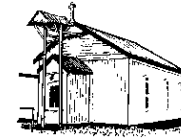


THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



HAPPY NEW (CHURCH) YEAR!

Advent 1

Sunday, 30 November 2014

Advent Sunday begins a time of preparation for the coming of Christmas. It is not a day to begin singing Christmas carols and switching on Christmas trees. For the church it is a time to stop and be aware of the darkness, to hear the cries of a suffering world, to see where everything is going wrong in our own lives, a time to change the liturgical colour to purple, a time to be penitent and to pray fervently: O Come, Lord, come. But it is also a time to look to the coming of Christ at Christmas and to look for the Second Coming.

Rev. John Brewster, Church of Scotland, *Starters For Sunday*. 2008

LECTIONARY

30 November Advent 1	Isaiah 64: 1-9 I Corinthians 1: 3-9	Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19 Mark 13: 24-37
7 December Advent 2	Isaiah 40: 1-11 2 Peter 3: 8-15a	Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13 Mark 1: 1-8

LINKED MINISTER:	Rev. Marion Latham
Phone	5253 2199
Email:	marlat41@optusnet.com.au
Mobile:	0414383101
CHURCH OFFICE:	Drysdale Church Centre
Phone:	5253 1336
Email:	drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au
Web	http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au
UNITINGCARE OPSHOP:	Village Walk Drysdale
Phone:	5251 3640

ROSTERS FOR 7 December

Portarlington

9.00 am

Managers: Bruce and Marilyn Bertram

Morning Tea: Graham & Brenda

Vohmann

Pastoral Care & Prayers: David

Hughes

Readings: Lorraine Hughes

Power Point: Margaret Campbell

Drysdale

10.45 am

Duty Elder & Prayers: Bob Stevenson

Communion Elder: Irene Stevenson

Readings: Win Baker

Door: Hazel Wyllie

Morning Tea: Brenda Jacobs & Alma

Milvain

Flowers: Irene Stevenson

Food Bank Delivery: Nicola Morrish

St Leonards

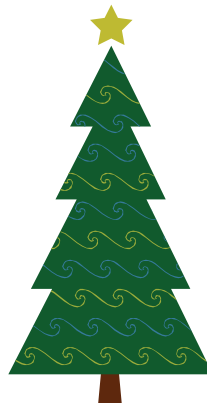
7.00 pm

Welcoming: Marj Wilson

Reading: Marion McGillivray

Prayer: Margo Jones

Brass & Flowers: Margo Jones & Marj Wilson



ALL CONGREGATIONS

Advent Reflection/Studies continue, Monday evenings at Portarlington and Tuesday evenings at Drysdale. The series will run for three more weeks.

Portarlington:

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.

God of sun and moon,
Lord of day light and dim night,
when our stars fall,
when our life's sun no longer shines,
your son comes to us
in our soul's dark night.
Even if we know not when,
now today
we can be bright for others,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen

Bob Eldan, Lander, Wyoming

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 30 November

10.15 am Combined Linked Congregations @ Drysdale
Rev. Marion Latham,
Graeme's team assisting
Followed by a shared lunch in hall.

Monday, 1 December

7.30 pm Port. Advent Study - *Making of the Messiah*
12 noon KYB lunch at Lynda's

Tuesday, 2 December

7.30 pm Drysdale Advent Study – *We are all your people*

Wednesday, 3 December

9.00 am – 12.45 pm Drysdale mainly music
10.00 am Drysdale Coffee & Chat

Thursday, 4 December

9.00 am Portarlington Choir practice
9.30 am Drysdale Choir practice
7.30 pm Linked Worship Workshop at Drysdale

Friday, 5 December

9:15-10.00 am Drysdale Friday School

Sunday, 7 December

Portarlington

9.00 am Mrs Michelle Hardy

Drysdale

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham, HC
Denise's Team assisting
10.45 am Rev Marion Latham, HC
Loose Change and Food Bank both services

St Leonards

7.00 pm Rev Marion Latham

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Garage Sale – Thank You!

Total this year was approximately \$2,920.

A huge thank you if you helped for one hour or two days, if you purchased items, sorted, delivered, counted, 'sizzled', stacked, baked, donated, prayed, or just encouraged one another.

We had helpers from our church family, their children and some from the Op. Shop.

Great job everyone, well done.
Suggestions for next year to Lynda Smith please- 5253 1007.

Empty Christmas Tree

There will again be an empty Christmas tree in church for us to place gifts under. The gift can be for a boy, girl, woman or man of any age. Please leave the gift unwrapped under the tree.

These gifts will be taken to Uniting Care Geelong for distribution to those in need. Thank you.

Messy Church

Sunday 14 December 5.00 - 6.30 pm is our next service with the theme of "Animals at Christmas." There will be six creative craft activities to undertake whilst considering a related question, followed by a short service in the church and then a shared meal. It is a great way to introduce non-church people to an informal church setting.

Pew decorations

Do you have a decoration that would look good at the end of the pew?
If you have a suitable decoration please bring it next week to help decorate our church for Christmas.

Loose Change Offering

The last loose change offering for the year will be next week. So far this year the contributions have reached \$1130 and it would be great to really increase that with our final offering. Our support for Samaritan House goes to providing care for homeless men in Geelong. Samaritan House provides crisis accommodation, for men only, over the age of 18 years. It actively works with other agencies to provide support and opportunities for housing. Their stay at Samaritan House aims to empower them with dignity, self-respect and confidence. It works in conjunction with Christ Church for meals, although it provides dinner on some nights.

PORTARLINGTON

The **Port Justice and Mission Ministry Team** have decided to include in the Newsheet, 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.

U.C.A.F.

The U.C.A.F.'s Christmas Celebration is on Monday, 8th December at 1.30 pm in the Meeting Room. Those attending are invited to bring an item that has made the story of Christmas real for them. These will form part of our Christmas service. Everyone is welcome to share this time of fellowship.

Rosters for 2015—Portarlington

I am soon to prepare all the rosters for the first half of the year and would appreciate details of any known absences for the first half. Please email details to me bruler@bigpond.com within the next two weeks.

Thanks. Barry Ruler.

December Fellowship Breakfast

Our last meeting for the year will be on Sat. 13th December, commencing at 7.30am. Cost will be \$5 with the total amount going to the Christmas Bowl appeal.

Guest Speakers will be Ian & Joy Porter who will tell us some of the "different" highlights of their recent European holiday. All members of the Linked Congregations are warmly invited to attend. Acceptances please to Barry on 5259 3304 by Thursday evening 11th December.