

Simple lessons

Mardi Lumsden, Editor

There are some days where it doesn't feel like I have learnt anything. But then, as I think about my day, I realise that I have learnt many small things, like the importance of saving my work.

Our IT department has a saying: Jesus saves. It came in handy when there was a power out in our street in February and when my computer crashed with a virus during Journey production this month.

Sometimes learning feels a bit like climbing a mountain. It can be hard but it is usually rewarding.

One of my favourite mountains is Mount Beerwah in the Glasshouse Mountains on the Sunshine Coast.

I like to think of Beerwah as a visual symbol of the *Together on the way, enriching community* journey the Uniting Church is on. This is a learning journey.

Anyone who has attempted the climb Beerwah is immediately faced signs that scream 'experienced climbers only'.

The first hurdle is the terrifying scale up an almost vertical cliff face with nothing but your bare hands and courage.

Most people don't get past this stage, not the first attempt anyway.

It was clinging to this cliff face once that I was overtaken by a couple of kids and their parents. I thought: if they can do this so can I! So my friends and I worked together to get everyone to higher ground.

Once we passed the cliff face the climb is long, slow, potentially treacherous, and the terrain is constantly changing.

But, like the *Together* journey, once you scramble over the rocks to the very top the reward is more than worth the effort.

The view from the top is breathtaking and makes you never want to get down.

In putting this edition together I was reminded that we are all on a learning journey.

Whether we are learning with our mind, heart, soul or strength, we need to support one another in that journey and embrace the diverse learning styles that make up our church and our world.

Learning together

Rev Kaye Ronalds, Moderator

OUR daughter, Naomi, teaches prep in Proserpine. Last week I asked her if the children were learning letters and numbers yet.

"Mum," she replied, "first they have to learn how to sit on the carpet, put their hand up and take turns to ask a question."

A lot of learning happens before the learning can begin; you need to build a safe social environment. Perhaps it is the same with a congregation?

There are all kinds of theories about learning. Plato, Piaget, Dewey and Glasser all have some useful facets to contribute.

Movies such as *To Sir with Love*, *Mr Holland's Opus* and *Coach Carter* remind us that the relationship with a teacher can be inspiring, empowering and transformative.

My Year Six teacher, Mrs Gladys Kelly, was like that for me. Her classroom was an ordered place, but not without laughter. She was able to identify the stumbling blocks so that every

child could "get it". Her gentle encouragement made us strive a bit harder so that we could get one of those lovely Merit stamps or, if we really excelled, the more elaborate Special Merit.

Each child was given a job in the classroom that would stretch them just enough to give them a sense of pride. No wonder each Monday morning children would bring her flowers that they had grown or collected from the bush.

Relationships are important for learning the Christian faith too. When grandparents take time to read a Bible story or when parents teach children how to say grace, the relationships are as important as the content.

It seems to me that when Jesus said to his friends, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light", he was talking about a relationship of learning.

Bullocks yoked together progress forward pace by pace. The idea of being yoked together means that you can't run ahead. A bullock unwilling to be yoked

must eventually submit or else he wounds himself and maybe other members of the team as well.

A team of bullocks yoked together can endure longer and pull heavier loads. There is synergy in being yoked. The Synod slogan, *Together on the way, enriching community*, recognises the advantage of being yoked together and expresses the hope that the community will also benefit from the synergy generated.

It takes courage to try to learn something new and we can feel foolish when we struggle to master a new skill. An attitude of humility can help the process.

One of the values for UnitingCare staff is "Leading through learning". It captures two aspirations – to be leaders in providing health care and community services and that each staff member and volunteer will strive to learn new skills, to keep up-to-date and to reinvest that learning so that the clients get better service.

A disciple of the Christian faith needs someone who can



mentor them as they learn and grow.

One of the disappointing aspects of the role of Moderator is dealing with people who don't get along or who are unwilling to learn something new.

Naomi observed that many of the things she is teaching her prep class are the same as the things Jesus taught his friends like learning to be generous, to share, to take turns, to be courageous, to forgive and to try again. Then the learning can really begin.



Kaye attended Rev Peter Woodward's farewell from Ipswich City Uniting Church in January. This is a photo of the "gaggle of ministry agents and spouses". Photo by Kaye Ronalds

Where's the Moderator?

This month Rev Kaye Ronalds will be at many events including:

8 March International Women's Day reception at Government House, Brisbane.

10-11 March Mary Burnett Presbyterian meeting.

16-18 March Conversation with Trinity students about the *Basis of Union*.

20 March Queensland Heads of Churches meeting.

24 March Lifeline Sunshine Coast celebrates 30 years of service.

Snap that!

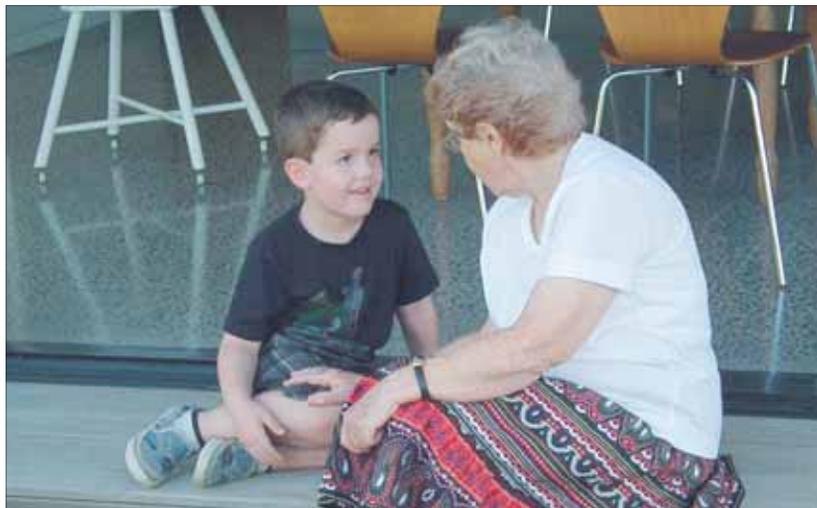
SEND us a photo that captures the *Journey* theme.

This month: Learning.

This image clearly and simply captures our learning theme.

Thanks to Coral Deeth for sending it in. The image is of a young boy listening intently and excitedly to one of his elders. Photo by Jenny Jack.

April theme: Easter is love – celebrating the diversity of our church.



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Closing date for editorial and advertising for April Journey is Monday, 12 March. The next issue of Journey will be available on Sunday, 1 April.

Leaders inspired by belonging

Mardi Lumsden

SIXTY-FIVE young leaders from all parts of the Uniting Church in Australia emerged inspired from the Uniting Church National Young Adult Leadership Conference in Sydney in February.

The six-day conference brought together young adults from across Australia who were nominated as key leaders in the Uniting Church. It aimed to recognise, celebrate and develop the gifts and voice of young people in the church with leadership skills, helping them be theologically informed and visionary leaders of the Church.

Run by an Assembly facilitation team (led by Tom Kerr), the event was hosted by Uniting Church President, Rev Alistair Macrae, and Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress Chairperson, Rev Ken Sumner.

Assembly communications manager, Amy Goodhew, was overwhelmed by the atmosphere at the gathering.

"These young leaders are generous of spirit, loud and very, very enthusiastic," she marvelled.

Mr Macrae said apart from being inspired by meeting so many young Church leaders he was impressed by their overall thinking.

"Their focus was not 'what can the church do for young people?' but 'what is God's vision and mission for the Church and how can we be part of it?'"

"The enthusiasm, optimism and ideas that these young leaders demonstrated is an

encouraging indicator of the future of our Church and a testament to their faith and intelligence," said Mr Macrae.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what actions come out of this meeting of young minds."

Law student and member of Pomona Uniting Church on the Sunshine Coast, Anna Mulcahy, said the conference renewed her hope that the Uniting Church is capable of change and gave her a greater understanding and insight into what "Jesus intends and expects the church to be".

She is excited by the opportunities the Uniting Church provides for her to live out who God has called her to be.

"I have learnt that as a collective group, the young adults of the Uniting Church need to stop waiting for permission to claim our place in the church and start acting like our voice matters," she said.

"I have learnt that my generation in the Uniting Church is fed up with being confined and restricted by the decisions of those who have gone before us in the church.

"We greatly desire to burst the Christian bubble that our local churches tend to live in and to start living the Gospel as a church rather than just preaching it."

"We appear to want to make social justice personal to our local congregations rather than just delegating it to our justice organisations.

"I have learnt that as the Uniting Church in Australia, we have a lot to be proud of in so many areas but a long way to go in so many others.



Congress Chair, Rev Ken Sumner (back) shares a moment with some of the attenders at the Adult Leadership Conference in Sydney in February. Photo by Amy Goodhew

"Our congregations need to be better educated in the *Basis of Union*. It is unacceptable to have so many people reach their 20s without ever having heard of it and learnt exactly what it means to be a member of the Uniting Church."

Ms Mulcahy has been left inspired to identify the gifts she can offer the Church both locally and nationally.

"I want to be part of the change that sees our Church stop rearranging the deck chairs on the *Titanic* and instead make changes that see it transformed into the living embodiment of what Christ intended our churches to be, with those united in the love of Christ standing shoulder to shoulder regardless of socio-economic background or circumstance, all belonging as a community of love under the grace and provision of God."

Moreton Rivers Presbytery office administrator, Salote Hukehuke, said the conference was inspiring and challenging and left her with a greater appreciation of the Uniting Church as a whole.

"To be honest, I've never heard the term 'young adult' before in the context of ministry," she said.

"I've always heard 'youth' and I thought you were in 'youth' until you were married!"

"I'm Tongan and I think a lot of young islanders are at their most vulnerable after they finish high school."

She said one of the biggest things she took away from the conference was a greater

understanding of the Uniting Church.

"I learnt more about the Uniting Church in Australia, its structure and various agencies, especially UnitingJustice and UnitingCare; learning a bit more about our Indigenous and Aboriginal brothers and sisters and how life is for them; and, being reminded of the power of prayer."

