

APRIL 2020 | ISSUE 1

THE WALKERVILLE WRITE-UP

The official Covid-19 congregational news
edition of Walkerville Uniting Church



THANKYOU

Hello everyone,

I'm really missing saying my usual Sunday greeting of

"Good morning everyone - welcome to Walkerville Uniting Church".

Your Church Council is meeting using Zoom, so that we can all see and hear each other from the comfort of our own homes. At our meeting on Thursday 9th April it was unanimously agreed to formally record our Council's very grateful thanks to David, Kylie and Fiona for the tremendous effort they have put into maintaining our church as a worshipping, caring community.

David was already very computer literate, designing and creating many of our publications, but he has gained and continues to gain new skills in presenting and videoing his messages for upload on YouTube. Many of us have enjoyed the familiarity of his studies as they provide an almost one-on-one teaching experience.

Kylie has devised ways of continuing Playgroup online which has been greatly appreciated by our playgroup families - she's a natural in front of the camera. With help from the msg@5 team, they have already presented their first msg@5 in a box - whereby craft activities were boxed and delivered (contactless) to the families who usually participate.

Fiona just had time to become accustomed to our processes and systems before COVID-19 erupted. She has helped to maintain our website, Facebook page, regular newsletters and pastoral records so that everything possible is being done to keep you all informed. She and Kylie have spent many hours researching how other churches are handling the current situation and gaining and sharing ideas.

Thanks also to all the others who have assisted - Merilee, Jim, Noel, Chris, Tina, Sue C. and the msg@5 helpers.

We just feel so blessed to have this great team working together, all the while busy with their own families particularly during school holidays and, at the same time, very aware of the special needs of many of our congregation.

Sue.

EASTER WREATHS



REV DR RODGER BASSHAM

It is with sadness that we record the passing of Rev Dr Rodger Bassham on Good Friday. Rodger was at Flinders Medical Centre, awaiting open heart surgery, when he died.

Rodger was a particularly good friend to our church during 2008/2009. While our minister Rev Dr Robert Iles was very ill, Rodger provided pastoral support not only to Robert and Janis, but to our entire congregation. He was always available, even at short notice, to drive from his home at Port Elliot to lead our worship when Robert was not able to. After Robert's death, Rodger was our interim minister for a year until Rev Geoff Ellery's induction, and lovingly cared for our church family as we grieved the loss of our minister.

Rodger had a wonderful sense of humour, which he delighted in sharing. Just last October, Rodger celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination. He estimated at that celebration that he had probably conducted more than 2,500 services of worship.

Throughout his long ministry, Rodger was ably and lovingly supported by his wife, Marlene, to whom we offer our very sincere condolences.



The Uniting Church in Australia is saddened by the death of Rev Dr Rodger Bassham on April 10th 2020. We give thanks for his caring and missional service.



PROJECTS

What projects are you taking up during this stay-at-home period? I've heard some of you are sorting photographs, others are immersing yourselves in family history, still others are tidying the bookcase or the cupboard in the garage – although you know very well that if you throw anything out, you're sure to need it in six months' time.

This week, I'm sorting through old recipes – and I've discovered it's an exercise in social history. My personal collection goes back about 50 years, though of course some of the family recipes themselves are older. Highlights?

- Reading my mum's neatly handwritten recipe for Napoleon Cake – only made once a year for dad's birthday (and no frozen pastry in those days)
- Discovering the embarrassing recipes of the 70s that we thought were so sophisticated
- Finding numerous fondue recipes from the same era (I must get the fondue pot out of storage for the grandchildren)
- Unearthing "Rhoda's Chutney" and "Hilary's Lemon Pie"
- Collating all the Christmas recipes into one folder – pudding, cake, fruit mince, brandy sauce, etc
- Appreciating how much fresher our modern meals are – thanks to Asian influences
- Recognising how much more time and effort we spent cooking in years gone by
- Being thankful for the enormous variety of ingredients we have readily available today
- Being grateful for the mums (let's face it, it's mostly the mums) who taught us 'hands on' at the kitchen table

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

At our Zoom meeting on 9th April, a discussion was had regarding Rev David Kowalick's continuing ministry at Walkerville Uniting.

