



# M o r i a l t a V i s i o n

Morialta Uniting Church

December 2010



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## From the Minister

There are a lot of good resources in the Seasons of the Spirit material which we use both in the learning sessions for the younger members of our congregation each week, and often in planning and preparing worship. You will also see some of the images and poems which come with the Seasons resource Behold: Arts for the Church Year on the board in the foyer each week.

It is one of these images (Creation) which is the basis of the beautiful banner at the front of the church this Advent. The original was created as one of a set of three hangings created as a representation of the six days of creation. It speaks to us of God's sweeping presence in the ongoing process of creation.

The creative writing which accompanies it in *Behold* is from Wendell Berry's essay "Christianity and the Survival of Creation":

*The creation is not in any sense independent of the Creator, the result of a primal creative act long over and done with, but is the continuous, constant participation of all creatures in the being of God.*

Elsewhere in the Seasons material there was an exchange between the characters in a play. I didn't warm to the play as a whole but I did like this bit:

*We found a message in one of the old boxes about a special baby being born.*

*Hey, what was the baby's name again?*

*Wasn't it something like "among you all"?*

*No, it's Em-man-u-el !*

*But it means the same thing.*

Emmanuel ... Among us all ... God with us ... active among us.

Among us all ... we nurture the kind of community where strangers carrying new possibilities can be welcomed.

Among us all ... we make a place where love can be born and held gently as it starts to grow into something that can transform our lives.

Among us all ... we hear the good news of God's coming among us and we allow it to become part of our lives, learn how to let our lives become part



of living that good news.

Among us all ... we see God's light ... in a stable ... on a hillside not as something to be admired from afar but as something that can sweep into our lives until we, too, are shining lights of hope, peace, joy and love transforming every dark place.

Christmas Blessings shine among us all.

Diane



**It's not too late to put a gift under someone else's tree**

Buy a gift for someone you don't even know by placing a gift under the Christmas tree at your nearest Target store to support Uniting Care's Operation Santa.

Or purchase a gift from Uniting World's Everything in Common catalogue, such as clean sheets for a North Korean hospital or a water tank for a village in Papua New Guinea.

[www.everythingincommon.com.au](http://www.everythingincommon.com.au)

## David Purling writes ...

**“Food, glorious food, there’s nothing quite like it...”**

When we returned to the Aylesbury Methodist Church earlier this year, we were greeted by a refurbished Church, hall and community centre.

What a great surprise. It was a fantastic result from all of the fund-raising and community events. That particular Sunday I conducted the morning worship and preached at two services and then we joined in a community lunch. Hence my heading – “Food, glorious food...”

Food is very important to us in all kinds of situations and occasions. As we come up to Christmas, I have been more aware this year, I think, than any other, of the huge number of brochures and flyers that come as ‘junk mail’ into our letterboxes. So many of these are about food. What really

constitutes a half-decent Christmas Dinner? Should it be traditional fare or something more appropriate to our Australian climate? Whatever we decide, turkey or ham, hot or cold, it will be around that meal that we meet with family and friends, and remember how special that time is.

We remember one particular Christmas in Aylesbury. Some of our Australian friends were also in Methodist appointments in the UK. On that particular Christmas Day, we all conducted our Christmas Day services, and then they came to us in Aylesbury. We were all away from family and other friends, who would be having a hot Christmas, while we were having not quite a white Christmas, but certainly a cold one. They all stayed overnight and on Boxing Day we went on a favourite walk of ours, and walked through crisp white

frost which looked like snow!

Our gathering around food was a really joyous time, in spite of the distances between us and our families.

Of course there are so many occasions when we celebrate life with food; weddings, funerals, birthdays, anniversaries and the list goes on. How incredibly fortunate we are. I conclude with the following:-

**The Selkirk Grace,** reportedly as read by Robert Burns

Some have meat and cannot eat,  
And some would eat that want it,  
But we have meat and we can eat,  
And so the Lord be thankit.



**And another Robert Burns grace,**

O thou who kindly dost provide  
For every creature’s want!  
We bless Thee, God of Nature wide,  
For all Thy goodness lent:  
And if it please Thee, Heavenly Guide,  
May never worse be sent;  
But, whether granted, or denied,  
Lord, bless us with content.  
Amen!

## Love is the Lodestone

Courtesy of a Church library book sale, I have recently read George Eliot’s ‘Silas Marner.’ We meet Silas as ‘a young man of exemplary life and ardent faith.’ A simple weaver, he only knows of the world that is contained within the small close-knit Chapel community of which he is an integral part. But when his erstwhile friend frames him for a crime that he didn’t commit, Silas is forced to flee to distant Raveloe. The old rhythm of his life is shattered, and he feels betrayed, hurt, unloved and hopelessly estranged from those around him. His once sure faith slips from his life. Even the open topography of the Raveloe landscape increases his sense of disorientation.

