

Perspective



Could this be
Holy Communion?

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Presbytery News
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Uniting Church in Australia, Canberra Region Presbytery

View from the First Floor



Image by Brian Rope

Early one morning this week as I headed to Jolimont Centre Canberra, for a coach trip to Sydney, I came across two men bedded down outside City Church. They were stirring as I passed. One of them called out 'Good Morning'. I responded and asked if this was their usual spot to sleep.

'It's a safe place for us. It gives us good shelter whatever the weather. We feel safe here, protected. We know this is God's place and he is looking after us.'

During the journey, I reflected on that brief conversation and the words of Psalm 23, one of the lectionary readings for Sunday 29 April. Is the scripture image of God and Jesus as shep-

herd (protector, provider, carer) appropriate to use these days, I wonder? Is there another image people, who are in what is being called the 'first third' of life (those under 40), would find more appropriate?

The image of Shepherd is one of those used as people are ordained or commissioned for specified ministries and for inductions into placements in congregations, chaplaincies, and presbyteries or other significant ministries. There are also many ministries of lay people, not always recognised within the life of the church, in which people reflect the image of shepherd.

At the Australian Defence Force Academy in our May Presbytery meeting we will hear something of the ministries of Chaplains within the defence forces.

Since the February Presbytery meeting, Pastor Jean Shannon has been commissioned for her role as Hospital Chaplaincy Leader. For me the ministry which Jean leads, and that of the Age Care chaplaincy team, which Rev Neil Millar leads, reflect the Shepherd image.

Who are the shepherds you know?
How do you support them?

- Alistair Christie
Presbytery Chairperson

Duncan Macleod, Presbytery Minister (Mission & Education), has been active throughout the Presbytery in a full time role since February 2011. His focus on resourcing congregations for mission and individuals for ministry has already been appreciated by congregations and individuals across our Presbytery.

Kevin Dilks, Presbytery Minister (Pastoral & Administration), has been in his role full time since February 2012. His role holds together the administrative needs of our Presbytery, in particular Standing Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee, and the health and well-being of ministers and pastors in congregations and chaplaincies.

Carolyn McAllister, a member of the O'Connor congregation, began as Office Secretary in March 2012, providing secretarial support to Duncan and Kevin as well as ensuring that the day-to-day functions of the office are well managed. Carolyn is usually in the office 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 12.00pm to 3.00pm Tuesday and Thursday.

You can find us all on the first floor of 71 Northbourne Ave, Canberra, Avenue (turn left out of the lift and then right down the corridor, past Lifeline). We are seeking to make the Presbytery Office a communication hub, and a place of service and hospitality. Feel free to call in and say hello, browse through resources and sit down for a chat. You can be sure the door normally will be

open during Carolyn's hours of work. Just to make sure it would be good to phone before you come in.

You can reach us using public transport, or park in one of the public car parks in Civic. If you phone before you come in we may be able to offer you parking in the basement car park.

Duncan can be contacted on 0439 828 718 or duncanmacl@bigpond.com.

Kevin can be contacted on 0400 361 468 or presbyteryminister@bigpond.com.

Carolyn can be contacted on 6248 9311 or office@canberraregion.unitingchurch.org.au.

Holy Communion?



The Sacraments course organised by Canberra Region Presbytery was a wonderful and instructive spiritual journey for the sixteen lay participants. Rev Duncan Macleod, Presbytery Minister and Rev Anne Ryan, Minister of the Word at Tuggeranong Uniting Church were the stimulating, challenging and joyful presenters of this course. The course was held at Wesley Uniting Forrest over two weekends, one in February and the other in March.

“The four day course is designed to enable lay people to engage with the theology and practice of the two Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, as seen by the Uniting Church in Australia.” The course notes, readings and workbook of some 131 pages, prepared by the ELM Centre, might have seemed daunting initially. However the presentation and learning style adopted by both Duncan and Anne drew participants in with a focus on engagement, role play, storytelling, fun and some memorable sacred moments. Participants’ views and opinions were never rejected but discussed in an open, inclusive and respectful manner.

We were gently ushered into the graceful presence of God at Baptism and Holy Communion. Our minds and our hearts were encouraged to

encounter Christ as He calls people to faith in Baptism and to Communion with Him and others in the Eucharist. These encounters were realised in the tasks we were assigned between the two weekends of the course. We were asked to interview two or three people we knew who had been baptised or not baptised. These interviews moved us from preconceptions to a wider understanding of the workings of God’s grace in the lives of others. Similarly we were asked to observe and if appropriate participate in Holy Communion services in Christian churches other than the Uniting Church.

