

March, April 2012
Issue 58

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

National Day of Prayer and Fasting

Back on Sunday, 19th February, a National Day of Prayer and Fasting was held at Parliament House here in Canberra. Churches were encouraged to send representatives along to participate. We were glad to be a part of this gathering and Joyce and Ian, Marie and Alec went along for some of the time.

The purpose of this call to prayer is for the renewal and transformation of Australia as a nation with Jesus Christ as Lord.

Fiddler on the Roof

In February and March the Canberra Philharmonic Society was presenting "Fiddler on the Roof" at the ANU Arts Center.

Our fellowship, being a very cultured collection of people, decided to form a group and go along to a matinee performance. I understand around 14 or 15 people were able to attend.

I have it on good authority that it was a very entertaining and enjoyable show.

Toaster

As part of our chaplaincy support to Steve Lindner at Campbell High, one or two of our people visit the school from time to time to chat with Steve and for a time of prayer. During one such chat Steve mentioned the need for a conveyer toaster. Some students turn up to school not having had breakfast, so several mornings each week, cereal and toast are made available before school. It is a valuable point of contact between Steve and the students. We thought a donation towards the cost of the toaster would be a good means of practical support, so after discussion with fellowship members, passed on a monetary contribution to Steve. The following is part of an email Steve sent to us and people at the school:

"Just a quickie...

BIG THANKS to [3 people] who helped me feed 80+ students this morning at breakfast. If you see them around school give them heaps of praise as they were fantastic.

MASSIVE THANKS also to Ladders SRC, P&C, Ben Y. for snaring some grant \$\$ and the generous donation of several hundred dollars from Canberra Christian Fellowship which has enabled us to purchase a flash, shiny new conveyor toaster. We were able to cook 5 loaves of bread today instead of the 3 loaves cooked under the oven grill.

No more burnt toast!

Come down and check it out next Tuesday☺

Chappo"



Steve with the fancy new toaster



Sunday, 12th February - Mr. Peter Bentley - The future of marriage in Australia



Sunday, 19th February - Rev. Bob Prior - How to maintain a faithful Christian walk



Sunday, 26th February - Pastor Steve Prior - Don't be lame

Letterbox drop

We have a wonderful message from God to tell the world, so in an effort to spread that message, we have prepared a small leaflet introducing our fellowship and proclaiming our faith in and service of God.

Some invitational leaflets were letterbox dropped to flats close to the church just before the Harvest Thanksgiving service and posters have been placed in some university residences. The leaflet shown below is available for visitors and newcomers to our services so they can quickly and easily get to know us better.

We pray God will use these leaflets and that they may provide opportunities to share God's message and build up the Church.

Welcome!

from the Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist Tradition)

This leaflet is intended to introduce us - The Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist Tradition) - to you.

The Bible verse John 3: 16 lets us "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." [NIV]

We believe that this is very good news for not just us, but the WHOLE WORLD. Part of our responsibility as followers of Jesus Christ is to share that news with others who have not heard it or for whatever reason not considered the claims of Christianity for themselves.

We hope and pray that this leaflet will not only introduce us to you but open up opportunities for us to share the message of love and salvation that God offers.

We would be pleased to welcome you to any of our services or to become part of our fellowship.

If you already have links with other congregations of God's people or it is more convenient to attend other churches, we encourage you to worship God there.

Where and when we meet

We do not have our own buildings but currently use the facilities of the Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Corner of Gould and Watson Streets, Turner.

Our worship services are held at 5:00pm each Sunday and normally go for about an hour. We follow each service with a light meal together.

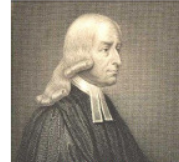
Canberra Christian Fellowship
The Canberra Christian Fellowship (CCF) is an independent protestant christian church that has been meeting for worship since 2004.

The Canberra Christian Fellowship has been incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory since late 2006.

(in the Methodist tradition)

Many of our people grew up within the Methodist Church and value that heritage.

John Wesley was an English evangelist in the 18th century who had an amazing ministry. He travelled all around England preaching, mostly in the open air, to great crowds. He made many converts and set up religious societies to support and nurture these new christians. The term 'methodist' was originally a derogatory label applied to Wesley and his friends because of their methodical way of studying the scriptures and organising their lives.



John Wesley

Some historians have suggested that Wesley's work helped save England from turmoil such as was experienced in the French Revolution.

