



Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am

Ephesians 4:1-8 & 11-13
1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*

Response: *Thanks be to God*



8am—Worship
 Includes communion
 Led by Vivienne Strong
 Jon Humphries
 and Patty Lawrence

9.30am—Worship
 Includes communion
 Led by Jon Humphries
 Patty Lawrence

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship
 Includes communion
 Led by Abby Sim
 and Jon Humphries

Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.
 Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.
OPEN FROM 9.30AM

Livestreaming at
8am and 9.30am only

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

What's happening this week at St. Matthew's

MONDAY 5 August

9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
All Welcome
 community room and church

TUESDAY 6 August

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

10:15am—Upstairs Hall in use
 by Preschool

11.30am—Care and Prayer
 community room and church

7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study
 lower hall

WEDNESDAY 7 August

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches

upstairs hall

7pm—Finance Committee Meeting
 upstairs hall

THURSDAY 8 August

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 9 August

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 10 August

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY
11 AUGUST

8am—Worship

9am—Worship @ the Willows

9.30am—Worship
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea

2pm—Favourites
Hymns Singalong

6.45pm—Worship
Community Meal



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003

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LOCATION:

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 BAULKHAM HILLS

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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

4 August

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a

Psalm 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

Plus reading for Service set by Guest
Preacher, Rev. Patty Lawrence:

1 Corinthians 12: 1-13

Gifted, So What?

Most of us will be aware that the Olympic Games are happening. Whether or not you are into sport or this kind of competition, the dedication and training that the athletes put into their sport as well as the commitment to pursuing their goals to be the best that they can be is impressive and admirable. Have you ever thought, though, about how they found that they were good at whatever sport that they have chosen to pursue and what it has taken to be able to perform at the level that we are able to watch?

The first way is that many athletes will likely have tried some sport at some point, probably at school, and then joined a local club where they have enjoyed the sport and progressed up the ranks and levels of competition to where they are now. There will be some athletes who have people notice something about them, like Danny

Zucco (John Travolta) in the movie 'Grease' where a coach or teacher encourages them to take up a sport or pursuit. Of course, sometimes it's our parents who 'push' us into sport. Then, there will be those athletes, like one of the swimmers from China who was inspired by Kyle Chalmers to take up swimming, who saw someone compete in a sport and then decided to get into it themselves, or who thought that they were good at something like running or throwing, and then found the sport where they could use and grow their talent in.

The same is for us in the Church. Some of us will discover that we have gifts or interests or have developed them for work etc., and then look for ways which we might use them in as part of the Church to serve others. Some of us will be inspired by the example of others that we try to emulate and join in what they are doing. There are those of us for who someone will see something in us and then encourage us to take up a role or ministry. It was like that for me when my ministry leader saw me do a talk on a youth camp and then encouraged me to preach. Then there are the gifts that we discover simply by being a part of the Church and seeking to help out in ways that we can given the opportunities which pop up. Many youth leaders grow to a point where they outgrow youth group and then take on leadership as a way of continuing to be connected or to give back in the way that others gave to them.

Continued next page.

Gifted, so what? *continued*

So, there is someone, whether it be us or others, noticing that we might be OK, or even good, at something. This is a starting point, but the reality is that unless the gift is owned, developed and honed and we are formed in our ability to use it, then it will go to waste. The second step is having someplace to be able to do that and develop our gifts into talents as we grow in understanding, skill, and ability. Again, this is relevant to us in the Church because we all have gifts, but we need the space and encouragement through others and opportunity to use it.

In our Basis of Union [*look it up and have a read if you haven't ever done so <https://uniting.church/basisofunion/>*] there is a part about gifts. It says, **"The Uniting Church affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant. It acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ's Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ."** We all have gifts from God as Spirit and all gifts have a ministry to go with it. Of course, it is important for us to think about how we grow our gifts and disciple ourselves and others so that they grow their gifts and find opportunities and ways to use them in ministry, but for now let's just focus on gifts that we might have.

We all have gifts, not just some of us, or just the one who get into special roles. We all have gifts, and those gifts have ministries that go with them. How are we to know what ministry God might be calling us to, if we don't first look to our gifts? So, we each as individuals have a responsibility to seek out our gifts through being involved in the life of the Church, trying new things to be involved with, and through prayer and reflection on what we might be good at or show signs of

being good at. We, as the Church together, also have a responsibility to look for, affirm and encourage each other in discovering what gifts we might have from God. This is part of what Jesus called his followers to do when he told them to disciple all people. This leads to the kicker, which is that all people have gifts from God, not just us in the Church and we should be calling others to use them and join God in God's work.

