

Uniting Presbytery of Tasmania



<https://ucatas.org.au/>

Issue No. 179

December 2019

Seasons Greetings

**to everyone in the Presbytery
from the UCA Tasmanian Office:**

**Sue, Bronwyn,
Anthea, Denise, Hoon,
Lucia, Graham and Rohan**

The UCA Tasmanian Office will close on Friday 20 December 2019 and reopens on Monday 6 January 2020

**Please note: There is no January
Uniting Tasmania. Next issue will be
February 2020**



***Christmas
Cards
for sale***



UCA Presbytery of Tasmania Christmas cards (\$6 per pack of 10) are for sale through the UCA Tasmanian Office – phone us now with your order!

Opportunities



Next Presbytery Gathering

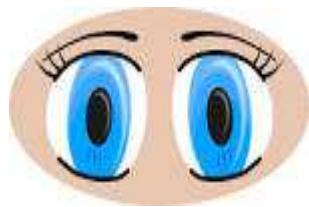
9.45am Saturday 15 February 2020
Scots-Memorial Uniting Church
29 Bathurst Street, Hobart

VICTAS LAY PREACHERS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2020 Conference will be held at the Centre for Theology and Ministry in Melbourne from Friday night, March 20th to Saturday March 21st. The President, Bruce Hill, has asked Maclean House to set aside rooms for Lay Preachers on the Friday night to encourage people from Tasmania and country Victoria to attend. This provides accommodation at a reasonable rate on site for the event. More details: <https://ctm.uca.edu.au/support-services/accommodation/>

The Lay Preachers' Committee of Management have been discussing the question of payment to lay preachers and draw your attention to the document Lay Preachers and Payments (2019) which can be obtained from <https://victas.uca.org.au/ministry-mission/lay-preachers-association/>. This has been particularly interesting in places where Lay Preachers have been transitioning to other forms of ministry.

Lay Preachers are reminded that the paperwork for the Annual Checklist and Applications for acknowledgement of Continuing Education will be available in December for completion in the new year.



New surprises and discoveries await you when you open your eyes and see how God is working in your community.

Reflection

Honour the Divine in Each Other

"On a recent trip to Melbourne, Susan asked me to stop by for a coffee and a sausage roll. She invited me in, moved her dog and some of her belongings, so that I could sit beside her....

"Don't pat my dog though,'.... Susan warns....'she is a rescued dog and doesn't like people much".

I sit beside her, balancing coffee and sausage rolls on my lap.... ...she tells me the latest gossip and where to get a good meal for a good price, and about her dog. Her age is indeterminate... and as she chats about her life, I hear a rhythm in her story.

All this sounds like an everyday coffee catch up.....Except Susan's 'lounge room', is outside a small shop in a busy Melbourne street. The seat she offers is the pavement. It's cold today and she wraps her blanket more tightly and her dog snuggles in for warmth.... her shopping trolley is an inadequate wind break.

The rhythm to her story is the sound of the shoes on the pavementpeople on their way to work, to families, to home, to warmth.....

And to those who pass her by...Susan acknowledges and says gently to them...'Have a good day.....God Bless.... Have a good afternoon.....

As I leave, I offer a small bag of fresh perishable items that we can't take home "Thanks" she says.... "I'll share it.... there are some who need it more than me.

....."



I have not mentioned why we are in Melbourne and yet as I leave she says quietly." I will light two candles for you and your man.... he doesn't look well.... I will pray for you".

As I see it.... when we honour the divine in each other, together we walk the way of Christ.

Namaste"

Cheryl Jones
Launceston Pilgrim UCA



Presbytery of Tasmania Chairperson



Crossroads recently had a picnic at Wings Wildlife Park in Gunns Plains where new Presbytery Chairperson, Rev Caro Field, almost had her head taken off !

Photo Rev Chris Duxbury

Rev Caro Field candidated to ordained ministry from the Sandy Bay congregation. She has served in ministry placements mainly in Victoria and was most recently the Presbytery Minister for Mission and Education in Gippsland. Caro is currently in placement at Launceston North Uniting Church.

