

Weekly News Sheet

The Uniting Church in Australia

ST. LUKE'S CONGREGATION, HIGHTON

Sunday December 17, 2017



Worship Leader: Kevin Yelverton



The Gathering of God's people



Are you new to St. Luke's?

If you would like to connect with us, complete a pew card or please let one of the pastoral connections team know so that you can be included in our contact list and invited to join in.

Congregation Reports and News

Christmas Services at St Luke's Postcards

Pick up your Christmas services postcards from the foyer and stick it on your fridge or give one to a friend.

Rev Paul Stephens Induction Service

The induction service for our new Minister Reverend Paul Stephens will be held on **Sunday 11th February 2018** at 2pm at St Luke's.

Requests and Appeals



From Pam Seller, Pastoral Connections Team

PRAYER LINK

How to submit a prayer request:

- Complete a Prayer Request form (found on the back of each pew) and handed to Pam Seller or Beth Allen
- Email to pamseller@bigpond.com
- Call 0407 557 933

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS AT THE TRADING TABLE TODAY

The Trading Table is stocked with Christmas themed gifts **TODAY**. Why not think about some early shopping for a gift for a special friend?

BRING TWICE THE JOY THIS CHRISTMAS

Every person matters. Buy UnitingWorld's ethical 'Everything in Common' gift card that helps to build lives that are whole and helpful. On sale **TODAY** in the hall.

From Mission Outreach Team

EVACUATE MANUS ISLAND PETITION

Please take time to sign the Evacuate Manus Island petition that is in the foyer **TODAY**. The petition calls on the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection to arrange for the evacuation of all people seeking asylum on Manus Island and relocate them to Australia while permanent resettlement arrangements are being made.

This petition was received from the Justice and Mission Unit of the Uniting Church

From House Church

LAST HOUSE CHURCH FOR 2017

Communion was served by Rev. David Manks who focused our considerations on the year 50 A.D. from Christ's birth to the Cross and beyond.



UNITING BARWON CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2017

A big thank you too all the wonderful generous people at St Luke's Uniting Church who made contribution to the Uniting Barwon Christmas Hampers.

The hampers will be distributed this week to Uniting Barwon clients in need of extra assistance for the Christmas break.

Prayer points for this week

Prayers of Thanksgiving

- Give thanks for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ who came to save the world from all ugliness and evil, conveying the message of love, hope and peace.

Personal Prayers

- As we approach Christmas Lord, help us to focus on the spiritual significance of this time, not on the commercialism and the emphasis on spending excessively.
- Dear God, you have given us the gift of love; this Advent Season, let us share this gift with others. Keep us mindful that the essence of love is not to receive it but to give it.
- May we continue to be a welcoming church to all who come, and may we seek opportunities to help and encourage them.

Prayers for Others

- Pray for opportunities to share the real meaning of Christmas.
- Pray for Paul and Jenny Stephens as they prepare to begin ministry at St. Luke's. Pray for all arrangements and preparations in the lead-up to Paul's Induction Service on Feb. 11 th.
- Pray for church agencies such as Uniting Barwon which provide care and support for people in real need.
- Pray for all who may be lonely or grieving at Christmas, those separated from loved ones, and those for whom Christmas is a difficult time. Pray that all may know the comfort, peace and presence of God.
- Pray for safety on the roads. Pray also for the families of those killed or injured in road accidents.

Prayers for the World

- May the light of Christ shine in all dark places in the world bringing peace on earth.
- Pray for all who suffer in war-torn countries – loss of loved ones, loss of dignity, lack of access to food and clean water, loss of homes, those living in fear.
- Pray for world leaders, for peaceful resolution to conflict, and justice for all.
- Pray for all affected by devastating fires, floods, and freezing conditions.

Church bookings week beginning 18 Dec 2017

Mon 18 Dec	● 9am – 12:50pm	Mary Sheppard's Funeral Fellowship Room, Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary
Tue 19 Dec	● 9:30am – 12:30pm	Men's Shed Lane Memorial, Workshops
	● 5 – 7pm	Weight Watchers Hall
Sun 24 Dec	● 9:30 – 10:45am	Worship Fellowship Room, Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary
Mon 25 Dec	● 9:30 – 10:30am	Christmas Day Worship Service Fellowship Room, Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary
Sun 31 Dec	● 9:30 – 10:45am	Worship Fellowship Room, Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary

From: Robyn Hodge, Communications Team

Please note that the Weekly News Sheet submissions deadline is 9:00am Thursday mornings. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

SMILES ALL ROUND AT ST LUKE'S KINDER 2017

This year on Friday December 8th, 16 members from Trekkies and the congregation, enjoyed listening to the 24 children, (who attend this years' 4 year old Kinder group) and their 3 teachers to share their Christmas songs with us.

An extra delight this year was the presence of Alice Farran, Katherine (nee McAvaney) and Lachie's daughter, Joy and Kevin and Robyn and Ian's granddaughter.

