



Kairos



News in and around Camberwell Uniting Church

Volume 6 Number 1

March 2013

From the Minister's Desk



Friends in God's family, Warmest Greetings

In some ways things are just the same. The year moves on – past the heat we hope! Each week has the rhythm of routine, worship continues and much of life is constant. At the same time things keep changing.

With Easter upon us, I've been thinking about Jesus words in John's gospel; "It is finished". In the whole passion story there is a profound sense of ending. The gospel leads up to this climax and Jesus prepares his friends for the changes it will bring. There is a terrible feeling of immanent catastrophe, but the words of Jesus, there for us to reflect on still, are not about a calamitous end or even an unwelcome change. Jesus words; 'It is finished', mean something else in John's world of thought. John sees this major change as indicating that Jesus has completed the task given to him; to make the Father known.

The focus is Jesus' faithfulness to God's commission in offering light and life and truth to people. The work is complete. Love is revealed even in the face of suffering. The change is both begun and just beginning.

John's gospel is making a statement about the faith of its community more than it is a retelling the details of history. The paradox is that the ending of the story – as it seemed, turns out to be just the beginning of something new. If Jesus

friends had been thinking about the future of 'the Jesus movement', they faced the end of it and then found that somehow, that was really its greater beginning.

Perhaps it's often like that for us. It is in the church. Over my six years here there have been many profound changes. We have not been in the driver's seat with many of them. Much just happens to us in life and often it's not what we want. Sometimes it's tragedy that we deal with, but our response to life's circumstances is the area where we are challenged to exercise our faith. So after a run of endings and unplanned changes we are dealing with the growth of a new faith community in our Messy Church.

It is a wonderful privilege to be dealing now with questions of how to help faith develop in young people, how to welcome families with children into the celebration and worship life of the church. In biblical language we have to do the work of putting the gospel into a new context; 'new wineskins', as Jesus said. And it's our task to be faithful in being Jesus hands, feet and storytelling mouthpieces in Camberwell today in whatever small way we can.

If we ask about whether this is the way of the future, is the older style of church on the way out, to be replaced? I'd have to say I honestly don't know. But there is something just begun here and something to go on beginning, because this is the very nature of the Easter faith that John writes of. For me that's an exciting thing to be a part of. As to where religion might be headed, I read of a debate on the subject last month between former Archbishop of Canterbury,

Rowan Williams and Richard Dawkins, famed atheist. They both responded to the statement, "religion has no place in the 21st century". Williams said religion has always been about community building, compassion and inclusion, while Dawkins said religion is a cop out and pointed to the appalling treatment of women in some Islamic states. The large audience scored them 324 – 136, in favor of Rowan Williams. Debates may prove little more than popularity, but the positives Williams points to are consistent with our past and should be our future too; just the form of them will have to keep adapting to needs. So it's just the same and always changing!

The peace and the love of God be with you and yours,
Ian



Easter Services

- **Palm Sunday Procession**
March 24 - 10 am from
OLV & **10:15 UCA** service
- **Maundy Thursday**
Tenebrae Service
March 28: 7: 30 pm
- **Good Friday**
March 29th: 9:45 am
Service at CUC
- **11 am** - Ecumenical
witness walk
- **Easter Day**
March 31: 10 am

About Barbara Young

Kairos asked Norman to share this tribute which he wrote on behalf of the family and which was read at Barbara's Thanksgiving service.

Long before she became ill Barbara said to us, on more than one occasion, 'I don't want any of you to be standing up at my funeral and talking to the congregation about me. You need to be part of the congregation, being ministered to, so I said 'But is it alright if I write something on behalf of the family and have someone else read it?' 'Yes' Barbara said, 'But it make it brief and don't go over the top.'

Now I think that in itself says a great deal about Barbara – in a down-to-earth way always caring for others, doing whatever she could to help, planning ahead, able to deal realistically with whatever was to occur. A niece has written, 'I will miss hearing her wry chuckle followed by, "Well that's how it is and we shall just have to get on with it."'

