

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 - December 2013 | | | | December 29 Christmas 1 |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Time | December 1 Advent 1 | December 8 Advent 2 | December 15 Advent 3 | December 22 Advent 4 |
| 8.00 am | | Ross McKinnon | Peter Baker | |
| 9.15 am | 10am Combined Alanee Hearnshaw | Jeff Wilde Alanee Hearnshaw | Chris Owen | 10am Combined Ross McKinnon Alanee Hearnshaw |
| 11.00 am | Christmas Lunch | Jeff Wilde Alanee Hearnshaw | Lessons in Carols Uniting Voices Rev Dr Warren Bartlett | |
| 2.30 pm | - | Senior Service Alison Clarkson | - | - |
| 4.30 pm | - | Belinda Clear | Belinda Clear | - |
| 5.00 pm | - | - | - | C & F Messy Christmas |
| 7.00 pm | Alanee Hearnshaw | Alanee Hearnshaw | Alanee Hearnshaw | - |
| 7.30 pm | - | - | - | Carols on Kingsway |
| Lectionary | Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44 | Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12 | Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11 | Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25 |
| Liturgical Colour | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple |
| | | | | White |

Christmas Eve (Tuesday)

December 24: 7.30pm - Belinda Clear
December 24: 11.00pm - Alanee Hearnshaw

Christmas Day (Wednesday)

December 25: 8.30am - Ministry Team
December 25: 10am - Ministry Team

NOVEMBER

| DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|----------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 November | All Day | Melbourne Cup Day - Office Closed |
| 10 November | 1 pm | Safe Church Training |
| 16/17 November | All Day | Synod Youth Leadership Training |
| 24 November | 7.00 pm | Moderatorial Visit |
| 25 November | 8.00 pm | Congregational Meeting |
| 26 November | 7.30pm | Service of Remembering |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

| | | |
|--------------|---------|---|
| 1 December | 12 noon | Family Christmas Lunch |
| 2-4 December | 10 am | Hub Children's Christmas Photos |
| 8 December | 2.30 pm | Senior Service "Celebrate Christmas with Carols" |
| 10 December | 10 am | The Hub Christmas Morning Tea |





Hospitality – Understanding – Belonging

CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA



Come and join us for this special
 Christmas Morning Tea on this our
 last day @ THE HUB for 2013
 Story Time for the children @ 11 am

Bring your family and friends
ALL AGES WELCOME

Where: **THE HUB**
 Glen Waverley Uniting Church
 Cnr Bogong Avenue & Kingsway
 Glen Waverley

When: **Tuesday 10th December 2013**

Time: **10 am to 12 noon**

*Please add your name to the list on
 the Office Counter if you are
 planning to attend. Thank you*



Donations of small gifts for the Empty Christmas Tree
 would be welcome.

NSW Bushfire Appeal

The Uniting Church has launched an appeal to assist people affected by the bushfires in NSW.

Hundreds of thousands of people face a growing bushfire calamity, with the worst fire disaster in NSW for at least 45 years leading to a state of emergency being declared across the state. Already, the official NSW property toll is 208 homes destroyed and 122 damaged. A 63-year-old man has died fighting the fires and there have been 610 insurance claims for damage estimated at \$43 million, a number that is expected to rise significantly.

The Uniting Church oversees the New South Wales Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network which coordinates the placement of chaplains in

evacuation and recovery centres. Teams of chaplains from a wide range of denominations have been active in five communities, some on a 24 hour basis.

The Rev. Dr Stephen Robinson, Synod Disaster Recovery Coordinator and National Disaster Recovery Officer, said, "I'm sure you will all be joining me in praying for the safety of people and homes and for all who are serving to protect life and care for so many."

Please support the people affected by donating to the Uniting Church's NSW Bushfire Appeal through SHARE. 100% of donations will be forwarded to the disaster relief effort.

Yes! I want to help! NSW Bushfire Appeal

More information:
 Telephone: 03 9251 5251
 Freecall: 1800 668 428
 Facsimile: 03 9251 5491
 appeals@victas.uca.org.au
 www.victas.uca.org.au

(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Rev), First Name..... Surname

Address P/Code

Phone..... Email

I wish to make a contribution to the NSW Bushfire Disaster Appeal.