At the same time I read in The Australian some extracts from a recently published book ‘Through the Language Glass’ by Guy Deutscher. Among other things, he describes certain cultures where such words and phrases as ‘right’ ‘left’ ‘in front of’ ‘behind’ ‘over there’ ‘underneath’ etc do not exist, and where relative position is always described according to the cardinal points – north, south, east, west. Thus “I left my cup on the southern edge of the

western table” or “Watch out for the big ant just north of your foot!” Such people are never disoriented, at least geographically. The remote indigenous language of the Guugu Yimithirr people in Cape York operates in such a way. In its language as many as one word in ten uses a cardinal point to describe location, and this is often accompanied by hand gestures. Even when a story is re-told in a different setting, while the speaker may have fallen out of the boat on the west side in the original incident, the direction of the hand gesture indicating west will be adjusted to adapt to the present orientation.

Such people appear to have an in-built compass. Even being spun around in a dark windowless room fails to compromise their knowledge of exactly where north is! It is tempting to guess that they have something akin to a sixth sense that enables them to be constantly but unconsciously aware of the earth’s magnetic field that is all around us. After all the magnetic poles and the axis poles of the earth are relatively close to each other. We earthlings are wrapped in a magnetic field that extends for tens of thousands of kilometres beyond the surface

of the earth, but its genesis is in the molten iron that constantly rotates within the core of our earth.

Is not this a parable for our Christian living? Is not love our lodestone, is not love our guiding force, our compass? Love gives us orientation, and when it fires us in our depths like a molten magnetic core, its effect permeates and irradiates both our noise and our silence. How different would our output be if one in every ten of our words referenced in some way our Christian compass?

And if such love-soaked living seems not realistically achievable, let’s think for a moment of that feisty faith-filled lady, Mary MacKillop, now Saint Mary of the Cross. She had every reason to allow the events of her life to disconnect her from her faith, but, driven by a passionate love for God and for all about her, she overcame huge hurdles of geography and of gender, of hierarchy and of hurt. Her legacy and example radiates still within the order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, and beyond. ...continued on page 3 ...



## Chairperson writes ...

Every year, it seems, I talk about the effort that people put in for the Market and Exhibition. Well, you won't be surprised that I am going to wax lyrical again.

As I was waiting for the appointed time to arrive on the day of the Market the overwhelming impression I had was an attitude of expectation.



All the helpers were ready, their nametags attached and smiles, or were they grimaces, on faces waiting for the initial onslaught.

We had a really successful day. Over 80 people were involved in some way. The community has come to expect the Mighty Magill Christmas Market and Exhibition and so they participate as keen market goers.

For me, the Market is one more expression of the sense of family we are so fortunate to have at Morialta. At this time of the year, full of hope as it is, my thoughts for you are that you find a way to enjoy Christmas and celebrate the birth of the One who we follow.

Bruce



### From Christine Ostle



On the 31st of October Diane invited me to participate in worship in a more extensive manner than the quick reports I usually give.

This gave me a wonderful opportunity to work with Diane and to reflect theologically upon the ministry we each have through the Community Centre.

The calling we have in Jesus Christ is the motivation behind all that I do and no doubt behind what you do. In the busyness of our community activities is it encouraging to stop and reflect about the call of God that motivates us. In most of my visits to Sunday worship I bring you a quick report about the work of the Community Centre and I leave the theological reflection up to Diane or David as they lead you in worship, studies and church activities.

I valued the opportunity to reflect on our faith with you at the October service.



### I am Edret Matanhire.

I came from Zimbabwe. I have four grown up children at home in Africa. I always communicate with them through phone calls but I miss them very much. My nationality is Zimbabwean. I am staying in Fullarton with my brother and his wife, while settling down to life in Australia. My TAFE course lasts for two years. Its title is Diploma of Community Development - Leisure and Lifestyle. In this course I have to complete 400 hours of work placement for me to qualify. I have already completed two semesters each of 100 hours at Fullarton Lutheran Homes Aged Care Facility. I learnt a lot in the aged care sector. I feel privileged to now be at Morialta Community Centre and to work in the programs. I have met lovely people who are really helpful. Christine, the Coordinator, is always guiding me and assisting me by all means possible.

### Playgroup

In December last year we gave a very warm and sincere thank you to Helen Penhall and Faye Barker for the manner in which they had inaugurated and then sustained our playgroup. For five dedicated years Helen and Faye had coordinated a playgroup creating a friendly, safe, creative and caring atmosphere. This year Playgroup has continued and the high standard of warm friendship has been maintained. Leadership for the first eight months consisted of team effort by Jill Kerr, Carole Lyons and Christine Ostle. Eventually, after a Position Description was drawn up and advertising occurred we were able to select and employ Jackie Smith as the new coordinator. The regular volunteers still play an important part in the morning's program. Our three TAFE students, Jan Angelo, Edret Matanhire and Fanyu Kang have also helped out and our ministers, Diane and David, join in for some time each week. Playgroup has seen carers who are mothers, fathers, grand parents, and Family Day Care workers. Among the nationalities of those attending are Chinese, Malaysian, Indian and Vietnamese. Five mothers have a toddler and a babe in arms. We have seen mums pregnant one week and back with a new baby a few weeks later. The children enjoy the home corner, cars, balls, jumping and crawling equipment and when the warm weather arrived they flocked to the water play.

