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Ministerial Musing Rev. Ineke Gyles I write this as we are experiencing another So have all these readings over all those

lockdown situation. We are very fortunate to weeks actually been a time of preparation have such a great set up at Glen Waverley for times like these. and how streaming a service has been done God has actually shown us from whence by you over many years.

vou to the team.

The lockup has once again caused many to go through hard times, for businesses extremely difficult, universities and schools especially those who are doing their VCE, not being able to visit people in hospitals, weddings and funerals that includes one of Is it a matter of trust, trusting in the way our own. The struggle for our aged care God has already prepared us, to help us, to facilities and its residents, and it has also been tough for the church itself and its ministry agents.

You might very well ask the same question you might have asked last year as to where do we find God in all of this, and where do we find our hope for the future.

Our hope is found in the one who is the risen, crucified, Lord. Over the last 50 days we have been hearing readings set for the season of Easter. We have heard from those who witnessed to the resurrection, we have heard Jesus appearing among a frightened group of disciples huddled in a room, and the church council. Because of the saying to them those wonderful words "Peace be with you". Spoken to us as well.

"I am the good shepherd and I know you by I pray that Neil and Lyn have had a name." Spoken to us as well.

Jesus spent his time preparing his disciples re- creation. for their ministry and his leaving. "Do not be afraid, I am with you." Spoken to us as well and preparing us also.

Pentecost Sunday when we too celebrated You will always be in my prayers. the gift of Holy Spirit, the comforter, advocate, strengthener and bringer of the truth. Given also to all of us.

comes our hope, today, tomorrow and for It allowed the process we needed to go the future and where we might feel and see back to for Worship so much easier thank God at work in our community through his Spirit. We find God also in the care given by scientists, doctors and nurses, and all of the care givers, we find it in phone calls and messages and emails given and received.

> So is the answer to the question about where do we find God already given to us? cope with our grief, pain and hard times? May you find it to be so.

> I am now in my last week of supply and give thanks to God for the time I was given to spend with you.

> You have all been a gift to me. Both a reunion and a meeting of new people. It has been a joy to work with the team and I particularly thank Alanee, I never fail to learn heaps from her, and of course Di, who never fails to care for me and others. Also to Joanne who received many annoying phone calls from me, and thank you to Glyn Covid restrictions I have not been able to do the visits I wanted to do in my last week.

wonderful Long Service Leave and a time of

Everyone will be very glad to have you back, you are much loved and your ministry much appreciated.

Much love and blessings, Ineke

Melcome.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Worship services each Sunday: 8.00 am - Contemplative **9.15am - Interactive** (+ *Life Stream*)

11.00 am - Traditional (+ Life Stream)

1.00 pm - Indonesian Fellowship

5.00 pm - Creative Worship

Weekly Events: Mondav

10am - GOMERS 10am - Playgroup 10am - Leisure Time (1st & 3rd Mondays) 7.30 pm - Bible Study on Zoom (fortnightly) 8pm - Badminton/Table Tennis

Tuesday

10am - The Hub 2pm - Mindful Meditation on Zoom

Wednesday 1.30pm - Bilingual English Class 8pm - Free Spirit

Thursday

11am - English Conversation Class 8pm - Badminton/Table Tennis

> Friday 9.30am - Choir of Hope 5pm - Uthies/Youth

Coming Events:

Sunday 20 June Church Anniversary

Saturday 16 October Church Fete

Sunday 28 November Church Christmas Lunch

Please see the weekly bulletin for more details on these and other events.



"Kingsway" is a bi-monthly magazine of Glen Waverley Uniting Church.

"Kingsway" is designed to provide a voice for the church community to share activities, thoughts, celebrations, stories

and the faith journey. It will present to the church community the quiet achievers and achievements in the life of our church.

"Kingsway" has a multi-generational, multi-cultural and missional focus and is designed to build community, lift the spirit and strengthen our faith.

If you have an item, article or notice that you think will be just right for "Kingsway", please contact Joanne Boldiston (office@gwuc.org.au) or David Fraser (davidfraser60@gmail.com).

The closing date for submissions for the August/September edition is Wednesday 21 July 2021.

Humorous Notices from **Church Bulletins....**

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pleasure to the congregation.

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.

The church will host an evening of gracious hostility.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 6pm prayer and medication to follow.



a heartwarming family film sharing themes of love, acceptance, and having a positive self-image produced by FableVision studios.

Click here to watch

Alison Clarkson

Vida Foo

Warren Greenwood

Susan Karoly

Ross Mackinnon



CHURCH LEADERS...

