



UNITING CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA
**BREMER
BRISBANE
PRESBYTERY**

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*If you have something you would
like to share in the July
'BB Connex', please e-mail –
We would love to hear from you.
admin@bremerbrisbane.org.au*

Presbytery Dates 2016

**12th July – Property Meeting –
3pm**
**12th July - Standing Committee
4pm**
12th July–PRC 7pm
**14th July – SMC, Toowong
7pm**
**27th July – Ministers Lunch –
Ipswich City 11am**

**The secret of a good
sermon** is to have a good
beginning and a good ending;
and to have the two as close
together as possible.

- *George Burns*

**Bremer Brisbane Presbytery
office hours**

Monday 9.30am – 2.30pm

Tuesday 9.30am – 2.30pm

Thursday – 9.30am – 11.30am

Friday 9.30am – 2.30pm

BB CONNEX

June 2016

No. 9

Brian's Buzz

I remember the first time I read Steven Covey's – 'The 7 Habits of Highly effective People'. It was the 7th habit that I found the most challenging, but also the most obvious. 'Sharpening the Saw.' How do we keep ourselves, sharp, enlivened and refreshed ? This is true for us as individuals and also true corporately, how do we refresh ourselves as congregations and as a Presbytery ? Individually, regular spiritual practices, training and conferences, holidays and building in time for family are all important ways of keeping me 'sharp'. As congregations it is important to share the load, and not to have people 'stuck' in roles for too long. What is the training, or visioning or goal setting that our elders and church councilors need to keep them uplifted for their role ? As we hit the halfway mark in the year it is worth thinking about how you are sharpening your saw and keeping yourself refreshed and enthused for your role.

Thank you for what you do and may God continue to bless you

Brian

Combined Presbytery Retreat 31 October to 2 November

The Bremer Brisbane Moreton Rivers retreat this year will be from lunchtime Monday 31 October till lunchtime Wednesday 2 November. The retreat will be led Patrick Oliver with Guest Presenter: Leigh Trevaskis with a theme of "The Care of Souls" helping people to be more mindful in prayer. **Please note that numbers for this are limited to 50 people so it will be first in best dressed. Forms have been e-mailed, if unsure, e-mail Melloney at admin@bremerbrisbane.org.au**

Upcoming Ordinations:

- ❖ Glen Schweitzer 2pm on Sunday 31 July at Chapel Hill UC
- ❖ Janet Staines 3pm on Sunday 14 August at Sherwood UC
- ❖ David Nix 2pm on Sunday 28 August at Centenary UC (to be confirmed)

Personal Profile: Ian Smallbone (Minister, Karana Downs)

My earliest childhood memory is of growing up in Warwick. We'd moved there in in about 1954 and the Methodist Church was big part of our lives, attending morning worship in the town and Sunday school at West End in the afternoon. We left Warwick in late 1957 in time for me to start school at Caboolture.

I think the **best things that have happened to me** centre around family; my birth family, my own family (Glenys and I have four adult children and thirteen grandchildren – 2 pictured right), our church family, and yes, there was a music group once.

Picture right: Reuben (aged 9) Ian (no age supplied!), Maisey (aged 8) and a horse with no name ! Photo taken in Kentucky, USA



Some of my **most formative years** were spent at the Sherwood Methodist Church. Dr Tim Solomon, Tim to all of us, was an amazing youth leader running the OK (Order of Knights) group along with Peter de Jersey and Lex Brasher during the time of my involvement. These three in their own way were very influential in my life. I was struggling with the science/faith thing and remember speaking to Peter de Jersey about it and his explanation was just what I needed to hear at the time; it helped that he was a Lilley Medallist so whatever he thought about anything was worth listening to. It was during our time at Sherwood that I learned how to play the guitar and also met the girl who would become my wife.

You might be **surprised to know** that I attended eight different primary schools in seven years, following my bank officer dad around SE Queensland as he rose through the ranks of the CBA, later to become Westpac.

For fun, I enjoy making music and watching/playing sport and the highly addictive Spider Solitaire; I've recently started playing tennis again and hope to get a few games of golf in before we leave our present home which is on the Karana Downs Golf Course. I also greatly enjoy interacting with our grandchildren; I recently taught one of them how to ride a bike and also suffered the indignity of being beaten at chess by an 11 year old.

My faith journey began at a very young age and when I was a young teenager, I was drawn to making a 'personal' commitment to Christ at some 'old fashioned' evangelistic crusades and camps. These events were very significant in setting me on a lifelong journey.

My ministry path and the spiritual markers along the way: Having been a lay person in the Crows Nest (Qld) congregation for several years, I was invited to serve as a lay pastor when no one else was hearing the call. The church's insistence that a lay pastor's term could not exceed 10 years forced me to consider what God was calling me to and I was subsequently accepted as a candidate entering Trinity College full time in 1999.

Recently I've become increasingly aware that life is short and there are opportunities that may not come around again. I'm learning the importance of 'seizing the day' and the joys and disappointments around that notion.

