



Kairos



News in and around Camberwell Uniting Church

Volume 10 Number 2

July 2017

Minister's Musings

Warm Greetings,
It's the middle of the year and something of a season for anniversaries with the UCA turning 40, but I need to confess I've been doing some moonlighting. It was a sad request, but one I felt I should say yes to. The church where I grew up was closing and someone with a long memory had dobbed me in for speaking at the final service.

Endings are always sad. Marking the end of a life has a set of mixed emotions and inevitable grief. We know that for as mortals, we will all come to an end at some point, but for a church it's a little different. We mostly expect churches to live on through the ups and downs of life's cycles and be there for us in our times of need, for our celebrations and to continue the work of being and proclaiming God's good news in the community. But of course buildings can't do that by themselves and in this case the Watsonia / Bundoora Uniting Church decided it couldn't keep both sets of buildings going with the resources it now has. It's not an unfamiliar set of circumstances.

Telling the story and reflecting on our thankfulness for what had been in the past, we did the job. About 100 gathered and at the end of the service, we closed the doors and gave thanks to God for a life of service covering 60 years. We all know that the church is not just the building, but at the same time, place is important.

Personally, I have much to be thankful for in that place: my parents were part of the founding group that began the Watsonia Methodist



church. I grew up just around the corner. I was baptized there, went to kinder and Sunday School there, church and boys club, youth groups, Margery and I were married there, our children Aaron and Alyse were baptized there and I was ordained into ministry there. Add a few family funerals and I think in card playing terms, that's a full house. I'm not certain of that though; my Methodist upbringing never encouraged card playing!

You know how it goes; at anniversaries, funerals, celebrations, it's at events like these that we catch up with people we haven't seen for years - and remember. We remember significant shared occasions, good times and bad ones. We remember dear ones no longer with us and thoughts stray through our minds of what might have been.

Moving on is much more common in our society than staying put. In a more fluid society the questions of how we renew and reform the church is a constant and pressing one. The community and the work of the church don't just happen by themselves. They aren't just the responsibility of those who've been there the longest or of the ordained. We are all the church. Most of us at Camberwell have come from other places, different backgrounds and other churches. God's Spirit forms us and enables us to be the church as we work at it together. We celebrate milestones and special events for the church because there is a life there that is more than the sum of the energy we put in.

So at 40 for the Uniting Church and over 146 for this place, we reflect together in thankfulness for God's blessings over the years and in hope for what is yet to come. We recognize our diversity, the weaving together of many stories and backgrounds. We celebrate lives enriched, hopes renewed, the homeless housed, the young lives nurtured, the needy fed - because

all of this is us and we have much to be thankful for.

Grace and Peace,
Rev'd Ian Brown

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From the editor

Hello, and welcome to the winter edition of Kairos for 2017.

At the start of this month, I accepted a birthday invitation. Strictly speaking, the invitation was issued to my good wife and myself, but as she was a prime assistant at our grandson's sixth birthday (on at much the same time), she was excused from attending the second party, and I was able to attend most of both celebrations.

The invitation came as a surprise to me, as I had not met the birthday girl in person, only via emails (this sounds very bad, but it is not what you think!). However, I was very touched and delighted to accept. I initially thought I could mark this down to what could have been called "a random act of kindness". However, the more I thought about it, the more I realised that while from my point of view its effect was 'random', and humbling, on the part of the sender it was a deliberate act of kindness, and I was doubly touched.

In this age where it seems the leaders of the world and some of its inhabitants are on a race to see who can reach the lowest levels of human behaviour first, this invitation stood out like a beacon of hope, of life, and goodwill that did quite something to restore my faith in the power of an individual to make a positive difference.

I attended the birthday celebration, at a Lutheran Church, along with 118 other people – I know this as there was a formal guest list with every attendee listed, and that included me, under the descriptor of "new friend". How nice was that? The list included 'old friends', 'family friends', and also church friends, neighbourhood friends, social work friends, friends and supporters of the Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital in India (where she lived until she came to Australia in 1948), and a range of other special guests.

