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Living Streams ~ Giving Life



Meditation and Prayer

Let the moon embrace the blessing;  
Let the sun sustain the cheer;  
Let the world confirm the rumour:  
Christ is risen, God is here!

John Bell 1988

Deadline for June Edition  
Friday 29 May 2009

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.

Acknowledgements

David Purling for the waterfall photo and other pictures.

Brian Corrigan and Val DiGirolamo for the numerous photographs in this edition.

Stories, poetry and other texts from Chris Ayles, Arthur Tideman, Bruce Ind, Faye Barker, Judith Purling, Doug Hosking and others.

All have contributed to this interesting April edition.

Diary Dates

Thursday	23 April	9.15am	Meditation continuing
Monday	27 April	1.30pm	Tai Chi continuing
Tuesday	28 April	9.30am	Playgroup - Term 2
Wednesday	29 April	12.noon	Coffee Corner & Friendship
Saturday	2 May	7.30pm	Logies Night
Sunday	17 May	9.30am	Worship & Commissioning
Tuesday	19 May	7.30pm	Church Council
Sunday	31 May	9.30am	Worship & Commissioning
Saturday	4 July	7.00pm	Morialta Music Hall - AUSSIE-RAMA

Remember to Recycle this publication



NAME LABEL



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# Morialta Vision



Volume 2 Issue 2

April 2009

Dear Friends

One of the authors whose worship resources I enjoy and use is Roddy Hamilton. I love this reflection on a favourite Psalm and I hope it leads you into a deeper appreciation of this great psalm of faith.

Grace and peace  
Diane

Shepherding God  
when the time comes  
there will be an overflowing  
of everything I need  
I shall not want

When the time comes  
meadows will blossom in deserts  
in barrenness  
life will take root  
in pain  
laughter will once more be heard  
He leads me to green pasture

When the time comes  
we will find the strength to move  
on  
to hold to what we know is true  
and to trust it with our lives  
He gives me new strength

When the times comes  
we will know the path to take  
that is your promise to us  
and in every darkness  
in every death  
in every storm  
we need not fear  
for love holds us  
comforts us  
challenges us  
Even though I walk  
in the deepest darkness  
I shall not fear

When the time comes  
there will be a harvest for the  
hungry  
that will feed our needs  
our politics  
our justice  
our longing

and those who are our enemies  
shall see the banquet  
and be invited to sit  
You prepare a banquet for me

When the time comes  
your love will carry us  
an unlimited supply  
My cup runneth over

When the time comes  
your goodness will hunt us down  
seeking us out  
so that we dwell  
in your house  
your presence  
in your company  
at your table forever



David Purling writes...

Some time ago, our ex-across-the-road-neighbours offered us a double pusher to give to some-one who might need it and could use it.

At that time Judith was involved with Africa day at Modbury Uniting Church. The pusher was offered to the Africans and the result is the two little Liberians found a comfy means of transport!



The gift was given without any preconditions. Our friends did not say it had to go to any particular people, of

any particular social status. There were no strings attached. There was no thought of reward or even thanks. The pusher had done its job for the twins of our neighbours, and now it was to find another 'home'.

The giving of gifts is important in our culture, and indeed, is in many cultures. It is a means of remembering how important someone is to us. It is a means of saying "You matter".

The giving of self in love and service is very much at the heart of the Gospel. We are reminded again of this, as we move through Lent to the great drama of the Cross.

At Morialta there are many examples of this kind of giving with that same spirit... serving tea/coffee, helping children/young people, singing, playing music, etc etc etc.

In the passages in Matthew which we call 'The Sermon on the Mount', the following is ascribed to Jesus:

"In everything do to others as you

would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12)

And as a final thought...

As we are also going to be involved in Stewardship this year, which is also about giving, I thought the following was worth passing on. It comes from an SCM Service (Student Christian Movement)

"OFFERING TO GOD

- As people with a vision of a God of love, **we offer our prayers.**
- As people with a vision of eternity, **we offer our time.**
- As people with a vision of an end to poverty, **we offer our money.**
- As people with a vision of community, **we offer all we have shared together.**
- As people with a vision of a just society, **we offer ourselves.**

(©SCM 2004)"

Chris Ayles writes....



Those of you able to get to worship during Lent may have noticed our theme has been that of "pathways" with "signposts" or "waymarks" as the decision points along the path we travel.

This has provided a basis for us to consider again the journey that Jesus took to Jerusalem leading into Palm Sunday, his crucifixion and Easter. And also the path of our own life, those things that inform and guide our decisions along the way and our personal faith journey.

Waymarks

It's nothing new to say that life's a journey through time and space, through what we learn and feel.

Amassing memories and perhaps some wisdom. At times denying, sometimes being real. Is life just weeks repeating and repeating? Where are the waymarks? What do they reveal?

Do I miss them as I strive to be successful? Do I miss them as I dawdle, lost in self? Do they trip me up without my recognition? Do I blindly rest on them? Who knows what else? Is life just habits repeating and repeating? What are the waymarks? Missed or seen or felt.

We may rush headlong towards our destination? In the process discount life along the way. Or search out, relish every new experience. Or go around in circles. Play the day. Is life just things repeating and repeating? How do the waymarks get to have their say?

Events that shock dramatic and traumatic, That stop us with a jolt and make us think. Or perhaps the little things we barely notice. A gesture or a smile, gone in a blink. If we look inside events as they're repeating Are the waymarks there? Can we start to find a link?

If our journeying is marked by questing, seeking. By wondering and struggling with the grey. We may notice loving, caring, helping, sharing. We may even give ourselves along the way. Is life then, opportunities repeating? Are these the waymarks that will mark our way?

Chris Ayles

Ride on, ride on, God's love demands. Justice and peace lie in your hands. Evil and angel voices rhyme: This is the ma and this is the time.

(John Bell)

What must change where you live?

Rev Dr Andrew Dutney  
Principal, Uniting College for Leadership and Theology.