Playgroup is a wonderful witness of Christian friendship. The group not yet mentioned are the willing volunteers who bring the much appreciated morning tea each week. If you would like to be part of our playgroup ministry Carole Lyons would



### Love is the Lodestone

... continued from page 2 ..

So what became of our poor disoriented Silas. Only after many years does he reclaim his humanity and his faith. He is transformed within the core of his being only when he is consumed by love, a selfless all-consuming love that appears unexpectedly in the form of the little two-year-old orphan, Eppie.

When a lawyer asks Jesus 'What is the key, what is the core, what is the lodestone that must sit at the centre of my life?' or, more exactly, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus, like any clever teacher, challenges the lawyer to answer his own question:

'Jesus said to him "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

The lawyer answered "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." And Jesus said to him "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." (Luke 10:26-28 N.R.S.V.)

Alison Lockett

## HOW DOES OUR GARDEN GROW?

I'm not sure how far advanced the new garden at the front of the church will be as you read this, but I thought you may like to hear about some of the thinking behind it.

Firstly, we are very grateful to have been given a donation for the purpose of designing and establishing a properly planned garden. Through this generosity we have been able to engage Pam Hailstone to design the garden and oversee its construction. Some of you who have been around this church for a while may remember Pam from her time here some years ago. She also happens to be Pauline Norman's sister. While these facts gave us an initial contact with her the main reason we invited her to participate was her extensive experience and knowledge of garden design. Pam has written two books on the subject and has produced several award winning gardens in her time as a professional designer.

In explaining her design to us Pam makes the following points. The garden needed a structure that complemented the strong but simple lines and colours of our heritage building. Hence the use of a limited number of different plant types rather than a huge variety. The red roses at the steps provide a warm welcome to a church that tries to emphasise hospitality as one of its key features. On the practical side, the mix of natives and exotics are all varieties that do well in our climate and soil type. Once established they should need no more water than our annual rainfall. They are all relatively low maintenance plants, clipping once or twice a year will keep them looking good. Three small trees will provide shade on the harsh bitumen, softening both the look and the summer temperature while their roots should not be a problem. Larger shrubs at the western end will mask the carpark from the road.



While we would all like to see our favourite plants in this setting, one of the important advantages of having an independent designer is that we will have a coherent design rather than a mish-mash of many ideas. Also, please remember that a garden is always a work in progress, particularly for the first two years while it is in its initial growth phase. So, if you can, please suspend your judgement for a couple of years and I'm confident we will have a garden that reflects the caring, welcoming community we aspire to be.

Chris Ayles



## Gratitude

John Powers talked with Church Council and with the Meeting of the Congregation about "Gratitude". Being John, he had done his homework on the dictionary meanings of "Gratitude" and "Thanksgiving", and settled for the term "Gratitude" – *a feeling of thankful appreciation for favours or benefits received.*

In talking to the Congregation he referred to recent instances of generous gifting by members of the congregation: These have included contributions to the landscaping of our forecourt garden; blinds in the hall which will improve our viewing of projected programs, remove the need for agile people to climb ladders with black plastic, and keep us cooler in summer; air-conditioning in the kitchen; storage area and cupboards in the Blue Room; and other initiatives which are being assisted. In addition we have the provision by the Paper Team of another batch of comfortable, stackable green chairs.

In leading Council to reflect with gratitude on people, life and events at Morialta over the past 12 months, John recognised that there have been highs and lows, that that is life and we are not immune from its extremes. However he saw our church community as having a faith which is strong and resilient.

John led us to focus on some of our many groups participating in our life as a church: the Paper Team which meets every Monday, the Woodwork men on Mondays

and Wednesdays, and the furniture restoration group on Saturdays. He noted the happenings of Coffee Corner and Friendship Centre on Wednesdays, the library, play group and Tai Chi. None of these activities "just happen"; there are dedicated people, who plan, organise, cook and contribute time and energy to make these activities worthwhile and life-giving.

He recognised Fellowship, Pot Luck Teas and Gateways groups which meet to develop friendship and increase knowledge of our church and its role in the world. John saw that we are blessed with a ministry team that encourages and develops our faith journey, and is supported by musicians, singers, Bible readers, audio and visual technicians and flower arrangers. These give the time and energy required for our services each week.

Our publications, including the Newsletter and Morialta Vision, supported richly by photographs from Brian Corrigan, could not be produced without untold hours of preparation, skill and artistic talent.

John prompted us to reflect on farewells: to Ron Grant in his move to Bellevue Heights, to John Grooms after 32 years of worship at Newton and Morialta, and to other whose lives we have celebrated with their passing – Don Bennier, Norma Fowler, Syd Walton, Olive Walton, Glad Mason, and Joyce Norton.

Then there were our members who have been recognised in the wider community for their work and commitment to the life of society: Rob Webbe, and June and Cyril Thompson who received Volunteer Achievement Awards, and David Lockett an AM.

Thus we shared in feelings of thankful appreciation for favours or benefits received – Gratitude.

Let our deeds be filled with faith  
Faith is water which flows into  
dried-out-land.

Let our deeds be filled with love  
Love sows good seed into good soil

Let our deeds be filled with hope  
Hope is the encouraging vision  
of a great harvest

Let our deeds be filled with faith,  
love and hope  
Then they'll bring you honour,  
Then they'll bring good to others,  
Then they'll bring us joy.

