

WESLEY NEWS

SEPTEMBER DIARY DATES

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Sunday 5th

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
Holy Communion
PENTECOST 15

Thursday 9th at 2.00 pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 12th at 10.00 am
Rev Doug Hosking
PENTECOST 16

Sunday 19th at 10.00 am
Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
PENTECOST 17

Sunday 26th at 10.00 am
Rev Mac Macdonald
PENTECOST 18



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
Monte Verdi Singers
Organ Music Society of
Adelaide Music Library

FROM THE MINISTER

Recently I recalled something from my youth group days in the church. A wise mentor said when reading the Gospels, it is always good to ask, “What is the good news here? If we can name it for us personally or together, then it is probably the leading of the Holy Spirit.” I found myself asking, “what is the good news” as we considered the deep discomfort found in the Gospel according to Mark chapter 7 where he paints a disturbing picture of a Jesus casting a derogatory slur on a gentile woman who comes to him for help? It seems entirely out of character for Jesus, the Christ of compassion and mercy. It is not just rudeness, for his words justify ethnic boundaries and degrade a vulnerable woman. In response she says, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” I also hear her asking, “Is this good news?”

Jesus relents, changes tack and heals the woman’s daughter. He responds not to her *pistis* (faith) but to her *logos* (reasoning). The Syrophenician woman detected an inconsistency and named the same troubling discomfort we all sense with this story. Instead of reading it as a power struggle, of someone winning and someone losing an argument, to ask “is this good news” may help us understand this passage as an early example of the “priesthood of all believers.” The woman offers the story of her resistance, her reasoning that Jesus has not yet proclaimed good news. She isn’t there to make a point. She needs her daughter to be healed, and she knows that Jesus can do it. Jesus receives her discernment of the “good news.” He recognises that the word he has delivered belongs now to her, to gentiles, to the world. Yes, this sounds like the “priesthood of all believers.” Discerning the essence of the “good news” is not just the task of rabbis or ordained preachers but is something to be done by the whole community of Christ.

The Syrophenician woman also offers Jesus a reminder that there is enough good news for everyone. This literally happened in the feeding of the crowds just before Jesus goes to Tyre, with the disciples recovering 12 baskets of surplus. This exchange between Jesus and the Syrophenician woman is an act of abundance, too. Even Jesus is not left to identify the “good news” alone. **If the incarnate Jesus welcomes others to be priests with him, to discern the presence of God’s Spirit working among us, how much more do we need one another for the task of discerning the gospel? The God who has set us down together has also given us to one another: to speak the word, to proclaim together the “good news” of Jesus Christ.**

Jonathan Barker



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY



Our **156th Anniversary Service** held on Sunday 15th August was a little different from previous years. COVID 19 restrictions required us all to wear masks but we rejoiced in being allowed to sing. **Rev Dr Jonathan Barker** was our

worship leader and **Graham Bell** was magnificent on the organ as always. It was also wonderful to hear **Yvonne Sinclair's** beautiful voice as she sang "How Lovely are Thy Dwellings" and "The Holy City". We also enjoyed the opportunity to catch up over Morning Tea.

IMPACTS OF COVID RESTRICTIONS



The requirement to wear masks during worship is likely to remain with us for the foreseeable future, especially while the situation with the Delta strain of the virus in the eastern states remains so serious.

A slight relaxation of the rules means that we can have a choir provided they wear masks and are socially distanced. Accordingly our **choir will return on the first Sunday in September.**



MINISTRY- THANK YOU JONATHAN

We are most grateful to **Rev Dr Jonathan Barker** for providing **Supply Ministry** while Rev Alex Rodgers has been on sick leave. Unfortunately Jonathan's term will conclude at the end of September. Jonathan slipped into the role seamlessly and, with his friendly demeanour, quickly established a rapport with members of the congregation. We will miss him and extend our special thanks for the excellent leadership, advice and pastoral care he has given over these months.

Information regarding Ministry beyond September will be provided in the near future.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK



Running from the 5th to the 11th September 2021, National Child Protection week occurs annually across Australia and raises awareness of child abuse prevention. UCA's National Safe Church Unit

works in partnership with Synods and the Assembly and provides support tools and resources.

Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town has a Safe Church Policy which is reviewed regularly by the Church Council. **Kay Rooke** is our Safe Church contact person

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Graham Bell** whose mother passed away last month at the age of 92. A few members from this Church were privileged to attend her funeral service which celebrated the life of "a woman of open heart and firm faith, whose interest and care for others never wavered".

Rev Alex Rodgers reports that his health is much improved and he is making a good recovery following the stroke he suffered in January this year.

Ivan Miller has undergone knee replacement surgery. The procedure was a little more complicated than expected but he is now home and undergoing rehabilitation. He looks forward to being able to move around more freely in the near future. As the only bass voice, Ivan will be greatly missed from the choir in the next few weeks.

Doug Stewart had to go back to hospital again and was making good progress and looking forward to returning home, when he unfortunately contracted norovirus. He was violently ill for 4 days which took its toll on a person in already frail health. He is a fighter however and is now improving. He is being cared for in the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Johanna Espitia and daughter **Ruby** have been on the sick list too. Ruby had a nasty virus and even had to undergo a COVID test, while Johanna has had severe toothache and has had to have some root fillings.

We were pleased that **Joan Atkinson** was able to attend church again recently. She is adjusting to her sight problems and enjoys the company of her son, James, who is now living with her.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Just a reminder that there are two books for sale that would be of interest to Wesley members and visitors. Both are on display at the Northern Transept door. "**The House of God – The Gate of Heaven**" written by Dr Marlene Edwards is the first comprehensive and illustrated account of Kent Town Wesleyan Methodist/Uniting Church. "**Margaret Davey – An Amazing Woman**" written by Janet Whitham describes a wonderful South Australian woman who devoted much of her talents to working with community groups including Wesley Church Kent Town. Both books are priced at \$20 each. Payment for each book (please identify your choice) can be left in the box at the door.



CONTACTS

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