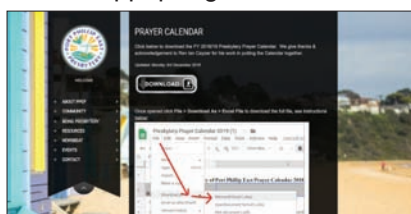


Above: Mt Eliza Interchurch Council folk collect for Christmas Bowl. Left: Rev James Douglas speaks at the MWCICC carol concert.



A year in prayer

AN all-new 2019 Prayer Calendar is now available on the Presbytery website. This meaningful resource itemises the different liturgical colours, dates and holy days in the calendar and also itemises the congregations, chaplains and agencies in our presbytery to pray for in specific weeks. A really nice addition to your pew sheets. Special thanks to Rev Ian Cayzer for its compilation. Find it at <http://www.ucappep.org/> - under Events



Ordinations are anything but ordinary

Ordinations and inductions are important events in the life of the presbytery. In particular, ordinations are the culmination of a long period of preparation for the person being ordained and the Ministry Formation Task Group, who have supported the candidate over some years. As the body which exercises the ministry of oversight in the Church, the Presbytery gathers at an ordination in an act of thankfulness that God continues to call people to the ministry of the church. It is important that as many members of Presbytery as possible participate in this important occasion and process and sit together during the service. Please make the ordination of Paulo a priority in your calendar.



by Andrew Boyle, Chair of Presbytery

Ordination and inductions in January and February:

- Induction of Ray McClusky @ Cranbourne UC on Wednesday, January 16 @ 8pm
- Ordination of Paulo Kwajkwan @ Noble Park UC on Saturday, January 19 @ 3pm
- Induction of Nigel McBrien @ Hastings UC on Sunday, February 3 @ 2.30pm
- Induction of Paulo Kwajkwan @ Mount Martha on Sunday, February 10 @ 3pm

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



CHRISTMAS ROUND-UP

A prayerful Christmas at Sandringham Uniting Church

Churches pull together to give back for the season

AS referenced on the front page, this wonderful ecumenical ministry, below, has been operating in Mt Eliza Village for more than 20 years.

St Thomas More Catholic Parish, the Anglican Parish of Mt Eliza and The Village Church (UCA) make up the Interchurch Council and their respective congregations have been running Badge Day street collections together in December for the Christmas Bowl since the 1990s.

Margaret Arnott, from The Village Church, says: "We raised \$1217.80 over the two days this year, which was good! Since 2005 (and we were collecting before that) our three churches street appeal has raised nearly \$31,000!

Carol Service prayers were written on Gift Tags and then hung on the glittering Christmas Tree. Christmas Day prayers on stars were offered to Jesus in the manger. This morning, 30 December, Gloria Petrie was checking out the decorations and was delighted to receive a surprise 'word cloud' from the Church in Colossi displaying Paul's encouraging words of grace.



CARING Christians... pictured below from Anglican Parish of Mt Eliza are Lois Truett, left, and Samantha White, Families Minister at the IGA Shopping



Centre Pictured right are Maureen Mirabella and Barry Hansen, both from St Thomas More Catholic Parish. The Village Church made up the other rostered collection times.

Children light up the church

ST Andrew's Berwick UC staged a special Christmas Bowl service, along with a progress report of the North India Community Health project, JBKS, in the second week of Advent.



CHRISTMAS ROUND-UP

Music and singing from across the globe bring joy to thousands to mark the miracle birth

AS with the many years before, there has been a Festival of Christmas Carols in Mt Waverley this December, writes Margery Kennett.

On December 9th there was the Candlelight Carols Service at St John's Uniting Church with St John's and Canterbury Balwyn Rd Uniting Church choirs performing, *Canterbury UC Tongan Choir is pictured below left*, along with soprano Monique Churchill from Berwick Uniting Church.

