

NEWVIEW

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This issue of *NewView* has a great deal to report on recent happenings associated with our church community. We farewelled Rosemary on February 17, with words, gifts, song and a shared meal. It evoked many different emotions - of sadness at her departure, of thanksgiving for what she has brought us, and of concern for her, and our future. We also report on the ensuing 'Life and Witness' Consultation process which has been a catalyst for identifying the future changes to which we all need to adapt with grace and love.



With Easter approaching, Ross Mackinnon tells us about the origins of Lent and its traditions, while Graeme Frecker's poem is a fitting reminder of the cost of the Way of the Cross. We know how easy it is to profess our willingness to forgive, but how difficult it is to achieve, as we recall the amazing words of *forgiveness* uttered by Jesus as he suffered on the Cross. This theme of 'forgiveness' was the subject of a report in the February *Crosslight*, which noted that forgiveness comes at a significant cost, and that it does not involve forgetting as the old saw suggests ('forgive and forget'). Sometimes forgiveness is not even possible! Warren Bartlett picks up on this aspect and also identifies an omission which was echoed by Alanee Hearnshaw when reflecting on the story of the prodigal son: sometimes the issue should not be about forgiveness, but about love, extravagant love. Pamela Longmuir's reflection on forgiveness as a process expands these points. Some further resources on forgiveness are provided for us to enrich our understanding.

It is inspiring to read of the many activities which engage the time and talents of so many amongst us, and how these talents are employed in making a difference in the lives of others.

Read with joy the reports about the Pizza/Pasta night, the celebrations of 35 years of Leisure Time, the findings of Meagan Lowe and Ame Pocklington's recent trip to Baguia in East Timor, the work for Habitat, and another proposed trip to Kenya. Cynthia Chin provides a different kind of celebration, of the lives of David and Sue Morgan who contribute a great deal to our church life. These and other short reports in this issue are also invitations to the many ways in which we can make contributions as expressions-in-practice of our Christian faith.

At the rear of this issue some crucial documents are provided for those who do not have access to the church wiki, or for those who have been absent while recent developments have been taking place. A Life and Witness Consultation process was precipitated by Rosemary's resignation and Carolyn Kitto was appointed to perform this. When her report was presented we were further saddened to learn of Greg Fry's resignation, and this created an urgent need for a church restructure in accordance with the regulations and with prayerful consideration of the recommendations. These are important documents for the future directions of our community, and everyone is urged to become acquainted with their contents. We are thankful for the leadership that has been provided during this period and ask for your prayers, as we find our way forward to fulfil our vision in a spirit of love, accepting our differences and recognising and affirming what each of us has to offer.

Robin Pope

Farewell to Rosemary

Sunday February 17th at 10am saw the last service that Rosemary took part in at Glen Waverley. Rev. Ron Townsend from Presbytery presided over the formal service of release.

Following the service there was an informal time where we had the opportunity to say thank you to Rosemary for all that she had done in the two years she was with us. Graeme Frecker was the MC and after Rosemary entered the church to the accompaniment of the Hawthorn Football Club theme song [not enjoyed by all!!!], Graeme presented some gifts to Rosemary. Knowing Rosemary's love of cheese she was given a "very expensive" cheese board [purchased at the \$2 shop], and then some of the finer cheeses available – plain label cheese slices, plain label wedges, etc, and of course a packet of Cheezels [they MUST contain SOME cheese!]. Rosemary is an advocate of drinking lots of water, so she was presented with a foldable drink bottle, and then a 12.5ltr bottle of water. Also given was a coffee mug and some "fine" coffee [International Roast!] We are sure that is a favourite with many!!!! Lastly she was given some Radox and some bubble bath so she could relax, and whilst relaxing could read a Dr Seuss How To Tell The Time Book [so that she is never late for a meeting again!!].



The more formal part of the time included words from John Hurst [Chair of Church Council], Eric Armstrong [Chair of the Congregation], and the Ministry Team. Keziah Lang, who was unable to be there had recorded a letter to Rosemary [and written a song] and this was shown to those present via the screen. Thank you Keziah, it was beautiful.



Ross Mackinnon, our clever wordsmith had written a song for Rosemary and we all sang this to the tune of 'The Church's One Foundation' (see next page for the words). Ross then presented Rosemary with the gift from the congregation - a beautiful liturgical stole. Margaret Frecker gave Rosemary a lovely sheaf of flowers.

Rosemary responded, after which we had a prayer and then sang 'May the Feet of God Walk With You', as Graeme escorted Rosemary into the hall where we all shared lunch together.



Thank you Rosemary for your time with us, and for all you brought to us with your imaginative and meaningful worship, your sensitive pastoral care, your sense of fun, your laughter and your smile.

We will miss you.

Faye Wagon

Singing Farewell to Rosemary

Rosemary

Tune: Aurelia ('The Church's One Foundation')

She comes from South Australia,
the land of floating pies,
of piping shrikes and boredom
and Crows and summer skies.
It's there she was a P K
of Wesley's way-out fold.
Oh such a sad upbringing!
We weep to hear it told.

From school she went off nursing.
She took the wards by storm.
She learnt to put on band-aids
and kept the bedpans warm.
The patients did her bidding.
They sat up straight in bed.
They didn't scratch their itches.
They did just what she said.

But fate stepped in at that point.
"Get out of there", God said.
"Go learn some Greek and Hebrew;
I've sheep that must be led."
So off she went to study
John, Matthew, Luke and Mark;
she even tackled Crossan
and found it all a lark.

Now somewhere in this story
came David on his steed,
his armour brightly shining -
a handsome catch indeed.
And suddenly, she's smitten!
He sweeps her off her feet!
They ride into the sunset!
Ah! Isn't that so sweet?

