



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday June 28th 2020

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THANK YOU

Thank you to all the people who have given me a monetary donation for plants for the new garden and thank you also to those who contributed actual plants.

The planting is almost complete and we have not needed to use any of the budget that the Property Committee allocated.

Thanks also to the many people who gave us encouragement during the process.

A personal thank you from myself to the thoughtful person who left a wonderful kneeling pad together with a beautiful note at the doors of the church. The kneeler has already had much use.

Once again many thanks,
Barry Calcutt and his team of gardeners.

Queens Birthday Honours Order of Australia Medal

Neville Burrows has a devotion for bringing out the best in all. It was announced that he has received an Order of Australia Medal in the recent Queens Birthday Honours.

The 93-year old was a founder of Rowville Uniting Church, worked as a youth leader for Ashburton Methodist Church and has a long history of involvement with the Scouts, where he rose to the rank of Assistant Area Commissioner for east Melbourne. Neville said when he began working as a project officer on the Rowville Uniting Church in 1982, the Congregation was meeting in the tennis pavilion.

"The making of the Rowville Uniting Church was really a highlight for me, just working with people, they were like pioneers of something," he says.

"It was wonderful to work with them and that church grew quite rapidly out there. It was passed onto good hands."

At Ashburton he led a team of 15 in youth ministry, which he said was a tremendous time in his life. "The thing that I really come back to is my love for youth, young people," Neville said. I have loved church life and all the people I have met, especially the people who have been working behind the scenes. I say that you're a leader, you've always got to have people behind you that are helping you achieve the goals you want to set."

In his retirement years, Neville and his wife Joyce were invited by the Ocean Grove Uniting Church Minister to move to the Surf Coats and he was a member of that church for 20 years, during which time he preached as a lay person on the local circuit.

Neville, who lives alone following his wife's death from Alzheimer's disease a decade ago, is still committed to helping others.

"Over the last 10 years I have done quite a bit of mentoring, all ages, from business directors to school students, trainee pastors," Neville said.

"I've really enjoyed that, I am still pretty keen even at 93, I am not out to grass at the moment."

Neville said a persistent neighbour nominated him for the OAM, and he was surprised but very honoured to receive the award.

"I am just grateful for the opportunities I had in the Uniting Church because I learnt a lot in the Uniting Church, how God works and how important it is to be faithful in his service." he said

Sunday June the 21st was the
43rd Birthday of the Uniting Church

Apologies to those who were not able to join the Zoom service, but you can watch a recording of it at <https://vimeo.com/431117116>

As we begin to surface from lockdown we pray for:

Guidance: enable us to step out of isolation with renewed compassion and a spirit of wisdom.

Diligence: as we complete and maintain checklists designed to keep us all safe.

Generosity: that we continue the wonderful expressions of love and care for neighbour and for our planet that have emerged during this crisis.

Openness: that we can find ways to continue to maintain connections with those who have joined us during on-line worship.

Community: for families (and church families) that can now reconnect.

Courage: that we can continue to make choices based on love and not fear.

Humility: to accept our shortcomings and to listen and learn from You in each other.

Amen.

The Reverend Jeanne Beale

CHURCH CLOSED

This does not mean that you have to miss out on worship though.

The Reverend Bob Thomas is posting the complete service on the **website** which includes You Tube clips of the hymns, and there is a hard copy of the service that you can download if you would prefer to read the litany for worship.

And do not forget that each week you can join in worship through **zoom**.

If you would like to use zoom but are not sure of what it is or how it works please contact **Geoff Naylor** via email **drgeoffnaylor@gmail.com** for **help**.

Key verse for this week

"I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me"
Psalm 13: 6

SURVEY FORMS

if you have not returned your survey form please do so before next Thursday.

Your answers will help us to make informed decisions in regards to being able to worship in a safe environment when the church is finally re-opened.

This matter will be discussed at an Elders meeting. If you have any issues you feel Elders should address kindly send them to the office by next Tuesday (June 30th)

PRAYER CONTACT

If you would like our prayer team to pray for you or others (with their permission), then please call Robin Munro on 4202 0323

Call Robin also if you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain.

MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

PARISH EXECUTIVE Thursday 11.00am

ELDERS Thursday 1.00pm

DOVE COMMITTEE Friday 1.00pm