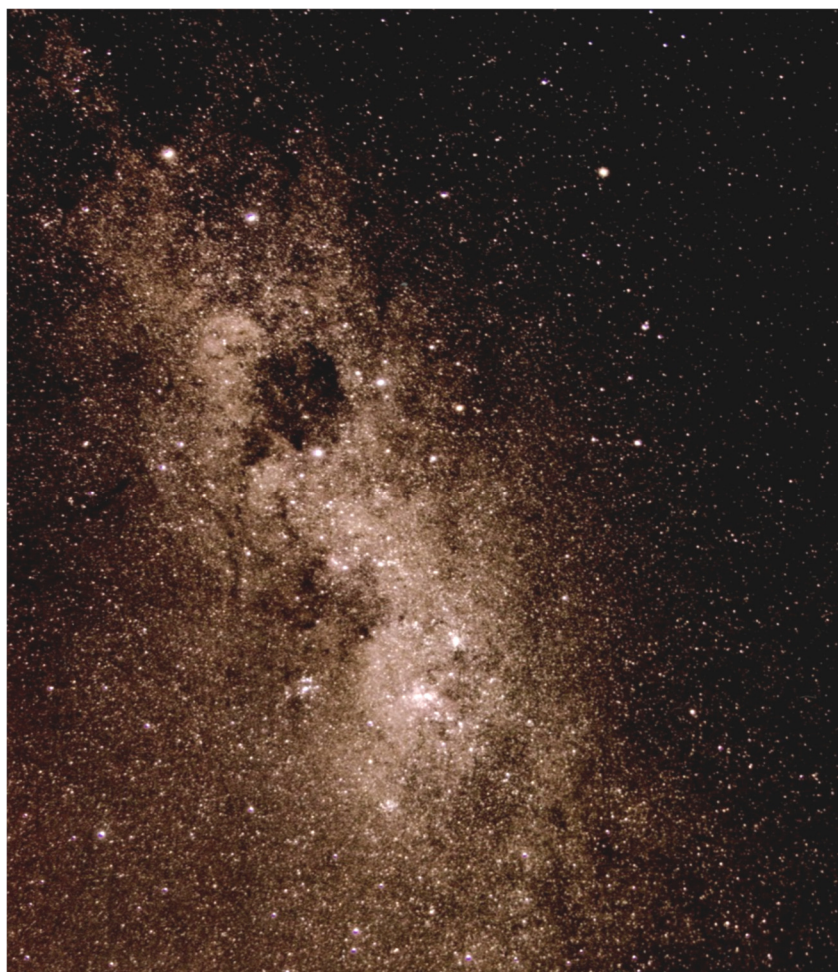


*Nurturing our people in the Christian faith and reaching out to the local community in the power of the Holy Spirit.*



**No. 249**  
**October, 2016**



**THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF THE LORD. PSALM 19:1.**

**PHOTO: MILKY WAY. RICHARD BROOKS, TAKEN AT BAYTON, VIC.**



## PAYING THE PRICE

One of the issues which many of you will have become aware of in recent times is the need for many members of the Mountview community to obtain Working With Children Check (WWCC). If you haven't been contacted by Mountview's Safe Church Contact Person yet, odds are you will be before the year is out.

Most folks at Mountview have, I am happy to say, responded positively to these approaches and have obtained a WWCC. Others have expressed concerns or frustrations, but have nonetheless complied with the request. A few others have still to obtain a WWCC.

For those who have yet to do so, don't worry – I'm not about to "have a go" at you, or "guilt trip" you or anything like that. I would simply remind you of why this request has been made of you and why it is important you comply.

The Federal and Victorian Inquiries into child abuse within churches and other institutions did not just uncover appalling instances of abuse by Christian clergy and laypeople – it also uncovered systemic failures by all Churches to either report instances of abuse, or have systems in place to protect vulnerable persons from abuse. The consequence has been a raft of legislation that requires Churches and other institutions to not only report abuse when it occurs, but also to implement measures to, so far as is possible, prevent abuse from happening.

The request to obtain a WWCC is part of this preventative strategy. It is only a first step and is by no means considered "fool-proof". But it is necessary. It is also *obligatory* – both at law, and by decision of the Church leadership

I would like to make one thing clear: if you are asked for a WWCC, *no-one is making the accusation that you are, or have ever been, involved in perpetrating abuse*. You are *not* being "targeted" or "singled out". There is simply no suspicion involved. If you are asked, it is simply and solely in order for Mountview – and the wider Uniting Church – to be compliant with the legislation as it now stands. It is *not* about you – it is about the law, and what we must do to satisfy the law's demands.

I know some of you feel this is unfair, or bureaucracy gone mad. I know some of you feel personally insulted or affronted. I sympathise with these views and feelings. I might even agree with you on many points. But here's the thing: *the Church is now reaping the whirlwind it sowed when it allowed abuse to happen, and when it failed to report such abuse or prevent its occurrence*. The unpleasant truth is: we only have ourselves to blame. So now we have to pay the price for those failings, and comply with the legal burden society has placed upon us.

And, yes, the "remedy" may involve some measure of injustice inasmuch as people who've done nothing wrong are now "paying" for the acts or omissions of others. But can I respectfully suggest that this injustice is far less than the injustice suffered by the victims of abuse? And can I also suggest that their case for protection from the injustice of abuse far outweighs your case for protection from the "injustice" of legal compliance?

So can I make this appeal to all those who've yet to obtain a WWCC, or who may be asked to do so in future: please just swallow your pride and do what is required. You don't have to agree with it, or like it. But you must see that it is necessary – for all our sakes.

*BRENDAN*

## FOR REFLECTION

The SEASON OF CREATION is celebrated during the first four Sundays of September leading up to the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4. St. Francis honoured and respected creation through the way that he lived, a model for each one of us today. Sundays this year are Ocean, Flora and Fauna, Storm and lastly Cosmos.

A new perspective:

It's appropriate that at the same time we are cultivating an outlook of creation that is holistic and not human-centric, we explore God's divine wisdom in creation. God created a world that is interconnected, joined together in a complex web of related parts. We live in a world affected by global warming, over-consumption, and pollution from fossil fuels. Our actions are having dire consequences for our planet. We should work with creation to protect and conserve it, not ignore or abuse it.



The SEASON OF CREATION readings invite us into relationship with the natural elements that surround us. The psalmist praised God and tells us that God reigns over all creation: "Let them praise the name of God, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven" (Psalm 148:13)

We sometimes lose sight of the importance of creation in our lives. We can take for granted God's divine wisdom in creation – the elements of creation that work together perfectly to sustain all life. During this season we can adopt a new perspective and practice – honouring and caring for all creation.

