

# Spicer *Matters*



**September 2016**

# From Judi



What a busy couple of months this has been. We have been involved in the usual Sunday morning services, Messy Church, playgroup, community lunch, craft and basketball activities. A group have also been having Bible Study over the past couple of months.

Other events in which we have been involved have had a wider impact such as making soup for the Adelaide Day Centre, catering and providing music and tech support for funerals, and the school pastoral care worker commissioning service. We have also had music night and the hymn fest.

Thank you to our wonderful caterers, tech team, musicians, flower arrangers, welcomers, people who provide transport and those who set up and clean up. Thanks also to those who come along and support these events with your presence. This is a wonderful effort during the cold months of winter.

Spring is nearly here and I hope we can continue to encourage and care for each other and the local community through acts of hospitality and service. In doing so we reflect to others the love that God has for us and them.

Blessings

Judi

A vibrant, colorful poster for a Spring Fete. The background is a large, stylized pink flower. In the center is a yellow circle containing the event details. Surrounding this are several smaller flowers in various colors (green, white, blue, brown, orange, purple) and butterflies (pink, blue, purple). Each flower contains a yellow circle with text describing an activity. Blue water droplets are scattered in the upper right corner.

jams &  
cakes

# Spring Fete

Saturday  
29 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

# Spicer Community Lunch



## ***Making Man's Best Friend Even Better***

Following devotions and birthday celebrations, our August meeting was educated by Ruth Miller, Tim's sister, on the great work done by the Royal Society for the Blind in preparing guide dogs for service to the vision impaired. Ruth is an employee of the Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Unit of the State Government and has also been a dog breeder.

What goes into the creation of a guide dog? The most important ingredient is breeding, which takes place in Melbourne. Obviously, their parents play a critical role in passing on vital genes. Allergies must be bred out – some dogs are even allergic to certain varieties of grass found in Australia. Even within a given litter, not all siblings qualify for training, and some must be rejected, ending being family pets.

Soon after birth, puppies are assigned to a caring family, while they undergo training from the age of eight weeks. The training period lasts for two years. During this period, the trainees wear a special coat to indicate their training status. This coat is a warning to people that they should not approach, pat, or feed these dogs which would distract them from the job at hand, and lead them to focus on people who are not their handler. Imagine how a blind person would be endangered by a companion dog who became distracted by a well meaning stranger.

It is estimated that it costs \$25,000 to breed, support and train a potential guide dog for this period. Consequently, The Royal Society for the Blind has to raise money throughout the year to support these training programs.

A famous recipient of a guide dog is the singer Rachael Leahcar who suffers from a congenital eye disorder. She has become an ambassador for the program and the Society. However It is not just the vision impaired who can be helped through life by these dogs. War veterans, suffering from depression and traumatic stress, are also being helped. It is anticipated that the aging of the population will also lead to a large increase in the demand for the services of guide dogs.

The abilities of guide dogs are remarkable. We were told that one dog was able to prevent its owner getting on the wrong bus, because it did not have the same smell as the usual bus, which was in fact following behind. In another incident, on a crowded bus without vacant seats, the dog nudged a sighted and seated passenger to vacate his seat in favour of the blind person.

How can we help this worthy cause? Donate money. Be involved as a dog boarder. Undertake training as a dog trainer.



# Music Night

**The annual Spicer Music Night was held on Saturday 20 August, 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.**

**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 2017!**







*Dear  
members of Spicer,*

*The children and I would like to thank you all for your help in the beautiful celebration service for, Allan on July 26, 2016. It was clear that a lot of time and effort was put forth by many people which made this a special occasion for us. We particularly noticed the touch of daffodils everywhere.*

*While we didn't want this to be a "church service" we wanted to let people know that we were OK and that our faith and church community would sustain us and be a comfort to us.*

*John 13:35 says ... "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." I think Spicer was a living example of this verse. I got several comments from my friends that they could tell. Allan was well loved by our church community and would be missed.*

*With much love,*

*Julia, Erryn, Bec, Megan, , Andy,  
Michaela, , Alyssa, and Victoria  
Lloyd-Jones*

# RAD

RAD is pleased to report there have been no unforeseen expenses in the first 7 months of this year. This means our finances are tracking to budget!

