



Morialta Vision



April 2008

A Farewell Note from Alan and Lee ...

Dear friends,

A middle aged chap had a heart attack and was taken to hospital. Whilst on the operating table he had a near-death experience where he saw God and asked if this was the end for him. God said, "No", and explained that he has another 30-40 years to live.

Upon his recovery he decided to remain in hospital and have some improvements made; since he had another 30 or 40 years to go he might as well make the most of them.

First there were hair plug implants followed by a bit of colour to cover up the grey. Then came the laser eye surgery to get rid of the glasses, some cosmetic surgery to make the "laugh lines" vanish and some liposuction to remove the evidence of gastronomic foibles.

The time arrived for him to go home after the operation so he walked out

of the hospital and was killed by an ambulance speeding up to Emergency.

When he arrived at the throne of God again he asked, "I thought you said I had another 30-40 years?"

God replied, "Sorry, I didn't recognize you."

One of the great mysteries of Easter is the presence of the unrecognized Christ among the first believers as the gardener at the tomb, or the companion along the road to Emmaus or the fishing expert by the side of the lake. Scripture makes the point repeatedly that the risen Christ did not bear any resemblance to the earthly Jesus but could be recognized in the stranger, the fellow traveler on the journey, in words of comfort and support as well as those of challenge and instruction, and in the breaking of the bread.

In such ways the presence of the Risen Christ is still

experienced today in unexpected holy ways when we're willing to see. We have certainly encountered this Jesus many times at Morialta over the last seven years. In personal struggles and tragedies, in ecclesiastical firestorms, in times of high celebration, and in renewed faith and vision the Resurrected One's presence has been experienced here many times.

And now our road together has ended and new horizons beckon Morialta as well as us as we move to Enfield. But the promise is still given to us that the unknown, unrecognized Christ will continue to travel with God's pilgrim people so let us move forward with hope and courage.

*Shalom Elechem
(Peace and Wholeness to You)*

Alan and Lee

Inside this issue:

David Purling	2
God without Boredom	2
Church Council Election of Elders	3
Ministry Team	4
Chairperson	5
Marine Environment	6
Morialta Magpie	7
Christian Pastoral Support Workers	8
Netball	8
Activities	9
Library	10
Rev Kyle Waters	11

Farewell





David Purling writes:

I took this photo while hiking in Black Hill Conservation Park. I actually took about 6, but they didn't all turn out! Why? Well it was because butterflies alight for a brief time to collect nectar and it was hard trying to sneak up on them without frightening them away.

I started thinking about an old cassette tape (which I still have!) I used to play to my Year 11 Religious Ed. Class at Westminster. The speaker on the tape was Dr Murray Banks, a psychologist and it was entitled "How to live with yourself" or, there was a subtitle – "What to do until the psychiatrist comes". Dr Banks asks his audience to name the basic human needs, and of course out come things like security, health, money, and 'happiness'.

He asks how do you achieve happiness, and lists the

audience's responses. He then goes on to say that you cannot achieve happiness by chasing after it. He likens the pursuit of happiness to chasing a butterfly. "The more you chase it, and chase it, it will always just elude you, but if you sit quietly, it will come and sit on your shoulder".

I also thought of Bishop Spong's book "Jesus for the non religious" which a few of us retired clergy are reading and discussing currently.

Looking at the butterflies, and thinking about Nature, I suppose, I remembered something Spong had written, and went home and found it; this is what he had said, "Jesus lived the life of God. That is why we proclaim that in his life the source of life was seen. In his love the source of love was seen. In his courage, which enabled him to be fully human, the ground of all being was seen. That is the experience that the word "incarnation" was

created to communicate, it is not a doctrine to be believed so much as it is a presence to be experienced."

Was this a moment for "a presence to be experienced"?

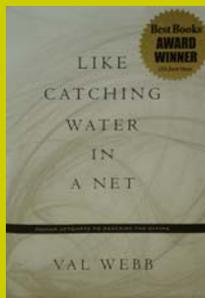
It was perhaps the quietness of the Park, plus the fact that I had climbed up quite a steep track, and needed to rest for a moment, that I remembered Dr Murray Banks' "The more you chase it, and chase it, it will always just elude you..."

Does this resonate with you?

Or Bishop Spong's "that in his (Jesus') life the source of life was seen". So much of the life of Jesus represented in the New Testament has to do with his embracing of life and embracing others who were having a hard time of it.

