

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

3rd October 2021 Edition 137

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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

Oct 3rd: Pent 19

Jb 1:1;2:1-10

Ps 26

Heb 1:1-4;2:5-12

Mk 10:2-16

Our OPSHOP is open again.

**Friday 1st OCT: Karleen B,
Joan Y and Lyn B**

Saturday 2nd Oct:

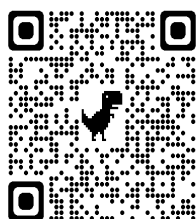
**AM: Mary and Keith B,
Carleen T.**

PM: Sam, Val L, Anna M



Our services are once again resuming in our Church buildings.

**And can be found online at
www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au
Use your phone camera and the QR code above to access online**



Week 5 of our Stewardship program... Tending Creation.

Our church services are at Aireys Inlet and Torquay at 9:30am and Bellbrae at 11:00am

Aireys and Bellbrae will be celebrating Holy Communion.

Hello friends.

As we enter two weeks on Tending Creation, we draw on imagery of God as Gardener. This week's theme is CAREFUL GIVING - or how we carefully give back to God through respecting God's creation. It's not a new idea that God is referred to as the Gardener. As seen in artwork from the mid 16th century. In 1581, Lavinia Fontana painted the Easter Jesus in gardener's hat and holding a shovel. Rembrandt also placed a gardener's hat upon the head of Christ and a trowel in his hand. The image of God as Gardener is a helpful one this week as Noni (at Aireys) and Tricia (at Bellbrae) are our gardening storytellers.

I have the Green Bible which highlights any reference to creation in green. It's a good resource and no surprise that from the start of Genesis the words, sentences, paragraphs bear the colour. The main point I have taken from the green Bible, is the interconnectedness between God, land, fauna, flora, water, sky and people. In Gen 2:8,9; 3:8 says that "God planted a garden in Eden" and intended for creation to flourish. So what if we were to think of land, fauna, flora, water, sky and people as created and God as the Creator: does this mean that everything starts out as God's and given to us to steward? And if God has blessed us with these things to steward how then do we use them to help the flourishing continue? The flourishing concept is what we need to contemplate. Are we using our time wisely to recycle correctly to give the earth a chance to breathe? Do we use our talents to budget for a sustainable and just life and use our teaching talents to shape a lifestyle to the next two generations? Are we investing ethically so the money we have been blessed with is supporting our principles?

For 11 years, I have used the tag below my email signature on all emails which reads

Buy well with others on your heart

www.ethical.org.au

This app is helpful when shopping for products because it informs me of the way the company that produces the item behaves in the marketplace. The greatest power I have when it comes to changing fair trading is my money, or as I like to think of it, God's money.

Three things drive how I spend the money I have been blessed with - People, planet and animals. I try hard to spend on what I see as reducing human rights violations (slave labour), animal cruelty (product testing) and environmental impact (climate change).

The app helps with the ethical choices I try to live out and the change I want to make. Hope this helps you as well.

Peace be with you

Rev Suzie Castle

Minister of the Word

Remember to put
your clocks forward
this weekend...Spring
forward with HOPE.

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'.

Uniting

Surfcoast UC Stewardship Calendar of Service

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)

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Torquay Stuff: At our church council meeting on Tuesday we were reflecting on the use of the piano in the church. It has not been used in a long while now we own the keyboard. We are considering selling it but before we do this would ask if anyone has an objection to this. The organ will remain as it used by one of our congregation who loves playing it.

When you attend church in Torquay this week you will notice the new chair arrangement and the 2 TV screens at the front. This technology was paid for by a Simpson Grant we received from Presbytery and installed thanks to Alan H.



As part of Positive Ageing Month, the Surf Coast shire are running several events. These events will take place every Friday afternoon, commencing with a launch on Friday 1st October. The launch MC is our new CEO Robyn Seymour. Mayor Libby Stapleton and Cr Gary Allen will speak about Age Friendly Communities, our Positive Ageing Advisory Committee and our new groups and activities booklet for Over 55s. Our Key Note speaker for this event is Anne Ring – a positive ageing activist and advocate. Subsequent Fridays will include a session with the Lorne Historical Society: U3A; a livestream music event by Piano Bar and a positive ageing/ positive psychology session with psychologist Chris Mackey.

We can do it!

This week we thought we would draw our thoughts back to the goal of the Forward in Faith team:

To Manage the resources of the Surf Coast churches to achieve God's mission in these communities with Rev Suzie Castle in a fulltime position of ministry.

We believe that we have the resources to achieve this goal. Other regions with similar populations and income levels are able to support full time ministers. However comparisons show that their average level of giving is significantly greater than ours. Our goal is to get to an average of \$30.00 per person a week.

Our stewardship campaign runs until the end of the month. By this time we need all the pledges in. It is important to submit a pledge, even if you have already increased your giving or are leaving it the same, so that we can work out the tally for each congregation.

Pledges can be anonymous.

Pledges can be posted to PO Box 536, Torquay or dropped into the Harper's letterbox (53 Cowrie Road).

For any further help, see your congregation treasurer.

From the Forward in Faith team.

Invitation to Torquay members interested in discussing the Presbytery paper on Regenerating the Church Mission Strategy.

This document has been well received in other congregations and sparked some wonderful conversations and ideas for missional opportunities.

Maybe the stewardship program has sparked some ideas for you and this is the time to join in the conversation and help shape a direction for the congregation to move in. Looking at a meeting in person next Friday at 2pm (October 8th) at Oak Tree Place or, if you can't be there, send your thoughts to Rev'd Suzie to pass on to the group.



Happy Birthday to Val Clarke



This Sunday Torquay and Bellbrae will be offered time to light a candle for loved ones and friends who have died but been unable to attend funeral services. It has been a difficult time for those who couldn't pay their respects in person and this is a way of remembering them.

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, 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

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS and all queries to: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm