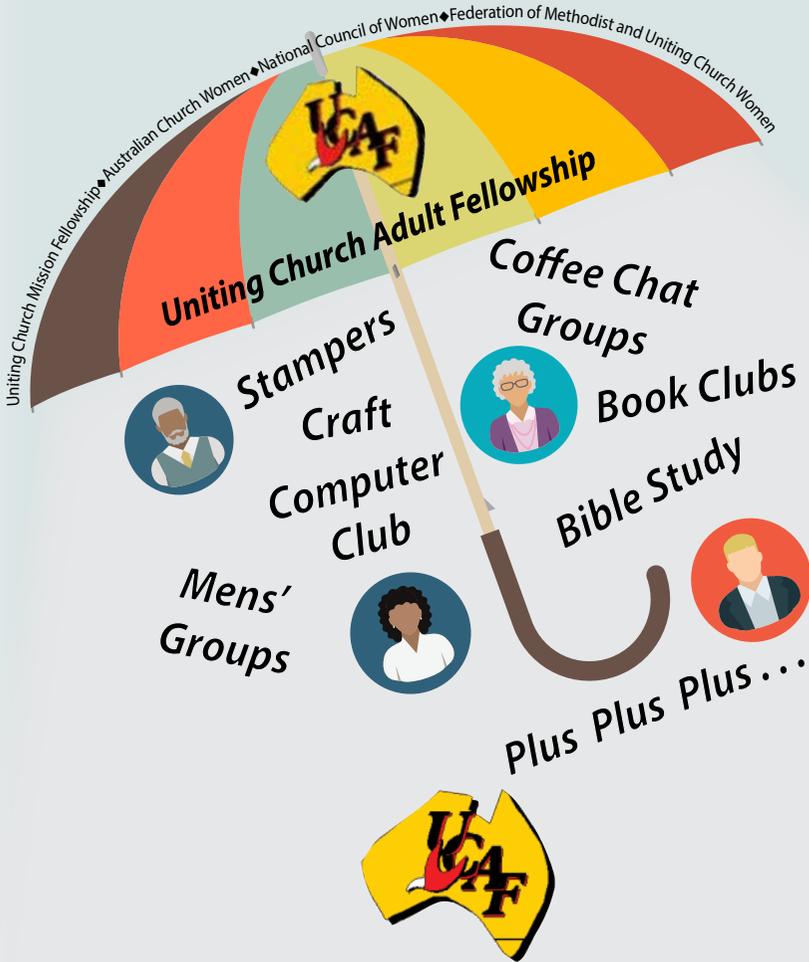


FELLOWSHIP NEWSLINK

May 2017



WA Uniting Church Adult Fellowship

*Promoting faith and friendship
across congregations and beyond*

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Please include a phone
number with submissions.

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Greetings.

The year is well underway and our prayer is that Easter was a time of blessing for you with inspiring worship and fun with family and friends.

What a great start to the year! Planning Day on Friday March 17 went very well. We are working on a fresh approach to the aims and purpose of Adult Fellowship. Cindy Gorton, Synod Safe Church Officer, a women of many talents led us in a practical strategic planning exercise. We can only look forward to new horizons. We are reshaping our strategies for the months and years ahead.

An important item is making plans for the visit of our National Chairperson, Margaret Pedler. Margaret will be in WA from the 2-10 of September and will be the guest speaker at Fellowship Day on Friday September 8 at Maylands - Mt Lawley Uniting Church.

Would your group or congregation like to invite the National Chairperson to be your guest? Margaret is pleased to spend time with a few people or participate in a group activity. She is looking forward to sharing her experiences from her attendance at the World Federation Assembly for Methodist and Uniting Church Women in Houston USA 2016. We will hear an update on the activities and lives of church people around the world and she will bring us news of church life in Australia.

At Fellowship Day the Certificates of Appreciation will be distributed. Find an application form in this copy of Newslink. Applications close on 14 July 2017. Send to WA UC Adult Fellowship GPO Box M592 Perth WA 6843.

Adult fellowships across the Synod want to say a big thankyou to Olive Caporn who for the last ten years has faithfully sent out the 90-year-old Birthday Greetings. What a great job she did. Kay Lockley from Bicton UCA is taking over this job. Thank you, Kay, for volunteering to fill this big gap. See page 14 for Kay's details.

The committee asks for your prayers. We are here for you; if you are 2 or 3 enjoying fellowship together or a large group. Please be part of what WA UC Adult Fellowship has to offer. 2017 is an affiliation free year but do please subscribe to Newslink, see page 12.

God bless and be with you.

Aladina Foster
Acting Chairperson



Dear Members of the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship,

Last year was an amazing year with some surprising twists. At the beginning, I planned to use the year to complete my studies and prepare to look for a placement. The Lord, had other plans in mind. With the changes that Trinity College, Queensland, made to the formation program a review of the training I had completed revealed that by the end of the first semester I would have fulfilled all the requirements for ordination. I could go before the Synod Selection committee in March which resulted in me being offered a call to minister at Iona West Uniting Church in Mackay.

I could clearly see the hand of God in preparing this call. The one criterion I had as to where I wanted to serve was to go to a congregation that had been in search of a minister for some time. I've seen several churches that have been blessed with multiple ministers and yet there are so many that struggle to find anyone. It seems sometimes it is too difficult for a minister, especially one with a family, to relocate. Considering my circumstances, I believe the Lord has blessed me with the flexibility to go wherever I was called to. Iona West had been without a fulltime minister for nearly four years.

Further confirmation came after I accepted the call to Iona West. Speaking with my supervisor for my field year, I recalled that he had journeyed to Mackay. When he returned, he mentioned that he had met with a congregation that he thought I would be well suited. He didn't tell me the name. As it turns out, the congregation was indeed Iona West. We serve an awesome God.

I have been in placement at Iona West for almost five months and there have been many blessings and challenges. The greatest blessing was the welcome I received. I felt like a long-lost brother who has finally come home. It has been incredibly easy to get to know the people, which has made settling in a very smooth process. The greatest challenge is to make sure I am fulfilling my responsibility in preaching God's Word and encouraging the congregation in building God's kingdom and making disciples for Jesus.

I'd like to say again how grateful I am to have been blessed with the Joan Stott UCAF Bursary. At the start of 2016 it was a great help in acquiring the texts and resources I needed for my studies but beyond that it meant that I was in a much stronger financial position to survive the two months from the end of my studies to the beginning of my placement when I had no income. Thank you also for your prayer support over the past year. No matter what work a person does, it is futile unless it is covered with prayer. May the Lord richly bless you and continue to encourage and sustain you all in the vital work God has given the Adult Fellowship.

Grace and Peace, **Rev Nathan Barton**

See page 7 for information on a Joan Stott UCAF Bursary for study in 2018

One of the most moving and lovely services ever experienced by some regular worshippers at the Kalamunda Uniting Church was held on Good Friday this year.

Immediately on entering the church it was obvious that this worship service would not be one of the usual joy in community fellowship. Instead, the atmosphere was more like that of a funeral. The usual church decorations had been removed. There were no seasonal banners or flowers. The altar table had no cloth or candle. All was bare. Shockingly, however, the large and normally unadorned hand-carved, polished wooden cross hanging behind the altar now bore a wreath of thorns and was draped across the arms with a black cloth.

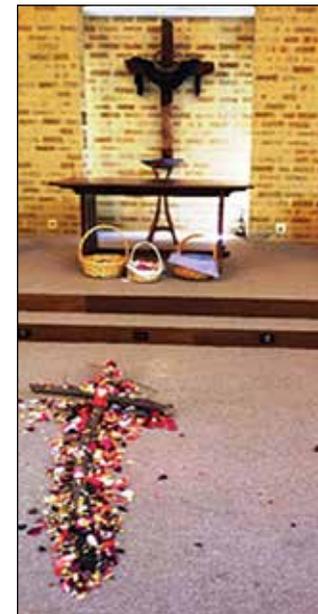
As the people quietly entered and found places to sit, the sounds of the ensemble flute, clarinet and violins blended softly with the pianist.

Our minister, Rev David Tressler, entered unaccompanied and without the congregation singing. The service then proceeded with readings, meditations and singing based on "The Seven Last Words of Christ". We again remembered those last hours of Jesus as we examined His words: asking forgiveness for those who had brought him to the cross, blessing the sinner who asked only to be remembered, taking care of his mother, recognising his separation from God, expressing his physical and spiritual thirst and, finally, his recognition that his suffering was over, his task of obedience complete.

A poem by Christine Sine was read, with a repeated line of "My Jesus – dead".

