



Kairos



News in and around Camberwell Uniting Church

Volume 6 Number 3

September 2013

Minister's Musings

Grace and peace.



This is one of the standard greetings of the early church; two words with so many echoes from the very centre of Christian understanding. God's grace is of course what enables us to be part of this family of faith and peace is at the very heart of our hope and our spiritual practice. Peace is the ultimate that we are lead towards by our Prince of Peace. It is the wholeness of the *'shalom'* of God, the peace beyond our understanding, that is so central.

So while we may not be together on the outcome of the football, while our politics may sometimes be polarized and our opinions differ so widely on a whole host of issues, in this church we are at peace, we are united and made one in Christ. But the human reality is that even in the church we do sadly have divisions at times. There is no immunity here from the splits that effect all institutions and our peace, where it exists, is to be highly prized as a key aspect of our Christian witness.

With nearly one in four people living in countries torn by war or chronic violence, with the civil war still raging in Syria and so many armed conflicts, the way to achieve peace is both a constant challenge and an illusive goal for humanity. From our wider church context, the World Council of Churches is working to promote an understanding of, and working towards the Christian concept of a "just peace".

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness...?" "Love your neighbour as yourself." "Pray for those who persecute you." (Micah 6:8; Luke 10:27; Matthew 5:44)

Too many communities are still divided by economic class, by race, colour and caste, by religion and gender. Homes and schools are plagued by violence and abuse. Women and children are violated physically, psychologically and by cultural practice. Drug and alcohol abuse and suicide are forms of self destruction on a large scale. Workplaces and houses of worship are scarred by conflicts within the community. Prejudice and racism deny human dignity. Workers are exploited and industries pollute the environment. Grace and peace are far from the experience of so many.

As churches, we can become builders of a culture of peace as we engage, cooperate and learn from one another. The tasks, according to the WCC include: 'learning to prevent conflicts and transform them; to protect and empower those who are marginalized; to affirm the role of women in resolving conflict and building peace and include them in all such initiatives; to support and participate in nonviolent movements for justice and human rights; and to give peace education its rightful place in churches and schools.' A culture of peace requires us, our churches and other faith and community groups to challenge violence wherever it happens and to make grace and peace real in our society where ever we can.

Jesus' vision has just as much relevance now, and we have a better opportunity to reach out from our position in a globalized world than Jesus did in his time. But the challenge is to start. We have to work with our internal divisions, work to be a safe place for all, build the bridges with our brothers and sisters and our interfaith partners.

Peace is more than a pleasant seasonal greeting or archaic salutation. This is what the world is literally crying out for. We, the church of today, need to do the work to recover our gospel voice and show the way towards a reality where;

*'justice and peace shall embrace.' Ps 85
'Until our longing joins our belonging in the consummation of all things in God, the work of peace will continue as the flickering of sure grace.'*

(More info at: www.actforpeace.org.au)

Warm Regards,
Rev'd Ian Brown

Editor's Comment

Prayer is a powerful component of our belief system. Whether as part of the formal weekly



church service, or undertaken elsewhere, it acts as a means by which our people can praise God, offer thanks for everything we have been given, and ask for forgiveness for where we have fallen short.

I have come to think that when we pray, while we think we are seeking to change God's plans, God is seeking to change ours.

In this, prayer acts in parallel with one of the messages to flow from the weekly sermon – to show and encourage us how to live our faith.

To my mind, the 'Prayers of the People' links the preaching of the gospel with a path for us to follow as practising Christians in today's complex, seemingly increasingly violent, secular and less tolerant world.

These prayers bring into focus those in our community who need our help the most. And unfortunately this also seems to be a growing list. It is a big ask, but I can say from personal experience that the knowledge that our Church community is reaching out spiritually, as well as practically, warms the hearts and minds of those in need, and helps us not to get what we want, but what God wants for those suffering amongst us.

