

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 16 September 2018

Welcome 환영합니다

മലുക്കുരുത്തു 欢迎

Ki ora Malo ē lelei

Sue Elliott's Story

Becoming a Christian was, for me, a gradual process over many years. I was blessed with Christian parents who showed me God's love in action, and with the witness and teaching about God and Jesus Christ from Sunday School, Church, ISCF, Uni, and Bible Study groups. As well I have always enjoyed the intellectual challenge of searching for God in Scripture, looking at how archaeology and history support the Biblical records, learning about the fulfilment of God's plan and prophecy, and especially about God's love and grace in sending Jesus to be our Saviour.

However, continuing to live as a Christian, trying to follow Jesus' way of living and obey God's commands is more difficult and challenging. SO ... **Why am I still a Christian?** Basically, it's because my faith and trust in God has been 'tried' and 'tested' and found to be valid and true.

We all have times of hardship and suffering throughout our lives, but when in October 2013, our son-in-law, Rhys, aged 39, was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma and given only months to live, we were totally devastated. Watching and experiencing some of the pain and emotional stress for Rhys' wife and young family, as well as the many forms of treatment Rhys had to undergo, I found that it was only trust in God that kept me going ie. trust that God was in control of my life and that He would be with me no matter what happened.

After 5 years of Rhys having various surgeries, ongoing immunotherapy with trial drugs and increasing side-effects requiring yet more 'trial' drugs, returning to modified work, and dealing with the effects of anxiety and trauma – I can still say that trust in God is what has kept me from disintegrating. It has been an awareness of God's presence bringing strength where needed. It is a miracle that Rhys is still alive, and we truly thank God. However, he has to live with the uncertainties of the future and an unknown time frame. There is no guarantee of 'cure' and for me, no answers to many of life's difficult questions.

Intellectual faith is just not enough. I need the real tried and tested faith that trust in God brings – the assurance that God really is in control of my life and that He will be with me always. As Psalm 143:8 says, I still have to make a daily decision to trust God – to face daily problems, big or small, and not to give in to discouragement or despair when times are more difficult!

I have experienced God's presence in my life, keeping me together, giving me strength to face difficult situations and prompting me (constantly) to share His great love, so others will know about it, too!

That's why I'm still a Christian – praise God!

Psalm 143:8 (GNB) *Remind me each morning of your constant love, for I put my trust in you.*

Sue Elliott

PRAYER POINTS

- ✚ Pray for our ongoing work of evangelism.
- ✚ Pray for Australian farmers as they battle the drought.
- ✚ Pray for the work of our Joint Nominating Committee as they seek a new minister; pray for wisdom, courage and hope in their discernment. Pray for its members: Ralph Cadman, Helen Aiton, Soraya Raju, Louis Jarvis, Ian West and Heather Petrie.
- ✚ Pray for John, Radhika, Vernon and Sunny.
- ✚ Pray for those struggling with "demons of the mind" – for those suffering with addictions, depression, anxiety, loneliness and grief.
- ✚ Pray for those struggling in body – for those with illnesses, disabilities and other ailments.
- ✚ Pray for those struggling with matters of the heart – for those with difficult relationships, rocky or absent faith, and other sources of pain.

Prayer for this Month

God of many stories, may we know our lives as beautiful, messy, masterful works of art.

May we celebrate the fullness of our stories – the highs and the lows.

May we remain rooted in our heart's truths, and not fall to comparison or competition.

May we believe that we have a story to share, and must share it, for Your gospel is such good news.

May we honour the other; may we speak our gratitude; may we be courageous in love.

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.

DISCIPLESHIP MONTH 2018 - EVANGELISM

This year's Discipleship Month (September) is focusing on the theme of Evangelism – what it is, what the message is, what our stories are, and how to do it. The aim of this month is to encourage us all to name that we all have stories to share about Christ in our lives, and that we have everything we need to share those stories with those who do not know Him.

In lieu of Minister's Messages this month, members of the Worship and Faith Development Team are offering their own short testimonies – to show you that everyone has a story to share.

