



Nurturing our people in the Christian faith and reaching out to the local community in the power of the Holy Spirit.



No. 251
February, 2017

The Season of Lent

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Ash Wednesday | - 1st March |
| Palm Sunday | - 9th April |
| Good Friday | - 14th April |
| Easter Day | - 16th April |



BACKWARDS GLANCE



When I applied to candidate to the ordained ministry of the Uniting Church, it was a requirement that I undergo an assessment by a consulting psychiatrist. It was part of the Church's discernment, not only of my sense of call, but also of whether I had the psychological and personal resources to deal with the stresses of ministry.

In due course, the report from the consulting psychiatrist arrived in the mail. I read it with a feeling of detachment, almost as though I was reading a report about someone else. Indeed, I felt as though I was looking at myself through an oddly obscuring mirror, seeing a vaguely familiar figure who was nonetheless a kind of stranger. There was nothing objectionable in the report – it just didn't seem like *me*.

Nonetheless, the rest, as they say, is history. The Church accepted me as a candidate, and the three years I spent at Theological College began the process of forming me for ministry. And now, after five-and-a-half years, I am still in ministry at Mountview, still being formed.

Recently, I went through my files, consigning to the recycling bin a large assortment of outdated documentation. In the midst of this clear-out, I stumbled across my old psych assessment; and, curious, I re-read its contents. About half-way through the report, I came across the following passage:

"The results from Mr Byrne's personality assessment suggests that he tends to have an overly optimistic and perhaps naïve view of the world..."

This passage has been a source of considerable amusement to my family, friends, and ministry colleagues. None of them say they would describe me as "overly optimistic" (they won't tell me if they think I'm naïve). Rather, they tend to respond that they think I am "serious" or "intellectual" – which, while kind of flattering (I think!) also has me wondering if one cannot be "serious" or "intellectual" and "optimistic" at the same time! It's an odd thing, encountering this "other me" from a decade ago. So much is different: some things have gone, others have changed, a few have stayed the same. The New Year is a time when many of us resolve to become a "new me" – but encountering this old "me" is a reminder that the very business of life makes us new and different every day – for good and for ill.

The life of faith is the same. There is a saying: *Christianity is on the move*. Which means the life of faith is never static; it is dynamic, fluid, forever taking us along new pathways and into new revelations. Or, at least, it should be. Often we try to hold onto the past because of the comfort which the familiar offers us; but Christ calls us into change, into *transformation*.

Let us resolve to make this new year one in which we are open to the transformative potential of the Spirit, so that the business of faith may make us new and different every day.

Brendan

FOR REFLECTION

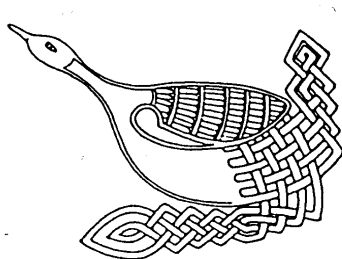
For many people the word 'God' has lost its meaning. It is therefore helpful to get over the word and open ourselves to a deeper meaning.

A story about Father Jules Monachanin, the founder of the Iona ashram in South India, expresses the point. One day he asked some local children 'Where is God?' The Hindu children pointed to the heart and said God was there. The Christian children pointed to the sky.

There are two different ways of understanding God and of course they are complementary. Things do not have to be one thing or the other. So when we think about God we do need images but we need the image both of the Father in heaven and of the Holy Spirit within us.

(Bede Griffiths—taken from *An Iona Prayer Book*
by Peter Millar)

***Lord of every pilgrim heart,
you are beside me
and before me on the way,
surprising me
through your Spirit
at every turning on the path.
Yet, like your disciples
on the Emmaus road,
I often fail to recognize my companion .
In this morning hour,
and in what ever the day may hold,
open my eyes
to see your presence,
that I may celebrate
with you
the gift of the morning,
O Lord of the unexpected.***



PEOPLE.... Their happenings.

Welcome to a new arrival!

Joyce Suto was with her family in Canberra when her first great-grandson was born on 23rd November. **Luke Kenneth John** is the son of second granddaughter, Jessica, and her partner Ian Mugridge. Another visit to Canberra in December included a joyful Christmas Day.



LUKE KENNETH JOHN
MUGRIDGE

A few days later, at the local shopping mall, great-grandma **Joyce**, grandmother **Julie**, mother **Jessica** and aunt **Rachel**, took turns holding **Luke**, and were all delighted to see how, at five weeks, he took such a keen interest in everything and everyone around. Since then **Jessica**, his mum, has been treated for gall stones. However, her time in hospital was minimal, and she made a quick recovery. Meanwhile, Ian took good care of **Luke**. In January, **Tony** and **Rachel** stayed one week in Melbourne before **Rachel** returned to school.

Joyce says, in a note to *CONTACT*, that she has been vaccinated against shingles! Her sister caught the disease at age 92. The only hard part, **Joyce** says, was having to pay \$220. "but that is better than suffering from shingles." Wise lady!

Welcome back. **Phyl Coolledge** made a brave effort to return to worship at Mountview following her very serious back injury and a very painful recovery. Strapped up in a complicated harness and bracing, **Phyl** finds it rather difficult to move about. She is longing for the time when she can drive herself again so that "she can be with my caring friends at Mountview." We were glad to have her daughter, **Janine**, accompany her in mid-January. Phyl will need her friends and family to support her for some time yet as she recovers.

Margaret Cosstick has also been recuperating from back surgery, despite her difficulties she was able to be the organist for the week Geoffrey was on leave.



