

Morialta Vision

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

Volume 13 Issue 1 - February 2020



In this issue...

Chairperson writes	2
Rising from the ashes	
Lenten Reflections	3
Friendship and fires	
Last 8.15 worship service	4
Ministry Team Reports	
Prayer for leadership	5
Where true love is	
Interfaith forum at MUC	6
Climate change	7
Code Red	
Fellowship	8
Local News	
Events at Morialta for 2020	
Chief Seattle letter	9
Ending child slavery	
Act for Peace message	10
Book reviews	
Library team message	11
More book reviews	
On a hard journey	12
Diary dates	



Reflection on Hope

It could be tempting to pick up the theme of 'call' from Sunday's bible passage. We're at the beginning of a new year, a time when we may be discerning God's call on our lives.

But I'm taking a different tack and will begin by laying the table:

Green – the liturgical colour for this time of the year

We open the Bible – we are people of the Word – in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and was God

We pour the water – remember your baptism. You are the beloved of God, one with whom God is well pleased.

Instead of the Christ candle, we have a pink one, to represent hope, and I scatter feathers, also to represent hope.

And I place this cross, emblazoned with Hope, to remind us who and whose we are.

I've drawn heavily on the writings of Joan Chittister and another writer whose name I forgot to note.

Hope

Hope is a thin, slippery thing, often sorely tested, and maybe, sometimes, hard to come by.

Think about it - In a national and an international context, social fabric has been rent, violence sold and defended, social programs cut back, the science of global warming denied, and even with military spending increased, nationally and internationally, we feel a sense of little or no security.

Power has been substituted for hope and yet we feel powerless, hopeless.

It could be said that hope is not for easy times.

Hope comes when hope is gone, when our "hands are feeble" and our "knees are weak".

Hope is not insane optimism in the face of palpable evil or dire circumstances.

It is not the shallow attempt of well-meaning friends to "cheer us up" in bad

times, or the effort of counsellors who want us to "re-frame" our difficulties so that everyone else around us will not have to deal with them, too.

No, hope is not made of denial.

Hope is made of memories.

Hope reminds us that there is nothing in life that we have faced that we did not, through God's gifts and graces – survive, even if we didn't recognise God at the time.

Hope is the recall of good in the past, on which we base our expectation of good in the future, however bad the present feels.

Hope digs in the rubble of the heart for memory of God's promise to bring good out of evil and joy out of sadness and, on the basis of these memories of the past, take new hope for the future – even in the fear of loss – even when our own private worlds go to dust.

So, we look in hope to a God who loves us, and we live in hope – hope in the promise that God is calling us to greater things and will be with us as we live into them.

Concluding with the first verse of Emily Dickinson's poem, "Hope" is the thing with feathers .

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all.



This reflection was prepared for the January Meeting of Church Council by Christine Secombe.

Chairperson Writes ...



Greetings and welcome to the first Morialta Vision for 2020 – which is also the last time I will be writing under this particular heading!

Our AGM will be held on 5 April, with elections included. My February musings therefore focus on some of what I've learned in the role of Chairperson, and what is beckoning in the future. Endings and beginnings, blending into each other, as they always do. This time, illustrated by new leaves springing forth from blackened trunks on Kangaroo Island, as we remember the destruction, send love to those affected, and pledge to take what action we can to contribute to creation care.

The AGM! Nominations are now open (closing 18 March) for positions of Elder on Church Council – and we have vacancies for several. Information on this role has appeared in the newsheet, and please ask me personally if you would like to read an excellent summary of the responsibilities of this position, produced by the NSW/ACT Synod.

We also seek nominations for a Chairperson and Secretary of the Congregation, and Morialta's representative to the newly formed Presbytery A. In addition we urgently need people able to contribute to the work of Mission and Operational Ministry Teams. One example is the Property OMT, which takes care of our lovely but elderly bluestone church, as well as our brand-new student accommodation houses, and our manse, somewhere in the middle age-wise. Could you contribute?

Next we have the Children, Youth and Young Adults Mission Ministry Team. To give genuine expression to the enthusiasm for this mission area that is often expressed during discussions, we need people in addition to the parents of the young people to join the team and its activities! And we have the Worship and Faith Education Mission Ministry Team. This is a great time to consider if your gifts and interests may equip you to make a contribution as a team member to this vital part of Morialta's life. Then we have the Library, affirmed resoundingly in a recent review and now needing committee members and also helpers on Sundays and Wednesdays.

And one more to mention – the Pastoral Care Mission Ministry Team, working now to put into action the new *Caring Connections* program launched during February – new contributors will be welcomed warmly.

Remember, everyone learns on the job – no-one comes to a new role, at Morialta or anywhere else, with everything they need to do it well – and I stand as a clear example of this principle. The things I have learned in my three years as chairperson are many indeed – and I value the support I have received from many of you in this learning and development. Thank you!

And it will be the same for you, if you put your hand up for a new role here – there is help and support, mentoring and encouragement. So please do consider prayerfully if there may be a new role calling to you for 2020 and beyond!

And as always, please be in touch if you have questions, concerns or suggestions – or if there is anything Morialta-related that you would like to discuss – I look forward to hearing from you!

