



Bulletin – January 2019

Happy New Year

As a new year begins, we reflect on the year just past and look to what this year has in store.

The Urban Mission Network concluded 2018 with a gathering hosted by Sandy Creek Uniting in the peaceful surrounds of Cockatoo Valley. This small member congregation hosted almost 70 of us with a most delicious and filling meal, served in their church transformed with communal tables running its length. Leslee Carle, Secretary of the Church Council, greeted us with these words – words that tell about the ministry of this congregation.



Welcome to all and thank you all for coming to visit us.

We are a small congregation with an average attendance at regular worship of 16-20 members. We are a very friendly, caring family and work extremely well together, as you will see this evening. Due to the stormy weather, we have changed our plans so we will not be worshipping in the bush chapel but will conduct the evening in the church.

This month, we celebrated 114 years of serving Christ in this community, which is very scattered as we have no township.

We have our lovely bush chapel which we use for the Easter dawn service, annual animal blessing services, Scout service, and the annual carol service with a nativity.

We hold two car boot sales each year as an outreach to show the community that we are still a functioning Christian community.

Our annual Wildflower Walk of 41 years attracts people from all walks of life to come and enjoy the magnificent wildflowers and native orchids, and then enjoy fellowship with afternoon tea.

We welcome you all to enjoy our hospitality tonight, and we wish you all a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace.



Leslee later reported that 100 attended their Bush Chapel carol service.

An overview of the year for the Urban Mission Network is provided in the UMN Report submitted to the November Presbytery and Synod meeting. This can be viewed on the UMN website home page.

A new year and new presbyteries in South Australia

“Now the Star of Christmas shines into our day, points a new direction: change is on the way. There’s another landscape to be travelled through...” writes Shirley Erena Murray in her Christmas carol, “Now the Star of Christmas.”

In a December letter to Ministers, Church Council Chairs and Secretaries, Rev Rob Brown, Interim General Secretary, and Rev Philip Gardner, Executive Officer, Pastoral Relations and Mission Planning wrote:

“As most of you will be aware, there was a number of proposals regarding presbyteries at the November 2018 meeting of the Presbytery/ Synod of South Australia. These were either dealt with at the annual meeting or forwarded to Standing Committee.

“It was agreed to form a new presbytery in South Australia from 1 July 2019... As a consequence of this decision, there will need to be a least one new presbytery formed in SA. ... One task group has been created, which will

work on forming the Missional Non-Geographic Presbytery ...another task group (Restructuring Task Group) has been created and will work to lay the groundwork for separating the Presbytery and Synod of SA, clarifying which functions will need to remain centralised and also helping form the new presbytery(s). “

The Restructuring Task Group will consult widely with congregations and Mission Networks and bring recommendations to the June Presbytery and Synod meeting.

This leads to **information about the UMN February Gathering.**

The regular program style of our gatherings will give way for an opportunity to share resources, hear from others invited to participate, gather information regarding the Presbytery and Synod decisions, and contribute to the consultative process. A meal will not be served at this gathering, rather you will be served dessert, fruit, cheese, tea, coffee, and juice.

February Gathering

Thursday, February 28 7.00 – 9.15 pm

Venue to be advised

Theme: A missional response for an evolving Church

RSVP to susan@urbannetwork.org.au by February 21

Note: this is a dessert and coffee evening (with tea and juice, too). A full meal will not be served.

News from our congregations

Growing Authentic Relationships between First and Second Peoples

Project coordinator, Margaret Gunn writes of the significance of “Maltunthi – Bring Close Together” – the new garden at Enfield Uniting Church that honours the Kurna people and their heritage. (Adapted from a speech at the opening on 9 December 2018)

This garden honours people who share Kurna heritage.

It is not a memorial to the past, but a living place – inviting relationships between First and Second Peoples – indigenous and non-indigenous – to grow and flourish. We have so much to learn.

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Dr Deirdre Palmer (UCA Assembly President) and Kurna Senior Ms Margaret Brodie cut ribbons to open the garden at Enfield UCA honouring Kurna people and their heritage.

