

Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

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

PREACHING PLAN - January 2014				
Time	January 5 Christmas 2	January 12 Baptism of Jesus	January 19 Epiphany 2	January 26 Epiphany 3
10.00 am	Warren Bartlett Communion	Alison Clarkson Belinda Clear	Interim Ministry Team Celebration Service Communion	Alison Clarkson Belinda Clear
Lectionary	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9), 10-18	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23
Liturgical Colour	White	White	Green	Green

DECEMBER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 December	<i>12 noon</i>	Family Christmas Lunch
2-4 December	<i>10 am</i>	Hub Children's Christmas Photos
8 December	<i>2.30 pm</i>	Senior Service "Celebrate Christmas with Carols"
10 December	<i>10 am</i>	The Hub Christmas Morning Tea
14 December	<i>9am</i>	Christmas Fair
15 December	<i>3pm</i>	Christmas Alight Training
20 December	<i>4pm</i>	Christmas Alight
22 December	<i>5pm</i>	Christmas Alight
22 December	<i>7.30pm</i>	Carols on Kingsway
24 December	<i>7.30 & 11pm</i>	Christmas Eve Services
25 December	<i>8.30 & 10am</i>	Christmas Day Services





THE HUB
Hospitality - Understanding - Belonging
CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA



Come and join us for this special
Christmas Morning Tea on this our
last day @ THE HUB for 2013

Story Time for the children @ 11 am

Bring your family and friends
ALL AGES WELCOME

Where: **THE HUB**
Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Cnr Bogong Avenue & Kingsway
Glen Waverley

When: **Tuesday 10th December 2013**

Time: **10 am to 12 noon**

*Please add your name to the list on
the Office Counter if you are
planning to attend. Thank you*



Donations of small gifts for the Empty Christmas Tree
would be welcome.

The Christian Church in the World

What is happening with Christian believers in the wider world? Persecution and prison? Below are two articles from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin.

Eritrean Persecution Fills Prisons, Fuels Refugee Crisis

Up to 3000 Eritreans flee persecution every month. Their extreme danger was shown by the recent Lampedusa tragedy. The vast majority of over 350 lives lost were Eritreans, most of whom were Christians. Those fleeing for asylum via Israel risk falling into the hands of Bedouin traffickers in eastern Sudan. These victims of the Bedouin are tortured so as to extort money from their relatives. Despite the risk, the situation in Eritrea is so horrendous that the flow continues. Some 1500 Christians are currently incarcerated in Eritrea purely because of their faith. On 14 October another young Christian died in captivity. On October 28 a prayer meeting was raised and over 70 believers were arrested. Please pray that God will intervene in Eritrea.

Constitution Obstructs Peace in Burma (Myanmar)

Representatives from Burma's various ethnic rebel armies came together in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 4 November for two days of talks aimed at brokering a multilateral peace agreement with the regime. The parties have agreed in principle to sign a nationwide cease-fire and to establish a framework for political dialogue. The main obstacle to peace will be the 2008 constitution written by the military to serve the military's interests. It mandates centralisation while the long-marginalised and persecuted ethnic nations are seeking autonomy in a confederation. The Burmese army continues to wage war and commit gross human rights abuses and violence against the Christian Kachin as punishment for their resistance to Burmese-Buddhist exploitation. Talks will resume in December. Please pray for believers and that God will bring peace to Burma.

Southdown Avenue Vacant Manse

A few people have enquired about the empty manse at 19 Southdown Ave (corner property) and what is proposed for this house. Back in August 2013 - the Church Council received a request for the manse to be made available for a UCA minister from the Indonesian Congregation of the Mulgrave Uniting Church. This was agreed and the manse has been held ready for that occupancy. GWUC will receive a Synod mandated rental for the manse and it is expected to be occupied in early 2014 after the completion of some formalities between Presbytery and the Indonesian congregation. In the meantime, we are caring and maintaining the property, and we would like to acknowledge the wonderful job Alan Barnard has been doing in keeping the lawns and gardens tidy during this interim period. The manse will be available for their minister until such time as GWUC has a need to occupy it again.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Warren Greenwood.

Sammy Stamps

Sorting of stamps collected at the church involves considerable time; on certain occasions up to 50% of the material has to be discarded.

