



Kairos



News in and around Camberwell Uniting Church

Volume 8 Number 2

August 2015

Minister's Musings

Warmest greetings

 Friends in God's family,
My guess is that if there's
some logic in the Presbytery
choosing to have its Minister's Retreat /
Conference in early August and locating it in
Millgrove, near Warburton, it would be to help us
focus on the interior matters of life. It has been a
cold winter and the attractions of the outdoors
were easily left on the other side of the glass!

There are two subjects that we addressed in our three days away that I'd like to reflect on with you. This year we had two guest "educators". Sean Winter, our New Testament Scholar at Pilgrim College and Bert Verhoeven, Lecturer in social enterprise and entrepreneurship at Swinburne University.

Sean helped us dive into the hot topic of the historicity of the New Testament with a particular focus on the theme of "Jesus' table fellowship". Then he opened our minds to some of the models of "table fellowship" that existed in the cultures around the Mediterranean at the time of Jesus. Sean helped us to think about the fact that sitting, chatting around a meal looks more like the gathered life of the early church and indeed the gathering of Jesus' disciples than a group of people listening to input from the front of a lecture hall like church, as we more often structure ourselves at church today. He wrapped up by sharing the story of his involvement in a 'house church' that meets regularly around a meal.

At church Council earlier this year we were thinking about the possible shape of an alternate monthly service. Thinking about the need to have a less formal, more interactive context for those who don't find our morning service a good fit for their needs, I wonder if the

way forward might be to look back and use this ancient pattern in a new way.

Then Bert used wisdom from the business world to challenge the group about the "core values" we hold as a church and the way we engage with the broader community. While sharing how modern research into social enterprises has developed an experimental approach to starting new things, which reduces the rate of failures consistently, Bert challenged us to ask questions about the way we do things and why.

As a bit of a keen photographer, I was intrigued by the example of Kodak as a now failed business. The 'Kodak moment' is part of our language, but the Kodak business didn't adapt well to the changes offered by new digital technology. A once enormous international company is no longer. These things happen to those who won't adapt.

In the church we often resist new language or ideas from 'outside', especially concepts that come from the profit and loss world of commerce. We like to think that we are above the values that drive this area of life. But Bert was able to share with us experience from involvement with social enterprise and not for profit projects. In fact there is much in terms of values, a drive to help others and 'vision for mission' that we share.

The broader challenge for Christ's church is to continually reform itself; to, as our Basis of Union says, 'present the gospel in fresh words and deeds'. Perhaps we can learn something from the emerging 'science' of entrepreneurship about being the church effectively in today's world.

The need to regenerate and look towards the future is always before us (pardon the pun). The issue is sharpened for us as a church

community when we feel the effects of loss, as we have over the past few months. We keep looking ahead though, not because we think old ways are wrong, or to forget the past. I think it's more that we honour the heritage of past example by trying to be faithful in the context we find ourselves in today.

A new opportunity for worship? A new thinking about how our church engages with its community? How are we adapting? These aren't new questions and we have in fact done much work here over the years, but we do need to keep these questions before us. Let me know if you have ideas or responses.

Grace & Peace, Ian

From the Editor....

Hello and welcome to the winter 2015 edition of Kairos.

In January 2014 Pete Seeger, American folk singer and peace and civil rights activist, died aged 94. A prolific songwriter, Seeger's best known songs included *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*, *If I Had a Hammer*, *Little Boxes*, and *Turn, Turn, Turn*.

The lyrics for *Turn, Turn, Turn (To Everything There is a Season)* were taken from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-8). Seeger re-organised the words, added some of his own (the title of the song, and the last phrase: "A Time for Peace, I swear it's not too late", to try and stop escalation of the Vietnam War), and put the words to music in 1962.

The song became an International hit in 1965 when covered by the American folk rock band The Byrds. In the US, the song holds the distinction as the No. 1 hit with the oldest lyrics, as the words were theoretically written by King Solomon (born 1100 BC).

Like many biblical passages, the lines are open to many interpretations, but in the 60's, when the world order started to change rapidly, the integrity of these words from the Bible remained unquestioned.

Since publication of the last issue of Kairos, I have revisited the words of this song. The lyrics which have resonated the most are 'A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time of war, and a time of peace'. Such contrasting feelings captured together.