Congratulations to **Jess brown** celebrating her 98th Birthday.

Despite a stint in hospital a short while ago, Jess has bounced back and is again comfortably residing in Strathdon.



Farewell to **Michelle Jackson**. Michelle has moved to Frankston. She will be missed from Church Council and in leadership in young people's affairs, particularly the Monday Night Small Group. Michelle's leadership skills will be appreciated in her new congregation.



After being in care for 4 years, **Derek Moore's** mother died on 30th December. Her family had a great celebration for her 90th birthday last July. To Derek, Catherine, Natalie, Elizabeth and Kevin we extend our sympathy.

PEOPLE Happenings (continued)

Lynne Mackay is still hospitalised for treatment. Progress seems slow. Your prayerful support would be valuable, for **Lynne, son Robbie and mother Mavis Haynes.**



Tiny **Katelyn May, Lorraine Grant's** grand daughter, has done very well following her major surgery rearranging arteries and veins around her heart, but is now having to endure a throat problem. Constant broken sleep attending to the little one is proving to be very wearing on mother **Danielle.** Lorraine is filling in during the day to permit Danielle to catch up on rest. The condition is usually self correcting in time, and Monash Children's Medical Centre is monitoring her closely for potential corrective surgery.

One of **Lorraine's** nephews, **Andrew Stafford,** has been back and forth from Benalla for surgical treatment following a car accident. He swerved to dodge a kangaroo, hit a bump then a tree. Keep Lorraine supported.

Despite his health shortcomings, **John Williams** was able to conduct worship on January 15th. He expected to be seated while delivering the sermon, but he found he was able to stay on his feet for most of the service, including the preaching. John is waiting for an issue of the shingles vaccine. His specialist physician is of the belief that the chicken pox zoster virus is still active in the ganglion portion of a nerve where it enters the spinal cord, causing the constant pain every hour of the day. The doctor hopes that the virus may be quelled by the vaccine and bring relief at last. Whether it will be successful or not is unknown, there being no indication in medical literature. In any case, the vaccine should give him protection against another outbreak, as such a happening would be a very heavy burden for John. New research has shown the herpes zoster virus bonds itself into the DNA of the nerve ganglion



MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Alan William Stafford, Benalla Vic. For service to the community of Benalla, and to bushfire recovery projects.

cells and is replicated along with each cell renewal. He is hoping his physician's hunch is correct.

The extract from the Australia Day Awards refers to **Alan Stafford, Lorraine Grant's** brother.

The June 2016 issue of *CONTACT* carried a full page article about Alan and the huge effort he has put into organising teams of volunteers to go to farms to carry out work essential in recovering from bush fire destruction, such as building boundary fencing and stock holding yards, replacing damaged watering systems, etc. **Lorraine** is thrilled that her brother's volunteer work has been given recognition.

[Her nephew, Andrew, mentioned above is Alan Stafford's son. CONTACT'S readers can only imagine the stress across this extended family in recent months. Ed]

DISCUSSING THE BUDGET FOR 2017

Treasurer, Peter Cox and Property and Finance Committee member John Williams discussed the budget papers in front of the Congregation for the Budget Meeting. This a summary what was said.

Peter, the budget papers show a 5% increase in the giving income for next year. But that is not fact, is it?

No. It is not a fact. It is what we are recommending. Those figures won't happen unless people increase their giving. We have been running a deficit budget for many years now, and it is imperative we try to balance the budget.

Why 5%?

That is to make up lost ground. The last few years, we have made no request for people to increase their giving, and we went further into the red, and had to draw down on our reserves to pay our bills.

But isn't that what reserves are for?

That is true, but having made a draw down, it is not magically going to be recouped. The members, through their giving, are the only ones who can do that. We have been bouncing along for a few years, slowly making drawdowns and hoping interest earnings will make up the difference. Our hopes have not been realised. Hence the 5% is mainly catch up. Another year in the red would be an undesirable outcome. For example, we have been unable to top up our capital replacement reserve fund for some years now. It used to be held around \$21,000 but is now down around \$13,500. This covers capital equipment items.

Peter, that request of 5% is reasonable. But tell us, what effect is it on the bottom line when we lose members such as through death, moving away, or going into residential care some distance away?

It is quite obvious that when we lose people we also lose income. Hence the recommended request for everybody to lift their giving by 5% is to make up some of that loss.

This means that for somebody putting in a \$20 note each week, an extra dollar covers the 5%, so \$20 becomes \$21?

That is correct. The maths are simple, take one tenth and divide by two. For \$50, that works out to be \$2.50, and so on, \$80 is \$4, and \$100 becomes \$105. People can decide to give more than the suggested increase if they choose.

Peter, you have just mentioned some large figures, like \$80 and \$100. Do we have members giving at that level?

Yes we do, and imagine what the Church could achieve were more people to give at that level.

Peter, some people may be surprised to know that we have such givers. But surely it is not so straight forward, just an increase in giving all round? What else needs to be done?

Well, we need to also improve on our regularity. Some people do not come every week. They contribute by putting into the offering plate each time they come, and that is good, but we hope that they think seriously about regularity in their giving, calculate it on a say a weekly or monthly basis and put it aside to bring when they do come.

That is proving to be not quite the case, is it not?



(Continued next page.....)

(Budget Discussion Continued)

Yes, and that is why we strongly suggest to our members to arrange a direct debit from their bank account on a regular basis. A good number of our members are already doing that, and we are looking for more people to do give that way.

Peter, what about weekly envelopes?