We all have gifts, not just some of us. Discovering what they might be, for ourselves and for others is a process which we call discernment. We all have gifts, and this might be a surprise to us, but they don't always remain the same. We can develop new gifts or new ways to use them. Discernment is an ever-ongoing process for us. We discern our gifts and we discern how we might use them. Sometimes, the need arises as we seek to serve and love others, and then we have to discover the gifts in us and how to grow them so that we can love and service those who need us.

Too often when gifts are talked about in the Church, they are seen to be the ones specifically named by the Apostle Paul in passages such as 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. These are definitely gifts and can be called 'spiritual.' However, as he actually says, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." [1 Corinthians 12:4-7] This is the kind of theology which the Basis of Union draws our understanding of gifts from. All gifts are from the Spirit, and therefore all gifts are 'spiritual.' There maybe some which have more prominent roles associated with them, but that doesn't make them more spiritual than others.

We all have gifts from God as Spirit and discerning what they might be and how we might use them to serve God and others gives us quite a lot to think about.

God bless

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

Ann Cotterill

Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

Sympathy to Robyn Dunbar, Noni Medcalf and families on the death of Malcolm Dunbar on 27th July.

A Celebration Service for the Life of Malcolm was held at St. Matthew's at 11am on Friday 2nd August.



Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

4—10 August
Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea,
Central African Republic

Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter
for last week (26 July 2024) please see link :
[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](https://www.uca.org.au)

Patty Lawrence is the Period of Discernment Coordinator in the Vital Leadership team.

Patty was previously the Training and Support Officer with the NSW Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network. Patty is a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church. Previous placements were with the Congregations of Engadine and Broken Bay.

<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/team/rev-patty-lawrence/>

AUGUST 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES at the church

4th August - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
includes Communion

11th August - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

18th August - 9am Combined AGM

25th August - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services



AGM

Annual General Meeting

Sunday
18 August 10am

Following the 9am Combined Worship Service

17th National Assembly Meeting

The 17th Assembly meeting was held in July over six days from 11-16 July being a time of joyful Christian community, worship, prayer and discerning the will of God for the Uniting Church in Australia. More than 200 members from around the country came together on Burramattagal land to do the business of the triennial Assembly. You can read more about it using the following link <https://uniting.church/assembly-full-summary/>

A key part of the meeting was the installation of our 17th President, Rev Charissa Suli who is the youngest president and first person of colour to hold this role. Rev Dr Paul Dongwon Goh was announced the next President-elect of the Uniting Church in Australia. Paul will serve as President from 2027-2030 and will be the first Korean to do so. Mr Andrew Johnson was appointed as the new Assembly General Secretary.

Several key issues were discussed and proposals accepted. There were decisions about our Covenant with our First Nations Peoples, an affirmation, welcome and honouring of the life and faith of transgender, intersex and gender diverse people in our Church, acceptance of ACT 2 directions, three ecumenical documents were accepted as "continuing witness" to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and a decision to continue our mandate to support and encourage the whole church to move towards zero emissions by 2040.

Favourite Hymns Singalong

*Sunday 11 August
@ 2pm
at St. Matthew's*

*Led by David Short on the organ and
Barry Gregory on vocals*

*All are welcome to come along for an
afternoon of wonderful music and reminiscing
singing your favourite hymns.*



**Do you love flowers?
Do you love growing, picking,
giving, receiving and buying them
and then are not sure how to
arrange them in a way to make
them look good and last longer?**

Everyone is welcome to come to a basic demonstration of how to prepare and arrange fresh flowers from the flower markets then you can make your own to take home. \$20 includes all materials and fresh flowers and basic morning tea. Maximum number of participants is 20 people.

Floral Demonstration & Practical Workshop Saturday 24 August

Please reserve your spot by calling or visiting the church office by 17th August.

Date: Saturday 24 August

Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm

**Where: St. Matthew's lower hall,
Cnr Edgar & Charles Street's,
Baulkham Hills. 9686 3003
office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au**

All you need to bring is a good pair of secateurs or scissors and **\$20 - cash only** and be seated ready to start at 9.30 am.



The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view at the end of each week for the upcoming Sunday on the St. Matthew's website www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.