



Aireys Inlet



Anglesea



Bellbrae



Torquay

Attention all Members Trinity Uniting Church

The Property Committee at Trinity Uniting is drawing up a Key Register. All members of the Congregation that have a key to open the church are requested to let Doug Marr (Chairperson) know. Safety points have been put into Power Points as per requirement W.W.C. If its is necessary to remove a safety point please ensure it is put back into power point when finished using the point.
Many thanks, Property Committee Trinity.

The Anglesea Congregational Meeting will be held following the Service today Sunday 27th Aug.

SHARE WINTER APPEAL (There is still time to make a donation)

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.

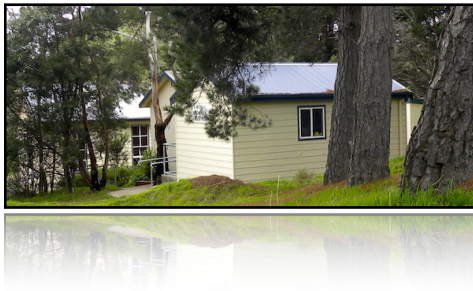


**Almost Spring
 only 4+ Months
 to the Anglesea
 Church Fete.
 How are your
 cuttings and
 seedlings
 Coming along?
 Lets have another
 "Blooming" Great
 Fete.....Betty**



Today
 Anglesea 9.00
 Aireys inlet 10.30
Jean Murray
 Torquay 9.30
Rev Ron Manley
 Bellbrae 11.00
Rev Bernie Long

Next Week
 Anglesea 9.00
 Aireys Inlet 10.30
Rev Margaret Russell
 Torquay 9.30
Rev Ron Manley
 Bellbrae 11.00
Rev Bernie Long



**Bellbrae Bric-A-Brac
 and Book Stall**
 Sorting each Tuesday
from 1pm – 4.30pm
 helpers are very welcome.
 Opening times
Thursday, Friday 10am–4pm
Saturday 10am–1pm

Linked Congregations Council Meeting Report - August

As part of a move to improve communications between Linked Council and members of our congregations, it was agreed at our recent meeting that the chairperson would prepare a report to be published in the news sheet. The minutes of each meeting will also be forwarded to the secretaries of each Church Council, as well as to the Linked Council representatives.

A New Direction in Ministry

The most important issue Linked Council has on its agenda at the moment is steering the process of finding a new direction in ministry for our congregations. We are very appreciative of the support given to us by the Rev Dr Adam McIntosh, backed up by Presbytery representatives, Judy Berridge and Geoff Aitken. In order to be as consultative as possible, we have asked each congregation to meet to discuss the four options for ways forward, that were recommended after the Mission Study meetings. We have established guidelines for each of these meetings. Following the meetings, your representatives will report back to a special meeting of Linked Council, to be held on September 26th, at which we hope to make a decision on the matter. The four options were published in last week's news sheet and are available from your Linked Council representatives.

Minister's Contact Details

You will notice a change to the Minister's contact details on your church signs. Until the establishment of more permanent arrangements for a minister, the Torquay office number will be listed on the board. This will be forwarded to a volunteer from the Torquay congregation who will refer the enquiry to the appropriate person. This system is in place and working well.

Web page

We are very pleased to have been selected by synod to be an "early adopter" of a new template being prepared for church websites. We are currently reviewing the material on our website in preparation for the migration to the new platform. Thanks must go to Peter Heath for all of the work he has put into maintaining our website.

40th Anniversary of the UCA

As part of the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Uniting Church each congregation has been encouraged to run a "Back to Church Sunday," or similar service, that involves inviting irregular attenders or members of the community. These will be held on October 22nd at Anglesea, October 29th at Bellbrae, and the 5th of November in Aireys Inlet. Torquay congregation is reviewing the possibility of a service there, taking into account the opening of their new building at a date in the future.

Publicity of Financial information

It has been suggested that congregation members would like to have more information about the church finances and the planned giving. Please let your Linked Council representatives know what financial information you would like to see and how you would like to receive it eg published in the news sheet.

Manse Fund

A subcommittee of Linked Council, with representatives from each congregation, has been set up to thoroughly research the pros and cons of the various options for use of our Manse for Manse funds – this is the money that Linked Council was given from the proceeds of the sale of the manse. We are very conscious of our responsibility to be good stewards of this asset for the generations to come and want to make our decisions based upon solid and accurate data.

