

Uniting



Presbytery of

Tasmania

<https://www.victas.uca.org.au/tasmania>

Issue No. 151

May 2017

Service of Release Rev Carol Bennett



**Chairperson Mr David Reeve, Rev Carol Bennett,
Moderator Rev Sharon Hollis and General Secretary Rev Mark Lawrence**

Saturday 22 April at Launceston Pilgrim Uniting Church marked a Service of Release for Rev Carol Bennett, Synod Liaison Minister Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, based in the UCA Tasmanian Office. Many colleagues, family and friends from around the state gathered to honour, express appreciation for Carol's time in ordained ministry in Tasmania and Qld. Carol and Colin Gurteen (who also retired during this weekend) will make their home in Launceston after some time travelling interstate.



Renew: with Bill Loader

This is a professional development opportunity for ministry workers by invitation. being held from 1st to 3rd May at Bothwell and will also be receiving input from Bill Loader.

Safe Church Training

I am excited to tell you about the excellent safe church training events offered around the state 2017. It is vitally important that everyone in a leadership role (and ultimately all congregation members) attend safe church training once every three years. This will allow us to create healthy communities of faith where we are a safe place for all to grow. Please don't let this opportunity pass by without attending.

Launceston North Uniting is hosting a series of safe church workshops run by **Rev Jeff Savage**:

- a) **27th May (Saturday) from 10:00am to 3:00pm** - Tea and coffee provided, please bring your own lunch.
- b) **4th June (Sunday) 12:00 noon to 4:00pm** - Afternoon tea provided.
- c) **23rd May (Tuesday) AND 30th May (Tuesday) from 7:00pm to 9:00pm** - Tea and coffee provided.

Please register <https://goo.gl/forms/r0VXQzleQaoVVeUY2> or 6326 5928

Devonport Uniting Church is hosting code of ethics and safe church training: **22nd August (Tuesday)**

Clarence Uniting Church is hosting code of ethics and safe church training: **26 August (Saturday)** More information to come later.

Anthea Maynard

Presbytery Gathering 2017



Saturday 3 June
9.30am - 3.00pm
Launceston North

Election of Synod Members
UCA 40th birthday

Sheffield Uniting Church has the advantage of being in a prominent position on the main street, and has large and attractive grounds next to the church, ideal for functions. Very exciting things happened there over Easter this year, and it wasn't just because of the annual Mural fest competitions. For quite some time the Sheffield UC has played a very active part in the Combined Churches of Kentish group. Each Easter the churches have been meeting under the crosses for a combined service. Last year the combined churches decided to further their outreach and meet in a large tent in the UCA grounds on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, which was very successful. On Easter Monday, we held The 2016 Kentish Choral Festival - a choral workshop and free concert led by acclaimed choral director and retired pastor, Morris Stuart. Morris also preached on Good Friday.

The whole weekend was so successful, the combined churches decided to take a leap in faith and build on what we had done in 2016. The first thing was to order a bigger and better tent! Last year we had the Gin Gang providing music and entertainment on Saturday evening. They were a hard act to follow! Nonetheless, with a lot of planning, practice and prayer, we decided that we had the resources to provide the musicians, singers and music to raise the roof. For six weeks we met each Sunday to practice and each Monday to pray. As there was nothing for planned especially for children, it was decided to hold a family Fun Day on Saturday from 10 am till 3 pm.

The whole weekend was an outstanding success. Everything seemed to fall in to place. The weather was perfect. The congregations were inspired by young Matthew Fisher who preached on Good Friday and also by Morris Stuart, on Easter Sunday. The Combined Churches all worked together to set up and organise the services, provide refreshments and even overnight security. We had a wonderful turn up to the Saturday Fun Day, where representatives from each of the churches came along to help. And we had about 30 children and their families, children from Chinese, Indian and Anglo-Saxon origins, all playing together harmoniously obviously having lots of fun taking turns playing table tennis, Giant Snakes and Ladders and lots of other activities.

By Monday night we were all exhausted, but oh, what a weekend we'd had!

Leoni Read phone 0462 705 062, or email leoni.read@westnet.com.au

Read more about Sheffield happenings on page 6



Leadership Formation

We have 10 years. As a Uniting Church we have 10 years. Unless . . .

The most recent Nation Church Life Survey held throughout the country in which over 500 Uniting Churches participated, indicates that we have 10 years. We are generally over 70 years of age, well educated, and female. We value the more traditional expression of church, and hold pastoral care, the sacraments, and preaching in high esteem. Of themselves these values are nothing to be ashamed of, and without them we would not necessarily be church. But

Is this all of who we are?

We have 10 years.

