



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia

Sunday August 2nd 2020

The Reverend Robert (Bob) Thomas
PO Box 176 Drysdale Vic. 3222
(M) 0414 266 645 Email: bobuc3@bigpond.com
Vestry hours Thursday 12noon—2.00pm

Office phone 5256 2477
Email: oguc107@gmail.com
Postal Address: PO Box 393 Ocean Vic. 3226
Website: www.oceangrove.unitingchurch.org.au

COVID REPORTS FOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

U.C.A.F: owing to the current age bracket it's not been a good idea to meet with the uncertainty of covid-19. As we meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month our August meeting may be possible. Our plan for that meeting is "Arm Chair Exercises", which we will all be needing by then! UCAF members have been catching up by the phone, delivery of Network Magazine and birthday calls and "distant" doorstep visits. We have all remained well in our isolation!

PRAYER CHAIN: The Prayer Chain still operates but we are very small in number but that doesn't matter. We don't meet in person. Because the group is small I phone everyone with the request. Members are myself, Velda Willis, the Scott's, the Barry's, Lyn Mulligan, and Helen Baum, and Dawn Quarrell who both worship at another church. Cheers Robin Munro.

LOAVES AND FISHES PANTRY: Due to the restrictions in place for covid-19 the food pantry has been unable to operate out of the church on Friday nights. However, the following measures have been taken:

- Team members contacted every client currently attending and talked to them about the temporary closure of the food pantry.
- Gave them information as to how to contact us by phone if they were in need of assistance and we would provide them with a Coles Food Voucher and make further referrals to Uniting for other assistance.
- We also gave them information in regard to the "Feed Bellarine" meals program.
- Appropriate contact signs are in place on the Church doors for people who "walk up" (continued on the following pages)

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD PANTRY COVID-19 REPORT continued.

Over the past 10 weeks we have been called upon 14 times—6 times people were given food parcels that were to hand in the pantry and 8 Coles Food Vouchers have been issued.

“Mary” one of our regular clients phoned quite distressed and asking for help. She explained to me that one of her adult sons had had his working hours greatly reduced to the covid-19 situation, consequently he was unable to continue to live in his current accommodation because he couldn't afford the rent. He had asked if he could come and live with her for the time being. He is now sleeping in the living room of her one bedroom flat. We talked about asking him to make a reasonable contribution to the household expenses and Mary said he was happy to do this, however, the son has an auto-immune illness that requires medication—approximately \$400.00 per month so that impacts on his ability to contribute financially.

“Bill” also one of our regular clients called last Friday asking for food assistance—he had just finished paying off a debt he had incurred for car repairs—(he had to have a refurbished gear box installed). On the way home from the garage, he was driving behind a large truck when it threw up a stone which cracked his windscreen! Bill was anxious to have it repaired as soon as possible because he was concerned that if the police noticed the crack, he would be required to have an expensive roadworthy check. He told me he would be able to negotiate to pay for the replacement windscreen over a period of several weeks but that would severely impact on his ability to buy food.

UNITING BARWON—EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2019-2020 FINANCIAL YEAR.

The program has assisted 357 Secondary Students and 27 Primary School students from 30 schools at a total of \$128,148.00. there were 265 families seeking financial assistance for their children.

Digital E book of \$48,000.00 was the highest expenditure. Uniforms \$37,000 was the next highest. It was very pleasing to hear the appreciative comments from the clients we assisted - how happy their children were to have a uniform where they felt part of the system, in lieu of being judged of what they never had, due to external circumstances.

Encouraging signs from the program is that there were 104 children engaged in VCE years versus 78 from the previous year. This is encouraging to know that these children are working towards their future aspirations and Uniting Barwon is assisting them towards their aspirations.

The Education Assistance Program is entirely run by 8 dedicated volunteers, and a reception team who have assisted tremendously. Without their dedication and tireless work, the program would not have been able to achieve the goals and aspirations of those who need it most.

History repeats itself!

This poem was written in 1869 and
reprinted during the
1919 Pandemic.

This is timeless.....
And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We are all like gardens.
In our bodies, minds and spirits.
We cannot be controlled (for long),
but cultivation we love.

Fond best wishes Lyn Mulligan.

CROSSLIGHT AUGUST ON LINE

Regrettably the Stage 3 restrictions mean next month's issue of Crosslight will not be able to be printed and distributed. However, as with the June edition, it will be available online in an easy –to-read “flip book” format. You will also be able to download it as a PDF and print it out. The August edition will be of particular interest to our CALD Congregations, as the feature story asks: “What does an intercultural church look like?”

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.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

You can make your contribution to the income of the church in a variety of ways

You may like to send a cheque to PO Box 393 Ocean Grove

Make a deposit in our bank account at the
Commonwealth Bank:

Account Name Ocean Grove Uniting Church Council

BSB number 063 834

Account number 1005 1143

Notarisation: your surname and/or envelope number

**If you would like to help with boosting the income for the church,
please call Lesley Pope (Treasurer) on 0419 384 192.**