Some of the qualities Caro brings to the role of Chairperson include:

- a deep love of God, the Church and Tasmania
- a good working knowledge of UCA polity, regulations and how the different councils of the Church operate
- strong pastoral skills and the ability to communicate, negotiate and problem-solve
- a sense of humour, and willingness to have a go at most things



TOP 5: Faith Resources for Households

Jo Matagi and Ko Moana Jackson Williams at the Uniting Church's Niue National Conference.



1. **Chat Mat** Developed in Australia, these Chat Matters placemats are designed around the Here2Stay faith forming pillars*. Not only can households use this resource to stimulate faith enhancing mealtime conversations among themselves, used with appropriate discernment they can also be used over a meal with guests. They can also be an inspiration for households to design their own “chat mats”!
2. **Kitchen Table Project** This deceptively simple concept provides a straightforward and easy to implement process that can be used regularly or on an ad hoc basis. The five steps of Sharing, Reading, Talking, Praying and Blessing are accessible and adaptable for a variety of household shapes and sizes.
3. **Faith Five** “There are plenty of simple things we can do that will nurture a living faith at home. The good news is, you don’t need to be an expert!” This resource recognises that households are already doing multiple things that can affirm and encourage faith. In essence, with much grace, it encourages a little more intentionality around a range of easy, everyday opportunities.
4. **Growing Faith Moments** Four key faith practices for the nurture and encouragement of lifelong faith are Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions. Each of the 1-page resources in this series provides ideas provides a simple outline for these four aspects in relation to a significant household “moment” – such as beginning school, receiving a driver’s license or becoming a parent.
5. **Family Faith Formation Toolkit** The strength of this helpful resource is in highlighting the role that churches can play in growing faith in households. The flourishing of faith at home is more likely when the household members and their local faith community are in an active, supportive partnership together. This resource provides a suite of useful principles and activities to encourage the local church in this endeavour.

*The Here2Stay faith forming pillars, as originally articulated, are Family/Household Nurture, Generational Connections, Positive Peer Community, Mentors/Life Coaches, Big Story of the Bible, Encounters with Jesus, Peak Experiences, Rites of Passage, Respond with Compassion and Serve in Mission)

More helpful resources are listed here: <https://uniting.church/top-5-faith-resources-for-households/>



Leadership Formation

Can you tell me where the nearest Uniting Church is please?

It's an interesting question to randomly ask people on the street. You find out just what kind of place we might have in a local community. Everything from "I don't know" to "is that the one with the bells" to "oh yes, they are the ones who . . ."



What makes church church?

I sat in the building in Ross. The wind whistled through the walls and windows. No longer a place of regular Sunday worship. Does the presence of a building mean that the church is still in the community? Can the building care for people when they are hurting? Can the building listen to story of our neighbours? Can the building celebrate a newborn?

What makes church church?

How does a community know when the church is present in a local community? Is it because there is a building, or is it because the people who are disciples of Christ are everyday in their everyday interactions demonstrating love, care, generosity, graciousness, forgiveness, justice.

Would we be any less the church if we gathered without a building, without particular furniture pieces, without our hymn books, and organs, and data projectors . . .

What is it that God calls us to as God's people really? How do we be people of God's Kingdom? If we only ever exist to be in a building on a Sunday morning, are we true to the call of God? If we only ever serve the church in its sense of property identification, are we really serving God?

If we have property to care for, it is important to do so and do it well. But if our focus is that and nothing more, then I wonder who we are. What is it that makes church church . . . really. What do you think?

You might like to ponder this in a small study group, or during worship sometime, or make use of social media to share some of your thoughts. You might like to prompt some wider thinking in our presbytery by sharing with us.

If you would like Denise to visit your congregation, to listen and share around leadership formation, contact us via the Presbytery Office 6331 9784 or Denise 0427 647 395 or denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au.



