

Sunday 22nd December 2019

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter



A Note from Linda

This Advent and Christmas we are celebrating the 300th anniversary of the beloved hymn, "Joy to the World." This week is all about the 'Wonders of his love':

"Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth; break forth into grateful song and sing praises! Yes, sing songs of praise extolling Love's way; lift up your hearts with gratitude and joy!" Psalm 98 (*translation, Nan C. Merrill*)

Our Christmas services will celebrate 'The Lord is come!' - Jesus Christ - Emmanuel - God-with-us. So much to be joyful about!

As this is the last newsletter for the year, there are a few things I need to highlight..

We look forward to our Christmas services - please pray about who you could invite along - or perhaps you can encourage people you know to find a church near them? Christmas is always a time of wonderful celebration - a great time to experience worship.

The Christmas Day lunch promises to be a time of great community and delicious food. If you are planning to come please ensure you have RSVP'd ASAP and no later than the 23rd of December.

Thank you to all those who are preparing for these significant events. Your work is greatly appreciated!

Sharyn has now concluded her time with us. Thank you to the way you have all shown your appreciation of her as we farewelled her last Sunday and over lunch today.

Our Church Office has now closed for the summer break and will re-open on 4th February.

I can be contacted up until Sunday 29th December and will then be on Leave, returning Tuesday 21st January. See below for who to contact during the summer break. The next newsletter will be sent out just prior to Sunday 9th February.

I look forward to seeing you at our services over the next few days!

Joyous Blessings, Linda

Coming Sundays -

22 December - 6pm - Prayer Walk

29 December - 19 January - no evening services or activities

26 January - 6pm - Prayer Walk

Position Vacant: Office Coordinator

With Sharyn leaving, a vacancy has become available:

Office Coordinator (casual position)

At Athelstone Uniting, we believe our purpose as a church is to celebrate, live and share the Good News of Jesus Christ and partner with our community in love, grace and compassion. We seek to be an inclusive community expressed through love, service and hospitality.

The Office Coordinator will provide a welcoming reception, administrative support to the Minister, and effective coordination of the Church Office.

If you enjoy undertaking a variety of administrative tasks, have good organisational and administrative skills and are enthusiastic about working in a small team environment, then this could be the position for you.

Application close date: 20 January at 5.00 pm

Full Position Description and Person Specification: <https://sa.uca.org.au/uc-positions-vacant/current-positions/>

Application to: Ann Brown, Secretary, Athelstone Uniting Church Council - brownanndon@gmail.com

Contact persons: Jeff Dry (Church Council Chairperson) - jeffdry@bigpond.com or Ann Brown (Church Council Secretary) - brownanndon@gmail.com

Please consider who you think has the potential to fill the role. Please pray about this and encourage them to apply.

Church Council report

- At our Church Council meeting last Tuesday 17 December we farewelled and thanked Eric Hurrell and Chris Pritchard for their years of service and contribution as Council members. The new Church Council members Lee, Sheralyn and Meg were welcomed.
- Applications have been called for the Office Coordinator position with the retirement of Sharyn. Advertisements have been posted in UC e-news, on Facebook and an email sent to all the congregation so we wait with interest to see what response we receive. Applications close on 20 January and we hope to appoint a new person to commence in the first week of February.
- A Manse review was recently conducted by members of the Property team and a report detailing early actions and subsequent actions is being considered by Church Council.
- **Church Council has proposed a new system be introduced in 2020 for the morning tea helpers.** Due to the wastage of milk that is left in the fridge after each Sunday and then being disposed of because it is out of date, it is recommended that volunteer helpers bring the required milk supply (2 litres of skim milk) and then take it home after the service. Council appreciates this is another responsibility for the volunteers but we are conscious of not being wasteful.
- The Pastoral Care Oversight Committee has proposed that the Church adopts the Pastoral Partners Program in 2020. Pastoral Partners provide intentional care for a small number of members of the congregation by maintaining a caring relationship with those people. More details will be forthcoming early in the new year about this very exciting concept.
- Everyone is reminded of the process for advising about property issues that need to be addressed. A process has been established by Church Council which requires any items needing action to be reported through the relevant form which is available from the church office and on the website. Maintenance items can then be processed accordingly by the property team.