Following on from the death of Gwenda Shadforth in March this year, more recently as a Church family we celebrated the lives and

mourned the loss of the much-loved Elaine Robinson and Gael McRae. Despite the shock of the loss, the commemoration of each of their lives was interspersed with recollections of good times and fun moments that make up the personality of the people that we have loved and lost. Our hearts and thoughts continue to go out to the families, secure in the knowledge that their loved ones are suffering no more. A tribute to each of these friends of ours is included in this edition, as a mark of respect for both them, and their families for whom life must go on.

On another subject, readers will no doubt have been aware of the historical significance of this year for military and history buffs, with ceremonies commemorating 100 years since the ANZAC landings in Gallipoli the subject of many media programs.

We all know now that those young Australians who survived Gallipoli were then sent on to endure greater slaughter, suffering, horror and needless sacrifice on the Western Front in France and Belgium.

The war affected all communities in Australia, and I began thinking of a way to show we remember and give respect to those families and members of our church who made the ultimate sacrifice. I wrestled with the means, and whether it was even appropriate to go down this path in Kairos.

In the end, I decided that the commitment made by individual members of the church community back in the day was worth documenting, and I undertook some basic research, the results of which are laid out in a supplement for you to read if you wish.

What tipped me over the line was that the names listed on The Roll of Honour for the Great War in the Church enlisted for "God, King and Country." Whether one agrees with that sentiment or its order now is not important, but it was at the time to those who enlisted and served.

The second thing that struck me was the list of names on the Roll. It has been said that the war touched most communities in Australia. The Honour Roll lists fifty four people of the then Camberwell Methodist Church (including at least two sets of three brothers, four sets of two brothers, and one brother and sister) who put up their hand voluntarily to serve. 54 members of this congregation in Camberwell alone.

The lives of seven of those 54 were unfortunately cut short, and it is information on

their lives and war service, as well as a couple of others which had a connection to those seven, that I have put into short biographies.

The final thing that struck me once I had commenced my research, as it does to every person who makes a pilgrimage to France and Belgium, is the contrast between the violence confronting the young people at the time of their death with the serenity, peace, dignity and respect at the well-maintained cemeteries and grave sites, over a century later. Such a contrast, '*a time of war, and a time of peace.*'

On that note, I return to The Byrds. Despite being a headline act in the era of Peace and Love, this band was notoriously argumentative and dysfunctional, regularly changing members, including one Byrd who was asked to leave after discovering he had a fear of flying.

Sometimes you weep, other times you just have to laugh.

My gratitude, as always to the people who have submitted items for inclusion, and to Carolyn for her fantastic support. I hope you find the content in this issue of Kairos of interest.

Stuart

We Give Thanks for the lives of

Gwenda Shadforth

Gwenda and Ian Shadforth joined Camberwell Uniting Church (CUC) after many years of tireless work in their previous Church. Work had begun to affect Gwenda's health and the couple moved from their home to a unit in Riversdale Road. Almost immediately Gwenda became involved in the running of Tanderra and its shop.

Gwenda was involved in all aspects of the business including staffing, purchasing supplies and selling items. The flowers which were on show at CUC services on Sunday were later donated to Tanderra, and delivered to the facility by Gwenda after each weekend church service. Gwenda will be remembered for her wonderful cakes and sandwiches, which she was willing and generous to provide at each Church function (and they were always delicious).

Despite arthritis in her hands Gwenda was a great knitter, and completed her last jumper at the end of 2014. Finally, back problems



JUNE 14 1936 – MARCH 30 2015

became so severe that Gwenda could no longer attend or sit through Church services, but she still retained a keen interest in the work of the church and its people. Unfortunately the last months of Gwenda's life were beset by chronic back and joint pain; however she received a constant stream of visitors including her four daughters and nine grandchildren. Since her death on 30 March, Ian has relocated to Weary Dunlop Village, Mulgrave.

Elaine Robinson

Elaine Robinson joined Camberwell Uniting Church at Union in 1977, coming from the Camberwell Congregational Church.

