



March 2009

St Andrew's Uniting Church

A congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia
25 West Market Street, Richmond, NSW

St Andrew's has something for everyone of all ages, as we follow our mission to Seniors, Young Families and Young Adults in our community. Please contact a member of the Ministry Team or an Elder for any needs or support. Our Elders' names and phone numbers are listed in the Foyer (near the clock).

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Je-Kon Oh 4578 3820 (BH)
Minister of the Word 4578 3421 (AH)

Email (Ministries): minister@richmonduniting.org.au

Pastoral Care:

Margaret Bailey (Seniors)
Dulcie Butler (Young Families/Young Adults)

LENT EVENT

We may not feel rich, but, on a world scale, we are wealthy beyond belief. Consider some basic comparisons. We treat ourselves to coffee and cake for \$6 - \$6 feeds a nutritious breakfast to 40 preschoolers in South India. We splash out on a family takeaway one night for \$25 - \$25 pays for clean underground drinking water for a villager for life in the Sudan.

This Lent, let's do more than just feel guilty about it. I encourage you to participate in Lent Event. The idea is simple. We give up an item or items from our lifestyle during the forty days of Lent and we donate the money saved to help some of the world's poorest communities.

Lent Event does not cost us in dollar terms. We simply choose to spend our money on others instead of on ourselves. Lent Event costs us in personal terms as we do without something we like and hold in our thoughts and prayers those for whom we are making this small sacrifice.

Maybe this year you could challenge yourself to give up more than you have before? During Lent, spend some time in study and prayer - you may find you can never live life the same way again. We call this 'Lent for Life'! The Lent Event bible study this year is on the theme of 'Testing Times'. Our faith supports us in testing times, but our faith also calls us into times of testing. As Christians, we cannot be indifferent to extreme poverty - it is a test for us all.

Please take home a Lent Event brochure today and give prayerful consideration to what you can give up this Lent.

For further information or Prayer and Bible Study notes see Dulcie - 45712246 or leave a message in the office.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8.30 am Church

Traditional worship followed by morning tea and fellowship

9.45 am Church

In conjunction with our Kids' Sunday program.

A family celebration, including programs for children from 3 years of age up to Secondary Year 9. Morning tea and fellowship follows.

**6.00 pm
Sundays@6.00
Auditorium**

Modern worship with singers, drama and band, plus supper to follow.

St Andrews is a member of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations

Church Office

Mail: PO Box 450, Richmond, NSW 2753

Phone: 02 4578 382

Hours: 10.00am - 2pm most days

Email: office@richmonduniting.org.au

Fax 02 4578 0155

Church Administrator: Bruce Fairhall 02 4571 1019

Web: www.richmonduniting.org.au

Let's Restore the Kingdom together.

I'd like to share with you some of my thoughts on God the Creator and his good creation.

We've heard several sermons recently at 6pm and other services about God's creation and those in the world who would like to keep God out of the equation. These talks had a scary nature. One I recall denied global warming because it was thought that the topic was too scary for some. Another, justifiably, extolled the amazing nature of the universe, but said little about how, we as Christians, should relate to it; yet another tried to make jest of those powerful people who would rob the world of its only Light. Is jest really the right way, though? None of these talks helped us to come to grips with our relationship with/to the God who created, or with our present environmental challenges. Our new Presbytery Minister, David Reichardt, came out a couple of weeks ago and talked about God's good creation and our role in it. He linked the water of cleansing with the waters of our rivers and creeks.

God created you and me and put us in Richmond in the 21st century. He created the bush that surrounds us and lovingly knitted together every plant and animal in it. God cares about His creation very much. **Jesus died to save all creation – not just humans** (Ephesians 1:10 and Colossians 1:15-20).

God allows us to earn money to build/rent/buy our elaborate houses, to buy in electricity, gas, water and clothing and to grow or buy our food and a myriad of other products we simply don't need (all the components of which God brought into being). All these activities affect God's good earth, mostly in the negative.