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The garden presents us with many symbols. Our church community wants them to speak of our commitment to on-going action.

The land itself is a symbol of restoration and renewal

This has always been Kurna land, even when it was “kindly presented” to the fledgling Enfield Methodist Church by a wealthy settler in 1854. We are near one of the major intersections on the Adelaide Plains – running east to west, and north to south. Hasn’t it always been a gathering place? Now, it can be a place of restoration and renewal – somewhere First and Second Peoples can relate to one another.

The plants symbolise resilience and vulnerability

All the plants are native to this area. They have thrived in the last 18 months, but they are also vulnerable to wind, storm and extreme heat. On-going care and nurture are needed, just like in relationships. We can all be hardy one day – and vulnerable the next.

The path is a symbol of the openness that we hope will characterise our relationships with each other

The public can walk here freely, as people have done for millennia.

The beautiful screens draw attention to the garden being here and create a place of shelter and belonging, things we would like this church to offer.

Light behind the screens enable them to “speak” night *and* day. What do they say? Light overcomes and brings hope to the relationships we seek to build here.

The circular area in the middle of the path echoes the traditional symbol for meeting place in the centre of one of the screens. The nearby seating also invites people to gather here.

The **name Maltunthi** is the most significant symbol. As our church continues to be a gathering place for people from across the world and across many of the barriers that divide, “*Maltunthi – Bring Close Together*” expresses our church’s longing for reconciliation between First and Second Peoples.

The logo name is on the shape of a **small Kurna shield** displayed in the Indigenous gallery at the South Australian Museum (Item A31198). It was found only about 1 km away at Prospect Oval when an air raid shelter was being dug in 1942. It awakens us to Kurna history and speaks of strength and determination. As we walk on this land, let’s ask: ‘Who else has walked here?’



“Maltunthi – Bring Close Together” – the name offered by Kurna Warra Karrpanthi (KWK) - the Association responsible for the teaching of Kurna language.

The plaque sums up all these intentions by speaking with both First and Second Peoples’ voices. Kurna leader Margaret Brodie and our church community speak together:

“In my skin, I live, I am.
In my culture, I breathe, I connect.
In my Spirit, I feel, I dream.
In my beliefs, I am strong.
I rise.”

Margaret Brodie

This garden honours the people of the Adelaide Plains who have cared for this land since time began. Under white settlement, their land was stolen and their people scattered.

Today, the people of Enfield Uniting Church thank them, and other First and Second Peoples, for participating with us in restoring this garden and building new relationships. God calls us to share our future together – built on respect, equality, trust, and love.



Mrs Helen Munro and Mr Toby Brown cut ribbons at the other end of the path at the opening of the garden



Garden with floodlit screens - Enfield Uniting Church 247 Main North Road Sefton Park.

New Houses for Morialta's Student Accommodation Program 30 Years On

The Morialta congregation celebrated joyfully on 18 November the dedication of two new 4-bedroom courtyard homes, built next door to the church to be home to our cohort of 8 rural (and sometimes overseas) university students. We had re-committed three years ago to our long-term student accommodation project, with its focus on showing hospitality to the stranger. We decided to rationalise our property by demolishing one old manse for the rebuild site, and selling a second at the end of the process to meet the costs – this sale is now in train, and the end is in sight! The students are delighted with their new quarters, and the team that looks after them is delighted with the less strenuous maintenance – once the landscaping and other final touches are in place! Enormous thanks to the project team, and everyone who has supported the work in so many ways. We invite you to check it all out the next time you visit Morialta!



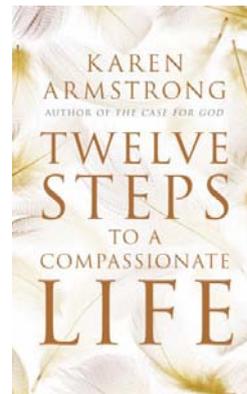
Yilki Uniting Church Garage Sale & Sausage Sizzle Saturday 26 January from 8.30 am

**15 Tabernacle Road, Encounter Bay
Opposite the lake and playground**

Household goods/cakes and produce, bric a brac, clothing, books, toys, and sausage sizzle. Proceeds to support Yilki Uniting Church outreach programs

New Horizons January Book Reading Group

Would you like to share in reading Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, during January? Then come and join us at Newland Memorial Uniting Church Hall, 30 Victoria St, Victor Harbor, 5–7pm on Sunday 6, 13, 20 and 27 January.



