

St Luke's Link

September 2018

Repair Café Highton is one year old!



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

We're glad you're here!

A WORD OF REFLECTION

A couple of months ago I preached on the account in Mark 4:35-41 of Jesus and the disciples in a boat on the Sea of Galilee travelling “to the other side.” Mark tells us that Jesus goes to sleep in the boat but is wakened by his fearful disciples when a storm blows up. Jesus speaks a word of peace to the storm and it abates.

As I reflected on the plight of the disciples I mentioned the writings of William Bridges. Interestingly Bridges work is a key resource for a course I have been attending, sponsored by the Presbytery and aimed at supporting ministers and lay leaders in aiding congregations in navigating changes and transitions.

One of William Bridges’ books, which I would recommend, is entitled *Transitions: making sense of life’s changes*.

Bridges argues that change is an external thing. It is “what happens” to us or because of us in life: retirement ... illness ... moving to a new house ... a church starts a new program ... a close friend dies ... a storm comes up on the Sea of Galilee.

Transition, on the other hand, is what happens inside us: how we internally engage with change.

Quoting Bridges (p.xii), Transition is “... the inner reorientation and self-redefinition that you have to go through in order to incorporate ... changes into your life.”

Going through a journey of transition precipitated by a change can feel like we are out on the Sea of Galilee during a storm. It can be an uncomfortable place. We may wonder how we got there and where we are going.

The promise of the text from Mark is that Jesus is with us in the journey and speaks to us a word of peace/shalom.

Bob McClelland has written a wonderful short hymn which captures the essence of the text:

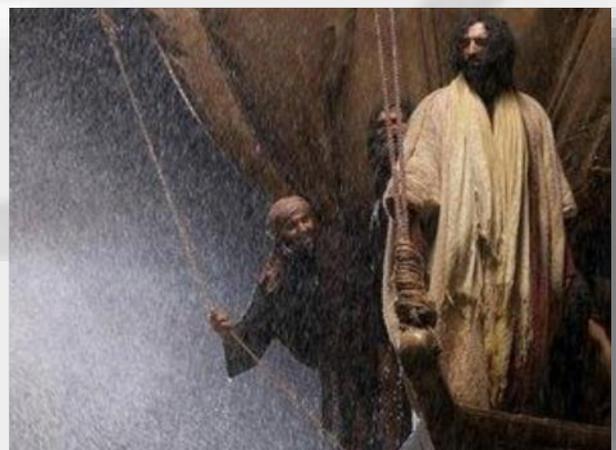
Hymn:

“Christ leads us through the storms of life ...”

© Bob McClelland (2018)

Tune: Amazing Grace

1. Christ leads us through the storms of life
he comes to bring us peace.
And though the tempests still will come,
his calm will never cease.
2. The church has sailed through many storms,
disciples held in fear.
But still new courage always comes:
the Master’s voice we hear.
3. Through many storms of life we see
our faith still calling on:
The trust forever held secure
in Father, Spirit, Son.



Paul Stephens — Minister

SEPTEMBER FEATURE ARTICLE

REPAIR CAFÉ HIGHTON TURNS 1

Last month our Repair Café turned one. We had a fun first birthday celebration with a fabulous cake baked by Hannah. Since August last year the Repair Café has fixed 275 items; over 600kg of items.

The Repair Café brings us a wonderful opportunity to work alongside those in our community with similar interest and passion for the environment, while providing a much needed service.

We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all those who have encouraged and supported us over the last year.



