



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 68 AUGUST 2021

DISAPPOINTMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

JULY 18

Greetings from lockdown in Kurunjang (which means red earth). I write from the land of the Kurunjang Baluk of the Woiwurrung language group, people of the Kulin Nation. Indeed the earth of my home is red, and being stuck at home once more affords more time to attend to the garden and commune with the birds which come and go. It also provides opportunity to process the olive harvest and catch up on a variety of other tasks.

In this time of disruption and uncertainty, it helps me to be grounded in the earthiness of place, but also in the God of love and compassion whom we meet in Jesus, in scripture and in community. I walk my labyrinth, read the bible and pray for guidance. I connect with family and friends by phone



and by zoom. There are many ways each of us can cultivate our connections with Other(s).

At the time of writing, the UCA Assembly gathers on-line, the theme being 'Dwelling in Love'. In her first sermon as President, Rev Sharon Hollis reminded the church that in Jesus, God calls us to God's radical love which dismantles hierarchy. Grounded in scripture (1 Corinthians 13:1-13) Sharon reminded us that in the Body of Christ (the church), no gifts are deemed better or more important than others. All are needed for the One community of Christ to fully

be God's people in the world.

Rather than dwell in the disappointments of travel plans scuttled or celebrations cancelled, perhaps this lockdown can be an opportunity for us to examine our collective gifts and consider how these might best be used to love our neighbour. While lockdown limits our capacity to be physically alongside others, it does not limit our imagination or discernment.

Please take the time to prayerfully consider what God is calling the Macedon Ranges Partnership to next. May the Assembly theme of 'Dwelling in Love' be one that we can all live out to our fullest capacity, in the power of the Spirit.

With love
Karen Eller

Reminder: Masks are still required indoors and outdoors unless you are in your own home. Do keep an eye on current COVID-safety restrictions and potential changing of events or dates. If you have any concerns or need any support or assistance, please call one of the ministry team.



LECTIONARY Readings Year B

After Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day/Season	Color	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
1 Aug	Pent 10 (18)	G	2 Samuel 11:26 to 12:13a	51:1-12	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
8 Aug	Pent 11 (19)	G	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	130	Ephesians 4:25 to 5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
15 Aug	Pent 12 (20)	G	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	111	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
22 Aug	Pent 13 (21)	G	1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30	84	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
29 Aug	Pent 14 (22)	G	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	45:1-2, 6-9	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
5 Sept	Pent 15 (23)	G	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	125	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37

Colours: P – Purple W – White G – Green R – Red B – Black

This month's PiP comes to you remotely from mostly sunny Swan Hill... with apologies to some contributors for failing to get their pieces into print for August. In June I received in the post a summary from Wendy Hebbard of Meredith Lake's book "The Bible in Australia – a Cultural History". (Wendy is now dictating to her computer as typing is no longer easy – I'm very impressed with her ongoing commitment to continue sharing and questioning!) Talking to Wendy about the book inspired me to read it myself however I ended up with the audio book instead. Several trips to Swan Hill later and I have finished listening to Meredith Lake read the History - a fascinating listen. You will find the first part of Wendy's Summary on page 7. If you too would like to read "The Bible in Australia" both the print and the audio versions are available to reserve at the Goldfields library through Woodend, Kyneton, Romsey or Gisborne.

Robyn Z 27th July

THE UCA ASSEMBLY: SOME REFLECTIONS

The formation of the UCA in 1977 was part of a world-wide movement for Christian unity. Many united churches were formed in the course of the 20th century and bodies such as the World Council of Churches and the National Council

of Churches in Australia have enabled churches to work together even while continuing as separate entities. The UCA has four levels of governance: the Assembly, the Synods, the Presbyteries and local Church Councils. In the Macedon Ranges we have formed a fifth one: the Coordinating Council or "Co-Co". Decades of experience in SA and WA taught those Synods that they had too many levels, so they combined all the presbyteries with the Synod in each state.

