



# Bulletin – November 2017

**Encouraging each other in ministry and mission,  
sharing resources, providing mutual support**

## Network News



### November Gathering

***The Connected Church:  
Connecting Together***  
**Thursday 16 November**  
**6.15 pm for 6.30 pm**

**Brougham Place Uniting**  
 193 Brougham Place, North Adelaide  
*The home of the Centre for Music,  
 Liturgy, and the Arts*

CMLA resources, including the wonderful collection of Advent and Christmas and Epiphany songs, liturgies, poems, and plays will be available to purchase. Credit card payment available.

**Donation** to cover the cost of the meal.

**RSVP** on, or preferably before, Thursday 9 November to [susan@urbannetwork.org.au](mailto:susan@urbannetwork.org.au)

Please advise of any dietary needs.



## Local Public Theology: A Process of Action-Reflection 2018

In his article in the Weekend Australian (29 – 30 July 2017), Bernard Salt highlighted the percentages of Australians who volunteer in their spare time. Salt summarises the social and cultural factors determining volunteerism and concludes, “Across all communities, we are a people who are committed to helping others.”

Those who answered the volunteer question and ticked “no religion” came out at 18% and those who indicated a religious affiliation 22%.

We often underrate the significance of the churches presence in local communities at a time when social isolation is leading to self-deprecation and loneliness. Group activities associated with many UCA congregations in SA make an important contribution by providing safe places for volunteers to meet and develop mutual support. Churches do not need to do it all by themselves but make a significant contribution to community life by becoming partners with others in initiating group activities and providing opportunities for residents to experience social support.

There are many examples to draw on for ideas and inspiration. Check out the web site of the Junction Community Centre, Ottoway (<http://www.junctioncommunity.org.au>), and ask for a copy of their recent annual report.

Please note the date for the Final Session in the Public Theology Series previously advertised for 18 November has changed to 11 November due to Christmas Pageant road closures

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*Our Mission Statement: The Junction Community Centre aims to create a welcoming, responsive, inclusive and supportive environment, working with the community to help it meet the needs of individuals, families and community groups in the local area.*

In 2017 the **Urban Mission Network** and **Pilgrim Uniting Church** organised a series of workshops titled, "Local Public Theology." These sessions provided an opportunity for congregations to learn from each other's experience. The workshops and annual symposium generated insights about Australian social trends now evident from the results of the 2016 census. The series included guests Prof Linda Woodhead (Sociology of Religion) from the UK, and Clive Pearson (Global Network for Public Theology) who described the big picture.

Currently, we are planning a programme for 2018, and we would be pleased to hear from you with ideas about the best way to network, share our practical experience and explore the role of congregations in local communities.

### ***Final Session in the Public Theology Series***

**Saturday 11 November**  
**10.00 am – 12.30 pm**

**Pilgrim Centre**  
**14 Flinders St. Adelaide.**

Register your interest at [office@pilgrim.org.au](mailto:office@pilgrim.org.au)

If you are unable to attend, please send your comments and suggestions and help plan the 2018 series.

Contact Rev Dr Dean Eland, Convener Local Public Theology at [djeland@bigpond.com](mailto:djeland@bigpond.com) or phone 0419 112 603.

## **News, views, and events from UMN congregations and agencies**

### **Praying with a Paintbrush**

*Neryl McCallum*

**What makes six people of little or no acquaintance take five days out of their lives to learn to write (paint) an icon?**

As we introduce ourselves, it's clear none of us has great knowledge about icons or how they are used in religious practice. What is clear is all of us are drawn to icons; in some way, they speak to us, but none of us can particularly articulate how or why. Peter Blackwood, our instructor, notes all of us have a protestant background, which is another dimension of peculiarity in our venture into iconography. We are people from the Australian edge of the reformed tradition, and yet we're attracted to this ancient orthodox practice. Why so? Good question. Something for us to contemplate during the week.

We begin by looking at images and a short introduction into iconography, are then given pencils and tutored how to draw a face – the face of Jesus Christus from an icon of the Serbian Church (1384). All faces have the same geometry and proportions are important. We rule and measure and make marks on a page, and soon these marks take on the semblance of a face. But a face isn't flat – there are highs and lows, hills and valleys. We add light, and what was flat becomes three-dimensional. Our first day ends.