When confronted with the question of Communion during a bush camp when the only available elements are biscuits and coca-cola we were led to consider the meaning of the Lord’s supper in

drawing ourselves and others to Himself. When we considered the heartfelt request by a parent to have an infant Baptized even though their own faith is not manifest we were urged to look through the graceful eyes of Christ who did “not hinder the children to come to Him.” At every stage we were led to consider the “action of the living Christ.” The sense of reverence and right order as outlined by the Uniting Church underpinned both the theology and practice of the Sacraments throughout the course.

Presbytery is offering this Sacraments course again in August. We would encourage others who want to grow in their love and understanding of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion to consider participation.

- Peter and Vanessa Crimmins
(images by Brian Rope)

Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies
6th National Conference
September 26 to 28, 2012
University House, Canberra



*Ageing and Spirituality:
Linking the Generations*

The conference aims to examine the themes of:

- Issues in ageing well and spirituality
- Baby Boomer ageing: Exploring the myth and addressing the reality
- Quality of life in ageing
- The lived experience of dementia and mental illness

Keynote speakers include:

Rev. Prof. John Swinton, University of Aberdeen
Prof. Simon Biggs, University of Melbourne
Rev. Prof. Elizabeth MacKinlay, CAPS

Early registrations close 4th July 2012
Registrations close 14th September 2012

To register for this event, please visit:
<http://www.centreforageing.org.au/conference.html>

Of Rock Soup and Funerals

Many families have drifted from their faith origins. This can lead to awkward moments when planning a funeral. But when you scratch the surface, there is often a deep and abiding faith waiting to be reclaimed.

There is an ancient fable based on the story of rock soup. My father used it to unite our mob when my mother was unavailable. It went like this: Swagmen ate rock soup and we could too. First, search for the perfect rock. We would inspect & reject various rocks from pebbles to boulders until we found the right one. It would be scrubbed with a potato brush, placed at the bottom of a large soup kettle, covered with water and set to boil.

Dad would say something like, 'you can't make soup without salt' so someone would be tasked with adding salt and pepper. We'd wait. As the water boiled, my father would say, 'who ever heard of a soup without onions?' we'd all agree and someone would chop onions. 'And celery!' - so another child would chop celery. After a while, my father would taste the soup and say something like, 'it's a bit thin, perhaps a carrot or two to give it flavour?' Another child would get to peel and slice carrots. And so it would go. A bit of this, a bit of that, hours of excited discussion, tasting, adding, more discussion.

Dad would take the rock out, throw it away... and serve up rock soup to six kids who would have turned their noses up at vegetable broth for dinner.

Funerals can sometimes be like rock soup. You can go 'How un-religious can you make it?' or 'what is the minimum you can get away with?' to something rich, sustaining and imbued with deep, shared understanding.

Recently, I conducted a funeral for a family I had been journeying with for two years. The patient and his family were particularly concerned not to make their adult son more uncomfortable in what was going to be a great time of distress for him.

As we began to plan/negotiate the service, it came to a point where the wife said, 'you know, I'd really like the Lord's Prayer in there. It has meaning to so many people and its part of our childhood. Do you think we could include it?' 'Sure' I said. A few weeks later, she told me her husband had always loved the 23rd Psalm. It would be a nice touch to have his favourite psalm in the service. 'Not a problem', I said. When he was close to the end, she told me she had found his mother's Bible and it had passages with notations that were clearly significant to her and surprisingly, they were the same passages I had mentioned in our first meeting two years before. 'Would it be nice', she asked, 'to have some readings from his mother's Bible?'

As the end neared - the family was picking hymns: surprisingly, very traditional hymns. Hymns everyone would know. In the last days we'd had a bedside communion with the whole family (including the son) and this gentle man slipped away.

Funerals should be a time to bring people together but sometimes we start by looking at our differences instead of what we have in common. In this case, they *chose* the elements that had meaning to them, *participated* in the gathering and understanding and received comfort and sustenance in exchange. It was rock soup.

**- Jean Shannon
Chaplaincy Leader**



ABOUT JEAN Jean Shannon has been serving as Hospital Chaplaincy Team Leader for the Uniting Church in Canberra hospitals since November 2012. Before that she was a volunteer for four years. In March she was commissioned as Pastor in her chaplaincy role. The Presbytery has funding for the half-time role through to the end of 2012/13 and is now focused on securing ongoing financial support into the future.

