



*Nurturing our people in the Christian faith and reaching out to the local community in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

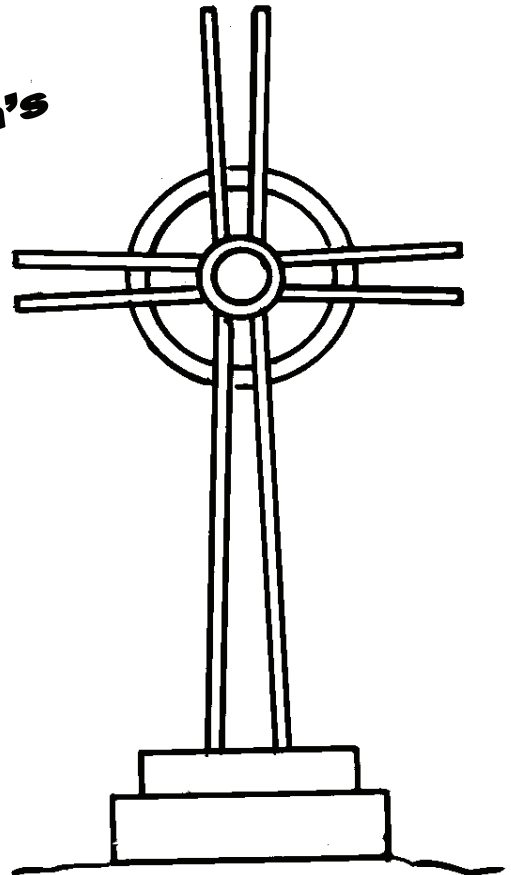
No. 236  
August, 2014



**The effectiveness of a church's  
witness depends on the  
quality of its worship.**  
Anon.

**Be joyful in the Lord, my heart.  
Both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory.**

**Johann Jakob Schultz.**



.....this issue focuses on **WORSHIP**



## A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

In his book *Heretic*, the Scottish minister Peter Cameron records an occasion when his wife was cornered by an irate parishioner demanding to know why he reserved his “controversial” sermons for the quarterly Communion service<sup>1</sup>.

“Why can’t he preach these sermons the rest of the time, when fewer people are here?” the parishioner complained.

Of course, Cameron’s very purpose was to preach such “controversial” sermons on those occasions when more people were likely to hear them. But more interesting is the fact that in those denominations in which Communion is not a weekly event, it is the Communion service that tends to be the one at which most people “turn up”.

In the 24/7 world of modernity, when worship has for many people become just another event to be juggled in a busy diary, it makes a kind of sense to focus on the Communion service as the “most important” service to attend, with the others as “less important” and therefore negotiable (or even disposable).

Communion, after all, is one of the central expressions of Christian faith; and this being the case, we have a sense that we “really” should be there. And even if it’s only once a month, that helps keep the feelings of guilt at bay, as well as helps us manage our conflicting commitments.

---

<sup>1</sup> In the Church of Scotland, Communion is conducted every three months.

But at another level, this “selecting” of Communion displays an impoverished understanding of both Communion and worship. As the UCA’s *Basis of Union* affirms, through Communion we celebrate Christ’s ongoing presence among us, and we are nourished for the missional life of Christian discipleship. Moreover, Communion as a Sacrament of the Church is linked to Baptism; through Communion we renew our covenant relationship with God.

But if the Communion service is simply the most “convenient” service we can get to, then what kind of presence does God *really* have in our lives? How are we being nourished for discipleship? What kind of covenant relationship exists between ourselves, God, and one another?

Don’t misunderstand. There will always be times when the pressures of life, work, family, personal health, etc, restrict our attendance at worship. Sometimes this will be temporary; at other times it will be more ongoing. That is a given. What I am exploring here is our attitude to, and understanding of, worship. Is it a chore we attend to for appearances’ sake? Is it a choice we make when juggling our calendars? Is it something we do out of a vague feeling of guilt or regret?

Even if the circumstances of our life are such that attendance at worship is rare or irregular, we need to ask ourselves the question: *what does worship mean to me?* The answer to that question will tell us more about the health of our faith and of the church than the mere numbers who turn up on any given Sunday.

## FOR REFLECTION...

*This response, from Geoffrey Willis, to the worship questions posed in the June 2014 issue of "CONTACT" forms our "For Reflection" in this issue: thoughts from Margot Kemke are on Page 11.*

*My understanding of worship.* Worship is a time when one is very conscious of the presence of God, either in a formal setting or in a personal, maybe private, setting. It is more frequently, however, the term we use to describe a corporate experience where we join together in a congregation to honour God, to share the "gifts of grace" (Bible, prayer, song, teaching, etc), and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

*Why I attend worship.* I need to share with other believers in the opportunity to praise and learn. I cannot conceive how a Christian can exist in isolation. We need the fellowship of one another to understand our faith and to act on it. Just as God calls us to be in relationship with him, so we need to be in relationship with one another. Worship gives us the opportunity to corporately experience God's love as we together listen and respond to his voice which comes to us through the Minister, scriptures, the Holy Spirit and one another.

*Importance of worship in my life.* Worship is an essential part of my life. I need a frequent experience of corporate worship to reinforce the elements of my faith. I know that God is always present and that his grace is freely offered, but the regular celebration of those gifts, and the challenges of the teaching ministry, need regular reinforcement in my life.

