

Fellowship Newslink

August 2024



**Promoting Faith and
Fellowship** across
Congregations and Beyond



Uniting Church WA
Adult Fellowship

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Front cover image: 'Zuess',
*Juniper Annesley's Residential
Aged Care Home canine
companion.*

Chairperson's Corner

Welcome to our Fellowship Groups and Friends to this midyear edition of Newslink.

I pray most of our readers are managing to keep well and warm during our cold mornings and nights.

We are thankful to receive rain to water our parched earth and contribute to our water storage.

In this edition we are also looking to the coming of Spring.

Since our last magazine we have celebrated some of the special days and times of the Christian year:

Lent, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, and the anniversary of the Uniting Church.

The Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Committee received the sad news of Aladina Foster's unexpected death on 22 May 2024 after a period in hospital. Tributes to Aladina's life and ministry within UCAF and the Pinjarra congregation are included in this edition of Newslink.

Also in this edition we shine a light on St Martin's Foothills Uniting Church, Forrestfield and the extent of their expansive outreach. The congregation's various campaigns focus on inclusivity and compassion, aiming to address immediate needs while also fostering long-term community development and spiritual growth. These initiatives embody the principles of love, charity, and social justice, creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all.

You are no doubt aware the 17th Assembly of the Uniting Church met in Parramatta between 11 and 17th of July 2024. On the fifth day (15/7) the Assembly marked the closure of the UCAF National Committee.

In an emotional moment Rev Sharon Hollis moved a *Minute of Appreciation* for the UCAF National Committee which has ended its ministry after 42 years. *'This Minute acknowledges the deep courage it takes to end something you have loved and cherished.... to lay down its life and to end it well; and give thanks for the good it has done'*.



Chairperson's Corner cont'd

Pam Grant (UCAF National Secretary) sent a message to those who were not in attendance: *"It was a wonderful celebration, and all those present felt affirmed by the members of Assembly"*.

There are photos and stories of the Assembly speakers, and words from our newly inducted President Rev Charissa Suli on the Assembly website.

The State UCAF Committees will continue, as will the various fellowship groups in Congregations.

I would like to share with you some words from the 'Upper Room' written by Lisa from USA when she was reflecting on the story in *Mark 16: 1-8* of the women going to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. When Lisa was leaving her home to take up a ministry position she was given a plaque:

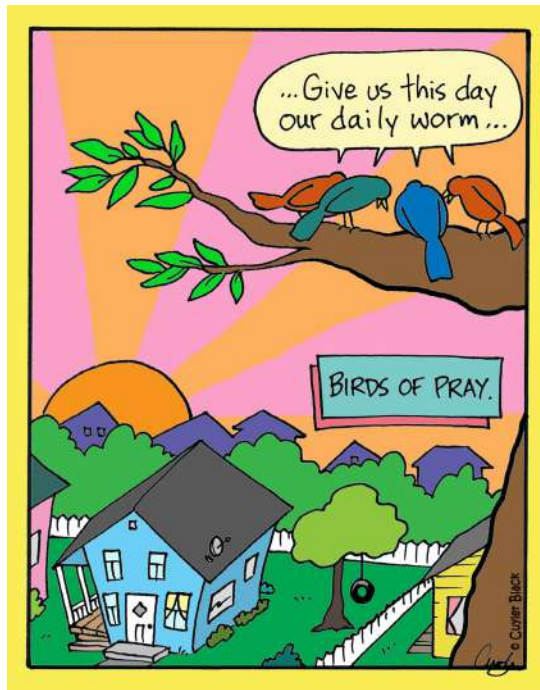
'The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you'.

May these words encourage us when we feel God is calling us to a task that we are uncertain about.

May we depend on God's guidance rather than our own understanding.

May you each know God's blessings.

Helen McMillan



Psalm 23 - Australian version

God is the station owner,
and I am just one of the sheep.
He musters me down to the Lucerne flats,
and feeds me there all week.

When I'm feeling poorly,
and at something less than my peak,
he leads me to the restfulness,
of a coolabah-shaded creek.

He teaches me not to break away,
not to be a loner;
he teaches me to stick with His mob,
and acknowledge Him as my Owner.

Even when the droughts are bad,
and I cross the Desert of Death,
God is close beside me,
so close I can feel His breath.

God is the one who holds the map,
that gives me my direction,
and God is the one who guarantees,
provision for my protection.

