



Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

(03) 5229 2681

Email: office@whuc.com.au

Website: www.whuc.com.au



Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

August 2015 Newsletter

August at a Glance

Sunday 2nd	8.45am	Traditional Worship
	10.15am	Worship
Tuesday 4th	12.30pm	WHISH
Wednesday 5th	12.30pm	Mission Outreach
Friday 7th	10.00am	Vines Options Op Shop Coffee Morning
Sunday 9th	10.00am	Worship
Friday 14th	7.00pm	KFG—Ten Pin Bowling Night
Sunday 16th	10.00am	Worship
Tuesday 18th	2.00pm	Midweek Communion
	6.30pm	Friends from Vines
Wednesday 19th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 23rd	10.00am	Worship
	4.00pm	Messy Church
Sunday 30th	10.00am	Worship

August Preaching Plan

Western Heights Services:

Sunday 2nd	8.45am	Rev. Isabel Greenall & Annette Chidzey	
	10.15am	Rev. Isabel Greenall & Annette Chidzey	
Sunday 9th	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Sunday 16th	10.00am	Rev. Brian Giddings & Audrey Kateena	All Together Service & Communion
Tuesday 18th	2.00pm	Audrey Kateena	Midweek Communion
Sunday 23rd	10.00am	Audrey Kateena	
	4.00pm	Messy Church	
Sunday 30th	10.00am	Rev. Robert Van Zetten	

Other Services:

Tuesday 25th	Audrey Kateena	Vincentian Village 3.00pm
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Western Heights Mission Outreach 2015

Wednesday 5th August 2015
Visit Diane Edwards Home
Lunch 12.30pm

Contact: Dorothy Matthews - 5278 9491

Vines Options Op Shop—Coffee Morning

All past volunteers from Vines Options are invited to catch up for coffee and a chat at Soft Café in Minerva Road on Friday 7th August at 10.00am.



KFG (Kids Friendship Group)

Ten Pin Bowling Night
Friday 14th August, 2015
Geelong Bowling Lanes
49 Reynolds Rd, Belmont
7pm—8.30pm
\$7.00

RSVP to Jan or Karen by
Wednesday 12th August

Karen.morgan1968@hotmail.com or 0404435261
or office@whuc.com.au

Friends from Vines

Speaker: Robyn Wilder
“Living with the Deaf”
Tuesday 18th August, 2015
6.30pm Horizons Room
Casserole Tea provided by members
RSVP: 16th August, 2015
Cost: donation
Anyone interested welcome

Joan 5241 5683
0438 722 035



Messy Church @ WHUC

Sunday 23rd August 4pm

Contact: Karen (0404435261) for more info or if you'd like to help!

Annual Leave

Isabel will be on annual leave 11th-30th August. For urgent pastoral matters please contact Audrey Kateena.

Three Year Strategic Plan

As a congregation we have been working for some 15 months toward developing a three year strategic and we have made it! Together we have discerned and developed a new purpose statement, seven goals and a series of relevant actions. What a great effort by everyone! A BIG thankyou to the Facilitation Group for guiding the congregation along the way, to everyone for participating in the many opportunities for providing input and feedback in a variety of ways, and to the Spirit of God who continues to challenge and guide us in our life together as a congregation. Now it's time to get on with actioning the plan! Copies of the final plan will be made available to everyone in the coming weeks.

Rev Isabel Greenall



Senior Retirees Outings for 2015

The following dates and venues are for the projected outings for this year:

September 8th—Country Mystery Car Trail

November 10th—Narana Creations Visit

Please put these in your diaries/calendars now.

Graeme & Michele Hardy

Winter Meditation Series

All are invited to participate in as much or as little of the four week meditation series connecting with natural themes of fire, water, air & earth in September. The first three will be at Western Heights and the last will be a half day retreat at Narana Creations. There will be more information available about the retreat closer to the time.

