



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia

Sunday December 27th 2020

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In memory of Lauris and Brian Kidd

Lauris and her husband, Brian, moved to Ocean Grove some years ago, from Perth. We soon got to know them and discovered what caring and compassionate people they were.

It was amazing to learn of their involvement in helping refugees, including those from “The Tampa”, the Norwegian vessel that rescued people from drowning in 2001, when our country, shamefully turned away from the asylum seekers who were desperate people seeking safety.

Lauris was dedicated member of our JIM team and her enthusiasm for fairness, equality, acceptance and love for those in need was obvious. We were aware that both Lauris and Brian had health problem which although serious did not deter them from their concern for those in need. Their love for their children and grand children was paramount too. Lauris and Brian were active members of our Ocean Grove Uniting Church, contributing to Church Council, Justice and Mission, worship and other church activities and outreach.

Not so long ago, we recall the fund raising exhibition of amazing and beautiful paintings. This was yet another talent of Brian's that many of our Congregation were previously unaware.

We admired Lauris's additional skills when she diligently researched and beautifully updated the OGUC history records in time for 125th Anniversary.

Lauris was good with accessing genealogy records and shared her skills in assisting others who wanted to learn about their ancestors.

Lauris and Brian were truly wonderful people who worked to make our world a better place.

We thank God that they were a special part of our lives and we will Remember them with love.

The Justice and International Mission Team

Dear Congregation members,

It has been quite some time since you heard from us, so here is an end of the year report on the activities of the Joint Nominating Committee which, working together with our sister Congregation in Barwon Heads, is seeking to obtain a new Minister for the two Congregations.

For some time after the Congregational meeting in early September 2019 much work was done. Unfortunately because of the lockdown due to Covid-19 the planned combined meeting of the two Congregations could not take place. The Committee decided to move to the next step and asked the two Church Councils to prepare profiles of the Congregations, using the form supplied by the Synod office for this purpose.

The Church Council, working together with the two JNC representatives, worked hard to prepare the profile, which was submitted to the Committee in October 2020. The next step was to take the combined profiles, accompanied by comments by the two Ministers on the JNC to the Presbytery placements Committee. However, because of various delays, this has not yet happened.

It may appear that not as much progress has been made as we hoped. Nevertheless the way forward is gradually become more apparent. In the new year we will redouble our efforts to submit the placement profile form to the Presbytery Committee and pursue the following steps towards our goal.

In the meantime we are most fortunate that The Reverend Bob Thomas is faithfully serving our Congregations at this moment and assisting us in getting through this quite remarkable period in our history.”

Carol Naylor and David Runia

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2020 and
JANUARY 2021

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

Bible Reader: Marjorie Barry

Prayers for the People: David Runia

January 10th Baptism of Jesus

Genesis 1: 1-5, Psalm 29

Acts 19: 1-7, Mark 1: 4-11

Bible Reader: David Roach

Prayers for the People: The Reverend Bob Thomas

January 17th Epiphany 2

1 Samuel 3: 1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6: 12-20, John 1: 43-51

Bible Reader: Carol Naylor

Prayers for the People: Judy Greer

KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

**“And the child grew and became strong: he was filled with
wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him”**

Luke 2: 40

From Bob Thomas

“I was looking at the statistics on our webpage and it is interesting to note that over 80% of those who visit it are from overseas and about a third of these are from the USA. We are currently getting over 450 “hits” per day, which I think is pretty good for a small town church.”

Bob

**RETIRING OFFERING
ACT FOR PEACE CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL.**

In Zimbabwe, the coronavirus is pushing already vulnerable families to the brink without the support they need to survive. Through your gift this Christmas Bowl, Act for Peace's local partner will help families to grow their own food and become more food secure.

This year you can shine Christ's light by giving life-changing training, seeds and tools to families in Zimbabwe.

Please give as you are able.

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

CHANGED ANY CONTACT DETAILS?

If you have changed your address, phone numbers, or email address would you kindly send the details to Dianne Sapwell via the church email address (on the front page of the newsletter).

A new directory will be available in January and it would be great to have your contact details correct.

Wife: When are you thinking about mowing the lawns?

Husband: When I've finished thinking about putting up the shelves!