In time, she gathered wisdom
and eastwards set her sight,
and there lay Grand Victoria,
that land of pure delight!
She settled in Glen Wave-lee,
our Reverend Mother new -
awash with cups of coffee,
with so much work to do.

She decked the church with paintings
and drapes and lights and stars.
She decked herself with rainbows
and vestments fit for tsars.
She sorted out the Elders
and taught them all to read,
and preached just like Bonhoeffer
with verve and punch indeed.

Although she's from South Aussie,
she's not a Crows team fan,
nor does she follow Power -
she's from the HAWTHORN clan!
She loves young Breust and Buddy
and knows all Hawthorn's stats.
Why is it then we notice
her house is full of CATS?

[*Our blessing for Rosemary*]

Warm may the winds of heaven
blow softly on your home,
and may God's loving Spirit
be with you where you roam.
Oh, may your kindly footsteps
leave happy tracks in train,
and may God's lucent rainbow
e'er touch you through the rain.

R F Mackinnon February 2013

Postscript

The last verse above is based
on this Cherokee Prayer
Blessing below:

May the Warm Winds of Heaven
Blow softly upon your house.
May the Great Spirit
Bless all who enter there.
May your Mocassins
Make happy tracks
in many snows,
and may the Rainbow
Always touch your shoulder.

FAREWELL TO ROSEMARY

Parting Words to Rosemary Carter - and Continuing Words to the Congregation

We all make mistakes. My mistake was to accept the role of Chair of Church Council ...

Rosemary's mistake was ... well, more of that later.

Some years ago I was asked to give a graduation address. What does one say to a bunch of excited, enthusiastic graduates, about to embark upon their professional careers? I decided to remind them of their human condition. "*Errare humanum est*," I said. "To err is human". But what takes us beyond our humanity is how we respond to those mistakes. "The man who has never made a mistake has never made anything", as Robert Fleming reminded me yesterday. We learn from our mistakes, and for graduates who have spent their recent years learning heaps of stuff, I thought it important to remind them that they will continue to learn throughout their professional lives. Yes, qualifications are important, but the "school of hard knocks" has as good a reputation as any learned academe.

I took as my theme how the world of railways had improved, because in Britain, during the early development of railways, many mistakes were made. Railway Companies then were so unlike the companies of today! They were driven by greed, and anything that ate into their profits (such as safety requirements) was anathema. But the fact that rail travel is today so safe is largely due to the British Board of Trade, who investigated every accident upon the railways, and recommended changes of legislation to force railway companies to improve their safe-working procedures. Similar remarks can be made about the world of air travel.

They learnt from their mistakes, as we too must learn from ours. How often have you heard people say after some protracted legal case, "Well, at least he did not die in vain." That is an acknowledgement that often the price of progress is pain.

I believe that the pain we are suffering as a church right now is a crisis. My dictionary says of the word crisis: "the turning point of a disease when an important change takes place, indicating either recovery or death". Whether or not our church recovers or dies is a question about what we learn from the mistakes we have made. Did we make a mistake in appointing Rosemary? Did Rosemary make a mistake in accepting our call? If you believe in our discernment processes, you have to say "no" to both of those questions. But if you do say "yes", then what do you take away from the situation?

When you learned to write, you made mistakes, and the teacher corrected you. If you misspelt a word, some of us had to write the word out many times as a "corrective punishment". If you blotted your copybook, you had to do it all again. But now we have word processing systems. You can type in your text, read it through, and correct the mistakes. You can even show the progress you make if you turn on "track changes". When the document looks hopelessly confused, you can "accept changes", and hey presto! The document looks as good as new, as though there never were any mistakes.

Forgiveness is like that. But we do not get forgiveness unless we click the "accept changes". This church must now use its "accept changes" button, and see the future as a brand new document. Just as you don't get to know about the "track changes" and "accept changes" features unless someone shows you, we have the Holy Spirit to show us how to use our "accept changes" button. But it does need us to affirm that the past is wrong, and we that we feel the need to move forward. To quote Seneca the Younger more fully, "*Errare humanum est, perserverare diabolicum*" - "To err is human, (but) to persist (in the mistake) is diabolical."

Did anyone notice that I used the words "accept" and "affirm" in that last paragraph? I have said, and will continue to say, that our church needs to be "accepting and affirming". We must acknowledge our mistakes, and move on. We cannot continue in our mistakes and not pay the price. None of us is perfect - but we can still aspire to perfection.

Which brings me back to my opening gambit. I'm not perfect, Rosemary's not perfect, our Ministry Team is not perfect, this congregation is not perfect. Rosemary's big mistake was not in accepting the call to Glen Waverley, it was in giving her love, her dedication, her whole spirit to her call. That has burnt her, and we are ever so sorry for that. Rosemary, you do not leave us in vain. We thank you for the cost you have paid in loving us, and our biggest mistake as a congregation will be to turn our backs on the lessons you have taught us.

John Hurst

The Season of Lent

Lent is the Christian time of preparation for Easter. In the Western Churches, it begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days, not counting the Sundays.

In the Bible, 40 is used to mean a long time. The rain fell on Noah in the ark for 40 days and 40 nights; Moses and the Israelites were in the wilderness for 40 years; Moses was on top of Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights receiving the Ten Commandments. Elijah walked 40 days and 40 nights to the mountain of the Lord. And, for Christians, Lent is the time for remembering Jesus' long fast of 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

The original name for Lent is the Latin *Quadragesima dies* which means "forty days". At the time of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, the German word *Lenz* meaning "long" became the popular term for this Christian season and Lent it has been ever since.

Lent is traditionally a time of reflection and fasting. Its origin goes right back to the First Century. Early documents from that time refer to the practice of fasting before Easter. Originally, fasting was for 40 hours, not 40 days, but a clerical error in an important document changed that! The hours became days. Interestingly, the very first Christians believed Jesus was in the grave for 40 hours.