Margaret Cargill

0439 954814

margaret.cargill@adelaide.edu.au

Rising from the ashes to a new beginning

Ex-Moderator Rev Sue Ellis has written a 46-day devotional study for Lent that focuses on building hope out of loss.

“As Lent approaches and residents of Australia are left in shock and turmoil, it feels like an opportune time to pray for people to turn to Jesus for hope, healing, comfort and courage to face the future,” says Sue.

Sue knows firsthand what it is like to experience the devastation of bushfire. A scene she will never forget is the wall of flame that roared down the mountain behind her hometown of Melrose in the summer of 1988.

“An orange hue lit up the sky, before quickly turning dark and gloomy as thick smoke and clouds rolled in, and the Mount Remarkable National Park was consumed by fire,” she remembers.

The scene brought to mind scripture from Joel 2:2, as Sue recalls watching the fire challenge residents like a great and powerful army; it was something Sue

had never seen before, nor wished to see ever again.

“... a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness. Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.”

Joel 2:2

Many communities in Australia have experienced just what Sue did that day. This summer, Australia has experienced some of the worst national fires in known history. Fires that have left the nation reeling with feelings of defeat and despair, powerlessness and frustration, confusion and overwhelming grief. Death and destruction visited and wielded its power.

Ash Wednesday, 26 February is significant. It is the first day on a journey towards the life-changing demonstration of the greatest power in the Universe – the power of God's Love revealed in the man, Jesus of Nazareth. Power that has changed the world by changing darkness and gloom to eternal light and joy.

Sue's Lent devotional study booklet 'We Will Rise' is available for pre-order from MediaCom Education

(<http://www.mediacom.org.au/bookcase/rise.html>).

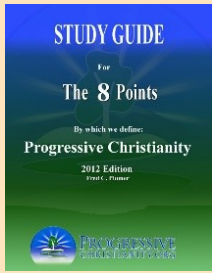
Much of the profits will be donated to the SA Government Bushfire Relief fund and the Synod Bushfire Relief fund.

Join Sue in praying for fresh hope and new beginnings:

God who offers new beginnings through Jesus Christ, be with all those who are recovering from bushfire loss and destruction. Grant courage to every person who seeks a new beginning in this moment, as our thoughts turn to you and the upcoming season of Lent. Amen.



Lenten Reflections for 2020



Gateways by Day for Lent - The eight points of Progressive Christianity

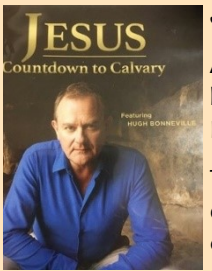
Progressive Christians understand that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life. They find grace in the search for understanding and that there is more value in questioning than believing in absolutes. They seek community that is inclusive of all people. They strive for peace and justice among all people and to protect and restore the integrity of the Earth.

Led by Christine Garner

Thursdays 12, 19 & 26 March and 2 April

2-4pm in the Kooka Rooms

Pdf Reading material by email at no cost / or photocopy provided (small charge).



Jesus - Countdown to Calvary

A discussion based on a TV program hosted by actor and theology graduate, Hugh Bonneville.

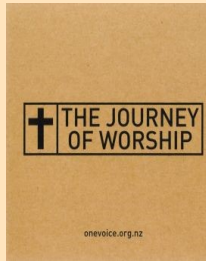
The program reveals how a perfect storm of political intrigue, power struggles and clashing religious passions combined to take a highly regarded itinerant healer and

preacher to crucifixion victim in a single week and in doing so changed the world.

Led by Chris Ayles

Hosted by Jan Schroeder

Fridays: March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 at 7.30pm



The Journey of Worship

Explore Malcolm Gordon's DVD "The Journey of Worship"

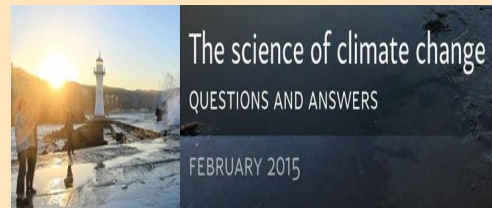
A series of short videos that walk you through the ancient rhythms of Christian worship and how that can inform our lives today. Tired of Worship that seems disjointed or shallow? Malcolm Gordon

takes the richness of liturgy to help us to tap into the deep streams of faith that we all share. Videos cover Call, Adoration, Confession, Assurance, Word, Table, Offering, Intercession, Sending and Formation.

Led by Bob Hutchinson.

Sunday Mornings March 1, 15, 22 and 29.

In the church at 10.50 am.



The Science of Climate Change

Published by the Australian Academy of Science. Contents include: What is climate change? How has climate changed? Are human activities causing climate change? What are the impacts of climate change? What are the uncertainties and their implications? What does science say about options to address climate change?

Led by Bob Hutchinson.

Venue: Hibernia Café, Magill Road.

Tuesdays March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March at 10am.

Pdf Reading material by email at no cost or photocopy provided (small charge).

Friendship and Fires

When the bushfires were at the peak of their ferocity the news channels on UK television were showing footage of the raging fires and the loss of houses and property. There was also a lot about Kangaroo Island being on fire and the destruction of wildlife.

