

## *The Minister's Weekly Word...*

CS Lewis once observed that humility means enjoying your own gifts as though they were someone else's. This is indeed true. Regularly in the church I'm struck by how ready people are to see wonderful and extraordinary gifts in others, while seeing none in themselves, or at least 'not wanting to push myself forward'. This is not, I believe, how God wants us to be. The beauty of Lewis' remark is how it assumes that part of humility is a kind of blindness; a lack of self consciousness. Of course it is very hard for us to do this because we are conscious of ourselves and constantly reflecting on how we might be perceived (if not by others, by God!). But perhaps we forget sometimes that the commandment says, 'love your neighbour *as yourself*.' It doesn't say, 'love your neighbour and despise yourself', but rather affirms an appropriate self love. In the final analysis what I think this means is to try and see ourselves as God sees us. And the NT tells us over and over again that God loves us and brings to birth a reconstituted humanity in and through us in Christ. The gifts and graces we have been blessed with, then, actually belong to God and not us, and so to imagine we don't have any or to believe we shouldn't use those gifts publicly is theologically problematic. There is no greater joy than seeing others use their gifts for the glory of God - all we need to do is see our own gifts as though they were someone else's, and we'll be on the right track.



***Blessings, Michael***

## ***Prayer Points...***

- . Pray that all who read/use the Lenten Studies Booklet will be blessed as they travel on their Lenten Journey. Pray for the Study Leaders.
- . Pray for all services during Lent and Easter, that those who are leading may be inspired and encouraged by the message they deliver.
- . Pray for Rev Mark Greenlees (Albion Park UC) who is recovering from back surgery.
- . Pray for the Congregation of Milton/Ulladulla as they hold their Service to close the Milton UC next Sunday, before it is sold.
- . Pray for the Presbytery as they prepare to make a decision to call a Presbytery Minister.

Material for **WEEKLY NEWS** needs to be provided by noon each Wednesday to Rev Michael Earl or Sharon Hoogland, 48711583 or [hooglandsj46@gmail.com](mailto:hooglandsj46@gmail.com). Photos, information or notices promoting the work of the church for our **Website** ([bkuc.com.au](http://bkuc.com.au)) should be sent to [lucyearl79@gmail.com](mailto:lucyearl79@gmail.com)

# Bowral Uniting Church

*"A church for all people..."*



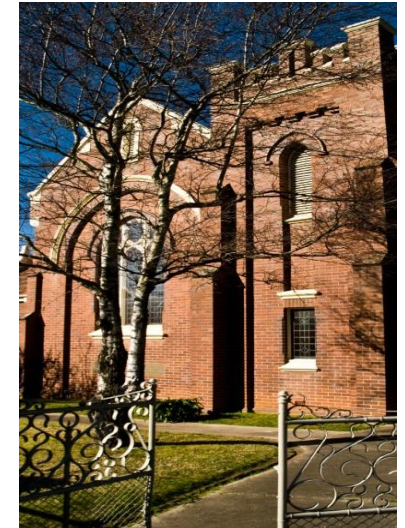
**Sunday 19 February 2017 (Epiphany 7)**

### **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](http://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:**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119: 33 – 40;  
1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23; Matthew 5 38-48

**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 20 February

9.30am Peace with Pieces  
2.00pm Bible Study @ Margaret Osborne's home  
5.30pm Uniting Voices Rehearsal

### Tuesday 21 February

9.30am Playgroup  
9.30am Pieces & Yarns  
10.00am MEN's Coffee

### Wednesday 22 February

10.00am Reflections Study Group @ the Bunker's home

### Wed cont...

12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH  
12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!

### Thursday 23 February

10.00am Uniting Women's Group  
3.30pm Kids Connect

### Friday 24 February

6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

### Saturday 25 February

9.00am Registration for  
9.30am Safe Church Workshop

### TODAY'S SERVICES 19 February (Ephiphany 7)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)  
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

### NEXT SUNDAY 26 February (Transfiguration of Jesus)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev M. Earl) *Elders' Commissioning Service*  
11.30am Uniting Families Connect (Rev M. Earl) followed by Lunch  
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

### Readings Next Week:

Exodus 24: 12 – 18; Psalm 2 or 99; 2 Peter 1: 16 – 21; Matthew 17:1 - 9

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 19 Feb	NEXT WEEK: 26 Feb
Organ	Heather Tredinnick	Gail Reid
PowerPoint	Narelle Harwood	Ian Prior
Elder	Kay Smith	Jim Layton, Bruce: Lucy
Stewards	Barry & Ruth Roberts	Sharon & Jon Hoogland
Flowers	Elaine Hills, Denise Layton	N Harwood, L Pattinson
Kids Church	Ruth Roberts	11.30am Uniting Families Connect
Morning Tea	Victor & Margaret Hugo	Bronwyn/Kevin Windybank

*Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!*



### BOWRAL UC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS...!

Kids Church, Kids Connect, Uniting Kids Playgroup, Food & Fellowship, Flowers, Stewards, Morning Tea on Sunday...

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



'Not Herod, not Caiaphas, not Pilate, not Judas ever contrived to fasten upon Jesus Christ the reproach of insipidity; that final indignity was left for pious hands to inflict. To make of his story something that could neither startle, nor shock, nor terrify, nor excite, nor inspire a living soul is to crucify the Son of God afresh.'

*Dorothy Sayers (1893-1957) English Detective Writer, playwright & translator (eg Dante's Divine Comedy)*

### COMING EVENTS

Wed 1 March	5.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service/ Light meal following
Fri 3 March	10.00am	World Day of Prayer, Church of Christ
Sun 5 March		The period of LENT commences
Thurs 9 March	7.00pm	Good Neighbours' Meeting
Mon 13 March	8.30am	BUC Church Council Executive meeting
Thurs 16 Mar	2.00pm	CAMEO @ The Stumps Coffee Shop/Bradman
Sat 8 April	8.00am	BUC AUTUMN FAIR

The World Day of Prayer will be held on **Friday 3 March** commencing at 10.00am at Bowral Church of Christ and morning tea following. The focus country this year is the Philippines. See Fran Manton or Sue Henshall for more details.

SALE ENDS TODAY!!...Opportunity for updates & corrections to Church Directory ends today...see Jim Layton now for last minute changes.

Small Groups for LENTEN STUDIES will commence soon. If you would like to host a group in your home, either daytime or nighttime, or want to be a member of a study group, please speak with our Small Groups Coordinator, Laurie Parker. **STUDY BOOKLETS are available today at the back of the church today, for \$8 each.**

### BOWRAL AUTUMN FAIR --- 7 weeks to go...!

We would love your donations of books, craft items, Jars for jams or preserves! If you would be interested in co ordinating a stall at the Fair, please see Sharon Hoogland.

### THERE ARE HEAPS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER @ BUC!

We would especially appreciate some soup makers to donate soup, fruit or slices for the Wednesday Food & Fellowship lunch which is held every week.

*Please see the Rosters in the Gallery if you are able to assist.*