

The Minister's Weekly Word...



This Sunday marks the first Sunday in Advent and the beginning of the Christian year. It's a strange dynamic really as in Australia we are looking towards the end of the (calendar) year. Yet we come to this moment once more and look towards the birth of the Saviour Jesus. It is one of the most profound and most difficult things for us to comprehend about our faith; that God came to be with us in the flesh. Theologians have wrestled long and hard to reconcile how this can happen and what it means for our understanding of God, but Matthew's Gospel tells us that Jesus is 'Emmanuel' meaning 'God with us', and so in the first place we take this bold and astonishing claim in faith. What makes this truth of the faith so wonderful is the idea that God actually walks alongside us. God's love is not radioed in like a broadcast from outer space. It's not mailed in an envelope. Jesus is a human being as we are, and yet God all at the same time. So, in our waiting in this Advent time we are reminded that we are not alone and that a central part of our calling is to show others that they are not alone. This is a deep vocation for all Christian disciples, but do it faithfully and the 'newness' of God's love might be born afresh into the lives of others all around us. We too might just find our faith refreshed for another year to come! **Blessings, Michael**

Minister's Diary...

-The Minister is on Annual holiday leave 9th to 30th January 2017

Advent, Christmas & New Years Day Services...

Advent 1: 9am Sunday 27 November (Restoration–Hope),

Advent 2: 9am Sunday 4 December (Restoration- Peace)

Advent 3: 9am Sunday 11 December (Restoration-Joy),

Advent 4: 9am Sunday 18 December Carols & Readings Service

Christmas Eve Regional Carols Service at Mittagong Uniting church
4.30pm for a 'Cuppa', 5pm for Readings & Carols

Christmas Day at Bowral UC...9am Sunday 25 December

New Year's Day at Bowral UC...9am Sunday 1 January 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 lucyearl79@gmail.com

Bowral/Kangaloon Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."



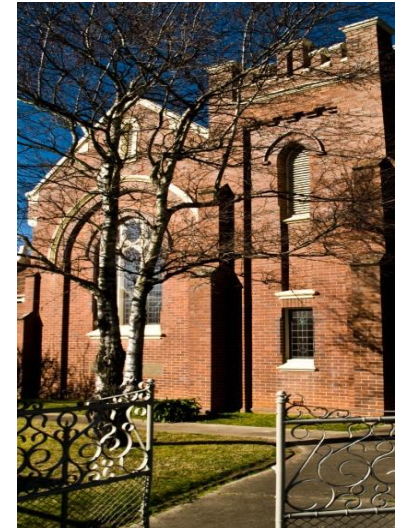
Sunday 27 November 2016 (Advent 1)

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:

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

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 28 November

2.00pm Bible Study @ Margaret Osborne's home

5.30pm Uniting Voices

Tuesday 29 November

9.30am Playgroup

9.30am Pieces & Yarns

7.30pm Bible Study for Young

Women @ Lucy Earl's home

7.30pm Bible Study @ the Dinning's in Mittagong

7.00pm Bible Study @ Netta McKay's in Mittagong

Wednesday 30 November

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

12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH

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

Thursday 1 December

10.00am Flying Padre Support Group

3.00pm Mission Council meeting

4.00pm Kids Connect

Friday 2 December

6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

TODAY'S SERVICES 27 November (Advent 1)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)

11.30am Uniting Family Connect Service in Gallery (followed by Lunch)

6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

NEXT SUNDAY 4 December (Advent 2)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)

6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

Readings Next Week: Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72: 1-7, 18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 27 Nov	NEXT WEEK: 4 Dec
Organ	Gail Reid	Heather Tredinnick
PowerPoint	Narelle Harwood	Barry Roberts
Elder	B&T Towers/B Schubert	Lucy Earl
Stewards	Richard & Rosemary Denman	Narelle Harwood, Ena Bell
Flowers	Fran Manton, V Adlidge	Mary Dunk, Beryl Adams
Kids Church	11.30am Uniting Families Connect	Lucy Earl
Morning Tea	Lorraine & Robyn	VOLUNTEERS PLEASE



*Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!
If you would like to assist in any of our activities,
please see the Rosters on the Gallery Noticeboard*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



“...And then, just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succour in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.” *Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45) German Lutheran Pastor & Theologian*

Sunday 27 Nov

Thursday 1 Dec

Thursday 8 Dec

Thursday 8 Dec

Friday 9 Dec

Saturday 10 Dec

Sunday 11 Dec

Thursday 15 Dec

Saturday 24 Dec

2.30pm Close of Ministry Service, Pstr Dr F Moore

3.00pm Mission Council meeting

10.00am Flying Padre Support Group MORNING TEA

From 5.30pm - Family Carols (Bradman Oval)

Volunteers please put name on form at back of Church

12 noon: Setting up for Christmas market

CHRISTMAS MARKET @ Bowral UC

BUC Uniting Families Connect Nativity Play

BUC Elders meet, followed by Church Council

4.30pm Regional Christmas Eve Carols service (MVUC)

FLYING PADRE SUPPORT GROUP is holding their final morning tea on Thursday 8 Dec at 10.00am in the Common Room. All welcome!



PANTRY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK!

For Christmas hampers festive foods such as tinned ham, fruit salad, mince pies as well as the always needed staples - Vegemite, coffee, deodorant, etc. Many, many thanks for your support.

CHRISTMAS MARKET DAY

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

8.00am – 1.00pm

Plants, Books, Christmas Craft, Cakes, Preserves
Barbeque, Holy Grounds Devonshire Tea/Coffee



OUR PRE-LOVED STALL IS BACK!!

We will welcome donations of saleable pre-loved goods,
easy to lift furniture, bric-a-brac...

We would love your help! Please see the Roster in the Gallery...