



Bathurst Uniting Church

Sharing God's love by connecting people to God;
people to people; and people to community.

Newsletter

December 2021

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

5 December 9.30AM Family worship and Holy Communion

6 pm Informal Worship in the Activities Hall

12 December: 9:30 am Family Worship and 6 pm Informal Worship

19 December 9:30 KUCA Kids Praise

5pm: Blue Christmas
6 Pm Songs, prayers, Bible discussion

24 December 7 pm Carols and Christmas Readings

25 December 9.30am Christmas Day celebration

26 December 9.30am Christmas Celebration



Congregational/AGM Meeting

A Congregational meeting will be held on December 12 commencing at 11.15am after Morning Tea. This meeting is to present the 2020-2021 Financial Report, Portfolio Groups and 2021-2022 Budget Reports for ratification by the Congregation. The 2020-2021 Financial Report will be emailed out to those who receive the Newsletters, and printed reports are available in the Foyer from today for your review prior to the Congregational Meeting.

Congregational Lunch - 12 December

After the Congregational Meeting, a Lunch will be held for fellowship, fun and togetherness, after the COVID-19 lockdown we have been enduring. Lunches will be catered for by the CWA and will meet COVID requirements at a cost of \$15 each. Please let Deb know if you will be attending by December 5, along with any dietary requirements you may have.

Come along and sing some carols in Kings Parade

On Thursday 16 December

6-7pm

Brass band playing.

Gold coin donation for Buss activities



John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 This One was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him; and without him not one thing which was made was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of people. 5 And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man having been sent from God; by name John. 7 He came to bear witness in order that he might witness concerning the light; that all might believe through him. 8 He was not that light; but that he might bear witness to the light. 9 This was the true light that enlightens every person coming into the world. 10 He was in the world and the world came into being through him; and the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own people and his own people did not receive him. 12 But as many as receive him, he gave them authority to become children of God; to those who believe in his name; 13 not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of a person but born of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we saw his glory; glory as of the only begotten from the Father; full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness to him and has cried out saying, "This was the One of whom I said, 'he comes after me and is before me, because he was first before me.'" 16 And out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God except the only begotten One of God who is in the bosom of the Father; this One has made him known.

(Translation by Keith Hamilton)

Reflection

There is usually great delight among families when the discovery is made a baby is expected. Not only mother and father, also siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, and friends are wonderful at the miracle of conception, the growth of the fetus and the imminent birth. With the development of technology, family and friends share the gestation. When a baby is born the family and friends are changed forever. There is wonder in the miracle of birth and new life. We know it does not always go well. That makes the safe delivery of baby and mother all the more wonderful and miraculous. While some draw satisfaction from what they have achieved, most know that the miracle of life is beyond our control. People often want to mark the birth with ritual and give thanks. People are grateful to God or a god or something. For some, that ritual includes baptism in the church.

In part, the wonder of Christmas is the wonder of birth, new life, even if 2000 years ago. Building on that wonder is the faith of the church that God who created the world, did not halt. The radical Christian message is that God did not stop at sending an envoy, a prophet or prophets, or people of faith. The incarnation redefines the relationship of Creator and created. In the birth of Jesus, the incarnation, is the very essence of God, the Word of God. God has come among us. Jesus is the same as us, though different. The faith of the church is that Jesus is fully human and fully God.

Even without a cross, the human Jesus would have died at some point. We all do. However, the resurrection was gobsmackingly miraculous. As wonderful as new birth. Maybe more so. The cross becomes not a devastation but a triumph. The Spirit in Jesus blows upon the disciples. Some are called to be Ministers of Word of God. All the people who call Jesus Lord, and of whom Jesus calls friends, have that same Spirit upon them. The Word that became flesh continues to guide and inspire, to advocate for God to the disciples of every era. Just like an expectant family and friends awaiting the miraculous birth of a baby, so the disciples of Jesus ache with joy for the return of Jesus. He arrived the first time, and he will arrive again. That is the joy of Christmas.

Blessings Christmas 2021 and through 2022.

Keith Hamilton



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'Christmas Inspiration'

Supported by the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship
NSW/ACT Synod Committee



...featuring congregations from Bathurst, Broken Hill, Lithgow, Mudgee, Orange and Trundle, and the Flying Padre!



Date: Saturday 11 December 2021

Time: 10am-11.30am

Where: Activities hall where it will be viewed on the screen

Zoom Link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/97870178597>

There will be morning tea so if you will be attending could you bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea. Each serve needs to be individually wrapped.

Pray for the Church Council

In the lead up to the Church Council election on 27 February 2022, information will be provided to all members of Bathurst Uniting Church regarding the work of the Church Council. Members are encouraged to pray for the Church Council, and for the election of people to fill the up to 7 vacancies.

A copy of the details and a nomination form are at the back of the newsletter.

What have KUCA been doing?

KUCA met in Machattie Park on Friday 19th November. Each year the KUCA kids have packed boxes for Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child.

Earlier in the year they decorated calico carry bags which were included in the boxes along with soap and washer, soft toys, school supplies and tennis balls.

These shoeboxes are sent to children who live in the Pacific, many of whom don't often receive Christmas gifts. This enables the children to hear the good news about Jesus and his love for them.



Congratulations

In case you missed this on the tv news....Sharynne McLeod will receive a unique award for her international contribution to the science and practice related to children's speech and language. She will receive the highest award from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and is the first international affiliate (non-American) to receive the Honors award since it began in 1944. The honour recognises individuals who have enhanced or altered the course of the professions.

A word from John, the nonagenarian.

I would like to thank everyone so much for the love, care and support given to me over many years and on the occasion of my birthday.

