

Church Council News...

In our final meeting for 2017, Chairperson Kathy Searle welcomed new elders Barbara & Tony Towers, Sue Henshall and Geoff Webb and our newly installed Treasurer, Bruce Tredinnick. These people will be a wonderful addition to our Church Council and we appreciate their contributions.

In ongoing business matters:

-we are grateful to Jim Layton for the many hours which he has spent on the audio and visual systems which not only ensure that we hear the service without distortion but that we are also able to record a DVD of the entire service which is then available for those who can no longer physically attend worship in the church. *We are on the lookout for volunteers with competence in technology to assist in production!*

-there has been an initial meeting of the small group interested in social justice discussions that has been named 'Love in Action'. The next meeting will be held on 1 Feb 2017 at Bruce Schubert's home.

-the access ramp plans are in place – we are now waiting on bricklayers!!

-we donated \$1000 towards the cost of the Bowral Community Carols and supplied volunteers on the night. Thank you to those who attended.

-the Kangaloon property contracts have been exchanged and a deposit paid on the full purchase price of \$820k. Pray for smooth finalisation.

-the **Directory 2017** is in production. If you have any changes to your contact details, or to any of the groups for which you are responsible, please let Jim Layton have this information as soon as possible.

-congratulations to the Children's Ministry Team and especially to Lucy Earl for a very successful final service of Uniting Families Connect on Sunday 11 December. The nativity play was a showstopper, innovatively portraying the story of Jesus's birth and every available child had an important part to play and a suitable costume to wear! The fellowship lunch following the service was enjoyed by all. Sincere Thank you to all!

The following Resolutions were carried:

1. That BUC will support the Flying Padre ministry as our primary fundraising mission outreach in 2017.
2. That BUC will employ an additional ministry team member in 2017. (The CC Executive will prioritise planning and research details for this new position.)
3. That Church Council accepts and endorses the Report of the Regional Planning Day 2016, which has been accepted by the Mission Council.

What a wonderful conclusion to 2016...

We look forward with anticipation to what lies ahead in 2017!

**The Church Council extends to each of our congregational family,
the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the holy Christmas Season.**

Bowral/Kangaloon Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."



Sunday 18 December 2016 (Advent 4)

Our ministry focus areas are:

*Worship & Discipleship
Children & Families
Seniors
Community engagement*

*You are most welcome at worship
today, particularly if you are a
visitor or a new resident of the
area.*

*We would love to get to know you,
and help you feel at home.*

Please make yourself known.

Join us for coffee after the service!



**For matters concerning the life of
the congregation, contact:
Reverend Michael Earl, on
(mobile 0422 433 569).**

**Office: 28 Bendooley Street
Telephone: (02) 4862 1350
Internet: bkuc.com.au**

Church Council Chairperson

Mrs Kathryn Searle 4872 1002

Church Council Secretary

Mrs Sharon Hoogland 4871 1583

Church Council Treasurer

Mr Bruce Tredinnick 4861 6990

Elders' Convenor

Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

Readings:

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

A Hearing Loop is in place in the Church and Hall.

To access it, switch your hearing aid to the "T" position.

It is advisable not to sit right against the wall

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

Monday 19 December

5.30pm Uniting Voices

Wednesday 21 December

11.30am Mid week Communion

12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH

12.30pm Food & Fellowship Christmas Lunch in the Gallery... All welcome!

Friday 22 December

6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

TODAY'S SERVICES 18 December (Advent 4)

9.00am Carols & Readings Service

6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

NEXT SUNDAY 25 December (Christmas Day)

9.00am Service of Worship

There is no Evening Fellowship today.

Readings for next week: Is 62: 6-12; Ps 97; Tit 3:4-7; Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 18 Dec	NEXT WEEK: 25 Dec
Organ	Heather Tredinnick	Gail Reid
PowerPoint	Ian Prior	J & S Hoogland
Elder	Jim Layton	Heather Fiala
Stewards	G & R Robinson	Denise Layton, Elaine Hills
Flowers	H Ling, R Robinson	Denise Layton, Elaine Hills
Kids Church	Lucy Earl	
Morning Tea		



*Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!
If you would like to assist in any of our activities,
please see the Rosters on the Gallery Noticeboard*

2016 REGIONAL PLANNING DAY REPORT

There is a report from the Planning Day which has been accepted by the full Mission Council and the BUC Church Council.

This report is available if you wish to read it.

Please see Mission Council secretary, Kathy Searle.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope..."

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict) (b 1927)



Coming events...

Saturday 24 Dec 4.30pm Regional Christmas Eve
Carols service (MUC)

Christmas Day at Bowral UC...9am Sunday 25 December

New Year's Day at Bowral UC...9am Sunday 1 January 2017



ELDERS & GOOD NEIGHBOURS PLEASE NOTE...

There are signed copies of the Minister's Christmas Letter in the vestry for you to collect and distribute. If you would prefer to receive the letter by email, please let Michael know.

Target & Uniting Christmas Appeal

Target and Uniting(Care) are working together at Christmas.

Food hampers, gifts and other assistance will be managed and distributed by Bowral Uniting Church in conjunction with the Uniting Care's Brighter Futures program. Members of the congregation are invited to place their gifts under the Christmas Tree at the front of the church.



Minister's Diary...

-The Minister is on Annual holiday leave 9th to 30th January 2017

Material for **WEEKLY NEWS** needs to be provided by noon each Wednesday to Rev Michael Earl or Sharon Hoogland, 4871 1583 or hooglandsj46@gmail.com. Photos, information or notices promoting the work of the church for our **Website** (bkuc.com.au) should be sent to lucyearl79@gmail.com