I was asked recently for a statement of my vision for the UCA. In some ways that's easy. A Basis Boffin like me already knows that the Uniting Church's 'vision statement' is found in the Basis of Union (paragraph 3). That vision has inspired me and guided me from the first time I saw it. It has two points of reference – God's mission and the church's mission.

The Basis of Union summarizes our vision of God's mission in the phrase 'reconciliation and renewal... or the whole creation'. This is actually a pretty good summary of the Gospel as it is expressed in, e.g. 2 Corinthians 5:19, Ephesians 1:8-10, Colossians 1:9-20 or Galatians 3:3-28.

Our vision of what the church's mission is controlled by that understanding of God's mission: The church is called to be "a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself." This reflects the vision of the church in 1 Corinthians 12. The church's mission is to be a sign, a foretaste and an instrument of the mission of God – "reconciliation and renewal...for the whole creation".

And we are called to be that sign, foretaste and instrument in every congregation – every "embodiment of one place of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church" (Basis of Union, paragraph 15a). The local church – your local church – is the hope of the world because it is a beachhead of the kingdom of God in any town or neighbourhood or business in which it is called into being.

But that's a bit abstract. What would a "fellowship of reconciliation" really be like in the flesh? I'll come back to that shortly. But first I want to share one of those blindingly obvious things that I've only just noticed.

Over the past four months the Leadership Development Council has been going through a consultative process to settle on a name for our new centre for leadership development. All sorts of things are suggested, including names or terms drawn from the Bible. "Reconciliation" looked like it might prompt something so I started looking into it. In the New Testament the Greek word that we translate as "reconciliation" is *katalassein* which literally means "change" or "exchange" (i.e. to change from, enmity to friendship).

And that's the blindingly obvious thing that I finally noticed: reconciliation implies change. You can't be reconciled without being changed. And you can't be a fellowship of reconciliation without being open to change and being a change agent. Reconciliation means not letting things remain as they are. God was in Christ, not making sure everything stayed just as it was, not being careful not to upset the settled and familiar, not tolerating the status quo – still less defending it. No, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself – changing things – and entrusting to us this word of reconciling change.

A "fellowship of reconciliation" is a catalyst (yep, it comes from the same Greek word, *katalassein*) for change in the surrounding community.

Think about the town, neighbourhood, community or institution in which your congregation is called to be a fellowship of reconciliation. What's it like? What actually divides people from each other? And what specific things could your congregation do to speak the word of reconciliation into your community? Sometimes a small practical change – starting something, stopping something, trying something admitting something – is all that's needed as a catalyst for the bigger change that makes all things new. What must change where you live?

Published in  
UC Information March 2009  
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Who said he needed saving then?

This year the Lenten Reflection was taken from a series of 12 sessions that covered a range of topics and offered the participants opportunities to hear from world renowned theologians and Jesus scholars.

Context is important.

Taking time to consider the historical events reflected in the Gospels, with the benefit of scholarship, meant that participants were able to discuss the juxtaposition of Jesus and Caesar. After all, who would have thought that the early Gospel writers were using classical terms like Redeemer, Saviour, and King of Kings to compare and contrast these two important historical figures. Once you recognize the irony it is possible to read the words in a different context.

When Jesus says to his fellow Jews whose land and possessions are being occupied and taken by Rome, "Give unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's". He could be interpreted as meaning 'give Caesar nothing'.

This series has given us an opportunity to reconnect with the Christ who has been our companion on the Way. His message to a society where the dominant power was Rome challenges us all to look at the powers that impact on us and decide whether they are life giving or not.

There is only one Gospel. Just as the first four books of the New Testament give the Good News according to those writers, we are challenged to consider our response today.

There are 8 more sessions in the series and we will have opportunity to reconnect later in the year. If you didn't participate this time please consider joining in next time!

Bruce and Chris



- CHANGE OF LIBRARY HOURS ON SUNDAYS -  
The library is now open Sundays from 8.00 am to 11.00 am.



- THANKS -  
To everyone who has donated books or jam or time or anything else to the library.

I think you will agree it is a great library.

DONATIONS! DVD's

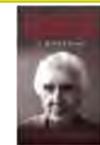
Second-hand DVD's and donations to enable the library to buy new DVD'S will be most welcome so that we can bring the library up-to-date and phase out videos.

Latest Books to join the Collection ...



A Woman of Independence

by Kirsty Sword Gusmao is the story of an incredible love affair, and the passion and courage it takes to free a nation.



Margaret Whitlam

by Susan Mitchell. An intimate biography of Margaret Whitlam – clear-eyed, unsentimental, witty and poignant. Susan Mitchell's wonderfully evoked personal portrait will move you both to tears and laughter.



Stand by Your Man

Sonia, Tarnie & Janette by Susan Mitchell. Has their political influence been one of Australia's best kept secrets? And what else have they hidden from us? Mitchell tries to answer these questions and explores the lives of three complex and very different women.



American Journeys

by Don Watson investigates the meaning of the United States: its confidence, its religion, its heroes, its violence, its material obsessions and its stupefying contradictions.



Careless in Red

by Elizabeth George marks the welcome return of Scotland Yard's Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley in a compelling and satisfying crime drama.



Barry Jones - A Thinking Reed

Almost unique among politicians. Barry Jones is held in enormous public affection. While he reveals many insights into the political process, he concentrates above all on the life of the mind; a mind with deep, passionate and witty insights into history, philosophy, music and literature.

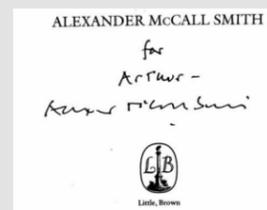


God, Actually

by Roy Williams. Why God probably exists, why Jesus was probably divine and why the 'rational' objections to religion are unconvincing. Why should we believe in God?

Arthur Tideman writes ... "Goodness"

Virtue is bold and goodness never fearful. Shakespeare



To my great delight I have been given a book signed by the author. Not just a signature, but as you can see, it specifically says, "To Arthur".

The hieroglyphic signature is that of Alexander Mc Call Smith who has just published, *Tea Time for the Traditionally Built* which is another in his series of *The No! Ladies' Detective Agency*.