Amen

From *May I have this dance?* by Joyce Rupp

## The Future of Faith

Carly Osborn

I was once a passionate Pentecostal teenager. Then I got disillusioned and 'dropped out' of church. Recently I decided to be part of the solution instead of complaining, so I rejoined the Christian community, at CitySoul.

So I've thought about what church is, and might be in the future. But this article isn't about the future of the church. It's about the future of faith; and faith is not an institution.

Our word 'faith' comes from the Old French *feid*, in turn from Latin *fides*, which means 'trust'. We get our word 'fidelity' from the same root. These are words about relationships, the loyalty and trust between people.

Actually, the word 'relationship' isn't my favourite for talking about human bonds. We use it to describe any vague connection, the 'relationship' between food additives and attention disorders or whatever.

I prefer the word 'friendship'. Friendship is intimacy between persons, made of loyalty, truth, trust... in other words, faith. So I'm going to define religious faith this way: friendship with God.

So. The future of friendship with God.

One of the major revelations of my spiritual life has been the realisation that God really is everywhere. I used to think omnipresence meant 'silent and invisible but nevertheless, philosophically speaking, there'. Now I think if something is undetectable, its presence is at best irrelevant and, at worst, imaginary – and I don't think God's omnipresence is like this.

I get annoyed when Christians talk about 'taking God to' the red light district/jungle/ wherever, as if He lives in white middle-class churches and they're taking Him on a sort of day trip. He's already there, perceptibly. We just have to notice that.

I think Western Christianity is getting better at this. Gradually, we'll start talking and acting like it's true. We won't separate our 'spiritual lives' from everything else we do with our bodies and minds. Eating an apple becomes time with God. But more importantly, I hope we'll stop thinking of God as one of the cool kids at school, who wouldn't be friends with you unless you had the right sneakers.

Years ago I heard a woman speak about a friend in her church who was a prostitute – though this wasn't immediately apparent.

"I get annoyed when Christians talk about 'taking God to' the red light district/jungle/ wherever ...

She spoke of her friend as an equal, a fellow-traveller in friendship with God.

Quite frankly, this blew my tiny mind. I thought friendship with God was what happened after prostitutes repented and became soccer mums with impressive testimonies.

So, the future of friendship with God? I know what I'm hoping for. People identifying themselves as friends with God outside of church culture. Or – if it's not asking too much – our expressions of church stretching to include all those people who don't fit our present idea of what a Christian is. And if our definitions don't stretch, I hope people realise what narrow-minded prats we are, and get on with their friendships with God anyway.

Reprinted at the request of Margaret Jenkins from New Times, November 2010 Edition with permission.



Morialta loves to welcome new members into the church family.

On 28 November, in worship,

Diane led us in welcoming Helen and John Drew with the words:

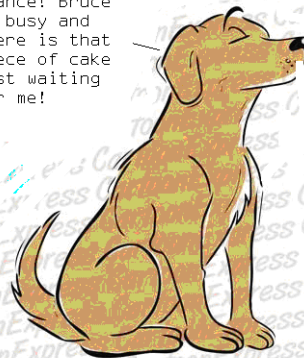
*I present Helen Drew and John Drew to be welcomed as baptised members into this ever-changing fellowship.*

Helen and John arrived at Morialta a couple of months ago and ever since they have participated in worship, activities and lively conversations. For those who have talked with them there has been the great feeling of "This is right!" They have recently returned to settle in South Australia and have been spending time making their Auldana home as they want it to be.

Welcome, Helen and John!

## Paws for thought ...

Now's my chance! Bruce is busy and there is that piece of cake just waiting for me!



I was really surprised when everyone sang Happy Birthday to me the other Sunday. I don't like to keep count of the years, but I was overwhelmed that people remembered! Bruce made a cake for me, but didn't let me have any; I suppose that he was being thoughtful, after all I do have to look after my figure now that I'm middle-aged. However, he did give me a treat. Well, Anne, told him to.

Thinking about my birthday made me think about other birthdays. I guess that this time of the year the most important one is Jesus'. I like this time of year because there are lots of parties and people drop crumbs. If I'm careful I can get to a few before Bruce can stop me!

Apart from the crumbs I hope you enjoy this Christmas as much as I will!

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PROK CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

During the October Presbytery Synod meetings a partnership with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and the Synod of South Australia was renewed for a further six years. Morialta Uniting Church has been involved in this partnership since its beginning, twenty years ago.

In 1998 Mount Lofty Presbytery was one of three chosen by Assembly to pilot a scheme for partnership with this brief:

- developing closer relationship with partner churches in World Mission.
- modelling for parishes and presbyteries effective ways of relating to partner churches.

Rev Brian Ball chaired a group of representatives from East Adelaide, Morialta and Torrens Valley parishes and I was one of this group. We chose Korea because we knew little about the church there and we had a Korean congregation meeting in the old West Parkside Methodist Church. Our consultation with Rev Kim from the Parkside church was extremely

helpful. A prepared form setting out a partnership agreement was sent to Methodist, Presbyterian and PROK churches in Korea. We received a reply from PROK saying that West Chunbuk Presbytery would like to form a partnership.

