



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**Glen Waverley Congregation**  
**Monthly Bulletin – December 2011**



GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love:

[meet\\_god@anytime.with.us](mailto:meet_god@anytime.with.us)



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>8 December:</b>	4.00 pm	Christmas Alight
<b>11 December:</b>	11.00 am	Seniors Service - Holy Communion
	12.30 pm	Church Family Christmas Lunch
	7.30 pm	All Age Carols by Candlelight
<b>24 December:</b>	7.00 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
	11.00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
<b>25 December:</b>	8.30 am	Christmas Day Service
	10.00 am	Christmas Day Service
<b>January Services:</b>	10.00 am	There will be only one service each Sunday in January at 10.00 am.

**Thoughtful Flowers for 2012**

If you would like to book “Thoughtful Flowers” in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate a special occasion, please contact the Church Office on 9560 3580.



## From the Office

For those who were at the Congregational Meeting, you would be aware that from January 2012 the Weekly Bulletin will be produced in a different format. The main change to the bulletin is that it will only be one double sided A4 page. As this is half the size of the current bulletin, some items you are used to seeing will not be there.

Reducing the weekly bulletin to one A4 page has many advantages - it is good for the environment as it saves paper, reduces printing costs and keeps only the most relevant information in front of our congregational members each week.

The most notable changes in the new format will be the removal of the rosters and the reduction of the diary dates to one week. The decision to remove the rosters was made because they take up space and are not relevant for all congregational members each week. If you are on a roster generally you will have a copy of this and be aware of when your duty falls. Roster information is also available on the wiki at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/ChurchRosters> anytime. For those who have difficulty using wiki, up-to-date monthly rosters will be placed on the noticeboard outside the church office each week so that people can check it. We will also have a number of printed copies that you can collect if you are unable to access the wiki.

So how can you help?

1. If you are organising a function you will need to start thinking a little further ahead as it may be that your notice will need to go in the Monthly Bulletin, rather than the Weekly one.
2. Make sure that when you have read your Monthly Bulletin you don't discard it as there may be information in this that you will need throughout the month.

I can imagine that this will take some getting used to, but I'm sure if we all work together the transition can be a smooth one.

Heather Hon



## **COMMUNITY HUB**

As 2011 draws to a close, the HUB committee thank each and every HUB volunteer for the commitment shown to the HUB and its ideals.

Throughout the year we have had more “special” morning teas, each one a great success. We again joined with the Body Shop staff to enjoy a cuppa and raise money for Daffodil Day and cancer awareness.

Our “muffin” morning tea was a huge success with many different types of muffins eaten and recipes available for all the muffins. Entertainment was provided by Alan and Max. at the Seniors Week celebrations. Hot Cross Buns were served at the Easter HUB gathering and money was raised for the Royal Childrens’ Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

The “Munch with a Bunch” group have joined us for morning tea on many occasions and friendships have formed.

There has been a request to expand our horizons in 2012 and have the HUB operating on a Wednesday as well as Tuesday and Thursday. At this stage we are going to start with just Wednesday mornings and if anyone feels they would like to be involved in this please speak to Judith Greenwood, Laurel Muir or Judy Fry.

Again at this Christmas time we are giving colouring books to children who attend Playgroup and Mini Maestro’s with a small Christmas token to parents. Christmas cards will be delivered to the shop keepers along Kingsway.

One of the many benefits of HUB involvement is the friendships growing between the members of the congregation as they offer their friendship to outsiders. We now have regular ‘outsiders’ who come for a cuppa and a chat.

The Committee wish one and all a holy, happy and healthy Christmas celebrated with family and friends, and look forward to HUB activities in 2012.

Laurel Muir



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH GROUP

See our ever changing Notice Board for:-

- Thank you letter(s) from 2011 COP recipients
- **Christmas Bowl** Flyer (envelopes available from Stewards table)
- **Act for Peace** gift catalogue

Also, make sure you read the information on the Kenya Visit and support the 2011 team making this trip in December.

Lyn McDonald - 9560 9798

### Faith Development Missional Group

The survey of services has been completed and analyzed, thanks to Rosemary and Belinda, who have put a great deal of work and effort into this document. This has been duly passed on to Church Council for further action. Much discussion and consideration has been spent on worship matters over the last twelve months and, hopefully the survey will clarify our preferences and help create a harmonious and fruitful worship format.

