



Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - August 2014						
Time	August 3 Pentecost 8	August 10 Pentecost 9	August 17 Pentecost 10	August 24 Pentecost 11	August 31 Pentecost 12	
8.00 am	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion Paul Eckert	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Rev Neil Peters Communion	10am Combined Service Ministry Team followed by Congregational Meeting and Lunch
9.15 am	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Rev Neil Peters Paul Eckert	Rev Neil Peters Communion Uniting Voices	Alance Hearnshaw Free Spirit	Alance Hearnshaw Free Spirit	
11.00 am	Rev Neil Peters Uniting Voices	Rev Neil Peters Paul Eckert	Rev Neil Peters Communion Uniting Voices	Alance Hearnshaw	Alance Hearnshaw	
2.30 pm	-	-	-	Senior Service Elwyn Pederson Uniting Voices	Senior Service Elwyn Pederson Uniting Voices	
4.30 pm	Belinda Clear	Belinda Clear	Belinda Clear	Belinda Clear	Belinda Clear	
7.00 pm	Alance Hearnshaw	Alance Hearnshaw	Alance Hearnshaw	Alance Hearnshaw	Alance Hearnshaw	
Lectionary	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Genesis 45:1-10 Psalm 133 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20	Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28	
Liturgical Colour	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	

Welcome

GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love: meet_god@anytime.with.us

JULY

1 July -
2 September

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Alison Clarkson on leave - Ministry to be coordinated by Elwyn Pederson during this time.

5 July	10am	Presbytery Meeting at Cornish College
6 July	All services	CRE Ministries Sunday
6 July	12noon	Club 2014 Bring lunch to share
13 July	12noon	Light Luncheon following 11am Service
14 July	9am	Term 3 begins for most schools, playgroups. Hub & English Language Class
15 July	7.30pm	Mission and Vision Forum
18 July	7pm	Youth Group Term 3
25 July	5:30pm	Uthies Term 3



Reflections on my first six months.

I am taking a week of leave this week and I thought it was a good opportunity to share some reflections on my first six months.

Lynn and I have been made to feel very welcome by this congregation. You have been patient with us remembering names. You are interested in our invisible boys. Opportunities to talk, over morning tea or lunch, at different groups, and at other times has helped us get to know you more quickly. Members have also been helpful in passing on information.

I confess to wondering how the ministry team would receive a new member, especially as team leader. The way the ministry team has embraced (figuratively) me is a credit to each of them. I hope it is evident to you that the team is working well together. The retired ministers have also been very supportive.

I have never worked with a church council with such a good cross section of ages. I am also now starting to appreciate the gifts and skills that each member brings to the work of the council. It has been evident to me that all the missional groups and committees are made up of individuals who offer their skills and bring passion to their shared work.

I am excited that we are looking to the future with a series of meetings focussed around dreams and visions. This is important work and it involves discernment before God as well as growing our commitment to a shared vision.

We are working on it and making progress, however, developing our sense of being a caring community is a work in progress. We offer a great variety of very effective ministries as a congregation. We also need to be thinking about what we need to have in place to be a strong and effective church in 10 years time. I am looking forward to seeing God at work in our lives, in our congregation and in our communities. I do look forward to working with you in the coming years as we share together in ministry and mission.

Neil Peters

Ministry to Seniors

Alison Clarkson will be on leave from Tuesday 1 July until Tuesday 2 September, inclusive. Elwyn Pederson has been invited to coordinate this ministry in Alison's absence.

The Christian Church in the World

Your prayers are requested:

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers.” 1 Peter 3:12.

Mozambique is Striving for Firmer Foundations:

The east African republic Mozambique has a population that is 46 percent Christian (half Catholic, half Protestant), 32 percent ethno-religious, and 19 percent Muslim. Mozambique has had religious freedom only since 1990 when it was written into a new constitution after decades of civil war and brutal Marxist repression and persecution. Mozambique's amazing Church growth has come in the wake of these decades of suffering.

Christian leaders in this emerging democracy have drafted a submission to the national parliament requesting the formulation of a specific law to protect freedom of religion and worship. The aim is that 'the churches will have a better legal framework in which to operate.' They request our prayers. Please pray that God will bless their efforts, heal their land and build his Church.

High Cost of Faith in Laos and North Korea

Despite some improvement in recent years, persecution continues to bring great suffering to Laos' small but growing Christian community. The Communist government views Christianity as a 'foreign' religion liked to its enemies (mainly the US). Local residents who practise Buddhism and traditional religions view Christians as a threat to social order.

Persecution commonly involves forced eviction, denial of service and social exclusion. Furthermore, Christians who continue to witness and refuse to recant their faith in Jesus Christ are arrested and imprisoned in shocking conditions where torture is routine. Please pray for the Church in Laos. Pray also for the Church in North Korea where on 30 May, South Korean Baptist missionary Kim Jung-wook was sentenced for life with hard labour, and where tens of thousands of Christians are incarcerated.

From Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

Inclusive Community Report –July 2014.

June was a busy month, in our church family. Thanks to those who provided food for our ecumenical visitors, the light lunch on Sunday 8 June and the Anniversary lunch. It has been great to see people meeting together and enjoying times of fellowship.

MUNCH WITH A BUNCH lunch was held at the RSL last Sunday. Thirty people enjoyed lunch together on a miserable day, weather wise.

