

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

This week I saw a photo online of a Presbyterian Church in South Sudan. Of all the countries in the world where it is not only difficult, but dangerous to be a Christian, South Sudan would have to be at the top of the list. Terror groups, remnants of civil war, embryonic democratic institutions, it all leads to a very unstable context in which to follow Jesus. Yet on Pentecost there were (coincidentally - see Acts 2) nearly 3000 people in the church at worship with over 30 baptisms. The picture reinforced at least two things for me; firstly, how the Gospel always makes the most sense and does its best work in the places of most need and danger, and secondly, just how complacent we can be as a western church in areas of wealth and comfort. In South Sudan, in an situation of extreme danger, people flocked to church as it was a beacon, a place of hope. The Spirit was alive. It was the place where they would hear about a love that was for them and with them even in the darkest times. It made me wonder about Pentecost and our own experience of the Spirit. I found myself quietly praying that I and we would come to know something of that same Spirit and longing for Christ; that our complacency would melt away and be replaced by a powerful sense of God's working among us and our need to be together as a community of seekers after Jesus. We can't live faith frenetically all the time, and shouldn't of course, but we can live as if what we hold onto is the greatest hope the world has ever known, which it is. So we stand with our South Sudanese friends, we worship with them, we pray for them. And we pray for ourselves and our church, that the Spirit would move powerfully among us too. *Blessings to you all. Michael*



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### **SPECIAL NOTE RE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ZONE**

The Zone Planning Day has been postponed until a little later in the year.  
Watch this space for a new date announcement!

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### **Prayer points:**

.We pray that we might bear witness to Jesus Christ in troubled and perplexing times, when Christ himself can come, incognito, in the guise of a stranger, a refugee, in need of God's gift of hospitality. May we be worthy of His love and grace in our lives.

## **Bowral/Kangaloon Uniting Church**

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



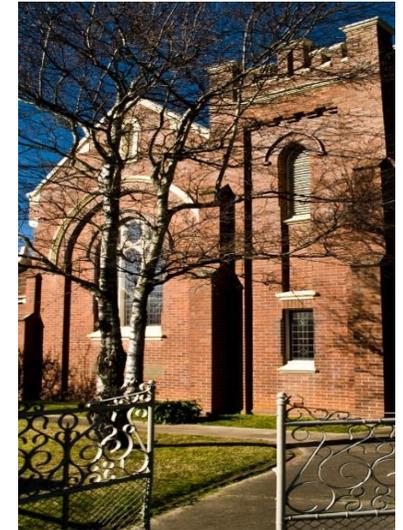
**Sunday 22 May 2016 (Trinity Sunday)**

### **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 Graham Blackadder 4861 7385

### **Elders' Convenor**

Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

### **Readings:**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

**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 23 May

2.00pm Bible Study group @ Margaret Osborne's home **IN RECESS FOR 23<sup>rd</sup> Returns Monday 30<sup>th</sup>.**

5.30pm Uniting Voices... **in Recess**

### Tuesday 24 May

9.30am Pieces & Yarns

9.30am Uniting Kids Playgroup

7.30pm Bible Study for Young Women (Lucy Earl's)

7.30pm Bible Study @ **Kathy Searle's in Mittagong**

7.30pm Bible Study @ Netta McKay's in Mittagong

### Wednesday 25 May

10.00am Reflections Study Group @ the Bunker's home.

12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH

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

2.30pm Discussion Group...see Ray Bunker

### Thursday 26 May

10.00am Uniting Women in the Southern Highlands (UWISH)

4.00pm Kids Connect Group

### Friday 27 May

6.00pm Bell Ringing practice

### TODAY'S SERVICES 22 May 2016 (Trinity Sunday)

9.00am Bowral Service of Worship (Rev Harry Herbert)

11.30am Uniting Families Connect

6.00pm Bowral Evening Fellowship Time

### NEXT SUNDAY 29 May 2016 (Pentecost 2)

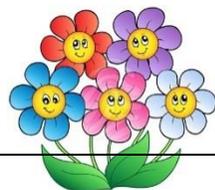
9.00am Service of Worship (Elders)

6.00pm Service of Healing, Wholeness & Reconciliation

### Readings Next Week:

1 Kings 18:20-21, 30-39; Psalm 96:1-9; Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 22 May	NEXT WEEK: 29 May
Organ	Gail Reid	Ann Clipsham
PowerPoint	Narelle Harwood	Elders
Elder	E Pattinson, B Schubert	Elders
Stewards	Narelle Harwood, Ena Bell	Elders
Flowers	Elaine Hills, Denise Layton	N Harwood, L Pattinson
Kids Church	11.30am Uniting Families Connect	Ruth Roberts
Morning Tea	ED & Elizabeth Walker	<b>VOLUNTEERS PLEASE</b>



*Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who willingly share their gifts and talents throughout the week in our many activities. Please see the Rosters in the Gallery if you would like to assist!*

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



I have had a deep conviction for many years that practical holiness & entire self-consecration to God are not sufficiently attended to by modern Christians in this country. Politics, or controversy, or party-spirit, or worldliness, have eaten out the heart of piety in many of us.'

*John C Ryle (1816-1900) English evangelical, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool*

### Message from Kangaloon UC: THANK YOU BOWRAL!

Over the past many years, we have appreciated the love and support of the Bowral congregation. Our special services and fellowship events and our wonderful Christmas Eve candlelight services will remain in our memories forever. The Closing Service last Sunday was truly an occasion to consign to the history of this significant little church – many friends and founders and families of Kangaloon joined in a sad but memorable time deserving of the grand little lady who has held our hearts for more than 150 years. We want to especially thank Rev Michael Earl for his thoughtful and sensitive service, the catering staff who provided a grand repast and all our friends from Bowral and Mittagong who joined in the celebration. We cherish your support, Narelle Schofield.

### COMING EVENTS...

Thursday 26 May: 10.00am Uniting Women in the Southern Highlands

Sunday 26 June: UCA Anniversary & Soup on Sunday

Thursday 24 November: Seniors Christmas Party @ Bowral UC

### **Soup on Sunday: 26 June, 2016 Fellowship, Fun and Friendship**



Each year, on the birthday of the Uniting Church (22 June, 1977), we celebrate with Soup on Sunday. This is an opportunity to enjoy conversation and company over lunch. Members of the congregation offer to either host a group of guests in their homes or be a guest. To be either, you need to register. A host should suggest the number of guests you would like. Guests need to register too. Hosts are notified of their guest list and they will invite their guests.

**Enquiries: Ros Hinde 48724487 or Liz Pattinson 48691020**

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)