In February 1991 this Mission group met with Rev Cho Hee Sup (Moderator) and Rev Sung Wha Park (Director of Overseas Mission) and the agreement was signed.

Morialta Uniting Church indicated that it wished to be partnered with Hanil Church.

In 1992 Rev Brian Ball led a Mission Awareness Tour to Korea with nine people from Mount Lofty Presbytery including five from Morialta: Fay Goldsworthy, Jill Thompson, Margaret Pittman, Jenny Charlesworth and Beverley Tredrea.

Now the partnership is with the Synod of South Australia and Iksan and Gunsan Presbyteries in Korea. West Chunbuk Presbytery became so large that two presbyteries were created.



*Gift to Morialta from Korean guests*

Visits have been held every two years since 1992 and in 1996 Ruth Carter was part of the Mission team who visited West Chunbuk

It was lovely for us to have recent visits by three Korean guests and I thank you for making them feel welcome at Morialta.

Beverley Tredrea



## Waikerie Fruit Project - An Update

The produce is all supplied direct from local growers and producers, some of them trying new crops and options to remain viable. One of the original ideas behind the Waikerie Fruit Project was to actively encourage city/urban/rural relationships between congregations. This past year has seen a dramatic increase in this aspect with visits from several congregations from Adelaide to Waikerie, the church and the district.

Part proceeds of each and every purchase you have made has been, and continues to be, donated direct to UCA International Mission activities; in this instance to help support a medical mission in Numfor, West Papua, Indonesia.

Graeme (instigator of this Project) says: "Stone fruit crops are looking great, so far. A good fruit set and hope for a good crop this year. It will probably be a few weeks later than last year due to the cool weather but that's ok too. My impression from

talking to other growers is that all crops are similar, although the oranges may be very small next year as so many blossoms have set as fruit. Early days yet. Prayer certainly helps."

Graeme continues: "Your support of local growers during the drought has been nothing short of remarkable. Thank you. Many are saying the drought is over, it may be; but permanent plantings (trees) will take a couple of years of good consistent rain to recover. This is ok if you were able to afford to borrow to buy water, or pull trees out, or accept a reduced crop last year so that you have 'carry over water' for this year. If not too bad – and we are still on 67% of our entitlement with no chance of an increase this year. This is from the SA Water Minister. There is also the uncertainty of what will happen with the Murray Darling Plan and how much water will be taken from growers throughout the Basin. (Remember that about 2.5 million people live in the Basin, 10% of our total population). Rumours are 'out there' of

between 27% and 50% reduction for the Riverland. What the effects of this will be, nobody knows.

We are really in a state of limbo, unable to plan for the future, or plant replacement trees, (if we don't know how much water will be available – how can we plan and plant?) or even make guesses about the future value of our properties, as so far, there has been little or no constructive discussion regarding fair and equitable compensation for the reduced value of our incoming earning potential. There is absolutely nothing we can do, except have faith, pray and be prepared to accept and act on the answers HE gives."

Let the Morialta congregation and many other congregations around Adelaide and Whyalla continue to support this very worthwhile Project.

Jennie Hosking

## Isolation in a Digital Age

On a Wednesday morning towards the end of August, 2010, Lesley and I were intent on leaving Wudinna to travel to Blinman.

With the engine idling Lesley pressed the mode button on the Holden computer seeking stored knowledge calculated during our drive from Adelaide. We were told we had travelled 585kms since leaving home. We had fuelled the petrol tank at Kimba. The computer knew that and advised we could still travel 760km before we would be stranded, provided we continued to consume 8.21L per 100km which the computer knew we had achieved on the way from Adelaide.

Before we moved off there was also the Tom Tom (Our new toy, a GPS waiting on the console to be helpful.) Accompanying Tom Tom was his lady we called Polly. While Tom Tom would show us our position on earth Polly would direct each choice at road junctions or required turns. 'In 600 m turn left', she would say. 'In 50 m turn left at the second roundabout exit'. We gave Tom Tom a clue by tapping in Port Augusta where we would stop for fuel and food before venturing on to Blinman. Tom Tom lit up, glowing with supreme confidence. He set about planning the route with precision. Tom Tom then told me that the route he had planned was

256km to Port Augusta and the first turn was at Kyancutta, 11.2 km down the road.

He could even tell me we would arrive at 10.47 am. We set off and sure enough Polly butted in to tell us to turn left and head for Kimba, 88.2km away according to Tom Tom. Then with a push of a button at my fingertips and the flick of a switch the car settled, at my choice, to a constant speed of 100 km/h. Now relaxed at the wheel I wondered how that could happen. Up hill and down dale, something without a voice told the engine to work harder or relax off to give us that steady fuel saving ride. The cruise control was now operating.

To prevent over relaxing, Lesley pressed the CD button on the dashboard and immediately our little cell was flooded with the haunting, enigmatic music of the Chariots of Fire, the volume of which I adjusted with yet more buttons, this time on the steering wheel.