Alexander McCall Smith is a psychologist and Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh, who has served on many international bodies as a bio-ethicist and has written more than 60 books. It is amazing to me that with all that worldly knowledge and experience his novels simply concentrate on goodness.

And for that they make wonderful reads as we are drawn to dig deep and uncover the goodness of the human heart through his main character, Mma Ramotswe, the traditionally built lady who loves bush tea.

You see, he tells us, "There is plenty of work for love to do".

Around quite simple characters he wraps psychological themes and wisdom in the most unlikely dialogue such as the beef stew being made for a special evening meal. Mma Ramotswe tells us that the

Signposts: Wondering, Questioning, Struggling, Journeying, Noticing, Listening

In worship during Lent, we have been looking at signposts along our life's journey and books are a way in which we can explore these signposts. As I catalogue all the books in our wonderful collection on to the computer, I give each one a category. I thought it would be interesting to test out the catalogue by looking up these different signposts.

This is what I found :

- Journeying –
  - Wayfaring by Margaret Silf
  - At Sea with God by Margaret Silf
  - A Closer Walk by Catherine Marshall
  - The Second Journey by Gerald O'Collins
- Questioning –
  - Quest for Happiness – Wishbone by Marion Halligan
- Listening –
  - Loving Promises by Helen Steiner Rice
  - The Seven Whispers by Christina Baldwin
  - Wisdom distilled from the daily by Joan Chittester.
- Struggling –
  - The Desert Experience by Tommy Barnett
  - Where is God when it hurts by Philip Yancey

beef had been given by a cousin, "He had known the parents and the grandparents of the animal and they were all delicious". He told her they were a very delicious family.

So for goodness sake, the next time you invoke the goodness of God with an exclamation (Goodness gracious! Surely to goodness! I wish to goodness! Goodness me! Thank goodness!) take a leaf out of Alexander McCall Smith's book and dig deeper and listen. Until you do you will often only know a tiny part of the goodness of the human heart.

Arthur Tideman

In our up-to-date church library there are no fewer than 17 McCall Smith titles covering two series, *The No! Ladies' Detective Agency* and the *44 Scotland Street* series.

## Avenel Smith - Avy

From a tribute by Ruth Pitt, the eulogy, and the homily at the Thanksgiving Service

Avy was a valued member of the Morialta Uniting Church Evening Fellowship, serving as president, committee member and secretary. She was a most kind, considerate, conscientious, hardworking, organised and thoughtful lady. She was a 'quiet achiever'. She is remembered as a child who was quietly involved in many things and caring towards everyone. She never sought any limelight and never wanted to be the centre of attention, but was always ready to put forward her ideas for every project.

There were memories of friendships at Newton UC in the 1970s ... After Newton amalgamated with Magill, Avy worshipped at the 9.00 am. service and continued attending Evening Fellowship. She was interested in the lives of every one of us. Even during the difficult days of her illness she was still asking and caring about other sick members. We will all miss her grace, serenity, friendship and participation.

Avy was a natural, nurturing mother always there for support and an ear to listen and a should to lean on when needed. She was never one to 'make a show' but will be widely remembered for her gentle, calm, caring ways. She would always look to help the ill and those less fortunate. Always a positive person, she would find the good in all people and situations.

Avy lived simply but well. Little was wasted as she believed that we should all leave only small footprints on this earth. She had a deep religious faith and tried to do good by all she met. She was deeply loved and will be sadly missed by all who knew her and especially by Colin, Tony and Melanie but we know she made the world a better place for being part of it.

Avy was one of those people God's light shone through,  
and wherever we let that light shine through us  
we are never far from God's love or from Avy.

## Sydney Walton September 1925—27 March 2009 A Celebration of Life

Selections from the tribute presented by Ian Walton.

"Did you hear the one about the bloke who opened a tavern on the moon? He had to close because there was no atmosphere."

"The only son of Alice and Ellis Walton, Mac as his mum and dad called him, grew up in austere times. From his mum, dad got his love of crosswords, puzzles and an inquiring mind, and from his father, a professional gardener, a love of gardening and self sufficiency."

After junior teaching and his time at Teachers Training College, his teaching appointments included Ramco, Coorabie, Mount Cooper, Wynflytte, Elliston, Port Augusta, Elizabeth Fields, Nailsworth, Morphettville Park and eventually Flagstaff Hill Primary... "where dad, as the principal who opened the school, put in place his beliefs about education and linked his gardening passion with fruit trees in the school grounds.....Dad was particularly chuffed that his cardiologist was an ex-student and it was evident that Professor Worthley held dad in high esteem and they would joke about the quality and success of dad's surgery."

"Literacy and in particular reading skills was another area in which dad invested time and energy. He was responsible for managing national and international reading conferences."

"For someone who couldn't read music, dad had an astonishing ear. He played fife in school bands as a student and piano as an adult for all and sundry: bush dances, functions and the entertainment of others."



"Dad was a devoted husband. For 60 years mum and dad shared their lives together. The backyard garden produce grown by dad would be turned into sauces, jams, chutney and preserved fruit in a team effort. They were and are immensely private people. They enjoyed each other's company and without each other they were lost. This was never more so when it became impossible for dad to continue caring for mum at home. To watch the signals and love between them on his Gleneagles visits and the last couple of months where dad joined mum in care were a special time for them."

"Faith was an integral part of our family life. The sermons dad gave as a lay preacher are all neatly catalogued in his distinctive script. .... Our memories are closely linked to Clayton Wesley and Magill churches; the choirs, concerts. In later times the Wednesday lunches could not be missed."



"Dad was always an entertainer. He loved nothing better than performing and when he had an audience there was a twinkle in his eye. Before our time dad did some clowning and piano playing. Di and I were both pleased when we could go with dad for a Mac's Marionettes performance and be allowed to hand him the puppets as he weaved his magic. Many of the marionettes he made himself with mum creating their clothing."