Activities

Our primary activity is our Sunday services of worship to God - 5:00pm each Sunday.

We have 3 Bible study groups
Tuesdays at 2-30pm at the church
Fridays at 2-00pm at a home in Belconnen
Saturdays at 11-00am once a month at Wamboin

We have a Monday monthly prayer meeting at 2:00pm at a home in Belconnen

We meet for social activities on an ad hoc basis.

Our relationship with other churches

While we are an independent church, we share the core beliefs of the well known protestant denominations.

Clergy from several major denominations and other independent churches visit us regularly and preach for us.

There are a number of differences in belief between christian groups but John Wesley himself said 'There are many doctrines of a less essential nature ... In these we may think and let think; we may agree to disagree.' But, meantime, let us hold fast the essentials...

We hold fast to the essentials that are agreed by mainstream christian churches.

What we believe

We are protestant Christian believers, many of us with a strong Methodist background. Our beliefs could be described as 'mainstream' and our outlook as 'evangelical'.

We acknowledge the Bible as God's Word and look to learn from it about Him and how He wants us to live our lives. We believe the Bible contains God's Truth, but we are not 'literalists'.

Our statement of faith and practice is "Trusting in the grace of God and accepting the gifts of faith and reconciliation through the completed work of Jesus and with the continuing fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we commit to obey the commandments of Jesus to love God and one's neighbour and accept the authority of Scripture and the traditions of the Faith as epitomised in the creeds."

Contact
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P.O. Box 184
Campbell 2612
A.C.T.

E-mail: canberra@yaho.com.au
Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>



Refreshments following our Multicultural Carols

The Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist tradition)

welcomes you !

Our worship services are held at 5:00pm each Sunday and normally go for about an hour. We follow each service with a light meal together.

We meet at the Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Corner of Gould and Watson Streets, Turner.

Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

Some of the causes we support

We have been pleased to contribute funds to many of the disaster relief efforts of recent times resulting from floods, fires, earthquakes, tsunami, etc..

We contribute shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child (a Samaritan's Purse activity). Shoe boxes filled with a variety of gifts are given to children who may never have received a gift in their lives before in many countries around the world.

See <http://operationchristmaschild.org.au/>

We support The Bible Society and its work. We support a minister, who preaches for us regularly, in his voluntary work as a chaplain to the racing industry.

We support another minister, who also preaches for us, in his work as a chaplain to the Institute of Sport.

We support the work of Scripture Union, particularly in providing chaplains to Campbell High School and other schools in the A.C.T..

There are numerous other causes that we contribute to from time to time as a fellowship and even more benefit from both time and money given by our people individually.

Some of our special services / events

Harvest Thanksgiving

For some years it has been our practise to hold a harvest thanksgiving service early in the year to acknowledge God's goodness to us and all that He has provided for us.

On these occasions we put together a display of fruit and vegetables in the church representative of all that we receive from God.

This food is subsequently taken to the Salvation Army for distribution to people in need.



Refreshments following our Multicultural Carols

Multicultural Carols

It has been a pleasure for us to develop friendships with a number of churches from different ethnic communities.

They visit us from time to time and we have been invited to many of their events.



For 8 years now we have joined together at Christmas for Multicultural Carols, with the differing groups contributing through their singing or in other ways.

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Sunday, 4th March – Mrs. Joyce Hall – How is our maintenance programme? (Harvest Thanksgiving)



On March 4 we had our Harvest Thanksgiving Service led by Joyce Hall who also very expertly arranged the fruit and vegetables on display. Our Tongan friends were also with us and we greatly enjoyed their singing during the service and afterwards at a special harvest supper. There were a number of children present and Joyce, anticipating this possibility, gave an excellent children's address.

In her sermon entitled "How is our maintenance programme?" Joyce spoke about her grandparents who were orchardists and sometimes failed in the maintenance area with problems with birds on the peaches, fruit fly and bad weather. Joyce spoke about God's promises and warnings given in the Old Testament and how they were often ignored by disobedient people. In Matthew 7: 7-12 Jesus tells us that God wants

to give us good things and all we have to do is to ask Him, to seek and to knock and the door will be opened. Do we delight to praise the Lord? HB



Sunday, 11th March - Dr. Howard Bradbury - Towards understanding the Cross and Resurrection

Bible reading Isaiah 53: 1-12. John 19: 25-30

In trying to better understand the central point of our faith, the Cross, John Stott's book "The Cross of Christ" has been useful.