The stamps cannot be considered as coupons, rather they are intended for sale to philatelic suppliers both local and overseas. Ultimately of course they are destined to mount specimen style into the albums of hobbyists who are looking for material in pristine condition.

Hence, torn/damaged/incomplete/heavily marked etc stamps are of no commercial value whatever.

The majority of stamp sales are by bulk and preference is given to those still on their original envelope background, but trimmed to within 3mm of the perforations.

This is how we too prefer to receive them, but most importantly please be selective in the material supplied.

Your cooperation in these matters would be appreciated.

A Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

As Christmas draws near we are reminded of its true meaning. We are especially drawn to a fresh look at the Christmas story without all the frills, hype and media input. This Christmas we could re-image what it would have been like for Mary and Joseph as they desperately tried to find shelter. The anticipation of the birth of a new baby, especially the first baby in a family, mingled with a certain amount of anguish. What to expect?

We then turn to Jesus reading the Isaiah scroll in the Synagogue. This remains Jesus' prophetic challenge which is centred on God's challenge to be a compassionate society.

As a Church we must continually commit ourselves to show indiscriminate compassion and hospitality toward all humanity.

Next we imagine Mary standing at the foot of the cross! The anguish, the excruciating pain as the scene unfolds. Yet, beyond this the stone rolled away and the women discovering the empty tomb.

We have much to celebrate as Christmas draws near, because within the story of Jesus/Christ we find our hope. This energising source of meaning for each and everyone of us.

Church Council have sent out a flyer which you will find included within the Christmas advent letters. Please take time to prayerfully consider your personal response. A special thanks to Katie Hunter who diligently gathered the material for this flyer.

Chris Drummond has been working with a number of volunteers to organise a Christmas fair with funds raised going to the Philippines. If you have any questions or would be available to help please contact Chris Drummond or Andrew Hosking. The Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, 14th December and all offers of help or contributions towards this cause would be gratefully received. We realise that this is short notice, but we also acknowledge that there is a real need to act now.

"The Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory." Isaiah 60:19

Church Council would like to wish you a blessed Christmas.

Helen Stewart - Chair of Church Council.

Welcome to Neil Peters!

We are all excited that our new minister, Neil Peters, arrives in January.

We can now confirm that Neil's Induction Service will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 30 January at Glen Waverley Uniting Church.

You are warmly invited to come along and share in this special event. Please note the date in your diary now!

The service will be followed by refreshments where we will have the opportunity to informally welcome Neil, Lyn and their family to our congregation.

Christmas Alight 2013 - Friday 20 & Sunday 22 December

Planning is well underway for Christmas Alight for 2013 and it is going to be so exciting to see our building buzzing with the sounds of people of all ages exploring the Christmas story together. Please take some time to look at the notice board in the foyer to see if you can help out in any way.

We are also looking for donations of items for our craft activities. If you are able to donate materials, please bring them to the church office.

We are wanting yellow paper, cardboard boxes of any size, long cardboard tubes (No toilet rolls please), Christmas decorations, tinsel, shiny ribbon/gift ties, ribbon, white card, Christmas shaped foam stamp, old Christmas cards, gold paper doilies, dark coloured paper, twigs, paper people cut outs, cotton wool, shoe boxes, stickers, scrapbooking paper, collage materials, comics and magazines.

In appreciation ...

Dear Friends at Glen Waverley Uniting Church,

Thank you all for your message of support, and inclusion of us in your prayers, following the UCA's recent decision to sell the St George's property. In our discussions since the decision was made, it has been noted that the love and support will come from the people of the church, and not necessarily the "organisational" church. This is, indeed, the case and we are most appreciative of your loving thoughts at this difficult time.

Obviously there are other churches in similar situations to us, and we are sure it is just as distressing for them as it is for us. It is hard to reconcile, though, the loss of 135 years of witness at St George's, and our efforts to ensure we maintain a viable presence, with this decision. It does, however, provide a real opportunity for us to reflect on where God is in this and what it means for our future ministries, both collectively and individually.

Please convey our appreciation to your congregations.

Regards,

Peter Gray - Church Council Secretary

St George's East St Kilda UCA

Thank you ...

May I thank you, and the members of our church for the prayers and good wishes I have received during my illness.

It is comforting knowing many friends are thinking of you, and praying for you in times of need.

My grateful thanks to everyone.