In the early church, Lent was the time of final preparation for candidates for Baptism. Baptisms back then took place once a year, on Easter Day, the day of new life.

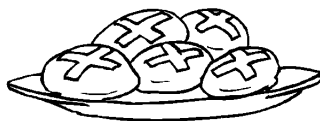
Some of the interesting customs during Lent include:

- Stripping the church of flowers;
- Covering statues in purple cloth;
- Removing any "alleluias" from the Liturgy to make worship more solemn;
- Making and eating pretzels which required only the simple ingredients of flour and water. Their shape was symbolic of arms crossed in penitence and prayer.



This custom originated in Europe 1500 years ago;

- Allowing servants and apprentices a day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to visit their families, especially their mothers – this was known as Mothering Sunday and is the origin of our Mother's Day. Simnel cakes made with raisins, almond paste and candied fruit were brought to church on this day to be blessed and shared;
- Making hot cross buns to be eaten in the evening of Good Friday – this custom originated in England;



- The use of purple for vestments and sanctuary tablecloths and falls. Purple is the colour for penitence and preparation (it is also used in Advent) and is also the colour for royalty. When used in Lent, we think of Jesus in two ways – servant and king.

The day before Ash Wednesday is known by a number of names - "Shrove Tuesday", "Pancake Day", "Fat Tuesday" and "Mardi Gras" (French for Fat Tuesday). This day was the last opportunity before Lent to confess your sins and be forgiven (shriven). It was also the last opportunity to live to excess before Lent began. People used up all their fat to cook pancakes, and big Carnivals are held on this day in Rio de Janeiro, Trinidad and Tobago and Venice.

What can we do in Lent?

We can take up the three traditional practices of Lent:

1. Prayer – justice towards God
2. Fasting or giving something up – justice towards self
3. Almsgiving – justice towards neighbour.

We can also use it as a time to make Jesus, and not us, the centre of our lives.

Ross Mackinnon

Forgiveness

Clothed in Glory

*The children cheer as the mayor sweeps
by
in lace jabot, cuffs and golden chain.
Here is the essence of civic grandeur.
Could I be master of a like domain?*

*The students hush as the professor
speaks
in velvet bonnet and garnet gown.
Here is knowledge bathed in wisdom.
Could I command such great renown?*

*The faithful kneel as the priest processes
in alb and ornamented stole.
Here is virtue with attendant graces.
Could I be right reverend in that role?*

*The felons quake before the judge on
high
in horsehair wig and robe of crimson.
Here are judgements made undisputed.
Could I become as righteous Solomon?*

*On the contrary, clothe yourselves
with the Lord Jesus Christ, and
make no provision for gratifying your
earthly cravings. (Romans 13:14,
Weymouth New Testament)*

*The people mock as the Servant passes
in bloodied tunic and crown of thorn.
Here is love beyond all measure.
Could I live like Him, and be reborn?*

Graeme Frecker

Easter 2013

MORE ABOUT THE *F-WORD*

In a back page article in the February *Crosslight* Megan Graham reviewed a workshop held here in Melbourne last November on “forgiveness”. If you have not read her comments then try to do so.

There is no doubt that forgiveness sits prominently in the Christian “code of conduct” and the article makes that clear. However, if the report reflects the agenda of the workshop then there was a serious omission. The nature of God’s grace and compassion was apparently ignored.

Let me illustrate.

A WW2 veteran in one of the congregations where I ministered had been a stretcher-bearer in Papua-New Guinea. Time after time he stretched Australian soldiers whose bodies had been brutally mutilated by Japanese soldiers. One day when I was visiting him he started talking about those days. He made the comment that God would never forgive him because he could not forgive the Japanese for what they had done. After he had talked a little more about what he had seen I said to him that the Scriptures encourage us to believe that God understands the inexpressible searing of life which people like him had experienced and that God’s response is open-arms compassion.

His response reminded me of Charles Wesley’s words: “my chains fell off, my heart was free”. And little by little God’s compassion was balm to his wounded spirit. And that’s the point of Jesus’ story about the prodigal son.

*Warren Bartlett
4 March 2013*

On Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a process, a process that leads to healing (reconciliation) of
 self to the self,
 self to God, and
 self to others.

If one is made aware that there is a need for forgiveness, then this is gift. And for the process to begin, one must take responsibility; forgive yourself.

The safest and wisest place to start is from a position of quiet reflection in the presence of goodness and love.

The story of the prodigal son is a classic example of this process. Away in a far country, on his own and reduced to feeding the pigs, he comes to his senses ... and makes a choice to re-trace his steps. On the journey back he must re-visit people and confront and accept past events, which changes his attitudes. This is what is meant by reconciling the self to the self.

This process has gone hand in hand with our second responsibility, that of our relationship with God. The father's greeting is a metaphor for God's unconditional acceptance of the son, just as he is. Notice the story is unfinished; that is, we don't know how the brothers relate to one another after the party. This is because the storyteller is inviting us to put ourselves in the shoes of the prodigal son.

And here lies our third responsibility, that of speaking and treating others with the goodness, compassion and understanding with which God has treated us.

The process of forgiveness thus becomes a new way of being, living a balanced life
 self to the self
 self to God and
 self to others.

Pamela Longmuir

So, You Want to Learn More About Forgiveness?

Here are some resources:

Try going to <http://www.christianity.co.nz>. which recommends a book by Rev Dick Tripp, *Forgiveness: What It Is and Why It Matters* (this is one of a series of booklets written on a range of topics).

In our church bookshelves is a little book by Vera Sinton, *How Can I Forgive? Steps to Forgiveness and Healing* (48 pp.). This has some practical tips.