Since joining she became a loyal and faithful member of the congregation. While she was always active in social justice issues, over the past 10 years or so Elaine

became increasingly involved in the congregation's life. She was one of the congregational representatives in discussions about a possible merger of congregations and participated in the prayer, bible readings and power point rosters. She was also a member of the Church Council where she acted as the Minute Secretary, photographer and support person at Messy Church, and Convenor of the Camberwell Asylum Seeker Support group.

In whatever she did, Elaine approached her responsibilities with thoughtful efficiency and an enviable cheerful graciousness even during her illness. The gap created by her absence seems to grow rather than diminish and it is with much sadness we note her death on June 1st 2015.

Gael McRae

Gael and Ian McRae have had a long and close association with Camberwell Uniting Church. In Ian's words, 'the focus of Gael's life was people – she loved being with them, helping and feeding them.'



5th January 1942 ~ 1st June 2015



30 JULY 1944 – 5 JUNE 2015

Gael's greatest gifts were her generous giving of herself and her deep understanding of people. She lived the Christian Gospel and served it through her love and caring of others – and her strong

commitment to the ideals of fairness, equal opportunity and compassion."

Gael was a wonderful mother to her three daughters, and was determined to ensure that they "would be given every opportunity to become strong, independent women, considerate, and committed to equality and justice" – in this, Ian believes she "overachieved", a wonderful tribute. Gael began her working life as a teacher, and returned to it once the demands of motherhood lessened, with much success and personal satisfaction. Music was also a central focus of Gael's life, and by a fortunate quirk of fate, her piano skills remained until the end.

Above all, for 49 years, Gael loved and was loved by a husband whose fond memories of "wonderful experiences, good friendships and shared understandings" can never be taken away. Gael died on 5 June, but we had cruelly lost her much earlier than that, and far too early for such a vibrant and loved individual.

Joyce Bond

Joyce Bond (mother of the late Judy Davey and a member of CUC) died peacefully in her sleep on August 22, aged 93.

Joyce was the mother of the late Judy Davey and her brother Alan, mother in law of Rob Davey and Alan's wife Tunde, "Nan" to four grandsons and their wives, and loving great grandmother to nine.



Restoring our Organ

When she first came to Camberwell in late May last year Wendy was aware that the Pipe Organ needed better maintenance to rectify problems. Learning that other churches had obtained funding from a Trust to assist their particular needs, it was agreed that we should likewise seek funding. Unfortunately funding was not available but Church Council decided to proceed, using \$5,000 set aside in the budget to supplement a wonderful legacy from Viti Rush for \$10,389.63. Church Council approached Robert Heatley, the Director of Australian Pipe Organs, and he is now working to repair the organ. Robert had maintained the pipe organs in the two previous churches where Wendy was organist over 26 years.

Robert indicated that the instrument was built in 1908 by respected Melbourne organ builder Frederick Taylor and extensively rebuilt and enlarged by Hill, Norman and Beard (Aust) Ltd in 1959. In the 1980s it has further enlarged by John S. Parker of Burwood but no work of a cleaning or restoration nature was carried out at this time. As can be imagined the pipework and sundry areas of the instrument had become very dirty with an accumulation of dust and dirt after 56 years of use, and some of the leather, felt and electrical components had broken down and required replacing. To add to this, a possum, named 'Beethoven' by Ian, had taken up residence and caused considerable damage before being removed.

In February this year Australian Pipe Organs Pty Ltd was appointed to oversee the ongoing care of the organ and they have identified the work required to put the organ back into good order. Currently there are many notes on various stops which are not operable, and some of these problems have been rectified during normal tuning and servicing visits, including pipe and wind conveyance repairs and rectification of electrical faults in the action. Much more work of a major nature needs to be carried out.

From the funds allocated, the organ can be cleaned, broken electrical action contacts can be replaced to rectify inoperable notes, and the console pedalboard overhauled and refelted. This work will be carried out in stages, during 2015 and early 2016 to ensure that the instrument remains fully playable for all weekend services.

Robert feels that we are fortunate to have inherited such a fine and resourceful instrument from our predecessors, and the Church Council and Wendy are aware of their responsibility to ensure that it is in turn passed on to our successors in good condition, enabling our music in the worship of God to be the best we can offer.

Information supplied by our organist Wendy McLean, and Director of Australian Pipe Organs Robert Heatley, to the Church Treasurer, Max Harris.

