

Morialta Vision ...in the Wilderness

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

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Welcome to Vision in the Wilderness 4

Colin Cargill Editor and Helena Begg Publisher

Wow – edition number 4 of *Vision in the Wilderness* already, but maybe the end is in sight.

While we miss seeing each other, phones have been running hot, others have been zooming, skyping, or whatsapping, and many things are still happening around our community.

In this edition you can experience an explosion of colour from Cynthia Story, observe how Ray Clogg is maintaining close physical contact, reflect on a prayer from Carol Penner (from Rev Bob), read a few tips on physically isolating from MSF volunteers (often part of life for them), read about Ruth Dunning's reminiscences of St Petersburg (then Leningrad) and listen to a range of music from friends. We continue to welcome photos and articles – less than 300 words will be ideal and hand written pieces are fine. Cut off dates for future editions of "VitW" are **May 22 and June 5**. My address for a letter box drop is 34A Moules Rd Magill / call me on 0427 122 106 / or email me at

snout-n-about@bigpond.com.au

Go well and stay safe!

Caring Connections Catch-up 4:

How are you going? We hope you are enjoying using the new directory to be in contact with more of your Morialta friends! One small alteration, please – Margaret Pittman no longer has a mobile phone number, so please delete that listing.

Now that the directory is completed, we want to put into operation your individual wishes for the new *Caring Connections* program. But to do this we need to receive everyone's personal letter (distributed earlier in the year). So – please consider this a reminder, if yours is one of the 35 still outstanding!

As COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease, Synod has sent us instructions. Up to 10 people can be on the church premises at a time, with physical distancing and hand sanitizing operating, and everyone signing in and out and providing contact details. No food or drinks can be provided yet. To ensure special care of people in the more vulnerable categories, Synod asks that those over 80 and anyone feeling at all unwell or with chronic health issues does not attend, and that those 70 – 80 consult their GPs for advice. So – online worship services and meetings by Zoom remain the plan at Morialta for now, and you can drop off offerings between 10:00 and 2:00 on Tuesdays.

Keep well and safe!



Embracing the Interruption

Rev Linda Driver – Minister Athelstone UC

I read this opening sentence in an email* recently: "As we continue living and working in a 'world interrupted'..."

That expression 'a world interrupted' took me back to when I worked in administration at Uniting College. I had a number of responsibilities including the reception desk. I remember getting frustrated by the interruptions... phone calls, visitors, emails, ... It was hard to focus on the list of tasks I had before me. It took a while for me to work out that I needed to embrace the interruptions because they were an important part of my work! By treating every interruption as valued as those other things on my list, I became less resentful and found so much joy in my role.

Today as we try to live out our daily lives, we can get frustrated by interruptions... a phone call during dinner, a knock at the door, an email with a new request, and so on.. Each interruption represents a person, a moment, something which in itself is important and to be valued. Without interruptions our lives would be mundane, boring with no change, no progress. We can resent the interruption or we can give it our full attention and be in that moment for just a while.

What can we learn in the interruptions of life? What do they teach us about our life and ourselves? How might they change us?

And now, we find ourselves experiencing a doozy in interruptions, unprecedented in interruptions... the COVID-19 pandemic. Can we apply the same questions? Can we give it our full attention and be in this moment for a while? What is living in a pandemic teaching us about life and ourselves? How might this change us? Can we embrace this interruption?

I invite you to pray with me:

Loving Patient God, we do not naturally enjoy interruptions and we certainly are not enjoying this pandemic! People are falling ill and some are dying, lives are disrupted, jobs have been lost, people are hungry, isolated and anxious.

Yet, you call us to life overflowing. What does that look like in a pandemic? Help us to give full attention to this strange new world we find ourselves in and to be fully in this moment of time.

Help us to be aware of your presence in all our moments.

Help us to be open to what we can learn about life and ourselves in this time. Shine a light on those things we need to see.