"Throughout latter years while there were the surgeries for stents and the dialysis, where Baxter centre became a second home ... you remained determined to live at home and care for mum. We are proud of your quiet determination."

"Dad you and your life are a jigsaw of many and varied pieces: loving husband, father, teacher, friend, entertainer, puppeteer, gardener, story teller and scholar. You were a man of principle, stoic, stubborn, sometimes impulsive, and loyal. You showed pride in your family. You have been a humble and influential man not just with us, but with countless others. This is the true measure of greatness."

Thanks to Ian, Di and the family for this tribute and allowing us to reproduce it in Vision.

## From the Chairperson

### A gold ring experience.....

I feel a little like the widow who lost the coins that were all she had. While weeding the front garden during the recent Working Bee I lost a gold ring that Anne had given me. I was gratified with the effort that a number of people took in looking for it and for the concern expressed by everyone when they heard of my loss.

*I hope that all of you have a  
'gold ring' experience  
sometime ...*

Well, I don't know if it is persistence or just plain luck, but I found it! While the ring is now firmly on my finger again, hopefully to stay, it wasn't the fact that I had found it that gave me the most satisfaction, but being able to tell those who had helped me, of my success.

As a member of this community I am constantly reminded of the care that many of our number show to many others. I hope that all of you have a 'gold ring' experience sometime, if you haven't already!

### On matters of "Change"...

Change has been a bit of a theme in recent times. Why, then, should this time be any different?

Since the last edition of Vision we have said 'Good bye' to Val, who has moved on to a new position where her considerable skills can be used effectively. As a consequence it has been necessary to go through the process of appointing a new Office Coordinator.

By now you will be aware that the successful applicant is one of our own, Helena Begg, who has very considerable skills of her own. We are all pleased that the Office will continue to be in very good hands.

Following the theme, we need to recognize the other significant change that has occurred.

Historically, Morialta has been served by two full-time, or almost full-time, ministers. As you all know, that has changed. We continue to be well served with Diane in full-time ministry and David in an 0.3 EFT role. Our new Community Centre Coordinator, Christine Ostle introduces herself further down this page. Christine has a strong set of gifts that will benefit Morialta's mission and help us to realize the expansion of our Community Programs – a long awaited vision we have all hoped to see actioned.

I wonder what will change for Morialta and you in the next few months? Whatever it is, I hope it will be good.

## From the Annual General Meeting 29 March 2009



Val DiGirolamo was farewelled with appreciation for her excellent services and warm connections with all members of the church community. She was praised for her patience, her ability to work in a multi-layered environment of information sharing and support for programs. She had survived, or rather reveled in, the frequently rife good humour of office users such as David, Bruce and Diane, and been a problem solver and super-sleuth when necessary. We said goodbye with regret. However, we noted with pleasure that Val would continue to contribute some skilled services to our publishing activities in the immediate future as we move forward with appointments.

The appointment of Christine Ostle as Community Centre Coordinator was announced and received with pleasure. Christine would be present for visits during April and would commence in her role early in May.

Four Elders were elected – Chris Ayles and Pauline Norman to further terms, Alison Lockett to a new term after a year away from Council, and Helena Begg, as a new member. Congratulations were expressed. Bruce Ind was returned as Chairperson and Mary Thomley as Secretary.

Reports included the Annual Report from Church Council. Copies are available in the foyer pamphlet holder for those who were not present on the day.

The Annual Report from Community Programs was received with acknowledgement of the many activities which are so integral to the life and mission

of our Congregation and which strengthen our sense of community.

Other items included Reports: from our Ministers, Urban Mission Network and Presbytery/Synod, Magill Inter-Church Council, and John Powers, Leader of Finance OMT; matters in progress: the Drive-way Drop/Off agreements and the related application for grant funding, painting of the church and the planned Working Bee.

For those unable to attend the meeting, Information presented on any of these matters may be sought from Bruce, Mary, Diane or other members of Church Council.

Once again Mission Projects provided delicious muffins to sustain energies during the meeting with funds going to support Mission Projects for 2009.

## Finance Report 2008

In presenting the Financial outcomes for 2008 John Powers reported that the Surplus had risen beyond that anticipated, and stood at \$19,776. This was notable given that the 2008 budget projection had been for a deficit of \$17,000. A number of factors contributed to this significant surplus, including the departure of Rev Alan Biglow, reduced ministerial costs, and related expenditure in ministerial accommodation. Other information provided by John referred to some "ups and downs" in both income and expenditure, noting that expenditure had been kept to a minimum and that fund raising outcomes had been robust.

## From Christine Ostle

I am very pleased to be appointed as the Community Centre Coordinator at Morialta. I have had a heart for Christian outreach ever since I was a child watching my parents welcome people with troubled lives into our home. In my youth I was part of an active youth group that consciously reached out to the young people of our region.

When I was a school teacher in Whyalla in the early 1980s the church was engaged in setting up a Lifeline service and a Goodwill shop. Other areas of Christian outreach in which I have been involved include a large craft program, a continuing education program for seniors, refugee work and work with disabled people. Every stage of my life has been involved in Christian outreach in some way. I look forward to the new challenge before us as we work together to reach into the wider community.

On a personal note, I have travelled a number of times. I walk daily and enjoy finding a new cafe that I haven't visited before. When I was 35 my husband died leaving me with two daughters who were 7 and 9. My daughters Jessica and Cassie are now 24 and 22. Jessica is married to Dave.



### Sharing with generosity

Morialta Uniting Church is a fortunate congregation. Not only do we have opportunity to participate in meaningful and challenging worship as well as a happy social life, but we have many members who use their time and talents to extend our mission into the community.

The congregation has also been generous in providing resources for the mission we believe we are called to participate in. Later this year we will all be invited to participate in a Stewardship/Giving Program and to reflect once more on how we will support the mission of our Morialta Congregation, that is, how we will respond to the blessing we know through our relationship with God, by sharing that blessing with others.

