

June 2024

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE
Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION
Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



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Scan the QR Code to access our website.



We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of the lands and waters where we live and work across the country and pay our respects to Elders past and present who have cared for these lands for millennia. We are committed to walking together seeking justice and reconciliation.



High Street Times



A Great Fête



HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH FETE MAY 11TH 2024

STALL	Interim	Post Fete	Current Total
Cakes	1019.10		
Fancy Goods	528.50		
Sausage Sizzle	255.90		
Plants	69.85		
LEGS	212.50		
Jams and Pickles	421.40	5.00	
Competitions	324.80		
Children's Activities	20.20	6.00	
Morning Tea	476.80		
Books	700.75		
Trash and Treasure	282.00		
Photo-cards	214.00		
Commissions	360.00		
Coffee	147.00		
Donations		50.00	
Sundries	4.20		
***Sunday Stall		29.00	
Other post fete sales		50.00	
TOTAL INCOME	5037.00	140.00	5177.00



From the Minister...



Rev. Ross Writes

As most of you are aware, I have spent a good deal of my life doing theatre in different ways. I have never pushed the fact that I am a Christian or that I was a preacher, except to make it clear that I wasn't available for Sunday morning rehearsals. However, I have always behaved as a person of faith, and acted with love for everyone. Two friends from theatre have asked me to conduct their weddings. And even when I said that I wasn't qualified to do that, they have insisted that I be a part of the ceremony in some way.

Personal stories are a great way to convey teaching. People often say, "I like it when you tell stories in your preaching" There is a power in stories, they ground whatever you are saying in lived experience and give a relevance to whatever is being talked about. I reflect on this whenever the text in worship includes the parables of Jesus. They aren't just a clever teaching method, they ground matters of faith in the lived experience of the listener. Jesus was a person of his time and spoke about things of life that people could relate to, because they had experienced such things. Shepherds and lost sheep, women cleaning houses, people on journeys, or sons who revolt against their fathers, are all the common stuff of life. But Jesus always found a way to turn that common experience into a lesson about God and the way God wants us to live through an unexpected turn in the story.



When you get a chance to talk to people about deep, spiritual issues, do you talk theory and church creeds, or do you tell stories about your own experience of living with God? Many of us have experiences of God's touch, or inspiration, or peace. These experiences aren't evidence that could convince someone else of the relevance of God, but they are stories that can open people to their own exploration. The stories won't explain God, but they can introduce the idea of God, and the possibility of God.

Maybe you don't have any personal stories, and you would like something relevant to talk about. Do we need new parables to try to connect with this culture and time? I have tried a couple out over the years:

God is like the internet; invisible and mysterious, but available if you connect.

Being a Christian is like living in a rented house; you can make some changes, but to renovate, you need to talk with the owner.

Maybe you can think of some others to update our collection of parables from shepherds and wineskins. Parables that can carry a spiritual idea within a story that is known and understood. I'm not saying they will be pithy conversation starters, but they can show that we are a part of this world now, and not people stuck in the far past.

Consider your experiences, your stories, and what interests you about the faith, for they can be the stuff of spiritual conversations and demystifying what it is that we believe in.

We pray...



- For those within our church family who find it difficult or are unable to attend worship, including: Sheila and Leon Knoop, Gwen Paxino, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Margaret Snyder and Barbara Yates.
- For the family and friends of Audrey Smith, Beth McNamara and Nancy Ferguson who died recently.
- For Marj Mitchell who is unwell currently.
- For Jessie Williams, in rehab after a knee replacement.
- For Marilyn Downing, in rehab at St John of God.
- For Roy Gieseman, recovering from further surgery.
- For Nylma Carruthers, in hospital and having treatment.
- For the Carolus family, with Eileen receiving care, and her sister Val and family.
- For all others who are in poor health and having treatment.
- For Rev. Ross Pearce on study leave in the UK.
- For Somers Camp coming up in July, and all the leaders and children.
- For all affected by violence against women.
- For the conflict in Israel and Palestine.
- For Ukraine, still under attack from Russia.
- For the unsettled situation in New Caledonia.
- For all those living with mental health needs in our church family and our community, and our country.
- For those around Frankston who experience homelessness.
- For those struggling with the ever-increasing cost of living.