*Understanding of 'liturgy'.* I think that 'liturgy' is the ordering of the elements of worship and particularly the way words (prayers, affirmations, prose and poetry) are presented in the construction of a service of worship. Liturgy may be simple, such as responses in prayers which the congregation is invited to say. Liturgy may be complex, such as the parts of a wedding or funeral. Liturgy will often employ the writings of church pioneers (creeds, etc) or more modern statements of faith (*Basis of Union, Uniting in Worship*, etc). On the other hand, liturgy can be the original writings of the minister to fit a particular purpose or theme.

*The role of the current 'Order of Service' in leading me into God's presence.* Orders of Service, of which Mountview's current one is an example, are certainly helpful in leading us into God's presence. But I think that our own preparation and attitude is more important than the order of service. I believe that we need to come to worship with the expectation of meeting God and that our prayerful, reflective attitude before the formal service starts is essential. The Order of Service may then deepen that experience but, without personal preparation, the Order of Service may fail to make an impression.

*The purpose of worship.* The major purposes of corporate worship for me are:

- to acknowledge God's sovereign presence (awe, praise);
- to accept God's grace (confession, thanks);
- to be taught matters of the faith;
- to experience fellowship with other believers (in corporate ways, not just morning tea!);
- to be empowered by the Spirit for the challenges ahead.

*Changes in worship.* My first reaction to the question of what might be changed in our current services of worship is that the services do not need much change at all – it is the worshipper that needs to change! I guess that answer is a bit simplistic, or it is just me trying to avoid the question! But I believe that the service is just a framework to help us focus on who God is and celebrate his grace which he offers through Jesus. The most important aspect is for us to be open to the Spirit's promptings. Changing things around may not do much if our personal attitude is immovable. However, I would like to see the use of a wider range of music, including encouraging our young people's involvement in the Band.

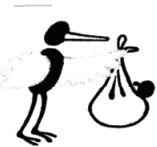
## PEOPLE

*[FOR PUBLIC USE, CERTAIN PRIVATE DETAILS HAVE BEEN DELETED]*

### Moving

### Good News

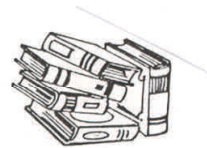
**John and Margaret Williams** are delighted to announce the arrival of their third great-granddaughter: Olivia Margaret Blampied, another granddaughter for Deirdre; sister to Savannah (3 years) and Adele (1 year).



**Noel and Lois Dunn** also announce a new great-grandchild, Liam Henry Grace, born in Boulder, USA, to Erin and Peter.

**Jenny and Dennis Cooper** welcome with love a new grandson, Riley Patrick, born to Neralie and Tim on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Great rejoicing in the Cooper Clan as we even out the balance of the sexes a little.

The Church Council has appointed Mountview's new librarian, **Kirsten Boxall** (see her profile in this issue). She has a hard act to follow, after **Joyce Suto's** 26 years in the position! Both are trained school librarians—we are very fortunate to have such well-qualified people.



Good news from Bendigo! **Travis Cox** and **Rhian Denning** have announced their engagement, and plan to marry on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015.

### Sympathy

Our sympathy goes to **Margaret Edgington** and son, **Alastair**, on the recent death of Margaret's brother, the **Rev Richard Golding**. **Margaret Williams** also mourns the loss of a much loved cousin.

Long time Mountview member, **Win Clisby**, died on 17<sup>th</sup> July after a short time in Bellbird Hospital following a fall. She was nearly 96 years of age.

**David Rowe** damaged tendons in his left shoulder while tree pruning. An operation was unsuccessful, and he has been told he may not fully recover. He is left-handed, but still able to write.

## PEOPLE (continued).

**John Williams** is still on the long road of recovery from the shingles which appeared at Easter. Many nerves around his right shoulder are still in a recovery stage, and unfortunately the specialists advise that a complete healing may not ever be achieved. John is grateful for the prayers and thoughts of the congregation over these many weeks, including five in hospital when his unusual condition presented a challenge to his medical team.

## Travelling

**Brad Cram**, living and working in Japan, has had an influx of visitors recently: **Heather McLiesh**, **Darren Cram** and his fiancé, **Amy**, **Stuart Cram**, **Mark Cram** and **Daniel Jackson**, have all made the trip to Japan.

**John** and **Margaret Cosstick** flew to Perth to join a road tour party, travelling the coast right through to Broome and on across the Kimberley.

## Thankyou

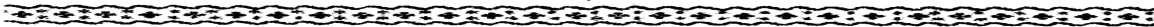
**Neil and Val Malcolm** thank the Mountview folk for their prayers and concern for Val who is now at home under Eastern Health Palliative Care.

**Lorraine Hill** wishes to thank all her Mountview friends who prayed for her, sent cards, made 'phone calls, and generally cared for her during her recent convalescence from heart surgery.

## Birthdays

[DETAILS DELETED FOR PUBLIC USE]

**Anniversaries** [DETAILS DELETED FOR PUBLIC USE ]



## National Honour Award

**Margaret** and **John Williams** are thrilled that their youngest grandson, **Richard Brooks**, has been presented with a National Emergency Medal in recognition of the sterling work he did as a CFA firefighter during the 2009 Black Saturday event and the following weeks of community service. Richard is on standby for both the Romsey CFA and SES crews. In the more recent Mickleham fires, he was chosen to be the personal driver for the CFA District Response Co-Ordinator as he rushed from hot spot to hot spot.