LIGHT LUNCH. There will be a light lunch after the 11am service on Sunday 13 July. This has become a popular event so please join us.

NEWCOMERS. We welcomed these newcomers at our Anniversary lunch-Beth Andrews, Laele and Wendy Pepper, Helen Priddle, David Scott-Stokes, Beverley and John Garratt, Lynne Peters and Marion Wadsworth. Other newcomers who were unable to attend church on 15 June were -Jean Hansen, Heather and Tom Rose, Eileen Scott-Stokes, Rupa and Bemen Singham, Jenny McHutchon and family, Glenys and Richard Zambelli and family and Jane Wilcock, Stephen Tossel and family. Neil welcomed our Newcomers at the beginning of the Anniversary lunch-thanks Neil. To our newcomers we say-we are glad that you have chosen Glen Waverley Uniting Church as your church home. We hope that you will join in activities and special events and make friends quickly. To other members of the congregation, we say please welcome these people, if they attend your service.

PASTORAL PARTNERS. We sent forty-seven letters to people who had attended one or more training sessions and others who have been recommended by the Ministry Team. Thanks very much to those who have indicated that they are willing to be part of this pastoral program. We have formed some clusters and letters will be sent to volunteers giving them the names of those who will be in their care, in the next ten days. If you want to be part of this pastoral program or need more information please contact Jan on 9803 6820.

MEDICAL FORMS. Thanks to those who have filled out medical forms and handed them back to Heather. Some forms need updating so would you please see Heather in the office or fill out a form, if you have not done so before.

MEETING. Our next Inclusive Community meeting will be on Tuesday 29 July at 10.15 am in the Outer Vestry.

World Refugee Day March

A sunny Sunday afternoon, 22nd June, provided pleasant conditions for the rally in Melbourne seeking some redress in Justice for Refugees. A strong and beautiful crowd attended. The agenda consisted of prayers, music and was accompanied by an atmosphere of compassion and solidarity. Three bold congregation members attended and made clear the point that we could do much better for the people who need our help.



Did You Know?

If you need to know the contact details for anyone in the church, look on the wiki. Everyone who is a member of any group in the church has a wiki home page, which you can find by going to:-

<http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/JohnHurst>

Simply change JohnHurst to the name of the person you seek (with no space between their names), and their contact details (name, email, phone, church groups and possibly photo) will be revealed!

Note that you must be logged in to see this - that is how we ensure confidentiality of information to just church people. These details are intended to replace the need for paper copies of group memberships, and they are automatically updated each week from the church database, so you know they are as accurate as we can make them.

If you need a wiki account, please go to:-

<http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CreateUserAccount>

John Hurst - wikimaster



Muffin Morning at The Hub

Come along on Thursday 28 August from 10am till 12noon. Enjoy some company at The Hub Muffin Morning while eating some delicious home made muffins for morning tea. Bring your family and friends. All ages welcome.

Bible Study - Going Deeper

Neil has received a request for deeper Bible study on one of the gospels. The matter was discussed at the last Faith Development Missional Group meeting. The Faith Development Group is wanting to encourage people to grow in their faith and understanding so it was decided to make some plans for such a study and test the level of interest.

Faith Development already had plans to run a study called "Living the Christian Life" by Rev Rod Horsfield in August to mid-September. After this study has concluded Ross Mackinnon has agreed to lead a study that will go deeper looking at the gospel of John. Ross has taken a subject on John as part of his studies. It may only be only a small group and the time and day will be determined in consultation with those interested. Please leave your expression of interest with Heather in the office. We thank Ross for his willingness to lead this group.

Wesley Mission - Gavin Blakemore

Gavin does an annual fund raiser for Wesley Mission Victoria by running in "Run Melbourne" on Sunday July 27.

Gavin is the Director of Mission providing pastoral care, connecting agency mission work with the life of church congregations and helping share Wesley's missional purpose and values with over 1000 staff and 1500 volunteers across Melbourne.

This year he will be running 10km and would appreciate any sponsorship you might offer at

<https://runmelbourne2014.everydayhero.com/au/gavin>

A Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

The Church Anniversary service was an opportunity for our Community to celebrate. Convenors of Missional groups shared the goals which have been set 2014. It was certainly an effective way of communicating the work that is being undertaken by Missional Groups. The 'spit roast lunch' was an excellent opportunity for all to share a meal and fellowship.

Recently I have been pondering the question of what really binds us as Community. As I reflected I realised how I am very blessed to have the opportunity to spend time speaking with members of the Congregation. What I discover is what Paul noted: "I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you." Romans 1:12 (NCV) Faith is accepting initially and continually God's offer of relationship. The Church must continually articulate confidence in Jesus Christ and firmly hold Christian faith in an ever changing society.

Questions posed at the beginning of the recent forums include "Who are we?" and "Who do we serve?" Thought provoking questions that require us to stop and consider what our answers will be.

Church Council would like to encourage members of the Congregation to contribute to our planning for the future of Glen Waverley Uniting Church: to share their dreams for our future and provide input to our priorities for the next year. This is an exciting way to really engage in the life of our community. A workshop was held on Thursday June 26 between 1.30 and 3pm and it was well attended.

The next opportunity to participate in a workshop/forum focused on Vision and Mission will be on Tuesday evening 15 July at 7.30pm to 9pm. If you can attend the evening workshop please let Heather know in the Office so that we can have an idea of numbers.

Blessings.

Helen Stewart - Chair of Church Council