Does this also 'ring a bell' in your understanding?

Shalom



Arthur Tideman prepared this contribution to Vision after reading an article in "Philosophy Now" (Issue 65) by Cathal Horan who is studying for a PhD in Psychoanalytic Studies at the Dublin University. Also after hearing Val Webb talk about her book, "Like Catching Water in a Net".

God without Boredom

Time flies when we are busy and happy. We all know that.

But waiting for a bus or waiting in the airport lounge – that's different. We look at our watch – and again – and again. We stroll to see the departure screen, knowing full well it hasn't changed. We read the advertisements, sit down, stand up.

In situations like these we can find it so difficult to deal with time passing.

Cathal Horan, a contemporary philosopher, says, "Time bears down on us. We become aware of ourselves because we have a gap in our existence."

We are bored. So what do we do? We turn to luxuries. A nibble, a chocolate, an I-pod, an MP3 player, we send a text message. Society covets these

developments, leaving us less and less able to deal with time.

But ultimately these luxuries don't satisfy our boredom. They run out and we are still faced with the consequences of our experience with time because within that experience, says Horan, "In the search for meaning in our lives".

Philosophers from Plato to Sartre have taken the high ground in the search for the meaning of life. Using logic and calling on human experiences they have done much to unravel what our lives are all about.

Plato searched for ways of dealing with boredom and noted there is no boredom in simple rural societies.

Providing their basic needs, there is no way of letting a job wait until there is leisure time to spare for it.

For most of us, philosophy is out of our reach but it is still possible for all of us with faith to seek to eliminate the problems of time by searching for what is eternal and unchanging.

We can train for time and a clearer experience of meaningful lives by sharing relationships with others, by seeking love and giving compassion.

By accepting the scholarship of the ages and hearing the metaphors in our scripture.

God has no place for boredom in His creation as the experience of simple living testifies.

Church Council Report - March 2008

Thanks to the air-conditioning in the hall, eleven members of Council were able to gather in relative comfort for the March Council meeting.

Reports were received from the Worship & Faith Education and the Children and Young Families Mission Ministry Teams.

Bruce led us in worship, reflecting on the formal Apology to the Aboriginal People on 13th February as well as Don Hopgood's statement for the SA Synod in 1997. Jesus gives us the ability to say "Sorry".

Some time was spent discussing arrangements for Alan's move to Enfield and

the subsequent move for Diane and her family into the Highland Ave manse.

Reports from Working Groups were received and discussed:

- Faith Building and Faith Education WG are looking at possibilities to assist people in their understanding of the Christian faith.

- Mission in Service and Community Centre WG is visiting other churches with strong outreach programs to assist in considering future directions for our Community Centre.

- The Worship WG is looking at our needs in worship, the available resources and how we can adapt and develop appropriately, making best

use of those resources.

These investigations will help shape the way in which we consider replacement for Alan.

We reviewed goals, finance, a grant application, and our connections with the extended church through the Urban Mission Network and the Magill Inter-Church Council.

As this was Alan's last Council meeting, his participation on Council was acknowledged with thanks. We wish him and Lee well in their future journeyings.

Neville Pope

Election of Elders 2008



The average age of the Morialta Church Council decreased somewhat with the appointment of its latest member.

Sarah Heatley, one of the residents in the Student House, has been a much valued member of the congregation since coming to Adelaide to study in 2004.

As well as participating in the Singing Group at 9.00

a.m. she has helped in many ways, putting her considerable artistic talent to work by assisting with the Art Shows and decorating for community events and celebrations.

Last year Sarah took the considerable step of declaring her faith by becoming a Confirmed Member of the Uniting Church. She participated in a series of discussions that culminated in her Confirmation on Trinity Sunday.

Sarah is now in the final year of studies for the Bachelor of Education (JP/Primary) at UniSA.

Sarah has many gifts and she has shown a willingness to use them. She has indicated a preparedness to

become more involved with the Ministry Teams that have responsibility for our younger members as well as the other responsibilities of leadership.

The recent Church Council elections also reaffirmed the contributions made by Rhonda Amber, Carole Lyons, Bob Penhall and Mary Thornley with their re-election for further terms.

Morialta is indeed blessed by the calibre of its leadership. Please continue to pray for these members as well as all other elders.