"My prayer life was really lousy prior to the conference, so I joined the Prayer Power group for a prayer boost. I got that and so much more!"

"Now it is about starting conversations with my minister, church council and youth about my experiences at the conference and about how we can start to connect and engage more with our community at Highgate Hill [Brisbane], and connect with other churches in our presbytery and other Uniting Churches.

"Mostly I've been inspired to strengthen my own relationship with God first every day, because if that is not right, then everything else means nothing."

The conference was designed to have multicultural participation and cross cultural interaction. Thirteen young indigenous leaders and 15 second generation leaders took part and their many languages were used throughout prayer and worship.

Those gathered delved into what makes us a Uniting Church and were inspired by the Uniting Church's 1977 *Statement to the Nation*. The group will produce its own contemporary version in the coming weeks.

UnitingJustice Australia National Director, Rev Elenie Poulos, was a presenter and spoke to the group about national justice work the Assembly undertakes.

"If these young people are an indication of the state of the Uniting Church in Australia, then we are a church truly blessed and we should be very excited not only about our future but about the present," she said.

"I met a room full of young people who are engaged with their church, engaged with the world and passionate about making a difference."

"This was a group of young people who are theologically, culturally and linguistically diverse and spending time with them was a first-hand experience in what a gift this diversity is to the Church.

"We are definitely at our strongest when we value each other in our difference, and work together to make the most of our diversity."

Participants strongly believe such a gathering should be a regular feature of the Uniting Church's national life.

Equipping people for leadership roles within the Church is part of the Queensland Synod's Vision 2020, *Together on the way, enriching community*.

By supporting and mentoring these young adults we are enabling them to help sustain the church and assisting them to best use their God-given gifts and passion.



Queensland Uniting Church leaders enjoy the final day of the conference. Photo by Joshua Baldwin



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Inspiring elder honoured

Richard Hosking

TOWNSVILLE Central City Mission was the setting for a service and luncheon on 5 February to honour Mrs Vivienne Robson (aka Viv, Mrs Rob, Mrs Robbie, Grandma).

After over 30 years and at the wonderful age of 91, she has decided to relinquish the position of coordinator of the Missions Committee at the Mission.

Mrs Robson will still be a member of the Missions team at their regular monthly prayer meetings.

Over the years, she has been involved with Leprosy Mission, YWAM, MAF, and Wycliffe to name a few. She has also been involved in personal missionary outreach through weekly visits to Stuart Prison until 87 years of age.

During the service, Kim Waller (a returned MAF missionary from Papua New Guinea), spoke about when stones are dropped into water, ripples are caused. She went on to point out how Mrs Robbie's life, witness and service has caused ripple effects in the lives of so many as she encouraged, loved and supported probably thousands of people who have in turn rippled this message to

countless others.

Numerous friends, current and former missionaries, and committee members took the opportunity to bless her with words of thanks for her service, dedication and encouragement.

She was hugely surprised when Fred Wilkins, a YWAM staff member, whom Townsville Central City Mission has supported, flew in from Perth to honour her.

North Queensland Presbytery Chair, Rev Bruce Cornish, said Mrs Robbie has worn her faith on her sleeve for more than 70 years.

"She has been the face and the action support for mission at Townsville Central Methodist and, after 1977, Uniting Church," he said.

"She is a missionary in the true sense of the word as she shares the gospel (good news) with everyone she meets. She talks to anyone and everyone, everywhere and anywhere about Jesus.

"She has a welcoming smile and an encouraging word for all and over the years has been responsible for many people finding a spiritual home in her church.

"Mrs Robbie is a saint of God who allows the light of Jesus Christ to shine through her."



Viv Robson during the celebration. Photo by Bill Talbot



How do I know my new friends are nice?

Answer by Rev Alison Cox, Moreton Rivers Presbytery Youth, Childrens and Families Coordinator

IS dark chocolate yummy or yuck?

Do strawberries taste sweet or disgusting?

Are swings fun to play on or do they make you sick?

What do you think? Did someone else tell you or have you tried these things for yourself and made up your own mind?

Sometimes we just have to give things a go and discover what they are like. It works that way with people too.

We can't know for sure what someone is like just by looking at them. We need to give friendship with them a chance.

Being friends with anyone is a risky business in some ways. There simply is no guarantee that friends will be "nice" to us. In fact, I have been hurt the most by some of my closest friends over the years. But it would be a very lonely life if we never gave friendship a go.

Often I've found that the kind of friends you have depends on the kind of person you are. Being "nice" isn't the most important quality in friends. Perhaps being real, sharing the tough stuff of life, sticking together through all things, celebrating and loving life together are some of the best ways to have friends.

How can you know your new friends are nice? Give new friendship with them some time. Be a friend to them in the way you want them to be a friend to you.

This year *Journey* will feature this column of fabulous questions from the mouths of babes. If you have heard a great question from a young person, please send it to journey@ucaqld.com.au

Model citizens awarded in Blackwater

LONG-TERM Blackwater resident Beth Baker received the award of Blackwater and Duaranga Area Citizen of the Year on Australia Day.

She shared the honour of a special ceremony with other winners including Randolph Powder, who received the Cultural Award.

Central Highlands Regional Council Community Development Officer, Annette Bush, said Ms Baker had lived in the area for around 40 years and was committed to serving the Blackwater community.

"Beth is an active community member and she puts her heart and soul into what she commits to. With strong social justice values, she truly believes in the 'strength of community' and her contributions vary across many sectors of the community," said Ms Bush.

A Uniting Church elder, Ms Baker has been the chairperson and a volunteer for the Combined Churches and Community Christmas Appeal for over 15 years.

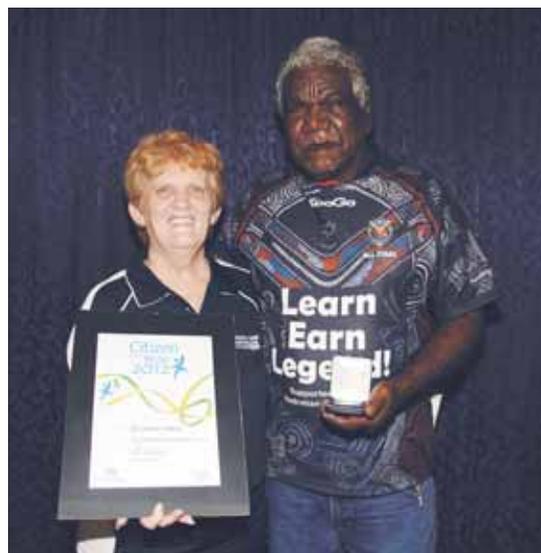
She volunteers for many groups including Red Cross, the Blackwater Salvation Army and is a trained Emergency Services volunteer.

She is the President of the Duaranga Shire Seniors' Association, a member of the CHRC Community Support Group which complements the Blackwater Disaster Management Plan, and started linedancing and jewellery making groups in town to assist people to make links in the local community and provide social interaction.

Her support of the Indigenous community includes being an active member of the NAIDOC Week Planning Committee for over 10 years.

Cr Paul Bell said he was proud to present Beth with the award and that it was "about time she got it".

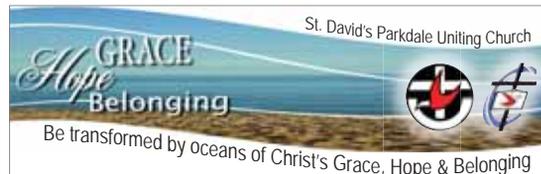
Ms Baker addressed the ceremony with a simple "G'day" and a brief thank you. "Thank you, Blackwater, I just love you," she said.



Beth Baker and Randolph Powder with their awards at the Australia Day Celebrations. Photo by Jeannette Fletcher

With enduring energy and enthusiasm, Ms Baker, and those like her, live out the Church's

call to be engaging in authentic community relationships.



Ministry Placement - Vacancy

Expressions of interest are sought for a single full time ministry placement at St. David's Parkdale Uniting Church. Ministers of the Word and Pastors considered.

A visionary and energetic person, or shared team, is sought to provide leadership to the existing lay teams in the areas of preaching, worship, pastoral care, youth and children's ministries, and mission to the community. The people from the three worship services seek to be disciplined in faith through solid Biblical instruction so they can confidently live out and share their faith in Christ every day.

St. David's is situated in Parkdale, a bayside suburb of Melbourne.

Inquiries can be made to the Secretary of the Placements Committee of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania: peter.blackwood@victas.uca.org.au

Commencement subject to candidate's availability.
Closing date: 26 March 2012.

Celebration in paradise

Peter Alfredson

FEBRUARY was a month of celebration at Paradise Point Uniting Church on the Gold Coast.

In a growing congregation of 150, a total of 26 newly confirmed members and members-in-association were recognised during worship led by Rev Col Shenfield on 5 February.

A further nine new confirmed members were recognised on 12 February.

The congregation also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first service in the present church building on 5 February. The celebration included 13 people who were also at the opening service in 1992.

The Paradise Point Congregation was planted by the Southport Co-operative Parish in 1975 and became independent in 1992 when the new church building was completed.

Praise the Lord!



Members at the 1992 opening service at Paradise Point Uniting Church. Photo by Priscilla Dickie

Peter Alfredson is the Paradise Point Uniting Church, Church Council Secretary

Together update

Lyndelle Gunton

ON our journey towards the Church's Vision 2020, the Uniting Church in Queensland has committed to numerous projects, as discerned from the Priority Directions reports at the 29th Synod last September. The following highlights some of our progress.

- Development of a study resource is underway for use in the lead up to the 35th anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia (22 June). The development team, led by Director of Pilgrim Learning Community, Neil Thorpe, and me, is focusing on the theme of Paul's vision of the Church as one body (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). This four-part series aims to start on Pentecost Sunday and will be available at www.together.ucaqld.com.au and in the May edition of *Journey*.

- Research is being conducted to determine the viability of a digital discipleship resource. The GrowFaith team are seeking responses to their user needs survey for youth, young adults, parents and leaders. For more information about GrowFaith and to do the survey visit <http://growfaith.ready2air.info>.