Kairos

The authors of the Prayers of the People tap into a deep well of compassion and energy in our Church community, and consistently focus our attention on the work required to live the gospel. I thank the authors of the prayers for their passion, commitment, their eloquence, their speaking from the heart, and the positive impact of their message across our whole community.

Never underestimate the power of prayer – things may not always work out in the way we want, but that is not the point – we are here to do our best to ensure that God's will is exercised on earth.

Stuart Ensor

As often as we eat the bread

Lyrics to the Hymn composed by Norman Young

- 1 As often as we eat the bread
and drink the cup that Jesus gave,
our souls and bodies shall be fed
by God, who comes to heal and save.
- 2 Christ's body broken, blood poured out,
for all he gave himself in love
that none on earth may be without
the saving grace from heaven above.
- 3 That gift of grace renews, and binds
us into one with Christ our head,
who died that all the world may find
its life in him, the living bread.
- 4 So now we come once more in praise;
receiving, give ourselves to you,
Creator-God, whose power shall raise,
and at the end make all things new.

Norman Young (1995)

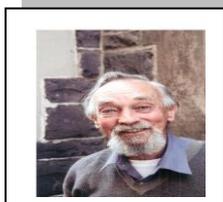
*Thomas Heywood
Organ Recital
Sunday October 13,
2.30 pm
Proceeds for
Asylum Seeker Support
Please come & bring family, friends &
neighbours.
Adults \$25 Concession \$20
Under 16 Free High Tea \$5
A memorable music performance*

A Gaelic Blessing:

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always in your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And, - till we meet again -
May God hold you in the palm of His Hand
Amen.

Helen & Trevor Barnard

Memories of Barry Prior - Fiona Ensor



Barry Prior was the minister at Camberwell Uniting Church from early 1982 to about April 1987. The Ensor family arrived at CUC at the same time with three small children. He was the

first Minister they knew – and they came to church every week then. Barry was friendly and funny - his children's addresses were legendary. He usually had help from his friend "Snoop" who was a possum hand puppet. To our children "Snoop" was a furry friend who had plenty of fun stories to tell - little did they realize they were learning Bible stories and the basic Christian ethics by which to live.

Barry was always there when he was needed, and for us that was when I needed to go to England for five weeks with my father as his sister was very ill. Stuart stayed here with three children, and Barry and his wonderful family and the whole congregation were very supportive. Barry stood up for people who needed help even when others had given up! His passion for social justice was legendary and the world is a better place for his contribution.

Barry had a wicked sense of humour which occasionally came back to bite him. Notably, he teased Ruth Crawley, Dorothy Ling (Ruth's sister who was at Camberwell UC then) and Margaret White about their Tasmanian heritage. Barry knew he had been adopted by Mr and Mrs Prior, but knew nothing of his biological parents. He set about finding out them while was at Camberwell, as both his adopted parents were now dead.

He did find his biological family - not his parents as they had both died - but step brothers and sisters. His mother had given birth to Barry – guess where? In TASMANIA !!

They had then come to Melbourne where she put him up for adoption!! What an ironical twist.

Barry did so much more than I can relate here, or that I even know about, but his effect on me and my family was profound. In fact my father, a lifelong Anglican, asked him to assist at his funeral service, a true testament to his stature, capability and discipleship as a true Man of God.

Along with Barry, his wife Jo has been a great friend to me for 30 years as have his children of whom I am very fond.

Vale Barry-you are at peace now. Fiona Ensor

News from Church Council

Since our meeting in May quite a few property matters have been resolved. Manly Plumbing has completed work on the **ventilation under the Hall** at a cost of \$10,166.20. We are still waiting for Manly Plumbing to supply a quotation on **upgrading the toilets at the rear of the Chapel**. Presbytery has approved the quotation for the **internal reconfiguration of the church** and the work is already well under way. After considering three quotes for the **resurfacing of the car park** at the rear of the church, Council accepted the quote from Custom Asphalt (\$8,910) pending approval from Presbytery. The **Chapel has been re-carpeted** with second hand carpet thanks to Reliance Carpets.

