



27<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## **Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions**

*As usual, the newsletter contains two sections. The first has information directly related to Yarra Yarra Presbytery, and this is followed by information about items which may be of interest to your congregations.*

*Please identify other items relevant to your community, and promote the issues and events listed below through your own newsletters and other communication channels as appropriate. There is much going on, so please take a few minutes to review.*

*Please ensure that items for the next edition are sent in by the end of the month.*

### **PRESBYTERY NEWS**

#### **Presbytery Meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

The final meeting of the Presbytery for 2019 was held at Greensborough on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, and was attended by about 80 people out of our potential membership of 163 (excluding Associate Members). It is unfortunate that there are so many congregations who are just not represented in any way at these meetings, which are an important part of our life as a Church community. Some of the items on the agenda were:

- An interesting presentation by Stephen Burns from the Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM) explained some of the changes that are occurring in the preparation of candidates for ordained ministry.
- Reports about the recent Ministers and Pastors Conference held at Pallotti College.
- A progress report from the Presbytery Minister team about the developing Presbytery Strategy, and the collection of valuable feedback following table group discussions.
- The election of a new leadership team for the year commencing March 2020, including the election of Lisa Carey as our incoming Chairperson.

#### **Supply Ministry**

The report of the Pastoral Relations Committee to the Presbytery meeting included the following advice, which is repeated here for the information of Church Councils.

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Chairperson	Ross Pearce	0437 561 833	<a href="mailto:rgpearce.au@gmail.com">rgpearce.au@gmail.com</a>
Presbytery Ministers	Dan Wootton	03 9857 1000	<a href="mailto:dwootton@victas.uca.org.au">dwootton@victas.uca.org.au</a>
	Liz McMillan	0419 884 736	<a href="mailto:liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au">liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au</a>
	Sunny Chen	0423 273 813	<a href="mailto:pyy.pmc@victas.uca.org.au">pyy.pmc@victas.uca.org.au</a>
Secretary	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	<a href="mailto:pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au">pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au</a>

Congregations are reminded that approval for supply ministry is granted for three months at a time, and that the approval of the PRC is required prior to the commencement of any new or renewed period of supply. A copy of the approval form is available on the Presbytery web site at <http://yarrayarrapresbytery.unitingchurch.org.au/resources-and-documentation/>

### **Presbytery and Church Council membership**

Many congregations make decisions at this time of the year about appointments as office bearers and Presbytery Representatives. If your council has made any changes, please remember to advise the Presbytery Secretary. Any changes to the Church Council Secretary position also need to be advised to the Synod at [directory@uca.victas.org.au](mailto:directory@uca.victas.org.au).

### **Conclusions of Placements**

Rev David Anderson has concluded his ministry with Hazel Glen/Mernda and with Plenty Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> October. David will retire in March after taking long service leave.

Rev Brendan Byrne concluded his placement at Mitcham on 31<sup>st</sup> October and has commenced a new placement at Heathmont from 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Rev Ros McDonald will conclude her ministry with Eltham-Montmorency and retire on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Her final service will be on 29<sup>th</sup> December, and is open to all.

Pastor Lawrence Ng will conclude his ministry at South Camberwell Gospel Hall on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

### **CELEBRATE THE RESTORATION OF WESLEY CHURCH, MELBOURNE**

You are invited to a service to celebrate the restoration of Wesley Church, which will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. The Moderator will preach and glorious music will fill the space. Come and add your voice – and your prayers for the flourishing of God’s mission of love, justice and peace in the city.

### **ADVENT STUDIES PROGRAMME FOR 2019**

Mark the Evangelist congregation in North Melbourne are once again providing a set of Advent Study resources as part of their Illuminating Faith programme. New resources from Illuminating Faith for Advent 2019 include an [Advent study on the Song of Songs](#) and [a set of orders of service](#) for the four weeks of Advent in Year A of the RCL. Also now available for more general use is a new study from Bruce Barber: [The Apostles’ Creed – A lively text in a world made strange](#).

For more information, contact Craig Thompson on tel 0408 389 751 or visit the web page at <http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/illuminating-faith/>.