Bruce Ind
Chairperson

Easter Celebration



Thank you:

Diane and Alan for the concept, Peter for constructing it, Alison for dressing it, and the gardeners for tending it and helping us to focus. It will continue to accompany us in Worship through the Easter Season

Photos by Brian Corrigan



Church Council Elders 2008

Rhonda Amber
Chris Ayles
Sarah Heatley
Bruce Ind
Carole Lyons
Pauline Norman
Bob Penhall
Neville Pope
John Powers
Christine Secombe
Mary Thornley
Bev Tredrea

Ministers

Alan Biglow
Diane Bury

Worship & Faith Education Mission Ministry Team (W&FEMMT)

The Advent and Christmas season, brought the vibrant and colourful services of worship, and opportunities for reflection, meditation and celebration.

The Blue Christmas Service was appreciated by many, and the Advent event at which "Polar Express" was shown was much enjoyed. The

innovative Advent Reflections during coffee time on four Sundays had a good level of participation. Interest was expressed in such opportunities in the future. Combined Services in January were very well attended and there was a relaxed atmosphere and the good feeling about these services.

Other matters reported

included concerns about the availability of musicians for worship services, positive discussions underway in relation to a cross for the sanctuary area, and the study, "Wisdom's Way", for which 35 people registered.

Other studies which may follow were under discussion.

In concluding and expressing good wishes to Alan and Lee, the team said:

We will miss Alan's valuable contribution and sense of humour.

Children & Young Families Ministry Team (C&YFMMT)

There was progress in arrangements for Kids on Sunday in 2008 to accommodate the children, numbers and age groupings.

At the same time, this presented a need for additional leaders, but the team recognised that we must be flexible and adaptable in providing activities.

Plans were underway for Kids Camp Out to be held at West Beach on the first weekend of the April school

holidays. The Morialta group would combine with Athelstone UC and establish arrangements benefiting all.

The team had discussed key points for focus in 2008, including:

- encouraging members to participate in the KOS program, to share the teaching load;
- exploring ways of connecting young families into the whole life of the congregation;
- encouraging the involvement of all our young

people in worship;

- inviting members of playgroups, netball, and student accommodation to events/programs;
- providing activities aligned to the lectionary, for children in the 9.00 am service in holiday periods.

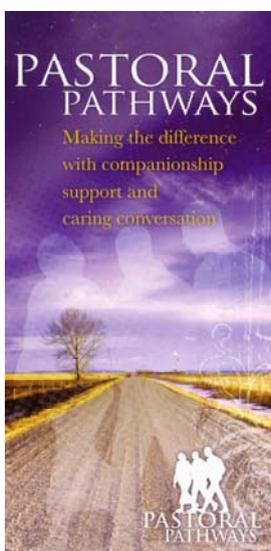
The report noted that the Playgroup continues to be well attended with about 15 families regularly involved.



The upgraded KUCA complex is admired by those who visit and utilize the facilities.

Thanks were expressed for the dedication and efforts of Helen Penhall, Margaret Dix and Faye Barker in enabling this program in Morialta's outreach.

The Pastoral Pathways Project



The Pastoral Pathways

Project is your opportunity to:

- explore whether pastoral care is your spirit-given gift
- participate in companion ministry, discovering the joys of sharing life's journey with others, especially in times of transition, crisis and change
- find pathways into working alongside others as part of a pastoral team in an agency or congregation.

By participating you will develop and deepen current skills, address core concerns of pastoral care, including empathy, space for silence, self reflection and teamwork, reflect on an underlying theology of pastoral care, discover kindred spirits and grow in discipleship and Christian maturity.

Courses will be conducted throughout 2008.

Pastoral Care is important to Morialta.

One of our members hopes to attend sessions beginning in May.

Would you like to join her?

Please talk to Diane for more information.

Heat Wave & the Annual General Meeting

Back on 16 March the AGM of the Morialta Congregation was cancelled by Council after careful consideration of our duty of care for all members.

A very brief meeting that day allowed us to Elect Office Bearers, and Annual Reports were distributed together with 2008 Events information.

On Sunday 4 May, following the Combined Service of Worship at 9.30am, a meeting of the congregation will deal with matters deferred from the AGM.

In the meantime we thought you would appreciate the following reports which will be addressed further on 4 May.

Ministry following Alan's departure:

Rev Diane Bury will minister at full time and Rev David Purling with be with us in Supply Ministry at 0.3. How fortunate we are to have the leadership of both Diane and David!

