

WESLEY NEWS

**SEPTEMBER
DIARY DATES**

.....
Sunday 4th at 10.00 am
 Rev Mark Dickens
Holy Communion
PENTECOST 13

Thursday 8th at 2.00pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 11th at 10.00 am
 Rev Mac Macdonald
PENTECOST 14

Sunday 18th at 10.00 am
 Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
PENTECOST 15

Sunday 25th at 10.00 am
 Rev Mark Dickens
PENTECOST 16

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice
 Wednesday evenings in the church at 7.30pm.

WESLEY IS HOME TO
Young Adelaide Voices
Adelaide Harmony Choir
Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company
Organ Music Society of Adelaide Music Library



FROM THE MINISTER

Connections are important. Connections matter.

During my time as chaplain at St Andrew’s Hospital I would often find my conversations with people turning to a reflection on what is important in life. The mere fact of being hospitalised, whether it was life-threatening or not, cause people to want to examine their life and where they were at. Being confined to a hospital bed gives plenty of time to contemplate! The job, the money, the possessions were often re-evaluated. Time and time again, people in this position of reflection would come back to their relationships. Perspective was brought back. No longer was the job or the possessions all important. It was the relationships, particularly the close relationships with family, loved ones, that were brought back into focus as being most important in life.

It’s my belief, but not my belief alone, that ‘we’ long for relationships. Alongside of our social connections, people yearn for that meaningful connection with another person. This is ultimately where we find our happiness – it is in our connection with others. For some, a nuanced connection can also be provided through a pet, though this does not replace the human connection.

Without connection to others, life can become lonesome.

Jesus connected people and connected with people. When you think about it, the disciples we know as The Twelve were an assorted group of men; far from homogenous, yet in and through Jesus they were brought together. Add to that the women close to Jesus and The Twelve. Luke names 3 in chapter 8, but also adds ‘there were many others.’ Each of the Gospels mention women by name at the Cross and/or the tomb, with Mary Magdalene the only one common across the 4 Gospels. Then there are the people Jesus connected with, some of whom were disconnected from others and the community more broadly for various reasons; the woman at the well, the woman caught in adultery, Zacchaeus, blind Bartimaeus – just to name a small few.

A 2021 report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare notes, “*Social isolation and loneliness can be harmful to both mental and physical health. They are considered significant health and wellbeing issues in Australia because of the impact they have on peoples’ lives.*”

Another article published online by The Conversation a few years ago now on March 22, 2018, states, “Loneliness is a hidden but serious problem in cities worldwide.” The article includes population mobility and declining community participation as contributing factors.

Social isolation doesn’t always equate with loneliness. Some people are content in their own company. However, loneliness can be a factor of social isolation. The Covid pandemic has seen an increase in the number of people reporting loneliness across nearly every age group.

Church is a place for connections. As followers of Jesus, we could also say it is our calling to connect to people. I am keen for us as a church community to continue to reflect on and consider how we can provide opportunities for connections to occur. And, then, may our thoughts become our actions!

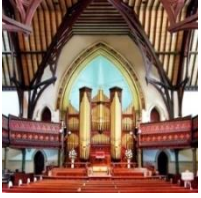
Rev Mark Dickens.



THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE ARE THE CONNECTIONS YOU MAKE WITH OTHERS - TOM FORD



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



Our **Church Anniversary Service** this year was held on the **21st August 2022**. Rev Mark Dickens led the worship assisted by Pastor Andrew Kieselbach. The service commemorated **157 years of worship and witness in this**

community. The music presented by Graham Bell on organ and the augmented choir was uplifting. The service was followed by a lavish morning tea which was enjoyed by all. Ruby, our youngest member present on the day, did the honours of blowing out the candles on the anniversary cake.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Jenny Church turned 80 on 19th August and celebrated with a party luncheon at the Oasis restaurant at Belvidere on 28th August. She generously invited all of the regular attendees at Sunday worship to attend. The opportunity to share in this happy event was just what the doctor ordered after a long cold winter. Jenny is a great blessing to our church community and has willingly taken on many useful roles in the church.



Jenny with family members

UNITING CHURCH SA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An invitation is extended to all members to attend an event entitled, **“History of Youth Movements – How and Why have they changed over time?”** This will be held at Malvern Uniting Church, 44 Marlborough St, Malvern, **Sunday 18th September at 2.00pm**. This will be of interest to those of us who were members of The Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), Congregational Youth Fellowship (CYF) or Presbyterian Youth Fellowship (PYF). Afternoon Tea will follow.

The **Uniting Church History Centre** is situated at 44A East Avenue, Black Forest. It has an extensive collection of historical information including congregational records, plaques, windows and monuments. It is open on Wednesday evenings or by appointment (8297 8472).

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

We were delighted to catch up with **Beryl Kennett** and **Raelene Chelley** at the church anniversary service. Like many of us, Beryl has been experiencing some health issues that make it harder to get to church on cold winter mornings so we were very pleased that she could be there to help us celebrate. Raelene Chelley was looking well and moving about more freely.

Joan Atkinson’s daughter, Katherine and her husband Simon, are visiting from Ireland. Joan is thrilled that they are in Adelaide as they haven’t seen each other since before the Covid Pandemic hit. Katherine and Simon were also at the anniversary service with Joan’s other daughter, **Fiona**.

Catharina & Robert Corbett weren’t able to join us for the anniversary but we were pleased to catch up with them the following week. Catharina finds it difficult to breathe behind a mask and so has been avoiding going out in public.

Diana & Ian Chessell send their best wishes. Ian is immune-compromised and also avoids going out in public as much as possible. Diana is a member of the Uniting Church SA Historical Society Council.

Mary Hackett-Jones had hoped to be at the anniversary service but unfortunately she and the children, Frederick, Arthur and Vivienne, came down with heavy colds. This has been a particularly bad year for colds - we will all welcome some spring sunshine. **Rosanne Pillar** sends her best wishes. She has had a bout of flu despite being vaccinated. Rosanne has had a long standing relationship with Prince Alfred College and welcomes our new ministry arrangement.

NEW FLOOR COVERINGS - APPEAL

Most of you are probably aware that the floor coverings in the 3 vestries (minister’s, choir and stewards’ vestries) are very worn and dilapidated, and urgently need replacement. We have received a sizeable donation towards the cost of new carpeting for which we are very grateful. The carpet the church council has selected is an extra heavy commercial rated carpet which we believe will look very nice and also be suitable for purpose in all 3 rooms plus the connecting walkways. Unfortunately the cost exceeds the donation by approximately \$2500.00. There will also be some additional costs because the bottom of several doors will need to be trimmed.

The church council wishes to extend an **appeal to members** who would like to make a donation towards the total cost. If you are in a position to help, please speak to Ivan Miller, the church treasurer. All donations will be gratefully received.

It will be quite a challenge to clear the vestries prior to laying the new carpet. Any willing hands to move some gear closer to the carpet laying will be most welcome. We will keep you posted.

CONTACTS

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