In our discussion segment we looked at a brochure entitled 'New Safe Church Policies for Preventing Abuse in Congregations and Presbyteries'. Ian explained the history of the development and updating of these UCA policies. After a brief consideration of the content summarized in the brochure, it was agreed that we at Camberwell UC will need to become familiar with the policies and will need to attend training days so that we are ready to implement the policies when appropriate.

Presbytery met on 25th May - the first meeting with the new Chair – Beth Horsfield. Three people have offered and were accepted as candidates for ministry. Positive accounts of Synod were given by three different participants, and an account of Ministry in Tertiary Education was also presented.

Church Council did not meet in June, however, at the July meeting the office-bearers were all re-elected i.e. Jenny Lawton as Chairperson, Ruth Crawley as Secretary, Elaine Robinson as Minute Secretary and Max Harris as Treasurer.

Fiona Ensor reported on the Safe Church Workshop which she, Alex Stewart and Ruth Crawley attended earlier in the month.

At both the July and August meetings there was discussion and consideration of Special Circumstances Uniting our Futures. It was decided to advise the Presbytery that Camberwell does not have beneficial use of any property which is not being used in active ministry which could be divested. Council members are very conscious this is a difficult time for the Church and mindful that some of our neighbouring congregations are facing some difficult decisions regarding their future use of property.

The progress of the reconfiguration of the church was discussed at both the July and August meetings. Works are almost completed and there have been many positive comments from users of the building and our own members. We expressed our great appreciation for the co-ordination of the works carried out by Stuart Ensor on our behalf. His efforts ensured the works progressed in a very orderly manner. Thanks was also expressed to Margaret White for her role in the office during Carolyn's absence and in liaising with various building users during the renovation works.

The area of rising damp in the rear of the church has been investigated, the downpipe repaired and we now wait for the wall to dry out completely before commencing any internal painting works. We are pleased the Moderator has accepted an invitation to come to celebrate the completion of the renovation works with us on 15th December.

The resurfacing of the rear carpark is being arranged and will take place shortly.

It was also decided that a project to upgrade the toilets at the rear of the chapel should be postponed until 2014.

Our minister, Ian, celebrates the 20th anniversary of his ordination in December this year. Church Council is inviting the congregation and some special people in Ian's life to join us for the service and lunch on 17th November to mark this special anniversary with Ian and Margery.

A moment for Humour

A Very Faithful Woman

An elderly lady was well-known for her faith and for her boldness in talking about it. She would stand on her front verandah and shout, "Praise the Lord."

Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There isn't no Lord!!"

Hard times set in on the elderly lady, and she prayed for God to send her some assistance. She stood on her verandah and shouted, "Praise the Lord. God I need food! I am having a hard time. Please Lord, send me some groceries."

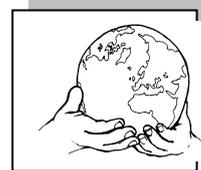
The next morning the lady went out to verandah and noted a large bag of groceries. She shouted, "Praise the Lord."

The neighbour jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there was no Lord. I bought those groceries, God didn't."

The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and said, "Praise the Lord. You have not only sent me groceries but you made the devil pay for them!"

News from CASS

Since the last edition of *Kairos*, there have been significant changes in the Asylum Seeker Projects run by Lentara UnitingCare, the organisation Hotham Mission ASP joined with at the beginning of this year.



At our June meeting Josh Badenoch (General Manager of the Lentara UnitingCare Asylum Seeker Programs), explained to us that the Commonwealth government was putting the community detention programs out to tender as part of a remodelling of the delivery of these services. At that stage Lentara UnitingCare was in the process of deciding whether or not they were in a position to join the tender process.

Since then the Lentara Board has decided not to participate in the tender process for provision of Community Detention services. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is looking for larger organisations which can provide 24/7 care on a national scale and Lentara UnitingCare would not be able to meet this requirement.