- Due to the need to upgrade the Synod's servers, we have embarked on a website migration project. Web Migration Project Officer, Anna Lagos, has joined us as the contact person for the project and is contacting congregational website managers to help assess their online needs and assist in transferring existing websites to our new server. Please contact Anna at Anna.Lagos@ucaqld.com.au with any questions or for more information.

- The Synod office is reconfiguring in preparation for meeting the Church's Vision for sustainably oriented mission. The Synod office has seen some staffing changes and physical movement to support greater efficiencies. The upskilling of staff and creation of new roles is enabling Synod Support Services to improve the resourcing and support for our mission through ministries, relationships and Christian formation. Please pray for these projects and all the people participating in them as we continue our journey together to realise the Church's Vision 2020. Read more about the *Together on the way* projects at www.together.ucaqld.com.au.

Lyndelle Gunton is the *Together on the way, enriching community* Project Officer. For more information or to share a story about how your congregation is responding to the Uniting Church in Queensland's Vision 2020, contact her on 3377 9750 (Mondays and Tuesdays) or Lyndelle.Gunton@ucaqld.com.au

Sustaining mission online

Tara Burton

AS part of the *Together on the way, enriching community* journey the Queensland Synod has been experiencing many new and exciting changes.

Currently, there is a pressing need to move a significant number of websites owned or maintained by the Synod office, congregations, presbyteries and agencies across the Uniting Church in Queensland to a new server.

Part-time Web Migration Project Officer, Anna Lagos, has been appointed to assist the process and liaise between site operators and the Synod's Information Technology staff.

A range of Wordpress templates has been purchased for site owners to work with. This makes updating and maintaining websites easier as well as giving them a fresh, modern look.

"I am contacting all the churches whose websites need to be updated and moved whilst also giving them information about what needs to happen," said Ms Lagos.

"Then I will be helping them through the rebuilding process and providing some training for the webmasters on the Wordpress tool.

"We will make it as smooth as possible and help people as much as we can to move to the new environment.

"That means training sessions over the phone or on Skype or some people might be able to do it in person," she said.

Together on the way Project Officer, Lyndelle Gunton, said that the Web Migration Project is a direct outcome of the Church's Priority Direction C: Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland.

"The Web Migration Project is preparing us for sustainable mission," she said.

"Part of that is improving our technological capabilities."

She said many Synod office websites will also be going through the process.

According to Richard Reising's book *Church Marketing 101: Preparing Your Church for Greater Growth*, visitors will evaluate six to 12 websites before they decide which church they will physically visit.

Ms Lagos said that in this day and age it is an expectation that people can go to the internet and easily obtain helpful information.

"It is just part of the everyday tools that people use to communicate," she said.

Ms Gunton said the journey may not be trouble-free, but it will be done together.

"The Synod office will be walking alongside people," she said.

An online web forum is one way for people to help each other with suggestions and ideas.

"We are all learning as we go down the path and in a way the forum can be used for that, if someone has a great idea, we can use that to help other congregations on the path," she said.

"We will get there together."

Visit the online support forum at www.websupport.ucaqld.com.au

or contact Anna Lagos on Anna.Lagos@ucaqld.com.au for more information



Lyndelle Gunton and Anna Lagos, ready to help. Photo by Osker Lau



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Songs that Unite

Amy Goodhew

THE national Assembly of the Uniting Church has developed a new online worship resource called *Songs that Unite* (songsthatunite.org.au).

Songs that Unite is a music website that supports the production and distribution of music resources to the wider church community and has a focus on serving those who are preparing a service of worship.



Musician and minister, Rev David MacGregor. Photo courtesy of David MacGregor

The idea stemmed from the 2009/10 Assembly-run songwriting competition by the same name.

The competition successfully identified artists who wrote high quality compositions for use in congregational worship and other group settings.

Many entrants did not have effective distribution methods for their music so it was decided to establish the website to encourage and support the production of a wide range of contemporary worship resources.

Queensland artists whose works are featured on the site include Rev David MacGregor and Wendy Kerr.

Like every songwriter who has contributed to the website, they offer music that is theologically sound, original, contemporary and authentic.

Assembly General Secretary and Songs that Unite director, Rev Terence Corkin, said he has been overwhelmed by the level of talent across the Church.

"I have been most excited by the breadth and depth of musical styles and lyrical content," he said.

"This project has confirmed for us the rich musical gifts that we have within the Church and it is wonderful to see such gifts being shared for the whole of the church in this way."

Mr MacGregor said the project provides a great opportunity for artists

to share their music.

"Signing up for Songs that Unite is an opportunity to share the music God has given me with a wider audience," he said.

"In an environment where limited opportunities have existed for this, here is an invitation for contemporary worship songs with sound theology and content.

"*Songs that Unite*, for me, fills a great void in the broad worship song landscape in Australia."

Psalm 149:3 says, "Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp".

Of course, these days we have added keyboards, microphones and electric guitars to this line up but every week Uniting Church people lift their voices in worship, just like they did thousands of years ago in the Holy Land.

The tools we use may be different but the desire to use music to unite us in worship is the same as it ever was.

Songs that Unite aims to enhance the worship experience of God's people as they come together in worship as the body of Christ. It provides music that fits with the Uniting Church's liturgical calendar and aims to be inclusive, culturally appropriate and accessible.

For more information visit www.songsthatunite.org.au

UnitingCare launches Reconciliation Action Plan

Dot King

AFTER a year of work, UnitingCare Queensland launched its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) on 9 February during a special celebration at the State Library of Queensland.

The RAP provides a framework for the future which will help the organisation deepen its relationships and make its services more culturally relevant.

The Plan builds on the work that UnitingCare Queensland had already undertaken towards reconciliation across its service groups and evolved during a year-long series of workshops. These were attended by staff from across the organisation who are passionate about reconciliation, including more than 40 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff.

Endorsed and approved by the



Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, UnitingCare Social Justice Director, Greg Mackay, UnitingCare Queensland CEO, Anne Cross, and UAICC National Administrator, Rev Shayne Blackman, enjoy the RAP launch. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

Executive Leadership team and the UnitingCare Board, the RAP contains accountable, measurable actions focused on three core elements - strengthening relationships, demonstrating respect and developing mutually beneficial opportunities.

At the launch UnitingCare Queensland CEO, Anne Cross, gave a moving speech that showed how deep the commitment to reconciliation is through the organisation and cited the Uniting Church's commitment through the revised Preamble which acknowledges the First Peoples of Australia.

"The RAP now forms a key part of UnitingCare Queensland's strategic planning and reflects the organisation's values of Compassion, Respect, Justice, Working together and Leading through learning," she said.

"Clearly there is still a long way to go but we are so glad to be part of the journey and hope that each of the small steps we take

will make a real contribution to reconciliation."

Other speakers included Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, and Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) National Administrator, Rev Shayne Blackman.

The UnitingCare Queensland RAP is a two-year plan that will be revisited and refreshed annually.

It is intended as an overarching document for UnitingCare Queensland and its service groups. Each group will, in time, develop its own Reconciliation Action Plan.

The Plan is underpinned by active engagement with, and representation by, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across all service groups.

There will be many focus areas during 2012 including the establishment of an advisory group on reconciliation, development of a support network for Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander staff, and practical cultural awareness training and guidelines for staff.

The Executive team will participate in 'visits to Country' to learn and understand more about the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and clients.

UnitingCare Queensland provides compassionate care to more than 14 000 people every day through its service groups UnitingCare Community, Blue Care, UnitingCare Social Justice and UnitingCare Health (The Wesley Hospital and St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital in Brisbane and The Sunshine Coast Private Hospital and St Stephen's Hospitals in Maryborough and Hervey Bay).

For more information visit www.ucareqld.com.au or to watch a video about the RAP visit www.youtube.com/UnitingCareQld



Performers and staff present a farewell song. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

Starting the learning with Lent

Cath Taylor

A couple of years ago a friend of mine told me she was giving up chocolate for Lent.

I looked at her with utter incomprehension. The whole concept of Lent seemed archaic (and the concept of giving up chocolate positively barbaric).

It is an attitude that is perhaps reflected by the person who recently reacted with bemusement to a blog written by our ten-year-old daughter, which noted that she and her friends were discussing what they were giving up for Lent.

"Are our children losing their childhood?" he wondered anxiously. "Why are ten-year-olds discussing what to give up for Lent?"

Lent, I think, is one of those seasons in the Christian calendar in need of some robust rediscovery. Far from being a short time of penance in the traditional sense, marked by guilt or shame, Lent has the potential to become a truly life-giving journey.

It is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the call to stand with others in the pursuit of a more authentic lifestyle as followers of Christ. It can challenge us to hear the voices of those who live

in poverty 365 days a year, often because of our failure to take seriously the call to care for our neighbours.

Without Lent, in which we grapple with the meaning of Jesus' life, it's hard to enter fully into the promise offered to us and the commitment asked of us as Resurrection people.

And what kind of commitment is that? Hear the voice of Isaiah: "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free. Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter- when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" (Isaiah 58: 6-7)

For many people, Lent is a time of intense personal growth. Partly because, of all the seasons in the Christian calendar, Lent allows us to actually get in and do something practical; to get our hands dirty.

As any teacher will tell you, the best learning comes from hands-on action. As the old Chinese proverb has it: Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.

Lent is a season which has the potential to be deeply involving and thus lead to a deeper understanding of self and God. The traditional disciplines of prayer and fasting had an impact upon the body and soul.

But newer traditions within the life of the Uniting Church are equally transformative. When children and adults take part in movements like Lent Event, which introduce them to hands-on practical discipleship in partnership with God's spirit and people in poverty, it's hard to walk away unchanged.

I'm not too bothered by my daughter discussing what she's giving up for Lent with her buddies on the school bus (squeezed in between narratives about the latest escapades of her cat, analysis of sandwich fillings and some boring stuff about homework). Engagement with the season of Lent, the challenge of going without, the faces and voices of people in Zimbabwe, Durgapur, Papua New Guinea and Milne Bay ... these are the elements of learning that will help our child to understand what it means to truly love others, to live a Resurrected life.