As we reported earlier, Council has chosen not to start the search for a replacement just yet. It has agreed that the responsible thing to do is to continue to move forward in 2008 on development of the two Directions in Mission agreed by the Congregation, and as we do that and review progress in the middle of the year, to discern our needs for future placements and leadership roles. Please continue to pray and share thoughts or concerns so that we may work together to get the next step right.

We look forward to the opportunity on 4 May to report directly to the Congregation.

From Chris Ayles, Worship Working Group:

The process the Worship Working Group is using could be described as one of ongoing focusing: collecting, developing, considering and refining ideas and suggestions in relationship to our current and future circumstances. Your responses to the Worship questionnaire late last year were an important part of this process.

Our circumstances with regard to worship are changing and will change. What form should Alan's replacement take? Musical leadership is not as readily available, some services are uncomfortably empty at times and we have been facing budget deficits for some years. What action should we take? Do we simply let those changes overtake us, or should we try to anticipate and plan for them?

The major challenge that the WWG is struggling with is how to properly care for church members and the place that worship holds in their faith experience, whilst also addressing the issues of relevance and invitation to those not already part of our church against a background of diminishing resources mentioned above.

The next questions we need to be focussing on relate to what is important about worship to you. So we will be inviting you to share your responses to these questions at the May Meeting of the Congregation. *What do you value in worship? What is important or special to you? How can we keep this going?*

What would you be prepared to let go of? 1. In worship?. 2. In wider mission?

From Rob Cheel, Leader, Finance Team

I am pleased to provide a brief report on our financial position at the conclusion of 2007.

Members may remember that in the November 2006 Meeting of the Congregation, the Budget figure for 2007 brought forward for ratification by the Congregation showed a predicted deficit of \$17,000. That figure did not take into account projected fundraising.

During 2007 there was an excellent level of fundraising in community building events which included Movie Night, Cabaret, Quiz Night, Tour, Market and Exhibition. Some expenses were also lower than projected. As a result there has been a significant reduction in the anticipated deficit.

However, income was lower than predicted in some areas, including Giving, Hall Hire and Student Accommodation.

Now with 2007 concluded, and with some small detail in figures to be finalized, we anticipate the deficit will be around \$1,570.

This is a remarkable outcome and a great achievement by all who contributed in any way to make this result possible. We look forward to providing a more detailed report when the Congregation meets in early May.

Bruce Ind
Chairperson

In the quiet of prayer, I notice those moments when my inner compass finds its still point in you. And that is the only trustworthy way I have found to read the map of my life's journey.

(Excerpt from DAILY READINGS with MARGARET SILF)

More quotes from Margaret Silf are on the Library Page.

*You have made known the way of life to me,
You will fill me with gladness through your presence.
(Acts 2:28)*

Protecting Our Marine Environment

Conversations about global warming and climate change seem to have focused on the atmospheric pollution caused by increased concentrations in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide (CO₂)

The impact of CO₂ pollution of the ocean and its marine environment requires our attention and our action, too.

Two-thirds of this extraordinary planet of ours is ocean. The ocean is the largest carbon sink on the planet – this means it is the largest absorber of CO₂ on Earth. About 50% of our planet's oxygen comes from ocean-based plankton.

The ocean is central to the interdependent and

complex web of life on Earth and it is warming. A warmer ocean will contribute to polar ice melting, rising sea levels and changes in ocean currents. Ocean currents distribute nutrients and plankton, those minute marine organisms which form the base of all marine eco-systems. Their destruction will affect marine food chains globally.

Over 30% of the CO₂ released into the atmosphere is absorbed by the ocean making it more acidic by forming carbonic acid. This is life-threatening to plankton whose calcium-based shells and skeletons cannot form properly in an acidic marine environment.

Plankton is not only a crucial part of the marine food chain but is a key oxygen producer for the planet. Diminished plankton numbers is bad news for the planet.

Excessively warm ocean temperatures cause coral polyps to expel the algae living inside them and some corals die, including parts of our own Great Barrier Reef.

All forms of life on Earth deserve a healthy environment. Here's the challenge - what changes could each of us make to reduce CO₂ emissions and to protect the complex web of life on Earth whilst maintaining our own lifestyles and livelihoods and those of others?