This month comes with a practical challenge to all of you: by the end of this month, you are encouraged to find someone to have a conversation with, perhaps over coffee – share your faith stories with them, hear their stories, and name the places in those stories where you see God at work. You could do this in the comfort of your small group, or be more courageous and take a non-church friend out to coffee.

WEEK 3 (16th September): What's my story?

WEEK 4 (23rd September): What's your story?



INTERFAITH PEACE SERVICE

On Friday 21st September at 2pm, Parramatta Mission is hosting an Interfaith Peace Service to celebrate the International Day of Peace. This is a wonderful opportunity for people of different faiths to come together in prayer and fellowship. Refreshments to follow; all welcome.



CSI ENGLISH SERVICE

The monthly CSI English-language service is this afternoon at 5.30pm; all are encouraged to attend as we continue to build relationships with our CSI brothers and sisters in Christ.



UPCOMING BAPTISM

On the 30th September at the 10am service, we will be baptising Jacob Colborne-Veel, son of Sarah and Steve Colborne-Veel (friends of Radhika), with a special morning tea to follow. We look forward to welcoming Jacob and his family.



CLOSURE OF MINISTRY

for

Rev Radhika Sukumar-White

will take place on

Sunday 4 November at 2pm

followed by afternoon tea.

All welcome



Sunday Morning Worship 8am & 10am

Community News

MID-WEEK COMMUNION

Our next Midweek Communion is this Tuesday 18 September at 10am. This service is open to all, but is particularly for those who find it difficult to get to church on Sundays. Morning tea to follow the service. All welcome.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP ~ Tuesday 18 September

Interested in story writing?

Join us on Tuesday night at 7.45pm when Cathy Prowse will inspire us with her life story writing.



All ladies welcome! Please come.
Enquiries: Lyn MacGregor 9871 5701

FRIDAY DISCOVERY ~ Friday 21 September

Join us for morning tea at 10am.

Guest Speaker will be Mr Graham Sims, and his topic is 'Aussie Bushrangers'. All Welcome.

Enquiries: Joan Ross 9873 3713

MYSTERY BUS TRIP ~ Saturday 22 September

There are still seats available on this tour. Please book with Cathy & Vernon Prowse, Joan & Morris Ross or Jenny & Ivan Drury. Cost is \$42.

Note: If you have already booked, payment is now due. Thank you.

EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH MUSICAL SOCIETY

Ladies Fellowship have 20 tickets available for Friday 9 November at 8pm to see the musical 'Little Shop of Horrors'. Tickets \$27 each. Book with Joan Ross or Lyn MacGregor.

WEST EPPING WOMEN'S RETREAT DAY

Saturday 27 October at Castlereagh Christian Conference Centre.

Leader: Rev Melinda Graham

HANDEL'S MESSIAH ~ will be presented by

Combined Churches Choir at Sydney Town Hall on Saturday 15 December and Sunday 16 December. Bookings open 24 September by phone 8256 2222. Costs vary between \$43 and \$55. Dorothy and John Planner will be making bookings if assistance is needed.

BABY BASKETS ~ Ladies Fellowship

Just a reminder, to continue completing these beautiful baskets items needed include wet wipes, tissues (90's cute design), bibs, cotton balls and buds (Johnsons Baby) or any of the other things listed in our Year Book. Many thanks!

Enquiries: Margaret Wilson 9871 5649



Bible Readings

Galatians 1:11-24

For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him for fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to

the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, 'The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.' And they glorified God because of me.

my life. My voice.
my story.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Next Sunday 23rd September, please bring in your Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes for dedication at both services, before we send them off.
Any queries please contact Jill Rolinson 9869 1645.



WEUC Annual Report 2017 – 2018

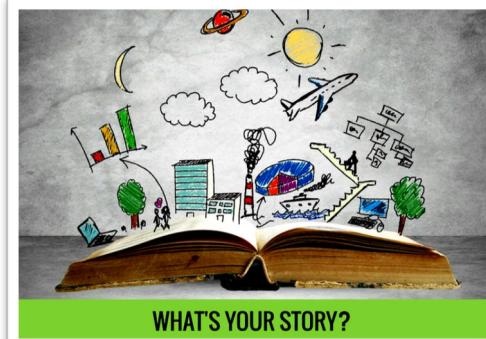
This is the time of the year when the Annual Reports from all church groups and teams are written, collated and printed into the full Annual Report for 2017 – 2018.

