

Spicer *Matters*



November 2017

From Judi



Last week we hosted our annual Spicer fair. We invited people into our space – the property of which we are stewards. Some loved the beautiful buildings – saying it ‘felt (and smelled) like the church we went to when we visited our grandmother.’

Inviting people into our ‘space’ is a first step. When we invite someone to be a part of our community we are opening ourselves up to change – to learning from the other and sharing our views, making room for every member. The differences and the similarities of each of us add to the multifaceted gem which is community.

Many of the communities of which we are a part are fairly homogenous. The church is one type of community where people from different walks of life learn to live with one another. We are different ages, we come from different backgrounds – some rural and some like me who have never lived further than 8 kms from where I live now. Some have even come from different countries. We have different levels of education and different hobbies. The thing that unites us is our faith in God or our desire to know God. While our diversity means that we may not always agree with everybody, as the people of God in this time and place, we choose to love each other. I see this in the care that is shown when people are ill or troubled, in the desire to pitch in and help at times such as the fair, and in the enthusiasm for mission. When we are at our best we are there for each other and for the community and God’s love is reflected in our actions.

Spicer is a wonderful community. Thank you for your part in making it a community of love.

Blessings

Judi

Spring Fair



We were truly blessed with a wonderful day. Starting with the perfect weather, we had a steady flow of visitors through out the morning up until lunch time (in saying that, it felt like numbers were down on previous years but obviously that was not the case).

A small sample poll of our visitors suggests all forms of advertising we undertook worked, from print advertising to radio advertising, to letter box dropping fliers, to our strategically placed signs with helium balloons and of course word of mouth.

Any big event like this can only be successful with the care, talents and effort of many people, starting with those of you who have been propagating, cooking, collecting and making items to sell days, weeks and months prior to the day.





Thank you to everyone who helped to set up in the days leading up to Saturday, for those of you who worked on the day, to the music group, to the advertising group, to those of you who donated something to the day, to those who packed up and delivered furniture in the afternoon, for those of you who

purchased items on the day, any anyone else I have left out, this was a real team effort.



So to the results (final figures)

Plants	860.40
Books	760.80
Devonshire Tea	569.55
Cakes	1,523.25
Bric-a-Brac	921.50
Craft	872.85
Clothing	766.55
Sausage Sizzle	373.59
Garage Sale Furniture	340.00
Donations (incl. band)	32.00

Total **\$7,020.49**

So all up a fantastic result!

Brenton Niven
RAD



Spicer Community Lunch



Our Visit to Your ABC

Our October community lunch was divided into two groups. The first group toured the ABC building before enjoying lunch at the ABC cafeteria with the second group, who then undertook their tour. As usual, October birthdays were celebrated. Incidentally the cafeteria is run by a contractor, thus saving overheads.

The multi story ABC building is an imposing landmark. At present it is undergoing extensive renovation and modification in order

to rent some of its floors to commercial tenants as a result of funding cuts. Needless to say, most floors offer commanding views of the city, suburbs and Adelaide hills which is an experience in itself.



Our two volunteer tour guides are former long term ABC employees who clearly still love the institution which they served for forty years. As we made our way to the radio and television studios we could see many photographs representing the long history of the organisation throughout many parts of regional Australia.



We discovered that a television studio can be a den of illusion. There are pieces of furniture here and there which are assembled, for example, to create the illusion that chefs are working in their own kitchens. Then there are lifelike backdrops to create the illusion that there is a



flowing river Torrens (Adelaide), Yarra (Melbourne), or Thames (London) behind the speaker: Reading the evening news looks like an easy task, but there is extensive preparation involved. In the context of filming, a backdrop which is coloured green can be used to create many illusions, for example, that Superman is actually flying, as visitors to Universal Studios in Hollywood would know.

We then moved on to the radio studio of Adelaide 89.1 to watch how local talk back radio and the receipt of text messages from listeners are handled. Of course, there is a time delay mechanism employed to ensure that profanities and slanderous comments are not aired. We also observed live discussions between the two ABC presenters in the studio.



Our final destination was the library which houses hundreds of thousands of vinyl records and compact discs. This invaluable resource is now in the care of only two librarians as a result of funding cuts.

Our sincere thanks go to Roslyn for organising this outing, and to the volunteer guides and ABC employees who made it so interesting.



An Informative Figure of Speech

September lunch was addressed by our own Julia Lloyd-Jones, a speech pathologist with the Education Department of South Australia. Julia began by outlining some of the main problems confronting speech pathologists: speech impediments due to difficulty in swallowing; stuttering; damage to the vocal chords; palsy; and access to language itself caused by lack of quality verbal communication within the family in early and later childhood.

Julia then moved on to an analysis of the differences between speech and language. Speech involves pronunciation, sounds and articulation, whereas language involves vocabulary and grammar, which allow speakers to impart their intended meaning to listeners.

Julia pointed to the world problem of lack of literacy, where literacy means the ability to use language in all its forms – written as well as spoken. In fact, one fifth of the world population is illiterate, a situation which has resulted from lack of schooling. As a result, illiterates have no access to books or newspapers. Instead, they have to rely on what they are told by government, politicians, and the clergy for information, and this creates a great lack of empowerment. Even worse, two thirds of illiterate people are female, which allows them to be also exploited by literate as well as illiterate males.

Perhaps more importantly, inability to read not only creates injustice and lack of personal fulfillment, it also perpetuates world ill health and poverty. This is because illiterate people have limited access to information on how to prevent and cure disease. And disease reduces their personal productivity, while inability to read makes them less employable and less able to access finance in order to become entrepreneurs and employ others in productive enterprise.

Unsurprisingly, the foundations for vocabulary are laid in the first four years of family life. As Julia showed, there is a marked difference between the vocabulary acquired at a given age by children with professional and other parents. Similarly, children of parents dependent on welfare are even more disadvantaged. It is also the case that failure to acquire effective language skills can lead to antisocial behaviour in later life, so it is no accident that the average literacy level of the prison population is very low. This creates an overwhelming argument for early intervention to raise literacy levels.

Reading (and selective thinking out loud) to preschool children not only increases their vocabulary, it also increases their motivation to learn to speak and to read. And this empowers them to write and gives an incentive to expand their vocabulary. This creates a real virtuous circle which all parents should be encouraged to exploit.

We are most grateful to Julia for giving us an insight into a subject which, as literates, we tend to take for granted. No doubt, as grandparents, we can exercise a positive and tactful influence on our children and grandchildren in promoting conversation and reading. This is vital at a time when silent online activity is so pervasive. And perhaps we should also include literacy programs in our charitable giving.

Baptism Month



For your November calendar

Sun 5	Car/Walk Rally Messy Church	After church 4.30 pm
Tues 7	Playgroup Lunch Movie Group	10 am 11.45 am
Wed 8	Just COS	10 am
Tues 14	Playgroup Lunch	10 am 11.45 am
Thurs 16	Community Lunch	12 noon
Mon 20	RAD	7.30 pm
Tues 21	Playgroup Lunch	10 am 11.45 am
Wed 22	Just COS Church Council	10 am 7.30 pm
Tues 28	Playgroup Lunch	10 am 11.45 am
Thurs 30	Gingerbread House Making	7.30 pm

Gingerbread House building

Thursday 30 November 7.30 pm

Friday 1 December 7.30 pm

Saturday 2 December 2.30 pm

Please book through the church office on 8362 3771 by Fri 24 November so that enough kits can be made.

Cost \$15. Included: house,
silver base, icing glue and
cellophane. BYO lollies.



Ministry Team

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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 19 November