

Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love: meet_god@anytime.with.us

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - January 2013				
Time	January 6 Epiphany of the Lord	January 13 Baptism of Jesus	January 20 Epiphany 2	January 27 Epiphany 3
10.00am	Rev Rosemary Carter Belinda Clear Communion	Alison Clarkson Belinda Clear	Rev Rosemary Carter Alison Clarkson Communion	Rev Greg Fry Alanee Hearnshaw
Lectionary	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
Liturgical Colour	White	White	Green	Red

DECEMBER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3-5 December	10am	Children's Christmas Photos
11 December	10am	Christmas Morning Tea @ The Hub
13-14 December	4pm	Christmas Alight
16 December	9.15am 4.30pm	Christmas Alight Service Christmas Alight Service
23 December	10am 7.30pm	Combined Service Christmas Carols on Kingsway
24 December	7pm 11pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship Christmas Eve Worship
25 December	8.30am 10am	Christmas Day Worship Christmas Day Worship
30 December	10am	Combined Worship



Thankyou

Cards are sent to those members of our church family following bereavement, those who are ill or experiencing difficult times, and often when there is a special event being celebrated. We share some of the responses received.

“Your card ministry and the message on both of them, one before Norm’s death and one after, meant a lot to our family. The prayers are reaching all of us and helping us so much.”

Margaret Allan

“Thank you for your kind thoughts to me, on the passing of my brother-in-law Bob. Bob and I had been close since teenage days through Church groups. I then met my late husband, Fred, so we were a close family group. I will miss him as our ages were close. Again accept my thanks.”

Irene Marriott

Thank you on behalf of Leisure Time guests

“A big thank you to the cooks who prepare the lovely meals for the guests who attend Leisure Time every Monday. They are gastronomical angels who, combined with the volunteers who drive, serve the food and arrange the programs, make a great team who give us the chance to socialize, finishing the day with a delightful meal.”

Val and Julie

January Services

A reminder to everyone that the worship services in January are all combined and will be held at 10am.

As we have five diverse worshipping communities, the combined services will reflect some of this diversity. It would be wonderful to see you worshipping with us in the new year.



Cherish Exchange Foundation, Nakuru, Kenya

This organisation, which cares for “street children” in the biggest slum in Nakuru, is raising funds for the purchase of their currently rented land. Such a purchase will add some stability to the organisation and make it practical to further develop the facilities for the children, eg school classrooms, dormitories.

Pam and I visited this organisation during both January and July this year. We and the “8am Coffee Club” are supporting this land purchase. If you would also like to assist please give your donation to Pam and Lyn McDonald, or leave it at the Office marked *Cherish Exchange Foundation*.

Also see the Community Outreach Notice Board.

Lyn & Pam McDonald 9560 9798

ROSTERS

As the year is drawing to a close, rosters for next year need to be compiled. Please see the counter outside the office to contribute if you feel you are able.

Flower Roster

To those ladies who are currently on the roster, please indicate if there are any days that you are not able to do on the roster sheet.

Cleaning Roster

If you are able to assist with the church cleaning, please add your name to the roster sheet on the office counter. If you currently assist on the cleaning roster, you do not need to add your name to the list - please write your name on the list and “remove” if you are unable to assist next year.

If you would like to discuss this further please contact Ross Lennon on 9802 2961.

Habitat for Humanity - Glen Waverley Uniting Church Involvement

Saturday 24 November saw 5 members of the Habitat for Humanity team from Glen Waverley Uniting Church travel to Yea.

Although the weather was warm some magnificent work was achieved to prepare the first 5 houses at the Yea Heights Estate for completion. Well done to all who attended.

The next Brush with Kindness Day will be held on Saturday 15 December at a location yet to be determined. Stay tuned to the Noticeboard.



Na Amani - three day Peace Soccer Tournament

To bring to attention the damage and hurt caused by the 2007 Election violence in Nakuru, we aim to use the Nakuru football stadium (which housed people displaced by election violence) as a house of peace. We will join in playing for peace and pledging against violence over a three day tournament 11-13th January 2013.

350,000 families were affected by the election violence; innocent people lost their lives, children lost their parents, homes and businesses were destroyed. Revenge is not the answer, our community can not survive another outburst of violence, people are still recovering and attempting to rebuild their lives.

We are planning an event that will bring the people of Nakuru and surrounding districts together celebrating peace. 11 Districts make up Nakuru County and it's in the impoverish community where the worst affected areas were. The group has gone out into all 11 districts and promoted peace, handing out flyers, asking people to sign a pledge for peace & playing football. 33 Teams will play in January (22 mens & 11 womens) all pledging for peace and saying NO to any post or pre election violence in the up coming March Election. At the end of the tournament we aim to hand over, over 10,000 pledges to the government from the people of Nakuru.