Donation \$..... Synod of New South Wales and the ACT Bushfire Appeal
 National Disaster Relief (Tax deductible) (Non-Tax deductible)

I enclosed my cheque/money order (made payable to Uniting Church NSW Bushfire Appeal)

Please debit my Mastercard Visa Amex

Card Number Expiry Date /

Name on card Signature

Please return your completed form to:

NSW Bushfire Appeal,
 PO Box 24154
 Melbourne VIC 3001
 Fax (03) 9251 5491

**100% of donations will be
 allocated to the disaster relief effort**



NewView December 2013

At Christmas we often exchange gifts as a material demonstration of our love and care for each other, so the final 2013 issue of NewView will focus particularly on the power of love. Have you a personal story you are willing to share which reminds us that Love is God and that acts of love come from God in us? Or have you a story of a particular Christmas which remains significant for you?

We look forward to receiving your reports, stories and reviews that will bring us all up-to-date with what our Glen Waverley Uniting Church community has been doing and thinking over the last three months. Submissions for this issue will close on December 2.

Enquiries to Robin Pope Ph 9561 7021; email: popesr@aapt.net.au



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Mr Dan Wootton
Moderator
130 Little Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
T +61 3 9251 5216
F +61 3 9650 7019
dan.wootton@victas.uca.org.au

23rd October 2013

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the disaster of major bush fires once again strikes our country with hundreds of thousands of people facing a growing calamity, I'm hopeful that you will join me in remembering our neighbours in New South Wales at this time. After all, it was only four short years ago that we here in Victoria saw the devastation of some of our own communities during the Black Saturday fires.

This is the worst fire disaster in NSW for at least 45 years and has led to a state of emergency being declared across the state. Already, the official NSW property toll is 208 homes destroyed and 122 damaged. A 63-year-old man has died fighting the fires and there have been 610 insurance claims for damage estimated at \$43 million, a number that is expected to rise significantly.

The Uniting Church oversees the New South Wales Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network which coordinates the placement of chaplains in evacuation and recovery centres. Teams of chaplains from a wide range of denominations have been active in five communities, some on a 24 hour basis.

The Rev. Dr Stephen Robinson, Synod Disaster Recovery Coordinator and National Disaster Recovery Officer, said, "I'm sure you will all be joining me in praying for the safety of people and homes and for all who are serving to protect life and care for so many."

Please join me in answering this call to prayer. If you wish to financially support the people affected you can do so by donating to the Uniting Church's NSW Bushfire Appeal through SHARE.

100% of donations will be forwarded to the disaster relief effort. People wishing to make a donation to the **NSW Bushfire Appeal** can send donations to:

Uniting Church NSW Bushfire Appeal
PO Box 24154
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Alternatively, you can ring this toll free number **1800 668 426** or donate online at www.shareappeal.org.au

Tax deductible donations will be forwarded to the UCA National Disaster Relief Fund. Alternatively, if you do not require a tax deduction your donation will support the Synod of NSW & ACT Bushfire Appeal.

Kindest regards,

Dan Wootton
Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

Children's Christmas Photos



Help your children or grandchildren to remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas - the birth of a baby Jesus.

Come along to The Hub at the Glen Waverley Uniting Church on Monday 2nd December, Tuesday 3rd December or Wednesday 4th December between 10am and 12noon, and let your children or grandchildren dress up, be a part of the Christmas Story, and have their photo taken for free.

Dress ups will be available to use for Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men or angels.

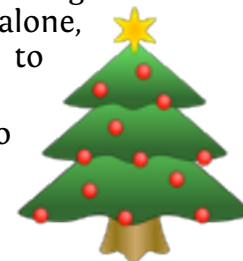
Photos taken on these days will be available for collection on Tuesday December 10th between 10am and 12noon.

Ministry Team Advent Project - Christmas Tree Outreach

During Advent we will be decorating and delivering Christmas trees to 25 families and people living alone, within the congregation and in the community, to share the joyful message of Christmas.

You are invited to nominate anyone you know who would benefit from this project.

Leave your name and nomination with Glen Waverley Uniting Church or Alison Clarkson.



Ministry to Seniors - Celebrate Christmas with Carols

Date: Sunday 8 December. Time: 2.30pm.