Shampoo Warning from Tasmania

It's so good finally to get a health warning that is useful. This one involves the shampoo that runs down your body when you shower, and serves as a warning to us all!!! I don't know WHY I didn't figure this out sooner!

I use shampoo in the shower. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning, "FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME." No wonder I have been gaining weight!

Well, I got rid of that shampoo and am going to start showering with Dawn Dishwashing Soap. Its label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."

Problem solved.

If I don't answer the phone, I'll be in the shower.
Ruth Crawley

Messy Church

April - The Four Friends

The four friends carried their paralysed friend to see Jesus. He was talking to the crowd in a house at Capernaum. There was no room inside so the friends carried the stretcher up onto the roof and lowered the man down in the midst of the crowd. Jesus then healed the man and he walked out. What incredible friendship the four showed. That is what we take from this story and Ian said in the celebration - Jesus wants us to be friends to everyone and this means helping people when they need it.

Margery organized many activities especially involving making stretchers and lowering them through roofs. As usual the food activity was very popular - icing plain biscuits, putting a chocolate teddy bear biscuit on the top surrounded by more icing.

The crowd scene was made from magazine cuttings of people pasted on a wallpaper background. Then stretchers were constructed from Meccano and also by weaving plastic tubing through a row of straws. Stretchers, with a person inside, were cut out and Lego houses were created with stairs leading to the roof. We made a book of the story with stickers that brought the story to life.

In the Celebration we watched an animated version of the "Four Friends Story", and then acted it out. Everyone loved this and it made real meaning of the story.

Then it was dinner time - Ruth and her team organized mini pizzas and fruit sticks. All 28 adults and 17 children enjoyed this "Messy Church".

May - Ruth and Naomi - a wonderful story of love and devotion!

Our gathering activity was with Maree - painting footprints on a road to show the journey of Ruth and Naomi to Israel.

Ian helped everyone paint big wheat field showing Ruth and Naomi. Next there was a sensory table of wheat in a tub - to scoop and to plant and a bucket of green gravel in which you planted a wheat sheath helped by glue. Ruth married Boaz when she went to Bethlehem with Naomi (her mother-in-law) so we fashioned a Bonbonniere of a wedding couple on a peg. We made cut outs of Ruth and Naomi with Judy, and stalks of wheat made from beads with Carolyn.

The food activity was icing heart shaped biscuits (made by Maxene) - and decorating with "M and Ms" - yum!!!

In the celebration we sang two songs - "God loves you" and "One more step along the world I go" and then listened to the story of Ruth and Naomi written by Ian, read by Fiona with the help of the puppet "Cecil" we met at the last Messy Church. Ian reflected on how important love and devotion are, as shown as Ruth followed Naomi to look after her even though Naomi didn't expect it. How well the story ended as Ruth found Boaz who married her and cared for Naomi!

Dinner was spaghetti bolognese and salad and fruit - organised by Alex.

June - Story of Elijah

Elijah was an Old Testament prophet in the book of Judges. He, like us, had many highs and lows in his life. Our theme was the story of his running away to the desert and hiding in a cave where God spoke to him.

Our gathering activity with Maree was decorating a man shaped coat hanger to look like Elijah – hairy and dressed in sackcloth. Lantern candles were made with plastic cups decorated with "flames" and a "candle" inside which flickered. For wind rushing we used streamers and fans! The earthquake was shown by building Lego towers on a board which when pulled from underneath caused the towers to collapse. We made sand mountains with a cave in the side.

The food craft was as popular as ever as Alex made gingerbread bikkies as flames - decorated with yellow and red icing. Last activity was a fire outside and sparklers with Ian before the celebration.

We then sang the story in two songs and all joined in acting out the Elijah story, scared and running, tired and sleeping and listening for God's voice through the fire and wind and earthquake, but only hearing in the quiet.

Dinner was shepherd's pie and fruit and maybe a flame biscuit or two!!! Thanks to Ruth and her team. There were 23 happy adults and 16 excited children.

July - "Song 23"-The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalm 23, written by King David has been set to many tunes with many word variations over the centuries. It was written 2,500 years ago.

The gathering activity with Maree was making a Shepherd's head dress; in fact we all had to have them!!!