On the floor between the chairs and the altar table and not immediately visible to the congregation, lay another wooden cross formed simply and roughly from thick branches. In the silence that followed the poetry reading, everyone was invited forward to take rose petals from small cane baskets placed discreetly beneath the altar table and drop them on this cross. Its crude bareness became covered with the rose petals in the silent procession that ensued. The red petals resembled drops of blood while the action was that of placing flowers on a coffin or earth in a grave.

Finally, David blessed us and asked us to leave in quietness, perhaps to consider the artistic works displayed around the entry doors as expressions of what Easter signified to the members of our Creative Group, or to remain in silent meditation. Again, the beautiful ensemble music flowed around the church as we departed, another blessing of healing.



L'Arche House of Welcome in Perth



L'Arche was founded by Philosopher, Theologian and Templeton prize recipient, Jean Vanier, in a small village in France in 1964 when he welcomed 2 young men with intellectual disability to live with him in his home. Since then L'Arche has grown to be a worldwide federation of over 147 inclusive communities for those living with disability in 35+ countries.

Friends of L'Arche Perth was established ten years ago by a group of loving parents who feared what the future might hold for their children living with intellectual disability. Having heard about L'Arche Communities elsewhere, they were determined to establish an inclusive L'Arche Community in Perth.

In recent months, Friends of L'Arche Perth has signed a lease on their first 'House of Welcome', which will be used as the central point for L'Arche Community Gatherings, their Heart2Heart friendship program and their L'Arche spiritual life group. In time, it is hoped that the house will be able to offer L'Arche style accommodation and respite services for people living with disability and their families.

On March 12, a house warming and blessing was held at the new house in Dianella. A wonderful time was had by the Friends of L'Arche Perth Community, a chance to pray together, sing, reflect and celebrate.

Vera Waldby, Chair of Friends of L'Arche Perth feels this is a very exciting time for the charity, which has relied on the commitment and dedication of volunteers to get where they are today.

"I'm delighted that Friends of L'Arche Perth is able to so positively impact the lives of those living with disability, we are at a pivotal point in the organisations history now we have a L'Arche house in Perth."

"We can really maximize L'Arche's potential in Perth by garnering public support. L'Arche communities are truly unique, catering for the whole person.

To find out more about Friends of L'Arche Perth, to donate or to get involved, visit www.folperth.org

Gill Muir
Friend of L'Arche



Above: The L'Arche House in Dianella.

Below: Friends gather for a housewarming.



Good and faithful servant - Shirley Mitchell

I am sure many of you will know people in the Uniting Church that seem to have been there for ever, and there are many who do not seek the limelight but faithfully perform their tasks year after year with very little acknowledgement. One of those people is Shirley Mitchell, who is a member of the Maylands - Mt Lawley congregation and has been for the last 30 odd years, and is now into her 90's.



She was a member of the Bedford church before that, and belonged to the Ladies Guild as it was known in both the churches. Her activities nowadays concentrate on collecting used stamps, which are used to raise funds for Frontier Services, and ice cream containers, which are sold to fibre glass manufacturers to mix the resin in, and then discarded. Both these ventures raise considerable funds for Frontier Services, and raise about \$4,000 or \$5,000 from WA each year, which is a considerable help for providing fuel to assist the Patrol ministers to pay for the many miles that are driven to assist in their vast outback ministry.

We consider this reflects the true fellowship of UCA Fellowship. We regularly get a phone call, asking us to pick up another load of stamps or ice cream containers. What would we do without our good and faithful servants, who do not sit at home thinking about themselves, but have an eye on the bigger picture, where there is a need to fulfil a purpose in God's service.

Gill Muir

Joan Stott UCAF Bursary

Are you:

- committed to or already studying for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church
- under 35 years of age

Could you use funds to:

- pay fees to your "Place of Study"
- pay for additional courses or resources

Apply now for a Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary for study in 2018

Contact:

Anne Holland for more information and an application form
E: mrs_anne_holland@hotmail.com
Applications closing date is Wednesday 31 May

Fellowship of the Least Coin



Dear Friends of Fellowship of the Least Coin

Do you wonder where those 'Least Coins' you collect so faithfully go? We received this report and it is impressive.