Bring a small plate of light summer food to share for tea after the discussion.

The state library network has a couple of copies of the book, and it can also be purchased for e-reader from Amazon, or in book form from Book Depository, Fishpond, Amazon, or possibly a book shop near you.

For more information contact Newland office in the mornings, 85527732 or Alison Whish 85527306, roy@uniting.com.au

With this late notice, you will have missed some sessions. This does not matter we began with chapters 1–2, then continued with 3–4, and so on for the month. That will get us to chapter 8. If we want to finish the last four steps, we will negotiate a further time or two.

Other New Horizons gatherings will be held on months with a 5th Sunday, 5.00 –7.00 pm. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, 31 March. The group is for those who want to push the edges of their faith understandings. You only need an interest. Membership with one of the Victor Harbor congregations is not a requirement.

Bridgewater Arts Centre

Supporting artists
in The Hills



Saturday 11 February 7.30 –9.30 pm
407 Mt Barker Road, Bridgewater

with: Ziggy Hammond

Richard Palmer

Adrienne Lovelock and Peter Day

Bookings: www.eventbrite.com
search Bridgewater Art Centre

Or pay at the door: \$15 Adults; \$10 concession;
under 12 free

News from the wider church

Day of Mourning Worship Resource

The Day of Mourning Worship Resource invites all Uniting Church in Australia congregations to hold worship services that reflect on the effect of invasion and colonisation on Australia's First Peoples and our identity as a nation.

In the spirit of our Covenant relationship with the UAICC, we have declared the Sunday before Australia Day January 26 as a Day of Mourning. The observance of a Day of Mourning was endorsed by the Fifteenth Assembly at the request of our sisters and brothers in the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

Our declaration of a Day of Mourning allows us to stand together in remembering the truth of our history and honouring the culture of Australia's First Peoples, their families and the next generations.

This worship service will be an annual fixture on our liturgical calendar that reminds us of the dispossession and violence against First Peoples and laments that as a Church and as Second Peoples we were and remain complicit.

We encourage you to join with other Uniting Church members in lamenting, saying sorry and asking for forgiveness, for the past and current impacts of colonisation and dispossession of Australia's First Peoples.

Worship resources available at <https://assembly.uca.org.au/day-of-mourning>.



Uniting College of Leadership and Theology

312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive,
Brooklyn Park

Public Lecture and Day Seminar

with

**Professor
Francis Watson**

**Durham
University**



**Friday 1 March
7.30 – 9.00 pm**

More than Four?

***Comparing the Gospel of John
with the Gospel of Thomas.***

This lecture explores the formation of the canonical boundary and compares selected passages and key theological themes between these two writings.

Cost \$10.00 per person (no cost for students enrolled in Johannine Literature in Semester 1 2019)

Refreshments provided

Register online at unitingcollege.edu.au

**Saturday 2 March
10.00 am – 3.30 pm**

***Engaging with Unfamiliar
Gospels***

***The Gospel of Judas and early
Judas traditions***

Revisiting Easter Morning: the Epistula Apostolorum

Cost \$50 per person, (no cost for students enrolled in Johannine Literature in Semester 1 2019)

Morning and afternoon tea provided. Please bring own lunch.



#ChangeTheHeart Prayer Service

A prayer service
regarding the
26th of January

**Thursday, 24
January
at 7.00 pm**

Adelaide West Uniting Church

312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive,
Brooklyn Park SA 5032

Light refreshments provided

During the service, an offering will be received to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian ministry through the Grasstree Gathering www.grasstreegathering.org.au. Please consider how you can support this ministry.