Longer discussions are found in

1. Stephanie Dowrick's *Forgiveness and Other Acts of Love: Finding True Value in Your Life*. This is available through the Monash Library services at Clayton and Oakleigh Libraries. Call no 177.7 DOW. (You can ask your local Monash library to transfer it to your branch for borrowing). It is also available on CD as an Audiobook at Glen Waverley, Call no AD 158.1 DOW
2. Richard Holloway, *On Forgiveness: How Can we Forgive the Unforgivable?* (98 pp.) Call No 179.9 HOL is at the Oakleigh branch.

Worth remembering: 'To err is human; to forgive is divine' (Alexander Pope)

GWUC Events

Pasta and Pizza Night

On Saturday 16th February 2013 about seventy five people of all ages enjoyed pasta, pizza and dessert. The 6 o'clock start was a stroke of genius because it meant young families were included . The key was one of fun and laughter very much inspired by the master of ceremonies for the evening who created entertainment for all. He skilfully entertained all ages with a range of items which included balloon structures, "guess who" celebrity sheets, and a style of karaoke. It was apparent that younger children felt so secure and confident in the church community that they willingly offered their talents. Even though older members were not so ready to put themselves forward to show off their creative talents one member of the ministerial team bravely sang a solo. Brave effort!

This evening just didn't happen without a great deal of work in the lead up. I noted about two dozen people at least who had generously given of their time to ensure a successful outcome. My calculations are probably inaccurate for there are possibly even more who had helped in numerous ways. There were people who set up the tables, those who cooked and served the pizza, pasta and delicious bolognese sauce, a few selling raffle tickets and some organising meal collection. Behind scenes the notices had to be designed, printed and distributed to promote the event. A big thank you to the people who organised the evening and to those who helped, for without your input this evening would not have been possible. Please excuse the fact I have chosen not to mention names because I don't wish to leave anyone out.

Probably by now many more members of the church have heard about what a wonderful evening it was. The date for the Chinese Dinner is Saturday 27th April 2013 at 6:30. Hopefully, we will overflow onto the street. Remember tickets will sell fast. Buy a ticket now so you don't miss out!

As the photos of the evening are shared I hope that they will again remind us of the importance of community for there is another level which needs to be articulated. Within this event and for that matter every time we meet it is a timely reminder of who we are as a congregation. We are connected and have much to celebrate. We have the freedom to be part of a church community which is loving, vibrant and enduring. We have so much to celebrate: the joy of knowing that each one of us is important to our heavenly Father. Each one of us is on a spiritual journey to know and love our Lord. Glen Waverley Uniting is the community which supports us in our ongoing journey.

Helen Stewart

GWUC Missional News: Community Hub

35 years of Leisure Time

Leisure Time is one way that Glen Waverley Uniting Church reaches out to the people in our local community. Other Community Hub programs are *The Hub*, *Playgroups*, *Cooee*, *Story Hub* & *the Welfare Committee*. We pray that Glen Waverley will know God's love through all of us.

Leisure Time began in 1978. It was an initiative of Deaconess Valmai Schmidtke. In 1980 the committee comprised Val Schmidtke, Bev Lennon, Glen McDowell, Margaret Riddett, Bev Cameron, Wendy Pratt and Joan Pritchard. If these are familiar names, it shows the passion these people have had to serve God and local isolated seniors over many years.



Glen McDowell and Val Schmidtke at the 10th birthday in 1988.

Both Wendy and Bev are still actively involved with Leisure Time – after 35 years! We would like to acknowledge and thank all the people who have helped with Leisure Time over its 35 years. Unfortunately, we do not have a complete list of helpers, but we know that many of our past helpers are still members of GWUC, and we would like to say

Thank You

We have updated our 35 year Guest List and know that more than 300 local seniors and their families have benefited from their days at GWUC.



Leisure Time Christmas party 1994 - Jeanette Coutts, June Kirkham, Bev Cameron, Margaret Falconer, Faye Wagon.

Current guests frequently tell us how they appreciate the care and friendship they receive.

At our AGM at 2pm on 22nd April, we will celebrate 35 years of Leisure Time's service to the local community. We will also unveil our new TV. Everyone welcome. Please come.

Here are some current guests enjoying their day at Leisure Time.



GWUC Missional News: Outreach

Report from Meagan and Amé's February Trip to East Timor

Meagan Lowe and Amé Pocklington recently spent 3 weeks in the sub-district of Baguia, East Timor, living and working with the local community on a number of projects, teaching in schools, and sharing in the daily life of the communities. This being Amé's second trip and Meagan's third, it was fantastic to reconnect with old friends and make plenty of new ones, and continue to learn about this amazing and resilient community. We climbed mountains, attended funerals and volleyball competitions, learnt as much of the language as we could, and of course had lots of fun playing with local kids!

We were kept incredibly busy over the three weeks. Of particular interest to the GWUC community, we were able to check up on the three water tanks installed as part of GWUC's 'Tanks for Timor' fundraising over the past few years. We are very pleased to report that all three tanks at Bubuha, Gulari and Ossofulari are working well and have greatly enhanced their communities' access to clean and reliable water. Even in the wet season when water is plentiful, the tanks are invaluable as they provide clear drinking water, unlike muddy raging river water. In addition, we are helping to organise delivery of two more tanks to Baguia Catholic Primary School. These have been funded jointly by an AusAID grant and the Tanks for Timor fundraising.



