

PPW & PWV Newsletter No.8 – 25th May 2021

Receive the Holy Spirit as Gift

Rev Trevor Bassett (PM Pastoral Leadership and Education PeM)



I love receiving a gift.... except when I don't love it! Picture this. A lovely package, beautifully wrapped. Feels kind of squishy and exciting. You sit down to unwrap and the first thing you see is a hint of colour. It's good that you like a bit of colour in your life. You keep unwrapping. There is more colour and polka-dots. The excitement begins to wane. Fully unwrapped you find yourself holding a bright orange and green polka-dot jumper. The giver is watching anxiously, hoping that you will obviously love it as much as they do! Of course, you do!

I am often asked "what do you want for your birthday...Christmas...Father's Day" Noooo – ask something easier! It is often said that it's the thought that counts, but I hear many stories of "regifting". I wonder if we have regifted unwanted gifts? Choosing a gift or indicating a gift preference can be really hard.



Pentecost is a time when we focus on new birth and new life. It is also a time when we receive an incredible gift. In this case the gift giver offers something really amazing. It's a gift that grows with us and changes as we change!

Could it be that our God is the perfect gift giver?

I have a saying that I like to use in many contexts. "We are not alone". God is with us. A constant presence that we can be comforted by, guided by and challenged by. Sometimes I wonder how it is that we feel the presence of God? Surely it can only be through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When I pray, I often find myself asking for wisdom. Wisdom for the words I speak. Wisdom for the actions I choose. Wisdom for the direction I take. Where is it that such wisdom comes from? It could be in something I read or in the advice that I am offered by a caring co-traveller. When I perceive this as an answer to my prayer, I can only assume that it has come through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes I find myself in situations where I feel that I am floundering and unsure of myself. Somehow, I get through. It's really great, after such times, when I receive feed-back that expresses appreciation for how things were handled. **I believe the presence of God is with us through the Holy Spirit.** As a person who seeks God's guidance and wisdom often it is in such cases I can only assume that God's gift to me that grows and changes with me, is sustaining me even in those times when I do not feel in control.

God gives the best gift we can imagine. And the great part is, it can be shared without you losing any of it. Maybe **we should be open to regifting the Holy Spirit.**

Hearts on Fire

Children & Families Ministry: core issues in diverse contexts

Get equipped for even more effective ministry with children and their families!

The unit examines the theological, developmental and methodological resources for contextual children and families ministries across the spectrum of Australian church based, community based and para-church expressions. Addressing the theology, spirituality and sociology of the child in relation to family, church, faith, culture, technology, history and philosophical discourse, the unit develops critical skills for evaluating and designing robust, contextual processes for discipleship, pastoral care, safe practice, mission and leadership with children and their families.

For more information visit: pilgrim.edu.au/courses

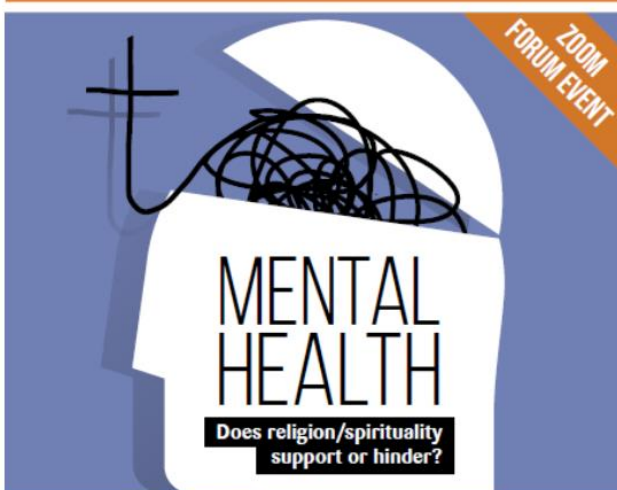


CENTRE FOR
THEOLOGY
& MINISTRY

Lecturer

Beth Barnett

Beth Barnett has a background in various sectors of Education, Pastoral Ministry and Mission across many denominations and parachurch groups and contributes in the international conversation on child theology and intergenerational faith formation. Beth has taught in children and families ministry, biblical studies and pastoral care across several Melbourne theological colleges. Beth writes resources and hosts cohorts for professional development and peer learning in intergenerational ministries.



ZOOM FORUM EVENT FRIDAY JUNE 4, 7-9PM

John Swinton is Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care and Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen. For more than a decade John worked as a registered mental health nurse. He also worked for a number of years as a hospital chaplain, and as a community mental health Chaplain. In 2004, he founded the University of Aberdeen's Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability.

He has published widely within the areas of mental health, dementia, disability theology, spirituality and healthcare, qualitative research and pastoral care. In 2016 his book *Dementia: Living in the memories of God* won the Archbishop of Canterbury's Ramsey Prize for excellence in theological writing.

Registration is required by **Friday May 28** at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mental-health-tickets-144297231905>
For full details contact Nigel Hanscamp at nigel.hanscamp@victas.uca.org.au



Greater Geelong

UCA Congregations

Over 160 people gathered for Pentecost
Worship theme
"Hearts on Fire"
Lay leaders and Ministers led our worship.
Combined Band and Choir.
Mission Expo afterwards.

Mental Health Matters

REV. FI BOTCHER (DEACON AT SUNSHINE MENTAL HEALTH)

Julie (not her real name) has attended the Women's Shed at Sunshine three times. Today she phoned me for a chat. "I'm wondering if I can bring some colouring in stuff tomorrow to share with the other women" she said. "That's really kind of you", I replied, "especially after you baked those lovely scones for us all last week!"

"Fiona, I'm 52 and this is the first time I've ever felt really welcomed in a group. Today I visited another group for a cooking workshop, and I just sat there quietly the whole time. I was too shy and anxious to say anything, and no one spoke to me. But when I come to the Women's Shed, you all welcome me. And I want to say thank you, because you don't know how much it means to me".

At Pentecost the spirit descends and with burning hearts we go into the world! And yes, we proclaim with our voices, but we also proclaim a place in our hearts for those whose voices are rarely heard. Those we can too easily ignore as they sit in silent despair, anxious and lonely.

May Spirit lead us into this loving embrace.



JUSTACT is under JIM

New Public Square Project

(Click Picture for Link)

We're looking for Uniting Church volunteers willing to host a series of 3 consecutive conversations at your Congregation (between April and September). Training provided.



ENGAGE
All Generations

BOOK LAUNCH

Free Zoom Event on 9th June 2021



A strategic toolkit for creating Intergenerational faith communities is the latest exciting book from **Cory Seibel**.

11am AEST on June 9, FREE Zoom launch event will include the opportunity to find out more about the book, engage with a number of the

Education Events



2nd, 9th, 16th June
7—9 pm

Worship & Preaching Online Training 2021

By Mel Perkins eLM and starring many others.



1st June

Ethical Ministry Refresher (Code of Ethics)



1st—3rd June

PreachFest Online Hubs: East Geelong; St. John's Essendon



4th June

Mental Health Forum with John Swinton

7—9 pm

9th June

Engage All Generations Book Launch

11 am ESDT

12th June

Discernment Workshop: *Everything you want to know about your life's purpose.*



27th & 28th July

InterGenerate AUS

7th August

Make it Messy



Lay Preacher Training

June 2nd Preparing worship & Nuts and bolts of Inclusive Worship

June 9th Leading Worship & Working with the lectionary

June 16th Leading Worship & Communications and Ethics in worship

Click for Picture for Link—Register for one or many!

LIVE STREAMING
**PREACH-
FEST**
in YOUR PRESBYTERY

JUNE 1-3, 2021