Yes. That is also a good scheme which has been in place for years. Many members have a feeling about seeing their contributions being offered up through the collection plate, and having a blessing prayer being said. However, the cost of having the sets of envelopes printed with a weekly date and an individual number is significant. Bank direct debit is a more cost effective way, and that is why we encourage people to adopt that method.

So, Peter, let's summarise. We need a 5% increase in giving to stop the bottom line sinking into the red again.

Yes. Open plate and envelope givers can take action personally by themselves. However, bank debit people need to provide an amended debit authority. David Rowe has forms here today ready for you to complete.

Are there any other items on the proposed budget which need explanation?

Yes, there are a couple. Ministerial stipend is one. We have allowed a 2% increase. We are expecting the Synod to recommend a 2% increase this coming year.

And there is an item of capital expenditure.

There is and it is an estimated capital expenditure of \$6200. We are very dependent on the income from our hall renting clients. Look at the size of that rental income figure - \$46,270. It is a life line to us. Now, for years we have fielded complaints from groups using the big hall about inadequate heating. It is being well used by a number of clients. We are heeding their repeated requests for better heating, and we are investigating the best way of doing that.

The original gas heaters have died, one by one. They are very old, over 50 years, and repair costs are prohibitive. These have been progressively replaced with reverse cycle air conditioning. We want to retain that due to the low running cost, but the time has come to upgrade the whole system. One system we are looking at is a large capacity gas-fired space heater. The suggested cost of that is the reason for the capital expenditure amount.

Peter, with more acceptable facilities, we can ask for higher rental rates. What has happened there?

Yes , we are increasing rentals, so our clients are more than covering the running costs, and are effectively contributing to the capital cost through their rent payments. We have assembled a large group of respected clients. We do not wish to lose any of them.

You would agree with me that our Property Officer, Eddie Short, is doing a fantastic job of looking after our clients?

I certainly do. He listens to them when something is not as expected, and puts it right. We should be most grateful for his diplomacy as he attends to their issues. Eddie is also excellent at recruiting new clients. He carries Mountview's mobile phone with him all the time ready to receive enquiries. We need to keep our rental clients happy.

Peter, is there any other unusual item in the budget?

No, but there may be questions. Please ask them now.

There were no questions. The budget was adopted.

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|--|
| Over the page are instructions for setting up or changing a direct debit. |
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THE CHRISTMAS CARD Children's Nativity Presentation.

That amazing lady, Sue Terrill, has done it again! The Children's Nativity Play last Advent Season was a brilliant idea of presenting a series of tableaus about the events of the birth of Jesus backed up by pictures of the many Christmas traditions we enjoy.

Two narrators (Callum and Hayden Farquhar) carried on a discussion about the origin of Christmas cards and many of the traditions we enjoy around Christmas.

To one side of the two lads was a huge pair of hinged panels representing a Christmas card upon which stage managers (Doug Terrill and Daniel Jackson) placed pictures and scenery depictions commonly seen on cards, all relating to the topic then being discussed.

Supporting this on the opposite side was a Bethlehem tableau within which the children portrayed and acted out the Nativity events. From time to time, these actors came through the congregation into the tableau and out through the people, sometimes circling the space.

How fortunate we were that we had a real infant to represent the baby Jesus (Jubilee Menger, carefully cuddled and nursed by her proud sister, Tarragon, representing Mary). The babe from a couple of years ago (Ana) was now a tiny angel accompanied by 'grown up' angels (Alice, Seohee, Sophie, Sofia). Boys were in short supply, so girls had to double up for some parts (Ian was supported by Alice and Laura as wise men), even Joseph was well played by Eva. There were shepherdesses (Caitlin and Kirsten) supporting Ian as the sole shepherd. The accompanying pictures show the children at their best.



NARRATORS HAYDEN AND CAL LUM., WITH DANIEL GETTING READY ANOTHER PICTURE

RIGHT: TARRAGON AS MARY IS PROUDLY HOLDING BABY JUBILEE, WHILE SISTER EVA, IS A SMILING JOSEPH



BELOW RIGHT: SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS COME IN STRANGE FORMS, BUT WE KNOW WHAT THEY ARE.



LEFT: A HOST OF ANGELS DESCENDED.

CALLUM EXPLAINS WHY THEY WERE THERE.





SUE TERRILL : THE LADY WHO WROTE IT. BEHIND IS THE GIANT CHRISTMAS CARD.