September 4 - **Ocean Sunday** Read Job 38:1-8



The complexity and expanse of creation are bigger than we can understand. God laid the foundation of Earth. God said to the ocean, thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped." (Job 38:11). That is one powerful God.

Prayer:

*O God, thank you for the blue oceans, and all the wonderful things that live in them. May we always look after the oceans and help to keep them healthy. Amen.*

September 11 - **Fauna and Flora Sunday** Psalm 104:14-23



*"You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth."*

*(Continued Page 4)*



.....REFLECTION (Cont)

September 18 - **Storm Sunday:** Psalm 29

*God sits enthroned over the flood; God sits enthroned as ruler forever. May God give strength to God's people! May God give strength to God's people! May God give strength to God's people! May God bless God's people with peace!" (Psalm 29:10-11)*



September 25 – **Cosmos Sunday:** Proverbs 8:22-31



We take for granted God's divine wisdom in creation – the elements of creation that work perfectly together to sustain life. In Proverbs, Wisdom speaks about the creation of the cosmos at the beginning of time long ago, "before the beginning of the earth" (Proverbs 8:23) Wisdom was there alongside God as God crafted the world and all creation. Today, we are working alongside God – conserving and protecting creation – sharing in God's delight. We cannot forget our role in maintaining the health of all creation – it will undoubtedly affect our own.



**PEOPLE ..... And happenings.**

**Jess Brown**, our oldest member has been having a difficult time of late, spending time in Box Hill Hospital then back to Strathdon for some care-filled nursing. Jess is not as sprightly as she was, at 98½, as she delights to tell you, but is greatly comforted by having memories stirred.

The **O'Kane family** were saddened by the passing of Marilyn's mother, Doris Spratling. Marilyn, Stephen, Sean and Benjamin have appreciated our prayerful support.

That nasty wog called influenza has again got the better of **Lorraine Grant**. After a nine-day stint in hospital, she is back at home and trying to make up for lost time with family.

Young mother, **Soehee Lee**, is in the care of her cardiologist, who is still considering the best plan forward for Soehee. We were all chuckling the other Sunday to see **Ana** taking some of her early walking steps up the aisle, but she made it without falling. The grinning smile of "I did it!" was a joy to see.



**Bev Lacey** is settling into care at John R. Hannah Nursing Home, Wattle Grove, Mulgrave.

The latest test results for **Beth McCorrison** are encouraging, which is good news.

**Lyn McKay** has had a number of hospital visits over the past few months but is now at home.

**Joyce Suto's** eyesight has continued to deteriorate and Joyce is considering moving to be with her family in Canberra. Joyce will have a number of books for disposal if she moves.

## WELCOMES

Welcome to **Rhonda Goodall**, who has recently come to worship with us following the disbandment of the Church of Christ Congregation. Rhonda is most welcome and already seems quite at home.

Or of the new neighbour families in Yarrbat Beek Lane been worshipping on Sundays and also with the Awaken Group. **Alvin and Yolanda with 4 week old Kevin** are welcomed. **Alvin** came to Australia on a Student Visa and stayed, recently obtaining full citizenship. **Yolanda's** mother is paying a visit to help care for Kevin. We were glad she came to worship with Alvin, despite not have many skills with the English language.

Another 'Yarrbat Beek Lane family' is joining in Music Together on Mondays. As these families has taken up residence, Minister Brendan and Michelle Jackson have paid each a courtesy neighbourly "welcoming visit".

### A MESSAGE FROM TIM .....Congregation Chairperson.

Dear Mountview Congregation,

In the last addition of Contact, I wrote a letter asking for ideas to present to the congregation...something, anything!

I have received a couple of ideas and have had one or two conversations with members about their thoughts.

In those conversations, I have realised I need to make one thing clear:

*I will be happy to put your thoughts and ideas to the congregation, but the drive and presentation needs to come from you.*

In the same way that Jo Menger Leeman has taken up the Awaken challenge with her passion and dedication, the same would be expected of you to carry the idea through.

The next Congregational meeting should be at the end of October or in early November. So, there is plenty of time to have your idea(s) and formulate a "how" to bring to the congregation.

Looking forward to hearing from more of you about your ideas,

*Tim Menger*

## ADVANCE DIARY NOTICE

Camp Coolamatong, on the Gippsland Lakes, has been booked for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Everyone welcome to join in this week-end away. Could you please put it in your diaries forward entry page now for next year?

*Denyse Ward.*

## A PARTY FOR WOMEN ONLY (strictly women's business)



**THIS IS THE GOODLY GATHERING OF LADIES (YOUNG AND OLD) TO CHEER JO MENGER ON FOR HER FINAL WEEKS. (IF YOU CAN'T MAKE OUT ALL OF THEM IT IS NOT THAT THEY WERE HIDING, BUT THAT THEY AREN'T TALL ENOUGH.)**

Sue Terrill and Margaret Swain hosted an afternoon's gathering of ladies to give encouragement to Jo Menger for the last two weeks (expected) before her new baby arrives. The news was that a boy is expected. It was an afternoon of fun and banter supported by good food.

They didn't just chat and tell stories of their confinements – they played some games such as a word identifying all the things Jo will need around her in her final moment. Present were some very young ladies who vied in a competition dressing and undressing dolls in baby clothes.



**WHAT GOES NEXT? I MUST BE QUICK!  
EVA MENGER AND ALICE FARQUHAR**

It will be a toss up whether Jo has her baby in time to be announced in this *CONTACT*.



Margaret Swain wishes to remind everybody that there are only a couple of weeks to complete packing your boxes for the Samaritan's Purse program and bringing them in for collection. Should you find it difficult to complete a box, bring along what you have collected. The box will be completed at the checking station. Items surplus to your requirements can also be brought and these will be used for supplementing others. If you aren't packing a box and wish to contribute, bring suitable articles, or see Margaret about contributing to freight costs.

- ✧ SOMETHING TO WEAR—t-shirt, polo shirt, shorts, skirt, cap, beanie, sandals, etc.
- ✧ SOMETHING TO LOVE— teddy bear, doll, soft toy, etc.
- ✧ SOMETHING SPECIAL—carry bag, sunglasses, bangles, stickers, necklaces, craft kit, etc.
- ✧ SOMETHING FOR SCHOOL—exercise book, pencil case, pens, pencils, colouring pencils, sharpener, eraser, chalk, etc.
- ✧ SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH—tennis ball, cars, skipping rope, marbles, musical instrument, yo-yo, slinky, finger puppets, wind up torch, etc.
- ✧ SOMETHING FOR PERSONAL HYGIENE—soap and face washer, toothbrush (but not paste),

## BEING a SAFE CHURCH .....an update.

Our Safe Church Contact Person, Jodie Sleaf, and the second SCCP, John Williams, thank everyone for their support and understanding while we establish this whole process of guaranteeing, as far as is humanly possible, that Mountview is a **“SAFE CHURCH”** for everybody, regardless of age, gender, physical or psychological capacity, ethnic background, or sexual orientation. No matter who we are, all people can be subjected to, and harmed by, abuse, bullying, and discrimination.