Although there are dingos in the hills,
and the paddocks are full of snakes,
God serves up a barbeque,
of beautiful T-bone steaks!

His patience and compassion,
and forgiveness fail me never;
and I'll live with Him in the Homestead,
Beyond the end of forever.

Written by Kel Richards, from *The Aussie Bible*

Photo: "Heaven on the Hill" - Edan Raw, Australian Landscape Photography

Memories of Aladina Foster



This is a tribute on behalf of the current WA UCAF Committee, and the many people who have worked with Aladina Foster over the years.

Aladina became a member of the State Committee in 2003 and the Editor of the *Newslink* magazine. In 2005 she became the Chairperson; a position she held until 2014. At the request of the Committee she returned in 2016, when the Chairperson suddenly resigned, as the Acting Chairperson, again taking on the editing of the *Newslink* magazine. After a year, Helen McMillan was elected Chairperson and Aladina was Secretary, a position she held until Aladina and Ray resigned from the Committee in 2020.

"Aladina's leadership was always dynamic and her accomplishments were many" were words of Rev Janelle Macgregor.

Among the many accomplishments were:

- Attending most of the National Celebrations arranged by the States in their 3-year term.
- After the triennium, attending the Consultation (business meeting) when each State reports on their activities during the 3 years.
- Arranging the 80-year-old Certificates and 90-year-old cards designed by a graphic designer who worked in the Synod office.
- Taking up the challenge to make contact with the Women's Fellowship of the GKP – the Protestant Church in Bali. Aladina, Gill Muir and others spent a week visiting Bali. A group of Bali ladies visited WA and were hosted by members of various Congregations. One of the delights was visiting a Committee member's farming property and seeing sheep.
- In 2011, as State Chairperson, Aladina was tasked with approaching people to form the National UCAF Committee from 2012 – 2015.
- When the National Celebration was held in Perth, four ladies from Bali attended. The fundraising which enabled this visit was spearheaded by Aladina.

- At a Presbytery meeting in 2012 the *Emergency Hospitality Program* was launched. This arose out of Aladina hearing about a country lady receiving a life-threatening diagnosis and spending the night alone in a motel. A city host offered accommodation to a country person who needed to come to Perth in an emergency or for a medical appointment. In 2014, 24 people were hosted over 47 nights. After some years a decision was made to close the program due to it not being used despite having been widely advertised throughout the Synod.
- In 2020 Aladina as Secretary was delighted to receive the now *Rev Reuben Edmonds* application for a *Joan Stott Bursary*. The State Committee were able to recommend Reuben to the National Committee and were delighted when he was successful. Reuben was able to utilise the bursary with his studies in 2021. This was the first application the WA Committee had received during Aladina's time.
- Aladina and Ray were well known in other States and the current National Committee were very sad to hear of Aladina's passing.

Aladina said in a report "UCAF has been an integral part of my Christian journey, meeting many beautiful people".

Thank you Aladina. *'Well done good and faithful servant. Rest in peace in the presence of your Lord'*. - **Helen McMillan, UCAF WA Committee**

Pinjara Uniting Church

Aladina and Ray retired to Pinjarra just over 20 years ago, Ali was voted onto the very first Ministry Team when it was formed not long after. Ali was very active in our church fellowship, not only the UCAF. Each year when we hold our church market for YouthCare in our area, Ali always head up the team in the kitchen.

At the time of Aladina's passing, she was the editor of our weekly and monthly newsletter, known as *The Vine*. Along with Ray, Aladina would faithfully lead bible study every Tuesday, Aladina was also the vice president of Pinjarra UCAF, after being the president for many years.

In addition to these good works, Aladina supported the Pinjarra UC by:

- Taking her turn at compiling the PowerPoint presentations for weekly worship.
- Being part of the card-making group, with all funds going to *YouthCare*
- Being a member of the Church council.

Aladina was tireless in serving her Lord, and she is greatly missed.

- **Kerrie Birch, Pinjarra UC**



St Martin's Outreach

Photo: St Marty's Op Shop

St Martin's Forrestfield was the first new congregation formed within the Uniting Church in Australia, post union. The vision was a church that enables people, particularly from the Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Maida Vale and Wattle Grove areas, to 'discover new life in the Spirit and to live by that discovery'.

