

CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY

Link



Presbytery Office

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UCA Queensland Synod Corona-virus Update

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

[Queensland Government website](#)

Presbytery Office

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

Note: Christy is on sick leave for a couple of weeks – Please direct your calls & email to Garry or Presbytery Office.

Pastoral Notes Celebrations & Prayer Points

Please Pray For

1. Garry & Teresa Hardingham for wisdom, discernment, simple solutions to difficult issues & safety as he travels around our Presbytery.
2. Christy who is on sick leave
3. Robyn & Gavin Cooley, as she deals with the property & financial matters across our Presb.
4. Presbytery Youth Camp- 24-27th September

9 October 2021

Townsville

Lawn Bowls Jubilee Bowls Club

Date: 9 October Time: 7.45am for 8.00am start

Cost: \$20 (Green Fees & Donation)

Immediately After The Game Morning Tea and Trophy Presentation @

Aitkenvale Uniting Church



To assist the bowls club with preparation and for catering purposes please if possible advise by Thursday if you are attending otherwise just arrive. Children welcome!

Contact: Kay Ph: 0409 892 795 Email: wazz.kay@bigpond.net.au

All proceeds to McKay Patrol- At our last game we raised \$200.00 for the Patrol.
Join us and continue the good work done by Roy Backer for so many years.



There is no **heart** God cannot **mend**
There is no **wound** God cannot **heal**
There is no **pain** God cannot **redeem**
There is no **enemy** God cannot **defeat**
There is no **bondage** God cannot **break**
There is no **need** that God cannot **meet**
There is no **mountain** that God can't **move**
There is no **relationship** God cannot **restore**
There is **nothing** our God cannot do

@CHRISTINECAINE

Garry's Thoughts

"Whoever is not against us is for us" – Jesus (Mark 9:40)

"You are either with us, or you are for the terrorists" - George W Bush (2001)

"If you are not with me, then you are my enemy" – Anakin Skywalker (Star Wars Episode 3)

There is a kind of logic appearing more and more often these days that is being subtlety, or maybe not so subtlety, used to press home a contradictory position. Its a kind of dichotomy that endeavours to shut down an argument and remove the inevitable greyness of a situation and to cast the argument as being either black or white.

So, for instance, in today's environment; "if you are not getting a vaccine, you must be anti-vax." And even if this is not true, it frames the argument from that point on.

Now the three quotes above may seem to be in the same vein, but they are, importantly, very different. After all, Jesus could have said, "Whoever is not for us, is against us." Statements that start in the negative tend to label the ambivalent as part of the "other" group.

Jesus' statement arises from the disciples informing him that there was a person casting out demons in Jesus' name who was not directly one of the followers. Jesus implores his followers to not stop him because if they are doing good things in Jesus' name, then how could they speak evil of Jesus? Basically, the proof is in the pudding.

There are plenty of people who claim to have spiritual gifts and yet their claims don't often align with their practice. Having the gift of hospitality should not result in pressuring your guest to make a firm commitment. A gift of discernment should not just be about where someone is going wrong. A gift in teaching should not be simple condemnation. When the Church in Corinth was going a bit pear shaped, Paul wrote to them and spoke plainly that true gifts build the church, not bring it down. (1 Corthinians 14)

Watching the news today and particularly social media with all of the misinformation, the pseudo-science, the fear campaigns, the confusion sewn into the hearts of just about everyone, makes finding a way of framing the argument even more important.

As Christians, Jesus calls upon to sew love and truth into the hearts of people, not sew a harvest of fear and uncertainty. Whether it be how we care for people in our congregation or what we post and say on social media, our words need to reflect the proof of our pudding. i.e that we follow Jesus.

Jesus never sewed fear or hatred. He spoke truth and love. He knew that while people may not follow Him directly, their acts of love and kindness would mark them as fellow travellers in God's redemptive plan of salvation. Maybe these are the sheep in the other pasture he talks about in John 10:16?

You may have concerns about vaccines and lockdowns and all that stuff and that's okay. But before you post anything or before you talk to your neighbour, ask yourself this simple question, "Am I following the example of Jesus or am I sewing a harvest of mistrust and angst?"

These are troubling days, but they will not last forever. This "new abnormal" does not have the last say because my God is a God who cares for all people and continues to guide the events of His creation in order that all may see God's glory and that God's kingdom of peace and love will become a reality for all people.

Blessings,
Garry

Synod News & Info.

Big dreams



You will not be surprised to learn that I dream big dreams; so much so that sometimes people even shudder when I start the sentence with “I’ve been thinking ...”.

However, last night I attended an event where I felt reborn into a church that has huge dreams for itself and the community in which it formed—amazing and inspiring dreams of a creative and creating God that put even my biggest dreams into perspective.

At that event, as people recounted their dreams around how they could exercise their call by God to be disciples of Christ in their community, we were all reminded of the powerful Statement to the Nation made by the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977.

This statement, (which is often referred to in part, but often not studied as a whole) casts a dream of ecclesial (church-based or corporate) discipleship that is intended for centuries of life. A church called to be in the world in substance, a continuing witness to the world about whose we are and who we are.

[Read more of the reflection](#) by Rev Heather den Houting, General Secretary of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod.



**TRINITY
COLLEGE**
QUEENSLAND

The first is **Trinity's Open Evening**, which will be held onsite from 7-8:30pm on the 14th of October. As you'll know, an important part of church leadership is identifying and prompting future church leaders. So please take a minute to consider which people in your congregations you might prompt to come along. Perhaps you know someone who is undertaking a PoD or involved in ministry already? We'd love to meet them at our Open Evening.

<https://www.trinity.qld.edu.au/event/open-evening-5/>

- The second event is our final **Trinity Unplugged** talk for 2021, which will be held from 7-8:30pm on the 21st of October. These talks address current issues and are accessible to anyone and everyone. As you'll see from the flyer, this one is on the topic of **Revival**, and our two main speakers are each involved in Uniting Church regeneration projects at the moment (St Lucia and Graceville). The evening will provide interactive opportunities to think, reflect and ask questions about the somewhat scary notion of revival.

And for the Unplugged event, we encourage you to form "watch-parties". That is, buy just one ticket for a whole household and get together with friends to watch the live-stream and discuss the issues together.

A prayer from the Raymont Christian Fellowship



Oh God, the more we pray, the more our voice blends with yours. We pray because our body wants your presence. We dream because you dreamed first. We create because you created it first. We love because you loved us first. We dream because we want to see the kingdom among us. We believe because you conquered death by resurrecting. We have faith because your name is Hope. We insist on believing in a better world because you haven't given up on loving us. Our strength lies in dependence and total surrender to the God who deserves to be called Love. We have and are many voices, but to you we pray in one heart, in one feeling, in one hope. Here is our prayer, here are our dreams:

[Read each student's prayer.](#)

Statement to the Nation

The words may be more than 40 years old, but the Statement to the Nation remains a call for the Uniting Church.

This video was presented at the Transforming Communities Celebration held last Wednesday evening. <https://vimeo.com/607113256>

New Synod Office Executive Director



It is with great pleasure that we announce the commencement of our new Executive Director Mr Stuart Dempster who will commence on 1 November 2021, in the role of Executive Director, Business Enterprises and Innovation (BE&I). For more [information](#).

September update from Synod Standing Committee

A brief summary of the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) meeting—held on Thursday 2 September 2021—to inform the wider Queensland Synod community of the discussions, deliberations and decisions arising from that meeting is now available [online](#).

<https://vimeo.com/609307496>

Join a Queensland Synod governing body

The Uniting Church in Queensland is looking for people who can bring diverse skills and experience to one of our governing bodies. We seek individuals who want to give back to the community by contributing to the vast footprint of the church as we serve through our local congregations and faith communities, schools and colleges and community services.

To apply for a position on one of the church's boards, committees and commissions, please [submit your expression of interest](#).

Agency and service provider news

Domestic Family Violence Zoom workshops

Queensland Churches Together present a set of three Domestic Family Violence awareness Zoom workshops.

The workshops are designed for clergy, church leaders, pastoral carers and chaplains and will be held on 7, 14 and 21 October at 7pm.

Click [here](#) to register. Find out more about Queensland Churches Together's work in the domestic violence area [here](#).

Songwrite 2021



Whether you write words or music or both, SONGWRITE is a space for working on new songs.

The heart of SONGWRITE is a weekend community who listen to God's creative Spirit, learn from one another, and support each other in writing new music.

The weekend includes community worship and prayer, input from experienced songwriters, space to be creative - solo or with others, and mentors for feedback and guidance.

Other SONGWRITE events will be held in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Darwin on the same weekend, with parts of the program linked online.

To find out more, visit the [event website](#) or click [here](#) to register. Alternatively, you can email Brisbane SONGWRITE contact person, [Rev David MacGregor](#).