

# Parkdale Church of Christ

## News & Views



### *Oases in the desert*

Here's something for you to think about while I am away: What role do you think churches should play in Western countries?

In the past, churches have been underground secret societies, seen as subversive by the government of the day (and they still are in some countries); they have been meeting places of the rich and powerful, who claimed divine right for their own positions; they have been sanctuaries, places of safety, for people on the run; they have been the local social hub; they have been places you have to go to by law; they have been places it is against the law to go to; they have been places that foster change, and they have been places that keep things as they are; and I'm sure there are more.

But today, as social church attendance has declined, churches are left fighting for attention against sport, shopping centres, trips out, and domestic duties. Most people go into a church at some point in their lives, but mostly only for weddings and funerals – the two events that still raise awareness of eternity and the sacred, briefly.

Now, I'm quite clear that the church is actually the people of faith, not a building; and it is when we act together in various ways that we are visible to others as 'the church'. Maybe we should act as a moral conscience for wider society, asking difficult questions of those who seek to get away with corruption and other forms of social evil. I suspect this is just part of a deeper calling, which is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all who will hear us, and to make clear the way to follow Jesus as a way of life. But how do we do this today? It is no longer sufficient to say, "come and be like us," because nobody wants to do that any more.

I suspect the answer is wrapped up in making God's Kingdom real, including evidence that the Holy Spirit is alive and abroad in the world. Could it be that the churches' role today is to be like spiritual oases in the desert, where streams of living water still run? I wonder. See you in two weeks! - Steve

1

8

J

U

L

y

2

0

1

0

**TODAY:** Steve is speaking again this morning and then heading off to Vienna for Andy & Andi's wedding. He will be back in two weeks.

There will be no evening gathering until August 8<sup>th</sup>, and also no News & Views (at least in its usual form) until then.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Peter is due to preach next week, so long as his eye allows it.

#### **DURING THE WEEK:**

Monday: **Play Group** with Leonie.

Wednesday: **Friendship Centre** meets as usual in the Arthur Scott Hall from 10:30am to 3:00pm with lunch at 12:15pm. (Arthur's Table is on holiday until August 4th.)

Thursday: **Coffee and Chat** as normal from 10:00am to 12noon.

Friday: **Play Group** with Wendy.

**TEMPLE DAY:** We traditionally take this offering on the last Sunday in August, in this case, 28th August. Taking the Old Testament concept of bringing gifts for the Temple we dedicate this offering to renovations and improvements to our buildings. This year we have the Arthur Scott Hall in our sights for rejuvenation.

**NEWS FROM CONFERENCE: Dreaming Day:2**—Saturday October 2, 2010.

*This is repeated from last week because we hope someone will volunteer to attend to represent us!*

Churches will shortly be invited to appoint delegates to attend and participate in Dreaming Day:2 to take the Covenant/Belonging Together conversation to the next stage. The three key questions that will form the framework for the day are:

1. What is a Church of Christ? (What is our Common Mission? What are our Shared Practices? What is our Unifying Dream?)
2. What does it mean to belong to Churches of Christ? (What are the privileges and responsibilities?)

3. What might the percentage for a Ministry Contribution look like?  
(It is planned to have a specific percentage figure to work with.)

These themes will be engaged through plenary sessions, focus groups and feedback. A preparatory study guide will be available for churches in advance.

*If you would like to be part of this thinking process, please speak to Steve or Gwenda. The process is important for the future of our movement.*

*[ Cartoon omitted from Internet version for copyright reasons ]*

*[ Article omitted from Internet version for copyright reasons ]*

---

### **Readings for the next two weeks**

Since News & Views will not be produced in the normal way over the next two weeks, here are the readings for those who follow the plan usually shown on the last page.

This week's readings are on the back as usual.

<u>Week beginning:</u>	<u>25<sup>th</sup> July:</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> August:</u>
Monday	Matthew 5:13-16	Matthew 6:5-18
Tuesday	Matthew 5:17-20	Matthew 6:19-24
Wednesday	Matthew 5:21-26	Matthew 6:25-34
Thursday	Matthew 5:27-37	Psalm 75
Friday	Matthew 5:38-48	Psalm 76
Saturday	Matthew 6:1-4	Psalm 77



Please pray for...

