



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia

Issue 75
July 2022

Revive

a fresh perspective on faith, church and life



Making History
Archives turns 40 in October

**Music moves the
City's heart**
Wesley Scholars continue
a music heritage

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Revive is published quarterly for the Uniting Church WA. The Uniting Church WA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we live and work. *Revive* is produced at the Uniting Church Centre, which sits on the lands of the Wadjuk Nyungar people and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the Nyungar people as the sovereign First Peoples of this place. Opinions expressed in *Revive* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, or the policies of the Uniting Church. *Revive* welcomes contributors. Contact the editor in the first instance at revive@wa.uca.org.au.

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Living Hope - Transformational Power

As we enter each significant decade of our adult lives, there is time afforded to look back on where we have come, and to contemplate, with expectation, the next chapter of our lives.

Depending on where we are placed on life's train, there will either be a great deal of journey ahead of us, or it may be that we are approaching our destination, with the bulk of our journey behind us and only anticipation of what awaits when we arrive at our respective destinations.

Thus far, the journey through the decade of the 2020s has taken many unexpected twists and turns, dominated by: the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, the effects of which we do not yet fully understand; the escalating harsh realities of climate change, with record floods, fires and famine; and then in 2022 the unbelievable horror of the war in Ukraine that is re-writing history and nightly portraying events thought to have been assigned to the brutalities of another age.

In the midst of such crises, over which we have so little control, the journey from optimism to despair, paired with a sense of hopelessness, can be quite rapid. Health professionals tell us, if we

have not already sensed it for ourselves, that deteriorating mental health and physical wellbeing are major challenges facing our society, as fear and uncertainty about the future replaces the optimism that has been characteristic of the Australian psyche for as long as we can remember.

In classical Greek culture, which is the world in which our Christian faith first saw the light of day, "psyche" was akin to the human soul, spirit, mind - indeed the breath of life itself. It was in this world that the Apostle Paul was able to write of the power that God can bring into our lives:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". (Romans 15:13)

With those words, Paul tells us quite clearly the nature of the journey we have undertaken in faith, regardless of what stage of life we are at. Constantly Paul urges followers to be vigilant, awake, alert to the needs of others and to be wary of those who seek to manipulate the faithful for their own purposes. Such admonitions are as relevant to our journey in the life of the Church as they were to fledgling faith communities 2000 years ago.



Susy Thomas
Moderator, Uniting Church WA

Along with the Church universal we are in the midst of celebrating the season of Pentecost, understood by many to be the culmination of the Easter journey. We know that journey well, for out of the devastation of suffering, persecution, betrayal and death, God had other plans for the people of faith, namely the gifting of the power of the Holy Spirit, as the living presence of the risen Jesus in the life of the world.

We are now at the halfway point in my journey with you as Moderator, having embraced the theme of "Trust in God", but looking forward to the next stage, as we anticipate working together in the spirit of "Joy" and "Peace", so as to bring to fruition the promises God has placed before each one of us in these coming challenging days.

My continuing prayer for our Uniting Church is that together we understand *who* we are as a Church; and *whose* we are in the spirit of the living God.

Susy Thomas
Moderator, Uniting Church WA

Moderator's Diary

July

- 17 July Preaching at GKI Perth Uniting Church
- 21 July President's meeting with the Moderators
- 29 July Australian Church Women Fellowship Day

August

- 2 August Presbytery Standing Committee meeting
- 5 August Wesley College Council Retreat
- 8 August Synod Standing Committee meeting
- 9 August Wilf Sargent House visit
- 13 August Messy Church at St Augustine Uniting Church, Bunbury
- 17 August WA Heads of Churches meeting

- 23 August Synod Business Committee meeting
- 30 August Synod Business Committee meeting
- 30 August St Stephen's School Council meeting

September

- 6 September Synod Business Committee meeting
- 6 September Presbytery Standing Committee meeting
- 9 September Opening worship of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia
- 10 - 11 September 46th Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia

Welcome to our first issue of *Revive* since December! It's good to be back!

During the hiatus, we were busily conducting a wide-ranging survey to seek your views on *Revive*. After the magazine's editor of nearly 13 years, Heather Dowling, went to another organisation - it seemed an opportune time to catch-up with you on a one-to-one basis, albeit anonymously. From the survey, it was particularly heartening to read about the longstanding readership history many of you have with *Revive*; to learn that a lot of you share *Revive* with your family and friends; and to understand the unique role *Revive* plays in connecting the Uniting Church Centre, churches, congregations, schools, agencies and you, our readers. For me, it's a privilege to be guest editor of this *Revive*.

As I was reflecting on this edition, the song line "These are a few of my favourite things" popped into my head. It occurred to me in that moment, that to experience the beautiful things of life, you don't have to be Julie Andrews twirling in the Austrian Alps. Rather, you need only walk through the urban corridors of the Uniting Church to find beautiful music, far-reaching history, picturesque gardens and home-made cherry cake! Yet life is not just about beauty. Our hearts feel bolder and upright when truth corrects distortion; compassion overpowers malignment; and reconciliation brings light to the shadows of pain. To this end, the short articles on the renewal of the Covenant with the *Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress* and the continuing, vocal advocacy for refugees by our *Social Justice* unit are evocative of this virtue. The pages of *Revive*, in addition, showcase the meaningful work of *Beanang Kwart Institute* (BKI), *Good Sammy*, *Uniting WA* and *Juniper*. Knowing that there is a blanket of protection for vulnerable people is comforting to a caring heart. So, in food terms, I see this *Revive* as a balanced diet of dessert, muscle-building protein and comfort food with tasty local news snacks and stories in-between.

Earlier in the year, the first sobering images of Ukraine seemed, for a noticeable time, to halt the endless inanity of our everyday news. However, it was not long before the storm blew up again. For me, the spike began with "the slap" at the Oscars. Yet, no sooner had the hysteria subsided, when the Johnny D and Amber H trial come into focus. With blanket coverage on TV and social media, it was hard to miss the unrelenting stream of startling revelations. Twitter erupted when Jordan Peterson commented "Sorry. Not beautiful" of a plus-size model's debut on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. Watching the backlash, it was a relief when he announced "Bye for now" to take what appeared to be a mental health break. Elon Musk then stepped into the fray by declaring that "Anyone who wishes to do remote work must be in the office for a minimum of 40 hours per week or depart Tesla". While not seemingly controversial, it caused an online frenzy of speculative conversations. "Wagatha Christie" kicked off in England - an intriguing case about leaked Instagram stories and a daring sting operation by an instagrammer to uncover the culprit among her followers. Just when it seemed safe to enjoy the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, stories about an anticipated photo of the Queen and Lilibet together, were trending high alongside mounting suspense of who would appear on the palace balcony. All this against the backdrop of the serious issues of COVID, natural disasters, power shortages and international crises.

My point is that in an era of highly sensationalised, quick and often perverse news, it's difficult, even if you try, to remain insulated from the mindless barrage of chatter - and it's exhausting. It hurts rather than heals, stresses rather than soothes and keeps us in a constant state of reaction, rather than repose.

Which is why it was so good when Synod Standing Committee approved the continuation of the printed, quarterly version of *Revive*. It's rare to find a publication like *Revive*, which is essentially an epistle of positivity and goodness; and it's precious to be able to retain this sanctuary of curated, well-intentioned, simple stories where we can appreciate the deeper lines of unity, rather than be swallowed into the abyss of pettiness.

I hope that as you're reading this edition of *Revive*, you will see it not only as a collection of separate stories but as a panoramic landscape, appreciating the strokes, the blend, the colour, the lightness and the kaleidoscope of images - that make up the living canvas of the Uniting Church.

Tracey Paul
Guest Editor



5 minutes with...

Kane Blackman



Kane Blackman,
Good Sammy Enterprises (GSE) CEO.

Kane Blackman joined Good Sammy Enterprises (GSE) as its CEO earlier this year. Below, he tells us more about himself and the organisation.

What were you doing before you joined Good Sammy?

I was working with the Western Australian Government in a senior executive role with the Insurance Commission. Our purpose was to help Western Australians recover following an injury sustained in a vehicle crash or at work.



Tell us about Good Sammy

It's an iconic organisation that strives every day for a better future.

Most know our op shops, of which there are 27 in Western Australia. However, many people don't know that our core mission is to provide employment and pathways for people with disability.

We employ around 300 people with disability in our social enterprises across retail, logistics, recycling, and corporate services. We also work with other businesses striving for employment diversity by helping them to employ and support people with disability.

Overall, we are a diverse and purpose-focused charity that has operated since the 1950s. I'm fortunate to have a passionate team, a supportive Board and a community of people that love what we do.