## “CONTACT”

..... a statement from “CONTACT’S” editor.

After almost 40 years, this issue of Contact may possibly be the last in this present format, i.e. A4 sheet size of twenty pages to twenty eight pages - a local magazine presenting information, issues, promotions and local news.

I have previously flagged that change is in the wind and that I have been seeking someone to take on the editorship, without success. We are seeking editorial assistance relating to “people happenings” following Travis Cox’s departure to Bendigo. For various reasons, change is necessary. The present format is time consuming to prepare and print. A smaller number of pages would assist here, and also open up the possibility of sending out many copies by email, leaving a lesser number of hard copies. Another possibility being considered is to contract out the printing, although this is quite expensive and would incur budget problems. A 26 page edition in part colour printing requires about six to seven hours of printing time – printing direct from the computer in batch sizes less than half a ream of paper, which is the printer’s magazine size.



To contract print those issue would be about \$600 to \$700! Much of this costing was investigated prior to purchasing the current colour photocopier. As colour is more expensive than black, colour content is kept to a minimum. However, even with some colour, the current printer has less cost than the previous ‘Canon’ copier.

Putting it on the website is already occurring, but this is a reduced edition which omits people details, news and personal matters. It is also a very large file to download and only high speed broadband can cope at present. Various means of “compression” are being investigated to enable people to download easily, read on the screen, or even print out their own hard copy.

The preferred position is for a small editorial exploratory team to do some thinking outside the box and set out a range of options for assessment, taking into consideration the diverse range of people and ages in the Mountview Congregation, “CONTACT’S” purpose and general spread of content fitting that range, sourcing material to print (including encouraging personal contributions), time to prepare, time to print, format in either A4 or A5, collation, stapling and finally distribution. On this last point, most copies are personally handed over during a pastoral partner contact, which incidentally is the source of the name “CONTACT”.

Ideas are being sought, and a group will be brought together to pool thoughts and suggest a way ahead. If you feel you can contribute to the proposed exploratory team or exercise, please come and tell me. (The above statement was prepared by production assistant, John, – I have to go along with it.)

M.W.

-----  
(continuation of Page 17, LECTON NOTES.)

### **Baptism**

Baptism is Christ’s gift. It is the sign by which the Spirit of God joins people to Jesus Christ and incorporates them into his body, the Church. (UIW 2. p74.)



**FROM AN EX-LIBRARIAN ..... Joyce Suto still has much to share.**

It still seems strange to me, after 27 years, not to unlock the library on arrival at Mountview on Sunday. But, as Tennyson's King Arthur said, the old order changes yielding place to new.

I am quite sure that Kirsten will be an excellent church librarian.



For me, the new order is not easy, especially as its onset was so rapid. Only last October I was enjoying the magnificent scenery of Lord Howe Island, also visiting Canberra that same month (my last visit there). Before Christmas the surgeon was the first to shake his head and tell me that my walking problems could not be remedied by a fourth hip replacement. Little did I expect that he would shortly be followed by the ophthalmologist with a similar diagnosis confirming my failing eye sight!

Macular degeneration is of two types: dry and wet. The dry type can be treated to some extent as many Pine Tree residents, even 96 years old, have benefited greatly. But for the wet type no treatment is at present available. Some million Australians have symptoms of macular degeneration, some beginning in their forties. I was fortunate not to have serious problems until I reached 89.

Causes are listed as age, heredity and smoking. I hope that Mountview members who smoke or who have relatives who smoke will heed this warning. As for heredity, my two sisters in UK, aged 91, also have macular degeneration.

Reading becomes difficult, then impossible. Writing is worse. I can write only for my own reading. (Dana is typing this as I dictate.) And one cannot recognise people. Please excuse if I mistake you for someone else. This has already happened. Many challenges lie ahead. It is very hard not to be able to venture out alone. But thanks to the help of Mountview friends, the Council and my walker (great invention) things which must be done are being done. For the rest there is much still to be learnt.

On a brighter note, my daughter Julie, and granddaughters, Jessica (16) and Rachel (14) again came from Canberra in the school holidays. We enjoyed U3A and the National Costume Show, took taxis to browse through shopping centres, had fun searching through my store of 'treasures', and played Scrabble each evening. Now I count the weeks to the next school holidays. Generally their journey involves two buses each way, the train service from Albury being something else undergoing steady decline.

Rebecca Bird (20), the eldest of my three granddaughters, having completed a course in childcare, has just flown off to Fiji to work in a kindergarten there. This is her first trip overseas, and alone, so I was happy and relieved when Rev. Chris Meneilly and Eseta gave us the details of a Methodist minister at the church in Nadi where Rebecca is staying.

*Joyce Suto*

## WELCOME TO NEW LIBRARIAN

..... Church Council appoints Kirsten Boxall to the position.