In 2005 we formed a joint clustered community with the nearby Kalamunda congregation, with a signing of a Memorandum of Agreement to become "cooperating congregations through which we share our strengths and resources and discern together what it means to be a vibrant missional church in the 21st century". Our minister is thus shared with both congregations.

Op Shop

A very successful, and well-regarded, op shop operates from the church premises three mornings a week. It is run entirely by an amazing group of over 40 dedicated volunteers' drawn from the church and community, who generously devote their time and effort to help make a difference to the everyday lives of people.

It delivers a valuable service that offers low-cost commodities and provides a friendly place for those seeking social interaction. It also supports an extensive range of other charities and organizations including the Department of Child Protection, Men's Shed, Women's Refuge and the Swan Animal Haven, through the onforwarding of donated items. From the income generated, we are able to financially assist a range of community initiatives.

Marty's Café

Operated at the rear of the church premises, Marty's Café is a weekly community drop-in centre for the community including those socially isolated. A dedicated group provide free barista coffee and delicious homemade morning tea. As well as conversation there are a range of activities that include a monthly recognition of birthdays, quiz mornings, cooking demonstrations and winter soup days. Donated bread, and shared produce, are also made freely available.

Craft and Chat

This monthly group has just commenced and meets in the community centre. It provides a chance to pause, catch your breath enjoy the camaraderie, creativity and a cuppa. Members are from both the church and the wider community and each gathering has a different theme.



Church Dinner at St Marty's!



Spring planting at St Marty's!

Yarning Circle

This is a joint initiative of the St Martin's and Kalamunda Uniting Churches. It is an open and informal meeting of like-minded people seeking to explore practical ways of developing closer relationships with First Nation people. This involves continuing to build our understanding of history and its influence on our future together.

Nely Watson
Secretary, St Martin's

Blessing the Animals

Blessing the Animals: A Cherished Tradition

Our Bush chaplains and country clergy are often called upon to provide a variety of blessings, from ploughs to musters. One special ceremony they share with their urban counterparts is the '*Blessing the Animals*'.

This heartwarming tradition is one of the few Christian celebrations that crosses denominational boundaries. Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians, among other Christians, all participate in these joyous festivities.

But where did this ceremony originate? The tradition of blessing animals has deep roots in the practices of early Christians, who had a profound connection to the earth and the natural world. These early Christians were often farmers whose livelihoods depended on the health of their animals. They would seek out the desert fathers to bless their livestock, hoping to ensure their well-being.

Interestingly, the blessing of animals is not exclusive to Christianity. Many religions, including Islam, Judaism, Shinto, and Unitarian Universalism, have their own forms of animal blessings.

Many Uniting Church WA congregations, for instance, Star Street and Mt Lawley/Maylands, hold '*Blessing the Animals*' services. If you're interested in attending one of these services, check out these churches' websites or with your local church to see if they too offer this beautiful ceremony.

One hymn that is often sung at UCWA's '*Blessing the Animals*' services is the beloved '*All Things Bright and Beautiful*.' Written by Cecil Frances Alexander, in 1848. It is hymn number 135 in the TIS (*Together in Song*) hymn book, specifically in the section '*Items especially suitable for Children*.' This hymn is a favourite among many and also regularly features on the BBC's *Songs of Praise* TV show.

So, let us pause for a moment and reflect on '*All Things Bright and Beautiful, all creatures great and small*' within and around our wonderful country, with the Australian version of " written by Brian Black.

- Andrea Garvey, *Newslink* Editor



All things bright and beautiful

Chorus

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small.
All things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

1. The wildflowers in their beauty,
the mountain ranges tall,
the billabongs and rivers
and friendly birds that call.
2. The cold wind in the winter,
the bright, lifegiving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden
he made them, every one.
3. The coloured walls of gorges,
the gum trees green and tall,
the rocks and pools and palm trees,
the sparkling waterfall.
4. The many coloured corals,
the creatures of the sea,
of bushland fields or desert
on farms or roaming free.
5. He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty
who has made all things well.



Australian Version

A day in the life of WA Bush Chaplain Lindsay Ginn



Bush Chaplain Lindsay Ginn brings a special kind of joy and connection to the people he serves - music!

His music brings people together, breaks down barriers, and allows Lindsay Ginn to check in on people and communities on a deeper level.

From his home in Kalgoorlie, he travels to local schools in Esperance to teach music to kids, and he has recently started introducing his music to seniors living in Kalgoorlie.

