

Link



Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -

Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ Garry and Christy in Brisbane for Presbytery Synod Interface and Placement meetings
- ◆ Garry and Christy will be at Ordination of Malia Ma'u on Saturday at Yeronga UC before flying to Townsville for Closing Service at West End for Rev Dennis Corowa
- ◆ All Carpentaria congregations and faith communities as they prepare for Christmas carols and services

Carpentaria Link Weekly Reflection

Sign Up and Share Your Reflection

Here is your opportunity to contribute to Carpentaria Link by offering a reflection. You can choose the date from the calendar found at

https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/link_roster/link_roster_calendar.php

We would love to hear how God is working in and through you all.

Presbytery Office NEW

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Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed & Frid
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Rev Shane Kammermann
0409 287 109

Townsville:

Rev Barry Cox
0408 415 816

Christmas greeting from Christy...

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go" so Bing Crosby used to sing. Christmas time growing up always including Bing Crosby's Christmas Album and somewhere deep within my being, it is not really Christmas until I hear Bing!

Well, here we are and in a little over a week we will be in the final countdown to Christmas. For most of you, this time of year is busy with Christmas lunch's, break ups and carol services. And then there is the shopping and the preparations needed for your own Christmas' with family and friends. So, it can be hard to find the joy of the season.

It is therefore important to find space in the busyness for the quietness we need to refocus and reconnect with why each one of us celebrates the birth of Christ.

As I write this, I am in Brisbane as part of the monthly meetings with Presbytery Ministers and Synod and while it is good to see colleagues, I am in a countdown myself towards my holidays in January. But before I can switch off I would like to say a few things.

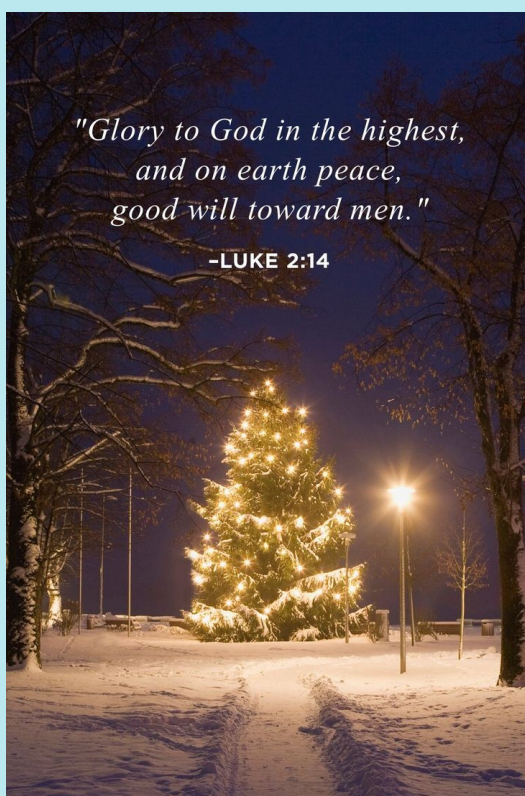
Thank you to each one of you. Thank you for the work you have done in your communities and the ways in which you have supported and care for God's people in your patch.

Thank you to all who have attended Zone meetings and gatherings. These are great times of fellowship and community building.

Thank you to all who have attended Presbytery meetings. Thank you for representing your congregations and chaplaincy placements at these gatherings.

Thank you to all our ministry agents and the work they have done across the life of the Presbytery.

And finally on behalf of Garry, Robyn, Ana and myself, may you have a blessed Christmas and all the joy of Christmas. May love, joy and peace fill your homes and your lives. And may the hope that the coming of Christ brings, give you confidence as we look towards 2023. After all, wherever we go, God goes with us!



Carpentaria News...

Presbytery Appeals

Reminder: Bowen UCA

Thank you to those who have generously donated to this appeal so far, and continue to pray for Bowen UCA.

In 2019, as part of a fundraising event, a large donation was received by Bowen Uniting Church. In 2021, a letter of demand was received from an insolvency firm to return the funds. After much investigation into the legitimacy of the claim and the rights of the congregation, it was determined that the demand to return the funds was legal and that the congregation would have to pay.

Bowen UCA having received the funds in good faith, applied the full fundraising amount to the cost of ministry. Permission was given to the Synod Legal team to negotiate a settlement figure on behalf of the congregation. The agreed amount now owed is \$25,000.

At our Presbytery meeting on the 5 November, a Presbytery wide appeal was launched to help Bowen. If you would like to help see bank details below. So let's help Bowen clear this amount so that they can get on with the work of valuable ministry they do to the community.

Bowen Appeal

Account Name: UCA Carpentaria Presbytery

BSB: 014-676

Account No: 474906525

Reference: Bowen Appeal

Christy Allen

Reminder: Carpentaria Remote Bush Chaplaincy Donations

Thank you to those who have generously donated to the Carpentaria Remote Bush Chaplaincy Appeal. Please note that any cheque donations to this appeal must be written out to Carpentaria Remote Bush Chaplaincy, not to the McKay Patrol. Full account details are listed below:

Carpentaria Remote Bush Chaplaincy

BSB: 034-173

Account: 169408

Robyn Cooley

Date Claimers

Leave Dates

Christy Allen, Presbytery Minister Coastal will be on annual leave from 2-29 January 2023.