- Pray for the Hargreaves and Scott families as they remember May, who went to the Lord a year ago.
- Continue to pray for our Temple Day offering. It will cost a large sum to make the hall more bright and clean looking. Whatever we do with the floor will cost a lot.
- Also continue to pray for our October programmes – concert, hymns and antique valuations. It is important that more people come into our buildings and realise what we have to offer, and the October activities are part of this; but also, it is important that they are enjoyable!
- Pray for a complete and rapid recovery of sight for Peter's eye, after the retina became detached.
- Pray for Paul, who has an infected toe, and Ursula, who has had a fall and injured her wrist. Also pray for Debby, who continues to devote time to Paul and Ursula, as well as trying to find time for herself.
- Continue to pray for all our travellers, that they may enjoy their holidays and return to us safely and refreshed.
- Pray for the work of Nathan Nhan, who is the member of the Mission and Ministry team at Conference responsible for co-ordinating our churches working with people of Asian origin. There have been two new congregations planted in the last year in Melbourne, and Nathan is also involved in work with Global Mission Partners in Vietnam.
- Pray for Afghanistan, where villagers suffer between the ambitions of the Taliban and the Western attempt to defeat them. Pray also for our soldiers who are in harm's way there, and for the government of Pakistan, who seem to hold the key to success or failure there.

Lord, hear our prayers!

Amen

All too often we bemoan our imperfections rather than embrace them as part of the process in which we are brought to God. Cherished emptiness gives God space in which to work. We are pure capacity for God. Let us not, then, take our littleness lightly. It is a wonderful grace. It is a gift to receive. At the same time, let us not get trapped in the confines of our littleness, but keep pushing on to claim our greatness. Remind yourself often, "I am pure capacity for God; I can be *more*."

- Macrina Wiederkehr  
*from A Tree Full of Angels*

[ *Cartoon omitted from Internet version for copyright reasons* ]

## **Order of Service – 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2010**

Welcome – Steve Jackson

Worship in song

Announcements – Lyle Yates

Reading 1: Amos 8:1-12 – Barbara Pitts

Worship in Song

Lord's Table – Peter Pitts

Church Prayers – Lyle Yates

Worship in Song

Reading 2: Luke 10:38-42 – Lois Woodward

Sermon – Steve Jackson

Final song

Benediction

Door: Maureen Scott

Creche:

Maureen Scott

Sunday School:

tba

## **Serving next week (25<sup>th</sup> July, 10:15am)**

Organ/keyboard – n/a

Piano – David East

Worship Leader – Jessica Oakes

Announcements – Gwenda Mathieson

Lord's Table – Kathryn Perry

Reading 1: Hosea 1:2-10 – Ron Stroud

Reading 2: Luke 11:1-13 – Judy Stroud

Helpers – Andrew Hargreaves, Hedley Hartrick

Church Prayers – Peter Pitts

Sermon – Peter Pitts

Children's talk – n/a

Flowers – Kathryn Perry

Door – Coralie Scott

Hall Cleaners – A.&R. Cunnington

Foyer Cleaner – n/a

Crèche – Coralie Scott

Sunday School – tba

Evening music – n/a

**Service times: Sunday mornings 10:15am; 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evening of month 7pm**



**We love our faith, we live our faith**

**Minister: Steve Jackson**

**Church Office phone: 9580-1445**

**E-mail: [minister@parkdalecofc.org.au](mailto:minister@parkdalecofc.org.au)**

**Web: [www.parkdalecofc.org.au](http://www.parkdalecofc.org.au)**

### **Readings during the week**

Sunday: Jeremiah 4:19-31

Monday: Jeremiah 5:1-13

Tuesday: Jeremiah 5:14-31

Wednesday: Jeremiah 6:1-15

Thursday: Jeremiah 7:1-15

Friday: Jeremiah 7:16-27

Saturday: Matthew 5:1-12

*Readings for the next two weeks are on the middle pages.*

**Elders:**

**Gwenda Mathieson**

**Phone: 9580-4732**

**Alan Payne**

**Phone: 8707-1713**

**Lyle Yates**

**Phone: 9589-2436**

**Peter Pitts**

**Phone: 9561-6138**