



NEWSBEAT



DECEMBER 2019

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Saturday session adds greater depth. Turn to the back page to learn more about last month's Presbytery meeting.

Rev Toko was officially welcomed to lead the Cook Island congregation at Balkara. Turn to page 7 for more visions in white.



Bravo to the Choir of Hope

THE debut performance of a women's choir that came together through shared personal difficulties was a triumph. Deb Leigh, conductor of the Free Spirit choir, had a dream to start a choir for women who are recovering from troubled situations, which may have included violence. The Choir was to provide a supportive environment where women may continue the journey of healing and rebuilding their lives.

Friendly Christmas Day Lunch

St John's Uniting Church, Mount Waverley would like to invite you to join us for our **Free** Christmas Day lunch



Wednesday 25th December 2019

Doors open at 12 noon

37-43 Virginia Street
Mount Waverley

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED

0429 073 704 - Rachael Tauali'i

03 9888 2295 Church Office

(Mon 10am - 12pm; Wed & Thurs 10am - 2pm)

Or email: office@stjohnsuniting.org.au

RSVP by 16th December.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church has backed the initiative and the choir sang in our 11am service on Sunday 24th Nov, their first public performance. It was both wonderful and emotional.

Deb said prior to the choir singing: "The Choir of Hope is an amazing group of women who have had the courage to choose to have hope in the midst of their circumstances choose to take action by arriving on the doorstep of Glen Waverley Uniting Church every Friday morning and step in to the unknown – a choir newly formed this year, having no singing background, alone, but with hope that things can be better than they were.

"The choir is more than the sum of its parts – individual women who have had feelings of isolation, grief, fear, some who have suffered abuse, and some who have supported women in difficult circumstances.

"It has become a choir – many voices joining together to speak out, speak up, sing in harmony, sing together and enjoy the benefits of having music in your soul. More than being about musicianship, the choir is about relationships, friendships, building each other up, encouraging each person to find their own voice.

In the midst of our brokenness it is not uncommon to hear a cry of 'Where's God in this? I cannot hear God's voice'. If you have ears to listen, you will hear the voice of God right here".

by Rev Neil Peters

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



Keys to success

Seaford Uniting Church's plea for a pianist for their Carols by Candlelight service on Christmas Eve in last month's Newsbeat resulted in a reader coming forward to play. What a fantastic show of community...

Every star shall sing a carol

Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church, cnr Kingston and Old Dandenong Rds, Heatherton will also be staging Carols by Candlelight on Sunday, 22nd December at 7.30 pm, followed by supper.



"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

William Arthur Ward

of the month

THERE'S still time to check out Advent and Christmas resources for worship and learning. There's some fabulous videos, drama scripts, songs and even cuisine being dished up on this resource hub below by Craig Mitchell, PM Church Development. Click on:

<https://tinyurl.com/advent-christmas-2019>

Useful resources



Ann winds up at Officer-Pakenham in anticipation of her next Presbytery move

The Induction Service for Rev Ann Simons as Minister of the Word at Hampton Uniting Church will be held on **Sunday December 15th, 2019, at 2pm.**

The Service will be followed by a celebratory Afternoon Tea in the Parish Centre. The service will be conducted by representatives of the Presbytery of Port Phillip East, PPEP, which is the body responsible for Ann's pastoral oversight.

All Presbytery members and friends of Hampton UCA are encouraged to attend this special event. The liturgical colour for inductions is red, so you may wish to wear a red item to this service.

Ann will commence leading worship services at Hampton from Sunday, January 5.

by Ian Menzies

Pictured above: On Sunday 24 November, Rev Anneke Oppewal led the releasing of pastoral ties part of a communion service at Pakenham Uniting Church where Rev Ann Simons was farewelled by the congregation after seven years of ministry.



BETHLEHEM IN BRIGHTON

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7TH
10AM - 1PM
FREE ENTRY**

**CHRISTMAS STORY TIME
CAKE STALL AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE
CRAFTS AND COSTUMES
ANIMAL FARM**

**AT A NEW
LOCATION**

**TRINITY UNITING CHURCH
15-17 BLACK STREET BRIGHTON**

PRESENTED BY THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF BRIGHTON

Victorious valedictorians emerge from our community

AT the valedictory service of Pilgrim Theological College there was an impressive number of valedictorians from Port Phillip East. All received a holding cross or a candle to remember their achievements in a beautiful service of thanksgiving and celebration, led and prepared by staff and students:

- Alexis Ward received a Bachelor of Theology,
- Cam McAdam and Robin Yang received a graduate Certificate in Leadership,
- Tim Angus received a graduate certificate in Divinity,
- Joy Blamires exited the formation programme and completed a Master of Theological Studies,
- and Fiona Winn completed a Master of theological studies.

A commitment to mission and a commissioning song, below, concluded the service.

Song:

*To be your presence is our mission here,
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,
to be your heart of mercy ever near:
alleluia!*

*To be your presence is our mission bold,
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,
to be your hands of justice, right uphold:
alleluia!*

*To be your presence is our mission blest,
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed:
alleluia!*

*We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,
to serve your people is our call and choice,
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,
alleluia!*

(Copyright Dolores Dufner, OSB 2003)



**by Anneke
Oppewal
Presbytery
Minister
Pastoral Care**



A Christmas Blessing

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

Amen

by Wilda English



Moderator, Rev Denise Liersch completed a Graduate Certificate in Leadership

Countdown to Christmas

**Monday 23rd December &
Tuesday 24th December 2019**

9:30am - 11:30am

Bookings essential

Book at:

trybooking.com/BFGGS
by 19th December

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

**\$15 per
child
(before
Dec 2nd)
\$20
thereafter**

**\$5 per
child
(under 2 yrs
free)**

Mainly Christmas
for 0-4 yr olds

Runs from **9:30am - 10:30am**

(Parent or guardian must stay
with children under 5)

part of
Countdown
to Christmas

Any questions contact the office at:
office@murrumbeenauniting.org.au or 9568 8177



**Murrumbeena
Uniting Church**

117 Murrumbeena Rd, Murrumbeena

Guests enjoy tucking into Tongan banquet



**Photos
by Kathy
Ferguson**

*Above:
Tongan
dancers
delight.*

GUESTS enjoyed a cultural immersion Island Night at High Street Road UCA recently - with a delicious dinner that included a whole roast pig. Guests were entertained with Tongan dancing and also caught up with friends from around the cluster. "It was a very happy night," says Margery Kennett. For more Christian hospitality Rev Semisi Tauali'i and his wife Lesieli are hosting a free Christmas Day Lunch at St John's Mt Waverley (see poster on front page.)



Above: Rev Semisi Tauali'i carving the pig.



Above: High Street Road UC and St John's UC folk enjoy the feast.

Home is where the heart is

Looking for Christmas presents that help build empathy and the resources to serve our community?

HOME is a picture book developed by Fusion Mornington Peninsula; written by Jaclyn Jenkins and illustrated by Kim Dingwall, it follows the story of Ted and his family's search for home. Beautifully illustrated, HOME addresses issues of homelessness with insight and sensitivity while instilling important lessons in belonging, empathy and the importance of home.

For \$45 you can give someone the gift of HOME and a hand made Ted toy.

Ted has been brought to life in partnership with Kenana Knitters. Kenana Knitters was founded on the premise of 'changing lives stitch by stitch'.

Lovingly hand made using African grown organic cotton and dyed with non-toxic dyes. Each little Ted comes with their own card telling the Kenana Knitter story and giving the name of the knitters.

To purchase HOME, Ted or both, visit:

<https://morningtonpeninsula.fusion.org.au/product/introducing-home-and-ted-together/>



Christmas Fair
Saturday 7 December
10am to 2pm
High Street Uniting Church
16-18 High Street, Frankston

JOIN US! Devonshire teas and a coffee cart, cakes, Christmas themed fancy goods, gifts and cards, gourmet hampers to be won, live entertainment, children's activities and more!

ALL WELCOME

Sam secures his future at KCM



Rev Sam Joo was officially inducted into his role as English Language Minister with Korean Church of Melbourne last month, after almost three years working with the congregation. The Presbytery recognises Sam's ministry in a Uniting Church placement, as a minister from another denomination (Korean Church of America). This is an important step for Sam as he moves towards admission as a UCA minister. Presbytery Minister Duncan Macleod preached and led the induction part of the service, with translation by Rev Han Song.



The Wonder of Christmas!