**ABOVE:
THE ANGEL GABRIEL IS TELLING MARY HER ASTOUNDING NEWS. HERE MARY IS PART OF THE OPEN CARD.**

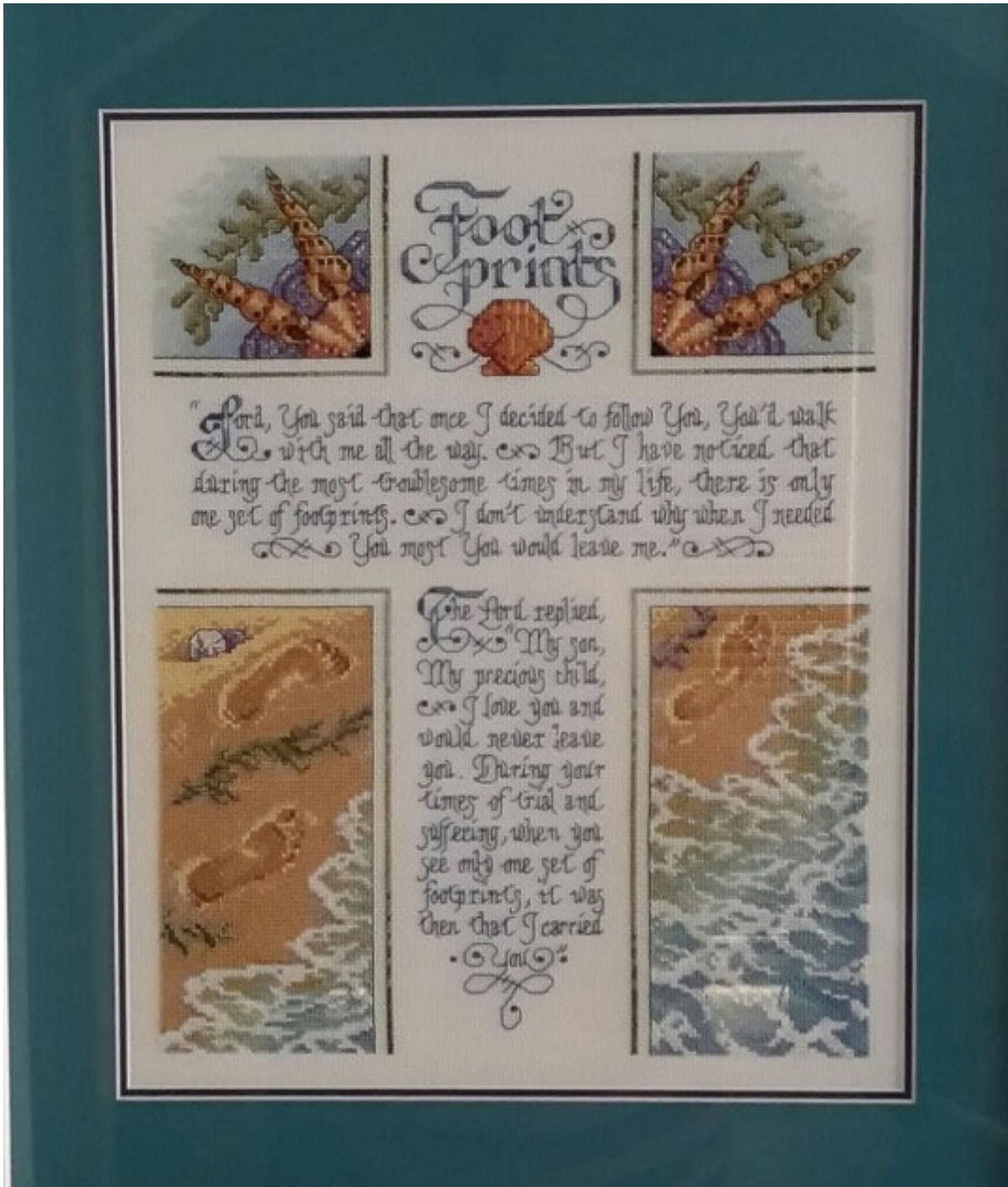
**RIGHT:
JOSEPH IS HAVING A NURSE OF JESUS. MARY LOOKS DOTINGLY ON. A WISE MAN IS LOOKING ON AND THE ANGELS ARE STILL SINGING WITH THE HEAVENLY HOST.**



**RIGHT:
CAMEL, DONKEY CROWNS AND TIARAS TELL US OF THE CROWDED STABLE. THE BABY JESUS IS BEING HAPPILY NURSED.**



SUPBERB HANDIWORK FROM SUE TERRILL



In the April 2016 edition of *CONTACT*, there was a photo of Sue Terrill working on an intricate crossstitch handcraft at the church weekend camp at Coolamatong. The finally finished work is pictured above as large as *CONTACT* can print it. This labour of love is framed for hanging in daughter Jo's new home.

Beautiful craftwork such as this often become treasured family heirlooms. We hope that Sue's example of fine crossstitch will survive for many generations, handed down with loving memory as the years roll by.



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Advent and Christmas. Our thanks to Brendan and those who helped lead the many activities which marked the recent season of Advent and Christmas. Special thanks goes to Darren Cram and the members of the Monday Night Study Group who devised and lead the Christmas Eve Family Service. Thanks also to Daniel Jackson for coordinating the MUC Band. This year's presentation by the BUGGSS and MUGGs children featuring the symbols displayed on our Christmas cards was especially memorable and a tribute to Sue Terrill (and family), Jo Menger Leeman and their helpers. Church Council acknowledges the good work of Amy Cram who designed the Christmas services sign board at the front of the church property. We also thank the many volunteers who helped in the Charity Christmas Card Shop and who helped prepare the Christmas Hampers which Centre 81 distributed to needy folk in our district.

Advent Studies and Reflections. This year's Advent Study "Walking Backward to Christmas" featured stories involving many of the folk involved in the Christmas story. Three groups used the study material and the significant questions provided by Brendan. Church Council provided copies of daily Advent devotions for the congregation which were appreciated by those who marked their Advent journey with a daily time of reflection.

NOCET Orphanage and the Going Further Fund. Copies of the orphanage's 2017 calendar were provided for sale during December with proceeds helping to fund the work of the orphanage. Mountview's Going Further Fund also provides a regular contribution to the work of the orphanage. Our thanks to Robyn Cox for keeping us in touch with this project. Denyse Ward's productive oven continues to produce some delicious goodies, the sale of which raised \$600 for the orphanage. This adds to the earlier work of Lynne Rosenthal who sold home-made jams as a fund raiser. Seems like there is a bit of competition between two kitchens!

Kharis has a placement at last! Kharis Susilowati, who provided supply ministry at Mountview during Brendan's overseas trip, has recently been ordained. She has taken up her first placement as a Minister of the Word at Mitchell River-Paynesville. We have fond memories of her time at Mountview and wish her well in her Gippsland ministry.

