

WESLEY NEWS

**JULY
DIARY DATES**

.....
Sunday 2nd at 10.00 am
 Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
TARTAN SUNDAY



Sunday 9th at 10.00 am
 Rev Jim Winn
Holy Communion
PENTECOST 5

Thursday 13th at 2.00 pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 16th at 10.00 am
 To be advised
PENTECOST 6

Sunday 23rd at 10.00 am
 Rev Mark Dickens
PENTECOST 7

Sunday 30th at 10.00 am
 Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
PENTECOST 8

**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

Last month the 2023 Uniting Church SA Synod took place at Adelaide West Uniting Church. It commenced on the evening of Wednesday 21st June with the installation of the new Moderator, Rev Peter Morel. This was an uplifting service and included an introduction to the theme the Moderator has chosen for his term in the position – *Seriously Joyful, Joyfully Serious, Living in Christ*.

Three days of business followed, including the receiving of reports and proposals, discussion and deliberative sessions. The first day of business fell on the 22 June; the day that marks the ‘birthday’ of the Uniting Church in Australia following the union of the Methodist Church, Congregational Church, and much of the Presbyterian Church on the 22 June 1977. The President of the Uniting Church, Rev Sharon Hollis was unable to be present for the Synod meeting due to her attendance at a World Council of Churches event overseas. However, she did prepare a video message that was shared for all Uniting Church members across the country to mark the 46th anniversary. The President’s message gave thanks for the witness of those who have come before us and inviting us all to hear afresh God’s call to us in this time and place. The Assembly General Secretary, Rev Colleen Geyer, presented an Assembly report.

A minute of silence was observed to acknowledge the passing of ministers who have died over the last 12 months, including Rev John Mauviel, Rev Ian Moulton, Rev Jim Murton, Rev Margaret Polkinghorne, Rev Don Catford, and Rev Dr Paul Trudinger. The Moderator led in prayer for their families and friends.

Ex-Moderator Bronte Wilson provided a report of his time as Moderator. He spoke of the theme that he had adopted during his term as being all about ‘connections’ which were more important than ever, especially during the challenges of fires, flood and COVID-19 experienced by all these past few years.

A report was received from the Strategy and Planning Mission and Property Working Group. It was noted that Missional viability and building safety were of paramount importance and we, as a church, have reached an urgency around this situation. The Proposal recommended that: conversations continue in 2023/24; structured consultations then ensue; and a plan be created for a missionally viable church going forward. Following discussion in working groups, this proposal was passed by consensus.

At present, the Uniting Church is engaged in a national conversation about its future. The Act2 project is the biggest conversation we are having as the UCA – a whole-of-Church process and approach to discerning the future to which God is calling us. It is a process with many parts. The Assembly General Secretary, Rev Colleen Geyer and Andrew Johnson, Project Manager for Act2 spoke to the report: ‘Act2: In Response to God’s Call.’ Act2 is now entering Phase 2: Collective Discernment. Between June and November 2023 all in the church are invited into an intentional period of discernment. This phase will look closely at specific ideas to address the challenges facing the Uniting Church and take up opportunities.

The Synod also received a proposal about the Voice to Parliament. Aunty Denise Champion spoke of the importance of The Voice at this point in time. She said that it is important to make the right decisions, and to have the right conversations, and that in the past, decisions have been made without thinking of the consequences for Aboriginal people and all in our communities. There have been failed policies, after failed policies, and The Voice will allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have a say. “It won’t be a case of making decisions on our behalf but in consultation with us,” she said. She urged all to listen to what the spirit is saying to the Church at this time.



CONTINUED OVERLEAF



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



FROM THE MINISTER (continued)

A report was brought from the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) for the General Secretary appointment. The JNC brought the name of Rev Philip Gardner as the nominee for the role of the next General Secretary of the Synod of South Australia. The result of the ballot was affirmative in appointing Rev Philip Gardner to the position of General Secretary of the Synod of South Australia, starting during August.

Other proposals received and deliberated on included: Justice and rights for Palestinians and peace with Israel; Raising the age of criminal responsibility; Assessment of placement structures; and, Justice for Asylum Seekers. Reports were received from the Acting General Secretary, the three presbyteries, and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

Please don't hesitate to speak with me if you would like further information on any of what I have reported on.

Blessings, Rev Mark Dickens

TARTAN SUNDAY

Once again, we are delighted to host a **Tartan Sunday Service** here at Wesley on **Sunday 2nd July 2023**.



We welcome representatives of Scottish clans, bagpipers and highland dancers and celebrate together the reclaiming of Scottish independence from the English on the **anniversary of the Repeal Proclamation of 1782, annulling the Act of Proscription of 1747**, which had made wearing tartan an offence. Freedom from oppression is a right we strongly uphold in this country, so whether or not we have any Scottish blood running in our veins, we celebrate this occasion.

REFUGEE WEEK – Finding Freedom

The theme for Refugee Week 2023 (18th June–24th June) was “Finding Freedom”.



“What does it mean to be free? To live without the fear of war, to have your basic human rights upheld, to live in equality and without the fear of persecution are just some of the examples of what freedom can entail. Every day millions of people across the world embark on dangerous journeys for the sole purpose of finding safety and freedom. From Australia to nations across the globe, settling into a new environment after experiencing the perils of a refugee's journey can also provide the opportunity to live, to love and to dream.” “Let us show compassion and celebrate the resilience that makes up parts of our wider community. For freedom should not be an ask, it should be a way of life.” *Refugee Council of Australia*

HOW ARE WE BEING A PLACE OF WELCOME?

The Church Council is working on increasing our community presence. In January we introduced our weekly Community Morning Teas where people can call in and enjoy our hospitality while they connect with others in the community and we are working to develop the garage area at the back of the church into a Community Shed where people in the community can come and work on group and individual handiwork projects.

COMMUNITY MORNING TEA



We would appreciate your support on Wednesday morning if you are able, or if you are just looking for some company, please call in any

Wednesday morning between 10.30am and 12.00 noon and enjoy “Cuppa, Conversation & Connection”. You will be very welcome!

COMMUNITY SHED

We have made some headway in emptying the garage area. Bunnings at Kent town gave us free use of a utility and some members of the Kent Town Residents Association took some unwanted items to the nearby Scout Association recycling depot. If you are someone who has stored any equipment in the garage in the past, it would be appreciated if you could find an alternative place for them. We plan to do some more culling in the near future, possibly hold a “Garage Sale” and then make use of some council hard rubbish collections to clear the space. Once clear, we need to arrange for power and lighting to be connected and then fit the area out with work benches, etc. We have been offered support by Bunnings Kent Town and also the Kent Town Residents Association.



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

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

CONTACTS

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