*The prayer chain regularly and continuously keeps particular needs in prayer. You can ask for prayers through the prayer chain by contacting Marlene, phone **5971 2840** or email marlene.thresher@gmail.com, or emailing directly to hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com.*

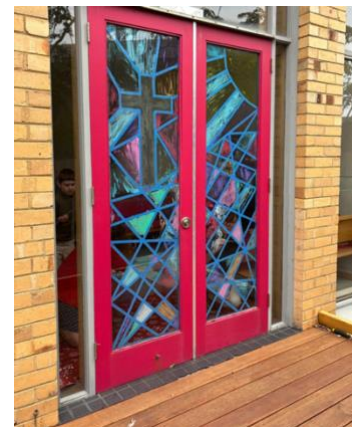
The prayer chain is a small group of church members who are dedicated to prayer, and consider all communication and prayer needs strictly private and confidential unless specified otherwise. Lots going on this month with our own stained glass artists and a wonderful Pentecost celebration



Pentecost



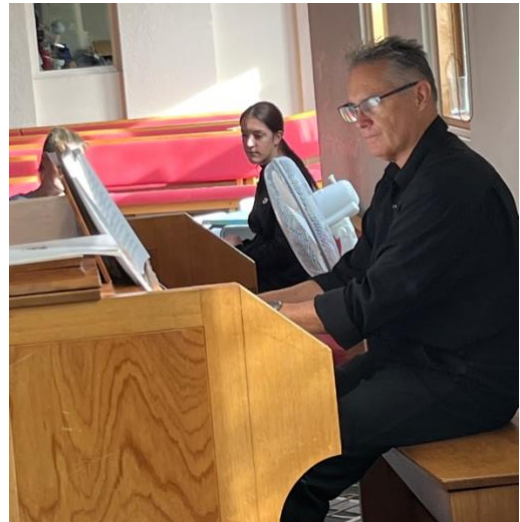
Stained Glass Artists



Organ Power

Saturday 4th May saw some 45 plus people enjoying the full power of our wonderful Pipe Organ. Christopher Cook really showed what a variety of tone-colours are available when the organ is used to its full advantage. Added to this were wonderful performances by Nyah Andersson on Oboe/Cor Anglais and Kitty La Nauge on Soprano Recorder.

Look out for more concerts later in the year.



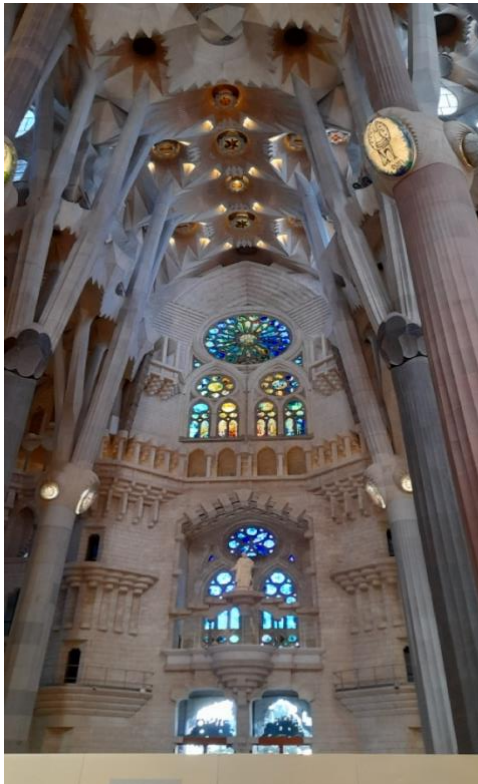
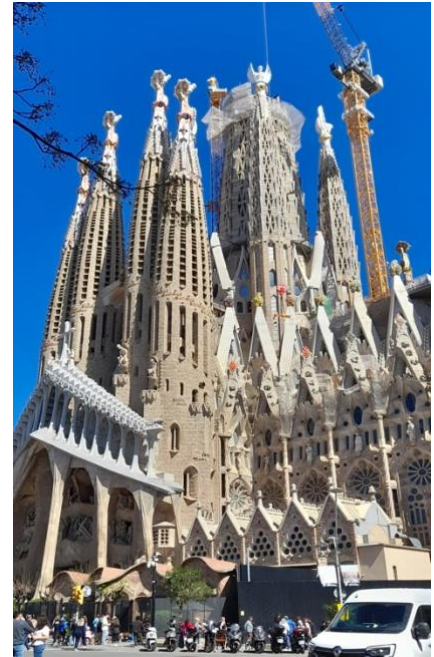
What follows is the first of hopefully many reports on wonderful places visited by members of our congregation. If you've been somewhere fabulous, please share it with us. Ed

