



UNITING CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA

BREMER

BRISBANE

PRESBYTERY

P O Box 70 Booval Fair 4304

admin@bremerbrisbane.org.au

BB CONNEX

May 2016

No. 8

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

Presbytery Dates 2016

29th May – BOOST - Goodna

4th June – Presbytery Meeting – Oxley

7th June – Property Meeting – 3pm

7th June - Standing Committee 4pm

7th June – PRC 7pm



**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

Brian's Buzz

Welcome to BB Connex, the monthly newsletter for Bremer Brisbane Presbytery.

I write this while sitting in the Queensland Synod meeting. What a privilege it is to be here. The opening worship was awesome and the daily bible studies, led by the multi-cultural task-group are doing a great job. To express to us how God is in their culture. For us a multi-cultural church.

Sunday saw the re-election of David Baker as Moderator (for another 3 years) and the election of Heather Den Houting as the new General Secretary (for 5 years). What a privilege it is to have both of these leaders as members of this Presbytery. Please uphold these church leaders in your prayers.

The Synod meeting has received reports from the various aspects of the life of the Uniting Church. A fine-tuning has been identified in our strategic direction building on the '**Together on the Way**' focus, but more about this next month. I leave the Synod meeting experiencing a sense of hope and enlivenment.

God bless you all

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.***

PERSONAL PROFILE – JANET STAINES

Only 4 weeks to go and I will have completed my studies and formation for Candidacy! As I near closer to this time I'm experiencing a sense of fulfilment and completion as this part of my ministry journey comes to end. Of course there is also a sense of anticipation about the future and wonderings about what will be different. Throughout the formation process I have had time to reflect on my ministry journey and the ways I have given myself to this call to ministry.



I think I would describe my sense of call as a 'brewing' rather than a sudden, striking realisation. I believe I am where I am today because I have at each stage of my discipleship journey, responded to follow Christ the best way I know how, which has then led to the next moment of decision. Along the way my spiritual life has grown and developed so that each new situation has been understood from a new and deeper perspective.

Exploring ordination in the Uniting Church has highlighted my desire for a greater quality of 'being' in ministry and during my formation experience I have explored a much richer understanding of personhood. I have sought experiences to equip me to fulfil a call that is both for my own sake and for the sake of others.

I have found the writings of Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Longing* and *The Sacred Fire*, to be extremely helpful in developing a deeper human and Christian maturity. He explains that almost everything in our culture invites us to avoid tension and to resolve it whenever possible and we find it difficult to stay inside of unresolved tension. Carrying tension for the sake of God, love, truth and principle is a gestation process that transforms our tensions and gives birth to what is most noble inside us – compassion, forgiveness and love. I have found his work really helpful in managing the tension that William Willimon refers to in *Pastor*: "It is somewhat frightening to construe our lives in such a theonomous cast, to have our lives lived in constant reference to the purposes of God. But it is also invigorating to receive the freedom and the dissonance of living the called life in a world where too many people are answerable to nothing more than their own ill-formed desires...We are owned, commandeered for God, yoked to a manner of service wherein is perfect freedom."

Carrying the tension between being 'yoked' and being 'free', being faithful and being autonomous, is one that I am learning to carry and allowing God to birth in me a new way of *being* in ministry.

- Janet Staines – Pastor (Sherwood)

The Indooroopilly Uniting Church Tuesday Night Seminar series continues with Professor Peter Harrison (UQ) talking on "The Territories of Science and Religion."

7th June Is Christianity a Religion?

7.30pm at 74 Station Rd, Indooroopilly

All welcome.

The Partnership between Forest Lake and Trinity Grove Wilston Uniting Church



The Partnership between Trinity Grove Wilston Uniting Church was launched on 15th May with a special service where Mr Ian Innes shared briefly the 103 years of history of Wilston and Mr Greg Braithwaite spoke about the origins of Forest Lake.

Within the service there were special prayers offered for each of the Churches by the other Church.

The chairmen of the respective councils signed the MOU.



Above: Greg Braithwaite & Ian Innes

Above, left to right: Rev George Barnes, Greg Braithwaite, Ian Innes & Rev Russell Reynoldson

Wilston Trinity has provided access to a sum of money from their MDF to be used by Forest Lake for their development. There is an agreement that these funds will be returned in the future at some stage. If you want to know what this partnership involves contact Rev Russell at Forest Lake UCA.

