

WESLEY NEWS

JUNE DIARY DATES

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- Sunday 7th at 10.00 am**
Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
Holy Communion
PENTECOST 2
- Thursday 11th at 2.00pm**
CHURCH COUNCIL
- Sunday 14th at 10.00 am**
Rev Phil Hoffmann
PENTECOST 3
- Sunday 21st at 10.00 am**
Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
PENTECOST 4
- Sunday 28th at 10.00 am**
Rev Dr Gary Stuckey
PENTECOST 5



COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

Wednesday mornings
10.30 am – 12.00 noon
in middle hall

COMMUNITY SHED

Open Wednesday,
& Saturday mornings
9.00 am – 1.00 pm

QUIET CENTRE

Wednesdays 12.45-1.45pm
in church

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

A FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY FOR OUR TIMES

In January 1990 I was very fortunate to be part of a pilgrimage to the Philippines attended by many church people from South Australia. It was not my first trip to the Philippines as I had also attended the Asian Christian Youth Assembly held at Silliman University in Dumaguete City in January 1965. Thus, when a small group of us were sent to Dumaguete (on Negros, one of the islands known as the Visayas) I was delighted to revisit it and then to be sent up the coast to a district town known as Guihulignan, which I had also visited in 1965.

There we were hosted by the Franciscan Order who had pastoral oversight of all the regional barrios ("towns") including the remote ones up in the mountains. It was at a remote mountainous town known as Plagatasan where I witnessed at first hand the remarkable ministry of the Franciscans. They supported the local churches and communities which were being harassed by greedy landlords who were intent on dispossessing the peasants with cattle farms. And they did not hesitate to use militia to terrorise them into submission. Inspired by liberation theology, the locals resisted and began to farm in new ways. We too were inspired by these wonderful "base communities" who were empowered to stand firm and build new communities which reflected the jubilee agenda as imagined by Jesus.

Having already some acquaintance with other Catholic Religions orders, I realised that the Franciscans had a special ethos which was reflected in the spirituality which they espoused. Let me illustrate this by sharing a prayer which was used at a recent Church Council meeting and then encouraged to share with the whole congregation.

A PRAYER IN THE FRANCISCAN TRADITION

May God bless you with discomfort
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Do we have a distinct spirituality which so expresses our faith that it shapes our life and mission as the people of God? I guess that it surely does, but we may not be exactly aware what it is. I contend that our core spirituality will always reflect our experience of who Jesus is for us today. The question, "Who is Jesus Christ for us today?" was posed by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and that was the question which gave birth to the liberation theology (a theology "from below") which inspired the Franciscans I was so privileged to meet in the Philippines.

Jonathan Barker



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell St. Kent Town



CHURCH SERVICES - WORSHIP



We have recently celebrated Pentecost where we recalled the pouring out of the Holy Spirit onto Jesus' disciples. This event is often considered the birthday of the church. Importantly we remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit was not just poured out on the disciples but on all people and continues to be so today. During this period of Pentecost, the church recalls its faith and seeks to relate that faith as people of God to Christ's mission in the world.

During the last 6 weeks we have met the challenge of providing our customary music ministry which enhances the worship experience at Wesley. While our regular organist, Graham Bell, has undergone major heart surgery and during his recovery period, we have been most appreciative of the services of several other organists, Ray Booth, David Gigger, John Hall and Casey McEwan, who have played the organ and accompanied the choir. Ray Booth also took the choir under his wing and conducted a weekly choir practice. We thank them all most sincerely.

RESTORATION OF CHURCH BUILDING



CONSERVATION & RESTORATION APPEAL

As reported last month, there is an urgent need to repair and restore the southern transept wall and large stained-glass window. Reports have been received from architects, builders and a stained-glass restorer, with the total cost of the project being in the order of \$150,000.00. An application for a State Heritage Grant of \$20,000.00 to assist with this project has been submitted and we are hopeful that this will be successful. It is evident that the loose panel in the centre window has moved further and therefore it will need to be temporarily stabilised to prevent it from collapsing. Accordingly, the Church Council has approved some interim building work to secure the window. It will require the erection of scaffolding in the southern gallery and covering the window to make it secure. The scaffolding will then be removed. There will be an additional cost of approximately \$8,000.

We are appealing for donations to enable the significant restorative work to be carried out on this state heritage listed building. All donations are tax deductible. Please collect one of our brochures to find out how to donate to our Conservation & Restoration Trust Fund that has been established with the National Trust SA.

COMMUNITY MORNING TEA



Our Community Morning Teas are held in the Middle Hall every Wednesday. They are an important outreach by this church to the local community. If you are looking for some company, please call in any **Wednesday morning between 10.30am and 12.00 noon** and enjoy a "Cuppa & Conversation".

QUIET CENTRE

We invite you to discover our **Quiet Centre**, open from 12.45-1.45pm every Wednesday. Experience a time of peace and reflection in our church, with opportunities for meditation and guided spiritual insights. Join us as we explore the tranquility of silence and simplicity.

Come and Find Your Quiet Centre

COMMUNITY SHED

The Shed is open every **Wednesday, and Saturday mornings from 9.00am until 1.00pm**. If you would like to participate, please feel free to call in and try your hand.



TARTAN SUNDAY

A **Tartan Sunday Service** will be held on **Sunday 5th July 2026 at 10.00 am**. On this occasion, there will be representatives of all the Scottish clans, bagpipers and highland dancers. Morning Tea will follow the service.



Please mark this date in your diary now and invite family and friends along to enjoy the occasion.



NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE



Peter Skellon is currently receiving respite care at Lourdes Valley Residential Care facility in Myrtle Bank. He is looking to move into full time residential care at a suitable facility once a place becomes available. Peter is keen to maintain his connections with the church and hopes to still attend Sunday Worship and our mid-week morning teas. **Graham Bell** is progressing well following his surgery. He is now living independently at home and is allowed to drive again. He is also fit enough to be able to participate in a more vigorous exercise regime to build up strength and stamina. He is very keen to be back playing the organ for us soon. **Ivan Miller** is being wonderfully cared for at home by his wife Lidia and is enjoying his time with his family and little dog, Lunar. **Pat Symons** has undergone some surgery and is at home with the support of husband, Mark.

CONTACTS

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