According to National Church Life Survey research released last year, the number one reason that



The Muzurabani water tanks project supported by Lent Event builds water tanks in communities where women and children would otherwise walk up to five kilometres for water. Photo courtesy of Lent Event

people do not attend church is that it's boring.

If church is to be a place of learning, it's time to get our hands and our hearts engaged and at every opportunity, to immerse ourselves in what we

give allegiance to with our lips. Lent's a great place to start.

Cath Taylor is a Communications and Fundraising Officer with UnitingWorld

Appreciating our teachers

Lyndelle Gunton

THE role of teacher is a significant one in everyone's lives.

In the formal education system alone, everyone has memories of the impression, good or otherwise, a teacher has made on them. As children, we are often unaware of the dedicated professional community that nurtures our progress through education.

Now, as an adult and a parent, I stand in awe and admiration of those who have chosen this career path, knowing my own lack of patience and energy for such an endeavour.

There is a Latin proverb that says: By learning you will teach; by teaching you will understand.

Suzie McClement is a Grade

One teacher and member of Indooroopilly Uniting Church in Brisbane. A third generation teacher, she is inspired in her work by other teachers, good leadership, parents and families, and most of all, by the kids and their enthusiasm for learning.

"My faith journey enables me to do my job to the best of my ability, be that as a teacher, mother, wife, or friend, with the gifts that I have been given," she said.

Ellen Ronalds is a young music and English teacher in the Brisbane Valley. She said, despite tough days, teaching gives her some very rewarding moments.

"I won't lie; teaching is hard. As a student, I never appreciated how hard my teachers must have worked to bring me so much learning and joy.

"The things that drew me to teaching were a love of learning, a real love for my subjects (music and Japanese) and the fact that I enjoy people's company and had a good school experience myself.

"The people who inspired me initially were the ones who have had a big impact on my life," she said. "These days it's colleagues, young and old; the ones who put in such heart and soul (along with many, many hours) and who put up with the bureaucratic nonsense and still have a good attitude. I have a lot to learn from them."

She said her faith gives her strength and balance.

"It is a pretty frequent occurrence that something will happen in my day that requires me to forgive someone and to be grateful for what I have."

Of course, there are those who may not go by the traditional title of teacher, but become mentors and guides.

They, too, are worthy of appreciation for their patient nurturing and guidance, for seeing potential, but allowing people to explore it for themselves, and for being there whenever needed.

They also often feel a sense

of call or a commitment to their Church community and share their gifts in a congregation by being a Sunday School teacher or youth group leader.

The training and experience of ministers in the Uniting Church is highly valued too. Paragraph 11 of the *Basis of Union* states: "The Uniting Church enters into the inheritance of literary, historical and scientific enquiry which has characterised recent centuries, and gives thanks for

the knowledge of God's ways with humanity which are open to an informed faith."

In the Presbyterian Church, there was a tradition of referring to the minister as a Teaching Elder.

Moreton Rivers Presbytery Minister, Rev Andrew Gunton, said this heritage suggests that one of the primary roles of a minister is as a teacher.

"Part of who we are as ministers is providing education for those people whom we are called to serve," he said.

"The vows made by ministers at their ordination and reaffirmed at their induction are that they will teach, inspire and encourage, both by word and example," said Mr Gunton.

In the Gospels Jesus, himself, was regularly referred to as "teacher".

The relationships we form within our communities have an impact on the way we worship, live, work, make decisions, and on the way we reach out beyond our church community.

Being aware of the impact that we have on others can help us be more intentional about how we seek to demonstrate Jesus' teachings in our own lives.



Suzie McClement at school. Photo courtesy of Suzie McClement



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LEARNING FOR LIFE

From Page 1

"When we learn something, something changes: we change our understanding, skills, we change our perspective in some way or another, we might change how we do things, even how we relate.

"It means that we are able to critically reflect and look at what we are doing in terms of relevance and quality," she said.

"One of the big learnings for us as a synod is looking at our culture. If we can create that culture of learning, we are actually embedding some perspectives that are really important for being able to do something with the structures and processes.

"You can't change structure without cultural change and cultural change by itself won't change that.

"Our learning as a synod has to be grounded in our Call and Vision.

"We are not going back to having fixed points of view because the Uniting Church has never been fixed!

"It's uniting and it is pilgrim people; we have that wonderful vision in that way."

Together on the way Project Officer, Lyndelle Gunton, has also done postgraduate study into learning in organisations.

Last year she completed an 18-month research project as part of a Master of Library and Information Studies at QUT looking at people's experiences of using information to learn in church communities, and specifically the Uniting Church in southeast Queensland.

Ms Gunton interviewed both lay people and those in ministry to develop an understanding of the types of information they use and how they use it in relation to their faith and in the way the church is run.

She said people use information to grow in their faith, develop relationships,

manage the church, and serve within and beyond the church community.

"Not all people think they learn at church," she mused.

"Learning in church primarily consists of aural and textual learning."

Ms Gunton's research indicated that the primary way people in her study consolidated what they had learnt was by group interaction.

"What we also identified was that people use a variety of other tools intentionally to enhance their experience.

"People learn best when they do something a number of different ways and when a number of different learning ways are available they are hopefully going to find something that suits them best."

In a worship service that could be as simple as including a variety of musical styles, images that people can look at while they are listening, or interaction such as passing the peace.

"Using a variety of learning styles means that people leave with an experience that is much richer and they want to come back to be part of that continuing learning experience.

"In my understanding faith is not something that is static. It is a growing, living thing and, like other aspects of life-long learning, you never finish learning about it," she said.

Ms Gunton said it is the responsibility of all people in the Church to teach and learn from each other.

Indooroopilly Uniting Church members Narelle and Craig Mercer know all about the importance of providing a variety of ways to learn.

For the past six years the couple have run a Rotations program for the Primary School aged children in their congregation.

Ms Mercer said she discovered Rotations, or the Workshop Rotation Method,

in 2005 while searching for new Sunday School resources.

"It takes the major Bible stories and teaches them in a block for four or five weeks," she said.

"There are a number of workshops and each workshop teaches the story using a different learning style.

"Some kids are visual, some learn by doing. So one workshop might be cooking, one might be a good video resource, and one might be computer games.

"The theory is that you have a teacher who teaches say, the cooking workshop, for four weeks. The children are in their age groups and they visit that workshop in rotation so the teacher teaches the same thing. They just adjust it to the age of the children.

"We also have someone called a shepherd and they stay with the kids. They have no preparation but act as pastoral care for the kids and are an extra pair of hands."

After surveying the congregation they identified 10 major Bible stories to be learnt by the end of Primary School.

They do roughly six rotations a year plus Christmas and Easter rotations.

"We focus on a different rotation each Easter. This year we are looking at Easter through symbols."

Mr Mercer said the aim is to ensure the children pick up the essence of the stories in a way that is beneficial for them.

"If you were to say, 'We are going to learn about the Bible' that is a fairly dry topic, so we figure out how we should tackle that in a way that draws the children into it," he said.

"They are engaged in doing something that is creative and interesting and pitched at their level."

Ms Mercer said one of the activities in the rotation

on the story of the Good Samaritan was making a quilt to give away.

"We conscripted all the quilters from the congregation. The ladies came with their sewing machines and there were Year Five boys using sewing machines for the first time!"

Mr Mercer said it was important to work with people on their level.

"It is not about dumbing it down for them, it is about understanding the triggers that excite them and working the stories to fit those triggers," he said.

Pilgrim Learning Community Director, Neil Thorpe, said a disciple is someone who is attached to a teacher, but also an active learner.

"Learning isn't an intellectual proposition only; it is about formation and our faith. It is about how we discover ourselves, and ourselves in service to our neighbour and God," he said.

He talked of the importance

of lifelong learning pulsing through our church communities.

"We risk it becoming a platitude unless everyone knows about it, everyone gives their assent to it and recognises that lifelong learning for each person is important.

"We think if it is life-long we can put it off until a bit later.

"We have got to bring it down to the here and now and ask, 'What do I need to be learning now?'"

"To me a learning edge is the very thing that makes you uncomfortable.

"It is not about going to church and hearing the same comforting words ... it is about saying things like, 'I really don't know'.

"For me, the learning edge is the thing that we need to work on.

"If our experience as a church is an example, then we have to, as disciples, be able to get out on our learning edge."



Pilgrim Learning Community Director, Neil Thorpe. Photo by Osker Lau



WEB

pilgrim.qld.edu.au

Pilgrim Learning Community



WATCH

Dead Poet's Society (1989)



WEB

trinity.qld.edu.au

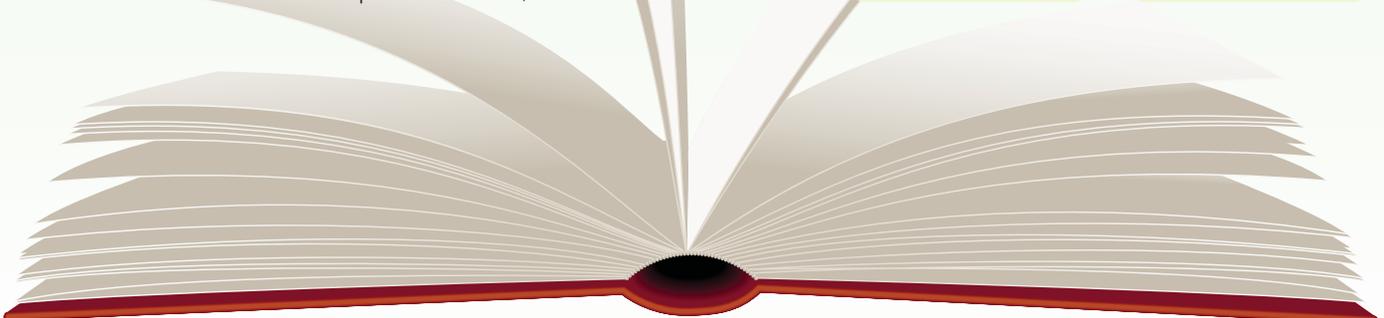
Trinity Theological College



WEB

www.rotation.org

Resources and information on the Rotations Sunday School technique



Unravelling education

Lyndelle Gunton

PEOPLE learn in many different ways.

