



Encouraging each other in ministry and mission, sharing resources and providing mutual support
23A Devitt Ave, Payneham South SA 5070 <http://www.urbannetwork.org.au>

BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 2014

NETWORK NEWS & EVENTS

Network Gatherings –

Morialta – Thursday 28th August

Many of you have asked for the prayer that closed our worship and our evening together. Please refer to <http://aheartforjustice.com/2010/10/07/a-franciscan-blessing-may-god-bless-you-with-discomfort-anger-tears-and-foolishness/>

Here is a variation:

May God bless us with **discomfort** at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with **anger** at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people
so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May god bless us with **tears** to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger and war
so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough **foolishness** to believe that we can make a difference in this world
so that we can do what others claim cannot be done,
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Para Hills – Thursday 27th November cnr Liberman Rd & Barcoo St, Para Hills

Our Changing Landscape: ministry and mission in a small congregation

INCLUDING stories from Para Hills, Hare Street and Prospect Road congregations.

International Partnerships

United Church of Christ in the Philippines

- The Urban Mission Network is working with the Presbytery to develop and grow our partnership with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), particularly with the Middle Luzon Jurisdiction.
- A new Bishop was appointed at the end of June and our Presbytery reps Christa Megaw and Sandy Boyce are engaged in building a relationship with him.
- The first tranche of funding has been sent and the Bishop advises that work is progressing on the 'clean water' project in Marisol Settlement.
- The next tranche of funding will be sent on receipt of a progress report, and hopefully some photos.
- Subscriptions to the magazine *Writing on the Wall* published by the UCCP inform about issues confronting the church and our subscriptions assist in publishing the magazine.

To subscribe, contact Andrew Clarke andrewjudy1@optusnet.com.au

Presbyterian Church in South Korea

- Watch for news and information about a visit to South Australia in October of 12 members of the Presbyterian Church in South Korea.



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Scots Church Adelaide, 237 North Tce, Adelaide

Community Day, 10th September to raise awareness about the impact of suicide; and provide a hub of resources, education and remembrance from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm followed at 5.45 pm by **Service of Remembrance** for family and friends who have lost loved ones to suicide. All Welcome.

Pilgrim Church, 12 Flinders St, Adelaide

The Unshuttered Heart, with Professor Ann Belford Ulanov, Professor of Psychiatry and religion at Union Theological Seminary and a Jungian Psychoanalyst in private practice.

Session 1: Thursday 11th September, 7.00 pm – 9.30 pm *Aliveness and Deadness*

Session 2: Friday 12th September, 7.00 pm – 9.30 pm *Knots and their Untying*

Session 3: Saturday 13th September, 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm *New Consciousness for this Millenium*

To register: Stillpoint Centre for Spirituality ph 8178 0048 <http://www.stillpointsa.org.au/events/#annulanov>

Spring Festival, 14th – 18th September

Church open 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm for viewing floral displays and for prayer.

WHAT'S NEW IN OUR CENTRES

 *Effective Living Centre* 26 King William Rd, Wayville

Conversations about End of Life Decisions, Tuesday 14th October, 7.30 pm – 10.00 pm

Hear how the new legislation impacts individuals, explore life planning issues, learn about the *Biography Program*. Repeat session due to demand. Tickets \$15.00 / \$10.00. Bookings essential www.effectiveliving.org

Letting Go of Life, Friday 19th and Saturday 20th September

For those who are coming to terms with death and dying, wondering what lies ahead and how to find ways to cope, and wondering how to maintain a sense of hope and focus on living whilst preparing for death.

Tickets: Friday \$20.00 / \$15.00, Saturday \$30.00 / \$25.00. Bookings essential www.effectiveliving.org

Centre for
Music, Liturgy & the Arts

An initiative of the Uniting Church in South Australia,
seeking to explore and develop choral music, songs
for worship, sacred word, and the arts.

