

The Minister's Weekly Word...

As we enter into the season of Lent we start out on a journey that many, many Christians have taken before us. We take the road to the cross. In CS Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* when Mr and Mrs Beaver meet the children in the woods, they tell them, 'we must go deeper in'. The White Witch has turned everything to snow and winter and her spies are everywhere. So, the children are in need of safety and protection in the heart of the forest. In a strange way, this is what it is like with Lent. 'We must go deeper in...', for protection and safety. We must go deeper into our faith and deeper into the heart of the ever loving and giving God. But this means walking into the heart of Jesus' death. And this is no easy business. Going into the heart of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is an illusion breaking experience. It shatters our pretences and the defences we like to erect around ourselves. It pierces to our heart. Lent is the way of self-examination and being examined by God. But it is also the way of love. The cross is as much about the love of God as anything. It is about the God who goes to the depths of our experiences and says, 'I know the way out. Take my hand, come, and follow me, and I will bring you life.' This year as we step out onto the Lenten road we do so in hope, but also mindful of what lies ahead. One thing we know for sure, we won't be the same as we were when we began if we're really willing to 'go deeper in'. ***Blessings, Michael***



Safe Church Workshop:

These workshops are important for every member of the Church and essential for those in leadership.

The next Uniting Church workshop is on

Wednesday, 22nd March at Ulladulla UC from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

Cost is \$25 and bring your own lunch (tea and coffee provided).

Registration before the date is essential.

This can be done online at:

<http://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/upcoming-courses/scta-workshop-registrations/> or see Barbara Towers (Safe Church Contact).

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 Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."

Sunday 5 March 2017 (Lent 1)

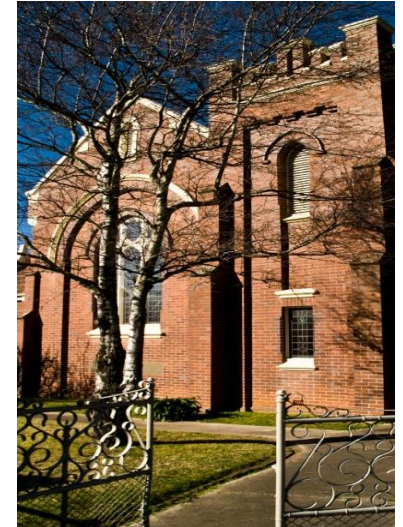


Our ministry focus areas are:

*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. Bruce Tredinnick 4861 6990

Elders' Convenor

Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

Readings:

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

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 6 March

9.30am Peace with Pieces
2.00pm Bible Study @ Margaret Osborne's home
5.30pm Uniting Voices Rehearsal

Tuesday 7 March

9.30am Playgroup
9.30am Pieces & Yarns
10.00am MENS Coffee
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

Wednesday 8 March

10.00am Reflections Study Group @ the Bunker's home
12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH
12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!
7.00pm Lenten Study Group at the Pattinson's in Moss Vale

Thursday 9 March

10.00am Uniting Women's Group
3.30pm Kids Connect
7.00pm Good Neighbours Meeting

Friday 10 March

6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

TODAY'S SERVICES 5 March (1st Sunday of Lent)

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

NEXT SUNDAY 12 March (Lent 2)

9.00am Service of Holy Communion (Rev Michael Earl)
11.30am Uniting Families Connect (followed by lunch)
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

Readings Next Week:

Gen 12: 1-4a; Ps 121; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; Jn 3: 1-17 or Mt 17: 1-9

ROSTER	THIS WEEK:5 March	NEXT WEEK: 12 March
Organ	Heather Tredinnick	Ann Clipsham
PowerPoint	Sharon Hoogland	Barry Roberts
Elder	Anne Kingdom	Tony Towers
Stewards	R & R Denman	N Harwood, Ena Bell
Flowers	D Layton, Jenny O'Regan	Pam Wood, Nina Fergusson
Kids Church	Lucy Earl	11.30am Uniting Families Connect service
Morning Tea	Bron/Kevin Windybank	Jenny Hough/Margaret Murray

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!



BOWRAL UC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS...!

Kids Church, Kids Connect, Uniting Kids Playgroup, Food & Fellowship, Flowers, Stewards, Morning Tea on Sunday...

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you." –

Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-97) Albanian born nun & missionary to India -

COMING EVENTS

Mon 13 March 8.30am BUC Church Council Executive meeting
Thurs 16 Mar 2.00pm CAMEO @ The Stumps Coffee Shop/Bradman
Sat 8 April 8.00am BUC AUTUMN FAIR



TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF LENT.

Again we take the walk to the cross in faith. There will be special services each week incorporating drama, music, prayer, preaching, and sharing together. We hope you are able to attend and invite others who might be searching.

DVD's of our Sunday services are now available.

If you would like to replay the service which you enjoyed, or if you would like to play the service for a special friend or someone who is not able to attend our church service, please take advantage of this very special resource. A small number of portable DVD players are also available. This special ministry is being coordinated by Kay Smith – who will be pleased to help you!

BOWRAL AUTUMN FAIR --- 6 weeks to go...!

It is time to identify which stalls we will be able to have at this fair. We are looking for coordinators of Books, Craft, Cakes/Jams, Kitchen BBQ and any other you might suggest?

Please see Sharon if you are able to help.

**We would love your donations
of books, craft items, Jars & jams or preserves!**