

Spicer *Matters*



April 2017

From Judi



I read this story about yielding oneself to Christ. I do not know who originally wrote it – it has been doing the rounds for years – but I think it has been put rather nicely.

‘At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die.

He was out there sort of like a president.

I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn’t know Him.

But later on when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal.

I don’t know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since.

When I had control, I knew the way.

It was rather boring, but predictable . . .

It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds, it was all I could do to hang on!

Even though it looked like madness, he said, “Pedal!”

I worried and was anxious and asked, “Where are You taking me?”

He laughed and didn’t answer, and I started to learn to trust.

I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure.

And when I’d say, “I’m scared,” He’d lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me gifts to take on my journey, my Lord's and mine. And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light. I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it; but He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, knows how to fly to shorten scary passages.

And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ. And when I'm sure I just can't do anymore, He just smiles and says . . . "Pedal!"

My prayer for us is that we can trust Jesus enough to let him be on the front of the tandem bike.

Blessings

Judi



Church Council

On behalf of your Church Council, I would like to belatedly welcome you all to 2017 which we pray will be an interesting, educational, inspiring and enjoyable year ahead.

With Easter fast approaching, it is a time for all Christians to reflect on their Faith and Love for our Lord. The sacrifices willingly made by Jesus to absolve the sins of all mankind and to show us all His Love and Forgiveness. This is a most sacred time in our Christian calendar and we urge all to prayerfully consider themselves, their families, the country and the world issues at this time. You are welcome to all or any of the Spicer Easter Services being Maundy Thursday (13/4) at 7.30 pm, Good Friday (14/4) at 9 am and Easter Sunday (16/4) at 10 am.

We are very excited to welcome Sue Harding to Council. Since Sue joined in September last year, she has played a key role and her involvement has been most helpful. It is with sadness we report that Melanie West has decided to leave Council due to various pressures but has undertaken to assist where possible, particularly regarding children's ministry. All the Councillors contribute to the management of the Church, with spiritual and pastoral care a heavy emphasis.

Should anyone have any issues or suggestions they would like raised at Church Council, please feel free to discuss it with any member of Council. The names of all Councillors are listed on the back of each edition of Spicer Matters.

Thank you to our RAD committee for all the work they do to manage our finances and ensure our property is well maintained. Thank you also to all the members of our Congregation who selflessly perform duties or help others to ensure the continual and efficient running of Spicer and our outreach to the community.

The year ahead has many fun and interesting events planned such as the Quiz Night and Car/Walk Rally as well as some of our regular events. We hope everyone participates and enjoys these functions in the way it is intended.

We also have more serious programs this year. Mental health is a large and increasing concern in our society. To help us better understand this illness, Judi has arranged for Rev Mark Boyce to conduct seven evening sessions on various areas of concern. The first session was held on 27/2 in the Mark Room as a general introduction. Further sessions will be held on the fourth Monday of each month from March to August. If you are interested in any aspect of this topic, we would love to see you there and please feel free to mention it to anyone you know who may have an interest.

The Spicer Church Council is actively involved with the wellbeing of all members of the Congregation and the wider community and would appreciate any feedback or suggestions you may have.

Yours in Christ

Spicer Church Council



Athena's Wedding



SPICER DINNER 2017

- IN REWIND

- Consensus that best Spicer dinner in memory
- Great conversations, great fellowship
- Great pitching in by all able bodied to clean up, wash up, put away tables and chairs
- Deserved three cheers for the Chef, no **our** chef, Paul
- Sweet teeth sated (even Lucas) by an array of desserts that delighted all
- Superbly cooked beef, lamb and pork carved by an expert keeping it juicy and succulent
- Fresh and zingy salads, baked spuds with and without sour cream, teeny tiny crispy bacon and spring onion
- Gravy (aka "mud") made from real stock made on the day in the Spicer kitchen
- Individual Spanokopita enjoyed by the non carnivores
- Long table dining on a perfectly warm, still, autumn night
- Light the candles, turn on the out door lights
- Tasty variety of dips and mingling in the atrium