As announced earlier this year, David was intending to end his ministry at Walkerville in early July in order to take up a Bible-teaching ministry both locally and overseas. As you can imagine, the COVID-19 virus has turned these plans upside down. Although we have prepared our Church Profile and appointed our Joint Nominating Committee in preparation for the nomination of a new minister, it is not practical or appropriate to attempt to move forward with this process at the present time.

Similarly, David realised that not only could we not proceed with the nomination process, but also that he could not make any firm commitments or plans for his future ministry. Your church council has discussed this with David and have on 9th April unanimously endorsed a motion to invite David to continue as Minister in Placement at Walkerville for the foreseeable future. As you can appreciate, we can't put a firm time on this at this stage, and neither can David.

However, we are delighted as I'm sure you will be too, to have David continue to minister to us for as long as the government regulations and the limitations of COVID-19 restrain him to our shores. And, in these uncertain times, it is very reassuring to have the minister we know continuing to teach and encourage us. We are truly blessed.

Sue Farrant
Chairman of the Congregation



FAMILY UPDATES

THE BRICE FAMILY

We've been enjoying exploring our local neighbourhood and wandering off the beaten track on our daily family walks. We've rediscovered a hidden valley that we used to come to when Noah was younger, it feels so magical and sacred.



GRANDCHILD

Harvey, David's grandson is beginning to smile now and cuteness overload is a very real possibility.



RECIPE FOR PRESERVING CHILDREN

Ingredients:

1 Grass-grown field

1 Half-dozen children (or more)

Several dogs (and puppies, if available)

1 Brook

Pebbles

Method:

Into field pour children and dogs, allowing to mix well.

Pour brook over pebbles till slightly frothy.

When children are nicely brown, cool in a warm bath.

When dry, serve with milk and fresh baked gingerbread.



ROAD TO EMMAUS

I'd give anything to have the chance to overhear and understand the conversation Jesus had with two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus immediately after the resurrection. This was where Jesus explained to his disciples, "what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24: 27). Jesus then proceeded to open all the scriptures to them "beginning with Moses (i.e. – the Law), and all the Prophets (the rest of the Old Testament)" (v27) to show why it was necessary that all these things—the death and resurrection of Jesus—must happen. This caught the two disciples off guard for they had no clue as to why and how these things would happen. Their expectations of a Messiah—and those of the rest of Israel—were in an entirely different direction.

Many of the Jews at the time of Jesus' incarnation had been searching intently for clues that the arrival of the Messiah was imminent, but they generally assumed he would be a warrior-king sitting astride a mighty war-horse, his armies arrayed behind him and his sword—dark with the blood of Israel's enemies—lofted above his head. For them the Messiah would be a kind of nationalist king who would, "Make Israel great again." For them Jesus didn't tick the boxes that Israel had created in their messianic mythology.

So then when Jesus met with these two disciples on the road, they were understandably distraught and depressed. Their hopes and dreams of a messianic deliverer had been shattered by the terrible events of the past few days. They explained to Jesus (ironically) how the trial and crucifixion had taken place and how they "had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." (Luke 24: 21). To all this Jesus said "How foolish you are, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" (Luke 24: 25-26).

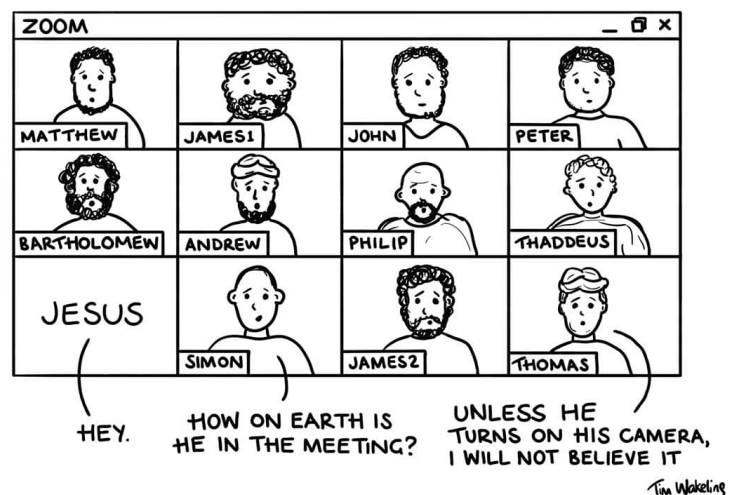
The ensuing conversation was stretched out over a 10km walk and would have been at least two hours long. It was then that the disciples realized how wrong they had been in their expectations; both in scale and content. Now they had begun to see that the death and resurrection of Jesus was not merely for Israel but for all humanity and even creation as well. In addition, they realized that the resurrection meant the end of the dominion of death. This was way bigger and better than all their even wildest dreams had ever led them to hope for. No wonder that the disciples said "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24: 32).

