

Morialta Vision ...in the Wilderness

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

Issue 1 - 1 April 2020

Morialta Uniting Church—follow us on Facebook or check out our website at www.morialtauca.org.au

Welcome to Vision in the Wilderness

Colin Cargill Editor and Helena Begg Publisher

Welcome to the first of what could be a number of editions of *Vision in the Wilderness*, depending on how long we are keeping our distance from each other.

Helena came up with *Vision in the Wilderness* as we are in the season of Lent and we are all a bit out of our comfort zone. None of us is quite sure where all this is going!

Our plan is to bring you news from Morialta and the wider church, jokes to lighten your mood and prayers and reflections from a range of sources to help you reflect, dream and meditate.

For a few articles on the theme “keeping safe and protecting yourself” please see <http://www.morialtauca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/How-to-keep-your-home-clean-and-free-from-coronavirus-D.pdf>. COVID-19 will not be mentioned in later editions as advice on movement and gatherings changes rapidly and is disseminated widely – so we will not burden you with it.

We hope that you will all use *Vision in the Wilderness* to share stories, survival strategies, birthdays and other events that we can celebrate, and even gardening tips, recipes and where to buy toilet paper.

If you hear a joke that makes you laugh send us a copy.

If you watch a TV program or come across a book that you think others may enjoy – please write a short review and email it to us or drop it in my letter box. If you do not type – hand written pieces are fine. My address for letter box drops is 34A Moules Rd Magill (0427 122 106)

Prayer for a Pandemic

by Cameron Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home

Remember those who must choose between
Preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for
Our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips

Remember those who have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money
In the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country, Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
Wrap our arms around each other
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
Of God to our neighbour.
Amen

Cameron Bellm is a Seattle mom of two young boys. She is a great lover of Ignatian spirituality, Catholic social teaching, and strong black coffee.

Caring Connections Catch-up

Just a few words from the Pastoral Care Team! We're very aware of how important it is for us all to feel connected just now, more than ever! Please let us know what we can do to help with this!

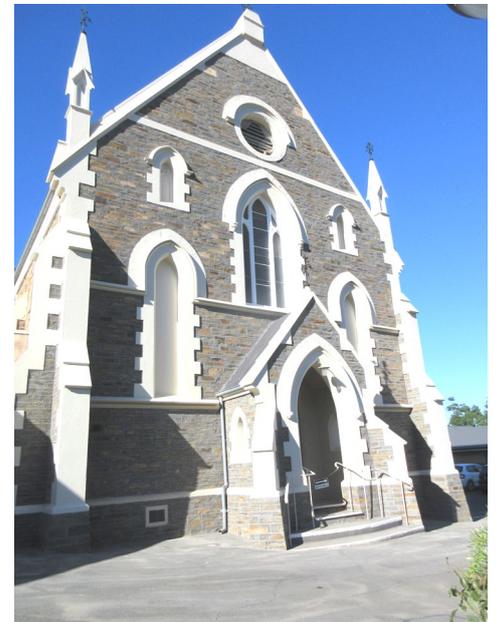
Here is how we've started. We've put a system in place to deliver printed copies of worship service materials to the letterboxes of people without email addresses, if they wish it – and of *Vision* too.

We also have volunteers waiting to run errands and deliver shopping to homes – if you need anything, please phone the Team Leader, Margaret Cargill, on 0439 954814. The church phone and email are not being monitored every day at present, so personal contact is better for now.

We look forward to hearing your ideas!



Pastoral care in action—
the Purlings ensure the Chairperson
has toilet paper!



Meeting of the Congregation postponed

In this time when we are required to do things differently, the meeting of the congregation planned for 5th April will not go ahead, and an alternate way to elect those nominated to fill vacant positions on Church Council and in the Congregation has had to be adopted.

Following advice from Rev Sue Page, Associate General Secretary Synod of SA, Council resolved on 24 March to appoint in an acting capacity, effective 5th April 2020, those listed below who nominated for positions on Church Council and/or in the congregation that are vacant, for ratification by the next meeting of the congregation:

Elders nominated for Church Council

Gaynor Hallows, Alan Hale, Lachlan Mackenzie, Carole Lyons
Adam Yearsley, Bruce Ind

Chairperson of Congregation

Margaret Cargill

Secretary of Congregation

Craig Mackenzie

Morialta's Representative to Wimala Presbytery for 2020-2021

Beverley Tredrea

New Church Council

Effective from 5th April, Morialta's Church Council will comprise Rev Bob Hutchinson, Chris Ayles, Judith Purling, Rhonda Amber, Helena Begg, Gaynor Hallows, Alan Hale, Lachlan Mackenzie, Carole Lyons, Adam Yearsley, and Bruce Ind.

Wimala Presbytery

Wimila is the name that has been given to Presbytery A, of which Morialta is member.

The word Wimila comes from the Adnyamathanha (First peoples of the Northern Flinders Ranges) and in simpler terms means 'business ground'.