Tank at Gulari School

Over the past few years, COP proceeds from the annual fete have provided some small salaries to volunteer teachers at Ossofulari Primary School and the Baguia Kindergarten. It was wonderful to meet these teachers and see the difference this access to education is making in the Baguia community. Lastly, the retiring offering collected in early February 2013, along with other donations from family and friends, has enabled us to continue support of schools in Baguia through the following projects:

- Repair of desks and chairs at St Joseph's Junior High and St Joseph's Primary School, Baguia
- Provision of blackboards at the following schools:
 - Buibela Primary School x 1
 - Afaloicai Primary School x 2
 - Osso Huna Junior High School x 2
 - Hai Coni Primary School x 3
 - Afagua Primary School x 2
 - St Joseph's Primary Baguia x 3
- Corrugated iron to repair Bubuha Primary School toilet building
- Corrugated iron sheeting for walls at Osso Huna Public Junior High
- Purchase of prizes for April 2013 interschool mathematics, English and Portuguese competitions



Tank installed at Bubuha



Kindergarten at Baguia



Welcome to Ossofulari

It's impossible to describe this experience in just a few words – so if you'd like to hear more please contact one of us and we'd be happy to share. We are inspired by the stories we hear and the way this young country is continuing to build itself up after years of occupation. An enormous and heartfelt thanks to the GWUC community for their continuing support, and we will keep you posted with any future news and developments of these projects.

GWUC Missional News: Outreach

Kenya Again? Yes, Definitely

Whether it's return visits to Baguia or Ermera (East Timor) or Kenya, continuing to assist Asylum Seekers or on the streets of St Kilda, or putting in a day's work at Habitat, it's all about Christ's two commandments, Loving God, and Loving One Another, AND the relationships that develop with people. In our case the relationships are with the Kenyans who are doing so much to help their fellow men, women and particularly the children.

So yes, we're off to Kenya again this year ... subject of course to PEACE during the March elections, the Peace which Alanee and Joel worked on in January with the soccer competition and the associated signing people up for Peace. Our present plan is to go to Nakuru, Kenya in June, staying 5 weeks.

During our January and July 2012 visits we spent some time with the **Cherish Exchange Foundation**, which currently exists to assist the street children of Rhoda, the worst slum area in Nakuru, giving them schooling, a midday meal and other developmental activities, eg an awesome acrobatic team. Cherish operates at a large site which they can only afford to rent at present. It includes some buildings which are used as School Rooms, and Office and storage areas, and some good farming land on which they farm and sell the products, eg maize, for income.

The Cherish Committee hopes to buy the land one day, currently at a cost of about \$AUS 700,000 of which they have raised only a few thousand dollars to date.

Three members of the management committee fund, out of their own pockets, the day-to-day operation of Cherish. They have recently held fund raisers, including the August 2012 Bike-a-Thon and approached people for commitments to raise money to purchase their present site.

If you'd like to find out more about Cherish, go to their website at: <http://cherishexchange.com/>

Back in December, we asked Moses Kombo, chairman of the committee how we could help and this was his reply:

"We therefore request you if you can come and either build an iron sheet kitchen for us or Games facilities like merry-go-round, swings, seesaws, or renovate our toilets at the project. These are

the facilities I feel are needful and since it is not like we are moving out any soon just in case our plans don't work out to purchase (the land) these are equipments and structures that can be removed with ease."

Umm! We have now discussed the ideas, back and forth with Moses, of (literally) building the kitchen (in a way that it can be dismantled), repairing the toilets (roof, providing and fitting doors to the cubicles and fixing the floor). As the children are provided a lunchtime meal each day we would also like to provide funds to Cherish to purchase the food for a year!

We are advised that prices are liable to rise substantially due to the government "throwing" money around near the election time so we have already sent money to Moses to buy the major building materials now and store them until we arrive!

We already have a preferred list of food from Cherish and a quotation from a local Supermarket to supply and deliver this food monthly. We would manage this in a similar arrangement to that we personally set up and operated for July to December last year.

Maybe some of you would like to know more about Cherish and these projects. We're proposing to hold an information evening, 7:30pm, Thursday 9 May. If you'd like to come along please contact us on 9560 9798 or lynmcd@chariot.com.au and we'll give you further details.

We are hoping some of you might offer us support in such ways as prayers for our work and for our Kenyan friends and our journey, and financial support for the Project work. We will consider other types of support that people may wish to offer, so just talk to us.

Pam & Lyn McDonald



Children, school rooms and toilets (top left)

GWUC Missional News: Community Outreach

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat is a worldwide, Christian, non denominational, non profit organisation, working to reduce housing poverty and be a recognised voice on the right to shelter.

Many more details of Habitat worldwide, including Australia are available on their website, <http://www.habitat.org.au>.

A couple of simple examples of Habitat's worldwide extent are:

- The Habitat sign on the road between Nairobi and Nakuru, Kenya.
- In 2011 Kaye & Rosemary Morgan joined a Habitat team in Indonesia and built a home.

The Victorian division has the following Plans for 2011 - 2014;

- Core home building plan: The construction of 55 safe, decent and affordable homes completed, including the Yea Heights Estate
- Yea Heights Estate: The construction of 25 safe, decent and affordable homes primarily for people affected by the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires, who wish to remain in the general area but lack the financial and/or physical capacity to rebuild.
- Brush with Kindness (BWK): - Bushfire rebuilding program - Supporting families affected by the 2009 Bushfires in their rebuilding and recovery efforts.
- Restore: Raising Funds through the sale of donated new and second hand products to meet the cost of our core building program.

GWUC have been and are supporting Habitat in all of these endeavours. In both 2011 and 2012 Habitat received COP grants.

Approximately 30 GWUC people have worked on BWK work days and on Habitat's home building programs. Last year Adult Group travelled to Yea to view the Site and the Yea surrounds.

The Yea Heights Estate is an amazing venture. Designed by an architect involved with Habitat, the 25 homes are one of three basic designs; however due to different arrangements on each site and external finish all the homes look unique. The site is within the existing housing area of Yea so is well within the Yea community. Nearby schools mean that primary school children from this Estate will be walking to school with friends just outside the Estate.