The issue of noise level between services was looked at and while the hubbub of meeting and greeting is a good sound in church there is some interference with services that are still in progress or just beginning. With some consideration while services are running, this should not be a problem.

We felt that there was not time for a formal Advent study program. Instead Greg has recommended that the book, "The Uncluttered Heart" by Beth Richardson be purchased and read individually by those who would like to take a personal study over the Advent period.

I have decided to vacate the position of convener at the end of this year and would like to thank those serving on this committee for their participation. Thanks to Belinda for keeping notes and Jan and Belinda for the use of their home for meetings.

I am unable to attend the December meeting, so I wish all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas Season and a Faith Inspired New Year.

Colin King. (Convener).



## Inclusive Community Report

The Inclusive Community Committee has met every month since the beginning of the year and we have enjoyed arranging and supporting a variety of activities. We spent hours planning for the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and our special day and morning tea were enjoyed by many. Thanks to all who worked hard last weekend to complete preparations and to clean up after lunch. I would also like to thank Faye and her helpers-they did a great job.

“Munch with a Bunch” functions, including lunches and morning teas have been well attended during the year. Many people have enjoyed morning teas at our own Hub and we will probably have more of these next year. It has been exciting to hear enthusiastic comments about lunches and morning teas. People have enjoyed making new friends and meeting those who attend other services.

We decided to talk about Green F.I.S.H. and other new groups at the beginning of 2012 - make a fresh start. We would like to encourage people to attend the Hub and practise their English conversation so we will advertise this next year too.

We are looking forward to the second session of Christmas Alight and our Church Family Christmas Dinner on 11<sup>th</sup> December. (Don't forget to book.)

Thank you for your support during 2011. We look forward to arranging activities that make our church family more inclusive in 2012. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

Jan Clear

### **A Message from the Careful Kitchen Crew (CKC)**

A belated thank-you to everyone on fete day who ensured our food safety guidelines were followed. Lots of yummy, 'safe' food was prepared and consumed! As we head into the Christmas Season when the church kitchen is especially busy can we all please:

1. Ensure **children** (and adults not involved in food preparation) remain **outside** the kitchen
2. **Replace the child lock** on the under-sink cupboard after use
3. **Take home** any food platters, bowls, plates etc. Items left in the kitchen will be given a few days 'grace', after which they will be placed in the **lost property** container outside the church office.
4. Be mindful of **food spoilage** during **hot** weather. If you are transporting any cooked food or food normally requiring refrigeration keep it cool (eg esky) and transport it in the shortest possible time to the intended event.

Thank you again for helping us to comply with all regulations. Enjoy the festive season!

## GWUC's Use of EMail for Information Delivery

With the redevelopment and tuning of the church's database [ChurchInfo](#), it is now possible to undertake a number of routine tasks in a more systematic and automatic way. An example of these processes has been the implementation of automatic roster reminders by email, and the automatic updating of wiki pages from information maintained in the database.

One key activity that has plagued the office for sometime has been the weekly delivery of Bulletins by email. Without going into too many technical details, it has proven difficult to maintain an up-to-date list of people who would like email delivery of the Bulletin. Accordingly, the church [DatabaseGroup](#) has developed a new process that will (a) streamline the task for the office, and (b) ensure that accurate, up-to-date information is used to perform the actual delivery of emails.

The key ingredient in this mix is a field in the database that identifies, for every person in the database, how they want information delivered to them. Options are *Collect* (collect from the church each week), "Home Delivery" (post to the person as needed), EMail (email to the person each week), and "Unassigned" (no information delivery required). Understandably, we do not use "Home Delivery" for regular weekly information (such as the Bulletin), but only for occasional deliveries - it would be too expensive otherwise.

Printing information is expensive for the church. We pay around 1.5 cents per sheet for the paper (2 pages), 1.1 cents per page for BW copying, and 10.8 cents per page for colour copying. Each weekly Bulletin has cost us of the order of 10-15 cents per copy when there were 3 or more sheets involved - with the recent move to a single 4 A5 page sheet, the cost is still nearly 4 cents a copy. Multiply this by 52 weeks in the year, and you can see that Bulletins cost over \$5 per year per recipient! [NewView](#) doubles this cost because although there are fewer copies, they are much larger and also include colour printing.

