

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA YASS PARISH



OCTOBER 2022

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As part of God's people we are called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ, within our community through regular worship, faithful witness and humble service.

REFLECTION: READ JEREMIAH 8:18 – 9:1

We live in a broken world. All over the globe people suffer from conflict, disease, natural disasters, exploitation, bigotry and injustice. We witness these struggles up close in our communities, in the lives of our loved ones, even in our own experiences. In the face of such difficulty, we seek comfort and security wherever we can find it.

One place where we might find comfort and security is in the stories of those who came before us. Our faith and our holy scriptures are full of generations of God's people who have suffered and struggled through agonizing ordeals, exile and enslavement, famine and war, and who have wavered in their faithfulness to God, as we ourselves might do in our most difficult moments. It can be hard to believe in God's goodness and mercy when our world and our own lives seem to be devoid of these gifts of a loving Creator.

In this passage, Jeremiah is reflecting on his people's suffering. He is crying out to God, weeping tears for the slain. It is clear that Jeremiah is striving to maintain faith in God in the midst of a broken world. He questions when -or even if - his people will be healed and delivered. But the fact that he brings those questions to God shows that he still believes that God is listening.

We know that God was always faithful to God's people. And knowing these stories, knowing this history, we can trust that God is also faithful to us. We can learn from Jeremiah and hold on to our knowledge that God is good, merciful, present and listening, even in the midst of struggle.

God, thank you for your steadfast presence in our lives and world. Help us to remember the signs of your faithfulness in our own lives and experiences.

Church Council News:

Church Council met on 21st September. The Treasurer’s report was discussed and accepted. The Parish will purchase a new laptop computer and lease a new version of MYOB for the Treasurer to use.

Reports were received and accepted from Property Committee, UCAF, Safe Church Officer SRE Board Representative and Presbytery Representative. There was a verbal report from Rye Park.

It was agreed to hold the Santa Paws event again this year. Date to be advised.

The Mission Plan needs to be revised this year and it was decided to consult with all members of the congregation. A strategy to allow everyone to participate will be drawn up.

(Ruth Thompson – Secretary – Yass Parish Church Council)

CONGREGATION REPORT

A Congregation meeting will be held on Sunday 13th November. At this time elections will be held for the positions of Elder and Church Councillor.

Elders whose terms are completed
Della Armour, Owen Graham, Suzie Graham

Church Councillors

Lesley Cox, Sue Demoor, Ruth Thompson, Phill Willis, Marcia Stuart

Information and nomination forms will be available in the foyer by 16th October.

Chris Anderson – Congregation Secretary

OCTOBER LECTIONARY READINGS:

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
2	Pentecost 17 (27)	Lam 1: 1-6	Lam 3: 19-26 or Ps137	2 Tim 1: 1-14	Lk17: 5-10
9	Pentecost 18 (28)	Jer 29:1, 4-7	Ps 66:1-12	2 Tim 2: 8-15	Lk 17: 5-10
16	Pentecost 19 (29)	Jer 31:27-34	Ps 119: 97-104	2 Tim 3: 14- 4:5	Lk 18:1-8
23	Pentecost 20 (30)	Jl 2:23-32	Ps 65	2 Tim 4: 6-8,16-18	Lk 18: 9-14
30	Pentecost 21 (31)	Hab 1:1-4, 2: 1-4	Ps 119: 137-144	2 Thes 1:1-4, 11-12	Lk 19:1-10

UCAF NEWS

UCAF will lead the service for Frontier Services on 30th October and our members will participate in the presentation. This will be a Parish Service as the Annual Parish meeting will be in the hall after the service.

There will be a Retiring Offering. After the meeting UCAF will host a BBQ lunch.

During November we will be asking for donations of money for the Mustard Seed Pantry run by the Uniting Church in Gungahlin.

It was decided to hold a Christmas Gathering on Friday, 2nd December at 6 pm in the hall. This will be a meal followed by carol singing.

Ruth Thompson for UCAF members

SRE

After many months, SRE (for Scripture in the High School) met again on 14 September.

Notes on the meeting follow.