Our experiences of learning are influenced by the way we interact with our world. Whether we are in a classroom, workplace, at home or at church, we are interacting with information and making decisions that expand our understanding of the world.

It's interesting to think that the way we view the world shapes our faith and our understanding of the Uniting Church and vice versa.

The Uniting Church in Queensland has made a commitment to be a learning community. As a community and an organisation, the Church seeks to encourage everyone to actively engage in experiences that will enable them to grow in faith and participate in the mission of the Church.

Dr Aaron Ghiloni, Education Officer for the Moreton Rivers Presbytery and Faculty Associate at Trinity Theological College, suggested that learning in the Uniting Church is tied to the Church's deepest held beliefs as expressed in the *Basis of Union*.

"Learning is a way we confess Christ in 'fresh words and deeds,'" he said. "Being 'open to an informed faith' means being committed to the risk of ongoing

educative growth.

"Christian education ensures that our theology is more than words, our worship is more than ritual, and our spirituality is more than self-improvement.

"Christian faith is a 'divine pedagogy' – an event of revelation where the teacher transforms life."

Affirmation of the Church's commitment to being a learning community is evident in many places. It is in ethos and vision of our schools; it is in the commitment of those youth leaders and lay people who volunteer to lead youth groups, Sunday School programs and playgroups; it is witnessed in the sharing of stories in *Journey*; it is shared in the continuing education and training opportunities for our ministry candidates and agents and lay preachers; and it is demonstrated in the sharing of information and the interactions between members of the Uniting Church in Queensland's Facebook community.

Learning opportunities are available across the community: through formal education in Uniting Church schools, Trinity Theological College, Pilgrim Learning Community, and adult Christian education programs such as *Learning for Living*, and traditional Christian learning



Year Nine students at Clayfield College. Photo courtesy of Clayfield College

opportunities such as Sunday School programs and Bible study groups.

Informal learning opportunities include purchasing from UnitingWorld's gift catalogue, attending youth group or Summer Madness, being an Elder, being a voting member of a Synod meeting or volunteering at a UnitingCare or Wesley Mission Brisbane facilities.

What they all have in common is that they transform lives.

Our schools are at the cutting edge of teaching practice. At Calvary Christian College, learning and Christian values go hand in hand, as evidenced by their mission statement: "Transforming lives through quality education and Christian discipleship."

Clayfield College Chaplain Rev Paul Yarrow said Uniting Church schools are one way the Church provides a Christian

learning environment. This is supported by the school's vision to "be a learning community where all are encouraged to grow, serve, and develop their abilities in our Christian environment".

Mr Yarrow said biblical content, faith and Christian values speak into shaping the curriculum.

As a chaplain, he seeks to support teachers and students in their exploration of these issues across a broad range of areas including considering the faith aspect of religious art as well as how faith is expressed through technical pursuits.

Mr Yarrow said that it is this environment that encourages students and staff, regardless of their level of participation in other parts of the life of the Church, to "articulate questions of faith and explore that for themselves".

As a member of the

growing Uniting Church in Queensland Facebook community, Tara Burton, Uniting Communications Community Liaison Officer, suggested that social media offers a means to connect with and learn about the diverse people of the Church across Queensland.

"The Uniting Church Facebook page is a great tool to contact and engage with the wider Uniting Church community in Queensland and Australia," she said.

"Through social media I can interact with people in an easy forum which encourages input and discussion," she said.

Dr Ghiloni said it was important to remember learning happens in every part of our lives, including spiritual pursuits.

"Spiritual capacities such as humility, patience and wonder are part and parcel of education, whether Christian or otherwise."

Studying theology

Craig Battay

I remember my first class studying at Trinity College Theological College in Brisbane. I was completing my Period of Discernment as I explored God's call to the Ministry of Deacon and enrolled in the subject "Introducing Theology".

Sitting in the lecture with about 30 other people I was a feeling a little apprehensive, though I had studied civil engineering and information technology years before so I thought I had an idea of what to expect.

During the class, lecturer Rev Dr Geoff Thompson said something that I could barely get my head around. As I was trying to work out what Geoff meant another student asked a question – an intelligent question.

I hadn't even processed what he had said, yet someone already had and was asking for more information.

At that moment I felt really out of my depth and I questioned if I was really meant to do this.

I am really glad I stuck with

it though. The conversations in breaks over a tea or coffee with other students and the lecturers were helpful and doing the readings and assignments assisted me to discover and then articulate what I believe.

Studying theology has also moved me towards a deeper faith and love for God and an appreciation of Scripture and the traditions of the Uniting Church.

It was not easy leaving a career to take up studying full-time. I really enjoyed working in information technology, and leaving work placed an enormous strain on our family finances.

Yet God did provide and while it was not always easy and there were some difficult times, my wife Tania and I have survived and, with God's help, will continue to do so.

There have also been many weekends prior to assignments being due that we have put our usual activities on hold as I hit the books and the keyboard attempting to whittle down the word count. I really appreciate my wife's understanding and her cups of tea during these stressful times.



Trinity Theological College student Craig Battay. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

Studying has not stopped our enjoyment of life, though it has put a curb on my desire to purchase the next cool tech toy that comes out and instead of eating out at a restaurant we might have pizza down at the Point under the stars. We might spend holidays at home working in the garden and playing with our dogs instead of jetting off to who knows where, but I hope it is not too long before we can get back to the snow.

Though I have now been at it for several years and my formal studies are drawing to a close, I do not pretend that I have all the answers.

The more I study, the more I want to try to understand more about God, who God is and how God is at work in the world.

In this sense, studying theology is something that I will continue to do and look forward to doing for the rest of my life, whether through further formal

classes at College, through Bible studies with others, or privately at home.

I have found that my best learning has been with other people. I am challenged more when I study with others.

My learning is also shared learning and hearing other people's perspectives helps me to broaden my own, challenge my preconceptions and to see things from a different point of view.

Dampened spirits

Tara Burton

PARTS of Queensland have once again been hit by rising flood waters and it's taking its toll on many regional communities.

Roma, in the western Darling Downs area in South West Queensland, was one of the severely effected towns in the Maranoa region.

Minister at Maranoa Uniting Church, Rev Linda Hamill, said this year's flooding has been much worse than previous year's and it is starting to dampen spirits.

"People are exhausted," she said. "People aren't recovering before the next one comes; emotionally, spiritually and physically.

"Most people are just getting back into their houses after about 10 months only to have them flooded again.

"It will be 10 or 12 months

before people have rebuilt houses that are safe and comfortable to live in."

Ms Hamill said that, at this stage, they do not require donations of goods because it is imperative they start to boost the local economy. For this reason they would prefer monetary donations.

"The Combined Christian Churches in Roma and three churches in Mitchell are working together this time to distribute funds across the whole region," said Ms Hamill.

"We are trying to give up to \$3000 assistance to each family.

"Most people wouldn't have had flood insurance because this has never happened [in some places] before.

"They are not in what is considered a flood prone area. It is a record-setting flood," she said.

Ms Hamill said that the



Flooding in St George. Photos by St George Uniting Church minister Rev Michael Brumpton

regional council had endorsed the work of the churches as the official fundraiser for the community due to their reputation and what they have done in the past.

"We're working really closely as combined churches with the council to make sure that everybody is equitably helped," said Ms Hamill.

"They first turned to us to respond financially to be able to help people."

As many of the locals are still in shock and are frustrated and angry at the situation Ms Hamill asked the wider Uniting Church community to pray for them.

"They can't believe this has happened again. Pray for unity within the communities, that's a big need. People are tired and anxious and in shock. We're struggling a bit," she said.

Roma mother and dedicated Blue Care nurse, Jane Sheahan, lost her life on 5 February whilst trying to transport sand bags to other residents during the floods.

Blue Care Executive Director Robyn Batten said the community and the organisation were deeply saddened by this loss.

Even when Ms Sheahan wasn't at work, she was helping the community.

"Jane was a delightful person with a deep love for her family and, as a community nurse, she was exceptionally dedicated to improving the lives of those around her," she said.

Ms Batten said Blue Care will do everything possible to support the close-knit group of clients, staff and volunteers of Blue Care Roma Community Care as they come to terms with this tragedy.

"I extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to the police, SES and other emergency services teams and Blue Care's managers, staff and volunteers who assisted at this trying time," said Ms Batten.

Queensland Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, said the wet season is certainly having an

impact again in many parts of Queensland.

"I've been speaking with the ministry agents on the ground and it's clear that some families have been really devastated, especially in Roma where it's the third time they have been flooded in the past 22 months.

"In Mitchell it's a new thing and many of the homes have been very badly damaged.

"Our ministry agents on the ground are doing a great job, along with the UnitingCare Community Disaster Recovery Response teams," she said.

Ms Ronalds encouraged people to be generous in assisting people in flood effected areas.

"Remember that it's probably easier to donate money than to donate second hand goods.

"This enables the local people to give appropriate support to those families in need," she said.

To assist in flood recovery in the Maranoa region contact Linda Hamill on linda@hamill.net.au



Soup for the soul

FOR about three years the Dalby Soup Kitchen has been warming the hearts and stomachs of those in need of a feed.

Run by the Lutheran Church with assistance from the other Dalby churches, this ministry is a great example of local churches working together.

Dalby Uniting Church member, Glenda Bundy, said the Soup Kitchen isn't just good for those who get a feed.

"The Soup Kitchen in Dalby operates ecumenically under the leadership of the Lutheran

Church. The month of January was the Uniting Church's turn," she said.

"This fosters good relationships between the different denominations and helps spread the work load."

The Dalby Uniting Church congregation is also gearing up to celebrate its centenary later in the year.

The centenary celebrations will be held from 10-11 November.