We had a lot of emails from friends in the church where we served, asking if we were safe and how far away the fires were. Many of them had been here to holiday with us and we had taken them to Kangaroo Island so they could picture the scene. We also made trips through the Adelaide Hills and the Barossa Valley.

I wrote a general email to tell them what was happening and explained about the CFS being made up of volunteers who had businesses, farms and jobs in the community and that some had died and others had lost their own homes and farms and businesses.

This letter was subsequently put on the church website saying it came from the wife of one of their previous ministers. The production manager of the BBC "Faith" program saw the

letter and emailed me to see if I would be willing to participate in a live interview on the following Sunday.

He gave me a list of possible questions and I thought it would be better for our President Dr Deidre Palmer to do it, because she could give an overview of the churches' response Australia wide. She had just completed her statement to send to the church and so was quite ready and prepared. We were able to listen to the interview on the computer, and as usual she was very clear, concise and competent. As a consequence this interview was picked up by the editor of "The Methodist Recorder" newspaper, which is sold in newsagents, and quoted in an article there.

One of the little villages, Wingrave, which is in the circuit where we were, contacted us to say they were raising money for the bushfire appeal and asked where to send it. We gave them details of the UC Disaster fund so they could send it directly there.

Judith Purling

The last 8.15 worship service...



Four regulars: Elizabeth, Fay, Craig and Keith.

On Sunday 22nd December the Morialta folk who meet regularly for worship at 8.15am gathered for the last time, for the present.

Colin Sampson attended and sent us these photographs of this very special occasion.



From left: Rhonda, Elizabeth, Fay, Doug, Craig, Bob, Keith and David.

The communion table in the eastern transept.



Ministry Team Reports to Church Council

Property Team Report February 2020

Several initiatives have been completed including treatment of carpets to eradicate carpet moths in the church, foyer and library, concreting paths, renewing the carport, installing a new pergola, repairing the plumbing and attending to ceiling cracks at the manse.

Quotes to undertake work on the engineer's report on the church building have been obtained and LED lights changeover completed.

The main issues of concern are:

- Completing jobs reported in the engineer's report on the condition of the church building. This includes debris on the church ceiling, cracked beam and purlin support in the roof space, and storm water dispersal at the south east corner of the church.
- Dealing with the ban on the use of the fixed ladder on the rear wall of the church.

- Restoring the manse garden after bobcat damage during concrete removal.
- Loss of key working team member – John Thornton
- Continuing requests for expenditure in the absence of sufficient funds.
- Condition of the stained-glass windows.
- Condition of the inside wall of the church porch

The Team will continue identifying and talking with stakeholders, meeting contractors, getting quotations, making decisions, taking action, following up, responding to newly emerging problems, repeat the above as many times as is required to fix the new and original problems.

Chris Ayles for the Property Team

Community Centre Team Report February 2020

The structure of the programs offered through the team remains constant even though there have been some movements related to personnel.

Fellowship had a successful year celebrating its 2019 with donations to a number of UCA related initiatives. As a consequence of a speaker at one of its meetings, Fellowship made the recommendation to purchase a defibrillator.

Tai Chi has maintained its growth in the second half of 2019 offering gentle exercise and fellowship to around 20 participants each week.

Playgroups, both Morialta and the Japanese group, continue to enjoy positive progress, helped by affiliation with Playgroups SA.

Lunch on Chapel's move into the hall on a permanent basis was a success. The availability of suitable cooling and heating along with the extra space enhanced the comfort felt by the participants.

Student Accommodation Program has commenced 2020 with no vacancies and this is a significant source of funding for us at Morialta.

Art and Craft Circle continues to be a venue for creativity and fellowship.

Coffee & Chat likewise is a welcome activity for a smaller cohort of congregation & community.

Following the review of the **Library** and its recommended continuation, we look forward to an expansion of its use. Suggestions are being sought on future book acquisitions.

The **Workshop** continues to provide a worthwhile fellowship for the regular participants.

The **Tennis Club** provided a \$300 donation towards the new defibrillator.

Possible future initiatives include:

Foyer Coffee – the team considered the implementation of a hospitality service through the installation of a coffee machine that would offer good quality coffee at a reasonable price. Further research undertaken determined this was not possible and there has been no traction within the wider MUC community. While acquiring the equipment is feasible the program requires ongoing volunteer support to maintain its success and involvement from congregation and community will be required.

Bus Tours – following a hiatus of a couple of years the team will look at the feasibility of reintroducing low-cost Bus Tours for members of our community.

Bruce Ind for the Community Centre Team

Prayer for Leadership

Joan Chittister

Give us, O God,
leaders whose hearts are large enough
to match the breadth of our own souls
and give us souls strong enough
to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader, let us seek
more than development for ourselves—
though development we hope for—
more than security for our own land—
though security we need—
more than satisfaction for our wants—
though many things we desire.

Give us the hearts to choose the leader
who will work with other leaders
to bring safety to the whole world.

Give us leaders
who lead this nation to virtue
without seeking to impose our kind of virtue
on the virtue of others.

Give us a government
that provides for the advancement of this country
without taking resources from others to achieve it.

Give us insight enough ourselves
to choose as leaders those who can tell
strength from power,
growth from greed,
leadership from dominance,
and real greatness from the trappings of grandiosity.

