



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

September 2023

Reflection

'In the one body there are many members, many gifts, but the same Spirit.'

The Uniting Church has taken an unusual approach to the structure of the church in drawing upon the pictures of church painted by Paul in 1 Corinthians 11 and Romans 12. Most churches have drawn their ideas for church from the Acts of the Apostles. It is not that one way is better or worse than another way, they are just different.

The Uniting Church is based on the idea that the church is the body of Christ, and there is a distribution of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the baptised members. In such a church, all the baptised members are gifted with the graces of the Holy Spirit. Each gift has its corresponding service. Such a model of church precludes the idea of a 'merely like-minded' group of people who associate to share a particular taste. The Uniting Church is a 'risen crucified' shaped church in which many different people possessing many different gifts collaborate in order to be a divine human community in one location.

Of course, within the framework of the church there are specific ministries, such as Ministers of the Word, Leaders/Elders, Lay preachers, and Deacons, to name a few. Those ministries are not for self-gratification, or to 'lord it' over others but for the good order of the church. No gift is unimportant. Each gift is vital for the whole church. Such a community of faith, church, has its being as church when all in the community are Christ-centred, and giving expression to the gifts the Holy Spirit has given each one.

Worship Services

9.30am in the church.

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

3 September Father's Day
Communion

10 September Rev Keith Hamilton

17 September the Green Team

24 September Rev Keith Hamilton

1 October Rev Keith Hamilton
Communion

'Sunday @ 5'

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

I have included Paul's letter to the church in Rome, below.

Romans 12:1-8

1 Therefore, I exhort you, sisters and brothers, through the compassion of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational service; 2 and be not conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For by the grace of God given me, I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think of yourself with sound judgement, each according to the measure of faith which God has given. 4 For as in the one body we have many members, but not all members have the same action, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: whether prophecy, according to the proportion of faith; 7 or service, in serving; if the teacher, in teaching; 8 or the one exhorting, in exhortation; the one sharing, in generosity; the one taking the lead, in diligence, the

one showing mercy, in cheerfulness. 9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; cling to what is good; 10 love one another with warm affection; be eager to show respect to one another, 11 be diligent not lazy, aglow with the Spirit, serving the Lord, 12 rejoicing in hope, endure in affliction, be steadfast and constant in prayer, 13 share in the needs of the saints, seek out opportunity to show hospitality. 14 Bless those who curse you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony of mind with one another; do not be proud in your thinking but associate with humble people. 17 Repay no one evil for evil; have regard for what is honourable for all people; 18 if possible, for your part, seek peace with all people; 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but make allowance for wrath; for it has been written: 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'" 20 No. If your enemy is hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them a drink; for by doing you will heap burning coals upon their head. 21 Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good. (Translation from the Greek by Keith Hamilton)

Paul encourages us to live lives that are presented as a 'living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God.' That is a totally demanding ask, which I think requires daily repentance for sin when we fall short, seeking God's forgiveness grace to get up and go again. Such a life would be characterised by humility, which in turn would illuminate the risen crucified Christ.

Reviewing the ideas of Paul, above, what might you give thanks to God for? Perhaps you could write or say a prayer. Lord, I am truly thankful for . . . Amen.

Which of the teachings of Paul do you find most difficult? Perhaps you could include those difficult things in a prayer. Lord, help me to . . . Amen.

Blessings,

Keith Hamilton
31 August 2023

Bathurst UC AGM

will be held in the Activities Hall
on Sunday 17 September
at 11 am
followed by bring and share
lunch

Save the Date in 2024

There will be a Whole Congregational Retreat on Saturday, 17 February 2024. It will be a time of celebration of what has so far been achieved on the Mission and Strategy Plan 2019-2024 and a chance to focus on the year ahead. Details will be announced by the end of this year.

A date for your Diary in October

Sunday 29th October at 2.30 pm Bathurst Uniting Church

A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon featuring A Tribute to Billy Graham

Deb Mina/Treasurer has requested that all emails relating to Bathurst Uniting Church itself not be sent to her personal email address going forward, but to buctreasury@gmail.com
This will help immensely in keeping track of all BUC correspondence and emails

Refugee Sunday Service 2023

WHEN: Sunday 17 September at 3pm
WHERE: Uniting Church, William St, Bathurst



Main Speakers:

Refugees from Ukraine who are staying in Orange

Collection money:

To an Afghan family of women Bathurst Refugee Support Group is supporting in Kabul

ALL WELCOME

BUSS

The most recent BUSS newsletter is attached to your email for a comprehensive update on what has been happening.