In its **Basis of Union** the UCA is clear on the role of the national council, called the Assembly or National Assembly. It is responsible for "doctrine, worship, government and discipline". Added to these four is Mission and Janet has written about that. Examples of the four responsibilities are:

DOCTRINE: The study of homosexuality took some years, and it was followed by debates about same-gender marriage. On the latter issue the Assembly decided to recognise two different theological positions, one accepting such marriages and the other rejecting them. Individual ministers are free to conduct same-gender weddings or not to do so.

WORSHIP: The UCA came into being when many denominations were developing new forms of worship. One change was to use "you / your" language in place of "thee / thou".

(Continued on page 3)

ASSEMBLY EXCITEMENT

While admiring the courage and competence of National Assembly officers in holding the 16th National Assembly of the UCA in these lockdown times I did feel sad for the participants, reduced to yet another round of zoom. That technology has many virtues but energetic conversation and engagement are not among them.

From the very first Assembly held in Sydney on 22nd June 1977 there has always been a robust buzz of faith and fellowship. While not everyone gets excited about committee reports or voting on much amended motions, Assembly members were and are always aware that their work really matters.

In its early years there were many significant matters of faith, doctrine, and developing the UCA organisationally to be considered. My particular experience was as chair of the Commission for Mission, seen by some as an umbrella and by others as an octopus given its role was to oversee the work of at least seven committees from Frontier Services, World Mission, National Mission and Evangelism, Social Justice, Multiculturalism and, perhaps hardest of all, the development of a genuine partnership with indigenous peoples. The UCA was nothing if not ambitious!

The Commission did not have to invent items for its agenda. There was the continuous work on the issues that had concerned the 3 denominations – poverty and greed, war and peace, being heard in an increasingly secular society. There also were emerging ones such as invitro-fertilisation or seeking, and getting, tax deductibility for some World Mission projects, support for the South African anti-apartheid movement and the provision of aged care services in the Outback.



Two areas jumped right to the top of the Commission's agenda, relations with indigenous communities and women's roles in church and society. Learning to listen carefully and caringly to indigenous voices was quite an education – much self-reflection was needed but by 1985 the Assembly was ready to approve of the establishment of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Congress to be the voice of the First Peoples within the UCA. Ever since it has been the sharpest internal critic of the UCA, a prophetic voice indeed calling us to repentance and reformation.

And there were the increasingly insistent voices of women. The UCA was gifted with women in leadership from the originating denominations but – and there was always a but! The Church really struggled to understand and accept that centuries of limitations placed on Christian women were not easily eliminated. There were some of our own members who muttered about the monstrous regiment of women. But we learned. As part of its commitment to our ecumenical partners (most of whom did not and do not ordain women) the UCA produced its basic theological document 'Why the UCA ordains Women.' It provided the chair of the World Council of Churches' Australian co-ordinator of its Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women (me!) And now it cheerfully elects women as presidents. No-one can now doubt that the UCA is a church which encourages the gifts of all. I am grateful for the challenging, exciting, frustrating, energising times I spent as part of the National Assembly. It's an experience I hope the members of future assemblies will also experience.

Janet Wood

(From page 2) When I was chair of the Commission on Liturgy, we produced the 2-volume *Uniting in Worship* (the red book and the blue book). It was a marathon job, achieved with only one staff person and he was half-time, Rev Grant Dunning.

GOVERNMENT: When it comes to deciding "who does what", the Assembly gets involved. The president gives a "ruling". In a case in SA I had to decide whether non-members can vote at local level (members are either confirmed members or baptised members). I ruled that only those on the members' roll can vote.

