

The Minister's Word...

There was a telling moment on the ABC's Q&A show last Monday when Canadian theologian and ethicist John Stackhouse answered a question very frankly. He was asked his view, as an outsider, of the treatment of Yassmin Abdel-Magied, a Muslim social commentator who got herself in some hot water over comments she made on ANZAC Day (a quick Google search will fill out the details), and about which the commentariat having been going back and forward for weeks. Stackhouse kind of sighed and then said, 'I feel like saying, meanwhile in South Sudan...'. He was not making light of the young woman's experience, he was merely posing the question of perspective and balance. He went on to question why so much time was being allocated to this issue while huge seemingly insurmountable problems of the world, affecting hundreds of thousands of people's lives were being sidelined. His comment was an indictment on our current public discourse. It's a great challenge for the church in general and us as Christians personally to 'keep our eye on the ball'. Not to get swept up into ideological one upmanship or political posturing at the expense of seeing the real needs of the world. Jesus, it seems, cared little for political appearances or ideological to and fro, but deeply for those suffering and in need. And he sought to minister the love of God where it was most needed. His example is what we must emulate. But John Stackhouse's statement might be a good reminder to us of where our attention should really be... 'meanwhile in South Sudan', indeed.



Blessings, Michael

Do we hear Prophets' voices today...?

Rev Michael Earl will preach a series in August/September called *'The Word of the Lord: Hearing the Voice of the Prophets Today'*

Commencing on 6 August, each Sunday will bring us the voices of Micah, Amos, Isaiah, Malachi, Jeremiah and Daniel. Don't miss this little sojourn away from the set lectionary for a while!



Bowral Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."

Sunday 23 July 2017 (Pentecost 7)

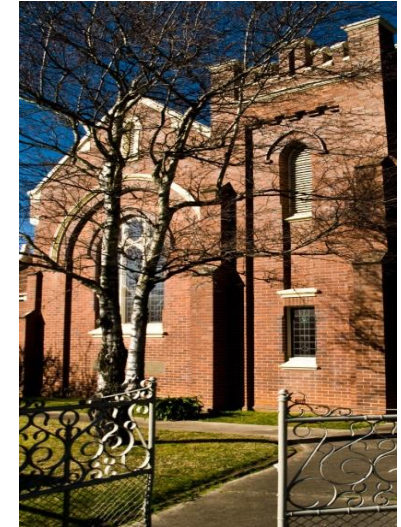


Our ministry focus areas are:

*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

Church Council Chairperson

Mrs Kathryn Searle
Church Council Secretary
Mrs Sharon Hoogland 4871 1583

Church Council Treasurer

Mr. Bruce Tredinnick 4861 6990
Elders' Convenor
Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

Readings:

Genesis 28: 10 – 19a; Psalm 139: 1-12, 23, 24;
Romans 8: 1-11; Matthew 13: 24 – 30, 36 - 43

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?

<p><u>Monday 24 July</u> 2.00pm Study Group @ the Bunkers'</p> <p><u>Tuesday 25 July</u> 9.30am Playgroup 9.30am Pieces & Yarns 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</p>	<p><u>Wednesday 26 July</u> 10.00am Reflections Study Group IS IN RECESS 11.30am...Mid-week Communion 12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH 12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!</p> <p><u>Thursday 27 July</u> 10.00am UWISH meets in the Gallery 3.30pm Kids Connect</p> <p><u>Friday 28 July</u> 6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice</p>
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TODAY'S SERVICES 23 July 2017 (Pentecost 7)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)
11.30am Church by the Bonfire (at Schuberts' home in Moss Vale)
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

NEXT SUNDAY 30 July 2017 (Pentecost 8)

9.00am Service of Worship (Elders)
6.00pm Service of Healing & Wholeness (Elders)

Readings Next Week:

Genesis 29: 15-28; Ps 105: 1-11, 45b; Romans 8: 26-39; Mt 13:31-33, 44-52

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 23 July	NEXT WEEK: 30 July
Organ	Heather Tredinnick	Ann Clipsham
PowerPoint	Narelle Harwood	J & S Hoogland
Elder	Brian Pattinson	Elders
Stewards	Anne Kingdom, Helen Ling	Elders
Flowers	Mary Dunk, Beryl Adams	Kathy Searle, Judy Dyson
Kids Church	Family Bonfire – see over page	Ruth Roberts
Morning Tea	Arthur/Jenny/Emma Alcorn	Keith/Sue Henshall

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!

**NEW ROSTERS FOR TERM 3 ACTIVITIES
ARE ON THE GALLERY NOTICEBOARD.
ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP OUT...?**

* **Volunteers** for our Wednesday's 'Open Church' are always welcome...see Gail Reid



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness & purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh & pure. We cannot mingle with the splendours we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so. Someday, God willing, we shall get in.' *C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) Irish-born writer, academic & Christian Apologist*

COMING EVENTS

Thurs 27 July 10.00am	UWISH meets in the Gallery
Fri 28 July 12.30pm	Bell Ringers' Lunch
Thurs 10 August 6.30pm	Elders meeting
Thurs 10 August 7.30pm	Church Council meeting
Fri 11 August 10.00am	Morning Tea for Jam/Preserve Makers
<i>Sunday 20 August after morning service BUC Congregational Meeting</i>	
Fri 15 th & Sat 16 th September	BUC SPRING FAIR

Flying Padre Money Boxes

Please bring your money box with you to the Elders Service next Sunday, 30th July. Your support in assisting this special project through your regular money-box donations is truly very much appreciated! New boxes are available next Sunday and an update on the Flying Padre's work. With many thanks!



* **Tickets for the Day Trip to 'Cooma Cottage' (Yass)...in aid of the Flying Padre are still available...**book now to ensure your seat on the bus. **For details see Gail Reid (48617058 or 0410172555)**

INVITATION TO ALL JAM/PRESERVE/BUTTER MAKERS!!!

In preparation for Spring Fair 2017, please join us for MORNING TEA on Friday 11 August at 10.00am. Helpful hints and tips to make your cooking and bottling easier... All welcome!



Church by the Bonfire TODAY @ 11.30am



'Highgrove' 69 Bulwer Road, Moss Vale (turn left from Beaconsfield Rd end)**Bring** warm clothes & a bag of marshmallows!
Bruce & Dawn Schubert 0411176528 or 0431459366
THIS IS A UNITING FAMILIES MINISTRY EVENT

Mittagong Uniting Church Singalong...Monday 24/7 at 1.30pm
with guest Entertainer... **Charles Dunk**

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