Music Together. Church Council was pleased to learn that Term 4 of Music Together went well. Term 4 saw an increase in those enrolled. Our thanks to Margaret Swain and her team for their faithful service to the community. Many statements of appreciation have been received from parents and grandparents who value the opportunity of being together and seeing the development of the children.

Budget is approved. The annual presentation of the Mountview budget was a little different this year. Peter Cox and John Williams engaged in an informative dialogue at the Congregational Meeting on 11 December. Their "conversation" put the otherwise many figures into a easily understood picture of the highlights of what we are trying to achieve. The congregation approved the budget by consensus. The challenge for us now is to strive to reach the 5% increase in giving. Our thanks to our congregational office bearers, Tim Menger and Lynne Rosenthal for their work as Chairperson and Secretary and, of course, to Peter Cox for his expertise as Treasurer.

Membership of Church Council. The following people were re-elected to Church Council by the congregation at its Congregational Meeting on 11 December: Heather Barnes, Peter Cox, Darren Cram, Jodie Slep and Denyse Ward. At the Church Council's December meeting, the following people were appointed to the positions indicated: Chairperson – Rob Jackson; Deputy Chairperson – Denyse Ward; Secretary – Geoffrey Willis; Treasurer – Peter Cox. The Church Council also acknowledged the service to the Council provided by Michelle Jackson, particularly her thoughtful contributions to the work of the Council, her leadership of one of the Mission & Ministry Task Group think tanks, and her tireless work as facilitator of the Monday Night Study Group. We pray for God's blessings on Michelle as she moves to Frankston and as she makes decisions on her future church activities.

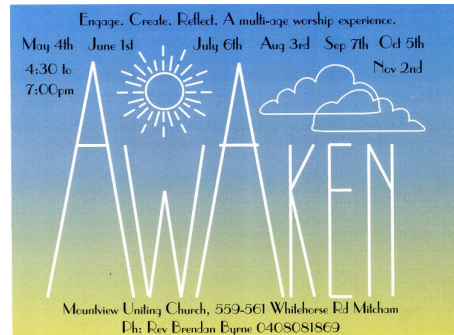
Support Ministries. Church Council has approved the list of those folk who chair committees, prepare rosters and coordinate the many aspects of our life at Mountview. We offer our thanks to those who have opted to continue their work in 2017. Our thanks also go to those who have decided to step back from their duties, namely Michelle Jackson (Monday Night Group Facilitator), Pat Legg (Pastoral Partners Roll Coordinator) and Liz Moore (one of our Christian Education Leaders). Earlier in the year, Dennis Cooper also indicated that he wished to complete his time as the Vietnamese Support Group Coordinator. To all these people we say thank you for your good work and wish you well in the future.

Geoffrey Willis, Church Council Secretary

AWAKEN DATES FOR 2017

**AWAKEN Services will be held in 2017 at
The Avenue Church, Blackburn at 4:30pm. On SUNDAYS on these dates.**

19th Feb
19th March
23rd April
21st May
18th June
16th July
20th August (see note below)
17th September
22nd October
19th November



Please note the exception to this schedule is the August service, which will be a combined service at Mountview at 10am on Sunday 20th.

DISTRICT COMBINED SERVICES FOR 2017

The schedule for Combined Services is as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------------|------------|
| 26th Feb | 10:00 am | Transfiguration | Mountview |
| 13th April | 7:30 pm | Holy Thursday | BNNUC |
| 4th June | 10:00 am | Pentecost | The Avenue |
| 20th August | 10:00 am | Awaken | Mountview |
| 26th Nov | 10:00 am | Christ the King | BNNUC |
| 24th Dec | 11:00 pm | Christmas Eve | The Avenue |

Guest preachers are being arranged for many of these services.

2018 WILL SEE TWO IMPORTANT CELEBRATIONS

Mountview commenced on this site in May 50 years ago.

The first Methodist church in Mitcham was opened on 6th May, 1888, making 2018 the 150th Anniversary year.

Start marshalling your ideas on how best to mark these occasions.

CENTRE 81

A Community Care Service
of Mitcham Uniting Church



CENTRE 81

Our 2016 Centre 81 year saw yet another year of fulfilment, and dedication by our loyal Receptionists, who despite some taking extended holidays, and others being unwell, we managed to keep the Centre open for four mornings a week, not opening Wednesdays.

During January 2017, our opening hours were limited, but as from Monday, 30th January, we will revert back to our four day roster.

(Thankyou to Sue, for your work in creating and maintaining the roster).

From mid October, the Charity Christmas Shop was in full swing, with Cards, Shortbread, Decorations, and for the first time, a small amount of home baked Christmas Cakes, truffles, chocolate Christmas Trees and fudge being available for sale.

We hope that it may be possible to extend the quantity next year, as the goodies were very well received.

Denyse Ward also was selling her home made mince tarts, the money from those going to the "Loose Change Fund".

Thankyou to Jenny & Dennis Cooper for their tireless efforts in co-ordinating the Christmas Card Shop each year—much work goes in behind the scenes.

We also prepared 22 beautiful Christmas Hampers, which were given to our needy people, both from Centre 81 and Linc.

Thankyou to all the members of our Congregation who throughout the year, donated gifts of food to help maintain our Pantry through the "First Sunday in the month Food Basket", also to the congregation of Christ Church Anglican in Mitcham, who also donate on a regular basis.