193 Brougham Place
North Adelaide

Creative Worship for Presbytery and Synod, Monday 29th September, 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm & 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Calling artists, poets, playwrights, song and prayer writers to engage with Moderator Dr Deidre Palmer and contribute to the themes for worship at our Presbytery and Synod. RSVP 22nd September admin@cmla.org.au

WIDER CHURCH

Uniting Church SA Historical Society

Triennial Conference of the Australian Association of Mission Studies

Theme: *Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes*. Tabor College 2nd – 5th October.

Info: <http://taboradelaide.edu.au/schools/school-of-ministry-theology-culture/news-events/593-aams-conference-2014>

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For information about the Urban Mission Network or to submit items for publication
please contact the Coordinator, ph 8332 8339 or email christine@urbannetwork.org.au



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Introducing Wendy Perkins, Mission Officer – Urban, Mission Resourcing

“Ordinary people, extraordinary lives; extraordinary people, ordinary lives”

Four funerals and a wedding in less than 2 months! Is this a reflection of the season of my life or just some interesting timing? If nothing else, it’s certainly given me cause to reflect on what’s important in life and for me personally.

Maybe I’m the only one but I often struggle with being ‘ordinary’. When I was much younger, I loved reading biographies of all kinds of people (one of my most treasured books still is “100 Great Lives”). I thought I was going to be either a famous concert pianist (but I never practised enough) or a medical missionary in Africa where I’d save lives and souls, thus making my mark on the world. I was convinced I would excel in some field and end up with my name on an honour board or in a book somewhere, noted for my significant contribution to humankind.

It’s taken a long time, and much gracious work of the Holy Spirit, to bring me to a point of some level of contentment to be both ordinary and extraordinary at the same time: ordinary in the sense that I won’t ever be world-famous and that’s OK; extraordinary because I’m a unique individual created with a unique combination of gifts, abilities, experiences, passions and a therefore a unique calling on my life for this time and this place. My challenge is to be faithful and fruitful in that calling in the ordinary stuff of life – in relationships, in everyday life, to be content with who I am and yet to have a “holy discontent” (Bill Hybels’ phrase) so that I am always seeking God for transformation of myself and the world.

I live in that tension, as I do in several others: the tension between the sovereignty of God and free-will; the tension between what I believe in my head and what I experience in my life, to name just a couple. These tensions constantly challenge me, but no less than the tension of living an extraordinary life of faithfulness and Kingdom influence in the midst of ordinary everyday life. For those who achieve extraordinary fame or significance in some chosen field, the challenge is to live a life of integrity and truth in the ordinary out-of-the-spotlight stuff of life. Equally challenging!

A well-prepared eulogy is always a significant part of a funeral for me – it gives a glimpse into the everyday life of a person (as well as their list of achievements), lived against the backdrop of their environment and society. When I think about all of my ordinary and extraordinary moments, experiences, mess-ups, and failures, I remember the words of an old song which remind me that no matter what someone can find to say about me when the time comes, ultimately I live my life for an audience of One.

“When it's all been said and done
There is just one thing that matters
Did I do my best to live for truth,
Did I live my life for You?”
(Robin Mark, “When it’s all been said and done”)



After graduation from Adelaide Uni, Wendy taught Music and German in several schools before taking a significant career break to be a full-time Mum to the three (now adult) sons she shares with her husband John. (They have since added 2 beautiful daughters-in-law and a delightful granddaughter to their family.) She also began theological study during this season which was foundational to her ministry roles in worship and discipleship at Seeds (Aberfoyle) over nearly 20 years. Since 2013 Wendy has been working in the Presbytery/Synod Office where she has tried to juggle up to 5 different hats at a time, but most recently come to focus on her 2 half-time roles as Disaster and Recovery Ministries Co-ordinator and Mission Officer – Urban. Wendy sometimes wishes she was born in the 19th Century (into a wealthy home!) when she could have had a dozen children but with maids to do the housework so she could play the piano, read theology and indulge her passion for fine embroidery and needlework.