We trust you, Great God,
to open our hearts to learn from those
to whom you speak in different tongues
and to respect the life and words
of those to whom you entrusted
the good of other parts of this globe.

We beg you, Great God,
give us the vision as a people
to know where global leadership truly lies,
to pursue it diligently,
to require it to protect human rights
for everyone everywhere.

We ask these things, Great God,
with minds open to your word
and hearts that trust in your eternal care.

Amen.

This prayer was written by Joan Chittister as the United States prepares for a presidential election this year. However it can be used a "Prayer for Leadership" by people around the world or even as we choose a new Chairperson and Secretary at Morialta



On the increase of the Spirit, and the dancing of the planets

St. Augustine described the Holy Spirit as the bond of love between the Creator and the Son. That got me thinking. Does God grow?

Love isn't flat and static. It is alive and active. Love grows, and God is love.

This reality has some pretty wondrous implications. For starters, since you and I are part of the body of Christ, bearers of the Creator's image, can we conclude that the Spirit expands and increases through our love for God and each other?

I think so.

The Son grew, and maybe still grows, and Augustine's thought suggests the Spirit is magnified when love expands. The Creator must also grow, because after all, they are part of a Trinity. If one grows, all must grow.

But how is this reflected in the person of the Creator; the immutable encapsulation of our image of God? Perhaps the answer is not about essence, but about production.

Perhaps it is in the very expansion of the cosmos. Perhaps the increase of our love feeds the very force of the Creator's power, and out shoots matter and energy and liturgy and ritual and order and beauty and passion and endurance and hot, molten, burning, unconquerable love. And so as we love, the stars and the planets dance, and the bees and the ants dance, and the church and its liturgy dance, and we dance.

We dance.

We dance.

https://www.wheretrueloveis.com/single-post/2019/01/04/On-the-increase-of-the-Spirit-and-the-dancing-of-the-planets?fbclid=IwAR2LJ13LOompREL-mYFqyCk4KUGB1CFiziUh3Gvlwb_YHeH_-soZ4Rg_1-l

Suzanne DeWitt Hall is the author of the devotional series "Where True Love Is"

Her work is designed to shine the light of love into hearts darkened by discrimination and fear. Suzanne lives with her beloved wife, two terriers, and a cat named Chicken. Her life is so full of joy it's surprising her house can hold it all.

Interfaith Forum at Morialta

From the editor

Morialta and Modbury UC joined together on 9th February to sponsor an Interfaith Forum with guest speaker Professor Mohammad Abdalla from UniSA's Centre for Islamic Thought and Education. Professor Abdalla is one of Australia's most prominent and respected Muslim leaders, combining the roles of an academic scholar, public intellectual, community leader and commentator. Professor Abdalla was supported by Ramila Chanisheff, the Business Manager for the Centre, and Greg Macdonald a PhD student with the Professor.



Professor Abdalla has a Doctorate in Islamic Studies and he was invited to establish the Centre at UniSA 3 years ago. In recognition of his scholarship and leadership, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2020.

Professor Abdalla was born in Libya and lived his early life in Palestine. He described how having been born in Libya and having lived in Palestine, he is always interrogated whenever he passes through immigration. However, he accepts that as part of who he is and always try to smile and be polite.

The Professor is an Australian citizen and has lived in Australia since his teenage years. By way of introduction he described how difficult it was for Moslems in Australia after "9/11". Even for his wife who is Anglo-Celtic, but wears a hijab! People still often speak slowly to her and ask her if she can speak English.

In Brisbane he was Imam of a mosque for a number of years and became widely known for promoting acceptance and encouraging the members of his mosque, particularly the younger members, to be open to others and try

to learn about and understand other faiths. He also counselled them to try not reacting when hassled or abused by people in public spaces.

However, being Imam to a mosque was a difficult road to travel. While the mosque was building a new and larger mosque, the old smaller mosque burnt down. Sadly, the media and police accused their community of burning it down to obtain insurance to pay for the building of the larger mosque. Fortunately, when the matter went to trial, they were able to prove that the old smaller mosque was not insured and the entire accusation was false. But it undoubtedly had a negative effect on their community.

He also described how he was humiliated and slandered by the Australian newspaper some years ago but how, when he sued the paper, he was supported by churches and individual Christians who campaigned on his behalf and wrote letters to the Australian demanding they retract the accusations, which were totally fabricated.

One of the central themes of his story was around the commonalities between our faiths, which far outweigh the differences.

He encouraged all of us to continue to build bridges through conversations and sharing over meals and emphasised the value of Christians and Moslems just getting to know each other as people.

Those present were certainly enthralled with his gentleness, his humour, his sense of modest pride in being a Moslem, his willingness to reach out and share his story and his willingness to listen to others.



Ramila Chanisheff is a member of the local Uighur community having migrated to Australia 20 years ago with her parents. Ramila spoke passionately about the situation for Uighurs in China and how difficult it is to make contact

with family still there, and learn what is happening. Contact can only be via whatsapp and conversations are monitored.

For those of us who knew little of the origins of the Uighurs, they have lived in eastern Turkestan (Xinjiang) since the great migration or expansion of the Turkic peoples from the Mongolian steppes, which began in the sixth century. They speak a Turkic language and the country was absorbed into China soon after the Nationalists lost power in 1949. It was renamed Xinjiang by the Chinese Government.