Many of us have had cause to reflect on our personal financial situation as the global financial crisis impacts on our savings, employment or future plans, or on those close to us. We feel concern for those who are most seriously affected, both those in our local communities and those who live further away. Sadly, many people lived in dire poverty even as we enjoyed the more buoyant economic times, and their situation is now even more precarious. We pray for those who are suffering and continue to reflect on how our faith calls us to respond.

The stimulus package approved by the government will provide a financial bonus for many people. For some it may provide funds at just the right time, relief from financial pressure or the ability to respond to an emergency. Others will receive it as an unexpected blessing that they will want to share with those who are more adversely affected. This might be through helping a friend in need, through increased giving to charity or through an extra contribution or gift to the work of the Morialta Congregation.

#### Gregor Henderson, the President of the Uniting Church in Australia, writes:

We know that the current economic system, driven by greed for profit, has failed us all... including the billions who live in dire poverty. If we recognise that the economic system has failed us, we reflect on God's teaching that an abundant life doesn't mean the rich getting richer. The important things in life are not material. Security is earned through faithfulness in and love of God.

By acknowledging this, we can imagine a new economic system that has at its heart values of equity, justice and respect for creation - God's own image for the world. We can imagine an economic system that supports the common good. We can imagine an economic system that supports abundance, not through growth but through sharing and care for humanity.

The Christian faith calls us to stand with those who are most vulnerable, those who live in poverty, those who are left behind in the dash for cash that's been the driver of the global financial crisis. It's time to say that growth for its own sake is not a proper goal for humanity just as amassing enormous material wealth at the expense of others is not a proper goal for individuals. Instead, the economy is a tool that we can wield for more life-affirming goals: human flourishing and wellbeing; vibrant and inclusive societies; a healthy and sustainable planet.

Let us continue to share God's blessings with others through our generosity and our commitment to those in need.

**If, after reflection, you'd like to gift part of your stimulus package to enable Morialta's mission in this community, we invite you to contribute to one (or more) of these projects**

#### Drive-way/Drop-off

A gift to this project would support safe entry to the building and activities, particularly for our frail elderly folk and those whose mobility is not so good. It would also free up the funds we would expend on that for other purposes in our mission.

#### Board/s, or sandwich board overlays

A gift to develop these would enable better public advertising of our programs, and invite participation in activities which are designed to enable connection with others and a sense of well-being and enjoyment in life.

#### Alternatively you could earmark your gift for one (or more) of the following challenging projects beyond Morialta:

##### Nungaliya College

National Indigenous Education and Training College, Darwin

##### North Luzon-

Resourcing Church Workers and Ministers

##### Papua New Guinea

Micro Finance

Projects Beyond Morialta are detailed on the next page.

*If you wish to make a gift, please use the envelope included in this edition of Vision and tick the project/s to which your gift should go. You could use another envelope and label it as you wish. The gift can then be placed in the offering plate or handed in at the Church Office.*

This invitation to share is given following discussion by members of Church Council.



Face Lift for Morialta

What a face-lift has been achieved in the painting on our church building! How good it looks!

The "cherry picker" seemed like an almost permanent fixture, along with the two painters who laboured with energy and unfailing good humour, even on the sunniest days. Not only did they paint, but they also helped repair some deteriorating grids and difficult apertures, improving the fabric of the aging building enormously. Well done Property Team - and a good decision by Church Council!

**PLAYGROUP UPDATE** - Playgroup enjoyed welcoming new families with young babies to our group this term. The first few weeks were relatively quiet because of the summer heat wave. The children have enjoyed preparing for Easter with the last session concluding with hot cross buns and an Easter hunt. We have one four year old boy moving onto Kindergarten and we wish him well. A big "thank you" to the volunteer ladies for making and serving morning tea. Also a "thank you" to Faye and Steve Barker for their work in purchasing and assembling a wooden toy kitchen for the children. Next term we hope to see some notice boards on two of our walls. Thank you to the Property Team and volunteers for help with this. We look forward to Term 2 with enthusiasm, grace, peace and the love of God. Helen.

### KCO at Home 2009



On the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March, Jesse, and his friends, Miles, Matilda and Craig, along with Alice and her friends Riley and Maddy joined in with the 20 children of Demancourt for KCO.

The theme for 2009 was a space. On entry each child - astronaut, was taken to the galaxy (sleeping area) to be introduced to their planet expedition leader.

The hall was the flight deck, the children's area was the launch pad, the kitchen was the Milky Way, the toilets were P-loo-to. Each area was decorated with the theme, and with Star Wars music playing to set the theme, KCO 2009 BLASTED OFF at 1pm.

The children's leader, Colleen Brooks and her wonderful team of leaders and helpers organized a day of fun. The activities included a dig for treasure, a capsule that held the theme, followed by space games, space craft, and space science experiments. Devotions and singing came after the astronauts and expedition leaders had dinner.

During the evening there was rocket making. Some groups took their time and were very technical in the making whilst others were less technical and tried to make the tallest.

At the end of rocket making each group enjoyed "Show and Share" pointing out the design features of their rockets.



It was time to wind down with the first half of the movie Wall-E. During interval there was star gazing and a guided tour of the stars followed by supper with the children and leaders settling down to watch the second half of Wall-E.

At 11.00 pm a day of fun was over we thanked our hosts and returned home, tired but full of delightful tales to tell. The children and leaders had made some new friends.

The Morialta children were supported by Rhonda our trusty cook who warms our hearts with her food and care, Matt and Faye Barker, Sarah Heatley and Tiffany Winn. Thank you to all those from Morialta who supported KCO at Home, and to the leaders for their contribution to the children.

2010 KCO is to be held at Nuriootpa



Classic Entertainment  
Great Aussie Tucker

Saturday 4 July 2009

Tickets  
Adults \$18.00  
Children under 12 years \$8.00

### Over!



The formal relationship between the Morialta-Magill Cricket Club and the Morialta Uniting Church is over.

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009 we celebrated the proud cricketing tradition of the Club, remembering that it was 60 years ago, at the instigation of the May brothers, that the cricket club was established as part of the then Magill Methodist Church's life to give opportunity for fellowship and fun.