The church office computer was in desperate need of upgrading. We can now confirm this was done recently thanks to the work of Peter Wilson and Malcolm Germein. In the future we plan to purchase a laptop computer and improve Wi-Fi communications through out the building to improve the functionality of our facilities for our own use and for our hirers. Hiring of the buildings and facilities continues to be a significant source of income for Spicer.

Our fund raising activities help us purchase those special items that otherwise we might not be able to afford. So far, the "talent meals", and music night have contributed to our fundraising budget.

The Hymns & Classics event raised approx \$800 split 50/50 between the Hahndorf band and Spicer. Our share will go to the support of the Pastoral Care Worker at East Adelaide School.

Still to come is the "ladies day" event, Spicer Fete and Gingerbread making. We hope we can all support these events in some way or another to make them a success.

## **How can we best utilise the area to the west of the church building?**

The land west of the church building contains two sheds, a fenced off area with trees, a gravelled parking area and a small garden at the front.

Only the gravelled area is used primarily for parking and to gain access to the sheds and building on a regular basis.

Maybe this area can be developed as a multipurpose area, for a number of activities and uses so that it enhances the ESS experience, the Spicer Fete, church dinners, or some other activity for our own use or that of the community?

The first stage is to remove the chain wire fence so that people can obtain a better appreciation of the area and to help us imagine how it could look.

So if you have an idea / concept for the area, please speak to a member of RAD. RAD will then collate the ideas and develop them where necessary, so that they can be put to the congregation for discussion and possible action to proceed (dependent of finances, priorities) with development (be it in stages as resources permit).

We look forward to hearing your ideas.

Brenton Niven, On behalf of RAD

# Not the Bible Study

Many thanks to Steve Roder for putting together an interesting and often very entertaining (who knew Steve could do a very convincing rendition of Paul being struck down on the road to Damascus) series of talks.

The group met in warm Mark room late Sunday afternoons during winter. We heard about how, when and by whom the Old Testament and New Testament contents were determined. We navigated through the writers of the gospels, where they are the same and where they differ, looked at Acts and then epistles and the stories of the Old Testament which lay the foundations of our faith.

Our last session looked at how Judaism, Christianity and Islam identify and worship the same God, and how our own UCA structures work. But most importantly how the UCA is still actively seeking to unite Christians, and that we accept differences rather than letting them divide us, in contrast to most of our Christian history of the last 2000 years.

Steve put in a tremendous amount of work in preparing the talks and slide show accompaniment, all of those who attended found the content very helpful and presentation entertaining.



## For your September calendar

<b>Sat 3</b>	Spicer Ladies Day	<b>2 pm</b>
<b>Sun 4</b>	Messy Church	<b>4.30 pm</b>
<b>Tues 6</b>	Playgroup	<b>10 am</b>
	Lunch	<b>11.45 am</b>
	Movie Group	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Sat 10</b>	Eat Pray Care	<b>10 am</b>
<b>Mon 12</b>	Soup Making	<b>7 pm</b>
<b>Tues 13</b>	Playgroup	<b>10 am</b>
	Lunch	<b>11.45 am</b>
<b>Wed 14</b>	Just COS	<b>10 am</b>
<b>Thurs 15</b>	Community Lunch	<b>12 noon</b>
<b>Sun 18</b>	Youth Group	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Mon 19</b>	RAD	<b>7.30 pm</b>
<b>Tues 20</b>	Playgroup	<b>10 am</b>
	Lunch	<b>11.45 am</b>
<b>Wed 21</b>	Church Council	<b>7.30 pm</b>
<b>Tues 27</b>	Playgroup	<b>10 am</b>
	Lunch	<b>11.45 am</b>
<b>Wed 28</b>	Just COS	<b>10 am</b>

# Ministry Team

## Minister

Rev Judi Hartwig  
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## Office Administrator

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## Youth Leader

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## Pastoral Care Coordinator

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## Playgroup Coordinator

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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 18 September