Two indelible

Christmas experiences are with me forever, writes *Bill Pugh*. Over the road from us in a country town lived a lovely mum, dad, and six children. Farmer dad, a Coast Watcher during the war, now working long hours on the harvest. A few days before Christmas he was lifting a wheat bag and suddenly dropped dead from a heart attack. How devastated the little town felt for the little family, especially just before Christmas. Every year the local sports and toy shop had a lunch time visit from Father Christmas and the kids queued up to meet him. By special arrangement Father Christmas from that store arrived at the sad home early on Christmas morning, and knocked, leaving a sack full of toys for wide-eyed kids. Not staying as he had to be on his rounds on such a busy day. As a young man I was form master to a lively bunch of Form 2 boys, teaching English and Social Studies. Early in the year Simon came into our class from another school. A pleasant young man, a contributor. Just before we broke up for Christmas holidays, his parents came to see me to discuss Simon, grateful for his progress. As they were leaving they asked, "What are you doing for lunch on Christmas Day?" I was invited to have Christmas Dinner with them at a hotel in the heart of Melbourne.

On that morning I arrived at the hotel and went up by lift, doors opening on a spacious dining room to be greeted by Simon and his mum and dad. What a view of Melbourne on a glorious Christmas Day. Through one huge glass window the winding Yarra, tree lined boulevard and Botanic Gardens. Through the other the wide bay and blue sea of Port Phillip.

Seated around us were couples, families, happy children, young and old alike, all enjoying a typical Christmas dinner. Carol music in the background providing atmosphere. Not intrusive. During dinner Simon's parents said to me. "We always have a special dinner on this day. We do not celebrate Christmas as you do. This is our way of saying our thanks to you for being Simon's teacher. We are Jewish." On that memorable day we all were family. There was room in the Inn.



Seasonal suggestions

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/>

Mt Waverley Chadstone InterChurch Council
invites you to

8th Community Carols in the Village

Friday 13th December 2019
Mt Waverley Community Centre,
Miller Crescent opp. the Rail station

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

CITY OF MONASH



INDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET

Wednesday 4 December 2019 - 11.00am – 4.00pm

**Uniting AgeWell Noble Park
1312 Heatherton Road, Noble Park**

- ┆ Gifts
- ┆ Cards
- ┆ Candles
- ┆ Bric-A-Brac
- ┆ Christmas Items
- ┆ Plants
- ┆ Arts and Craft
- ┆ Jewellery
- ┆ Sausage Sizzle
- ┆ Isabelle's Café – tea/coffee/soft drinks/snacks

Eftpos facilities available
Anyone interested in booking a stall please contact
reception on 03 9554 0700
or email noblepark@unitingagewell.org

STUDENTS

at Cornish College are passionate about "making a difference" and an example of this was the initiative of a group of Year 10 girls who were determined to investigate how we

might provide more sustainable packaging choices in the canteen. As part of their breadth studies class, the girls, now in Year 11, began a detailed investigation into the materials being used for packaging, utensils and cups in the College's canteen. They then investigated more sustainable options and the results of their investigations were recently presented to the College's ResourceSmart Committee. Their report recommended the College move to sustainable packaging and cups and that the small additional cost of those biodegradable products, be incorporated into the cost of purchase. The committee were very impressed by Freya, Molly and Lucy's presentation and have agreed to implement their recommendations, as soon as possible.

A clean canteen



Answering

Have you ever wondered



about the direction of your life? Have you ever heard the 'still small voice'? What might God may be calling you to in your life? Do you sense a longing to participate in a deeper story? If you answered YES to any of these questions - then the PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT is for you!

The Period of Discernment is:

- An intentional time of reflection on your life
- A time to explore God's call
- A link to an experienced Mentor who will support you on your journey
- An activity that happens during your everyday life
- An invitation to consider a possible call to ministry.

What: An afternoon to explore if the POD is for you.

When: Sunday 2nd February 2020. 2-5pm.