What will this mean for 'Illoura' and Camberwell UC? We won't know the answer to this question until the tender process is finalised. The Young People's Program (for unaccompanied minors) which we have been part of, will be gradually wound down between now and the end of the year. Once the boys turn 18, they will be transferred to other providers as negotiated with the Red Cross - the organisation Lentara currently works with in this area.

If the Red Cross or another large service provider such as the Salvation Army is successful in the tender process, they may well decide to retain the existing transition houses (such as 'Illoura') and the case workers currently operating in the Lentara ASPs. However, if they decide to make a completely fresh start we may well have the option of returning to the arrangement we started out with, in 2009 - offering 'Illoura' to Lentara UnitingCare for use by the significant number of clients they continue to provide services for in Lentara's non-government funded programs.

The Lentara decision to not tender for the community detention program has meant that Josh Badenoch has resigned from his position, and Emma Pullen, with whom we have had a long association through her work as Tenancy and Housing Co-ordinator, also finished up in mid-July.

At our August meeting, Damien Arnold (General Manager, Corporate Services) brought us up to date. Lentara believes it lacks the infrastructure to service the needs of the Young Persons Program (YPP) so has withdrawn and Red Cross is now the sole service provider with the current arrangements in place until the end of March. The Federal Government has asked interested bodies to tender to provide service for the YPP after March. Tenders close in October.

In October, our major fund raising activity will be an organ recital by Thomas Heywood on Sunday 13th October at 2 pm. We will benefit with 20% of the takings and any additional funds we raise from providing High Tea after the concert. Our last Thomas Heywood was spectacular and we look forward to this recital in our new space.

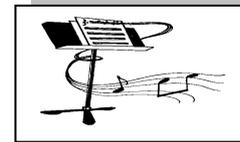
Elaine Robinson

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Message on Church Board

"7 days without God makes one weak."

Happy Birthday Camberwell Music Society



At a concert in the church on September 7 the Camberwell Music Society cut a birthday cake to mark the 50th anniversary of its "Concerts at the Junction". The opportunity was also taken to present Marion Champion with a Life Membership of the Society. She shares this honour with two other church members - Trevor and Helen Barnard who were President and Secretary for many years.

Formed in 1963 as the Camberwell Music Club, concerts were first conducted in the Fairmont Avenue home of the founder, Mrs. Coetmore-Knott. The name was changed to the Camberwell Music Society in 1968 and, in 1971 concerts moved to the Camberwell Council Theatre.

The society purchased its own Bluthner grand piano in 1972 and this instrument, located at the front of the church, continues to serve the society well today. A move to St John's Anglican Church in 1978 unfortunately resulted in a broken leg for the piano, just hours before the first concert. Some rapid repairs enabled the concert to proceed as planned.

In the 1980s the society went from strength to strength with increases in the number of concerts and the audiences attending. However the following decade was more challenging as local citizens became more mobile and good music alternatives became more accessible. While the number of concerts decreased, the society continued to foster and support talented young musicians.

A building re-development program at the St John's Anglican Church determined that an alternative venue was required for the 1999 concert series. The move to the Camberwell Uniting Church proved to be a good one – with great acoustics in the church and a warm welcome from the church community. However the President expressed concern about the future of the society. Cash reserves had fallen from near \$15,000 in 1990 to less than \$5,000. He wondered if an amalgamation with another like-minded organization in the near future was a logical solution.

In 2000 representatives of Camberwell Uniting Church, Marion Champion and Bill Kirkpatrick played an active part in developing a strategy to broaden the Society's program to attract a larger audience and involve more of the

community. Specifically it proposed concerts involving the Camberwell Primary School, the UCA Indonesian community, the church organist, and the pool of young talented musicians in the community.

In 2001 the strategy was applied with an Indonesian Cultural evening, an organ recital and the first of many combined concerts with the primary school. Arrangements were made for an Australian National Academy of Music concert in the following year. The year ended with a profit of \$19 - only the second surplus in 11 years. It proved to be the turning point and the society has made a surplus every subsequent year.