Ramilla told us how difficult it has been but offered her services as a guest speaker to any groups that are interested. If your group would like to contact Ramilla, her email is ramila.chanisheff@unisa.edu.au.

Greg MacDonald is a PhD student with Professor Abdalla researching the factors affecting Christian Muslim dialogue in Australia, using Adelaide as a case study. As a part of his study he is interviewing people from both the Uniting Church and Sunni Muslims, about their views/ attitudes/theological perspectives etc.

A few years ago Greg took long service leave and lived in Palestine, which not only gave him an interest in his subject, but changed his world view significantly.

If you are interested in being involved in Greg's research, and you are older than 18 and attend a UCA church regularly, Greg would love to hear from you. You can take part in a confidential interview and/or participate in a focus group that will explore the views and attitudes of regular Church and Mosque attendees towards dialoguing with each other.

Greg is particularly interested in talking with people who are either ambivalent about, or have concerns about, interfaith dialogue with Muslims.

If interested, you can email him (gregory.macdonald@mymail.unisa.edu.au) and arrange a time and place. The confidential interview usually takes around 40-45 minutes and can take place at either at the UniSa Magill campus at a time and date most convenient for you or another quiet location.

Weekly Prayer Bulletin

From *Climate Caretakers*

The Hottest Decade Ever – Last week NASA officially declared 2019 to be the second hottest year in recorded history and the 2010's to be the hottest decade ever. The past five years have been the hottest five ever recorded. The Arctic is heating up much faster than the rest of the planet, which will further accelerate the problem as sea ice melts and warmer ocean water absorbs more heat from the sun.

And even though the climate crisis seems to finally be getting the media attention that we need, scientists tell us that global warming is actually speeding up, not slowing down!

Our planet is running a fever. It's time we led with bold prayers and bold actions.

Our Prayer

Creator God, we continue to see and feel the devastation caused by the results of our actions on the atmosphere. The world is warming and we are to blame. Forgive us for our apathy. Forgive us for continuing to live our consumptive lifestyles that are causing this climate crisis. As the world continues to warm, grant us the courage to act boldly, the wisdom to act strategically, and the grace to act kindly. Help us to feel the weight of the problem without being paralysed by its enormity. Help us to act faithfully out of our love for you and our love for our neighbours.

Amen.

Who are Climate Caretakers?

They are a community of Christians committed to prayer and action on climate change, who believe climate change poses a tremendous challenge

and represents one of the greatest injustices experienced in modern history. They hold that our faith compels us to respond with urgent prayer, faithful action, and the love and hope founded on our faith in Jesus Christ. They also believe climate change offers the Church an unparalleled opportunity to show the love of Christ in a new and exciting way. While the secular world may despair from the enormity and urgency of the problem, our **hope** – founded in Christ – is that God has given us the tools to solve this crisis. We are therefore motivated to act through love – God's love for us and our love for our neighbours.

Climate Caretakers are also promoting the "Just Earth" app, which was produced in 2019, on all their emails as a recommended resource.

Support for Climate Change Bill

From the *Synod's Environmental Action Group and supporting members of SJMMT*

If you are interested in Australia reducing its future emissions, Independent MP Zali Steggal is seeking support for a Climate Change Bill modelled on the UK Climate Change Act 2008.

The Bill aims for zero net emissions by 2050 and for a UK style Climate Change Committee which would act as an expert group for the Parliament and set 5-yearly targets and reviews. The proposed legislation will be introduced to Parliament on 23rd March (hopefully).

The SA Synod's Environmental Action Group is inviting any members of the UCA in South Australia, who agree with the proposed legislation, to call on their local MPs to support the Bill.

The Bill is also strongly supported by the Business Council of Australia and Dr Trevor Powell, former Deputy Head of the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (now Geoscience Australia).

If you are interested, you can express your support, as well as find more information on which to base a decision whether to lobby your MP or not at climateactnow.com.au.

Code Red

Colleen Keating is a poet and writer based in Normanhurst, Sydney, but her works are read all around the world. Her poetry explores the edges of intimate beauty, quiet fragility, and the deepest secrets of our earth.

This poem was used by Rev Christine Garner to open the sermon on Sunday 2nd February.

when the sun like a cyclops
rages fiery red
divots the sky in a coven of camouflage
it has no voice to plead 'enough'
it warns us to listen ...

in the myth Odysseus gathers forces
to ram the glaring monster
but be warned
this sun is not the enemy
it is air thick with ash that chokes 'help'
amidst ember attacks and dust storms

when fish like shimmering naiads
surface slimy green
float dead in display of disaster
they have no voice to gulp 'stop'
they rely on us to think ...

in the myth Naiads shine silver
in springs and streams and brooks
be warned
dead fish are not the enemy
it is our river's way of weeping 'save me'
over-used and desecrated

when the earth our mother is parched
her body dried and cracked
she has no voice to lament 'code red '
it depends on us to act ...

in the myth our mother-earth
cries for care for respect
but be warned

cracked earth is not the enemy
it is a strangled cry 'no more to give'
exhausted and depleted

when the sea like clotted blood
chokes with plastics
angry Thor thunders floods the land
it has no voice to say 'greed does not
pay'
it counts on us for action ...

yet still in our great city
people walk about
heads down in an eerie silence
eyes weep from the smoke
behind fake masks that filter reality
they walk unbeknown like frogs
and like frogs in the myth
they are being slowly boiled alive.