Lay preacher commissioning of Eric Woodrow and Greg Raeside 15th May 2016



Photo above: Rev Brian Hoole, Eric Woodward & Greg Raeside



Pentecost 2016 at Indooroopilly UCA



Children's time with Mrs Wendy Whitney and Rev Craig Batty, then the result of their learning time at the end of the service (song presentation).



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

Mike Endicott became blind in his mid-forties. He had discovered through sad experience that most people who are prayed for do not recover. Then, through the crisis of a friend's death, came the discovery that he had been focusing on healing instead of obeying Christ's command to proclaim the kingdom of God as the place where healing happens, and so let Christ the Healer be present. As a result of this he has been thrilled to begin to see most people being prayed for healed - some instantly, others step by step, and some gradually.

Mike is an Anglican minister and is now the Prior of the healing order called the Order of Jacob's Well (UK) developing a series of ecumenical healing groups throughout the United Kingdom. Each is led by a respected lay person made up of members derived from local denominational churches. Their task is to learn how to focus on Christ the Healer through a DVD series, study and practice together, and then provide opportunities for healing services in the congregations throughout the local area.



The healing order of
JACOB'S WELL
(Aust) presents

'Christ the Healer'
A DIFFERENT WAY TO PRAY!

Roderick C Glen 2018 - Graphic design

St. Peter's Cathedral King William Road North Adelaide	SA	JUNE 17-19	FRIDAY 7.30-9.30pm SATURDAY 9am-5pm SUNDAY 7pm	Christ the Healer in the Cross & The Kingdom Teaching the Cross & Kingdom Walking Pt.1&2 Free: Christ the Healer service of worship
St. Stephen's Uniting Church 197 MacQuarie St. Sydney	NSW	JULY 1-3	FRIDAY 7.30-9.30pm SATURDAY 9am-5pm SUNDAY 7pm	Christ the Healer in the Cross & The Kingdom Teaching the Cross & Kingdom Walking Pt.1&2 Free: Christ the Healer service of worship
St. Andrew's Uniting Church Cnr Creek & Ann St. Brisbane	QLD	JULY 1-3	FRIDAY 7.30-9.30pm SATURDAY 9am-5pm SUNDAY 7pm	Christ the Healer in the Cross & The Kingdom Teaching the Cross & Kingdom Walking Pt.1&2 Free: Christ the Healer service of worship

Event Leaders OJW - UK

 Dr. GERALDINE ELLIOT-SMITH Well Elder, Retired GP, Trustee and leader of 'In His Footsteps' courses, mentoring future Elders. SA & NSW	 MRS. ANGELA MANN Elder of Presteigne Well, Trustee of The OJW UK, leader of 'In His Footsteps' courses & a founding member since 1998. SA & QLD	 REV. PAM GORDON Ordained Anglican Minister Sub-Prior of The Order of Jacob's Well & Elder responsible for running prayer communities. SA & NSW
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☐ \$20 Christ the Healer in the Cross & The Kingdom
☐ \$30 Teaching the Cross & Kingdom Walking Pt.1&2
☐ \$40 Friday & Saturday Combined

Sponsor **PARADISE MOTORS MAZDA**

Direct payment to The Order of Jacob's Well Aust. BSB: 105-010 Acct: 120-325-440
Please provide Name, State and contact details via email
Contact email: general@au-jacobswell.org
REGISTER via the "EVENTS" page at www.au-jacobswell.org
As spaces are limited, early registration is recommended

In 2015, as a result of seeing his own neighbor healed of leukemia after reading and applying the principles from Mike's book "The Blind Healer", Rev Professor Dean Drayton committed to become a Prior of the Order Jacob's Well (Australia) and is currently assisting in the introduction of the Order and establishment of "wells" in Australia.

To support this, three representatives of the Order of Jacob Well (UK) are coming to Australia to provide public teaching, information, learning about healing, all culminating in a healing service in the center of three cities. In Adelaide, at St Peters Cathedral 17-19 June, in Sydney at St Stephens Church on 1-3 July and in Brisbane at St Andrews Church 1-3 July. If you are interested, posters and information are available. Local Queensland contacts for the event are Lisa Fuchs 0419 705 955 leetone@powerup.com.au and Penny Heard 0403 707 252 cumberlandpen@gmail.com.

Registration is via the EVENTS page at www.au-jacobswell.org. Further information can also be obtained by email general@au-jacobswell.org.

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.