Overseas reflections: 'La Sagrada Familia', Barcelona

Occasionally, a famous landmark, place or building not only lives up to its reputation, but actually exceeds it. 'La Sagrada Familia' church (The Holy family), Barcelona's most visited site (and indeed the whole of Spain's!) is one such place.

Aptly referred to as a 'temple', whilst clearly a Catholic church (indeed, now formally a Basilica) it seeks to be a 'universal' church and the throng of pulsating visitors from around the globe attests to this label. Over 4.6 million people visit this unique and immediately identifiable landmark annually, which is still incomplete after 140 years. It is unquestionably the defining symbol of Barcelona, the capital of Spanish Catalonia.

Externally, as one first glimpses it, it assaults the senses with its soaring separate towers, some 18 of them. The highest of these, the Jesus Tower, is yet to be completed, but work is continuing with dogged determination. It seems that whatever the time of year, crowds throng around the edifice which, unlike most churches, does not have only one defined entrance. When we visited to enter the sacred space and ascend one of its towers in early April on a pre-arranged tour (these are booked out months in advance), the seething mass of humanity around the building's four sides suggested a special event was underway.



One could only ponder how many people considered the centrality of the Christian message in what stood before them.

The mastermind and conceptual architect, Antonio Gaudi spent 43 years of his life working slavishly on this church, in the latter years of his life, living in a very humble and unprepossessing small adjoining building to actively oversee the work. However, most of the major building has actually occurred since his death in 1926, using his detailed models and plans. It was seriously damaged during the 1930s Spanish civil war but was determinedly repaired and the building resumed. Locals insist that the final Jesus tower will be finished in a year or so and the remaining façade completed thereafter. Only time will tell...!

The modernist style of 'La Sagrada Familia' is utterly distinctive and seeks to replicate and echo nature. Its truly glorious, vast stained glass windows are colour-coded to capture different times of the day, radiating glowing light into the vast inner, cavernous space. Our guide enlightened us about the detail and attributes of the two completed facades, the Nativity and Passion (the two ends of Christ's life as a human), with the Gloria side (Christ in heaven) yet

to be finished. Gaudi's own sense of Christianity and its universal connection to man is quintessential and underpins his architectural vision.

As we ventured inside the soaring space, with different stone – granite, basalt and porphyry-cladding its

concrete pillars, the most obvious differences to traditional Gothic cathedrals was both its newness and the abundant natural light which swirled around. As our learned and passionate guide spoke, organ music was to be heard periodically, with the yearning Bach's 'Jesu, Joy of

Man's Desiring', evoking so much of the embracing love, warmth and universality of this church.



We then ascended one of the newly completed and second-highest towers, in a swift lift (but then had to undertake a challenging descent by somewhat giddy stairs!), with commanding views across Barcelona, towards the two nearly mountains and the glistening blue Mediterranean sea beyond. Indeed the structure's unmistakable spires can readily be seen from one of these mountains, site of the 1992 Olympic Games and the other, where one of Gaudi's other visionary creations is situated, 'Parc Guell', which we also visited as part of our Gaudi-Fest (along with two other key buildings, which form

part of his extraordinary architectural legacy).

Some of you may also have been lucky enough to visit 'La Sagrada Familia', and many will have heard of it no doubt, but its unique attributes, character, and capacity to invoke awe all attest to it being a special and noteworthy sacred space. I feel most fortunate to have experienced and visited this place and hopefully, these musings have echoed this.

Ross Huggard



Beth McNamara

A much-loved, long-time member of our Church, Beth McNamara, died last month, aged 92. Beth, and her late husband, Les, joined Wesley Church in the late 1960s shortly after moving to Frankston from Reservoir.

Les is well and fondly remembered as 'The Barrel Man', as the result of his concept and development of barrels as receptacles for charitable cash donations; his widespread placement of barrels (there is one in the Church foyer) raised immense funds for many worthy causes over subsequent years.