Barbara was born and grew up in Geelong. Her father was gassed in France in the First World War, never fully regaining his health and so was without regular employment. So she and her two sisters left school at 14 and went to work, Barbara as secretary in a firm of carriers. We met at Newtown Methodist Church and Youth group and were mixed doubles partners in the local tennis competition. She often joked that what first attracted me to her was her wicked cross-court forehand which set up many opportunities for me at the net. In 1946, aged 16, we made a firm commitment to each other, engaged 4 years later, and with the permission of the Methodist Conference (necessary for ministerial candidates not yet ordained) married four years after that. A week later we were in the USA where, on a tuition scholarship, I undertook post-graduate study and she began working as Secretary at a one-thousand member Methodist Church in Summit, New Jersey. Her great gift of genuine interest in and concern for others soon made her a vital and much-loved member of that church community. After two years the two senior ministers re-located and no replacement was appointed for over a year. All I had time to do was preach, so Barbara organized lay groups to undertake pastoral work and followed up what they were able to do – no coincidence, I think, that over that time the membership actually increased. When, after 5 years, we left for home, the generous words and gifts at our farewell were far more a tribute to her than to me.

Next came King's College, Brisbane, when our sons Graeme and Paul were born and then in 1964, back to Melbourne and Queen's College, where we lived for the next 32 years. For a time Barbara was fully occupied as wife and mother (more about that later), but after the boys were well settled in school she resumed secretarial work. She liked to relate how: She saw an ad in the paper for a junior to work full-time in the Jesuit Library. She applied in person and asked, 'What about a part-time senior?' So began a long association with the Jesuit community, later as Secretary to the Principal. Subsequently she worked for the Uniting Church Doctrine Commission, and finally as Secretary in the Victorian Council Church office.

To all these situations she brought not only competence and skill but also that characteristic warmth and interest in others that meant that invariably she and her colleagues became firm friends.

For those of you who knew Barbara I hope that what I have already said rings true. Her great gift, which shone through in so many contexts, was referred to in a letter from an Epworth Hospital staff member, speaking of Barbara's selflessness, care for and interest in others, even while she was so ill, which never ceased to amaze. She was a great listener, and this enabled people freely to talk about themselves, their families, their hopes and fears. In a room full of people Barbara would not be the centre of attention, but she would be there, never by herself, talking or more likely listening with two or three people, comfortable in each others' company.

But don't get me wrong. She had her own firm convictions which on occasion she freely expressed, although without aggression. On one occasion, however, I do remember that she fired up in response to the criticism that she should not have allowed her life to revolve around her husband's vocation and the needs of her sons. "I thought feminism was all about allowing women freedom of choice" she insisted. "This is the way I choose to live, and would not want it any other way!" As I related this recently to some family members their response was "Way to go, Grandma."

'What can I say about Mum?' our son Paul has recently said. 'Just this, that she was a constant. All my memories come down to this – she was always there for us, the stable centre of our home. Sending me off to school in the morning with lunch of Vegemite, cheese and lettuce sandwiches, and there again when I got

home... That's why she limited her secretarial work to the hours from 10 am until 3.30pm. Of course she could let us know when we crossed the line, but always with love and our best interests at heart.

Graeme affirms that while she was remarkable in so many ways, and inspirational, she did not seek recognition and did not like it when a fuss was made of her. 'She certainly made us feel special' he has said, 'and was able to support us even when she may not have been fully at ease with our plans – when I began to head off on wilderness trips, for example, and went rock climbing.'

She was so pleased to welcome our daughters-in-law, Gabriella and Hilary, as part of the family, in a way seeing them as the daughters she never had, and I believe they experienced this inclusive love, never gushingly offered - that was not her way - but always generously and without strings attached.

She was immensely proud of her four grandchildren; overjoyed with the people they were growing up to be, keenly interested to share their interests and enthusiasms, quietly offering unconditional love. She was very impressed with Laura's dramatic ability, particularly as John Proctor in 'The Crucible.' She treasured a carry bag with favourite owl motif made by Emma. 'Always there for us, you are the best grandma a grandchild can ask for' Sam has written, 'and I hope that you can watch over me and guide me.' And the last words Barbara spoke to Paul from her hospital bed were about our other grandson. 'Off you go now, Paul, and take Andrew to his cricket.'