Where: Fairfield UCA Gillies St, Fairfield. For info david.howie2@rch.org.au

YOUNG ADULT'S JOURNEY TO

GENEVA & FRANCE

(TAIZE FOR WESLEY WEEK)

<p>31ST JULY – 13TH AUGUST 2020</p> <p><small>ESCORTED BY NICOLE MUGFORD, UCA</small></p>	<p>14</p> <p>DAYS</p>	<p>TOUR PACKAGE PRICE \$5,590** <small>PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)</small></p> <p>OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM \$895 <small>SUPPLEMENT ADDITIONAL (NOT AVAILABLE IN TAIZE)</small></p>	<p>FULLY ESCORTED</p> <p><small>**Price is based on minimum group size of 15 paying participants. Conditions apply. Subject to change.</small></p>
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NEXT STEPS

STEP 1: If you are 18-29 years old, register your interest and obtain a booking form from Nicole Mugford or the team at Olive Tree Travel

STEP 2: To secure your place, a booking deposit of \$500 per person will be required by 20th January 2020 with subsequent deposits possible (notice will be given).

STEP 3: The balance payment is required by 1st June 2020

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Mission in Our Streets

Saturday 23 May, 9.30 am - 4.00pm

Inspiration | Learning | Resources | Stories | Conversations | Encouragement



OUR **Presbytery Mission Expo** will provide a kaleidoscope of insights and tools for congregations to engage in local neighbourhood mission, *writes Dr Craig Mitchell, PM Church Development.*

How do we connect and build meaningful relationships with people in our postcode? How do we invite them to deepen their spirituality and explore Christian faith? How do we partner with others for the well-being of our community?

Rev Dr Karina Kreminsky will provide input in our opening plenary session. Karina is a minister, lecturer and urban missionary from Sydney, and author of "Urban Spirituality: Embodying God's Mission in the Neighbourhood".

The Mission Expo will feature a range of learning electives on connecting with children and their families, building intercultural communities, creating community partnerships, faith sharing, fostering discipleship, using electronic media, creating public sacred spaces, activating social justice concerns and more. Story Spaces will offer insights about Playgroups, Community Gardens, Op Shops and other local initiatives offered by congregations. The Resource area will feature a range of practical and helpful resources for growing in mission both in your local community and beyond.

*Karina Kreminsky was recently featured on Compass - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUCrhm6zUZM>
Her website is neighbourhoodmatters.com.au



IT was a very moving occasion, that involved many supporters and worshippers from the Cook Island community and beyond.

Rev Toko Ongoua was inducted as Minister with the Balkara Parish, Cook Island Congregation on November 17.

Presbytery Minister Anneke Oppewal preached on the Sending of the 12 and Rev Robert Johnson, former Presbytery

Balkara formally welcomes Reverend Toko



Chair, led the induction at the Cook Islands UC.



Looking for interesting hands-on items for children to do during Advent? Then one good starting point is Messy

Nativity and Messy Christmas. Find these guides via: <http://www.mediacom.org.au> and search for Messy.



Saturday meeting increases depth and forges relationships with UCA school



by Ian Firth

It is some years since the Presbytery met on a Saturday, but it was thought that as we try new ways of doing things and engaging people in the life of the Presbytery, more time was needed than is available on week nights.

So, the November Presbytery in Council meeting was held on Saturday 23 at Cornish College and it was good to see a good attendance from across the

Presbytery. Holding the meeting in a UCA school also provides an opportunity to build a stronger connection between Cornish and the Presbytery.

Chairperson Andrew, opened the meeting, acknowledged the traditional owners and welcomed new members and guests. He then invited

Presbytery ministers, Anneke and Duncan to lead worship.

Following worship Rev Dr Robert Johnson, (yes "our Robert") Chair of the Cornish College Board talked of the circumstances that led to the

formation of the College. Then Nicola Forrest, the Principal, spoke of the values of the College and said she was certain these would also be values of the Uniting Church. The new value of

courage has recently been added as the College sees

that there are times when courage is required.

Chairperson Andrew acknowledged the retirements of Rev Philip Liebelt (Elsternwick) and Rev Peter Whitaker (Leighmoor). He also paid tribute to Heather Cameron who recently died. Heather was a member of the Presbytery Property Committee and had spent the latter part of her working life at the Centre for Theology and Ministry. Andrea Mayes, a candidate for Ministry of Deacon also addressed the Presbytery on her experiences this year.

Following lunch, Rev Duncan Macleod, PM Team Leader, led a session on "Congregations as gospel communities."

Welcoming invitations from congregations to speak on this.

In concluding the meeting, Andrew said the Presbytery

would continue to explore ways to do things differently.



Pictured: table discussions, Principal Nicola Forrest and Rev Duncan Macleod



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....