Kids Hope

We have heard about an interesting program called Kids Hope where mentors are provided by churches to work with vulnerable children in their local schools. More information is available on www.kidshopeaus.org.au. We encourage congregations to have a look at this program.

Mary Bremner (Chairperson, Surf Coast Linked Congregations Council)

Highlights from Presbytery Meeting held at Hoppers Crossing 22nd of July

The meeting opened at 9.30am and the Chairperson Rev. Bruce Watson welcomed members and new members attending their first Presbytery meeting.

A moving worship service and celebration affirming the admission of Rev. John Rigby and Rev. Judy Rigby as Ministers of the Word, in the Uniting Church in Australia, was led by Rev. Bruce Watson.

Rev. Lynden Broadstock preached on Ephesians 2:11-22 which was read by Rev. Fa'ama Leota

KIDS HOPE:

Tim Smith from World Vision gave a background presentation on the life and journey of the World Vision program of Kids Hope.

KIDS HOPE AUS gives churches the tools they need to tap into this energy and create a meaningful, sustainable partnership with a school in their community. KIDS HOPE AUS church/school partnerships offer churches and their members the opportunity to put their faith into action. Too many children face a world full of problems they didn't create, and can do nothing about.

The one-to-one relationships fostered by a KIDS HOPE AUS program can restore self-confidence, personal security, and encourages academic excellence in their school. One mentor, one child, one hour each week.

NEXT GENERATION:

Josh Ocampo presented a verbal picture of some of the programs being offered to the youth within our Presbytery and offered an initiation to drive sponsorship to help these programs flourish. Members were encouraged to join and help with sponsorship.

GEELONG INTER-CHURCH –

Ian Yule presented an outline of the work being carried out by the Geelong Inter Church Justice Network explaining; The Network meets ten times a year in the Wesley Centre, adjacent to Wesley Church, 100 Yarra Street, Geelong. Meetings are held in the 'Welcome Place', a drop-in centre supported by the Wesley Congregation.

CORIO-NORLANE/LISTENING LOUNGE PRESENTATION

Rev. Peter Jewell enlightened the members on the work being carried out by the partnership of the Corio-Norlane congregation and the Listening Lounge which is set up in the Corio Shopping Plaza. The Listening Lounge is a welcoming place offering folk in the area who are lonely, seeking friendship and fellowship in a warm, safe connecting atmosphere.

BUSINESS:

Reports:

It was resolved:

1. That the report of the Administration, Property & Finance Committee be received and noted.
2. The Report of the Formation Committee be received
3. The report of the Pastoral Relations Committee be received
4. The report Mission Strategy and Education be received.

Presbytery Ministers Reports:

Presbytery Minister Administration (no report – currently on leave)

UNITING: Correspondence

It was recommended a letter of support from the Presbytery of Port Phillip West be forwarded to express the Presbytery's concern at the implications of these outcomes for the Barwon region and request their help to ensure a continuing service provision in this region.

PRESBYTERY STATEMENT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The ABC has this week released a substantial set of research data on the connections between family or intimate partner violence and Christian teachings. As many of us have known through our experience of pastoral ministry some key phrases of Scripture have been used as weapons against women. In particular, violent Christian men who are members and adherents of our own churches have quoted the phrases in Ephesians 5 and 1 Timothy such as 'wives submit to your husbands' to justify their behaviour. These verses are taught in some churches as part of a doctrine of headship and complementarianism that is damaging and is enabling of dangerous behaviour.

"The Uniting Church does not subscribe to any doctrine of headship. We believe that any form of violence is totally against Jesus' teachings and is incompatible with God's mission."
(UCA Statement to the ABC 22/7/17)

We do not believe that the life-long commitment of marriage means that women should stay in violent relationships. The Presbytery of Port Phillip West encourages all its congregations to educate themselves on the dynamics of domestic violence and to openly repudiate all forms of violence.

A letter of concern was received from the Joint Barwon Local Liaison Group of Uniting regarding the significant SHARE funding cuts.

With the projected funding shortfall expected services provided by Barwon Uniting to the Geelong community will severely affect all services. With the cuts effecting the emergency relief services such as purchases of food, rental support, and utility support and education expenses support for low income families there will be staff redundancies will be required to replace SHARE funding of emergency relief and homelessness worker positions.

The projected loss of key managing staff presents a significant risk to the ongoing viability of Barwon Uniting in delivering required services to the Geelong Community.