Naturally I was made most welcome, and it was a pleasure to formally meet the birthday girl in person. I soon found myself talking to a range of all her family and 'friends', listening to the (personal and moving) speeches, a string performance, a recitation of Henry Lawson, some Indian music, a piano playing duo, a launch of a memoir, and sharing in what was

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quite a special day.

Not bad for an "82nd Birthday Soiree!!" The guest of honour was Louise Joy, a direct descendant of Padre James Gault's brother Edward. The descendants of Padre Gault, whose stained glass window adorns our west-facing wall in the Church, and whose family includes Louisa (from Africa) and her mother Anne, attended our Church earlier this year.

Louise expressed her intention of attending a Sunday Service to meet our congregation (and to view the window) later this year. I was honoured to be invited to celebrate Louise's special day and so glad I was able to attend and enjoy.

* * *

In this edition of Kairos we have two articles on people formerly connected to our church. The people are unique and their lives celebrated, however while the articles will appear separately, the families are joined by marriage, and it seemed appropriate to feature the families in the one edition, so that the reader can see the connection.

We also feature a report from our people who attended the Sacred Edge festival in Queenscliff in May this year, a book review on a matter close to the hearts of many of our readers, as well as reports on a range of other issues and activities of interest that make up our church life.

I thank all who have made valuable contributions to this edition of Kairos, and I trust you, dear reader, will find items of interest to enjoy reading and which will distract you from the cold and dark winter outside for a short while.

Please stay warm, healthy and safe.

Ed

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Sacred Edge

SacredEdge is a festival of arts, music and ideas, which has been held at the Uniting Church in Queenscliff each year since 2014. The 2017 program ran from Friday 5 May until Sunday 7 May.

The core values of Sacred Edge are about: Deepening a Gospel Spirituality; Deepening our sense of community with each other and beyond; Living a different ethic around kindness, hospitality, generosity, inclusivity in a harsh world; Exploring environmental sustainability as an expression of responsibility to creation &

future generations and as an example for others to be inspired by; Growing connections with and supporting Indigenous communities and Refugees; Caring for those with mental health disabilities; Providing support for LGBTI people and their families and raising community awareness; and Continuing to grow artistic and creative opportunities to explore meaning and nurture relationships with the wider community, young people and visitors.

In 2017, two cars full of our Camberwell Uniting Church folk ventured to the festival. Most stayed for the Saturday sessions, but a few remained until the end on the Sunday.

A Trip to Sacred Edge.

An early start. We gathered at Camberwell Uniting Church at 8 am on Saturday May 6 and piled into two cars for the trip to Queenscliff for the Sacred Edge Festival. Almost two hours later seven of us arrived (a little late) at the Queenscliff Uniting Church.

The first speaker (Julie McCrossin) was speaking about her successful mouth cancer treatment and her fear of the mask which she had to wear during radiation therapy. She went on to speak briefly about her gay activism and her membership of the Pitt Street Uniting Church.

The next speaker was Shafiq Monis, an Afghani refugee who arrived in Australia by boat. His huge painting of a sunrise/sunset was displayed on stage. He spoke about his suffering in Australia, and his joy when he was reunited with his family here.

A brief trip to a café for morning tea followed.

Then Nur Wasame spoke about his experiences as a gay Imam. The softly spoken Muslim spoke movingly about his work with young Muslims who identify as LGBT. Most of these had rejected their religion, but he was able to help some reconcile their religion and their sexuality. He seemed surprisingly relaxed considering the pressure he was under and the death threats that he and his family had received.

Lunch.

The ladies worked tirelessly providing coffee and food for the 200 guests.

There was a lot going on at once. In the Hall there was interactive art, interpretive dance, and therapeutic singing. There was music in the Bay Room, and a Quiet Space for contemplation and more intimate conversations.

The afternoon saw a panel of Muslims, which included the two earlier speakers and several women. This was a spirited discussion of Christian/Muslim issues which was enthusiastically received. Many wished to follow up this discussion with future action.

There were closer conversations with some of the speakers in the Bay Room.

Then finally Peter Roberts played the harp. His beautiful music was much appreciated.

