

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)



April 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.



MINISTRY TEAM

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

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

Pastoral Care Contacts:
Margaret Bailey (Seniors)
Dulcie Butler (Young
Families/Young Adults)

**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).**



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@Six
Auditorium**

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

The Kingdom, a way forward: Giving & Supermarket Shopping

In Genesis, God called us to tend His creation. We are responsible for looking after God's creation so it will be "set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the Children of God" (Romans 8:21).

I said in the last article that I would put forward some ideas about getting involved with this Kingdom challenge of creation protection. Well here's my next instalment.

I've been thinking about the Lent Event – it's a fantastic concept and I wondered how I could contribute. However, I had a big problem: I am unemployed and can't give much up unless I become nutritionally challenged. Now the traditional view point says I should sacrifice even more. Jesus often questioned tradition. Our faith calls us to think more deeply.

How does the concept of 'giving up' link with the poor and the earth? Is the link through buying the cheapest for ourselves and giving money or is the link through giving up that which destroys others and destroys God's creation? Can the two be combined?

Several months ago I made a decision. That decision was I would not allow my budget get in the way of caring for God's earth or the poor. So despite my lack of cash flow I still buy some organic milk, free range organic eggs, use recycled toilet paper, buy John West Salmon because it's sustainably fished, and only buy fair trade organic coffee & chocolate. I also try to buy Australian and 'in season' food to lessen the amount of fuel used to distribute or store the product. I buy bread, meat and fruit at small businesses to support more employment and lessen exploitation. This means I buy less with my \$100 weekly budget, but at least most of the money has gone towards protecting God's earth and the poor rather than exploiting them. There are other things that are destructive to the earth and exploitative of the poor that I can give up all together, and give the money saved to the Lent Event (e.g. I don't buy Tuna, ever, because it is being fished exploitatively to extinction).

Now I hate rules and so does God. So these are not rules (the scrimp, save and give tradition is a rule). Rules are born out of fear: fear of failing, fear of sinning, fear of not living up to God's standards. Paul tells us in Romans that we "did not

receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, butreceived a Spirit of adoption." (8:15). Which means we know that God is our parent, in control and loves us. This make us free to take risks. The parable of the 'talents' tells us about 3 men, two who took risks and one who did not. The one who did not was thrown out of his master's household.

This, then, is my first challenge to you. Will you take some risks with me to stop the exploitation of the poor and God's earth? Will you give-up your favourite milk and buy 1 litre of organic milk each week? Will you give up your Mint Slices and buy a fair trade chocolate bar instead? Will you risk buying a more expensive item because you know that by doing so you are looking after God's earth or the poor, rather than exploiting them? And will you give up buying items that give you pleasure because their purchase will hurt another or God's creation?

I know that I still exploit the poor and the earth in many ways. But each day I pray that God will show me where I can make changes. Can you pray this prayer too?

God is merciful, but He does challenge us. If every Christian bought one fair-trade or organic item each week, we could collectively change the type of items offered in supermarkets and other shops. Are you willing to give it a go? The only failure is not to try.

Deb Bushell

Lent event

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lent Event.

Every dollar you have saved will help fund life changing development projects. Please bring your donations on 5th, 12th, 19th or 25th April. If you need another donation envelope, please contact Dulcie – 45712246. The sooner we send our money in, the sooner we make a difference to the lives of our impoverished brothers and sisters in Christ

Period of Discernment

The **Period of Discernment (PoD)** is a facility of the Uniting Church which offers lay people opportunities to discern the will of God in the future directions their life may take. It is a fairly structured approach and takes about twelve months to complete. Usually, this is the precursor to candidating for ministry. However, the process is also helpful to clarify spiritual gifts and discern the forms of ministry tasks that may match a person's spiritual gifts and identified skills.

At St Andrew's we were fortunate to form a group of four candidates from an original count of six. Unfortunately, two of the potential group moved to Townsville, leaving four plus our mentor, Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly. Christine led the group through a number of topics, encouraging us to read appropriate books, study, reflect and undertake various exercises to assist us to listen to God. We shared, laughed, reflected and considered as we met together. Christine, provided considered and warm guidance, and whilst the group worked along together, she always encouraged each person in their personal learning and plan. It certainly was not a "one size fits all" – every person enjoyed a different experience of discovery and of hearing God's word for them. Every person experienced spiritual growth through the journey and felt a peace about God's plan for their future.

Now that we have concluded our PoD we are in process of writing up our reflections on what has been discerned. As a result of the time spent both individually and together during the last fifteen months, each of us feels our gifts have been clarified and we are far better equipped, energised and focussed for our next ministry task.

We are very grateful for the commitment and expertise of Christine in leading us. The Spirit of God has been active and faithful through the process and is opening the way, day by day for each of us. It's both daunting and exciting!

*Contributed by Geoff Brown on behalf of POD Candidates:
Jayson Knight, Deb Bushell, Sandra Brown, Geoff Brown*

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who contributes to our "Food Bank". The non-perishable items and the frozen meals certainly make a difference for many individuals and families. Some people are struggling to make ends meet, others through sickness or grief find it so difficult to think about preparing a meal at the end of the day. Your kindness helps these people.

As one of the recipients of this very worthwhile and thoughtful process we are truly grateful. With late and all day appointments (chemo) to come home exhausted and then not having to cook tea for the family is much appreciated.

The Cox family

Hawkesbury ecumenical group

In June 1990 a congregation comprising members of many Hawkesbury churches gathered in Windsor Uniting Church and heard an address by the then Catholic Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Bede Heather on the significance of Christians from different traditions meeting together for prayer.

This service marked the start of a fellowship of Christians who have met regularly for almost twenty years. In more recent years the group has invited guest speakers from various missions and organizations, has shared in times of prayer, worship and bible study and enjoyed fellowship over supper.