So what does all this mean to us, here in Richmond? What does it mean to worship God the Creator? What does it mean to God each time we drive our cars when we can walk; use supermarket plastic bags when we can re-use a calico one; buy a product that has harmed God's creation or people in its manufacture; knock over some more bush for our convenience? And what does it mean to God when we try to separate Him from His creation (by not acknowledging that all creation is His and by not caring about it)?

I'd like to tackle some of these issues over the next few newsletters so the picture is less scary and more manageable; so we can go forward together in a way that shows others the Love and Grace of God for His people and creation.

It would be really good to know what you feel about the environmental challenges in front of us too and how you see God's hand in it, so please drop me a note via the church office or email me on thebuzzingconstant@fastlink.com.au

Deb Bushell

POINTS for PRAYER, March 2009

Ephesians 6:18 "Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people."

- Victorian Bushfire victims (especially those whose loved ones were lost) and fire fighters.
- Good counsellors for those in shock, anger, denial and depression and wisdom and energy for Chaplains, Pastors, Ministers and Churches to be good witnesses to Jesus Christ.
- Money donated will be handled with integrity, and given to those in need.
- Help and hope for Flood victims in North Qld.

Ephesians 6:19 "Pray that I will be given the message to speak and that I may fearlessly explain the mystery about the good news."

- Je-Kon as he prepares to preach for Easter Services.
- Alan Cox, Win King, Bruce Gay, Keith Bailey, Betty Dixon, Peg Woodhill.
- Scripture in Schools, especially Margaret Bailey at Richmond PS.
- Planning Committee - to be led by the Holy Spirit.
- Uniting Church, as preparations are made for Assembly in July. Pray for Jesus Christ to be exalted and honoured in all that is done.
- Australian Governments during this economic downturn. Good decision making about use of money; plans to keep our economy going. Also people who are out of work and self-funded retirees in reduced circumstances.
- Safety for Australians deployed overseas and their families here.

Progress of Church Planning

The Planning Committee shared three foundational statements of St. Andrew's on 1 February 2009. Church people's feedback was heard in the congregation meeting held on Sunday 8 February 2009. The Committee made the final adjustment to the foundational statements in refer to church people's feedback on 17 February 2009. Now I would like let you know the final version of St. Andrew's Mission Statement, Vision, and Core Values.

Let me tell you again. They are neither legal nor theological nor doctrinal documents. They are faith documents. They describe who we are and what is important to us as Christians.

Now the Committee is making the implementation plan of the vision statement by incorporation our core values. Your ongoing input, encouragement, and prayer support will be very much appreciated.

Rev Je-Kon Oh (Planning Committee Convenor)

Mission Statement

To bring the Gospel of Christ to the people of the Hawkesbury

Our Vision

To be a church that:-

- A. Is biblically based, acknowledging God in Trinity
- B. Develops disciples of Christ
- C. Welcomes and supports all people of all ages
- D. Reaches out to our community
- E. Grows and equips leaders to serve God's mission in the future
- F. Offers relevant and vibrant worship

Our Core Values

- Authority of the Bible
- Communication
- Community
- Discipleship
- Evangelism
- Family
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Love, compassion, and care
- Prayer
- Shared Ministry

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Our appeal for donations to this short appeal have been very gratifying. Our banking includes **\$2,180** received from the folks at St David's Uniting Church, Kurrajong Heights, who wanted to give (as did we) "to the heart of the communities" rather than as a small drop in the very big buckets of Red Cross or others. From our church we send **\$3,995.55** from envelope donations, direct bank transfers and Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. So, the grand total we will be sending to Whittlesea is **\$6,175.55**.

As announced at services last week, the Church Council of Whittlesea Uniting Church will be receiving our donation, but the distribution will be via a ecumenical group comprising the various Christian churches in the district. So we can rest safe in the knowledge that it will be spent with true compassion and will reach those most in need following those devastating fires.

Bruce Fairhall, Church Treasurer

Book Review: *Teen Talk-Guy Talk*

It's definitely worth reading this encouraging book about the teen years for boys. It is an easy read and won't take all day. The advice in it is particularly great for teenagers but also for people any age or gender. In fact it is a book worth picking up and re-reading several times as an encouragement.

