

The Minister's Weekly Word...

GARRISON KEILLOR ON "METHODISTS"

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodist-less place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Methodists, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road! Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. They are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By joining in harmony, they somehow promise that they will not forsake each other. I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you can call up when you're in deep distress.

*If you're dying, they will comfort you. *If you are lonely, they'll talk to you.

*And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad.

*Methodists believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.

*Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

*Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.

*Methodists usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

*Methodists believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.

Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

*Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

*Methodists feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

*Methodists are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at the church.

*Methodists still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna casserole adds too much color.

*Methodists believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously. And finally, You know you are a Methodist when: It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.

You hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.

Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.

When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you."

And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye! ***Blessing, Michael.***



Bowral/Kangaloon Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."

Sunday 24 April 2016 (Easter 5)



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:

Acts 11: 1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21: 1-6; John 13: 31-35

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?

<u>Monday 25 April</u> Anzac Day	Bunker's home. 11.30am Mid-week Communion
<u>Tuesday 26 April</u> 9.30am Pieces & Yarns 7.30pm Bible Study for Young Women (Lucy Earl's) Recommences	12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH 12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!
7.30pm Bible Study @ Anne Thomson's in Mittagong In recess 7.30pm Bible Study @ Netta McKay's in Mittagong In recess	<u>Thursday 28 April</u> 10.00am Uniting Women in the Southern Highlands Guest Speaker: Denise Layton "Growing Old Disgracefully" 4.00pm Kids Connect Recommences
<u>Wednesday 27 April</u> 10.00am Reflections Study Group @ the	<u>Friday 29 April</u> Bell Ringing practice

TODAY'S SERVICES 24 April (Easter 5)

9.00am Bowral Service of Worship
11.30am Bowral Uniting Families Connect
6.00pm Bowral Evening Fellowship Time

NEXT SUNDAY 1 May 2016

9.00am Bowral Service of Worship (Preaching: Rev Elizabeth Walker)
6.00pm Bowral Evening Fellowship Time

Readings Next Week: Acts 16:9-15; Ps 67; Rev 21:10,22-22:5; Jn 14:23-29

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 24 April	NEXT WEEK: 1 May
Organ	Gail Reid	Heather Tredinnick
PowerPoint	Narelle Harwood	Barry Roberts
Elder	S House, B Schubert	Lucy Earl
Stewards	Jim & Denise Layton	Lorraine Neal/Fran Manton
Flowers	Mary Dunk, Beryl Adams	Kathy Searle/Judy Dyson
Kids Church	Uniting Families Connect	See Lucy Earl
Morning Tea	Arthur/Jenny/Emma Alcorn	Lorraine R & Barbara L

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!

Pantry Sunday Next Week!

Anglicare suggest the following items needed at the moment to replenish stocks. If we are able they would appreciate our support. Vegemite, tinned ham/spam, vegetables (tinned or dried) pasta sauce, UHT milk (full cream) deodorant, tinned spaghetti, instant noodle cups. Thank you for your continued generosity.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'To pray about a day's work does not mean to ask for success in it. It means, first to realise my own inability to do even a familiar job, as it truly should be done, unless I am in touch with eternity, unless I do it "unto God", unless I have the Father with me'...*Mary F Smith 20th Century Quaker & later Scottish Episcopalian*

The UCA Synod Stamp Committee sent a special thank you note to BUC "for the fantastic collection of stamps. Sales to date \$6,200." We are grateful to Mr Gerd Menzel – a faithful volunteer who performs this special ministry on our behalf.

New Discussion Group...open to all Southern Highlands Church 'Goers'; Wed 2.30pm at 2/24-26 Purcell St., Bowral-Talk to Ray Bunker (4869.1020)

COMING EVENTS...

Sunday 1 May: CH 9, 5.30am Wesley Impact TV program features the work of the Stamp Committee – Gerd encourages you to watch this!

Sunday 15 May: Final Service at the Kangaloon Church (11am)

Saturday 28 May: Southern Highlands Zone Planning Day

Sunday June 26: Uniting Church Anniversary & Soup on Sunday
(see Liz Pattinson & Ros Hinde)

Thursday 24 November: Seniors Christmas Party @ Bowral UC

'The New Women's Group' has now been named!

Uniting Women in the Southern Highlands (UWISH)

meets on the last Thursday of each month from 10am till around noon.

Our next meeting (28 April) will be in the Gallery and Denise Layton will present "Growing Old Disgracefully", an informative talk on how we can organize our affairs while we can still organize our affairs!! – a fun look at getting older and how we can prepare for it. **ALL WOMEN WELCOME (speak with Sharon or Sandra)**

A huge 'thank you' from The Flying Padre Support Group to all who attended the very special event last Wednesday and especially to all those who helped in so many ways. Your contributions made it an inspiring day, meeting David to build relationships, extend our knowledge of his work and share fellowship together. Watch the Southern Highland News in the coming week! Total from Wednesday (\$123) and the Card sales from the Mary Ellen and Ian Ridley's home bring the total to \$852. A great effort, thank you so much. Heather Fiala.

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 lucyearl79@gmail.com