I have been working on this project with a group of ten Kenyans, who have been overseeing our vision. I recently went to Kenya for a short holiday to see if we were going to pull it off & I was so encouraged to see the progress made all uniting for peace. Alanee.

www.sakatanaamanikenya.com

Children's Christmas Photos in Nativity Dress Ups at The Hub

Monday 3 to Wednesday 5 December from 10am till 12noon.



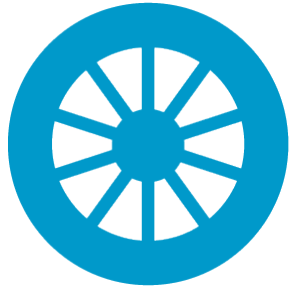
Help your children or grandchildren to remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas by dressing them in nativity dress ups and having their photo taken for free. Dress ups will be available to use for Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, wise men and angels. Photos will be available for collection on Tuesday 11 December between 10am and 2pm at The Hub.

Christmas Morning Tea at The Hub

Tuesday 11 December from 10am till 12noon.

Come and enjoy a special Christmas Morning Tea. Bring your family and friends. All are welcome.





COMMUNITY HUB

COOEE: The people who come to Cooee each Friday at lunch-time have enjoyed the company, friendship and support that this group has given them during the year. They continue to enjoy sharing with each other, while having lunch and playing games.

STORY HUB: Story Hub has continued to operate on Thursdays at 11am. It provides a great opportunity for parents to enjoy a much needed social time, and for some to practise their English. It allows the children to listen to a story and to interact with others.

THE HUB: Thank you to all our wonderful Hub volunteers who have spent many hours this year sharing God's love with our neighbours. We have had a very busy year, with many coming to practise speaking English through conversation. These people need to belong to a community, and they appreciate all we do for them.

We said farewell to one of our friends, Mel, who has returned to Thailand. Mel is keeping in touch with us, and hopes to return one day.

On Dec. 3rd, 4th and 5th, between 10am and 12 noon, children will be able to have their photo taken in nativity dress-ups. This will help the children and their parents to remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

On our last day for 2012, Tuesday 11th December, we will be having a special Christmas Morning Tea, 10 am – 12 noon.

Next year we would like to add a Wednesday afternoon session, 12noon – 2pm. This will be possible only if we have enough volunteers. If you would like to help in 2013 on a Tues., Wed. or Thurs., 10 am – 12 noon, or 12 noon – 2 pm, particularly on a Wed. afternoon, please contact Judith on 9803 8373.

Being a volunteer at The Hub is a way of sharing God's love with the people in our community. We will recommence on Tuesday 5 February, 2013.

PLAYGROUP: Our three groups are finishing a very busy and successful year. This term our average attendance has been 18 – 19 children, and their mothers or grandmothers. Currently we have about 126 people, mothers and children, on our books. We still receive about four enquiries a week, some of these being from overseas.

We will be joining The Hub for Christmas photos, and hopefully a simple Christmas worship service after Thursday Story Hub. Our Christmas parties will be held in the first week of December.

Regarding 2013, we urgently need volunteers to make a commitment to group leadership, and to help with morning teas. Please consider your availability. Could you find time to commit to helping as a leader once a week? If not, perhaps you could help with serving tea/coffee to the mums and grandparents, who accompany and look after the children?

LEISURE TIME: As the end of another year rushes towards us, we can reflect on the much appreciated results of our time and efforts at Leisure Time. The Leisure Time guests continue to enjoy and benefit from their Mondays with us, and we enjoy helping them to do so. All this is possible because our loyal and caring GWUC volunteers want to share God's love.

We already know that we need some new hosts, drivers, kitchen leaders, kitchen helpers and birthday cake cooks for next year. Such people are essential for our continuing service, and we are relying on all GWUC members to help us find new volunteers.

Do you know any recent retirees, new members or interested friends, who may be able to give some time on a Monday? Most volunteers help about 9 times per year, but we can be flexible. Volunteers do not need special skills or experience.

On Nov 3rd we were delighted to receive an official letter from the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, stating "We are pleased to advise that your organisation, Glen Waverley Uniting Church, has been successful under Volunteer Grants 2012 in obtaining funding on behalf of Glen Waverley Uniting Church Leisure Time to assist their volunteers." The \$1960 grant will allow us to purchase items to assist Leisure Time volunteers in their duties.