"Open Mic" night

Wednesday 27th September 6-9.30pm

Activities hall of Uniting Church

Snacks and nibbles are available

A free night's entertainment

Come along and listen to people perform or maybe you would like sing a song or two.

Street library

You may have noticed the street library at the front of the church. BUSS has just started a Street Library

If you would like to borrow a book or dvd you are most welcome.

If you have any books or dvds that you would like to donate just let us know or leave them next to the library bookcase.

You are welcome to donate books or dvds by placing them in the cupboard and if you see something you want to read feel free to take it.



Mowing Roster

2 September Brian

16 September David

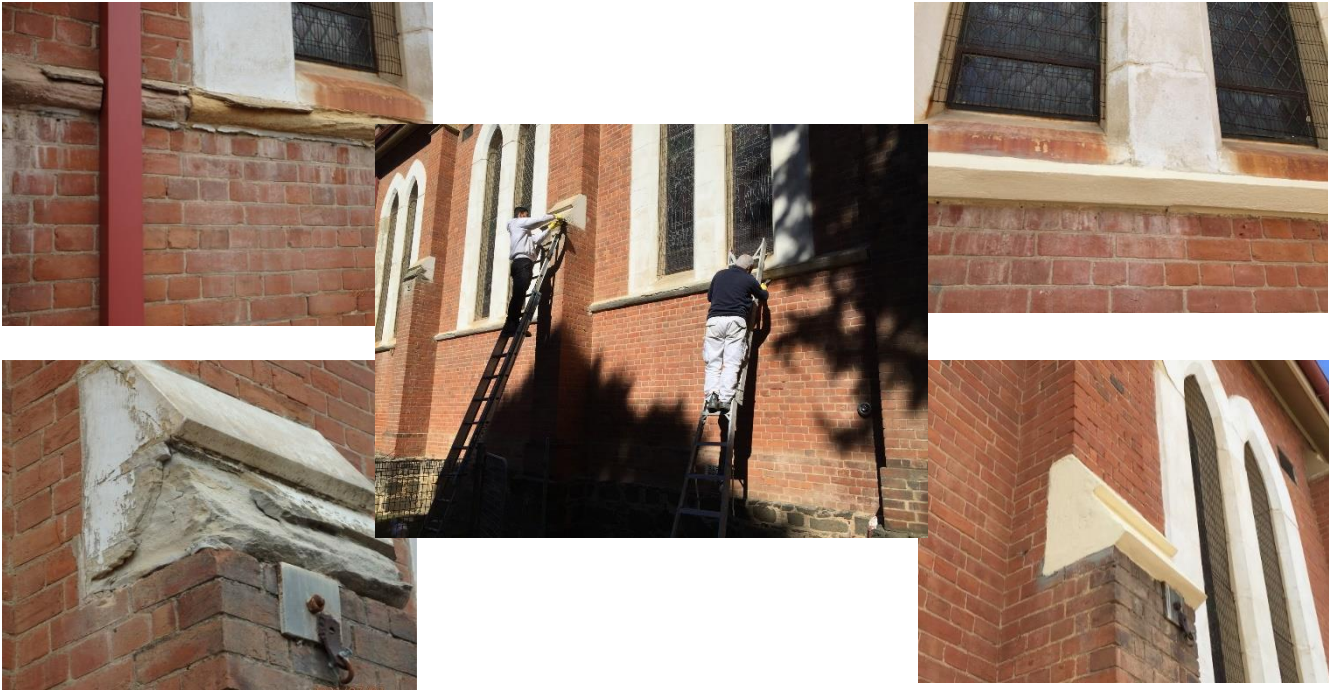
30 September Alan



Building Update

Since construction of the church the sandstone window sills and capping on the buttresses has been slowly deteriorating. Sometime in the early 1900s it had worn to such an extent that it was capped with a protective cement coating. However by the late 1900's and early 2000's that capping was starting to fall away from the sandstone it was protecting and the stone continued to weather.

The Church Council decided that repairs were necessary and with the help of a Heritage grant of \$4000 from Bathurst Regional Council the work was completed during August.at a cost of \$8745. (Details and photos from John)



Another improvement is that we now have a smart new 4 door refrigerator in the kitchen. It replaces the old refrigerator which gave up after many years of faithful service. Thank you to those who made this happen!



2023.8.4 - A new Haier,453 L, 4 door fridge

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

The newsletter email address is bathurstucanews@gmail.com . Please send items by 9pm on the last Wednesday of the month

Please send news or information for the website to allanwray@hotmail.com