We asked him to share what his typical day looks like to give you a sense of just how much you make possible through your support.

5:00AM

I get up, and I'm on the road by about 5:45AM. When I'm visiting the school at Salmon Gums in Esperance, I travel for three hours, stopping for fuel at Norseman.

9:00AM

I arrive and set up all the instruments for the kids. There are around 18 students, all from the big properties around that area. We do ukulele, percussion, and singing.

I'm using music as an avenue to get known in the community. Once you've spent time teaching a student, they will know you right into adulthood. So I'm connecting with this generation coming up. I see it as one of the ways that I as a Bush Chaplain can support people in these areas and get to know them.

11:00AM

After Salmon Gums, I head over to Scadden to another school which has around 40 students from kindy upwards.

1:00PM

I spend a bit of time with the teachers and the parents who help out. It's wonderful because you build friendships and strong connections.

2:00PM

I pack up and head home, and I won't get back to Kalgoorlie until after 5:00PM.

On other days, I work with teenagers in Fairbridge (7.5 hours west of Kalgoorlie) who have disengaged from traditional schools. I work with students who are interested in music. I took a few of them through a ukulele exam last year. They were so nervous, but they got Honors!

All ages welcome

On days that I visit the retirement

village and nursing homes, I aim to see two centres. I need to take all my equipment, so it takes time to set up and pack up each time.

Music is a way to help combat loneliness in our senior citizens. I want to get to know these people and just be able to sit down and chat with them. It's more than just music. It's becoming their friend as well.

The other day in a music session, I had four ladies using the boomwhackers. Boomwhackers are large light-coloured tubes, and you "whack" them to play a note.

They played "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and had a great laugh. It's something that can brighten their days and give them a new activity to enjoy.

And everything else

Bush Chaplain Lindsay also looks after two congregations in Kalgoorlie and Esperance and leads a service once a month in the People's Church, an Indigenous church in Kalgoorlie.

At the same time, he works on committees including the Uniting Church Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network and the Rural and Remote Ministers Network.



Zuess spreading love

one paw at a time!

When Linda's grandmother moved into Juniper Annesley Residential Aged Care Home, Linda knew her four-year-old Labrador, Zuess, would bring endless happiness and comfort to the residents. With twelve years of experience as a dog trainer, Linda expertly prepared Zuess to be an assistance dog, ready to brighten lives.

"Volunteering has always been important to our family. When my grandmother moved to Juniper Annesley, my daughter Tama was so eager to help. We live in the hills and love making the drive down. It's

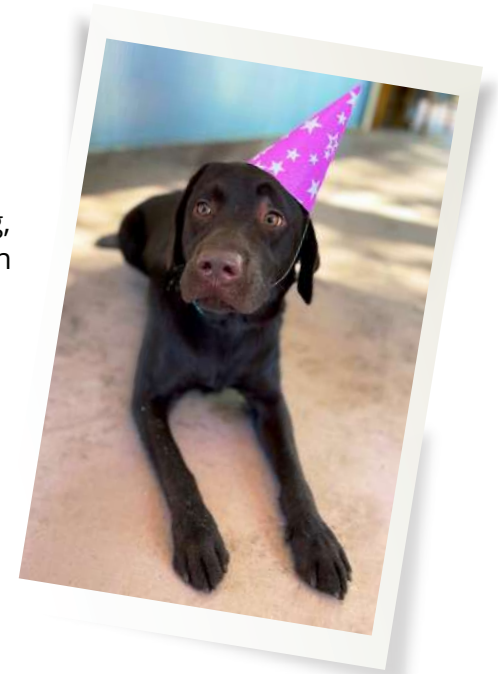
heartwarming to see how much joy Zuess brings to the residents during our visits" said Linda.

Zuess earned his Public Access accreditation, making him an officially recognised assistance dog, allowing him to accompany them in various public settings.

Zuess was extensively trained from a young age with both Linda and Kaizen K9 to handle various environments and situations, and when he puts on his uniform, it's time to bring joy to the residents.

"His gentle nature and love for pats have made him a favourite among both staff and residents.

One resident, who doesn't speak English, communicates with Zuess by singing in Russian."



Zuess offers more than just companionship to the residents of Juniper Annesley. He brings joy, reduces loneliness, and provides a sense of normalcy.

"Seeing the smiles Zuess brings to the residents' faces is so rewarding. The connections he makes with the residents, even those who don't speak English, are truly special."