Of her Christian faith I can say that it was firm and unwavering, never ostentatious but rock solid, and undoubtedly this helped her to face her own difficult times. She accepted the shock diagnosis of ovarian cancer with great courage, was resilient throughout the long months of chemotherapy, surgery and more therapy, and made the very best of the time that was left to her in such a way that made it easier for us to bear the burden of her illness. She was always more concerned about the effects of her illness upon us rather than upon herself. Weekly church worship was very important to her and hymns meant a great deal. She always regretted that she could not carry a tune, but that did not stop her from singing every word of every verse. Sunday mornings began with listening to a half hour of hymns from 3MBS, and in the evening, a replay of the BBC 'Hymns of Praise.'

So, a final word. Quite simply, Barbara was the love of my life. 58 years married, 8 years before that as committed friend and fiancé, I can hardly remember life before Barbara, and cannot imagine life without her. 'But you must' I hear her say, loud and clear. 'Why else did I write out all those recipes for you? Remember, they're in the green folder in the bottom left hand drawer of the kitchen cupboard.' Ah yes, Barbara's cooking recipes, legendary in the family, a book of them for each of the boys too. But more important was her recipe for life, not written but lived – genuine compassion reflecting the central tenet of the Gospel, which is to put others at the centre of our concern, in loving others to find love in return. And not only human love. As New Testament writer John reminded his readers, 'Love is of God, and those who love are born of God, and know God.' So, Barbara is now at peace with this God of love.

Norman Young

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This Meditation on Proverbs 31 truly honors Barbara and her life.

"A strong woman who can find? She is more precious than jewels. The hearts of her family and friends trust in her, and their souls are comforted and enriched by knowing her. To those with whom she has dealings she does good and not harm all the days of her life. She has acquired wisdom and sought discernment; she listens to Wisdom's voice and seeks to make love real. She understands that open friendship combines affection with respect. She dresses herself in courage, compassion, wisdom, integrity, independence of mind and generosity of spirit."

Barbara was a dear friend for many years. We shared a love of hospitality, and with our husbands, Norman and Marcus, and our families. There were many wonderful times together – in Anglesea in the early days – and around the world, when Marcus and I stayed with Barbara and Norman during their time at Duke University, North Carolina, and at Cambridge and Bristol.

We shared a birthday together – March 22 – and the way we saw the world, and people, the way we loved our families and friends. We shared a love of books, of jokes, of cupcakes – and good conversation - never quotidian! In her illness and pain over the last year, Barbara's courage and resilience was amazing, and a source of inspiration to her beloved Norman, Graham and Paul, and all her family and friends.

Written and spoken by Gwen Benjamin at Barbara's Thanksgiving Service.

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Rev. G. Lawrence (Laurie) Turner - celebrating 60 years of Ordination



We were very pleased last year to welcome Rev. Laurie Turner into our Camberwell Uniting Church congregation. On Sunday 3rd March, we had the privilege of acknowledging and celebrating the **60th anniversary of his Ordination**. Laurie was presented with a Certificate by **Rev. Dr Morag Logan**, Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care, Presbytery of Yarra Yarra. In his response, Laurie paid tribute to his (late) wife Edna, who was a constant and strong support to him in his Ministry; indeed, they were very much a partnership in Ministry and in life.

He was joined for this special occasion by his two daughters from Sydney; Jenny and her husband Ian, Susan (her husband Graeme was unable to come), and son Peter with his wife Sue from Melbourne.

Laurie was born, and spent his early years in Hobart, Tasmania. He began his working life as a clerk with the National Bank; served 3 years in the Armed Forces, including time in New Guinea; then was transferred by the Bank to Victoria.

He resigned from the Bank and entered Methodist Home Missions. From there he entered training for the Methodist Ministry, studying at Otira and Queens College. He served as a Home Missionary, as Chaplain to the SEC workers in Bogong (1947-48); Probationary minister at Chelsea (1952); and was then ordained in 1953.