Then on December 14th the Mt Waverley Interchurch Church Council presented its ecumenical highlight of the season - Community Carols in the Village. Due to the shocking weather forecast, Monash Council kindly offered us the Mt Waverley Community Centre which was gratefully received. Performers and audience members amounted to about 350 who all enjoyed singing the Community Carols and hearing excellent choirs and Monash Brass

Band, *pictured above left*.

The children could dress up to be photographed with "Mary, Joseph and Jesus" or do colouring in, puzzles or read Christmas stories in another room, not the usual tent. St Mark's UC Carols were on December 16th with more Community Carols, lessons and a performance from St Mark's, Melbourne Fijian UC and the Tongan Mens Choirs. Finally, there was also a Singing Festival with the RCCC Choir at St Luke's UC on the morning of December 23rd.



Sunshine on the foreshore lifts the carol singing at Mt Martha

THIS year's theme for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Mt Martha Uniting Church was "Star Child" - based on the lovely Shirley Murray carol of that name - writes Rev Robert Johnson.

People wrote their prayers and hopes on the stars and left them at the cradle of the Christ child.

In addition to the well attended services in the church, the Mt Martha Community Carols, organised by Mt Martha churches together, drew a crowd, mostly families, of around 1,500 on the Mt Martha foreshore.



Two significant February events for your diary



Generate 2019 – Growing Intergenerational Ministry
February 22 & 23: Parkville, Melbourne

Now that the “Why” of intergenerational ministry is well-established, more and more leaders and their churches are wanting to explore the “How” and the “What”. It’s one thing to know that an intergenerational approach is vital for sustainable, long-term faith

formation and discipleship for people of any age, it’s another thing entirely to implement such an approach in your own context.

Generate 2019 – Growing Intergenerational Ministry will assist all shapes and sizes of churches, and their leaders, to grow in their capacity to develop a genuinely intergenerational culture. See left for details of the workshops and training and ways to register. Or e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au to reserve a place.

GENERATE
2019
Feb 22,23

GENERATE 2019
FRIDAY

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY: FOUNDATIONS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22 @ PARKVILLE

Despite much talk in recent years around intergenerational ministry, a present and pressing challenge for churches and their leaders is to develop effective intergenerational practice that encourages discipleship across all ages.

Focused on those with strategic leadership responsibility in the life of a church – including ministers, pastors, ministry leaders and key volunteers – Generate 2019: Intergenerational Ministry Foundations will explore a theological foundation of intergenerational ministry, the place of intergenerational ministry in a church's strategy and issues around the implementation of intergenerational ministry.

Come along and be inspired and equipped for more effective ministry in your local context!

Presenters:

Andrew McDonough

Best known as the author and illustrator of the *Lost Sheep* books (excellent resources for intergenerational engagement and learning), Andrew is also well-known as a presenter across Australia and beyond (most recently presenting at The Conversation in the UK). Andrew draws on a wide experience in pastoral ministry leadership that includes ministry amongst the homeless, supporting people struggling with addictions, advocating for refugees and 25 years as a Spiritual Director. Andrew has been instrumental in developing the *Fly Bird Fly* Studio and his most recent book is *Jesus was a Refugee*.

Claire Dawe

Claire is a minister in the Uniting Church, currently at Manningham Uniting Church. Claire has been involved in intergenerational worship and church community by simply having a go, trying new ideas, failing at times, and having another go. Claire is a committed worker for social justice, and believes in empowering and equipping people to try something and see where it takes them. Claire, along with other leaders in her community, is working hard to develop an intergenerational culture that embraces everyone – not just children, young people and their families!

Chris Barnett

Based at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Chris has extensive experience in congregational, regional and denominational ministry. His current role includes a strong emphasis on intergenerational engagement, with a focus on consultancy, advocacy, resourcing and training in relation to intergenerational ministry. Chris is a keen participant and resource across a variety of networks, including the Australian Intergenerational Roundtable.

Register for either day or ideally both!