Help us to be open to whatever change may come out of those new insights. Help us to look forward with hope to whatever those changes will bring. Amen

(*Seriously Optimistic Online News May 2020, St Luke's Innovative Resources)

From the Chairperson of Council

For those of us who are fortunate to have access to technologies such as internet and digital devices, staying connected is a little easier. It isn't anywhere as good as being in the same place though! Anyway, I hope that whether you are reading this - from the screen, or from the printed page you and yours are doing well in these strange times.

There have been a number of new things happening in the life of the Church Council since last time. Church Council held its April meeting via Zoom online. While it was a little challenging, the council considered the agenda and the business before it in the same way it would in normal circumstances. Thanks to the elders for their willingness to embrace the technology required to get connected.

Talking about being connected, while it may be covered elsewhere in this issue, I would like to acknowledge the perseverance of Margaret Cargill, assisted by John Secombe, in preparing and producing a long awaited 'Morialta Directory'. Being able to find contact details for our church family in the one place is a fantastic resource to be able to stay connected with each other!

Along the same theme, Virtual Church has been appreciated by many members of the congregation, and beyond, as we have shared in Holy Communion and liturgy. While we have participated through viewing the service in our homes, or, through reading the liturgy each week, when it is delivered to us by wonderful volunteers, we are able to stay connected to our church family.

None of us can be sure when the impact of COVID 19 will diminish, but, I pray that you will all find comfort and confidence in the faith we share.

Go well and stay well!

Shalom, Bruce

UnitingWorld – Response to Covid19 Help us supply Food, Water, Sanitation and Safety

Our partners in Asia, Africa and the Pacific are providing emergency food, access to clean water and sanitation, care for those at risk of violence in locked-down communities, and loans to support long-term income recovery.

Funds raised through this appeal will support UnitingWorld's transformative relief and development work with local partners in the Pacific, Asia and Africa. UnitingWorld will use donations with care, and apply them to where they are most needed during the COVID-19 crisis.

Your gift will save lives. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible in Australia. To donate go to
<https://www.unitingworld.org.au/actnow>



Music on YouTube for your entertainment

From Gil Sullivan

Beethoven Ecosais:-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdLwpBUPF4Q>

From an ABC documentary about Gil about 15 years ago - Mozart Sonata in B flat K498a 1st movement.:-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H3V23j9cFM>

A piece Gil recorded 30 years ago - Mozart Variations:-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXHppZhgctY>



From Mandy Hutchinson

More pieces of music for Nonets.
Programme notes written by Sally Stephenson.

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger's compositions were influenced by the work of Brahms, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Schubert. This nonet is considered one of the best works ever composed for this combination of instruments.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8sgsoVcFA8>

Louis Spohr was a German composer, conductor and violinist whose nonet was the first composition to bear the name Nonet. The combination of instruments that he used – a wind quintet with violin, viola, cello and double bass – has since become the standard combination for a nonet.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU789Thfz7w>

From Colin Cargill

“Between us” – composed by Hairul Umam:-
<https://youtu.be/BQatx7qptuA>

“Autumn Leaves” – featuring Agam Hamzah and Hairul Umam :-
<https://youtu.be/6VVSWHPoDb8>

Who is Muhammad Chairul Umam aka Hairul Umam?

Hairul is an Indonesian sax player I met while eating dinner in Yogyakarta in 2008. He was playing in a trio with a singer and key board player. The singer and the keyboard were ok, but Hairul made the sax really sing. After I finished eating, I was given a survey and the last question was “what was the best thing about your meal?” I answered “The Sax Player”. During their next break Hairul called to thank me and we have been friends ever since. I subsequently enjoyed many evenings in Yogyakarta, and later Jakarta, listening to his music. He and his wife have a beautiful little girl who (he tells me) loves clarinet.

Not music but...

A video that may inspire you and make you feel warm, as well as reflect on the society we will leave:-

<https://www.acesconnection.com/clip/the-great-realization-4-min-probably-tomfoolery>

Prince of Pieces

Congregational prayer by Carol Penner from Rev Bob

The world is filled with your glory, and you've given us eyes to see it, ears to hear it, a nose to smell it, hands and mouth to touch and taste.

Thank you for the taste of fresh strawberries, for the way their sweetness symbolizes summer.