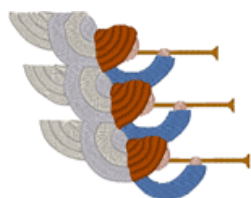
And then another interruption! It wasn't Polly this time. It was the 'phone tucked forgetfully in my pocket. An awkward scramble determined it was a message from Telstra offering a new contract. How can that message pinpoint me when I am hopefully running away, listening to music,

at 100km/h using 8.12 l of fuel per 100km, with 37.2km (according to Tom Tom) before I will be told to turn left at the corner with the big gala in Kimba?

Then reality prevailed. Digital gadgetry had captured us from the isolation needed to appreciate the space, the beauty and the bush going past, unannounced, at 100km per hour. Overnight showers had loaded the blue bush with sparkling droplets on its leaves. Across a wide paddock long shafts of sunlight highlighted the mallee trees on the eastern side of a rounded hill. Emus picked at the grass with jabbing beaks, while sheep grazed. Peace prevailed. Our gadgets had distracted us from what really matters in life, an appreciation of God's presence.

By all means embrace new technology, which I am sure will take forms and ways I cannot imagine. Indeed many of you are already well ahead of us with things like Playstations, Ipods and Face-book. But, be aware, they don't substitute for space, bush, beauty and peace. Take time to experience God's presence in the world around us.

A F Tideman



I last reported just before Easter and at that time there were 27 congregations in the Urban Mission Network. Since then, a further seven (7) have joined and we are now a Network of 34 congregations. Much of this growth has been through transfer from the now defunct Small Strong Mission Network and we believe that these congregations chose this Network for its active and well established programs and the encouragement and support it provides for congregations and ministers. Quarterly gatherings of congregations are the centrepiece of our networking. The final gathering for 2010 was at Victor Harbor where we turned our thoughts towards Advent and Christmas and conducted the Network AGM.

The first gathering for 2011 will be on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February at Christ Church

Wayville. Under the banner of our theme *sharing resources* we'll focus on 'Fresh Expressions of Church' one of the key directions of the Presbytery Strategic Plan. The questions, what is a 'fresh expression of church', how would we recognise a 'fresh expression', how would we start one, how do we support one well if we get something going, will be explored in the context of Modbury congregation's journey in establishing their Candlelight Reflection service – a 'fresh expression of church'.

Gatherings are not just for Ministers and leaders – you are all welcome. They are advertised in the Network's monthly Bulletin, which is pinned to our notice board, in Morialta's Vision magazine and in the Newsletter. Each gathering includes a meal, stories of mission experiences, music and celebrative worship, and a time for people to meet and share ministry achievements. Come along – you're welcome!

Earlier in the year the Network responded to an initiative from Enfield and facilitated an initial get-together for the paid Administrators who staff offices in some of our congregations. Morialta's ministers and key leaders have been strongly supportive of Helena's participation in the three get-togethers to date. You could ask Helena about the get-together on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Other new initiatives in 2010 were a Workshop for Chairs and Secretaries of Church Councils and Congregations and a partnership with the Community Outreach Mission Network to present a Grant Writing Workshop. Morialta was well represented.

Christine Secombe  
Coordinator  
Urban Mission Network.

## Market & Exhibition

You may think that we have “done and dusted” the Market and the Exhibition, but perhaps we haven’t really finished! It was a momentous occasion and this is an opportunity to savour the success!

We worked together with the typical Morialta enthusiasm, goodwill and chatter which builds and reinforces our sense of community, belonging, and confident identity as a serving and thriving church community.

The amazing array of skills and expertise was once again in action. The Cake Stall was loaded with freshly baked enticements, the Gourmet Goodies Stall caught people



on entry, glistening with Christmas fare, Gift Boxes of Love added to that pizzazz and drew people with its gift problem-solving capacity, and the Christmas Gifts and Crafts Stall was in full flourish with an incredible range of goods and ingenious creations.

The three stalls with previously loved merchandise were as busy as ever! Bric-a-Brac presented a well organised and tempting miscellany of surprises (it’s always amazing what people buy!), the Come-Again-Boutique was, again, incredibly well

stocked and a centre of delighted foraging for fashionable (and other) bargains, and the Book Stall had people searching for their find of the day. One caller even followed up a book in the following week and thought she might pursue it to Oxfam where the remainders had been sent! Sausage Sizzle’s success and appeal was clear as people entered clutching bread and sausages and looking very content as they licked their lips. The readiness of folk to wait for Morning Tea and watch for free tables was again evidence of the high appeal of baked-on-the-premises scones, and sought-after muffins. Meanwhile shoppers went in and out to the well-stocked Plant Stall, choosing their purchases in the sunshine. How fortunate we were with the weather!



The Exhibition this year captured interest on a wide front. Seeing the “sleeper” on Barry’s garden seat gave opportunity for many to sit beside him, offer advice, be assured of no retort and, in some cases, to be captured on camera.



The breadth of contributions and the sharing of the dreams of the past, present and future, the sense of treasuring people and memories, and also enjoying creative humorous comment, was a joy. Those who brought out of their cupboards and boxes their collections of pictures, memorable items, no-longer-fitting fashions from the past, and their pieces of precious moments for themselves and their loved-ones, brought a richness to the collection. The multi-media range of art works was stunning and our live dance performances added to the pleasure for many.

