

# WESLEY NEWS

## SEPTEMBER DIARY DATES

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**

Rev Mark Dickens  
*Holy Communion*  
**PENTECOST 15**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm**

*CHURCH COUNCIL*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**

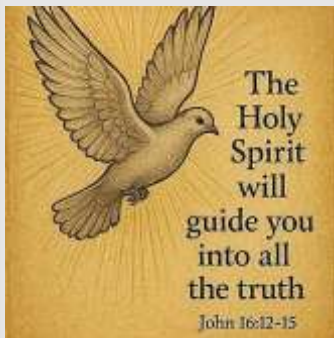
Rev Dr Jonathan Barker  
**PENTECOST 16**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**

Rev Dr Gary Stuckey  
**PENTECOST 17**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker  
**PENTECOST 18**



## 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

## 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 SA  
Organ Music Society of  
Adelaide Music Library

## FROM THE MINISTER - *More than a Mantle of Safety*

August 30<sup>th</sup> is Frontier Services Sunday and an opportunity for us to be reminded of this historic and vital agency which continues to serve regional and remote areas across the Australian continent. It has a fascinating history.

In the early 20th century, a young Presbyterian minister was sent by the church's national assembly to travel the country and come up with a plan as to how the church could minister in the outback. John Flynn was devastated when the church rejected his proposal for the church to serve Aboriginal peoples. He then proposed that the church create an agency to serve the pastoralists and other non-Indigenous families of the outback. The church accepted this proposal but provided no significant money. Undeterred, Flynn persuaded businesspeople to fund what became known as the AUSTRALIAN INLAND MISSION (AIM). A significant contributor was Hugh Victor Mackay the founder of the Sunshine Harvester Works in Victoria which in the twenties became the largest manufacturing plant in the Southern Hemisphere.



Under Flynn's leadership the AIM soon provided padres (chaplains) for regional areas, nursing services and to ensure "a mantle of safety" of access to professional medical services and founded what is now the Royal Flying Doctor Service. (RFDS). He also encouraged Alf Traeger to develop the revolutionary pedal radio as a means for remote pastoral stations to keep in touch with their nearest municipalities. With the advent of the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977 the AIM became known as FRONTIER SERVICES.

My personal association with the AIM was in the Kimberley region in the seventies when serving with my wife at the Mowanjum Aboriginal community. We had visits from the Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, Rev Fred McKay who happened to have been Flynn's successor. While he was respectfully welcomed by the Aboriginal community everyone knew that many of the pastoralists in the Kimberley had a dark history in their racialised treatment of Aboriginal people and that the AIM was often at odds with the Presbyterian Aboriginal Mission Board.

However, that era of friction has changed. Frontier Services now serves both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples across the country. I am delighted that the newly appointed current Frontier Services Chaplain to the Kimberley region is Kirsty Burgu, known to my wife and I from the present day Mowanjum Community where she has served as Pastor of the Uniting and Islander Christian Congress congregation.



Dave Parker is the newly appointed National Director of Frontier Services. He has stated that it is his desire to "ensure that we can keep showing up for generations to come and keep partnering with people across Australia to reach rural and remote communities." There is a great way for local church members to get directly involved. They are known as "Outback Links Volunteers" who spend time in places where Frontier Services serves. One such instance is where volunteers at Buchan (in Victoria where a preordained John Flynn first ministered) built a community garden where locals now grow produce and hold events.

While Frontier Services still provides a "mantle of safety" it now also plays a vital role in advocating for change where remote and regional communities struggle to have access to the services which most Australian take for granted. May we as a local congregation continue to support this unique agency.

**Jonathan Barker**



**Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town**  
**27 Grenfell St. Kent Town**



## 161<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



A special service to commemorate 161 years of worship and service to this community was held on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026** with **Rev Dr Jonathan Barker** as the worship leader. The service was well attended and greatly enjoyed by all present.

During the service, Jonathan interviewed **Dr Mark Symons**, our longest standing church member, who came to Wesley in 1957 as organist. It was very interesting to hear Mark's recollections of events over many years. The music presented by the augmented choir under the direction of current organist, Graham Bell, enhanced the worship and was greatly appreciated by the congregation.



## RESTORATION OF CHURCH BUILDING



### CONSERVATION & RESTORATION APPEAL

We are appealing for donations to enable significant restorative work to be carried out on the southern transept wall and window. 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.

A number of people have asked if they can make a donation towards the window/wall restoration without making it through the National Trust. The answer is of course, "Yes." Please just put your donation in a suitably labelled envelope and give it to the Treasurer, Jenny Church, or place it in the offering bag. It will not be tax deductible if you choose to do it this way.

## 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, with opportunities for meditation and guided spiritual insights.

## 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.

## 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".



## ADELAIDE HARMONY CHOIR CONCERT

The Adelaide Harmony Choir, which practises on our premises, will be holding a concert in the church on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 2.00pm**. They will be presenting Handel's Dixit Dominus and Fauré's Requiem.



Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, will be attending so if you plan to attend, please ensure you are seated by 1.50pm. Tickets are \$35 and \$30 concession. You may book online or tickets will still be available at the door.

## ANOTHER MUSICAL PRODUCTION

The next production by The Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company of SA is ***West Side Story***, running from October 15 to October 24, 2026 at the Arts Theatre, Angas Street, Adelaide. The MET also practices on our premises and has kindly offered two free tickets to 'West Side Story'. If anyone would like two complimentary tickets, please let Jenny Stewart know.

## NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

For the last 11 months we have been privileged to have **Kim Baker** worshipping with us on a regular basis. Kim and her husband John, have been in Adelaide on a 12 month visa which will expire soon, so they will be returning to their home in Maryland, USA soon. The principle reason for their visit was to spend time with their daughter, Grace, son-in-law, James and first grandchild, Audrey Ann, who was born on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2025. Little Audrey has brought great joy into their lives and it will be hard for them to leave her and her parents. Kym has been a blessing to our congregation and we will miss her greatly. Thank you Kym for sharing this time with us. We bid you a fond farewell and look forward to your next visit.

**Ailin Pan** and **Yung Ho Pok** are returning to Japan in the first week of September but are returning again in November. We will miss you but look forward to seeing you again soon. **Peter Skellon** has unfortunately contracted COVID. We send him our love and prayers for a quick recovery.

## CONTACTS

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