For all the gifts and donations which were placed under the Christmas Tree, for the donations collected at Halloween by our Young Adult Group, and the children, the 10 hampers which we received from Philip Webb Real Estate, 6 hampers from the Eastern Emergency Relief Network, a parcel from Linc, and St. Vincent DePaul in Mitcham—all these gifts make our Outreach into the Community very joyous and yet humbling.

As we begin another New Year, we ask God's blessings on our service to Him, and to our Community.

Jill Kidd for the Centre 81 Committee

Jenny Balshaw, Sue Carter, Margot Kemke & Jill Kidd



PRODUCTION LINE HAMPER PACKING PROCESS



CARD SHOP PRODUCE

A Chat with JOYCE WILLIAMSa Recent Arrival



*Mountview congregation has been pleased to welcome several new members, who have come from the closed Mitcham Church of Christ. Here is a brief profile of one of them: **Joyce Williams**, a stalwart member for 50 years. In future issues of Contact we will meet Rhonda Goodall, and Dr. Peter and Gigi Wright.*

Joyce Burton was one of thirteen siblings. She was born at 23 Percy Street, Mitcham, and she still lives at 26 Percy Street, Mitcham. She married Bill Williams, who at that time was her next door neighbour. She and her sister Ena who married Keith, were married in a double wedding ceremony at the Box Hill Methodist Church.

Bill had worked on the infamous Burma Railway as a P.O.W., which left him with many health problems. After the war, Bill was a maintenance worker at the Willsmere Hospital, in Kew. He died in 2013, at age nearly 92.

The Burton children greatly boosted the numbers at the Mitcham State School. Joyce enjoyed her school years, especially the various sports she played. She gained her Merit Certificate (Grade 8) and at age 13 and a half she was allowed to leave school and started work at the fish shop in Mitcham for two and a half days a week – every little bit helped the family finances. At age 15, with her brothers working in trades, she became a machinist in Richmond. Joyce worked a 48-hour week, and overtime, at the Australian Knitting Mills, to earn ten pounds a week.

When Joyce's mother was dying, Bill had to call a doctor from Ringwood, because their usual doctor, Dr. Stanley Cochrane was ill. Mrs. Burton died in 1950.

At this stage, Bill and Joyce took in three of Joyce's younger sisters, Thelma, Nancy and Shirley. Joyce said, "Bill never complained about the extra load. He treated all the children, my sisters and our own three, Annette, Brian and Joanne, alike. He was a very good husband, father and stepfather." Her three children have all had good secure employment at all times.

Joyce says that she is a very practical lady. *"Write a page for CONTACT! No way! But give me a ton of wood to split, or cook a meal for 20, and I'd be in it."* We can see why she has recently joined the group of Mountview ladies serving us as Communion Stewards. She enjoys doing things for other people.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

What is Tax Justice?

Tax evasion and avoidance robs the world's poorest people while the rich get even richer. Tax justice seeks to restore the taxes to whom they are due. There are lawyers, accountants, bankers and tax specialists who work together to make sure that individuals and corporations pay as little tax as possible. This occurs through mechanisms which are legal (tax avoidance) and illegal (tax evasion.) Tax revenue enables governments to provide essential services such as health and education as well as infrastructure such as roads and transport. Tax evasion deprives everyday people of these vital services. In developing countries, this can mean the difference between life and death.

The Tax Justice Network is asking the Australian Government to stop tax dodging by introducing laws that would enable a reduction in tax lost through multi-national companies shifting pre-tax profits off shore.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There are CONTACT readers who should find the public forums listed below of value. Some of the venues are convenient. Try Chirnside Park (Lilydale), Manningham or Glen Waverley. Make a selection and ring 9239 2500 and book a place:

Changes in Aged Care

What older people need to know

The way the government funds in-home aged care changes on Feb 27. What will these changes mean for you or someone you know? Prahran Mission & lifeAssist are holding FREE public forums to discuss:

- in-home services – what is available and how to choose,
- how to access and navigate the aged care system and more.



Tuesday 31, Jan 10am – noon
Chirnside Park Country Club,
68 Kingswood Drive

Tuesday, 7 Feb 10am – noon
Manningham Function Centre,
699 Doncaster Road

Tuesday, 14 Feb 10am – noon
Kingston Links Golf Club,
14 Corporate Ave, Rowville

Thursday, 23 Feb 10am – noon
The Betty Day Centre,
67 Argyle Street, StKilda

Thursday, 2 March 10am – noon
Caulfield Park Pavilion,
Balaclava Road

Tuesday, 7 March 10am – noon
UnitingCare lifeAssist,
Brandon Business Park,
530-540 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley

FREE with morning tea provided. To book, call lifeAssist (03) 9239 2500

 **UnitingCare**
Prahran Mission

UnitingCare
lifeAssist

For further information:
www.lifeassist.org.au/events

BIBLE SOCIETY Reaches 200 Years of Age.

Soon after Australia began, passionate community leaders like Governor and Lady Macquarie created Bible Society. They knew it wasn't just government that could create a nation. It would need people with their own spiritual life – people of hope, people who live light.

Today, Bible Society is Australia's longest-living organisation. A birthday celebration event is being held in Sydney and broadcast to churches throughout Australia on 5th March. Over the last 200 years, the Bible has done Australia a great deal of good. And there's a lot more good to do yet. So the Society is creating new ways to advocate for the Bible, to promote it, and offer people new ways to engage with it.

The Society is celebrating its 200th year by doing even more of what the original founders did – championing the Bible across the world, from prisons in Australia to Sunday Schools in China. Only 500 of the world's 7,000 language groups have a full Bible, in their language. There are 497 million people without any part of the Bible. The aim of the Society is to reach every last one of them, a huge task indeed. The Society is working with many minority groups. Bible literacy programs give the message of faith, hope and love, but more importantly, is opening up doors to a lifetime of education. Expanding their work in literacy just doesn't create Bible readers, it creates readers who become community leaders.