### **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT**

Have you ever wondered about the direction your life is going? Have you ever heard the 'still small voice'? What might God be calling you to in your life? Is your heart on fire? Do you sense a longing to participate in a deeper story?

If you answered YES to any of these questions – then the PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT is for you!

The Period of Discernment is:

- An intentional time of reflection on your life
- A time to explore God's call to you
- A link to an experienced Mentor who will support you on your journey
- An activity that happens during your everyday life
- An invitation to consider the possibility of a call to ordained ministry.

What: An afternoon to explore if the POD is for you.

When: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020. 2–5pm.

Where: Fairfield UCA Cnr Duncan and Gillies St Fairfield

For more info contact [david.howie2@rch.org.au](mailto:david.howie2@rch.org.au)

### **NEW RESOURCES FOR PREACHERS**

As Advent and a new lectionary year are about to begin, an exciting new podcast for preachers has been released by the Synod eLM team.

*By the Well* is a collaboration between Fran Barber (Coordinator - Continuing Education for Ministers, eLM) and Robyn Whitaker (New Testament Lecturer, Pilgrim Theological College) with the assistance of the eLearning Facilitator, Adrian Jackson. It is a weekly podcast focusing on one or more lectionary readings for the week. It is the only Australian lectionary based podcast and the only preaching podcast internationally hosted by two women.

Fran and Robyn will be joined by a variety of guests from around the UCA and beyond - scholars and ministers who are keen to help explore preaching the Bible in your contexts. Advent episodes include guests such as Sean Winter, Bill Loader, Rachel Kronberger, and Kylie Crabbe

You can find *By the Well* wherever you listen to podcasts or listen through our website - [www.bythewell.com.au](http://www.bythewell.com.au). Advent 1 is available now, as is a pre episode with Rev Prof Emeritus William (Bill) Loader on theology and themes in Matthew's gospel.

### **UNITING VICTAS FOOD-FOR-FAMILIES PROGRAM**

The Uniting VicTas *Food For Families* project is a way for you to be part of

sharing joy this Christmas and throughout the year to come. By donating food and other essential items, you can ensure people facing crisis can access the basics they need to get through a difficult time.

From donating items to volunteering your time, there are many ways for you to be part of Food For Families this year. All items donated to Food For Families go directly to people who access our emergency relief centres across Victoria and Tasmania.

If you would like to find out more, or to register, visit [foodforfamilies.org.au](http://foodforfamilies.org.au).

### **DO YOU HAVE SPARE RSV BIBLES LOOKING FOR A HOME?**

Deb Sorenson, Synod Chaplaincy Development Officer, has had a request from the Port Phillip Prison chaplain Ross Forber-Minney for a box of NRSV bibles. Is this something that you would like to do in support of the prison ministry? If so, please contact Deb on tel 9340 8870, who will put you directly in touch with Ross.

### **ESSAYS IN MEMORY OF REV ROY BRADLEY**

Graeme Gibbons has recently reviewed *The Mystery of God and the Power of Redemptive Relationships*, a book of essays in memory of the Reverend Roy Bradley. When he returned from the USA in 1967, Bradley was a major figure in ecumenical ministry relationships. While an Anglican chaplain at Mont Park Mental Hospital Bradley decided he needed further training and education and won a Fulbright Scholarship to train as a Psychiatric Hospital chaplain in a large State Mental Health Hospital In South Carolina. During his three years of training in South Carolina and Houston in the USA Bradley discerned that Australia needed this kind of Clinically Supervised Pastoral Education for clergy and went on to gain the qualification necessary to conduct Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

The paperback is available from Morning Star Publishing or the Centre for Spirituality of Care and Community at [www.csc.org.au](http://www.csc.org.au)

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*If you have information that you wish to have distributed through this newsletter, please ensure that it is submitted by the start of the month in which the item is to appear. I plan to try to send newsletters out in the third week, so that means if your event occurs early in the month, you will need to have it submitted by the start of the **previous** month.*

*The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries. If you should not be receiving it, please contact me at [pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au) with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.*