

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



Pentecost 24

Sunday, 23 November 2014

Ezekiel speaks of the shepherd who searches for lost sheep, rescues them from danger and feeds them from rich pastures. Mathew makes the metaphor personal, as Jesus blesses the “sheep” who feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Truly, this manner of shepherding is an occasion to join the psalmist in making “a joyful noise to the LORD,” for we are indeed God’s people, the sheep of God’s pasture. We, like the early Christians at Ephesus, know the hope to which we have been called and the riches of our glorious inheritance in Christ. Thus it is that we are both broken and whole, at once healer and healed, at the same time shepherd and sheep.

Ministry Matters

LECTIONARY

23 November Pentecost 24	Ezekiel 34: 11-16 , 20-24 Ephesians 1: 15-23	Psalms 100 Matthew 25: 31-46
30 November Advent 1	Isaiah 64: 1-9 I Corinthians 1: 3-9	Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19 Mark 13: 24-37

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Listening to the Language of the Bible

Excerpts from a book by Lois Tverberg.

6. Hebraic insights that deepen our thinking – Shalom Shalom.



How is your peace? Like many Hebrew words, the word ‘shalom’, which we commonly translate as ‘peace’, has a wider meaning than the English word. We tend to understand it as the absence of war or as calmness of spirit. But along with these ideas, the Hebrew word also carries the greater connotation of well-being, health, safety, prosperity, wholeness and completeness. Peace, in its traditional meaning, is also of great importance in the Scriptures. God doesn’t want our worship until we are at peace with others. The peace offering was eaten in part by the worshipper and his family. It was as if God had invited them to dinner at his table, symbolic of true friendship in that culture. It was a celebration of the peace between all participants, between God and all of the family members. The Lord’s Supper has the form of a peace offering. In eating of it we are partaking in a meal of peace with God, celebrating a new relationship with him through Jesus’ atonement. Through Christ, God offers all of us shalom, in all the many senses of the word.

ROSTERS FOR 30 NOVEMBER

Combined Service

10.15 am Drysdale

Duty Elder: Bob Stevenson

Prayer/Readings: Graeme’s team

Door: Vince King

Morning Tea: Jen Davis,
Irene Stevenson

Flowers: TBA

(**Port. Lawns** – David Hughes,
Peter Gibbs, Graeme Dryden)

MANUS ISLAND

Sunday 23rd November, 6.00 pm,
Belmont UC, Thomson St, Belmont.

Mr Jason Brown will speak about his experiences working at Manus Island detention centre. A light meal will follow the presentation.

Jason is a Geelong resident and a former counsellor with International Health and Medical Services at the Manus Island regional detention centre PNG. He had two separate months at IHMS working as a mental health clinician to the 1,350 asylum seekers. While there he conducted mindfulness relaxation group sessions, one-on-one counselling and health education presentations. Join us to hear about his work and experiences in the centre.

Belmont/ St Luke’s Social Issues Committee

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 23 November

Portarlinton

9.00 am Port Lay Team –
Mr Keith Pigdon & Team

Drysdale

9.00 am Denise's team
10.45 am Port Lay Team –
Mr Keith Pigdon & Team

St Leonards

7.00 pm Port Lay Team –
Mr Keith Pigdon & Team

Monday, 24 November

2.00 pm St Leonards UCAF
7.30 pm Port. Advent Study - Making
of the Messiah

Tuesday, 25 November

7.30 pm Drysdale Advent Study -
Making of the Messiah

Wednesday, 26 November

9.00 am – 12.45 pm Drysdale mainly
music
10.00 am Drysdale Coffee & Chat
1.30-4.00 pm Drysdale UCAF

Thursday, 27 November

9.00 am Portarlinton Choir practice
9.30 am Drysdale Choir practice

Friday, 28 November

9:15-10.00 am Drysdale Friday School

Sunday, 30 November

10.15 am **Combined Linked
Congregations @ Drysdale**
Rev. Marion Latham,
Graeme's team assisting

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

ALL CONGREGATIONS

State Elections, 29th November

Please note that the Drysdale Church
Hall will be used by the State Electoral
Office - Friday evening (28th) and all day
Saturday (29th).

Combined Service

10.15 am Sunday 30th November
There will be a combined Linked
Congregations service at Drysdale.
All are invited to attend and bring a plate
of finger food for a shared lunch after the
service.

Advent Reflection/Studies begin this
week, Monday evenings at Portarlinton
and Tuesday evenings at Drysdale. The
series will run for four weeks.

Portarlinton:

The Making of the Messiah –
Mondays, 7.30 pm at the home of
Lorraine and David Hughes (corner of
Allens' Rd & Pigdon St, entrance off
Allens' Rd).

We will listen to Handel's music, reflect
on the associated scriptures and pray for
concerns suggested by the passages.
Contact Lorraine (5259 2364) to obtain
your study booklet before the sessions.
Everyone welcome: please bring a non-
perishable Christmas food item for the
food bank.

Drysdale:

We are all your people
Tuesdays, 7.30 pm at the church.

Shoe Box Fillers

Urgent request for shoe box fillers for
Samaritan's purse
On Tuesday Jenni Nickelson, Joan
Cook, Val Lestranger and Sue Polley
went to Melbourne to help in the
processing of Christmas Shoe Boxes for
Samaritan's Purse. While there have
already been approximately 45,000 shoe
boxes processed there are lots more to
do in the next couple of weeks. The
target for this year is 60,000 and more
boxes are coming in each day. Our
church has already provided 45 great
boxes. At processing, each shoe box is
checked for acceptable content, any
unsuitable items removed and gaps filled
up with items sourced in bulk. There is a
real shortage of some specific items;
boys clothing – specifically size 2-4, and
5-9, small soft toys, tooth brushes, face
washers, combs. If anyone would like to
provide additional support for this
project, perhaps by knitting a few soft
toys or by purchasing some of the
needed items please put them in the box
at the church by Wednesday, 26
November, so we can send them down.
Thank you!

PORTARLINGTON

Social Justice Letter Writing Group

Friday 28th November at **10:15am** in the
Hall at St Andrew's. Please bring paper
and pen or laptop. The group will be in
recess over December and January,
resuming February 27th 2015. All are
welcome. Merilyn Bertram 5251 1102.

The **Port Justice and Mission Ministry
Team** have decided to include in the
Newssheet, the monthly Loose Change
contributions by St Andrew's and St
Leonard's as an encouragement to all.
This year contributions have gone to
Kids Plus in Geelong and the **Sudan
Midwifery Project**. Contributions for
October were **\$121.65** and for November,
\$149.85.

The **Justice and Mission Team**
has provided a box in the Narthex for
collection of used batteries and
computer print cartridges. These will be
taken to the appropriate collection points
for recycling. The JAM team encourages
you to participate in this small but
important way of caring for our
environment and our planet.

Successful Portarlinton Fete

The Portarlinton Blooming Plants and
Home Made Fair, held last Saturday
morning, was a great success. There
were plenty of people and a good
selection of items on all stalls. Craft
\$735, Plants \$697, Raffle \$303, Cakes
\$294, Morning Tea \$213, donations \$90,
for a **total of \$2,332**. Thanks to all
congregation members for a terrific
effort. A lot of fun was had by all and an
excellent result financially.

Barry Ruler 5259 3304.

ST LEONARDS

The next meeting of the St. Leonards
U.C.A.F. is the final one for 2014.
This will be at **12.30 pm, Monday 24th
November**. Please bring a non-
perishable Christmas food item for the
food bank.