1. Jess, our scripture teacher, reported that her classes are going well this year and are more engaged.
2. The trivia night has been postponed until autumn, but a pie drive may be undertaken shortly. More information will be made available when I have it.
3. The financial situation is still not great, and we will have Jess visit all of the partner churches in the near future. We see these partnerships as vital to keep religious education in the schools as long as we are permitted to do so. We also value of personal partners who have made religious education part of their own mission. A big thank you to these partners/supporters.
4. We hope to start 10 minute morning prayer meetings once a week on zoom with Jess. A notice will go out to all partners, but if you are interested but not a financial supporter, please let Sue know and you will be included.

Sue Demoor, board member

Presbytery Meeting 20 August 2022

While I was away I attended the presbytery meeting online. My notes follow.

Our regional board met for the third time to draft our Presbytery Mission Plan for 2023-2026.

The process we have been following is very good and we have made much progress.

In the March meeting we shared and gathered stories from the representatives from around our presbytery on how they saw God currently working in their congregations. We then found BNbiblical narratives the resonated with the stories.

In the May meeting we discussed the 4 Biblical themes which emerged:

- God acts in mission
- We are being called outward
- God is doing unexpected things
- We grow by sharing our faith

We then discussed where we thought God wanted us to go and identified 5 focus areas for the Presbytery.

This August meeting spent most of the time in small groups evaluating the content of the draft plan and prioritising this content.

And together as Canberra Region Presbytery we are committed to:

- 1 Helping each other grow connections with our local communities
- 2 Being part of each other's daily lives – friendly and supportive
- 3 Building deeper connections across the Presbytery
- 4 Using property to resource mission
- 5 Engaging in social justice, equality, and local issues

This document is still in draft form as it is an evolving document as in our Parish Mission Plan

We also received the following reports: • Co-Chairs Report • PRC Report: with Recommendation that Canberra Region Presbytery write to the Synod General Secretary and the Safe Church unit requesting that more Safe Church training be made available in person in rural presbyteries and note that many congregations will remain uncompliant regarding Safe Church requirements until this happens. • SC Minutes • Property Report • MSC Report Doc 5 Doc 6, Doc 7 Doc 8 Doc 9 Doc 10, 10a, 10b • Presbytery Financial Report - Balance Sheet - P&L Sheet

We were shown an excellent video on the Lane Cove Church and how it has reinvented itself. It made me think of where we might be headed as we review our mission plan in the future.

You can view this video, *Our Story Transforming Community*, here:

<https://vimeo.com/713995775>

Sue Demoor, Presbytery representative

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**WORSHIP ROSTER----ST ANDREWS CONGREGATION
October-----2022**

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READER	PRAYERS	Morning Tea	Flowers
Oct 2nd	Barry Banks	Chris Anderson	Barry Banks	Chris	Ruth
Oct 9th	Ruth Thompson	Team 3	Team 3	Ann & Chris	Ann
Oct 16th	TBA	Suzie Graham	Owen Graham	Della & Ray	Sandra
Oct 23rd	John Braakman	Tim Holmes	Sandra Henshaw	Ruth Thompson	Barbara
Oct 30th	UCAF	Chris Anderson	Ruth Thompson	UCAF	Barbara

**Stewards : Gordon & Sandra Henshaw
Duty Elders: Suzie and Owen Graham**

Counter: Gordon Henshaw

Prayer Points for October:

For friends and family living with ongoing medical issues;

For all families who are mourning the loss of a loved one and especially the Royal Family

For countries caught up in conflict and civil unrest especially Ukraine

For Pakistan as it tries to recover from the massive flooding.

For flood victims in the eastern states of Australia

Parish Calendar: OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10 am Yass HC	3	4 Elder's 2pm	5 Morning Tea GWL 9.45 AM	6	7	8
9 10am Yass	10	11	12 Church Council Special meeting 2 pm	13	14 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	15
16 10am Yass	17	18 TEG Service 11am GWL Service 2 pm	19	20	21 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	22
23 10am Yass	24	25 <u><i>November Newsletter Items due</i></u>	26	27	28 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	29
30 10am Yass Parish Service And Annual Parish meeting and lunch	31					

