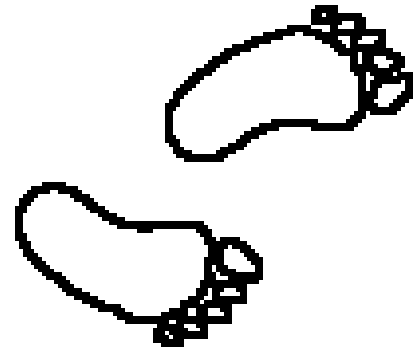


December 2017,
January 2018
Issue 96

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)



Welcome



O Come All Ye Faithful



Bible Reading - Mr. Barry Ingram (Aboriginal Church)



Silent Night



Indonesian Choir





Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Talk





Talk - Rev. Michael Pailthorpe



Joy To The World





Joy To The World



"Our next choir is ..."



The Koreans



The First Nowell

1 The first nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the king of Israel.*



The Fijians



Prayer - Rev. Paul Tabulutu
(Fijian Methodist Church)

Once in Royal David's city

1 Once in Royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle-shed
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed.
 Mary was that mother mild
 Jesus Christ her little child.





Blessing - Rev. Abraham Tang



Thanks



Our Musicians - The Strings

Our Musicians
Pianist



Refreshments
&
Fellowship

Sunday, 5th November – Pastor Opi Nduati - The Good Samaritan



We first met Opi Nduati when he visited us and preached in June 2008. At that time the work with street kids in Nairobi, Kenya had just begun and the resources available, (manpower and property), were very limited. Since then more staff have joined the work and the facilities available have grown from a rented house to a five acre property.



Opi showed us a video in which several of the boys told of how they ended up on the streets, what it was like, how life changed when iafrica took them in and their hopes for the future. (You can see this video at <https://www.immanuelafrika.org/our-stories>)

His sermon was based on The Good Samaritan.

ID

Sunday, 12th November – Rev. David McDonald



David McDonald has been a great encouragement to our Fellowship over the years, preaching for us and also putting us in contact with others who have also visited us to preach.

This may have been the last time he has come to preach for us as in February, he and Fiona are moving to Port Macquarie where they will be closer to family.

500 years and 12 days since Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany meant that the start of the Protestant Reformation was on the minds of many of today's Christians.

One of Luther's arguments was against the concept of purgatory - a place where souls supposedly went after death for a period of purification before moving on to heaven. After 500 years we might expect that that heresy would no longer persist. Unfortunately David was able to provide an example of such mistaken thinking by a media personality who had come back to faith recently.

The question of how we can be right with God is important. The temptation to ask have we done enough to get into heaven can easily come to us. The answer to that question is of course, NO WE HAVEN'T AND NEVER COULD.

A better question to ask is 'Is my faith in Jesus well founded and will that get me to heaven?' That question provides a resounding YES!

We are saved by faith alone. We can trust that Jesus completely paid the price for our sin.

Trusting in ourselves or Jesus - that is what the Reformation was all about.

There are churches today that could benefit from 95 theses being nailed to their doors.

ID

Chaplains

Rev. Phil Anderson - Army chaplaincy

Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy

Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy

Please remember Phil, Owen, Bob and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.



Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR recess !

Normally Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month **at 2-30 pm**, usually at Marie's.

All welcome

Contacts

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Bible Study Breakup

After a year of looking more closely at the Bible to discover what can be learned from it, the Bible Study group concluded the year by joining together for lunch.

Bible Study will resume for 2018 after holidays are over and everyone is refreshed and eager to resume their studies.

Sunday, 10th December – Rev. Bob Prior - The gift we may all give at Christmas

As he speaks with people, Bob often hears comments along the line that God doesn't exist or He has died or has lost interest in us - 'How can bad things keep happening? Why do good people die while evil continues?'



Psalm 94 shows that such thinking has been around for a very long time. God can seem inactive and unconcerned however the Psalm also recognises that God does take note of human actions and punishes the wicked.

These days many people proudly profess that they have no religious beliefs however those who disregard God, usually admit that this world would be a much better place if everyone simply obeyed the ten commandments.

Humanity's sin and disregard for God brings with it the consequences of sin however God's unfailing love supports those who honour Him and He becomes their refuge.