For thirty years the club had strong links with this church but over the last thirty years these links have weakened until the club was a church club in name only. Last year the club decided to cut the ties with the church, thankful for its support in establishing the Club, and ready to continue to provide opportunities for interested members to play cricket, to share social occasions and to develop friendships.



John May, one of the 'originals' joined Rev Diane Bury and Elder Christine Semcoe in giving thanks for the contribution of the club to the life of the church during several decades, for the way it has enriched the lives of so many men and praying

for the ongoing life of the Morialta Church that it may continue to be responsive to the wider needs of those who are part of this community.



Brenton May, the current Secretary of the club talked with Diane and the children about being part of team - practicing, maintaining physical fitness, being on time, doing your best for your team.

The Penhall family has a long-standing connection with the Cricket Club - Bob and sons John and Hugh have all been players.

Pictured here is Bob Penhall bringing the Psalm for the day to the congregation. Helen Penhall's floral tribute connected cricket equipment and the historical record of the club to the sacredness of our worshipping life.

We continue to pray for the ongoing life of the cricket club, that it may continue to be a place of friendship and of bringing happiness and good health to all those who participate in it. We pray for wisdom in the leadership, for good understanding of the needs of members and for harmony and



### Working Bee

The list of jobs that went up described over 30 tasks that needed to be done. With over 40 members of the congregation to do them there were only four on the list that needed to be completed.

The trailer is overflowing with weeds and clippings and the gardens around the church property look much tidier.

It was a really terrific opportunity for a large number of people to do a good deal of work in a reasonably short time - after all, most of us were home around 1.00 p.m. even after we had partaken of a sausage or two!

The Property Operational Ministry Team, POMT, do a marvelous job maintaining our considerable property, but they were blown away by the support provided for the Working Bee. Of course, the work done on the 5<sup>th</sup> April was given a significant boost by the efforts of the Netball Club, a large contingent of whom made a huge difference to the area around the courts.

Apart from the work done there were other benefits. Whenever members of Morialta get together we have fun. We look forward to having some more fun in the future!





### We remember

Brian Hogben and family—Claire passed away peacefully after a long illness.

The family of Avy Smith – who passed away in February

Syd Walton's family – Olive, Di and Ken, Ian and Di and their children – Syd died on Friday, 27 March

Margaret and Ray Clogg whose brother in law died recently.

### Evening Fellowship in Action



On a warm summer evening.....

On Wednesday 18 February around thirty members of the Evening Fellowship, including visitors, met at Bus Stop 18 on The Parade for a direct trip to Henley Beach.

It was a warm evening and most people took a stroll on the jetty and were able to witness a spectacular sunset. Some enjoyed a quick paddle while others opted for an ice-cream followed by a hot chocolate or coffee. After a pleasant evening together it was onto a bus for the return journey and the end of another successful outing.

### Poverty in the Philippines...



Another interesting open meeting was arranged by the Evening Fellowship and sponsored by the Social Justice Team took place on Wednesday 18 March. The guest speaker, was a colleague of Margaret Clogg's, Rev Cate Baker, ordained recently, and ministering at St John's, Prospect Road. Cate told of her time in the Philippines as an aid worker. It opened her eyes to the poverty and difficult conditions in which many people live. It was amazing to learn that whole families eke out a meager living by scavenging on the foul smelling city dumps. Education is the only way the children of these families can hope to break the bonds of this depressing way of life.

**BIRTH**  
Gerald and Cheryl Buckingham have a son, Will - a brother for Kendall and Paige.

**BAPTISM**  
Chelsea Jade, daughter of Stephen and Kim, and grand-daughter of Ruth Pitt



### Worship while cruising..

On a recent cruise around New Zealand on the Dawn Princess, Dale and Brian Corrigan, together with brother-in-law, John Grooms, experienced a Non-Denominational service on Sunday 1 March. With no minister on board the service was taken by Cruise Director Peter Tredgett. Quite a large congregation attended the service in the unusual setting of the sumptuous Vista Lounge, a venue usually enjoyed by the passengers for comedy acts, singers and bands.

First Ever ...  
**Morialta Logies Night**  
2 May 2009  
7.30 pm

Entertainment \$5  
includes supper



Sponsored by  
Mission Projects

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Sarah Jane Heatley  
Bachelor of Education (Junior Primary/Primary)

Sandra Kay Barker  
Graduate Certificate in Education (University Teaching)

These awards were conferred at the University of South Australia Graduation Ceremony on Friday 3 April 2009 at the Festival Theatre.

Sarah is now enrolled in the course for Bachelor of Visual Arts and Sandy is completing her thesis for a PhD.



### Congratulations also ...

Emily Johnson became Year 7 Age Group Champion at the Annesley College Swimming Carnival.

She also qualified for the State Finals of Swimming SA Junior Sprints in every stroke and also set personal best times in each stroke!

### Sharing with generosity - Projects Beyond Morialta

**Nungalinga College Inc**  
National Indigenous Education and Training College of the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches Casuarina NT

Web: [www.nungalinga.edu.au](http://www.nungalinga.edu.au) The website gives information which is challenging, inspiring and has an immediate focus for today, cultural partnership and justice.

In the week before Easter we received a letter from the Principal, Rev Dr Lee Levett-Olson, formerly of Adelaide which included the following:

"Some of you may have heard about big changes at Nungalinga, including changes to some of the VET qualifications and the move towards new ones. The whole College is hard at work towards the renewal of our status as a Registered Training Organisation. We are determined to do this in a way that keeps faith with our heritage and the needs of indigenous students and their communities.

The Intervention has left many confused and demoralized, some intend to work hard at both hearing and telling the story of what communities want from the churches and from Nungalinga. Our of this genuine negotiation process, which will need time and patience, skill and prayer, we hope to produce new ways of learning that continue to honour culture and traditional wisdom in partnership with the story of Christian faith.

It is the continuing story of Nungalinga. A long journey of hope, faith and education which is as vigorous now as when it was started ver 35 years ago. ...."