A hopeful 2017 greeting to all of you! In our small ways, our fervent prayers and committed least coins will be supporting the following project grants and scholarships, aside from supporting regional and global women's work through Block Grants:

1. Project Grants

SUMMARY OF PROJECT GRANTS 2017 (US Dollars)

Africa	\$43,400
Asia	42,000
Europe	27,400
Latin America	43,600
Middle East	13,900
North America	20,000
Pacific	9,700
WCC Just Community of Women and Men	5,000

TOTAL \$205,000

2. Scholarship for Young Women

Eunice Jumalon (Philippines), Bachelor of Laws,	\$1800.
Favisa Fasike (Ethiopia), Bachelor in Theology,	\$2400.
Monica Mngodo (Tanzania), Bachelor of Arts in Applied Theology,	\$2200.
Alexandra Marie Rosado Roman (Puerto Rico), Master in Sacred Theology,	\$1000.
Raimv Esperanza Ramirez Jimenez (Colombia), Midwifery,	\$2600

Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting FLC. Our prayers and least coins for justice, peace and reconciliation will reach far and wide.

Shalom,

Cora Tabing-Reyes,

ICFLC Executive Secretary

Women's Weekend Away

The annual Women's Weekend Away will be held from Friday 26 – Sunday 28 May at the Swan Valley Adventure Centre (formerly Swanleigh Conference Centre) Middle Swan.

Titled *The Blazing Bush* and led by Rev Prue Littleton the all inclusive cost for the weekend is \$159.00.

This spiritually uplifting weekend of fellowship, friendship, discussion and meditation is organised by a committee of women from South Perth and Swan View Uniting Churches who invite women from all congregations and denominations.

Brochures were distributed to all Uniting Churches and Worship Groups in the April Uniting Church WA mailing.

For more information contact Fiona on 0407 771 416 or email southperthwwa@gmail.com

The Blazing Bush



Friday 26–Sunday 28

May 2017

Come

be challenged

be invigorated

with fellowship

Fellowship comes in many forms. Folk at Bicton working together to spruce up the meeting and activity building in preparation for the busy 2017 year, which commenced with the Alpha course in early February.



*In the photo Left-Right
Neil Warne, Carol Bray,
Nancy Bray, Lin Bougourd
and Zak Cronje.*

The Uniting Church Mission Fellowship (UCMF) group meets regularly in the Guild Room, downstairs, at Uniting Church in the City, Wesley Perth. We start at 10.00am with a cuppa each 3rd Wednesday of the month. We enjoy meeting new people and would love to have you come along and join us. We hear from some very inspiring speakers from a wide range of mostly mission focused groups and organisations.

Our next meeting is 17 May, the guest speaker will be Dr Colin Martin from NSW, who is the Chair of the Board of The Leprosy Mission Australia (TLM). Colin, along with his wife Sally, have had first-hand experience with TLM'S work at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. He is also up-to-date with all the changes happening within TLM Australia, and with the work overseas within the Global Fellowship of TLM International. Anybody, and everybody, is welcome to attend this meeting, and we would be glad to see you there.

There is a special meeting of Mission Fellowship on 21 June and we extend an invitation to celebrate the Uniting Church 40th anniversary, with special guests Alexandra Bingham, Australian Partnerships Co-ordinator, from UnitingWorld and Rev Geoff Blyth who attended the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia, in 1977. All are most welcome.

The latest stamp news is that we have come to the end of the back-log! Praise God for all the hard workers, and especially to Bob Lockley for organising everything so well. Thank you all.

But this is not the end! We still need stamps and Albums, and ice-cream containers to keep coming in, so that we can continue to support the work of

Frontier Service patrols in the northern areas of our state. Thank you for your support in the past, and hopefully for your continuing support in the future.

Anne Steed

UCMF Rep. to UCAF



Calling all Cake Lovers

In 2017 Frontier Services is making fund raising a piece of cake.

Simply bake a cake or put on a pot of tea, gather together informally and contribute the 'price of a slice' towards the costs of running a Frontier Services Patrol in remote Australia.

Did you know that \$100.00 can provide a tank of fuel! You can simply send your donation marked 'Price of a Slice' to

Frontier Services
Price of a Slice
GPO Box 2527 Sydney, NSW, 2001

To make a donation via direct debt deposit please contact 1300 787 247 for a reference number.



A prayer for Patrol Ministers which you may choose to use during your Price of a Slice event:

Gracious, engaging, Living God, from Tom Price in the Pilbara to the midlands of Tasmania we dare to believe that you are the Lord of all creation.

Watch over, especially this day, the patrol ministers who by their very presence reflect the compassion, commitment and love of your people to all the people they encounter across remote Australia.

May their ministry of presence provide a safe and transforming place for all that is shared, and touches their lives.

