

Spicer *Matters*



December 2017/January 2018

From Judi



As many of you would know, our latest grandchild, Darcy Elizabeth, was born in November and she is GORGEOUS!!!

The birth or adoption of a baby has a massive impact on a family – bringing many changes. Those changes are not just in the lives of the parents or siblings but they ripple out to the extended family of grandparents, aunts and uncles, and still further to friends and acquaintances as social commitments and spending patterns change.

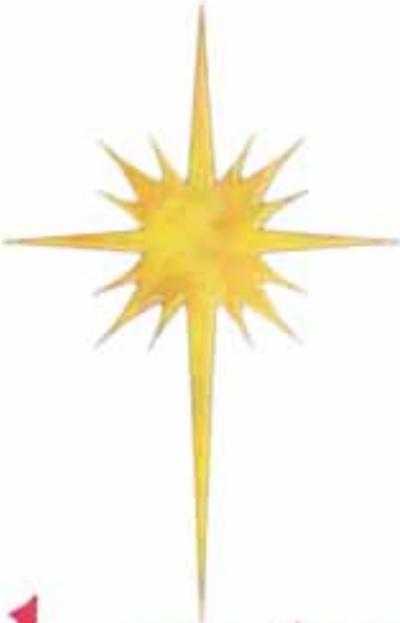
The birth of Darcy, along with Jacob and Maddy have seen massive changes in our family. But the most profound change came with the birth of a baby over 2000 years ago. When Jesus was born the world was turned upside down (or maybe right side up). Mary and Joseph loved him, shepherds and wise ones from the east worshipped him. Their lives were transformed and, as Jesus grew into adulthood, the world was changed. His interpretation of Scripture and the way he lived out that interpretation changed the lives of those he encountered. He treated those who were usually ignored, forgotten or simply not seen as people of great worth, knowing that they, and all people, were priceless to God.

This Advent and Christmas season I pray that Christ will transform us – opening our eyes and our hearts to those who may usually be ignored or not seen – like the shop assistant, the call centre worker, the street person, the refugee and the person in an aged care home. May we choose to treat these, and all, fellow priceless children of God with respect, dignity and love. I trust that in doing so we will discover again the love, peace, hope and joy of this season.

Blessings

Judi

*Rediscover the
Christmas story...*



**Carols
in the
Amphitheatre**



**Ingle Farm Salvation Army Brass Band
and
Children's Nativity**

Sunday 17th December 7:30pm
Dunstone Grove, Stepney
(opposite The Avenues Shopping Centre)

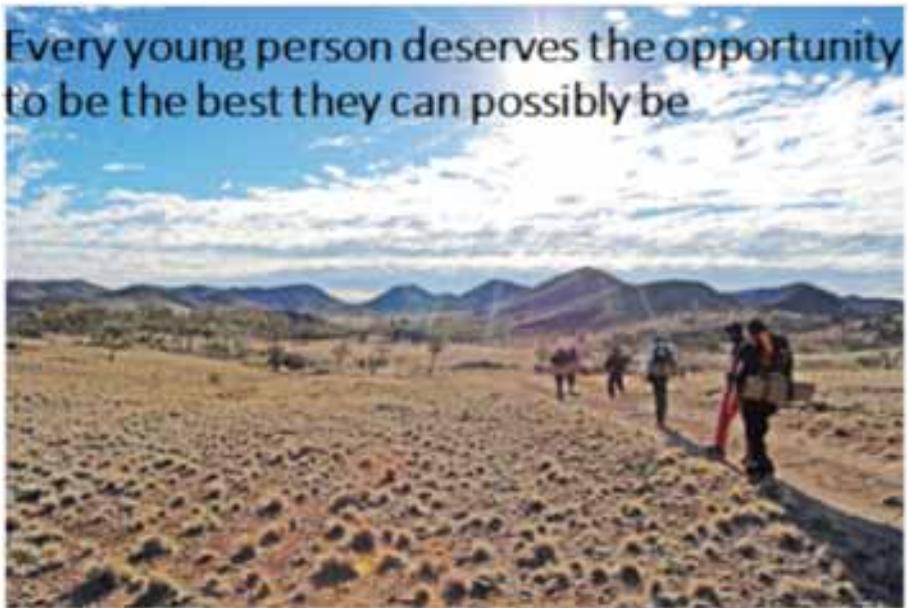
Free sausage sizzle

Spicer
Uniting Church
44a Fourth Avenue, St Peters
www.spicer.org.au

Spicer Community Lunch

Turning Lives Around With 'Operation Flinders'

Our November speaker was our own Carolyn MacDonald, who gave an illustrated insight into the contribution by 'Operation Flinders' (OF) to the development of young people in South Australia. OF is a privately funded, non-profit, organisation which provides a challenging form of phone-free outdoor education on various properties in the Flinders Ranges to unhappy youngsters, aged 14 to 19, who exhibit antisocial behaviour at their school, which school nominates participation in the program.