When presenting Marion's Life Membership, President Peter Gray commented on Marion's outstanding contribution to the society over the past 13 years. Always a visionary she is continually looking at ways to make the concerts attractive to concert goers and the society successful. Her role as Public Officer and her continuing help with publicity and in attracting sponsors has been invaluable.

The survival and success of the Society owes so much to those who have served on its committees like Marion, the musicians who have played their beautiful music, the enthusiasm of the audiences and supporters. In particular the Society appreciates the association it has with the Camberwell Uniting Church community and the support that the Church has given it. All this has helped keep live music alive in Camberwell.

Eric McKay

Messy Church

June - "David the Shepherd Boy"

"David play on your harp" and "King of Kings" were fitting songs to sing when the Messy Church theme for this month was David as a shepherd boy, anointed by Samuel, as the chosen one to be the next King of Israel. All David's big, strong, smart brothers (7 of them) were rejected. He was small, young and only a shepherd boy but God chose him for "what was in his heart" according to the video clip we had of the story in the Celebration time. Ian talked about that it is what inside of us that counts in God's eyes – not how we look on the outside.

The activities based around David's story that we could do were: Puff paint sheep with Marg R.; Lion and Wolf shooting range with Irene;

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making wheat and balloon balls for the shooting range with Lois; coat hanger harp with Ian and Maxene; storybook with Alex; heart suncatcher with Marg White; marshmallow in "horn" cones to anoint David; tin foil and chenille crowns with Ruth and Owen.

The meal at the end was, surprise, surprise-Shepherds' Pie and Salad or Garden Pie for those who did not want to eat a meat pie. Then there was marshmallow in ice cream cones for those with a real sweet tooth! Thanks Ruth and all the good cooks who made the pies.

Fiona Ensor



July - "The Good Samaritan"

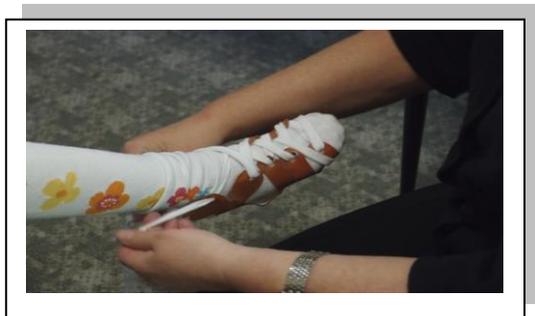
Margery arranged so many wonderful activities around this story - gathering activity was the making of sandals for the long and dusty walk to Jericho. Helped by Maree and Lois many people had sandals for the long walk. They then followed the road signs to Jericho and on the way ginger bread bandits made by Alex, were iced to look like the bandits in our story. Tiono and Jeff were there to assist anyone who dared ice a bandit! Ruth and Owen assisted those who chose to make the Good Samaritan of green gumby wire - quite challenging although Judy said that making a donkey out of cork and toothpicks on her table was also challenging but rewarding! Maree supervised the making of a hand mandala - decorating hands and pasting on a circle as helping hands. The wounds had to be treated so Fiona and Maxene helped people to make wheat and lavender bags as cold compresses (Maxene sewed them up on a sewing machine). A salve for the wounds was next to be made with the help of Margery and the help of lavender oil. Then off to see Dr Judy to have the wounds bandaged and at the inn at Jericho where the Samaritan left the wounded man, after giving the innkeeper money, Margaret was there to help with penny polishing.

We all then adjourned to the Chapel for the celebration. We sang "Put on Love with your sneakers" and "One more step along the world I

go”, listen to Fiona telling the Good Samaritan story (one of Jesus’ parables) and then acting it out with some eager volunteers! Ian lead us in prayer about looking after our neighbours and the Reflection was about who is our neighbour!

After all that activity everyone was ready for dinner. Ruth along with help of many others, was busy organizing hamburgers and salad in the kitchen - Stuart cooked the hamburgers in three frypans at once! We had the gingerbread bandits and Tiono’s cake to finish off!!!

