



Encouraging each other in ministry and mission, sharing resources and providing mutual support
23A Devitt Ave, Payneham South SA 5070 <http://www.urbannetwork.org.au>

BULLETIN – OCTOBER 2013

NETWORK NEWS AND EVENTS

Network Gathering



6.00 pm for 6.30 pm, Thursday 21st November
Uniting College for Leadership and Theology
34 Lipsett Tce, Brooklyn Park



All the regular elements of a Network Gathering PLUS
enjoy the company of Rev Steve Taylor, Principal, and the College's staff team
explore the College grounds
spend a quiet moment in the Chapel
experience one of the lecturers providing short teaching slots
be informed about new developments at the College
sit in on a session about chaplaincy



Gatherings are for everyone - come with a carload from your congregation

RSVP for catering purposes: Monday 18th November to the Coordinator, 8332 8339, christine@urbannetwork.org.au

Windows into the Text with Rev Dr Howard Wallace

PUBLIC FORUM 7.00 pm Sunday 10th November

At this free seminar, which includes an introduction to the Book of Exodus, we will see the story of Moses at the Burning Bush through the eyes of the European Jewish artist Marc Chagall and explore the two central questions: Who am I? Who are you?

How would we answer? What implications do these questions have for us ... and for our congregations?

SEMINARS from 9.45 am Monday 11th November \$40.00 including lunch & refreshments

In the morning session, the works of Australian artist Arthur Boyd and others will help us see Moses's predicament as he developed his leadership and his relationship with God while the people complained and questioned whether God was with them. Then we'll explore leadership in our church relating to the question of the Lord's presence (or not) among us.

The afternoon session, starting at 1.15 pm, will focus more clearly on the matter of God's presence. Two paintings by Arthur Boyd invite us to look into the world of the text and our contemporary discussion will centre on God's presence both for the individual and in the church in the midst of its struggle.

Brochure & registration <http://www.urbannetwork.org> information ph 8332 8339 or christine@urbannetwork.org.au

Installation of Dr Deidre Palmer

as Moderator of Synod of SA & Chairperson of Presbytery of SA

7.00 pm Wednesday 30th October, Adelaide West. RSVP by 4 Oct ph 8236 4221 email fvarsos@sa.uca.org.au



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Partnership news

Christa Megaw writes:

Last Friday night at Standing Committee, I presented the idea of forming a new partnership with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines - Middle Luzon. While the Presbytery and Synod of SA will be the official partner, the Committee were interested to know who will drive the partnership.

I was able to confirm that this will be the Urban Mission Network, with the Pilgrim UC congregation playing a major part.

The next step is to present to the upcoming Presbytery and Synod meeting a proposal that this partnership go ahead and we will discover together where God might be leading us in this new partnership opportunity.

If you'd like to comment or provide feedback or would like more information about the partnership, please contact:
Rev Christa Megaw: International Mission Officer MRSA, ph 8236 4203 email cmegaw@sa.uca.org.au



PS: As part of 'being a prophetic witness in the city of Adelaide', Pilgrim congregation's prayer *May peace prevail on Earth* is inscribed in four languages - Kaurna, English, Dinka and Tagalog (the language of Middle Luzon) - on a peace pole installed in the garden.

AROUND OUR CONGREGATIONS

Brougham Place, 193 Brougham Place, North Adelaide

Taizé Prayer 5.00 pm Sunday 13th October

Explore the mystery of God in prayer, singing and reflection with one of Brother Matthew of Taizé.

Further information: John Hughes ph 8267 2657 email johnh@bpuc.org

Pilgrim, 12 Flinders St, Adelaide



Music in the Lane, 12.30 pm – 1.00 pm, every Monday

Eclectic music at lunchtime in the laneway adjacent to Pilgrim Church.

Symposium 2013: ISLAM & MULTIFAITH RELATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

7.30 pm Tuesday 26th November

Speaker: John Strawson, School of Law and Social Sciences, University of East London

Movie Discussion Resources, written by Rev Sandy Boyce

Prepared by Rev Sandy Boyce and designed to generate conversation, these resources are uploaded regularly to the Pilgrim web site.

Further information on these items: Office 8212 3295 email office@pilgrim.org.au or <http://www.pilgrim.org.au>

Yilki, 28 Giles St, Encounter Bay

A Pet Blessing Service, Sunday 13th October, 10.30 am

This occasion is around the time of the celebration of the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It acknowledges the significance of these wonderful animals in our lives and the companionship they offer. A sausage sizzle will follow the service. Information: Dawn dawn60@tpg.com.au





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Wesley Kent Town, Cnr Fullarton Rd & Grenfell St, Kent Town

Concerts at Kent Town, Winter and Spring Series 2013

2.00 pm Wednesday 16th October

Organist Ray Booth and Classical Guitarist Emilio Pieroni. Tickets at door, \$8.00 includes afternoon tea.