The number of cards, phone calls and kind words expressed made me feel truly humble but they speak volumes for the love and care the members of the congregation have for each other.

We are known as Christians by our love. John.

We recently celebrated John's 90th birthday during the 9.30am service with this poem written by Marilyn.



John

On the occasion of his 90th birthday

21st November 2021

There's a very special fellow I met some years ago
Who's reached a milestone here today (for those who didn't know)
You see John Charles is ninety – November twenty one
You'll note he's not decrepit, in fact he's lots of fun
With a wicked sense of humour and some say quite a cook
His biscuits are to die for, and he does a yummy chook

His garden's so productive, and he keeps a spotless house
His sermons are just brilliant, and they don't go on for hours
He grew up with two sisters with whom he stays in touch
From what I hear from close friends, he loves them very much
His youth was spent in Thornleigh, but that was long ago
Before the bride and he came west, out here to have a go
I'm told they had three children, with Robert No 1,
With Janet in the middle, then Warren stopped the run.
To top things off four grandkids plus 4 great grands as well
Have reinforced the family tree as far as I can tell.
A job he held for many years was District School Inspector
He'd sniff out any problem like a brand-new smoke detector.
A man of true-blue values – to court he's often been
His personal take on sentences meant oft times he weren't keen.
He's a wordsmith and he knows it – he preaches without notes
If he now stood for council, he'd be raking in the votes.
John also shares his kindness in such a lovely way
Like daily seeing his neighbour and checking she's okay
He's melded blokes from this 'ere church to brekkie with each other
And checks the folk at Probus like an antique Girl Guide mother.

And like many of us Senior Citz's he's had a few health issues

I heard his Monday Study group were ploughing through the tissues

For all that you have meant to us, for all God's love you've shared

For the kindly way you've nurtured us, and showed how much you cared

We want to say a "thank-you John" and "Happy Birthday" too!

From this great fellowship of ours, we raise a glass to you.



Eco-friendly thin wooden name badges are available with pin for \$12.45 or with a magnet for \$14.45 Bathurst will appear under your name



If interested please email your name to go on the badge to johnandsandra253@bigpond.com or ring 6331 5439.

BUSS UPDATE

The Shelter Café is now operating in the newly renovated serving area which now has hot water, plenty of bench space and storage and a dishwasher. The food is served in the freshly painted Blomfield Room at the back of the 1837 Hall. It is open on Saturdays and Sundays and is serving lunch to those in need. The facilities are a huge improvement and was made possible by a number of very generous donations.

HOW ARE YOU GOING WITH YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS?

We are coming to that time of the year when we tend to drink more things out of bottles and cans. Don't forget you can help our welfare funds if you put them in the Return and Earn machine using the code below, or take them to the bulk shed in Upfold St, collect the cash and put in the plate in an envelope labelled "Bottles and Cans". It's amazing how the small amounts add up. Any questions please ask Julie Fry.



Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email BUConnect@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with someone.

You can also contact our minister, Rev Keith Hamilton on 0417487446.

Please note: There will be no January Newsletter. The next one will be at the start of February. If there is any news during January emails will be sent out as necessary.

Thank you to everyone for your encouragement and support this year as we got used to the monthly newsletter.
Ruth

MANY WAYS TO GIVE:

- In the collection plate on Sundays
- You can set up a regular direct debit to the church account (see Deb Mina to do this)
- Deposits to general church funds can be made in person at any branch of the Reliance or Unity Bank . They will be anonymous BSB 882000 Account No: 100140356
Account Name: Bathurst Uniting Church Congregation
This includes donations for the Mums program we are supporting
- **OR** Internet transfers can be made to
BSB: 634634 Account No: 100027964 Account Name: Bathurst City – Giving Direct
- If you wish to deposit money into our welfare account the details are:
BSB: 882000 Account Number 300003447 Account Name: Bathurst Uniting Church welfare..
- If you wish to deposit electronically into the BUSS account the details are BSB:634634 Account Number:100049962

WORSHIP IN JANUARY 2022

Morning worship will be at 9.30am each Sunday in January.

The 6pm worship will have a break from 26 December until 16 January. The last service will be a carol service on 19 December.

CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTION 2022

Each year we have opportunity to elect new Church Council Members (Elders and Councillors) who can be a part of a team who assist with "leading the congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world." (UCA regulations)

Those nominated can choose to be Elder or Church Councillor.

Those nominated can choose to serve for 1 to 5 years.

The Congregation has resolved that the Church Council consist of 12 elected members. There are 5 members whose terms continue beyond the end of 2021.

Seven vacancies exist. Four members of the current Council will complete their nominated term in February 2022.

They are eligible for re-election if they so desire. They are:-

Elder – Judy Tyson

Councillors – Deb Mina Marion Perry, Kaye Price,

Nominations close on Sunday 6th February 2022 with the election of Elders and Church Councillors to take place on Sunday 27th February 2022. **A box will be provided for completed nomination forms.

- A candidate will require at least a majority of votes to be elected.
- All nominees are required to be either a Confirmed Member or Member-in- Association

BATHURST UNITING CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM – 2022

I am happy to accept nomination as an Elder/Church Councillor (*cross out which is not applicable*) to the Bathurst Uniting Church Council for a term of

* _____ year(s)

* Please indicate number of years you are prepared to serve (1 to 5 years)

Name.....

Signed Date

Nominated by 2 Confirmed Members or Members-in-Association

Signed Signed

Note: If information relating to the duties and responsibilities of Church Councillors/Elders is required, please contact Brian Mowbray or Lilian Beauchamp or an existing Church Council member.

** Please place completed forms in the labelled box located in the Church Foyer.