Following a Circuit appointment in Boort (1953-56), he then returned to Tasmania for a Circuit appointment in Westbury (1956-59); and served as Executive Secretary/Treasurer for the Tasmania Methodist District (1960-65).

Upon returning to Victoria, he had appointments in the Methodist, then Uniting Church in Ringwood (1966-72); St. David's, Canterbury (1973-82); and Doncaster (1983-1990) from where he retired in 1990. In retirement, Laurie was Minister in Association at Trinity, North Balwyn, for many years.

Laurie was Secretary of the Victoria and Tasmania Methodist Conference in 1973; and President in 1974.

Following Church Union, he was Moderator of the Synod of Victoria in 1981. At the 1982 Synod meeting, this Motion of Appreciation was passed: "the Synod records its sincere appreciation of the vision and guidance, pastoral care, wisdom, joy and dedication which the Rev Laurie Turner has given to the Uniting Church and the Church as a whole during his term as Moderator. The Synod's appreciation was also expressed to Mrs Turner for her support of the Moderator."

Laurie has contributed significantly to the work of the wider church on a number of committees, including ten years as Chair of the Beneficiary Fund, and Chair of the MLC Council for a number of years. In the year 2000 Laurie was awarded an OAM.

He has been much loved and respected throughout his ministry. His wise counsel has frequently been sought and valued by his ministerial colleagues and lay members at all levels of church life.

Laurie – we congratulate you upon this significant occasion. We acknowledge the vital part your wife Edna played in your life and ministry. We wish you and your family God's peace and blessings in the future.

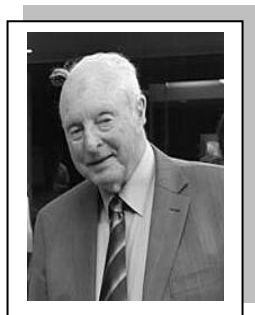
Marg. White

Thanks also to Norman Young

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Bill's 90th Birthday Bash February 9

Bill Kirkpatrick, our wonderful organist, turned **90 years old** recently and of course in true Kirkpatrick style a party was organized for all the Church community plus family and friends to attend!



Bill's wife Jessie, whom we also all love so much, arranged for caterers to provide a gorgeous meal in the church hall for 120

people! There was still a lot to organize for Jessie, however all the church and their family pitched in on the day and the event went off without a hitch. Bill and Jessie's son Stephen hosted the evening and gave a marvellous talk about his Dad, as well as remembering the support their Mum had always given Dad and the family.

Then it was our minister Ian Brown's turn who had been doing research into Bill's past revealing that Bill was doing a book on his family tree until he found that one ancestor was very dodgy and spent time at "His Majesty's pleasure"! 'We don't talk about that ancestor'!

The three other Kirkpatrick children spoke and then all grandchildren who were there spoke about their loved grandfather! One granddaughter sang and played on the guitar, her own composition! Bill's love of music and talent goes on.

Bill said he did not want gifts, BUT if his guests wanted to give something, they could donate goods to Hotham or Camcare! I think both organisations were amazed at the amount of goods they received!! What a wonderfully generous idea of Bill and Jess - "the Kirkys" as we call them!

When we think of Bill we can't forget his greeting to most of us "Do I know you??" Happy Birthday Bill and may you have many more!
Fiona Ensor

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Camberwell Music Society - 50 years in the midst of Camberwell

The Camberwell Music Society was formed in **1963** as the Camberwell Music Club. For their first eight years concerts were conducted in the Fairmont Avenue home of their founder, Mrs Coetnore-Knott.

In **1968** the name was changed to the **Camberwell Music Society** and in 1971, concerts moved to the theatre at the old Camberwell Town Hall.

In **1972** the society purchased its own 1941 Bluthner piano, the instrument which continues to serve them so well today.

1976 saw the music society move to **St John's Anglican Church** in Burke Road. This move resulted in a broken leg for their much beloved piano, just hours before the first concert.

