

..... Continued from our page 3

(Jason Kioa) I would like the church to actually know that God is doing things outside the Church, and make the connection. I'll be very happy.

(Isabel Thomas Dobson) Why we are active in our care for the whole of creation – that's the best thing that 40 years in the future for the Uniting Church could be.

(Sue Withers) We are a young church. It's a church, the Uniting Church, very, very, dear to me, and I hope that we are a church which grows vibrantly and authentically in the future.

(Alistair Macrae) That's my hope, that we can continue to be a faithful church, a brave church and a true church.

(Dan Wootton) Happy birthday Uniting Church!

(Sharon Hollis) As we mark 40 years of the Uniting Church let us rejoice in how we have lived as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Let us commit ourselves to following, walking and seeking the way of Christ in the world. Let us live with hope that Christ who called the Church into being will be with us, equipping us for worship, witness and service for the next 40 years and beyond. May God continue to bless us with joy and hope, for our ministry and mission. **Thank you.**



Aireys Inlet

Anglesea

Bellbrae

Torquay

**What do you hope for the next 40 years?
Six VicTas Moderators (former and current) share their hopes.**

(Sharon Hollis) I have been privileged to meet and speak with several people who were involved in the work of forming the Uniting Church. What has stayed with me from those conversations was the deep conviction of each of them that seeking union with other Christians was necessary if they were to be faithful to Jesus Christ. As one of them put it: "Union was not a case of ecclesiastical architecture but of costly obedience." Each of them has stories of giving up something from their own denominational practices for the sake of the new expression of church.

We are the inheritors of this faith-filled act. As we pause to celebrate this milestone I want to invite us to think of this occasion not so much as a cause for celebration, but as a resting place, to commit ourselves to being followers of Christ for the next 40 years.

Each of the former moderators you will hear from is inviting us to picture what living faithfully from this legacy might look like. It is not so much an invitation to look back with nostalgia, but an invitation to look forward, to where the wind of the Spirit might be calling us.

(Sue Withers) The Uniting Church is 40 years old this year. It was in 1977 that I first stepped back into the Church after many years away from it. It is the same year that the Uniting Church was birthed, I stepped into Ashburton Uniting Church. And that was a big start for my family, where my brothers and my sister all also became part of the Uniting Church.

..... **(Continued Page 3)**



WINTER has arrived and our clients are feeling the cold.

Food stocks are low and funding cuts are going to make it hard for us to top them up.

Can you help **Uniting Barwon** (formerly UnitingCare Geelong) with items such as soup, pasta sauces, long life milk, noodles, cooking oil, tinned vegetables & Harvest meats?

Warm blankets and doonas are also in short supply.



ALL DONATIONS ARE MOST WELCOME

Call in to 272 Torquay Rd Grovedale OR 10 Wendover Ave Norlane.

Today

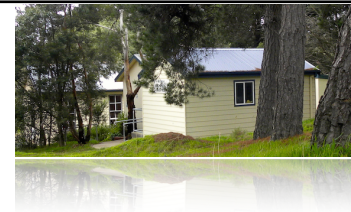
Anglesea 9.00
Aireys Inlet 10.30
Rev Bill Lidgett
Torquay 9.30
Rev Chris Machar
Bellbrae 11.00
Worship Team

Bellbrae Bric-A-Brac and Book Stall

Sorting each Tuesday 1pm – 4.30pm
helpers are very welcome.
Opening times Thur. & Friday 10am-4pm
Saturday 10am-1pm

Next Week

Anglesea 9.00
Rev Bernie Long
Aireys inlet 10.30
Torquay 9.30
Bellbrae 11.00
Worship Teams



SHARE WINTER APPEAL

Winter is certainly here now. Winter is also a time of real need for many families and individuals who are forced to seek assistance for food, warm clothing and meeting power bills. The Share Winter Appeal enables the Uniting Church through its agencies to help meet this need.

Envelopes for the Winter Appeal are available at each of our churches. Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate or mailed directly to SHARE.

**This weekend
the Bellbrae people will be once again participating
in the surf coast arts trail.
Devonshire teas will be available and we hope to also keep the
op shop open for the weekend as well.**

A message from the Editor

It has been a struggle to keep this newsletter going during this period without a minister, perhaps you have something going on in your church that is going well. Please share it with the other churches. I am sure that we would all love to hear your story.

**The next Anglesea Congregational Meeting will be held following the
Service on Sunday 27th Aug.

An executive meeting will be held on Monday 14th Aug. in the Church
at 10 am. to set the agenda for the Congregational meeting on the 27th.**

**There has been good news from the
Uniting Church Technical team.

By the end of this month they should be ready with the new
responsive website theme, and they would be happy to have our
congregation on board as an early adopter for a fresh new website.
I will keep you informed**

..... **Continued from our front page**

(Isabel Thomas Dobson) The changes that 40 years brings are immense, and thinking 40 years into the future, while looking back 40 years.

(Jason Kiao) I've got three hopes for the future and, if that happens, I'll be a very happy man. The first one, I would like us to continue to be the identity of the church that we are. A church on a journey, described by our Basis of Union. So I'd like us to take that seriously, and Scripture seriously.

(Dan Wootton) I hope that we will have begun to let go of security and safety and survival as the drivers that propel us forward.

(Alistair Macrae) Hopes for the Uniting Church for the next 40 years ... there is a great line in an old hymn – "I sing a song of the saints of old, or God, faithful, brave and true" which encapsulates my hopes for the Uniting Church, that over the next 40 years we continue to be faithful – that is, that we continue to ground our life in the gospel, unashamedly, and in our own particular version of it.

(Isabel Thomas Dobson) My hopes are less focused on what the Church itself might look like, and more on what the people would be.

(Jason Kiao) We are growing to be a very multicultural church. I'd like us to understand what that means, because we declared that in 1985, as a multicultural church. So what that means for us is really a great future.

(Sue Withers) I mainly wish that the Uniting Church remains very confident. Very confident of who it is, why it gathers, why we gather as Christian communities around Jesus Christ.

(Dan Wootton) My hope is that people of Australia will have begun to see a quality of life in us that is not so much preached about and talked about, but seen. That we propagate less words, and more silent action.

(Alistair Macrae) And I hope we stay a true church – and I mean true in the sense of authentic, that we are a church where people feel that they don't have to pretend, that they can be authentic about the reality of their lives and invite God into whatever it is that they are experiencing, good stuff, tough stuff, challenging stuff.

..... **Continued Page 4**