

WESLEY NEWS

AUGUST DIARY DATES

Sunday 6th at 10.00 am
Rev Mark Dickens
Holy Communion
PENTECOST 10

Thursday 10th at 2.00 pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 13th at 10.00 am
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
PENTECOST 11

Sunday 20th at 10.00 am
Rev Mark Dickens
PENTECOST 12

Sunday 27th at 10.00 am
Rev Jim Winn
PENTECOST 13

COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

In middle hall
Wednesday mornings
10.30 am – 12.00 noon

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice
Wednesday evenings in the
choir vestry at 7.30 pm

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



FROM THE MINISTER *“How to make a fire – a parable”*

Building a good fire begins with understanding the right conditions, to know when it is favourable. Watching the weather before you go, choosing a nice sunny day out of fire season is a great start. Then it's finding the right location, clearing the ground and making space so the fire stays in the place where it is needed. It needs to be a safe place for everything and everyone. Most times, there has already been a fire at a campsite, so it makes sense to use what's there, unless it is not fit for purpose.



You need to select the right kindling and wood to burn. It all depends on where you are and what is around. You need to know your surroundings. The best way to gather wood is when you have enough light and time. It takes time to collect the wood, depending on the landscape. If it's quite barren, you might need to walk for a bit to find something you can use. You need time to scope out opportunities to finding some good firewood, and it is best collecting it during the day rather than scrounging around after dark. As you walk, keep your attention to what is in front of you, stay focused on what is at hand. You need to collect enough wood to keep the fire going for as long as you have purpose for it, long after it gets dark, so it gets you to the morning.

The wood needs to be as dry as you can get it. The more wet it is the more smoke it produces, which limits how many people can be around the fire. Smoke can blind people's eyes for a time, cause them the cough, choke and splutter. Sometimes after a face full of smoke, a person may never return to a fire, even if there is warmth. So don't throw anything green on the fire, or wood that is soaked through, it needs time to dry out to be ready.

The bigger pieces you choose, that produce nice coals, lie at the base of the big gum trees, thick dead branches which are slow burning, efficient and last for hours. These are long standing landmarks that will always provide for you each time you visit.

To light the flame you need to shelter the spark from the wind. I start building a cone shape, with smaller pieces to larger pieces of kindling on the outside, gradually getting it bigger with enough room to place my hand in to light the fire at the base. I use my body, and other's if they are with me, to make a wind break, so the flame can take hold and burn on its own. You can't start a fire with a big log and a matchstick. A fire needs to be built up overtime.

Tending the fire, requires a watchful eye. Place logs on to maintain the same light and heat that is required. Placing too little will see the fire die down, and placing too much on at one time can either create an uncontrollable fire, or more often, starve the fire of oxygen and put it out. You need to make space for the fire to breathe.

Making camp and setting up a fire requires planning, and maintaining a fire requires a gentle persistence. It's good to have a group of people to help and share the warmth. A campfire is a place where we can all gather and appreciate the warmth and light. A fire draws people together.

But be warned. It only takes one spark to destroy a campsite. You are responsible for the fire, from the moment it starts, to when it is extinguished. A fire should not be left to burn out by itself, so if leaving a campsite where there is no responsible camper to take it on, completely extinguish your fire, stir up the coals and douse them with water and dirt.

Always leave the campsite better than when you found it, for the next travellers who visit the spot. Take your rubbish with you. In this way, a campsite can only improve. **I wonder what principles we can apply to our lives and for the church as we journey together. What if we replace 'fire' with mission, ministry, or church? What if we replace 'wood' with ideas, dreams and concepts? What if the big logs are scripture, reason, tradition and experience? What does this tell us about starting and finishing things well?**

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

On **Sunday 20th August 2023 at 10.00am** we will celebrate 158 years of worship, witness and working in the community at an anniversary service of worship. Rev Mark Dickens will lead worship and there will be an augmented choir with special music.



We would like to make this a very special occasion so please invite family and friends along, and in particular, any people with past associations with this church.

The service, of course, will be followed by morning tea in the hall. This is always a great opportunity to catch up with one another.

COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

These are held in the middle hall every Wednesday morning and a good cross section of people are attending. A very sociable atmosphere prevails. If you are looking for some company, please join us on a **Wednesday morning between 10.30am and 12.00 noon and enjoy “Cuppa, Conversation & Connection”**. You will be very welcome!



COMMUNITY SHED

As you are all aware, the church council is working on developing the garage area on the church grounds into a “Community Shed”. Progress on clearing the shed is a little slower than we would have liked but as the weather fines up we hope to forge ahead. We are most appreciative of the support for this project from the members of the Kent Town Residents Association



WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS?

The members of this church come from far and wide. For most of us, Wesley Kent Town is not our closest church. How many other churches do you drive past on your way here each Sunday? What is special about this place that draws you here? How important is it to you that this church remains as a place of worship, witness and community service for many years to come?

These are just a few of the questions that your church council considers regularly. We have an amazing worship space courtesy of faithful followers of Christ who had a vision to create and establish a centre of worship and witness here in Kent Town.

Now we are its custodians and this is a big responsibility. Not only are we charged with maintaining large, aging, heritage listed buildings with a small, faithful congregation, but importantly, we need to continue to provide meaningful worship to nurture the spiritual lives of the members and of those with whom we interact.

Do you know what this church’s motto is?

It’s “Sharing the love of Jesus”.

PLANNING DAY 2023

The last time we set aside a specific time as a church community to plan for the future was in August 2018. It’s time to think and share again. Accordingly the church council has determined to hold a Planning Day on a Saturday morning in September. The date will be decided at the next Church Council meeting on 10th August. We will let you know soon after. Our ministry team will be there to guide and facilitate but we really need your input. So, start gathering together your ideas.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

A fund has been established with the National Trust of South Australia for the refurbishment and restoration of the Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town, the halls and school rooms. A considerable amount of work has been done to establish the fund and to have a comprehensive architect’s report prepared to identify and prioritise work that needs to be done to restore and conserve our heritage. An official appeal to the general public will be launched in the near future. In the meantime, if anyone wants to contribute they may do so. All donations are tax deductible. Donation forms are available from Jenny Stewart.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

We are delighted to welcome back **AiLin (Irene) Pan** and her husband **Yungho Pok** from Japan. Ailin has joined the choir and enjoying the experience. **Beryl Kennett** has moved into permanent residence at Helping Hand, North Adelaide. She is hoping to return to worship once she is settled. **Deborah White** has been recovering from a fractured pelvis but is hoping to be back with us very soon. She has missed the singing very much. **Barbara Fitzsimmons** was almost ready to return when she had a further medical set back that required surgery. She is recuperating in the new Calvary Adelaide Hospital. We send her our love and prayers. It’s hard to believe it, but Johanna’s little daughter **Ruby** has started school.



CONTACTS

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