Lord, especially in times of loneliness and exhaustion when the tyranny of distance takes its toll, remind these Patrol Ministers that they and their families are upheld in prayer and sustained by our giving.

These prayers and those of our hearts we bring in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

– Rev Paul Bartlett

New National Director for Frontier Services

Ms Jannine Jackson has been appointed as the new National Director. Ms Jackson comes with extensive experience in the non-profit section in NSW and nationally. The General Secretary of the Uniting Church Ms. Geyer welcomed Jannine and looks forward to her leadership in this important and iconic Uniting Church Ministry. Ms Jackson commenced her role on 18 April.

We wish her every blessing in this important ministry.



Jannine Jackson

Joan Loudon

A worthwhile gift: English conversation

In May 2007 under Rev Marie Wilson’s ministry, the then Como Uniting Church set out to assist the Korean Baptists, who shared the premises, in its request for assistance with English. We started with 10 volunteers aged in their 70’s and expanded in 2008 to help people from any country. As we progressed, retired teachers volunteered their time for 2 hours per day over 35 Mondays each year.

Ken Cleaver was the co-ordinator for 9 years and has been succeeded by Swee Guan Lee from Manning Uniting Church. We are now located at South Perth Uniting Church Heritage Hall (the old Methodist Church) and opened for 2017 on 13 February with 21 students and 19 tutors.

Elaine Cleaver, Rayma Bevan and Linda Lee set up and serve morning tea. Many friendships have been made over the years. Ken keeps the records which show that 746 people from 47 countries have come through the door and have been assisted by 31 tutors within the Uniting Church and 43 outside. The City of South Perth has provided some modest funding as around 50 per cent of students usually live in the area.

Any Uniting Church congregation could run English Conversation groups. Just set a day and time(2hours) and a place and get going with a few volunteers. Tell your district and invite others to volunteer.

If you would like more information contact Swee Lee on 0417 911 270 or sweeguan.lee@gmail.com or Ken Cleaver on 9474 1818 or kcleaver2@bigpond.com.

Best regards
Ken Cleaver



Lyn Barry with Irina from Russia



2017 – Affiliation-free year

WA Uniting Church Adult Fellowship
WA UC Adult Fellowship have decided to make a fresh start. The committee agreed to make

2017 Affiliation-Free

Voluntary contributions will be most welcome.

We still want to know about your group. So please tell us:

Your Group name

Contact person for group

or Individual Person

Postal Address

Email address

Phone

How many attend your group

Newslink for Groups
Every congregation receives one copy of Newslink via the Synod mailout from the Uniting Church Centre

Number of extra copies required

Group / Individual

We ask for \$5.00 for 2nd and subsequent copies \$

Posted Newslink
For \$8.00 per year, Newslink can be posted to you or your group

Recipients name

Postal address

..... Postcode.....

No of copies Postage \$

Please detach or make a copy of the appropriate form and post to:
Treasurer, WA UCAF, GPO Box 952 Perth 6843
Internet Banking BSB 036-001 Acc. No. 92-1850 Reference 'Name of affiliate group or individual'

Celebrating Milestones of our Senior Members

The UCAF WA Committee offers you the opportunity to recognise the contribution your seniors have made and to celebrate with them and show appreciation when they reach their important milestones.

EIGHTY YEAR OLDS: at the UCAF Annual Synod Fellowship Day on Friday 8th September, Certificates of Appreciation will be presented, on behalf of the WA Uniting Church, to octogenarians nominated by their church or fellowship group. All who reach their 80th year during the current year or have missed out are eligible. **Applications close Friday 14th July 2017. Application forms are in this issue of Newslink.**

NINETY YEAR OLDS: the WA Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Committee, will send an especially designed greeting card, on behalf of the WA Uniting Church, to any person celebrating their 90th birthday and who has been nominated by their group or congregation. The Greeting Card is sent out as applications are received. We meet on the 4th Friday of each month (except January and December). If the application is received before the fourth Friday the greeting will be sent the following week. **See application below.**

ONE HUNDRED YEAR OLDS: The Synod looks after these. A letter to the Moderator requesting a greeting to those turning one hundred will be responded to. If you have any questions, please contact WA UCAF Committee Chairperson Aladina Foster on Phone 9531 2556. Email rayaladina@dodo.com.au.

APPLICATION FORM FOR GREETING TO 90 YEAR OLDS

SEND TO: Kay Lockley 22 Pembroke Street, Bicton WA 6157. Phone 9319 1644

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Congregation Date of Birth.....