The cross was a tragedy for Jesus' followers. Jesus who had taught, healed and performed miracles had been hung on a cross until he died. It was a total defeat for Him and those who followed Him or so it seemed, yet Christians actually claim that in reality, the opposite is true.

Good Friday is GOOD because the cross was a triumph, a victory, that God willed. Satan was defeated by Jesus on the cross.

The cross was the victory won by Jesus over Satan and the resurrection was God's endorsement, proclamation and demonstration of that victory. Paul wrote "Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15: 3). He also wrote "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile;" (1 Corinthians 15: 17). This would be the case because Jesus and His work would not have received God's endorsement.



The resurrection also means we have a living Christ who gives us the salvation He won for us on the cross.

Satan is defeated but still at large. We are subject to temptation and must "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4: 7). We don't have the strength or authority of Jesus but we can claim the victory of the cross.

Uncompromising witness to Christ crucified and risen, is essential in our own lives and in the mission of the church.

ID

Sunday, 18th March - Pastor Paul Tabulutu - Lest we forget



The Fijians sang for us at this service

An e-mail has been received from **Matti and Ritva Nuorala**.

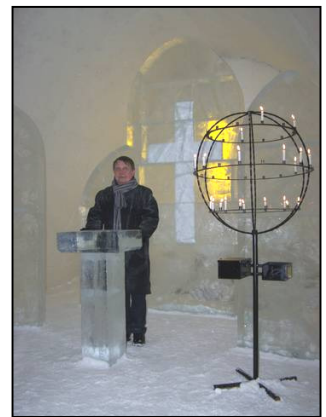
Dear friends,

... Matti was working as a pastor of the ski resort one week in Lapland. When he went there I escorted him to Kemi. There we saw first time Kemi Snowcastle. Every year they build new one. ... There was all kinds of ice sculptors presenting sports. There was also really beautiful ice chapel. They have church services, weddings and so on there. ... This Easter we stayed at home. After sunset on Holy Saturday we drive around Nivala to see Easter bonfires. It is more common this part of Finland burn bonfire on Easter than Midsummer. ...

We miss you everybody. However, we have not reserved a trip to Australia yet. Our following trips are inside the Europe.

with loving regards Ritva and Matti

Matti in the ice chapel



Sunday, 25th March - Rev. Kevin Kim - Remember me according to Your love

Kevin's next service with us will be his last before he, Kay and their two children move to Thornbury Uniting Church in Melbourne. Thornbury Church has both an English and a Korean congregation.

Sunday, 1st April (Palm Sunday) - Rev. David Moyes - Jesus went on towards Jerusalem

On Palm Sunday we were blessed to have Rev. David Moyes from Belconnen Baptist Church as our preacher and the Indonesian Choir who sang for us.



The Indonesian choir



Taking Luke 19: 28-40 as his text, David told us that Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen. Jesus had resolutely set out for Jerusalem, He arranged to ride on a donkey never ridden on before to fulfil the prophecy (Zechariah 9: 9) and He arranged the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to cause the Jewish leaders to act. The entry into Jerusalem with a large joyful crowd with palm branches and the crowd shouting Hosanna, was for a victory. The victory was for us, at the cross.

Then as Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city He wept over it and prophesied the destruction that would come to Jerusalem because the people had rejected Him. The destruction did come at the hands of the Romans in AD 70. Jesus brought them peace, but they refused to accept Him. We too have the same choice. We can have peace with God if we are willing to admit that we are sinners, if we believe and ask to be saved.

HB

Sunday, 8th April (Easter) - Pastor Mark Warren - Wondering About Easter



On Easter Day Pastor Mark Warren titled his sermon "Wondering about Easter." Peter, after looking in the empty tomb, went away "wondering to himself what had happened" (Luke 24: 12). People doubted then and they still do. Cleopas and his friend whom Jesus met on the road to Emmaus said (v 21) "but we had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel."

The body was gone and none of them had any idea, even though He had told them over and over again that He would be crucified and would rise again on the third day.

Jesus was taking on "death", which was far more than taking on the Romans. It was a death in our place, that we may be saved from our sins. The resurrection confirmed that God would not abandon Jesus to the grave (Isaiah 53:11-12). Of course Jesus did rise, and God does not want to abandon us to the grave. HB

Sunday, 15th April - Mr. Zane Edwards - Who am I?