OF has 9 staff members, over 500 volunteers, and has helped over 7000 students (18 per cent indigenous), 61 per cent being male and 39 per cent female. It costs \$1.5 million in total to run each year, but the cost per participant is only \$1650, which is tiny compared with the saving to the community of preventing one juvenile becoming delinquent: it should be noted that 20 per cent of young people become involved with the juvenile justice system each year. OF runs 6 expeditions or 'exercises' each year, with each expedition comprising 10 teams of 10 youths each



team under the supervision of 4 leaders. It is an extremely labour intensive operation. An expedition lasts one week and involves walking 100 km over steep terrain.

Each expedition relies on canned food packed by volunteers and equipment such as rucksacks and sleeping gear. Once the first site has been reached, walking is the only option. All cooking is on open fires so there has to be a supply of firewood provided in advance. Participants get experience in digging latrines, radio, navigation, cooking and cleaning up refuse on leaving each site. Needless to say, there is often strong resistance to giving what is being asked of them.

The daily routine begins with physical exercise, a new experience for many, and walking continues through the day. The provision of food and water provides an incentive to get out of bed each morning.

The sheer drudgery and pain of walking long distances is relieved by abseiling, supervised by trained instructors who help the participants conquer their natural fear of heights. Another highlight is contact with the local Adnyamathanka community, whose Elders speak to the group. There are other confidence building exercises such as making useful things out of everyday materials and map reading. A new experience for everybody is to watch the desert sunset for 30 minutes in silence.

The highlight of the final night of the expedition is a fresh food barbecue and birthday cake. For most, this is their first experience of this type of family activity. Those participants who have shown leadership potential are encouraged to undertake training to assist with subsequent camps. And, for many of them, this is a substitute for the family life they have never known.

In summary, for most of the participants, the experience generates self-confidence and respect, the opportunity to set goals and to excel in achieving them, while being part of a team.

Presbytery & Synod

The Presbytery and Synod meeting opened with a time of worship and prayer, and a Welcome to Country. Moderator Sue Ellis invited members to be part of a Church that nurtures and matures, where people seek to live the life of Jesus. She encouraged members to imitate Jesus' humility, to never stop learning and growing, and to focus on what draws us together, rather than on what divides us.



Protestant Reformation

To recognise the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and the Uniting Church's identity as a Reformed Church, each member of Presbytery & Synod was asked to read at least one book on the topic within the next 12 months.

Detention of refugees on Manus Island

Members were informed about the situation facing those refugees who have remained in the detention centre on Manus Island since its official closure. The statement issued by Uniting Church President Stuart McMillan earlier this month was commended.

The escalation of the situation Thursday, with PNG police entering the centre to remove the remaining refugees was recognised.

Members and congregations are encouraged to 'join in community actions that call for the Australian Government to evacuate the men on Manus Island to Australia to await resettlement, to ensure their safety and security, and to find safe haven for the acknowledged genuine refugees without further delay', as well as to 'contact Federal MPs by letters, emails or phone calls to express their grave concern for the refugees and asylum seekers on Manus Island, and to ask Government MPs to ensure that the Government expedites a humane response to the continuing crisis unfolding for the refugees and asylum seekers on Manus.'

Resources presentation

The Resources Board Report provided a brief update on key projects – the Brooklyn Park refurbishment (including Uniting College and Emmaus Christian College) and Uniting Venues SA developments.

The proposed Mission & Service Fund Budget forecasts a balanced budget for 2018.

Risk management and compliancy with Work Health & Safety regulations was addressed. Several common property and insurance issues that people in churches may need to deal with in order to keep people safe were highlighted.

Intergenerational Team presentation

A presentation on intergenerational ministry was given, including an explanation of intentionally intergenerational ministry and its connection to lifelong discipleship for people of all ages. Members were invited to play a special version of 'rock, paper, scissors, cheer squad' to demonstrate the ease with which people can engage with one another across generations. Congratulations to Kerry who is the SA Presbytery & Synod 'rock, paper, scissors cheer squad' champ!



Photo courtesy Catherine Hoffman

Ways the Intergen Team can resource congregations to be intergenerational were shared. These included church consultations, Remind Refresh Resource days, supporting and promoting local church events, and resources (books, digital resources, etc.).

Members were guided through the intergenerational ministry resources available on the Uniting Church SA website, also highlighting intergenerational events and programs.

Congress presentation

Several members of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (Congress) took the stage to share stories from 2017.

Rev Denise Champion emphasised the importance of young people stepping into leadership roles, and spoke about the significance of a 2017 trip to Canada to take part in a Reconciliation Dialogue with the United Church in Canada.

