



Weekly Newsletter

Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia

Sunday January 5th 2020

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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 Robert Thomas
Holy Communion

10.30am Ocean Grove
The Reverend Robert Thomas
Holy Communion

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

9.00am Barwon Heads
The Reverend Robert Thomas
5.00pm Contemporary Service
Confirmation of Laura Hobbs
followed by a meal in the hall.

10.30am Ocean Grove
The Reverend Robert Thomas

LECTIONARY READINGS

THIS WEEK Jeremiah 31: 7-14, Psalm 147: 12-20
Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: (1-9), 10-18

NEXT WEEK (Baptism of Jesus)
Isaiah 42: 1-9, Psalm 29
Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 2: 1-12

KEY VERSE

**“From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing
after another.”**

BARWON HEADS NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN: If anyone would like to prayer, could you please contact Marilyn Hanson on 0438 398 506, and she will add you to our prayer chain.

FOOD LABELS for Cakes and Preserves Stalls along with Food Providers Lists, are available in the church hall until Sunday 22nd December, and then at Church on Sundays, and in the church hall in the days leading up to the church Fete on Saturday January 11th.

RAFFLE ticket sellers are needed in the lead-up to the Fete. Please see Marg Isom (5254 3173) if you can assist for a couple of hours.

CONFIRMATION: Laura Hobbs will be confirmed as a member of the church at a **5.00pm** service on **Sunday 12th January 2020**. the service will be followed by dinner in the hall. Please support Laura on this special occasion. There will also be a **9.00am** service on this day.

PRAY FOR THE SUFM Beach Mission Team who are in residence for another season of their engagement with young people in Barwon Heads.

ONE WEEK TO GO: The Fete is on next **Saturday January 11th from 3.00—5.00pm**. Donations of Homewares (formerly Bric-a-Brac) and Books will be received on Thursday from 3.00—6.00pm and on Friday from 10.00am—1.00pm. **REMEMBER: NO WHITE ELEPHANT OR TOYS** please. Set up on Saturday morning starts at 9.00a, and helpers are needed. Please contact Lydia Cover on 0418 547 644 for information.

BUSHFIRE RELIEF: We usually donate 10% of funds raised at the Fete to our annual GST (God's Special Tasks) projects. It has been suggested that this year the donation goes to a Bushfire Appeal which is an excellent idea deserving of our support and the wider community.

CHRISTMAS BOWL: Contributions from the Community Carols, Christmas Day Offering and envelopes raised \$2646.20 for the Annual Appeal, a wonderful result. Thank you everyone.

**All welcome to morning tea
in the Church Hall after the Service.**

Bob's office hours at Barwon Heads this week will be on Wednesday instead of Thursday. Ocean Grove's will remain on Thursday.

THINKING AHEAD

In order to make next year's autumn **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** special, **why not plant something** right now?

Even if you are not a gardener or do not have a garden, plant something in a pot. Even if you grow only one zucchini or one potato, the point is that you will have grown it and harvested it, and be truly thankful for the gifts of sun, soil, rain and the magic of God weaves into a seed that makes it sprout and grown and bear fruit.

If your "crop" comes too early, then bottle, pickle or otherwise preserve it for the Thanksgiving Service.

But **start NOW.**

Shalom

Bob.

THE FIVE FINGERED PRAYER

This prayer was displayed in Ely Cathedral in England together with the recommendation that it be photographed and used in "your own homes and churches"

1. **Thumb**—Your thumb is nearest to you so represents people who are closest to you. These are your close friends and family, often the first you think about when you pray. Give thanks to God for the love of your parents, siblings, friends and classmates and ask him to protect them.
2. **Pointer**—The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Thank God for their skills and ask him to help them in their important work.
3. **Tall Finger**—The next finger is the tallest finger. The big people in the world need prayer too. Ask God to give wisdom and guidance to our leaders in business, government, military and police.
4. **Ring Finger**—The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak as they are ill, in trouble, live in poverty or are in pain. Pray that God will give them new strength.
5. **Little Finger**—And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all which represents our own needs. Your little finger should remind you to pray for yourself, to say thank you to God for all the good things that happen and to ask for his help if something is difficult.

OCEAN GROVE NEWS

RETIRING OFFERING: For 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) call Robin Munro on 4202 0323

SAMMY STAMP: Please save all the stamps from your Christmas mail for Sammy Stamp. They can be placed in the marked box in the church foyer. All stamps need to be trimmed so that they have a border of envelope **3mm or 1/8 inch wide all the way around** to be acceptable for Sammy Stamp sales in Melbourne. Stamps that are heavily cancelled are also unacceptable. If you have difficulty trimming around your stamps please leave them attached to the envelopes and they will be trimmed by members of the UCAF. Please speak to Judy Greer or Joan Billington if you have any queries. Thank you all for your past support of this ongoing UCAF activity.

DATES FOR 2020 CALENDARS

Recycled Treasure Sale

Setting up Friday January 17th 10.00am. Actual Selling day Saturday January 18th 8.00am—12noon. It would be great if someone was able to run the BBQ! Please let Dianne Sapwell know if you can help.

No-one has come forward to run the BBQ! Please think about this small task and give your name to Dianne asap.

Book and Painting Sale

Setting up Wednesday January 22nd 10.00am **Selling days**
Thursday the 23rd 10.00am—4.00pm, Friday 24th 10.00am—4.00pm
Saturday 25th 10.00am—1.00pm Packing up 1.00pm on the Saturday.

There will be sheet for you to put your name on to help with the selling in two hour shifts on the table in the foyer next week.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Yes it is that time of the year again. 2019 has finished and hopefully all your visitors have gone home, so before meetings begin for 2020, please make sure that you have completed your Annual Report for the next Congregational meeting well before the end of January.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CARPARK begins on Monday January the 13th. There will be limited parking and the only way to enter the church premises will be through the hall entrance way. Please make sure you give yourselves a bit extra time on Sundays to find a park! It is hoped that all works will be completed within a very reasonable time frame.