We do need more volunteers, as COVID saw a steep decline in the numbers of people able to help others. If you are reading this and want to help in any way, please get in touch. As a community, we are always stronger when working together.

What drives your passion for disability?

Wanting to create a better world for my son and others with disability. When he was diagnosed five years ago, my wife and I did not have much exposure to disability. Our eyes, head and heart have now been opened.

How do you switch off from work and get balance?

I put on my runners and get out for a trundle. I find my mind clears when I run, and I always return sweaty, but with a positive and balanced energy. When I can get out of the city, I quite enjoy trail running and exploring new things.

If you could have dinner with three inspiring people, who would they be?

1. Whoever finds a cure for Angelman Syndrome (my son's rare disease).
2. Albert Facey.
3. Jacques Cousteau.

Your favourite quote or expression

Onward and upwards.

In five words, can you describe Kane Blackman

Inclusive. Purposeful. Passionate. Determined. Helper.



Volunteer with Good Sammy

We have many interesting volunteer opportunities at Good Sammy and always welcome new additions to our family. To find out more, email us at volunteers@goodsammy.com.au

facebook.com/goodsammyau

instagram.com/goodsammyau

linkedin.com/company/goodsammyau

Kane's LinkedIn:
linkedin.com/in/kane-blackman-4970b927

goodsammy.com.au



Music moves the city's heart

2022 Wesley Scholars (from left): Jude Holland, Elyse Belford-Thomas, Helena O'Sullivan, Verity Hagen, Martin Baker, Alexis Chin and Director of Music, Angela Currie.

Tracey Paul

Strolling down William Street at lunchtime on a Friday, your ears may perk up to the mellifluous notes of a flute or the majestic sounds of a pipe organ emanating from Uniting Church in the City, Wesley, just across from the Hay Street Mall. The music is part of a free lunchtime recital series which runs from March to December, every first and third Friday at Wesley and every second Thursday at Ross Memorial in West Perth.

Since its establishment over a hundred years ago, the recital series has become a central feature of the cultural heart of the city. Evocative themes such as "Love and Loss" and "One Hand, One Heart" and others like "Beethoven and Shostakovic" give clues as to what mood and music to expect.

Regular comers, spontaneous visitors, tourists and others seeking an alternative lunchtime experience gather in the pews to enjoy the beautiful music, historic venues and illuminating aesthetics. The recitals last some 45 minutes with spare time at the end for applause and a catch-up chat with the performers. Pre-COVID this catch-up occurred over coffee and cake, with Wesley hoping to reinstate this hospitable tradition again from the end of July.

Angela Currie has been the Director of Music at Wesley since 2012. She explains that the aim of the recital series is to share Wesley's strong heritage of music with people in the city, while at the same time offering a performance platform to rising stars such as the Wesley Scholars, Wesley Alumni and other musician friends of the church.

The Wesley Scholars that Angela speaks of are part of an annual Wesley scholarship program, now in its 15th year, through which the church offers performance opportunities to undergraduate music students to enhance their

musical development. Angela says that the program gives its Scholars the opportunity to perform for the love of the music, rather than to pass an exam or assessment.

Throughout the scholarship year, Scholars may play at Sunday services, the recital series and other special concerts, at several venues, including Wesley, Ross Memorial and Trinity church.

Angela is fully aware of the influence that carefully selected and well prepared music has on a worship experience and works with the Scholars to select music appropriate to the lectionary of the day which they then skilfully deliver alongside the regular pattern of hymns and choral music. "Their music enhances our worship and at the same time offers them invaluable solo performing experiences to develop their craft and thrive in the world of music," she says.

The current Wesley Scholars possess a wide range of musical gifts and skills and were selected from The University of Western Australia's Music Department through a competitive selection

process. They are: Martin Baker (trumpet), Elyse Belford-Thomas (soprano), Alexis Chin (guitar), Jude Holland (piano), Helena O'Sullivan (violin) and Verity Hagen (flute).

After their scholarship year, many Scholars continue to give back to Wesley and become part of the Wesley Alumni. "After growing and developing with us, they return to perform time and time again and we all continue to enjoy the benefits of our expanded music family," says Angela. "Whilst our program is primarily about the music, it's also about the longstanding friendships and support that grow out of it. Members of our choir and congregation regularly attend the performances of our Wesley Scholars and Alumni here and at other venues – so our #teamwesley grows beyond the church and into the external world."

Angela has always had a passion for helping young people develop their musical talent to become exceptional artists and performers; and she feels particularly privileged to do this through Wesley's scholarship program. As a child, her love of music eventually led her to study pipe organ and piano

at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. After graduating, she went on to enjoy a rich and varied career in Scotland before moving to Western Australia where she has worked as a music tutor, organ recitalist, choral director, accompanist and now Director of Music and organist at Wesley. In the past, she has performed at prestigious venues such as St Giles Cathedral, Palmerston Place Church, Greyfriars Kirk, Dunblane Cathedral and Glasgow Cathedral – however the recital series holds a special place in her heart.

"At every recital, I am reminded about the special quality that music has in bringing people together. People from all walks of life, who don't know each other, come together to enjoy the experience of listening to beautiful music - that feeling of community is unmatched, it transcends so many barriers."

Over the years, the recital series has gained a strong following, but attendances have dipped slightly since COVID. However, Angela is positive, "If you haven't been to one of our recitals, there is no better time to visit. We have an exciting

line-up of classical, folk and jazz recitals to come this year. I always look forward to catching up with our guests after a performance."

Rev Hollis Wilson, Minister at Wesley, added, "I am thrilled that our current music program is part of a long commitment to the arts and also that its availability to the wider community has continued to remain free of charge. As we transition into the post-COVID era and move confidently towards the 20th anniversary of the Wesley Scholars - I look forward to what lies ahead in 2027. Brava/Bravo!"

I've been to a lot of concerts, but these recitals are different - they're more intimate, more personal. When the music starts, I am suddenly transported to a new world, where the outside world with all its tragedies and my own personal worries, all but disappear. I enter this new space where music IS the world and for the next 45 minutes, I am totally relaxed. I feel insulated from the outside world by a soft, warm, invisible blanket. When the recital finishes, it takes me a while to come back to reality. But the renewed energy I've gained from my visit to this other world, gives me the inspiration to go back to my daily life with all its ups and downs.

From a recital fan.

■ **'Wesley at One' - 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 1.00pm, Wesley church, corner of William and Hay Streets, Perth**

■ **'Recitals at Ross' - 2nd Thursday of the month at 12.30pm, Ross Memorial church, corner of Hay and Colin Streets, West Perth**

facebook.com/PerthUCIC

instagram.com/ucic_perth_wa

perthunitingchurch.org.au

1 July - Tiffany Lee (cello) and Gladys Chua (piano)
14 July - Oliver Stark (euphonium) and Adrian Soares (piano)
15 July - 'BellaLuce': Lucinda Nicholls (soprano) and Anneke van der Laan (cello)
5 August - Jet Kye Chong (marimba) and Kira Gunn (harp)
11 August - Jeremy Garside (cello) and Liam Wooding (piano)
19 August - Boyd Peters (organ)
2 September - Charlotte Kirke (flute) and Adam Pinto (piano)
8 September - Rachael Liu (soprano) and Gladys Chua (piano)
16 September - Oliver Stark (euphonium) and Adam Pinto (piano)
7 October - Holly Broadbent (organ)
13 October - York Street Brass Quintet
21 October - Wesley Music Scholars 2022
4 November - 'Mosca Duo': Jet Kye Chong (marimba) and Carissa Soares (marimba)
10 November - 'BellaLuce': Lucinda Nicholls (soprano) and Anneke van der Laan (cello)
18 November - Don Candy (guitar)
2 December - 'Classical Swoon' Angela Currie & Friends
8 December - 'Mosca Duo': Jet Kye Chong (marimba) and Carissa Soares (marimba)
16 Dec - Angela Currie (organ)

Please note that performances may be subject to change. To keep up with the latest information, follow Uniting Church in the City's (UCIC) social media channels or check their website.



Volunteers making History

Tracey Paul

Every Monday and Friday, the Uniting Church Archives Centre comes alive. The front doorbell rings, volunteers arrive, archive materials are brought out and their contents spread across working tables, the rhythm of keyboard clicks punctuates the air, telephones ring - and laughter and camaraderie echo across the Centre.

At the core of this simmering activity are volunteers - Betty, Reg, John, Nancy, Joan, Julie, Di, Linley and Brian - who, led by Marissa Krajcar, Archivist and Archives Co-ordinator, manage and drive the organisation and preservation of Western Australian Uniting Church materials and objects for posterity.