There were the normal reindeer ears and Santa hats, that became dislodged through pure enthusiasm as the children sang, and as a bonus we were treated to one little boy who played air guitar.

We were asked to stay and share 'cordial' and cake, as the children had their afternoon tea and a lovely happy time enjoyed by all who attended.

Coming Events

Activity

Date

St Luke's Choir – ADVENT CANTATA

TODAY

Will be held during during the morning service

The Night the Angels Sang is a lively and tuneful telling of the Bethlehem story; the coming of Jesus into his world is celebrated by the choir in words and music. We hope you come and support your singers contribution in celebrating this Advent season.

FREE LUNCHTIME ADVENT ORGAN RECITALS

Mondays in

St Marys of the Angels Basilica - 12.30 to 1.30pm

December

Monday 18th December - Frank de Rosso

WESLEY UNITING CHURCH – ANNUAL CAROLS SERVICE

TONIGHT

8pm – A service by candlelight

You're invited to join in singing modern and traditional Christmas carols. There will be readings and items sung by the Wesley Singers and the As One Voice choir.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

November Pillow Bank Pledges: We are indeed grateful to Pam Caddy, Helen and Alf Swan, Beth and Ken Allen, Doris McClelland, Mary Rynne, Nola and Noel McMillan, Beryl and Ray Ballagh, Jean Daw and the Stoel Family who responded to our call to pledge support for new pillows. (It is a health requirement to distribute only new pillows to families in need). If you missed out on pledging, and would like to, be prepared for our next Pillow Bank Pledge in April next year.

Community Garden: Our Community Garden in Marlyn Court is being returned to its owners this month after 8 years. During this time our trading table has flourished with produce grown in the garden and we have raised over \$28,000 with the majority of sales emanating from the garden. We give thanks for our growers, pickers, and supporters who have all contributed to the money raised for church funds. The Trading Table: Today is our last day for trading as we focus on 'giving' and 'receiving'. Plan to buy a gift for that special friend.

Website: stlukesuca.org.au **Email:** info@stlukesuca.org.au **Ph:** 5244 2997 6

Material Goods: During this year we have assisted 125 families with household furniture, linen, and crockery. Most of our material goods is donated to us through 'downsizing' families and our vans/utilities are on the road two and three times a week helping to move these donated items. We are often being called upon from Uniting Barwon for white goods. The Wesley Centre and the Lazarus Centre have also been assisted with furniture. The Roslyn Room continually changes focus as donated items are received. Most weeks 8 to 10 families visit to select much needed items.

Emergency Pantry: Thank you to our Ladies Evening Fellowship who at their Christmas breakup, kindly gave pantry items which will help fill 'Christmas hampers' for families in need. Uniting Barwon have generously provided 5 Christmas hampers for us to place with needy families.

Friday Sewing Classes in the Chapel: Classes continue structured around the school term on a fortnightly basis. Val England heads up a energetic band of sewing instructors, and there is a dedicated group of ladies providing Child-Care in the hall. Usually 8 to 10 ladies enjoy learning to sew, new friendships and English conversation every fortnight.

Men's Shed: Some men have been busy making 'Insect Hotels' for Bunnings, Waurn Ponds, others have been painting and refurbishing furniture, others come along just for a 'chat', others help in the delivery of furniture to people in need. Monthly sausage sizzles at Bunnings, Waurn Ponds, prove to be very enjoyable and a money raiser at the same time. This is held on the first Wednesday of each month.

Uniting Barwon: This year we provided a team of 4 ladies who plated and served over 100 volunteer meals at their annual Christmas Luncheon. Thank you to Alison, Sonya and Shaghek.

Christmas Blessings: We continue to give thanks to you, who have supported our Outreach Ministry during 2017. Without your support, prayers, encouragement, practical and physical help the 'journey' would seem to be never ending as we continue to meet people in their time of need.

Rae Anderson – Mission Outreach Ministry Team

PASTORAL CONNECTIONS 2017 END OF YEAR UPDATE

The second half of 2017 has been exceptionally busy time for the Pastoral Connections Ministry Team members, who are Carole Findlay, Jenny Pooley, Beth Allen, Joy Hicks, Joan Marshman, Pam Seller, and Judy Clark and Valerie Grills who joined us during these 6 months.

Our team has seen several changes during these six months, while we welcomed Judy and Valerie, Joan decided to retire after many years 'working' on the Connections team, lately as the organiser of the Sunday Communion serving roster. Joan's time as part of the team has been appreciated and we will miss her smiling face.

In February Barbara Murphy joins the Pastoral Connections team and we look forward to welcoming her. Pastoral Connections is represented on Church Council by Carole and Barbara is also joining Church Council in the new year.

During the winter months many of our congregation have been unwell with the normal winter ills or have been having surgery or treatment. As a result of being without a minister during 2017 team members have taken on extra visiting and support responsibilities and I have kept Robert van Zetten (chaplain at Geelong University Hospital) very busy over the past 6 months visiting hospitalised St. Luke's members.