Adnyamathanha Elder Charles Jackson explained the full meaning "as a place where Yuras (people) would gather together to discuss rules and laws for how we live and work together, how we behave and treat one another, and how we gather and make decisions together. Each family would be represented and invited to participate, and no one would be excluded - it was a place where everyone was included."

The Wimala ensured that it was community focussed and driven, and that it had collective leadership approach with shared responsibilities amongst families.

Rhane Tsetsakos consulted with Uncle Charles Jackson and sought permission to present this word as a potential name for Presbytery A to consider. It was approved and will be the official name of our Presbytery.

Worship Resources

Provided by Rev Bob

Rev Bob has kindly supplied the following worship resources. The first is *Worship for Time of Isolation* from the Centre for Music Literature and Art and the second is a video entitled *Easter in East Gippsland*.

<https://www.cmla.org.au/resources/worship-in-times-of-isolation/?fbclid=IwARotniEPJj1KIYdOTXHqkBXqF1R4EoMEp12-2N3qrsEm-A7ZyhecbbpC8WY>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOkxD6xNdeg&fbclid=IwAR1rjA6OLdeA7Fx-Tt49YqLQoO_8BkJzwwgi8ehJ9zqWObpvHBw413bcsuZc



You never know...

From Rev David Purling

Members of the Uniting Church in Arno Bay regularly use our BoW Services, when they do not have a Minister or Lay Preacher to lead their worship.

One of the members contacted us to see if we had a Service on the theme of Harvest Festival. Well we hadn't, so I was contacted to see if I had any resources to help them out. Fortunately I did have and so these have now been sent.

You never know what these contacts through BoW will produce, do you?

Yes – it does seem you never know...

From Colin Cargill

I recently met an ex-colleague and friend from Roseworthy Campus and his wife at a gathering of the Uniting Church Fellowship and Mission Support. Over coffee they enthusiastically told me how much they value Morialta's on-line ministry, both BoW services and "readings and sermons", on the website.

They live in a town with only one Uniting church and they do not always find the theology and the hymns in step with where their faith journey is leading them.

So rather than leave their friends of many years and drive a long distance to another UCA – or change denominations – they supplement their worship from the Morialta website.

Sometimes even while preparing dinner!

So perhaps it is worth all the planning, the Saturday afternoon run-throughs and the Sunday morning inconveniences.

Easter 2020 - Enduring Hope

Living with great expectations

"... because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation....." – 1 Peter 1:3 (NLT)

Just like new shoots push their way to light and life through the charred bark of a burnt tree, the risen Jesus gives humanity its brightest sign of hope - a reason to live with great expectation.

Easter always presents a wonderful opportunity to connect with our immediate communities through special services and activities. This year, it once again comes at a time where many in our communities may be looking towards the church for guidance and messages of hope.

The UCA Synod of South Australia would like to assist congregations to reach those in their communities through an Easter campaign. This year, we would like to encourage them to look beyond the grief of tragedy to where hope can be found and where expectation lies in welcome.

For much of history, Good Friday was known as Black Friday, because according to Mark 15:33 the world quite literally went dark around the time that Jesus died on the cross. It's easy to see only darkness in death, or only despair when tragedy strikes and all hope seems lost. Those who loved and followed Jesus at the time must have failed to see any hope in His crucifixion, too.

But mere days later, with His resurrection, Jesus taught us to look beyond the darkness and despair. He restored hope, not just for those followers at the time but for every person who has ever lived, past, present and future. Out of the darkness and despair of His death grew the brightest signs of hope that humanity has ever experienced.

We can have enduring hope and live with great expectation: because of what He has done in the past when He died for our sins as Saviour, because of what He is doing in the present and what He will do in the future based on His promises to us.

We believe that this is a message for our communities to treasure.

From the SA Synod website

Responding to the virtual worship Sunday March 29

From Ruth Dunning

Many thanks for your email which made me think and brought back memories.

Yes, things are a bit strange now but I haven't minded at all not getting up early and having to set my "shaker" before going to sleep. I have so enjoyed just letting go and waking up when I wake up which sometimes is as late as 10.30 or thereabouts.

I have only watched one of the recorded services so far – takes a bit more concentration – but I am in awe of what can be achieved. It made me recall how over 70 years ago our family used to huddle around the wireless of a Sunday night to listen to “Hymns We Love” which always concluded with “Jesus Shall Reign Where're the Sun, Does His Successive Journeys Run”. It used to make my hair stand on end – but back then we would never have imagined, if we were sick and missed church, being able to watch the service in our homes later as we can do today.

Yesterday I sat down to watch Songs of Praise live, but there was none having been replaced by a programme on the Coronavirus. I later played about on the piano playing two of my favourite hymns - "Guide me O....." and “The Day Thou Gavest” I find music pretty powerful but it is the words which grab one as much as the tunes. I also have the BBC's two “Songs of Praise” DVD's which I also watched some of. They are both over three and a half hours long. Talked to my sister on the 'phone. She is in a Nursing Home and is aged 94. She still has "all her marbles" and her hearing is as sharp as a tack!