Many of the team have been volunteering together for over 10 years, some for 30 years, and several still remember when the Archives Centre was located at Westminster House on Pier Street. Since then, and after a grand move co-ordinated by many of the volunteers who still help out today - the Archives are housed in spacious, purpose-created premises in the Uniting Church Centre on Edward Street, Perth.

The Archives Centre receives and collects materials and artefacts associated with the Uniting Church, its agencies, schools and former missions in Western Australia. On a regular basis, records and items which are no longer in use are sent in for depositing from church ministers, congregations and other affiliates.

As well, items of historical significance are often donated by members of the public who have an indirect association with the Church through family or commercial relationships.

Some materials at the Centre are contemporary in nature and others much, much older - dating back from the Church's origins in the Swan River colony, its existence as separate Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches, Union as the Uniting Church in 1977 - right up to the present day.

A browse of the Centre's dedicated library and display cabinets reveal a fascinating array of collectables, including vintage bibles, published biographies on Church founders, original history books, vintage

hymn books, local Church histories and books on the institutions of the Church.

The Archives volunteer team researches and identifies materials of significance, prepares them for archiving, then categorises, collates, digitises and registers the information as required. The diverse range of items coming through the Centre over the years include: birth, marriage and death certificates, church baptismal rolls, wedding registers, parish newsletters, minute books, annual reports, journals, diaries, local church histories, church title deeds, architectural plans, sheet music, vintage Bibles, old handwritten letters, historic photos, and artefacts such as stained-glass windows, vestments and antique communion trays.

Every year the Archives Centre sends an annual deposit of archival materials to the Battye Library, the repository for documentary heritage material relating to the history of Western Australia. This year, volunteers produced some 17 boxes of history to add to the Uniting Church's Collection at the Library - the largest private



From left: Marissa with John, Sheena (former Honorary Archivist), Nancy, Betty and Reg.

former volunteers include retired ordained ministers, librarians, school teachers, a headmaster, an electrician, an economist, lay preachers, secretaries and writers.

"Many bring with them a detailed knowledge and background of Uniting churches from all over the state because they have attended a church at one location as a child; and then as an adult, have gone on to worship at Uniting churches in other places," Betty finished.

Over the years, the Archives Centre has worked with WAGS (the WA Genealogical Society, now called Family History WA), the WA Newspapers, Redress WA and the Batty Library. Some major projects included: creating a digitised record of more than 72,000 baptisms from 1840 to 1999; Archive volunteers assisting at the WA Newspapers to identify and list old photographs relating to the Church; assisting the Batty Library to accession archival material that the Church has deposited there; and a more recent project of one year to record

names of children who had lived at former missions of the Church.

In this edition of *Revive*, we acknowledge volunteers and contributors to the Archives, both past and present – for their dedication and commitment to document, shape and preserve the history of the Uniting Church.

"We would like to thank all individual volunteers, previous voluntary committees, former honorary archivists and others who have contributed to the success of the Archives Centre," said Marissa. "Without their determination, commitment and creativity over the years, we could not have succeeded."

A celebration service for the Archive's 40th Anniversary will be held on Sunday 2 October between 2.00pm and 5.00pm at All Saints Floreat Uniting Church. If you are interested in attending, please email marissa.krajcar@wa.uca.org.au

collection. The Collection is open to any researcher, however some records have restricted access due to personal and sensitive reasons and until enough time has elapsed for them to be accessible to the wider community.

Whilst the Archives Centre is not open to the public, except by special request, Archives Co-ordinator, Marissa explained, "We receive all sorts of enquiries by phone or email from interested persons - for family history records, for information on the architecture of our historic church buildings and their pipe organs, and to help identify documents. The public and church community have also assisted our appeals on social media to identify bygone buildings and people in photos."

"We are proud to be part of such a wonderful enterprise," said Betty Pearson, Archives volunteer researcher. "Over the years, volunteers have come from a wide range of backgrounds and interests. Some of us are motivated by a love of history or genealogy, others by our long association with the Uniting Church and wanting to remain of service and others by the longstanding friendships we have formed here." Current and



Volunteering to write history

Di Rook, volunteer at the Archives Centre, with the book *A chance not charity* which she wrote and compiled on the history of the first 35 years of Good Samaritan Industries from 1958-1993.



A friendship forged through volunteering

Betty and Nancy, volunteers at the Archives Centre, knew each other as young friends in Norseman. Decades later, they reconnected by chance when Nancy phoned the Archives Centre to make a material donation. Betty promptly took the opportunity to recruit her to the volunteer team!

If you have any items that may be suitable for inclusion in our collection, we'd love to hear from you. Email archiveswa@wa.uca.org.au or phone (08) 9260 9865.

The big move from Pier Street to Edward Street by the Archives volunteers.



Archive treasures

Sheena Hesse, Honorary Archivist, from 2003 to 2021 with a full gilt and steel-engraved, illustrated Bible published in 1891.



The Archive team back in the day. Some still volunteer today.



A display at the Archives Centre.



From left: Marissa with volunteers, Joan, Brian, Julie and Di. Absent: Linley.

To the many who have contributed to the success of the Uniting Church Archives Centre.
WE SALUTE YOU!

Archives Contributors, 1982-2022

Bill Allan
 Jenny Andrews
 Rev Barry Angus
 Dell Baude
 Molly Bentley
 John Brearley
 Muriel Brockis
 Rev Jim Cain
 Angela Carr
 Alan Campbell
 Anne Clarke
 Mavis Coughlan
 Geoff Dimmock
 Barbara Drummond
 Jessie Duffield
 Lesley Gilks
 Linley Gould
 Clive Hamer
 Sheena Hesse
 Mirlwyn Hood
 Julie Jenkinson

Brian Jervis
 Margaret Jervis
 Marissa Krajcar
 Janet Lamb
 John Lockley
 Pat Lockley
 Rev Alan Matthews
 Rev David McAndrew
 Joan McKenna
 Richard McKenna
 Wendy McKinley
 Rev William McNair
 Dick Mofflin
 Jill Monks
 Dorothy Moody
 Rev Jim Moody
 Derek Moore
 Wendy Pearce
 Betty Pearson
 Reg Pearson
 Rev John Phillipson

Barry Preece
 Nancy Rhodes
 Rev Chris Ridings
 Di Rook
 Lionel Rose
 Louise Scott
 Dorothy Shaw
 Thea Shipley
 Rev John Smith
 Joan Staton
 Rev John Steed
 Jock Thompson
 Rev Richard Trelore
 Thelma Trotter
 Ron Turner
 Richard Matthews

If there are any unintentional omissions in this list of Archives Contributors from 1982 to 2022, please send an email to archiveswa@wa.uca.org.au who will update it in preparation for the 40th Anniversary celebrations and records.





Living The Covenant

It was an historic day at the reconvened meeting of the Uniting Church in Australia's 16th Assembly when the Covenant was renewed during a liturgy of renewal, led by Uniting Church in Australia President, Rev Sharon Hollis, together with Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) National Interim Chairperson, Rev Mark Kickett.

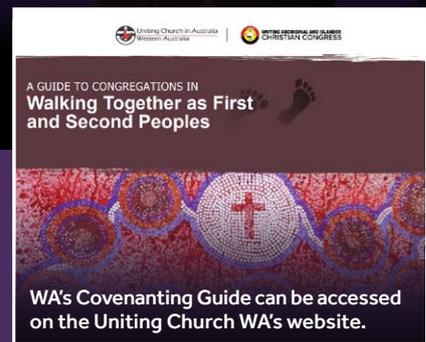
The Covenant is a binding commitment and ever-deepening relationship between the Uniting Church and the UAICC. It is a relationship of reconciliation with actions of truth-telling, confession, recognition, amends, forgiveness and evolution. The Covenant sits at the heart of the Church's identity of reconciliation between First and Second Peoples and what it means to be a uniquely Australian church.

The Covenant was first signed in 1994 by the Uniting Church's then President, Dr Jill Tabart and former UAICC Chairperson, Pastor Bill Hollingsworth. At the close of her statement formalising the relationship, Dr Tabart said, "I pray that this Covenant will unite us in a multi-racial bond of fellowship which will be a witness to God's love for us all and a constant challenge to the continuing racism which oppresses you and separates us in this land." In his responding statement, Pastor Hollingsworth concluded, "We pray that God will guide you, together with us, in developing a Covenant to walk

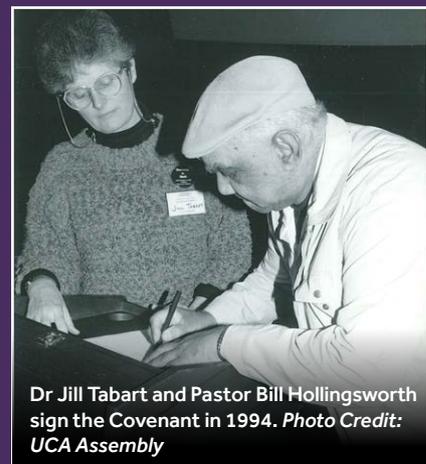
together practically so that the words of your statement may become a tangible expression of God's justice and love for all creation."