Jeff Dry Chairperson

ToFs - what's next?

At the ToFs Christmas lunch it was announced that Jenny Riggall and Ros Howland have decided to conclude their joint role of coordinating ToFs. We are grateful to Jenny and Ros for the way you have gathered folk on the first Tuesday each month for fun and fellowship. Thank you!

What will happen to ToFs next? That is up to you! Come along on Tuesday February 4 at 2pm at the Clay Cup Café at Rostrevor Baptist Church. Linda will lead us in a conversation about what we would like ToFs to look like in this new season. Please RSVP to Linda by 30th January.

Thank you

To my Athelstone Uniting Church family...a huge thank you for the meals, transport, visits and best wishes provided and expressed to me during my recovery from ankle and foot surgery recently. The thoughtfulness of many made my inability to get and about so much easier. With love, appreciation and Christmas Blessings, Ros.

Thank you

Thank you to all those who attended my "good-bye" last week during the service. Thank you to all those who have sent messages, telephoned or called in personally to give me a "hug goodbye" or attend the lunch today. Especially thank you for the gift of a Koorong voucher, I have to own up to already visiting this wonderful store for spending some of that voucher and chat over a coffee with Fred! Thank you Athelstone! Sharyn x

Summer Office Closure and Linda on Leave

Please note that our church office will be closed from 12noon on Thursday 19 December and will re-open on Tuesday 4 February.

Linda will be on Annual Leave from Monday 30 December and will return on Tuesday 21 January.

During this time, Brenton Summers will be available for any urgent pastoral needs. For other concerns please contact Jeff Dry 0408 254 554.

Donations for Christmas Lunch

We have been advertising the fact that Athelstone Uniting is hosting a Christmas Lunch this year which is an exciting new venture. We are very thankful that a number of people have volunteered to help with cooking and serving. If you wish to make a donation to help make this event special for all who attend, place it in an envelope marked 'Christmas Lunch' in the offering.

Blessings, Robyn



Tear Fund Useful Gifts

Don and Brian will be available at the Tear Fund Table with Gift Fund catalogues and gift cards. The gifts in the catalogue reflect the way that God's generous heart reaches those who face poverty and injustice as we take up the opportunity to share out of our abundance with the world –wide community in the name of Christ.

Jesus put it this way *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"*.

The Christmas Bowl Appeal 2019

This year as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Christmas Bowl it's a significant time to stop and think about others less fortunate than ourselves and to think about what we can give as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Your gift through the Christmas Bowl will support local partners in places like Zimbabwe and South Sudan to meet urgent need and create change that lasts; equipping communities affected by conflict and disaster with the skills they need to solve their own problems and get back on their feet.

Let's give generously as we hear again the words of Jesus, *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did for me"*.

Here at Athelstone there are a number of ways we can give to the Bowl: we can use the Bowl envelope and place our gift in the offering bag until January 5 or we may prefer to make our gift at our services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Some may wish to send their gift direct to Act for Peace in Sydney. Bowl envelopes are available.



Triple C's

Thank you all for your support this year, and especially for the record number of 21 attendees at the Paradise Hotel last Wednesday. This was the biggest gathering to date, and I trust that everyone has got to know his fellow man a little better. Next meeting will be February 12 at a place tba, 'til then keep safe and remember "How are you really? Can I/we help you?"

Church Rosters for 2020

These you should have received electronically before the office closure, however if you require a hard copy see me. As there will be no newsletters during January, reminding you of the dates you are on, **please** make note in your diary/phone/calendar.

Gus Robin



STAY AND PLAY STOCKTAKE AND CLEANING DAY on 21st January, from 10 am, with a lunch break at Indigo Café. Any extra hands will be appreciated.

Commencement Date Next Year - 18th February

Please make contact with Bruce and Joy if you are available to help on Tuesdays or at various times to maintain the wirra.

Bruce and Joy Stewart Phone: 8336 2671 or Email: bruceandjoy@bigpond.com

Wider Church - <https://sa.uca.org.au> You can also subscribe to receive UC. E-News personally.

Electronic Giving – Forms are available or speak to Treasurer Glen Luestner for more information.

