



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

June 2022

## The Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11



1 When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there was a sound from out of heaven like a violent wind or breath and it filled all the house where they were sitting, 3 and there appeared to them tongues as of fire being distributed and sitting, one on each of them, 4 and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit emboldened them. 5 Now there were living in Jerusalem Jews, devout people from every nation under heaven; 6 when this sound happened the multitude came together and were confounded because each one heard them speaking in their own language. 7 And they were amazed and wondered saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear each in our own dialect in which we were born, 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and the ones inhabiting Mesopotamia, both Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 both Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and converts, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues the great deeds of God.” (Translation by Keith Hamilton)

### Reflection

One of the choruses in Messiah is based on Romans 10:18, “Their sound is gone out into all the lands.”

There is a connection with Pentecost. The thing about Pentecost is *not* the wind. It *is* the sound. The sound is *like* the wind. One of the phenomena that people who have experienced earthquakes speak off is the sound. There is the movement. And there is a very loud sound. I was living in Newcastle when the 1989 earthquake happened. There was the shaking of the ground. There was an enormous sound. Many like me thought that there was an explosion at the steel works. We were incorrect.

Luke describes Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit as a very loud sound. Perhaps the sound that one hears when there is an earthquake, or a thunderstorm. It is the sound of God's Spirit breaking into the world.

The people hear a sound. It is a tremendous sound. Luke says after this sound, the people were filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

We do have to be careful, because some mental illnesses involve hearing voices. And sometimes those voices would tell people to do things harmful.

But, God does speak. God speaks to people. God speaks to people as they read the Bible. God's voice will always be in line with what the scriptures say. And we are always to check what we have heard with the church.

We are more likely to hear God speak when we pray, when we read the Bible, when we go to church. But God can speak at other times as well.

I have a distinct memory from my teenage years, of standing on a beach at Lake Tabourie, on a Sunday morning. Convenient so that I would not have to go to church with my family in Sydney. Looking at the surf, the sun glistening off the water, the sight of Crampton Island. Thinking how beautiful it was. How delightful. And then hearing God say to me, "I created all of this." I realised in that moment that I could avoid going to church, but I could not avoid God. After that I started going to church again.

The Spirit of God has broken into this world. The sound of God is gone out, into all lands.

In Genesis chapter 1, we read that God spoke and the world came into being. John chapter 1 speaks of the Word of God. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the word was God. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." That Word, Jesus, was restricted to one place at a time. Ascension speaks of the flesh – Christ – returning to the Father. At Pentecost that Word, the sound of God, has gone out into all the creation, starting with the disciples gathered together in that upper room in Jerusalem. Peter stands up and preaches on the Day of Pentecost. Luke says that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. Through Peter, the sound of God rang out. Paul takes that up in his letter to the church in Rome (Romans 10:18). The sound of God has gone out in the voice of the preachers. It is *not* the voice of preachers, but it is *in* the voice of preachers, which is why careful attention is required to discern what is the voice of God and the voice of the preacher. But not only in preachers. The Pentecost Day celebration reminds us that all who wait upon God, as the early followers did in the lead up to Pentecost, will have this same Spirit sound out through them as they, you and me, speak of the things of God.

Blessings, Keith Hamilton

## SAFE CHURCH AWARENESS WORKSHOP

We are asking all people who work and Volunteer in our Church to attend a Safe Church Awareness workshop to help with their awareness of all signs and types of abuse or neglect of children and vulnerable people. You are also given information about the people you can contact and the resources available. This course is compiled by the National Council of Churches. It is recommended to do the course every three years to keep up with changes.

We are running a Safe Church awareness workshop on

Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> of July in the activities hall from 10am to 2.30pm.

Morning tea will be provided. Bring your own lunch or buy at a local café.

Coffee and tea provided.

