



Bulletin – December 2015

C O N N E C T

Advent greetings from the Reference Group. As we prepare for a new birthing of God in our lives, which we will celebrate in the very short Season of Christmas, we also look forward to a new year, new and renewed hopes, and times of gathering to encourage, support, and learn from one another, reconnect with old friends and meet new friends.

First Network Gathering for 2016

**Thursday 25 February, 6.00 pm.
for 6.30 pm.**

**Hope Cafe, Clayton Wesley
Uniting Church**

**Intersection of The Parade and
Portrush Road, Beulah Park**

Gatherings during 2016 will build around the theme of Growing Edges: Learning and Growing from the Margins.

Dates: February 25, May 26, August 25,
November 24

Induction

Sunday 10 January, 2.00 pm

Rev. Jenny Walker will be inducted into the Prospect Road congregation.

Leader of Induction: Dr. Deidre Palmer

Preacher: Rev. Sandy Boyce

All welcome

WISDOM FROM THE EDGE

Wisdom the voice
from the edge of knowing;
passion
silence
love
fear
violence
pleasure
pain
sickness
death.

Wisdom the voice –
unconditional love
from the edges of life;
not heard by many
responded to by less
and followed
by only a few.

Therefore be aware,
listen and hear
in your centre
Wisdom's voice from the edge.

Then in life
thought, word and deed
be this gift to the other;
unconditional Wisdom
from your centre
to the other's edge.

© P G Baker



Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/urbanmissionnetwork/>

C E L E B R A T E

96th Anniversary of the Yilki Uniting Church



On 8 November, the Yilki Uniting Church celebrated its 96th Anniversary of the current church building. This gave cause to reflect on the journey of this

church and its congregation over the years.

The heritage listed Yilki (Jefferis Memorial) Uniting Church is nestled in the semi-rural Yilki precinct at Encounter Bay. The Reverend James Jefferis was led to bring the message of the Gospel to the area in 1894 and demonstrated the relevance of Christianity in everyday life, as he pursued a ministry of social justice. The congregation at Yilki, through God's all inclusive love, seeks to have the courage to be the speakers of truth, justice, and love when faced with issues of injustice or neglect. Our congregation remains proudly diverse and celebrates that diversity as the inclusive love of God is shared with all, regardless of ethnicity, life issues, social background and sexual orientation, affirming all people as valued. The recognition that many people are at different stages of their theological journeys of faith is lovingly respected, and joyfully accommodated.

At Yilki we have in place a Mission Action Plan/Budget which looks to the future and must be viewed through a missional lens by stepping outside the walls of the church and focussing on Yilki's relevance in the wider community. Our goals are based on a mission imperative – to maintain our outreach missions both locally, supporting South Coast Christian Community Care and Pastoral Support Workers in our schools, and also worldwide through Australind International Children's Fund in India plus the Lent Event and Act for Peace.

There is in place an established plan of special services and fundraising, which enables Yilki to keep moving forward to pursue the mission we are called to by God. This plan includes activities such as an annual spring fair, regular garage sales, sausage sizzles and a couple of musical fundraisers, which not only raise funds to support mission outreach but raise the awareness of Yilki Church in the wider community. This has worked to build a "Friends of Yilki" database of regular supporters who receive the quarterly newsletter "Yilki Happenings," which keeps everyone informed of approaching events.

Special services that happen regularly, including the very popular pet blessing service, draw folk from far and wide and are wonderful opportunities for community outreach. An active program is now underway to expand our social activities with a dinner group and movie nights, utilising our audio visual system. An extra bonus: our twice yearly "Evenings of Asian Delights."

We have had a very eventful and challenging year at Yilki during which time the Reverend Casey Lau accepted a call to ministry at Yilki. The guiding hand of God was felt in a very real way at this time. Casey and his wife Pit Cheen have

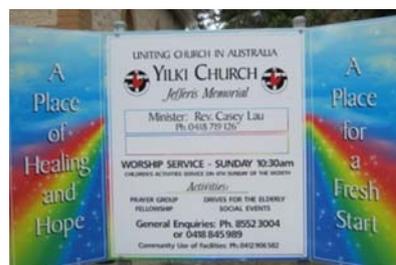


very quickly become an integral part of the Yilki family and are journeying with us as we aim to keep moving forward to grow and flourish. Casey has a background as a Barrister-at-Law, banking and business consultancy in both Malaysia and Australia. In 2002, he felt the call to ministry as a Deacon. His passion is to be with people, listening and leading them to a better understanding of life's challenges as he shares the freedom he has found in Christ who has sustained him in the highs and lows of his own life journey. Our congregation have warmed quickly to Casey and appreciate his strengths, particularly in the area of pastoral care.

We are so blessed and grateful at Yilki for the large band of willing committed volunteers who work tirelessly and harmoniously together so that we now have a blueprint on which to base our program of special services and fundraising.

We are also grateful for the visiting preachers and musicians whose talents enhance our worship services and a worship team has now been formed to work with Casey to ensure a cohesive approach.

Yilki Uniting Church aspires to be a safe and totally inclusive place to worship, where all are welcomed warmly and embraced. Worship is at the core of the life of Yilki Church. However, Yilki seeks to be a church that will not only be called to worship but be sent out to witness.