Extract from 'Out of sight, out of mind and out of control!' written by Sam East and published in Wilderness News Issue No 172 Summer 2008.

Christine Secombe
Social Justice MMT

Dr Michael S Northcott
Professor of Ethics
University of Edinburgh

Activist, author, priest
Episcopal Church of Scotland

Visiting Preacher
Pilgrim Church

Symposium series
Mon, Tues, Wed
28, 29, 30 April

Author

**A Moral Climate:
The Ethics of Global Warming**
(Darton, Longman and Todd 2007).

Funded by Pilgrim Church and SA
Synod's Uniting Foundation. .
web site www.pilgrim.org.au

Good News - a Win for the Marine Environment



et South Australia's marine emblem,
Leafy Sea Dragon.

der threat from pollution and habitat
, the Leafy Sea Dragon will be one of
beneficiaries of the *Marine Parks Act*
cted by South Australia's parliament
007.

WEIRD BUT TRUE

A fully grown Leafy Sea Dragon is about 18 inches (45 cm) long.

Tiny, almost invisible fins along the side of their heads and on their back propel the Leafy Sea Dragon and their tiny movements imitate that of the seaweed and kelp they live amongst.

Their tiny mouths act like straws, sucking plankton, algae and minuscule crustaceans from the water around them.

Sea Dragons can stay still for very long periods, sometimes longer than 24 hours!

Sea Dragons can change colour depending on their age, stress levels and environment. No wonder it so difficult to see them in the sea.

There are only two types of Sea Dragons in the world – the Leafy Sea Dragon and the Weedy Sea Dragon – and both of them are found only in Australian waters.

The *Marine Parks Act* puts the environment first, protects people's lifestyles and livelihoods, and ensures the future of the Leafy Sea Dragon. The Southern Right Whale and the Australian Sea Lion also benefit from the Act's protection.

Morialta Magpie



Congratulations...
to Bill Matheson who celebrated his 80th birthday 2nd March, 2008.



Do you remember 10 years ago.....

A profile referred to Marie Elson:

"Marie has been a Coffee Corner volunteer since its inception. She is also the Sunday morning Tea and Coffee Co-ordinator and thinks she can't be far off qualifying for a Gold Watch."

We're not currently awarding gold watches, but we are continuing to say "Thank you!" and "Well done, Marie!"

SPORTING SUCCESSES

Annual State Swim Interschool Carnival

Emily competed, gaining 1st place in each of her races for Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke. Her team (Norwood) also won the carnival.

State Secondary School Swimming Carnivals

Vista & SASSA carnivals

Matthew

1st - both carnivals: Open Boys 50 m Freestyle
2nd - both carnivals: Open Boys 50 m Freestyle

Relay

2nd - Open Boys 50 m Medley Relay

Katrina

2nd place: Under 15 girls 50m Freestyle

2nd place: Yr 9 50m Freestyle relay

3rd place: Yr 9 50m Freestyle

3rd place: Yr 9 50m Breaststroke

3rd place: Under 15 girls 50m Breaststroke

Lachlan

3rd place: Yr 8 boys 50m Backstroke

Our Sympathy is with ...

Una Gruhl's family and friends.
Una, who passed away in late April,
was a member at Morialta
for many years.

Old Fashioned Movie Night 2008

By popular demand!!!

Sat 24 May 7.00 p.m.

Nostalgia...Fun...Favourites

Tickets

Adults \$8

Children \$4.00

Family \$20.00

On sale - Ice-creams, lollies, drinks

Tickets available in April



Christian Pastoral Support Workers (CPSW)

When the Federal Government made \$9 million dollars available for the employment of CPSWs, the Magill Interchurch Council (MICC) was successful in obtaining funding for four positions.

The successful applicants were Aaron Haines - Norwood Morialta High School Senior Campus; Samarn Meach - Norwood Morialta Middle Campus; Janene Overton - Magill Primary School; Kelly Beames - Magill Youth Education Centre; Belinda Upill - Cavan Youth Education Centre. Kelly and Belinda share one position.

All of the CPSWs have embraced the challenges of their roles with great compassion, caring and vigour. Following are summaries of their reports to the February meeting of the MICC.

Aaron Haines - Senior Campus

Aaron is keen to emphasise his role as one of support to the school community, of referral for student's issues and as a reference point for spiritual issues. He supports the school canteen one day a week as he finds this a great way to meet students in a very positive context (food). Some recess times are spent in the staff room building relationships with staff and seeking ways to be supportive of them and their programs.