Actually, I have DVD's coming out of my ears. Now that most of them are sub-titled, it is a chance for me to catch up on all I have missed out on over the years.

Thank you for thinking of us all and for Psalm 46.

Sincerely Ruth (D).

Moderator's Easter Video Message

A note from Bronte before you watch the video:

"These are difficult times for all involved in the life of the church. The world situation and precautions advised are changing daily. Things we have taken for granted are not currently possible.

Many find it strange not to be worshipping as a gathered community on Sunday. For many it will be the first time, or at least the first time in many years, not to be worshipping as a gathered community.

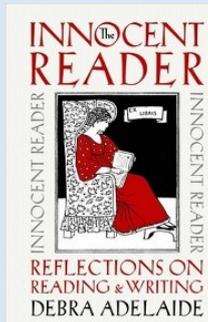
I commend the many thoughtful and creative ways congregations are finding to be the church together.

For your physical and spiritual wellbeing, it is important to maintain a sense of community, worship and mutual support, as you can. As well as this video, which worship leaders are invited to include in their online worship, there are resources on the Synod webpage to help you be church in these unprecedented times.

I encourage all of us to remember the enduring hope expressed in Christ's resurrection and the great expectation we have of the wonderful things that can happen in the power of God working through us, God's people."

Watch Bronte's Easter 2020 message at <https://sa.uca.org.au/easter-2020/easter-resources/#modMessage>

Book Reviews from the Library Team



The Innocent Reader: Reflections on Reading and Writing by Debra Adelaide.

This book is a series of essays that takes the reader on a journey of discovery. Woven within it is the author's own experience of reading, writing, teaching creative writing, editing, publishing and reviewing books.

The first section about reading begins with discovering the love of reading and then the joy of being immersed in a well written story. From here you are taken on a journey of how stories and books have a life of their own, separate from the writer. It is in the mind of the reader that the story comes to life. This section kept me enthralled.

There is a change of mood in the second section on writing. It begins with what seems to be the frustration of getting students to work through challenges, the pitfalls and the mistakes made by would be writers. How do you shape a plot? Does language and grammar matter? How do you cope with criticism for? However, by the end of the section I realised just how much I had learnt, and how important it is to learn techniques, to plan and how to enable the story to unfold.

The third section puts the two together, reading plus writing. This took me behind the scenes to look at how books are accepted for publishing, what are the expectations of the publisher, the task of the editor and the reviewer and much more. She also mentions the trauma of rejection and the impact of the digital world. Finally, she returns to the sheer joy of reading.

This was an interesting journey and I was able to close the book with satisfaction. If you are a 'would be' writer this is a good place to start and a worthwhile resource.

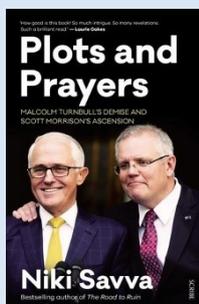
Reviewed by Christine Garner.

Plots and Prayers by Nikki Savvas

Who would be a politician? This book tells the inside story of the struggles that took place around the replacement of Malcolm Turnbull as our prime minister. It is a story of scheming, changing loyalties, trauma and human frailties.

From her position as senior member in the Canberra Press Gallery, Nikki Savvas has been able to follow the evolving campaigns of political destabilization with an amazing amount of detail. She has done a very fine job of it but you have to be a determined reader to complete the reading of the book.

Reviewed by Rob Webb



On the lighter side...



Pigeons in London are returning to their natural colours now that pollution levels are lower. The Earth is healing ❤️



Decisions

- They said a mask and gloves were enough to go to the grocery store. They lied, everybody else had clothes on.
- Still haven't decided where to spend Easter. The living room or the bedroom.

Just a thought

It would seem that a tiny little virus has been able to reduce the level of global gas emissions by a significantly greater amount than 70 world leaders signing a piece of paper in Paris!

To all of us who are chocoholics

Adapted from Be Slavery Free

As we enter a time of great uncertainty, we can still work for justice and fairness.

It could be worse.

Imagine being so poor that you would risk the chance of slavery for your child to get a job and send money back home to help you survive. Can you imagine being a parent who is so poor that you have to affect your child's development and take away their education so that they can help you on the family cocoa farm?

In the current market, a farmer receives 6% of the value of a chocolate bar. For a cocoa farmer to get close to a living income, 100g of milk chocolate would cost about 16* cents more. According to the CSIRO, an average Australian eats 32kgs of chocolate a year. This means we would need to pay \$52.31 more per year for our chocolate, in order for a cocoa farmer to get close to earning a living income.

Be Slavery Free are asking us to donate this amount as our chocolate offset. They will use our donations to campaign and partner with chocolate companies and producers to raise farmer's incomes. <https://beslaveryfree.com/donate>

If you are looking for something to do to while away the hours, you can also order postcards from <https://beslaveryfree.com/shop> and post them to the 6 big chocolate companies (you will need 6 postcards/person) – their addresses are on the back of the postcard on a tear off section. Cards ask companies to put it all together to end child labour.

Enjoy your chocolate while you work for justice and equality!