Peppercorn Tree Retreats

Crushing the leaves and berries in the palm of one hand with the heel of the other, I breathed in the scent of the peppercorns and was transported back to childhood memories of frosty winter mornings. With other kids, I waited under large spreading peppercorn trees for the school bus that would transport us. Sometimes we would light a small fire with kindling wood to warm our frosty fingers against the cold while we waited.

Those memories came flooding back as I walked along the avenue of peppercorn trees that welcomes residents to St Clement's Retreat Centre. It was one of the quiet times provided in the program for members attending last year's Presbytery retreat.

The Kaltara Retreat provides a time to be with ourselves and the eternal mystery which surrounds us all; a

time to rest and reflect as the spirit takes us. Periods of solitude are also punctuated with times of fellowship, relaxing with friends from Presbytery over leisurely meals, watching movies in the evenings or afternoon walks in the surrounding countryside.

I encourage you to join us for this year's retreat to be held again at St Clement's Retreat Centre Galong, from 26-30 August. It will be led by Rev Ken Day, Resource & Mission Developer, Far North Coast Presbytery. It will include a one day workshop on the theme of 'Discernment' for those who may wish to attend just for that day.

Previous retreats have been limited to those in stipended ministry placements but this year is open to all Uniting Church leaders and spouses, including active and retired ministers in congregations, chaplaincies and

special ministries, pastors, lay preachers, lay presiders, and those doing their period of discernment.

Details will be released nearer the time but please reserve the dates now. For more information contact me on 6257 4600 or at minister@canberracityuca.org.au.

During last year's retreat we were invited to write a short Haiku. I share with you my attempt:

*restful solitude
spiritual attentiveness
God speaks in silence*

May that be the experience of all who attend our retreat this year.

**- Ivan Roberts
City Church**

Prophetic Edge Prayer Walk

Easter, and Good Friday in particular, can be a difficult time for us. It may be difficult as we prepare to confront grief, or face deep personal reflection, and once again participate in the traditional liturgical obligations of our Christian heritage.

This year in Canberra another dimension was added to the Good Friday observance.

Sue Dunbar of Barnabas Ministries, and Rev Susanna Pain of Holy Covenant Anglican Church initiated an ecumenical Stations of the Cross walk within Canberra's parliamentary triangle. We used iconic landmarks and institutions as our Stations, with readings, meditation, spoken reflections, and sometimes voices raised in song.

Autumn in Canberra's central parklands can itself be a time of intense beauty and reflection. Walking with

friends and colleagues is at any time a reflective process. Add to this the dimension of a personal pilgrimage, and 'difficulties' seem greatly diminished. In silence among our national



institutions, the liturgy becomes accessible, real and an intensely memorable experience.

At each stop our readings broadly followed those of the traditional Stations of the Cross, but spoken reflections identified the place,

purpose and significance of each landmark, offering us ways to identify with a current issue and a prayerful response holding all in the context of the events of Good Friday.

The walk was given further poignancy with the shared carrying of the cross, and further sharing of the readings and reflections. The final station was on the lawn at the front of Parliament House where we shared our hopes and prayers for Australia. Many people commented on the poignancy and personal meaning they found in this prayerful walk.

As this Good Friday pilgrimage attracted the attention of onlookers, for its participants it reinforced the journeying together. My hope is that this initial Liturgy will become an annual Easter event within the Christian community in Canberra.

Making Messy Church

Messy Church is a phenomenon taking hold in many congregations seeking to connect with children and families in their local communities. Crookwell congregations has initiated a Messy Church program, and Tuggeranong congregation has hosted events at one of its child care centres, as well as with families from the Karralika drug and rehabilitation Centre.

The concept of “Messy Church” originated in the United Kingdom and has gradually found its way Down Under.

According to its founder, Lucy Moore, “Messy Church is a ... time when families come together to enjoy being together, making things together, eating together and celebrating God together through his word, through music and through prayer.”

Keith Robinson, Pastor at Crookwell, says he immediately felt that Messy Church was a good fit for Crookwell when he attended a ministry in-service on Messy Church at the Centre for Ministry in August last year.

Crookwell is a farming community with a thriving town centre and many new young families, but it's also a place with a lot of family history.

Some families have been in the area for up to seven generations, so family connections are very important.