CONGREGATION NEWS & REPORTS

Key Points from St Luke's Church Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st August 2018:

Bendigo Bank account established

Concern by Synod re density of alcohol venues

Permission granted for relocation/ of excess pews and adjustment of pews as required in the Sanctuary (worship space)

AEC (Australian Electoral Commission) to be approached re permission for cake stall at State Election (Saturday 24 November)

English Conversation classes going well, new facilitator appointed - various endorsed applications made for additional funding

Council endorsed the continued work of Mission Outreach in minimising poker machine activity in Geelong

Commendation to the Resourcing Team for successful completion of the Office refurbishment & the verandah at front of Men's Shed - Endorsed by Council

Update to Church signage re Minister in Placement's contact details

Strips on stage steps replaced after an incident - appropriate incident report forms are to be placed in first aid kits to ensure timely completion

Deadlines for weekly news sheet - Thursday and Link (monthly newsletter) last Thursday of the month

We are still looking for a CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY - please consider whether you are 'the one'.

Iris Speare has accepted the role of Safe Church People Coordinator and was formally introduced at Messy Church. A formal commissioning will take place during a service. Thank you Iris!

Next steps to address responsibilities under Safe Church - future training date to be advised

WWC (Working With Children Checks) Noel McMillan be asked for a report every 6 months

A follow up to our 'leader's retreat' will take place on 27 October - finalise Church's vision and revised values, Council/Committees to contribute to a 2019 strategy plan with insights and goals

What is our (St Luke's) approach to our property/ buildings? Do we have a link between our mission/ ministries and the properties we hold in trust? Use of our buildings for the benefit of the community. Time for discussion and working through the Property for Mission workbook. 2018-2019

There is considerable work, discussions, agreements, relationship etc to be worked through with regards to Uniting, the Kindergarten and St Luke's

Paul will be on leave from 3 September - 24 September - 'in training for the footy finals'??? Adequate coverage for all eventualities has been arranged

Council 'prayer and reflections 25 September - Council business discussions 13 November

Remember your Minister and Council members are always available to answer your questions or discuss any 'heart bursts'.

Robyn Hodge is starting as Office co-ordinator from Thursday 13th of September for up to 8 hours per week. She will be in the office on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings, and at other times as required. Phone messages and emails are checked regularly if you need to get in touch with the office.

CONGREGATION NEWS & REPORTS

Messy Church News

August Messy Church Theme – 'Wonderfully Made

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful, I know that full well" Psalm 139.

It was another great night at Messy church exploring this theme. As you can see from the photos below, some of activities included:

- Making photos frames to display a photo of us- one of God's wonderful creations!
- Wearing pipe cleaner glasses to see "more clearly".
- We also wrote WOW prayers and slipped them inside decorated glass jars.
- And used tiny screwdrivers to see how intricately machines work.

A yummy tasty meal was prepared by some of our Syrian volunteers and a happy, warm sharing time of fellowship followed.

Hope to see you there at Messy Church in September!

Article — Barbara Murphy

Photo credits — Casper Stoel

Next Messy Church: 4.30pm Friday 21st September – Theme is 'Creating & Caring



More Messy Church Photos



September House Church News

St Luke's House Church which meets monthly is due to meet on the 16th September. At the last gathering it was agreed to attend the Social Justice Information Evening at Belmont Uniting Church Thomson Street Belmont at 5pm.

See Information later in September's Link.