It is therefore most important that we at all times are mindful of our conduct toward one another in our councils, committees, activity groups, and social gatherings, so that no one will have cause to be subjected to any of the above examples of unacceptable behaviour.

The August edition of *CONTACT* set out in detail the whole raft of regulatory material to which we must adhere. It was put there so that no one may be in doubt as to their personal responsibilities.

Jodie is still in discussion with a few people re a Working With Children Certificate. We don't make the regulations, which may seem to some to be extreme. Regardless, we are obliged to implement them and act as they command; it is highly likely that the Uniting Church will be audited for its compliance in this matter at some stage in the near future, and the penalties and legal sanctions for both the Church and Congregations for non-compliance are severe.

Soon, by applying and abiding by the regulations, we should be able to declare that Mountview is a **“SAFE CHURCH”** as determined by those legislatively based regulations.

It is anticipated that the declaration that Mountview is a “SAFE CHURCH” will ultimately be a public one which will offer participation by everyone. Let us set our sights on that day.



## PROPERTY NEWS

The **Finger Labyrinth** on the table in the foyer has been repaired, replacing the missing stones.

A labyrinth is not a maze, which is designed to trick and trap you, but an intricate pathway which leads to a central focus. A return journey brings you out at the starting point. There have been many variations to the design in differing cultures, the one at Mountview is a “classical medieval” and has its origins in the ancient palace of Knossos, the royal palace of the Minoan Bronze Age civilisation on the island of Crete. Even as late as 400 BC, silver coins were still being struck carrying a depiction of the labyrinth.



Property and Finance closely examined this art work to determine the cause of the dislodgement of the tiny white stones and decided that although some deliberate ‘finger nail picking’ was probable, most of the displacement occurred whilst doing for what it is intended—running a finger around to get to the centre and return. The glue holding the chips to the base tile has not ‘keyed’ into the surface and therefore has low tension. A sharp point on one stone is easily caught on a finger, and if the tracer does not immediately stop, the chip is loosened. Furthermore, one loose chip tends to drag others with it, hence the wide gaps.

We obtained some calcite pebbles as used for grave decoration and crushed these in a vice. We carefully redrew the tracks with a fine marker pen then scored a groove with a diamond imbedded tool \* used for boring tiles. New, clear drying adhesive was applied and new chips inserted, often using tweezers to arrange the alignment.

\* Floor pavers which will be subjected to much foot traffic, such as in shopping centres and airports, are usually coated with finely crushed zircons obtained from mineral sand mining. Upon a second high temperature firing, these zircons fuse into a smooth high gloss surface second only to diamond in hardness. Hence the need for a diamond tipped tool to groove the surface to help an adhesive get a grip.

## CHARITIES' CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP

THE CARD SHOP REOPENS ON MONDAY 24th OCTOBER.

CHOOSE FROM APPROX 100 CARD DESIGNS. SUPPORT 16 CHARITIES

Prices range from \$4.00 each to \$10.00 for a pack of 10 cards.

*FAIRTRADE products supplement the range of cards with a lovely selection of tree decorations made in India and ceramic nativity scenes from Peru. Should you have adequate decorations for your own household, these interesting items make choice little gifts for friends or family.*

Fair Trade Products include **Small Gifts, Decorations** and **Miniature Nativities**. These, along with **Gift cards** and locally made **shortbreads** could help with your shopping for Christmas.

**WHERE IS THE SHOP? 81 Doncaster East Road – behind Centre 81.**  
It is open on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**SUPPORT CHARITIES OF YOUR CHOICE AS WELL AS CENTRE 81.**



# THE CHRISTMAS CARD

Presented by  
**BUGGSS &  
MUGGSS**

Sunday December  
11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am



Please come  
and share this  
special time  
together.

This will be another one of those Sue Terrill specials.



## ASK BRENDAN

### You often speak of the need for community. What constitutes community?

It is often said – quite facetly - that humans are social creatures, and that we need the company of others in order to have meaningful lives. This is true, but our *sociability* is more than a mere need to not be alone or lonely. There is something inherently *human* about mutual association and shared life – even the desert Fathers who lived lives of solitary contemplation lived as *communities* of hermits. To be human is to have *life together*.

But community is also more than mere *conglomeration*. A *congregation*, after all, is merely a gathering of people in a single location. What is it that makes a *congregation* a *community* instead?

It seems to me that the key resides in the notion of *identity*. To be sure, part of that identity rests within ourselves: who and what we see ourselves to be, and therefore what kinds of gathering align with our own self-understanding. But far more important, it seems to me, is how the community understands and articulates its own identity: the values or purposes around which it gathers, for which it lives, and upon which it acts.

In other words, what makes a community a *community* and not a mere gathering of people is the identity which the members of that community see as common to every member, regardless of the differences between individuals. It is the one thing which binds the members of that community into a shared life together, which provides the ultimate and overarching framework to all their respective, individual identities.

The community of the Church, of course, self-identifies as *Christian*? But what does this mean? I don't think I've ever heard a better example of this than at the recent meeting of the Synod, when, at the end of the five days, a representative of the younger adults present rose to make a statement on their behalf. The spokesperson said, in effect, that the younger adults group did not identify itself by age or ethnic background, or socio-economic status, or country of origin or style of worship. Rather, they identified themselves through their shared discipleship to Christ, as people who, in the words of the Basis of Union, are “on the way together” on a shared journey of covenantal relationship with God and with one another.

This is what it means to be *Christian community* in a nutshell. We are not “young adults” over against “mature age adults”. We are not “children” over against “grown ups”. We are not “Anglos” over against “ethnics”. We are not “conservatives” over against “progressives”. We are *Christian*, and our communal identity and common relationship derives from our shared experience of the Lordship of Christ, to whom we are all disciples.

But we are only *community* when this shared understanding is the central, defining, and governing purpose of our lives: when it is the identity which contextualises and relativises all the separate identities we hold as individuals. Or, as I have often put it: is our life together the central and defining reality of our co-existence – or is it simply another entry in our calendars which we accommodate when we can find the time to do so?

Because if it is the latter – this may make us a congregation, but it doesn't make us a community. And it certainly doesn't make us a *Christian* community. We are called by Christ to *life together* – not life occasionally gathered together when we can spare the time.

**Brendan**

# Church Council News



**Statements of Intent.** Church Council has commenced an examination of the so-called “Statements of Intent” which have been formulated by the Synod’s Major Strategic Review. A full listing of the ten Statements of Intent was published in the June edition of “Crosslight”. These statements, and the accompanying list of “Mission Principles”, provide a helpful check list when churches are evaluating missional possibilities. Two of the statements which the Council has already examined are: “foster faith, deepen discipleship” and “be lighter and simpler”. These topics are both very challenging, not only for us at Mountview, but for the whole church. Church Council is considering ways in which these statements might be shared with and considered by the whole congregation.

**“Awaken” continues to engage and challenge.** Our regional series of all-age worship and reflection continues to offer challenging material and a selection of learning methods. Held on the first Wednesday of each month at Mountview between 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm, “Awaken” also offers good fellowship in an informal atmosphere and a meal. Church Council pays tribute to the leadership team drawn from The Avenue Blackburn, Blackburn North-Nunawading and Mountview Uniting Churches and especially to Jo Menger-Leeman whose vision for this type of ministry has been a significant motivator.

**Music Together.** Some new folk have recently been welcomed to our Monday morning Music Together sessions. One family is now living in one of the new units in Yarrbat Beek Lane (next to Centre 81) and saw the Music Together signboard outside the Church.

**Welcoming our Neighbours.** Church Council has provided a “welcome hamper” for each of the people who have moved into the new units on the north side of Yarrbat Beek Lane. Special thanks goes to Michelle Jackson for selecting the goodies in each pack which she and Brendan Byrne have personally delivered as the units become occupied. Brendan received a telephone call from one of the unit people at work who was concerned that his pregnant wife was not answering her telephone. But, when Brendan investigated all was well; she was just out of ear shot of the phone. This story indicates that we are neighbours, not just a church next door. It has been good to welcome one of the families to Sunday worship and to “Awaken”.

**Regional Worship.** Mountview joined with Blackburn North-Nunawading and The Avenue Blackburn for combined worship at The Avenue on Sunday 4 September to celebrate Ocean Sunday. Activities were provided for the younger folk while the adults had a choice of a guided meditation on the Gospel reading or a *lectio divina* meditation on a passage from Job. Communion was a feature of the service plus some delightful music from violin and organ and from The Avenue Singers. People have expressed their appreciation of the different way in which this service was structured and the ministers said they enjoyed the opportunity of working together as a team to plan and conduct the service.

**Open Garden at the Cooper’s.** Church Council commends Jenny and Dennis Cooper for their initiative in opening their delightful garden and providing afternoon tea on Sunday 11 September. One hundred people enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and over \$1200 was raised for the NOCET Orphanage in Tanzania.

**Book Sale.** Joyce Suto is contemplating down-sizing and has selected some 100 books from her extensive library for sale. Church Council has approved this initiative and it is proposed that the books be available for purchase after worship on Sundays 6 and 13 November. Proceeds will benefit the Going Further Fund which is supporting the NOCET Orphanage in Tanzania. This might be a good opportunity for securing some Christmas gifts, as well as supporting a worthy cause.

**Advent Studies.** Planning is under way for a series of Advent Studies based on the much-appreciated series of Bible Studies presented to Synod 2016 by the Rev Dr Sally Douglas. Sally is the Minister of Richmond Uniting Church and is also involved with the Centre of Theology & Ministry. Her series draws on the early church’s use of imagery of the Divine which included the female (Sophia) image of wisdom. These Advent Studies will be offered on a regional basis with our neighbouring Uniting Churches. Stay tuned for details.

**Missional Use of Property.** At the time of writing, Wesley Mission Victoria has expressed renewed interest in the establishment of facilities at Mountview. We await discussions on their proposal and will bring a report to the congregation as soon as practicable.

*Geoffrey Willis, Church Council Secretary*

## The Theology of Work

Recently, Mountview's minister, **Rev. Brendan Byrne**, was invited to provide the Keynote Address to the Synod's 2016 Justice and International Mission (JIM) Unit Annual Conference. The theme of the conference was "The Future of Work", and Brendan spoke to the need for Christian Churches – and especially the Uniting Church – to develop a Theology of Work. The following is a precis of Brendan's speech.

\*\*\*

Work is central to human life: all people work. However, in modernity, one particular form of work, waged labour, has become *the* dominating reality of human life. This dominance has caused other forms of human work, as well as other categories of human activity and interaction, to be pushed to the margins.

Indeed, waged labour has become so central to industrialised society that not only does it form the core of humanity's self-understanding, it also determines many aspects of human life, from personal health and social integration to educational opportunity and even life-expectancy. And yet this construction of work is also highly problematic: the increasingly volatile and insecure nature of waged labour, as well of the workplace's capacity to be a forum for harm and damage to human life, mean the dominance of this form of work in human existence is a legitimate subject for theological reflection by the Church.

Unfortunately, while the Church has historically responded to the "problem of work" with various ethics and critiques of work, it has yet to develop a comprehensive critical framework from which such ethics and critiques might authentically proceed. In other words, the Church has no formal "theology of work" from which it can address the significance – and significantly problematic – place of waged labour in modernity.

This lack of a theology of work has two problems. Firstly, it prevents the Church from speaking into the problem of work from a proactive and coherent perspective: ethics and critiques of work are always reactive and fragmentary, responding to particular contexts or situations. Secondly, it prevents the Church from reflecting upon and critiquing its own role as an employer, and also prevents Christians from understanding their own identity as a community of people who work.

Accordingly, a theology of work will necessarily have two components: it will be both *vocational* and *eschatological*. In other words, it will understand human work as both part of humanity's co-creativity with God, as well as part of our contribution toward the salvific purpose for which creation exists. By extension, therefore, any construction of work which dehumanises both work and the working person will be seen as contrary to humanity's place in creation and salvation, and therefore liable to critique.

Ultimately, the function of a theology of work is to bring the fruits of healing, justice, and reconciliation to the human experience of work. Such a project represents a faithful response to Jesus' commission to proclaim the Gospel into every human reality – and which enables the heavenly *shalom* of peace and grace to penetrate, even into the apparently inhuman realm of the corporation and the international economy.

Full text at: <https://stillcircle.wordpress.com/2016/09/17/theology-of-work-a-reflection/>

## CENTRE 81

A Community Care Service  
of Mitcham Uniting Church



## CENTRE 81

**Our Receptionist's BYO Lunch will be held on Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 12.30 p.m. at Centre 81**  
**As we are coming up to our busy time of the year, with our Christmas Cards and Shortbreads going on sale, along with Hampers and gifts to be organised, we would love to see as many as possible at the meeting.**

**This will be an informative meeting, as there will be several items open for discussion.**

**Centre 81 is now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year, and many of our Receptionists have been involved since its inception. Regretfully, it's time to say farewell to Phyl. Coolledge and Jan Robertson, who have both been very loyal and dedicated Receptionists for a very long time.**

**We will miss you Phyl and Jan, but you deserve a well earned rest.**

**We are indebted to Mr. Allan Clarke and his team at UCA Sammy Stamp, for the very generous donation of \$2000.00 These funds will help us to keep supporting the needy families with our Community.**

**Please keep saving your stamps, and place them in the box marked "Sammy Stamp" on the table on the Church Foyer. We would like to keep supporting the work that Sammy Stamp does within our Uniting Church.**



**We are looking forward to a very happy time at Centre 81 over the coming weeks, as many happy, smiling faces, (many of whom return from year to year), come through our door to make their purchases of Christmas Cards and Shortbreads.**

**The Centre will be open five mornings a week while the cards are being sold.**

*Jill Kidd*

## SEASON OF ADVENT ....COMBINED WORSHIP

The Season of Advent,  
the opening of the liturgical year, begins on Sunday, November 27th.

**COMBINED WORSHIP AT NUNAWADING .. 10:00 am.**

**Come and Celebrate Advent . the season of expectation of  
"He who is to come."**

**(For note re combined Advent Studies, see the Church Council report on Page 10.)**

## DISTRICT WORSHIP AT BLACKBURN.

There was a goodly gathering of the Congregations of The Avenue, Blackburn North/Nunawading and Mountview at The Avenue on September 3rd, one in the series of area gatherings.

The theme for the worship conducted by the three ministers was "Ocean Sunday", the first of the four themes for the Season of Creation.

Displayed on the screen was the painting "Searching" by Anna Warren, from Eden, depicting the raging sea which sank her family's fishing trawler, her relatives being rescued six days later drifting in Bass Strait. Instead of preached Sermon, the people could experience the Job reading printed here alongside or a Guided Meditation around Luke 5: 1-11, the encounter of Peter, James and John with Jesus in their fishing boats, leading to their abandoning their fishing gear and following Jesus.

Joyous singing came from the near-full church. A further period of contemplative prayer was supported by an organ and violin duet softly wafting in that high-roofed building.

The Eucharist was lead by the three ministers. Following the service, lunch was served in The Avenue Centre.

The next area service will be at Nunawading on 27th November, Advent Sunday.



"SEARCHING"  
PAINTING BY  
ANNA WARREN



REVS. DENISE LIERSCH, LAULETI TU'INAUVAI AND BRENDAN BYRNE PREPARING THE EUCHARIST.  
"SEARCHING" IS JUST VISIBLE ON THE SCREEN.

## A SCRIPTURE CONTEMPLATED.

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:  
"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man. I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements - surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

Or who shut the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? - when I made the clouds its garments, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?

Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and it is dyed like a garment. Light is withheld from the wicked, and their uplifted arm is broken.

Have you entered into the springs of the sea, and walked in the recesses of the deep?

Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?

Declare, if you know all this.

JOB 38: 1-18 NRSV.

# YOU'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS, YET



***Beware! The wolf is still lurking....***

*If you had chicken pox as a child, you are at risk of developing shingles, a sinister reincarnation. The consequences can be severe and long lasting. If you are over the age of 60, your risk is even greater.*

***Watch out for the wolf. Talk to your doctor.***

***Don't take the risk of doing nothing.***

A poster like the above is displayed at most medical clinics as a contribution to the campaign to reduce the incidence of shingles, particularly in older people, i.e. those who had chicken pox before the introduction of infant inoculation. If you have not had chicken pox, you can't get shingles, so ask your doctor to test you for chicken pox. Depending whether the test is negative or positive, he will choose the correct vaccine for you. Please, please, do not take the risk. Be sensible.

## **DID YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT DANGER CONFRONTS GOLDBLOCKS ON THE PAGE OPPOSITE ?**

### **SHINGLES! SHINGLES! SHINGLES!**

**Finally, after much agitation, the Federal Government has joined the fight against this scourge of the elderly—indeed, they are stepping out in front.**

A **free** vaccine to protect against shingles will be available to all Australians aged 70—79 years as from November this year—that is **NEXT MONTH**. **Be one of the first to be protected against this very nasty complaint.**

*CONTACT* quotes from the “Seniors Card Magazine 2016” just issued.

You may recall having chickenpox as a child, but did you know that anyone who has had chickenpox can develop shingles later in life?

Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox, the varicella-zoster virus (VZV). After you recover from chickenpox, the virus continues to live in some of your nerve cells. It is usually inactive, so you don't even know it's there. Shingles occurs when the virus is reactivated.

Medical science doesn't really know how shingles is triggered.

We do know that older people are more susceptible as they tend to have a harder time fighting off infections.

Shingles is a disease which effects the nerves. Tender, painful skin signals the beginning of an attack. The skin then turns red and breaks out in tiny, fluid-filled blisters.

Shingles can cause burning, shooting pain, tingling and itching, and affect **any part of the body, including the face.**

About 20-30 per cent of people will suffer from shingles in their lifetime, most after the age of 50. Older people, (particularly those aged over 70) are more likely to have shingles complicated by post-herpetic neuralgia - a chronic neuropathic pain syndrome [which means the pain can continue long after the rash is gone] and other complications.

#### **HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?**

A free vaccine to protect you against shingles will be available to Australians aged 70 -79 years from November, 2016.

If you are under 70 you can still have the vaccine to protect yourself: the cost is approximately \$200 but may vary at different pharmacies - talk to your doctor for more information.

It is important for anyone over the age of 50 to realise they may develop shingles - and the older they get, the more the risk increases.

I would encourage any senior to speak to their doctor about this vaccine - shingles can be a terrible condition, but can be avoided. **Nurse-on-Call 1300 60 60 24.**

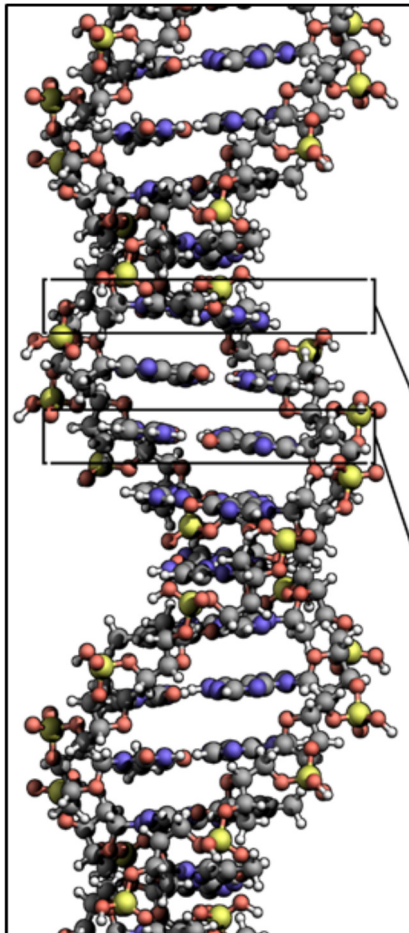
**Mountview** folk are aware of what a terrible complaint shingles can be. They have witnessed the continuing rapid decline in the health and well-being of John Williams over the last two and a half years. To combat severe post-herpetic neuralgia, he has been dosed up on the most powerful pain management drugs available, none of which are free of side effects. Unfortunately, some of those side effects have been more destructive to John's body and his life than the original shingles!

Not mentioned above are the over 80s. The vaccine is available at the \$200+ cost, but its protection is not long lasting - may be five years. **Please, go and get it and give yourself peace of mind, and mine too.** All of you over 70, get moving!

John W.

## GENOMIC REVOLUTION! .....an information piece.

Last year, I contributed an article on the work of molecular biologists in changing the DNA of food plants to vastly improve crop quality and yields with less water and less chemical sprays. I was a contributor to their work by designing and building experimental greenhouses and the attached laboratories which were required to prove their results in total isolation, that is, in absolute quarantine.



A SNIP OF DNA SPRAL.  
THE BOXES SHOW WHERE A CUT  
MAY BE MADE AND A SUBSTITUTION  
INSERTED. THIS IS MIND-  
BOGGLING WORK.

Now along comes another tool much more powerful than the genetic engineering used by my colleagues – **genetic editing**. It is precise, enabling the scientist to cut out a tiny piece of the DNA and substitute it with a replacement to produce the desired ‘improvement’. Those goals of the molecular biologists to produce the three major food crops of the world, wheat, rice and maize, with fungus and virus resistance and at the same time give higher yields with less water and staving off insect attacks, may now be achieved much more simply and accurately by using CRISPR-Cas9. (CRISPR – “Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats”).

That confusing fantastic name is given to this process, I am informed, by articles coincidentally appearing simultaneously in two very well respected journals which I read – the “National Geographic”, published in the USA, and “COSMOS”, published in Australia. These articles complement each other and appear to together provide a good overview. The “NG” article is broad ranging giving examples of what CRISPR can do in plants and animals, including humans. The “COSMOS” article gives a similar broad introduction then concentrates on the ethical aspects of altering the human genome. It gives much space to the opinion of the Oxford University based, Australian born bioethicist, Julian Savulescu, who has changed his stance to now be an advocate for “procreative beneficence” allowing the altering of the DNA of a human embryo to eliminate hereditary diseases such as cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy.

This crosses the line in the sand which scientists respected agreeing to not manipulate the human genome. That line has been moved, but appears to be still there, saying that scientists cannot experiment with such things as ageing, or producing giants. The

line is made up of six ethical principles designed to stop scientists “playing God”.

They are:

- Reduce human suffering.
- A fairer way to spend medical resources.
- Edit our DNA to match our lifespan.
- Genetic short straws.
- Discover cures.
- Human enhancement.

Each one of these requires explanation so that sensible debate may take place, for there will be plenty of that. I will expand on each a little to aid understanding.

Reducing human suffering: As mentioned above, this covers hereditary diseases. It is now possible to eliminate these in a single generation. Haemophiliacs may rejoice that their descendants will be free of the constant worry of sustaining a severe injury and bleed to death.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)



(GENOMIC REVOLUTION (continued))

Fairer way to spend medical resources: Only some genetic diseases can be treated effectively at present, but at tremendous cost. Resources are limited and excessive spending on one limits what may be spent on non-inherited diseases. The most cost-effective option may be to use genetic editing.

Edit our DNA to match our lifespan: The average age is increasing and with it comes ageing diseases, such as Alzheimer's, heart problems, osteoporosis and cancers. Without extending our lifespan further, reducing the likelihood of these would prevent our health services being over stretched.

Genetic short straws: Genetic inequality means some are born healthy whilst others are not. Some have learning difficulties. Some born prone to depression. These "short straws" may be effectively reduced to bring people near equal in opportunity.

Discover Cures: Gene editing of embryos would lead to a clearer understanding of human development and disease progress. This in turn leads to reduced in-equality.

Human enhancement: Editing out genes which lead to anti-social behaviour would reduce huge costs in constraining such people and the misery and despair caused. Enhancing altruism would make us more caring. Some people already have a natural resistance to malaria. Providing this in malaria prone countries would solve many social problems due to early death of breadwinners.

Some national groups are already pushing against that line in the sand. Chinese geneticists are altering the genome of pigs so that their organs, such as lungs, heart, liver and kidneys may be used in human transplants without being rejected. Altering a pig genome is not altering a human one. Genetic editing of the pig genome opens up the possibility of an industry 'manufacturing' organs for transplanting into humans, of which there is a major shortage.

The evils of eugenics as practised by Nazi Germany to produce a superior race will be worked over again. I hope it will be quickly suppressed as a 'no go' area by everybody.

It is now appearing possible to alter the genome of an embryo before transplanting it into a woman to dramatically increase the success rate of IVF. All alterations to the DNA of an embryo are permanent, that is, they are passed on to the next generation. This is a major aspect of genetic editing and overarches the whole debate. The change is for ever.

Using CRISPR in other fields is not generating much opposition. There are countless ways in which we can benefit from applying this process. Food production is one. The microbiologists can literally "design" a plant with the longed-for attributes of built-in insecticides, fungicides, anti-virus characteristics plus great drought tolerance and needing little water. Some will also produce their own fertilisers by using nitrogen from the air. This work is most important as food crop yield per area will need to increase to provide for an expected population increase.

This is only scratching the surface, but should indicate the measure of the debates about to break forth. Whether the level of debate will extend down to us is conjectural at this stage, but we can be sure it will be fierce, but largely driven by un-informed and ill-informed people. In this category are those who 'refuse to know' - those who initiate masses of red herrings to further confuse those who want to know. However, readers of this will already know something about the topic.

My thanks to National Geographic and COSMOS for their articles upon which this is based.