Messy Church is a way for the church community to reach out to families who might not come to church or feel comfortable in a ‘regular’ church service, or who can't make it to church on Sunday mornings.

If nothing else, the name ‘Messy Church’ was an inspiration: it begs the question, ‘What on earth is it?’ and it makes people smile.

And it's something that the whole family – children, parents, grandparents and carers – can enjoy together.

Crookwell congregation plans to hold four Messy Church Sunday afternoons this year. The first just before Easter focused on “Life through Jesus”. Activities included making and decorating wooden crosses, making Easter garden scenes with green icing and lollies, and making a foot long lamb pizza!

Crookwell's first Messy Church was a great experience. It had a ‘Messy Church preview’ in the regular family service the month before as a sort of

‘test run’. This gave an idea of the work involved - Messy Church can be resource intensive! - and also gave feedback that they were on the right track.

Their first ‘real’ Messy Church afternoon confirmed this. It really was an opportunity to discover the gifts in the congregation and community and to share these in a new way together in a worship setting. Twenty seven people attended the first Messy Church, aged from 4 to 84, about half of whom were children.

Judyth Roberts, the Children & Families Ministry consultant from the Board of Education, provided advice, encouragement and support for the establishment of this ministry in Crookwell.

Crookwell will host another event on Sunday 27 May, this time with a Pentecost theme of “Life through the Spirit”.

If you would like to find out more about running Messy Church activities, contact Keith on 4832 1026 or 0401 699 580.

- Keith Robinson and Bill Lang



A typical Messy Church event runs something like this:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 3.30 pm | Doors open. People arrive, play board games and have a drink and biscuit |
| 4.00–5.00 | Activities time (there may be up to 10 activities to choose from – from playdough to more involved art or craft projects) |
| 5.00–5.15 | Celebration service in church |

Beginning again in Goulburn

The Canberra Region Presbytery is supporting the development of a new faith community/congregation in Goulburn, working with the local Uniting Church congregations to support new adventures in mission and ministry with people in the first third of life.

Five years of funding for a ministry agent were provided by the Synod Mission Resource Fund, the Canberra Region Presbytery, the Goulburn Linked Congregations and other congregations in the region. Aimee Kent, a recent graduate from United Theological College, was inducted as a deacon in January into the position of Minister: New Faith Community/Congregation, Goulburn.

Aimee's mandate for the first six to twelve months is meeting with lots of younger people in Goulburn. She'll be getting to know these people and talking with about their needs, their faith and their spiritual life.

Aimee will be writing a regular column here sharing with us the highs and lows of building a new network of people living out the call of worship, witness and service.

Approach one is to look at all the things that I was already interested in such as Sewing, Girl Guides, Reading and Caving, and suss out who in town was offering clubs/groups exploring those areas and join a couple! For me it was the local Girl Guides and the caving community. A great way to meet new people who already have some common ground.

Approach two is to keep my eye out for courses that interested me. For me it was a Permaculture class that has started up at the church on a Thursday night, in loose connection to the soon to be opened Community Garden. I was able to meet a whole group of people outside the regular church sphere. It involved committing to journey with them for a set period - hopefully long enough for us all to get to know each other reasonably well, whilst not having to tie up every Thursday night for the rest of eternity.

Approach three involves turning up at events the local church is already running for people outside the gathered worshipping community, such as

Girls Brigade, a kids Fun Sew group and KUCA club.

Approach four is coffee and lunch dates. Meeting up with people over a meal is always a great time to get to know each other, particularly if people are willing to invite me to coffee or lunch with their circle or network, giving me a chance to meet someone new.

Approach five, teaching Scripture in the local primary schools, is an excellent way to become known by children, teachers, principals other scripture teachers, admin staff and soon enough potentially parents, canteen helpers and other visitors to the schools.

Approach six is being nice to my neighbours! I have found many excuses to try and meet and talk to them. Asking people to collect my mail, lingering when I put out my bins, inviting them in for coffee, going to enquire about their car and how they like it - I'm in the market for a new one. Not only do I hope to make some new friends, and contribute to our neighbourhood by being a caring friendly one, but I have been amazed at the people my neighbours know!

A few weekends ago I went along to a KUCA campout run for kids from Goulburn and Marulan in the grounds of Parkesbourne Uniting. If you ever want to bond with a group of people, no matter what age, go on a trip or overnight stay together! We all had a great time and a few days later a few of us were together at Fun Sew and the joking and laughter from camp continued.