In June 2014 issue of “CONTACT”, Mountview’s long-time librarian, Joyce Suto, indicated that she needed to resign owing to problems with eyesight. She has given 27 years of dedicated service as our librarian. She was well equipped for the position after 35 years as a school librarian. Mountview honours her devotion to the task. Joyce said to “CONTACT” that she is disappointed that more people in the congregation haven’t taken advantage of the wide range of reading available, perhaps unaware that she has constantly added new books to the library collection. (*We thank her for the work she has put into the library through all those years. “CONTACT” is particularly grateful for her regular contributions introducing new books.*)

The good news is that we have an enthusiastic volunteer to take Joyce’s place. Kirsten has comprehensive qualifications, including Masters in Librarianship. She works three days a week at Holmesglen TAFE. It was a joy to hear her say, “I’m excited about taking on the position at Mountview!” Over the years Kirsten has worked on a casual basis at Bailleau Library at Melbourne University; in 2005, she worked full time at Moorabbin (which entailed a one and a quarter hour train trip. She chose the train rather than driving as it gave her a great opportunity to read!).

“I’m Marcus. I don’t think we’ve met.” So went Kirsten’s first meeting with the B. Com. Sci. student at Whitley College, Melbourne University, where Kirsten was studying for her B.A., majoring in Australian History. They met in June 1998, were engaged in 2003, and married at Thomas Canon Memorial Uniting Church in Sassafra on 6th August, 2005. Their reception was held on Puffing Billy! In 2002, Kirsten completed a graduate diploma in Information Management (Librarianship) at RMIT.

They bought their house in Clive Street, Mitcham, in 2004. Marcus designed and had built extensive renovations, which resulted in a bright roomy family home. The bright yellow paint they chose for the interior is called “Happy Home“, which they thought augured well for the future. Their daughter, Laura Rose, was born on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2007 – Kirsten took 18 months of maternity leave. Her next pregnancy ended with a miscarriage. She said, “It was the worst thing that has happened to me!” Ian Peter Gregory (named for both grandfathers) arrived safely on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2011.

There is a fifth member of the Boxall family. When I first visited their home, I was met at the gate by a sleek orange cat, who looked me over – and decided I could enter. He has white tips to his toes – not enough white to gain the unimaginative name of “Socks”. Nothing trite for this beauty. He is called “Footlet”, or, more intimately, “Footsie.” He is demonstrably affectionate, and is deeply loved.



Ian, Kirsten and Laura

The Rupert Street Kindergarten is not far from their home; Laura attended there, and Ian will too, benefitting from the treed premises and warm atmosphere. The kinder celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year (2013). [The kindergarten was built on council-donated land by a co-operative of parents, of which John and Margaret Williams, then living in Bullen Avenue, were original members. Deirdre Williams, then aged three, was one of the first intake].

(cont.....)



**(New Librarian... continued)**

Kirsten was born in Kyabram, the fourth of four siblings, with two sisters and a brother. “We came at two year intervals – I was a bonus baby!” They moved to Warragul. There she attended the High School where her mother and father were teachers. Kirsten was reading by age four. Her schooling was interrupted by what she calls “her bad behaviour - I had a bad temper and refused to leave the library.” Then the school, under Mr. Kennett’s school closures, was merged with the Warragul Technical School, and Kirsten was sent to the Anglican Grammar School in Warragul for Years 10 and 11. In 1996, she went to France on exchange (not a direct exchange) where school operated from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day. “It was a huge school with some 2000 students. Classes were more like university. I had studied French since year 7, so I understood it fairly well. There were five children in the host family – I learned language from them. When I returned to Year 12 in Australia, I found it very easy, after my experiences in France. “

Her Christian faith is grounded in her relationship with Jesus. “He is always there, an immense comfort. I feel surrounded by flame which warms me. I’ve never questioned. I see Jesus as a ‘tradie’, a carpenter, down to earth. Laura is starting to ask deep faith questions. She listens to Brendan’s stories and will comment on them.” Kirsten’s leisure activities include playing the trombone in the Maroondah Symphony Brass in Ringwood. She has played the trombone since she was 10, when she couldn’t reach to open the water key, and had to operate it with her foot! She plays netball – “enthusiastic, but skill-less!” She and Marcus were involved in the renovations at Halliday Park.

So Mountview welcomes our new librarian. She, Daniel Jackson and Jo Menger have already sorted through the MUGGS’ collection of books. We encourage her as she uses her knowledge and skills to build on Joyce’s work.

M.W.

■ -----  
**TRAVIS COX GREETES US FROM BENDIGO.**

June and July were a busy period in my life, but everything that happened was a blessing. As most of you know, Rhian and I are engaged. I proposed to Rhian on July 5<sup>th</sup> at the Werribee Open Range Zoo. We are both excited and happy about everything to come. Thank you to everyone at Mountview for your support and good wishes to us both: it’s very much appreciated.

You may have also heard about a number of things happening in Bendigo, including the mosque debate, racist balloons, and the always popular politicians’ visits. Mixed opinion surrounds the building permit for the mosque in Bendigo, but a majority of the locals support the Muslim Community building a place of worship, and have shown this support by placing multi-coloured balloons all over the city and participating in several organised events against racism. It’s great to see such a wide community of people coming together to share one voice. Being a television news cameraman puts me right in the midst of the happenings.

Bendigo is a fantastic town and I am enjoying it more and more every day.