Thank you for the beauty of roses, red and yellow and white and pink, their fragrance, the delicateness of their petals.

Thank you for the sun and the wind after so much rain.

Your love surrounding us in so many sensory ways.

Bring life in our own hearts, which are in places dead and cold.

We have relationships that we've given up on.

We think peace can never come between warring nations.

We can't see a way to stop environmental destruction.

Right in the midst of the muck of our despairs, you plant a seed of hope.

Help us nurture new life with small steps towards peace; a kind word even when someone is mean to us, faithful prayers for the people of warring countries, and gifts to agencies that work for peace.

Or the small step of conservation, the step of noticing the world, not walking by, taking care and giving care to the lives of the creatures with whom we share this world.

Peace comes to the world in pieces, small pieces, which you piece together in ways too mysterious for us to understand.

The tiniest seeds growing beyond our wildest hopes.

Prince of Peace, Prince of all pieces, be our Saviour, now and forever.

Amen.

Carol Penner is a Mennonite pastor currently teaching theology at Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, Ontario



Explosion of colour

Cynthia Story

I would like to share this with you - a painting hanging on my living room wall.

It was one I worked on while in an Art Group last year. The first two stages were considered for 'giving up' but something from within urged me to keep adding colours from the oil pastels I was using, blending different shades to re-create a marvellous floral ceramic arrangement in front of me.

The vibrantly coloured pastels in the box took on a magical quality as I shaped the flowers and leaves - a bit erratically, I admit, not quite a botanical drawing.

Then there was an explosion, bursts of colour as I continued to blend, this colour with the next, white with another colour. And suddenly I could see and feel the magic before me, a song, a smile, a rich contentment flowed through every part of me!

I had to find a frame for it and a spot on my wall - there hangs a happiness picture! It makes anyone who sees it smile - and it makes my heart sing!

Impressions of Russia - 1986 Leningrad

Ruth Dunning

When our plane landed in Leningrad. Bruce, my sister Ailsa and I were the only people to disembark. We stood on the tarmac surrounded by soldiers with walkie-talkie sets and suddenly out dropped three suit-cases from the bottom of the plane. Once in the terminal building the cold passport official kept shifting his gaze from our photos to the mirror on the wall behind us. Bruce had his 19 used video tapes confiscated despite answering "no" several times to the question "Do you have any friends in Leningrad"?

We arrived at the massive Yevropeyskaya Hotel, opened in 1824, and running the entire length of the block. Spacious corridors, high archways, wide sweeping marble staircases and big rooms were all a reminder of past grandeur, though now accompanied by a faint musty smell. Our room was 25 feet square and the adjoining bathroom 12 feet square. There were walk-in cupboards with crystal door knobs. Our door key was five inches long, heavy and we had to hand it to the stout, stern faced lady seated in the corridor whenever we left our room.

A highlight was a visit to the baroque styled 1,000 roomed Winter Palace and Hermitage now a museum. Here in its spacious halls and galleries, covering a distance of more than two miles, were displayed one of the world's greatest art collections, antiques and other treasures.

I was itching to visit the Kazan Cathedral, which had become a museum of atheism but long queues revealed we wouldn't have time.

We also visited Petrodvorets, the summer residence of Peter the Great. The gardens were magnificent with 140 fountains and many gilded, bronze and white statues. We learned that Peter the Great had very small feet for a man who was 6'7" tall!

Later, a black car arrived at our hotel to take Bruce to the airport regarding the confiscated video tapes, prior to our departure for Moscow on the midnight train. Ailsa and I waited anxiously and what a relief it was when he walked through the door - and with the tapes!

Look out for Ruth's visit to Moscow in a later edition of Vision in the Wilderness!

Not all queue jumpers are bad!

From a friend

I was in a long line at 7.45 am today at my grocery store, which opens at 8am for seniors only.

A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line, but an old lady beat him back into the parking lot with her walking cane.

He returned and tried to cut in again but an old man punched him in the stomach, then kicked him to the ground and rolled him away.

As he approached the line for the third time he said, "If you old codgers don't let me unlock the door, you'll never get in there!"