Areas where support has commenced are:- Brekky club for students, staff morning tea, counselling students in relation to Christian issues, chatting with students who just drop into his office and supporting Chinese students in their New Year Celebrations. Initial contact has been made with Christian students and

he intends to commence a lunchtime group for them.

Samarn Meach - Middle Campus

Samarn has embraced her role as CPSW with much energy and enthusiasm. Samarn invites different groups of students to help with her Friday pancake breakfasts. This has proven a fun way of getting to know a range of students and encourages conversations she wouldn't otherwise be a part of. A student run Christian group which was formed last year is continuing. Samarn sees her role with these young people as one of support and guidance. Her vision for the group is that it will provide opportunities for exploring their faith and what God means to them.

Janene Overton - Magill Primary School

Janene was an art and drama teacher for 28 years, when in 2005 God called her to work at St Georges Anglican Church as the Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Janene commenced her role as CPSW at Magill Primary in the last week of last term 2007 and has spent the first few weeks of the 2008 school year getting to know the staff and students. We look forward to hearing more from Janene at the next MICC meeting.

Kelly Beames and Belinda Upill

commenced at the Youth Education Centres at the beginning of this school year and we will have reports from them soon.

Carole Lyons
Magill Interchurch Council

Summer Netball 2008

Five teams from Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club played in the South Australian United Church Netball Association Summer Night competition through the summer months. The A team (B Grade) played on Wednesday evenings and the Junior teams on Friday evenings.

Inspired by dedicated and enthusiastic coaches, and supported by their loyal fans, the players had a lot of fun honing their skills and playing their best for their teams and for the Club.

Our thanks to the Committee, the coaches, the umpires and the parents for their commitment to the Club and to the players.

Well done, Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club.

Christine Secombe





Evening Fellowship

On Wednesday February 20, members of the Evening Fellowship met at Hazelwood Park by the duck pond for their first outing for 2008. It was a good roll-up - 23 ladies and 3 men!

After a spate of hot weather we were blessed with a cool evening as we formed a large circle on our folding chairs. Margaret Ullyett chaired the proceedings while Dale Corrigan and Joan Wagner distributed programmes for the year's events.

People were then free to go for a walk or just sit and talk.. With dusk coming on we drove the short distance to "The Place Next Door" where we enjoyed hot drinks with cookies or slices as we sat and chatted.

All agreed that it had been a great meeting and the Fellowship was off to a good start for the year.



Christmas Bowl Morning Tea

Brian Corrigan



On Thursday 21 February six members of our Christmas Bowl collecting team attended a morning tea with about thirty of those who had collected in December.

As well as being a thank you occasion, the meeting gave opportunity to assess the viability of future collection mornings and to receive suggestions for improvements.

Minutes of the meeting are yet to come along with the final amount received from all sources for the Christmas Bowl.



Here at Morialta, Bruce presented the Certificates of Appreciation to Christmas Bowl collectors. Rachelle received her certificate, along with Katrina's, and was congratulated by Tiffany



*AN ECUMENICAL EVENING
The Quakers*

Many of us have realised that for all the years we enjoyed the friendship and support of Les Hopkins, we knew little about his first home, the **Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers**. So our annual Interfaith Evening in May has become an Ecumenical Evening in honour of Les.

We have invited a panel of three speakers from the Quakers, who will talk about their individual and collective experiences as members of the Society of Friends. There will also be time for questions and discussion. This is an opportunity to honour the life of Les Hopkins and to refresh, or increase your understanding of the Quaker movement started in 17th century.

**The venue is the Blue Room
and the date is Wednesday
21st May at 7.30pm
Sponsored by the Evening
Fellowship and the Social Justice
Ministry Team.**

Well done Rhonda ...

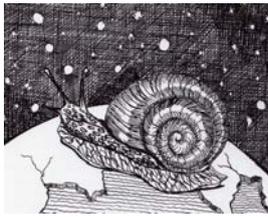
For many years Rhonda Wake has served the church at Morialta behind the scenes, assisting in the preparation of Communion for the 10.30 am Service.

We take for granted that the elements will always be there for a communion service, beautifully and lovingly prepared. We do not think of the time and care taken in doing such a specialised task, or of the unselfish commitment of those who undertake it.