Those statements continue to have profound relevance today; particularly in light of a renewed focus to establish Covenanting relationships across congregations, faith communities, schools and agencies. A "Living the Covenant Locally" initiative with the *Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle* was recently launched and is available on the Uniting Church in Australia's website. The initiative has three specific components: Listen and Learn; Going Deeper; and Action. As a whole, they offer historical learning; Bible and theological resources; and liturgy, advocacy and partnering guides, for both the national and state church.

In Western Australia, printed copies of *A Guide to Congregations in Walking Together as First and Second Peoples* were recently distributed to congregations and faith communities with a renewed emphasis on implementing the Covenant locally. The WA Synod's Covenanting Commission who produced the resource continues to encourage congregations to advance their Covenanting journey by taking ongoing practical steps. Rev Robert Jetta and Rev Mitchell Garlett (WA UAICC) and Geoff Bice (Social Justice) recently led a discussion at Kalamunda Uniting



WA's Covenanting Guide can be accessed on the Uniting Church WA's website.



Dr Jill Tabart and Pastor Bill Hollingsworth sign the Covenant in 1994. Photo Credit: UCA Assembly

Church on Covenanting and what it means to support the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*.

Urging people across the Church to help grow a "grassroots movement" committed to relationship and to living out the Covenant locally, Alison Overeem, Advocate for the *Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle* has said, "We must be warriors for change. We are called to see and feel 'walking together'. It's a call to reconcile with the truth telling across the lands and waterways. To know the Covenant, is to feel it, and to BE it. It's not just about a yarn or a conversation. It's about an action, about a realistic call to be and walk together."



Online Petition for an Inquiry to Compensate Stolen Generations

On Sorry Day in May, a Stolen Generations Compensation petition was launched, to undertake an Inquiry into Compensation Schemes in other States and Territories and make recommendations to the Government of Western Australia in relation to the establishment of a Compensation or Reparation Scheme in WA.

Launching the online petition, Jim Morrison, Chair of the Western Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation, stated, "Whilst most States have implemented compensation schemes that are broadly consistent with Recommendations 3 and 4 in the *Bringing Them Home* Report, sadly this has not happened in Western Australia."

Compensation for Stolen Generation survivors in WA is long overdue, however the timing of the petition launch was particularly significant. This year's Sorry Day was the 25th anniversary of the tabling of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's *Bringing Them Home* Report in the Australian Federal Parliament. The Report was the result of an extensive inquiry investigating the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families. The role of churches, including the Uniting Church, which housed many of these children in its children's homes and missions, is documented in the Report. At its 8th Assembly in 1997, the Uniting Church committed to support the Report's recommendations wherever possible, and to advocate and act to seek justice, healing and reconciliation.

Sorry Day 2022 also marked the 50th anniversary of the repeal, in 1972, of WA's *Native Welfare*

Act 1963. The Act ended the legal guardianship of Aboriginal children by the Commissioner of Native Welfare. Prior to this, the Commissioner (and before him, the Chief Protector of Aborigines) had the power to forcibly remove Indigenous children, confine them in institutions and deny them access to their family and kin. On top of the terrible grief and trauma of separation, many children suffered cruelty, abuse and strict repression of their language, culture, and identity. It is important to note that while the repeal of the *Native Welfare Act 1963* ended the legal guardianship of Aboriginal children by the Commissioner of Native Welfare, the program of child removals and social assimilation continued.

Up to the present day, the separation of children from their families, continues to be an issue of deep concern for Aboriginal people, as does the enormous intergenerational trauma caused by the many decades of the destruction of families.

Reflecting on its distressing legacy on Aboriginal families, Jim Morrison said, "I had 30 parents – Dad was the oldest of 23, Mum was one of 7. They were my parents. They were all stolen and put in various institutions among our country, so we know the separation. We know what it did to them and we know what it's done to their future generations."

Bringing Them Home WA Co-Chair, Tony Hansen, added, "It is important for people to understand that this discriminatory legislation was still in force when I was removed from my family and sent to Murrumbidgee Mission in 1970 at the age of 3. I was not allowed to leave the Mission until I turned 16 and it took me many



Sorry Day 2022 at the Stolen Generations Memorial within Wellington Square (Moort-ak-Waadiny) East Perth. Rev Mitchell Garlett with Jim Morrison, Chair of the Western Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation

years to reunite with some of my family. Recent research has shown that approximately 57% of the adult Aboriginal population in WA are either Stolen Generations survivors like me or are descendants – that's every second Aboriginal person in WA!" He continued, "As a survivor, I see the impact, the trauma and the ripple effect that's going on."

Rev Mitchell Garlett of the WA Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and committee member of Bringing Them Home WA urged members and congregations of the Uniting Church in WA to support the petition as a practical step to advance their local Covenanting journey. He also appealed to the broader community to inform themselves about the history and legacy of pain and trauma that Aboriginal people continue to live with to this present day, and with that awareness support compensation and justice for Stolen Generation survivors.

To sign the online petition, go to the Parliament of Western Australia's website. The petition closes on 14 September 2022. www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/LCePetitions.nsf/petitions/22-0012?



What is God's will for us now?

Rev Dr Andrew Williams

My period of settling into a new synod has been extremely busy. The breadth and diversity of the activities carried out by the Synod of WA are quite mind blowing - and it's only just the beginning for me! However, as things continue to unfold, I am of the belief that, without question, we are in a kairos moment in the church. A moment when God asks us to choose and to choose carefully what we want for our future. It sounds simple enough, yet there are some unique considerations for us. I discuss these below.

First, it is easy to underestimate the size and complexity of the synod and how difficult it is to lead, manage, direct and co-ordinate it! Second, I still encounter the misconception that the church works like any other hierarchy and that we have a perfectly efficient cascading mechanism by which to innovate and embed culture, strategy, values, vision and practice. We don't - and changing our culture is one of the hardest aspects in the life of the church. Third, the pressures on the organisation militate against streamlining, unifying and co-operating on a common vision, mission, and set of values - there are so many competing interests and loyalties in our system and people work hard to defend their turf. Fourth, we are confronted by the reality that even with our extensive wealth of people and resources, we still feel ill-equipped to face the most critical challenges of our mission. For all our incredible infrastructure and all the millions spent over the years, a census commissioned by the Assembly years ago, revealed at the time, that since 1991 we had lost 40% of our membership and had 31% less congregations. For perspective, in WA, we currently have 105 preaching places and 34 ministers in congregational placement (also 5 vacancies) with a further 17 ministers in placements in the wider church (ie, the Presbytery, Synod, chaplaincy).

What I observe as a result of the above is that in a church as diffuse as the Uniting Church, everyone believes that things should change, but it can be

difficult to agree on what matters most, what each is expected to do, and how to measure progress.

Many years ago in Geneva, one of my highlights was attending a book launch by Jürgen Moltmann, who at 89 years of age (he's 96 now!), was as sharp and lucid as ever. One of the questions he was asked related to the then upcoming 500-year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in Europe in 2017. "How do you think the Protestant church is travelling and how will it celebrate 500 years of Reformation?" His response was, "I think the Protestant church in Germany has become comfortable and has very little to protest about!" Since then, I have spent a lot of time thinking about that response. What is it that we would continue to protest about? In other words, what makes it worthwhile being the church in this age and what is God calling us to do?

In a reprinting of the booklets: *"The Faith of the Church"*; and *"The Church: its nature, function and ordering"* - that is, the reports of the Joint Commission on Church Union first published in 1959 and 1963, Rev David Gill (Assembly General Secretary at the time) said of them, "What gives these two booklets enduring significance is their approach to Christian unity. The Introduction to *The Church: its nature, function and ordering* puts it succinctly, "The basic conviction that has informed the work of the Commission is that we are required to place ourselves afresh under God's Word and ask the question, 'what is God's will for us now?'" That question still confronts the Uniting Church today.

In his book, *Where did the joy come from? Revisiting the Basis of Union*, Rev Professor Andrew Dutney, a former President of the Uniting Church in Australia, wrote, "The Basis is all about mission because the church is all about mission. The church of God exists for participation in the mission of God." He acknowledged that the call to be missional in a church which is becoming older and experiencing a decrease in the relative prosperity of members could be experienced as "an unfeeling goading". For me, I hope that our engagement in mission always includes both words and actions, and that our proclamation is always filled with joy.



