



Bulletin – June 2018

Telling our stories and seeing signs how God is renewing the church in every corner – and the spaces between

Inhabiting our Neighbourhood

practice • presence • place

Susan Burt

Between April 26 – 28 I attended the 8th Inhabit Conference, held at the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology. Inhabit was born when the Parish Collective and the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology – an energetic partnership – explored the question, “What if God is up to something really big and global but it can only be discovered through the small and local?” Inhabit is a gathering “for the sake of reimagining church and transforming neighbourhoods.”

During my four weeks in North America, I travelled to 6 states of USA and 2 provinces of Canada engaging with exceptional people in local congregations and discovering much through engagement with “the small and local.”

We, ‘cause Ken travelled with me, also had an opportunity to connect with Kristopher Travella from EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development, United Church of Canada. UCCanada has a focus on worship plus social purpose leading to social enterprise. This local emphasis creates opportunities for the church with a presence in every neighbourhood.

In his article “What Does Social Enterprise Have to Do with Church?” Rob Dalgleish, Executive Director of EDGE, writes, “...for me the question isn’t so much, ‘What does social enterprise have to do with church?’ It’s instead: ‘Are we curious about what God is up to? Are we ready to follow where Christ is leading? Are we willing to let go of old conceptions of what church looks like and how we build them (and maybe what business looks like)? Are we willing to risk engaging and partnering with new generations who are clearly being led to the work of healing creation?’ Can we stop trying so hard to keep broken things going and can we start to engage the questions?”

Come, join us at a
Café Conversation

to hear a little from Inhabit and the EDGE, tell our own stories, and begin to engage the questions.

June 26 at 10.00 am

@

Erb’n’flow Coffee & Breakfast Bar

153 Sturt Street, Adelaide

Please reply to susan@urbannetwork.org.au
 as spaces will be limited.

“The most effective mission strategy for any church is to intentionally create spaces for meaningful dialogue”

www.united-church/blogs/round-table/creating-sacred-conversations

Workshop for Church Councils

Equipping Church Councils as we discern and determine strategic actions to connect, engage, and co-create with our neighbourhoods.

**Saturday 11 August,
9.30 am – 12.30 pm**

**Christ Church, Wayville,
26 King William Road, Wayville**

Keynote speakers:

*Rev Dr Ian Price
and Sharonne Price*

Ian and Sharrone bring significant experience in observing and participating in local church settings and the wider church.

Elective workshops will provide insights and tools to apply to the local situation.

RSVP to susan@urbannetwork.org.au

UMN Diary Dates

June Presbytery and Synod meeting

The gathering of the Presbytery and Synod members is an opportunity for every church, faith community, or mission network to have a voice in the way that our ministry is carried forward.

**6.00 pm 22 June
– 4.00 pm 23 June**

Adelaide West Uniting Church

312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive,
Brooklyn Park

Café Conversation

June 26 @ 10.00 am

Erb'n'flow Coffee & Breakfast Bar

153 Sturt Street, Adelaide



Workshop for Church Councils

**Saturday, 11 August
9.30 am – 12.30 pm**

Christ Church, Wayville

26 King William Road, Wayville

15th Assembly

July 8 – 14

Box Hill Town Hall, Melbourne

**Abundant Grace,
Liberating Hope**

August gathering

**Thursday 30 August
6.00 pm – 9.00 pm**

How might we flourish as culturally, linguistic, diverse faith communities? Connecting, collaborating, and celebrating presence in the neighbourhood

Refugee Week - Sunday 17 June to Saturday 23 June

Refugees are Us

Musings by David Winderlich, The Spire Community

It is almost Refugee Week, and this is a time to remember that "Refugees are Us."

Hope's Café, English classes, Persian New Year and much more began in response to the arrival of "boat people" in 2012 and 2013.

We are living the vision of everyone "participating and flourishing" long before a committee put those words on paper.

The Spire Community responds to poverty, mental health, and many other issues. But "refugees are still us." Many of us help them find jobs, teach them English or count them as friends.

But their problems are far from over. Hundreds of men, women, and children are still imprisoned in our off shore detention centres, described as "torture" by the United Nations.

Asylum seekers who have been refused refugee protection twice will be cut off Centrelink over the next few weeks. That includes families with

This Refugee Week, we should celebrate the generosity of ordinary Australians and the contribution of our new friends and neighbours. But we should also lobby our leaders to ensure our nation's policies match their rhetoric.

children. You will see a number of fundraisers to respond to this.

During Refugee Week the Government will boast about how generous we are. We are not. Tiny, poor Lebanon, population 7 million, hosts 1.2 million refugees.

Rich Australia, population 25m welcomes 20,000 refugees per annum and locks up and persecutes the less than 50,000 that arrived in boats between 2008-14

This Refugee Week, we should celebrate the generosity of ordinary Australians and the contribution of our new friends and neighbours. But we should also lobby our leaders to ensure

our nation's policies match their rhetoric.

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David Winderlich is Manager Eastern Services, Uniting Communities

All in the Same Boat

Refugee Week launch and lunch

**Wednesday 20 June
12.00 pm to 3.00 pm**

The Spire Community

Corner Portrush Road and The Parade,
Beulah Park

*with craftiest
Lyndel Pacula*

Refugees and non-refugees, artists and non-artists come together to create craft works that express their different life experience.

Wayville Circle of Friends for Refugees

invite you to a screening of

The Bookshop

Capri Cinema

141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood

Tuesday 3 July

5.30 pm for drinks and sandwiches

6.15 pm Capri Organ plays

6.30 pm film begins

Tickets: \$25 adult

\$20 concession and Friends of ELC.

Bookings at www.trybooking.WDEI.

For more information phone 0418 848 846
All profits will go to support Wayville Circle of Friends work with refugee families.

Encouraging each other in ministry and mission, sharing resources, providing mutual support

“Repurposing a church creates a wholesale rethinking of how to use church space and even the very nature of how churches function in their neighbourhoods. It’s seen as a universal problem faced by houses of worship.”

Guy Dixon, “Neighbourhood churches find a new mission” (The Globe and Mail Inc, January 26, 2018)

Always thinking

Rev Paul Turley philosophises about the future

Nothing stays the same for very long, does it?

In our little patch of the world, major works are underway. A new apartment building starting on the south-west corner of the intersection of Portrush Road and The Parade, and soon work will begin on a new corporate headquarters on the south-east corner.

We, too, are starting to think about what can happen on our north-east corner.

How can we continue to make this extraordinary property a welcoming and functional place for the whole community?

In the 1870’s the congregation of what was then Clayton Congregational Chapel decided to build Hope Hall, named after the Reverend Hope who was the Minister of the church at the time. It was built as a meeting place for the church’s Sunday School.

In the very early 1900s this congregation, seeking to meet wider needs in the community decided to build the Clayton Institute as a gymnasium that would especially offer young men a place to gather to exercise and build community.

That was then. This is now.

Today, Hope Hall is Hope’s Café and the Clayton Institute is our Goodies Op Shop; a different kind of place to exercise, well, at least exercise your wallet... but it’s still a place to build community!

Who knows to what purpose our buildings will be put in another 150 years?

What we do hope is that they will still be meeting places that seek to build community and, as the vision statement of The Spire Community has it, be,

“A dynamic community in which all people may participate and flourish.”

So, what about the future? The Parish Mission Council, which oversees the work of Hope’s Café, Goodies and all of the work of The Spire Community has formed a small group to start thinking about big plans for our big site.

We do need to refurbish and maintain our heritage buildings but we also need to find appropriate ways of modifying them so that they are more flexible and user-friendly.

We also need to think about what else can happen on our site.

Could we imagine a mix of different kinds of housing and business on our site that could help continue to develop community?

What might the future of our site be in relationship to the major redevelopments on two of the other corners of our intersection?

The Parish Mission Council will be have, and invite, conversation over the next little while, as we seek to do what we have done on this site for more than 150 years – meet human need and build vibrant community.

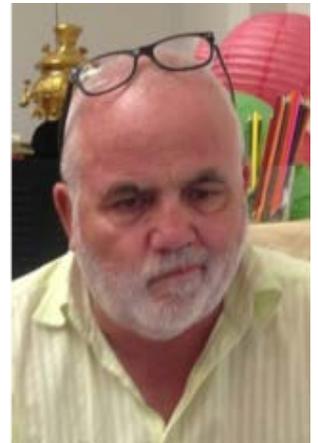


photo by
Rebecca Walker

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Growing Harmony

How we can connect with empathy and communicate what is most important to us in a way that will be received.

**Friday 15 June
9.30 am. – 4.00 pm.**

Facilitator: Sarah Williamson

Learn skills that will help address conflict resolution, anxiety, depression and simply how to say what you mean and mean what you say – harmoniously

Effective Living Centre

26 King William Road, Wayville

Cost which includes lunch: \$35 Adult, \$30 ELC Friend Member

For more information and to book go to <http://effectiveliving.ucasa.org.au/events/growing-harmony/>

Launch of Bridgewater Arts Centre

Titus NG

with

**Evan Grear, Lydia Battjes,
Amy Hein & Trion**



**Saturday 16 June
7.30 pm**

Bridgewater Uniting Church

407 Mount Barker Road, Bridgewater

Entry: \$15 Adult, \$10 concession,
Children under 12 free

Supper included