*Travis*

## Church Council News



**Birthday Morning Tea.** A special morning tea held on 25 May was a welcome initiative of the Pastoral Partners Group. The occasion celebrated the Mountview Church's anniversary and also farewelled those who have transferred away from Mountview in the last twelve months. The Church Council has warmly encouraged the Pastoral Partners Group to organise this event each year.

**Brainstorming Sessions.** Tim Menger, the Chairperson of the Congregation, has been extraordinarily busy since the Congregational Annual General Meeting convening after-worship brainstorming sessions where people have shared their ideas for Mountview's future directions. Tim is currently sifting through all the ideas and hopes to report on outcomes shortly. Tim was very pleased with the interest shown in the process and has reported that the number of people involved in brainstorming sessions exceeded the number who attend worship on an average Sunday. We look forward to hearing the outcomes.

**Mountview Going Further Fund.** Church Council congratulates the Congregation for your generous giving to the retiring offering for the Going Further Fund on 15 June. A total of \$1,000.65 was raised which will help our regular sponsorship of the NOCET Orphanage in Tanzania.

**Faith at Work Project:** Church Council has encouraged our Minister to enter a period of discernment with a small group of Mountview folk to discover the missional possibilities for the congregation by providing pastoral care to those in the workplace. This discovery process is being facilitated by the Rev John Bottomley of the Creative Ministries Network and involves two or three other congregations. The plan is that decisions on possible directions will be made early next year. John Bottomley outlined the project to the July meeting of Church Council. He said that the greatest fears facing people in the work place relate to asbestos, suicide and grief arising from workplace deaths. He noted that the Church's pastoral role can make a significant contribution to health and safety and this is congruent with the Gospel message.

**Change of Librarian.** Joyce Suto has decided to step down from her role as Mountview Librarian after serving the congregation in this role for 26 years. Church Council has thanked Joyce for her long and distinguished service and is pleased to appoint Kirsten Boxall as our new Librarian.

**Congratulations to Travis.** It is wonderful to hear that Travis Cox and Rhian Denning have announced their engagement. Travis is currently working for WIN News in Bendigo and Rhian lives in the Geelong area, so we wish them well as their long-distance romance continues.

**Ups and Downs.** Both Margaret and John Williams have experienced health emergencies in the past few weeks. No sooner was John home from hospital when Margaret was admitted for observation. Both are now recovering from their respective problems, for which we give thanks. Please uphold them both in your prayers as they face the uncertainties of their health and at the same time prepare to move house.

**Service of Lament with Asylum Seekers.** Mountview hosted a special service of lament on the plight of asylum seekers on Thursday evening, 19 June. The service attracted significant numbers from a number of churches. Those who shared with Brendan in the leadership of the service were: the Moderator of the Synod, Mr Dan Wootton, Pastor David of the Burmese congregation, Rev Dr Avril Hannah-Jones of the Williamstown (Electra Street) congregation, Mr Adrian Greenwood of the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Rev Lucas Taylor of the Manningham Cluster and Ms Jill Ruzbacky of the Synod's Justice and International Mission Unit.

**Interfaith September.** The Assembly's Interfaith Team is preparing liturgical resources which focus on interfaith topics which our Minister is planning to use during September. In addition, arrangements are being made for an evening of short films, presentation and Q&A on asylum seeker justice issues and how they connect with interfaith relations. The tentative date for this activity is Friday, 26 September at 7:45 pm. Please check the notices for confirmation of this date.

**A fresh look at Elders/Leaders in the UCA.** An Assembly Task Group has responded to the observation by many Uniting Church people who believe that the role of the Elder has been devalued in recent years and that spiritual oversight in congregations has been weakened. The Task Group has made some recommendations and posed some questions and invited responses from the Church. Church Council proposes to consider the topic at its August meeting.

*Geoffrey Willis, Church Council Secretary*

## **REFLECTION (continued)**

**Margot Kemke has contributed the following on the topic of “Worship”:**

“In the beginning God.....”

For me, worship is my acknowledgement and response to God as the beginning and the end of our existence in this world. As a Christian community we have the opportunity to honour and pay homage to our God, and to reverently give thanks for his love and compassion to us and our neighbours. We share, in fellowship with one another, His grace to us, and offer ourselves to His service.

---

## **EXPLORING THE CONGREGATION’S FUTURE.**

**..... a Report from Tim Menger.**

An update on where the brainstorming sessions are going.

Over the last seven weeks we as a congregation have been responding to the challenge that I gave at our last AGM: I asked the congregation some simple but difficult to answer questions:

1. Are we happy with the direction of Mountview?
2. What ideas do we have that could reinvigorate this church?
3. What do we need to invest in?

The response has been fantastic and for that I thank the congregation.

The brainstorming sessions of 10-15 people straight after church, correspondence and individual conversations have produced over two hundred points to analyze.

The brainstorming ideas have been varied. Some have been confronting and very direct, but they have all been reflective of the challenges that are facing both Mountview and the Uniting Church as a whole.

My aim is to have the initial report given to the council by their August meeting, with copies to be circulated to the congregation after that.

We should then be able to hold another congregational meeting to make some decisions on the future of Mountview Uniting Church.

Again thank you for your input and feedback. I am looking forward to the on-going discussion and actions that result.

