

The Minister's Weekly Word...

Attending some of the Lenten Study small groups this week I have been greatly encouraged by the conversations. It is so wonderful to see people's faith deepen right there before one's eyes as they wrestle honestly and earnestly with the Scriptural text. We think we are pulling it apart and interrogating its meaning, when in actual fact it is working the other way around. The text is challenging us and pulling apart our neat assumptions in order to inspire the Kingdom within and among us. This is such a great blessing. I find for myself that especially at this time of year, the faithful searching of many inspires me. I find my own faith strengthened to see the Spirit at work in you. While I wrote the booklet, I feel like it is you who are writing the study, week by week in faithful conversation. It speaks to how powerful a thing it can be for Christians to gather and pray and read the Bible together. I guess this is what the NT really meant by the 'church'. If we can always imagine ourselves open - open to new insights, new people, new ways of looking at things, there's no telling what God might do among us. So, let's keep walking this way together by faith and await with expectation the harvest of the Kingdom in our midst.



Blessings, Michael

Safe Church Workshop:

These workshops are important for every member of the Church and essential for those in leadership. The next Uniting Church workshop is on **Wednesday, 22nd March** at Ulladulla UC from **9.30am to 3.30pm**. Cost is \$25 and bring your own lunch (tea and coffee provided). **Registration** before the date is essential. This can be done online at:

<http://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/upcoming-courses/scta-workshop-registrations/> or see Barbara Towers (Safe Church Contact).

An Afternoon with the UCA President.

Saturday 25 March @ Berry UC.

Church Leaders and members welcome.

Program includes lunch, an address from Stuart McMillan, a time of Q & A, followed by worship and communion.

\$10 per head.

Bookings essential: illawarrauca@bigpond.com. by 19 March 2017

Material for **WEEKLY NEWS** needs to be provided by noon each Wednesday to Rev Michael Earl or Sharon Hoogland, 48711583 or hooglandsj46@gmail.com. Photos, information or notices promoting the work of the church for our **Website** (bkuc.com.au) should be sent to lucyear179@gmail.com

Bowral Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."

Sunday 19 March 2017 (Lent 3)



Our ministry focus areas are:

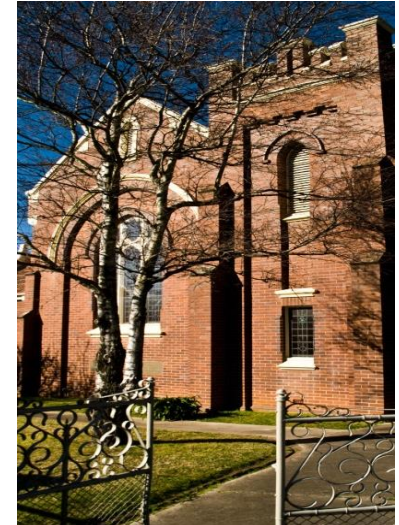
*Worship & Discipleship
Children & Families
Seniors
Community engagement*

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:

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5 - 42

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 March

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

Tuesday 21 March

9.30am Playgroup
9.30am Pieces & Yarns
10.00am MENs Coffee @ Bradman
7.00pm Bible Study @ Netta McKay's, Mittagong
7.30pm Bible Study @ the Dinning's, Mittagong
7.30pm Young Women's Bible Study @ Lucy Earl's

Wednesday 22 March

10.00am Reflections Study Group @ the Bunker's home
11.30am Mid-week Communion
12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH
12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!
7.00pm Lenten Study Group at the Pattinson's in Moss Vale

Thursday 23 March

3.30pm Kids Connect

Friday 24 March

6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

TODAY'S SERVICES 19 March 2017 (Lent 3)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Harry Herbert)
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

NEXT SUNDAY 26 March 2017 (Lent 4)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)
11.30am Uniting Families Connect
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

Readings Next Week:

1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9: 1-41

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 19 March	NEXT WEEK: 26 March
Organ	Heather Tredinnick	Gail Reid
PowerPoint	Ian Prior	Narelle Harwood
Elder	Lucy Earl	
Stewards	Ian and Di Prior	Graeme & Rosemary Robinson
Flowers	Fran Manton, Helen Ling	Kathy Searle, Judy Dyson
Kids Church	See Lucy Earl	Uniting Families Connect
Morning Tea	Kathy Searle	

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!



BOWRAL UC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS...!

Please see the rosters on the Gallery noticeboard

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



"Lenten practices of giving up pleasures are good reminders that the purpose of life is not pleasure. The purpose of life is to attain to perfect life, all truth and undying ecstatic love – which is the definition of God. In pursuing that goal we find happiness. Pleasure is not the purpose of anything; pleasure is a by-product resulting from doing something that is good. One of the best ways to get happiness and pleasure out of life is to ask ourselves, 'How can I please God?' and, 'Why am I not better?' It is the pleasure-seeker who is bored, for all pleasures diminish with repetition." –

Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979) American Catholic Archbishop-

COMING EVENTS

Sat 8 April 8.00am BUC AUTUMN FAIR
Mon – Thurs...10 – 13 April 9.00am...Holy Week Devotions each day
Thurs 13 April 6.00pm Maundy Thurs Service @ Mittagong
Fri 14 April 9.00am Good Friday Service
Sun 16 April 9.00am Easter Sunday Service
Thurs 20 April 2.00pm CAMEO meets at The Stumps, Bradman Oval

DVD's of our Sunday services are now available.

If you would like to replay the service which you enjoyed, or if you would like to play the service for a special friend or someone who is not able to attend our church service, please take advantage of this very special resource. A small number of portable DVD players are also available. This special ministry is being coordinated by Kay Smith – who will be pleased to help you!

BOWRAL AUTUMN FAIR --- 4 weeks to go...!

It is time to identify which stalls we will be able to have at this fair. We have coordinators for Books, Garden, BBQ, Cakes, Jams and Kitchen.

Please see Sharon if you are able to help.

**We would love your donations
of books, cakes, craft items, Jars & jams or preserves!**

Church Keys: If you have been issued with a Church/Hall key and no longer require it, please return it to Ian Prior who will issue you with a \$20 cash refund. BUC are running out of keys for issue and it is expensive to have them cut.

PALM BRANCHES NEEDED for Palm Sunday...if you have some palm branches or know of where we can get some... please see Elaine Hills (Phone...48834925)