In the **1980s** the society went from strength to strength with increases in the number of concerts and the audiences attending.

The following decade was more challenging as alternatives to hear good music became more accessible. While the number of concerts decreased, the society continued to foster and support talented young musicians. In **1999**, rebuilding works at St John's led to the society relocating to its present home at the **Camberwell Uniting Church**.

Today the society presents six concerts each year. It remains true to its aims of providing good music at affordable cost, and supporting both emerging and established artists.

The success of the Society owes so much to those who have served on its committees over the years, the musicians who brought them so many delights, the generous venue hosts, the City Council of Camberwell and now Boroondara, their magnificent sponsors and the members and audiences.

Thanks to Richard Balsillie & Eric McKay

Messy Church

February - Jarius' daughter.



Our first Messy Church for 2013 was about Jarius' daughter who became very ill and died before Jesus could be called. But when Jesus came to see her, she became well again.

A very enthusiastic group of children and adults were very busy making Get Well cards, bedside lights, models of people in beds and making soaps in various shapes. There was even a real bed in the hall! Everyone wanted to get in to it! Fruit on skewers was also made, as a food sick people might like! They were certainly enjoyed after a meal of chicken and salad in a lettuce cup and pancakes!



In the celebration we sang songs about how God loves us and heard the story of Jarius' daughter. Ian talked about God looking after us

always and how we should look after each other!



The photos taken by Elaine during the activities and shown on the wall in church at the time of celebration are a highlight and we appreciate Elaine's work!



It was wonderful to have two new children with parents/grandparents who just saw the Messy Church advertisements! Although it was very hot it was a great Celebration of God's love working through us.

Fiona Ensor

News from Church Council

In our discussion segment at the January Council meeting, we spent some time considering the need to encourage full involvement of the Sunday morning congregation in the **Messy Church** segment of our worship. This new venture holds many possibilities and is reshaping our church community.

At each Council meeting we hear reports from Ian and the various groups within our church community as well as information from the Boroondara South Network of churches and the quarterly meetings of Presbytery. Celebrations have been arranged to recognise the **60th anniversary of Rev. Laurie Turner's ordination** and **Ruth Akie's 50 years as an Accredited Lay Preacher**.

Property matters which are currently being investigated include – Manly Plumbing's work on the ventilation of the Hall, steam cleaning of

the kitchen, the proposal to bituminise the car park area immediately behind the church, replacement of vinyl in the foyer of the Hall, the cost of gas heating for the Meeting Room and repairs at 'Illoura'. The second quote for the **internal reconfiguration of the church** has finally arrived and is being circulated to the congregation for consideration and discussion at the **AGM on Sunday 14th April**. The Budget for 2013 was presented by Max at our January meeting and refined at the February meeting. It also will be presented for congregational consideration at the AGM.

The rent for the flat has been increased in line with the recommendation of the agent and various repairs will be carried out there in the next couple of months.

The first **Working Bee for 2013** will be held on **Saturday 23rd March at 10 am**. A list of jobs that can be done at other times will be available from the Office for those who are unable to be there on Saturday morning.

Elaine Robinson

News from CASS

During November last year, our final fundraising event was the **collection of gift vouchers** (or money to purchase these vouchers) for **Hotham Mission's end-of-year celebration** with their asylum seeker clients. **Over \$700** was raised which was converted into a variety of vouchers. The Women of CUC donated a number of these vouchers and other gifts at their final meeting for 2012.

At our February meeting **Oliver Chan** (Community Education Officer for HMASP), told us that the boys in 'Illoura' were looking for specific sporting equipment to use in their recreational program. So **our March focus** is for the following items (or donations that can be used to purchase these items) - **table tennis nets, racquets and balls, soccer balls, a volley ball and board games**. At the end of 2012, an appeal in *Crosslight* for bicycles brought forth many donations and following Helga Svendsen's interview on Radio National, Hotham ASP now has an abundance of machines. The next tasks will be to sort out storage space, allocate bicycles to users and then teach road rules and cycling safety. Money from our March appeal will also go towards supplying bicycle helmets, pumps and headlights.