We have 10 years to begin sharing again in our families the deep value of God in our lives. Ask yourself this question - Does God matter? If you answered yes, then ask yourself this question - how does God matter to you? What is it about who God is that makes a difference in your life? Could God matter to someone else too? Have you talked with your children about these questions - even your adult children who have grown up, left home, moved to other parts of the world? Have you talked with grandchildren?

We have 10 years.

What kind of church, of faithful people of God are we, or can we be? What are the excuses we put before us? I have heard stories at a national gathering of Presbytery Ministers where age, where numbers, where health, is not a barrier for missional engagement with a local community. If you have breath, you have a missional call to engage the world around you with a God who matters.

We have 10 years.

We belong to a dynamic, diverse, embracing, leading, unique, vulnerable church. Read through the Basis of Union, the Statement to the Nation in 1977. Read through some of the decisions that have been made that have given shape to us. Read through our commitment to First People's of this land, and to those who bring many cultures since 1788. The Assembly website has a lot there. I'm quite proud of who we are. We have been a

Continued on page 5....

Leadership Formation....continued from page 4

voice when there was no voice, we challenge the systems of injustice, and call to account areas of our country, and through our partner churches, the world, where account needs to be given. We are open to being corrected, the Royal Commission into institutional Responses of Sexual Abuse is a living example. God continually shapes us.

We have 10 years. . . . Unless we can really be who God has called us to be.

If you would like to have intentional conversations with a Presbytery Minister or other Ministers in the Presbytery about what it might mean for you or your congregation to step into being more missional, learning and growing in your faith, you are more than welcome to get in contact. Details are below.

Strategic Directions for 2016-2018

Uniting Church of Australia Presbytery of Tasmania

- *Healthy Communities of Faith: A Safe Place for All to Grow*
- *Forming Leaders for a Missional Church*
- *Healthy Communities of faith: a safe place for all to grow*
- *Forming leaders for a missional church*

If you would like Denise to visit your congregation, to listen and share around leadership formation, contact us via the Presbytery Office 6331 9784 or Denise 0427 647 395 or denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au

Continued from page 9

Ken went from Toowoomba to be a Padre in Borneo and then a minister in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland, where he encouraged Neville Bonner to represent the Indigenous community in federal parliament. Mr. Bonner became the first Aboriginal person to win a seat, serving as a Queensland senator for many years. Early in 1966 the Blackwells moved to the Memorial Congregational Church, in Hobart, followed by the Devonport and Penguin Uniting Churches.'

His ministry in Tasmania was much appreciated by many and on the occasion of his retirement the Synod 'gave thanks to God for his wholehearted and dedicated ministry.' He has been most faithful in whatever he has done and any jobs he has undertaken he has carried through to the best of his abilities which are considerable' Read more [here](#).

Crossroads Tasmania



In her report to Crossroads News, the official journal of Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW Inc. Tasmanian State Co-ordinator, Barbara Wood wrote of the positive and sometimes difficult challenges being explored by Crossroads Tasmania yet reaffirming the value of the group's pastoral and social activities "...we still enjoy coming together, despite the changes and challenges that we have all faced in the last 12 months. My thanks to each of you for the part you have played in being a Crossroader."

The 2017 Kentish Choral Festival

The 2016 Kentish Choral Festival was enjoyed by so many people it has become an annual event. Around 150 singers from Launceston to Wynyard took part in this year's festival hosted by Sheffield's very own community choir – The Kentish Singers - a group started in 2012, thanks to a Uniting Church Community outreach grant.

Morris Stuart, and his wife Barbara's home is in Melbourne. Morris has had a long association with choral music, and has led the 70 voice acapella Asante Sana community choir since 2007. He started the 'Out of the Ashes Choir' after the 2009 Victorian bushfires. He also leads the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, which toured Germany in 2015, and sang at the 2016 Hobart's Festival of Voices. A retired pastor, Morris delivered the Easter Sunday address at the Combined Churches *Easter Event in the Tent* in the grounds of the Sheffield Uniting Church.

The choral workshop started at 1.30 pm in the Sheffield Uniting Church, with an acapella session, of mostly African songs, interspersed with each of choirs taking turns to perform a short song. One of the highlights of the workshop was to learn '*Bring Me Home*,' by Tasmanian songwriter and choral director, Rachel Howe, which was written in collaboration with Central Australian women.

The highlight of the day was the free concert in the Sheffield Town Hall, starting at 6.30 pm and concluding by about 8.30 pm and open to the public. Lots of people came and enjoyed listening to each choir and the mass performance. It was a fantastic experience for everyone! *Leonie Read*

The Family Futures Program provides parenting support to vulnerable parents/carers within the community who have children aged between 0-5. The Family Futures worker visits the family within the home, once a week for up to 12 months period. During this time the family can also access additional support through the Children's Play and Therapeutic Support Worker, who works alongside the family futures program. Through parents participation in the program we aim to increase their knowledge around their children's development and behaviour. We focus on strengthening family relationships and minimising risk factors for children.

