

St Luke's Link

August 2018

Morning Tea Ministry
Pastoral Connections Ministry Team



Welcome to St Luke's Highton's Monthly
Newsletter for August 2018

We're glad you're here!

A WORD OF REFLECTION

The letter to the Ephesians has been the centre of our biblical diet at St Luke's over last few weeks and will remain so for the rest of this month.

Ephesus was a busy port town with population made up of people from all over the Roman Empire: a place known far and wide for being associated with the god Artemis and her temple. The temple of Artemis was as closely associated with Ephesus as Sydney is with the Sydney Opera House.

It was a difficult place to hold views counter to the main stream. In Acts 19 there is a description of a riot in the town caused by local traders becoming suspicious that the message being shared by Paul and his companions might upset their nice steady income from selling statues of Artemis.

Like all of the letters of Paul the letter to the Ephesians begins with a greeting and includes words of encouragement as well as words designed to pastorally correct the readers.

Admittedly the language is hard to grasp at times with words and phrases tripping over themselves like a bubbling brook.

But no doubt the Christians were much encouraged as they heard this letter read when they gathered for worship:

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. (1:15)

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. (3:16-17)

Receiving a letter of encouragement either as an individual or as a church community can be life changing. Receiving a letter which assures the readers that they are held in prayer can offer a real sense of hope. People keep such letters and refer to them often.

Whether with a pen and ink or through email or SMS let us keep following Paul's example and sending each other messages of encouragement: messages that remind us that Christ journeys with us

Paul Stephens — Minister



AUGUST FEATURE ARTICLE

MORNING TEA MINISTRY

There is always a buzz in the hall after the service. Around nine tables, many conversations take place. Getting to know you. Pastoral care. Sporting results. Arranging tasks to be done.

Gathering in the hall after the service provides a great opportunity to our members to welcome newcomers to our congregation. It is amazing what is shared over a cuppa. Those who live alone thoroughly enjoy a conversation with another person and chat over a warm drink, which can brighten up their day.

Newcomers to our country have the opportunity to practice their English get to learn our ways and seek a helping hand. Have you ever taken the opportunity to get to know one of them? Your life will be enriched.

The Pastoral Connections Ministry Team oversees the serving of morning tea every Sunday in the hall, making sure that the duty people are present, the tables and chairs are set out along with tablecloths and flowers. The two persons rostered on donate the biscuits and milk, which means that variety is provided.

If you are lucky, brewed coffee may be served. Several years ago, the congregation voted to support third world farmers by using FAIR TRADE tea and coffee.

Serving morning tea is a great way to meet more people in the church and the cheery greetings and banter makes the task well worthwhile. So please let Pam Seller or Jenny Pooley know if you would like to take a turn on the roster. You would be very welcome.

The task involves washing up afterwards, using a wonderful industrial dishwasher, and laundering tea towels and any stained tablecloths. It is a great way of building up friendships and feeling a sense of belonging. Why don't you volunteer to be on the roster too?



PASTORAL CONNECTIONS

Coffee and Chat

Enjoy a cuppa at 'Hey Porter' Café , Porter Ave Highton. You too can join us on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2pm. You will be most welcome. Contact Joy Hicks for more information on 0429 178973.



REQUESTS & APPEALS

Volunteering Opportunities with Uniting Barwon

There are plenty of current opportunities for volunteer roles with Uniting Barwon and other opportunities in the admin office.

Would you consider volunteering with us? Please contact Elizabeth Hopkin on 4210 1113 or email to Elizabeth.hopkin@ucg.unitingcare.org.au. We'd love to hear from you.

...to inspire people, enliven communities and confront injustice.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Church Council joined in a prayer evening in late July to spend time together with God exploring where the Holy Spirit may be directing or challenging us. As many know, Paul has been drawing on the letter to the Ephesians (written by his namesake) and the messages it contains for the church. The council reflected on the 'hope to which God has called you' (Eph 1:18) among other aspects.

At our Leader's Retreat at Queenscliff in June, we were able to explore different aspects of being church, and the leadership and approach we were seeking going forward. One outcome was work on proposed new Values for St Luke's Highton. Those gathered felt that we needed to have values that were meaningful - both to us, and to people who came into our community - either by using our church buildings or perhaps joining groups like Men's Shed and Repair Cafe. A followup session will be scheduled soon to continue the conversation but for now the draft value statements are:

- a) We live loyal to Christ, and all he taught.
- b) Our community must be a safe place; welcoming and respecting diversity, living out Jesus command to love one another
- c) God has given us many resources and talents; an investment that grows through sharing and use
- d) Each of us seeks to understand and connect with God more closely and deeply.

