BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

7th February Weekly Newsletter 2021



Welcome everyone to the Year of Hope - 2021. A warm welcome back to Rev. Ikani, Moana and family. We trust you enjoyed precious family time together.

We hope this year will be a much better one for us all and that we can manage these new 'Covid normal times.' This newsletter is temporary and designed to update everyone on what happened over the holidays and also includes information of new events coming up.

This format is a trial using the same program - called Canva - that was used last year. Discussions will take place within the Communication Committee on how best to move forward using this excellent program to produce a smaller weekly newsletter. This will continue to be emailed with hard copies available on Sunday mornings for those without internet.

Worship - Sunday 7th February is at our usual time of 10:00am with Holy Communion

In Loving Memory

Geoffrey Douglas Anderson - 22nd December 2020
Doreen Golding - 25th December 2020
Heather Davis - 25th December 2020
Brian Norman John Wood - 20th January 2021

We keep their families in our prayers

A story on Brian in the <u>Geelong Advertiser 5th February</u> begins with "Few people could match Brian Wood's knowledge of Victoria's Western District and the rich heritage of its farming properties.

Friends joked that if the veteran agent stood atop Mt. Elephant near Derrinallum and gazed across the flat expanses, he would be able to name every property in every direction and also identify each owner of those farms, past and present."

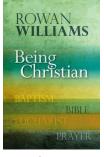
The late Brian Wood shares a proud moment with his granddaughter Anna

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The people of Trinity Uniting Church just want to say a heartfelt and special thank you for your support and assistance with our 2021 Church Fete. The result was overwhelming and could not have been achieved without the support of our Church Family, friends and our great community. The Fete and book sales raised over \$10,000.00 and we now have the pleasure of being able to send support to Frontier Services and engage in some overdue repairs. Together with the pre-Christmas sale this fund-raising also allows us to support local junior sport and the Starfish Nippers Program. Thank you.





This year's Lenten Study will be held at 5 pm on Sunday afternoons in the Church hall, in safely distanced seating, on the four Sundays Feb 28, March 7, March 14 and March 21. The study book is Rowan Williams' Being Christian and it is about strengthening the practices that underlie our lives as Christians. It has been borrowed for free from the Otira library so there are no costs for participants. We will look at one of its four chapters each week. They are on Baptism, Bible, Eucharist (communion), and Prayer.

We propose that you bring a sandwich for yourself and that we stay on for this self-supplied light meal after the study session. Tea and coffee will be served in paper cups in a Covid-safe way.

Please let Ikani or Cherry (phone: 5245 8225) know if you would like to take part in this Study.

Mk 9: 2 - 9

Lectionary Reading

February 7 - Epiphany 5 Is 40: 21 - 31 Psalm 147: 1 - 11

1 Cor 9: 16 - 23 Mk 1: 29- 39 February 14 - Transfiguration of Jesus 2 Kgs 2: 1 - 12 Psalm 50: 1 - 6 2 Cor 4: 3 - 6

Two men were walking along one summer day. Soon it became too hot to go any further and, seeing a large plane tree nearby, they threw themselves on the ground to rest in its shade.

Gazing up into the branches one man said to the other, "What a useless tree this is. It does not have fruit or nuts that we can eat and we cannot even use its wood for anything."

"Don't be so ungrateful," rustled the tree in reply. "I am being extremely useful to you at this very moment, shielding you from the hot sun. And you call me a good-for-nothing!"

Moral: All of God's creations have a good purpose. We should never belittle God's blessings.



Some thoughts on Mark 1: 29 - 39

The Gospel stories tell us that as well as healing, casting out demons, and preaching, Jesus was in the habit of going off to a quiet place to pray. He felt this need to be in touch with the fact that he was the Father's beloved.

He must have found the lack of human affirmation very wearing.

In prayer, perhaps you might speak to Jesus about your shared experience of this lack of human acceptance and appreciation. Let him tell you how much he appreciates you as a companion and as one who shares his work.

Notice and express how much you resist as well as relish what he says to you.

February 17 - Ash Wednesday Jl 2: 1 - 2, 12 - 17 or Is 58: 1 - 12 Psalm 51: 1 - 17 2 Cor 5: 20b - 6: 10 Mt 6: 1 - 6, 16 - 21

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It is with great sadness we are sharing the news that Anne Wandendeya died in the morning of Wednesday the 27th of January.

After several months of suffering from a rare and aggressive cancer Anne died peacefully in her own home in Mbale with her family close by.

Anne became Director of BCC in 1998 after the sudden death of her husband and founder of the Bushikori Christian Centre, Pastor Sam Wandendeya. She has filled this role with fortitude, courage and above all, love. Sincere love for all the children, she knows all those who have come in need to BCC, and their families and circumstances.

As Director of the Bushikori Christian Centre, Anne's life was committed to knowing each sponsored child and was like a mother figure to them. All who have been involved through the program in the past 26 years will always remember her faith and care.

It is no exaggeration to say hundreds in Uganda will mourn and pay tribute to this remarkable lady.

Her strength and selflessness and commitment to Jesus and His calling leaves a legacy that will be widely recognised in Uganda, she will be sorely missed.

We too here in Australia are mourning the loss of our dear friend and sister in Christ, as will so many here who have been touched by Anne's example and witness.

We take this moment to pray for Anne's immediate family, especially remembering Samson, Grace, David, Mary and Matthew as they mourn the loss of their mother. We pray for the Ugandan Board of Trustees for Bushikori, as they begin the process of selecting a new Director. We give thanks to the Bushikori Uganda Executive Committee and the Heads of Departments who are continuing the work during this time of loss, mourning and transition.

The Australian Support Committee mourns the great loss of our godly and wise sister in Christ, as our partner in this work. We remember our dear friend Anne, for her kindness, and her gentle yet unwavering faith that touched each one of us.

May Anne now rest in eternal peace.

A service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Anne will be held in Geelong in February. Details to follow when confirmed.

In Christ's love,

the members of the Australian Support Committee.

The Australian Support Committee of Bushikori suggested that a donation towards the cost of Anne's funeral service and catering would be gratefully received at Bushikori.

The BUC church executive have decided to have a retiring offering after the 10 am. Morning Service on February 14th. to assist with this request.

Council Meeting - Tuesday 2nd March @ 7:30 (Fellowship Room)
Annual General Meeting - Sunday 14th March
Annual Reports to Secretary required by 2nd March

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