Ministry team, Church Councillors & other leaders



Geraldine Fleming



Judith Greenwood

















Sony Simanjuntak



Go to: http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/PhotoBoards

Jan Clear

David Fraser









Glyn Howells



Deb Leigh

Beverly McGlead

Chris Krahn



Elinor McCluskey de Garza



Wendy Pepper



John Snare















HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SUPPLEMENT Stories of, and from, our Glen Waverley Uniting Church community

Throughout this year we wish to share uplifting stories from church members about how they care for themselves and others during times of need and highlights of their journeys through life. If you have a story to tell please send your contribution to the Kingsway Magazine team of Joanne and David at office@gwuc.org.au.

HOMELESSNESS

Faye McDougall

Thankfully, for many of us, homelessness is only something we hear and read about in the media. However for many in our community it is a fact of life. There are many reasons why people of all ages may find themselves in this position. Very few people choose to be homeless.

As a member of our Church Welfare committee, and also doing volunteer outreach work on the streets of Melbourne at night with Open Family and Whitelion over many years, I have seen many faces and presentations of homelessness.

My night time outreach work focuses on youth at risk from the age of 14 up to the age of 25 years. Unfortunately there are many young people in our society who do not have a permanent roof over their heads. Some may be couch surfing (staying a night here and there at a friend's place) or with nowhere at all to seek shelter.

The majority of these people have come from a difficult home environment. They may have suffered physical or sexual abuse at home, or the parent(s) may be an alcoholic or drug user. Unfortunately it is often safer for these kids to not be at home, so have fled.

Some of the homeless youth we see have been made unwelcome at home when a parent starts a new relationship; either the new partner wants nothing to do with them or the parent wants to start a new life, unencumbered by dependants.

I will never forget one girl we met in the park a few years ago. She was 16 and desperately wanted to stay at school and complete her education. However her parents had separated. Mum took a job overseas and Dad bought himself a 1 bedroom apartment in the city to enjoy his new single life and there was no room for her.

The street can be a dangerous place for homeless youth. They are sometimes preyed upon by the older homeless, stealing the blankets, sleeping bags or food we may have given them. Homeless youth are also a target for paedophiles.

Being homeless means it is difficult to maintain good health and nigh on impossible to continue schooling. Your day is spent

sleeping, as it is safer when more people are about, and protecting your few possessions.

The people who present to the Church Welfare team tend to be from older age groups than I see on the streets. The difference between homelessness and the rest of us is often only 1 pay cheque and bad luck.



The homeless people that our Church supports have often had a serious injury or illness, and as a result have not been able to continue working (some have been sacked because of it.) No income means they can no longer pay the rent and are subsequently evicted. Without a job they are unable to raise the funds for a bond and rent to start again.

We are also seeing more women, who have spent most of their life as the homemaker and upon becoming divorced find themselves with no means of support or a roof over their heads.

Welfare also sees women who have fled the family home due to domestic violence.

Sadly there is nowhere near enough public housing or crisis accommodation in Melbourne. Some people who have been placed temporally in crisis accommodation find it even more dangerous than the streets. They are often sharing with potentially dangerous people and drug addicts. Before the notorious Gatwick Hotel in St Kilda closed, it was often used as crisis accommodation for the homeless. It was not uncommon for us to arrive on a Saturday night and find the place taped off as a crime scene, because a murder or stabbing had taken place.

Homeless people I have met, both on the streets and with Church Welfare, often tell me they would rather sleep in the park, on the beach or in their car (if they are lucky enough to have one) than be placed in some of the crisis accommodation that is available.

Homelessness is often just as a result of a tragic turn of events, a poor decision made or difficult home life.

There but for the grace of God, go I.

NDONESIAN COMMUNITY OF GWUC – BIBLE S'

Sony Simanjuntak

The Indonesian community of GWUC decided to start a bible study as an activity during Covid-19 Lock Down. Originally the idea for having a bible study was requested by Ratih, who joined us quite recently, before the lock



down. Thus when I was asked about what kind activity that the Indonesian group would have to continue engage with its members, at one meeting of the Church Council, I mentioned about the wish of having a bible study. The idea was warmly welcomed.

The next step was to communicate it with Lucky, the conveyor of the Indonesian Fellowship. He wanted to see how many people who are interested in that program first and mentioned a number of five. The news was circulated straight away at the group's What's Up. Sandra, Binsar, Daniel and myself were the first people to put our hands up. Daniel was asked whether he is willing to lead the study via zoom which he agreed upon.

Daniel thought once a month zoom meeting would be enough, however, the rest of us wanted to have it once a fortnight. Thus, we have a meeting on Tuesdays once per fortnight at 7 pm. The beauty of this zoom meeting, Lisa, one of ours, who went to Jakarta before the lock down and is still in there, is able to join us too. So, it feels good to be able to catch up with Lisa as well.