Jenny is a single mother with four children. Child Safety Services became aware of Jenny and the children due to family violence within the home perpetrated by the children's father. After Child Safety Intervention, Jenny decided to leave this relationship and after some time in shelters and staying with family, Jenny finally received a housing home. Due to the impacts of the family violence, Jenny began to experience anxiety and depression. Jenny became overwhelmed and spent more time in her room and the children were left unsupervised for long periods of time. The home environment was neglected and Jenny struggled to implement routines. The children were also experiencing flow on effects from the family violence, the eldest children who attended school had sporadic attendance and the school had noted that the children were performing at a low academic level. The younger children also had impacts on their development, especially in the area of language development.

The family again came to the attention of Child Safety Services due to concerns around neglect and they were referred through the Gateway to our service (Family Futures) for parenting support. Just as we began to engage with Jenny she had a falling out with her neighbours and became the victim of neighbourhood violence. Jenny no longer felt safe in her home and she fled with the children, leaving all of her possession behind. Jenny and the children were now homeless and the only person that would take them in was an ex-boyfriend. Jenny soon felt pressure to re engage in this relationship but was unhappy due to the control enforced on her by this partner. Jenny now found herself in another family violence relationship. We began to visit Jenny in her temporary home which was in a rural location and very isolating for Jenny and the children. We supported Jenny to make connections in her community

taking her out of the home and to playgroups. While we were out of the home we supported Jenny to call Shelters and connect with her housing connect worker, as the new partner was preventing her from doing this.

After 10 weeks on the waiting list Jenny and the children were granted a place within a shelter. Jenny was able to leave her current relationship and is still looking for a permanent home. Jenny will work with Family Futures for another 9 months. We have helped Jenny and the children reach a place of safety and once they have stability, we will be in a good place to shift focus towards healing from the family violence and strengthening relationships within the family.

The shortage of affordable housing is having huge affects on the clients we work with and is making it increasingly harder for women who want to leave family violence relationships, as there are long waits for places in shelters.

The aim of most of UnitingCare Tasmania's Family Support services is to deliver outcomes that create intergenerational change. But the families we work with often join our programs with long lists of trauma and circumstances that require immediate attention to address safety, critical mental health needs, material needs, housing and legal needs. If you would like to hear more about our programs, please don't hesitate to contact us, at admin.northtas@tas.unitingcare.org.au Alternately, we would be very grateful for the prayers and financial support of church members around the state as we continue to work alongside some of Tasmania's most vulnerable families.

Thankyou



On behalf of the Midlands Glamorgan Patrol I would like to thank Presbytery and the many congregations within for the support, prayers and acknowledgement of Bo's ministry and friendship within and beyond the life of the church. The numbers from the wider Presbytery who attended his service of celebration was wonderful and was greatly appreciated by his immediate family and church family alike. Bo will be missed but his end of life will be celebrated as his new life in Christ begins thanks be to God.

Dennis Cousens

Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember in your prayers:

- For those who hold Ken Blackwell and Norma Spaulding in their hearts
- For retiring, renewing and refreshing

The Reverend Norma Spaulding

Who could do justice to the life of Norma in a short minute of appreciation? As quoted from a poem by Tennyson at her Thanksgiving Service, "I am a part of all that I have met". Norma was enriched in all her relationships, and gave of herself to us, memories we will treasure.

Norma was born in Hobart, and spent most of her childhood around Hobart, attending Sunday Schools of various denominations, singing in the Wesley Choir, and forming the Wesley Rays Group. At the University of Tasmania she was a member of the Student Christian Movement. Her Methodist love of singing stayed with her all her life, and was well celebrated with the singing of several hymns by Wesley on the 19th April. It was the Rev Max Stansall who encouraged her to seek ordination, and she was ordained into the Uniting Church at Wesley in 1986. Norma's inspiring, loving presence is already missed, but her spirit and the memory of her life will remain with us always. Thank you Norma for being part of all our lives. Read more [here](#)

The Reverend Ken Blackwell

On Sunday 12 March 2017 Ken was at Scots Memorial UC for the presentation of a 75 years ordination certificate. It was a wonderful occasion when Carol Bennett and David Reeve were present to offer words of appreciation for Ken's ministry. Less than a month later on 10 April Ken died peacefully aged 101.

'Ken trained for the ministry in Melbourne and was ordained at the Toowoomba Congregational Church in January 1942. *continued p5*



■ Wesley LifeForce will be conducting a **Suicide Prevention Workshop** at RACV RACT Hobart Apartment Hotel – 154-156 Collins St, Hobart TAS 7000 on Tuesday 6 June 2017 from 9am – 4pm. Register using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wesley-lifeforce-suicide-prevention-full-day-workshop-hobart-tas-tickets-33644239827> The training is open to community members aged over 18 years.

