

Listening to the Language of the Bible

Exerpts from a book by Lois Tverberg.

Discovering the Bible's rich imagery.

Pri Knowing us by our fruit
Jermiah 17: 5-8 talks about the 'cursed tree' and the 'blessed tree' We might imagine that the blessed tree might be covered in beautiful foliage and produce luscious fruit and that the cursed tree might be barren and sparse in its growth. In Israel there is tree that is called *Ar'ar*, or the 'Cursed lemon' or 'Sodom Apple' because it grows in the salty desert near where Sodom stood. It looks healthy and green, but the fruit is hollow and filled with webs and a dry pit. According to legend, when God destroyed Sodom, he cursed the fruit of this tree also. So the tree had failed at the very thing that it had been made for – bearing good fruit. Again and again the Bible uses the image of fruit to show how God evaluates us. This tree is supposed to absorb life=giving water from the soil and pass it on to others through its fruit, but it doesn't achieve the goal. This is a good metaphor for us. Like this bush in the desert, we may rely on our own strength to survive. But while we may be able to become leafy and tall from our own efforts we cannot produce good, heavy, plump fruit without the living water of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Thought for the Day:

A blind person asked St Anthony: 'Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?' He replied: 'Yes, losing your vision!'

Presbytery of Port Phillip West – Prayer Cycle

We remember today:

- Corio-Norlane, Rev Peter Jewell
Lord guide and bless your work in our Presbytery that it may flourish for the good of the people and for your glory.
Amen

Orchestra Geelong

Bringing music to the community

Dates for your diaries:

Concert 1 : A Touch of the British -
Sunday, 17 May, 3.00 pm

Concert 2: Music of the Stage -
Sunday, 16 August, 3.00 pm

Concert 3: Mystery and Majesty
Sunday 29 November, 3.00 pm

Keith Humble Centre for Perf. Arts,
Geelong College, Newtown. Adults
\$20, Conc. \$15, U/16 Free

Sacred Music at the Basilica

The Choir of Newman College
presents *The Great War in Song*, on
Sunday, 31 May at 3 pm. More
details at
www.musicatthebasilica.org.au

Rosters for 31 May

Linked Congregations Combined Worship @ Portarlington, 10.15 am

Managers: David & Elizabeth
Thompson

Morning Tea: Keith & Elaine Farnell

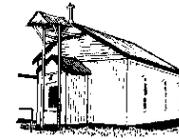
Pastoral Carer: David Hughes

Prayers: David Hughes

Reader: Lorraine Hughes

Power Point Prep: Margaret
Campbell

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Pentecost

Sunday, 24 May 2015

The power and significance of the Pentecost celebration is impossible to overstate, and this year the readings really reveal how far this gift of God's Spirit reaches. Pentecost is not just about a few individuals receiving a euphoric experience. Rather, the outpouring of God's Spirit reveals a whole new order for the entire cosmos! The giving of God's Spirit is not just about personal empowerment, or an individual experience of God's presence. It is about God's life and grace flowing into the entire cosmos. It is about followers of Christ being empowered to bring God's resurrection life to the whole of creation, finding our place in the unity of God's universe. The reverse of the Babel confusion of languages is simply an image of the reuniting of all things under Christ by God's Spirit, and the experience which the disciples shared is recognised, in the Scriptures, to be available to all people, and ultimately, to all of creation.

Sacredise

LECTIONARY

24 May	Acts 2: 1-21 or Ezek 37: 1-14	Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b
Pentecost	Rom 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21	John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15
31 May	Isaiah 6: 1-8	Psalm 29
Trinity Sun	Romans 8: 12-17	John 3: 1-17

LINKED MINISTER:

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**THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:
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Sunday 24 May

Portarlington

9.00am Drysdale Lay Team, Jen & Harvey Davis

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9 Rev Marion Latham, Wayne's team assisting