We had three new families with us - a total of 47 people (19 children) - such a happy time . It was however Brynne Massey’s (and her parents Kevin and Sue) last Messy Church with us, as they are returning to their home in America to live. They have been coming for about a year. We wish them well.
Fiona Ensor



August -“The Prodigal Son“

The Prodigal Son “, one of Jesus’ parables, was the topic for Messy Church this month. A very well-known, and loved story for most of us but new to most children.

Everyone so enjoyed making a farm “For Sale” sign to begin with, helped by Carolyn and then selling the farm to Lois who gave them a bag of gold coins. Then they entered the “ fun land” – after a stamp from Sue and where for a gold coin there were fun games to play. Michael, Stuart and Max helped people to spend their money. When all the money was gone, it was time to get a job. Looking after pigs was the only job available. Everyone then could make little pigs with Maree, out of pink balls. On the road home people could paint feet with Judy, and then on arriving home, Tiono helped make frames for a picture of a “father hugging his son”. Finally everyone could make a special coat out of shopping bags with streamers attached. Ian did look very impressive in his coat!!

Into the celebration then in a newly renovated church where we all sang “Put on love with your sneakers” and “God loves you and I love you”.

Fiona told the story of The Prodigal Son” and Ian lead prayers and gave a reflection on how God will always forgive us even when we make mistakes.

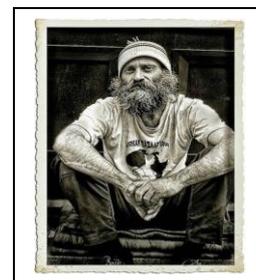
We all enjoyed Carolyn’s photos of the day. We shared a Pasta Bake meal-thanks Ruth, and a cake from Tiono, and also ice-cream and sprinkles.

We also had two visitors from Beaumaris Uniting Church who came to see what we did because they heard Ian speak at a Presbytery day earlier this year.
Adults-25 Children-7
Fiona Ensor



Pastor Jeremiah Steeppek

Pastor Jeremiah Steeppek (pictured) transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning’s service.



He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for the service. Only three people out of the 7-10,000 people said hello to him.

He asked people for change to buy food - NO ONE in the church gave him change. He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back. He greeted people to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him.

As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements and such. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. "We would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah Steeppek."

The congregation looked around clapping with

joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle. The clapping stopped with ALL eyes on him. He walked up the altar and took the microphone from the elders (who were in on this) and paused for a moment then he recited, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and many heads were bowed in shame. He then said, "Today I see a gathering of people, not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples. When will YOU decide to become disciples?" He then dismissed service until next week.

There is not much to be said after this. We must forever keep our eyes, ears, mind and hearts open.
Helen and Trevor Barnard

Painting the Church

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was always interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go just that wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, until it happened that the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings.

Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by tell-tale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried : "**Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?**"

And above the thunder, a mighty voice spoke:

"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

"Blessed are the cracked, for they are the ones who let in the light."

Extracts from the Autobiography of Flautist James Galway

"I decided that I had been wrong in believing that my role in life was simply to play the flute a bit better than the next fellow,.... to produce a better performance than the First Flute in the orchestra. After all I was never to be competing for some mythical Gold Medal for flute playing. I decided that my task was to represent the Composer of the world. Or a bit deeper, the composer's inspiration – which obviously came from God.

It dawned on me that I had been looking from the wrong end of a telescope. I came to the conclusion that my flute playing had to mean more than just earning a living. From then on, every time I played as a homage to God!

Before I play now I dedicate the piece first to God, then the composer. James Galway is kept out of it as much as possible. I'm only an instrument, not unlike the glittering golden flutes I play on, fashioned for me by Mr Cooper of Clapham, England."

Lois Grenfell

Kairos is the Greek word meaning "time", that is, those times which are turning points demanding decision while the opportunity remains. Although it refers primarily to the coming of Christ it may also refer to the present time in the life of our congregation.
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