

December 2015



Cherry Church

An Active Witness to Jesus Christ in Cherry Gardens

Newsletter

Welcome to the December edition of our new Monthly Newsletter. It is our prayer that this publication will provide news of the Cherry Church along with information about the many activities and events in the life of the small but vibrant congregation of the Cherry Gardens Uniting Church. This Church has been a place of constant Christian worship and witness since the first service took place back in March 1849. As current members of the congregation we are committed to maintaining a place of worship and an outreach within the local Cherry Gardens community.

From the Pastor:

You may sometimes wonder why there is an emphasis placed on the advent wreath and candles in Church services at Christmas time.

Candles give light, and they remind us that Christ came to be the "Light of the World". The advent wreath originated in the time of Martin Luther, and is a circle of evergreen, symbolising the eternity of God.

There are four candles within the wreath, with a white candle, the "Christ Candle" in the centre. The four outer candles are traditionally violet or blue, with one rose or pink candle; some churches use red candles. One candle is lit on each of the four Sundays in Advent, with the Christ candle being lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The four candles represent hope, love, joy (the rose candle) and peace.

As we reflect on these four virtues, may we know the light and love of the Christ Child this Christmas season.

Christmas blessings to you and your families.

Margaret



Please pray for: peace for Bill Bennett who is in respite at Mitcham aged care, and we pray also for continued strength for Bill's wife, Margaret as she heals from recent surgery. We pray for Alex McFarlane as he struggles with complex health and sight problems. We give thanks for the good news that Joan Button is settling in well in Maitland. We pray that these people, their families and any others that are known to us, have an acute sense of God's ever-present love in their lives.

As we approach the bushfire season we give thanks to God for those who respond to bushfire and other emergencies. We pray for their safety. We give thanks for those who offer pastoral care and other forms of assistance to those who are in desperate need of support.

We pray for young people as they come to the end of another - and for some their last - school year. We pray that school leavers will know the guiding hand of the Lord in their lives.

We pray for safety on our roads, beaches, cities and towns in the forth-coming holidays.

Most of all we pray for the good news of Jesus Christ to be known in hearts throughout the world.

CHERRY GARDENS UNITING CHURCH - 87 HICKS HILL RD. CHERRY GARDENS

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Visit us at : www.cherrygardens.unitingchurchsa.org.au



The New Meeting Room

A Project Committee Update by Alan Dubé

WOW - What a difference the new floor covering makes!!

During the last week of November the carpet tiles went down in the new Meeting Room and adjacent passage/gallery. And wow, what a difference it makes! Although there are still a few finishing touches to be made this is another major milestone in the upgrade of our facilities. Thanks to **Choices Flooring, Blackwood** and all involved. Indeed a group of Yoga practitioners have already used the newly carpeted room and were very impressed by the facilities, outlook and quietness.

An Update on the search for a cleaner.

As requested by the Congregation, the Committee continues to look for a suitable cleaner to undertake a regular thorough clean of our buildings. Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to find a suitable person/s. I am most grateful to one of our own members, **Sandy Archer**, who has generously offered to fill this need - at no cost - in the interim. Thanks Sandy.

Hot Water, Electric Stove & Air Conditioning.

The committee is aware that the current electrical cable coming from the street is insufficient for the needs of our property, as we cannot use all of our equipment at the same time. Early estimates indicate this will be quite expensive to replace. We are also aware that we currently have no current hot water facilities other than boiling an urn. An option we are now investigating is to replace the (donated) electric stove with a gas stove using bottled gas which will also enable us to install a hot water system with both to be supplied by the bottled gas. The electric heaters inside the church also use considerable electricity and we are considering submitting a grant to install RC air-conditioning for the church. These expensive items are not currently within our finances. Please pray for direction on these issues.

Alan Dubé (our Congregational Council, Chairperson) writes an article each month for the local community newspaper, Cherry Chatter. His latest article (in the December issue) continues his theme "Our Church" and has a focus on the grounds of the Church property with specific attention to the graves, headstones, gardens. For full details of his article pick up a copy of the December edition of Cherry Chatter or go to the Cherry Chatter website at <http://www.cherrychatter.org.au/AAA%2012%20December%202015.pdf>

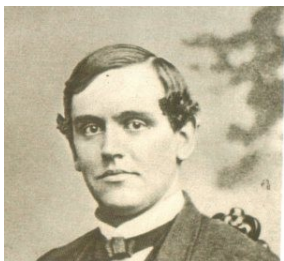
Some Jobs to be done around our Church Property.

We need to keep our buildings and grounds in a good, safe and pleasant condition. Are you up for a working Bee or can you do a job in your own time? My list of jobs to be done are listed below. You may have others.