A special joy of mine some years ago in Sydney was to act as host for a group from the World Council of Churches who were attending a workshop there on “life affirming evangelism for the city”. One of my roles was to arrange exposure visits for the participants and it gave me the opportunity to see Sydney, and also our country, through fresh eyes. Using those experiences, I offer the following ideas on how we could approach our community engagement – our mission and evangelism – here in WA.

The first idea I wish to reflect on is mission as **invitation**. After our workshop day had finished one Sunday evening, I went along with our group to worship at a church nearby our conference venue. The greatest surprise was the apparent lack of welcome received. We were not called upon to introduce ourselves and although there was tea and coffee available at the conclusion of the service, no one greeted or invited us to this. Which leads me to the question - if evangelism is primarily invitation, then surely our best efforts must go into greeting people and making them feel welcome in our space? Is this not the meaning of Jesus’s parable of the wedding feast (Luke 14)? Those who had no right to be at the feast are included and welcomed. The lesson for us at Sunday worship should be to rediscover how our communities welcome and invite people into their midst; and how do we become a growing, welcoming church.

On another day, our group walked to Redfern and visited “The Block”. My learning at that point was a reminder that in Australia, we “second peoples”, always do our theology and evangelism in “**invaded space**”. How do we as people who live in Australia, or those who come as visitors, even begin to understand the depth of desperation (and patience!) in aboriginal communities where issues of land and space are contested not only by first and second peoples, but also often serve to divide the indigenous community itself?

Next was a visit to two communities in Sydney’s King’s Cross area. We started at Wayside Chapel, which as many of you will know, is a church community of the Uniting Church in

Australia known for helping those who have “fallen by the wayside”. The community runs a number of programs to reach out to those in need. Their mantra has included phrases like, “love over hate”, “creating a community without a ‘them and us’”, “we’re not much like a church, if you’re not much like a Christian” and “everyone is a person to be met, not a problem to be solved”. After Wayside, we visited the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, which allows intravenous drug users to safely inject. These visits reminded me that the work of mission and evangelism is about **saving lives, as much as it is about saving souls**. Just as Jesus journeyed with the least and the lost, so the church’s ministry must always include engagement with those who are on the edges of our societies.

We then made our way to a small Anglican church on the northern side of the bridge in Kirribilli, known simply as the “Church by the Bridge”. We met there with the Minister, Rev Paul Dale, who told us about the work of his community. For most of us this was a very inspiring story, and reminded us of **the importance of the local**, in the work of evangelism. Paul first came to the community convinced that there was work that could be done in growing a congregation in that area. He started with around 20 people and, at the time of our visit, the church had over 500 members and four services on a Sunday, incorporating a range of worship styles, age ranges and people of diverse backgrounds. In growing the church, the congregation and the leadership worked intentionally to keep things local. They shopped locally, and they engaged people from the local community as much as possible. This experience reminded me that our evangelism must always have a local dimension. While it is tempting to want to do mission and evangelism work in other destinations, it is surely true that all of us are called to engage the local community where God has planted us. At a time when many churches in the West lament declining congregations and rising age profiles for their congregations, here was a church that had determined that they would meet their local community, engage with them and at the same time grow their worshipping congregation.

Later, we were privileged to participate in a celebration of the Coptic New Year hosted by the Coptic Orthodox community of Sydney. The event reminded me that, our future, not just in Australia, but also globally, is a **multicultural** one. The presence of migrants and other cultures enriches our communities, opens us to new ways of seeing our world and our faith, and is itself a cause for celebration. Multiculturalism and celebration are good themes for evangelism. Our faith must always cross boundaries and must always learn from the other. How can we be better at this?

I hope that this reflection has given you some thoughts on ‘what is God’s will for us now?’ And that all of us will have the courage to work continually towards finding the answers to this very important question.



Rev Hollis Wilson, Susy Thomas, Abdullah Shahabi, Salem Askari, Alison Xamon, Mary Anne Kenny, and Caroline Fleay on World Refugee Day.

Call to grant permanency for refugees

Geoff Bice

At the beginning of Refugee Week in June, Church and community leaders joined refugees outside Uniting Church in the City, Wesley, to call on the Federal Government to follow through on its election commitments to refugees.

Susy Thomas, Moderator of the Uniting Church Western Australia, Alison Xamon, General Manager of the Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD), Associate Professor Caroline Fleay, Co-Director of the Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University, and other activists, stood with refugees, Nader Hosseini, Abdullah Shahabi and Salem Askari to call for permanency.

"We stand together with the 30,000 refugees and people seeking asylum who have been in Australia for a decade but remain in limbo," said Susy. "The Federal Government committed to abolishing temporary visas in the lead-up to the election and now is the time for action."

Nader, a tiler in the Perth building industry, and a refugee from the Hazara ethnic minority in Afghanistan said people in his situation were hopeful that the new Federal government will finally grant them permanency so that they can reunite with their families.

"We are hopeful because Mr Albanese said he would give us permanency, but we are nervous too because up to now any hope has been a mirage. I fled the Taliban nearly 10 years ago and yet I am still waiting to be with my family. I have my four children still in danger. The Australian government has agreed that I am a refugee, but I am still temporary and I can't bring my family here."

Nader is one of approximately 19,000 refugees living, working and paying tax in Australia who remain stuck in an endless loop of temporary visas. There are a further 11,000 people on bridging visas still awaiting the outcome of their asylum claims, as well as a smaller number who remain in detention facilities around Australia or are being processed offshore in Papua New Guinea or Nauru.

"There has been a lot of media attention on the Nadesalingam family and we are delighted that the new Minister acted so swiftly to allow them to return to Biloela," Alison added. "But we also know that they are part of a cohort of about 30,000 who are awaiting government action - people like Nader, who have survived ten years of desperate uncertainty while trying to support themselves in the community. This group of people have been used as political

punching bags for far too long and it is high time for them to be granted permanency so they can get on with their lives."

The event on World Refugee Day followed other events throughout the year highlighting the plight of the 30,000 refugees in Australia, but also the more than 1600 refugees and people seeking asylum in Western Australia while stuck on temporary visas or in detention. *A Decade Gone*, a social media action, and *Lives on the Lawn*, an installation of 1635 cut-out figures in front of St George's Cathedral earlier in the year on Palm Sunday, highlighted the plight of these refugees in WA. Many of them, like Nader, Abdullah and Salem, live alongside us in our local communities.

At *Lives on the Lawn*, Anglican Archbishop of Perth, The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO said, "It has become clear to the entire world that when people flee for their lives from situations of conflict and oppression, desperation dictates the means of escape. As we have seen in Afghanistan and now in Ukraine, official processes and systems break down in a crisis and can even be used against the most vulnerable. It is up to the rest of the world to adapt with compassion to such humanitarian crises. Those most impacted by the crisis should not have to jump through endless



Salem Askari addresses the media on Refugee Day.



Church leaders, activists and refugees on Palm Sunday, at Lives on the Lawn, an installation of cut-out figures representing the over 1600 refugees and people seeking asylum in Western Australia.

hoops in their quest for safety, security and freedom."

Abdullah, living in Perth on a temporary visa, said that people are beyond desperate. "It is extremely hard to remain positive when you can't see hope for a better future."

Abdullah fled Afghanistan to seek asylum in Australia in 2012. He waited five years for his refugee claim to be processed and was then granted a five-year Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV). This temporary visa makes it very difficult for him to expand his business. "I am a painter. I have my own business and I hire other people. I started the business around one year ago. I cannot get a bank loan to improve my business. If I want to buy equipment or a car for my business, I have to pay cash. Being on a temporary visa has also affected my mental health. It is so hard to concentrate. Not being able to see my wife and two children, or bring them here, makes me very sad. My children have not had the experience of having Daddy."

To highlight the difficulties facing refugees on temporary visas in Western Australia, Nader, Abdullah and Salem have worked



Nader Hosseini at work in Perth.

with supporters to launch an awareness campaign called We All Need Our Families.

Their stories, along with a number of others, can be found at weallneedourfamilies.com.



[facebook.com/SocialJusticeUCW](https://www.facebook.com/SocialJusticeUCW)

[instagram.com/socialjusticeucwa](https://www.instagram.com/socialjusticeucwa)

Wendy

"This is me 10 years ago. Since then I have raised twins, watched my older children graduate, qualified as a Marriage Celebrant, lived in the country and the city, become legally wed and returned to a job that I love. For many refugees, Australia has not been the land of such opportunity. This year will begin to mark 10 years that people, who fled to Australia for safety, have been in detention or on temporary visas."

Geoff

"This is me 10 years ago. Since this time I have met my life partner, bought a house, completed a Masters degree and begun working a permanent job which I love! For many refugees, Australia has not been the land of such opportunity. This year will begin to mark 10 years that people, who fled to Australia for safety, have been in detention or on temporary visas. Isn't it time to stop the cruelty?"