### North Luzon - Resourcing Church Workers and Ministers

This project aims to develop the ministry capacity of church workers and ministers in the Philippines, and comes at the request of our partner church, the United Church of Christ on North Luzon. During December 2008, Revs Luna and Perla Dingayan were in Adelaide for postgraduate study; their joint role is to empower those training for ministry in the Philippines by their teaching and guidance at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Baguio City.

Rev Luna explained the Philippines project and the needs of church workers and leaders in this way: "There are about 500 church workers in the North Luzon jurisdiction serving 509 local churches with a total communicant membership of 60,000. About 85 % of the church workers are lay pastors without formal theological education. Many of them have just attended seminars or Sunday school training. Yet, they are the ones in the forefront of church ministries in the local churches. Only about 15% have formal theological training. There are various reasons why they could not avail of formal seminary training. First and foremost, they lack academic qualifications and the financial resources to support their studies. They have families to feed and jobs to keep and earn a living. Since most of the local churches are located in rural areas and hinterlands, most of the lay pastors are volunteers, without or with minimal financial support or honorarium either from the local churches, from the mission fund of the conference or from sponsoring individuals. The church workers may have all the commitment and zeal for the ministry. But this may not be enough to be effective servants of God. They do need some skills.

### Papua New Guinea - Micro Finance

This project began in 2007 as the vision of Ruth Sellick, a member of the Western Link Uniting Church, to offer basic business training to village women in Papua New Guinea. The training Ruth offers is complemented by small-scale loans that enable women to set up their own businesses, fostering income-generation and independence. Uniting Church Overseas Aid has adopted this project, giving us excellent oversight and accountability mechanisms, to ensure that any help we are able to give is used to the best possible advantage.

This year's Lenten Appeal will provide essential funds to ensure the project can be offered in new areas of PNG. So far, courses and loans have been offered in Boera village, near Port Moresby and in the Milne Bay area. During Lent, Ruth has been reviewing the work in Milne Bay and running another training course in East Central Papua Region, on the south coast. She is accompanied by Lesley Williams of Broadview Uniting Church, who will be gathering stories of how the project is helping recipients of the loans.

Although the expenses associated with the training courses can largely be met from other funds, any allocation of loans to village women needs to come from donations.

*These projects may touch your heart*



### Gladly my Cross I'll share

"When I survey the Wondrous Cross" ...  
"The old rugged Cross" ...

In the Protestant Tradition there has never been great importance placed on symbolism, but anything that helps us engage with the Divine is worthy of consideration.

The Cross is one of the most important images and symbols for those of us who call ourselves Christian.

It is wonderful then, to be able to worship in a space where it is possible to use such a beautiful representation of the central symbol as that now hanging in front of the reredos.

The polystyrene version that the new, warmly grained wooden cross replaces was, for a time, a focus we could use in times of meditation, but there is no doubting the beauty of wood. The colour and texture give a depth to the symbolism that was not present in the extruded aluminium or the painted polystyrene depiction that it replaces.

There are so many talented people who make our lives, as a community, the richer. This time it is Peter Thornley to whom we are indebted for his patient and skilled crafting of the new Cross, and to John Secombe whose engineering skills were added in hanging it.



**The story isn't finished  
It doesn't finish in a cemetery, on a cross.  
It doesn't end with the fact that Jesus was crucified.  
No, the story doesn't make sense without them.  
No, the story isn't finished.  
But it isn't understood until you've been where the women were,  
at the foot of the cross and in the cemetery.  
Now you've been there, now you know where this story leads  
Go back and read it again, go back and live it again.  
And you will see Jesus, you will meet Jesus ...**



## From the Social Justice Ministry Team

*The unfortunate reality is that, having waited a decade for a government to express a willingness to do something about climate change, we are now faced with a choice between two options*

Rev. Elenie Poulos is the National Director of Uniting Justice Australia Uniting Church in Australia and has made this article by Richard Denniss, head of the Australian Institute, available to UCA congregations. The following is an abridged version and the full text is available from Judith Purling, or any member of the Social Justice Ministry team.

Mark Zimsak from UCA has been extolling us for some time that we need to encourage people we meet to become politically active and to write letters and contact their politicians.

"PUT UP YOUR HAND if you understand how emissions trading works. Leave it up if you think the Rudd government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS to its friends) is the best possible way of tackling climate change. Now that everyone has their hands comfortably by their sides, let's consider the most poorly understood, and most bizarre, feature of the CPRS - namely that, when the CPRS is introduced, individual efforts to reduce emissions will have absolutely no impact on the total level of emissions in Australia.

It works like this. The first step is that each year the federal government will issue a fixed number of carbon pollution permits. Most will be given to the big

polluters and some will be auctioned. It will be illegal for big polluters to generate more emissions than the number of tonnes allowed by the permits they hold.

The second step is where the "trading" in emissions trading comes in. If a big polluter wants to increase the amount of pollution it releases it can do so, but only if it can buy a permit from one of the other big polluters. While the total number of permits issued by the government will mandate a decline of five per cent in the Australia-wide level of pollution by 2020, there will be no need for any individual polluter to reduce emissions. In fact, a polluter can go on increasing its emissions as long as it can find another polluter willing to sell it permits.

This is where the problems begin. Under the proposed scheme, if individuals, communities or state governments try to do their bit for the environment, all they will achieve is the freeing up of permits for the big polluters to increase their emissions. Fewer emissions from an individual mean more emissions from an aluminium smelter. Fewer emissions from one state simply mean more emissions from another state.

Consider this example. If the NSW government makes its schools and hospitals more energy efficient, they will need to purchase less electricity. The coal-fired power stations that supply their power will burn a bit less coal and, as a result, will produce fewer emissions. Now that the power station has lowered its emissions, it will need fewer permits, freeing up "spare" permits that it can then sell to the aluminium industry or any other large polluter.

Under the CPRS the level of emissions is fixed by the federal government when it chooses how many permits to hand out. Once the scheme comes into operation, all that individuals can do is alter the percentage of emissions that come from the household sector and the percentage of emissions generated by the big polluters. On behalf of the big

polluters, the Rudd government would like to urge households to do everything they can to reduce their own emissions. It won't help the environment, but it will make life much easier for the biggest emitters.