For more information email dalbyuniting@gmail.com



Dalby Uniting Church members Noel Bundy and Ken Southey preparing to serve meals at the Soup Kitchen. Photo courtesy of Sandra Young and Glenda Bundy

Adult Fellowship supports Solomon Islands women

Alyson Madsen

THE year 2011 was a very difficult one for Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) members in Queensland.

Nevertheless, members from across Queensland stepped up to support the Synod Committee's 2011 project, the Solomon Islands Women's Leadership and Livelihood project.

The Adult Fellowship is delighted to have raised a total of

\$12 229.60 for the project.

A final cheque was presented to UnitingWorld's Associate Director Church Solidarity (Pacific), Bruce Mullan, at the Annual General Meeting of the Synod Committee on 15 February.

This amount is a remarkable achievement and will be most beneficial to their needs.

Money raised will enable local women to be trained in business management, leadership, health,

home maintenance and assist in setting up small businesses.

Mr Mullan said the project is already succeeding.

"UnitingWorld's Pacific Programs Coordinator, Bryan Cussen, said the program had met its objectives and reached down to the most untouched communities," said Mr Mullan.

The workshops have also taken on an ecumenical base and included many of the untouched communities.



UCAF Queensland treasurer, Alyson Madsen, and outgoing president, Patsy Dale, present Bruce Mullan with a cheque for the project in the Solomon Islands. Photo courtesy of UnitingWorld

Easter gifts to die for

Alison Atkinson-Phillips and
Mardi Lumsden

EASTER is around the corner and with Easter eggs already in the shops the Stop the Traffik coalition is working hard to help people realise the true cost of

these delectable treats.

The reality of chocolate is far from romantic. Around 70 per cent of the world's production of cocoa comes from West Africa — Ghana, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon. Most of the chocolate sold in Australia will

contain cocoa from West Africa, produced by children forced to work in slave-like conditions or who have been trafficked. The US Department of State estimates that more than 109 000 children in Cote d'Ivoire's cocoa industry work under "the worst forms of child labor" [sic], and that some 10 000 are victims of human trafficking or enslavement.

For Christian leaders Carolyn and Fuzz Kitto a much better expression of Easter is to work together to combat modern slavery.

When they heard the international coalition Stop the Traffik was looking for someone to take the lead in Australia, Ms Kitto, who had been involved with World Vision Australia's Don't Trade Lives campaign, immediately put her hand up.

"This is such a no-brainer," she said. "I'm not saying this is a simple issue, because there are lots of complexities, but it is as simple as a six-year-old deciding not to eat a Freddo Frog."

Mr Kitto said the Stop the Traffik campaign uses many of the strategies pioneered by William Wilberforce and the activists who worked to abolish the British slave trade 200 years ago. The abolitionists asked ordinary people to stop using sugar, which was imported from the slave plantations. In doing so they changed a culture that, until then, had seen slavery as necessary.

"In all the years in the justice movement, the big breakthroughs happen when we've been able to get people involved in action," he said.

While human trafficking is not just about chocolate, it's a good place to start. And although Stop the Traffik is lobbying the Federal Government to make it an offence to knowingly import goods produced using trafficked labour, their primary focus is on getting individuals to reassess their own choices.

Mr Kitto brings it back to Christian principles.

"What are the economics of the kingdom of God?"

"There is that wonderful verse that we've sung all about and used, about seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all this will be given to you.

"Jesus is saying, don't worry about tomorrow and its problems; don't worry about what you're going to drink and eat, and what clothes you're going to wear, but seek first the kingdom of God and these things will be given to you.

"You unpack that, what he's saying is, when we live under the economics of the kingdom of God there's enough to go around, there's enough to share and people will have what is adequate."

The world's biggest chocolate companies have been in conversations with Stop the Traffik since 2001 and don't deny that slave labour is used to produce their chocolate.

Most have made the token gesture of moving one of their products into line with ethical

standards — in the case of Mars, their Mars Bar, for Cadbury it is the plain Dairy Milk bars — and say they are committed to change, but progress is painfully slow.

One of the arguments is that there is not enough ethically produced chocolate to meet the world's cravings.

But Ms Kitto said that's a cop-out.

"It's not that hard and it's not that expensive to make the change."

Some people are concerned that by boycotting certain products, they are taking away someone's livelihood.

"That is a big issue," she said. "I've worked in international development for a long time, so I know that some families would rather put up with those conditions to be able to eat. But what you're talking about in the chocolate industry is children being kidnapped.

"There's not any money going back to their communities."

Your actions this Easter will make a difference and help share the love of Christ.

Buy chocolate that has been independently certified as Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or UTZ to ensure you are supporting fair wages for cocoa plantation workers and farmers.

Ask your favourite chocolate company to ensure their cocoa is free from trafficking and child labour.

For more information or to download the Stop the Traffik Good Chocolate Guide visit <http://stopthetraffik.org.au>



Fuzz Kitto gets ready to share some Fairtrade chocolate. Photo by Osker Lau

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— REV TIM COSTELLO

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4 MARCH

Inala Uniting Church is a vibrant growing multi-cultural parish south of Brisbane.

We feel God's direction for our congregation is towards our children and young people's ministries. We encourage participation in worship and utilising personal gifts. We have a strong choir, women's fellowship and leadership team.

Please pray for:

- our Church Council and various committees, as they plan activities for the year
- our AGM on the first Sunday in March
- the three other churches under minister Rev Tino Scanlan's pastoral care (Sunnybank, Logan Central and Goodna).

5 - 8 MARCH

Presbytery of Mary Burnett Adult Fellowship Camp (final) at Luther Heights, Coolum. Tuesday is Open Day, visitors welcome. Wednesday will be a day of celebration with a special morning tea at 10am as well as a lunch at noon. Contact Marion McDonald on 5441 1784 or alaneva@aapt.net.au.

8 MARCH

Aboriginal Christian Leadership Evening at Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Broadwater Rd, Wishart. Contact Jean Phillips or Ravina Waldren on 3844 7640 or admin@qct.org.au.

9 MARCH 6pm - 9pm

Student Christian Movement Forum on the war in Afghanistan - to stay or to go? Lecture Room 1 at St Francis' Theological College, Milton Road, Milton. Contact Dr James Page on 0418 293 629 or jamesmithpage@hotmail.com.

10 MARCH 6am - 12pm

The Gap Uniting Church Annual Garage Sale. Contact The Gap Uniting Church office on 3300 2712 or office@thegapuca.org.au.

10 MARCH 2pm - 4pm

"Themes from the Psalms" in flowers and song at Bracken Ridge Uniting Church. Floral arrangements by well-known floral art designer, Robert Manton. Tickets \$10. School aged children, free. Flowers for sale. Afternoon tea provided. Contact Marilyn Linnett on 3269 3282 or mardoug3@bigpond.com.

11 MARCH

Please pray for Crow's Nest Uniting Church for:

- our four church congregations - Crow's Nest, Ravensbourne, Gowrie Flat and Thornville
- people in hospital and aged care
- children's and youth outreach ministry including Boy's Brigade and Girl's Brigade
- repairs and maintenance on Crow's Nest church in May
- our Easter services

**16 - 18 MARCH**

Partners in Ministry retreat at Alex Park, Sunshine Coast. Registration forms are available either from Andi Griggs on andi.griggs@gmail.com or local presbytery contacts.

17 MARCH 8:30am - 1pm

Book/ CD Sale at Indooroopilly Uniting Church. Funds raised will aid the Timor Children's Foundation. Contact Helen Findlay on 33782647 or jfi71567@optusnet.com.au.

18 MARCH

South Rockhampton Uniting Church has several worshipping centres within the boundaries of the business district of South Rockhampton, Mt. Morgan, the rural community and the rapidly growing town of Gracemere.

We sense God's call to be a living witness to Christ in family ministry at different levels and within the many local community service groups.

Please pray for:

- our Bible Studies focused around the Lent Event and support of UnitingWorld in Mwandi and Zambia
- keeping focused on our priorities within Together on the Way
- Rev Jen Roberts and her team in developing ministry to families
- our missional activities connected with the building program
- making faith connections with people through service activity

23 - 25 MARCH

Bremer Brisbane Presbytery Christology course at Glebe Rd Uniting Church explores issues related to the person and work of Christ. Contact Jenny Brecknell on 3378-5281 or jenny@brecknell.name.

25 MARCH 10am - 12pm

World's Greatest Shave at Broadwater Road Uniting Church. Supporting a cure for cancer. Please pray for those taking part. Contact Shirley on 3349 1767 or swattie@iinet.net.au.

31 MARCH 6am - 12pm

Giant Garage Sale at Paradise Point Uniting Church, Gold Coast. Bargains galore, sausage sizzle and children's activities. Contact Peter Alfredson on 5529 3669 or pgaca@bigpond.net.au.

1 APRIL 2pm - 5pm

Omega Writers meeting. St Francis College, Milton. Join other Christian authors to share support, information, inspiration and prayer. Visit www.omegawriters.com or contact Ruth Bonetti on 3375 1775 or info@omegawriters.com.

Upload your What's On entries at www.journeyonline.com.au

Items may be shortened due to space limitations.



Pancake Day success. Albert Street Uniting Church in Brisbane's CBD had a very successful Pancake Day on Shrove Tuesday, 21 February, raising money for Wesley Mission Brisbane's Emergency Relief Service. A big thank you goes to Greens for donating the pancake mix and maple syrup. Photo by Rochelle Nolan courtesy of Wesley Mission Brisbane.

Photo call

Dr Julia Pitman is finalising her book on Congregational women ministers. Please contact her on jpitman@csu.edu.au or 0411 904 185 if you have photos of Dorothy Wacker (Broadway-Belmont, Woolloongabba, 1959-1964; Director of Christian Education, 1964-1968; Acting-Secretary, Cong Union, 1966-1967; Chermerside, 1964-1969); Thelma Murray (Mt Gravatt, 1959-61; Mt Gravatt-Manly, 1961-1966; Princess Alexandra Hospital); Nyree Svenson (Yeronga-Brighton Road, 1970-1; Yeronga-Brighton Road-Coopers Plains, 1971-3; Maryborough Uniting, 1978-83); or Elizabeth McChesney Clark (Eagle Junction, 1973-4; Bonney Avenue Co-operative Parish, 1975-77).