A preacher's guide to the lectionary

with Fran Barber and Robyn Whitaker



By the Well is a collaboration between Fran Barber (Coordinator - Continuing Education for Ministers, eLM) and Robyn Whitaker (New Testament Lecturer, Pilgrim Theological College) with the assistance of the eLearning Facilitator, Adrian Jackson. *By the Well* is a weekly podcast

focusing on one or more lectionary readings for the week. It is the only Australian lectionary based podcast and the only preaching podcast internationally hosted by two women.

Fran and Robyn will be joined by a variety of guests from around the UCA and beyond - scholars and ministers who are keen to help explore preaching the Bible in your contexts. Advent episodes include guests such as Sean Winter, Bill Loader, Rachel Kronberger, and Kylie Crabbe.

You can find *By the Well* wherever you listen to podcasts or listen through our website - www.bythewell.com.au. Advent 1 is available now, as is a pre episode with Rev Prof Emeritus William (Bill) Loader on theology and themes in Matthew's gospel.



Presbytery Gathering

“What does it look and feel like when you are thriving – individually and as a community?”

The last Presbytery Gathering for the year was held @ Ulverstone Uniting Church on **Saturday 9 November 2019**.

The Presbytery met as a council to:

- acknowledge Rev John Pettman’s 50 years since ordination
- hear a minute of Appreciation for Rev Allan Thompson on his retirement as chairperson of PRC
- hear a memorial minute for Lay Pastor and Preacher David Jensen
- vote overwhelmingly to approve the ordination of Annetia Goldsmith as a Minister of the Word
- elect Richard Barnard as Presbytery Treasurer. Richard has extensive experience in accounting and business management including the Devonport Port Authority, as well as Church experience
- hear stories from the Ulverstone-Sprent and Cradle Coast congregations
- give thanks for the service of Rev Ann Perrin as Presbytery Chairperson as she concluded her term of office, and elect Rev Caro Field as the new Presbytery Chairperson
- share in worship with Rev Gospel Ralte and his family and congregation, and meet some of the Tasmanian Chin Christian Church
- share together in Discovering Together: Looking Forward as we were asked, **“What does thriving look or feel like...for you, your local community/church and for the Presbytery?”**



This 'n That

■ **Uniting VicTas - Annual Public Meeting** is an opportunity to hear about the achievements of Uniting in the past year, and look to the year ahead with incoming CEO, Bronwyn Pike and a chance to thank inaugural CEO Paul Linossier for all his work in the first three years of Uniting Vic.Tas. Everyone is welcome to attend. **When:** 3 December, 4pm-6pm **Where:** UCA Hobart Wesley Hall.

■ **Advent Study Our Hope - Advent Study 2019** is an intergenerational resource being created for groups and individuals. It is available on the Synod [website](#).

■ The Lay Preachers' Association Committee of Management is supporting a written **history of lay preaching** in the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. If you have any biographies of lay preachers that you can provide email Daryl Pedler at daryl.margpedler@bigpond.com

■ **Allegri Ensemble's Christmas concert** in Dulci Jubilo is to be held on Saturday December 14 at 8pm in All Saints Church, 339 Macquarie St South Hobart, conducted by Jonathan Wallis. This hour-long program presents beautiful Christmas music from the past 500 years in poignant juxtapositions of ancient and modern.

Our concert features two Christmas cantatas by Dieterich and a delightful chorale setting by Christian Geist accompanied by a Baroque ensemble led by Julia Fredersdorff. We present two seasonal motets by William Byrd and a variety of carols. Festive supper after the performance is included,

Tickets \$40 (full) or \$30 (concession) are available online <https://www.theatreroyal.com.au/shows/dulci-jubilo> or at the door.

■ **Always Was, Always Will Be** A new resource explains why acknowledging country is important whenever we gather as the Uniting Church and provides a variety of options for different occasions. <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/covenanting/item/3094-acknowledgement-of-country-in-the-uca>

■ **New Lectionary Resource** The Lectionary for 2019/2020 is now available on the Assembly website. The resource includes a full list of dates and Bible references as well as notes on preaching in the Year of Matthew https://assembly.uca.org.au/images/PDF/lectionary_2019-2020_year_a.pdf

■ **Sing Alleluia** A supplement to the Australian Hymn Book. The UCA Tasmanian Office has a number of copies donated and available. Please contact us if you are interested in acquiring some of these.

