

The Minister's Weekly Word...

I was reading a part of a poem this week by Bruce and Heather Tredinnick's son, Mark. The phrase that particularly caught my attention was the first, 'If you want heaven, start in mud.' What could this possibly mean? Isn't heaven that far and away place way beyond our earthly troubles? Doesn't it mean we leave all this earthly stuff behind? What does it have to do with mud especially? The point seems to be that it is out of the mud that the flower grows to bloom and dispense its fragrance. It's in the mud that the plant is firmly rooted and from which it takes its nutrients. It's by the mud, the messy, squelchy mud, that the beautiful creation emerges. Something that's often missed in Christian theology is that we believe in the end there will be what Revelation describes as a 'new heaven and a new earth'. Christians don't believe the final purposes of God lift us out of our earthly habitat, but rather that God will transform that habitat so that heaven and earth are brought together in a way we can't possibly imagine or describe. 'Mud' and 'heaven' come together in new creation so that God's final beautiful transfiguration is completed. So faith shouldn't lead us to want to escape our earthly lives, but rather to see in them the potential for a transformed life which begins here and now. 'If you want heaven, start in mud.' Start in relationships, in community, in sharing, in hospitality, in attentiveness to our physical surrounds, in simple graces of care shared between one another. God showed us how much our 'mud' (our earthly lives) matter by sending Jesus into the mud, even the mud of death. And yet out of this mud he was resurrected and gives us a glimpse of what the new creation will look like when we finally get there. Maybe we should all start looking at mud again in hope of some new insights! *Blessings to you all. Michael*



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!

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.

.Pray for local families in need of assistance with food and clothing during the colder months. Thank God for Anglicare and their volunteers.

.Prayer for Rev Mark Greenlees (Regional Ministry Illawarra) & Rev Roselin Fisher (Austinmer UC), both of whose fathers passed away last week.

Bowral/Kangaloon Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."

Sunday 29 May 2016 (Pentecost 2)



Our ministry focus areas are:

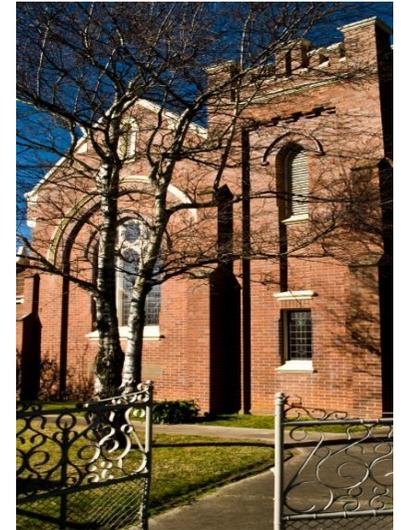
*Worship & Discipleship
Children & Families
Seniors
Community engagement*

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:

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

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 30 May</u> 2.00pm Bible Study group @ Margaret Osborne's home 5.30pm Uniting Voices <u>Tuesday 31 May</u> 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</p>	<p><u>Wednesday 1 June</u> 10.00am Reflections Study Group @ the Bunker's home. 12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH 12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome! <u>Thursday 2 June</u> 4.00pm Kids Connect Group 7.00pm Good Neighbours Meeting in the Gallery <u>Friday 3 June</u> 6.30pm Bell Ringing practice</p>
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TODAY'S SERVICES 22 May 2016 (Pentecost 2)

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

NEXT SUNDAY 29 May 2016 (Pentecost 3)

9.00am Bowral Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)
 6.00pm Bowral Evening Fellowship Time

Readings Next Week:

1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 30; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 29 May	NEXT WEEK: 5 June
Organ	Rosemary Robinson	Heather Tredinnick
PowerPoint	Elders	Barry Roberts
Elder	Elders	Ros Hinde
Stewards	Elders	Ian & Dianne Prior
Flowers	N Harwood, L Pattinson	Pam Wood, Nina Fergusson
Kids Church	Ruth Roberts	Kathy Searle
Morning Tea	Arthur/Jenny/Emma Alcorn	<i>Volunteers Please</i>



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



"A little child often runs to its mother and exclaims: 'Mother! Mother!' Very often the child does not want anything in particular, he only wants to be near his mother, to sit upon her lap, or to follow her about the house, for the sheer pleasure of being near her, talking to her, hearing her dear voice. Then the child is happy. His happiness does not consist in asking and receiving all kinds of things from his mother. If that were what he wanted, he would be impatient and obstinate and therefore unhappy. No, his happiness lies in feeling his mother's love and care, and in knowing the joy of her mother love." "It is just the same with the true children of God; they do not trouble themselves so much about spiritual blessings. They only want to sit at the Lord's feet, to be in living touch with Him, and when they do that they are supremely content." - *Sadhu Sundar Singh 1889-1929 Indian Christian Missionary*

COMING EVENTS...

Sunday 26 June: UCA Anniversary & Soup on Sunday (see below)
 16 & 17 September: SPRING FAIR
 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 either host a group of guests in your home or to be a guest. Everyone needs to register! Hosts are notified of their guest list and they will invite their guests. *Enquiries: Ros Hinde 48724487 or Liz Pattinson 48691020*

!!!!!! NEXT SUNDAY 5 June IS PANTRY SUNDAY !!!!!!

Anglicare would especially appreciate items such as pasta sauce, deodorant, tinned vegetables, tinned ham, Spam etc., Vegemite and noodles (particularly those in a cup). Thank you all for your ongoing support.

A reminder that there will be a **Good Neighbours meeting on the 2nd June** at 7pm in the fellowship room. Liz and Ros.

THE VESTRY KITCHEN SPLASHBACK...

Thank you to everyone who supported our home-baked sale last week. The end of the week one tally is \$225!!! There's only \$775 to go!!!

There are more goodies for sale today and we are taking orders for Fruit Cakes.

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