The building program uses skilled labour for the jobs where the professional trades are a requirement. Other unskilled jobs including painting, landscaping and all home boundary fencing are carried out by volunteers.

Families have to apply to Habitat for a home against criteria, including their ability to repay the home cost on an individual financial plan assisted by an interest free loan for the first 10 years! They also have to put-in 500 "sweat-equity" hours of jobs around their home such as painting, landscaping etc. The first home owner to take up residence is skilled at laying floor tiles so he did that for his home as well as laying for a neighbour.

Habitat's motto of "a hand up - not a hand out" fits well with encouraging the resident's self esteem and personal development after their horrific bushfire experiences. Habitat's Christian values are a practical example of Christ's second commandment to "love your neighbour". Their Monday morning devotions in committing "everything" to their Lord just blows me away.

Feel free to talk to me about any aspects of Habitat, including Yea Heights Estate or their other building locations including Crib Point, Warrigal & Drouin and Shepparton.

Better still, join in one of the Brush With Kindness events to see for yourself; see our GWUC weekly/monthly Bulletins and the Outreach Notice Board for details of next working days.

Lyn McDonald



Did You Know ...?

GWUC Rain Water System, Saving our Environment

Fact 1: Our 3 tank system was commissioned in November 2009.

Fact 2: The large 22,000 litre West Tank has not run dry since commissioning, saving the Church the cost of purchasing mains water *for the toilets* during this time.

This tank is filled by pumping water from a storm water pit which collects the rain water from the Bogong Avenue side of the church building.

The West Tank was overflowing during the rain of the last week of February 2013.



Fact 3: The 8,000 litre Manse Tank has not run dry, however it has been “topped-up” twice via a gravity line from the West Tank. This saves the cost of mains water for the toilets at Room 4 and the Manses at 15 & 17 Southdown Avenue.

Fact 4: The 15,000 litre Fernery Tank ran dry for the first time in December 2012. This tank waters the gardens.

Fact 5: There are power costs for operating the 4 electric motor driven pumps in the system, the pump at the storm water pit and a pump at each tank.

Lyn McDonald

Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project Transfer

Feb 1, 2013

Late last year, after some discussion between Lentara UnitingCare and Hotham Mission, it was determined that Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project would be transferred to Lentara UnitingCare subject to a due diligence process which will be completed by April 1, 2013.

Joining with Lentara UnitingCare will help the Asylum Seeker Project (ASP) to support the most vulnerable asylum seekers in our community. ASP service users will continue to enjoy the services offered by the Asylum Seeker Project. In addition, they will also be able to access the services of Lentara UnitingCare (many of which complement the ASP's existing services – such as the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, Bargain Centres, Financial Counselling and Emergency Relief).

Other key benefits to Asylum Seekers include:

- Increased research and advocacy capacity through pooled resources. This will enable more efficient targeting of specific issues facing asylum seekers
- Supporters, donors and volunteers will have a greater range of opportunities to be involved with activities to support asylum seekers
- Stronger information technology and business management capabilities enhancing our ability to meet critical business objectives and business sustainability

The transfer of the ASP is subject to customary regulatory approval and has been approved in principal by the Uniting Church of Australia upon contractual confirmation. In the meantime, both agencies will continue to conduct business as usual.

Taken from the website lentarauc.org.au/hotham-mission-asylum-seeker-project/

Getting to Know You

MEET DAVID & SUE MORGAN

Q David & Sue, could you please give me the background of the time you have been in this church, both in Adelaide and here.

S: We have grown up attending church. Before we married, I went to the Methodist Church, and David the Congregational Church, so to prevent arguments when we married and moved to Melbourne, we attended Clayton Presbyterian Church for 5 years. Returning from 4 years in Boston, and with Clayton remaining Presbyterian after Union, we decided to attend church closer to home here in Glen Waverley. That was in 1981.

Q Both of you have a few portfolios in church. David, which of these present challenges and which ones do you take in your stride?

D: They all have their challenges, but I enjoy them all.

Q: What exactly are you now involved with?

D: I am Church Council Secretary, and do a number of jobs ancillary to that, such as maintaining the rolls database, the wiki pages, the mailing lists and the photoboard in the foyer. I really enjoy the Habitat for Humanity work days, building houses for needy people in great company. I have my traditional fete tasks, especially getting and erecting the food booths and stringing the bunting. And of course, helping implement the ministry team's latest vision for church decoration always provides a new and exciting challenge, such as devising the trolley on the beam.

Q: From what I see, you are always there to lend a hand – sausage sizzles, delivery of telephone books, book transportation for the book sale etc. The list is endless.

Q Any personal interests or hobbies?

D: We have both become very interested in pursuing our family histories, both in Australia and England, and have both found a convict ancestor. Our daughters own two houses, and are interested in maintaining and improving them with Dad's help. I really enjoy being able to pass on the things that my Dad taught me. And I still help some students with experimental design and data analysis. *(David was a Professor of Biomedical Engineering before retirement.)*

S: Lots! I love to try new handicrafts, and always have some needlework or sewing on the go! We are also addicted to Family History, and have had a number of trips to England, where we have enjoyed walking the footpaths where our ancestors lived.

Q Is it difficult keeping up with family with your busy lifestyle?

S: We enjoy lots of wonderful times with our 3 daughters.

Q Have you done any local or interstate travel since retirement?

S: Yes, we have enjoyed being grey nomads with our little caravan. We travelled up the Centre to Darwin while Laura was working in Arnhem Land, then came back through western Queensland. Last year, we drove across the Nullabor to Western Australia, and as far north as Exmouth. We look forward to more trips exploring Australia. Last year, we drove across the Nullabor to Western Australia, and as far north as Exmouth. We look forward to more trips exploring Australia.