Two people then shared their experiences as Congress interns. One also spoke about the launch of the Marion Congress faith community earlier in 2017, and his experience leading a Walking on Country. The other shared stories from working with young people at Oodnadatta.

Presbytery & Synod was informed about the challenges of ministry and worship in Oodnadatta, particularly the difficulties posed by the remote location, extreme weather and lack of a church building. Church members were asked to think about the work being done through the Oodnadatta faith community and to pray for the community. Please check the poster in the hall for more information.

Encounter Church video

Members watched a video from Encounter Church, a church plant that has been established through the Generate 2021 program. The video is available on the November Presbytery and Synod meeting page.

Bible study

On Friday, Craig Mitchell led members in a Bible study based on John 15:1–17. He spoke about discipleship and abiding in Christ. He followed it up on Saturday with a Bible study on Acts 2:42–47. He spoke about intentional Christian community, abiding with Jesus' followers, characteristics of the early Church and practices of fruitful congregations.

Uniting Leaders

The Uniting Leaders project will run over the next three years as a collaboration between the SA and Queensland Synods. Uniting Leaders will offer conferences, courses and consultancy to grow, encourage and equip leaders in the Uniting Church.



Conversation on marriage

The Assembly General Secretary outlined how the Uniting Church will continue to have conversations about marriage. She spoke about the pastoral statement released by the President and Moderators prior to the announcement of the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, the public debate that has been happening on this topic, and the work the Church has already done in conversations around same-gender relationships. She detailed the processes and conversations that have been taking place, and how these will inform a report being prepared by the Doctrine Working Group for the 2018 Assembly meeting. Emphasis was placed on the need for culturally appropriate conversations, and the importance of the feedback provided by members of the SA Synod.

Working groups met at different locations across Adelaide West Uniting Church and Uniting College for Leadership & Theology to engage in conversations about marriage. The groups were asked to address three topics/questions to provide feedback to Assembly. Each group was led by a facilitator and was provided with a feedback form to be sent to Assembly.

Conversation on sovereignty and treaty

All members of congregations are encouraged to commit to working for the goals expressed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart (a copy is available from the office).

Members broke into working groups to discuss the paper. Feedback will be provided to Assembly in preparation for discussion of this issue at the 2018 Assembly meeting.

Conversation on Presbytery and Synod structure

A conversation about Presbytery and Synod structures was held. It was emphasised that this is just the beginning of this future-focussed conversation. A video titled "Who is the Real Uniting Church?", which is available to view online, was shown to members, who then broke into table groups to discuss the resourcing document and write responses on a form provided. This feedback will be collated to inform ongoing conversations at Standing Committee and discussions at the next Presbytery and Synod meeting.

Kerry & Anne

I would also like to thank the volunteers who helped with the three Presbytery & Synod elections. Special thanks go to Peter for designing a spreadsheet that enabled me to provide the Standing Committee and Assembly results on the day (always a difficult process due to the required makeup of these groups). It's certainly the first time since I've been a member we've been able to call the Assembly election on the day! – Anne

For your December calendar

Fri 1	Gingerbread House Building	7 pm
Sat 2	Gingerbread House Building	2 pm
Sun 3	Messy Church	4.30 pm
Tues 5	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
	Movie Group	
Sat 9	Eat Pray Care	10 am
Sun 10	Congregational Meeting	After church
Tues 12	Playgroup	10 am
	Christmas Lunch	11.45 am
Wed 13	Just COS Christmas breakup	10 am
Sun 17	Carols in the Amphitheatre	7.30 pm
Mon 18	RAD (if needed)	7.30 pm
Wed 20	Church Council (if needed)	7.30 pm
Thurs 21	Community Lunch	12 noon
Mon 25	Christmas Day service	9 am

For your January calendar

Sun 28	Farewell BBQ lunch for Judi	After church
Tues 30	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am

2018 Social Calendar (Draft)

January:

Sun 28

Farewell BBQ lunch for Judi after church. Group photo to be taken

March:

Sat 17

SA Election booth at Spicer – BBQ

Tues 20, Wed 21, Thurs 22, Fri 23

Easter Sights and Sounds

April:

Sat 28

Church Dinner

May:

Sat 26

Family Fun Night

July:

Sun 29

BBQ lunch after church

August:

Sat 25

Music Night

October:

Sat 20

Spicer Fete

November:

Sun 11

Picnic Service

Thurs 29, Fri 30

Gingerbread House Making

December

Sat 1

Gingerbread House Making

Sun 23

Carols in the Amphitheatre

Ministry Team

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Office Administrator

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Playgroup Coordinator

Margaret Just
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Children's Ministry Coordinator

Church Council

Jane Allen
Sue Harding
Warwick Jarrett (Sec)
Julia Lloyd-Jones
Pam McEwin
Jill Miller
Michael Whitehead (Chair)

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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 21 January