**Juniper**

Savoury scones

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups (225g) self-raising flour
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper or paprika
- 2 teaspoons white sugar
- 1/3 cup (25g) parmesan cheese, finely grated
- 1 cup (120g) tasty cheese, coarsely grated
- 1 cup (250ml) milk
- 40g butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon of chives, (see notes)
- ¾ teaspoon garlic powder (optional)
- 1 pinch salt
- 2-3 rashers of bacon, finely chopped (optional)

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 220°C/200°C fan forced. Line a large baking tray with baking paper.
2. If adding bacon, lightly fry and set aside to cool.
3. Place all dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl: flour and any dry spice powders (salt, cayenne pepper/paprika and garlic powder here). Whisk it together to evenly combine.
4. Combine cheese with the bacon and flour mixture. Then slowly add the milk and mix to a soft, sticky dough.
5. Divide batter evenly between paper cases; bake for 25 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
6. Knead dough quickly and lightly on floured surface until smooth. Press dough out evenly to 2cm (¾-inch) thickness. Dip 3.5cm round cutter into flour, cut as many rounds as you can from the piece of dough.
7. Place scones on the baking tray, at least 2cm apart. Bake for 15 mins or until they are very golden. Enjoy!

Notes:

Dried chives can be used or try Gourmet Garden '*Lightly Dried Chives*', found in the fruit and vegetable section of most grocery stores. Put the packet of Garden Gourmet chives in your freezer to extend it's shelf life for use another time. Or replace altogether with a finely diced spring onion.

Source: Booragoon Probus Group Cookbook



Perfect for when you have to “bring a plate” or visitors drop in for a cuppa and chat!



Devotions: Springtime

The colder days of winter are coming to an end, and nothing shows it more than our gardens, with their abundance of new growth and the profusion of gorgeous flowers to go with it!

There are gardens mentioned in the Bible. Eddie Askew in his devotional book *“There is a Garden”* (one of the many popular devotionals that he has written), looks at the Garden of Eden, the Gardens of Babylon, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Eternal Garden..... each with its own special, and very significant, story to tell, of creation, of conflict, of sadness and peace.

There are gardens where olive trees, almonds, figs and pomegranates, will bloom profusely before they can produce the fruit, that will help sustain the people throughout the year. There are meadow gardens that are ablaze with a riot of colour, of crocus, poppies, buttercups and lilies of the field. The Hebrew word for “lily” appears to stand for many kinds of bright flowers e.g. ranunculus, tulip, or anemone.

Eddie comments that all gardens are organic living areas; never the same, but always changing as one season follows another. *“Bulbs germinate, grow, blossom, and appear to die only to find new life again. Our relationship with God is organic too..... a living experience and thus full of change”*. It can be exciting, scary, frustrating, overwhelming, but it can also be full of hope, of challenges, of peace and of growth!

Luke 12:27-31 tells us not to be anxious. If God so looks after the fields, the flowers and the meadows and sustains them (and the birds of the air v22-31), how much more will he look after us – His special children – those He dearly loves and cares for? We may not have all that we want..... but we will have all that we need! God is constantly calling us to journey on with Him, and is eager and waiting to reveal new depths of His love for us. All we have to do is submit to His will for our lives; seek His Kingdom first, and follow Him on that journey.

Just as gardens are never complete, so our lives are never complete. They are always changing as the Master Gardener gently prunes and encourages the new growth that He sees in us. Some lines from a favourite old hymn tell us - *“We blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree, and wither and perish but nought changeth Thee”!*

We may change, but our faithful dependable God does not! Let us be truly thankful for the new growth we see in and around us, as we welcome in a new Spring season.

- Anne Steed



You are invited to UCAF's 2024

Annual Fellowship Day

Friday 18 October

10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Noranda Uniting Church
79 Camboon Rd, Noranda

UCAF WA Committee Invitation

We invite membership on the Adult Fellowship Committee to those in the Uniting Church who think that fostering and creating opportunities for fellowship is an important part of the development and life of our Church.

What we do:

- Hold an annual Planning Day to focus on specific issues.
- When invited, visit congregations in urban and rural areas to encourage groups.
- Organise the UCAF WA Annual Fellowship Day.
- Honour our 80-year-olds during the Annual Fellowship Day.
- Send a special greeting card to our 90-year-old people on their special day.
- Process applications for the UCAF Joan Stott Bursary (2 awarded each year).
- Regularly interact with the other Australian UCAF Committees.
- Maintain links with Uniting Church National Assembly.
- Connect with the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Groups.