Members of the group today come from local Uniting, Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and other Christian groups, and extend a warm welcome to any who would like to join them. The group meets in St. Monica's Meeting Room, near the entrance to the Church. Parking is available in the school grounds (enter from Bourke Street). The Group meets on occasional Fridays from 7.30pm-9.00pm, and the dates for the remainder of the year are May 29, August 28, October 30 and November 27.

John Butler

A journey of faith

As a rather lost soul I turned to God and during this experience my spiritual enlightenment became quite overwhelming with joy and peace. During my very deep days of depression I could not read or concentrate. I have just borrowed a little book from our church library called "In times of need" and I have formed the opinion that anyone recovering from a traumatic experience and searching for guidance will find this booklet to be of significant help. It has taken a long time for my "personness" to become apparent. Now that I seem to be becoming a helper I realise that physical deterioration is placing limitations on what I am able to do; however, I think that I shall need to give more attention to my physical wellbeing. I give thanks to God for the help that I have been given; I find that I am becoming more empathetic, standing back and learning. God is love.

Elaine Carr

A Journey to Adaminaby and back!

Senior Fellowship Bus Trip March 2009

Mary had faithfully organized this wonderful trip with her skills. We were only disappointed because Mary was hospitalized and unable to come. We missed her as we travelled. To Canberra for lunch, after morning tea at Mittagong, where we enjoyed ham sandwiches, fruit and a slice. It was Canberra's birthday and a festival was underway – very nice of them! Off to Adaminaby where we made our base.

Cooma was day two and we all had a ride on the "Red Rattler" which used to run on the Richmond rail line. Lunch by Cooma Uniting Church at Cooma Railway Station. A visit then to the Snowy Mountains Authority and a film which we all enjoyed before a walk around Cooma.

Day three was our Tumut day after the most spectacular trip through Kiandra. Morning tea was at the African Violet Farm where we all learned how not to kill African Violets! To the Old Butter Factory, the Broom Factory (there were at least two ladies who rode their brooms there) and then after lunch in the park provided by the motel we visited an apple farm at Batlow.

Dinner that night was at Neville Locker's farm near Adaminaby – his fame was to have Charlie McKeahnie as an ancestor. For those of you who may not know, Charlie McKeahnie was the "Man from Snowy River" by Banjo Paterson.

Neville was a person who could tell a good story and we all enjoyed the evening very much. Adaminaby had the "Stage Curtain", a must to see beautiful workmanship and a treat to view.; 84 people had worked on it and it took two and a half years to complete. On Day Four we headed home via Bredbo and Yass. Thank you, Mary, we pray you will lead us out on the next trip in October.

Sandi Herbert

Points for Prayer, April 2009

Romans 8:26 "In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that can't be put into words. All our thoughts are known to God...We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him."

Pray for

- The effectiveness of all our Worship Services, so that people connect with God. Willingness of us all to follow Jesus and become His disciples.
- Sundays @ Six - More regular worshippers, and children to continue to attend through teen years to adulthood.
- Planning Committee - Wisdom in planning and decision making.
- Je-Kon; wisdom and energy as he leads our Church. Blessings on Sung-Hee, Echo and Isaac.
- Kids Sunday: Leaders and children will know the Spirit's leading and help.
- Those who are unwell, especially Alan Cox, Nanette Sawle, Keith Bailey, Win King, Peg Woodhill, Betty Dixon, Bruce Gay.
- Dulcie, Margaret, Heather and Irene - Pastoral Care
- Scripture in Schools - Margaret Bailey at Richmond PS.
- Assembly of Confessing Congregations as they prepare for UCA Assembly in July.
- Australian Govt./ Kevin Rudd and cabinet/ decisions about future economic directions and people out of work; families struggling to make ends meet.

Worship Planner for April 2009

Date	8:30am	9:45am	6pm	Remarks
5 April Palm/Passion	Je-Kon Oh (HC)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	Maundy Thursday 8pm Good Friday 9am
12 April Easter Sunday	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	
19 April Easter 2B	Je-Kon Oh (ANZAC Service)	Je-Kon Oh (HC)	Rev John Thornton	School holidays
26 April Easter 3B	Rocel Paraiso	Rocel Paraiso	Je-Kon Oh	School holidays

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

Easter at St Andrews

Sunday 5 April: *Palm Sunday*

2pm WHO WAS THERE?

A narrative of the story of Easter accompanied by hymns. All are welcome, and bring your friends. Followed by afternoon tea

Thursday 9 April: Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Service of the Shadows - in the Auditorium. A candlelight service with readings, music and communion. A time for contemplation prior to Easter **accompanied by hymns.**



Friday 10 April: *Good Friday*

9.00am A special combined service of worship in the Church

Sunday 12 April: *Easter Day*

8.30am Traditional all-age service

9.45am Family Service

Our apologies for the unusual format and late delivery:

Electrical storms played havoc with our Editor's computer!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9.30 Fellowship	2	3	4 7.30 Blokes 'N Sheds Clocks Back 1 hour
5 PALM SUNDAY 8.30/9.45 Worship 2.00 Who Was There? <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	6 9.30 Playtime	7 7.30 Elders	8 9.45 M.O.P.S.	9 Maundy Thursday 10.00 Coffee 'n Chat 8.00 Worship ©	10 GOOD FRIDAY 9.00 Worship	11
12 EASTER DAY 8.30/9.45 Worship Lent Event Finish <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	13	14	15 7.00 Presbytery	16	17	18
19 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	20	21	22	23 12 Seniors' Lunch	24	25 ANZAC Day
26 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	27 9.30 StA Singers?	28 7.30 Elders' Meeting	29	30		