Then back into our cars. A brief diversion to Ian and Margery's house in Point Lonsdale and we were home by seven o'clock.

The Festival actually went all weekend and Margery stayed for Sunday but we all had an enjoyable and informative time at the Sacred Edge.

Michael E. East

Angels - As Explained By Children!

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold.

Gregory, age 5

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else.

Mitchell, age 7

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!!

Jack, age 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead.

Daniel, age 9

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it.

Olive, age 9

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science.

Henry, age 8

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them.

Sarah, age 7

And finally....

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter.

Jared, age 8

How could I not share this!! Thanks to **Lois Grenfell** for these statements from the innocents.

CASS - June 2017

There were 18 people present at the last CASS meeting and there was lively discussion. Both St John's Anglican and Highfield Rd UC were represented. The meeting received the news that Mohammed Isah (Program Manager of Asylum Seeker Support at Lentara) has left Lentara. At present our contact there is Kim Webb. Kim set up a house meeting of the Illoura residents to which some members of our group took food to share in a lunch. It was very successful. A similar arrangement has been put in place for the next house meeting so that another group of CASS members can take the opportunity to interact with our tenants.

Another new initiative is 'the vegie run'. Sam, a stall holder at the Camberwell Market is putting aside a selection of fruit and vegetables which he donates to the residents at Illoura. One (or more) of our members meet(s) up with one of the residents to go across to the market late on Saturday afternoon each week to collect what Sam has donated and buy further goods to supplement what Sam has given. The residents appear to be very appreciative.

The quote is in for the painting of the Illoura living room. The St John's congregation has made a significant donation toward this work. Three of our CASS members were able to attend a fundraising for refugees' dinner at St John's last month to reinforce our shared values in this respect.

Our next fundraising effort is a travelogue to be presented by Eric and Elizabeth McKay - 'Travels in Northern Spain,' to be followed by afternoon tea on Sunday August 13, 2.30 pm in the church. Meanwhile we continue to appreciate the material gifts and money donated by the congregation.

Margaret Watters

Sad News - Jean Provan

On 16 April, 2017, our church community was saddened to hear of the death of Jean Provan. Jean lived a full life and died at the age of 91 years.



Jean had been an active member of the Camberwell Uniting Church community for many years, with her most prominent role as a member of and musical director of the choir.

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She was also an Elder, served on Church Council, and taught in the Sunday School.

Jean could be categorised as a staunch Christian in the Methodist tradition, however she was not a passive Christian, but one who had an evangelistic streak and had what might be called a 'restless theology', whereby she would challenge existing norms and established practices.

She left Camberwell for South Hawthorn Uniting Church in 1988, and stayed until its closure, when she relocated to Deepdene with some of the remaining South Hawthorn congregation. Her last years were spent at the Regis Milpara Lodge in Blackburn South.

Jean was married to Laurie Provan for over 40 years until his death in March 2007 (also aged 91 years).



Jean and Laurie had two sons, John James (only ever called Jim) and Robin Laurie (who is married to Larissa). Jean was also grandmother to Robin's three children Kaela, Andrew and Benjamin. Oldest son Jim was born with a condition called osteogenesis imperfecta (i.e. brittle bones), and Jean devoted much of her life as a mother to ensuring that Jim had the maximum care and best opportunities for an independent life.

The Walker Family

Jean was the daughter of Charles Fitzroy and Ethel Ada Walker.

Jean came from a large family. According to the Notice penned by the family in "The Age", Jean was "the sister of Mavis, Kathleen, Ruth, Evan (deceased), Anne, Frances and Robert, and their partners Bill Chappell (dec), Graham Beanland, Graham Bartle, Judith Walker, Elizabeth Carew-Read, Alex Millar (dec), Alex Wood, Sherron Dunbar (dec) and their families."



Some readers may know or remember Jean's sister Ruth Bartle who attended the occasional Sunday Service over many years.

Readers with a longer association with the Camberwell Methodist Church congregation may also recognise the name of the late Alex Millar, who was married to another of Jean's sisters, Frances.