Rhonda, we appreciate your years of work for us. Thank you from us all.

Cynthia Story
Leader, Worship & FE MMT

Snail's Pace to Eternity



I visited the Gallery of Old Masters in the city of Dresden not long ago. There I came across a fifteenth-century painting of the Annunciation by Francesco del Cossa.

Among the very many representations of the Annunciation hanging in the gallery, this one caught my attention in a special way. It wasn't the stylised figures of Mary or of the angel that struck me. Nor was it the intricate detail of the architecture or the careful blending of colour and light. No! What caught my gaze, and made me smile, was the image of a little snail crawling along the floor as Heaven announced its Coming to Mary of Nazareth.

Who knows what the artist intended by including this tiny creature in his altarpiece? But I have often reflected since then on what that snail has to say to me, and why it attracts me so much.

For one thing, it reminds me that I am crawling across the landscape of eternity in my own little pilgrimage of life. Heaven and earth may be coming together above my head, to change the entire destiny of humankind, but all I can see is a small corner of the pattern of just one of the tiles on the floor.

Next year I may get to see a fragment of another corner. No way will I ever take in the awesome mystery in which the Artist has so unaccountably included me.

And so I plod on. My horns are stretched out in front of me, trusting that I will pick up whatever signals I need for the next inch of the journey, and praying to discern their meanings for my life.

Everything I think is 'mine'- including my rather skewed understanding, my mightily obstinate will and my miniscule notions of 'God' and 'God's ways'. Are all packed up in my 'mobile home'. I have to contain things, you see, because I am human, and that's what humans do – but I have at least got as far as understanding that my 'container' must be portable. Like the Ark of the Covenant, it is my way of getting a handle on 'God'. Unaccountably included in the picture, by the creator of the snails and the stars

I carry it with me through the slow progress of my journey, retreating into it from time to time to refresh my inside knowledge of times when God has been so very present to my experience.

...Time for all of us to move on, knowing that what our ears are exploring is a canvas infinitely greater than our imagination can contain, but leaving, perhaps, a little silver trail behind us, where some of God's love spilled out and touched the world and made it shine a bit – a signal that this small stretch of time and space we call our life is also being walked by Christ.

(Excerpt from *Wayfaring* by Margaret Silf.)



Reading List

Wayfaring, by Margaret Silf, invites you to make your own journey of prayer and lived experience alongside Jesus, from his birth, through his earthly ministry, suffering and death, and into resurrected life. Journeys are made very simply: by placing one foot in front of the other. As you journey, *Wayfaring* enables you to reflect, step by step, on what the Gospel story means for you.

When You lose Someone You love ... a journey through the heart of grief.

By Susan Squellati Florence

A thoughtful book to visit again and again as we live through sorrow and loss.

Seven Dying Australians

Edited by Allan Kellehear & David Richie

These are the stories from seven different Australians from different backgrounds, with different views of dying.

If there's anything I can do ...

By Caroline Doughty

How to help someone who has been bereaved.

The Almost Perfect Marriage

By Stephanie Dowrick

One minute relationship skills

Advance Australia .. Where?

By Hugh Mackay

How we've changed, why we've changed and what will happen next.

An Explorer's Notebook

By Tim Flannery

He writes about matters as wide-ranging as love, insects, population, water and land management.

The Cambridge Companion to The Bible

Edited by Bruce Chilton and others

A rich, accessible and reliable reference book. It provides state-of-the-art scholarship that connects each of the Biblical books to its socio-historical context.

Assembly Update

March 2008

Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly

Just a Thought

Maybe I'm showing my age but the other day I was in a supermarket and was very conscious of the incessant background music — I found it annoying. It doesn't matter where one goes today, there is nothing but audio and visual noise. It's as though people are afraid of silence.

Twice over the last couple of weeks I have spoken to people, from very different experiences in the church, who have complained to me about the over abundance of words that assail them at worship these days. Has our worship got infected with the culture's fear of silence?

What is it that makes many of our Ministers and worship leaders think they have to fill every gap with some witty or humorous interlude; or to bear witness to their flowery literary skills with long and involved prayers? Could we not, a little more than occasionally, be silent?

In the tradition of the church, silence is the place of opportunity — the space where we might meet God. Of course that can be a bit of a worry because we might also meet ourselves and that is not always fun. Is the church becoming anxious about what might happen in the silence, just as the wider community seems to be?