Beth and Les were very involved at Wesley; Beth regularly typed the Church newsletter. She formed strong, lifelong, friendships, including those with Marj Mitchell and Mary Elks with whom she was to spend her final months as a resident of the Manor in Baxter Village.

In addition to her church work Beth was very active in community work. She was a volunteer at the Mt. Eliza Geriatric Centre and was a "Pink Lady" at Frankston Hospital. She founded the "Inner Wheels Club" at Seaford in 1985.

Beth resided in Baxter Village for 15 years, in her own unit, with her faith helping her to bravely cope with very limited sight (due to macular degeneration), cellulitis and a fractured hip. These all contributed to her inability to continue her practice of regular church attendance. She moved into the Manor late last year and thrived from the excellent care and the range of available opportunities.

Beth is survived by her son Craig, daughter Robyn, son Scott and five grandchildren.

We thank Mac Cleland for this tribute.



Audrey Smith.

Audrey Smith was 89 years old when she died in the Manor at Baxter Village on May 10th. Born on April 28th 1935 she had just had her 89th birthday but with deteriorating health in recent days it was a day more to be marked rather than celebrated.

Describing her early life she says: "We lived on a property in Pearcedale and I attended Pearcedale State School. I always wondered why Dad was listed as an orchardist. Many years later I asked Tom and he told me that Dad's orchard was burnt out in the January 1939 bushfires (she be only 4 then). Firemen saved the house, but it solved my puzzled mind as to why there was an apricot tree, two plum trees and two cherry plum trees". She adds that "we children had been at a Sunday School picnic at the time".

Her mother's maiden name was Ridout and the Ridout family were early settlers in Frankston arriving in 1908. Their 100 acre property stretched from Cranbourne Rd



south to the Stony Point Railway line. Audrey recalls riding in a horse and dray to her grandmother's house at Christmas time. "I knew when we got to the row of large pine trees, the next gate would be Grandma's. I can still remember the smell of apricots. Those pine trees are still there near Peninsula Hospital". She adds: "I never thought I would end up doing my shopping across the road from Grandma's, that is, at Karingal Shopping Centre".

Audrey attended Frankston High School on a scholarship, not where Frankston High is now in Tower Hill Road, but on the original site where the TAFE College is. She attained her Intermediate Certificate (4th Form), a high level of education in those days with part of her studies including a clerical course. She worked for a year in the office at Frankston Hospital before going on to work for the National Bank in the Moorabbin branch where she trained as a bookkeeper and was secretary to the manager. From then on, she says, "I became treasurer of almost every organisation I belonged to".

She met David Smith, an apprentice fitter and turner, at the local Saturday night dance and found that they had two important things in common: "We were both Protestant and barracked for the Essendon Football team".

They were married at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1955 and settled into married life living in Blair Avenue. St Andrew's then was in Davey St and the new church in High St would not be opened until 1958; the new church being the present site of High St Uniting Church and where they would attend together for many years.

Their daughters...Barbara, Pamela, Annette and Nicole were born during these years and apart from finding their life in the church and its many activities, it would be netball that would become a big part of the family's life.

"It was a full-time job with playing, umpiring and David coaching and me treasurer of Bruce Park Netball Club. I was made a life member of the club and I was proud of this. Thus, she says, our interests and work combined until our youngest daughter Nicole finished playing. Any holiday spare time was taken up camping in a big tent at Tidal River at Wilson's Prom, great family times.

Sadly, David contracted cancer and died in 1992. Then further sadness when Barbara died in 2003 aged 49. After 37 years of marriage Audrey found herself, a widow living a single life.

She moved to a house in Denbigh St, continuing her involvement in church activities and umpiring and supervising netball. A back injury saw her take up swimming again with the Fabulous 50's and going on short travelling trips. Her love of wildflowers saw her take a trip to Western Australia and to the Centre. She was also a part of a church group to Vanuatu organised by the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship. She also enjoyed being a member of and fund raising for the Royal District Nursing Service.

Her involvement over the years at St Andrew's and later when it was renamed High St Uniting Church was extensive. Down the years she was a member of the PWMU and Mother's Union while taking her turn on the crèche roster when the children were little. Add to this her active membership of the Ladies Evening Fellowship Group and Mission Guild, her long service as a church Elder and her work as Treasurer on many of these committees, including being church treasurer –a busy life.