If we were to add in postage costs, you will easily see how expensive all this can become if people wanted information delivery by post each week. Accordingly, we have introduced the option of requesting this by email as alternative. It has been estimated that each person requesting information by email can save the church up to \$20 per year.

Why do you get so much spam? Because email is cheap! We want to maximize the number of people who are email recipients, because that not only saves money, expedites delivery, but it also saves effort in the office when you factor in the time taken to print and fold Bulletins. Add to that label generation, postage and other incidentals in the office, and you can see why we want to encourage email delivery.

**What happens when my Bulletin is sent?** The new system is simplicity itself for the office staff. They simply send whatever material they want (usually a short greeting or explanation, and an attachment of the actual document) to the address [bulletin@gwuc.org.au](mailto:bulletin@gwuc.org.au), and behind the scenes, a program checks the current database email recipients, and then emails the message to those who have elected email delivery. Your Bulletin will arrive exactly as sent by the office, but it will be coming with a "From" address of [bulletin@gwuc.org.au](mailto:bulletin@gwuc.org.au). <sup>6</sup>

This makes it easy if you are going away on holidays, and don't want Bulletins arriving to fill up your inbox while you are away. Contact the [ChurchOffice](#), and let Heather know when you want the email stopped and restarted (or wait until your return to advise of the restart date). Heather will update the database as appropriate, and your Bulletins will be suspended while you are away.

Note: the only place where your email address is kept is on the database, and that is as secure as we can make it! Your address is NOT circulated to anyone else, or maintained on any mailing list.

**Something's wrong - How do I tell you?** If you reply to the message, note that it will go to [office@gwuc.org.au](mailto:office@gwuc.org.au), rather than the bulletin address. This is so that your message does not go to everyone - which may or may not be what you want! (If you do send to [bulletin@gwuc.org.au](mailto:bulletin@gwuc.org.au), it will be discarded.) This allows you to feed any comment back on your mailout to the office, although please note that it cannot change what has already been sent. You can also use it to send copy for future bulletins, although we prefer that you use [office@gwuc.org.au](mailto:office@gwuc.org.au) directly for this purpose.

Clearly this whole approach relies on the Office knowing your current, correct email address. That is your part of the process - please ensure we are always accurately advised of email and address changes so we do not send these documents to the wrong place or people. If you do discover that your email is going to the wrong address, simply email the [ChurchOffice](#) with your corrections, and we'll do the rest.

### **What do you get?**

At the moment, we only have that single flag in the database - "EMail". Many people have asked if they can get Bulletins electronically, but paper copies for other materials ([NewView](#), Meeting Agendas, etc.) Or vice-versa, or some other variation. The short answer is "no", because to do so would require much more information to be stored about each person. It would be possible, but it would involve us in a significant amount of work.

So what you will get if you elect for EMail delivery of church information is:

- Bulletins (both weekly and monthly)
- [NewView](#)
- congregational meeting notices, agendas and papers,
- Advent and Lent mailouts, and
- other ad-hoc materials as the occasion arises.

If you don't wish to receive all of these, we ask simply that you delete them as you receive them. That is the simplest mechanism for now, and only requires a small amount of work on your part - but does save us a significant amount of time and effort. If for any reason you do want paper copies of documents, simply ask at the church office. We do make a few additional paper copies of things just in case.

John Hurst

## PREACHING PLAN: January 2012

TIME	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
10.00 am	<b>Rev Greg Fry</b> Communion	<b>Rev Rosemary Carter</b>	<b>Rev Rosemary Carter</b> Communion	<b>Alison Clarkson</b> <b>Belinda Clear</b>	<b>Team</b> Combined Service
Lectionary	Called to Gift <b>Matthew 2:1-12</b> Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:107, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12	New Beginnings <b>Mark 1:4-11</b> Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7	Called and Recalled <b>1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)</b> Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Moving Forward Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 <b>Mark 1:14-20</b> 1 Corinthians 7:29-31	With Authority <b>Mark 1:21-28</b> Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Liturgical Colour	White	White	Green	Green	Green