



# Bulletin – December 2016

## *Advent greetings*

from the Urban Mission Network Reference Group



### Advent

Early each day  
all over this tinsel draped town  
as the light lifts up from the horizon  
and darkness moves on,  
birds waken and sing  
"To you! To you!"  
The wind sighs through the trees  
"For us...us...us."  
And beauty and hope  
are revealed as purple jacarandas  
rain on the streets;  
all creation shines with the eternal promise –  
Immanuel, God is with us.

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

## Advent events from around UMN churches

### *Outdoor carol service and nativity play*

#### **Sandy Creek Uniting Church**

Williamstown Rd, Sandy Creek

**Sunday, 11 December at 7.30 pm.**

**Featuring:** Sing Australia Gawler

There will be live animals • Children may be angels or shepherds and become part of the play • Unrehearsed  
• Costumes supplied • Supper to follow • All welcome

For more information, contact: John Schultz on 8522 1391 or Leslee Carle on 8524 4086



### **Blue Christmas Service**

#### **Pilgrim Uniting Church**

12 Flinders Street, Adelaide

**Wednesday, 21 December  
6.00 pm – 6.45 pm**

For those who feel sadness, grief and loss in the Christmas season  
whether you attend church or not,  
whether you hold a religious belief or not,  
this service will provide a gentle time for reflection to  
acknowledge pain and hurt, to light a candle, and to hold  
hope knowing that we are not alone.

Phone: 8212 3295 [www.pilgrim.org.au](http://www.pilgrim.org.au)

# Events during January & February 2017 by UMN congregations

*A recital by  
international organist  
Malcolm Archer*

**Wesley  
Uniting  
Church,  
Kent  
Town**

Corner  
Fullarton  
Road and  
Grenfell  
Street

**Sunday, 8 January at  
3.00 pm**

**Admission:** \$20 at the door.

For further information, please  
e-mail Dr. Warren Bourne,  
Organising Chairperson, at  
[SS17@rscmaustralia.org.au](mailto:SS17@rscmaustralia.org.au)



## First Network Gathering, 2017

**Thursday,  
16 February  
6.00 pm for 6.30 pm  
Pilgrim Uniting  
Church**

12 Flinders St, Adelaide

The patio at the rear of Pilgrim  
Lounge will provide a perfect  
setting on a balmy summer  
evening for a relaxing get-  
together, story sharing, and a  
delicious meal

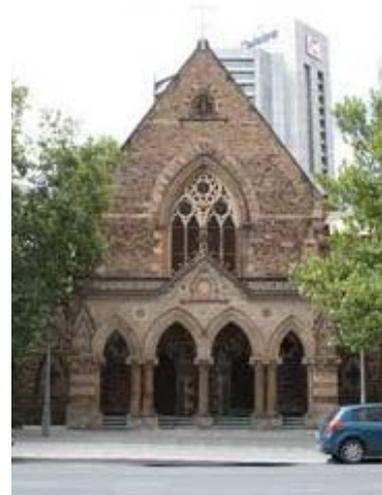
**Guest presenter:** Geoff Boyce

**Theme:** Organisation for Wellness

**Donation** to cover the cost of the meal.

**RSVP** on, or preferably before, Friday, 10 February to  
[susan@urbannetwork.org.au](mailto:susan@urbannetwork.org.au).

Please advise any dietary needs.



## A creative and inspiring opportunity to help develop resources for worship to share with the world

From **February 2 – 5**, Christ Church Uniting,  
Wayville will host a *Seasons of the Spirit*<sup>™</sup>  
development event.

*Seasons of the Spirit*<sup>™</sup> is an international,  
ecumenical, lectionary-based worship and  
Christian education resource with a holistic vision  
of what it means to live as God's people.

Local congregations, from around the world,  
host events, with different congregations or  
regions each creating materials for a quarter of the  
church year. This kind of grassroots engagement  
is one of the things that make *Seasons of the  
Spirit* unique.

If you enjoy writing creative liturgy, Bible stories,  
learning stations, or would like to contribute  
insights, you are invited to explore, discuss,  
create, prepare, develop, and write resources for  
SeasonsFUSION for the first half of Pentecost  
2018. These resources will be used during June,  
July and August 2018.