The Bible Society is always increasing its list of supporters. Mountview once had an active participating group, but due to deaths and people moving into care, has ceased to function. Anyone may join as a supporter. Bible Society Australia, 2-6 Albert St, BLACKBURN VIC 3130. (03) 9877 9277.





SOME BIBLE PRINTING ACCIDENTS ON THE WAY.

Around the year 1440, Johannes Gutenberg developed a 'printing press', which, for the first time enabled many copies of the pages of a document to be made quickly. Printing of the Bible was of the first order. The type was made of single hand carved wooden letters clamped together in lines to build up a page. As these letters are a mirror image of the finished print, the typesetters and the proof readers had to learn to read the mirror image and to read in reverse direction. It was no wonder that mistakes would be made by the typesetters and some escaped the proof readers. Bibles with these errors began to be named after the mistake. A few hundred years later, these Bibles have become very highly priced collector's items.

There was a massive increase in printing numbers after King James authorised the translation of the Bible into English in 1611 to make it available to everybody who could read, not just the learned scholars, the majority of whom would have been associated with monasteries.


The foibles of translators, the errors of typesetters and the oversight of proof readers have sometimes turned editions of the Bible into valuable and interesting curiosities from the collector's point of view.


 One edition published in 1631 became known as the 'Wicked Bible'. It cost the printer a small fortune. The word "not" was omitted from the seventh Commandment. Archbishop Laud was so enraged when he read "*Thou shalt kill*", he imposed a £300 fine. The money was used to supply "a font of fair Greek type" to make sure the error did not recur.


 Carelessness of typesetting led an Oxford edition of the Authorised Version published by J. Baskett in 1717 to be called 'A BASKETFUL OF ERRORS'. This book was bound in rich style, but a carelessness of typesetting led it to be given the name. One outstanding mistake occurred in setting "*The Parable of the Vineyard*" on the page heading to Luke 20. It appeared as '*The Parable of the Vinegar*'. Collectors refer to this as 'The Vinegar Bible'.


(Continued next page.)


(Bible printing errors continued)


 The 'Servant Bible' was published in 1640, and contained an error in Genesis 3. In this Bible, the chapter began: *"Now the servant was more subtile than any beast of the field..."* It should, of course have read : *"Now the serpent ..."*

 The misprint which gives the *"More Sea Bible"* its name, occurs in Revelation 21:1. The negative "no" was omitted. The misprint read: *"and I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was more sea."*

 Contained in the *"Judas Bible"* is a very curious error. It is the substitution of the betrayer, Judas, for that of the Saviour. *"Then cometh Judas with them into a place called Gethsemane, and said unto his disciples, "Sit yee here, while I goe and pray yonder."* (Some of the spelling is old English and not erroneous).

 *"He measured six measures of barley and laid it on her, and he went into the citie."*. Obviously the 'he' should have been 'she' as Ruth was meant. In the second edition of this Bible this error is corrected, and the edition is known as *"THE GREAT SHE BIBLE"* .

 The *"Wooden-Leg Bible"* shows a print of the *"Enemy of Man"* sowing tares among the wheat. For some strange reason, the etcher artist has reproduced Satan with a tail and a wooden leg.

 Another extremely rare collector's item is known as the *"Treacle"* edition. In this, *"... balm of Gilead "* (Jeremiah 8:22) reads *"... tryacle in Galaad"*. The rarity of this edition comes about because horrified ecclesiastical authorities did their best to suppress the sale and destroy all the copies which they could find.

It is strange that those volumes should have their errors, for of all the books published and circulated in Europe and America, the Bible had the most care lavished upon it. This had to be so; punishment for blasphemy was severe.

CONTACT'S editor remembers viewing a first edition copy of the King James Bible in a Scottish village church. The typos had been hand corrected and in the margin were the initials of the editor.

(Information adapted from an article in the magazine "Port of London", July 1974 , by Raymond Lamont Brown and found among ex librarian Joyce Suto's bookshelves. Ed.)



CARD SHOP

Centre 81 was a hive of activity for eight weeks pre-Christmas as our shop swung into action again. With the closure of the big Cam Care outlet in 2015 our shop is one of a very few left displaying cards from a range of charities.

We received many thank you's for still offering this service.

We had over 100 cards from 16 charities on display this season.

Our total takings were \$15,077.95 and Centre 81 will benefit by over

\$1800, made up of commission on the cards sold, sale of shortbreads, cakes and Joyce's shopping bags and some customer donations.

Approximately 516 customers and 28 volunteers shared the spirit of Christmas and we are very pleased with the outcome.

Jenny Cooper

For the Centre 81 Committee.



FUNNIES (well, some of them are)

A taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went upon the pavement, and stopped centimetres from a shop window.

For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mister, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylight out of me!"

The passenger apologized and said he didn't realise that a little tap could scare him so much.

The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving hearses for the last 25 years."

Two elderly couples were chatting together. One of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the visit to the memory clinic last month?"

Outstanding. They taught us some of the latest techniques for remembering things. It was great."

"What was the name of the clinic?" asked the other man.

Fred's mind went blank. Then he smiled and asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?"

"A rose?"

"Yes!"

He turned to his wife: "Rose, what was the name of that memory clinic?"