- **Biblical Reflections for the Presbytery of Tas Website** Would you contribute a set of four brief biblical reflections for the Presbytery website? One of the great things initiated as part of the Presbytery website project was a short reflection on a Bible reading for each week of the lectionary calendar. These can be found on the Presbytery website at <https://ucatas.org.au/faith/growing/bible/>. Twelve people contributed reflections during 2019 and we are very grateful for their contributions and in the sharing of their lectionary reflections and thoughts.

Now you are invited to contribute to the life and faith of the Presbytery in this way. For an allocated month, you are asked to write a short reflection on ONE of the lectionary readings for EACH Sunday of the month, of about 150-250 words in everyday language.

If you are willing and interested, please contact Sue & Bron in the Tasmanian Office TAS.OFFICE@victas.uca.org.au and suggest a month that suits you, or they may allocate you a suitable month.

- **The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)** is now available for download from [the UCA Assembly website](#).
- **Uniting Women Conference 2020** will be held from Thursday 9 July to Sunday 12 July at the Club Tropical Resort at Lee Point, Darwin.
- **Vacant rooms @ Student House at Brunswick Uniting Church.** More details: <http://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/student-house-program/> or people can contact Dave Hall, Pastor: Children, Youth and Young Adults, Brunswick Uniting Church on 0417 310 128

Frontier Services – how can we help?



Find out more at <https://frontierservices.org/keep-their-spirits-high-until-the-rains-return/>

Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember
in your prayers:

- Refugees and asylum seekers in offshore detention, and for a compassionate end to their suffering.
- The work of UnitingWorld as it fights poverty and builds hope with our partner churches.
- Caro Field and Richard Barnard as they explore the joys and uncertainties of new Presbytery roles.
- Rev Graham Sturdy and Scots Memorial Uniting Church as Graham moves to retirement and the congregation seek a new minister.

Keeping Children Safe



Thanks to the many congregations that have met their ethical and legal obligations by completing the Keeping Children Safe Progress Report.

Did you know that if there is someone in your local congregation or area who has attended Safe Church Training and has the confidence of their Church Council, they can run the training for their local congregation and invite others in the area?

Did you know that it is important to schedule annually a time for your Church Council to reaffirm its adoption of the KCS policy?

This is something we do for all vulnerable people – not only for children.

Graham Booth thanks all those who have made his task working in this area one that allowed him to see your diversity, your struggles and your dreams.

The Presbytery and Synod thank Graham for his work on this important project through 2019.



What's On

December

Tues 3 10.00am Pastoral Relations Committee

January

Tues 14 1.00pm Conclusion of ministry for Marian Bisset, GagebrookUC
Thur 30 10.00am Presbytery Standing Committee

February

Sun 2 Retiring Service for Rev Graham Sturdy, Hobart Scots Memorial Uniting Church
Mon 3 10.30am Resource & Development Committee
Tues 4 10.00am Pastoral Relations Committee

Please check our Presbytery Calendar of events on the [Presbytery website](#)

Christmas.....Support Everything in Common



Everything in Common is the Uniting Church in Australia's very own gift catalogue directly supporting the work of our church partners as they alleviate poverty, respond to injustice and share the good news with their own communities.

Gifts that Fight Poverty and Build Hope UnitingWorld has launched its annual Christmas campaign for 2019. From chickens to goats to clean water and education UnitingWorld has a huge range of ethical gifts that make the world a better place. <https://everythingincommon.com.au/>

You can support ***Everything in Common*** by ordering gifts online at <https://everythingincommon.com.au/> or by calling UnitingWorld on 02 8267 4267.

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Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://ucatas.org.au>

The map of Tasmania including King and Flinders Islands has been adapted from a Creative Commons file
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Tasmania_location_map_blank.svg