Oliver left the meeting with virtually a **carload of food and house hold products** to take to **Kairos**

Hotham Mission. These items were donated by guests attending **Bill Kirkpatrick's 90th birthday party**. Bill and Jessie had requested that this be done in lieu of presents. Oliver has since written to Bill and Jessie thanking them for their generosity.

Meanwhile various maintenance tasks have been completed at 'Illoura' including the repair of a bathroom skylight and the replacement of an exhaust fan. An investigation is being carried out to find a leak in the air conditioning system. **Eric McKay and Harvey Sowerby** continue to **provide valued assistance** in completing many handyman jobs.

Since the introduction of community detention for asylum seekers, the work of HMASP has expanded rapidly, requiring the appointment of more staff to meet the demands of the project. Hotham Mission itself has a philosophy of delivering non-government funded services whereas the Community Detention Program of the ASP is funded by the Commonwealth Government.

Towards the end of last year Hotham Mission became involved in talks with **Lentara UnitingCare (LUC)** because it was felt that the ASP had grown to the point where it would be better served by the administrative strengths of Lentara. LUC is a much larger organisation than HMASP – with 459 employees (HMASP has 33) and an operating budget of \$18M (HMASP's budget is \$3.1M). Consequently the **Asylum Seeker Project** was transferred from **Hotham Mission to Lentara UnitingCare** when the process of due diligence was completed at the end of January 2013.

The move will mean that HMASP's clients will continue to enjoy the services offered by the Asylum Seeker Project (particularly the provision of housing and consultations with case workers) and will also be able to draw on a number of expanded services such as Lentara's Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, Bargain Centre, Financial Counselling and Emergency Relief. The full merger of will occur at the beginning of April when all HMASP's clients will become part of Lentara's activities. We look forward to hearing more about this move at our meeting in April.
Elaine Robinson

Holy Humor

Sunday after church a Mum asked her young daughter what the reflection was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be afraid you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say the Mum was perplexed. Later in the day the minister dropped in for afternoon tea so Mum asked him what the morning's reflection was about.

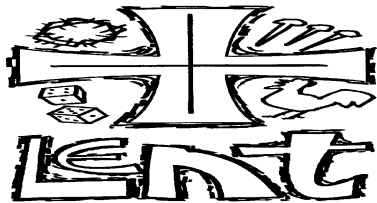
He said' "Don't be afraid, your comforter is coming."

Uniting Church News 14 March 2013

The Uniting Church is pleased that legislation to set up the Government's **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** has passed through the House of Representatives, with unanimous bipartisan support.

An emotional Disability Reform Minister Jenny Macklin told Parliament that the bill is an enormous step in ensuring people with disability, their families and carers, receive peace of mind.

The scheme, scheduled to be launched from July, will initially benefit about 26,000 people in launch sites in five states and territories.



Lenten Offering – Envelopes for your donations are available.

Your donation will support:

- Equipment for a kindergarten in **Popua, Tonga**
- Multi-Faith dialogue meetings in **Sri Lank**
- Helping **Homeless People** Back into the Mainstream program
- Travelling Opportunity Shop in **Tasmania**

Donations can be sent direct in the envelope provided or placed in with the offerings.

Messy Church

Program 2013

1. Feb 24 Jairus' Daughter
2. Mar 24 Easter
3. Apr 28 The Vine
4. May 26 Paul & Silas
5. Jun 23 David
6. Jul 28 Good Samaritan
7. Aug 25 Prodigal Son
8. Sep 22 Wise Builder
9. Oct 27 Daniele
10. Dec 1 Christmas

4th Sunday each Month
4-6pm
Camberwell Uniting Church
314 Camberwell Rd
Camberwell

ALL AGES WELCOME
STORY, CRAFT, ACTIVITIES,
CELEBRATION & MEAL

www.camberwellunitingchurch.com

Ministry:

Worship 10.00 am

Rev. Ian Brown 0439 931 080

Church Office: Tuesday & Friday

Phone 9882-7441

Email ucacamberwell@uniting.com.au

Kairos

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