10.45 am Drysdale Lay Team, Jen & Harvey Davis

St Leonards

5.00 pm Drysdale Lay Team, Jen & Harvey Davis

Monday, 25 May

2.00 pm St Leonards UCAF

Wednesday, 27 May

9.30am mainly music

10.00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

4.00 pm Preaching Plan preparation meeting @ Drysdale church

Thursday, 28 May

9.00 am Portarlington Choir practice

9.30 am Drysdale Choir Practice

Friday, 29 May

9.15am Friday School Drysdale

1:30 pm Portarlington Prayer Service

Saturday, 30 May

9.30am - 5.00 pm Drysdale Retreat @ Portarlington Guide Hall

Sunday 31 May

10.15 am Linked Congregations Combined Worship @ Portarlington, Rev Marion Latham

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Retreat

Our 2015 Retreat is on Saturday 30 May at the Portarlington Guide Hall from 9.30 am to 5pm. There is no cost and all are invited. Record your name on the list or tell Wayne Myers. The theme is "Regeneration". Guest presenter is Rev Rose Broadstock from Presbytery. Others involved in sessions are Lynda Smith, Graeme Dryden, Rev Marion Latham, Margo Jones, Wayne Myers and Angela Tutty (talking about Gallipoli). We hope you will join us.

ST LEONARDS

U.C.A.F.

St. Leonards U.C.A.F. would like to invite you to our Birthday to be held on 25 May 2015 at 2.00 pm at our church hall Dudley Parade, St Leonards. The entertainment for the afternoon is the Bellarine Community Choir, who will sing popular songs from the first world war. This will include a sing along.

There will be afternoon tea and a donation plate. Please R.S.V.P. with numbers to Denise McLaverty (Hon Sec) 5257 1969

FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

St Leonards and Portarlington Loose Change offerings for May of \$120.10 will be shared between UnitingWorld Timor Leste Health Centre Project and

Samaritan House Geelong. Thank you everyone.

I was/am humbled by the number of folk who rang, many more than once and those who sent cards during my hospitalisation expressing concern, well wishes and especially promises of prayer. The encouragement and comfort for both Sandra and myself was/is incalculable. Please accept our grateful thanks for your personal concern via this inadequately impersonal note.

Geoff Giddings

Marion's News

At the services where she presided last week, Marion announced that in the next few months she will retire. Much as she loves being in ministry with the people of the Bellarine, the time has come for her to spend more time with her family and pursue some hobbies and whatever ministry God has in mind for her. There is a new home being built for her in Greenvale, an outer suburb north of Melbourne, and when it is finished, she will retire to live there. This is not far from her two eldest offspring and their families and her local church will be Providence Road, Greenvale.

Act for Peace : UnitingWorld some good news!

Jeff Wild Development Officer for Victoria and Tasmania for Act for Peace writes: "Our emergency appeals have received a very generous response. We have received around \$300 000 from supporters for Vanuatu and around \$120 000 so far for Nepal. and we have successfully applied for grants from both the United Nations and

from the Australian Department of Immigration. The grant from the UN will assist our work on reducing armed violence, and the one from the Immigration Dept will assist in the resettlement of Tamil refugees into Sri Lanka. "

Thanks to everyone who has donated to assist folk in desperate need across the world.

Official opening of Uniting Care Geelong's Operations Centre at Grovedale

You are invited to attend this event on Sunday, 14 June.

Commencing at 9.30 am with a Church Service, including the dedication of volunteers and address by the Moderator of the UC, Mr Dan Wootton. The official opening will be at 11.30 am followed by a bbq lunch. RSVP by Friday, 29 to Vanessa Thomson, email dougathomson@hotmail.com or phone 5243 6573.

An ecumenical Bible Reflection and Meditation

will be held at St Paul's Anglican Church on 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 9.30 am commencing on 11 June.

As the Meditation group lead by the Catholic Church members is unable to continue, the Anglican church of St Paul's would like to take the initiative in providing a similar time of reflection on a fortnightly basis.

Members of all churches and their friends are invited to participate. For

information please contact Wyn Moriarty,
5257 1441.