- . Weeding in and around the Donnell grave.
- . Cut low branches off the Cotoneasters.
- . Cut growth of olive behind the old toilet and paint stumps with Glyphosate.
- . Stones on the paving below the deck to be placed under the deck.
- . Paving in that area to be repaired.
- . Clean out the barn.
- . Clean leaf litter from gutters.
- . Remove soil touching the base of the fence of the Jacob's grave.
- . Chairs to be put in the loft.
- . Unclutter the history room.
- . Finish the retaining wall and install the new gate.

by Alan Dubé

About That Carol



O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem
how still we see you lie
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
Yet, in your dark streets shining
the everlasting Light,
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight*

Rev. Phillips Brooks, a young Anglican priest, and rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, in Philadelphia USA, was a staunch admirer and vocal supporter of Abraham Lincoln and during the American Civil War he took a firm public stand against slavery. Apart from being a very well educated man with degrees and doctorates from many notable universities he was known as a “preacher of excellence” and a highly respected author. The young 30 year old minister was so overwhelmed by President Lincoln’s assassination in April 1865 he took solace in a trip later that year to the Holy Land. Brooks was so inspired by his pilgrimage to the Holy Land that early on Christmas Eve he rood the 5 mile (8km) journey on horse back from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to attend Christmas Eve services at the Church of the Nativity. Later that evening, while sitting on a hillside overlooking the village of Bethlehem (just as the Shepherds did centuries before him) he penned these now famous words. It was three years later when the words became a carol when Brooks handed it to his church organist, Lewis Redner, who added the music for it to be first sung by the church’s children’s choir for Christmas services.

There will always be discussion about which is the best or most loved Christmas Carol, but the origins and simplicity of these powerful words touch many a heart. God took this man, with all of his academic qualifications and reputation, to the other side of the world, and then on the back of a horse up the hillside above Bethlehem to write a wonderful word picture of Christmas.

As we sing this lovely carol this year (on its 150 birthday) are we also open to God’s calling?

Congratulations to Yvonne Stephens & Prim Dubé who were both finalists in the City of Onkapinga’s annual Every Generation Award. Although neither were announced the overall winner at the Award dinner on Monday 2nd November, both Yvonne & Prim were worthy nominations. Well done.

Are You Ready?? Your Help Is Required.

A colorful poster for a community event. At the top, the text "community Christmas Carols" is written in a large, stylized font. Below this, it says "Cherry Gardens Memorial Hall" and "7:30pm Friday Dec 18th 2015". A central illustration shows a Christmas tree on the left and a nativity scene on the right. Below the illustration, it says "Everybody Welcome". At the bottom, there is a small text box with details about the event, including the time (6:30pm), location (Old McDonald's Farm), and a note about inviting neighbors. The logo for "ONKAPINGA" is in the bottom right corner.

At 6:30pm the animals from Old McDonald's Farm will be waiting for the children.
Join your neighbours to sing carols and have supper together.
Children are invited to dress up as angels, shepherds, etc to join in as part of the nativity tableau during the evening.

A Cherry Gardens Uniting Church Community Event

CHERRY GARDENS UNITING CHURCH
HOCKEY HILL RD, CHERRY GARDENS

ONKAPINGA

The Cherry Gardens Uniting Church organises the Cherry Gardens Community Carols night each year. However, the success of the event doesn't just happen because of the few people who organise it. It happens because all of us help make it happen. At 7pm on Thursday 17th we need people to help set up the hall. Chairs to put out, decorations to be put up, tables and the urn to be set up. The amplification system and the Clavinova need to be set up. On the night we need people to prepare supper & serve it. AND importantly at the end of the evening we need help to pack up including cleaning the floor, putting chairs away, packing up equipment and the Clavinova.

Pray for a good night of fun and fellowship.

Are these dates in your diary?

Sunday 6th December

We welcome **Randal White** back to lead us in worship as we share Holy Communion.

Sunday 13th December

Local lay-preacher **Malcolm Uren** leads us in worship this morning. We look forward to his time with us.

Friday 18th December

The annual Cherry Gardens Community Carols night at the Cherry Gardens hall. See and hear highly acclaimed local group, "**The Sherrahs**" perform for us; the kids can get dressed up, and they can meet the animals from "Old McDonald's Farm"; and we all get to sing carols before a country supper. Don't forget to invite family and friends to join with you for another great night. Kids animals at 6:30pm; carols at 7:30pm.

Friday 18th & Saturday 19th December

Seeds Uniting present **Road To Christmas**. See, hear and taste Bethlehem 2,000 years ago in their church car park. It's a great family fun time and it's free. 6.30pm - 9pm.

Sunday 20th December

John Symons shares his message with us. Having worked as a missionary in Kenya and Chad, John is on home assignment and we look forward to him worshipping with us.

Christmas Day Friday 25th December at 9:30am

Our own **Max Winter** leads us as we celebrate together as a church family. We rejoice in the birth of Jesus, born in a stable yet destined to be King of kings and Saviour of all.

Sunday 27th December

We worship together as our own **Annetta Deboo** talks of "The birth of Jesus - the mystery of God" with a focus on Matthew 1: vs 21 "You will give him the name 'Jesus'."



A distraught mother of an 8yr old boy who didn't talk had been taking him to specialist after specialist. "The boy is healthy and intelligent. I can't understand what is wrong with him," said the medics. Finally, one of the specialists said, "Take the lad to church." "Well," said the mom. "We hardly ever go to church, but I'm ready to try anything." So off they went to church. Nice and early. When the pianist began to play before the service, the boy turned to his mum and said, "Mum, I have lots of things to say to you!" The mother was stunned. She phoned the doctor. "How did you know that going to church would help?" "Easy," said the doctor. "Everyone talks during the music before church!"

Contact Details

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