The information for boys is simple and non-threatening about issues of puberty. Good information, good advice on many topics from self esteem, health (mental and physical), girls, bullying and some common problems teens encounter. Scripture verses plus helpful quotes are interspersed throughout the book to make it a very relevant, practical and uplifting read. Not only information but gives good advice on what to do to overcome difficulties and live life positively.

Sue Lattimore

Worship Planner for March 2009

Date	8:30am	9:45am	6pm	Remarks
1 Mar. Lent 1B	Je-Kon Oh (HC)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	LentEvent
8 Mar. Lent 2B	Rev Peter Powell	Rev Peter Powell	Rev David Reichardt	LentEvent
15 Mar. Lent 3B	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh (HC)	Je-Kon Oh	LentEvent
22 Mar. Lent 4B	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh (Baptism)	LentEvent
29 Mar. Lent 5B	Tony Blake (Baptism)	Tony Blake	Je-Kon Oh	LentEvent

** Note: This plan can be changed at any time.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	2	3 7.30 Elders	4 9.30 Fellowship	5	6	7 7.30 Blokes 'N Sheds
8 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	9 Bus Trip (4 days) 9.30 Playtime	10 Bus Trip (4 days)	11 Bus Trip (4 days) 9.45 M.O.P.S.	12 Bus Trip (4 days)	13	14
15 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	16 9.30 Playtime	17	18 Fellowship Fashion Parade	19	20	21
22 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	23 9.30 Playtime 9.30 StA Singers	24	25 9.45 M.O.P.S.	26 12 Seniors' Lunch	27	28
29 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	30 9.30 Playtime	31				

MARCH 2009

St Andrew's Uniting Church, Richmond

WHAT'S ON DURING THE WEEK

SUNDAYS

Paddlers – Age 3 to Kinder: 9.45-11.00am (Heather Fairhall 4571 1019)

Kids Sunday – Years 1-5: 9.45-11.00am (Robyn Duignan 4572 7517)

GWU – Junior High Youth Years 7-9: 9.45-11.00am (TBA)

MONDAYS

Playtime – 9.30am-11.30am – Parents and preschoolers (Michelle Dacey 4574 1312)

Andy's Hands-on-Help – 9.00am to 1.00pm – Maintenance and Fellowship

(Bob Thuaux 4578 2309)

TUESDAYS

eMT Youth – 3.15pm-4.15pm (During school term time) (Glenda Christie 02 9913 8626)

Church Council – 7.30pm – Quarterly Meetings (Greg Inskip 4573 1002)

Elders – 7.30pm – 1st Tuesday each month (Sandi Herbert 4573 1517)

WEDNESDAYS

MOPS – 9.45-11.45am Fortnightly in school terms for Mums and preschoolers

(Michelle Dacey 4574

1312)

Adult Fellowship – 10am – 1st Wednesdays – Friends, food, fun (Irene Milne 4578 1482)

THURSDAYS

Coffee 'n Chat – 10am (2nd Thursday each month: Crafts and fun)

All Together – 10am - 12noon. Other weeks – Get fit exercise (for info on Thursday seniors' activities contact Sandi Herbert 4573 1517)

Senior's Bible Study – 12 noon-1.30pm Bible Study (except 4th Thursday)

(Sandi Herbert 4573 1517)

Seniors' Luncheon – 12noon - 1.45pm (4th Thursday each month)

FRIDAYS

Op Shop – 9.00am – 12.00 – clothes and wares (Carmel Hagedoorn Phone 4567 7448)

Open Church Prayer – 9.30am - 10.30am and more (Margaret and Keith Bailey 4776 1487)

SATURDAYS

Blokes 'N Sheds – 7.30am Breakfast for blokes – 1st Saturdays each month

(Keith Bailey 4776 1487)

SMALL/HOME GROUPS are a valuable and integral part of

St Andrew's ministry.

We encourage all members to join a group. For further information please speak

to our Minister Rev. Je-Kon Oh - phone 4578 3421 (Home)