Getting to Know You

Q: You were one of the first mums I met when our kids were involved with one of the church activities. You are the sort of person who reaches out to others and would be the right person to have in the Hub with which you are both involved. Would you like to tell us a little about it.

S: The Hub is a great way to get to know others. We are rostered on with a different person each time, and other church folk stop by. So we get to know others in the church as well as visitors. It is interesting to hear of the lives of the recent arrivals in our country who come for English practice.

Q And of course, apart from all this, you are one of the hosts for Newcomer lunches. What other church activities are you involved with?

S: I am an Elder, which has been a great learning and growing experience – I never thought I could stand up in front of the congregation and pray!

Q David and Sue, we have had yet another successful book sale. This must be about the fourth one that both of you with the Gold FISH group have organized. How do you feel about it? Will this continue to be an ongoing event?

S: I enjoy the Book Sale – it is a good source of income with minimal costs. It gives us a chance to interact with the wider community – and to get to know other parishioners better as we work beside them.

Q You were both 'instrumental' in setting up GOMERS (Grumpy Old Men Coffee Group?) which is now an established part of the church. Tell us the story behind it.

S: When a couple of the men in our Gold FISH Group were on long-term sick leave, we decided that they (and their wives) needed a break, so the men went out to Madelines at Jells Park for coffee one Monday morning. Others heard about it, and asked if they could come too. So it quickly became a regular outing, and now around 20 men enjoy their chance to 'grump' each Monday morning.

Q: Did you want to expand further on FISH groups in general and/or Youth?

S With three daughters growing up in the church, we have appreciated the opportunities that this has given them and us. We have all been able to get so much extra out of our involvement at GWUC because of their participation. We have been members of FISH since it was started by Achara Brunelli, and still really enjoy our times with our fellow Goldfish, meeting regularly for lunch or a restaurant meal, not to mention the Book Sale. It is now just we oldies as the young fish have all since moved on. Our daughters have been, and still are, very involved in the youth activities at the church, and over the years we have had many great times at our home, including converting our garden into a drive-in theatre several times. David is still a regular attendee of the 7 p.m. service.

Q I/we certainly have enjoyed working with you (and will continue to do so) with our Gold FISH group hats – book sale, the occasional FISH Christmas dinner (remembering the allocation of spuds we each had to bake beforehand), all the fun times when we take up a table at fundraising dinners and lunches and the support we give one another.

You are both true organisers. Thank you for all that you do.

Note: FISH= Families in Sharing Homes

Cynthia Chin

Church Life and Witness Consultation Report

During this consultation I have had formal interviews and meetings with 191 people, received 23 written submissions and had countless informal conversations and additional meetings. The people who live in the eastern region of Melbourne need a strong Glen Waverley Uniting Church. The Uniting Church in Australia needs a strong Glen Waverley Uniting Church.

People have raised a number of issues many of which are deliberately not addressed in this report. These include, worship times and structure of worship, pastoral care processes, and what should be in the strategic plan. Two themes were persistent in interviews which this report does seek to address. They are

1. Dissonance (dis-harmony)
2. Spiritual oversight and leadership

I propose that for the time being the congregation adopt the following leadership and oversight model.



The congregation, meets formally to fulfil the regulations and informally to explore issues of concern and shape directions.

The missional groups and task groups support the congregation in living out its worship witness and service and are supported by the church council with spiritual oversight and leadership.

The Church Council's primary role is spiritual oversight and leadership. All church council elected members would also be elders and church council members would participate in the missional groups and permanent task groups

For the present time this would look like

- The Church Council would have 10 elected members plus ministers in placement and up to 2 co-options. All elected members would also be elected Elders. These members would be elected after a process of discernment and prayer for identifying and calling of them for their gifts of spiritual oversight and leadership. Opportunity should be taken to elect 50% of the members under the age 55. The Chair of Council and the Chair of the Congregation should be the same person. They could meet, for example, in the first week of the month.
- The Missional Groups, Committees and ongoing Task Groups where possible would meet, for example, on the third week of the month and at the same time as each other. The meeting would begin with prayer and worship, the groups would then meet in different parts of the church and come back together to share supper. This is to encourage as many people as possible to be part of the mission and ministry work of the church.
- The Congregation would normally meet formally twice a year to fulfil the requirements in the regulations. When there is a fifth week in the month, and other times as necessary, there could be a congregational gathering for engagement on matters of concern and future directions and/or to hear of the work of the various Missional Groups, committees and task groups.
- The congregation also needs to undertake a strategic planning process to build on "On The Way Together" and establish a clear direction for the next 18 months – 2 years. Crucial in this, is for a framework and strategy for the ministry and mission with and faith formation of children and young people in this community. This includes outreach, mission, pastoral care of children, youth and their families, Christian Education and worship needs. To be considered in this framework and strategy should be
- The necessary staff make-up and structure
- That many churches with worship services which are specifically for children and their families have such services once a month or fortnight
- the ways in which children, youth and their families transition through faith and life stages and the integration and ownership of the church of this framework and participation in its implementation

Church Life and Witness Consultation Report

Where to from here?

Immediately

- Presbytery ensure pastoral support for Greg & Judy Fry
- Presbytery appoint a supply Minister of the Word
- The supply minister to be designated as the team leader/ senior minister of the ministry team.
- Further, this minister will be responsible for convening and chairing staff team meetings, managing the overall roles, reviewing position descriptions and contracts and responsibilities of staff in relation to the needs of the congregation, its strategic plan, and its mission. (This is in accordance with Regulation 2.11)
- Notice of a congregation meeting on 17 March at 2pm is given
- Rev Warren Bartlett is appointed as interim chair of the congregation

14 March, 8-9:30pm

- Carolyn Kitto available for an information evening on the structure

17 March, 2pm

- Congregation meeting to adopt the structure proposed in the report.