Prayer for patience

In our restless days when our impatience for freedom and justice seems too hard to bear, when the days are too long and the waiting too trying, help us to hold fast and keep patience a little longer, saying 'no' to our individual needs, so that one day we can say 'yes' to transformed lives and healthy communities for all God's precious people.

From the President & Vice-President of the UK Methodist Conference

Surviving lockdown

Médecins Sans Frontières workers share their tips, April 2020

Physical distancing rules mean we're all adjusting to a more restricted lifestyle. But for many MSF fieldworkers they have already experienced various forms of confinement as they serve in places affected by insecurity, war or outbreaks of disease.

Here they share their tips with those of us who are less experienced.

First – remember why you are in lockdown. Catherine Flanigan, a nurse from New Zealand, recently worked on a search and rescue ship on the Mediterranean. She was confined to the ship for weeks at a time, with very little room to move, especially when the ship was packed with rescued people. “Any inconvenience paled in comparison to the importance of the job we were doing, which was saving lives. And that’s true for all of us right now.”

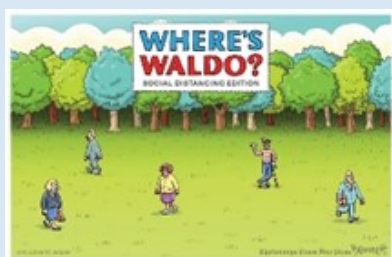
Next – it’s important to accept the new rules. Dr Tom Niccol’s advice is to “Accept that confinement is the new norm, don’t try to fight it.” When in South Sudan, Tom’s movement was restricted to the hospital and accommodation compound for months. “While it’s easy to fall into the trap of questioning the new rules and regulations, it’s better to accept that there is a reason. Remember, your liberty will return!”

Activities and projects are also important. Jeff Fisher was aware of the living conditions before he started his mission and arrived with chocolate and jigsaw puzzles to share, plus a cheap ukulele to learn how to play it... quietly. Scheduling mundane chores such as: morning – exercise / washing clothes; midday – family catchup via phone, etc, helps.

Confinement also forced Tom to rest and be innovative and to learn coping strategies for ‘alone time’. “I was even more connected to friends and family, as I had time for extended chats.”

On the lighter side....

Travel plans in 2020 be like :



Multi faith service for the climate - May 15th

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

A nationwide climate strike, led by school students, is planned for May 15th. Like everything else at the moment, it's going to be online as this strike is taking place in a vastly changed world. Yet the current situation only highlights the need for action based on kindness and recognition of our obvious interconnectedness.

The single most effective thing you can do to support the strike is to participate in a multifaith nationwide service supporting the strike on **Friday May 15th at 9.30am**.

Even though we are isolated physically we can show that we are united in the spirit of love, reverence and compassion. The service will help us connect and will emphasise kindness in the face of shared difficulty. It will also articulate what putting these values into action in practical terms means. This service will be held via Zoom and also live streamed on social media. So, you’ll be able to participate from home and it is open to people of all faiths and none.

There are three ways you can participate so choose the one that suits you.

On Zoom - please use this option if you can.

Please use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/93368937522>
Or join the Zoom call by phone on any of the following numbers: 08 6119 3900, 08 7150 1149
Meeting ID: 933 6893 7522

Watch live on Facebook – Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)

Watch live on the ARRCC YouTube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3aGBmgoafQ8Y5UTMCjtmlA?view_as=subscriber

Even though we may not be able to come together at our places of worship, we’re each still part of a faith community. Let’s act together. If we, as people of faith around the country choose to participate, we can make this thing huge.

Not "physical distancing" but "physical contact" at its best!

From Margaret Clogg

Yes - it is OK for Griffen to do this - we checked. Being an Autism Assistance Dog, he is very used to physical contact.

We were blessed when the Guide Dog trainer phoned to enquire if we were able to have Griffen for an unknown period of time. The immediate answer was yes - no thinking was required. We were not expecting to have a dog until restrictions were lifted. He warms our hearts and fills a big gap in these unusual times.

According to a recent survey – dogs are totally in favour of families isolating – with dog of course. Meanwhile cats are contemplating suicide. Editor