Each of our meetings commences with a prayer and a time of sharing personal team joys and concerns. This is followed by the sharing, in confidence, joys and concerns of the congregation. These joys and concerns are received from small groups, family contacts and through our visiting, and enable us to follow up where required or provide support if needed.

During July to December we have offered support and pastoral care through our catering service at two funerals, supported 4 other families through their grieving and organised a service for a refugee family during the sad loss of their baby daughter.

Prayer is a key part of our ministry. We maintain a very busy Prayer Link and weekly prayer updates are printed in the news sheet. Private prayer with families is also an important part of Pastoral Connections care. During 2017 Connections instigated at Prayer Shawl ministry. Shawls are knitted by congregation members and, following prayer 'over them' at our

meetings, are distributed to members of the community and congregation who maybe are hurting or not well, as a sign that St. Luke's cares for and is praying for them.

Part of the Connection's responsibility has been to keep accurate church rolls. There is an ongoing need each month to update the church roll and directory, which continually change as people move into new homes, into supported accommodation, change phone numbers or transfer to different areas.

Another important part of our pastoral work is to follow up visitors with a card acknowledging their visit, to provide name tags for new arrivals and to make sure that they are welcomed, if they choose to join us at morning tea. Many cards are sent each month to anyone who maybe unwell, to those who may have lost a loved one, shared an anniversary of the loss of a loved one or maybe have celebrated a special birthday, anniversary or other significant occasion.

December 3rd saw us cater for the 75 plus people who attended the Advent Morning tea. Thanks again to ministry team members, and some congregation members, who assisted with catering and serving on the morning. The children shared their own little party as they too celebrated the beginning of the Advent season.

Looking ahead we will be providing High Tea at the December Mid-week service and supporting Lloyd at the Blue Christmas Service on December 12th by assisting and providing supper following the time of reflection.

We look forward with anticipation to welcoming Paul and Jenny Stephens in the new year.

Our final 2017 meeting was a luncheon at Two Wrens where we enjoyed fellowship together and reflected on the joys, blessings and graces we have experienced together through-out this year.

We look forward to working with small groups and other ministry teams as we serve the congregation through prayer, meal support, visiting, and facilitating St. Luke's functions throughout the year.

Pam Seller Pastoral Connections Co-ordinator - December 2017

When did I see
you a stranger?



Christmas
Bowl



Richard Warneight / Act for Peace

Bring hope and healing
to the world this Christmas.

CALL 1800 025 101 ACTFORPEACE.ORG.AU

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 64 493 941 795

ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **act** balance



National Council of
Churches in Australia

Website: stlukesuca.org.au Email: info@stlukesuca.org.au Ph: 5244 2997 10

What's On

What's on @stlukeschurchgeelong 18th - 24th Dec 2017

Men's Shed Choir Practise
 Tue/Thu 9:30-12:30 Thu 4:00-5:00pm

Sunday Worship 9:30am 24th Dec

Lectionary Readings

Worship Leader: Barry Tattersall
 Welcomer: H Swan
 Ushers: V & S Mackenzie

2 Sm 7:1-11,16
Psalm 89:1-4,19-26
Rom 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Sound: P Phelan
 Powerpoint: N Patchett
 Reader: I Petersen

Weekly Offering

Flowers: D Bath (Christmas)
 Morning tea: N & N McMillian
 Connections: A Lyons
 Drivers: P & I Petersen

Budget:	\$1,711
Actual:	\$1,862
Difference:	+\$151
YTD Budget:	\$85547
YTD Actual:	\$87804
Difference:	+2,257

 J & G Boehm
 Sharing the N Patchett 5241 9782
 Journey:
 Communion Set up:

Communion:
 Choir: M John

Upcoming meetings

LEF

Thu 21st Dec 7:30-9pm

Fellowship Room

Church Contacts

Position		Name	
Minister		Commencing February 11 2018	
Office Administrator		Corrine Goldberg	
Phone	5244 2997	Email	info@stlukesuca.org.au
Church Council Executive			
Chairperson		Lloyd Walker *	
Phone	0414 666577	Email	lloyd@tech4life.com.au
Deputy Chairperson		Sue Anderson*	
Phone	5241 9717	Email	suzanne.anderson54@yahoo.com.au
Secretary		Robyn Hodge *	
Phone	0427 571453	Email	robyn.hodge@stlukesuca.org.au
Treasurer		Ian Pooley *	
Phone	5243 4832	Email	igp@people.net.au
Congregation			
Chairperson		Kevin McAvaney	
Phone	5243 1448	Email	kjmca@ozemail.com.au
Secretary		Dorothy Ayrton	
Phone	5243 3467	Email	terdor01@gmail.com
Ministry Team Convenors			
Mission Outreach		Sue Anderson*	
Worship & Education		Lloyd Walker *	
Pastoral Connections		Pam Seller	
Phone	0407 557933	Email	pamseller@bigpond.com
Resourcing		Ian Pooley *	
Communications		Robyn Hodge *	
Planned Giving			
Stewardship Co-ordinator		Judy Boehm	
Phone	52438559	Email	jcboehm@gmail.com