FELLOWSHIP

27 people braved the cool evening conditions for a picnic at the beautiful Felixstowe Park in February, to launch the new year's program. After a lot of lively chatter and a walk around the park, we moved to McDonalds for coffee, warmth, more chatting and Fellowship.

At our meeting at 9.45am on Thursday 19th March we will welcome our own Gil Sullivan as our guest speaker.



CONGRATULATIONS

... to Katrina and Mitchell, who recently announced their engagement! We celebrate with them and wish them happiness in their life together.



THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who contributed to the annual clean up of the kitchen in January, and also to those who helped to clean and tidy the church and moved furniture, ready for us to worship in there from February onwards.



Community Building & Fundraising Events for 2020 - details to follow!

Sunday 24 May at 2.00pm

Katrina Mackenzie will entertain us with a concert of choral delights.

Saturday 27 June at 2.00pm

Mandy Hutchinson and other members of **Notos Nonet** will perform 19th century music

Sunday 19 July at 2.00pm

Second Wind Ensemble will bring us a selection of tunes from TV, cinema, other popular music and more

Sunday 23 August at 2.00pm

Adelaide Male Voice Choir will be joining us for a concert

Sunday 6 September at 12.30pm

Guess who's coming to lunch* - sign up for a mystery lunch provided by a member of Morialta UC with others from the church. ***Not a fund raising event**

Sunday 20 September at 2.00pm *(to be confirmed)*

The Adelaide Connection Jazz Choir will bring us another lively performance from the Adelaide University students

Saturday 31 October at 6.30pm

Quiz Night - No sheep stations on offer as prizes, but a fun, sociable and competitive evening at Morialta

Saturday 21 November 9.00am - 2.00pm

Mighty Magill Market - our major fundraiser of the year

All dates are all planned to avoid pot luck teas on the last Sunday of each month from May to October, and are subject to approval by Church Council.

Lunch with Sarah

Several members gathered recently to share lunch and stories with Sarah, who used to be a very active member of our Morialta family!



A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort...
at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger...
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears...
to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection,
starvation and war,
and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness...
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen

Thanks to David Purling, who used this benediction at the end of worship at Morialta on Sunday 23rd February.

A letter from Chief Seattle

This letter was sent in 1855 by Native American Chief Seattle of the Duwamish Tribe to Franklin Pierce, President of the United States in response to an offer to purchase the Dwamish lands in the North East of the US, currently Washington State.

Rev Christine Garner read part of the letter during her sermon on Sunday 2nd February. Subsequently many asked us to print the complete letter.

Extract from Chief Seattle's letter

"The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. But how can you buy or sell the sky? the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?"

Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every meadow, every humming insect. All are holy in the memory and experience of my people.

We know the sap which courses through the trees as we know the blood that courses through our veins. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters. The bear, the deer, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the dew in the meadow, the body heat of the pony, and man all belong to the same family.

The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water, but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you our land, you must remember that it is sacred. Each glossy reflection in the clear waters of the lakes tells of events and memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father.

The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes and feed our children. So you must give the rivers the kindness that you would give any brother.

If we sell you our land, remember that the air is precious to us, that the air shares its spirit with all the life that it supports. The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also received his last sigh. The wind also gives our children the

spirit of life. So if we sell our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a place where man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow flowers.

Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the earth is our mother? What befalls the earth befalls all the sons of the earth.

This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

One thing we know: our God is also your God. The earth is precious to him and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator.

Your destiny is a mystery to us. What will happen when the buffalo are all slaughtered? The wild horses tamed? What will happen when the secret corners of the forest are heavy with the scent of many men and the view of the ripe hills is blotted with talking wires? Where will the thicket be? Gone! Where will the eagle be? Gone! And what is it to say goodbye to the swift pony and then hunt? The end of living and the beginning of survival.

When the last red man has vanished with this wilderness, and his memory is only the shadow of a cloud moving across the prairie, will these shores and forests still be here? Will there be any of the spirit of my people left?

We love this earth as a newborn loves its mother's heartbeat. So, if we sell you our land, love it as we have loved it. Care for it, as we have cared for it. Hold in your mind the memory of the land as it is when you receive it. Preserve the land for all children, and love it, as God loves us.

As we are part of the land, you too are part of the land. This earth is precious to us. It is also precious to you.

One thing we know - there is only one God. No man, be he Red man or White man, can be apart. We ARE all brothers after all."

Ending hazardous child labour/slavery

From Be Slavery Free

2020 is not only the beginning of a new decade, it is coming up to almost 20 years since the chocolate industry said they would clean child labour and human trafficking out of their supply chain. When the last statistics were released in 2014 – there were still over 2 million children in hazardous child labour (slavery) in west Africa. To gain perspective, that is approximately the total number of children living in greater Sydney and Melbourne combined.

We know that poverty is a key cause of child labour and slavery, and the price farmers have been getting for their cocoa is not enough to change the realities.

