



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

February 2022

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care

Worship Services

9.30am on Sundays in the church.

You can join worship on Zoom by going to <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/> and pressing the purple button.

Holy Communion 6
February

'Sunday @ 6'

At 6pm (during daylight savings period) – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall.

Luke 5:1-11

1 While the crowd pressed upon him to hear the Word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake; but their fishers had gone away and were washing their nets. 3 And getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land; and sitting, he taught the crowds from the boat. 4 And when he ceased speaking, he said to Simon: "Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And answering, Simon said, "Master, we laboured through the whole night and took nothing; but at your word, I will let down the nets." 6 And doing this they enclosed a great multitude of fish; and their nets were being torn. 7 And they beckoned (by nodding their heads) to their partners in the other boat that they should come and help them. And they came and filled both boats so that they were sinking. 8 And when Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus, saying, "Depart from me, because I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For astonishment had seized him at the catch of fish which they took, 10 and likewise

both James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Fear not; from now on you will be catching people." 11 And bringing the boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

(Translation by Keith Hamilton)



Reflection

Jesus directs the fisher in the boat to put out into the deep water and let down the nets. Jesus could have been speaking to the church. The fishers knew about fishing. They had a comfortable life on the side of a lake. There was a limit on the number of fishers, so the lake would not be fished out. They had fished all night without success. They were the experts. Now Jesus tells them to put out into the deep water and let down the nets. There is an objection, just like Mary's objection to the angel, but they follow through on the command. Soon the nets are full, at the point of tearing. Disaster is avoided with a quick nod to the other fishers who come and assist. But who is this man who speaks with authority? Peter recognises him as of God. Like Isaiah before him, Peter, who is the spokesperson for the fishers, in the presence of someone of God, of Holiness, is aware of his own sin. Not moral sin, but the proper relationships between Creator and created. Then the "call: now you will be fishers of people." They will be out in deep water all the time, and have to put down their nets, all the time, and in the face of fear, they must trust Jesus with everything.

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 or email keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com

So too the church. That is why Luke tells this story. The church has always been described as a boat. Always called to push out into the deep water. Always called to let the nets down. How do we respond to a new call?

Parker J. Palmer, *Let your life speak*, identified five inner shadows. These inner, unconscious convictions have the power to shape our actions and words. The shadows are: insecurity about identity and worth, the universe as a battleground, functional atheism, fear, and the denial of death.

Charles Dickens' book *Little Dorrit* speaks to the first shadow of insecurity of identity and worth. People self-identify with what they do, as opposed to who they are: a child of God, as Paul reminds us in the letter to the Romans.

The second shadow is the universe as a battleground, hostile to human interest. By contrast the Genesis creation myths speak of God creating a good world.

Functional atheism is the belief that everything depends upon me. "If anything decent is going to happen around here I/we are the ones who must make it happen." We might talk about God yet act as if God does not exist. Sometimes we say "the only hands and feet God has are ours." Which is literally truth, but projects the deep-seated conviction "I have to do it all," with no assistance. Sometimes we complain that there is no one to help, but our addiction to control won't allow us to accept the offer of help, not even God's. Functional atheism leads to a drivenness, resulting in anxious over-functioning from fear of failure, or unhealthy pride when ventures are successful. Rob McFarlane, *With Love to the World* (6 February 2022) suggests "functional atheism can masquerade as leadership in the church, but eventually it becomes clear that the foundations of God's purposes have crumbled." We have to let others lead and even learn.

The fourth shadow is fear. Especially fear of the natural chaos of life. Fear often deeply devotes us to the elimination of all remnants of chaos in our world. We try to control, organise, orchestrate things so thoroughly that messiness will never bubble up around us to threaten or overwhelm us. The messiness we might try to reject could be dissent, innovation, challenge and change. Implementing our new portfolios, and delegating responsibility and authority to portfolios and sub-groups will be deeply threatening if our need is to control.

The denial of death is related to functional atheism. The illusion that everything depends upon me, and the denial that all things must die in due course, leading to people trying to prop things up that should be allowed to lie down and die.

