



# Weekly Newsletter

Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove,  
Uniting Church in Australia

**Sunday December 25th 2016**

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A warm welcome is extended to all visitors today.  
God's richest blessings to you all.

## SERVICES TODAY

9.00am Barwon Heads  
The Reverend Doctor Jong Soo Park

10.30am Ocean Grove  
Ms. Jean Murray

## SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

9.00am Barwon Heads  
The Reverend Doctor Jong Soo Park  
Holy Communion

10.30.00am Ocean Grove  
The Reverend Doctor Jong Soo Park  
Holy Communion

## LECTIONARY READINGS

THIS WEEK (Christmas Day ) Isaiah 62: 6-12 or Isaiah 52: 7-10,  
Psalm 97 or 98, Titus 3: 4-7 or Hebrews 1: 1-4, (5-12), Luke 2: (1-7), 8-20  
John 1: 1-14

NEXT WEEK (Christmas 1) Isaiah 63: 7-9, Psalm 148,  
Hebrews 2: 10-18, Matthew 13-23

## KEY VERSE

**“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”**

**Luke 2: 6-7**

## BARWON HEADS NEWS

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ITEMS:** Please ring or send directly to Dianne Sapwell before 8.30am Friday each week. Email [oguc@tpg.com.au](mailto:oguc@tpg.com.au) or phone 5256 2477 and leave a message.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** If you would like prayer through the week, to activate the prayer chain, please contact Fay on 5254 1763 or 0447 314 377 where you can leave a message and Fay will get back to you.

**ROSTER TIME AGAIN:** Are there any dates from January –April 2017 that you are unavailable for duties? If there is anyone willing to be added to the roster? If so, please let Sally know ASAP [sahobbs71@gmail.com](mailto:sahobbs71@gmail.com) Thanks to everyone who volunteers.

**OUR LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP** enjoyed a large gathering for our last meeting this year on Wednesday December the 7th. To celebrate Christmas we sang carols, accompanied by Marjorie. Leanne and Jess entertained us with their beautiful harmonies, and Yoo Mi presented a thoughtful message. We wish to thank all who participated, especially Marilyn for all her work and amazing organisation of these meetings. They are truly appreciated by all our ladies and we look forward to continuing in February 2017

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who helped out with the Community carol Service last Sunday. We really appreciated all that you did. The hall is already booked for next year! Sally and Andrew

*Going on holidays!*

*Would like to keep up with all the church news?*

*Would like to read Jong Soo's weekly sermon?*

*Then go to our website*

*[www.oceangrove.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.oceangrove.unitingchurch.org.au)*

If you can help fill in some empty space in the newsletter that will appear over the next few weeks', then please email your thoughts, advertisements, or amusing stories and jokes to

[oguc@tpg.com.au](mailto:oguc@tpg.com.au)

by 8.30am Fridays.

**SONGS WITHOUT WORDS**  
**A piano recital by John Bumford**  
**Winchelsea Uniting Church**  
**Sunday January 1st 6.30pm**  
**Bookings 0419 535 490 Cost \$20 includes supper.**

### The Moderators Christmas Message

When I was first ordained, I met my local Anglican priest, who used to make a new nativity scene every year, from balsa wood and plaster. They were beautiful. What I loved about them was that they spoke to the truth that God is born into human lives and human history. God is present in every context.

He set these nativities in a variety of scenes. One year I remember Jesus was born behind the bottle shop in our neighbourhood. From outback Australia, to snowy Europe, to war torn places, he imagined Jesus being born into ordinary lives and ordinary places. They remind us of the good news that God is with us in this fragile, vulnerable baby.

The good news of Christmas is that God is among us in Jesus. Whatever your Christmas holds, this is good news. If you are facing Christmas with a measure of dread and sorrow and grief, the good news is that God is with you, alongside you, journeying with you. If the world and its troubles weigh heavy on your heart, the good news of this season is that God hears our prayers and knows that struggle.

If Christmas is a time of joy and celebration, the good news is that God also rejoices with us and is glad when we are glad.

Whatever you face, the good news of this season is that this fragile baby, who became Jesus of Nazareth, who taught and healed, who died and rose, that the world might know that God is with us, is among us, is with us.

So whatever your Christmas holds, know this—that the light of Christ comes in the darkness. That the ark of human history is bending to the reign of God. That God is with us, that Jesus is alongside us, journeying with us.

In your sorrow and your joy this Christmas season, may you know the light of God with you. This Christmas I wish that you might know the comfort and the joy of God with you.

May the mercy and comfort be with you, and all your love, this Christmas season.

Peace to You

The Reverend Sharon Hollis, Moderator UCA Synod of Vic. & Tas.

## OCEAN GROVE NEWS

**RETIRING OFFERING:** For November & December we will be supporting the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal.

**PRAYER CONTACT:** If you would like our prayer team to pray for you or others (with their permission) please contact Carol Lascelles on 5256 3034 from December the 17th until January the 2nd. Thank you Carol.

**FRIDAY COFFEE AND CHAT** Drop in for a tea/coffee, biscuit or two, a chat and always a good laugh. Stay for 5 minutes or an hour if you like. All are welcome. **Coffee and Chat will resume on Friday the 3rd of February 2017**

**LOAVES AND FISHES PANTRY :** If you are wondering how you might support the work of our food pantry tins of crushed tomatoes, sweet corn kernels and baked beans would be greatly appreciated by the many people who come seeking our assistance.

**JAM JARS NEEDED:** yes Helen Baum is once again accepting jars for her delicious varieties of jam. They can be of any size, but it would be appreciated if you take the labels of and ensure that the jars and lids are clean.

**ANNUAL REPORTS:** It would be appreciated if all members of the Congregation who are responsible for preparing an Annual Report could make a start on them asap. The reports need to be handed into the Office by the middle of January at the latest. This will allow enough time for them to be printed and distributed before the next Congregational Meeting in early February.

**PEWTER FISH PIN:** Ralph Scott has been able to buy one from "On a wing and a Prayer" (phone 5221 4451) for \$5.95. The store is currently out of stock but will order more if there is serious interest. Take the time to see Ralph's pin if you are Interested.

**NEW ADDRESS:** Alan and Robyn Clark are now living at 20 Markham Drive, Ocean Grove. Please use Robyn's mobile number until further notice.

**DATE FOR YOUR 2017 CALENDAR:** Saturday January the 21st Garage Sale. This is the first fundraising effort for the year, so please write down the details on your calendar now and endeavour to keep the Friday and Saturday free to help as much as you are able. Further details will appear later.

### HAVE A LAUGH:

Paddy says "Mick I'm thinking of buying a Labrador. "Blow that" says Mick "have you seen how many of their owners go blind"

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move!

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy!