

Spicer

Matters



March 2017

From Judi



We are about to enter Lent. Lent is the 40 days (less Sundays) before Easter, starting this year on March 1, (Ash Wednesday) and concluding on Easter Saturday. Lent is part of the rich history of the Christian church, and was observed from the 3rd Century AD. Lent was even observed before Christmas.* It was thought that Jesus spent 40 hours in the tomb and Lent was originally a 40 hour fast for those who were about to be baptised (which usually happened on Easter Sunday).

Over time, all Christians (as well as those preparing for baptism), fasted for 40 hours and eventually the Lenten fast was lengthened to the current 40 days.

40 is a significant number in the Bible. In the story of the flood (Noah's Ark) it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years (Moses) and Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days and nights after his baptism.

Lenten fasts can include 'giving up' something for Lent and instead using the time or money to focus on God and our relationship with God through reflection and/or giving to charities such as Lent Event. This Lent I invite you to also reflect on your identity as a follower of Jesus. We will be looking at 'Who are we?' each Sunday through Lent. We will also have a Lenten Study focusing on the major stories of Jesus on his way to the cross.

I trust that this Lent you will discover a closer relationship with God who calls each of us 'beloved.'

Blessings

Judi

*information from *Seasons of the Spirit* 2005

BBQ Lunch

We held a BBQ lunch on Sunday 29/1/2017 to celebrate the end of holidays for some and the return to work or school and life as usual. Tim reminded us during the service that it was also "Candlemass" being 40 days since Christmas, so we included that celebration as well.

A good crowd stayed for lunch which was cooked outside and eaten at tables in the hall. There was certainly plenty of movement and discussion by all attendees during the meal. There was ample for all and a good selection to be enjoyed. A surprising number of people made comment on the "Bubble and Squeak" burgers so we will try to include them in future functions.

Between courses, the birthdays for the month were also celebrated with a lovely rainbow cake (thanks to Marilyn) and a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday.

A big thank you to all who helped with the setup and cleanup and for the lovely salads and desserts provided. A special thank you to Cheryl, Chris and Jacinta for their much appreciated efforts in making the day a success.



Lenten Studies

Tuesday evenings

at

7.30 pm

in Luke room

Beginning

7 March

Looking at major events in Jesus' journey to the cross.

Spicer Community Lunch



Making Working Life a Safer Life

Our first community lunch for the year was addressed by Sharon Brock, a friend of Roslyn who met Sharon in the Strength for Life program of the YMCA.

Sharon has devoted much of her working life to saving lives and injuries in the home and the work place, both in Australia and abroad, through occupational health and safety (OHS). Her tools of trade include fire retardant overalls, safety boots, protection for head, eyes, ears and skin, a first aid kit and a 2 way radio. She now raises money for the WA Breast Cancer Awareness Program through the sale of safety boots, a program which has so far raised over a million dollars.

Safety training and situation assessment are part of OHS. Sharon pointed out that females are particularly suited to this role, simply because they are both observant and good listeners. Her working day began with a 'tool box' meeting in the work place involving alcohol breath analysis, a debriefing of the previous day, a check of protective clothing and the status of various licensing requirements.

In Northern Australia the main sources of danger include the harsh weather, boggy and slippery roads, road trains, heavy hand tools, the need for electricians and others to work at great heights on cranes, 'simultaneous operations' which involve the use of different machinery on the same project, the transfer by winch of containers from one truck to another, moving beam pumps on oil fields, and attacks from wild pigs and snakes. Extended working hours and weeks associated with being away from friends and family through 'Fly In Fly Out' are also a problem in maintaining vigilance in the work place in a hostile, dangerous and unforgiving environment.

Sharon has also worked in the Middle East, in Qatar. This is a city state, modelled on Venice of all places, with a population of only two million sitting on an estimated 200 years' supply of oil. Everything else has to be imported. Oil production, and the supply of labour for that which cannot be imported, depend on migrant labour willing to work for low wages in cramped living conditions with 6 persons per room. In this situation, management is tempted to put a very low priority on safety. For example, crane drivers can be expected to spend 2 whole days and nights suspended in their crane cabin.

Sharon finished on a happier note, describing her association with orphanages in Rwanda.

We are all grateful to Sharon for sharing part of her working life with us.

Mental Health

Depression



The second of our mental health seminars will be led by

Rev Mark Boyce

Monday 27 March

7.30 pm

Mark Room

Spicer Church Dinner

Saturday 18 March 2017

6.30 pm

Pre-dinner drinks and Steve's dips in the Atrium

Roasts and Salads

Dessert

BYO drinks

Tickets:	Adult	\$15.00
	Concession	\$10.00
	Family	\$40.00

Ticket sales close Monday 13 March -
no late bookings will be accepted

Vego will be available with a Vego ticket only - please
no last minute conversions no matter how yummy the
vego option looks!

A big thank you to Paul Reid (retired chef) for taking on
the cooking!

Spicer
Uniting Church

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For your March calendar

Sun 5	Messy Church	4.30 pm
Tues 7	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
	Lenten Study (Luke room)	7.30 pm
	Movie Group	TBA
Sat 11	Eat Pray Care	10 am
Tues 14	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
	Lenten Study	7.30 pm
Wed 15	Church Council	7.30 pm
Thurs 16	Spicer Community Lunch	12 noon
Sat 18	Spicer Church Dinner	6 pm
Mon 20	RAD	7.30 pm
Tues 21	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
	Lenten Study	7.30 pm
Wed 22	Just COS	10 am
Mon 27	Mental Health – Depression	7.30 pm
Tues 28	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
	Lenten Study	7.30 pm

Youth Group

Although it was too cold for our pool party, youth group went ahead with a games day at the home of the Diprose family (see cover photo). Our next event will be ice skating on Sunday 19th March.

Please see Judi or Steve Bottrill for details closer to the event.

Ministry Team

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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 19 March