■ A recent fire at the **Bridgewater Gagebrook Op Shop** caused some smoke and a small amount of structural damage. When the shop reopens there will be a need for soft toys, clothing and linen to replace damaged stock. When the shop is ready to receive goods we will notify readers so that delivery can be timely.

■ **Presbytery of Tasmania Grants Booklet** – copies of this booklet were distributed at the Presbytery Gathering in February. The Presbytery of Tasmania administers a number of Grants. Copies at the UCA Tasmanian Office.

■ **Intensive Supervised Pastoral Education Unit** – Jun/August. Applications close 31st May. The venue is in Melbourne and more information is available from the UCA Tasmanian Office.

■ **Centre for Theology and Ministry Scholarships** Information about these can be found at <http://ctm.uca.edu.au/resources/funding-scholarships/> for both lay and ordained people.

■ **Hydro Tasmania's 2017 Community Grant Program** Six \$5000 grants for not-for-profit organisations to help fund projects that add value to communities in Tasmania showcasing grassroots organisations and volunteers working hard in their community to achieve great outcomes. Information from kate.hickey@hydro.com.au

■ **Small Rural Grants** 2017 Application forms for Small Grants for Rural Communities has been finalised and will be sent out to those congregations that have less than 2000 people shortly. Please check with the UCA Tasmanian Office should you wish more details.

■ **Transforming Worship:** A UCA National Worship Conference will be held from 27 – 30 July in Adelaide. More details @ Transformingworship.com



Forty years. Forty days. Forty hours.

**The Uniting Church in Australia
celebrates its 40th Anniversary
on 22 June 2017**

The Working Group on Worship has gathered resources that can be used from Easter to Pentecost and beyond in the gathered worship of congregations, presbyteries and synods.

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/cudw/worship-resources-and-publications/item/2501-worship-resources-for-40th-anniversary-of-uniting-church-in-australia>

Our leaders are marking the occasion with 40 days of prayer up until our historic inauguration date, from Sunday 14 May to Thursday 22 June. During this time, we will pray together for renewal for ourselves, our communities, our world and our Church. We will participate in A Destiny Together: A Week of Prayer and Fasting during National Reconciliation Week from 27 May to 3 June 2017.

The first 40 hours of prayer will begin in Melbourne, from 3pm Sunday 14 May to 8am Tuesday 16 May, with UCA President, President-elect, Chairperson of the Uniting Aboriginal Islander and Christian Congress, Moderators and General Secretaries coming together to pray for the continuing life and renewal of the Uniting Church.

How can you participate:

- Pray throughout the 40 days
- Set aside time in your congregation to pray – each Sunday, for a day, for a time each day
- Join with other congregations to pray together
- Use the resources for A Destiny Together: A Week of Prayer and Fasting during National Reconciliation Week, as we stand together with First Peoples to deepen the covenant relationship we are committed to

People in Tasmania are also working on some locally grown ideas to celebrate this event.

Please pray with us, wherever you are

what's on

April

Sat 29 10.00am REFRESH Lay Leadership Conference Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston -

May

Mon 1 10.30am Resource & Development Committee, L'ton
Mon 1 to Wed 3 School of Ministry at Bothwell- RENEW
Tues 9 9.30am Pastoral Relations Committee, Launceston
Tues 23 7.00pm Safe Church Workshop, Launceston North UC
Sat 27 10.00am Safe Church Workshop, Launceston North UC
Mon 29 10.30am Resource & Development Committee, L'ton
Tues 30 7.00pm Safe Church Workshop, Launceston North UC

June

Sat 3 9.30am Presbytery Gathering, Launceston North UC
Sun 4 12.00pm Safe Church Workshop, Launceston North UC
Tues 6 9.30am Pastoral Relations Committee, Launceston
Thurs 15 10.00am Presbytery Standing Committee, Launceston
Mon 26 10.30am Resource & Development Committee, L'ton

Please check our Presbytery Calendar of events on the [Presbytery website](#)

Presbytery of Tasmania

Invitation for Nominations to attend the Synod meeting 8 – 13 September 2017

- Nomination forms for lay and ordained members, setting out the gifts and skills the individual will bring to the Synod meeting, have been sent to all congregations, church councils and presbytery members. All nominations need to be received at the UCA Tasmanian Office no later than **Monday 15th May 2017**.
- **What to Expect at Synod** booklets are available at the UCA Tasmanian Office for further information.

Published and distributed in the week before the last Sunday of each month.

Contributions received seven days prior to publication.

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