Good Friday I found myself in Goulburn unexpectedly. I was spoilt by a series of last minute invitations to morning lunch and dinner, and was just dashing home to grab some chocolates in between and I hear my name screamed from the other end of my street. "Aaaaaimmmmeeeeee".



Image by John Kent

Surprised, I turned around to see one young KUCA camper racing down the street on her scooter closely followed by her friends who, I soon discovered, was my neighbour and each of their younger sisters.

We recounted stories of camp and got acquainted with each other as the girls filled me in on who lived where and all their holiday plans. I was asked by my KUCA friend if my neighbours had ever had a tour of my house? My answer was no so the begging began, "Oh can we please!!!" I informed the girls that it was fine with me, but they had to go back and ask my neighbour's parents if it was OK.

Promptly, my young neighbour ran off to ask permission and soon returned with her dad and 2 year old brother in tow. And so we all had a tour of my house and shared a bit about who we were and how we came to live in the same street.

Two days later shopping at the local supermarket, I ran into the kids from down the street again. This time shopping with another sibling and their mum. The connections continued to grow as the girls introduced me to their mum. It's amazing how organically and unexpectedly connections can be made.

**- Aimee Kent
Goulburn**

City Organ Transplant

Shortly before the current Canberra City Uniting Church was opened in 1988, the church was most fortunate in being given a pipe organ of exactly the right musical and other dimensions by the Goulburn Uniting Church. It came from the former St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Goulburn.

This 1925 organ by George Fincham & Sons of Richmond, Victoria was duly dismantled, transported to Canberra and from 1987 installed in the new church, while it was still a building site. Those in its new church home then enjoyed its music very much. However, some years after its move to Canberra, it was apparent that the organ needed attention.

There were various possibilities, including restoring the organ to its original design with tubular-pneumatic action, or rebuilding it using a modern electro-pneumatic action. In 2010 City Church opted to have the organ rebuilt. The great generosity and promptness of the responses to a new appeal for funds allowed the work to be scheduled and undertaken from 2011.

Off went the organ's "innards" and various pipes to the Melbourne premises of Australian Pipe Organs Pty. Ltd. Its principal, Robert Heatley stated, "Our aim is to return the organ to good and reliable condition, hopefully for the next sixty years". In due course back came everything in large wooden crates. Their contents were installed in time for the organ to be played again from Advent 2011.

The rebuild has achieved a great improvement to the overall sound of the instrument, through a revoicing of the pipes and tonal refinishing of the instrument. The installation of the new modern action makes the organ more reliable and manageable for organists. It also produces an exciting voice for leading worship singing, as well as being a more viable recital instrument.

The organ was put to the test and passed with flying colours in a week-end of musical celebrations at the end of February 2012. Peter Guy, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle NSW and formerly of the Goulburn Uniting Church, played for a near packed City Church at its first recital on Saturday, 25 February.

The next day Rev. Ivan Roberts led the congregation in a service of rededication of the church's music ministry. One organist played for worship and another gave a short recital afterwards.

Music thus again features significantly at City Church, alongside other strengths like its Early Morning Centre and its multiculturalism.



Peter Guy at the organ in City Church

**article and image by
Jenny Rowland
Canberra City**

Music Calendar

Wesley Music Centre and Wesley Uniting Church

Wednesday Lunchtime Live Concerts:

Wednesdays, 12.40 – 1.20pm. \$2. Refreshments \$1.

Other Concerts:

Monday 14 May 3pm "The King of Instruments, The King of Composers" Lecture Recital by Dr Calvin Bowman. Free. Wesley Uniting Church

Thursday 17 May 7:30pm "Duo Trystero" - tenor **Robert McFarlane** and classical guitarist **Alex Tsiboulski**. Tickets at door. \$30/20. Enquiries: tsiboulski@gmail.com or phone 0403 640 669. Wesley Music Centre.

Saturday 26 June 2pm Isabella Ellis Piano and Cello Students Concert. Gold Coin donation. Enquiries: 0458 416 147. Wesley Music Centre.

Saturday 2 June 6:30pm "Duo Merindah" Teresa Rabe (flute) and Minh Le Hoang (guitar). Tickets at door. Prices TBD. Info at www.duomerindah.com. Wesley Music Centre.