#ADecadeGone

Justice for Refugees WA

A Decade Gone, a social media action earlier this year raising awareness of the 10 years that some refugees and asylum seekers still remain in detention and live in temporary visa limbo.

BKI stands high

Tracey Paul

The first thing you notice when approaching Beanang Kwuurt Institute on Treasure Road in Queens Park, is its billboard sign. Strong, straight and bold, it towers above the surrounding landscape, like a beacon to the community.



Beanang Kwuurt Institute or BKI is an outreach centre providing cultural, social, wellbeing and emergency relief services to the local community. *Beanang* is a Nyungar word translated as “the beginning of a new day, when the sky begins to lighten but before the sun has risen” and *Kwuurt* means “heart” - together they signify a place of new beginnings, hope and healing. Based on the site of the old Sister Kate’s, a former children’s home and Uniting Church institution, where many Aboriginal children once lived after being forcibly removed from their families during the 1900s – the site and its function has been re-purposed by BKI with the heart, interests and identity of Nyungar people at its centre. The inspiration to create BKI and its purpose came from the WA Regional Committee of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) who worked with the Uniting Church Synod of WA, to bring BKI to realisation as an Aboriginal Controlled Entity in 2007.

Thursday is a busy day at BKI. It’s Yarny Art day. Some come to yarn, some to paint and others do a bit of both. It’s a safe space to unpack, to connect and to tell stories in a vernacular and style that is shared by Nyungar and other Aboriginal people. It’s an opportunity to talk about family, life, what’s going on in the community and to support each other in a place that feels familiar. It’s a space to maintain social and mental health. Lesley Murray, a

BKI Board member and recognised Anaiwan artist whose work has been exhibited at the Art Gallery of WA, is the volunteer facilitator. “I just let them paint as they desire,” she says of the Yarny Art group. “Only if asked, I will give guidance on technique and design. It’s a relaxed environment.” Lily, a regular there added, “This place is significant to us. Many of us here are Stolen Generation.”

Prolific art work is on display in the building. Some produced at Yarny Art, others at art workshops held during the school term and some are commissioned pieces. The artists span several generations. Jayda Eades, a soft spoken, young performer and budding artist has a commissioned piece on display. The painting is of a young lady in a dark mask against the backdrop of an expansive sky with colourful speckles. Jayda explained that the piece was reminiscent of a young person who emits good vibes in a dark time and space.

BKI’s emergency food service providing fresh food to anyone in need in the community is also open on Thursdays in the afternoon. The food is obtained through an organisation that rescues surplus food across the retail network for re-distribution to organisations like BKI. Sharon, a former user of the emergency food service, now oversees the program. Despite experiencing some current personal life challenges herself, Sharon said

that her circumstances have not stopped her from volunteering to help others and to give back to BKI.

BKI has also started to produce its own fresh food. Taking advantage of a local government grant for community gardens, the organisation recently had raised garden beds with self-watering reticulation installed on its large grounds. The garden, while small, is thriving with spinach, eggplant, beetroot, beans and herbs. In the future, BKI hopes to expand the garden to offer more choice and variety of fresh foods. The planting schedule will be based on the Nyungar six seasons.

Up from the community garden is the large and inviting op shop which is open from Wednesday to Friday each week. As well as pre-loved items, it stocks exclusive jewellery, clothing and footwear collections with colourful indigenous designs. Felicity Biggs, BKI Site Manager said, “We need more volunteers to keep the op shop open for the good of the community. If anyone would like to be part of this growing enterprise, we could do with your help.” Many of BKI’s outreach services are delivered by volunteers.

During the year, BKI hold cultural events during Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week and other festivals. On Sorry Day in May, a community event attended by supporters, regulars and City of Canning representatives, was well attended. A huge, colourful art mural of hands,



City of Canning Mayor, Patrick Hall, with BKI Site Manager, Felicity Biggs and BKI Board Member, Helen Skiadas, at BKI's Sorry Day cultural event.

Lesley Murray facilitating the creation of a mural on Sorry Day.



led by volunteer Art Director, Lesley, with Jessica Hart, a BKI volunteer, was produced with the participation of all who came.

We've come a long way over the years, but there is so much more we would like to do," said Helen Skiadas, BKI Board Member. "In the short-term, we need disabled toilets to provide a more inclusive service. In the longer-term, we are seeking strategic alliances with local and state government and others to expand our services for Nyungar people and the diverse community around us. There is a lot of need. We also want to continue to develop our grounds and garden. BKI has an established presence in the community and we are in a strong position to advise and partner successfully on Nyungar matters."

There is a sign at BKI which says "A new day for Aboriginal People" - BKI, its volunteers and supporters are doing just that.



Jadya Eades with a commissioned art piece that she created.



A Fresh Expression in the Great Southern

Rob Douglas

A small rural congregation is leading the way in discovering how the church can connect with its local community.

Every Thursday, some 40 people participate in what is known as a CommuniTEA Hub at the Wagin Uniting Church.

CommuniTEA Hub is an initiative of the Wagin congregation. It aims to provide a service to the local community by building relationships and creating new networks that address issues of spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing.

The initiative was inspired by strategic goals set by the Presbytery of Western Australia in 2018, to develop *Fresh Expressions of Church*, and inviting congregations to participate in a *Mission Shaped Ministry* course, giving them the tools to discover where God is at work in their community and how to work alongside it. Rev Stephen van Schalkwyk was one of the first to complete the course and was keen

to see a fresh expression of church established in the Wagin community through the ministry of the local congregation.

Shortly after the Hub started, the Church was made aware of some Federal Government funding and was able to access it to assist with setting up and providing appropriate services to the community. The Church was assisted in the process of establishing the Hub through a series of community workshops run for the wider Wagin community by Peter Kenyon, the Director of Bank of I.D.E.A.S., an international community and economic development consultancy.

According to Rev van Schalkwyk, the Hub is also a way of using the resources that the Church has been blessed with over many years to promote what he called "purposeful acts of love". He said the value of the Hub has been the way in which it has woven relationships through the community. "When the Hub started, we intentionally decided that 'love would be spoken here,

joy would be chosen here, and grace would be given in this space."

Co-ordinator of the Hub, Wendy Pederick, said that prior to the Hub starting, people in the congregation had been saying that they didn't just want to be salt in the salt shaker but wanted to be involved, interacting and connecting with the community. They also wanted to make sure that it was sustainable and not something that would just happen for a short time. "What's happened is that it is a give and receive thing. It's not just a place where we give but we also receive."

Watch the video of the Wagin CommuniTEA hub at <https://vimeo.com/703966043>





Home is where the heart is for Wheatbelt local

Hannah Campbell

For over 42 years, Peter Mold has called the Western Australian Wheatbelt his home; and his local community, his family.

The 88-year-old retired priest has spent years turning his old stone house into a home and has one wish - to remain living there for as long as he can. "Home is my happy place. I live on an acre of land, I have built a painting studio where I work on chipboard, I have a beautiful garden and I am close to town."

However, it was not until Peter fell ill and ended up in hospital in Perth that he had to think about his future living alone. "I came home from the hospital, and everything started to sink in. I do not drive, and all my appointments were in Perth. This is when my local doctor referred me to Juniper," he said.

Juniper's Home Care Community Support Workers now drive Peter to and from his appointments in Perth and always ensure that they make a fun day out of the trips. "My Community Support Worker takes me to all my medical appointments and then lets me choose somewhere in Perth that I want to visit. They are so generous with their time; I am so lucky to have their support."

Peter is on a Level 4 Home Care Package that has been tailored to his needs and preferences, so he can continue to live independently at home. "Not only does Juniper drive me to and from my medical appointments, but they also created a care plan that supports me during the week with my shopping, cooking and cleaning. It is so nice to be surrounded by such good people who will do anything for me. I no longer worry about living alone," added Peter.

Peter refers to his team of carers at Juniper as his real-life angels and wants other Western Australians to know that you do not have to live in distress at home - there is help. "Prior to Juniper, I felt like I was constantly begging people to come and help me. I felt so bad because I noticed that as I got older, I was asking for more and more help from the community, but there is a limit to what they could do to help me."

Angie Slater, Juniper's Director of Home Care and Retirement Living said, "Asking for support to live in the home and accessing the community can initially feel difficult. At Juniper, we believe everyone should be supported to live their best life. That is why we offer a range of care and support services to help each person achieve their personal goals. We celebrate the unique differences in every individual."