Tim Menger  
Congregational Chairperson



## **LATEST NEWS FROM NOCET:**

Mountview has now entered into a formal sponsorship arrangement with the Loose Change Scheme to support the NOCET Orphanage in Tanzania. We have pledged a minimum of \$600 per year to be paid as #300 every six months. Funding will come from the Mountview Going Further Fund which is supported by regular retiring offerings. Your generous support will be welcomed by the orphanage.

The latest news from NOCET reports among many things:

- a new orphan was accepted into NOCET'S care just recently. Charles, now about 2, was abandoned on the roadside when he was born.
- Dorah, a young lady who has completed 6<sup>th</sup> Form in High School, is seen by NOCET as promising and plan to support her at University, the first such student. The cost will be \$3000 for each of the next three years, so more loose change is needed.
- the Tanzanian Government now requires the Nursery/Kinder to be relocated to land purchased a couple of years ago for a new school. \$15,000 will be needed for that, plus a further \$7000 for a transport vehicle.

Keep that loose change coming in.

---

## **DONCASTER EAST ROAD HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

In the April issue of "Contact", information was given concerning a proposed housing development on the land adjoining the car park access lane and that the Church Council had lodged a comprehensive objection against the project.

It can now be advised that Whitehorse City Council has informed us that a building permit will be issued for the proposal, subject to an extensive list of requirements. Many of the points of our objection have been addressed in the permit advice; others are directed towards the eventual residents.

The Property and Finance Committee has met with representatives of Pebble Development Pty. Ltd. and have set out a co-operative agreement so that both the operational needs of the construction group and Mountview's operations cause the least inconvenience to each other. The most important point in the Council's permit advice and the two-party agreement is that at the conclusion of the project, the laneway will be fully rebuilt to a design agreed upon by Mountview, the Council and the developer, the total cost of which will be covered by the developer.

Usage of the laneway for construction needs will be closely controlled by a traffic officer. Construction vehicles are not to enter Mountview's parking areas. Also, both the builder and Mountview will appoint liaison officers who will be the sole channel for communication between the parties. Mountview members who have any complaint during the project are to put those complaints to our liaison person and not directly to the builder. Any complaints will be documented.

When the residents have taken up occupancy, we propose a "getting to know you" barbeque where we will not only meet but explain restrictions re the use of our parking space by the residents or their visitors and other "neighbourly" matters.

## IN MEMORIAM

..... **Rev Jock Lavender 6.7.1919 - 23.6.2014**

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Mitcham Methodist parsonage was in Mitcham Road next door to the Barelli family. The Lavender family became the occupants. Some in today's congregation might remember the time when the Rev. Jock and his wife, Elsie, with four daughters, Margaret, Helen, Merne and Gwenda, came to Mitcham. The young Barellis were delighted to have friends next door to play with.

Jock was ordained in 1945, and married his first wife, Elsie, two days later. His first appointment was as a chaplain in the RAAF. Unfortunately, Elsie developed breast cancer, and died in 1957, soon after they moved to Mitcham. It was a very difficult and sad time for Jock and the girls. Members of the congregation helped as well as they could.

In 1959, Jock married Peg Flentje. They added to the family when Geoffrey Leonard was born in 1961. It was a very busy time for all of them. Jock's mother came to live with them for a time to help. At this time, the two neighbour dads decided to put a gate in the fence between the two properties – Barellis and Lavenders intermingled. "It worked a treat! Church, school and home lives were busy."

Jock had much sadness in his life. Having lost his first wife, Elsie, to breast cancer, he and Peg later lost two of the daughters, Helen and Merne, also to breast cancer. Through all the sadness, Jock kept his faith and supported his family. He was always interested in what the children were doing, and was keen to listen.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June, Wesley Uniting Church in Geelong was full for Jock's funeral, conducted by the Rev. Peter Gaydor-Whyte. In her eulogy, his daughter, Gwenda, said that Jock held strong political views, and sometimes wrote letters to the media, expressing his opinion. Gwenda believes she and Margaret inherited Jock's habit of talking back to the television! At the service, Margaret quoted Jock as saying, "he wished to be an ordinary person among ordinary people". Another of his quotes was, "gentleness is strength." He loved sport, and always took part in the family games. His grand children confirmed that he was always "a guaranteed starter" at any family gathering. They spoke of his ability to bridge the age gaps by helping them to understand and appreciate the importance of tradition and family, making them proud of being "Lavender children." Peter Gaydor-Whyte remembered that Jock had the ability to articulate the faith in ways that people understand.

After Mitcham, Jock served in Horsham and Geelong. He was at Geelong when the Uniting Church was formed in 1977. and became the first chairperson of the Barwon Presbytery. In 1979, he was appointed Moderator of the Victorian Synod. During retirement, Jock did a stint for Frontier Services in the Kimberley on a special assignment - at the same time as Rev. Aubrey Quick.

A few hours before the funeral service began, another great-grandchild was born to Jock and Peg. So amid the sadness, there was also happiness in welcoming another Lavender into the world.

*[Thankyou to Lynne Rosenthal (nee Barelli) for providing the material for this "In Memoriam" of a much loved former minister to the Mitcham people.]*

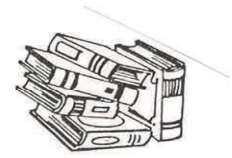
## MOUNTVIEW LIBRARY

– Hello, everyone! I’m Kirsten Boxall, the new Mountview Librarian.