Church Council will meet again for its business meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 21 August. We'll celebrate several key achievements including the anniversary of Repair Cafe, the many contributions to our music ministry and ongoing outreach work, as well as the completion of important improvements around the Church buildings. We'll also reflect on areas we need to improve and strengthen, such as our administrative support, our safe church responsibilities and ministries to those who connect with us through the week. I'm still seeking a willing person to assist as Church Council Secretary so if you are interested (or have a suggestion), please see me.

Please keep all of us who provide leadership in your prayers, and many thanks for your ongoing support as members of our community of faith, sharing the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

God's blessings to you and your loved ones,
Lloyd Walker.
Chair, Church Council.



REQUESTS & APPEALS

Winter Warmers Appeal

Our congregation has been supporting Uniting Barwon, previously Pex/Concern, UnitingCare, for many years and at this time of year we make a concerted effort to help stock the pantries at the Grovedale & Norlane centres. Your support is requested for this annual appeal.

This year there is small change in emphasis with one week of August focussed on providing goods to fill insulated bags for the homeless, those sleeping rough, couch surfing or in transition situations.

Please see below for a list of suggested items and please keep this for reference for the month of August.

Of course, any items of non-perishable foods or donations of money will be appreciated. Monetary donations will be spent on supplying perishable goods such as margarine and yoghurt. Thank you for your continued support.

Week 1—5th August—Long life milk including soy. Porridge including sachets, cereal not Weetbix

Week 2—12th August—Spreads, coffee, oil (preferably olive oil)

Week 3—19th August—Cans of vegetables & meat, pasta meals, jars of pasta sauce

Week 4—26th August—Insulated bags, small cans of tuna or chicken (ring pull), plastic utensils eg. Bowls, plates, cutlery



CONGREGATION NEWS & REPORTS

Messy Church News

July Messy Church Theme – 'Being a Disciple 24/7'

At July's Messy Church over 60 of us had fun exploring "Being a Disciple 24/7". At one table beads and wooden crosses were carefully threaded onto a necklace, while at another the circles of discipleship were linked together beginning with our friends and family.

At another table little fingers (and big) were making varied playdough churches to place on a map of the world showing the spread of the Good News. The importance of cooperation was tested using "big feet" made of boards. Lots of laughing as groups found turning corners a bit of a challenge!

Rev Paul led a noisy Celebration Time with plenty of helpers. Afterwards, we shared in a delicious Venezuelan meal organised by Joanna. A lovely time of hospitality and sharing always happens at Messy Church. Come join us in August when we can all explore "How wonderfully we have been created by God".

Article — Barbara Murphy

Photo credits — Casper Stoel

Next Messy Church: 4.30pm 17th August – Theme is 'Wonderfully Made'



More Messy Church Photo



ST LUKE'S ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP

Repair Café is 1 year old

Come and help us celebrate our 1st birthday August 11th at Geelong Repair Cafe - Highton. We will have a cake and statistics on how much we have saved from going to landfill, as well as the number of people that have learned how to repair household items.



Seasons of Creation Worship Service

The Environment Action Group has been busy planning for this service on the 2nd September 2018. Come along in your national dress and prepared to be invigorated by the environmental messages.

We have Solar PV now!

Last month we had a 10kW system installed on the roof of the hall. This will be a fantastic offset to the power used at the St Luke's site. We'll be looking to share the power saved by the having these panels over the last month soon.



ST LUKE'S ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP

Film Review—Border Politics

A documentary by refugee advocate Julian Burnside

Warning : Do not watch this film if you do not want the truth

From the history of the Berlin Wall to the current Mexico Wall, Julian Burnside takes us on a journey around the world to hear the stories of how each country is dealing with the refugees crossing their borders.

From the scaremongering of governments from some European countries, the USA and Australia, saying the refugees are bringing in terrorists, drugs and disease; to governments like Angela Merkel in Germany and the government of Jordan who, despite being a poor country, have opened their arms and their hearts to the refugees and are helping to shelter, clothe and feed them.

The Golden Rule cited "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is not happening. The refugees are not being treated as human beings. If a person is fleeing from terrorism they are unlikely to be a terrorist. If a person is fleeing from extremism, they are not likely to be extremists.

Australia does not even have a Bill of Human Rights. If the refugee's rights can be ignored, then our own rights are as vulnerable.

A very confronting film. Julian Burnside does not hold back on telling the truth, nor do the people he has interviewed.

A must see film.

Jean and Claire

