



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

14 April 2024

From Rev Tom

The Founding Assembly of the Hunter Community Alliance is just happening at the wrong time for the best update of information to our "Contact" magazine as it doesn't happen till tonight and perhaps by the next "Contact" publication it will be old news. Nevertheless, here is a bit of the latest news of how it is all proceeding. 958 people are registered to attend. The Uniting Church HCA reps original made a commitment for 120 to attend, but during the meeting we were cajoled by David Barrow, the lead organiser to push that to 150. That has made me a bit sleepless at times!! However, I just looked up the registration chart and there are 184 UCA registrations. There will be a pre-assembly gathering of Uniting Church attendees and I am really looking forward to that. It will be the largest single gathering of Uniting Church members I have experienced since I arrived in the Hunter. Rev. Allison Forrest from Toronto will be leading the pre-assembly, and our presbytery chairperson Rev. Greg McConnell will be welcoming our Moderator Rev. Faaimata (Mata) Havea Hiliau who will speak to us about the gospel imperative for our participation in the Founding Assembly, and then our presbytery minister Rev. Grahame Perry will pray leading us into the Assembly meeting. One thing I found interesting as we lead into the Assembly. Various anti-renewable groups have tried to register to disrupt the gathering. We were compelled to let the politicians attending know this was happening. There has been constant communication with the politicians about how we were dealing with this and safety protocols. Finally, we were able to get back to the politicians and say that there is no problem. Their office staff wanted to know how we knew that. We said we have vouched for every person attending. Apparently (not sure which office) the office staff were stunned. "How can you vouch for all of them!" Our reply, "We know them all!" The Hunter Community Alliance is a special organisation in this way. We are a gathering of organisations who know their people. We are all part of something. Apparently, this is so unique it just amazed the political staffers. What they will also not have experienced before is what happens at the Assembly. All the organisations represented at the meeting will be introduced. Everyone who is present is prepped to cheer in those introductions, unions, churches, community groups, cultural groups. Those politicians will be stunned by the positive energy they will witness tonight, and they may not have ever seen anything like it ever before ... except maybe at the football or a Taylor Swift concert. Not at a public meeting with politicians. The politicians will be asked to commit to certain asks. Of course, both the Alliance and the politicians want to be able to say "Yes" on the night, so there is negotiation about those asks right up until the last minute. So, while they can change, here are the asks at the moment:

On Housing:

- Including %s Affordable and Social Housing in the Hunter (the % still being negotiated)
 - Hunter Park
 - Broadmeadow development
 - Transport Oriented Developments
- Package for Hamilton South
- Raising the issue of the need to removing no-grounds eviction from NSW

Cont. over.....

To our dear Congregation - a thank you for how you assisted Nola over the years.

This enabled her to maintain and live in her home. There are just so many of you who would remember the occasions when she needed assistance, advice, making purchases, contacting tradesmen, lifts to various appointments, to church etc.

It was sincerely appreciated by Nola. Being a really caring congregation, our members demonstrated their continuing support and true christian heart. At every level, our church supported their family member, Nola.

Jean Cowley



THE PRAYER PAGE

Please join with each other as a congregation, to commit to praying at meal times, for the needs mentioned below.

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Family and friends of Edward Mordue
- * Family and friends of Nola
- * Lorraine Pepper in rehab at Shortland Hospital
- * pray for Lesley's recovery after surgery
- * Judith Fuller battling cancer
- * Pam
- * pray for Ken as he undergoes an operation on the 3rd May
- * pray for Lyn Benson following surgery
- * Family and friends of Vivianne for the memorial service for her mother
- * Les as he recovers from heart surgery
- * Those in our Congregation who have lost loved ones in recent months
- * Peter
- * Tony
- * Graeme
- * Jean
- * Fred Bryant
- * June Locker
- * Ryan Walpole
- * Kathryn Gray
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Isabella
- * Janice Wright
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Mert
- * Judith and family
- * Enid Power
- * Max

Congregational Prayer Points

- pray for the successful sale of the Whitebridge property
- pray for guidance and discernment for missional use of buildings into the future
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- pray that HCA will be able to obtain attendance from political leaders to the Founding Assembly at the great Hall in April
- those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- pray that a cease fire agreement will be negotiated between Israel and Hamas and that there will be relief from all the suffering
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots
- Thanksgiving for all orphanage children at school thanks to generous donations
- Rohingya people in Bangladesh where 7000 people homeless



The Hunter Presbytery Prayer Diary



This diary provides an opportunity to pray each week for congregations in the Presbytery. By praying together, we can encourage one another in mission, as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across the region. Each week there will be information and a prayer for each of the congregations in the Hunter Presbytery. This week we pray for:

14 April 2024 – Brunkerville Uniting Church

Brunkerville Uniting Church recently celebrated 135 years of continuous worship. The congregation of 15 -20 maintain the building and the adjoining cemetery, as they have done since the church first opened. Several of our congregation have been attending for over 70 years. We are a caring community, and several congregation members are part of the Brunky Bunch ukulele group. We meet weekly at the church and participate from time to time in services and visit a Care Home in Cessnock once a month.

Prayer: We pray for all members of Brunkerville Uniting Church as they care for each other and maintain the church building and the cemetery and continue to be welcoming to our community. Amen.

We continue to hold the Butchers family in our prayers following the passing of Vivianne's mother on 21 January

A memorial service will be held for

Brenda Mayers

10.30am on Monday 15 April
at Newcastle Crematorium
Anderson Drive, Beresfield

We mourn the passing of our dear friend

Edward Mordue

and hold his family and loved ones in our prayers

The Funeral Service for Edward will be held on
Tuesday 16 April at 11.00am
At Garden Suburb Church

Being A Welcoming Church

Welcome

We're glad you're here!



