

CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY

Link



Presbytery Office

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Mon Tues Wed & Frid
8.30am-1.30pm

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UCA Queensland Synod Corona-virus Update

For the latest COVID-19 updates and resources, visit the [Synod website](#).

Presbytery Office

Please remember that MONDAYS are Garry & Christy's day off.

Marie Dewar- **New Hours 8.30am-1.30pm**
Thursdays OFF

Robyn is on leave 7th July- 25th July

Pastoral Notes Celebrations & Prayer Points

Please Pray For:

1. Garry & Teresa Hardingham for wisdom, discernment, Godly solutions to difficult issues & safety as he travels around our Presbytery.
2. Christy & Peter Allen & family, for wisdom, discernment, Godly solutions to difficult issues & safety as she travels around our Presbytery.

Prayer:

Loving God, through your son we are called to be one people united together in love, just as you are one. Help us during NAIDOC week to truly stand together with the first peoples of Australia, to work together for healing and wholeness, to live out the true reconciliation that you offer all people through the sacrifice Christ. Make us true ambassadors of your healing grace as we share your love for all people throughout this land.

In Christ's reconciling love we pray.

Moderator Andrew Gunton

Presbytery Youth Camp Northern Madness 24-27th September 2021



**Northern
Madness**

**Presbytery Youth Camp
24 - 27 Sept. 2021
Burdekin - Ayr Showgrounds**



Prayer!

Cover the campers, the leaders, travel, the camp site, food, fun and anything else God leads to pray for.

Camp Costs?

Consider a fundraiser to help cover the cost of getting to and from Camp. Join in the "**Gold 4 Madness**" fundraiser.



Transport?

Do you know a church, school, group, business, or club that might lend you a bus? Are you a driver or know someone.

Campers?

Who can you encourage to come to camp? How can you support young people High School to 21 years, in your congregation or others?



Express Interest - Get Updates - Ask A Question
madness@ucacarpentaria.com.au

GOLD 4 MADNESS

Your small change
can help change
the life of a young person



Every little bit helps

During the **OLYMPICS**

Friday 23rd July - Sunday 8th August

Put some **GOLD** coin or **SMALL CHANGE** aside

**BRING IT EACH SUNDAY TO ADD TO
THE PRESBYTERY YOUTH FUND**



Garry's Thoughts

Walls and Bridges.

In 1974, John Lennon released his fifth solo album called "Walls and Bridges". I've always been attracted by the name of this album, more than the songs that are on it. John Lennon himself said that the title refers to the barriers that Lennon had constructed between himself and others and his hope that those barriers could be surmounted. Lennon said, "Walls keep you in either protectively or otherwise, and bridges get you somewhere else."

It reminds me of those things we speak of in stark dichotomies; black and white, up and down, east and west, snakes and ladders. Increasingly, whether it be in relationships or politics, we are becoming more and more divided, more and more separated by walls and rivers that getting harder for bridges to be built across. It even amuses me that my adult children talk about relationships as if they are perusing them through apps like e-harmony or tinder. "Swipe right" means to like or accept someone, while "swipe left" means to reject them.

It seems to me that the idea that the world has both walls and bridges reminds us that while we are busy trying to build bridges, we find comfort in our walls. And the gulf between us widens when we use the 'otherness' of people to fortify our own walls and defences.

For instance. I was reading in the Cairns Post on-line about whether the border with NSW might be closed with the increasing Covid-19 cases in Sydney. The article was very matter of factish that the premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, was playing a wait and see game. She doesn't want to preempt how Sydney was going, nor did she want to cause unnecessary hardship and financial stress on Queensland people and businesses. It made sense to me. But, then I started reading the comments made by readers. Rather than there being a coherent discussion about the facts of the matter, there were endless diatribes either against the Premier or the Prime Minister or the Chief Health Officer. Not one comment was about the tragedy unfolding in the streets of Sydney. And most of the comments seemed to want to widen the gulfs in people's positions, not build bridges to find commonality in how we might fight this virus.

And this is as true in life as it is on our faith. It seems easier this day and age to justify our own beliefs by belittling the beliefs or practices of others. I hear many more complaints like "I hate the way they do worship or the boring hymns they use" than "It's not quite my cup of tea, but its great to be amongst people who find hope and faith in a community worshipping together."

Why do we have a deep seated need to justify ourselves by finding fault in others?

The reading from the lectionary this week from Ephesians 2 is a stark admonishment by Paul to remind ourselves that walls have no place in Christian community. *"Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility."*

Its amazing that while I had some positive comments about the item I wrote last week about NAIDOC week and the call to heal country by healing our relationships, I still had someone ask me, "Well when do we (as in non-aboriginal people) get our week?" And it wasn't the childish nature of "I want what they have", but the indignation that despite genuine calls for reconciliation, there are some who will never accept it.

I suppose that this is why 2000 years after Paul's letter, we still build more walls than bridges.

So here is our challenge this week. Build a bridge. Not just to get over it (although that can be helpful to for some people). But build a bridge this week with someone from whom your gut feeling is to build a wall against.

For Paul reminds us, *"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."*

Blessings

Garry

Synod News & info



Covenant - Longing for more than a contract

These days we seem to have contracts for everything. We have a contract if we want to build a house, we have an employment contract at work, and we have contracts with the gym, the school, the bank and even Netflix.

A contract basically lays out the conditions under which we will do business with others. We haggle together and agree to terms around what each of us will do, or not do in order to get the things we desire.

“I will build that house by this time, if you will pay me this much money in this way”, we say.

It’s a common and unavoidable part of modern life which helps us work together to get things done fairly and efficiently.

Recently though, I’ve been wondering what all this contract making means when it comes to God. Are we able to make a deal with God, or agree to terms, or get him to enter into a contract with us? Certainly, we have all tried to bargain with God at some time, in our own ways, but alas it never seems to quite work out.

It seems to me that Yahweh is essentially a relational God, who has always gone beyond mere contracts, inviting people into a richer **covenant** with himself. Noah, Abraham, Moses and the Jewish people come to mind.

[Read more](#)

What Covenanting means to me is....

... that as a church we have the opportunity and commitment to “do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8) with our indigenous brothers and sisters—just as God requires of us!

It is time for the truth of our history to be told.

It is time for us as a nation to “humble ourselves” (2 Chronicles 8:14) and confess our historic failures so that “our land can be healed”.

Rev Gwen Fisher

Get involved in the 2021 National Church Life Survey

The National Church Life Survey presents an opportunity for the Queensland Synod and congregations to offer and receive insightful data around what members of the church are thinking.

The survey is only run every five years, so congregations are encouraged to participate.

To find out more, watch [this](#) video or to register your congregation's interest please email ncls2021@ucaqld.com.au before Friday 23 July 2021.

Presbytery and congregation news

Commissioning service – Alex Stark

South Moreton Presbytery is commissioning Alex Stark into the ministry of Pastor while serving in the placement of Minister, Newlife Brisbane, this Thursday, 15 July at 7pm at Albert St Uniting Church, Brisbane City.

Commissioning service – Rev Aaron Moad

South Moreton Presbytery is inducting Rev Aaron Moad into the placement at Banora Point Uniting Church (NSW) this Saturday, 17 July at 2pm. Travellers note that passes are required from the respective State Governments for border crossing in each direction.