## Developing Pentecost 1 resources includes three categories of participants

1. Key writers for weekly resources: biblical  
backgrounds, liturgies, Bible stories, stations.
2. Occasional writers for articles, contemporary  
stories, and other one-off type things.
3. Discussion partners to lend insight and wisdom.

Writers are remunerated for their work.

## Planning times

**Thursday, 2 February** 6.30 pm. – 9.30 pm. (with a  
light evening meal from 6.30 pm – 7.00 pm)

**Friday, 3 February** 7.00 pm. – 9.30 pm

**Saturday, 4 February** 9.30 am – 5.00 pm (with lunch  
and all refreshments provided)

**Sunday 5, February** 1.00 pm. – 5.00 pm.

For more information, please contact Susan Burt on  
0412 552703 or e-mail [susan\\_burt@bigpond.com](mailto:susan_burt@bigpond.com)  
**Register your interest** by January 15

Video at, [https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=Kmc8WBJZx-o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kmc8WBJZx-o) gives an overview. It refers  
to events that created materials in 2011, but it gives  
the idea!

## Mission Partners in the Urban Setting

### Hard quiz!

Here is a quiz for you...name UMN churches where the following events are part of the annual, quarterly, monthly and weekly routines.

Poets' Corner, Mary's Kitchen, Open Church and Lounge hospitality, Hope's Café, Sunday night tea, Positive Parenting, campaign for refugees including Standing with Refugees, English language classes, Circle of Friends, Environmental Action Group, community garden, Bush Chapel, Op Shop, School for Seniors, art exhibitions, concerts and recitals, school chaplaincy, community education, art circle, community aid, Friendship Café, Wilks Oration, Symposium, life planning issues conversations, community market, Hungry Hare café, bread programme, Recognise campaign, playgroups, Artist in Residence, Goodies Op Shop, Kids Hope, Goodies 2U.

This list is just some of the many activities our congregations support, practical expressions of our commitment to mission. In 2017, Urban Mission Network congregations will have the opportunity to listen, celebrate and reflect together on the many community building commitments

that are generated by our gathered life, a rhythm of gathering and scattering, being called and being sent.

UMN, Pilgrim Church, and Synod Mission Resourcing are committed to keeping the conversation going about community engagement and partnerships. The aim of this programme is to listen to one another as we tell our stories of mission, empower and encourage one another, reflect, and develop our local theologies.

Keep in touch with UMN's web site for further information, and keep the following dates in mind.

**Saturday, 18 March** – orientation and planning ahead.

**Long weekend 9-12 June** – sessions at the National UCA History Conference.

**Saturday, 23 September** – with guest Professor Linda Woodhead from the UK.

**Saturday, 18 November** – a final session and evaluation.

**For further information** contact Rev Dr Dean Eland at Pilgrim Church [djeland@bigpond.com](mailto:djeland@bigpond.com), 0419 112 603, and check UMN and Pilgrim web-sites for updates.

## News and views from UMN congregations and agencies



As most people are aware, **Rev Dr Gary Stuckey's** placement at Stillpoint will finish at the end of December, 2016.

Stillpoint will continue but in a modified way. Details available in the new year, and best checked via the website, [www.stillpointsa.org.au](http://www.stillpointsa.org.au). The Spirituality Centre at Belair will close. The office will operate from Christ Church, Wayville from February. Worship services will also be held at Christ Church from February on the second and fourth Sundays. We thank the Urban Mission Network people for their support as we make this transition.

### *A new chapter for Tony and Margie Goodluck*

## Greatly blessed

*Rev Tony Goodluck*

When I was a young idealist, I wore a t-shirt with Malcolm Fraser's face on it. He was not my favourite politician. Gough was. The caption on the shirt was "Would you buy a car from this man?" In response to one of Fraser's famous public comments, I placed a sticker on my hot FJ Holden which read, "Life wasn't meant to be bloody hard either." Cheeky young bloke, aye?

Over the years since, I have had my share of heartache, tragedy and "bad stuff" happen to me and to people I love. Indeed there have been times when I thought, "Surely it's not meant to be this hard." But, that's life. Sometimes "bad stuff" happens.

And yet . . . and yet . . . the sense of blessing and being loved has been by far the strongest thread woven through my life.