UCAF WA is a member of the Synod, giving general members an opportunity to express their opinions on the Church's activities.

New Members:

When a member's situation changes or they must retire due to the Synod 10-year Rule, replacements are constantly needed. If you would like to join our committee or if you have any questions, please contact Helen McMillan or Bob Nicholls by the details listed below.

Additionally, if you know any suitable individuals who might be interested in joining, please contact us. Our work is both engaging and enjoyable.

We meet at 10:00 am, Noranda Uniting Church on the third Friday of each month. **All Welcome!**

Chairperson:

Helen McMillan
P: (08) 9279 3051
E: norandaunitingchurch@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Bob Nicholls
P: (08) 9255 2567
M: 0419-927-638
E: wraxall@iinet.net.au

UCAF Registration

We invite congregations and groups to register with us so that copies of *Newslink* and other mailings can be personally addressed to you.

All congregations receive one unaddressed copy of *Newslink* in the Synod mailout. All registered groups receive an addressed copy/copies of *Newslink*.

Registration Details:

Group Name _____

Contact Person for Group _____

(or) Individual's name _____

Postal Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

Donations

We would appreciate donations to assist with the running expenses. This assists us in covering the cost of the *Certificates of Appreciation* for 80-year-olds, Greeting Cards for 90-year-olds, and general administration.



Want Newslink mailed to your address?

For \$8.00 per year, Newslink can be sent directly to you.

Recipients Name _____

Congregation _____

Postal address _____

No. of copies _____ Postage \$8.00

Donation \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Payment details of the Treasurer, for registration:

Internet Banking BSB 036-001

Acc No: 92-1850

Reference: 'Name of group or individual'

Celebrating the Milestones of Our Seniors

We offer you the opportunity to recognise the contribution your seniors have made, celebrate with them and show appreciation when they reach their important milestones.

Eighty-Year-Olds: at the UCAF Annual Fellowship Day 2024, Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to octogenarians nominated by their church or fellowship group. All who reach their 80th year during 2024, or missed out previously are eligible.

Ninety-Year-Olds: Our Committee will send a specially designed greeting card 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. Please refer to the application form below.

One Hundred-Year-Olds: The Synod looks after these. A letter to the Moderator requesting a greeting to those turning one hundred years of age will be responded to.

Application form for greeting cards: 90-year-olds

Send to: Kay Lockley, 20 Roediger Drive, Northam WA 6401

Email: kaylockl@bigpond.net.au | Phone: (08) 9622 1152

Please Print

Name of Congregation _____

Date of Birth _____

Name of 90-year-old _____

If there is more than one recipient, please attach a separate sheet. **Check spelling and details, please!**

Where is the card to be sent? Please (✓) tick

Congregation (if arranging a presentation)

Nominator (person who is personally delivering the card and/or arranging a special time for a presentation.

The 90-year-old nominated person

Please provide the following:

Contact person

Name: _____ Phone No _____

The postal address to send the card:

Name: _____

Address _____

UCAF Notices

Save the Date!

Event: UCAF Annual Fellowship Day

Date: Friday, 18 October 2024

Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Venue: Noranda Uniting Church
79 Camboon Road
Noranda WA 6062

For more information, please contact:

Helen McMillan (08) 9279 3051 or Bob Nicholls (08) 9255 2567.

Stamp Helpers:

We would love a few extra helpers to trim and sort our incoming stamps. We meet every Wednesday from 10:00 am - 2.00 pm, Bicton Uniting Church. While it's bring your own lunch, a cuppa and warm fellowship is always available. You are welcome to come along whenever you can!

For those trimming at home or collecting, stamps can be left at either Bicton Uniting Church, 1 Carrington St, Palmyra WA 6157 | Uniting Church Centre, 85/89 Edward St, Perth WA 6000, and they will be forwarded on. **The proceeds of the stamps go to *Frontier Services* for their work here in WA. Over the past 11 years, we have forwarded on over \$37,000!**

We want ALL your used stamps!

Please do not try to remove from backing paper, just trim with a 1cm (pencil width) border around the stamp (buyer request).

Stamps can be dropped at the Uniting Church Centre or Bicton Uniting Church (addresses above).