Cost is \$35.00 and is to be paid by b-pay

Cost for our members will be covered if you give your receipt to Deb Mina

To Register <https://forms.gle/fQLH15KSfLuF8FUBA>

Phone Carmel 63346407.

## BUSS Update



- The CAFÉ continues to grow and be more used by more people. The range of meals is just fabulous – thanks to our wonderful cooks.
- There have been great donations of blankets, doonas and warm clothes. Thank you if you have helped with this!

- The new groups; Beyond the Barb Wire, Quit Smoking and Bathurst Buddies are going slowly but are helping the people that come. We will continue to run them and see if they build up.

A “real life” of the way we are able to help:

To ensure there is always access to some warm bedding available at the church we have put a large box at the bottom of the stairs going down from the courtyard. It is locked with a coded padlock so that if someone has the code they can open the box. On Sunday night we were contacted on our welfare number by someone who had nowhere to sleep. I was able to give him the code and he got a sleeping mat, warm sleeping bag, a big coat and some snacks. Although it was raining he camped at the bottom of the stairs and managed to stay dry. In the morning I gave him a hot meal and clean clothes, showed him where the shower was and bought a train ticket as he was passing through on his way to Sydney. It was really very little that we provided but it made a big difference to him for the night.

## OUR HISTORIC TREE BESIDE THE CHURCH

Earlier this year an arborist lopped the low hanging branches of the 120-year-old Cypress Pine Tree at the side of the church and informed us it is in good health. In ideal conditions Cypress Pines can live 600 years. A memorial garden was planted in the 1960's in front of the tree and it is still an active garden for ashes to be placed in it. As most of the plants had to be removed when the lopping occurred the green Team (portfolio 6) cleared the garden and put Nitro Humus and on top of that leaves from the Claret Ash Tree in the playgroup area. At this stage there are 6 Lavender plants and a couple of Rosemary bushes for the start of the garden. As you walk past the garden you may notice little plaques on the sandstone edges of the garden reminding us of those who have gone before us.



### Worship Services

9.30am on Sundays in the church.  
 5 June– Rev Keith Hamilton Holy Communion Pentecost  
 12 June Rev Keith Hamilton  
 19 June Rev Keith Hamilton  
 26 June Brian Mowbray UCA Anniversary  
 3 July Rev Keith Hamilton Communion

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

### ‘Sunday @ 5’

At 5pm – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall. All are welcome.

### Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com)

### Mowing Roster

June - Alan Paul

## 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](mailto:allanwray@hotmail.com)

If you have items for the Newsletter please send them to Ruth at [revaughan@bigpond.com](mailto:revaughan@bigpond.com) by 9pm on the last Wednesday before the first Sunday of the month.

## Many Ways to Give

Going forward this is how you can deposit offerings and donations as God leads you

Account Name	BSB	Account Number	Project/Portfolio/Purpose	Narration/Reference
Bathurst City Working Account	634634	100019125	Welfare	Welfare
			SUPPS (Supporting Women and Babies)	SUPPS
			Appeals or Donations for various ad hoc Projects	Name of Appeal or Project
			Invoice Payments	INV Number & Name
			PALS, Youth Group	PALS or Youth Group
			Knitters, Knotters & Natterers	Knitters Group
			All other purposes	Program or reason for transfer
Bathurst City Giving Direct	634634	100027694	Giving Direct or Offerings	No narration or reference is required as all deposits are anonymous
Bathurst Uniting Support Services	634634	1000149962	BUSS Projects	Program being donated to or Donations (general donation)
<b>Personal Cash or Cheque deposits may be done at all Reliance or Unity Bank Branches</b>				
Bathurst Uniting Church Congregation	882000	100140356	Personal Cash or Cheque deposits for specific or ad hoc projects	Ask the teller to enter the narration you require
<b>Offering Plate:</b> Offerings: no narration required Payments or donations: may be done by placing in an envelope with the specific purpose written on the outside. Invoice payments: can also be made this way with the Invoice Number and your name written on the outside				