



October 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
Minister of the Word 0410 596 991 (BH)
4578 3421 (AH)

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

Pastoral Care:

Margaret Bailey (Seniors) 4776 1487
Dulcie Butler (Young Families/Young Adults) 4571 2246

Planning Committee Presentation to the Congregation

On **Sunday 25 October**, commencing at 11.15am after the second worship service, there will be a presentation to the Congregation of the deliberations and recommendations of our Planning Committee. The Planning Committee members will outline their agreed views on the restructuring of our church's Ministry, the reasons for the proposed changes and how we would implement them for the future.

All members of our church are invited to be present for this very important discussion, to raise questions and to be a part of this great step forward in the life of our congregation.

A motion of acceptance of the Planning Committee Report and its recommendations will be considered at the Congregation Meeting to be held on Sunday 8 November.



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

Richmond Uniting Church Fellowship
And United Voices

Present

**Andy's World Tour
(A Theatre Restaurant)**

Saturday 31st October 2009

Richmond Uniting Church Auditorium

5.00pm

Cost \$20.00

Bookings essential – phone 4578 3434 or 4578 3820

World War II broke out seventy years ago, on 3 September 1939. For those who were around at that time it provided indelible memories. This is the beginning of Ron James' story.

It is 1940 and a mid-summer night in London. My eight-year-old brother, Brian, and I were staying with our grandmother in an flat over the end of a row of shops in High Street, Stoke Newington. We lived in Edmonton but our parents were not at home for days at a time as Dad was in the Auxiliary Fire Service, Mum was a telephonist underground at the Whitehall Communications Centre and the blitz on London was full on.

We had been in bed for a couple of hours when the air raid siren sounded. Gran called out for us to get up and meet her downstairs at the side door. I woke Brian up and then went downstairs to Gran but Brian did not follow me. By now the siren had stopped and all outside was very quiet. This was the moment when people said "Oh, it's not so bad" and went home, some of them much to their sorrow. I remember Gran pausing and then sending me back for my brother.

The nearest air raid shelter was about a five minute walk away, under a large corner store along the High Street. We were guided to seats by an Air Raid Warden and had not been sitting for very long before the anti-aircraft guns started firing. Then we heard the drone of the bombers (they made a different sound to the fighters). There was the sound of a bomb exploding; then another one much closer. This was followed by another explosion which seemed to lift the building up. The lights went out and the building was full of dust. The next explosion was further away and not so loud so we had been caught in the middle of what was called a "stick" of bombs.

The Air Raid Warden came down the stairs with a torch to see if anyone had been hurt and then told us to wait for the "All Clear" siren after which he would lead us out. The siren went but the wardens were still clearing away debris from the front of the building. About half an hour later we were outside being led around a crater that had taken out all of the road from one side to the other. Bits and ends of pipes and cables were hanging down and sticking out. We were so lucky that it was not a direct hit.

We were nearly back to Gran's place when she called out "Oh, my God!" I ran forward and there were the remains of her flat, the end of the building gone; floors hanging down, furniture and belongings scattered. When we got back home to Edmonton our parents put our names down straight away to join hundreds of other children being evacuated to safer towns and villages away from London.

Ron continues his story next month

From the library: *Strangers and Neighbors*

My immediate interest in the book "Strangers and Neighbors" (or what the theologian author "has learned about Christianity by living among Orthodox Jews") had a simple cause. In 1977 I, too, had been on a trip to Israel which I had extended for 10 months. I, too, had been mesmerised by Jerusalem's Wailing Wall and felt, like the author Maria Poggi Johnson "that something was really happening there as the sun slipped over the rooftops on Friday night; that the whirling singing crowds were responding to a reality greater than culture.....they were certain that it was crucial, not just for them, but for all creation that they be there welcoming the Sabbath. But it was their job, given to them by God, and they didn't ask us to share it".

I was no theologian; I was not married and I had given up teaching temporarily because I was in a depressed state. I hoped that people "who against all logic and reason had survived and obeyed even when they were herded into cattle trucks and gas chambers" would teach me to overcome it without medication. I started by riding horses or walking through Galilee to find a kibbutz in which to work as a volunteer. To no avail; I did not have the required letter of introduction that I should have been given in France. I wrote for one and the reply was that I had been deliberately denied it "so that my spirit would not be broken". I settled in as a paying guest with a family who lived on the edge of the Orthodox quarter of Jerusalem.

I was a very lukewarm Christian so the whole family set out to make me one of them by arranging a marriage with a converted young man who would in turn have convinced me to convert to Judaism. It was so deftly organised, so light-touched, that it took Sunday visits in asalon, with chaperone, for my "suitor" and myself to realise what was happening! We had no other choice but to tell the truth: I did not want to marry yet. I was laughing at the misunderstanding but my hosts, very hurt, deemed me unworthy of their abode and I understood that it would be a relief if I was to leave. I spent some time with friends but it was clear to me that my days in Israel were numbered. I went back home, still dreaming of "my" Israel.