Carol singing led by Free Spirit, cake and shortbread to follow.

Add one or two carols or Christmas songs you would like to sing to the list on the Office counter by Wednesday 27 November.

A Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

We are God's people living out God's Mission.

October Church Council meetings: 8/10/13, 29/10/13.

Open Church Council meeting: 17/10/13.

Church Council defines our role as: "Giving priority to building up the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world."

Times of change compel us to turn to the Scriptures and seek God's guidance. We must always stand boldly and state: "We are your people Lord and we continue to be guided by you to live out your mission."

We begin each meeting with prayer and study. "Breaking Calabashes" is a book written by theologian Rosemary Dewerse. Her book is centred on helping communities to become better at engaging genuinely with those who are different from them: people of other ethnicities, abilities, persuasions, traditions and ages. It seeks to challenge some of the common assumptions we may have and offers ways forward so that our engagement with others might be deep, wide and just. Ross Mackinnon who is leading us in this study reviews the book: "It is practical, reflective and formational."

Open Church Council meeting was held on 17/10/13 to initiate a process aimed at "reaching out to congregations affected by divestment."

"When one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers."

- We have actioned a prayer time on Wednesdays at 2pm in Room 1 or wherever you happen to be. Pray for affected congregations and inform them that we are upholding them in prayer.
- Gael O'Brien has kindly offered to handwrite cards to affected congregations assuring them of our prayer support.

Other supportive strategies considered and to be actioned:

- Free Spirit have offered to visit affected Congregations, join them in worship and provide music to share.
- Arising out of this generous offer a service of healing is also being considered.
- Invitation for members of affected congregations to visit and tell us their story.

Christmas Alight
presents



The Mess of Christmas

Friday 20 December
4pm - 5.30pm

@ Glen Waverley Uniting Church
cnr Kingsway & Bogong Ave
Glen Waverley

Sunday 22 December
4pm - 5.30pm
Followed by a BBQ tea
&
Carols on Kingsway
@ 7.30pm

Come to one session
or come to both.

Who can come: Children, parents, grandparents,
people of any age wanting to explore the meaning
of Christmas

Cost: by donation

(children must be accompanied by an adult who
is responsible for them during the session)

For further information and to let us know
you're coming, please contact the church office
9560 3580 or office@gwuc.org.au
Bookings are helpful, but not essential.



Church Family Christmas Lunch

An invitation to all members of the Church Family, young and old, to a sit down Christmas meal together in the hall.

**Sunday 1st December 2013
12pm to 2pm**

The meal will consist of chicken (1/4 for adults an 1/8 for children) with potato, vegetables, gravy, dessert, soft drink, tea or coffee.

Bookings are essential as seating is limited.

Please fill in the form below and return to

Judith & Warren Greenwood, Laurel & John Muir,

or the church office by Sunday 24th November.

Any queries please call the office on 95603580.

Cost Adults \$12 & Children (Primary School) \$6

Church Family Christmas Lunch

Sunday 1st December 2013 - 12pm to 2.00pm

Name -
Telephone No. -
No. of Adults - No. of Children -
Any special dietary needs? E.g. vegetarian, gluten free
.....
Total money enclosed \$

Please fill in this form and return it with your money to

Warren & Judith Greenwood, Laurel & John Muir or the church office by

Sunday 24th November.

Cost Adults \$12 Children (Primary School) \$6.

- Reach out to individuals (whom we know are presently part of an affected congregation) and invite them to worship with us. Provide transport if necessary.
- Offer to provide morning tea/afternoon tea/supper.

Open Council meeting finished with prayer in the round. If you were unable to attend then a DVD is available from the office.

It's in God that we "live,move and have our being." (Acts 17:28)

Church Council considered on 29/10/13 questions arising out of the "Uniting our Future" process. Directed by prayer, scripture and God's grace to us we have decided we will respond with compassion.

Please take time to reflect upon the Moderator's article "Time" published in Crosslight, October, 2013. Underline the sections that stand out for you. For me, I have underlined:

Trust in him at all times, O people;
Pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

Selah

Psalm 62 verse 8.

"Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Helen Stewart - Chair of Council

National Youth Ministry Conference

Last week Nicole Robertson, Ben Krieger & I set off to Tweed Heads for the National Youth Ministry Conference, and the Uniting Church National inservice training for youth workers. The conference ran from Wednesday till Saturday evening, sessions started at nine and finished with worship and speaker input each night. There were a range of topics & seminars that we attended: ministry to boys, shaping identity, coaching leaders, vulnerability, at risk youth, justice and mission are some of the seminars that stood out for us. It was a great time away to spend, thinking and strategising about our youth ministry and to be reminded of how fortunate we are to have a foundation of youth ministry in our church. So many conversations were had with Uniting Church leaders, Church of Christ & Baptists expressing a loss of young people and youth culture from within their contexts all over Australia. We have many plans for next year and look forward to continuing and growing our youth ministry here at GWUC. If you see Nicole or Ben ask them about NYMC.

Alanee

Seniors' Morning Tea at the Hub

Thank you to the many people who supported our special morning tea. It was a wonderful morning with over 100 people attending. Special thanks to those who helped to make this morning such a success. We were able to share God's love with many people.

Judith Greenwood.

Inclusive Community Report

Munch with a Bunch: We have booked the RSL for our next lunch that will be held on Sunday 17 November at 12.30pm. Invitations will be posted this week. We are asking people to bring a small gift (\$5 value) as this will be our last function for 2013. If you dine alone and feel that you have been left out, please talk to Jan.

Pastoral Partners: We enjoyed Sue Clarkson's presentation on "The Art of Pastoral Care" on Sunday 6 October. Sue prepared many activities that we did in two's or three's and it was a great way to get to know others. We will have the last workshop on Sunday 24 November. As this is the day that the Moderator is visiting at 7pm, we will begin at 12.30pm and finish at 2.30pm. The topic will be "Inner Dimensions" and will concentrate on Spirituality, Prayer and reading the Bible. Please BYO sandwich and we will provide drinks and slices. If you haven't been to one of the training sessions join us for this one.

English Classes: Thursdays 11.15am to 12.15 pm. Classes have commenced again after the school holidays and will run each week until the 12 December. If you would like to help with these classes, please talk to Jan.

Pleasant Sunday afternoon at GWAC: Sunday 13 October at 2pm. This concert was held the day after our fete on a cold, wet Sunday afternoon. The items included bands from Caulfield Grammar and our own ladies Elwyn and Noela did a piano/organ duet. The afternoon tea was delicious and everyone enjoyed the slices that our UCAF ladies made. (Thank you ladies.) It was good to organise an event with Glen Waverley Anglican church for Seniors' Week.

Morning Tea after 11am: We will provide morning tea after the 11am service on Sunday 24 November. Please join us.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 11 November at 2.30pm at Barbara Thompson's home.

Community Outreach Group

On Thursday 28th November 2013, Mr Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM (Founder and CEO of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre) will be delivering his oration at Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street East Melbourne, with Light Refreshments at 7.00pm. The programme will start at 7.30pm.

A group of interested members from the GWUC congregation will be attending this event and leaving the church car park at 6pm. This programme may be of interest to any individual who was present at the astounding 7pm Service on Sunday 27 October 2013.

If you are interested in joining a group attendance on this day please email Andrew at andrewhosking@hotmail.com.

Andrew Hosking

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat's next work day will be held on Saturday 23 November 2013. Meeting at Lyn McDonald's home at 7.30am we will then progress to Habitat's new site in Ringwood and return home by 5.30pm. We have been requested to supply cars (drivers), trailers (and jockeys) to help with the shifting materials between sites. Lunch and refreshments will, as usual, be provided. If you have always wanted to be a jockey then here is your chance.

Those who are interested in joining a group attendance on this day please email Andrew at andrewhosking@hotmail.com.

Uniting our Future: Divestment of UCA Properties

A prayer time is being held on Wednesdays, 2pm to 3pm in Room 1, to hold in prayer those congregations facing divestment of property and to consider practical ways to help.

If you are free, please come. If not, please spend a few minutes in prayer wherever you are during that time.

Brighleigh congregation is setting up a prayer labyrinth and will let us know when it is open. We can then arrange for a small group(s) to go and show our support.

Alison Clarkson