Juniper assists hundreds of people with everyday tasks like showering, housework, shopping, nursing, allied health care and more. If you require home care funding, the Department of Health's Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) will come out to visit and assess the package for which you would be eligible. As everyone's care needs are different, there are four levels of Home Care Packages with different funding amounts available from the Government.

If you would like to learn more about Juniper's private in-home care and support services, phone 1300 313 000.

Juniper's response to increasing need encompasses a strong presence throughout metropolitan Perth and in the Great Southern, South West, Kimberley, Mid West, and Wheatbelt regions, giving Juniper one of the largest care footprints in the nation. Juniper strives to add value to the communities in which it operates where staff and volunteers work to deliver its vision of a good life for all its people.

-  facebook.com/JuniperAgedCare
-  linkedin.com/company/juniper-aged-care
-  juniper.org.au



More jobs for people with disability needed

It's been an exciting year for Good Sammy Enterprises. Earlier this year, it opened its 27th store, saved over 45 million containers from landfill, and its disability workforce remained record strong at 40%. Despite this, employment in the wider community for people with disability, remains low. Good Sammy wants to change this.

Good Sammy has been operating for more than 60 years, and in that time it has never wavered from its core mission, which is to create jobs and development opportunities for Western Australians with disability.

Yet, many are surprised to learn about the breadth of opportunities available to people with disability across Good Sammy's business operations. In addition to its well-known retail offering, Good Sammy also employs people across recycling, warehousing, logistics and transport, administration and support services, ecommerce, hospitality, maintenance and facilities, and mentor and peer support.

Their comprehensive offering allows on-the-job training and work experience through the Good Sammy Academy, providing people with the skills they need to find and

maintain jobs across a broad range of industries.

Importantly, Good Sammy has strategic partnerships in place, and a proven track record in transitioning people into open employment.

When Good Sammy opened its store in Ellenbrook earlier this year, it was cause for celebration. The spacious, newly-constructed building with its automatic entry doors, ACROD parking, appropriate heating and cooling systems, and accessible racks and rack space made it more inclusive for people with disability, especially those in wheelchairs, and signified an inclusive template for future Good Sammy stores. Located in a burgeoning region with a projected population of 50,000 by 2035, the new store will bring more employment and economy for people with disability, more recycling, and more choice for the people of Ellenbrook and its surrounds.

Following on in May, Good Sammy announced it had collected a record 45 million containers through its *Containers For Change* social enterprise. That's 45 million containers saved from landfill, and millions of dollars injected back into the WA community. As well as supporting local government

targets for recycling and the environment, Good Sammy's drive-thru collection points at Wanneroo and Canning Vale employ and train people with disability.

Yet despite the success of Good Sammy and its initiatives, the employment statistics for people with disability remain dismally low. While the national unemployment rate is below 4% - for people with disability, that rate is approximately 10%, and it doubles for people with an intellectual disability. However, there is potential for the future.

"Good Sammy is in a unique position to partner with organisations to increase disability workforce participation," said Good Sammy CEO, Kane Blackman. "At our Academy we train, develop and provide pathways and employment for people with disability in retail, warehousing, logistics and transport, hospitality, administration and more. We think it's important for Government and business to increase their disability workforce participation and we are in a position to make that happen."

If your organisation or business is interested in partnering with Good Sammy to provide work or training opportunities, please contact Partnerships and Pathways Manager, Jodee Coleman.

jodee.coleman@goodsammy.com.au
(08) 9463 0500



Damien's Story – Life after homelessness

Damien Watt is a father, grandfather and emerging artist. His artwork was recently featured at *Sonder*, an art exhibition organised by 100 Families WA, featuring works from a range of artists with lived experience. He has also been interviewed on ABC Radio and other media. He enjoys taking his grandchildren to school and painting and singing songs that he wrote with them.

However, a few years ago, things were quite different for Damien. He had been living on the streets on and off for a number of years since being kicked out of home at age 16. At work, he was often bullied by his co-workers for being homeless and Aboriginal. He also struggled with a persistent drug addiction that drained his income. Until one day, he made the life-changing decision to approach Uniting WA for help.

When Damien first arrived at Uniting WA's Tranby Engagement Hub, an engagement and referral service for people in crisis and sleeping rough - dedicated staff assisted him to access showers, meals, the internet and to address his other immediate needs. He was also able to discuss his wider needs with the Tranby team who sourced short-term supported accommodation for him and a range of other intensive support.

Damien then went on to live at Uniting WA's Housing Accommodation Support Service (HASS) for several months. Of HASS, Damien said, "It gave me the tools, advice and knowledge that I needed to prepare me to live in a house again."

Now living in transitional accommodation, Damien stresses the important role it plays in further developing the capacity and skills needed to maintain a successful tenancy and future home. At his accommodation, he is able to have his children visit and he has

a safe space to create and store his artwork. With his name now on the social housing priority waitlist, Damien hopes to have his name on a lease one day and ultimately to have a permanent home.

A candlemaker recently approached Damien to have his art featured on a product label and with more opportunities to develop his artistic talents, he is going from strength to strength.

Uniting WA are thrilled to see Damien thriving and experiencing the next exciting chapter in his life after homelessness.

 facebook.com/unitingwa/

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 linkedin.com/company/unitingwa

 unitingwa.org.au





Coveted Peppermint Grove gardens showcase school community spirit

The 24th Presbyterian Ladies' College Open Garden Day, to be held in October, is an event not to be missed.

Established in 1998, Open Garden Day has grown to be one of the school's most prolific and well-supported community fundraising activities.

The highly anticipated event attracts more than 2,000 annual visitors to the tranquil peppermint tree-lined streets of Peppermint Grove. Its extensive program includes access to spectacular Peppermint Grove private gardens, complimentary gardening workshops and historical tours, as well as a wide variety of entertainment by present and past students. There is an abundance of delicious food and dining offerings, including the garden cafe serving traditional morning and afternoon tea, food trucks and a homemade lemonade stand.

For some guests, Open Garden Day is a rare opportunity to access a collection of the most coveted and awarded gardens in Perth as they blossom in spring, while enjoying delicious scones and tea. For others, it's a glimpse back in time - a unique capsule of beautiful homes and estates steeped in historical significance dating back to the early 1900s.

The vibrant marketplace on View Street sells an interesting array of fresh produce, cakes, preserves, crafts and local wares. Guests can also expect inspiring performances and displays by the school's highly accomplished musical and performance ensembles, highlighted by an exhilarating demonstration of Australia's longest standing all-girl pipe band – the PLC Pipe Band.

No matter the attraction, each year Open Garden Day attendees delight in the school's thriving community spirit showcased on the day.



Open Garden Day will run from 10.00am until 2.00pm on Friday 21 October. Entry is \$25 for adults, \$15 for concession holders and free for children under 16. Parking is available on Manners Hill and a free heritage shuttle bus will transport guests to each of the gardens, the market stalls, and return.

Scan the QR code to be the first to know when tickets go on sale as you'll not want to miss this opportunity! For more details visit plc.wa.edu.au.

 facebook.com/plcperth
 instagram.com/plcperth/



PLC  PERTH

Save the Date
Friday 21 October 2022



Subscribe to our OGD mailing list

Open Garden Day

National Safe Church Unit

Safeguarding children and young people is at the heart of our Church, but what are we doing to ensure that those under 18 are safe and what are we doing to help them thrive and live life in all its fullness?

Rev John Cox, Director, National Safe Church Unit, and Sarah Lim, Director, UCA Redress Ltd, recently held a webinar to outline just what the Church is doing in this space. They were joined by participants from across the Church who heard about the practical actions they can take to play their part in answering the call for us to be a safe Church for all people. The discussion included information about preventing grooming, providing trauma-informed responses and how to best support individuals to access the National Redress Scheme.

As Rev John Cox said, "Safeguarding children and young people is

foundational to who we are as a Church, and we have made a very public commitment to do this. At first it can seem like a really complex thing to do. There are a lot of different expectations, requirements and legislation around the country, which can be overwhelming. That is why the National Safe Church Unit works hand in hand with each of the Synods to provide resources and supports to our congregations and people to enable them to take action and encourage them to speak up if they see, hear or feel something is not quite right."

The National Safe Church Unit works with WA Synod's Culture of Safety Team to support the Synod's action to safeguard children and young people and help them thrive.

If you would like to arrange a webinar or information session, please get in touch with either the Unit or the Culture of Safety Team.



WA Synod - Culture of Safety:
cindy.gorton@wa.uca.org.au
National Safe Church Unit:
info@safechurch.uca.org.au



Advertorial

Australian Colonial History and Culture: Our Stories – A Three-Day Intensive Program by the Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL)

What is our story? What is Australian culture?