April / May

- Resourcing for people considering standing for election to the church council and as Elders and for the congregation in discerning the people with gifts of spiritual oversight and leadership.

June

- Development of strategic plan
- Congregation meeting for the purposes of adopting the strategic plan and the election of Elders and Church Council.

Carolyn Kitto

Recommendations for the Next Period

That GWUC

1. Recognise that the roles of Church Council is first and foremost spiritual oversight and leadership.

Basis of Union 1992 Ed

The Elder's or Leaders Meeting - the council within a congregation or group of congregations consists of the minister and those who are called to share with the minister in oversight. It is responsible for building up the congregation in faith and love, sustaining its members in hope, and leading them into a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world.

Regulations 2012 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

3.1.2 (a) The Church Council shall give priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world. This priority shall be reflected in the agenda of its ordinary meetings.

1. In order to establish a church council with the focus above, resolve that
 - a. The Congregation meeting to be held in July elect 10 confirmed members who will form a Church Council along with those in approved Presbytery Placements and up to 2 co-options as required in the regulations.
 - b. All Church Council members be elected as Elders and fulfil the obligations of the office of Elder as outlined in the Regulations.

Future Directions for GWUC

(All Current Elders and Church Council members, should they believe they are gifted and called, offer to stand for election to the proposed Church Council and as Elders. The term of the Current Church Council members will conclude upon the election of the new Church Council)

(All elected members of Church Council will be elected as Elders to fulfil the UCA Regulations that at least half the Council be Elders.)

(All Current Elders will continue as Elders for their elected term. Those who chose not to stand for election to the new Church Council may designate one of the Missional or Task groups of the Church where they wish to continue to exercise their ministry of Elder)

- c. 1/2 of the elected membership of The Church Council to be under the age of 55 (noting the requirement that they receive a majority vote from the congregation)

(In the interviews it was pointed out by older people that there were many older people in the roles, that they are getting tired and that younger people should be stepping up. This new structure is an opportunity not only to go to a structure that younger people will be able to be a part of but to positively engage them in leadership as something more than “the youth representative”. There are many people in this age group exercising spiritual leadership who could contribute positively.)
 - d. That the positions be for an initial 2 years with the option of re-election for another period of 2 years.
 - e. The Congregation on recommendation from the New Church Council
 - i. Appoint a Chairperson from those members elected to the new Church Council. The Chairperson of the Church Council will also be the Chairperson of the Congregation Meeting.
 - ii. Appoint or co-opt a Secretary, who will also act as Secretary to the Congregation meeting.
 - iii. Appoint from the new Church Council or co-opt a Treasurer.
2. The Church Council will
- a. normally meet 10 times a year and appoint the missional groups and task groups as required
 - b. ensure that each missional group, the finance and the property committee and ongoing task groups will have a member of Church Council amongst their membership and conversely each Church Councillor will be a member of one of the missional groups, finance or property groups or one of their permanent task groups. Church Councillors will be appointed according to their giftedness and calling.
 - c. Establish a meeting structure where
 - i. As far as is possible committees and task groups who find it best to meet at night will also meet monthly and will meet on the same night of the week as each other.
 - ii. Quarterly there will be a joint meeting where all missional groups, committees and task groups are asked to attend. There will be opportunities to pray, worship and share together the directions of the church
 - iii. There are 2 – 6 Congregational forums to explore directions for the future, offer input into the directions for the church on these matters and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
3. The congregation shall continue to meet three times annually for the purposes of completing the governance matters of the Congregation as required by the regulations.

Greg Crowe (Presbytery of Port Phillip East) 2013, March 8, 2013

Future Directions for GWUC

On Sunday March 17, a congregational meeting was held to consider the proposals contained in the Life and Witness Consultation Report (see pages 16-17 this issue of *NewView*). David Morgan, secretary of Church Council, has forwarded this summary of the meeting's outcomes:

The Congregation considered Carolyn's recommendations and agreed to these proposals:

Proposal 1: The congregation affirms the intention of the recommendations to implement a council structure that is consistent with the spiritual oversight focus of the congregation, as outlined in the regulations (see pages 17-18 this issue of NewView).

Proposal 2: That the congregation set up a small steering committee that will look at a pastorally sensitive way of moving towards this election in July, in consultation with the church councillors, elders and the congregation. That steering committee will also deal with the implementation of the recommendations and how they will be brought to the congregation for approval.

Table conversations brought forward much support and many concerns, but a show of cards indicated widespread support for Carolyn's proposals.

This means that we will move in July to a new Church Council with 10 elected members, who will also be designated Elders.

Carolyn's recommendations are available at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/ChurchRestructureProposals>.

A full account of the discussion will be available at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CongMeetingMinutes20130317> <<http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CongMeetingMinutes20130317>>

Next Issue of *NewView*

Do you have any suggestions about future issues of *NewView*?

Is there

- a theme you would like to see addressed?
- a book (relevant to our faith and activities) you would like to review (or have reviewed)?
- A GWUC activity or development you would like to report?
- A person from our community you would like to know more about?
- A new segment you would like to see included regularly?

Any suggestions for improvement of *our* newspaper will be considered! Ring Robin Pope 9561 7021, leave a note in the letter rack, or speak to her any time.

We thank all those people who have contributed to this issue and look forward to your ideas!

MARCH 2013

for everything there is a season
and a time for every matter under heaven ...

We record with sadness the death in the past months of members of our church family and we extend our love, support and sympathy to their families

Dorothy Jean YOUNG

Leo McBLEAD

We record with joy the baptisms of

Zachary Hayden PRYDE

Mathilde Eve McKELLAR