In the hall we made sheep cupcakes (including marshmallows), then matched words of the psalm with pictures, coloured a sheep, used a tray of salt to pipette colourful paint to create a scene of green pastures and blue rivers, made a shepherd out of silver foil and a sheep from white packing pellets and pipe cleaners. The final activity was herding a sheep (balloon) with a staff around a tree.

The celebration had the telling of the 23rd psalm three ways - Fiona read the psalm as a story, then Ian played a film of a group singing the psalm in a very upbeat version and we all joined in, and then we said the psalm several times looking at the screen and more words were missing each time – we had to fill in the missing words. Ian led prayers after talking about the setting of the psalm.

Ruth and her team organised dinner of pasta bake and salad and fruit - delicious!

Two of our older children Emeline and Alexander took charge of the sheep-making activity but could not resist doing a number of other activities themselves as well.

We enjoyed having four guests from Koonung Uniting Church including their minister David Carter. They are looking at starting a Messy Church and they enjoyed seeing ours - we wish them all the best with their Messy Church. 21 Adults and 11 children attended.
Fiona Ensor

CASS

Our Camberwell Asylum Seekers Support Group (CASS) met on August 16th.

We remembered Elaine Robinson (our previous coordinator) with sadness and gratitude and determined to continue the legacy she left out of respect and affection for her.

The fundraising afternoon for which Elaine had overseen the planning took place on 2nd August. Elizabeth and Eric McKay shared their visit to Iran with their excellent illustrated presentation. This was followed by afternoon tea which was greeted with much appreciation. Almost \$1000 was raised thanks to the generosity of the McKays and the people who attended including those who contributed to the afternoon tea.

There is change afoot for Illoura (the old manse next to the church). There is significant maintenance work underway. Reliance Carpet has provided tiles, Lentara will provide furniture, and a Hotham Community Chest representative has indicated a keenness to help. Lentara (the UC agency overseeing the use of the house for asylum seekers) will assign six young men to live there. CASS's role is to be discussed with Rev David Withers, Lentara's Mission Development Minister, who will attend our meeting on Tuesday September 29.

Meanwhile plans for the concert to be given by the Immanuel Singers are underway and we will serve High Tea afterwards. It is expected that event will be in May next year and we look forward to your support.

Margaret Watters

A Snippet from Wendy McLean

When I became aware that articles for 'Kairos' were requested, I remembered a conversation I had with a student last week. The student has Down Syndrome and commenced piano lessons with me in 1990 when she was 12 years old. She noticed a message hanging on my kitchen window which says:

"God gives the heart a voice to sound its joy, and calls it Music"

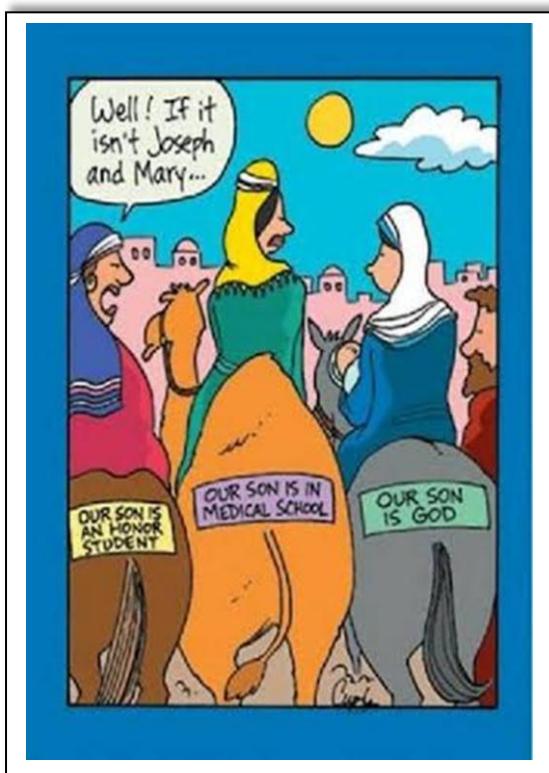
The student asked me what it meant, and I said that it is in our heart that we feel things which we want to express, or share, and music is a way that we can do that. Immediately the student agreed. When she plays music she expresses herself where, for her, words are difficult.