I was called to be a Minister about 35 years ago – and I ran from the call. "I'll do anything you want of me Lord; just don't ask me to be a Minister." I ran for about 15 years, before I was broken and said, "Okay, you win." That was the day that I think I heard God laugh and say, "Now it begins." Of course, it began before I was even born, but the day I was broken was the day I entered into an intentional partnership with God and the next exciting chapter of my life

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began. Since then, I've had six wonderful and difficult years with the Congress in South Australia, a few years of part-time and then full-time study at our Theological College (Parkin-Wesley, as it was then); three years at Mitcham Uniting Church; and eight years as the Minister for the Modbury Uniting Church and Para Vista Uniting Church congregations. I have been blessed beyond imagination by the people we have met through Congress, College, Mitcham, Modbury and Para Vista. Greatly blessed! God is faithful!



*Tony Goodluck on Crocker Island in 1965 with best friend Robert Shepherd*

And now Margie and I are called to a new ministry. I have accepted a Call to Nungalingya College in Darwin, to be the Dean of UCA students, commencing on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. This will be very different from the past 11 years in congregational Placements in suburban Adelaide, where Sunday worship, preaching, pastoral support, weddings, baptisms and funerals, and intentional programmes with children and youth, including basketball, have played a large part in the weekly rhythm of life. To have the opportunity to build into the lives of other people and share the goodness of God's daily blessings and provision for us all has been a wonderful privilege. Some things I have done well, others not so well. Always, I have relied not on my own strength, but on the strength of God, who by grace has seen fit to call us into and equip and sustain us in ministry with God's own people.

At a time of transition, there is the grief of "letting go" as well as the eager anticipation of what is to come. We are sad to be saying "Goodbye" to friends and church family at Modbury and Para Vista; sad to be saying "Goodbye" to the Sudanese community who have embraced our family with warmth and affection and brought such joy into our lives around the basketball court; sad to say "Goodbye" to our family, including our 5-year-old grandson, Noah, and my 88 year old father, Jack; sad to be saying "Goodbye" to our friends in the Urban Mission Network and the wider Uniting Church family in South Australia; and we are sad to say "Goodbye" to some dreams and hopes for the future that we had, including the vision for a Community Sport, Recreation and Art Centre as a church. Even so, "Good-bye" simply (and quite literally) means "God be with you." And so the sadness will subside as we recognise that indeed God is with all these dear and wonderful people we love so much, as well as with visions and ideas of possible futures – and if God

be with them then "all shall be well, and all shall be well."

At Nungalingya, I will be the "go to" person for UCA students. It is a college for adult Indigenous students, offering Cert 2 in Media, Cert 2 in Music, Cert 3 and Cert 4 in Theology and Ministry, and Foundational Studies (which focus on raising Literacy skills, using the Scriptures as the main text). Nungalingya is an ecumenical ministry of the Anglican, Catholic, and Uniting Churches. My parents lived and worked on Nungalingya in its early days when my younger sister and brother were still at home. In 1979 and 1980, Margie and I as a newly married couple lived in a caravan on Nungalingya College. So there is a sense of "going home," even though we are moving 3000 km from our home, family and friends in Adelaide. My role will be about half admin and logistics for students, including recruitment and communication with Arnhemland communities; and the other half Pastoral Support and encouragement to the students. It will be very different from what I have been doing, and a steep learning curve. Nungalingya has an art room, and some early conversations have already begun regarding Margie's possible role in some art programmes at the College. We will both do a TAE course (Training Assessment and Evaluation), and I plan to do a Graduate Certificate in Yolngu studies (part-time) which will help me in my role as Dean with some Gupapuyngu language and some insight into cultural issues. A steep learning curve indeed.

So off we go again; a new chapter; excited and somewhat daunted.

But most of all . . . Margie and I are aware of the "hand of God" in this and the many wonderful blessings that will continue to come our way because God is good and we are confident that the way to an ongoing life of deep joy, is to be faithful to God's leading.

God be with you all. Perhaps we will see some of you in the tropical heat sometime.

Grace and Peace. The best is yet to come.



*Margie and Tony Goodluck in 2015 with family members in Adelaide*

Rev Tony Goodluck's Conclusion of Placement is planned for Modbury UC on 12 February. The time is not yet decided, but save the date!