Coincidentally, as a supplement to this edition of Kairos, we will celebrate the life and contribution to our church made by Alex's grandparents, Alex and Louisa Millar, as part of the ongoing series highlighting those people commemorated in our stained glass windows.

Jean's family described her as "creative musician, inspirational teacher, community activist and faithful friend to so many.....She touched us all with her generous spirit, her love of life, her faith and her feistiness. "Forever in our hearts." A description that is most apt, I would have said.

Jean's Family History

Jean's father, Charles Walker, reigned as the longest serving headmaster of Box Hill Grammar School (eventually to become Kingswood College), starting in 1929, and ending at the close of 1963.

Charles Walker was a devout Methodist who believed in the importance of family. He also had a remarkable capacity for hard work. Teamed with a fierce intellect, progressive ideas and strong leadership skills, Walker had the key strengths needed for a school that had been dogged by instability.

After his death in 1971, his wife Ethel continued living at the school site at 352 Station Street until she moved into an aged-care facility, where she passed away in 1984. She always was the heart and core of the family as mother, mentor, supporter, wise counsellor and became even more so in her retirement years.

(The above words are taken from the Kingswood College website).

Jean's early life recollections (reproduced from the Walker Family Reflections, which formed part of the Kingswood College 125 year celebrations), are reproduced below:

"I lived at the school from the age of three until the end of my schooling in 1946. School and home life was a blend of both. My fondest memories are of my contemporary friends at school, other boarders and (Deputy Principal)

Mr. Brunning.

My father's vision for the school included introducing co-education as well as the concept of blending day and boarding pupils. Co-ed boarding was then almost unique in Australia: the only other example was a school in Hobart.

My mother was totally supportive of Dad, and the boarders were also our family. In my final year at school D. B. Coutts (former Headmaster of Huntingtower) came to our school to teach. His style was to dictate a lot of notes – but I passed anyway!

Later on Dad asked me to help in the boarding house for a time. There were a lot of little girls, often from broken homes. My job was to look after them. By then I was studying at the Conservatorium of Music at Melbourne University. It was in the evenings after university lectures that I helped in the boarding house.

I remember that individual parents would often visit their daughters separately, bringing gifts and hoping to impress. I found that very sad.

For a while I slept upstairs near the Box Room, then 'over the road' in Grandma's house. Later I moved to the Princess Mary Club in the city to complete my degree.

My teaching career involved teaching English and Music at Camberwell High, then at Warragul High where I also produced a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta each year. In 1956 I went to England to study in Selly Oak and work at Kingsley Hall in London's East End. Anne joined me there in January 1959. Then I worked in Edinburgh until my return to Melbourne in late 1961. I was at BHGS for Dad's last years. It was a difficult time to be there."



A more recent photo of the Walker family, with Jean in red, front and centre (Evan, at right, died in 2015). L-R Kath, Ruth (Bartle), Frances (Millar), Mavis, Jean, Robert and Anne.

Vale, Jean

Messy Church

2 April 2017 was Messy Easter.

Messy Church celebrated Easter this year two weeks early. This worked very well as it gave the children a good introduction to the Easter story - long and hard to understand as it is.

We concentrated on the empty tomb and thereafter.

At the welcome table, we met a family who came to our Messy Church in response to our advertising in the local paper and on the Church itself - the children attend Camberwell Primary School.

As we came in to Messy Church after being welcomed by Irene, Margery showed us the story of the empty tomb on a felt board. Then we went outside to plant a seedling in our own terracotta pot, to take home and watch it grow. We then made a garden in a tub with rocks, stones, flowers etc.

We next went and painted plastic eggs with nail polish and glitter. They were then laid in a basket filled with "straw". Inside these eggs was an Easter surprise, which were to be kept until Easter day to open.



There were boxes to be made and then built up to make a tomb, and there were figures to act out Mary meeting Jesus in the garden. Margery had us decorating blocks of wood to make people, and then put them a box to represent the disciples gathering together in a room, very frightened, until Jesus appeared among them.

