

WEST EPPING UNITING CHURCH

Our Vision:

*We are people sent to share the love,
hope and compassion of Jesus Christ with
all the world*



Sunday 1 October 2017

Welcome 환영합니다

സമാഗതം 欢迎

Ki ora Malo elele!

IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS

From Sunday afternoon last week to Wednesday, Adrian and I headed up to the St Joseph's Spirituality Centre (formerly a convent founded by Mary MacKillop) at Kincumber to join other ministers in our Synod who are in their first three years out of formation for ministry at UTC, for a retreat. This is a mandatory event for us, because we are in what is called Phase 3 of Ministerial Formation. Phase 1 was my upbringing in the church; Phase 2 was my intentional formation at college; Phase 3 is the first three years of ordained ministry, and Phase 4 is the ministry I'll offer for the rest of my life.

This retreat has proven to be a real highlight of last year and this year. Much like school reunions, it was a joy to reunite with classmates who I spent a lot of time with in my years at college, forming lifelong bonds of friendship and collegiality. St Joseph's Centre is a gorgeous retreat centre, far enough away that it really feels like a retreat, close to Avoca Beach, and filled with beautiful gardens to wander through.

More than anything though, experiences like this retreat are important to me because they help me re-realise just how big and complex the church is. We have all been placed in a diverse range of congregations and contexts (urban, regional, rural, small, large, older, younger, chaplaincy, school, university, rich, poor, and so on), and it is amazing to see how different congregations can be, even when separated by a mere kilometre or so.

And yet, each minister and church faces very similar struggles and joys. Just about every congregation is faced with the consequence of the cost of living around them, increased cultural diversity, an ageing older generation, property ageing matters, and so on. Every Christian community continually wrestles with the questions: how do we build the Kingdom of God in this part of the world? How do we share the Good News with those around us? Is what we're doing even relevant anymore?

Looking through this lens is something we can all sometimes forget to do. But it is important for us to re-realise this simple truth: that West Epping Uniting Church is part of something much bigger and grander than this congregation. The Church, the Body of Christ extends far beyond our walls and our programs and our people. West Epping is merely one outpouring of the Body of Christ. This means that we actually needn't worry about the Church dying. The Church is literally the Body of Christ in the world; it cannot die. Congregations may come and go, but God will not let the Church die.

It is for this reason that I put myself forward to be a member of Synod, Assembly, and other such bodies: to gain a sense of the complexities of the church beyond West Epping. This education helps to ground me, and to give thanks for all we have to give thanks for in this community.

Rev Radhika Sukumar-White

PRAYER POINTS

- ✚ Pray for the NSW/ACT Synod meeting, happening over this long weekend at Knox College, Wahroonga. Pray for the new Moderator, Rev. Simon Hansford as he chairs, for those presenting reports and proposals, and for the members, including Radhika, Sunil Baek and Tessa Bradbury (who will also be leading music). *God of a pilgrim people, be with the members of this Synod meeting, and help us all to move forward as a united body, for the sake of the Gospel.*
- ✚ Pray for our Ministry Team: for John as he enjoys his leave, and for Radhika as she prepares for motherhood. *Shepherding God, we pray for our Ministry Team as they lead, guide and care for us. Be with them in their work for the Kingdom, and help us to be ministers of the Gospel together.*
- ✚ Pray for our country, as many people vote in the postal plebiscite around marriage equality. *God of us all, we pray for Australia as we struggle with this issue. In all we do and say, may we proclaim Christ's message of love and grace.*
- ✚ Pray for the increasing number of natural disasters around the world, and for the relief efforts following each of them. *Pray for the people of Mexico, the US, the Caribbean, India, Indonesia, Vanuatu, and others. God of all creation, be with those who cannot predict what creation will do to them, their homes, their families, their livelihoods. Be with those who work in the aftermath of natural disasters as well.*
- ✚ Pray for those in need. We lift up Rosemary Williams, Bruce and Alberta Noble, Marion Sheldrick, John and Margaret Tumeth, Alex Stoney – and all those who are ill, lonely, housebound, grieving, or facing life changes. *Loving and compassionate God, be with and comfort those who are sick and grieving with the knowledge that you are always with them, and will never leave them.*

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

God, thank you for the many different ways Christians embody Church throughout the world. We pray for the Body of Christ as manifest in large and small, old and young, urban and rural, rich and poor communities. We give thanks that our one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we gather, the Wallumedegal people of the Eora nation and give thanks for their care of the land over many generations.

HEALTHY RETIREMENT EXPO

5 – 7 October at Beecroft Uniting Church

This Expo for +55s and their families will focus on: Leisure & Travel, Health, Fitness & Care, Retirement Accommodation, Spirituality, The Law & Government, Finance, Funeral Planning and more.

