

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

In conversations sometimes people ask me about the future of the church. Underlying some of these conversations is a (legitimate) concern about the next generations of families and young people coming through, and where they are. At BUC we have taken a very precise strategy to seek to create an inter-generational church without making every worship service or activity an inter-generational event. Thus we strive for faithful and engaging worship and witness in different ways, without assuming everyone will be able to change or compromise on the places and experiences they find meaningful. In terms of worship, this means that the 9am service retains its traditional structure and we seek to be imaginative and creative within that frame. Then the 11:30am service is wholly different and offers for children and young families a far less formal engagement with faith and community, one they can perhaps relate to more readily. In practice, what this means is that many or most of the families/children won't usually be present in the 9am service, but will come to the 11:30am service. At the same time, our Playgroup regularly sees over 40 children in attendance, the Kids Club is often up to a dozen children, and special events like the upcoming Nativity play on December 11 will involve many from further afield. So, younger people and children are becoming more and more a part of our church's life, which is an incredible blessing of God, it's just that they may not always be visible at certain times. We need to continue to focus on young people as time moves on and build on the excellent start we have made. We pray that God will continue to bless our undertakings in this regard and build his church here at BUC well into the future. ***Blessings, Michael***



## **Minister's Diary...**

- Rev Michael Earl is preaching at Moss Vale UC today.
- The Minister is on Annual holiday leave 9<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017

## **Advent, Christmas & New Years Day Services...**

- 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 UC  
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](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 [lucyear179@gmail.com](mailto:lucyear179@gmail.com)

## **Bowral/Kangaloon Uniting Church**

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

**Sunday 4 December 2016 (Advent 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](http://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 11:1-10; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**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 5 December

9.00am Peace with Pieces (final 2016)  
**Group resumes Mon 16 Jan 2017**  
 2.00pm Bible Study @ Margaret Osborne's home **IN RECESS**  
 5.30pm Uniting Voices

### Tuesday 6 December

9.30am Playgroup  
 9.30am Pieces & Yarns  
 10.00am MEN'S Coffee @ Bradman  
 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 7 December

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 8 December

10.00am Flying Padre Support Group  
 5.30pm – Community Carols at...  
 Bradman Oval

### Friday 9 December

**12 noon SET UP for MARKET**  
 6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

### Saturday 10 December

**8.00am CHRISTMAS MARKET**

### TODAY'S SERVICES 4 December (Advent 2)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Dr David Manton)  
 6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

### NEXT SUNDAY 11 December (Advent 3)

9.00am Service of Holy Communion (Rev Michael Earl)  
**11.30am Uniting Families Connect Nativity Play (All welcome!)**  
 6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

**Readings Next Week:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 4 Dec	NEXT WEEK: 11 Dec
Organ	Heather Tredinnick	Ann Clipsham
PowerPoint	J & S Hoogland	J & S Hoogland
Elder	Jim Layton	Fran Manton
Stewards	Narelle Harwood, Ena Bell	Ian & Diane Prior
Flowers	Mary Dunk, Beryl Adams	Kathy Searle, Judy Dyson
Kids Church	Lucy Earl	11.30am Uniting Families Nativity Play
Morning Tea	Robyn C & Barbara L	Margaret M & Lorraine R

*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



'Take time to be aware that in the very midst of busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehem's of our homes & daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common & so ordinary yet is wondrously present.

An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.'

The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music & cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos – the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all.' *Edward Hays (1931-2016), American Priest & author*

### Thursday 8 Dec

Thursday 8 Dec

### 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

Friday 9 Dec

### Saturday 10 Dec

Thursday 15 Dec

Wednesday 21 Dec

Saturday 24 Dec

### CHRISTMAS MARKET @ Bowral UC

### 11.30am BUC Uniting Families Connect Nativity Play

BUC Elders meet, followed by Church Council

11.30am Mid-week Communion Service

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!



### CHRISTMAS MARKET DAY SATURDAY 10 DEC

8.00am – 1.00pm

Plants, Books, Christmas Craft, Cakes, Preserves

Barbeque, Holy Grounds Devonshire Tea/Coffee

**PRE-LOVED STALL:** 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...

### ELDERS & GOOD NEIGHBOURS PLEASE NOTE...

There are signed copies of the Minister's Christmas Letter in the vestry for you to collect and distribute. If you would prefer to receive the letter by email, please let Michael know.

### CHANGE OF DATE FOR DECEMBER MID-WEEK COMMUNION

Wednesday 21 December, the mid-week service will be held prior to the Food & Fellowship Christmas lunch. Everyone is Welcome to attend...!



**OPPORTUNITIES  
TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER...**

Our good friends at Uniting Burnside Brighter Futures (Campbelltown) are putting hampers together for the families in their care who are in need at this special time of year. Non-perishable food items (with a Christmas theme) and *unwrapped toys* for children are high on the list of wanted goods. Financial donations are also acceptable, which allows Brighter Futures to purchase food vouchers or other items for the hampers for individuals and families. Niki will come to BUC this Thursday (8<sup>th</sup>) at 9.30am to collect our donations.

-----

**Target & Uniting Christmas Appeal**

Once again, Target and Uniting(Care) are working together to brighten the lives of Australians in need at Christmas through the purchase of gift tags and presents.

In the past, food hampers, presents and other essentials have been managed and distributed through Stafford Cottage. As Stafford Cottage is now unable to provide this service, gifts, food parcels and other assistance will be managed and distributed by Bowral Uniting Church in conjunction with the Uniting Care's Brighter Futures program.

The festive season can be a sad time for many individuals and families and we pray that we might bring some joy to people within the Southern Highlands who are struggling to make ends meet. Members of the congregation are invited to place their gifts under the Christmas Tree at the front of the church.

Gail Reid



**OPPORTUNITIES  
TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER...**

Our good friends at Uniting Burnside Brighter Futures (Campbelltown) are putting hampers together for the families in their care who are in need at this special time of year. Non-perishable food items (with a Christmas theme) and *unwrapped toys* for children are high on the list of wanted goods. Financial donations are also acceptable, which allows Brighter Futures to purchase food vouchers or other items for the hampers for individuals and families. Niki will come to BUC this Thursday (8<sup>th</sup>) at 9.30am to collect our donations.

-----

**Target & Uniting Christmas Appeal**

Once again, Target and Uniting(Care) are working together to brighten the lives of Australians in need at Christmas through the purchase of gift tags and presents.

In the past, food hampers, presents and other essentials have been managed and distributed through Stafford Cottage. As Stafford Cottage is now unable to provide this service, gifts, food parcels and other assistance will be managed and distributed by Bowral Uniting Church in conjunction with the Uniting Care's Brighter Futures program.

The festive season can be a sad time for many individuals and families and we pray that we might bring some joy to people within the Southern Highlands who are struggling to make ends meet. Members of the congregation are invited to place their gifts under the Christmas Tree at the front of the church.

Gail Reid