**John Williams.**

(After writing this, the ABC TV program "Catalyst" ran a segment on the topic. This may be accessed on line, googling - ABC TV PROGRAMS Catalyst. Scroll down to August 30th. )

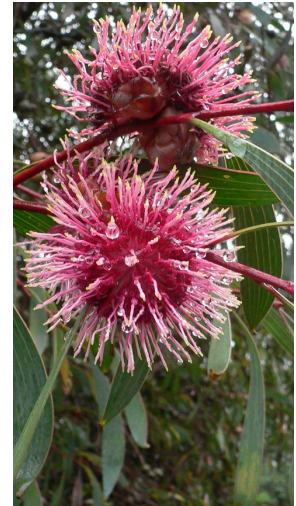
## SPRING IN MITCHAM

In Mitcham gardens all around the trees are now in bloom,  
and wattlebirds and honeyeaters jostle for the room  
to feed and mate while sun and shower in Melbourne's mix-up Spring  
signal the first of seasons  
Now beginning.

So what is that to write about? We saw it all before,  
the nests to clear from spoutings, the pesticidal war, the grass which grows as  
fast as we can push the mower round,  
the prunings to dispose of...  
Such jobs abound!

Hay-fever from the pollen too, the curse of Spring,  
and coughs and aches as up and down barometers will swing.  
The heat! The cold! Sunhat, umbrella, fire and fan,  
the constant changeabout,  
How can one plan?

Did someone say these are the things this month to celebrate?  
The trees in bloom, the birds, the flowers, they come each  
year. But wait!  
If all this beauty no more yearly at our feet were laid,  
could this, the grandest of all Grand Parades,  
by us be made?



HAKEA LAURINA

Joyce Suto.

[ Ed. Note: Heather Barnes called on Joyce a few days ago and the conversation drifted to the past, as may be expected. Joyce then dictated the following contribution to CONTACT. She pointed out that the poem above was written at a Day Camp at Ferny Creek in March, 1988.]

### DAY CAMPS.

For some time I have been meaning to suggest that Mountview once more has Day Camps as an alternative to Sunday Worship.

What is a Day Camp?

The program example which Joyce had in her hand was for a combined Mountview/Nunawading ,gathering. It offered Breakfast at Ferny Creek at 8:00am and Morning Tea at 9:30. A Quiet Time and Worship followed at 10:00, then a Sherbrooke Forest walk. A range of co-operative activities followed to fill out the morning. After Lunch, it was Free Time. I believe that those who remember them may, like me, have found them both meaningful and enjoyable. Furthermore, they provided a great opportunity for Combined Services with our Neighbouring Churches.

And what a surprise!

At a meeting of The Whitehorse Historical Society, sitting next to me was a Bruce Atkinson. Bruce, with his parents, formerly attended Mountview and now has a busy life as a Victorian State Government Member of Parliament. Quite unexpectedly Bruce asked me " Do you remember the Day Camps?" As Bruce had shortly to leave, further discussion was not possible on that occasion.

May I suggest that both Spring and Autumn would be great times for Day Camps ( at a site with facilities nearby) and we would not even have to go outside the Whitehorse Area.

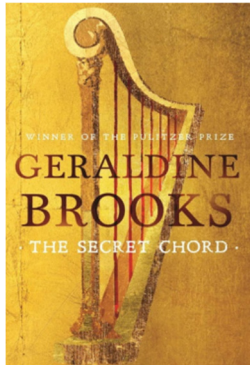
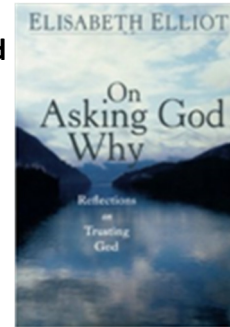
Joyce Suto

## LIBRARY

### Book Reviews:

#### **On Asking God Why: and other reflections on Trusting God in a Twisted World** by Elisabeth Elliot

This is a collection of meditations on living a Christian life while living in this modern world. Each meditation is quite short; only three or four pages at most, but each one leads to thought. A lovely little book.

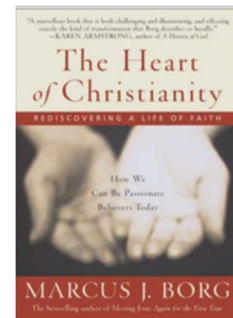


#### **The Secret Chord** by Geraldine Brooks

A new book. This is a retelling of the life of David, as seen through the eyes of the prophet Nathan. The author uses names transliterated from Hebrew; it took a little adjustment for me to get used to Natan, Yonatan, Shaul and Smuel instead of Nathan, Jonathan, Saul and Samuel. Once past that, it was a mesmerising read, of violent times interspersed with both David's and Nathan's delight in the Name. The author has previously won the Pulitzer Prize for literature and I can see why.

#### **The HEART of Christianity: Rediscovering A Life of Faith** by Marcus Borg

Another new book. Marcus Borg is a renowned Jesus scholar and has thought very deeply about what it means to be Christian, both in the past and today. He is another author who doesn't use many words but provokes a lot of thought and re-reading!



*Kirsten*

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### **THIS CORRUPTION TAKES THE CAKE.**

In the June issue of *CONTACT*, I wrote about Corruption and the Greed which drives it. A news item on TV on 13th September about South Sudan attracted my attention. I was aghast that corruption could reach such dizzy heights or be so audacious that it is mind boggling.

A civil war has been tearing this new country apart. President Salva Kiir (of the Dinka people) has an army fighting former Vice-president Riek Machar (of the Nuer people). Both are burning houses and killing cattle, the bases of their cultures. Many thousands have become refugees and many are in camps awaiting a country of refuge.

The news bulletin produced evidence that both leaders are soliciting funds from outside their nation to sustain each cause. Some of the funds each gain are used for military costs, but much more than half is siphoned off to the children (and other close family members) of each leader who are living overseas. This money is being invested in airlines, industrial enterprises and expensive property. These 'chosen to be' exiles, not refugees, are living a lavish lifestyle. One group lives in a sprawling millions+ mansion close by here in Narrewarren. They refused a TV interview. In the meantime, hundreds of thousands of their own people are trapped in squalid refugee camps supported by the United Nations.

The article said that these two leaders have no interest in resolving the conflict. They share a common interest in pocketing funds scrounged from those who have escaped overseas.

South Sudan is the most corrupt nation on earth. These two leaders take the cake! j.j.w.

