

February 2016 - Church Mouse - Willunga Uniting Church



Welcome to the February Church Mouse. Some important dates for your calendar:

Easter Worship Times

Pancakes after church – February 26 – donation to Uniting Care if able.

Prayer Vigil – Ash Wednesday - 1 March @ 8 pm

Lenten Studies – See info in Mouse. Sunday's before church or Tuesday morning. With a focus on the guide book: Refreshed by Grace.

Palm Sunday – 9 April @ 10.30am

Good Friday – 14 April @ 9.30am

Easter Sunday – 16 April @ 10.30am

Welcome back in 2017. Our Church Mouse newsletter has many events, poems, news and articles on our faith community. As we move into the season of Lent there are opportunities for bible studies and reflection. Prior to that is the traditional pancake supper after church worship for the transfiguration on Feb 26, please make a donation to Uniting Care if able. There will be a prayer vigil on Ash Wednesday. Prayers will be offered for peace in our world. There is a power in collective prayers. Many of you have been struggling with the world events that have not shown compassion to refugees and all our neighbours. Our Easter worship will commence on Good Friday and finish with our traditional flowering of the cross on Easter Sunday, using our new rugged wooden cross from the Christmas Tree Festival (from Jani).

As always please feel free to contact about anything. Tell me your news, either in person, via email or by phone 85562758. Blessings, Jenny Esots email: j.esots@bigpond.com

Gospel

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Matthew 17:1-9

17Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

For prayer and reflection...

In me there is darkness, but with thee there is light.

I am lonely, but thou leavest me not;

I am feeble in heart, but thou leavest me not;

I am restless, but with thee there is peace;

In me there is bitterness, but with thee there is patience.

Thy ways are past understanding,

But thou knowest the way for me.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Festival Presentation

Our congregation received a Community Outreach Mission Network (COMN) Grant to purchase table trestles and signage for our festival and congregation. Member congregations receiving these grants have been asked to share the progress and results of their grant funded outreach initiatives with the rest of the Network at one of their gatherings.

On Wednesday 25th January 2017 Rev Cogs, Annette Boulden and Jenny Esots presented feedback and thank you to the COMN gathering at Marion Uniting Church, the theme for the evening was

"What skills have you used".

The next COMN Gathering is on May 2 @ 6.15pm for a shared meal.

West Lakes Uniting Church

Minister's Nibbles – Cogs' Perceptive of Willunga UC.

I was recently ask the following questions by Brian Dunstan of Community Outreach Mission Network, on 17th Jan 2017. And the Hub thought that other's might be interested in how I perceive Willunga UC –so here it is.

How's your WILLUNGA UC congregation going?

Three Joys the Congregation has experienced.

1. Being a small church, semi-rural, semi urban church in a beautiful part of the world, with a strong core of dedicated attenders.
2. Ongoing congregational life, of people who share good community, grace and a permission giving attitude in God's love.
3. We have had visitors who have come back more than once and have been prepared to put their names on the Contact List.
4. Christmas Tree Festival & Christmas season, SALA and Almond Blossom and other projects that are fun and are community building and bless us.
5. And the fundraising doesn't hurt either. We are able to donate generously to Christmas Bowl each year, as well as support ourselves as a congregation.
6. Having a well set up hall, that is offered for hire to the wider community, and thus becoming a community resource.
7. Finances are doing okay.
8. The scones, jam and cream are a true blessing here. ☺



Four Concerns or Challenges within the life of the Congregation

1. Long term sustainability is not totally secure. So we trust in the Lord.
2. Being a small church, our numbers are still good, but the possibility of change exists.
3. Although not an older aging church, in the sense the average age would be lower here than in a lot of churches, none-the-less no one is getting younger. There are some people who are either ill or suffering with age related issues.
4. Our overall numbers of people contributing who are loyal financial contributors is not large. While we still have quite a few people who are still working, they will probably begin to retire over the next 5-10 years??? The older people are getting older....

Is there anything that the Network needs to give attention to?

- Not really. Overall, given the times and age the Church is in, we are actually in a very good position here at Willunga UC. A warm and hospital congregation, with a loyal core of people who are committed. A community of permission giving people who are kind to each other and strangers and strive to live out the message of God's Great Love. We have good, well maintained buildings that have a certain charm. I believe that we are a blessed and fortunate community

Blessings Cogs

Lenten Studies & *Easter Services*

*"Refreshed by Grace: engages,
restores, sustains, guides & comforts"
by Rev Dr Ian Price.*

When- Sunday Mornings,

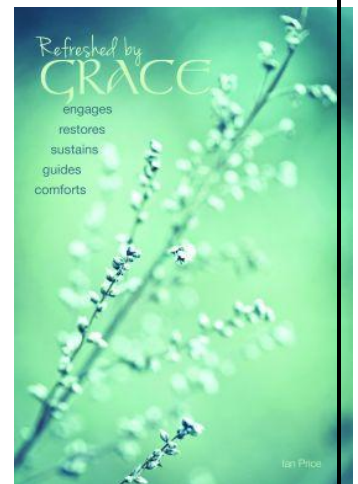
9.15-10.30 am

March - 19th, 26th, April 2nd, 9th

Or Tuesday Mornings. 11-12.30 am

March 14th, 21st, 28th April 4th 11th

Register your interest with Cogs



Easter Services.