Name of 90 YEAR OLD

If there is more than one please photocopy this form or list on blank paper, be sure to give all details. CHECK SPELLING PLEASE

To whom shall we SEND THE CARD? Please (✓) tick

- Congregation so it can be suitably presented?
- Nominator: The person who wishes to deliver card personally or arrange a special time for presentation?
- The 90 year old person nominated. To their personal address?

Please supply the following:

CONTACT PERSON:

Name Phone No.....

ADDRESS to which to SEND THE GREETING CARD:

Name

Address Post Code

A Call to Prayer



In February, just after Christmas, the call to prayer was for peace. Now in May, just after Easter, we celebrated the cost of God’s love for us and the joy of the Risen Lord who is with us every day.

Jesus promised, “I will be with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:29.

When all about you appears to be in conflict; remember that is how it was for the disciples after the death of Jesus. Then Jesus stepped into their presence and said, “Peace be with you, I (Jesus) am with you.”

The Call to Prayer is ‘Jesus stand among us!’

That our prayers are more than words. Pray that we become the healing presence of Jesus.

Pray that we can befriend the lonely, comfort the hurting, accept the rejected and embrace the lost.

Praying is stepping into Jesus’ Command to love God and our neighbour. Jesus added new words; love one another as I have loved you.

When we pray, Jesus is with us.

Rev Ray Foster

Diary of Events

MAY

Wednesday 3, 10am–2pm.
Friday 5.
Friday 5, 9.30–11.00am.

Wednesday 17, 10.00am.

Wesley Perth.
Monday 15, 9.30am.

Wednesday 17, 10am – 2pm.
Thursday 18–Sunday 21.
Friday 19.
Saturday 20.

Wednesday 24, 10am – 2pm.
Thursday 25–Sunday 28 May.
Friday 26.
Friday 26–Sunday 28 May.

JUNE

Wednesday 31, 10am–2pm.
Friday 2, 9.30–11.00am.

Wednesday 7, 10am–2pm.
Wednesday 14, 10am –2pm.
Sunday 18.
Sunday 18–Saturday 24.
Tuesday 20.
Wednesday 21, 10.00am.

Thursday 22.

Saturday 24 June.
–Saturday 8 July.
Wednesday 28, 10am–2pm.
Sunday 2–Sunday 9 July.
Friday 7.
Friday 7, 9.30–11.00am.

JULY

Wednesday 20, 10.00am.

Friday 22.
Monday 31.
Monday 31.

Stampers Group at Bicton Uniting Church.
Revive contribution deadline.
WA UC Adult Fellowship Synod Committee.
Meeting at the Uniting Church Centre, East Perth.
UC Mission Fellowship WA guest Leprosy Mission.
in the Guild Room at Uniting Church in the City,

Pilgrimage to Living Water departing from
Dongara Uniting Church.
Stampers Group at Bicton Uniting Church.
Perth Walk to Emmaus (Men).
Community Service Conference
12th Annual General Meeting of Presbytery of
WA, Noranda Uniting Church.

Stampers Group at Bicton Uniting Church.
Perth Walk to Emmaus (Women).
National Sorry Day.
Women's Weekend Away at the Swan Valley
Adventure Centre Campsite.

Stampers Group at Bicton Uniting Church.
WA UC Adult Fellowship Synod Committee.
Meeting at the Uniting Church Centre, East Perth.
Stampers Group at Bicton Uniting Church.
Stampers Group at Bicton Uniting Church.
Safe Church Training, Manjimup.
Refugee Week.
World Refugee Day.
Uniting Church Mission Fellowship WA Celebrating
the 40th Anniversary of the UCA in the Guild Room
at Uniting Church in the City, Wesley Perth.
Uniting Church in Australia 40th Anniversary
'All of this is us'.

About FACE.
Stampers Group at Bicton Uniting Church.
NAIDOC Week.
Revive contribution deadline.
WA UC Adult Fellowship Synod Committee.
Meeting at the Uniting Church Centre, East Perth.
UC Mission Fellowship WA guest Leprosy Mission
with John Jeffreys in the Guild Room at Uniting
Church in the City, Wesley Perth.
Newslink contributions deadline.
Mission Grants Applications Deadline.
Closing date for applications for candidature for
the ministries.

You are welcome to have your activities listed please send to Aladina Foster
email rayaladina@dodo.com.au or to
UCAF NEWSLINK, GPO Box M952, Perth 6843