Commissioning Dates

Netani Bolatolu will be commissioned as Pastor at Cairns Emmanuel on Fri, 20 January 2023 at 6.00pm.

Carpentaria Presbytery Office Closure

The Carpentaria Presbytery Office will be closed during the Christmas & New Year holidays from Mon, 19 December 2022 and will re-open on Mon, 9 January 2023.

'Stable at Riverway' 2022

We welcome people from across the Presbytery to 'Stable at Riverway' from the 18th-22nd December. It's our 21st anniversary and we are pretty excited about the new venue and the opportunities that gives us. A renewed Town of Bethlehem, food trucks, youth activities, children's craft, 2 stages, Christmas markets, a yarnning circle, oasis of Hope and so much more. Check out our latest promo video The Stable 2022 Promo Video 2 (1:49): <https://youtu.be/qnR-sFze6Q0>. More promotional material and information is available on our website <https://stablentq.com.au/> Thanks to Presbytery for your support. Hope to see you there.

Anne Harley

Synod News & Info.

Resources / Training / Workshops / Camps / Celebrations

Blue Care 70th Anniversary in 2023

Blue Care will be celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2023 with celebrations across Queensland. We are encouraging localised celebrations in all our UnitingCare and Blue Care facilities and also in our Uniting Church congregations.

Do you have someone in your area who could be a local champion? Someone who could facilitate these local celebrations?

Plans are already underway and support will be given to our local champions in many and varied ways.

Please contact Sheri Holland via email at: sheri.holland@ucareqld.com.au for further information.

Voluntary Assisted Dying Forum

From January 1 2023, VAD will become law in QLD, which is why Redcliffe Uniting Community HUB is hosting a Voluntary Assisted Dying Forum on Tuesday, January 24, from 9 am to 1 pm.

The forum will help give you the confidence to navigate these new laws as a Minister, Chaplain, Pastoral Career, Nurse, Care worker, Volunteer or simply a friend. You can have the confidence to minister, serve and volunteer at the end-of-life stage, and do it with grace and compassion.

For bookings and more information, [click here](#).

Reminder: Easter Madness 2023 (1-4 April)

Easter Madness has now kicked off and we would love to encourage congregations in sponsoring a youth to further their faith journey. If you register now there is a \$22 discount available now until the end of December. - [REGISTER](#) - Code: *EarlyBird*

Advent and Christmas materials to share

Resource for Advent up to Christmas Day

The Southside Uniting Church has produced a set of daily readings following the Narrative Lectionary called Advent Everyday. They are making it freely available, and offering a 'print and post' option for anyone who would like a hard colour copy for \$10 (plus \$5 per additional copy). Email hello@ssuc.org.au to pick up this option.

All artwork and writing is original.

Intergenerational Advent Resource

[Journey to Joy Worship Planning resource \(Draft Sample\)](#) - A collaborative team has created these **resources** from across the Qld Synod of the Uniting Church to help congregations, communities, and families celebrate Advent together intergenerationally. It contains bible readings, themes and suggestions for prayers, videos, and activities to do in worship to assist with weekly worship preparation for the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Day or Christmas Eve. There is also an Advent Candle Litany and suggestions for a Blue Christmas / Solace / Thanksgiving and Remembering Service.

These resources are connected thematically with the ***Journey to Joy Countdown to Christmas, Advent and Christmas Reflections*** to enable ongoing engagement for congregation members, families, and people in your community over this Advent and Christmas season. These additional resources include 15-character reflections (three for each week's theme), topics and questions for discussion for small groups, families, or individuals to engage with. These reflections invite the participant to explore a character connected with the Advent story, how their own story might connect, and some challenges connected with the weekly theme. They are designed to invite conversation, connection, and creativity across generations by providing opportunities to share and hear each other's stories and engage in activities together to explore God's big story.

If you have questions about how to use or print the materials, please get in touch with Jess Pinkerton at jessica.pinkerton@ucaqld.com.au

Health and Wellbeing

Get moving this Christmas!

Significant health and well-being benefits can be achieved by moving more every day.

The 10,000 Steps Program is available statewide and is a free, fun and easy way for all Queenslanders to monitor and increase their level of physical activity. This QLD Government sponsored program aims to encourage Australians to be active. Motivate yourself and others to find out how many steps you take and find ways to move more every day. Set a daily step goal, receive daily reminders, participate in monthly walking challenges, and connect with friends.


For further information, visit the [10,000 Steps Program](#) website or contact Synod's Work Health and Safety Team at 07 3377 9870 health.safety@ucaqld.com.au.

Caring for others this Christmas

Christmas and the holiday season can be difficult for some people who struggle to navigate the celebrations and festivities around them. They might be dealing with financial pressure, work demands, recent events, grief, or a challenging family situation. If someone in your world finds this time of year challenging, you can make a difference by checking in and having a meaningful conversation.

To help you support your friends, family and workmates, R U OK? have put together a range of ['Tis the season to be asking R U OK?'](#) tips, ideas and downloadable resources.

Further Information on well-being and support can be obtained from Synod's Work Health and Safety Team at 07 3377 9870 or health.safety@ucaqld.com.au.

A lit candle in a Christmas tree with a red ornament.

Sharing with you
the Glory, the
Wonder, the
Miracle of this
Holy Season.
Have a Blessed
Christmas and
New Year.