

## MINISTERS' BLOG (Phil)

What better time than at the tenth anniversary of our church family, to rethink about our *raison d'être*. Why are we here? What is our purpose?

Classically, church has been defined institutionally; as the place where the Word is faithfully preached the sacraments duly administered. Behind such a formal conception, is a notion that goes back to the outset of the church; namely, the church is where the bishop is! Some might feel justified in thinking such a concept does not carry much weight these days.

Thank God, there are now voices attempting to stimulate discussion around the church being, *prima facie*, a "school" for love. That it's a place to embody and promote a loving life tantamount to what we know of Jesus.

And more than being simply a place to learn *about* love, it is a community that actually teaches people *to* love. It's not so much the theory, as the practice. For those sceptical, we're reminded in scripture about seeking a "more excellent way". And that is about loving. And if we could rescue the 1 Corinthians passage from marriage liturgies, that poetic instruction really describes the essence, the manner in which we must live; with patience, kindness, believing the best of everyone etc.

I hear people say far too often something akin to...*I have to leave the church to find God*. Others say...*I don't want church and religion. I want to invest myself more in Jesus and spirituality*. But my contention is that while you can be committed to the church without Jesus, you can't be committed to Jesus without the church.

So maybe the time has come for us to look at everything that passes for church; the things we do and say, and to evaluate everything by asking...*how much does this actually teach people to love like Jesus?*

One year at AWUC and I know our church family has some of the most committed, beautiful people God has given me the privilege of sharing life with. And I mean that! My prayer therefore, is that by the eleventh anniversary, people here will be jumping out of their seats to show (Jesus') love to people; those meeting here, and those met in daily discourse What a future awaits you. What a hope for this church, for any church open to seeing is calling as a "school" to teach people to love like Jesus.

After 23 years of faithful service Betty Burton is reluctantly closing the **Card Stall** with a once off discounted price sale **TODAY** We wish to thank Betty for all the time and effort she has put into this ministry over all those years.

We will farewell Anne Thyne on the 16th December in both morning services.

**Evening Fellowship's** Christmas meeting is on 12th December at 7.30pm. Please bring a small plate of supper and your gift for your secret friend.

**Mellor Park Carols** Wednesday December 12th at 6pm -9.30 pm. If you can help with the BBQ please see Paddy Cross

## Christmas Services 2012

### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

5.30pm "Family Gathering" - aimed at Families with young children - but all are welcome, "mainly music, Lorraine Schroder "

11.15pm Christmas Eve Carols Celebration

### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9.15 (combined Service)  
Celebrate the Birth of Jesus.



From Monday 24 December until January 7. The **Office will be closed**. The ministers and staff are available for contact by phone. The office phone will be diverted to Phil.

### Small Group feature of the week

<b>Roe's Group</b>	Wednesday evening fortnightly
Who are we: mainly 40+	
What we do: Bible study, prayer, sometimes share a meal	

**If you would like a full list of small groups at AWUC or like any other information, contact Brett (0407 250 609) or Ruth (0450 694 844)**

A congregational meeting is to be held **TODAY at 2pm**.

**Christmas Harmony** Wednesday 19 December 2012

8.00pm Elder Hall, North Terrace

Conductor: Rosemary Nairn OAM, Organist: Andrew Georg

Pianist: Margaret Lambert, and featuring Al Kidney's Brass Quintet

Tickets: \$28, \$24 (conc), \$22 (10 or more), \$10 (child)

Margaret Ph. 8352 8348 or 0408 528 349



## Dec 16, 2012

9.15 am Phil Carr  
10.45 am Phil Carr  
6.00 pm Douglas Monaghan  
Youth on holidays

### Readings Dec 16 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4: 4-7  
Luke 3: 7-18

**For pastoral or administrative matters phone the  
Church Office on 8234 1199 as the first point of contact.**

**Office Manager:** Anne Thyne 8234 1199 (Ph) 8234 7799 (Fax)  
Email: office@awuc.org.au

**Office hours Mon - Fri 9am-3pm**  
312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Brooklyn Park 5032  
[www.awuc.org.au](http://www.awuc.org.au)

**Children's Ministry:** Lorraine Schroder  
Email: kidsspace@awuc.org.au

**Visitation Pastor:** Rev Norm Scrimshaw 0414 689 727  
Email: normmar2@bigpond.com

**Minister:** Rev Douglas Monaghan  
Email: Douglas@awuc.org.au  
Mobile: 0401 287 809

**Senior Minister** Rev Dr Phil Carr OAM  
Ph: off 8234 1199 hm: 8373 4611  
Mobile 0419 988 634  
Email: minister@awuc.org.au

## Luke 3:1-6



2-6 ... during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

## Dec 9, 2012

9.15 am Worship for Today  
10.45am Family Worship  
6.00 pm Young Adults  
7pm Friday 14th Youth

### Readings Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5: 1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1: 3-11  
Luke 3: 1-6