Food craft was with Maxene, icing a rectangular

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biscuit, topping it with half a donut and putting flowers for a garden in front of the "empty tomb".

In the celebration we sang "I see God in you" and "I've got Peace like a River" to new words relating to Easter. We used percussion instruments for accompaniment. Fiona told an Easter story concentrating on the women who feature in Jesus' life and were there at his death and resurrection.

Ian led us in prayers and talked about Easter and what it means for us today. We then said "The Lord's Prayer".

Ruth and her team prepared fish fingers and fish shaped bites, salad and bread sticks for our dinner, and cupcakes and fruit for our dessert. There were 19 Adults and 15 children.

30 April was "A Hairy Story" - the story of Samson (Judges 13-16)



At the end of April, the Gathering activity was making "wigs" made from wool and using ties to hold it on our heads - this was to give us strength from our long hair.

There was a biblical quiz about the Samson story on the way to the hall - the prize for correct answers was a bag of silver. Delilah received money from the Philistines for Samson's secret (strength came from his hair) with which she bought a house.

Lego was used to create the Philistines city, which Samson destroyed with his strength, and from Playdough we made hair grow. We then coloured in the story of Samson, and used paper and "split drawing pins" to make a Samson puppet as an articulated figurine.

Everyone loved testing their strength (and having a photo opportunity) by lifting "dumbbells" (made of foam blocks). A healthy diet was important to Samson, so juicing oranges was fun. He was told to have NO "strong drink" and eat only "clean" (healthy) food. We made mini-dumbbells with marshmallows and chocolate finger biscuits which was also popular (but not so healthy food!)

For the Celebration we had a video of the Samson story and how Delilah convinced Samson to tell her the secret of his strength and betrayed him to the Philistines. The video was acted out and told by young children, which made the story appealing to all who saw it.

Our songs were “my God is so big” and “Sing a new song to the Lord,” then prayers and Lord’s Prayer. Ian’s Reflection was that our strength comes from God, and our faith in Him will help us to use our strength wisely and for good.



Dinner was Spaghetti Bolognese – thank you to Rina and Lilian for sauce (delicious) and to Ruth and her team for the dinner. Then came fruit and icecream in cones with ‘hair’ on top for dessert, for 21 adults and 19 children.

May 28 was a “Search and Rescue Mission” based around Luke 2:41-51.



This is the story of Jesus at 12 years old going with his parents and friends from Nazareth to Jerusalem to visit the Temple. Jesus sat with the teachers of the

scriptures there and asked lots of questions - he was teaching them as time went by. When his family left to journey home (3 days) Jesus was left in Jerusalem. When he was found, he was still with the teachers asking questions.

The gathering activity was a “treasure hunt”. We were given a popular scene from a well-known movie/story, but the most important character was missing – we had to find out who.

The scenes were laid out for us in the church: in the hall we iced biscuits and topped them with jubes representing the teachers in the Temple and Jesus in the middle; there were pictures of Jesus all around the hall (in tricky places) – they had to be found; using packing foam made of

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edible material, Roman buildings were created by wetting the “noodles” and sticking them in shapes; when something was lost a metal detector was used to locate it; there was searching for lost items - what treasures were to be found; and in a huge tube of wheat there were many “people” pictures to be found, a lot of searching and mess!!! Such a range of wonderful crafts.



In the celebration sang 2 new songs - “We are here to have some fun” and “Coming home to you”. Fiona told the story from Luke about Jesus being left in Jerusalem and then found in the Temple which he called “his Father’s House”. Ian had adapted the story with pictures. Ian also talked about how important Jesus is in our lives and his relationship to God. He is the centre of our belief and without Him, we would be lost. We said a prayer together (thanks Sol) and then the Lord’s Prayer.

Dinner was mini pizzas and fruit and Brownie (delicious). Thanks Ruth and her team. There were 23 adults and 20 children.