DISCIPLINE: Most pastoral issues are dealt with at local level. The presbytery has the responsibility of oversight of ministers and others at local level. What then does the Assembly do? (Continued on page 7)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9am Tylden	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community				10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.30am Gisborne Mia Mia	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community	Census Day!		6pm Pastoral Care Seminar Part 1 (Zoom)	10am Prayers at Gisborne	10am GSC Chaplaincy Morning Tea
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9.30am Kyneton	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community			6pm Delightful Diners at Vespas Woodend World Humanitarian Day	10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton 9.30am Pastoral Care Part 1	PIP items due tomorrow!
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9am Romsey Sutton Grange	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community 3.30pm RM Begg Worship	10am Gisborne (informal) Worship	10am Ministers Munch Redesdale	6pm Pastoral Care Seminar Part 2 (Zoom)	10am Prayers at Gisborne	
29	30	31	<h1>August 2021</h1>			
5 th Sunday Partnership Service details to be advised	2.30pm Woodend Faith Community					

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Woodend Faith Community is meeting weekly at 2.30pm at the Woodend Church (weather permitting – under the trees) Through July have met at the Vic Hotel in Woodend for warmth and hospitality along with worship and sharing, followed by online via Zoom in lockdown. Contact one of the ministry team to confirm current meeting details if you wish to join – all welcome.

Prayer Meetings Every week in the Gisborne Uniting Church on Fridays at 10am.

Kyneton Fish & Chips Fortnightly worship service – BYO meal (it doesn't have to be fish and chips!) not for sharing due to ongoing COVID restrictions, held on the Friday after the 1st and 3rd Sunday in the month – this month on 6th and 20th August at 6.30pm, also meeting via Zoom during lockdown – keep an eye on emails from the ministry team for further details in case of ongoing lockdown.

Redesdale Ministers Munch (and worship) at the Redesdale General Store 10am Wednesday 25th August – all welcome

Worship times Usual Sunday service times for churches across the partnership currently are:

- Tylden is at 9am
- Gisborne is at 9:30am
- Romsey is at 9am
- Kyneton is at 9.30am on 1st & 3rd Sundays
- Mt Macedon is at 10:30am
- Lancefield is at 10:45am

See the Calendar on page 4 for Minister led worship including Holy Communion across the partnership, other services will be lay-led as arranged by each church.

If there are events or meetings not listed here that you know should be included for September, please contact Robyn before 22nd August via zumstein@mmnet.com.au or 0401 917 741 to get your events, services and meetings into the next edition of PiP. Do keep an eye on the emails that come from the ministry team for further news and updates.

Delightful Diners is back on this month at 6pm, Thursday 19th August at Vespas in High Street Woodend. Please contact Bronwyn Hewitt if you would like to attend so that a booking can be made, or so you can be informed of changes if required

Gisborne Secondary College Chaplaincy Committee and House of The Rock invite you to **Morning Tea**

With Guest Speaker - **Pastor Christie Buckingham**

As Spiritual Adviser for Myuran Sukumaran (member of the Bali 9), Pastor Christie walked with Myuran to his death by firing squad in 2015 and was with him in his final moments.

"I was so taken by how inspirational they were and how they had reformed themselves inside Kerobokan".

Chaplaincy will be making a donation to Kingdom First International which is an organization that supports international prison ministry specifically Kerobokan.

Saturday 14th August 10am

\$25 per Ticket

House of The Rock

247 Station Road, New Gisborne

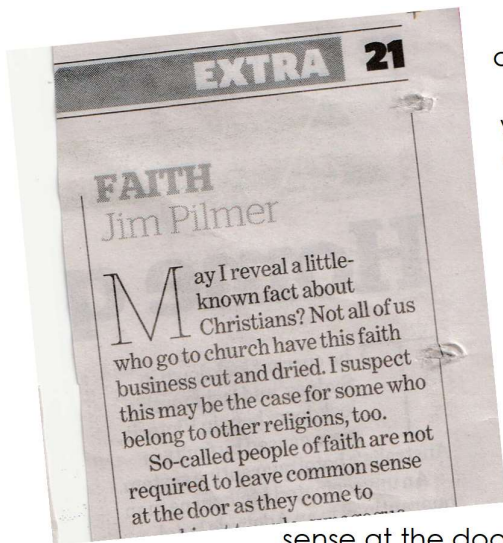
Tickets can be purchased
at Snapshot Photos
Shop 2 / 18 Brantome st
beside Priceline.

