

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

19th September 2021 Edition 135

Rev. Suzie Castle : m: 0421023197 e: suzie.castle@gmail.com

Airey's Inlet, Bellbrae and Torquay.

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au



We acknowledge that we meet to worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past present, and emerging. Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.

Lectionary Readings

Sept 19th 2021

Pent 17

Prv 31:10-31

Ps 1

Jas 3:13-4:3,7-8a

Mk 9:30-37

Our OPSHOP is Open again.

Friday 17th PM:

Noelene and Ro

Saturday 18th AM:

Tricia, Sam & Carleen

Saturday 18th PM:

Helen, Ro and Carol

You can still find our service online at www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au Use your phone camera and the QR code above to get to on-line services.



Uniting

Uniting are in need of 425gm tins of Tuna and small packages of Laundry soap powder (eg 500gm or less) . Please drop into the Harpers' as usual.

Worship in our churches is back!

This week is focusing on Talents and services are in the Café Style.

Torquay 9:30am in **Oak Tree Place** : Rev Suzie on Video and service led by Worship group

Bellbrae 11:00am Rev Suzie and Storyteller John Adams

Aireys 9:30am Rev Suzie and Storyteller John Adams.

Please bring the paddle pop sticks from your Stewardship bags with you. And if you are able a small plate of morning tea to share with the folk at your café table.

Dear Friends,

In his book "Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation, Parker J. Palmer says that "our strongest gifts are usually those we are barely aware of possessing. They are a part of our God-given nature, with us from the moment we drew first breath, and we are no more conscious of having them than we are of breathing."

This Sunday, week 3 of our stewardship program, the 3 congregations on the Surf Coast are worshipping through the Café Church experience. The theme is the same as the online service - GIFT GIVING. Our people will be exploring their talents and that of those sitting at their table. I have arranged this so that we can affirm one another with what God has given us. All different, but all needed.

I guess though in many incidences the word stewardship has recently fallen on hard times. To many people, it's no longer relevant to the day in which we live. To some it's a religious cliché used to make fund-raising sound spiritual. It conjures up images of large red thermometers on church platforms, measuring how far we are from paying off the stipend or building works. But it's a good word, both biblically and historically, so it deserves resuscitation rather than burial.

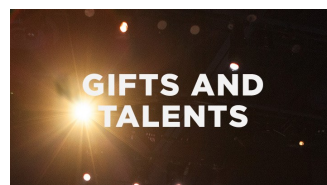
To quote Palmer: "A steward is someone entrusted with another's wealth or property and charged with the responsibility of managing it in the owner's best interest." A steward is entrusted with sufficient resources and the authority to carry out his designated responsibilities.

In our instance, to steward what God has given us. One of these is talent or gifts. And it would seem many different talents have been given to church folk. Which is good news! Even better news is how the Holy Spirit never sends us to a church where God hasn't given us the people needed to do what's needed to further God's mission.

Peace be with you,

Rev Suzie Castle

Minister of the Word



Surfcoast UC Stewardship Calendar of Service

19 September: TALENTS and Gift Giving: Café Church
26 September: TALENTS and Gift Living: Prayer & Music
3 October: TENDING CREATION: Careful Giving
10 October: TENDING CREATION: Careful Living. Gardens
16 October: TENDING CREATION:
17 October: TREASURE: Generous Giving
24 October: TREASURE: Generous Living
31 October: Celebration :
COMBINED WORSHIP @ AIREYS INLET followed by Lunch.
(Feed Me Torquay to cater)

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

The Geelong Progressive Christianity Discussion Group –Thursday 23rd September 1.30 -3.30pm

This discussion group meets at the Wairn Ponds Library Meeting Room (next to Leisurelink) and by zoom

Our topic : **What a New Christianity for a New World will Contain.**

We will discuss the 2013 YouTube lecture of Bishop John Shelby Spong: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGriJgAAWvw&t=124s>.

All welcome in person or via zoom. New participants please contact heather.bowe.dennis@gmail.com (Mobile 0409176319) for zoom details or to book to attend in person as space is limited due to Covid restrictions.



Happy Birthday to Marilyn Wendt

Coffee at Bomboras on the Esplanade in Torquay on Thursdays at 10:00am. It's a great opportunity to say Hi to the folks we haven't seen in some time.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS:

In the last weeks of September our Stewardship services will focus on Talents. The knitting of the 20 x 20cm squares for rugs for Uniting are part of this ministry. Thank you to all those already knitting squares for us. We have a stash of wool for those who need more and will collect the completed squares when you call.

Lorraine at Beaut Beanies has kindly offered to join these squares to make into rugs.

Please phone Robyn on 0407 829 926 for more wool, and drop off at the Harpers. The knitting squares are growing !

Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet.
Bellbrae: Bellbrae Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae
Torquay: Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay
BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM : Uniting Church Hall,

Week 3. We can do it!

Just a reminder when you're thinking about your pledge for giving to the church. Each congregation will be given a target, calculated according to the membership numbers. Based on our hypothetical budget figures and current numbers of regular members for each congregation the targets could look something like this: Aireys Inlet \$14,400, Bellbrae \$21,600, and Torquay \$84,000. These are ambitious targets. The majority of the funds will be from offerings but each but each congregation can choose how much to contribute from their own fund-raising efforts or invested funds.

But the reality is - these are the figures we need to meet to be able to keep up our ministry on the Surf Coast.

Our preferred method of giving is by Direct Credit which can be arranged through your bank. This can be weekly, monthly, annually or whatever interval is most convenient for you.

So far 25 people have returned their pledges. This is a great start, please keep them coming.

From the Forward in Faith team.

The Aireys Inlet Outreach Team

We have made the decision to postpone the Family Pet Fair that was scheduled for October the 16. The COVID restrictions are placing too much uncertainty on our ability to run a successful event. This is very disappointing for us but we feel it is the only responsible action. Hopefully we will be able to hold it next year at a date close to Saint Francis Day.

Mary Bremner

Vale John Stephens



With sadness I report the passing of John Stephens, who was a much loved member of our congregation at Bellbrae. John served diligently as treasurer and also as a representative on Linked council and the finance committee for Surf Coast. John managed to support us, whilst also serving and attending as a member at Belmont Uniting and an associate member at St Arnaud. John displayed extreme loyalty and honesty in all he did. He was a truly faithful servant of his God. Well done. You have earned your rest. We send our love and support to Doreen, Adam and Bruce and family at this time.

Maxine Flakemore

Congregational chairperson Bellbrae

Weekly offerings can be made via direct debit or credit to:

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403

Account Name: **Surfcoast Uniting Church**

Please identify your congregation in the notes area:

Aireys Inlet:3231AI, Bellbrae:3228BB or Torquay:3228TQ