25th June 2017 - “God’s Messy Team,” based around John 20:19-28



Our gathering activity was run by Sol. His opening activity was introducing the children to the idea of symbols, and that teams have

symbols (eg. magpies). In the story today Jesus gives his disciples Peace and the Holy Spirit. A symbol of both peace and the Holy Spirit is the Dove, so we made flags with doves on them. The friendship bracelets were also a symbol of the Holy Spirit because Jesus said his disciples would be known by their friendship-love for one another. We did the hands because Thomas wanted to see the wounds in Jesus hands.

The range of activities today included: decorating iced biscuits with “M and M”s, using a straw and suck the M & M’s up and then transferring them to biscuits (no one sees the force of the breath); “Paint the Room,” representing the room where the disciples were hiding when Jesus appeared to them one night -

Ian and Margery constructed a great room; Fishing in water with a magnet (another force we can't see) - in an underwater Lego city - a very popular craft.

Maree had them spinning-spinning thread to make friendship bracelets (the disciples were part of a friendship group and on Jesus' team); We made flags with the Uniting Church symbol, the Dove; and we blew ping pong balls around a playdough maze which was fun (again using an invisible force).

Ruth Denmead-Lewis helped with painting hands - a heart at the centre - two hands clipped together; and Margery had questions about the story, and there were Children's bibles for us to find the answers.

For the Celebration in church, Ian got us singing two songs and playing our instruments. Ian called all the young people out the front and told the gospel story with adults interacting. The disciples minus Thomas were gathered in a room, very scared. Jesus appears to them. When they tell Thomas -he does not believe them. Jesus appears again to the disciples when Thomas is there and he then believes. Ian talked about believing even though we cannot see Jesus. He also mentioned that it was the UCA's 40th birthday.



Fiona then told a story by Bishop Desmond Tutu which he wrote to children of the world. He tells them all the things that God wants them to do and how to love one another even if we are different. We said a prayer and then the Lord's Prayer.

Off to dinner of beef-filled tacos and fruit. Thanks Ruth and team for cooking and cleaning up. A very noisy and happy affair, with 20 children and 26 adults.

Fiona Ensor

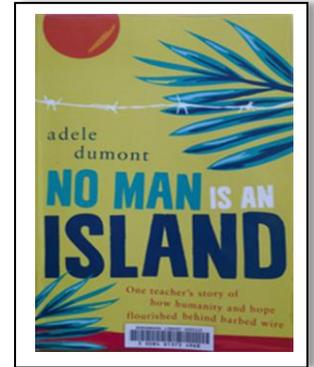
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Book Review.

'No man is an island' - by Adele Dumond.

"No Man is an Island" is the story of Adele Dumont who went as a volunteer to Christmas Island in 2010 and then subsequently spent two years as an English teacher at the Curtis immigration detention centre near Derby in Western Australia.

This book gives a very clear insight into what it is like to work in this environment. Adele works hard to provide English lessons to classrooms of men from many lands, people who have lived through danger and discrimination and sacrificed much in their search for an opportunity for a better life. She witnesses the actions of staff who are kind and caring to their "clients" and others who treat the detainees as criminals and their words and actions reflect the very worst of the Australian racist character.



The "clients" are called by a number reflecting the boat on which they arrived and enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to learn English. But when the processing of all claims for asylum stops for six months and then proceeds slowly, Adele reflects on the change in the atmosphere. "When they first arrive at Curtin they are like wide eyed children with boundless energy and high spirits. But after two or three months they begin to fade. They become as sullen as teenagers, unresponsive. After six months they reach adulthood. Their dreams get overtaken by worry and they stop being able to sleep. Then, depleted they retreat to their rooms. When they emerge, to eat something, or to collect their daily ration of painkillers, their eyes are vacant, and their spines are stooped and they move slowly as though their limbs are arthritic. It's like they've neared the end. And some, rather than wait for death to come to them, are trying to hurry it along".

Adele gets great satisfaction from her teaching and the atmosphere of her classes. She relates particularly well to the Hazaras who have been in the camp for the longest period. But as more and more are moved on to other centres or are given bridging visas there is a constant turnover of students. In addition, the atmosphere in the camp becomes more repressive. More rules are applied and security is further increased with a

security person posted outside her classroom checking IDs before allowing students to enter. Adele decides she has had enough. She returns to Sydney where, after a break, she continues to support many of her former students and others on bridging visas.