At the beginning, we had the bible study in Indonesian but then other GWUC's members who are not Indonesian speakers joined us. So, our bible study becomes bilingual (Indonesian and English). Thanks to God, Daniel is happy to do the study in both languages. We all love our zoom meeting times. Daniel organises the zoom. We all agree that we cannot wait for the next meeting. What a happy catching up time as well!

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Peter Cheung

Life is full of up and down. Most of the time we can cope with adversity using our own resources and with the support of family and friends. We can become a stronger and better person through As a psychiatrist, the way I cared for an learning from our journey of overcoming adversity.

succumb to adversity because we may have less ability to cope with adverse life events due to genetic factors, childhood trauma, feeling already having too much I also endeavoured to understand as on our plate, and/or being socially thoroughly as I could the impact of the isolated and unsupported. Or we may have experienced a terrifying event such as being the victim of assault or natural disaster like bushfire which can overwhelm our usual coping ability. Either way, we can end up traumatized by the adversity and having disabling mental health symptoms which may need the input of a mental health professional to us get out of our predicament.



individual languishing in adversity was to, first and foremost, try my best to However, some of us can sometimes establish a trusting and confiding psychological therapy which aimed to relationship with them so that they could feel respected and not judged, listened to how adverse childhood experiences had and understood.

> psychological trauma on them as well as their life history, current circumstances in particular their social network, values, hobbies and interests, religious belief, usual ways of coping with stress in terms of their weaknesses and strengths, as well as some initial understanding of their with adversity, had invariably shown usual inner world.

I have always subscribed to the view that initially expected. psychological therapy is the essential tool

to care for traumatized individuals, and medications should only play a supplementary role. I provided the type of psychological therapy which assisted them to acquire techniques and strategies to accept the adversity, confront it rather than avoiding it so that it could be properly processed; and to cope better with the stresses brought on by the adversity. I also provided another type of assist them to develop awareness into unknowingly led to the development of unhelpful and even harmful ways of seeing themselves and relating to others, causing them to be more likely to be overwhelmed by adversity.

I found in caring for traumatized individuals that those who had strong faith in God, who firmly believed that God would guide them through their struggle much more resilience and responded much better to my care-giving than I

OUTREACH AND WELL-BEING

Elinor McCluskey De Garza - Welfare Coordinator at GWUC

'Well-being' is a buzz word during charity donations to motivate these present pandemic times. One employees to participate in exercise. might ask what raises a person's well- Apps are used to record employee being and how is it achieved? One workouts and a \$4 donation sent to a way is by contributing beneficially to charity of their choice. another's life - it gives us self-esteem and a positive view of our impact on society and our community. This helping of others has been something Christians have been doing since the very beginning, having the belief that we on earth are the body of Christ.

As a Social Worker in a church program, my role is to find ways to raise an individual's well-being. However, often I have found that the very work I have been involved in - while ostensibly raising the client's

well-being - also has the effect of second portion to her Muslim raising mine. On any given day my neighbours, who were also without work varies from counselling an food. When asked why she did this, individual and gradually seeing she answered that she knew her them make significant positive neighbours were also starving. changes in their life, to assisting a Realising that the mother's person 'sleeping rough' find a happiness gained through this deed pathway to permanent was more important than a full belly, accommodation. The privilege and Mother Teresa said she waited until honour of journeying with people the next day to bring more food to through this 'helping profession', the mother.¹ What would possess gives me purpose in my work and this mother to put the needs of her meaning in my life.

Corporate organisations have certainly caught on to this idea and are recognising the effect that helping others has on raising the We may not need to share our last well-being of their employees. Many meal of rice with our neighbours, but workplaces are allowing employees we can all find ways within our lives, scheduled leave to donate time to do and where we have been placed by voluntary work. Instead of team our creator, to find purpose and building lunches at restaurants or contribute to the well-being of those afternoons at Strike Bowling, who are around us. In turn, this of workplaces are shifting their team course has the flow on effect of building days to take place at improving our own well-being. charities such as St Kilda Mums or in ¹ From "Mother Teresa: In My Own Words," a soup kitchen. Another corporate compiled by Jose' Luis Gonzalez-Balado, idea gaining momentum is using 1996

A more touching example of the importance of the human drive behind outreach is demonstrated through this story from the modern day saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Having been informed that there was a Hindu family with 8 children who had been without food for many

davs, Mother Teresa brought a bag of rice to them. To Mother Teresa's surprise, the mother of the Hindu family at once divided the bag into two portions. She took the

neighbour above her own starving family? My guess would be the purpose and meaning in her own life that came from looking after another.