This program presents themes in contemporary Australian society and their origins in our colonial past. Topics to be explored include: early colonisation and occupation; dispossession of indigenous people and associated anthropological discoveries; Australia as a narrative of waves of migration from around the world; the roles of women and rise of feminism; contemporary youth culture; and cultural arts in various media such as art, films, poetry, stories and music.

We will discuss social mores, manners, communal values and why ANZAC day is important to us. We will even have a session on questions which we are afraid to ask!

Framing our explorations, we will discuss our awkward relationship with religion and spirituality as a shy hope in the heart; and survey colonial church history leading to the formation of the Uniting Church. In this context, we will look to the future implications for ministry.

Who should attend?

This course is part of the program for all candidates for ministry and those seeking admission as a minister of the Uniting Church. Lay leaders and those seeking to increase their understanding of Australian culture are also welcome to register.



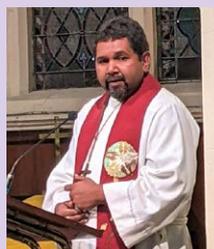
Details

Dates: 9.00am to 4.00pm,
Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 July
Teachers: Rev Dr Geof Lilburne and
Rev Dr Anne Wright
Cost: \$100 for 3 days (grant
applications may be made)
To register: Email
PA.Education@wa.uca.org.au

Appointments Farewells*



Rev John Dunn
General Secretary of the Synod of Western Australia until 31 January 2022.



Rev Mitchell Garlett
Ordained as Minister of the Word and inducted into ministry with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress WA on 1 May 2022.



Kane Blackman
Appointed CEO of Good Sammy Enterprises in February 2022.



Rev Chris Crause
Presbytery Minister (Pastoral) from 1 May-31 October 2022.



Rev Andy Broadbent
Inducted as a Deacon in the Fremantle Wesley Uniting Church on 13 February 2022.



Chris Hall, CEO Juniper
Announced retirement in May 2022.



Rev Dr Andrew Williams
Inducted as General Secretary of the Synod of Western Australia on 18 March 2022.



Following the departure of Amanda Hunt last year, Uniting WA appointed **Michael Chester and Jen Park** as Co-Chief Executive Officers in May 2022.



Rev Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams
Inducted as Minister of the Word at Uniting Church in the City, Trinity, on 3 April 2022.



Rev Claire Pickering
Inducted as Minister of the Word at Mount Pleasant Uniting Church on 10 April 2022.



*Up to 31 May 2022.



Home-made cherry cake

Marissa Krajcar, Archives Co-ordinator, at the Uniting Church Archives Centre, recently invited us into her kitchen to show us what she was baking.

"I love my cherry cake recipe. It's simple, no-nonsense and I can whip it up in a jiffy. I've been making it since my teenage children were toddlers and it never goes out of fashion. I can dress it up as a dessert, or keep it simple. It is versatile and if I want something different, I use plums or other fruit instead of cherries. Sometimes I add almond extract to give it a richer flavour."

**We want to share your recipe!
If you have a recipe you'd like
to share, send it in to
revive@wa.uca.org.au.**



Ingredients

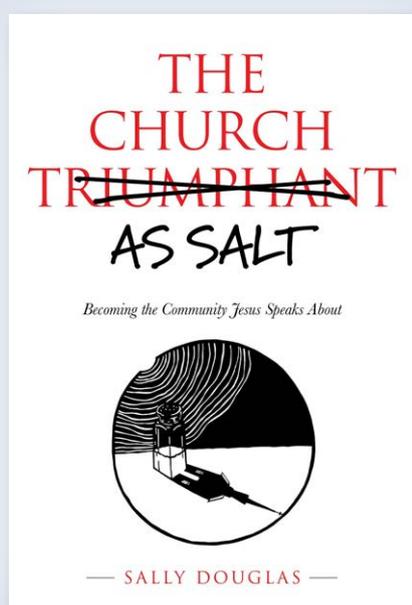
- 200g sugar
- 3 eggs
- 375g self-raising flour
- 200g Greek Style Yoghurt (with a hint of vanilla bean)
- 125g butter
- 3 tablespoons olive oil (I use olive oil but you can use other oil substitutes)
- Grated rind of 2 lemons
- 1 jar of pitted cherries, drained (sometimes, I substitute the cherries with plums or other fruit)

Method

- Preheat the oven to 180°C.
- Beat eggs and sugar together in your stand mixer; or using a hand mixer.
- Add the rest of the ingredients, one at a time. Beat each addition on a slower speed and mix well.
- Pour half the mixture in a prepared springform cake pan. Then push half the cherries (or plums or other fruit you prefer to use) into the mixture.
- Add the remaining mixture into the cake pan and push the remaining fruit into it.
- Bake for 30 to 40 minutes; or until a knife inserted through the centre comes out clean.
- Let the cake cool before serving.
- Use icing sugar or chocolate-dipped cherries to decorate. Serve with whipped cream.

The Church as Salt,

By Rev Dr Sally Douglas



Rev Dr Sally Douglas is a minister at Richmond Uniting Church and does adjunct faculty teaching and research at Pilgrim College, a member college of the University of Divinity in Box Hill, Victoria; however, she still speaks of herself as a scholar pastor. Her continuing examination of the New Testament and early Christian writings give fresh consideration to the themes in this book.

Common images of the church of Christendom speak of size, success and triumph. Yet these same images also fuel the frustration of unfilled hopes and broken dreams of the church today. In this book, Sally encourages us to reframe our images of church, especially our misapprehension of the church as dying. She uses the image of salt as an entry point into different metaphors of the church - for example: salt as little, salt in tears, dark salty wombs growing life, salt for preserving and seasoning - and challenges us to move beyond images of triumph and empire. The implications of such re-imagining are set within a calling to hold on to the paradox of faith, cross and resurrection. For instance, salty womb and birth imagery, taboo in their own cultural contexts, challenge the church to be vulnerable and sensitive to the work of the Spirit in growth that happens in secret places, rather than in strategic planning exercises.

Sally writes from her own ministry experience and her work is grounded in what it means to be church today. Her explorations are also highlighted with stories and examples from local congregations. Of her book, Sally explained that she didn't plan to write it entirely on

this one image of salt, but once she started the project grew.

Sally helps us find new hope for the church, and each of us who are part of it. With imaginative vision and application, she provides a more fitting contemporary cultural understanding of the church on the edge of society and finding a new way forward.

The Church as Salt contains helpful discussion and reflection sections at the end of each chapter, which could be useful for groups wanting to grapple with the life of the church. Whether read alone or in a group, let your life be seasoned as you reflect on this salty little book.

Rev Dr Christine Sorensen



A snapshot of events in the life of the church



Rob Douglas (Presbytery Minister - Mission) presenting a *Developing a Culture of Welcoming* workshop in Bunbury, in February.



Rev Dr Andrew Williams with CEO Kane Blackman, visiting Good Sammy's Canning Vale warehouse and recycling centres, in June.



Northway Uniting Church's *Australia's Biggest Morning Tea*, in May.



A group from Beth Shalom Tongan Uniting Church travelled in March to Katanning for a joint worship service with temporary migrant workers from the region.



Summer Spirit 2022, in February, featuring Hugh McKay as guest speaker.



Guests enjoy a "light lunch" at a Welcoming Service for the Tapu Niue Faith Community, in February.



17-year-old Tina Algeri, performed Schumann's Sonata No 2 at Willeton Uniting Church's Classical Piano Recital, in June.

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Read more news, opinions, stories and reflections. Keep up-to-date with all the events from the Uniting Church WA and more.

revivemagazine.org.au



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia



EDUCATION WITH Uniting Church Schools

Our seven independent schools provide education for over 8,000 students from Pre Kindergarten* to Year 12. They offer a variety of learning environments, from some of the oldest and best-known independent schools in WA to the more recently established colleges in new suburbs on the edge of the Perth metropolitan area. While these schools respect the faith diversity of all students, the story, values and practices of the Christian faith are expressed with integrity in order to nurture young lives for sound learning, faith, compassion and responsible service.



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356 Stirling Hwy
Claremont WA 6010
T 08 9384 4000
mlc.wa.edu.au



Penrhos College
6 Morrison St
Como WA 6152
T 08 9368 9500
penrhos.wa.edu.au



Presbyterian Ladies' College
14 McNeil St
Peppermint Grove
WA 6011
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Scotch College
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Swanbourne WA 6010
T 08 9383 6800
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St Stephen's School
Campuses in
Duncraig and Carramar
T 08 9243 2108
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Tranby College
90 Arpenteur Dr
Baldivis WA 6171
T 08 9524 2424
tranby.wa.edu.au



Wesley College
Corner of Coode St
and Angelo St
South Perth WA 6151
T 08 9368 8000
wesley.wa.edu.au

* Not all schools offer Pre Kindergarten.