Sign in a Sydney Restaurant: *WANTED: Man to wash dishes and two waitresses.*

Advertisement in a New Zealand Newspaper: *WANTED: A steady young woman to wash, iron and milk two cows.*

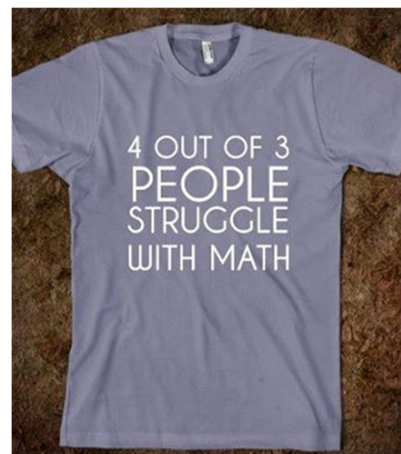
A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when

we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor... She told him she was writing a story.

"What's it about?" he asked.

"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."



LECTIONARY

February 5 Epiphany 5
 Is 58: 1 –9a, (9b-12)
 Ps 112: 1-9, (10)
 I Cor 2: 1-12, (13-16)
 Matt 5: 13-20

February 12 Epiphany 6
 Deut 30: 15-20
 Ps 119: 1-8
 I Cor 3: 1-9
 Matt 5: 21-37

February 19 Epiphany 7
 Lev 19: 1-2, 9-18
 Ps 119: 33-40
 1 Cor 3: 10-11, 16-23
 Matt 5: 38-48

February 26 Transfiguration
 Ex 24: 12-18
 Ps 2 or Ps 99
 2Peter 1: 16-21
 Matt 17: 1-9

March 1 Ash Wednesday
 Joel 2 : 1-2, 12-17
 Ps 51: 1-17
 2 Cor 5: 20b-6:10
 Matt 6: 1-6, 15-21

March 5 Lent 1
 Gen 2:15-17, 3: 1-7
 Ps 32
 Rom 5: 12-19
 Matt 4: 1-11

March 12 Lent 2
 Gen 12: 1-4a
 Ps 121
 Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17
 John 3: 1-17 or Matt 17: 1-9

March 19 Lent 3
 Ex 17: 1-7
 Ps 95
 Rom 5: 1-11
 John 4: 5-42

March 26 Lent 4
 1 Sam 16: 1-13
 Ps 23
 Eph 5: 8-14
 John 9: 1-41



April 2 Lent 5
 Ezek 37: 1-14
 Ps 130
 Rom 8: 6-11
 John 11: 1-45

April 9 Palm Sunday
 Is 50: 4-9a
 Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29
 Phil 2: 5-11
 Matt 21: 1-11

April 16 Easter Day
 Jer 31: 1-6 or Acts 10: 34-43
 Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24
 Col 3: 1-4, or Acts 10: 34-43
 John 20: 1-18 or Matt 28: 1-10

ADVANCE DIARY NOTICE

Camp Coolamatong, on the Gippsland Lakes, has been booked for 3rd-5th March 2017. Everyone welcome to join in this week-end away. Could you please put it in your diaries immediately? Contact Denyse Ward for a place on the list.

Denyse Ward

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BEWARE OF THOSE COMPUTER RANSOME ROGUES!

Here is another one of those dangerous “phishing” emails ready to pounce on the unsuspecting. Be very wary, especially if you are in a hurry. We quote this quite clever one, but the distorted English in this supposed message from an Irish university knocks its cleverness.

Our system has found out too many unauthorised email accounts in our system.
 Therefore we are sending this message to email accounts in our index to update our system.
 Updating your email account into our index will render it safe and active.

Only email accounts in our index will be receiving this message, all accounts in our index not updated will be rendered inactive and therefore closed. The reason is to make room for active accounts and for us to be able to serve you better.

To continue to be included on the approved list [CLICK HERE](#).

559-561 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham. Vic. 3132.
www.mountviewuca.org.

Rev. Brendan Byrne. 9873 1150 (office) / 9874 0362 (home) / 0408 081 869. minister@mountviewuca.org

CENTRE 81: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday..... 9873 1726

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY:

Monday Night Small Group - Simon Plumridge.....
{BUGGSS (3 years to Grade 5) } Jo Menger
{MUGGs (Grade 6 to Year 8) - }

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Chairperson: Rob Jackson

Secretary: Geoffrey Willis ...

Treasurer: Peter Cox

Property and Finance: Don Bain

Music Ministry: Geoffrey Wil-

**DUE TO PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS,
PERSONAL PHONE NUMBERS
AND EMAIL ADDRESSES HAVE
BEEN DELETED.**

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CHURCH OFFICE: ...



9873 1150

CONGREGATION:

Chairperson: Tim Menger

Secretary: Lynne Rosenthal

CONTACT:

Editor: Margaret Williams contact@mountviewuca.org

LEAD STEWARDS: John Cosstick, Peter Cox, David Rowe. Dana Nicolau.

LIBRARIAN:

Kirsten Boxall

MEMBERS' ROLLS & STEWARDSHIP RECORDER:

David Rowe

MULTI-MEDIA:

Rob Jackson

PROPERTY BOOKINGS:

Eddie Short glenviewroad@optusnet.com.au 0447 312 996

WEB MASTER:

Rev. Brendan Byrne ...

WEEKLY NOTICE SHEET:

Lynne Rosenthal (1st half of year)
Margaret Cosstick (2nd half of year)

YARRA YARRA PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES:

CONTACT is the bi-monthly magazine of Mountview Uniting Church, Mitcham.
It is issued on the first Sunday of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Contributions for the next issue will be due on **Sunday, 18th March, 2017**