LEAVES THAT HEAL

Daniel Sihombing

What does the Bible say about health and well-being? Well, we know that the gospels tell us stories about Jesus healing people from various kinds of illness, and then there is Paul's advice to Timothy to drink some



wine, for the sake of his stomach and frequent ailments (1 Tim. 5:23). In various passages of the Bible, we find exhortations to the readers to be tranguil and not worrying too much about life. As we all know, anxiety is bad for your health.

I am particularly interested in a passage that we find in the final chapter of our Bible, where the angel displays to John the majesty of the new Jerusalem.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anv more. (Rev. 22:1-3)

The word 'nations' here comes from the Greek word ethnon, which sounds to us like the English word 'ethnic'. Trees of life whose leaves are healing the nations, the various ethnic groups. How wonderful is the image that John is portraying here!

I wonder what kind of tree is it that John saw in his vision and how do those leaves look like. Unfortunately, we can only wonder and guess, considering how ancient the text is and how different the environment that we have

That doesn't prevent us from grasping the message and cherishing the beauty of the imagery. For we have seen in the world so many traumas, bitterness, pain and suffering that come from conflicts between different ethnic groups. There were plenty of them in biblical times, and probably much more now in our time.

As I read again this wonderful passage from the book of Revelation, I remember the trees in our churchyard and the leaves that are falling. Bogong Avenue is one of the busy roads in this area, with a lot of people coming around from different ethnic backgrounds. I pray that the healing of the nations can also be witnessed here; a foretaste of what is to come. Amen.



BEEAC DURING COVID-19 ISOLATION

Donald Lang

To share our experiences and learnings from the 2020 COVID lockdown, we need to paint a picture of our lifestyles and worship in Beeac pre-CoVID.

We have lived in relative isolation for years, with our closest neighbours kilometres away. We have been conditioned to living comfortably with only household members and pets to talk to.

The Beeac congregation attended worship in our church twice a month. These face-to-face gatherings have been a valuable opportunity to share news with neighbours. Conversation topics typically include personal health, holidays, weather, updates on children and grandchildren and yield of crops and livestock.

Our lives changed in March 2020, when we were plunged into lockdown, along with the rest of the state. Suddenly we were cut off from face-to-face contact with friends and family.

In terms of worship, each family watched and listened to the Glen Waverley live stream services every week. This meant during Covid we attended church twice as often as we did before! We enjoyed these services and felt connected to each other and your church, despite "attending" from homes. After the services we sent emails to each other, passing the peace, as encouraged by Neil and Alanee. We shared details of our weekly activities, our health concerns and other general news.

We talked about projects that we undertook to provide a sense of purpose during lockdown. Gardens were re-imagined to rival Guilfoyle, sheds were given a once-in-a-hundred-years clean and archived documents were dusted off and scrutinised. We challenged ourselves to utilise technology to maintain social connections. We learnt how to use Zoom and Teams. We ran cooking classes for grandchildren using FaceTime. We balanced reading and watching replays of the football with walks and cycling. We felt for people isolated in the city, without space around them. We shared our vulnerability and fear of infection when we transitioned from thinking COVID was rather remote and then suddenly an outbreak occurred in Colac and Beeac. We enjoyed the support we received from each other in the messages and looked forward to receiving a response from each family. We were inspired by the innovation of the Glen Waverley worship leaders and singers and the team that put the services to air and felt very supported and grateful to be able to be part of these services.

Now that our lives have returned to almost normal, we reflect on the learnings in terms of resilience, adaptability and technology. We have a heightened appreciation of face-to-face community gatherings, such as church, bowls and camping at Lorne. We continue to challenge ourselves with information technology, and find we don't need to call the grandchildren for help quite so often.

We feel relieved that our shared sacrifices have paid off for Australians, when much of the World is still suffering due to the pandemic.

SHARING AN IFTAR MEAL WITH MUSLIM FRIENDS

Glyn Howells

Glen Waverley Uniting Church, through its church council and our Indonesian fellowship led by Mr Lucky Kalonta, hosted a small dinner of about 25 people to share an Iftar meal – the meal that breaks the fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Despite it being

> "...the month of Ramadan from the Muslim perspective: it builds community (shared meal after the fast daily; shared experience), a spiritual practice and an experience that creates compassion for those who do not have enough food as well as being one of the 5 pillars of Islam."

Mother's Day, we gathered in our fellowship area where at 5:27pm, we each ate a date and drank water or tea.