'Regular electronic giving or one off donations can be made using the following details:

Account name: Athelstone Uniting Church
Account BSB: 704 095 Account number: 110043

Pastoral care - Please contact a member of our Pastoral Care Oversight Team for assistance:

Rev Linda Driver 0458 500 656 (please check leave dates) Bob Stevenson 0400 641 242

Brenton Summers 0400 632 829 Ann Brown 0413 581 554

Prayer Requests - Can we support you in prayer? Here's how:

Prayer Chain - send an email to, or call Brenton Summers, who will pass your prayer request on to a group of people who faithfully pray in response to Prayer Chain emails.

Confidential Prayers - if the issue is more personal you are invited to contact Linda (please check leave dates) for individual prayer or one the members of the Pastoral Care Oversight team (Brenton Summers, Ann Brown, Bob Stevenson and Linda). All prayer requests going to the team will be kept strictly confidential within this team.

Prayers for Others (Sunday Worship) –Worship Leaders decide prayer points as appropriate. Prayer points are also sourced from the Prayer Chain. If you have something you would like to be included in Prayers for Others. "We are all called to pray for one another, and so we are all encouraged to offer to pray for, or with others, especially if they share a concern with you." (James 5:13-16)

Sermons are available on our website. So if you missed a Sunday morning service, or find it helpful to reflect on the sermon during the week, check them out. Both transcripts and audio recordings are available.

You'll find Sermons under our News and Blogs tab <https://athelstonechurch.org.au/sermons-2/>

You can now listen online. Click on the link provided on our website or download the sermon.net app <https://sermon.net/for-the-listener/mobile-apps/>

Website – We encourage you to visit our website: www.athelstonechurch.org.au

Newsletter contributions –

Please email newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au by 5pm Wed February 5th 2020.

2020 Calendars

UCA Calendars are available – please pick up yours in the main foyer. This is where you will find the 2020 Lectionary readings. Sharyn

Lectionary readings

22nd December – Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-17, Matthew 1:18-25

25th December - Luke 2:1-20

29th December - Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

Roster

	22 nd December	29 th December
Preacher	Music Service	Linda
Worship Leader	Di	Di
Singers	Sylvia/Allan/Ann	Sylvia/Marie/Lyndon
Keyboard	Celine	Shelley
Guitar	Chris/Shelley	Chris
Data Projector	Dave	Dave
Flowers	Ruth	Raelene
Door Stewards & Offering	Sheralyn/Pat	Jayne & Lynton
Notices	Brenton	Brenton
Scripture Reader	Friederike	Sylvia
Offering Count	Ray/Bob	Friederike/Don
Tea & Coffee	Jenny & David	Coralie & Brenton
Sound	Don	Don
Building Steward	Richard	Eric

For Christmas and January worship services please refer to your copy of the rosters.

The basic details are in the table below, if you have any queries please contact the worship leader for that particular service.

Date	Worship Leader	Worship Leader Email	Preacher
24 December 6.30pm family service	Jeff Dry	jeffdry@bigpond.com	Linda Driver
24 December 11.00pm Carols & Candles service	Meg Edwards	meg.foster.01@gmail.com	Linda Driver
25 December 9.30am Christmas morning worship service	David Walker	david.i.walker@bigpond.com	Linda Driver
29 December	Di Curtis	tcu94848@bigpond.net.au	Linda Driver
5 January	Jeff Dry	jeffdry@bigpond.com	Leanne Davis
12 January	Meg Edwards	meg.foster.01@gmail.com	Video sermon
19 January	Robyn Stevenson	waggswolf@bigpond.com	Rev Bill Service (Communion)
26 January	David Walker	david.i.walker@bigpond.com	Linda Driver
2 February	Lynton Nicholas	nichjl@bigpond.com	Linda Driver
9 February	Meg Edwards	meg.foster.01@gmail.com	Linda Driver

What's on 23rd -29th December 2019

Monday	23 rd			
Tuesday	24 th	6.30 pm	Christmas Eve Service	Auditorium
		11.00 pm	Christmas Eve Service	Auditorium
Wednesday	25 th	9.30 am	Christmas Day Service	Auditorium
Thursday	26 th			
Friday	27 th			
Saturday	28 th			
Sunday	29 th	9.30 am	Worship Service	Auditorium