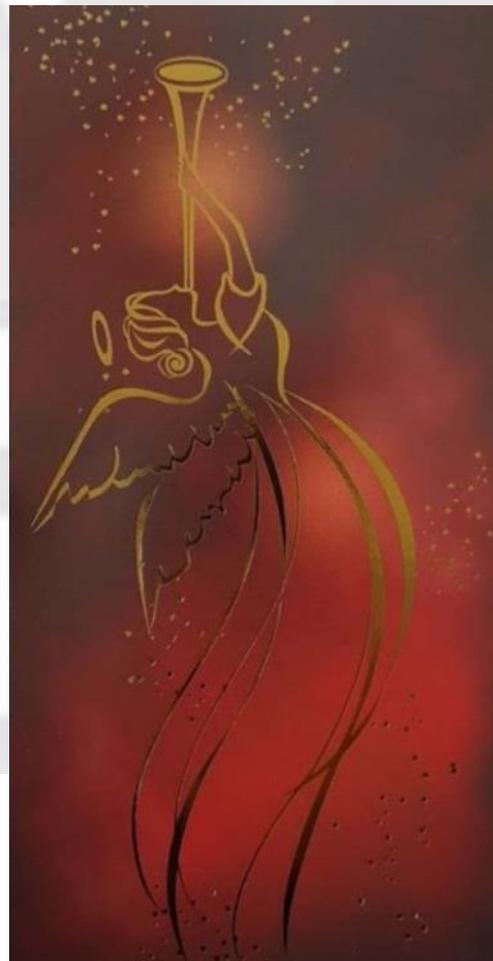
PASTORAL CONNECTIONS

Christmas Card support for the Leprosy Mission

Did you know:

- Pam Seller began offering Christmas Cards in 2012? This was the year that the charity card shop closed?
- Jenny d'Altera then took over in 2013 and Valerie Grills in 2017
- This is an opportunity to support the wonderful work done by the Leprosy Mission
- There has been over \$500 sold in 2017
- We sell in October to enable the Mission Outreach to sell gift cards in November
- Please see below some of this year's cards

Valerie Grills



REQUESTS & APPEALS

The Village Listening Lounge in Corio needs your help

The Village Listening Lounge is a drop in centre run by the Uniting Church at Corio Shopping Centre and we are in need of more volunteers for this valuable ministry.

Would you be interested in volunteering? If so please contact the Co-ordinator Rev. Peter Jewell on 5245 8040 or 0419 165 473 or email to psjewell@netspace.net.au

Uniting Barwon needs your help!

Please vote for our Uniting Barwon community projects in the State Government's Pick My Project initiative. The more votes we receive the more chance we have to receive vital funding for these community programs.

Pick My Project (the website is www.pickmyproject.vic.gov.au) is a Victorian-first community grants initiative, with at least \$1 million in funding available in each metro and regional area.

We would appreciate your support for the 4 projects submitted by Uniting Barwon. Please note that you can only vote for 3.

1. **Grovedale Community Safety, Health and Emergency Relief Project**
Supporting Grovedale community health by meeting emergency needs
\$50,000 requested
2. **Winchelsea and District Community Safety, Health and Emergency Relief Project**
Supporting Winchelsea and District community health by meeting emergency needs
\$22,500 requested
3. **Barwon Education Expenses Project**
Breaking the cycle of disadvantage by supporting children's education
\$50,000 requested
4. **Barwon Family Budgeting and Bill Management Project**
Assisting families with household budgeting and bill management
\$50,000 requested

Voting is quick and simple and is open until 5pm Monday 17th September. You will need to go to the website and pick your favourite project ideas in your local community and help make them a reality.

Please share with family and friends so that they can vote also.

Need help voting? Contact Lewis on 5210 1113 at Uniting Barwon Grovedale or drop into your local library or neighbourhood house for assistance

Jan Douglas—Admin Volunteer, Uniting Barwon

A STORY OF PASTORAL CARE

Sometimes God literally stops us in our tracks and reminds us that we need to slow down, put any annoyances behind us and be ready to be his hand and feet in unexpected ways and places. Below is one such story for your reflection.

THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighbourhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down a little when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door.

He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown from. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, 'What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw, which damaged the car, is going to cost you a lot of money in repairs, you will have to pay. Why did you do it?'

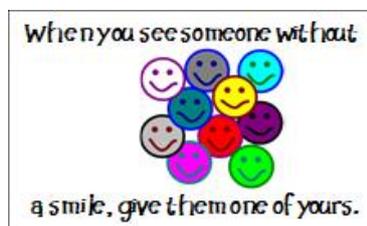
The young boy was apologetic. 'Please, mister....please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do, He pleaded. 'I threw the brick because no one else would stop....' With tears running down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just behind a parked car.' It's my brother,' he said, 'he rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up.'

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, 'Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me to lift.'