Love and Blessings,

Beverly McGlead.

Inclusive Community Report

Munch with a Bunch: Forty-five people went to the RSL for lunch on Sunday 17 November. Once again people enjoyed a beautiful lunch and fellowship. If you dine alone and haven't attended one of these functions, please talk to Jan and we will include you on our guest list, next year.

Pastoral Partners: We had the last workshop for this year on Sunday 24 November. The topic was "Inner Dimensions" and we talked about spirituality and reading the Bible. Our next workshop will be sometime in February.

English Classes: Thursdays 11.15am to 12.15 pm. We had ten students at our class last week and this was very exciting. Our last session will be on Thursday 12 December. If you would like to help with these classes next year, please talk to Jan.

Morning Tea: We had morning tea after the 11am service last Sunday, 24 November. It was great to see such a crowd. There will be morning tea after the combined service on Sunday 22 December. Please join us for this special time of fellowship together.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 12 December at 9.30am in the outer vestry. We will be preparing our programs for next year so if you have any ideas please let us know.

We wish you a very happy Christmas as you enjoy time with family and friends and we remember the birth of Jesus and God's Love for us all.

Christmas Alight
presents



The Mess of Christmas

Friday 20 December
4pm - 5.30pm

@ Glen Waverley Uniting Church
cnr Kingsway & Bogong Ave
Glen Waverley

Come to one session
or come to both.

Who can come: Children, parents, grandparents,
people of any age wanting to explore the meaning
of Christmas

(children must be accompanied by an adult who
is responsible for them during the session)

Sunday 22 December
5pm - 6.30pm
Followed by a BBQ tea
&
Carols on Kingsway
@ 7.30pm

Cost: by donation

For further information and to let us know
you're coming, please contact the church office
9560 3580 or office@gwuc.org.au
Bookings are helpful, but not essential.

Children's Christmas Photos



Help your children or grandchildren to remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas - the birth of a baby Jesus.

Come along to The Hub at the Glen Waverley Uniting Church on Monday 2nd December, Tuesday 3rd December or Wednesday 4th December between 10am and 12noon, and let your children or grandchildren dress up, be a part of the Christmas Story, and have their photo taken for free.

Dress ups will be available to use for Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men or angels.

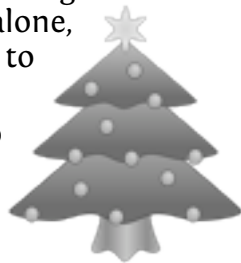
Photos taken on these days will be available for collection on Tuesday December 10th between 10am and 12noon.

Ministry Team Advent Project - Christmas Tree Outreach

During Advent we will be decorating and delivering Christmas trees to 25 families and people living alone, within the congregation and in the community, to share the joyful message of Christmas.

You are invited to nominate anyone you know who would benefit from this project.

Leave your name and nomination with Glen Waverley Uniting Church or Alison Clarkson.



Ministry to Seniors - Celebrate Christmas with Carols

Date: Sunday 8 December. Time: 2.30pm.

Carol singing led by Free Spirit, cake and shortbread to follow.

Add one or two carols or Christmas songs you would like to sing to the list on the Office counter by Wednesday 27 November.

We are also giving their parents and the shop-keepers in Kingsway a special Christmas card. Our thanks to Heather Hon for all the time she spent in helping to make and print these colouring-in books and Christmas cards.

A very big thank you to all our wonderful Hub Volunteers who have done such a great job all year. Thank you for giving such a friendly welcome, and offering such special support and hospitality to those who come in to our church. This has been very much appreciated by so many people during the year.

If you haven't been to The Hub, why not drop in one day? If you would like to be a volunteer, or to know more about any of these groups, please contact Judith Greenwood on 98038373.

Story Hub

Story Hub has had a pretty good term and has been averaging about 3-4 families each week. These families have been staying after story time to play in the hall, which is fantastic.

Most of the children who come are under 3 years old, so often we just sing songs and have a short story.

Story Hub also provides a great opportunity for parents to socialise.

Our aim for 2014 is to have a roster of people to do Story Hub each week. I will be putting a list on the office counter in December, asking for volunteers. Belinda Clear (Co-ordinator)

Christmas Fair

A Christmas Fair will be held at Glen Waverley Uniting Church on Saturday 14 December from 9am. Proceeds from the fair will support the disaster victims in the Philippines.