This is a well written book. It is available in the Camberwell library and I recommend it to you.

Eric McKay



Building Bridges - Not Walls

This was the title and theme of the annual Convention organised by the Vic/Tas Synod's Justice and International Mission Unit. Approximately 100 attended the day at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Parkville, on Saturday 27th May.

The background to the convention theme was this: The world is changing. People feel threatened by terrorism and financial insecurity and are looking for stability. Some political parties and world leaders have taken advantage of this to blame 'outsiders', who are often disadvantaged themselves. Existing democracies have candidates nominating who would have previously been unthinkable, e.g. President Trump in the U.S., candidates of the far-right in Europe, and increased exposure for the views of One Nation in Australia.

In our region, the Philippines' President Duterte is behind a campaign of mass murder of impoverished drugs users. In Burma, the Rohingya minority continue to be driven from their homes, and in Australia people seeking asylum are locked up and treated as criminals.

The key questions were asked: What is the best way we as Christians can respond to these

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disturbing developments? What is the faithful path forward?

The Convention was a time for people to get to know others working for justice, to share ideas, to be challenged by the key speakers, to learn about and have input on the work areas of the Justice and International Mission Unit.

There was a panel of 3 key speakers on the global trend towards inward-looking nationalism and how the Christian community can respond:

Dr. Joe Camilleri is Emeritus Professor at La Trobe University and Executive Director of Alexandria Agenda, a new venture in ethical consulting. He is outspoken on issues of justice and peace, and is well-known nationally and internationally as an academic and researcher, his fields including: international political economy, religion and culture, security and peace studies, foreign policies of the great powers and the Asia-Pacific region, and racial discrimination. He was a Founding Member of Pax Christi Australia, part of Pax Christi International, an ecumenical Christian peace group founded after World War Two.

Ms. Anam Javed is the Secretary of the Islamic Council of Victoria. She teaches in a large Melbourne public high school with a vibrant ethnic diversity. Through public forums including "Speed Date a Muslim" she frequently answers questions about Islam. Pakistan is "home" but returning is not a political option. She hopes to see an inclusive Australia which values its multi-ethnic nature.

Rev. Dr. Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon currently teaches Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies at the Pilgrim Theological College. She has strong commitments to those marginalised by political, social, economic, and environmental structures and policies of governments: in India, these are the poor, women and Dalits, and she has contributed towards developing Biblical interpretations in light of their histories, life experiences and perspectives.

The convention also featured:
Workshops: Participants chose two workshops from a varied choice.

Lightning Talks: Participants had been invited to present a Lightning Talk of 1-2 minutes on social justice activities in their church or community. There were ten such presentations, and I spoke of our CASS and asylum seeker support activities.

Acknowledgment of country and opening

worship, and closing worship were very thoughtful and meaningful.

The Justice and International Mission Unit (J.I.M.) has a very small staff of hard-working and committed people led by Dr. Mark Zirnsak. They planned and organised a great day of learning, networking, challenge, participation, and renewal.

Marg White

Historical (Hysterical) Church Bulletins

Back in the day, the weekly Pew Sheet came out accompanied by the Church Bulletin, almost exactly the same as today, except that there was the occasional proof-reading lapse or lack of grammar-check that computers provide as standard today.

The quotes from Church Bulletins below actually appeared in Church Bulletins or were announced at Church Services. (It would never happen at Camberwell!?)

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the Church. Please use large double doors at the side entrance.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet

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Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.

I have the very naughty **Barry Docking** to thank for passing on the above gems. *(With apologies for any political incorrectness which may offend).*

The Minister

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers.

The first schoolboy says 'My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$50.'

The second boy continues 'That's nothing. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$100.'

The third boy says 'I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes two people to collect all the money'.

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Kairos is the Greek word meaning "time", that is, those times which are turning points demanding decision while the opportunity remains. Although it refers primarily to the coming of Christ it may also refer to the present time in the life of our congregation.
Editor: Stuart Ensor