Ah, if only I could have read some of the chapters in this book! Chapter 4 retraces the history of the Jewish people since Abraham and shows in a clear way that God rebukes his people for being "stiff-necked" but is secretly proud of that quality of theirs. "When Cyrus of Persia conquers the Babylonian Empire and decides to send the captives back to their land the Jews in Babylon have no doubt that, whatever Cyrus thinks his motives are, he is a tool in the hand of God....." and (in the 21st Century) here they are in my area in their funny hats and long skirts and wigs, peppering their conversations with strange guttural foreign words, stubbornly and cheerfully weird and holy....the ways of the holy God are not like our ways.

Chapter 10 deals with the moment when Peter, on the occasion of Cornelious' invitation, departs from his traditional holiness to baptise his host's household so that the church becomes a family including both Jews and Gentiles. Peter and Paul say 'God is at work, let's get out of his way'. The Pharisees, among others, demand on the contrary that Gentiles become Jews first and Christians afterwards. James is required to decide the issue. The new Christians will have to renounce idolatry, adopt the high standards of sexual purity but, out of the 613 Mitzva of the Torah can drop 610. Paul is heartbroken that Christianity is forging a new path to the point that he is ready to abandon his own salvation if it means abandoning his people.

In Chapter 12, finally, the author states that nothing will ever beat the fact that "by coming through great trial, to know the one God and to worship him alone, by receiving the Torah, by obeying the law he gave them, the Jews prepared for God the place where he would dwell among us; where he would become flesh and where he would enter our world to seek and find those who did not know him. The Jews gave Christ to the world and keep doing it every day". For this we can have only ceaseless humility and gratitude. God

wanted it that way. Maybe he wants the Jews to be able to exclaim, when Jesus comes back “Baruch Hashem*, what took you so long?”

This interpretation of things gives my experience it’s right shape. Misunderstandings and “faux pas” exist only in a context of love coupled with humour, otherwise we would not even be aware of them. All religions are complementary, not competitive. Read this book!!!

*Baruch Hashem: Blessed be the Name (of God).

Anne Smith

Children's Week 2009

An event called **A Day in the Park**

On: Wed. 21 October from 10am to 1pm
 At: UCA Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta
 For Children and families: Free with give-aways also!

Includes: Animal Nursery, Live Music, Face painting, a Story Tent,
 Bring a picnic or enjoy the sausage sizzle, fruit, tea and coffee.
 More Info: 8267 4295

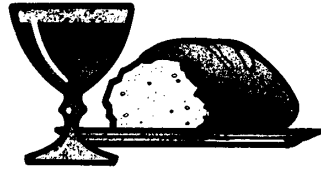
Worship Planner for October 2009

Date	8:30am	9:45am	6pm	Remarks
4 October (Ordinary Sunday 27)	Je-Kon Oh (HC)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	School Holiday
11 October (Ordinary Sunday 28)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	School Holiday
18 October (Ordinary Sunday 29)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh (HC)	Rev Martin Levine	School Holiday
25 October (Ordinary Sunday 30)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	Kids' Sunday begins.

Note: This plan can be changed at any time.

Je-Kon Oh will be on study leave from Monday 26 October to Sunday 01 November 2009.

Holy Communion



The Elders have decided to provide 'gluten free' bread as well as ordinary bread in Holy Communion. If you prefer 'gluten free' bread, let Je-Kon or one of the elders know.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Clocks Forward 1hr
4 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	5	6 7.30 Elders	7 9.30 Fellowship	8 10.00 Coffee 'n Chat	9	10
11 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	12 Bus Trip (3 days)	13 Bus Trip (3 days)	14 Bus Trip (3 days) 7.00 Presbytery	15	16	17
18 8.30/9.45 Worship <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	19 9.30 Playtime	20	21 9.45 M.O.P.S.	22 12 Seniors' Lunch	23	24
25 8.30/9.45 Worship Kids' Sunday begins 11.15 Cong. Planning Presentation <i>Sundays@6.00</i>	26 9.30 StA Singers 9.30 Playtime	27	28	29	30	31 5.00 Theatre Restaurant





Because of the danger to members and visitors with an allergy to nuts, the church premises are declared to be NUT FREE. Please do not bring nuts in any form.

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 (Greg Inskip 4573 1002)

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:

All Together – 10am - 12noon; Crafts and fun

(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 –8am Working Bee & Lunch – 2nd Saturdays each month (Bob Thuaux 4578 2309)

*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)*