



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia

Sunday December 13th 2020

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DO YOU NEED A TODDLER'S WALKER OR A SCOOTER?

Then please contact Bob on 0414 266 645
He can provide one for you.

Crosslight will be available shortly,
but please note that there will be
no calendars this year.

So if you are offered a 2021 calendar anywhere
you may like to take up the offer.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yes the year is drawing to close and it is time to put pen to paper
and prepare the Annual Reports.

You may be wondering what you can include in your report as
there does not seem much to say, but once you start thinking it may
surprise you to find that although this past year has been one we
will all never forget, we must make sure that in the future 2020
was a year that has changed our way of life, and deserves being
remembered.

“As I mentioned during Sharing time at church last Sunday, I have volunteered to take part in a clinical research study being undertaken by Barwon Health, for an experimental vaccine against a new type of virus called Sars-Co.2 which has caused a global outbreak call Coronavirus Disease (Covid 19). The international sponsor is Novavax Inc. and the local one is PPD Australia Pty. Ltd.

Barwon health is only 1 of 10 sites across Australia that has been selected to take part, under the leadership of Professor Eugene Athan. He said “the trial was an opportunity for Barwon Health and the Geelong Community to be involved in ground breaking research with historical significance. He also said we will be monitoring subjects closely with follow-up visits throughout the trial, and testing the antibody levels that build up in their blood, indicating potential immunity to the virus, general health and safety and whether subjects develop Covid-19 illness.

Participants have a 1 in 5 chance to get the placebo while others will get different doses of the active vaccine candidate.” We are taking part in Part 2, which is 750—1500 healthy men and women between 18 and 84 years old. About 1/2 will be 60 years and older. Part 2 will be conducted in either Australia or the US, or both countries.

The trial began in the last week of August, and will be completed in March 2021. so far we have had a medical appointment, an injection in both arms, blood tests, monthly nasal swabs, an respond to monthly phone surveys. A booster will be given to participants towards the end of the trial. There are 3 main nurses involved and the trial is conducted in the Greta Vollum medical centre located on the corner of Myers and Bellarine Streets, adjacent to the Geelong University Hospital.

Best wishes to all church members, and may 2021 be less dramatic for everyone in various ways.”

Jo Hawthorne.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2020 and
JANUARY 2021

December 13th Advent 3

Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11, Psalm 126, Luke 1: 46b-55,
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24, John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Bible Reader: Megan Smith

Prayers for the People: The Rev. Bob Thomas

December 20th Advent 4

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Luke 1: 46b-55,
Psalm 89 1-4, 19.26, Romans 16: 26-38, Luke 1: 26-38

Bible Reader: Peter Dickson

Prayers for the People: Dianne Sapwell

December 27th First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61: 10-62:3, Psalm 148
Galatians 4: 4-7, Luke 2: 22-40

Bible Reader: Neil Derrick

Prayers for the People: The Rev. Bob Thomas

January 3rd Christmas 2

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

KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

**“The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy”**

Psalm 126: 3

If you are unable to join us in person for worship
you will still be able to “attend” church,
as the service
will be live streamed through zoom.

Advent: the coming of Christ and the arrival of the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.
The Reverend Jeanne Beale.

On Tuesday I officiated at the funeral of a good friend, and in preparation for this service I was reflecting on how hard this year of restrictions has been for those of us who have experienced the death of loved ones. Whilst it is never good to lose a loved one, the extra complications this pandemic has thrown at us has added extra stress and pain to an already traumatic time.

The Bible reading chosen for the funeral was Paul's letter to the Corinthians on the importance of Love. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8, 13

We are very familiar with the ancient words, "Love is patient; love is kind...it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends...And now three things remain, faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love."

My homily was in 2 segments, the 1st a focus on love; sharing that I believe that an encounter with love is an encounter with love is an encounter with the essence of God. The 2nd was on hope; sharing that if we believed that death simply marked the end of life, then we would be left without hope.

It got me thinking, where would we be in our grief situations without these gifts of hope, peace, joy and love? Words like devastated, helpless, hopeless, lost and empty come to mind, and whilst these may be my initial reactions to grief, the ability to then draw of these gifts to draw upon the Advent gifts makes the transition bearable. So many in our communities are not aware of these gifts to draw upon. Many of our Congregations have been reaching new people through on-line worship, which means, this year that we have had the opportunity to share the good news afresh.

How can we be more intentional this Christmas about sharing the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love?