At Karana Downs we have Café Church once a month and this has been an area where my gifts and interests intersect in ministry; something of a sweet spot. It involves leading, mentoring, encouraging, recruiting and has been wonderfully supported by the congregation.

My hopes and dreams for the future are that I might finish well and there will be fruitful days ahead.

“The Life and Ministry of Dawn and Trevor Foote



Photo left shows the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Paul Tully and Councillor David Pahlke (Libraries, Youth and Seniors Councillor) being presented with “The Life and Ministry of Dawn and Trevor Foote” to be added to the Viva Cribb Local History Collection of the Ipswich Library on Thursday 16th June. This is the third book that Trevor has written and joins his other two books in the Library – “Kimberley Horizons” and “Footprints in Ipswich History”.

On the Streets with Outreach

It’s been a busy year of patrols and planning for the Street Outreach Service (SOS) teams across the country. Already this year our teams have completed hundreds of patrols reaching thousands of people on the streets. Every day the street team see the true impact that homelessness has on people’s lives. They also see that with the support of services like SOS, people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless can rebuild their lives. Over the next 12 months our aim is to expand in to new areas of need. We plan to have our first vans patrolling the streets of Ipswich this June and reaching out to the Gold Coast by Christmas. If you are interested in developing a greater understanding of how we deliver outreach services, why not come out as a guest on a patrol ? Contact our Volunteer Coordinator today on 07 3620 8800.



Queensland Week Awards Ceremony – 11th June 2016



Queensland Week is an annual celebration of the state’s culture, heritage, people and industry. Since 1981, Queensland’s birthday has been officially promoted by the Queensland Government and has expanded to include a series of events and celebrations.

Rev Russell Reynoldson (Minister, Forest Lake) was selected to receive a community service award at the inaugural Algester Queensland Week Awards Ceremony. Russell was recognised for his “tireless service to our community”.

Pictured left: *Leeanne Enoch* (state member for Algester), *Rev Russell Reynoldson* and *federal member Dr Jim Chalmers MP*



CONFERENCES

The UCA is running some great conferences this year and this is an encouragement to put them in your diary for CEM and training.

Re-imagining Faith Formation, August 23 to 28

Begins with a learning intensive with John Roberto. It explores the vision and practices for 21st century faith formation that can guide a congregation in developing faith formation for all generations, taking into account the diversity of people's life situations, needs and spiritual yearnings. From 23-25 August. This is followed immediately by a national conference on FORMATION & MISSION IN A DIGITAL WORLD: 26-28 AUGUST. Both events are held at the Centre for Ministry in North Parramatta, Sydney. These events are co-sponsored by the Uniting Church Assembly and the NSW-ACT Synod. You may attend these events separately or decide to attend both. For registration information visit www.reimaginefaith2016.com.

Uniting Leaders 2016 Conference 30 August to 2 September

The Uniting Leaders Conference 2016 is a 3-day conference featuring worship, special guests, opportunities for peer learning, networking and time to enjoy the Gold Coast winter. UL16 will be the first of a series of annual Uniting Leaders conferences that seek to grow and develop healthy growing leaders for a healthy growing church. Register now to join us 30 August to 2 September at New Life Christian Church. UL16 is a joint initiative of the Queensland and South Australian Synods and Newlife Uniting Church website For registration information visit www.unitingleaders.com.au.

Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry

“Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry” is a three day program designed to give participants an introduction to the key concepts and practices of ministering with congregations and agencies in times of transition. (Isn't that all of them nowadays?) While it is a stand-alone program, it is also the first phase of training that leads to being qualified as an Intentional Interim Minister. Thus, it is useful in itself for anyone in lay or ordained ministry, and also for those exploring whether they are called to Intentional Interim Ministry. From Wed 5 Oct to wed 7 Oct at the Synod Office in Auchenflower.

NCLS

Just a reminder about registering for the National Christian Life Survey (NCLS) which will be conducted in October. The information collected helps congregations and also helps the Presbytery and Synod with important information for future planning. I would like to encourage each congregation to register. Just to note that the Synod is paying the registration cost (\$250) for every congregation. So if your congregation has less than 30 people there is no cost. If your congregation is over 30 people then the cost is only \$1.50 per person. Either way the cost will be minimal for the congregation and will help your planning and the planning of the wider church. Further information is in the letter from the General Secretary sent to all congregations in early April or see Uniting News for how to order the surveys

Important Conference Opportunity – 10th August 2016

This event, *Winds of Change Bringing Revival and Transformation*, will help us move forward in a proactive way to live out some of the priorities set by the 32nd Synod last month. Living Faith Uniting Church is hosting Rev Dr Alistair Petrie from Canada who has considerable experience in helping churches see transformation occur in the local church and community. This is timely for the Uniting Church. All are welcome to attend and each church is encouraged to bring a team so that you can explore the process of leading prayer, transformation, and connecting with your community. **The Conference is being held at Living Faith Uniting Church, 330 Pine Mountain Road, Carina Heights, Brisbane on 10th August 2016. The event will commence at 9.30am and conclude with an Activation Dinner in the evening.** This is an important opportunity for all of us.

Rev Bob Miles, Minister

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