

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 15 September 2019

Welcome 환영합니다

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Welcoming Community

A story is told about a soldier who was finally coming home after having fought in Vietnam. He called his parents from San Francisco.

"Mum and Dad, I'm coming home, but I have a favour to ask. I have a friend I'd like to bring home with me."

"Sure," they replied, "We'd love to meet him."

"There's something you should know," the son continued, "I am coming with a friend who was hurt pretty badly in the fighting. He stepped on a land mine and lost an arm and a leg. He has nowhere else to go, and I want him to come live with us."

"I'm sorry to hear that, son. Maybe we can help him find somewhere to live."

"No, Mum and Dad, I want him to live with us."

"Son," said the father, "you don't know what you're asking. Someone with such a handicap would be a terrible burden on us. We have our own lives to live, and we can't let something like this interfere with our lives. I think you should just come home and forget about this guy. He'll find a way to live on his own."

At that point, the son hung up the phone. The parents heard nothing more from him. A few days later, however, they received a call from the San Francisco police. Their son had died after falling from a building, they were told. The police believed it was suicide. The grief-stricken parents flew to San Francisco and were taken to the city morgue to identify the body of their son. They recognised him, but to their horror they also discovered something they didn't know, their son had only one arm and one leg.

The parents in this story are like many of us. We find it easy to love those who are good-looking or fun to have around, but we don't like people who inconvenience us or make us feel uncomfortable. There's a part of us that says we would rather stay away from people who aren't like us.

God calls us to be God's welcoming community. Can we welcome people who are different from us? And not just that, can we welcome them with open arms, and celebrate who they are? This means being able to accept them as they are and to affirm whom they are, just as they are. This does not mean giving up something of ourselves. When we move toward welcoming others without losing our own identity, we will find God working in our midst to create something new as we develop a relationship of love. The cluster of parables this week in Luke 15 discloses the God of love who embraces and welcomes the lost and the wanderers physically and spiritually, then celebrates as a community with great joy.

Rev Samata Elia

Prayer Points

- ✚ Pray for our world as it comes under more pressure due to the excesses of human habitation and for communities who are becoming more vulnerable because of climate-change induced incidents.
- ✚ Pray for all families and communities hit hard by natural disasters. Pray for all effected by the bush fires in Australia and those effected by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas.
- ✚ Give thanks for the work of Frontier Services. Pray for the Bush Chaplains and volunteers who work together to lend a sympathetic ear and a much needed helping hand to our Outback brothers and sister.
- ✚ Pray for our Together Service next Sunday and the 'Great Outback BBQ' and auction to raise funds to help our Aussie Farmers.
- ✚ Pray for people with special needs as they grieve, deal with loneliness, fear and anxiety, encounter sickness or experience the long period of healing.

A Prayer for Today

Gracious and Holy God,
give us the wisdom to discover You,
the intelligence to understand You,
the diligence to seek after You,
the patience to wait for You,
eyes to behold You,
a heart to meditate upon You,
and a life to proclaim You,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus,
our Lord. Amen



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

Community News

PRAYER GROUP ~ If you would like prayer for yourself or for others please contact Lois Rees, Helen Campbell or Annabelle Avern who convene a weekly Prayer Group each Thursday in the Cottage 12.15-1.00pm. **During this time we pray for all members of the West Epping Community and for the needs of others.**

New members of the Prayer Group are always welcome.



MID-WEEK COMMUNION

Midweek Communion is on Tuesday 17 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.

Everyone is welcome!



LADIES FELLOWSHIP

~ Tuesday 17 September
Come and hear the history of Epping, Carlingford and Beecroft as we travel along the Pioneer Track with Narelle Wood from Ray Park Heritage Group.

Tuesday 17 September, 7.45pm

All ladies welcome.

Enquiries: Lyn MacGregor 9871 5701

FRIDAY DISCOVERY

~ Friday 20 September
Join us at 10am for morning tea with our 'Fathers Day' theme. 3 of our members will entertain us with memories of their fathers. (We've done this previously, and it proves to be a very interesting morning). All Welcome.