Students enjoy the Sunshine Coast Christian Ecumenical School Gathering at Unity College in Caloundra. Photo courtesy of Mariana Passeggi Romagnoli, Campus Minister at Unity College

Theological book of the year

THE latest recipient of their Lynlea Rodger ATF Press Theological Book Prize is Associate Professor, Australian Catholic University, Brisbane, Rev Dr Ormond Rush, for his book *The Eyes of Faith: The Sense of the Faithful and the Church's Reception of Revelation*.

The prize is for the most outstanding theological book authored by a theologian in the Australasian region. It is the fifth time the prize has been awarded.

The judges considered Dr Rush's book "has an admirable breadth of scholarship, and is well-referenced".

The ATF, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2012, believes very strongly in the



importance of the book prize as recognition of outstanding theological writing in Australasia.

The Iron Lady (2011)

Directed by Phyllida Lloyd, Starring Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent, Richard E. Grant, Rated M

Reviewed by Tara Burton.

MERYL Streep stars in this biographical film *The Iron Lady*, which follows the life of former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

The story is narrated through a number of flashbacks with Alexandra Roach playing the young Margaret Thatcher.

These flashbacks encapsulate her family life as well as the start of her journey into politics and alternate with the present time where Baroness Thatcher is suffering from dementia.

In her confused state of

mind she sees illusions of her late husband Denis.

Denis passed away eight years earlier and Baroness Thatcher struggles with the daunting task of cleaning out his belongings.

As she does this she reminisces about her life and the flashbacks come into play.

Short snippets of the Brighton bombing, the Falklands war, IRA attacks and the Poll Tax Riots were an interesting addition to the film.

Meryl Streep's screen presence was powerful and her portrayal of Baroness Thatcher was nothing short of extraordinary.



If you have a particular interest in politics, and in particular Margaret Thatcher's reign as British Prime Minister, then I'm certain you will thoroughly enjoy *The Iron Lady*.

At Heaven's Gate: Reflections on leading worship

By Richard Giles, Canterbury Press, 2010, RRP \$26.95

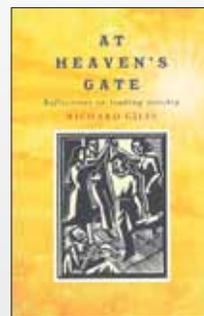
Reviewed by Barb Bailey.

THIS volume is a timely reminder of the privilege, responsibility and transformation possible through the journey of worship for pastors while leading the congregant in the knowledge that their expectancy and participation are what forms an authentic worshipping community.

Richard Giles, formerly Dean of Philadelphia Cathedral, has written many books on worship, believing good leadership and a cohesive worshipping community reach a place where there is a blurring of the boundaries between heaven and earth.

He states that those who gather are "a holy people who have been charged with the energy of God and irradiated with God's light".

Yet he is extremely practical and touches issues such as calendars beginning with Monday being a hindrance to our thoughts and the need for worship to be relevant and able to delight children of all ages.



He exhorts his readers to be like the sunflower, always facing the sun, being expectant of what may happen and be prepared for transformation.

Mr Giles strongly advocates the usefulness of a weekend set aside for members to retreat to build trust and community.

He makes the claim that first time visitors will be influenced mainly by the welcome they receive and the quality of the music.

At Heaven's Gate is easy to read, thought-provoking and informative.

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (2011)

Directed by Stephen Daldry, Written by Eric Roth (screenplay) and Jonathan Safran Foer (novel), Starring Thomas Horn, Tom Hanks and Sandra Bullock, Rated PG (mild themes and coarse language)

Reviewed by Mardi Lumsden.

BASED on the acclaimed novel of the same name, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* follows 11-year-old amateur inventor, Francophile, and pacifist Oskar Schell as he searches New York City for the lock that matches a key he finds in his father's closet a year after his death in the World Trade Centre on 11 September, 2001.

This is a story of heartbreaking loss and examines how grief touches people in different ways. It is not about the attack on the World Trade Centre, but of every day after that.

The film has captured Jonathan Safran Foer's skill for writing characters with great depth that are not necessarily immediately likeable, yet grow on you to become like old friends.

When I saw that stars Sandra Bullock and Tom Hanks were in this film I was worried one of my favourite books would be turned

into a schmaltzy Hollywood blockbuster, but I was pleased to see that was not the case.

First-time film actor Thomas Horn does a remarkable job playing the complex Oskar Schell. The 15-year-old's only previous acting experience was in his elementary school's production of *James and the Giant Peach*.

Oskar's desperate and seemingly impossible search leads him to visit everyone in New York with the last name Black in the hope of holding on to his father's memory. The only problem is that Oskar is terrified of most things (including the subway) so travels with essentials like a gas mask and a tambourine that calms him down in stressful situations.

On the way he encounters an eclectic array of people, each survivors in their own way.

This is a great example of the impact one person can have on the lives of others.

There are moments with Oskar and his mother that are



hard to watch as they both grieve in their own way and his seemingly distant mother tries to make life as normal as possible.

This film does not have the classic Hollywood ending but one that is realistic yet remains uplifting.

Sometimes the greatest journeys are those of self-discovery that overcome fears and grief.

To this end, the odd little boy at the heart of this film can be a role model to us all and certainly found a place in my heart.

Nominated for two Academy Awards (Best Picture and Best Supporting Actor) *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* is highly recommended.

Women in the Church: A Memoir

By Jean Yule, B.A., OAM, Uniting Church Historical Society, 2011

Review by Rev Dr Geraldine Wheeler.

IN *Women in the Church: A Memoir*, Jean Yule recounts her life experience in family and the church.

She had major church involvement with women's groups, e.g. the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU), the PWA and writing the *Women in the Church* page in *Australian Presbyterian Life*. She was also very active in ecumenical affairs and social justice areas and worked with others to bring about the participation of women into all areas of the church's life, particularly the decision-making councils and the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Jean Yule had experience of both the Congregational and Methodist churches. When she married Alec Yule she became part of a Presbyterian family which produced generations of ministers.

She was aware that women had been ordained in the Congregational Church since the 19th century and that the Methodist Church in Australasia found no theological reasons against the ordination of women, only practical ones.



The focus of this memoir is the struggle of women to overcome the gender barrier in the Presbyterian Church.

The Epilogue surveys the place of women in the Uniting Church.

The book is carefully documented, often quoting in detail significant speeches and the minutes recording the decisions of church assemblies.

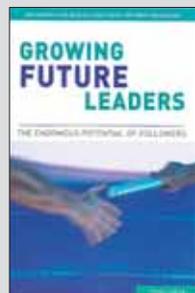
Journey recently reported on the milestone anniversary of Rev Dr Norma Spear and the induction of Queensland's first female Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds. The younger generations of women in the Uniting Church perhaps take for granted their opportunities to participate at all levels of the church's decision-making and ministry.

Jean Yule's memoir is a very important, carefully written historical account of how she saw these changes occur.

More reviews online at www.journeyonline.com.au including:

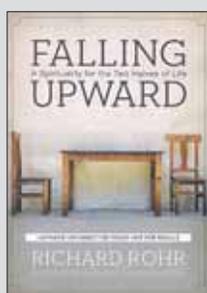
Growing Future Leaders: The Enormous Potential of Followers

By Tony Keys, CRS Publishing, 2006, RRP \$19.95



Falling upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life

By Richard Rohr, Jossey-Bass, 2011, RRP \$24.99



Liturgies and Prayers Related to Childbearing, Childbirth, and Loss

Church Publishing, 2010, RRP \$26.95



Books available from ...

Many of the titles reviewed in *Journey* are available from St Paul's Bookstore in Brisbane city or Christian Supplies in Milton. Books can usually be ordered from Vision Books at Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Mansfield, or may be available from www.mosaicresources.com.au or <http://rainbowbooks.com.au>.

New study encourages an active faith

Michelle Farrall

WORLD-RENOWNED theologian, Bishop NT Wright, and Micah Challenge International Director, Rev Dr Joel Edwards, have joined Australia's Rev Dr John Dickson and Rev Tim Costello to inspire Christians in Australia to tackle global poverty. A new interactive five-week Bible study created by World Vision Australia, *The Faith Effect*, suggests that the church is best positioned to break the cycle of poverty, with the capacity to see every person as made in the

image of God, no matter their class, caste or colour. These and other high profile social reformers, theologians and practitioners are united by the belief that every follower of Jesus has the capacity to put their faith into action to make a genuine difference in the world. Bishop Wright, New Testament Professor at the University of St Andrews in Scotland said, "God is on the move, doing stuff, transforming the world, healing the world and we get to be part of it". World Vision Australia CEO, Rev Tim Costello, said *The Faith*



The Faith Effect in Africa. Photo courtesy of World Vision Australia

Effect would help Australian Christians understand God's perspective on global poverty and the importance of centering lives on Jesus to see an impact of faith on society. "When we get our Christology right, we see the differences. John Wesley got it. He said, 'If I die with £10 to my name the world can call me a thief.' "So when I visit places like

India, Sudan and Cambodia I see poverty and pain and I think that if God hasn't given up on this earth, then as a Christian I can't give up." Another contributor to *The Faith Effect*, Dr John Dickson, Director Centre for Public Christianity, admitted he had been wrong to once preach that every dollar given to the poor is a dollar less for evangelism.

