

December 2021, January 2022  
Issue 149

# The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)



Canberra Aboriginal Church

Also distributed to

## Carols 2021 style

A week before our 2021 Carols service, we didn't know what form the following Sunday's service would take. We only had a vague thought of singing some carols as we had no other plans.

Suddenly we discovered Matthew and his musicians (who have played at most of our previous Carols) were available if we'd like them to play.

A busy week deciding on carols to sing, Bible readings, a talk, arranging a light supper afterwards and contacting people resulted.

On the day we thought anywhere from 25 to 45 people might come. We had around 60 attend including some from the Aboriginal Church, Indonesian Fellowship and Chinese Methodists. Many of our own people were at previous engagements and the Fijian Methodists were all attending a gathering in Griffith, N.S.W..

While numbers were much less than our previous Carols services and we had no visiting choirs, comments I have heard suggest this year's carols were among the friendliest and most successful we have held.

Special thanks to Ruth for arranging for Matthew and the musicians to play for us, shopping for our supper goodies and contacting so many friends and informing them of our service.

Thanks too to Matthew and the musicians. They did a great job at short notice.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We held our AGM and GM before our worship service on Sunday, 28th November.  
The election of officers resulted in



President  
Vice-president  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee members

Ian  
Vacant  
Wendy  
Laurie  
Joyce  
Kelly  
Trish

There was some discussion on worship times with the outcome that we will meet at 5pm during the summer months but during the winter months when it is colder and gets dark earlier, meet at 4pm as we did earlier in 2021.

**Sunday, 21st November - Mr. Matt Sweeney - Our Inheritance (1 Peter 1: 3-7)**



The reading begins by praising God and stating *"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade."*

What have we done to need God's mercy?

We have sinned! Sin hurts and grieves God.

Psalm 51: 4 tells us *"Against you [God], you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight"*.

We need a spiritual birth because our sin needed to be dealt with. *"no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."* [John 3: 5,6]

We can rejoice in God's grace although we may suffer trials which refine our faith.

God holds us to His standards, not ours.

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I asked my brother-in-law, the father of four boys, "If you had to do it all over again, would you still have kids?"

"Yes," he said. "Just not these four."

After a rough day spent corralling my rowdy kids, I'd had enough. "I think I'm going to sell them," I hissed to my sister.

"You're crazy," she said.

"For thinking of selling them?"

"For thinking someone would buy them."

Even with a thousand games, dolls and crafts to choose from, my customer at the toy store still couldn't find a thing for her grandson.

"Maybe a video or something educational?" I asked.

"No, that's not it," she said.

We wandered the aisles until something caught her eye: a laser gun with flashing lights and 15 different high-pitched sounds.

"This is perfect," she said, beaming. "My daughter-in-law will hate it."

**Sunday, 5th December - Mrs. Joyce Hall - The first Christmas**

Both Matthew and Luke give accounts of Jesus' birth.

Matthew begins the story by presenting Jesus' ancestry going back to Abraham.

In Jesus' ancestors we see both the bad side and good side of mankind. They were far from perfect, however we also at times see strong faith in God. Jesus was the son of man, but at the same time He was the son of God.



Joseph was perplexed when he discovered Mary, his wife to be, was pregnant. He didn't want to hurt or disgrace her so planned to break the engagement privately. God intervened, sending an angel to reassure Joseph. Mary was to have a son of the Holy Spirit and He was to be named Jesus because He would save his people from their sins.

Jesus is the image of God - He is God, and in everything He has supremacy. He is Immanuel, God with us.

Joyce finished with a story of a Godly lady who once was visited by Queen Victoria.

Her neighbours, teasing her for her proper way of life and religious fervour, one day asked her about her most important visitor ever.

Her reply was 'Queen Victoria'.

'What about this Jesus you are always talking about' they asked.

'Oh, He is not a visitor' she responded. 'He lives here'.

Immanuel, God with us. Jesus came to us and remains close to us. He is with us always.

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# Carols 2021



v Prayer (Joyce)



v Bible reading (Trish)

v Bible reading (Kelly)





^ Talk (Ian)

v Bible reading (Arthur (Aboriginal Church))



## 10 REASONS WHY ENGLISH IS WEIRD

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.

### Sunday, 19th December - Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan - No room in the Inn



We were just a little late starting this service. Pickup arrangements didn't go to plan. Thinking about Christmas in Australia today, Campbell observed that it had become very secular. Very few nativity scenes are present among the multitude of decorations all about us, most Christmas cards feature anything but aspects of the Christmas story and even Advent Calendars which once opened a window to a Christmas scene each day of advent, have been modified by chocolate, real estate or other commercial interests to advertise their products.

Holidays, parties and a spending extravaganza may represent Christmas for many, but the real Christmas story remains centred on real people and real events.

Mary and Joseph were part of an influx of people to Bethlehem, Joseph's ancestral city, for the Roman census. Accommodation was in demand and the best they could get was the stable where Jesus was born. It wasn't an auspicious birth but it was momentous.

Shepherds, just ordinary, working people, visited the new born baby after angels glorified God and told them of His birth.

The Baby Jesus grew up, ministered here on earth then died to save us from our sins.

What is your response to the Christmas story?

You can ignore it as many do or you can celebrate the coming of God to earth as a baby who grew up to reconcile us to Himself by dying and overcoming sin and death for us.

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### Sad News

We were saddened to learn that John Mann passed away on 18 December. Our thoughts and prayers are with John's family in their loss.

The service for John was held at the Christ Church Anglican Church, Hawker on Wednesday, 5 January. Rev. Patrick Cole took the service.



**Services over recent weeks have included the following:**



**Mr. Matt Sweeney**



**Mr. Ian Denton**



**Mrs. Joyce Hall**



**Mr. Ian Denton**



**Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**

Sunday **21st November** at 5pm – **Mr. Matt Sweeney** - Our Inheritance  
 Sunday **28th November** at 5pm – **Mr. Ian Denton** - Temptation and Sin  
 Sunday **5th December** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** - The first Christmas  
 Sunday **12th December** at 5pm – **Mr. Ian Denton (Carols)** - Christmas - Don't leave out Jesus  
 Sunday **19th December** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan** - No room in the Inn  
 Sunday **26th December** – no service  
 Sunday **2nd January** – no service

**Coming Services**

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



**Mr. Matt Sweeney**



**Mrs. Joyce Hall**



**Mr. Mark Warren**



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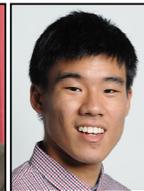
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**Rev. Paul Tabulutu**



**Mr. Ming En Chin**



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Sunday **9th January** at 5pm – **Mr. Matt Sweeney**  
 Sunday **16th January** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall**  
 Sunday **23rd January** at 5pm – **Mr. Mark Warren**  
 Sunday **30th January** at 5pm – ?  
 Sunday **6th February** at 5pm – ?  
 Sunday **13th February** at 5pm – ?  
 Sunday **20th February** at 5pm – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu**  
 Sunday **27th February** at 5pm – **Mr. Ming En Chin**  
 Sunday **6th March** at 5pm – ?  
 Sunday **13th March** at 5pm – ?



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**Chaplains**

**Rev. Phil Anderson** - Australian Federal Police chaplaincy  
**Mr. Owen Chadwick** - Universities chaplaincy  
**Rev. Bob Prior** - Racecourse chaplaincy  
**Rev. Paul Tabulutu** - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches

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



**Prayer**

**Contacts**

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**Bible Reading**