She helped organise the catering in the church hall for refreshment after funeral services and once had three funerals in the one day to cater for. After covering costs any left over money went towards suitable charities. She took her turn at reading the Bible in worship, was a member of LARF (Life after Reaching Forty) where she enjoyed organising the Melbourne Cup sweeps when the group met on Cup Day.

Audrey moved to Baxter Village in 2007 into an Independent Living unit and in 2019 moved into the Lodge and then the Manor where she died. A new life emerged for her there while at the same time keeping up her church activities. These were curtailed somewhat when she decided to give up driving after suffering a heart attack and she continued at periodic intervals to have stents put in and suffering from angina.

Audrey had always liked reciting poetry but had never had many opportunities to do so until she met up with a group known as the Music Makers at Baxter; a group of which she later became president. 10 books of poetry were recovered from her room after she died, and her favourite: Banjo Patterson featured in her service.

Still keeping busy she was a member of the morning craft group at the Village where the group sewed, knitted and crocheted. The resultant finished articles were sold to raise money for nursing equipment at the Village, raising almost \$15,000 every two years.

It's a full life by any measure and one of strong Faith. A faith that saw Audrey contribute hugely to her church as she demonstrated the love of her Lord". This was the faith that upheld Audrey in life and is now realised for her in death. To God be the praise. Amen.

Rev John Lamont



**Settle in for another Armchair Travel Fundraiser – this time to North India.
Date for your diary – October 5th, 4.30pm-7.30pm**

In recent years at HSUC, we have enjoyed several armchair travel slide shows to raise funds for the North India Woman and Child Community Health Project – a.k.a the Jagriti Bhalai Kendra Society (JBKS.)

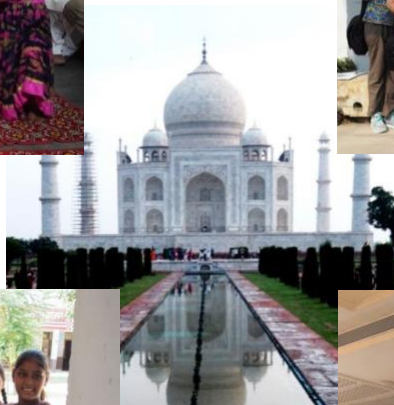
The project has been a significant outreach campaign by High Street Uniting Church, and Helen Beeby has provided remarkable leadership to support JBKS and fundraising efforts to sustain the work for more than 12 years.

Friends, this note is to inform you that on Saturday, 5th October, I plan to offer another armchair travel for our enjoyment. It will begin at 4.30pm; and be followed by a 'bring a plate' light dinner to share with fellow armchair travellers.

The vibrant and culturally fascinating images are from the pilgrimage Helen, Bronwen and I went on in September 2019, with five other Aussie travellers, to see the work carried out on the ground. Visiting villages we watched and learned about the work to empower people – mainly women and children - offering support and education in health, nutrition, gender equality, breaking down of the class system and help in setting up small cottage industries.

Dr Alma Ram, pictured in the golden yellow Punjabi outfit - has been the leader of this work supported by the Church of North India's (CNI) Diocese of Amritsar. Now in her mid-70s and dealing with Parkinson's Disease, Dr Alma is retiring from the project but will continue to support other programs run by the Diocese of Amritsar. We will hear from her during our armchair travel fundraiser.

Alongside the project imagery, there will be scenes from the towns and countryside of North India – plus other exotic sights, including a visit to the Taj Mahal. We look forward to sharing with you at the event.





Christmas IN JULY

Unwrap some mid-year
joy and join us in
fellowship for a shared
meal and entertainment!

DATE: SATURDAY, 20TH JULY

TIME: 1:00PM

TICKETS: MORE DETAILS TO COME!

High Street Uniting Church
16 - 18 High Street
Frankston



Save the date!

SUNDAY,
30TH
JUNE
2024

5th Sunday *Fellowship*

Join us for a combined service at 10:00am,
followed by morning tea and a presentation by
a guest speaker

MORE
DETAILS
TO
COME!

High Street Uniting Church, Frankston