David McDonald

David writes "... We keep being reminded that the treatment is not considered curative, that I'm on a 'palliative' program, and that the best we can hope for is to slow down the progress of the cancer, while seeking to minimise the bad effects of treatment. Of course, this is still good. ... Thank you again for your support. We are continually humbled to hear of people praying all over the world, some every day."

I understand David has expressed a willingness to preach for us again in the future despite his illness.

Baby Shower

Being a bloke, I'm not quite 'up to speed' with what happens at a 'baby shower', but with her baby's arrival approaching rapidly, Carolyn and well wishers gathered recently for a 'baby shower' / lunch.

Whether they played party games, discussed the relative merits of throw away versus traditional nappies or just chatted over a sumptuous feast, I'm sure it was a happy and special part of the leadup to motherhood for Carolyn.

Sunday 22nd April - Rev. Rachel Tonga - The Day of Confirmation

Bible Reading - John 20: 19-23

In Tongan culture older people are also considered wiser and so younger preachers are somewhat hesitant to preach to them as they consider them wiser than themselves.

Rachel explained this Tongan thinking to us and told us how gratified she was that we had invited her to preach. I can only assume that Rachel is particularly youthful since we are such a young and vibrant congregation (in spirit at least).



After the resurrection, Jesus didn't hurry to return to His Father. He wanted to confirm the Church.

His followers were frightened. They had witnessed the treatment Jesus had received from the religious leaders. Jesus said to them "Peace be with you!". He was there with them. He was still their leader despite the recent awful events. He showed them his hands and side. The reality of his presence became clearer.

"Peace be with you!". Jesus wanted his scared followers not just to follow but to lead. "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." They were to be His people spreading His message. He told them "Receive the Holy Spirit".

Jesus did not ask His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit to come. The Spirit was there for them then.

Rachel explained that towards the end of her studies for the ministry, she was told she had passed her exams. She had passed! It was not until some time later, graduation day, that the results were published and her pass became public knowledge. Jesus had brought the Holy Spirit to his followers but it was later at Pentecost that the Spirit was seen in action by a wider public.

We, as Jesus' followers, have been given a task to relieve people of the burdens of their hearts. We have been told to pass on the good news, Jesus forgives and He died for everyone.

We have been commissioned and should always be available for this ministry. ID



Campbell High School chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner
Racing Industry chaplaincy - Rev. Bob Prior
Institute of Sport chaplaincy – Rev. Peter Nelson
Airforce chaplaincy – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl



Please remember Steve, Bob, Peter and Murray and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.
 All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
 Studying Luke

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm at Alec's.
 All welcome - contact Alec or Howard for more information

Weekend Monthly Study Group

Monthly study group. Meeting at Vince and Dominica's, Wamboin.
 Next meeting – 11am, 9th May.
 All welcome - contact Vince or Dominica for more information
 Studying "The Bible in 10"

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.
 Next meeting – 2pm, 21st May.
 All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Contacts

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Services

We meet at **Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Cnr. Gould and Watson Streets, Turner**

- Sunday **29th April** at 5pm - **Rev. Peter Nelson**
- Sunday **6th May** at 5pm - **Rev. Dr. Murray Earl**
- Sunday **13th May** at 5pm - **Mrs. Joyce Hall**
- Sunday **20th May** at 5pm - **Rev. Bob Prior**
- Sunday **27th May** at 5pm - **Pastor Steve Prior (8th Anniversary service)**
- Sunday **3rd June** at 5pm - **Rev. Kevin Kim**
- Sunday **10th June** at 5pm - **Pastor Paul Tabulutu**
- Sunday **17th June** at 5pm - **Mr. Laurie Hockridge**
- Sunday **24th June** at 5pm - **Mr. Ron Dawes (Leprosy Mission)**
- Sunday **1st July** at 5pm - **details later**
- Sunday **8th July** at 5pm - **details later**
- Sunday **15th July** at 5pm - **Rev. Paul Noble**



Rev. Peter Nelson



Rev. Dr. Murray Earl



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Rev. Bob Prior



Pastor Steve Prior



Rev. Kevin Kim



Pastor Paul Tabulutu



Mr. Laurie Hockridge



Mr. Ron Dawes



Rev. Paul Noble