I’ve noticed that people are not using our library, which is a real shame. Rather than chase people around during morning tea and hitting them with books until they agree to borrow something, I’m going to take a softer approach – highlighting both new and existing items and writing enticing reviews. I welcome suggestions.

### NEW ITEMS

**“Small Gods,”** by Terry Pratchett – “In the Beginning was the Word. And the Word was ‘Hey, you!’



Set on the Discworld (a flat world that balances on the back of four elephants, which are carried through space by a giant turtle), this wonderfully funny book follows the novice Brutha as he meets his Great God Om (currently in tortoise form) and learns truths about his religion, his leaders and the nature of tortoises.

The best satire is humourous, and Terry Pratchett is a fine comic author. He has received many letters from Christian fans thanking him for writing such a wonderful defence of Christianity, and as many letters from atheist fans for writing such a wonderful defence of atheism. Read it and make up your own mind!

**“A Morbid Taste for Bones,”** by Ellis Peters

I’m sure many of you know this wonderful series. Brother Cadfael, a monk in a Benedictine order during the 12<sup>th</sup> Century AD, is also an amateur sleuth. In this first book in the series, he is sent with a delegation from his monastery to acquire the bones of a saint from a remote Welsh village. When a murder occurs during the emissary, Cadfael’s skills are called to solve the mystery.

I personally love this book and the others in the series. Cadfael is a keenly intelligent and deeply compassionate man, and his faith is behind every action he takes. The book is also historically accurate without whacking the reader over the head with “Look! I the author, have done my research!” type writing. Read it and pretend you’ve gone back in time.”

### OLD ITEMS

**“Then Sings My Soul – 150 of the World’s greatest Hymn Stories”**

I spent a rather unfortunate amount of time flicking through this and happily singing the hymns within. I didn’t actually read the stories accompanying them until later! But it’s well worth the reading; the people who wrote the best loved hymns in this book had some extraordinary talent and I was deeply moved by their stories. If you read music, there is an extra bonus – the hymns are printed with their music on the left page and the stories on the right. My old school hymn, “*Be Thou my Vision*” is number four and is a translation of an ancient Irish poem by St. Patrick.

**“A Waist is a Terrible Thing to Mind,”** by Karen Scalf Llinamen

“I wish I could tell you that going on all these diets has made me svelte. Actually they have, if svelte stands for Still Voraciously Eating Lotsa Treats Enthusiastically.”

This book, aimed primarily at women, is about finding peace with your body and stopping self-hatred. Llinamen is a motivational speaker and writer, and has a very humourous turn of phrase. I was laughing at the very first page. She is a very realistic and kind writer, and explains how the Lord can and does help with our transformations. I enjoyed this a lot.



## FUNNIES

### ..... SOMETIMES THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY SEEM.

- *The daughter of a minister asked her mother, "Why does Daddy pray to God before he preaches?" Her mother responded, "He asks God to help him." A cloud came over the little face and her daughter said, "Why doesn't he then?"*

(Brendan found this one)



**"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."**

- ***In line to receive Communion one Sunday, the call phone of one woman went off as the priest was giving her a wafer. The woman turned beet red, stammered an apology, and attempted to shut off her phone. Without stopping a beat, the priest said, "Tell them we don't do take-aways."***
- One day Tony's girlfriend called to say their friendship was off, and that she wanted her photograph back. Two days later she received a big parcel, full of photographs of different women. Inside was a note: *"I can't quite remember what you look like. Pick out your photo and send the rest back."*
- ***A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."***
- *A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"*
- ***"I've had complaints recently that my sermons are too intellectual," a pastor told his congregation. "That being the case, the following adults are invited to come to the front for today's children's talk."***
- *"I will be away for the next Sundays. The preachers during my absence you will find pinned to the noticeboard, and all births, marriages and deaths will be postponed until my return."*
- ***A minister is visiting for lunch after morning service. His hostess serves up the chicken and the rooster crows outside the window. His host says, "The rooster is proud because his son is entering the ministry!"***



## ABOUT THE LECTIONARY

Paul says: Faith comes from what is heard. (Romans 10:17 NRSV)

On any Sunday morning right across the world, there will be someone at a lectern reading texts aloud. This is a hangover from the time when few could read and books were expensive.

Today, many of those texts will be the same across the different denominations as Churches follow the *Revised Common Lectionary*.

At the *Second Vatican Council* of the Roman Catholic Church, the bishops insisted that: "The treasures of the Bible are to be opened more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word."

From this came a resurgence of interest in the lectionary.

Here at Mountview, as in most Uniting Churches, the *Revised Common Lectionary*, adapted for use in the U.C.A., is used each week in worship.

At its simplest, a lectionary is a list of passages.

---

### The major parts of the Revised Common Lectionary:

Advent

**Christmas Day** - Season determines readings

Christmastide

Ordinary Time Semi-continuous reading of

(1) Gospels with related Old Testament texts

(2) New Testament Letters

There is no common theme  
between (1) and (2).