With over 20 exhibitors from both the commercial and Not-for-Profit sectors. Many of these will be offering presentations during the duration of the Expo please see the program for details.

The Entry for the three days is free.

To indicate your interest please RSVP.

A cafe will be operating throughout the event with beverages and snacks which can be purchased.

Times: 5 & 6 October 10am to 3pm : 7 October 10am to 4pm

Full presentation program is available at www.beecroftuniting.org or phone: 0413 312 702.

Community News

VISITING PREACHERS

Today we are delighted to welcome

Rev. Claire Wright as our preacher at both morning services. Claire is the minister at Bathurst Uniting Church and is in Sydney attending the Synod meeting at Knox Grammar School.

Next Sunday 8th October, we welcome

Rev. Adrian Sukumar-White as our preacher at both services.

PRAYER TIME ~ You are invited to join us each Thursday between 12:15pm—12:45pm as we bring the needs of our Church and community to God in prayer. For more information speak to Rev John Barr or Helen Campbell.



October is OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD month

Boxes are now available in the hall after services. Please fill with your chosen items and return on Sunday 29 October or before.

Let's make it another good year.

Enquiries: Jill Rolinson 9869 1645



MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP ~ Wednesday 4 Oct, at 10am. All welcome!

Guest speakers will be Karl & Caroline Hochetetter who work for the Sydney Refugee Team
Enquiries: Jan Dunstan 9876 3344

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP ~ Monday 9 October

Dinner at 6.30pm followed by speaker at 7.45pm
Speaker: John Craik will speak on the Prison Fellowship of Australia.

Dinner bookings to:

Bruce Elliott 9869 7633 or

David Newton 9876 1890

FRIDAY DISCOVERY ~ 20 October at 10am.

Join us for morning tea followed by our speakers Helen & Graham Edgerton.

Topic: Their trip to Peru, the Amazon and the Galapagos Islands.

Enquiries: Joan Ross 9873 3713

MEMORIAL ~ Some of you may remember former members the Rev Norman McDonald and his wife Ruth. Sadly Ruth passed away last week. Norman was General Sectary of the Synod when they were members here. We uphold Norman in prayer.

LIFE & WITNESS CONSULTATION SURVEYS

Early in November, a Presbytery team will conduct Life & Witness Consultation at West Epping. To assist the team in its work, members who attend West Epping regularly are receiving confidential survey forms about your thoughts and experiences. You are requested to fill in your surveys and return them as soon as possible. They can be left in the box in the church foyer or returned to the Church Office by Friday 27 October. Please collect yours from the stewards if you haven't already. Thank you.



QWEST:

Sunday 8th October

Presenter: Pastor Liam Miller
(chaplain, Macquarie University)

Topic: 'Sin, Race, Protest, and the Christian Community'
All welcome!

Join us for informal worship,
good discussion and a relaxed meal.



WEST EPPING WOMEN

warmly invite you to join us at
Leura Uniting Church

Saturday 28th October 2017

10:00am – 3:30pm Cost: \$30

Facilitator: Rev. Ellie Elia

Mary and Martha: For & Against Us

(Registration forms available on the table. Please invite your friends!)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas fast approaches! This season is a great time to engage with our local community, many of whom may not have yet experienced an Australian Christmas.



John and Radhika have an idea: on Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve), we will have a normal 8am service, and a 9pm reflective service with Communion. In the middle however, we are thinking about throwing something like a Christmas Festival in our grounds – with a petting zoo, jumping castle, Christmas crafts, music, games etc. This would happen from about 4pm, with a BBQ dinner. Then, at 7pm, we thought we might put on a Carols by Candlelight service in our carpark instead of the church, as the sun goes down. There seems to be a frontrunner for the role of Mary in the nativity...

This could be an incredible and joyful event; however, it cannot happen without the help and support of you all. If you are around on Christmas Eve and would be willing to help with such an occasion, could you please let Radhika know ASAP. We need to know if this event is feasible, before planning any further.

Thanks in advance!

Bible Readings

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Psalms 95:1-9

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

시편 95:1-9

1 오라 우리가 여호와께 노래하며 우리의 구원의 반석을 향하여 즐거이 외치자 2 우리가 감사함으로 그 앞에 나아가며 시를 지어 즐거이 그를 노래하자 3 여호와는 크신 하나님이니 시요 모든 신들보다 크신 왕이시기 때문이로다 4 땅의 깊은 곳이 그의 손 안에 있으며 산들의 높은 곳도 그의 것이로다 5 바다도 그의 것이라 그가 만드셨고 육지도 그의 손이 지으셨도다 6 오라 우리가 굽혀 경배하며 우리를 지으신 여호와 앞에 무릎을 꿇자 7 그는 우리의 하나님이니요 우리는 그가 기르시는 백성이며 그의 손이 돌보시는 양이기 때문이라 너희가 오늘 그의 음성을 듣거든 8 너희는 미리바에서와 같이 또 광야의 맛사에서 지냈던 날과 같이 너희 마음을 완악하게 하지 말지어다 9 그 때에 너희 조상들이 내가 행한 일을 보고서도 나를 시험하고 조사하였도다

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Two performances by Combined Church Choirs at Sydney Town Hall, 3.00pm Saturday 16th and 3.00pm Sunday 17th December.
Bookings: 8256 2222
Prices from \$43 (concession \$38) to \$55 (concession \$49)

WEUC Annual Report 2016 – 2017

This is the time of the year when the Annual Reports from all church groups and teams are written, collated and printed into the full Annual Report for 2016 – 2017.

Would all groups and teams please send in their reports to the Church Office by the end of October, so that the full Annual Report can be issued before the Congregational Meeting / AGM on Sunday 26 November.

The Annual Report covers the period from 1st July, 2016 to 31st June, 2017. An on-line pro-forma for reports from the various church groups may be obtained from Helen in the Church Office.

Our Annual report is a valuable resource document, and serves to inform everyone about all the positive things that are happening in the life and mission of our church.

Thank you in anticipation to all our report writers for your excellent work on the Annual Reports!



www.weppinguca.org.au

www.facebook.com/weppinguniting



Diary Dates

- ◆ **Tuesday 17 October** ~ Mid-week Communion Service, 10am
- ◆ **Sunday 22 October** ~ Spring into Action
- ◆ **Saturday 28 October** ~ West Epping Women's Spring Retreat at Leura
- ◆ **Sunday 29 October** ~ Christmas Boxes dedication
- ◆ **Sunday 19 November** ~ Community BBQ
- ◆ **Sunday 26 November** ~ Together Service, 9am & AGM
- ◆ **Thursday 30 November, Friday 1 December, Saturday 2 December** ~ Christmas Bowl collection at Epping Station
- ◆ **Tuesday 12 December** ~ Thanksgiving & Remembrance Service, 7.30pm
- ◆ **Sunday 17 December** ~ Advent 3, Service of Lessons & Carols
- ◆ **Sunday 24 December** ~ **Christmas Eve** Worship 8am, 7pm & 9pm
- ◆ **Monday 25 December** ~ **Christmas Day** Worship 7.30am & 9am
- ◆ **Sunday 31 December** ~ Worship 9am

What's on this week!

Monday 2 Oct		Public Holiday
Tuesday 3 Oct	9.30am 2.00pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Singing at Arrunga
Wednesday 4 Oct	9.30am 10.00am	Men's Shed at Arrunga Missionary Fellowship
Thursday 5 Oct	9.30am 10.00am 12.15pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Thursday Craft Prayer Time
Saturday 7 Oct	4.00pm	CSI
Sunday 8 Oct	8.00am 10.00am 5.00pm	Worship Worship ~ JAM for children QWEST

Serving Next Sunday 1 October 2017

	8.00am	10.00am
Welcomers	Margaret Leivesley Thelma Marshall	Joan Ross Jean Chapple
Stewards	Ralph Cadman Ian Tredinnick	George Esplin, Helen Davey Wes Gibbons
Ministers Assistant	Glennis Endicott	Peter Brown
Reader	Mavis Hall	Phil Chapple
Prayer Ministry	Annabelle Avern	Pete McAndrew
Sound		Sunil Baek
Computer	Eric Lye	Mabel Li
Flowers	Margaret Wilson	

During October, for Pastoral Care needs please contact:

- Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White
0423 823 363
- Lois Rees 0408 460 050
(coordinator of Pastoral Care Team)



Sunday Morning Worship 8am and 10am

STAFF NEWS

- Rev John Barr is on leave until 22 October
- Rev Radhika, Sun and Tessa are attending Synod until the 3 October.

West Epping Uniting Church is a member of an Ecumenical Covenant with the Anglican Parish of Epping, the Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford, Epping Baptist Church and Epping Uniting Church.



West Epping Uniting Church uses information and news provided by its members, adherents and officers for the purposes of conducting its pastoral ministry. In the course of that ministry, material published in this bulletin may reach an audience wider than the membership of the congregation.

Ministry Team

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Rev Radhika Sukumar-White 0423 823 363

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Helen Tattersall 9868 3574

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Friday 8.30am—12.30pm

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