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief to clean up his fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. 'Thank you and may God bless you,' the grateful child told the stranger. Too shaken up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair bound brother down the sidewalk towards their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dent in the side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of the message, 'Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!'

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't listen he has to throw a 'brick' at us to slow us down and make us aware of those around us who may need our help.



INFORMATION EVENING

The Belmont and St Luke's Social Justice Group invites you to attend an information evening on SUN 16th September, 5pm to learn about two programs.

1. The SPACE program operating out of Northern Bay Secondary College

SPACE: Supporting Parents Access to Childcare and Education

Michelle and Jo will present details of the program which supports young parents operating out of Rosewall Neighbourhood Centre under the auspices of NBSC.



2. A UNITING BARWON program to assist homeless people in our area.

Michelle has statistics outlining the work of this program operating out of the Grovedale and Norlane offices of Barwon Uniting. She will speak about these figures and some of the stories behind the figures.

There will be opportunities to ask questions of the speakers.

SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER at 5pm.

Belmont Uniting Church, Thomson St. Belmont

A light meal will be provided – a suggested contribution for the meal, \$5.

Enquiries: Raye – 0414 431006

Dealing with Conflict and Making Decisions— Terrance Corkin

Our Workshops aim to

- Reduce conflict by providing ways of holding discussions that are healthy and build community
- Assist people to understand their best response in conflict situations
- Help leaders understand how to make best use of consensus based discernment
- Resource the church to make faithful decisions on difficult issues they face, so they are effective in mission
- Provide practical skills and tools for leaders of meetings

Topics include:

- Understanding **conflict** and your responses
- Foundations of The Manual For Meetings
- The tools that help you to facilitate your meeting

The Manual for Meetings: The forgotten treasure of the UCA

Friday October 12th 2018

Eaglehawk Uniting Church,

10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Cost: \$30.00

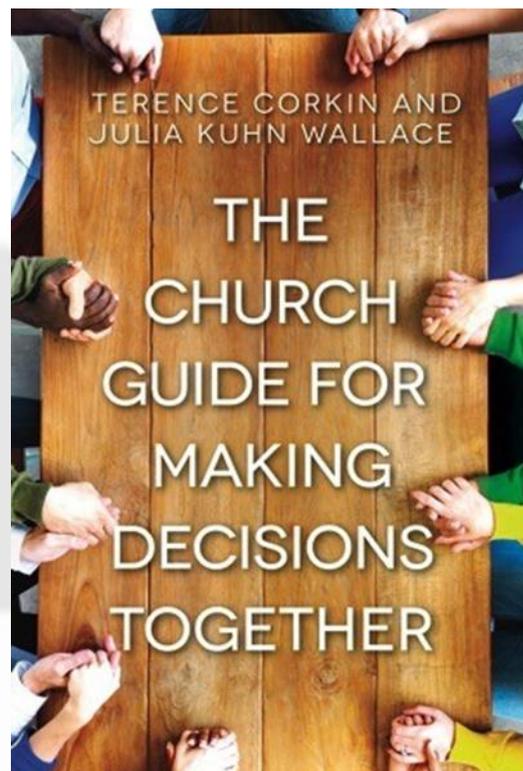
If you register by Tues. 9th Oct, we'll include lunch! (registrations after this date will need to bring own lunch)

Register by email lmucapresbytery@gmail.com or phone 5442 1341

Feedback on Workshops

Rev Sandy Boyce, Pilgrim Uniting Church (Adelaide); and President of the DIAKONIA World Federation

"Terence is diligent in his preparation to tailor it for a particular context. The input is highly relevant, and the approach he uses is engaging and creative. It provides ideas and tools that local church leaders can use straight away".



What people say about the book:

"No one does it better than Corkin and Wallace when it comes to dealing with conflict. They have developed teamwork and consensus building approach that models leadership for congregational vitality."

David Graves, UMC Bishop
Alabama West Florida Conference.