My personal spirituality is nurtured by silence. The hardest thing for the nourishment of my faith during my term as General Secretary has been the crowds of people, landscape and sounds. Silence is a space for God.

Perhaps in our worship the Uniting Church could resist the temptation of us having to manufacture opportunities to meet God and instead leave some silence — the space where God and people traditionally meet.

Rev. Terence Corkin
General Secretary
National Assembly

Farewell to Reverend Kyle Waters

Kyle has served the Uniting Church and the predecessor Methodist Church with love, commitment and wisdom.



1945-1950 Theological Studies
March 1950 Ordained
1951-1955 Broken Hill City Mission
1956 Family joined Magill Methodist Church
1955-1975 Chaplain Prince Alfred College
1971 President of SA Methodist Conference
1977- 1980 Secretary UCA Synod
1950-1979 Senior Army Chaplain
1956-1980 Served on Councils of Lincoln College, Westminster School and Prince Alfred College.

The Magill, and then Morialta Congregations have been blessed by Kyle's membership. Kyle's membership is being transferred to Malvern UC where he will attend from his residence at Resthaven.

Jean Forrest a generous benefactor



Jean Forrest, known to many, recently passed away. Unfortunately, too many people seem to be doing that lately.

Jean was active within the congregation for many years and will be missed.

Memories are a wonderful legacy that all those who die leave with us. In Jean's case there was more. Jean Forrest's estate has conferred a significant bequest on Morialta. *A generous gift!*

You can be sure that this bequest will be used well to further our mission.

We all know and understand Stewardship. Different people have a range of views on the advantages and otherwise of stewardship through regular giving. It is not often, however, that Morialta is the recipient of other forms of gifting.

***If any of readers would like information
about bequesting they are invited to
contact Rob Cheel.***

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Reverend Charles Lane Memorial

We have in our sanctuary wall a memorial to one who lived out the words of Christ so that in generations later we may glorify our Father in heaven.

In 1897 the Magill Methodist Church (our home) was in financial trouble and unable to support a minister. Rev. Charles Lane, a retired Methodist minister from our parish gave his services to our church. Until his death in 1910 he served our church as pastor and shepherd of the people and was much loved by the congregation and wider community. By 1915 Magill was again able to support an ordained minister. At this period the usual term for ministers of the word in the Methodist Church was 3 years and Rev. Lane served our church for over 3 terms.



This memorial, not only commemorates the service of one man, but the voluntary service of the many who followed and still follow so that the Light of Christ may be lifted up in this place to bring glory to our Father in heaven.

Bev Tredrea

*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven
(Matthew 5:16)*

Diary Dates

TODAY 6 April FAREWELLS
Rev Alan and Lee Biglow, Rev Kyle Waters

Sat-Sun, 12 & 13 April - KCO – Kids' Camp Out

Sat 3 May, 10.30 am - Urban Mission Network Gathering
– Christchurch UC

Sun 4 May, 9.30 am - Combined Service & Meeting of the
Congregation

Wed 21 May, 7.30 pm - Ecumenical Evening with Religious
Society of Friends, the Quakers

Sat 24 May, 7.00 pm - Old Fashioned Movie Night

Mon 2 June - Church Picnic at Rockleigh

Acknowledgments

David Purling for the cover photo of the waterfall and for that of the butterfly accompanying his article.

Brian Corrigan for the numerous photographs that he contributed to this edition.

John Secombe for the Netball pictures.

The various other contributors that provide us with enjoyable articles for each edition.

Making Email Work for Morialta

Sometimes we have important news or information which could be sent quickly by e-mail, for example, celebration, funeral arrangements, special occasions and invitations.

If you have an e-mail address, but it is not on our system, and you want to receive such information, please give your address to Val in the office or e-mail it to morialtauca@picknowl.com.au

If your current e-mail address is already with the Church Office, we will use it unless you say "No Thank you!", and communicate this to Val.

Be assured this will not replace the weekly Newsletter or Vision!

**Deadline for June Edition
Wednesday 14th May 2008**

If you would like to contribute an item, please send as Word documents either: **by email** to the Vision Receiver, Sharon Mackenzie, (craig_sharon@picknowl.com.au).

Please do not attempt to format or use other software

OR

In hard copy via the Vision pigeon-hole – please allow more lead time for word processing.

NAME LABEL