- We have asked for a living income to be calculated – and now it has;

- We have asked for child labour monitoring and remediation programs to cover all the farming areas – most have now been promised;
- We have asked for traceability and transparency about where cocoa is being sourced – it is starting to happen!

As Easter approaches, we are asking for these promises to be scaled up and the speed of change to become real!



ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER THROUGH THE **actalliance**

A message from people who have been helped by Australians

From Act for Peace

Over the years, you have supported many people around the world affected by conflict and disaster. Many of those partners are now expressing their concern for you, and I wanted to share a message from OfERR, our partner in India and Sri Lanka who together we have been supporting for over 30 years.

“Words cannot express how sorry we are about the recent bushfire in Australia. Your loss is huge, and we can only imagine the fear and pain you feel.

Our heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones and our deepest sympathy to the many families who

have lost their homes and livelihoods. We also want to commend the firefighters who have given their time to the noble cause of saving lives.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those across Australia who are continuing to face the devastating fires that have been raging for months.

In this time of great hardship caused by the ruthless bush fires, on behalf of Refugees in India, Refugee Returnees in Sri Lanka and the OfERR family, we would like to convey our solidarity and pray for quick recovery from the effects of this disaster.”

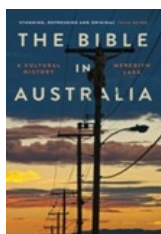
To me, this outpouring of compassion is a humbling reminder that we are all in this together.



Book Reviews

The Bible in Australia: A Cultural History

by Meredith Lake



This book offers a rich and surprising history of the Bible's changing place in Australian culture since it was 'first hauled over the water with the first fleet' over two hundred years ago.

Winner of the 2019 NSW Premier's History Award: Australian History Prize, the book combines deep research and enlightening content with easily accessible writing. As the Award Judges point out, the book carries its scholarship 'with an enviable lightness of touch'.

One review says, the text explores how in the hands of immigrants, suffragists, evangelists, unionists, politicians, writers, artists and Indigenous Australians, the Bible has played a contested and fluctuating but defining role in this country.

I was engrossed to read of the various historic and cultural eras and within them many stories of individual women and men beginning with the reminder that European imperialism introduced the Bible to Australia. This gave some very significant characteristics and varieties of understandings including dispossession and violence towards the

first peoples as well as strong denunciation of such behaviour.

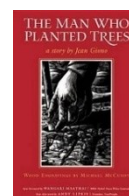
Other eras explored include 'The great Age of the Bible' and then 'Seeking the Good Society' which speaks of radical hope and equality implied by the 'priesthood of all believers' in reformist thinking. 'Re-evaluating the text', Federation, the White Australia Policy, war and its aftermath are just some of the eras.

The issues of secular Australia, the Bible's turning point, reimagining Australia, and the Bible in the new millennium are explored, as are current challenges in society going to the heart of humanity.

Meredith Lake says that the Bible has given rise to one of the world's major reservoirs of ethical reflection. It underpins long and diverse tradition of thought on social, moral and political questions. And while the church's own record has been very mixed, and at times patently destructive, the Bible, variously interpreted, continues to appear in startling ways – as a source of inspiration, power and practical wisdom.

If you are interested in Australian history and culture and people as well as the place of the Bible in the past and the present, I recommend this "one of its kind" book.

Reviewed by Jenny Swanbury



The Man who Planted Trees

by Jean Giono

Elzaerd Bouffer, a shepherd, planted trees. In a desolate area he collected and planted acorns, sorted them and chose the perfect ones.

Once there had been a village there, but the spring had dried up, the people had left and the houses had become derelict.

In his duties as a shepherd he carried an iron rod, which he used to make holes in which to plant ten thousand acorns. What a forest they would be in thirty years time! Then he planted beeches and other trees. In ten years the trees were an impressive sight. Water began to flow again, willows, reeds, gardens and flowers came back.

Elzaerd did all this in isolation. His son had died and then his wife. He got out of the habit of speaking.

People believed that his forest was natural. The whole area was renewed. People returned and the whole area became prosperous. All this from an uneducated peasant. Elzaerd died peacefully in 1947.

This story inspired many people to plant trees, which is a good thing, but this story is fiction. There never was a man named Elzaerd who planted trees!

Reviewed by Doreen Matheson

WELCOME TO MORIALTA UNITING CHURCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY HUB

From the Library Team

The library is chugging along nicely. We have had a steady influx of new (to us) books from donations by congregational members, Burnside library, and proof copies from Dillons.

At the moment the library team is quite small so any one who may be able to give us a hand would be warmly welcomed, especially if you have some computer skills.

I (Miranda) am slowly getting my head around the duties of the library coordinator so have patience with me.

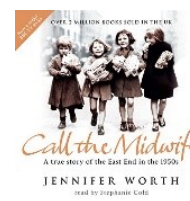
Jill Kerr has spent many hours making cards for sale and has arranged an attractive display next to the library door. It is well worth having a browse.

Joan was invited to visit a kind lady, Hilary, who comes to Lunch on Chapel, who invited her to view 23 books that we might like for the library from her

grand-daughter who works at Dillons. They are complete but preliminary proof copies of books from 2018, 2019, 2020. There is a strict understanding that under no circumstances can we ever sell them or we are liable for prosecution. These books are now being catalogued on our computer database and will be housed on a special shelf. You will recognise them by the green stickers on the front covers. The final published copies of four of these books are being sold at \$16.00 each at the shop. This wonderful gift to us of modern publications to enjoy is at no cost to our church budget.

