

Spicer *Matters*



October 2017

From Judi



Many people will have received their voting papers in the Marriage Law Postal Survey. Some are asking what is the church's position in this. The Uniting Church is not of one mind in this. Since 2012, triennial Assemblies (3 yearly national meetings of the UCA) have looked at this issue and not come to any agreement. This year there have been several conversations about healthy relationships, marriage and other issues with people (lay and ordained) from every state and different cultures. Still there is no one view.

There is a great possibility for hurt in all of this. People who do not agree with changing the law on religious grounds (from how they understand the Bible or other religious books) can feel that their faith is threatened. People who read and understand the Bible differently can feel hurt that their understanding of biblical and other scholarship is marginalised. People who live in LGBTIQ+ relationships can feel that they are being judged. But one thing we all seem to agree on in the UCA, is the need for respectful conversations and the grace to really listen deeply to one another and to God.

As people of the church, as Christians, we can model gracious interaction by listening, by the use of careful language and being aware of differing cultural ways of engaging in sensitive topics such as sexuality.

Like the president of the UCA Assembly and the moderators of the state synods I pray that conversations about the survey will be anchored in grace and respect and love for our fellow human beings – children of God like us.

Blessings

Judi

Leadership Conferences

Thanks to the generosity of Spicer Church Council, I was able to attend two conferences earlier this year – the Fearless Youth and Leaders Conference, and the Uniting Leaders Conference.


Fearless Conference had two parts – a three day youth conference (19–21 July) and a one day leaders conference (22 July). The speakers were Mike Hands and Katie Iles. The sessions from the conference were based around fearless relationship – God, have mercy on me, a sinner; fearless eyes – *megaluno*, to magnify and see God for how big He actually is; fearless movement – *ekklesia*, a called out people, the community of church; fearless fighters – to be a lion-heart, ready to fight the darkness with the gospel of Jesus Christ; and fearless faith – Daniel 3:17–18, God is able to save us, but even if He does not, we will not bow to you – our faith is unconditional in response to His unconditional love. The leaders conference looked at discipleship – holding relationship, revelation and revolution together – and change in the church – our mission is always to grow and make disciples, but how we achieve this will change, and change requires energy.

The Uniting Leaders Conference (22–24 August) had two keynote speakers, Mark Conner and Nancy Beach. Mark spoke of re-imagining the church in his first session, focusing on Matthew 16:17–19 and how the church is Jesus' master project, a community that we're part of characterised by love. He also looked at Jesus' command in Luke 10:1–12, how we are to be blessings to our communities, build relationships with people, meet people's needs and then share the good news about Jesus. His second session was on successful Christian ministry – to value, live, love, grow, focus, share and fuel your ministry is to have a successful ministry. Mark's third session was on habits of healthy leaders – to retreat regularly (spiritual health), to deal with internal stress (emotional health), to keep growing (mental health), to develop healthy friendships (relational health), to keep healthy and fit (physical health).

Nancy's first session was on signs of a healthy culture: joy, intensity, self awareness, humility, trust, men and women working together with mutual respect, the commitment to speak candidly, and love. Her second session was on seasons of the soul, and how we may become absorbed in our own seasons and forget to look at other people's seasons, as well as what each season represents.

Kerry





jams &
cakes

Spring Fair.

Saturday
21 October
8.30am – 1.30pm

Spicer
Uniting Church

44a Fourth Avenue
St Peters

sausage
sizzle

coffee &
devonshire
tea

plants

pre-loved
books

craft

trash &
treasure

Spring Fair

It's only a few weeks to our major outreach and fundraising event for the year, the Spicer Spring Fair.

Now is the time to be sorting through your good quality excess items which might be suitable for the garage sale, or potting up clippings and herbs, making jams and chutneys, and making sure your diary has this event in it so that you can help either on the day and/or in the lead up to our event.

Maybe you have family and friends who would also like to donate some items to the cause?

- If you can make cakes, biscuits, slices, cupcakes, muffins, jam, marmalade, relish or anything yummy to eat that doesn't need refrigeration then the cake stall needs you and your produce. Contact Pam McEwin to offer help.
- If you'd like to help with the tea and coffee and delicious scones, then Michelle Moore needs you.
- If bric-a-brac/small garage sale items are your interest then speak to Deb Niven or if it's clothes please speak to Cheryl May.
- If you have a green thumb and can pot and/or help on the day, contact Teresita Bentick.
- For larger garage sale items please speak with Malcolm Germein.
- Books and magazines/DVD's and even vinyl records are always a big seller, if you can donate or wish to help then contact Jane Cooke.
- Cards/craft then speak to Sue Harding.
- BBQ let Warwick Jarrett know that you can help.

In the couple of weeks leading up to the event we will need to letter box drop a flyer in the St Peters area. If you can assist with this task please see Pam McEwin.

Our Garage sale and fair is such a great opportunity for us to showcase and connect our church with the local community, so don't forget to ask your neighbours, family and work mates to come along too!

Music Night

The annual Spicer Music Night was held on Saturday 2 September, to the great enjoyment of all who attended. It was a great fun night that was very well attended – the music and singing seems to get better every year!

Many thanks to the band and singers for all the dedication, hard work and long hours that went into the event, and special thanks to Mike Whitehead, Ian Johnson and Peter and Anne Wilson for all the hard work that went into the production. A big thank you also to Steve who stepped in as drummer at short notice.

Last but not least, thanks to all who came along, and another special thanks to all those who helped with setting up and packing up, we can't do it without you!

Bring on 2018!



Spicer Community Lunch

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 cords; 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.



Basketball



Spicer basketball club had a very successful season during 2017, with three teams competing. The Under 12s team improved their skills and teamwork during the year, and managed four wins and a draw, finishing 4th on the ladder with 103%. The Under 14s team, who have been playing together for 7 years had their best season ever, winning 18 games in a row and finishing with 432%! The Open men's team finished 3rd on the ladder with 9 wins out of 15 but unfortunately went down in the Grand final 31 to 44. The players would like to thank the coaches, scorers, parents and supporters from Spicer who came along to watch. Everyone is looking forward to the 2018 season.



For your October calendar

Tues 3	Movie Group	TBA
Sun 8	Baptism	10 am
Wed 11	Just COS	10 am
Sat 14	Eat Pray Care	10 am
Tues 17	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
Wed 18	Church Council	7.30 pm
Thurs 19	Community Lunch ABC Tour	TBC
Sat 21	Spicer Fair	9 am
Sun 22	Baptism	10 am
Mon 23	RAD	7.30 pm
Tues 24	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
Wed 25	Just COS	10 am
Tues 31	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am



Ministry Team

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Warwick Jarrett (Sec)
Julia Lloyd-Jones
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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 22 October