Invitation from
**Sandy Creek
 Uniting Church
 Bush Chapel**

*Outdoor carol service and
 nativity play (unrehearsed)*

**Sunday 13 December 2015
 at 7:30 pm**



Featuring: Sing Australia Gawler,
 with live animals

Costumes are supplied. Children may
 be angels or shepherds and become
 part of the play (optional)

Supper to follow

All welcome

For more information contact John
 Schultz: 8522 1391 or Leslee Carle:
 8524 4086

CAROLS FOR COMPASSION
 by LOVE MAKES A WAY



**Carols for
 Compassion**

Love Makes a Way (LMAW) is organizing
 a (non-arrestable) action on **14 December**
 – singing Christmas Carols. It might be
 considered a strange form of resistance
 to Australia’s treatment of people seeking
 asylum! “We gather to celebrate the One
 born in a remote outpost of Empire, forced to
 become a refugee. He taught us to seek out
 the lost, welcome the stranger, and love even
 our enemies” (#LMAW). **This event is not a
 civil disobedience action.** This is a family-
 friendly event. Similar actions will be held in
 capital cities around Australia. If you want
 more information, search for “Love Makes a
 Way” on Facebook or the link on the Pilgrim
 website. www.pilgrim.org.au.

**Meet at 4.15 at 111 Franklin St, before
 walking to the Department of Immigration
 forecourt for a 4.30pm start.**

All welcome.



**Blue Christmas
 Service**

Pilgrim Uniting Church

**Thursday 17 December, 2015
 6.00 pm – 6.45 pm**

12 Flinders Street, Adelaide

Ph: 8212 3295 www.pilgrim.org.au

For those who feel sadness, grief and loss
 in the Christmas season.

Whether you attend church or not, whether
 you hold religions belief or not, this service
 will provide a gentle time for reflection
 to acknowledge pain and hurt, to light a
 candle, and to hold hope knowing that we
 are not alone.

All are very welcome

Urban Mission Network Gathering

67 people enjoyed the warm and generous hospitality of first time host, Rosefield Uniting Church, at the UMN gathering on Thursday 26 November. Moderator Dr. Deidre Palmer facilitated thoughtful conversation as we considered the role of the church in nurturing relationships, and pondered ways our own churches might make a stand against domestic violence. Deidre reminded us of resources that are available at <http://sa.uca.org.au/beyond-violence/>.

As this was the last UMN gathering for 2015, we also took the opportunity to reflect on and share our visions and hopes for the UMN as we continue to encourage one another in ministry and mission – conversations that will continue into 2016 and beyond. Over a most delicious meal, table groups engaged in conversation around questions of:

- UMN support
- ways we might, together, develop a disciplined approach to resourcing and supporting one another
- what we should keep doing, do differently, stop doing, start doing as we assist one another develop strong and purposeful directions
- ideas for making connections
- engaging with wider community

Reports on conversations included:

How is UMN supporting you pastorally and in mission?

- By sharing information about what's happening around the tracks, which we then can share with our congregations.
- Getting ideas from the different churches where we meet, and seeing what works and how.

In what ways might we, together, develop a disciplined approach to resourcing and supporting one another?

- Frequent gatherings with interchange of ideas.
- Overseas guests – but needs to be consolidated and reflected on, and implemented in practice and theological reflection.
- Stories of mission with some reflection about what we have learned from our own mission.
- Input from some people about their mission outreach, with time to reflect in own congregational groups about what is relevant for individual congregations.
- Resourcing is difficult for small churches; sharing banners for the church year; well resourced churches linked with less well resourced.

What should we keep doing, do differently, stop doing, start doing?

- It is useful to get together on occasions like this (gathering) to learn from each other.
- Get out there – don't wait for others to come to you.
- Help – lose the "churchy" talk. Relate on a "reality" basis.
- We need some time for placed ministry leaders to spend time together as colleagues – i.e. private time when people may actually have real and deeper conversations.
- Equipping people to have the skills to implement new programs.
- Catching up with people and renewing friendships – making connections – learning about great ideas are very important.
- Moving around for gathering in the various congregations is important.
- More people.
- In-service for councils, elders, meeting procedure, making decisions, etc.
- Sharing resources for faith growing including persons.
- Know what people can do.
- Less straight reporting, more analysis and discussion of what worked...why/why not.

continued next page

Ideas for making connections

- Plan more ecumenical occasions and lose the protective fear of “holding on” to own people. Joining together boosts congregations that we fear are in the decline.
- Host a forum – pick a subject/topic – give people/leaders 10-15 minutes to present something on that topic that is particular to their context. Have some group conversation afterward (2 ½ - 3 hours)
- We need to become less fearful, more patient and trusting in God, less moved by the “crisis” we maybe in as an institution.
- In trusting God, we also need to be taking informed, intentional risks in ministry and self-giving.
- Congregation members need to learn to not always accept full responsibility for every need they become aware of – become “network-minded.”

- Continue to conduct training sessions for church councillors and lay leaders.
- Equipping people to have the skills to implement new programs.
- Regional meetings for professional development (6 – 8 churches).
- Interdenominational collaboration.

Engaging with wider community

- Get outside the walls of the church – through helping the wider community in other social justice organisations.
- With prayer and occasionally special offerings.
- Live-in weekend to have concentrated teaching times.
- Always being there – present open, friendly and caring when things are OK. This forms a foundation of trust when there is need

Let us keep the conversation going. E-mail the coordinator at susan@urbannetwork.org.au with your thoughts and suggestions, or share on the UMN Facebook page.

