

WESLEY NEWS

MAY DIARY DATES

Sunday 2nd at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

Holy Communion

EASTER 5

Sunday 9th at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

EASTER 6

Thursday 13th at 2.00 pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

Thursday 13th

ASCENSION DAY

Sunday 16th at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

EASTER 7

Sunday 23rd at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

PENTECOST

Sunday 30th at 10.00 am

Rev Mac Macdonald

TRINITY SUNDAY

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

Wednesday evenings in the church at 7.30pm.

ARTS @ WESLEY

Patchworkers & Quilters

Monday mornings in the
Susannah Wesley Hall
9.30 am – 12.00 noon
Contact Margaret on
8445 7006

WESLEY IS HOME TO

Young Adelaide Voices
Adelaide Harmony Choir
Metropolitan Musical
Theatre Company
Organ Music Society of
Adelaide Music Library

FROM THE MINISTER

Thursday May the 13th is a special day in the Christian calendar. The Ascension is perhaps the least celebrated and mysterious of all the “events” of the Jesus Christ story. What is its meaning? How does it fit? That enigmatic last book in the New Testament, the book of Revelation depicts the theatrical backdrop to the Ascension. There we find a story that attempts to convey the ultimate, timeless, eternal significance of the Christ event. It is told as if it were a drama in three acts. Acts one and three take place in the heavenly realm but the middle act takes place on the plane of history.

In this middle earth-bound act Jesus lives as one of us within the limitations of time and space. Not fulfilling any of the expectations of his time, he lived as the truly human one, living and dying to express a profound love for all people, which is his divine mission. His message is absurdly simple. Its core is the gospel Word - which is what? We are truly accepted, really forgiven, can see the created world as essentially good and can trust that the future is open with possibilities. Despite the threat that Jesus was to existing orders, any attempt to kill off his Word was unsuccessful. For the early Christians the crucified-risen Christ was Lord (not Caesar) for in him was the ultimate truth about life. But there is more!

All that is true of Jesus’ earthly existence, transcends time and place. The meaning of Jesus as the Messiah is of universal significance, for all time and all people, not just for the early Jewish Christian community. This is the point of the Ascension - how to symbolise universality. Let me refer to Joseph Mathews’ article “The Christ of History”.

It is like theatre. Jesus in the guise of a lamb has to enter the earth-bound stage and does so heralded by angelic hosts, born of a virgin. (The Caesars when declared divine were also reputed to have been virgin born!) If the play were composed today the advent might well have been by way of a space rocket fired out of nowhere! The important point is that the cosmic figure invades history on a mighty mission. It is not a human invention! When the mission is accomplished, he departs the temporal realm, not, of course, as others do, but through ascending in an effulgence of glory again to the upper level.

This *departure* is the Ascension. In these post-modern times, where we encounter faiths of other traditions telling their story, **our challenge now is to tell the Jesus Christ story** – not as superior religious dogma, but that which is true in our own experience. **Our lived testimony to the love which Jesus disclosed is still the only authentic way of proclaiming the glory that the Ascension represents.**

Jonathan Barker



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



REV ALEX RODGERS

Rev Rodgers is continuing to recover at home and is making good progress. He has missed not being able to drive and is hopeful he will be able to do so again soon. He reports that he has been able to help Elaine out by preparing a few of the evening meals recently. He sends his regards to everyone at Wesley Kent Town and in return, we send him our best wishes and prayers for his continuing progress.



MINISTRY

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker is spending time each Wednesday visiting members of the congregation. If you would like him to visit or know of someone who would benefit from having Jonathan visit, please ring him on 0438 012 227.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting of the Congregation** was held on Sunday 11th April. **Ivan Miller** was re-elected for a further term and **Kay Rooke** and **Peter Skellon** were elected as new members of the Church Council. Each of them has his/her own special gifts and qualities to offer and we are sure they will prove to be assets to Wesley Church. We congratulate all three on their appointment and thank them for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

PENTECOST

Later this month, we enter the Season of Pentecost. It is a liturgical period which immediately follows the Easter season. The season typically begins on the day of Pentecost and continues throughout the rest of the liturgical year, ending just before the season of Advent. Pentecost is a Christian holy day that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 40 days after Easter. Some Christian denominations consider it the birthday of the Christian church and celebrate it as such.



A SPECIAL DIARY DATE

We are pleased to announce that His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia and Mrs Le have again accepted our invitation to attend a **Tartan Sunday service on Sunday 4th July 2021**. On this occasion, there will also be representatives of all the Scottish clans, bagpipers and highland dancers. Please mark this date in your diary now and invite family and friends along to enjoy the occasion.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Trevor Leane and his wife Lee have sold their property at Marble Hill and are now in the throws of clearing and packing ready for their move to their new place of residence at Woodside. At first, the decision to move was a difficult one, and the process of sorting through gear and having open inspections was stressful and exhausting. They are now sure the decision to move was right for them and are excited about their impending move to Woodside. We extend our good wishes and hope they have many years of enjoyment in their new environment. Unfortunately



Trevor will not be able to be with us each Sunday but we hope he can visit us as often as possible. We will miss him.

Joan Atkinson is getting along well at Glenrose Court where she has been undergoing rehabilitation after damaging her hip in a fall. Fiona thinks it will only be a couple of more weeks before she can return home. Joan, as we know, is a very sociable person and has been interacting well with other residents.

Doug Stewart was just bouncing back after being in the Royal Adelaide Hospital in March when he had a fall in the early hours of the morning on 17th April, resulting in him being taken back to the RAH by ambulance. He has fractured 4 ribs, his pelvis and his sacrum (in 2 places). They are all weight bearing fractures and will heal in time but he faces quite a few weeks of physiotherapy to enable him to walk properly again and for the fractures to heal. Currently he is receiving wonderful care at Memorial Hospital. On Friday he was given some new pain medication just prior to his physiotherapy. He was able to stand with a walking frame and walk about three metres at quite a respectable pace. Doug was delighted



to receive a visit from Johanna, Juan and Ruby.

Helen Drummond has been quite seriously ill and has been in the RAH for a week. She has turned the corner now but will need an extended period of rest and recuperation. We send Joan, Helen and Doug our love, support and prayers.

Margaret Harkness and **Colin Watkins** are both undergoing chemotherapy at present. One cannot help but be inspired by the courage and strength of spirit displayed of our people as they face adversity. We extend our love and prayers for healing.

CONTACTS

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