Enquiries: Sheila Bryce ph 8322 4581 email sbrycepublicity@hotmail.com

Celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry

3.00 pm Sunday 10th November

Preacher: Dr Deidre Palmer, Moderator. Afternoon tea after the service.

Information: Rev Lindsay Faulkner OAM ph 8365-5664 email nessiefaulkner@bigpond.com

NEWS FROM OUR CENTRES

Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts, 193 Brougham Place, North Adelaide

Advent and Christmas Showcase

6.45 pm for 7.00 pm Thursday 17th October at Christ Church, 26 King William Rd, Wayville

Ideas and innovation for Advent and Christmas Worship.

Art, Drama, Music, Spoken Word

Further information: ph 8267 2657 (extn 21) email admin@cmla.org.au www.cmla.org.au

Effective Living Centre, 26 King William Rd, Wayville

2013 Artist in Residence program, 8th – 13th October *Playing with Light with Cath Lappin*

Cath Lappin, an art therapist and youth worker will facilitate both daytime and evening sessions exploring the artistic and creative use of photography and other activities around the theme.

Children and grandchildren can be invited to join you for the day program.

Information and bookings: <http://www.effectiveliving.org/sacred-and-creative/>

Continuing to introduce Ministers in UMN Congregations

Rev Phil Hoffmann

Attributable to some poor career counselling at school, Phil studied economics in the years 1976-78. It was a vocation to which he was 'ideally unsuited'.



Heavily-influenced by John Smith of Melbourne 'God's Squad', who Phil attributes 'teaching me to think, christianly', Phil went into Uniting church youth work 1979- 1986, including the 'Down Under Learning Exchange'.

Life then shifted to Canberra, then Israel/Palestine as spouse with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs.

Today, Phil's life is marked by five (5) children, three of whom are adopted from Palestine and South Korea, leading Tours to the Holy Lands, serving on the Synod 'Covenanting committee', Westminster School Council, and, since June, Blackwood Uniting Church communities.



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Phil writes -

There is that which is ineffably, inescapably human about the job of ministry. That's what frustrates me about it. And that's what I love about it.

A new couple turn up for the first time at worship. She is Canadian, breezy, and sociable. He is bigger, heavier to be polite, a little more dour. But they're there. And engaged. You think, "Fabulous, some new energy and leadership potential for our family or children's ministry". Later that week Sandy rings you to say that she is going home (to Canada) and really doesn't know what the future of their relationship is because Scott is quite depressed after a work-place accident in which he fell from scaffolding and needs support and do we have any men's support groups, and Not what you'd imagined or expected.

In my experience the raw material of people's lives does not lend itself to tidy outcomes, to any notion of 'success'. That makes ministry hard to measure in a quantifying world. We enter people's lives right where they invite us in. And deeply.

Ministry is embracing of pain, of failure, of disappointment. It gives the privilege of bearing burdens and holding hurts.

The distinguished retired senior police officer now jaundiced with cancer. The 80 year-old anguished by her 53 year-old executive son's decisions. The funeral planning with the family of medical professionals who never prepared themselves for Mum's illness and death.

I once went to visit an elderly English emigrant. Along the sun-drenched family room extension hitched to the back of the turn-of-the-century bungalow was a white tablecloth covering all manner of mysterious shapes laid out on the kitchen table like a hidden city skyline. I could only guess what might be under there and in pastoral attention, tried not to. 'Ted' described his life and his mixed regret at moving to Australia to follow his children's career placements [which the children didn't seem to particularly enthuse about]. Then Ted asked did I have a portable communion set? Which I did; my mother proudly ordered a polished wood, purple-velvet covered one, from an ecclesiastical catalogue as an ordination gift for me. Ted then went on to describe his former hobby of visiting county fairs in southern England and collecting inscribed, silverware fold-up sets in cone and plate and box shapes. Before he next lifted the veil and showed me his collection, many bearing the names of rural vicars' names and parishes as early as 1829. Never would I have imagined ...

Such are the joys of ministry! Humanity at its most human. In uniqueness and difference. Systems and structures and mission plans and organisational charts can never capture or summarise it.

And what are the effects of this? What do I 'do' with this? Well, not much I can. Only savour my own responses - rejoice in humanity, this human role and task. Its stories of delight, vulnerability and foibles. The wonder of it. God's reflection. Keep my (false and unknowing) expectations in check; accept people as they are and not as ministry 'fodder'. The letter-writer Paul posted to the early gathering in Rome, "Let your love be genuine" [some translations, 'sincere']. Unconditionally. If there be any 'success' it's not going to look like anything we know ... or imagined.