Palmer concludes that the work of dealing with our shadows involves community, the inner work of self-examination, self-reflection, meditation, journaling and prayer. I wonder what Jesus' call to put out into the deep and let down the nets might mean for us at Bathurst UC?

Blessings, Keith Hamilton

This Sunday, 6th February is the closing date for nominations for Church Council. The nomination form is at the end of this newsletter.

BUSS Update

- On 20 January we held a great evaluation day to reflect on last year and to plan for 2022. It was a great day of discussion with much encouragement for the programs which were able to be run and big ideas to consider for the future. There is certainly a great deal of need in the community!
- The café will be open again from this weekend (5th and 6th February)
- Volunteers are needed.....helping at the café on weekends, cooking food for the café, helping with programs such as Frypan Creations, Bathurst Buddies and SMART lunches.
- See our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BathurstBUSS> or speak with one of the Management Team if you would like to help.



Some of our men meet for Saturday breakfast once a month. This is an update from John on what they have been up to:

Again this year we are supporting the education of Musonda Amisi at Mwandi High School and Kwenda in the Basic School. We cover the expenses by putting cash on the table at breakfasts until we have the \$500 required.

When we confirmed the Australian co-ordinator wrote, "It's very exciting having the men sponsoring a girl to the end of her schooling. Personally I get rather excited when our girls particularly reach this high level." In a general newsletter one of the former Mwandi students, now a university graduate, and a school teacher, thanked past supporters for enabling her to lift her life out of poverty and to be able to assist upcoming students.

It is great to know that individuals and groups in the congregation also support other students at Mwandi in West Zambia. To know more about the place talk to the McLeods who have visited there. If you are interested in joining the group speak with John.

MANY WAYS TO GIVE:

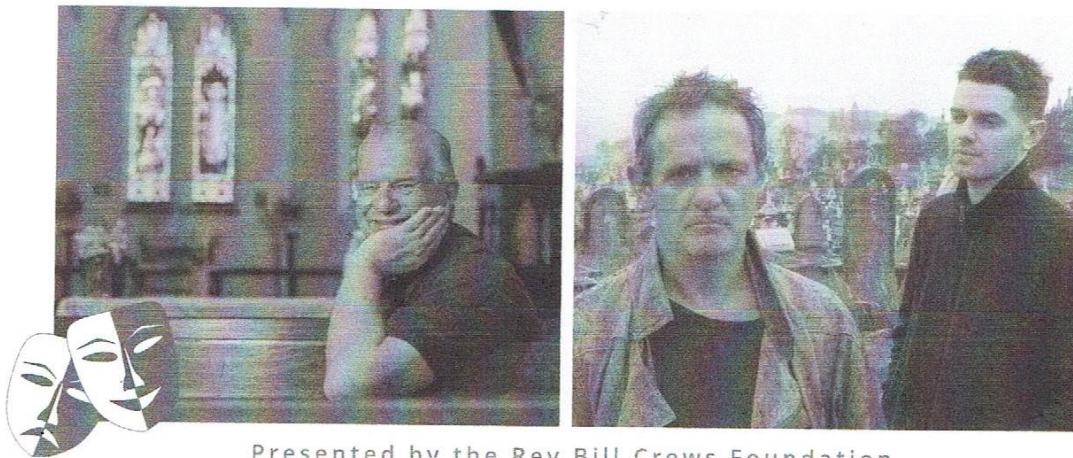
- In the collection plate on Sundays
- You can set up a regular direct debit to the church account (see Deb Mina to do this)
- Deposits to general church funds can be made in person at any branch of the Reliance or Unity Bank . They will be anonymous BSB 882000 Account No: 100140356
Account Name: Bathurst 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

YOU ARE INVITED TO **THE SILVER TUNNEL**

A hell of a play in a holy place

FREE Admission - 3 Shows only

**BATHURST UNITING CHURCH - APRIL
FRI 8TH @ 8PM - SAT 9TH @ 4PM & 8PM**



Presented by the Rev Bill Crews Foundation
In support of the poor, homeless and needy

The surprise theatre hit of 2020 tours NSW in 2022 with free performances, carrying its inspiring message of 'choosing life'.