14th April- Good Friday, 9.30

16th April- Easter Sunday 10.30.

Flowering of the Cross & Holy Communion.



To contact Rev Coral Cogs Smith (Deacon),

Please call her mobile on 0433 389 708.

Or email - cogs@taliskerhouse.com



WUC CHURCH OFFICE TIMES

The Office is usually open Tuesdays & Thursday 9.30-12.30

Cogs is often in the office at these times although it pays to ring her to confirm.

SACC 70th Birthday: Saturday 29 April 2017, 10am-3.30pm

An Exchange of Gifts on the Journey Towards Unity

SA Council of Churches reaches 70 years of being in 2017. In addition to encouraging various local events, SACC has invited four city churches to host a 'progressive' gathering, which will include times of prayer, story-telling, hospitality, walking together and a *little* business, in four different churches/halls:

Pilgrim [Uniting]

St Francis Xavier Cathedral [Catholic]

St Mary Magdalene's [Anglican]

St Stephen's [Lutheran]

The entire day is open to all across the Member Churches. More information soon.

RSVPs essential to sacc@picknowl.com.au

Willunga Quarry Market

The next Quarry Market is March 13th. Bring any baked goods for sale. We can also sell a small amount of produce. Or just pop by and say hello and buy something 😊

Hall Hire

Hall Hire – increase hall hire to \$20 per hour for main rooms if hired individually, \$30 if both rooms hired.

Inside one of Australia's oldest working prisons

ABC News – click on title - link above if accessing this online.

The photos essay is accompanied by quotes and stories from people involved in Cooma Correctional Centre, a New South Wales jail built in the 1870s. While the text is brief, this story provides an interesting look at a facility not many see inside of.

Dearly Beloved,

Grace and peace to you.

You comfort me and snuggle me at first,
your blessings like a warm embrace,
a womb of sorts,
assurance of your peace and consolation
in poverty and mourning,
in hunger and powerlessness.
And then you stand me up
and put a hand on my back,
expecting purity of heart,
still hungering for justice.
And you usher me out the door
to be merciful among the unmerciful,
a peacemaker amidst violence,
knowing it gets worse,
accepting persecution.
This is what it is, this birthing,
to do justice, love mercy
and walk humbly with you,
out of the softness into the street,
all the while trusting you
and thanking you for your blessing,
your blessing,
your blessing.

Deep blessings,
Pastor Steve

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net

Prayers

In the blazing light of God's grace,
Jesus touches us to say,
"Get up and do not be afraid."
In the name of Christ, all is forgiven.
Amen.

Hear the words of hope set to music by Mozart:

"The sun's golden splendour now sunders the night,
And shatters the power of the evil one's might."
Let us live, die, and rise in the image and power of Christ.
Amen and Amen.

(Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *The Magic Flute* [Bryn Mawr, Pa.: O. Ditson, 1888],
quoted in Susan A. Blain, ed. *Imaging the Word*, vol. 2 of Arts and Lectionary
Resource [Cleveland: United Church Press, 1995], p. 141)

Light Bulb Moments

Q: How many accountants does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: What kind of answer did you have in mind?

Q: How many actors does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Only one. They don't like to share the spotlight.

Q: How many agnostics does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. Agnostics question whether electricity really exists.

Q: How many anarchists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: ALL of them!!

How many Methodists does it take to change a lightbulb?

A1: None. The old one is complete and sufficient unto itself, and should not be changed according to the world's whims.

A2: Four. One to call the electrician, one to clear it with the vestry, and two to argue about how much better candles were.

A3: Five. One to screw in the new bulb and four to found an organization for the preservation of the old bulb.

A4: A whole synod. One to move that the bulb be changed while the others debate until the room spins.

Q: How many anthropologists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: One or two, plus their grad students — but they'll want to know how your mother's family did it and whether that knowledge is passed along at adolescence.

Q: How many subscribers to AOL does it take to change a light bulb?

A: What? You can change light bulbs?

Q: How many Apple employees does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Seven: one to change the bulb and six to design the T-shirt.

Q: How many archaeologists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: One team, but they'll label every piece of the old one, mark its location in the room, and write a detailed description before determining that it was used to store cornmeal.

Q: How many astronomers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. Astronomers prefer the dark.