WHERE:

Centre for Theology & Ministry
29 College Cres, Parkville 3052

WHEN:

Friday 22 February 2019
10am to 3pm

Cost:

\$40 per person
\$35 per person (if registered by 11 February)
\$30 per person - a group of 3 or more (if registered by 11 February)

REGISTER ONLINE:

ucavt.goregister.com.au/generate2019

Registrations appreciated by Tuesday February 11

MORE INFORMATION:

ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au
03 9340 8815

equipping Leadership for Mission

Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Andrew McDonough, best known as the author and illustrator of the *Lost Sheep* books, is coming to Victoria!

Drawing on his wide experience in ministry, including working as a pastor amongst the homeless, supporting people struggling with addictions and advocating for refugees, Andrew will be facilitating a series of workshops entitled *Thriving Ministry Leadership: Lessons from a duck, an echidna and a caterpillar*.

Focused on those in ministry leadership, such as ministers, deacons, pastors, chaplains, lay preachers, church council members and those with specific responsibility for children, young people and families, these sessions will be immensely inspiring, encouraging and practical.

Andrew will also highlight his latest book – *Jesus Was a Refugee*.

Look at the poster pictured right to find the location nearest to you or most suitable dates and to reserve your place.

E-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au to find out more and register.

Thriving Ministry Leadership

Lessons from a duck, an echidna, a caterpillar and a tree



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Dates

Thursday	February 21	2pm	Geelong
Sunday	February 24	2.30pm	Surrey Hills
Monday	February 25	10am	Ballarat
Monday	February 25	7pm	Bendigo
Tuesday	February 26	10am	Shepparton
Tuesday	February 26	3.30pm	Wodonga
Wednesday	February 27	7pm	Mitcham
Thursday	February 28	10am	Murrumbidgee

Cost: \$20

Duration: 2.5 hours

Register and pay on-line:

<https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/thrivingministryleadership>

Registrations appreciated by Friday February 22

More information or off-line registration:

03 9340 8800 or ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au

Addresses:

Geelong (Western Heights Uniting Church)
Surrey Hills Uniting Church
Ballarat Central Uniting Church
Bendigo (St. Andrew's) Uniting Church
Shepparton Uniting Church
Wodonga Uniting Church
Mitcham (Mountview) Uniting Church
Murrumbidgee Uniting Church

31 Douglas St
Cnr Canterbury Road & Valonia Avenue
Cnr Lyndard South & Dana Streets
26 Myers Street
Cnr Frysers & Corio Streets
Cnr Beechworth Road & Nilmar Avenue
Cnr Maroonah Highway & Doncaster East Road
117 Murrumbidgee Road

HERNE HILL
SURREY HILLS
BALLARAT
BENDIGO
SHEPPARTON
WODONGA
MITCHAM
MURRUMBIDGEA

These events are supported by funding from the Jean & Farquhar Gunn Fund.

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Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

"Love one another and you will be happy. It's as simple and difficult as that. There is no other way." Amen

From A Common Prayer; A Cartoonist Talks to God. Leunig



A New Year! Sometimes as individual friends of Jesus, and as churches, we feel a bit small.

So many congregations struggling, not enough ministers of the Word to go round. A visit to the country changes that impression. Congregations are joining and sharing resources. Wonderful and inspiring worship leaders and lay preachers. A lectionary and biblical resources at hand. Caring, visiting and sharing the ministry of God's people. As the People of God, together, in fellowship, the churches mission and outreach spreads, widens and grows.

"Like a mighty army moves the Church of God!" We are spirit-filled people. We are called to be a witnessing and sharing fellowship. TOGETHER, we are strong. In 2019, let us celebrate our togetherness, praying, caring and worshipping. And keeping the doors of our churches wide open, welcoming and receiving. And moving out daily, witnessing, resourcing and building up His Kingdom. Realising our TOGETHERNESS.

Reflections on Faith

Reflection: New Years resolutions made and broken. Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Philippians made the best New Years resolution of all: "But this one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind."

(Philippians 3: 13-15)

A Happy
New Year.
A Blessed
New Life!