God's punishment always leaves open the opportunity to turn back to Him.

- God's desire is not to destroy us but to save us which is achieved through faith in Jesus. *"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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."* [John 3: 16-18]
- *"'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"* [Romans 10: 13-16]. That is a message for us as is *"'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* [Matthew 28: 19,20].
- God is able to use us this Christmas, and at any other time, if we simply speak about our own experience of faith and the journey to it. *"Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen"* [John 3: 11]. We can be honest in our testimonies. We are not 'good' people - we are forgiven people. ID

EPITAPH (In a cemetery in England)

Remember man, as you walk by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, so shall you be,
Remember this and follow me.

To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:

To follow you I'll not consent,
Until I know which way you went.

It was Timmy's 5th birthday and he was joyfully opening all the presents he received. He saved the biggest for last, so it took a while until he got to opening Grandma's present. "Wow" Timmy exclaimed in delight, upon seeing the mini drum set that his Grandmother got for him. "Thanks Grandma this is just what I wanted."



It was after Timmy went to bed that Timmy's mother approached her mother. "Ma, I'm surprised at you, don't you remember how it used to drive you crazy when we used to play the drums in the house growing up?" Grandma smiled and then said "I remember, of course I remember."

INDONESIAN CAROLS SERVICE 2017

Over the years we have joined the Indonesian Christian Fellowship for their carols service, we have come to expect a warm welcome, singing by individuals, choirs, children and the congregation joyfully expressing the wonder of Christmas, a thought provoking message and great fellowship over a meal afterwards.



We were not disappointed. The Christmas message was presented in readings, song and by Rev. David Campbell, the Minister of St. Andrew's Church, who preached the sermon.

There was plenty of opportunity to chat with friends, old and new, over the plentiful goodies that made up the meal we enjoyed together.



Christmas Eve with the Koreans

Knowing it was likely that a significant number of our people would be away over Christmas / New Year, a decision was made not to hold services of our own on 24 & 31 December but to encourage those who were still in Canberra to visit other congregations on those dates.

It was with pleasure that we received an invitation to join with the Koreans for their Christmas Eve service at 11am and a meal afterwards.



We were very warmly welcomed and old friends and new came up to us to greet us, thank us for coming and to wish us a happy Christmas.

The service was conducted in Korean but we had receiver devices that provided us with an English translation. Rev. Jangwon Seo preached on "How To Celebrate The Birth of Jesus Christ"

After the service we moved into the hall and chatted to several different people before the meal commenced. As we have discovered before the food was delicious and plentiful.

One surprise was when Daniel came over and passed over his mobile phone. On the line was Ashley speaking to us from Korea. She sounded well and wished us a happy Christmas.

It was an uplifting service and wonderful time of fellowship.

We came away glad to have worshipped with them and with some thoughtful gifts we were given.



ID

'12 Days of Christmas'

There is one particular Christmas song that seems quite nonsensical. What do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge that won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

On the First day of Christmas my true love sent to me
a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

...

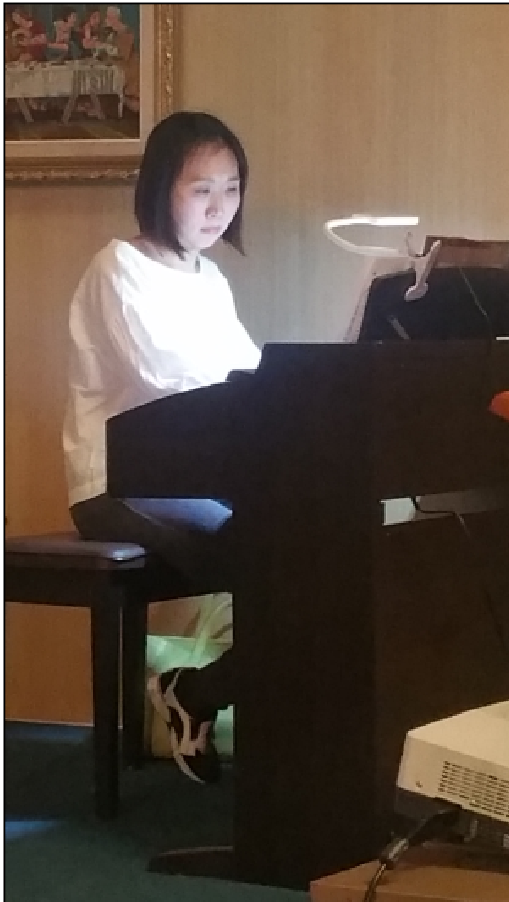
This cumulative song has been used as a 'forfeit' game. The first player says / sings the first verse, then the next player repeats the verse adding an extra line. This continues for each player and forfeits occur when the verses are repeated incorrectly. Forfeits may be predecided but could take the form of a sweet or a kiss.