Church Council

On Tuesday 26 August, Church Council met, and the following items were discussed and agreed:

- Repairs to the Church organ costing \$15,389 will be undertaken using the legacy from Viti Rush of \$10,389 plus budget funds;
- Leasing of Illoura to Hotham Mission has been endorsed using a Memo of Understanding to house six young men;
- Repairs will be made to Illoura in the bathroom and kitchen;
- The Treasurer reported that for the previous six months our offerings are up \$3,525, yet our expenses are down \$17,643;
- The CASS Iranian night fundraiser income was \$965.00, a great result;
- There is to be a Farewell Lunch for Bill and Jessie Kirkpatrick, and Ian Shadforth on September 13;
- There was discussion at Council on the Presbytery Mission statement and the need to respect confidentiality.

For your information
Church Council



Rules of Grammar

- Avoid alliteration. Always.
- Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat.)
- Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
- Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
- It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
- One should never generalize.
- Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
- Be more or less specific.
- Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
- Understatement is always best.
- Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
- Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
- The passive voice is to be avoided.
- Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
- Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
- Don't never use no double negatives.

Elizabeth and Eric witness David vs Goliath in Samoa

We have recently returned from Samoa to visit our daughter and her family there. Samoa is a very beautiful country and I could write at length about its idyllic beaches, turquoise waters, waterfalls, cultural sights and very friendly people, but instead I'm going to write about Christianity and football.

Anyone who has ever been to Samoa will know that Christianity permeates Samoan life. There are churches everywhere. On Sundays everything closes, the people dress immaculately in white and all troop off to church. The morning service is followed by a Sunday feast with extended family and then it is back to church again in the afternoon.



But what can possibly be the connection between this and Football? Let me explain: On our recent visit to Samoa a really big historic event took place, an event which dominated the Samoan media, caused a huge influx of visitors and was even described by one commentator as the biggest thing to happen in Samoa since independence in 1962! The New Zealand All Blacks Rugby Union team, premier Rugby team in the world, was coming to Samoa to play the Samoan National Rugby team, Manu Samoa.

The lead up to the match was one of very high excitement for weeks. Imagine pre Grand Final fever in Melbourne and multiply by ten. Both the main islands of Upolu and Savaii were heavily decorated with Manu Samoan flags and colours. But the decoration extended beyond this. Large banners were tied to buildings and fences along the roads with messages such as "With God anything is possible. Go Manu Samoan!" and "The strength of God be with the Manu boys". Special church services were held for the team and a colourful street parade held the day before the match was attended by enormous crowds and culminated in prayers and speeches in the central city park.



On the day of the match the local Samoan Observer had front page headlines "DAVID vs GOLIATH" with a quote from the captain of the Samoan team saying "I give glory to God and acknowledge him for the gift he has given to me. I am a nobody but it is God who does great things. It is an honour to lead our team today."



The NZ All Blacks won the match of course but the Samoans did well and were delighted with the score of 25/16. Next day the Samoan Observer wrote, "*David may not have toppled Goliath but Goliath sure was rattled!*" Eric and I are not great rugby fans but had to agree it was amazing to be in Samoa for this historic match and to see how passionate the Samoans are about both their Rugby and their Christianity.



Elizabeth McKay

Out of the mouths of babes.....

Lois Grenfell has provided us with an item about a group of professional people who posed the question "What does love mean?" to some four – eight year old children. The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined:

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails any more. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.' *Rebecca- age 8*

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.' *Billy - age 4*

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.' *Chrissy - age 6*

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.' *Terri - age 4*

The most powerful comment came from a four year old child whose next door neighbour was an elderly gentleman whose wife had recently died. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry'. (*Where's a tissue when you want one!*)
Lois Grenfell

Wrap with Love, and assist if you can

The talent and commitment of individuals within our church community, and the quiet but huge contribution they make to humankind never ceases to amaze me.

At the conclusion of the last House to House meeting, Meredith Vincent wondered if she could make a request for donations to assist in a worthwhile cause she has been involved with for some time. In case you are unfamiliar with Meredith, she is one of the recent welcome additions to our church community, and her beautiful singing voice in our choir is just one of her many abilities and varied interests.