Lent

**Easter Day** - Season determines readings

Easter tide

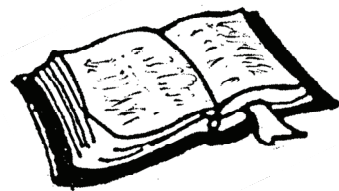
Ordinary Time Semi-continuous reading of

(1) Gospels

(2) Old Testament narratives

(3) New Testament letters

There is no common theme between (1), (2) and (3)



The Lectionary is spread a three year cycle, and there is a predominance of one of the first three evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke) in each of the years. The Gospel of John is interspersed among the other Gospels.

Year A The year of Matthew.

Year B The year of Mark.

Year C The year of Luke.

The above information is taken from "*Making the most of the Lectionary*" by Thomas O'Loughlin.

## LECTIONARY

For two months covering August into October.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Aug 10 2014	Pent 9 [19]	Gn 37:1-4,12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10:5-15	Mt 14:22-33	G
Aug 17 2014	Pent 10 [20]	Gn 45:1-15	Ps 133	Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28	G
Aug 24 2014	Pent 11 [21]	Ex 1:8 – 2:10	Ps 124	Rom 12:1-8	Mt 16:13-20	G
Aug 31 2014	Pent 12 [22]	Ex 3:1-15	Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c	Rom 12:9-21	Mt 16:21-28	G
Sept 7 2014	Pent 13 [23]	Ex 12:1-14	Ps 149	Rom 13:8-14	Mt 18:15-20	G
Sept 14 2014	Pent 14 [24]	Ex 14:19-31	Ps 114 or Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21	Rom 14:1-12	Mt 18:21-35	G
Sept 21 2014	Pent 15 [25]	Ex 16:2-15	Ps 105:1-6, 37-45	Phil 1:21-30	Mt 20:1-16	G
Sept 28 2014	Pent 16 [26]	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 78:1-4, 12-16	Phil 2:1-13	Mt 21:23-32	G
Oct 5 2014	Pent 17 [27]	Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3:4b-14	Mt 21:33-46	G
Oct 12 2014	Pent 18 [28]	Ex 32:1-14	Ps 106:1-6, 19-23	Phil 4:1-9	Mt 22:1-14	G



## LECTION NOTES

**“With Love to the World”** is a daily Bible reading guide based on the Revised Common Lectionary published quarterly. Margaret Edgington is the local person to contact if you would like to see a sample copy. As well, the lectionary readings for the following two months are printed in each issue of *“Contact”* on the inside of the back cover.

**“Growing Group”** meets each Wednesday at 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room and uses the lectionary readings for the following Sunday as the study material. This provides helpful preparation for worship. Enquiries may be made to Margaret Williams (9874 3957).

## Liturgical Colours

Some congregations provide a fall in front of the lectern emphasising the seasonal colour. The ministers stole will be in a similar colour with appropriate embroidered symbols. The colours are:

**Violet or purple:** Symbolize repentance and sorrow – used in the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent.

**White or gold:** Used in joyful seasons of Christmas and Easter - white is associated in the Christian tradition with Christ.

**Green:** Colour of growth, used in ‘Ordinary Time’.

**Red:** Colour of fire, symbolizes the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and other specific days in the life and witness of the Church and the Congregation.

*(UIW 2. P 561)*

*(concluded on Page12 re **Baptism**)*

**Mountview Church Mitcham**

559-561 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, Victoria, 3132  
http://www.mountview.unitingchurch.org.au

**MINISTER:**

Rev. Brendan Byrne ..... 9873 1150 (office) /  
minister@mountview.unitingchurch.org.au

**CENTRE 81:** Monday to Friday 10am to 12.30pm ..... 9873 1726

**CHILDREN'S and YOUTH MINISTRY:**

Monday Night Small Group - Simon Plumridge.....  
{BUGGSS (3 years to Grade 5) -} Jo Menger, with Sue Drew, Daniel  
{MUGGS (Grade 6 to Year 8) - } Jackson and Sue Terrill.

**CHURCH COUNCIL:**

Chairperson  
Rob Jackson .....

Secretary  
Geoffrey Willis.....

Treasurer  
Peter Cox .....

Finance & Property  
Don Bain .....

Music Ministry  
Geoffrey Willis .....



**CHURCH OFFICE:** ..... 9872 5157

**CONGREGATION:**

Chairperson  
Tim Menger .....

Secretary  
Lynne Rosenthal .....

**CONTACT:**

Editor: Margaret Williams .....

**YARRA YARRA PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES:**

David Rowe .....  
Geoffrey Willis .....

**MULTI-MEDIA:**

Rob Jackson .....

**PROPERTY BOOKINGS**

Eddie Short..... 0447 312 996

**LEAD STEWARDS:**

John Cosstick, Peter Cox, David Rowe. Dana Nicolau.

**MEMBERS' ROLLS & STEWARDSHIP RECORDER:**

David Rowe .....

**WEB MASTER:**

Des Kidd .....

**WEEKLY NOTICESHEET:**

Lynne Rosenthal (1<sup>st</sup> half of year)  
Margaret Cosstick (2<sup>nd</sup> half of year) 9884 9704

**LIBRARIAN:**

Kirsten Boxall.....

*CONTACT* is the bi-monthly magazine of Mountview Uniting Church, Mitcham.

It is issued on the first Sunday of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December.

**Contributions** for the next issue will be due on **Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2014.**