

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :

(Torquay) Jane Skelton:0400 190 580

(Bellbrae) Maxine Flakemore:0422 632 809

(Aireys Inlet) Keith & Mary Bremner:0427 701 276

Rev Bob Thomas : 0479 169 931



Sunday 12th February 2023

We acknowledge that we meet and worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.

You are the salt of the earth: Matthew 5:13

Words from the pulpit: Rev Bob Thomas

The image of the church as light or salt in gospel reading seems to be in sharp contrast to much of our modern mega-church or mission thinking.

These sayings appear to uncover something of the indirect and hidden nature of the church. That is, they reveal a way in which the life of a faith community should seek to express itself. Rather than calling attention to themselves, churches, congregations or individual 'followers of Jesus' are most effective when they are not noticed.

Likewise, they also make it clear 'church' cannot exist in separation from the community that surrounds and feeds us as human beings.

Some years ago, retired Melbourne theologian, educationalist and former teacher of mine, Denham Grierson, asked me and a few other former students of his to his house to review the draft of his new book, later to be published, called *A People on the Way*. It was a study of 'congregation, mission and Australian culture'. After reading it, I considered it such an important book that I urged every elder and every parish councillor and every lay preacher and every minister to read it and study it.

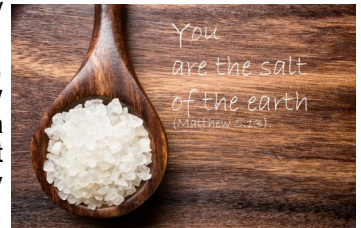
Dr. Grierson picked up on the three biblical images of light, salt and yeast and said these elements provide "a theological foundation for a local congregation as it seeks to define its mission". I have had references to light in preceding weeks, so I will just focus on salt today.

What might Jesus' listeners have thought when they heard him use this common, everyday substance -salt - in reference to discipleship?

One of the qualities of salt is its persistence. It never loses its saltiness, it doesn't have to try to be salty, it just is; saltiness is a function of its being. It doesn't come in a range of qualities or strengths either; salt is salt, period.

All salt came from the sea, so if you have a recipe that specifies "sea salt," it is being just a little precious...and redundant. All salt came from the sea at one time or another and one salt is just as salty as any other.

Keep that in mind as we use it as Jesus did with regard to our Mission.



Resting by the River...

Some members of each surfcoast congregation took up the invitation to spend a few days at Dimboola on the Wimmera River this past week. We swam, and fished, and chatted and walked, and ate and chatted and enjoyed coffee and all the Dimboola and Little Desert delights. Some stayed in tents, some in caravans and some in cabins, but we all shared ourselves and cake!



Dinner at the Victoria Pub

The beautiful Wimmera

Mary & Keith in canoe last seen heading to the weir!



Sunday Feb 12th : Epiphany 6

Aireys Inlet @ 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas via video
Bellbrae @ 11am Brian Shaw
Torquay@ 9.30am Communion Rev Bob Thomas

Sunday Feb 19th: Transfiguration of Jesus

Aireys Inlet @ 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas
Bellbrae @ 11am Rev Bob Thomas
Torquay@ 9.30am Rev Joan Wright Howie



Events this MONTH and beyond

Bunnings BBQ@ Torquay Bunnings: Saturday 18th Feb. Thank you our roster is full, but DO come along for a delicious sausage and contribute to our surfcoast fundraising.

Pancake Day

Tuesday 21st February
12 noon to 3.00pm for table service
Very reasonable prices, two toppings, huge pancakes!
(We have take-away for school children & families
3.00 to 3.45pm)
AT: Aireys Inlet Community Hall.
Tea and coffee served with a smile.
Check out pancakeday.com.au to
buy a virtual pancake
All our proceeds to Barwon Uniting



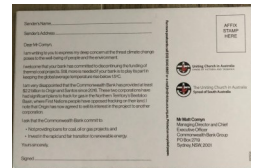
Learn more
pancakeday.com.au

Uniting

Pastoral Care Meeting @ Torquay for all interested Tuesday 28th February at 2pm at Oak Tree Place.

World Day of Prayer—will be held at Torquay Uniting again this year. Friday 3rd March

And **THANK YOU** to all those who took postcards to distribute - Maxine and a team, Cheryl Peel and many others walked the streets to ensure this socially responsible message was heard in our small corner.



Weekly events:

Coffee Time for everyone: Thursdays 10:30am @ Bomboras, Torquay

Beaut Beanies meet Tuesday morning 10:30 in the church foyer

Coffee and Kids @ OTP - Fridays at 9:30am during term time.

To remember:

Donations for UNITING are always needed...

Drop off at church or Grovedale Uniting.

Collections: Stamps for Sammy & plastic bread ties



We need... Opshop Volunteers and tip vouchers

Tip vouchers needed by the Op shop to take all the unwanted unusable unsaleable rubbish that gets left at the Shop. If you have spare ones please donate to Maxine or Carlene at Bellbrae. Or call us for a pick up.

And remember more volunteers are always needed to assist this valuable community and fundraising service. Bring along a friend, share our needs with your other community groups. Call us for a poster for your noticeboard.

Please Note that on Extreme and Catastrophic Fire Risk days the church services on the Surf Coast will be cancelled, and the Op Shop closed.

Thanks to all who are honoring their financial pledges and those who give what they are able, so we may continue to worship and serve our communities. Gifts are valued in electronic or paper format.

Surfcoast Uniting Church.

NAB : BSB: 083-929 & Acc No: 93-009-8403. ADD notes:
Aireys AI3231; Bellbrae BB3228; Torquay TQ 3228

OUR CHURCHES
ON THE SURF-
COAST

Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd, Airey's Inlet.
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, School Road. Bellbrae
Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.