5-5:45pm 5th, 12th, 19th Sept @ Western Heights

1-5pm 26th Sept @ Narana Creations, 410 Surfcoast Hwy, Grovedale.

Contacts: Rhonda Dingle (5222 3641) & Jen Stephens (5221 3453)



Consensus Decision Making

Consensus decision-making was adopted by the 1994 National Assembly as the norm for meeting procedure in all councils of the Uniting Church (congregation, church council, presbytery, Synod, Assembly). A Manual for Meetings replaced the previous adversarial style Standing Orders and Rules of Debate. If you'd like to read the manual it can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/Manual-for-meetings> or ask for a copy from the office.

We at Western Heights decision-making for some only just at the beginning Congregation. So, there is to start with.

Consensus decision the guidance of the Spirit depth of trust and community, widespread based on information and communication of valuing of each other as one's right to their problems in a



have been using this method of time now in Church Council and are stages of using it as a much for us to learn. A few points

making is basically about discerning of God in community. It requires a relationship between members of the participation of members, influence expertise not personal power, open differences of attitude and opinion, persons of worth and affirming each opinion, a willingness to solve collaborative manner.

On matters of importance, consensus decision making can take a long time. There can be much information to gather and many issues to discuss and work through but when consensus is finally reached it can be liberating, exciting, amazing...and sometimes a relief! Sometimes the outcome can be quite different to where the recommendation began. That can be the nature of discerning in community.

There are 5 main parts to consensus decision making. Sometimes they are spread over separate sessions over a longer period of time, but often information, deliberative and decision sessions will be part of the one sitting. Our recent work in discerning a 3 year action plan took the longer period of time option.

Parts to consensus decision making:

- * Worship: a vital element as it reminds us of whose we are.
- * General session: eg ceremonial occasions, formal addresses, opening/closing ceremonies, celebrations, public meetings.
- * Information session: opportunity to share information in order to present reports and raise issues, clarification of information.
- * deliberative session: discuss issues arising from the information, formulate proposals, refinement of proposals through small groups, feedback to a facilitation group.
- * decision session: process to come to a common mind on the issue.

In coming monthly newsletters there will be further instalments about consensus decision making in the Uniting Church. So, stay tuned!!

Wesley Hymfest Finalisation

The Outreach Ministry team held a very successful Wesley Hymfest on Sunday 24th May 2015, followed by a light tea. We are delighted to inform you that a total of \$2,590 was received from ticket donations & after expenses of \$960 we had an unexpected profit of \$1,630 to disperse.

At our meeting on 15th July 2015 it was agreed to make the following donations:

\$400. for St.Teresa's Indigenous College at Abergowrie, Queensland, for David Andrews to purchase a band saw. David teaches woodwork there & his wife Sue is working in the College office. (Both are members of WHUC). Check out the College's web page on www.abergowrie.catholic.edu.au/ .
\$1,000. For UnitingCare, Geelong.
\$230 to Western Heights Uniting Church.

There were quite a few folk asking when we would "do it again". Apparently it's 7 years until that date next falls on a Sunday!



An Invitation

Geelong City Parish of the Uniting Church in Australia hosts an annual lecture endowed in the memory of Mr and Mrs Spencer Nall and Mr Ken Nall. We offer you an invitation to attend this year's lecture.

This year the lecture will be presented by **Professor Sara**

Charlesworth. She is Professor in the Centre for Sustainability, Organisation and Work in the College of Business.

Professor Charlesworth was a member of the Commission "Lives on

Hold: Unlocking the Potential of Australia's Workforce". The Commission was chaired by the Hon. Professor Brian Howe, former Deputy Prime Minister. The research undertaken by this Commission was commissioned by the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

Professor Charlesworth will speak on the crisis affecting young people, particularly in rural cities, both in terms of the availability and quality of employment. This is a serious problem for cities, such as Geelong, where youth unemployment is almost double the national unemployment levels. This problem has significant implications for families with children.