Sunday 3 June 3pm Art Song Concert 3 "Lovers of Song". Admission, including program and light refreshments: \$35/30/25/15. Tickets ONLY at door. More information www.artsongcanberra.org Enquiries 02 6156 2604. Wesley Music Centre.

Sunday 24 June 3pm Piano Concert by Robert Schmidli as a fundraiser for L'Arche Genesaret. Tickets at door or by phone on 6282 9066. \$25/20/15. Enquiries: Tarlie Alcock 02 6260 8661. Wesley Music Centre.

Sunday 1 July 3pm Art Song Concert 4 "Crossing the Pond - Songs from both sides of the Atlantic" Rachael Duncan (soprano) and Penelope Cashman (piano). Admission, including program and light refreshments: \$35/30/25/15. Tickets available ONLY at door. More information: www.artsongcanberra.org. Enquiries 02 6156 2604. Wesley Music Centre.

wesleycanberra.org.au/music

Enquiries: Garth Mansfield, Director, Wesley Music Centre

Ministry Opportunities

Braidwood Uniting Church is seeking a person, lay or ordained, for a part time ministry position focused on preaching, leadership of worship, pastoral care and mission leadership.

*Initial inquiries may be directed to Judy Marston
hshome132@gmail.com
or 02 4842 7236*

Applications addressing the selection criteria are to be forwarded to Ivan Roberts
GPO Box 221, Canberra 2601.

Applications close
30 June 2012

Braidwood Uniting Church is looking for someone for a 40 percent part time ministry position, following on from the work done by David Mullen. The

position is suitable for a lay or ordained person and comes with a fully furnished house with two bedrooms and a study.

The principle responsibilities of a new ministry agent in Braidwood will be that of preaching and leading worship services in Braidwood, Araluen and Narbethong, encouraging congregation members, and visiting people in the community, the hospital and Braidwood's aged care facility. The ministry role would also examine the possibilities of further involvement with other community organizations, including the possibility of chaplaincy work with the new Gold Mine.

Braidwood is on the Kings Highway, half way between Canberra and the South Coast of NSW. The population of Braidwood and its surrounding villages is around 1500. The congregation is known for local community engagement in the region, through involvement in advocacy with the Seniors Group, community development, and service through its

opportunity shop.

David Mullen, who retired from the role in February, started in 2003 with an expectation of staying for two years. Nine years later he writes, "I came to have great respect for the members of the Braidwood congregation. As their ministry agent I was quickly accepted and given generous support in every way. Most Sundays, following the service, constructive comments were made about the sermon and sometimes I had questions to answer. This made sermon preparation enjoyable rather than a chore. The congregation, admittedly very small, doubled in size over the nine years. In large part this was because of the welcome people gave newcomers, allowing them to merge at their own rate and gradually accept responsibilities within the congregation."

Expressions of interest should be made to Ivan Roberts, JNC Chairperson or Judy Marston, Church Council Secretary, by June 30, 2012.

2 leadership positions at Kippax - a vibrant community

Congregational Development Minister Executive Officer

Kippax Uniting Church is a lively congregation in the ACT with a strong sense of call and a growing community services ministry – "UnitingCare Kippax". It is an exciting and innovative place to be in ministry.

We are seeking 2 new members for our leadership team who, along with our Executive Minister, will share responsibility for implementing the call, vision and values at Kippax Uniting Church. Both positions are open to ordained and lay people.

The **Congregational Development Minister (full time)** will work primarily with the congregation as we live out our ministry and spiritual development. You will have core responsibility for the education, formation, pastoral care and spiritual wellbeing of the congregation including specific attention to people in the first third of their life.

Initial inquiries may be directed to Gordon Ramsay, Executive Minister, Kippax Uniting Church:
gordon@kippax.org.au or 02 6254 1733. Documentation for both positions is available at www.kippax.org.au

Applications: Applications addressing the selection criteria are to be forwarded to Ms Meg Herbert, Synod Associate Secretary (Ministry), PO Box A2178 Sydney South NSW 1235 or megh@nsw.uca.org.au

Applications close 31 May 2012



Chain Reaction Update

“Chain Reaction” originated as a joint ministry between Weston Creek Uniting Church and Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Canberra. Our ministry’s goal is to equip and raise up young people and families to be able live in real relationship with God, and to be able to share the love of God with anyone they meet, in any situation or environment they may find themselves in.