Two of the books are:

'Call the Midwife' by Jennifer Worth. This is a true story of midwives in the 1950s in London, and focuses on Jennifer's life in the East End as a midwife, at the age of 23, cycling day and night to assist women given birth. It has been made into a popular TV series



which recently returned to ABC. It shows wonderful care for the impoverished, and the unconditional love of Christ being extended to all.

Heart-warming and special.

'The Sunday Story Club'

by Dorris Brett and Kerry Cue. Real life stories that a group of women tell when they gather once a month. Profound and



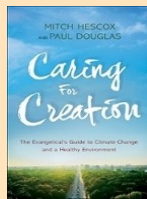
clear sighted, this reveals the surface of modern life, reminding us of the power of conversation to enlighten, heal and transform.

Miranda Clarke,
Joan Wagner
for the Library Team

Book reviews

Caring for Creation: The Evangelical's Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment

by Mitch Hescox and Paul Douglas (Kindle edition available)



"Climate change is a confusing and polarising issue. It may also prove to be the most daunting challenge of this century because children, the elderly, and the poor will be the first to feel its effects." – the authors.

Connecting the dots between science and faith, this book explores the climate debate and how Christians can take the lead in caring for God's creation. The authors try to answer questions such as "What's really happening?" and "Who can we trust?" and discuss stewarding the earth in light of evangelical values. As the authors clearly point out: "Acting on climate change is not about political agendas. It's about our kids. It's about being a disciple of Jesus Christ."

This book is unique in that it is one of the few books written about Climate Change by conservative evangelical Christians and not liberal theologians, scientists or

environmentalists. To quote Paul Douglas – "Being open to data, facts and science doesn't make you a liberal. It makes you literate. Scientifically literate. It means you favour data, facts and evidence over conspiracy theories, manufactured misinformation, and cherry-picked industry spins".

Douglas, who is a meteorologist and was a TV weatherman for 20 years, decided to join Rev. Hescox as a co-author because in his words – "I realised that while doing the nightly weather on TV, I was frequently thinking to myself 'that is new... I have never seen that before' and I finally realised the weather patterns were definitely changing. Something was amiss".

Capping off this empowering book are practical, simple ideas for churches and individuals to improve our environment and help our families and those around us.

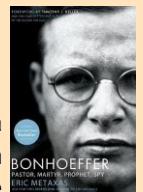
The Rev. Mitchell C. Hescox serves as President/C.E.O. of The Evangelical Environmental Network and speaks nationally on creation care, especially on the environmental life-threatening impacts on the poor and defenceless. Before the call to ordained

ministry he served the coal and utility industry as Director, Fuel Systems for Allis Mineral Systems.

Reviewed by Colin Cargill

Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy

by Eric Metaxas



Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a brilliant young theologian who first fell out with the Lutheran Church because he felt that it was not taking the teachings of the Bible seriously enough. He saw that his loyalty had to be first and foremost to God. He was a man of God.

Inevitably he also fell out with Adolf Hitler who sought to be God himself to the German people. Hitler was utterly ruthless and evil. He saw to it that Bonhoeffer was executed. Hitler took his own life before the end of World War II.

A book to be read by the serious reader who wants to learn more about the essential conflict between good and evil.

Reviewed by Rob Webbe

On a Hard Journey

O God who travels with us in the shadows,
you know who we are.

We long for life which is full and free.

We want to know the truth
and we want to leave behind us,
all the things which hold us back.

We want to move forward in faith,
but the way seems so dangerous
and we stand in helpless fear
before the hiddenness of our past
and in our future.

Stand beside us gentle Christ.

Walk before us brave Jesus.

Call us on into life Holy Spirit.

*Dorothy McRae-McMahon from
"Liturgy for a Hard Journey"*



Morialta Uniting Church
26 Chapel Street, Magill

8331 9344
office@morialtauca.org.au
www.morialtauca.org.au

Minister
Rev Bob Hutchinson
0422 264 332
minister@morialtauca.org.au

Diary Dates

Sunday 15 March	Student Welcome
Thursday 19 March 9.45 am	Fellowship Speaker - Gil Sullivan
Tuesday 24 March 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 5 April 10.45am	AGM of Morialta Uniting Church
Thursday 9 April 7.30pm	Maundy Thursday worship
Friday 10 April 9.00am	Good Friday worship
Sunday 12 April 9.30am	Easter Sunday worship including Holy Communion
Thursday 16 April 9.45am	Fellowship Speaker Gaynor Hallows
Monday 27 April - Friday 1 May	Gateways Retreat
Tuesday 28 April 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 30 April	Fellowship Bonus Tour of U-City

Acknowledgements

Brian Corrigan, Colin Sampson, Sharon Mackenzie, David Purling and others for photos throughout this edition.

Stories and texts from those identified throughout.
Thanks to all who have contributed.

Editor: Colin Cargill
Publisher: Helena Begg

Living Streams ~ Giving Life



**Deadline
for the next Edition**

1 April

To discuss ideas for Vision articles
contact the editor, Colin Cargill