Resources for hospitality and welcome



Is your church ready to welcome newcomers? Here is a workshop opportunity to develop principles and strategies that give welcome and hospitality to visitors to your church who may, in the future, become members. Led by experienced pastor Rev Neil Smith, this workshop will give you clear strategies that can be developed in your congregation that give real impact as a welcoming community of faith. Participants will be asked to attend a church of another tradition as part of their preparation and research, and to have the experience of being a newcomer themselves. This workshop will provide an excellent resource for church leaders and elders and help you turn your Sunday worship into a form of community engagement.

Saturday 27th April 2024

9.30am - 1pm \$20/15 conc.

East Maitland Uniting Church - 35 William St

Details and registration here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcoming-seminar-tickets-865180186227?aff=oddtcreator>

Children & Family Worker Update



Well first term is over, what a busy term it was with training, preparing & contacting schools to get scripture up & running & then Easter a couple of weeks ago which changed the way we usually do the first term as it is usually the last lesson before breaking for holidays, but all done now & the children will be on holidays over the next 2 weeks returning to school on the 30th April.

Our **Holiday Kids Club** is on the 24th April 9.30am to 3pm our theme is 'Come Join the Circus', lots of fun craft & activities planned, if you know of any children who would like to join in the fun please let their parents know, if they call me I will send them a registration form, cost is only \$10.00 a child or \$20.00 per family all food provided.

Cathy

You are invited
to join with the



On Saturday 13 April

With a trip to Maitland Art Gallery leaving the Church at 10:00am and meeting at the Gallery at 11:25am.

Lunch will be at 12:30pm

All welcome and for transport and numbers attending,

contact Sue Warren 0427737793.



Kairos Prison Ministry started in Australia in the early 1990's. It is an interdenominational Christian ministry to and for prison inmates and their families. The mission of Kairos in Australia is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, and to assist in their transition to becoming productive citizens.

I've Spent Time in Prison!

A Men's Breakfast
at Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson St
8am Saturday 20th April
\$12 RSVP: Robert White whiterigg@westnet.com.au
or 4943 2096
Please advise of any special dietary requirements
By Wednesday 17th April 2024

Our speaker Stuart Bell, active in Kairos since 2004 working in the Hunter to provide courses to inmates in Cessnock and St Heliers Prisons. Stuart will give an understanding of what this ministry is aiming to achieve for the inmates and their families.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2024



“REPAST WITH THE REPTILES?”

An invitation is issued to ALL members of the church to join us for our Annual Mother's Day Outing.

The Place – The Hunter Wetlands Centre – 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland.

Date - Saturday May 4th May 2024.

Time –11-15 am for 11-30 am for Morning Tea. There will be a new Art Exhibition for all to see on the day. There will be a demonstrated talk on reptiles during M/T. Lunch will follow ordered from the café with M/T.

For those interested, there is a guided tour at 10-30am for the energetic. There is an entry fee of \$5 to the Wetlands. Approximate duration of tour is 45 minutes. Please phone Grahame on 0402 335 410 if interested..

Consider Car Pooling. Meet at the church if you need a lift. Please notify Sue Warren on 4944 7793.

Please let your seasonal hosts extraordinaire for the day, Grahame Pricter and Noel Drinkwater, know by phoning 0402 335 410 or 0428 431 169 to book your “Repast with the Reptiles.” RSVP 28th April 2024

I/We, Will be//will not be attending the ***“Mother's Day Repast with the Reptiles”*** on Saturday 4th May 2024.

Small is Beautiful



Thriving as a small Church



Presbytery Minister Graham Perry and Saltbush Scattered Community Minister Yvonne Ghavalas invite you to a time of deep listening and sharing together the challenges and opportunities of being a small church. Yvonne has worked extensively across intergenerational, multicultural, and depleted resource contexts as a social worker, high school teacher, and minister. She is passionate about creating authentic places of belonging through prayer, play, and ancient spiritual practices. Come and find inspiration together in this real and down-to-earth gathering which will include worship, Holy Communion, and sources of support for thriving small communities

Saturday 11th May 2024
10am - 1pm \$20/15 conc.
East Maitland Uniting Church - 35 William St

Details and registration here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/small-is-beautiful-thriving-as-a-small-church-tickets-865935605707?aff=oddtcreator>

FAMILY FUN TRIVIA NIGHT & AUCTION CCEA SRE FUNDRAISER

LET THE
GAMES
BEGIN!



BYO Snacks
(Nut free zone),
Drinks, Tea & coffee
for Sale

SATURDAY 4TH MAY AT 7PM AT
HUNTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH
20A HILLSCREST PRD, HIGHFIELDS

TABLES OF 8 OR INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE
(\$20 PERSON - UNDER 16 FREE)

Enquiries & booking
Contact Hunter Christian Church
02 4942 1351
info@hcc.org.au

Come and take part in a
silent auction to raise money
for SRE at
Whitebridge High

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

Administration:

P: 4943 4019

E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au

24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290

PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

Children & Families Resource Worker:

Mrs Cathy Beeton

M: 0409 445 933

E: Cath4858@gmail.com

Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church
Contact Person

Bank Account Details for the Charlestown Garden Suburb Multi-Centre Congregation:

Bank Account held with: Uniting Financial Services

Account Name: Charlestown Congregation General Account

BSB: 634 634 Account No.: 100030837

For Offering please put Ref: Offering

Keep up to date with happenings and info:

Webpage: <http://www.chagsuca.org.au>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CharlestownUnitingChurch>

Project Reconnect: <http://www.projectreconnect.com.au>

Worship Services: <https://tinyurl.com/CHaGS-YouTube-Link>