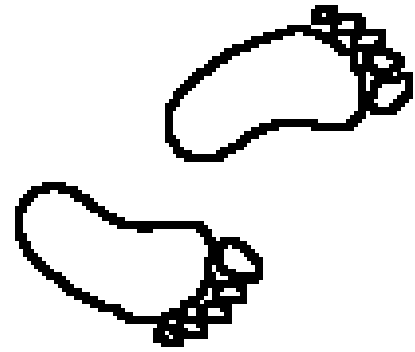


The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday, 29th May – Rev. Peter Nelson – The love of Christ



We held our 12th Anniversary service on the last Sunday in May and were glad to have members of the Indonesian Christian Fellowship join us on this special occasion. Also with us were people from the Aboriginal Church, the Chinese Methodist Church and a good number of old friends.



Peter Nelson was our preacher and he based his sermon on Ephesians 3: 14-21.

In that passage, Paul prays for the Ephesians, that they will comprehend the magnitude of God's love for them and all people.

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge" [Ephesians 3: 17-19]

Broad - God's love is broad enough to include EVERYONE. God's grace is available to ALL people. Christ loves each one of us as if there is only one person to love.

Long - A man who was not involved in the Church outlived 2 wives. At 75 he went to live with his daughter who loved God. She too died and the man went along to the church for her funeral. He listened to the testimonies given and they warmed his heart. He kept going and came to faith. God does not give up on us and His love lasts for eternity.

Deep - No sacrifice is too great for God. Jesus took the form of a servant Who was obedient unto death. There is nothing Jesus wouldn't do to give us eternal life. He died for us while we were at our worst - sinners.

High - God's love reaches into eternity. He gives those who accept His love an inheritance in heaven.

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Sunday, 5th June – Rev. Michael Pailthorpe – The heart break of God

Life is full of different experiences for each of us. We have some 'mountain top' experiences where everything seems to be perfect, but there are also times of heartbreak.

There is potential for heartbreak wherever there is love or passion and that can encompass family, pets, sport, jobs, etc.. Heartbreak generates emotional pain and science tells us that emotional pain and physical pain are dealt with by the same area of our brains.

The Bible reading [Luke 7: 11-17] tells the story of Jesus encountering a funeral procession. He sees the grieving mother of the dead man and has compassion on her. As a widow having lost her only son, it is likely she would be left destitute. Jesus raised her son and returned him to her.

In Jesus' compassion we can see God's heart.

Many people think of God as an old man with a long beard who is distant and aloof. That is not a picture of the God Jesus proclaims or that we worship.

Our God has come to our broken hearted community bringing compassion.

We can share in our Father's heart by being full of love and compassion.

ID



Maurine with Michael

Church Meeting

Church meetings, even if only held each six months, seem to come around quite quickly. Back in June it was time to hold another one.

Once again we had a meal together prior to the meeting proper.

In the meeting itself, we did all the normal meeting type things like reviewing the previous meeting minutes, etc..

Our treasurer advised us we had a quite healthy bank balance. After allocating funds to a good number of causes we wished to support, the balance remained healthy but without excess fat.

Small groups were discussed. The Bible Study groups have met and been very worthwhile although with interruptions due to illnesses, exams, holidays and other factors. Similar reasons have meant the prayer meeting has not been held as often as planned.

Correspondence was discussed and membership matters dealt with.

The meeting closed with prayer.



Sunday, 12th June – Rev. Paul Tabulutu – The uniqueness of Christ

Colossians 1: 1-20

Jesus was no ordinary person.

- He is the image of the invisible God. God is Spirit but Jesus is God, so we can see God by looking to Jesus.
- Christ was fully involved in creation - all things were created by and for Him. He was there.
- Jesus is the head of the Church. We are part of the body of the Church and are only servants of the Church. We don't own it.
- Through Jesus' blood shed on the cross, God has reconciled all things on earth or in heaven, to Himself

We often miss the point. Jesus didn't come just so we can live a better life. He came in order to reconcile us to God, to cleanse us of our sins.

Emmanuel - God is with us!

ID

Sunday, 26th June – Mr. Roy Dallos – A sober view of God



Roy and Darlene Dallos

Sunday, 3rd July – Mr. Jude Simion – Transforming Gospel



Jude came to us as a representative of Barnabas Fund, an organisation that supports and helps the persecuted church. He mentioned that there are 200,000 displaced Christians in Iraq. Barnabas Fund are currently able to assist about 30,000 of those people. That is just a part of what they are doing for persecuted Christians around the world.



Acts 22: 6-11

The reading was about Paul's experience on the road to Damascus. Paul saw a bright light and heard God's voice speaking to him. His companions also saw the light and heard a noise but didn't make out the voice speaking.