The wonderful stories for *Celebrating Seniors*, funded by Resthaven’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary grant, were a special highlight. This was another good occasion for saying something more about who we are.

All in all, in the 2011 Market and Exhibition, our goals for Community Building are wonderfully achieved, and the hopes for incoming funds well surpassed with a figure of at least \$9,500 currently totalled. Well, may we all smile very broadly!

As a church family we are enriched and humbled by the honesty, authenticity, wide interests, skills, achievements, and life stories of our members.

Congratulations to Everyone!





## Morialta Magpie

### baptism

Lauren Eve Higgins

Daughter of Alison and Rob  
sister of Kayla.



Jan Shanks was delighted with the presentation of her quilt, lovingly crafted by Judith Purling and signed by Morialta friends.



### Telling Tales

Margaret Johnston, Jennie Hosking,  
Judith Purling and Jill Kerr.

These Ministers' wives told how their lives had changed once they met their future husbands and they related various aspects of their lives as ministers' wives.



Benjamin James Eric  
Baby son for Jenny and Rob Herman  
and brother for Brianna  
Grandson for Jill and Neville Pope

A new arrival! Congratulations!



Evening Fellowship is eclectic in its choice of entertainment! If you were there you will have enjoyed these dancers from the Stepliner's group. If not - a glimpse of what you missed!

### Christmas Bowl



Morialta's Collectors were in action again on our behalf. Well done!

# Whispers

Whispers, good wishes and congratulations in advance!

Rob Cheel was a Christmas Day Baby a particular Big-O ago!

David Lockett will celebrate a different Big-O early in the New Year!

Dale Corrigan, forever young at heart, will achieve a special Bigger-O on New Year's day. We hope that she will wear her gold shoes!

Sharon and Craig will be celebrating 25 years together later in January.

To top it all off.....

We're all looking forward to Tiffany and Adam's wedding on 1 January



Mary Potter Hospice  
The Loving Tree  
& Christmas Carol  
event

## A "True Story"

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth". The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the table cloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for

the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

Found by Sharon Mackenzie.

On the evening of Advent 2, a celebration took place welcoming Advent 2010, giving members at Morialta a chance to enjoy each others' company, sing the ever-so-familiar carols dear to all of us, listen to some glorious music, and have fun!

David Purling led the night's program in his usual welcoming style, and the hall was glittering and glowing in true Christmas fashion. Each table was decorated with holly and wrapped sweets. In keeping with the theme. Eunice Sullivan accompanied the carols, as well as playing several piano pieces for us to enjoy. Incredulous laughter was in the air as we watched a video 'Wrap the cat for Christmas' starring a very complacent and accommodating puss being wrapped and sticky-taped into a cat-shaped parcel under the tree!

During a supper of Christmas cake and home-made iced biscuits (wrapped again), one person from each table was encouraged to dress in newspaper and toilet paper (proving most useful) and lots of sticky-tape as a character in the Nativity. A short play followed,

## 'RAPT IN CHRISTMAS'

starring talented actors, Diane and David, as the innkeeper and his wife, and those 'dressed' took their place in the Nativity scene during a series of readings and singing of carols. Everyone entered into the spirit of the idea and it goes without saying that there was much mirth, and comments on imagination and fashion design were heard all around the hall. The singing of Silent Night and a blessing from Diane finished an evening that was warm and wonderful. If you couldn't make it this year, there will be another in December 2011 - and we would be so pleased to see you there.

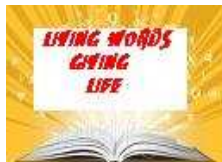
Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Christmas, and a safe and secure New Year.

Cynthia Story

Worship & Faith Education MMT



## Community Library



The year of 2010 is coming to an end and a new year about to begin.

We have been enriched by sharing together, at the "High Tea and Literary Delights", favourite stories or parts of stories. We will extend and further explore in the New Year by adding a library page to the Morialta Website.

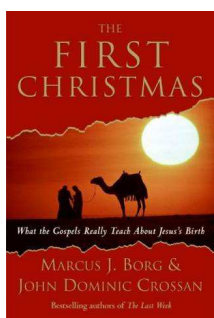
We have during this year engaged in becoming a more up to date library with the culling of videos and audio cassettes and the purchase of new DVD's and CD's.

On behalf of the library committee I extend to you joyous *Christmas Greetings* and a *Happy New Year*.



### Advent Christmas Reading

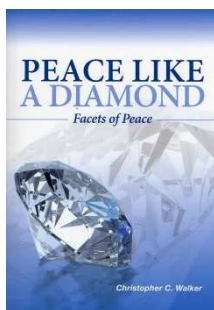
#### THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



by Crossan & Borg enriches our understanding of Jesus in desperately needed ways.

Readers will find here profound and convincing insights into the meaning of Jesus' birth – and life – for the early church, and will be challenged to discern their meaning for the world today.

#### PEACE LIKE A DIAMOND



Facets of Peace

by Christopher C. Walker

Reflecting on peace and its different dimensions led me to liken it to a precious diamond that has different facets all of which are important: peace with God, peace with oneself, peace with others especially in close relationships, peace in society, including considerations of war and peace, and peace with the environment.

So writes the author Christopher C. Walker.

Come in and have a look at other books available for the Christmas/ Advent Season.

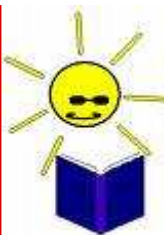
#### Will the library open

#### for Summer Reading borrowing?

Yes, the library will be open on all Sundays during December and January.

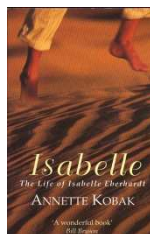
The Library is also open during office hours for After Hours Borrowing.

Just fill in the book you would like to borrow in the "After Hours Borrowing Book"



### Summer Reading

Interesting books to entertain or inform you, some light, some deeper.

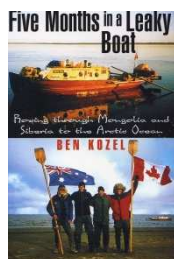


#### Isabelle

By Annette Kobak

The Life of Isabelle Eberhardt who was born the daughter of Russian Emigres and raised in a climate of aristocratic anarchism.

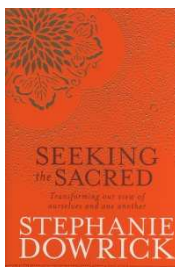
#### Five Months in a Leaky Boat



By Ben Kozel

Rowing through Mongolia and Siberia to the Arctic Ocean.

#### Seeking the Sacred



By Stephanie Dowrick

Transforming our view of ourselves and one another.

#### Alone across Australia

By Jon Muir

One man's trek across a continent.

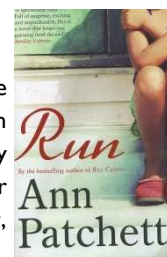


#### Run

By Ann Patchett

Two sons are becoming men under the very eyes of their adoptive father, Bernard Doyle.

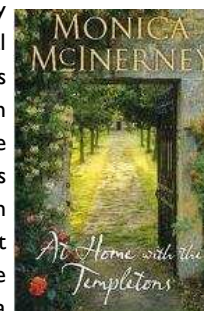
A student at Harvard, serious Tip is happiest in a lab, whilst Teddy, a gentle dreamer, thinks he has found his calling in the Church.



#### At Home with the Templetons

By Monica McInerney

When the terribly English Templeton family takes up residence in country Victoria, they set the local tongues wagging. From the outside the Templetons seem bohemian and carefree, but life inside the family is a different story.



# Morialta Uniting Church

Living Streams ~ Giving Life

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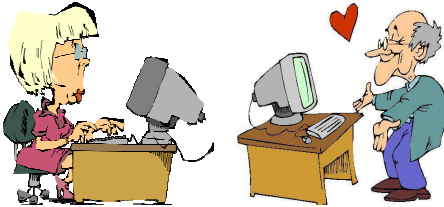
E-mail: [office@morialtauca.org.au](mailto:office@morialtauca.org.au)  
[www.morialtauca.org.au](http://www.morialtauca.org.au)

## BROADBAND FOR SENIORS

Funded by the Australian Government

FREE internet and email tutoring  
for people over the age of 50  
is now available through  
Morialta Community Centre.

Please contact the office if you are



interested in learning more about  
this technology.

## Acknowledgements

Brian Corrigan and others  
for the numerous photographs  
in this edition.

Stories and texts from those identified  
throughout and all who have contributed in  
many ways to this edition.

Editor: Mary Thornley  
Graphic Design: Val DiGirolamo

## Deadline for February Edition

**1st February 2011**

If you would like to contribute an item,  
please send *unformatted* as Word documents either:

**by email** to the Vision Receiver,

Sharon Mackenzie, ([craig\\_sharon@picknowl.com.au](mailto:craig_sharon@picknowl.com.au)).

**Please do not format or use other software**

OR

**In hard copy** via the Vision pigeon-hole – please  
allow more lead time for word processing.



# Calendar

## 2010

Thur 23 Dec Church Office closes 1.00 pm

Christmas Eve

Fri 24 Dec Worship 7.30 pm

Christmas Day

Sat 25 Dec Worship 9.30 am

Sun 26 Dec Worship 9.30 am

## 2011

New Year's Day

1 Jan 2011 Wedding 1.00 pm

Tiffany & Adam

Sundays in January Worship 9.30 am

Mon 24 Jan Church Office re-opens

Sun 30 Jan First Newsletter 2011

6 February Worship 8.15 and 9.30 am resumes

February Community Centre Programs resume

### Recreation leave

Office Coordinator, Helena Begg 2 weeks - early January

Community Centre Coordinator, Christine Ostle 3 – 21 January

Rev Diane Bury 2 weeks – from 31 January

### During January

Administrative requests to Mary Thornley

Pastoral matters to Rev Diane Bury and Rev David Purling



In the gift of the Christ Child  
we receive grace upon grace,  
and truth upon truth  
for the sake of renewed hearts  
and a transformed world.



NAME LABEL