Set in a graveyard, heaven and hell. Performed in churches. The production confronts suicide and many ticklish social issues with lots of laughs along the way.

The cheeky one-act thriller lights up the magnificent Bathurst Uniting Church.

Starring Ric Herbert and Tim Matthews. Written and directed by Warwick Moss.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR
FREE TICKET OR VISIT
WWW.THESILVERTUNNEL.ORG**



Bathurst Uniting Church: 140A William Street, Bathurst
Running time 50 minutes | Bookings essential | Covid safeguards apply



Stained glass windows

These beautiful windows were installed in 1922 by J. Ashwin & Co, the largest glassmaking establishment in Sydney. Designed by John Radecki (1865-1955), they are considered to be among the finest in Australia.

The windows were unveiled on the 20 May 1922.

Costing nearly £2,000, they were placed without any expense to the trustees.

In this, the centenary year, it was, thought that it would be of interest to be able to locate the families of those who donated a window and perhaps be honoured with the thoughts and dreams behind the donation.

Your assistance is needed here. If you have any knowledge of a family, please contact them to seek their assistance.

In the Gallery, the windows on the left hand side are;-

- “Queen Esther” - (The Blomfield family in remembrance of the goodness and love of God.)
- “Samuel and Eli” - (Messrs. E & W. Williams in memory of their father and mother.)
- “Sir Galahad” - (The Young Men of the Circuit in honour of those who went to the Great War.)
- “Elijah anoints Elisha to be prophet” - (Erected to the glory of God in memory of mother and brother Ernest by the James family.)

In the Gallery, the windows on the right hand side are;--

- “The Visit of the Wise Men” - (C. F. Oates in memory of his father and mother.)
- “The Flight into Egypt” - (The Stevens children in memory of their mother and father.)
- “The Raising of Jairus’ Daughter” - (The Girls Club to the Praise of God’s Holy Name.)
- “The Good Shepherd” - (The Tremain children in memory of their father and mother.)
- “Jesus and the Woman at the well” - (in memory of Harold Morcom erected by his wife and children.)
- “Jesus encourages Peter ” - (in Memory of Edward Allan Dash erected by his wife and children)

Returning to the sanctuary via the right hand aisle the Old Testament windows on the left are:--

“Abraham preparing to sacrifice Isaac” - (The Palmer children in memory of their father and mother.)

“Moses the Lawgiver with the 10 Commandments” - (Mr. Jacob Meave in memory of his son killed in France.)

“Ruth and Naomi” - (Miss Trewren in memory of her father, mother and brother.)

“David and Jonathon” - (A. B. James in memory of his wife.)

“Elijah on Mt. Carmel” - (The Armstrong children in memory of their father and mother.)

“God calls Isaiah to be a prophet” - (The Paul family in gratitude to God.)

Leaving the sanctuary via the left hand aisle the New Testament windows on the left are:--

“Jesus Knocking at the Door” - (Charles Clifton in memory of his wife.)

“Jesus Blessing Little Children” - (The Makepeace family to the Glory of God.)

“Mary Anointing Jesus’s Feet” - (William Simmons in memory of Susan Simmons.)

“The Parable of the Sower” - (The Henlen children in memory of their mother and father.)

“The Sermon on the Mount” - (Mrs. A. Pascoe to memory of her husband and son.)

“Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist” - (Ann Walker in memory of her son killed in action Gallipoli 1915.)

The set of windows in front of the Church is properly called “The Victory Windows”.

The large central window was in loving memory of Edmond Webb who died in 1890. Erected by his widow and children, it has for its chief figure the allegorical “Angel of Victory”

If you haven’t already done so, please take the time to study our windows and to dwell on the sentiments

How to get information/stories out there

For good news stories, upcoming events or updates to be added to the church website email Allan - allanwray@hotmail.com

If you have items for the Newsletter please send them to Ruth at revaughan@bigpond.com by 9pm on the last Wednesday of the month .

**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
BATHURST CONGREGATION**

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

Councillors – Deb, Marion, Kaye

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.