One explanation of the lyrics' origin, not accepted by most scholars, suggests the song was intended as a catechism song to help young Catholics learn their faith, at a time when practising Catholicism was criminalised in England (1558 until 1829). Each gift has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning. Each element in the song has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

information gleaned from several internet web sites

Postlude



Ashley has been our pianist for around 2 years now and in that time has done a great job providing music for us before, during and after our services.

Normally, following the benediction, we all begin to move out for supper, do chores or put things away while Ashley plays and in our busyness don't give her music the attention it deserves.

Recognising Ashley's God given talent and the beauty of her music, on 12 November we remained in our seats, to listen to what she played and better appreciate the gift she brings to our services, before commencing our after service activities. We were rewarded with music that honoured God while also giving us pleasure.

Thank you Ashley for the part you play in our worship.

Spell it out

Eye have run this threw my spell cheque sew I no it must bee write,
Know moor silly miss steaks two tarnish my delight.
Eye ewes too have a problem with my spelling this is true,
But now eye have this grate machine sew eye can right two ewe.
And no that it is all write, knot an error too bee scene,
Sew eye hope that ewe will print this in yaw reel grate magazine!

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



**Pastor Opi
Nduati**



**Rev. David
McDonald**



**Rev. Owen
Chadwick**



**Mr. Jonathan
Harris**



**Rev. Michael
Pailthorpe**



**Rev. Bob
Prior**



**Mr. George
Huang**

Sunday **5th November** – **Pastor Opi Nduati** (I Afrika, Kenya) - The Good Samaritan, Encouraging the Church to get involved in helping others

Sunday **12th November** – **Rev. David McDonald**

Sunday **19th November** – **Rev. Owen Chadwick** - Let us make every effort to enter into God's rest

Sunday **26th November** – **Rev. Jonathan Harris** (Bible Society)

Sunday **3rd December** – **Rev. Michael Pailthorpe** (Carols)

Sunday **10th December** – **Rev. Bob Prior** - The gift we may all give at Christmas

Sunday **17th December** at 5pm – **Mr. George Huang** - Where did Christmas come from?

Coming Services

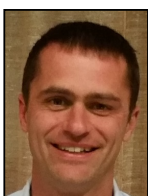
We meet at **Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Cnr. Gould and Watson Streets, Turner**



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**



**Rev. Phil
Anderson**



**Mr. Ken
Mansell**



**Rev. Paul
Tabulutu**



**Mr. Revin
Blanchard**



**Rev. Owen
Chadwick**



**Pastor Steve
Prior**



**Mr. David
Turner**



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**



**Pastor
Paul Avis**



**Rev. Jangwon
Seo**



Sunday **7th January** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**
Sunday **14th January** at 5pm – **Rev. Phil Anderson**
Sunday **21st January** at 5pm – **Mr. Ken Mansell**
Sunday **28th January** at 5pm – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu**
Sunday **4th February** at 5pm – **Mr. Revin Blanchard**
Sunday **11th February** at 5pm – **Rev. Owen Chadwick**
Sunday **18th February** at 5pm – **Pastor Steve Prior**
Sunday **25th February** at 5pm – **Mr. David Turner** (Mission Without Borders)
Sunday **4th March** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**
Sunday **11th March** at 5pm – **Pastor Paul Avis**
Sunday **18th March** at 5pm – **Rev. Jangwon Seo**
Sunday **25th March** at 5pm – **Harvest Thanksgiving**