Our Muslim friends then retired to pray before we all came together again for a halal meal. The grace was said by Rev Dr Apwee Ting from the UCA Assembly. Bonds of

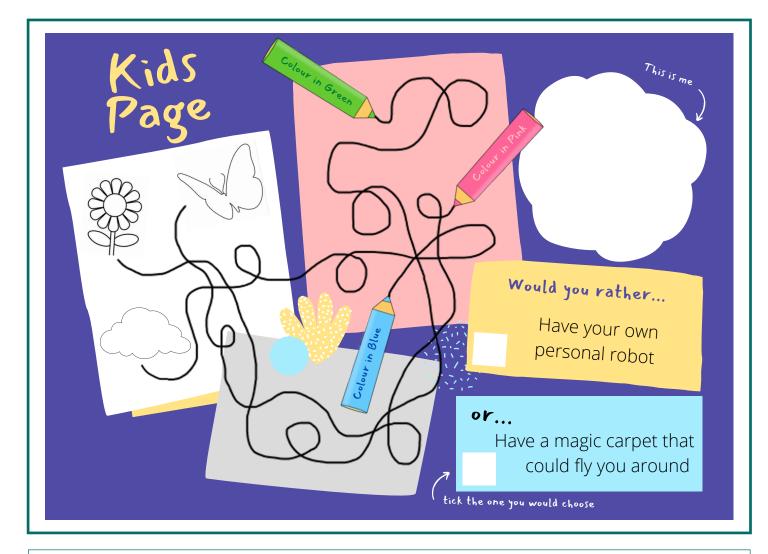


friendship grew with guests including Ibu Moniroh Rahim, the Acting Indonesian Consul General, Dr Mohamed Mohideen, the President of the Islamic Council of Victoria and a member of the Monash City Council Multicultural Advisory Committee, and Mr. Teguh Iskanto, representing the Indonesian Muslim Community of Victoria and Mr. Nuim Khaiyath, the former Head of Indonesian Language Broadcasting on Radio Australia along with local representatives of the



Faith Communities Council of Victoria. We thank everyone involved for blessing us with their presence. Next year, if we're covid safe, we'd like to expand the event perhaps by collaborating with a neighbouring congregation and having an interfaith dialogue around fasting or some other suitable topic.





FAITH DEVELOPMENT MISSIONAL GROUP BLOGSPOT

Ross Mackinnon

Kath Williamson is a retired Anglican priest from the UK. We lay foundations that will need further development. Her BlogSpot - Reflections - Exploring Christian We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. Spirituality - includes brief reflections, book reviews, poems, We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation and prayers. She likes to comment reflectively on prayers and poems written by other people. For example, here is a prayer by Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador and her But it is a beginning, a step along the way, comments on it:

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, It is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction Of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything. This is what we are about. we plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted,

knowing that they hold future promise.

In realizing that. This enables us to do something, And to do it very well. It may be incomplete,

An opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference Between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen.

Kath Williamson comments: "Oscar Romero, was martyred whilst taking a communion service in a hospital chapel.

He had spoken out repeatedly about violations of human rights and social injustice in El Salvador and been deeply moved by the murder of other Catholic workers and clergy. As a result of his experiences, he moved from a conservative Catholic position to an advocate of liberation theology - which emphasises social justice and political activism.

Although these words of his are often called a prayer, they are more of a reflection. Romero does not address God but he addresses us."

The URL address for Kath Williamson's Blogspot is: https:// kathwilliamson.blogspot.com

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY – YEAR B

June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27
Pentecost 2 (Green)	Pentecost 3 (Green)	Pentecost 4 (Green)	Pentecost 5 (Green)
1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15)	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	1 Samuel 17:(1a,4-11, 19-23), 32-49 or 1 Samuel 17:57 – 18:5,10-16	2 Samuel 1:1,17-27
Psalm 138	Psalm 20	Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 133	Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 3:20-35	Mark 4:26-34	Mark 4:35-41	Mark 5:21-43

July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25
Pentecost 6 (Green)	Pentecost 7 (Green)	Pentecost 8 (Green)	Pentecost 9 (Green)
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 48	Psalm 24	Psalm 89:20-37	Psalm 14
2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Ephesians 1:3-14	Ephesians 2:11-22	Ephesians 3:14-21
Mark 6:1-13	Mark 6:14-29	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	John 6:1-21



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Account Name: Uniting Church Glen Waverley BSB: 033 052 Account Number: 92 2198

CORRECTION - with sincere apologies.

If you took home one of the 'You Are A Souper Mum' soup recipes from our Mother's Day Morning Tea please note: The recipe for Broken Pasta Soup says incorrectly 500g thin spaghetti. THIS SHOULD READ – 50g thin spaghetti.