Date – Sunday 23rd August

Time – 2.00pm

Place – Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St, Geelong

The Geelong City Parish sees the presentation of public issues such as the topic of this lecture as an important role for us a church in the city. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Yours sincerely,

The Rev. Peter Gador-Whyte, Minister

Mr Graeme Harris, Chair of Church Council.

Rsvp: Wesley Uniting Church,

100 Yarra Street Geelong

Phone: 5229 8866

Email: office@wesleychurchgeelong.net

By : Friday August 14th

Volunteer Investigation Meeting

A meeting will be held at Hoppers Crossing UC on **Friday 21st August at 10.00—11.30am** to look into the use of volunteers in our church and UnitingCare activities.

Members who volunteer in some way and Church Council members are invited to attend.

The meeting will consider the reasons for volunteering.

- The range of tasks serviced,
- Difficulties in establishing a volunteer force,
- Strategies for enlisting volunteers.



Entertainment Books

Hurry before you miss out

The Entertainment Books are once again available for sale this year at a cost of \$55.00 with \$11 going to WHUC. If you are wishing to purchase a book please see Helen Sleep.

Wesley Asylum Seeker

Welcome Place

A place where people:

- Are treated with dignity and respect
- Are valued
- Enjoy friendship and laughter
- Gather for activities
- Feel safe and understood
- Receive information and support
- Can be linked to relevant services



The Wesley Centre
218 Ryrie St, Geelong
(Between McDonalds and
Mustafa's Kebabs)
Enter through the garden gate

Wednesdays 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Fridays 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Commencing Wednesday July 22, 2015

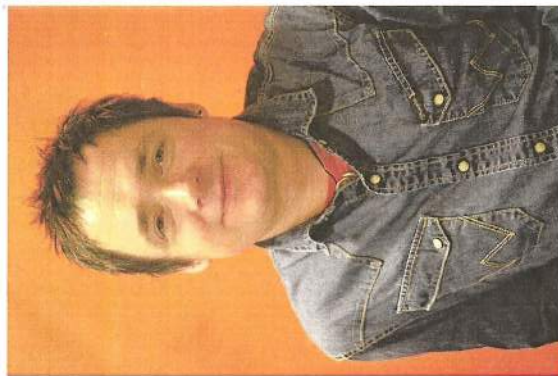
Phone: 0437 439 667

Email: wesleycentrewelcomeplace@gmail.com



Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment

You are welcome here!



Mark Berry

Mark is the Community Mission Facilitator with the Church Missionary Society in the UK. A former youth worker, Mark has worked with the Church of England in several roles, including developing an open spirituality space in a state secondary school. In 2005 he founded a missional community in Telford called **safespace** and ran a night cafe for young adults. Over several years he developed a ministry to the local football club. Mark's current role with CMS is about developing every member mission and tools for missional living.

safespace developed into what has become known as a "new monastic" community, seeking to base its life on spiritual disciplines and patterns of Christian discipleship. Mark speaks and leads on new monasticism, leadership for mission and contextual mission. He is co-author of "A New Monastic Handbook: From Vision to Practice."

Fresh: Faith

Fresh Expressions: Life Behind the Hype

What is it like to be 'on the ground' in a small missional community? Mark will share the story of the **safespace** community, challenges faced and lessons learned. He explores the birth of the community, how it developed its spiritual life, and how it engaged with the wider community.

Fresh Expressions: Learnings after 10 Years

Mark will share insights and stories drawn from the UK experience. This will include looking at the statistics and go deeper into what these mean 'on the ground'. We will examine how the Fresh Expressions movement has had impact on the Church and how has it engaged beyond the 'de-churched' and the 'church fringe'. What is truly 'fresh' and what is a reinterpretation of inherited models and practices?

Sat 22 August

10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Presbytery of Port Phillip West
Education Day followed by a short
Presbytery meeting.

Venue

Hopper's Crossing Uniting Church



Regenerating
Church

FED

Co-ordinated by Formation, Education & Discipleship
Assembly, Uniting Church in Australia



Early last century, most Australians died at home, surrounded by family with the medical profession often nowhere in site. Dying and death were a visible part of family and community life.

Although death is just as inevitable, 100% of us will die, most Australians now die in hospital, surrounded by medical equipment and staff. Family are not always present. Consequently dying and death are not so visible, becoming the elephant in the room. The

increasing use of “passing” and “passed” is evidence of the community’s reluctance to talk about death. In seeking to be gentle with those in the midst of death’s effect we deny its reality, hindering good grief.

We join with the Groundswell Project and Dying to Know Day, in encouraging people to talk more openly about death and dying as a natural part of life’s journey, with a view to helping people make the most out of life. You might like to attend one of the Victorian **D2K Day** Death Cafe events on 8th August at:

1 - 3.30pm, Edinburgh Castle, Private Dining Room, 681 Sydney Road Brunswick,
Contact/RVSP: Kimba, 0430 378 388 <https://www.facebook.com/events/841313332620001> or

2-4.30pm, Happy River Cafe, Footscray Community Arts Centre, contact Peta, 0414 534 737

See <http://deathcafe.com/> for more details on the worldwide organisation of informal gatherings of people, often strangers, to eat cake, share a cuppa and discuss death.

Alternatively you might like to enter the South Australian **Funeral/Anniversary Cake cookery challenge** for anyone “to bake and decorate a cake that could be taken along to a funeral tea or to celebrate the anniversary of the death of someone special”. See <http://www.pallcare.asn.au/news-events/events/a-cookery-challenge-thats-raisin-the-dead> or Audrey for details of how to enter the image of your cake.

Entries close 5pm, 8th August 2015 and a prize of \$250 will be awarded for the cake judged as 'the most creative'. The competition is inspired by centuries old traditions of Funeral or Mourning Cakes.

Other actions you’re encouraged to consider are:

- If currently you could be one of the 45% of people who die without a will, write your will this month. You can use a Will Kit, or consult a solicitor.
- If you’re part of the 90% who don’t have an Advance Care plan, consult your GP or visit http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/advance_care_plans to help you prepare an Advance Care Plan. See also <http://advancecareplanning.org.au/> and <http://www.abc.net.au/health/thepulse/stories/2010/11/18/3069750.htm>
- If you’re one of the 9 out of 10 people who never tell anyone their end-of-life wishes begin the conversation. Write them down and/or visit <https://www.myvalues.org.au/>
- An increasing number of people have prepaid funerals but haven’t discussed their wishes for the service itself. See Audrey for a form that will help you formulate your thoughts. Isabel and Audrey are available for further discussion.
- Send out some letters or cards telling your loved ones what you love and appreciate about them, and maybe something they might need to know if you were to die suddenly.
- Hire an appropriate movie that touches on death, dying or bereavement. Use the themes to start a family discussion on death and dying. Don’t hesitate to include the kids, you could find they’re less fearful of discussion than the adults!
- Have an ancestor dinner where you lay a place for your deceased loved ones and reminisce about their lives. Alternatively visit their grave – make it a celebration and have a picnic with them.
- Borrow a copy of the book *Dying to Know: Bringing Death to Life*. See Audrey or Isabel

Whatever you decide to do for **D2K Day**, in choosing to act, you’re part of a global-movement!



Yes, I/we will be attending the workshop!

Number of People Attending: Singles _____ Couples _____

Single Price \$38 or Couples \$50 including one copy of "Reclaiming An Ancient Heritage" and afternoon tea. Workshop fees are payable either in cash / cheque to Bayswater Uniting Church or by EFT to Bayswater Uniting Church BSB 083-125 Account 67-123-2881. OR

No, I will not be attending the workshop, but I want the book

1. Please reserve me _____ copies of the book @ \$20 each which I will buy at 1pm on 16 August.
2. Please send to me by post _____ copies of the book @ \$25 each. Cheque enclosed payable to Bayswater Uniting Church or by EFT to Bayswater Uniting Church BSB 083-125 Account 67-123-2881.

My Contact Details are...

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Rev / Other _____ Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ Postcode _____

Mobile Phone _____ Other Phone _____
(In case we need to contact you)

Please send your registration form to Bayswater Uniting Church, PO Box 202, BAYSWATER VIC 3152

About the Author & Workshop Leader

Rev. Gwen Masters holds an MA in Celtic Christianity from the University of Wales, Lampeter and has travelled extensively through the Celtic lands of the United Kingdom and Ireland attending courses at Lampeter, Iona and Sarum College. She is a trained and experienced spiritual director (*anam chara*) and has led many discussions on varying aspects of Celtic Culture, Wisdom and Spirituality, including cruise ship scholarship lecturing. Gwen led the Beechworth (Victoria, Australia) Celtic Pilgrimage for several years, producing study booklets and leading meditations on celtic themes for pilgrims.

What people are saying about "Reclaiming an Ancient Heritage"

"... a response after reading your book, with much appreciation and benefit. Appreciation for the immense amount of work that went into it and benefit for an introduction to Celtic spirituality that I had not experienced before in this comprehensive way. What struck me was the down to earthness of their faith expression and how it sanctified the ordinary and the every day in their attempt to be Christlike."

Rev Dr Denham Grierson (FACE) - internationally recognised educator and Emeritus Professor at the United Faculty of Theology - Melbourne.

"I had never understood the power and simplicity of a living faith until I read Gwen's book. How have we made life so complex by wanting to judge others by our own standards? This is a must read for those trying to figure out a way forward. The Celts show us the way. It will take people of courage, but one can see the vision through this book."

Graham McKern - lay member of the Uniting Church, Croydon.

TOUGH ON CRIME



INNOCENT CHILDREN DYING



RULES
1. YOU CAN
2. YOU CAN'T
3. YOU CAN
4. YOU CAN'T

So many issues.

Bulging prisons, refugees being labelled as "illegal", innocent women and children dying in wars, or in camps while the world stands idly by, and some church leaders are more intent on preserving institutionalised boundaries, than 'risking the way of Jesus'. What can we do?

A forgotten heritage shows a way forward...

Transforming offenders, reconciling the parties and creating a healthy community was the way of life for both pre-Christian and Christian Celtic peoples during the Early Medieval era. Laws to protect innocents were enacted in the 7th Century. Tolerance, acceptance and embracing those living without hope was practiced widely. And the full participation of lay people, without institutions was the norm at that time.

So, has the diversity offered through our ancient heritage been simply long forgotten? Or has it been deliberately cast aside?

How do we reclaim this heritage?

Uniting Church minister, The Rev Gwen Masters, holds an MA in Celtic Christianity from the University of Wales, Lampeter, and lectures and leads discussions on this topic.

She has now published her book "Reclaiming an Ancient Heritage" which explores how Celtic Spirituality has lessons for today's world.

Gwen will lead a Workshop, open to all, at Bayswater Uniting Church, 654 Mountain Highway, Bayswater on Sunday 16 August 2015 from 2pm until 5pm. The cost for the workshop is \$38 or \$50 for couples. The workshop includes one copy of the book together with afternoon tea. Gwen will be delighted to sign your book.

Bookings for the workshop are essential (booking form over page)

NOTE: For those wishing to buy the book only, the cost is \$20 and your signed book can be collected from Gwen at Bayswater Uniting Church at 1pm on the day of the workshop. To ensure your copy is available, pre-order overleaf. Alternatively, a copy can be sent to your address by mail for \$25 including postage.



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**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Heights-Uniting-Church/167518399975533



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.

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**