- Bubbles and ginger Apple punch to get conversations started
- Many skilled dessert makers delivering their desserts
- BBQ brought on the back of big ute, to cook roasts, both ovens cranked for the spuds and overflow roast and squash
- Cutting and removing seeds from 30 odd miniature spaghetti squash
- Team to put out tables, chairs, table cloths, cutlery, glasses, candle holders
- Team of salad makers cutting, slicing, dicing, washing, shaking
- Wash, oil and wrap in foil 60 odd spuds
- Connect the bubbles/punch receptacles
- Shop at the supermarket, greengrocer and butcher and bring to Spicer
- Erect the overhead lights
- Marinate the lamb
- Draw up the shopping lists
- Promote and sell the tickets
- Well done on deciding to commit



Thanks to salad team – Carmen Karen Jane C and Pam and Jill, Set up team – Jon, Peter and Steve R, Ian for lights, Karen, Paul and Pam for shopping and list making, Steve R and Anne Wilson for dips, Pam for vego provisions, the too many to name dessert makers, Paul for

wonderful calm expertise, meat cooking, carving, spud cooking and toppings, salad dressing, and much, much more.

Put next year's dinner in your diary the MINUTE the date is set so as not to double book!



Spicer Community Lunch

The Travels, Trials and Tribulations of Doug Mullett

Our March luncheon was addressed by Doug Mullett, a close friend of Dennis Stidston, both of whom have connections with the Royal Australian Air Force. Apart from travel, Doug's main activities have been school teaching and lay preaching.

In the 1980's Doug's main travel destinations involved the relative comfort of aeroplanes and motoring when he and his mother visited the UK, New Zealand, Mount Kosciusko, Cooktown, Ayers Rock and Darwin.

In 2008 Doug undertook two world trips totalling 229 days with visits to the USA, Canada, England, France, Spain, Andorra, Italy, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, Japan, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Mongolia, Turkey and Egypt. He also visited Russia (where he experienced the thrill of the Trans Siberian Railway) and China, where the multi coloured water fountains of Sian made a particularly lasting impression. These visits are commemorated with 4400 photographs!

Back in Australia, Doug made 50 visits to Perth by car and motor bike. He passed through many outback towns such as Nundroo, Menzies, Leonora and Laverton, each with their own claims to fame.

On many of these trips he learned to ride a motor bike on sand but, unfortunately, he was not able to avoid serious accidents. At Tibooburra he fell off his bike, suffered four broken ribs, and was flown by the Royal Flying Doctor Service to Adelaide via Moomba where another seriously ill patient had to be picked up.

Doug now strongly supports the RFDS in return for the fact that the Service did not charge him for his emergency evacuation. To raise money for the RFDS he travelled by motor bike to Townsville, Cairns, Undarra (where he saw the famous Lava Tubes), Hughenden (where he visited Cubbold Gorge), Winton, Boulia, Alice Springs (where he saw Kings Canyon), Ayers Rock, Lightning Ridge and Ingham.



Tragically, at 11.15 am on May 17, 2015, Doug lost control of his bike and went through his windscreen at 105 KPH. He was taken by ambulance to Yulara where he underwent an emergency operation without the benefit of anaesthetic (only pain killers). He was then flown to Alice Springs. On June 9 he developed blood clots in his lungs, caused by a fractured shoulder blade, and spent 3 days in the Intensive Care Unit of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne.

Doug's main regret is that his injuries have prevented him adding to his record of 317 blood donations, but he hopes to get to 400 before he is finished! No doubt the Royal Flying Doctor Service wants him to get there too.

Mental Health

Anxiety



The second of our mental health seminars will be led by

Rev Mark Boyce

Monday 24 April

7.30 pm

Mark Room

For your April calendar

Sun 2	Messy Church	4.30 pm
Tues 4	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
	Movie Group	TBA
	Lenten Study	7.30 pm
Sat 8	Eat Pray Care	10 am
Sun 9	Church Picnic, Richards Park	10.30 am
Mon 10	Soup making	7 pm
Tues 11	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
Wed 12	Just COS	10 am
Thurs 13	Maundy Thursday service	7.30 pm
Fri 14	Good Friday service	9 am
Sun 16	Easter Day service	10 am
Wed 19	Church Council	7.30 pm
Thurs 20	Community Lunch	12 noon
Mon 24	RAD	7.30 pm
	Mental Health workshop – Anxiety	7.30 pm
Wed 26	Just COS	10 am

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday 9 April

10.30 am

Richards Park

Even numbers please bring a salad,
odd numbers please bring a dessert



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hrs: Tue–Thur 9am–3.30pm; Fri 9am–2.30pm



Deadline for next issue

Please have all articles to Anne by Sun 23 April