The saddest part of this whole problem is that the system need not be so absurd. It is possible to amend the scheme so that those who invest in energy efficiency are given the "spare" permits they have created. If these permits are then retired rather than sold to other polluters, the result would be a genuine reduction in Australia's emissions. It's not surprising that the big polluters don't think this problem is worth solving but it is surprising that so soon after ratifying the Kyoto Protocol the PM is not only happy to introduce unambitious targets but to ensure that anyone who wants to go further is prevented from doing so.

The unfortunate reality is that, having waited a decade for a government to express a willingness to do something about climate change, we are now faced with a choice between two options: either sticking with a policy that locks us into failure by dictating that emissions cannot fall by more than five per cent or abandoning the CPRS altogether. If the federal government refuses to make substantial changes to its scheme, the latter appears more appealing.

What could we do instead? The simplest thing to do in the short term is to introduce a carbon tax of around \$25 per tonne. As luck would have it, the administrative infrastructure the government needs to run the CPRS is almost identical to that required for a carbon tax. If we can iron out the problems with the CPRS and establish decent targets, we can always move towards a CPRS down the track."

An article by John Stapleton in the Weekend Australian Feb 21/22 supported this view, and is also available from Judith.

Judith Purling



Christ the Lord is risen today:  
Hallelujah!



act for peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Media release - 23 March 2009

### act for peace

**act for peace**, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA), works in conflict-affected regions to achieve real and lasting peace. There are more than 300 million people worldwide living on less than \$1 a day in these regions. **act for peace** works in these areas to break the cycle of extreme poverty and conflict.

On Monday, 23 March, 36 people from various churches across Adelaide gathered to hear more about the work of **act for peace**, including the Christmas Bowl, and to explore how individuals and congregations can make a difference through **act for peace**.

There were presentations from the **act for peace** Marketing and Communication Team, Edwyn Shiell and Jordan Shank, and from Patricia Garcia, the International Programs Director.

**act for peace** works ecumenically with people in churches across Australia and with church partners overseas to:

- Reduce poverty through community food, health and education programs.
- Protect refugees and displaced people by managing safe refugee camps.
- Prevent conflicts through facilitating peace, reconciliation and disarmament processes.
- Empower communities by ensuring their involvement in all aspects of the above work.

Public speaking, fundraising, advocacy and prayer were some of the suggestions that this first gathering of potential **act for peace** representatives had for making a meaningful difference at the local level.

SA Council of Churches, together with **act for peace**, looks forward to working closely with the Representatives in enabling these ideas to take deeper root and grow more widely in communities across South Australia.

For more information, phone Geraldine Hawkes 08 8215 0300 or 0417 803 258 or visit <http://www.ncca.org.au/actforpeace> and [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au)

### Calendar

**act for peace** has produced a calendar with projects for each month e.g. The March project was "Empowers Communities in the Solomon Islands". For just \$48 you can send one child to school.

The April project is "Supports Refugees in Australia". For \$150, for refugees can undertake a computer training course giving them valuable vocational skills for a brighter future.

PRAY for an end to discrimination against refugees seeking a better, safer life.

Gifts may be sent to  
**act for peace**  
Locked Bag 199  
Sydney NSW 1230

Doug Hosking has several 2009 Calendars for those who would like one. Further information from Geraldine Hawkes at SA Council of Churches (Phone 8215 0300)

## Green Church Workshop Uniting Church in SA World Environment Day Event Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>

12:45pm for 1:00pm.start  
Concluding 3pm.  
Tanner and Waters Rooms, 212 Pirie Street, Adelaide.

**Learn how to:**  
conduct an energy audit for your church or home,  
save money on your power and water bills,  
purchase green products for less  
go green at home.

**Ask questions about:**  
Driving a hybrid car  
Installing solar panels  
Applying for government funding

# Doing our bit

*A few tips to help reduce our impact on the global environment.*

### ASK:

Do I really need this?  
Is it worth it?  
What impact will this item have on the environment?

### REDUCE

Energy use – turn it down, switch it off  
Petrol use – walk, ride a bike, catch a bus  
Car pool – share a car

### REUSE

Extend the life of goods  
Reduce consumption  
Reduce waste

### RECYCLE

Bundle your newspapers and bring to Morialta  
Rinse recyclable containers and dispose through  
Council pickup  
Get your money back on cans and bottles that attract  
a container disposal levy

### BUY GREENER

Buy recycled goods  
Seek out products that last and/or can be repaired  
Purchase goods with a lower impact on our  
atmosphere and biodiversity

## REMEMBER:

**It's not waste till you waste it!**

Christine Secombe



Guarantees  
a **better deal**  
for Third World  
Producers

### Fair Trade Coffee Evening

"Fair Trade" aims to ensure that farmers in poorer countries are paid a fair price for their products. It is like an "International Waikerie Fruit Project".

The Fairtrade Label is a "seal of approval" that appears on products that meet internationally agreed Fairtrade standards and which guarantees to consumers that their purchases will benefit the producers, their families and the surrounding communities from the developing countries that they originate from. Look for this label in your supermarket when you are purchasing chocolate and cocoa, coffee, tea, rice, cotton garments and sports balls to ensure that the benefits really do go back to producers.

If you would like to learn more about "the Fair Trade Movement" then come along to a "Coffee Evening" at the *Difference Coffee House* in the Athelstone Shopping Centre and sip Fair Trade Coffee while learning about Fair Trade projects you can support.

The *Difference Coffee House* is managed by Martyn Smith who is a member of Tea Tree Gully Uniting Church. Martyn will talk to us about the Fair Trade Movement as well as the project they are sponsoring.

**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

**VENUE:** The *Difference Coffee House* Athelstone Shopping Centre

**ADMISSION:** Gold coin donation – or paper money if you wish!!!

Coffee/tea and snacks available for purchase at normal shop prices.

Sponsored by the Social Justice Ministry Team

From Colin Cargill