There will be gifts, books, decorations, cakes and lots more available on the day.

If you are able to assist with donations, or time to help on a stall, it would be most appreciated. Please contact Christine Drummond, Andrew Hosking or the Church Office.

Playgroups

The end of 2013 will mark a significant milestone in the life of our playgroups as Kimberly Easton retires as a leader. Kimberly was the instigator of GWUC Playgroups in their current form, and her wisdom, experience and dedication to our mission have been invaluable. Blessings on the Easton family as Joel moves on to kindergarten.

In the second week in December our three Playgroups will be celebrating Christmas and the end of a very happy year. We know that many Playgroup families will enjoy The Hub's "Christmas Story" costumes and photos activity in the Foyer. This will be followed by our party morning tea and a visit from Santa.

To mark the start of Advent we are also planning to have a simple telling of the Christmas Story in the Church during Playgroup time, for those families who would like to attend.

Kaye Mackinnon.

The Hub

Our Seniors' Morning Tea at The Hub was attended by over 100 people, who enjoyed delicious food and much chatter. A large group of about 20 people came from the City of Whitehorse and spent a lovely morning talking with people from GWUC. They had seen the notice about our morning tea in the Victorian Seniors' Festival Booklet.

We will be taking photos of children in nativity dress-ups at The Hub on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th December between 10am and 12noon. Bring along your children or grandchildren so they can be a part of the Nativity and hear the real Christmas story as they dress up.

Our last day of The Hub this year will be Tuesday 10th December when we will have our Christmas Morning Tea between 10am and 12noon. This will include a story time for children at 11am. This is a time to bring your family and friends and enjoy some Christmas cake and shortbread, along with a cuppa.

We have made some colouring-in books to give to the many children who attend Playgroup, Mini Maestros, The Hub, 9.15am KATS, 4.30pm Family Worship and C.R.E. classes at Glenallen Special School. A total of 275 children will receive our colouring-in book, which tells the Christmas Story very simply for small children, with pictures to colour.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church Leisure Time



INVITATION

All Leisure Time volunteers are cordially invited
to join with Guests and the Committee in the Church hall
for our Christmas break-up

on

Monday 9 December 2013

at

10.15am

for Morning Tea and afterwards for the Entertainment

You may also wish to share in our

Brief Christmas Service

on the same day in the Church at 1.30pm - 2pm.



Coeee

The people in this group continue to enjoy the company, friendship and support given and received as they meet on Fridays for lunch, followed by a game or two of scrabble.

Leisure Time - a friendly day out for isolated seniors

Every Monday, a group of 15-20 local seniors gather at our church for a happy day out. These are isolated folk who need company in a safe and friendly atmosphere. A delicious lunch is served.

We reach out with care and hospitality to them, and include an interesting activity each week. Outings are organised several times each year, and our guests love coming.



We are in need of some new Leisure Time volunteers for 2014, and a new person or two to join our committee. We have a wonderful team of dedicated helpers, but some new faces would be much appreciated. Most volunteers are rostered about 9 times per year. If you could assist with home cooking of casseroles, sweets or birthday cakes, or if you could help in the kitchen, drive guests to or from the church, or be a host on a Monday, please let us know, or fill in an Availability Form on the office counter. Men and women are welcome.

Our roster can be flexible, so please don't let your work or holiday plans prevent you from helping. Our seniors would be very grateful, and you will feel rewarded for your efforts. Please consider whether you could help.

Grandparent's Day

On October 21st, Leisure Time combined with the Monday playgroup children, and their parents and grandparents, and enjoyed a wonderfully energetic and happy time of singing and playing simple games. The children gave each guest a small posy of flowers and each child had a balloon to take away. Leisure Time guests said how lovely it was to be close to the children and "can we do this again?" Being part of the Community Hub Mission Group has enabled this kind of co-operation between these outreach groups, and we welcome it.



2013 Leisure Time Volunteers - Christmas break-up Reminder

Our end-of-year party is on 9 December, and all our volunteers are invited to the morning tea and entertainment at 10am. It's a great opportunity to mingle with our guests. Hope to see you there.

Leisure Time will recommence for 2014 on 3rd February.

Margaret Fraser (9803 7653)