In our Christian witness it is important to show our faith in action (the light) but also to proclaim the faith we have and the God we know in a way that can be understood (the voice) otherwise what we say will just be unintelligible noise.

Unfortunately some churches get the balance wrong. They may excel at one aspect but fail in the other. There are churches that do great work in the community and champion social justice but fail to highlight the focus of our faith - God and the salvation He offers, while other churches may loudly and strongly proclaim that message but fail to back it up by showing the evidence of their faith in their lives and actions.

The Church must not forget the Gospel but it also needs to do the work God asks of it by showing the love and care God has for His creation.

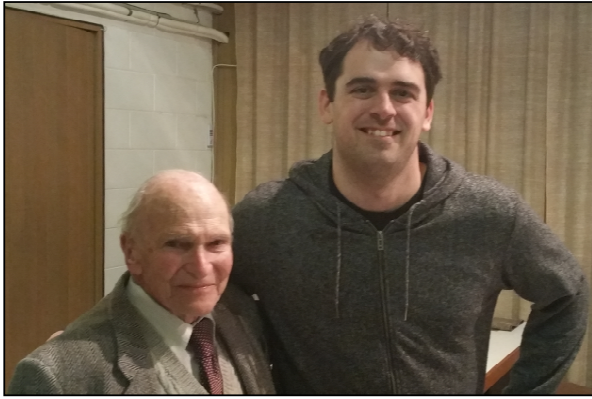
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Sunday, 10th July – Rev. Owen Chadwick – Life shaped by the day - The Book of Joel



Owen with Joanne and Ruth

Sunday, 17th July – Mr. Adrian Summers – The Voice of God



Alec with Adrian

Adrian chose to use John 1: 1-18 as the text for the night.

The beginning of John's Gospel "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*" [John 1: 1-5] has parallels with the start of Genesis "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day." [Genesis 1: 1-5]

In Genesis God speaks and things change. In John we see that the Word is a person. John goes on to tell us that God's Word that gives life and light was coming into the world, but His creation didn't recognise Him and rejected Him.

Those who do receive Him become God's children. The Word becomes flesh, reveals the character of God and unites us to God.

As Christians we need belief, faith and trust.

- It is no good putting our faith in something or someone if we don't believe it is true.
- Sometimes we rely on our knowledge of God rather than on God Himself.
- Our understanding is often flawed. We can trust God whereas our understanding can let us down.

God promises us life, which is freedom from sin and death.

ID

Sunday, 24th July – Mr. Roy Dallos – The ten words of God, Part 1

Our country, and many others, was founded on principles based on the Ten Commandments. Unfortunately we are increasingly rejecting those principles, the Ten Commandments and God.

We are becoming a society with no absolutes. Everything is becoming subjective. Ultimately this trend leads to chaos.

The moral law is a reflection of God's character. The Ten Commandments show us our inability to keep God's law and point us to Jesus.

The Ten Commandments are binding on us. They tell us what God requires of us and that is absolute and total devotion to Him and His law.

None of us can reach that standard so we can look to Jesus as He provides us with the cleansing we need to satisfy God.

The first commandment is "*I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before[a] me.*" [Exodus 20: 1-3]

There is only ONE God, not many. Worshipping other so called gods is spiritual adultery.

*"those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.*

They will soar on wings like eagles;

they will run and not grow weary,

they will walk and not be faint." [Isaiah 40: 31]

God is God and there is no other.

ID

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD update

On Saturday July 16, Ken, June, Laurie and Norma attended the 2016 launch of Operation Christmas Child for the A.C.T. and Southern N.S.W.. The gathering had a great attendance of about 100.

We were given ideas of what to put in our boxes, and we know we are doing all the right things. We also picked up our pre-printed shoe boxes while there.

There were several guest speakers and we heard some stories of the children who had received boxes last year. Boxes from Australia and New Zealand went to Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu.

Thanks for your financial support so far this year and for our knitters and sewers. Special thanks to Ken and June who have done most of the shopping this year.



more information on Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child can be found on their website at www.samaritanspurse.org.au

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Rev. Peter Nelson

Rev. Michael Pailthorpe

Rev. Paul Tabulutu

Mr. Robert Nicholls

Mr. Roy Dallos

Mr. Jude Simion

Rev. Owen Chadwick

Mr. Adrian Summers

Mr. Roy Dallos

Sunday 29th May – Rev. Peter Nelson - The love of Christ
Sunday 5th June – Rev. Michael Pailthorpe - The heart break of God
Sunday 12th June – Rev. Paul Tabulutu - The uniqueness of Christ
Sunday 19th June – Mr. Robert Nicholls - Strength in weakness
Sunday 26th June – Mr. Roy Dallos - A sober view of God
Sunday 3rd July – Mr. Jude Simion - Transforming Gospel
Sunday 10th July – Rev. Owen Chadwick - Life shaped by the day - The book of Joel
Sunday 17th July – Mr. Adrian Summers - The voice of God
Sunday 24th July – Mr. Roy Dallos - The ten words of God, Part 1

WE ARE SURVIVORS (for those born before 1940)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, Frisbees and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes ... and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual cars, and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins, and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts, and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of in our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a fond mother's lullaby. A 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today — **BUT by the grace of God, we have survived!**

Our Scottish Connection

Glasgow, Scotland is quite some way away, yet we have a link with that city.

