



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

February 2024

## Tended by angels rather than consumed by wild beasts!

There is a lot on. We are in that start-up phase or rapid escalation of events and activities for the year. This year compressed by the early Easter which therefore means Lent starts early. That means the Lenten Bible study preparation – this year “in-house” by many in our church, is in full swing. Further, there is a Church retreat day on 24 February, the election of Church Council Leaders, commissioning of new leaders and covenant Service on 3 March, an organ 150<sup>th</sup> celebration on 10 and 13 March, all before Easter. We also take into consideration the recommencement of other church activities. Then there are all the community activities. Work . . . School is back and even for households with no children, there is the back to school or commencement of pre-school, school, high school, university, or work for grandchildren, maybe great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. Some families seem to have a sequence of significant family birthdays – one each weekend of January and February this year. A lot is happening. It would be a shame to get to Easter exhausted.

The Gospel writer, Mark, portrays Jesus as cast into the wilderness at the start of his ministry. Mark further portrays that in the wilderness, surrounded by the ‘wild beasts,’ the angels came and ministered to Jesus. Mark then portrays Jesus going into the wilderness on several occasions, to be alone and to pray. Two things that stand out for me from this. In the Bible the angels are often

another name for the Holy Spirit. When surrounded by all the stuff of life – the “wild beasts” – do we look out for the Holy Spirit that comes like angels to minister to us? Secondly, there is something healthy about taking time to draw aside, to stop, to reflect, to pray. Jesus did that at the start of the day, and also at the end of the day. Taking a moment in the middle of the day is probably also worthwhile. It doesn't have to be long, even 5 minutes if not 15, to refocus, refresh. It is not a bad practice for the entire year, certainly something that could be a goal for this season of this year. The ministering by the angels can keep the ‘wild beasts’ at bay.

Blessings,  
Keith Hamilton



### 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.

4 February Rev Keith Hamilton Holy Communion

11 February Rev Keith Hamilton

18 February John

25 February Rev Keith Hamilton

3 March Rev Keith Hamilton Holy Communion

#### 'Sunday @ 5'

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

## Coming up.....

Lent Bible study Group: pop-up: Keith and Julie Hamilton, Monday nights, 12, 19, 26 February, 4, 11 March, 7-8 pm on Bathurst UC zoom.

David and Sharynne McLeod are also planning a pop-up Lent Bible Study group, possibly on Thursdays at a time to be advised. More information will be announced when it is decided.

- Ash Wednesday service in the church to commence Lent, 14 February 7-8pm.
- Sunday 10 March special service 9:30 am celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church pipe organ.
- Sunday 10 March Bathurst UC and Allegri organ concert in our church 2:30 pm
- Wednesday 13 March 5-6 pm special celebration event marking the actual 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pipe Organ. Details to come

An Easter brochure with the events of Lent and Holy Week, will be released soon.



## Bathurst Uniting Church Prayer Ministry



**Prayer is a ministry that God calls us all to do.**

**Are you a prayer warrior?**

**Are you a member of the Prayer Chain, Pastoral Carers Ministry, or is God calling you to be a prayer warrior?**

**Set aside the date: Monday, February 5, from 6.00pm to 7.30pm**

- : Bring your own dinner or a plate to share for dinner and fellowship.**
- : Bring your ideas, prayers, hopes and dreams.**

**We will meet for dinner followed by a time of sharing of our ideas, discussions, and prayer. After this meeting we will report to the Church Council, and seek their discernment, direction, and blessings for a way forward.**

**Prayer is an important part of our lives, whether we are seeking prayer and support for difficult seasons of our lives, we wish for the multitude to praise God for answered prayers, for various ministries in our Church that need support for different areas or praise for answered prayers of their ministries eg: PALS, KUCA, Youth Group, the Future Directions Team, BUSS and the services they offer, the different Portfolio Groups, Music and Worship Team, Aged Care Ministry, Pastoral Ministry, and many others.**

**Please pray for this meeting, and if you are unable to attend and would like to contribute, please contact:**

**Ellie: email @ [ebmowbray@outlook.com](mailto:ebmowbray@outlook.com)**

**Deb: email @ [buctreasury@gmail.com](mailto:buctreasury@gmail.com)**





Bathurst Uniting Church Retreat

Saturday 24 February 2024

10am-3pm Perthville Hall,

Prince Street Perthville

Lunch will be provided, but bring some morning tea to share, if you are able.

PLEASE come and join in the FUN  
FELLOWSHIP and LAUGHTER

RSVP by 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

At the end of last year the Church Council participated in a Retreat that was led by Rev. Anne Perrin from Orange. We found this to be an enriching and thought provoking experience. Anne is a Uniting Church Mission Facilitation Consultant who supports the mission, growth and vitality of the church. We are thrilled that she has agreed to come to our Church Retreat where we will explore

- Where God has been working in BUC and individual lives
- Our corporate and individual gifts and talents

If you would like to enjoy this opportunity of fun, fellowship and laughter with your church family, please let Suzie Frawley know that you are coming. Email [sfrawley\\_17@hotmail.com](mailto:sfrawley_17@hotmail.com) or speak to Judy or Julie. Please let us know if you need transport, or if can provide transport, so that everyone can join in.

### **Church Council Election**

An election will be held on 25 February 2024 for four positions on Church Council.

**Nominations close this Sunday, 4 February.**

There are information sheets with a nomination form attached to the email that comes with this newsletter or the sheets will be available at church on Sunday.

## HELP NEEDED URGENTLY

There is an urgent need for someone to fill a new vacancy in the Uniting Church Meals on Wheels roster team. John and Sandra are unable to continue with their commitment and replacement volunteers are needed. Commitment is a Wednesday delivery about every six weeks or so. It takes about an hour or so to do the meal deliveries. The next turn is for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. It is a worthwhile project and the efforts of volunteers are greatly appreciated. Talk to John for more information or chat to other team members.

## BUSS UPDATE

2023 was a very busy year for BUSS and 2024 activities have now started and it looks as though it will be another exciting year. There is a detailed newsletter attached to the email you receive with this newsletter or there are copies in the church foyer.

### 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

*Thank you*

to all those who keep the grounds mown!

10 February Alan

24 February Henry & James

9 March Peter

### PLEASE NOTE

The newsletter email address is [bathurstucanews@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:allanwray@hotmail.com)