In short, Meredith started and manages a group at the University of the Third Age (U3A) who knit under the "Wrap with Love" initiative, which is currently run out of Sydney. For those readers who are unaware of this volunteer organisation, an outline of its history and phenomenal contribution to date is outlined below.

Wrap with Love - what they do

'Cold humanity is our concern, people caring about other people.'

There are millions of people in the world suffering extreme cold. In 1992 Wrap with Love began with the idea to help as many people as possible by providing warm Wraps to ward off hypothermia. The idea was to ask volunteers to knit squares which could be sewn together to make a warm blanket. In the past 20 years they have sent more than 323,000 Wraps to people in over 75 countries, including Australia, with the help of hardworking and generous volunteers. Just one square provides one twenty-eighth of warmth, and collectively, twenty-eight assembled squares create one whole warm and sheltering Wrap.

Wrap with Love is a not for profit organisation incorporated with the Department of Fair Trading, NSW, Australia. It has no annual membership fees or other regular financial support. It relies on donations. No one is authorised to door-knock or collect money for Wrap With Love Inc. Donations are not tax deductible. It is a non-denominational, non-racist and non-political organisation.

Wrap with Love currently donates over 30,000 Wraps each year. The Wraps they provide cannot be bought, sold or traded. They are caring gifts from the people of Australia to the people of the world.



Over twenty non-denominational and non-political aid agencies collect Wraps from the warehouse in Alexandria, NSW, to distribute to those in greatest need. They rely on an Australia-wide network of caring volunteers to knit, transport and assemble Wraps.

When Wraps are finished, the process requires either delivery through a local drop-off depot, posting them directly to the head office, or personally dropping them into the central warehouse.

The warehouse of Wrap with Love is in Alexandria in NSW. This is where the Wraps are delivered to and where they are folded, sorted and packed into bags for transportation within Australia and overseas to areas of trauma and need by bona fide Aid Agencies.

Meredith's U3A group is now sufficiently strong that she is planning now to collect and deliver direct to places in need, not via NSW, to reduce costs, time and double handling.

In an age of reduced government foreign aid, the ever-widening gap between the rich (nations and individuals), and the exponential increase in mass poverty, an initiative such as Wrap for Love needs and depends on our support.



What you can do

The continuing success of this organisation not only depends on its knitters, but equally on its network of supporters who supply all types of wool and yarn.

If you would like to assist, Meredith would welcome your donations of yarn (wool or acrylic), whole or partial balls, which may be stored in your cupboards and sewing baskets. These can be brought along to Church or left at the Church Office for collection and subsequent delivery to the knitters.



Meredith would welcome your support and assistance.

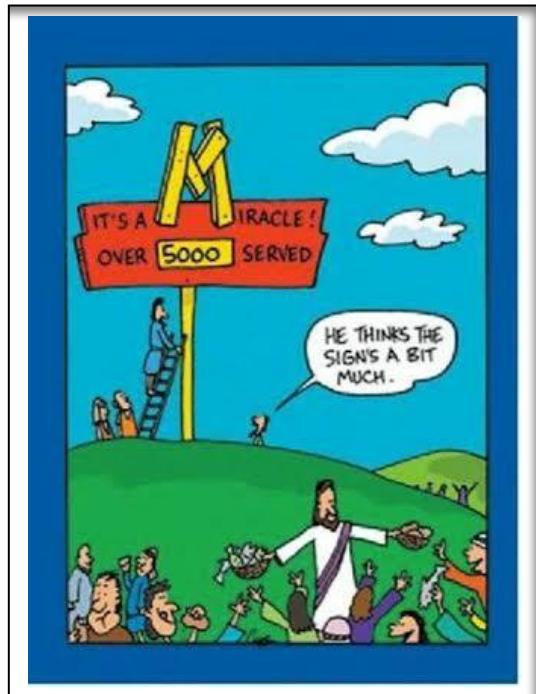
Ed

Reasons not to mess with children

1. A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.' The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.' Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'
2. A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah.' The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him!!'
3. A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and

six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' Without missing a beat one little boy, the oldest of a family, answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

4. The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Church primary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The teacher made a note, and posted it on the apple tray:
'Take only ONE. God is watching.'
Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.
A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'



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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.
Editor: Stuart Ensor