## FUNNIES and WISECRACKS

*(This one is for real, and shows the problems in learning a new language.)*

A Christian missionary to Japan about a century ago thought he was doing quite well with the local language, but there was still a problem in that his native Australian "twang" and his flat vowels change dramatically the Japanese words and therefore the meaning of what he was saying. In a service of worship, he called the people to prayer in his newly minted Japanese, "Now let us make our prayers to God." The congregation suddenly fell silent until a few giggles started, but out of respect, the silence resumed. What the worshippers heard in 'Australian' Japanese was, "Now let us do our hair and take off our trousers."



A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

**"Mummy, look what I found,"** the boy called out.

**"What have you got there, dear?"**

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, **"I think it's Adam's underwear!"**

### **HOW DOES MOSES MAKE TEA? HEBREWS IT.**

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

*I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.*

Jokes about German Sausage are the wurst.

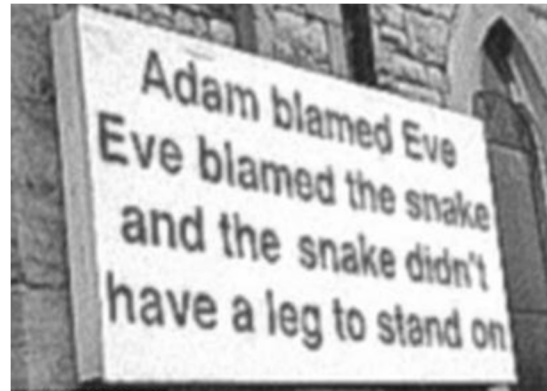
A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.



**I've learned....**

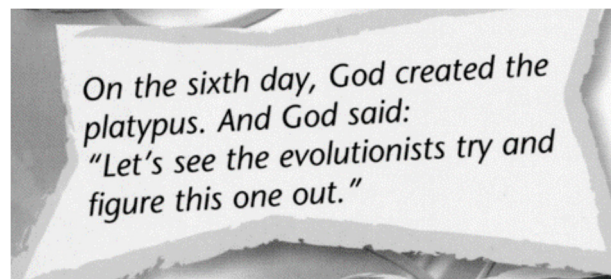
That life is like a roll of toilet paper.

The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.



A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?"

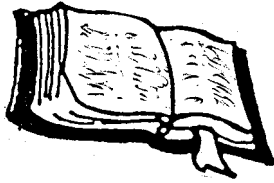
He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"



## LECTIONARY

### Oct. 2 Pentecost 20

Lam 1:1-6  
Ps 137  
2Tim 1:1-14  
Lk 17:5-10



### Oct 9 Pentecost 21

Jer 29:1, 4-7  
Ps 66:1-12  
2 Tim 2:8-15  
Lk 17:11-19

### Oct 16 Pentecost 22

Jer 31:27-34  
Ps 119: 97-104  
2Tim 3:14-4:5  
Lk 18:1-8

### Oct 23 Pentecost 23

Jl 2:23-32  
Ps 65  
2 Tim 4: 6-8, 16-18  
Lk 18: 9-14

### Oct 30 Pentecost 24

Hab 1: 1-4; 2:1-4  
Ps 119: 137-144  
2 Thes 1: 1-4, 11-12  
Lk 19: 1-10

### Nov 1 All Saints Day

Dan 7: 1-3,15-18  
Ps 149  
Eph 1: 11-23  
Lk 6: 20-31

### Nov 6 Pentecost 25

Hag 1:15b-2:9  
Ps 145:1-5, 17-21  
2 Thes 2: 1-5, 13-17  
Lk 20:27-38

### Nov 13 Pentecost 26

Is 65:17-25  
Is 12  
2 Thes 3: 6-13  
Lk 21:5-19

### Nov 20 Christ the King

Jer 23: 1-6  
Lk 1:68-79  
Col 1: 11-20  
Lk 23:33-43

### Nov 27 Advent Sunday

Is 2: 1-5  
Ps 122  
Rom 13: 11-14  
Mat 24: 36-44

### Dec 4 Advent 2

Is 11: 1-10  
Ps 72: 1-7, 18-19  
Rom 15: 4-13  
Mat 3: 1-12

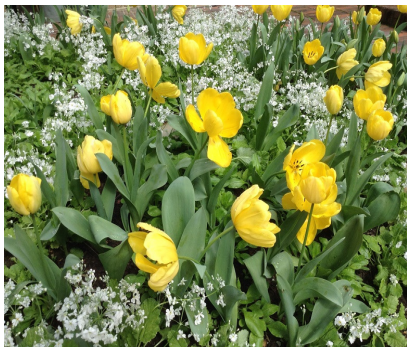
### Dec 11 Advent 3

Is 35: 1-10  
Ps 146: 5-10  
Jam 5: 7-10  
Mat 11: 2-11

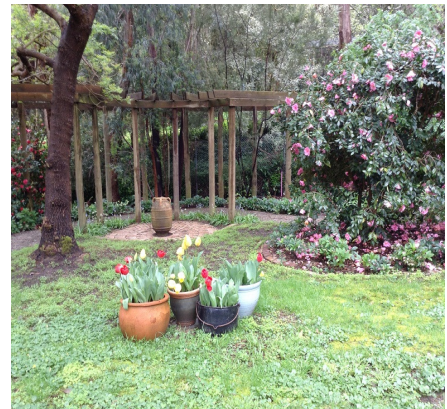
## “LOOSE CHANGE” SPRING GARDEN

On Sunday, September 11 we were blessed with the only fine day amid two weeks of rainy weather! Such a relief. Our " backup " plan could only cope with about 30 visitors. On the day we had approximately 90 visitors.

The garden was looking a picture with lots of Spring colour, including tulips, primulas, bluebells, magnolias and camellias in bloom. Our family enjoyed serving everyone their afternoon tea in the garden setting and the visiting children enjoyed playing hide and seek and exploring the fairy garden. At the end



of the day all 14 family members were tired but very pleased that all their hard work and planning had achieved such a happy afternoon.



Much of the happy conversation was accompanied by “gobblebongs” drifting up from the Mullum Mullum Creek bank along the boundary. However, CONTACT called later to find the frog bonks replaced by thrush and wattle bird calls -- lovely place.

THANK YOU to everyone who came or made a donation.

Loose Change bank account has risen by \$1,211 thanks to your generosity.  
Jenny and Dennis Cooper.

**Mountview Church Mitcham**

559-561 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham. Vic. 3132.

[www.mountviewuca.org](http://www.mountviewuca.org).

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

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

**PROPERTY BOOKINGS:**

Eddie Short ..... [glenviewroad@optusnet.com.au](mailto:glenviewroad@optusnet.com.au) 0447 312 996

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***CONTACT*** is the bi-monthly magazine of Mountview Uniting Church, Mitcham.  
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**Contributions** for the next issue will be due on **Sunday, 20th November, 2016.**