Through his own journey of exploring the biblical basis for social engagement, he has come to recognise that, "Jesus was insistent on the humble service of the world". The resource aims to help people put their faith into action locally and globally. For more information visit www.thefaitheffect.com.au



Church leaders receive the Spirit of Townsville Award. Photo courtesy of the Australian Prayer Network

Helping with heart and hand

Mardi Lumsden

AN attempt to reignite neighbourhood connections and assist those in need has turned out to be a bigger blessing than the Combined Churches of Townsville realised. Neighbour 2 Neighbour (N2N), their National Day of Thanksgiving activity held on 18 June last year has now gone on to become more of a way of life than a one-day event and won a Spirit of Townsville Award on Australia Day this year. Matthew Bolte, N2N co-ordinator for The Combined Churches of Townsville, said it is a way the churches can reach out

to a community in need. Townsville City Council, through their community support data base and through a letter from the Mayor, connected members of the Combined Churches of Townsville and community groups with people in need of a helping hand. On 18 June, teams of volunteers went into these homes to lend a hand. "Just basic stuff like cleaning the bathroom, tidying the yard, mowing the lawn, vacuuming the carpets, or sitting and having a chat over a cuppa," he said. "We were amazed by the overwhelming response to the letter offering help from the Combined Churches of Townsville. "We have received requests for help from over 450 homes. "Most were elderly and deeply moved that someone would come and help them," he said. An army of volunteers (420 in total) from 43 different churches and community organisations, including Rotary, Lions, and the tax office, helped on the day. The need for ongoing assistance was obvious. "We have all been amazed by the community support that has bubbled up after the floods and cyclones in this State," said Mr Bolte.

"The sad part is that it is obvious that we have lost something in our communities that only disasters bring out. "What if caring for your neighbour wasn't just a disaster response but an everyday practice? "To this end the Combined Churches of Townsville and community organisations are working with the Townsville City Council to build community capital in fostering and modelling caring for our neighbours. "We are working toward making neighbourliness an everyday practice in Townsville." "We may need to run this several times a year for several years to create a habit of helping your neighbour. "This then becomes a grassroots network of care and support for those in need," said Mr Bolte. Townsville City Council Mayor, Cr Les Tyrell OAM said he was proud of the work of the city's churches. "What the churches do in this city is the envy of other Queensland Councils." The next N2N event will be held in May this year.

For more information or to register for help or to volunteer visit www.n2n.churchin.org.au



What are you doing to prepare for the **35th anniversary** of the Uniting Church in Australia this June?



Look out for a new study resource in *Journey* in May.

Taking a stand on pokies

HOW long can David fight Goliath – I refer to the pokies reform battle – without help from the churches?

Would the Roman Catholic church join the fray? They are compromised by support for their social projects from pokies income.

In fact, the Uniting Church is in much the same position. It has a history of anti-gambling policies but it has not been loud about gambling recently because it uses grants from state gambling venues for its good works.

At the risk of being accused of hypocrisy, as J.B. Shaw wrote in Major Barbara, the Salvation Army would take money from the devil himself to fight the devil. Is there any "clean" money? I am reminded of the old Methodist storekeeper who would not sell saddles to jockeys but would sell hay for the horses.

The Uniting Church seems pretty laid-back about pokies. Many of our members like to enjoy relatively cheap meals and shows in comfortable surroundings, set apart in the clubs from the clatter of the machines where the users doggedly pursue the urge to win, regardless.

The clubs tell us it is only

a small minority that are reckless gamblers and we should ignore them.

The clubs provide leaflets on counselling for their addiction. But how can we ignore the financial disasters, suicides, and desperation of families and individuals affected by this compulsion?

We think that it is a loveable part of our national identity, to like a "flutter", but are we not also a people concerned for our mates? Even if pokie addiction does not affect our own family, let us support those trying to ameliorate its evils, in spite of the massive resistance of Clubs Australia.

After all, Western Australia has banned poker machines, so it's not as if clubs can't do without them. Let the whole community support clubs, rather than just those with addictive behaviours.

Gwenda Spencer
The Gap



The Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce is highly involved in standing up on this issue, but more work is always needed.
– Editor

Enjoying the year of belonging

WHAT a fabulous edition! Focusing on belonging (February *Journey*), our belonging to God's kingdom and, very importantly, how we might truly encourage the welcoming and belonging of others.

Lately I've been engaging with colleagues in the church on the Luke 14 material which is comprised of strategies such as Bible study guides and action ideas to help us welcome people with disabilities and others into our worship communities. And in this process I've been hoping and praying that individuals

and congregations can build a desire and openness to truly welcome others, but especially those who generally do not belong or at least have not yet been welcomed.

My hopes for this work are raised seeing *Journey* focusing on belonging throughout 2012.

And what a wonderful mission statement; my congratulations to the people of Uniting Communications.

Greg Mackay
UnitingCare Social
Justice Director



Journeying together

REGARDING your column (February *Journey*) "Where is the Moderator?"

What a wonderful way to start the conversation for the year ahead. It gives us an opportunity to pray for the Moderator.

Prayer keeps the

conversation alive. It is another way of saying we belong and are together on a journey.

Thank you!

Mercy Dunn
Emu Park



Find Uniting Church Queensland on Facebook

Uniting Church Queensland |



Facebook comments

Reflecting on the anniversary of the apology to Australia's Indigenous people

Sometimes it feels like a long way and sometimes it feels like not very far at all.

Michelle Cook

How are you marking Shrove Tuesday?

I cooked some pancakes and brought them to work and asked people to make a gold coin donation to the Maranoa Combined Christian Churches Flood relief appeal.

Matt Gees

Got up early to make my housemates pancakes. One of my housemates turned 25 today, so I made her a 2 and a 5 pancake. Nice start to the day!"

Josephne Ann Scarlett

Shared with my kids the significance of today and then made pancakes for breakfast. My kids then also to took them to school for morning tea. Then I visited friends for a pancake morning tea.

Linda Hanson

February *Journey*

Great issue Mardi and all the team at Uniting Communications!

Lyndelle Gunton

Loving the new ideas for 2012.

Matt Gees

Why I hate Religion (but love Jesus) YouTube video

I think it is a very confusing and contradictory commentary on what it means to follow Jesus. Interesting that he says Jesus criticises being self-righteous but comes across himself as high handed and judgemental about 'religion' which Jesus did not come to abolish, but to fulfil.

Peter Lockhart

Login and have your say now!

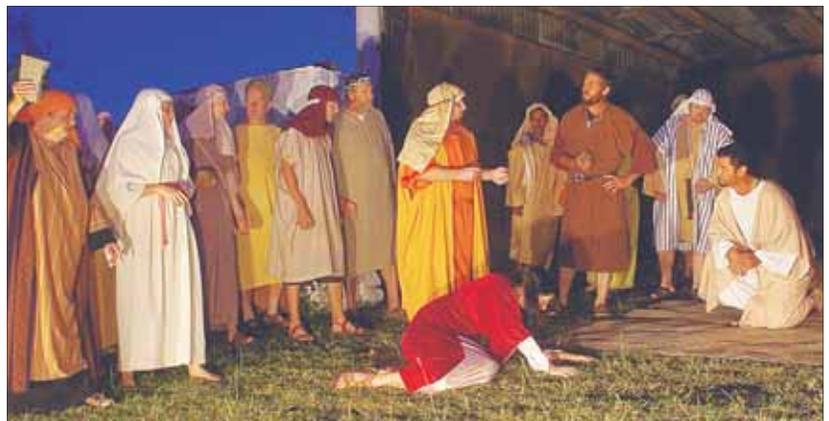
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The Passion Play cast re-enacting John 8, the woman caught in adultery. Photo by Frank Brown

Passion play enjoys 20th year

IN its 20th year, the Moogerah Passion Play, staged annually at Lake Moogerah, is as vibrant as ever.

The live re-enactment of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, held

against a stunning natural backdrop, has become a drawcard for the region.

Keith Harris, Interim Moogerah Passion Play Association Inc President, said the Play is an important outreach

to the community and a vital ministry within itself to those who take part in it as cast, crew and support.

Performances will be on 31 March, 1 April, 6-7 April at 5pm. Admission is free; however donations are gratefully received.

For more information visit www.moogerahpassionplay.org.au

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www.lightup.com.au

What is your greatest life lesson?



I'm glad I learnt to swim because we got a new swimming pool.

Kell Jones, 9, Indooroopilly Uniting Church

Kell Jones.
Photo by Lyndelle Gunton

Be very specific in your prayers and one we get told all the time, but I learnt the hard way: **do not drive tired!**

Kate Wilson, 22, Iona West Uniting Church evening congregation

Don't wait for someone to give you permission to say no

to something or else you will end up being so preoccupied with trying to keep everyone else happy that you don't realise that it is at the expense of your own happiness. This doesn't make you a martyr, it just makes you unhappy.

Anna Mulcahy, 26, Pomona Uniting Church

Take the plastic off the meat before you put it in the oven. Write the deceased's name on every page of your funeral notes. But more seriously, when I was growing up I had an autograph book and I always remember the entry my grandmother put in: **"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable –if anything is excellent or praise worthy–think about such things"** Phil 4:8. I reckon that's a pretty good life principle.

Rev Anne Harley, 57, Mount Louisa House of Praise, Townsville

My biggest life lesson was being a registered nurse and coming through the First and Second World War and seeing the changes it made in the world – some for the better and some for worse.

I also believe it's important to **keep life simple**. I enjoy growing my own vegetables and keeping up with current affairs and what's going on in the world.

I'm happy to say at 107 I still have all my faculties and bearings about me.

Audrey Winkler, 107, Blue Care Talleyhaven Aged Care Facility, Gold Coast, resident

My greatest life lesson would be the importance of staying in contact with **your family and always enjoying the time you spend with them.**

Keeping up with the little ones as they come along and having them come visit you, keeps you young.

I am very close with everyone in my family and know I can always rely on them if I need anything.

Joan Byster, 87, Blue Care's Sandgate Respite Care client



Blue Care Sandgate Community Care Nurse Manager Karen Mackin and Blue Care Sandgate Respite Care client Joan Byster share a laugh. Photo courtesy of Blue Care



Hi my name is Alex Gow!

5th Gow Family Generation

You may have heard me talking on the radio about funeral pre planning. My dad says planning ahead for a funeral service is one of the best things you can do for your family. The Alex Gow 'Guide to Thoughtful Funeral Pre-Planning' will really help.

If you would like a FREE copy of the guide please fill out this coupon or call my Dad on 3852 1501 and please mention my name Alex Gow!

Alex Gow Funerals
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