



Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

(03) 5229 2681

Email: office@whuc.com.au

Website: www.whuc.com.au



WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

December 2014/January 2015 Newsletter

December/January at a Glance

Wednesday 3rd	1.30pm	Mission Outreach & Senior Retirees Outing
Thursday 4th	7.00pm	A Place to Pause
Sunday 7th	8.45am	Traditional Worship
	10.15am	Worship
Wednesday 10th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 11th	7.00pm	A Place to Pause
Friday 12th	6.00pm	KFG—Family Picnic
Sunday 14th	10.00am	Worship
	4.00pm	Messy Church
Tuesday 16th	2.00pm	Midweek Communion
	7.00pm	Blue Christmas Service
Thursday 18th	7.00pm	A Place to Pause
Sunday 21st	10.00am	Worship & Congregational Lunch
	2.00pm	Songs of Praise
Wednesday 24th	7.00pm	Carols for Kids
	11.30pm	Welcoming Christmas...Quietly
Thursday 25th	9.00am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 28th	10.00am	Worship
January		
Sunday 4th	8.45am	No Service
	10.15am	Worship
Sunday 11th	10.00am	Worship
Sunday 18th	10.00am	Worship
Tuesday 20th	6.30pm	Friends from Vines
Sunday 25th	10.00am	Worship

Church Office Hours & Staff Leave over December-January

The office will be closed from **Friday 19th December** and re-open on **Wednesday 21st January 2015**.

Taking into account annual leave, time in lieu and public holidays staff members will be away as follows:

Karen Morgan from Christmas until January 13th

Jan Grigg from Christmas until January 2nd

Audrey Kateena from Christmas until January 2nd

There will be no pew sheet until Sunday 25th January 2015 and the monthly newsletter for February will be available on Sunday 25th January. Please make sure all notices are in before the 20th January 2015.

December/January Preaching Plan

Western Heights Services:

Sunday 7th	8.45am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
	10.15am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Sunday 14th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
	4.00pm Messy Church	
Tuesday 16th	2.00pm Rev. Isabel Greenall	Midweek communion
Sunday 21st	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	All Together Service & Communion
Sunday 28th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
January		
Sunday 4th	8.45am No Service	
	10.15am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Sunday 11th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Sunday 18th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Sunday 25th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	

Other Services:

Sunday 21st	Rev Robert Van Zetten	McKellar Centre
Wednesday 24th	Audrey Kateena	Vincentian Village 1.30pm
January		
Sunday 4th	Rev Isabel Greenall	McKellar Centre
Sunday 11th	Rev. Robert Van Zetten	St. Luke's

Western Heights Mission Outreach

Wednesday 3rd December 2014

Christmas Afternoon Tea

1.30pm Horizons Room

Dorothy Matthews - 5278 9491

KFG (Kids Friendship Group)

Family Picnic

Friday 12th December, 2014

6pm—8.30pm

\$3.00

Senior Retirees Outing

The final and Christmas celebration for the Senior Retirees Group will be held at the church on

Wednesday 3rd December. Note – this is a Wednesday as it is the meeting day of the Mission Group who will be our hosts for this special day. Drivers will contact and pick up seniors as normal for a starting time of **1:30pm.**



Graeme, Michele and the Mission Group.

Friends from Vines

Tuesday 20th January, 2015

6.30pm at the Sphinx.

All ladies welcome

RSVP: Joan 5241 5683 by Sunday 18th

Secretary Church Council

We are still seeking and inviting interested persons to fulfil the role of Secretary to the Church Council. In the short term, the Secretary's duties are being rotated amongst Council Members, which is not satisfactory in the overall Governance of the Council.

INTERESTED!! - Please contact Chair—Rodger Marsden (0419 717 774) and discuss how you may be able to assist by becoming a member of the team.

Christmas Events/Services

4-6pm Sun 14th Dec Messy Church
Christmas

*activities, celebration, dinner
for families*

Sun 21st Dec Congregational Lunch

*please bring a plate of food to
share*

Christmas Eve: 7pm Carols for Kids

11:30pm Welcoming Christmas...
Quietly

gentle, candlelit service

Mixed feelings this
Christmas?

You're invited to join us for our

**Blue
Christmas
Service**

7 pm Tuesday
16th December 2014

A special time, for those who find Christmas
brings a mix of feelings, to acknowledge those
"blue" feelings that are at odds with the festive joy
surrounding us as we approach Christmas.

Western Heights Uniting Church
31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill

Melways Map 441 E11

Light supper to follow

For further information contact Audrey on 0435 064 088
Email: blue-christmas@optusnet.com.au



A PLACE TO PAUSE

QUIET. CONTEMPLATION. PRAYER. SONG. REFLECTION

7:00 - 7:45PM THURSDAY 4TH, 11TH, 18TH DECEMBER
11:30PM CHRISTMAS EVE

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH
31 DOUGLASS ST HERNE HILL

MORE INFO: RHONDA DINGLE 5222 3641
RHONDA.DI@HOTMAIL.COM



Our New Purpose Statement & Goals

Thankyou to everyone who has been involved in the discernment and development of our new purpose statement and goals for 2015-2017. With some further open conversation and a little tweak, these were agreed to at our Congregational Celebration on Friday 21st Nov. Below are some further details including some words of explanation from the Facilitation Group.

Purpose Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

The purpose statement encompasses the 3 elements of church: in, out & up. Each element does not stand on its own, but is mixed up in the others – they cross over one another. But, if we were to try and put each element into a category we would say: Loving God (up), Growing Together (in), Partnering Community (out), Sharing Faith (in & out).

Put more simply, the purpose statement is a breaking open of Jesus' response to the question of which is the greatest commandment. Jesus said to love God and to love your neighbour. They go hand in hand. We love God because God first loves us, and so we love our neighbour. It is because we love God that we love our neighbour. It is also in loving our neighbour, that we are loving God. You can see these two elements pretty easily in the statement. Loving God in the first part, which then leads to loving your neighbour - described more particularly for our congregation in terms of our relationships within the faith community and beyond the faith community.

Within the statement we acknowledge that God is already at work in the world, with and without us. We do not have control of God, we do not own God – remember that beautiful biblical image of the Spirit blowing where she wills. So, when we are relating with our neighbour, both within and beyond the life of the congregation, we are constantly looking for God, listening for God, seeking to join God in God's ministry.

Growing together and partnering community reflect an attitude of respect and care. We share our resources, our experiences, our faith with each other (person to person, whoever they are) – we grow and minister together, seeking to live Jesus' vision in the world. An important aspect of partnering community is the opening of possibilities for faith conversations. An example of this was at the recent Festival where a number of conversations were had with people at the "prayer net" about prayer, God, and what is happening in their lives and the lives of those they love. If we hadn't partnered with the community, this conversation wouldn't have happened.

"Sharing faith" adds strength to what is implied in growing together and partnering community. It states more clearly than in the draft purpose statement that this is an important part of following Jesus.

Goals With God's help we will be a Church that:

Is intergenerational

Is welcoming, warm and inclusive

Encourages and supports exploring, sharing and growing in faith

Nurtures diverse expressions of church

Provides a variety of worship styles

Initiates and/or supports community action in areas of social justice and environmental sustainability

Cares for and responds to community and /or individual needs

The Church is not separate from society but exists as part of it - arising and called into being from within it. The Church is not a group of fuddy duddy's doing strange things hived off in a building in suburbia – it is a gathering of people trying to live out Jesus' vision for the world in their everyday life. What this Church looks like will be different depending on the people who are part of it, depending on the community in which it arises from and depending on the vision that drives their life.

As we think about the people who now gather under the banner of Western Heights Uniting Church and the context of the broader Geelong community, compared to ten years ago much has changed. The Facilitation Group believes that the goals we as a congregation have developed go some way to engaging with these changes. They embrace where we have been slowly moving in the last 5 years or so and push us further into unknown territory. Like any goals, they must be seen as a stepping stone. In 3 years time we would expect to have a different set of goals, building on these ones, just as these build on our previous overall purpose statement.

A few comments on some specific goals.

Firstly, about being an intergenerational church. Western Heights has a strong history of celebrating the contributions of all generations to the life of the church from youngest to oldest. Being intergenerational emphasises the importance of the relationships between people of all generations. There is much that we have to offer one another. This goal commits us as a congregation to seeking ways of developing these relationships.

Secondly, about nurturing diverse expressions of church. The Facilitation Group believes that this goal will actually probably grow in importance over the next few years and may potentially lead to a new way of being church here at Western Heights. This goal is not about worship solely, it is about being Church in all its fullness. The three dimensions of Church being relationship with God (up), with each other in the faith community (in), and with the wider community (out). Messy Church is one such example of church here at Western Heights – it has the 3 dimensions.

Our New Purpose Statement & Goals cont...

Nurturing diverse expressions of church honours that there is not one type of church that suits everybody. It names out loud that we are willing to explore how church can be different from what we are used to for the sake of others who are unable to connect with the life of the church for whatever reasons. It also says that living as a follower of Jesus involves more than simply coming to worship on a Sunday and that each of us is called to explore what that means for us.

Nurturing diverse expressions of church is very new for us, although we have been doing it for some 2 years now with Messy Church. It was clear from the comments in the survey that we will need to do a lot of learning together about this and so obviously some very intentional educational opportunities are paramount in the next year.

What next?

The next step is to develop actions to help achieve each of the goals.

A number of great ideas for actions have already be received through the consultation process. These will be collated and further developed over the next few months and will be presented to the congregation for endorsement early next year. The process for developing the actions will be worked out in consultation with Church Council.

An Invitation to supporters of “Love Makes A Way”

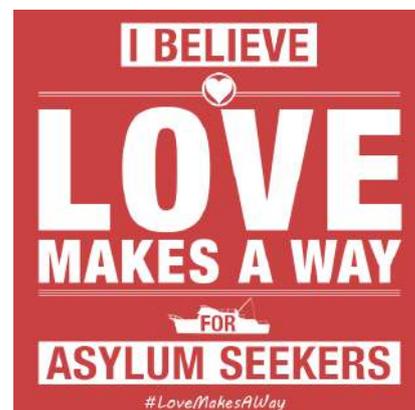
On October 13, a group of 7 faith leaders held a sit-in vigil in the office of Richard Marles MP, as part of the growing #LoveMakesAWay movement, and were arrested and charged. This movement has been growing during 2014 and is focussed on calling for the release of children and their families from detention. So far there have been 15 actions in MPs offices around the country and over 100 Christian leaders arrested.

You are invited to show your support for the #lovemakesaway Geelong crew and to stand for the 726 children currently held in immigration detention centres as the charges are heard in court on December 11.

To ensure that the way we demonstrate our support remains focussed on these children and their families, we ask that you adhere to:

- nonviolence in actions and words
- smart dress code
- a respect for the court staff, police and other officials

The court hearing for Erika Brunner, Capt Craig Farrell, Rev Isabel Greenall, Rev Brent Lyons-Lee, Jan Morgan, Rev Simon Moyle, Tara Watts, is at 10.00am at Geelong Magistrates Court. We will be gathering over the road in Johnson Park from 9.00am to share together in prayer, song and support for love to make a way for the 726 children in detention. Please bring along any signs that will help to share our cry for freedom to the public for children and their families from detention.



Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/826947967367857/>



We came, We saw, We did!

What day! What a success! What a fantastic community event!

On the 25th October, the WHUC held it's first ever October Spring Festival.

It was an amazing team effort that saw so many people involved, participating and having fun.

The Festival aims were to... connect and celebrate with the community, to develop relationships with property users and among membership of WHUC and to raise funds for the ministry and mission of WHUC.

So how did we go?

* We connected with the community through... the music, the stalls, the free and low cost all age activities, the food and drinks, the pet blessing, the welcome bags, the prayer net, the face painting, the coffee van and providing a welcoming and friendly space to enjoy.

* These community groups that regularly use the site all contributed to the Festival, the Scottish Dance Group, Close to My Heart Scrapbooking, Geelong Harmony Chorus, the Geelong Modern Quilt Group, the Guides and the Trefoil group. From WHUC there were eight people on the planning team, twenty coordinators and three groups running activities and lots and lots of others helping out.

* The total amount raised is approaching \$5000

(Pea straw bales and bags of manure are available for sale, see Bruce Rookes).

A huge thank you and pat on the back to everyone for supporting and generously contributing to success of the October Spring Festival! J

Karen Morgan



Trip to Thailand November 2014

Nineteen people travelled to Chiang Mai, North Thailand to see and work at the McKean Rehabilitation Institute (Leprosy Mission) and later to surrounding areas to experience the culture of Thailand. We then headed south to Bangkok and on down to Kanchanaburi to visit the Bridge on the River Kwai, Hellfire Pass and the war cemeteries. Back in Bangkok we had a small glimpse of the city of twelve million people.

It was a successful trip in all ways; learning, working, sharing and enjoying its many aspects. Not to mention the shopping!

The Mc Kean staff and residents wish to extend a very big Thank you for all that was contributed by this congregation and to the work party for all that was done.

Apart from the work days we were able to participate in elephant riding and water rafting as well as visiting villages to see village life and art and craft activities, Buddhist temples, and factories displaying wonderful Jade, Silver, Wood and Silk items as well as the beautiful Mulberry paper umbrellas.

This year's party was able to

- ◇ begin renovation of a house for a staff family
- ◇ paint two cottages for older leprosy patients,
- ◇ paint wooden benches for the verandah of the Aged Care Facility
- ◇ cook an evening festival meal for fifty patients, staff and us
- ◇ cover several hours of shopping for needed equipment.

Last year's donation of \$1,800 (54,000 Baht) from Western Heights was used to purchase

- ◇ two stoves with gas bottles and connections
- ◇ water pots
- ◇ freezer
- ◇ cushions for couches

This year's donation of \$1720 (47500 B) from the congregation and another 10,000B from the travellers was used to purchase



- ◇ wooden seats
- ◇ paint, timber and flywire
- ◇ tools
- ◇ water pressure hose
- ◇ motor mower
- ◇ sewing machine
- ◇ BBQ
- ◇ sink cupboard



Each year we carry over enough Christmas food such as cakes, puddings and chocolates and lollies for a Christmas party for seventy patients and ex-pat friends of Heather and Trevor Smith. We also supply goodies for the Aged Care Centre pantry.

This year we also carried many cases of clothing for refugees on the Thai border.

Next year, 2015, will be the final tour taken to Thailand by Barry and Di. If interested in participating please see them soon. The group is limited to twenty and there are already twelve names on a tentative planning list.

Keeping in touch

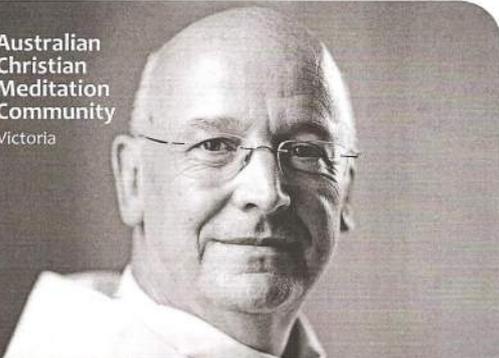
Christmas is the time of the year when we are prompted to let people know that they continue to be part of our lives. This is especially important for friends we no longer see.

Whilst in many instances, emails and SMS have replaced the traditional “snail” mail, the sending of letters or cards to those members no longer able to attend the activities of Western Heights is a vital and valued ministry of care.

If you would like to assist in this ministry please see Audrey, phone 0435 064 088, or email Pastoral.Carer@gmail.com for a list of addresses.

Christmas Lunch

Alone for Christmas lunch? Interested in joining in fellowship with others for a bring & share lunch? Contact Audrey, phone 0435 064 088 or email Pastoral.Carer@gmail.com.



 Australian Christian Meditation Community
Victoria

An Evening with
Fr Laurence Freeman OSB
Contemplative Life and Public Space
Why the interiority of the Gospel is the source of social transformation

Monday 8 December

Time: 7-9pm

Venue: Catholic Leadership Centre
576 Victoria Parade,
East Melbourne

Suggested donation \$30

The Catholic Leadership centre would like to be contacted directly regarding anyone wanting accommodation there
Ph: +61 3 9200 5200 or email: clc@ccomelb.catholic.edu.au



Laurence Freeman OSB is a Benedictine monk of the Congregation of Monte Oliveto. He is the spiritual guide and Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation a contemporary, contemplative community.

Fr Laurence travels widely as an international speaker and retreat leader. He is the author of many articles and books including *The Selfless Self*, *Light Within*, *Jesus: The Teacher Within* and *First Sight: The Experience of Faith*.

Fr Laurence encourages the teaching of Christian meditation to children and students and the recovery of the contemplative wisdom in the Church and in society at large.

Enquiries:
chrmedvic@gmail.com
Mobile 0437 514 148
www.christianmeditationaustralia.org
www.wccm.org (international)

Providing support

We are all companions on a journey together, yet we live our lives differently and like to be cared for in different ways. The following is a helpful checklist for ways to provide support...

- ◆ Especially in times of illness, SMS, email messages or the traditional card are the least intrusive way of letting someone know that they are in your thoughts and prayers. If sending a card to hospital it's especially important to put your address on the envelope, in case the patient has been discharged.
- ◆ Good phone etiquette is to only make phone calls between 9:00 am and 8:30 pm.
- ◆ If visiting, either at home or at hospital, ring first to ensure that it's convenient and that there aren't any restrictions on visiting.
- ◆ Especially in times of illness, keep your visit to a minimum. Too little time is preferable to too much time.
- ◆ Be prepared to leave if someone else comes to visit. It can be overwhelming to have a crowd around.
- ◆ Silence is golden. Companionship is as important as conversation.
- ◆ Above all remember they are ill or recovering from an operation and need their energy to aid their recovery. Please note that, because of Privacy Regulations, Hospital Chaplains are unable to let anyone know that someone is in hospital.

Carol Service—Grovedale UC

Friday December 19th at 7.30pm

See Horizons Noticeboard



Songs of Praise

“Songs of Praise” will next be held at 2.00pm on 21st December at the Norlane Church of Christ, 33 Eagle Parade Norlane. All are welcome to attend.

Future Monthly Newsletters

To be included in the Monthly Newsletter, please ensure your notices are at the church office by the **20th of the preceding month**. They can be dropped in to the office in a clearly marked envelope, or emailed to the office, at office@whuc.com.au

Contact Details

Leadership Team:

Minister: Rev. Isabel Greenall **minister@whuc.com.au** 5250 5930
Isabel's day off is **Monday** so please refrain from contacting her on this day. 0419 602006

Church Administrator: John Matthews **dotjohn1b@gmail.com** 5278 9491

Children's Ministry Co-ordinator: Karen Morgan **karen.morgan1968@hotmail.com** 5276 1042

Pastoral Care Contact: Audrey Kateena **Pastoral.Carer@gmail.com** 0435 064 088

Church Council Chair: Rodger Marsden **eagles@pipeline.com.au** 0419 717 774

Property Co-ordinator Graeme Hardy **graeme.c.hardy@gmail.com** 0408 630 391

Communications

Administrator: Jan Grigg 5229 5889

WHUC Office:
Phone: 5229 2681
Office hours: Wed: 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Fri : 9am – 1:00pm
Office email: **office@whuc.com.au**
Website: **www.whuc.com.au—under construction**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Heights-Uniting-Church/167518399975533

Vines Options: 81 Vines Road, Hamlyn Heights 5277 9461
Opening Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am – 4pm
Friday 10am – 1pm
Closed Saturday & Sunday



Playgroups are held in the Horizons Room on: **Tuesday mornings and Friday mornings 9:30-11.30am.**

Pew Sheet

If anyone wishes to receive the Pew Sheet information by email each week, please give your name and email address to Jan in the office.

Aluminium Foil

The Leprosy Mission is able to raise funds from the sale of many forms of recycled aluminium foil and cans. Please assist this worthy cause by leaving your used foil in the appropriate box in the foyer.