With hindsight it is possible to look at the Old Testament scriptures and see how broadly and often they tell of Jesus and all the things he would do. Sometimes it can come as something of a surprise just how obviously the Old Testament points to Jesus in this way. The resurrection is kind of a big deal.

In faith

David Kowalick

ONLINE MEETING HUMOUR



CHURCH FINANCES

At our Church Council meeting last week, it was decided that, as the coronavirus situation continues, we should keep you informed regarding our church finances.

Firstly, our full-time minister, Rev David Kowalick, our part-time Family Ministries Worker, Ms Kylie Brice, and our Communications Coordinator, Ms Fiona Weckert, have been extremely busy learning new skills and developing new systems so that our church can continue as a worshipping, caring congregation. They are all working hard to research and develop new ways of 'doing' church and adapting what we have done in the past to suit the current situation. Although only some of our activity groups are meeting online, we are still very much a fully operational church.

Following Federal government recommendations, all activities have ceased at our premises... which means we no longer have any rent from any of the groups previously meeting on our property – for example yoga, dance, music, community groups. The situation with churches is that these groups do not have a lease agreement with us, they merely pay by the hour for the use of our premises. Therefore, we and they cannot be covered by our rent relief arrangements.

We do have a lease agreement for rental of the manse, however this income covers the housing allowance which David is paid because he lives in his own home, rather than the manse. This amount is set down as part of his stipend.

At present we have an arrangement whereby the net income from the property at Melbourne Street, rented to Elder Fine Art, is allocated by Synod as 'missional' and pays a substantial proportion of Kylie's salary. The situation regarding this lease is uncertain.

Our 'nest egg' investment fund, based on the stock market, which was created years ago from the sale of property, has reduced in value by almost one third.

Every year we use the interest from this fund, together with the 'cream' off the top, to balance our books. However, this would obviously be a most inopportune time to access any of these funds unless it was absolutely essential in order to pay salaries.

We have registered our church for the government's JobKeeper payment. We believe that we may be eligible for gaining support to pay a proportion of our salaries, however we are still waiting on details of the plan. It will be a complicated application, because our church 'income' comes from several variable sources. It is important that the state-wide Uniting Church continue to function so that it can support individual churches. To that end, we are still required and committed to paying our contribution of 10% of our 2019 income to the Synod Mission & Service Fund. This 10% is split into 6% for the Synod and 4% for our Presbytery (Generate Presbytery) in order for them to support the churches in their care.

In addition, it was expected that we pay an additional 2% of income to the general administration of the Presbytery. However, in order to provide financial relief, Generate Presbytery has suspended this payment for April, May and June.

Needless to say, our offering gifts to the church have decreased significantly because we no longer have 'loose' offerings of cash and some of you who use envelopes have put them aside until you can pay in bulk. Fortunately, a number of you have been generous in providing one-off gifts, by paying several months in advance and by increasing your e-give amount.



CHURCH FINANCES CONT.

... I would remind you that our staff are all still doing the tasks they usually do (and more) and that we have our ongoing commitment to pay our Mission & Service Fund, along with the general expenses of our property, such as utilities, internet, insurance, etc.

... I do encourage you to prayerfully consider the current financial situation in which we find ourselves. It is truly a unique situation in the history of humanity because of the way in which our 21st century world is inexorably linked through our national and international economies, our travel practices and our communication systems.

... I sincerely believe that we will come out of this as an entirely different world. Perhaps you have already noticed how much more we are contacting each other and how the majority of the population are showing an increased level of care.

... I believe we may be surprised how our church looks at the end of all this. Who knows? We may worship a little differently, we may increase our presence in the local community, we may gain new members who 'meet' with us in different ways. But, in order to not only survive, but thrive, we need to provide for our current congregation, let the wider community know what we are doing and perhaps reach out to those we haven't seen for a long time. I believe that the general population will be seeking closer personal relationships when this is all over and we could be a catalyst for providing that.