Together by Bill Pugh

World Day of Prayer 2019

This year from Slovenia - Theme: Come – Everything is Ready! (Luke 14: 15-24)
The 2019 World Day of Prayer worship service prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Slovenia will be held on Friday, 1st March at a nominated church in your area. Locations for World Day of Prayer Services near you can be found by visiting: www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org Or simply call your church.



Out now: 2019 Lenten Resource
Not just containing individual reflections for each day, this FREE 2019 Lenten Resource contains weekly ideas for families and households (that can even be adapted for use in the multi-age worship/small group settings). From Ash Wednesday to Easter Day you will find a fresh thought and invitation for reflection for each day. May your Lenten discipleship be enriched by this resource! Visit: <http://www.ctmresourcing.org.au/2019-lenten-resource>

Experience Incredible India



JOIN us for another amazing journey that combines sight-seeing with support for a Community Health program in North India (Jagriti Bhalai Kendra Society.)

This 13-day tour takes in majestic New Delhi, golden Amritsar, breathtaking Dharamsala and spiritual Rishikesh on The Ganges. Visiting some world-renowned heritage and natural wonder sites we'll also re-connect with the project organisers and people helped by the JBKS. You'll also experience responsible travel excursions and meet with Indian people so the small travel group can share and reflect on the diversity of Indian culture. Staying in comfortable, well-kept, authentic and ethical hotels, and travelling in complete comfort, all needs and abilities are catered for without losing a true immersion in Indian life. Cost includes flights, accommodation, transport, sight-seeing entry fees and most meals (\$3,900). Contact us for the full itinerary and pricing (additional travel plans, before or after, can also be accommodated) via phone or e-mail below. Please share this information with interested parties.

Dates - Thursday, September 12 - Thursday, September 25, 2019

Contact:
Helen on
0434 412104 or
e-mail:
helen.beeby@gmail.com



In association with

Creative Journeys
North India



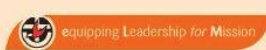
Lenten Reflections 2019

Created with love and full of care by the staff of the CTM for your Lenten journey.

From Ash Wednesday to Easter each day you will find a fresh thought and invitation for reflection, as well as an activity for your household at the end of each week.

We would be pleased to know how you are using the reflections and your ideas for future resources for individuals or groups.

May your Lenten discipleship be enriched by this resource.



Revival of hope as new faces come into our churches



At the final Presbytery in Council meeting for 2018 our Chairperson, Rev Andrew Boyle, opened the meeting and then presided at a service of Holy Communion.

The Presbytery then heard from Joy Blamires and Andrea May, first year ministry candidates, on their experiences. Both said that their experience in field placements with congregations had reaffirmed their sense of call.

Reports were received from the Standing Committee, the Pastoral Relations Committee, the Mission Development Committee and the Finance Committee. Mr Jeff Gardner presented the 2019 Presbytery budget and this was adopted.

Phil McCredden, from Ecclesia spoke to his report on the Chairperson Role Workshop. Members of



by Ian Firth

Presbytery then broke into table groups to discuss three particular questions relating the role of the chairperson in the life of the Presbytery. It's fair to say that it's been quite a challenging year for the Presbytery. Not having any Presbytery Ministers has meant that the work they would usually do has had to be picked up by others, or, not picked up at all. But we move into 2019 with hope – we have the induction of Rev Ray McClusky at Cranbourne on 16 January at 8pm, the ordination of Paulo Kwajkwan at Noble Park on 19 January at 3pm and his induction at Mt Martha on Sunday 10 February at 3pm. We also have the induction of Rev Nigel McBrien at Hastings on 3 February at 2.30 pm. All are welcome at any of these services.

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
p: 03 9340 8843

Presbytery of Western Victoria in partnership with eLM.



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Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2019

- **Wednesday, 20 February**
- **Wednesday, 10 April**
- **Wednesday, 19 June**
- **Wednesday, 21 August**
- **Wednesday, 16 October**
- **Wednesday, 11 December**

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

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



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....