Cash only please

if you are unable to visit
Snapshot photos
please contact

Bronwyn 0417 028 605





(Paraphrased by Wendy Hebbard after reading an article in the Age by Anglican Priest Jim Pilmer on 27/6/21)

It's lucky we live in Australia. A few hundred years ago we might have been burned at the stake for questioning anything about our Christian faith. But we are not heretics for asking questions.

People of faith are missing the point if they accept without question any statements from their church.

Having faith is a spiritual journey with a particular background of sacred revelation, or sacred texts, history, tradition. This is the reality of hundreds of millions of people around the world from different religions. It is always in one sense the fragility of spiritual life. We are not expected to leave our intelligence or common-

sense at the door of the church without questioning. We need to continue to have dialogue between people who from different perspectives, seek meaning, peace and fulfilment in their lives.

Contacts Other Groups		
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u>	<u>Congregation Chair</u> - Dot Smith <u>Elders - North</u> Dot Smith Marge Townrow	<u>Elders- Kyneton</u> Pip Elston, Jenny Elston, Helen Aldridge Andrea Strack, Brian Lauder
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Roy Gibbs, Helen Carey, Susan Campbell	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston <u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Church Council/Elders</u> Noel Shaw David Strack Jeni Clampit Jenny Elliott Jay Brooks John Laing Carol Toy	<u>UCAF</u> Pres/Sec - Jeni Clampit Treasurer - Carol Toy
<u>TYLDEN</u>	<u>Elders</u> Shirley Bowen, Joy Evans Max Hinneberg	<u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u> Janet Cole
<u>WOODEND</u>	<u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> – Robyn Zumstein	
<u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>		<u>Craft Group</u> - Lynette Bucknall
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry/F & C</u> - Glennis Speed <u>Pastoral Care/F & C</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> Nola Anderson <u>Worship & Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>UCAF</u> - Maree Clarke <u>Craft Group</u> - Linda Moorhouse <u>Friends Pizza Night</u> - Ron Hebbard
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Secretary</u> - <u>Minute Secretary</u> – Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Finance Committee</u> Chair - Paul Gilbertson, Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman & Bronwyn Hewitt

THE UCA ASSEMBLY: SOME REFLECTIONS (continued from Page 3)

I had to deal with a case in Victoria where a minister would not accept the ordination of women. The issue was that (1) the *Basis of Union* says that both women and men may be ordained, and (2) all ministers, as well as elders and lay preachers, are required to accept the *Basis of Union*. The issue was not that the minister concerned might be ejected from the ministry but whether he could serve in a local church or parish. In the end a compromise was reached and he was appointed to a chaplaincy.

The Assembly meets every three years. The current president, Rev Sharon Hollis, a Victorian, was installed in an online service on 17th July this year. This Assembly meeting was a short one, and the hope is that an in-person meeting will be held in 2022. The Assembly also elected the president to follow Sharon, called the “president-elect”. She is Rev Charissa Suli, a Tongan Australian from NSW.

The weekly Prayer Group at Gisborne prays for Assembly, Synod and our Presbytery of Port Philip West, and this will continue once the lockdown ends. An internal combustion engine can't operate without petrol and the Church can't function without prayer.

D'Arcy Wood
(President of the UCA Assembly 1991-1994)

The Bible in Australia: a Cultural History

A Book review/summary by Wendy Hebbard, June 2021 (the first part)

This book is interesting and a good solid read. There are a few lighter moments. Boxes and boxes of bibles accompanied the convicts when they arrived at Sydney Cove. One wonders if these people could read and write. But there were a couple of other uses for the paper pages. One was for the female convicts to use paper to curl their hair. And the other, well we won't question that.

It would seem that the old style bibles were from the white mans' culture – imperial culture which was imposed by missionaries and sometimes adopted. There was an emphasis on original sin. Society was steeped in the scriptures. Richard Johnson was the first chaplain. Early on in the book we meet Borrong an Indigenous servant. Here also is a slightly amusing version of the Lord's Prayer as written for and described by an Indigenous person: Our father on top sky. Thy name be feared. Thou art our boss... men and women listen to thee on top sky. Give us tucker til the sun goes down. We did wrong, make us good. We have good hearts to them who did us wrong. Watch us against bad place. Thy hands be stretched out to guard us from bad.