In January 2011, a team of fourteen people went on an outreach to Tasmania, which had many positives. From that time onwards, Chain Reaction has met for monthly fellowship, prayer and worship gatherings, and hosted training camps for young people along with Outreaches. The group has also grown quite significantly through this process, and now includes several churches from across ACT, NSW, VIC and TAS, from a variety of denominations.

In January 2012 Chain Reaction sent out two outreach teams, because we were blessed to have the numbers to do so. One team went to Vanuatu, to help build water tanks and houses in

remote villages. The second team, of thirty seven people, went on a road trip outreach in buses and vans, and travelled to Parkes for their annual Elvis festival, and then on to Orange for a week of service and community based ministry.

There were so many highlights from the time that we spent together on the outreach. We got to stay in the Uniting church in Parkes, and we were able to help them prepare for the Elvis Gospel Church service, as the finale of the Elvis festival, which they have been responsible for running for more than a decade. We even got to perform some significant musical items in front of 3000 people! God did some incredible things there, and we were really able to encourage that congregation and community with the help that we had to offer.

In a similar way, great things happened in Orange. We got to perform some special items that we’d practiced in some churches, including a Uniting church in Orange. We got to help at a church Op-Shop, evangelise to countless youth at the local skate

park and go up on a mountain and pray over the city. Overall though, the biggest highlight was seeing how much God changed, equipped and used all the young people who participated.

Since then, we’ve had the privilege of returning to Orange for a short outreach, as well as running an Easter camp, in which we had over ninety participants. During the camp, we were able to do some ministry in a number of local churches on Easter Sunday, and we participated in the prayer vigil on Mt. Ainslie. We continue to meet monthly for fellowship, prayer and worship; and we are excited for what God has in store for this ministry.

If you want more information about Chain Reaction, you can find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/pages/Chain-Reaction/329674423725868](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chain-Reaction/329674423725868) or you can contact us through email at chain_reaction2012@hotmail.com.

**- Jordan Winslade
Weston Creek**



Image by Tammy Jandesu

BRENDAN AUGUSTINE KENNEDY

(23 April 1945 to 28 December 2011)

Presbytery notes the death of Brendan Augustine Kennedy, Director *UnitingCare* Canberra City, and give thanks for his life and ministry as a friend of the homeless and an advocate for those on the fringes of society.

The recurring theme of Brendan's life, whether as a Columban priest serving with the Catholic Church in Korea, Birmingham UK and Pakistan, or as a community worker in Ireland, Sydney and Canberra, has been his passionate concern for the disadvantaged or marginalised and his fight to change unjust rules, systems or organisations.

Ordained in 1969, Brendan remained in ministry with the Columbans until moving to Australia in 1992 to marry Rev Myung Hwa Park. He retained recognition within the Catholic Church as a married priest and continued to worship there as well as being actively involved in the *Uniting Church*. In Canberra Brendan maintained his ecumenical commitment retaining membership both with the Catholic Church and supporting Myung Hwa as minister at St Columba's, Braddon and Canberra City *Uniting Church*.

Appointed as Director *UnitingCare* Canberra City in 2009, Brendan's special gift was to identify where there were gaps in existing service

delivery, especially for the homeless. Brendan saw a community in the shape of a grid. He was able to picture what Government, politicians, non-government organizations and community groups were doing. He saw them in relational and spiritual terms. He listened for how the groups they were serving saw and experienced the services they provided. He saw the gaps. He saw how the various groups might work together to provide more effective or relevant services, and worked to encourage collaboration. An effective networker, Brendan was delighted that the St Vincent de Paul Society was able to use premises at St Columba's.

As Director of *UnitingCare* Canberra City, Brendan gave practical 'hands-on' expression to God's love through his care for guests at the Early Morning Centre (EMC). Brendan liaised with Hands Across Canberra, so obtaining a grant to enable the EMC to hold its first Christmas lunch on 22 December 2011. Other issues which concerned him in his role with *UnitingCare* included seeking facilities for people – especially women – who were homeless, prison ministry and bullying in the workplace.

Brendan was the catalyst in forming the Project Safe Shelter in Canberra, an initiative by inner north Canberra churches to provide safe shelter for

people 'sleeping rough' on Canberra's streets. The group late last year made a submission to the inquiry into the provision of Social Housing in the ACT by the Standing Committee on Health, Community and Social Services.

Columbans are known for the way in which they immerse themselves in the lives of the people they are called to serve. Brendan Kennedy had never lost the Columban spirit of seeking to empower others to rise above their difficulties.



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