Would all groups and teams please send in their reports to the Church Office by the 15 October, so that the full Annual Report can be issued before the Congregational Meeting / AGM on Sunday 25 November.

The Annual Report covers the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. 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!



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

MULTI CULTURAL CELEBRATION

**Saturday 3 November
5 to 7.30pm**

Join us in an evening of fun, food, stories etc as we celebrate our togetherness and diversity that are part of this WEUC Community.





Diary Dates

- ◆ **Tuesday 18 September** ~ Mid-week communion, 10am
- ◆ **Saturday 22 September** ~ Mystery bus tour
- ◆ **Thursday 27 September—30 September** ~ Uniting Women's Conference, Brisbane
- ◆ **Saturday 27 October** ~ West Epping Women's Retreat Day at Castlereagh Christian Conference Centre
- ◆ **Saturday 3 November** ~ Multi-cultural Celebration
- ◆ **Sunday 4 November** ~ Closure of Ministry for Rev Radhika Sukumar-White, 2pm
- ◆ **Sunday 18 November** ~ Combined service with WEUC and CSI, 9am
- ◆ **Sunday 25 November** ~ West Epping Together Service, 9am followed by AGM
- ◆ **Tuesday 27 November** ~ Advent Ecumenical Service, 7.45pm at St Alban's
- ◆ **Saturday 8 December** ~ CSI Carol Service



For Pastoral Care needs please contact:

Rev Radhika Sukumar-White
0423 823 363

or

Rev Vernon Prowse 0419 977 108
(part-time supply ministry)

PLEASE NOTE:

Rev John Barr is on extended leave until 15th October.

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

Rev John Barr (on leave)
Rev Radhika Sukumar-White 0423 823 363

Office Administrator

Helen Tattersall 9868 3574

Safe Church Contact Person

Erica Harrison 9873 3989

What's on this week!

Monday 17 Sep	10.00am	English Conversation Classes
Tuesday 18 Sep	9.30am 10.00am 2.00pm 7.45pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Mid-week communion Singing at Wesley Rayward Ladies Fellowship
Wednesday 19 Sep	9.30am 9.45am	Men's Shed at Arrunga mainly music
Thursday 20 Sep	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 12.15pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Playgroup Thursday Craft Prayer Group in cottage
Friday 21 Sep	10.00am	Friday Discovery
Saturday 22 Sep		Mystery Coach Trip
Sunday 23 September	8.00am 10.00am 5.30pm	Worship Worship : JAM for children CSI Worship

Serving next Sunday 23 September

	8.00am	10.00am
Welcomers	Margaret Leivesley Thelma Marshall	Jean Chapple Jan Williams
Stewards	David MacGregor Carolyn Button	Helen Davey Wes Gibbons
Ministers Assistant	Mavis Hall	Lois Rees
Reader	Andrew Aiton	Helen Campbell
Prayer Ministry	Annabelle Avern	Sue Elliott
Prayers for Others	Ruth Budge	Erica Harrison
Sound/Computer	Jan Venn-Brown	Desy Chapple
Flowers		Margaret Gibbons

PRAYERS

If you would like to know of some specific names of people with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please **contact**



Annabelle Avern (member of the Pastoral Care Team) on 9484 4146, preferably on weekday evenings.

Alternately, you are welcome to come along to the Prayer Group that meets on Thursdays at 12:15pm.

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.



Church Office

Office Hours	35 Orchard St Epping 2121 p: 9868 3574
	Monday to Thursday 8.30am—3.00pm
	Friday 8.30am—12.30pm
Email	weppinguca@gmail.com
Website	weppinguca.org.au
Facebook	facebook.com/weppinguniting
WEUC Bank Account	Westpac BSB 032 081 Account 961263