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In the ensuing days, under Peter's clear and good-humoured tutelage and care, new lessons are learnt, skill and technique acquired, knowledge gathered, and confidence gained. Layer by layer, wood, glue, linen, egg yolk, wine, minerals, water, and the work of our hands, all combine to recreate an image of Christ Pantocrator. I'm continually amazed by how the image changes with each layer of colour, how working from dark to light brings moments of sudden revelation.

We're surprised by how different each of our paintings is; each of us has a small but delighted moment of envy that someone has captured an aspect of the image that we have not. A lovely community is formed in the midst of the paint and easels. At the end of day five, we stand together, our completed icons in hand, and have our photo taken. I've a real sense of accomplishment, and I believe the others do, too.

A couple of days into routine life, I ponder the questions Peter put to us at the beginning – why am I attracted to icons, why spend five days learning to write one?

With time and with deliberate contemplation, the answers to these questions will continue to emerge, just as the image of Christ emerged on the wooden panel I was given to write on.

What I know at this moment is that I have had my senses attuned – I am noticing fine detail in everything. Listening to the radio, I'm hearing the layers of tone and tempo in music and voice. Watching people on the street, I'm observing the flow of their clothing. I'm seeing the play of light on everything the sun touches – and this has become instinctive – it's just happening without me having to make an effort.

One of my favourite poets, Mary Oliver, begins her poem "Song of the Builders" with this:

On a summer morning  
I sat down  
on a hillside  
to think about God...

Five days of writing my own icon has given me the opportunity to think about God – again and in a new way – which is what I, with my minimal knowledge, think icons are created to do.

*"Write you own Icon: praying with a paint brush" was organized by Rev Alison Whish and the Newland Uniting Church congregation in Victor Harbor. Rev Peter Blackwood, coordinator of the Uniting Church Icon School in Melbourne, was our tutor.*

## ***Remember – Celebrate – Encourage***

the beginnings, grown and continued Christian life and witness  
in Eden Hills

### **Sunday 19 November**

Christians first met at the Friends Meeting House in 1912 with the existing building opening in 1957

Join the current congregation on this special day and explore new ways to continue being the church in Eden Hills

***Worship service 9.30 am***

Preacher Rev Sue Ellis

***Morning tea at 10.30 am***

RSVP to Kathy 0417 800 859



16 Willora Road EDEN HILLS

## The Borderers

Benefit Concert



### The Borderers Benefit concert

with all proceeds to refugees

**Friday 24 November – 8.00 pm**

26 King William Road, Wayville

Near bus stop 2 of the 200 bus. Limited on-site parking

Doors open at 7.15 pm

The Borderers will be supported by Vagaband with Claire Gurry



**Book** at TryBooking  
[www.trybooking.com/326692](http://www.trybooking.com/326692),  
or phone 8271 0392 with credit card

**Tickets** \$30 adult, \$25 concession,  
\$20 financial friends of ELC

Bar available at interval, CDs for sale, coffee, tea, and biscuits

Cnr Fullarton Road and Grenfell Street,  
Kent Town

**Wednesday – 15 November  
at 2 pm**

*String ensemble*

Leader: Janet Anderson – Violinist  
John Hall – Organist



**Mighty Magill Christmas Market**

**Saturday 18 November,  
9.00 am to 3.00 pm**

**Morialta Uniting Church**  
26 Chapel Street, Magill

Christmas gourmet goodies; home-made cakes; books; Christmas gifts and crafts; plants; bric-a-brac; come-again boutique; sausage sizzle; morning tea and light lunch

Phone: 8331 9344;

e-mail [office@morialtauca.org.au](mailto:office@morialtauca.org.au);  
[www.morialtauca.org.au](http://www.morialtauca.org.au)

### Pride March Adelaide

**Saturday 11  
November.**

Gather from 5:30 pm at Light Square/Wauwi.

March at 6:30pm to Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga.



The Church of the Trinity is excited to share a photograph of the banner that will accompany them on this march.