Enquiries: Joan Ross 9873 3713

FRIENDS OF CSI SERVICE

Saturday 21 September at 4.30pm

Everyone welcome.

Invite your family and friends.

Speaking: Rev John Barr



DEVONSHIRE MORNING TEA

MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP ~ Tuesday 1 October
Join us for a delicious Devonshire Morning Tea at 10am with items by the Mirrabooka Singers.

Cost: \$10.00 pp

RSVP to Jan Dunstan 9876 3344

Everyone is welcome!



WOMBAT WALKERS

~ There is no walk this month.
See Elizabeth Jenkins for an alternate walk or contact Bruce Elliott 9869 7633

Next Sunday Worship 9am



**Sunday 22
September**

Together Service at 9am

Followed by the Auction

**BBQ for Frontier Services
to support our Aussie Farmers
11am**

Adult \$10 : Child \$5



AUCTION

The auction to raise funds for Frontier Services will occur directly after the service. There are some great items to be auctioned including:
a Cooler Bag with BBQ/picnic tools and Apron, a First Aid Course, 2 Barista Courses etc



Come and join in the fun! Bring your family and friends!

As this event has been advertised to the wider community; on this day, the car park and driveway will be closed to allow for set up of tables, chairs, etc.
Church members can be dropped off at the driveway entrance, and members will be assisted from cars into the church.
Thank you.

JAZZ ON HAMMERS

Jazz, Food, Community

6pm to 8pm

Tonight

Sunday 15 September

Northmead Uniting Church
3 Hammers Rd Northmead

Everyone is welcome!

Come, bring your friends – especially those who might want something different from Church.

The music is fun and lifegiving, with a mixture of styles. Come and enjoy another night of Jazz, Reflection, food and a welcoming community.

Enquiries: Geoff Stevenson 0473 770 683



HANDEL'S MESSIAH will be presented by Combined Churches Choir at Sydney Town Hall on Saturday 14 December and Sunday 15 December 3.00pm. Bookings open 2 September by phone 8256 2222. Costs vary between \$43 and \$55. Dorothy and John Planner will be making bookings if assistance is needed.

Luke 15:1-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of

hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."'

WEUC ANNUAL REPORTS

It's Annual Report time again!

All groups and teams are required to email in a report, in word format, to the Church Office by 14 October, so the Book of Reports can be issued before the Congregational Meeting / AGM on Sunday 24 November.

The Annual Report covers the period from **1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019**. An on-line pro-forma for the reports can be obtained from the Church Office.





Diary Dates

- ◆ **Sunday 15 September** ~ CSI Worship Service in English, 5.30pm
- ◆ **Tuesday 17 September** ~ Mid-Week Communion, 10am | Ladies Fellowship, 7.45pm
- ◆ **Saturday 21 September** ~ Friends of CSI Service, 4.30pm. Speaking Rev John Barr
- ◆ **Sunday 22 September** ~ Together Service, 9am followed by Auction & BBQ for Frontier Services
- ◆ **Saturday 28 September** ~ Mystery Coach Tour
- ◆ **Tuesday 1 October** ~ Missionary Fellowship Devonshire Morning Tea, 10am
- ◆ **Tuesday 15 October** ~ Mid-Week Communion, 10am

What's on next week!

Monday 16 Sept	10.00am	English Conversation Classes
Tuesday 17 Sept	9.30am 10.00am 7.45pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Mid-week Communion Ladies Fellowship
Wednesday 18 Sept	9.30am 9.45am	Men's Shed at Arrunga mainly music
Thursday 19 Sept	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 12.15pm	Men's Shed at Arrunga Playgroup Thursday Craft Prayer Group
Friday 20 Sept	10.00am	Friday Discovery
Saturday 21 Sept	4.30pm	NO Wombat Walkers Friends of CSI Service
Sunday 22 September	9.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Worship Frontier Services BBQ CSI Service

Serving next Sunday 22 September

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 0428 368 870, preferably on weekday evenings. Alternately, you are welcome to come along to the Prayer Group that meets on Thursdays at 12:15pm.



**It's just a thought....
....But it could change your life**

Image is what people think we are.
Integrity is what we really are.
John Maxwell

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.

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.



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