Natasha played the piano for us and husband Paul preached for us a number of times before they headed off to the northern hemisphere so Paul could commence work in Glasgow.

We were very pleased to see them as they spent some holiday time back in Australia.

We made use of Natasha's musical talents for the two weeks she was here and Paul was able to join us for the second Sunday as well.



Natasha, Carolyn, Ava and Ian

Coinciding with Natasha's visit, Derek and Carolyn with daughter Ava joined us for the evening's service.



Natasha and Paul

Chaplains

Rev. Phil Anderson - Army & A.C.T. Emergency Services chaplaincies

Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy

Rev. Steve Lindner - Campbell High School chaplaincy

Rev. David McDonald - A.C.T. Brumbies Rugby Union team chaplaincy

Rev. Peter Nelson - Institute of Sport chaplaincy



Please remember Phil, Owen, Steve, Dave, Peter and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.

News from Taiwan



It is a joy when we hear from old friends and an extra pleasure when we are able to share in special moments of their lives.

Fanny returned to Taiwan roughly 2½ years ago and subsequently married Fred.

She is now a mum and has sent some pictures of her young daughter to introduce her to us.

In mid July she wrote :

"my little girl is 1.5 month old now.

she is eating and sleeping well and starts smiling.

Now she likes her fingers and crib mobile music box a lot. :)"



Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm. - **Currently in winter recess.**

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
Studying John

Wednesday Bible Study Group

Wednesdays at 5-00 pm. - **In recess.**

Catering for Uni. students. contact John or Howard for more information
Studying Acts

Friday Study Group

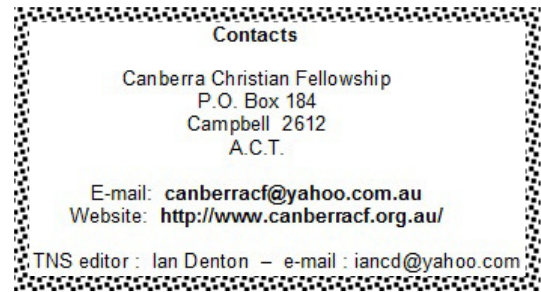
Fridays at 2-00 pm. - **In temporary recess.**

All welcome - contact John M. for more information
Studying John

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.

All welcome

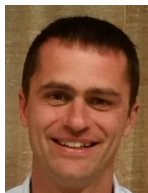


Coming Services

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



Rev. Peter Nelson



Mr. Ken Mansell



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Mr. Roy Dallos



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mr. Revin Blanchard



Mrs. Elizabeth Starr



Rev. Patrick Cole



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Mr. Phil McMaster



Mrs. Pam Lake



Rev. Jangwon Seo



Mr. Phillip Ng



Rev. Peter Nelson



Mr. David Turner



Mr. Nick Cole

Sunday **31st July** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson** (+ Finnish Church)

Sunday **7th August** at 5pm – **Mr. Ken Mansell** (+ school chaplain Steve Lindner)

Sunday **14th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**

Sunday **21st August** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **28th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Phil Anderson**

Sunday **4th September** at 5pm – **Mr. Revin Blanchard**

Sunday **11th September** at 5pm – **Mrs. Elizabeth Starr** (Compassion)

Sunday **18th September** at 5pm – **Rev. Patrick Cole**

Sunday **25th September** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** (Hymns)

Sunday **2nd October** at 5pm – **Mr. Phil McMaster**

Sunday **9th October** at 5pm – **Mrs. Pam Lake** (Leprosy Mission)

Sunday **16th October** at 5pm – **Rev. Jangwon Seo**

Sunday **23rd October** at 5pm – **Mr. Phillip Ng**

Sunday **30th October** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson** (Communion)

Sunday **6th November** at 5pm – **Mr. David Turner** (Mission without Borders)

Sunday **13th November** at 5pm – details later

Sunday **20th November** at 5pm – **Mr. Nick Cole** (Bible Society)

A man was visiting his son and asked him where his newspaper was.

The son laughed and said, "Dad, it's the 21st century. We stopped buying newspapers years ago. It saves trees. But you can borrow my iPad."

"Okay, fine, whatever."

But that pesky housefly never knew what hit it.