Another important figure in those early days was John Dunmore Lang and there were the 'Col Porteurs' – with stacks of bibles, taking them around to deliver them through the countryside. Many of the settlers fell short of the golden rule, ladies groups did their best.

After a time, there was some questioning of the historical bible and after quite a long time even the White Australia Policy was controversial. Some people thought that the bible was justified. Such a policy!

But there were other people who began to think that Aboriginal people had some rights and deserved some land. We came into the era of World War One and the growth of unionism, and the depression of the 1930's. The poor continued to find in the scripture provision for a fairer Australia. At the same time, Jesus' teachings continue to post troubling questions about wealth. Can a nation in which the poor are oppressed or ignored consider itself righteous or Christian? In the 1960's we saw a spike in the number of bible translations. We saw the New English Bible. It's not surprising but in the 1960's 9 out of 10 people had a bible in their home. But in 40% of the cases it was never picked up and read.

Now we meet Germaine Greer. One of the nuns in her school tried to teach the girls the philosophical proofs of the existence of God. Greer recalls that this destroyed her faith completely. Greer abandoned her earnest teenage faith in the year after she left school. The collapse of her Catholic faith led to the unwilling arrival of the conclusion that there was no God.

We have a look now at the message to women. A woman called Tulip became one of Australia's warrior women of liberation theology: “We bring women the good news that they may indeed have life if they have the courage to claim it; and bring to men the good news that they may have life if they have the courage to give up their power and privilege; and bring to the church the good news that the Kingdom can be reborn as the new community. With trust and tenderness and reassuring we will enable ourselves, then one another to discover our full femininity.”

Another prominent woman was the author Helen Garner. She bought a battered old copy of a 1950's translation of the New Testament 'cheap, for a dollar'. “I remember being astonished at the intensity of the reading pleasure that I got as a writer from the bible. The passages of narrative in the bible that made my hair stand on end, with horror, bliss and technical awe”. This was a turning point in both her spiritual and creative life.

To be continued in Issue 69 – stay tuned!

Sacrededge is a festival of arts, music and stories hosted by Unitingqueenscliff

This annual three-day event provides an opportunity to nurture connection with people from diverse backgrounds.

The festival brings together an array of musicians, storytellers, poets and artists from First Nations, refugee and LGBTIQ communities, together with carers for the earth & oceans and those who seek to nurture wellbeing and mental health.

We are very excited about the unique and unfolding line up of musicians, storytellers, poets and artists. Details soon!

The 7th Sacrededge Festival will take place during the weekend of September 3-5, 2021

Weekend Tickets are on sale here
<https://www.trybooking.com/BGOJM>



Presbytery of Port Phillip West has a website full of resources and information: <https://ucappw.org.au/>

Address label

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Macedon Ranges Partnership is part of the Port Phillip West Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia.

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PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	CoCo REPS
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> - Church Access Rd <u>MIA MIA</u> - Matheson Rd <u>BARFOLD</u> - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd <u>METCALFE</u> - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd <u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebden St (PO Box 892)	Pip Elston	Helen Aldridge miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<u>Finance Committee</u> Helen Carey (Treas) Roy Gibbs Jenny Elston	Church Council Executive	Marge Townrow Dot Smith Pip Elston, Susan Campbell, Lyn Ward (alt)
<u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Janet Cole Dawn Hinneberg
<u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St (PO Box 34, Woodend, 3442)					George Roberts
<u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

Next Partnership in Print Please share something of yours or your congregations' life or faith journey, a thought, prayer, favourite scripture or reflections thereon. You can send an email to zumstein@mmnet.com.au or hand something to one of the ministers for the next edition. Please send all corrections/events/stories/photos/tidbits to me **by Sunday 22nd August**. I am happy to receive emails or texts via phone or you can pop something in the post or my letterbox.
 Robyn (contact details at bottom of Contact list under Z 😊)

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