Sue Farrant



SUCCESSFUL SA HEALTH GRANT

The Walkerville Uniting Church Executive are excited to announce the successful submission of a SA Health grant submitted early in the year. "Ageing Well Matters: Meaningful Conversations and Connections Matter Project" follows the success of the two previous years Connect and Thrive with Age.

The funds of \$5500 will support a number of programs that promote positive ageing and wellness. This news brings a great deal of light amongst the dark feelings that we carry at the moment knowing that God has already provided us an opportunity to connect with our community and provide meaningful conversations in the near future.

Rhonda Smedley

AN ARTICLE WORTH SHARING

Coronavirus has left us confused but the Easter Saturday story is a template for the way forward. "Right now feels like an Easter Saturday. We are shell-shocked, unmoored. Everything's up in the air. It feels like it's forever. But the person who believes in Easter believes that no matter what comes at us, we're always post-Sunday. That grief and fear don't get the last word.

[Read more](#)



THAT DISCOMFORT YOU'RE FEELING IS GRIEF

SUMMARIZED BY RHONDA SMEDLEY

David Kessler, the author of *Finding Meaning: The Sixth Stage of Grief* comments on the discomfort that we are feeling as we come to terms with our new way of life.

We are feeling a number of different griefs. The world has changed. We know this is temporary, but it doesn't feel that way, and we realize things will be different. The loss of normalcy; the fear of economic toll; the loss of connection. This is hitting us and we're grieving. Collectively. We are not used to this kind of collective grief in the air.

We are feeling anticipatory grief. Anticipatory grief is that feeling we get about what the future holds when we're uncertain. Anticipatory grief is broadly imagined futures. With a virus, this kind of grief is so confusing for people. Our primitive mind knows

something bad is happening, but you can't see it. This breaks our sense of safety and we are feeling that loss of safety.

What can individuals do to manage all this grief?

Understanding the stages of grief is a start. There's denial, which we say a lot of early on: *This virus won't affect us.* There's anger: *You're making me stay home and taking away my activities.* There's bargaining:

Okay, if I social distance for two weeks everything will be better, right? There's sadness: *I don't know when this will end.* There's acceptance. *This is happening; I have to figure out how to proceed.*

Acceptance is where the power lies. We find control in acceptance. *I can wash my hands. I can keep a safe distance. I can learn how to work virtually. I can find new ways to connect with others.*

Unhealthy anticipatory grief is really anxiety. Our mind begins to show us images. We see the worst scenarios. That's our minds being protective.

Our goal is not to ignore those images nor to try to make them go away — your mind won't let you do that and it can be painful to try and force it.

The goal is to **find balance in the things you're thinking.** If you feel the worst image taking shape, make yourself think of the best image. We all get a little sick and the world continues. Not everyone I love dies. Maybe no one does because we're all taking the right steps. Neither scenario should be ignored but neither should dominate either.

Anticipatory grief is the mind going to the future and imagining the worst. To calm yourself, you want to **come into the present.** Breathe. Realize that in

the present moment, nothing you've anticipated has happened. In this moment, you're okay. You can also think about how to **let go of what you can't control.** Focus on those things that you can control.

Stock up on compassion. Everyone will have different levels of fear and grief and it manifests in different ways. Be patient and understanding of each other.

Find meaning in it. Consciously look for light amongst the darkness. Seeing and appreciating what we have. Finding creative ways to connect with your family, friends and neighbours.

Appreciate the little things. Find meaningful practices every day no matter how small. Practice letting go and experiencing new mysteries in life.

Name the grief. It helps us feel what's inside of us. When you name it, you feel it and it moves through you. Emotions need motion. It's important we

acknowledge what we go through. I feel sad. Let me go for five minutes to feel sad. Your work is to feel your sadness and fear and anger whether or not someone else is feeling something. Fighting it doesn't help because your body is producing the feeling. If we allow the feelings to happen, they'll happen in an orderly way, and it empowers us.

Suggested Christian Breath Meditation

Christian Mindfulness: Breathing Space Meditation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SuFPZg2bdc>

Christian Mindfulness: Reducing Anxiety: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lwMGTfXoZo>