

Link



Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ Garry and Teresa thanks everyone for prayers and well wishes. Garry advised that his recovery is going well and he can now walk unaided
- ◆ Craig and Christy are both in Brisbane until Thurs attending Synod / Presbytery meetings
- ◆ Pray for upcoming Presbytery Meeting and Retreat in May
- ◆ Pray for upcoming Northern Zone and Calvary Zone meetings

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

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Carpentaria News...

Date Claimers

April 2023

Saturday 22nd – Northern Zone meeting at 10am at North Church, Cheviot St, Smithfield

May 2023

Thursday 4th – Calvary Zone meeting in Cairns

Fri-Sun 5th-7 – Presbytery meeting at Mission Beach

Sun-Wed 7th-10th – Ministry Agent and spouse retreat at Cardwell

Garry on Leave

As you are aware, Garry Hardingham had double knee replacement surgery on Wednesday 22nd March. Garry is now at home in full recuperation / rehabilitation mode. He is progressing through his exercises and feeling more confident in standing now, with the use of a cane. This week he made comment "never thought I'd be happy to get the cane". Bending exercises still painful, but going well.

Please remember, ***Garry is on sick leave until the end of May at which time he commences 2 months of long service leave and a month of annual leave and will not be attending to any Presbytery business.***

If you need to contact the Presbytery for ministry related matters, please contact Rev Christy Allen on 0418 184 834 or Rev Craig Mischewski on 0400 036 630, who is stepping into Garry's role for this time. For Admin matters please call Robyn Cooley on 0429 195 506 or Ana Mila on (07) 4068 8131.

In the meantime, Garry has prepared a daily devotional in the lead up to our Presbytery meeting, '40 days of fitness'. You can subscribe to this devotional by clicking on the following link.

www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/40daysoffitness/.

Presbytery Secretary

Di Chapman stepped down as Presbytery Secretary in December 2022. Ana Mila has been filling in as the monthly meeting Secretary since that time. This will not continue. The Presbytery is seeking a new Presbytery Secretary, who is to be elected at our Presbytery Meeting in May. If you want more information about what is involved in this position, please contact Rev Christy Allen. The UCA Regulations gives an overview of this position (Reg 3.6.2 (f), (g), (h)). The person who takes up this position, will work with the Presbytery Admin team.

Safe Ministry with Children Training

In preparation for the Safe Ministry Training to be held at the Presbytery meeting, all **Ministry Agents** are required to be able to access their EDUCATE login. You will have been sent a link in recent times from the Synod office. If you are not able to logon to this, please contact Steve and Angela from the learning and development section of the synod office. Their email is learning@ucaqld.com.au. Once you have successfully logged into this platform, you are required to complete Module 1. Module 2 is to be conducted at Presbytery. If you have any problems with this or have any further questions, please contact the Presbytery office.

Blessings

Christy & Robyn

Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting - 5th to 7th May 2023

Our next Presbytery meeting to be held **5th to 7th May 2023**, is fast approaching. It will be great to be together again! A reminder that this meeting is for both Ministry Agents and lay reps from each congregation along with Ministry Agents who are in placements in other roles e.g.: chaplaincy (**2 per congregation, including Ministry Agent**). It would be wonderful to have more lay people join our meetings.

The Presbytery meeting will be held at the Mission Beach Resort and **will begin at 2.30pm on Friday afternoon** for all Ministry Agents who are required to attend the compulsory Safe Ministry with Children training. For all other delegates, please arrive by no later than **5:00pm** as a BBQ buffet dinner will be served at **5:30pm Friday night** for all Presbytery attendees, with our opening worship and first session to follow at 7:00pm. **Registrations for Presbytery must be finalised by Friday, 21 April.**

Register here: <https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/events/event1515.php>

More information will be sent out before the Presbytery meeting, so keep a look out for it but remember to register. As in recent times each congregation & agency will be invoiced \$120 for Travel equalisation per entity. If you have any queries, please contact Ana at the Presbytery Office.

Robyn & Ana

40 Days of Fitness – Daily Devotions



www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/40daysoffitness

As we prepare for our first Presbytery of 2023, are we match ready?

Not just for the meeting, but for the work we are called to into the future?

At this Presbytery meeting we will be exploring, not only what we are currently doing, but discerning together what ways we can be strengthened for the challenges ahead.

As part of this, Garry has written a series of daily devotions that you can subscribe to and/or distribute in your congregation or fellowship so that together we can be prepared for God's mission for Carpentaria.

Let's get fit!!

UnitingCare Prayer Points for April

Foster and Kinship Care

- Pray for wisdom and insights for the staff as they seek to find and support families.
- Pray for the children, that they may feel God's peace and presence in their times of disruption and adjustment.
- Pray for the Carers, whether they are kin or strangers. Pray for patience and love for those entrusted to their care.
- Pray that suitable people would come forward and take on this important role in our communities.

Christine Herman, Cairns Region Community Chaplain

From The Word for Today...

Don't give up on your Saul

'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for ... Saul, for he is praying.' Acts 9:11 NIV

Has everyone else written off your Saul? 'He is too far gone.' 'He is too hard, too addicted, too old, too cold.'

Joseph believed one day he would be reunited with the brothers who betrayed him, and it happened. The prophet Hosea's wife deserted him and became a prostitute. Yet, he kept the door open, and she came home.

God believed in Saul. And he believed in Saul *through* Ananias: *"Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 9:17 NKJV).

Max Lucado writes: 'My favourite Ananias-type story involves a couple of college roommates. The Ananias of the pair was a tolerant soul. He tolerated his friend's late-night drunkenness, midnight throw-ups, and all-day sleep-ins. He didn't complain when his friend disappeared for the weekend or smoked cigarettes in the car.'

He could have requested a roommate who went to church more or cursed less or cared about something other than impressing girls. But he hung with his personal Saul, seeming to think that something good could happen if the guy could pull his life together.

So he kept cleaning up the mess, inviting his roommate to church, and covering his back. I don't remember a bright light or a loud voice. I've never travelled on a desert road to Damascus. But I distinctly remember Jesus knocking me off my perch and flipping on the light. It took four semesters, but Steve's example and Jesus' message finally got through.'

So, no matter what, don't give up on your Saul!

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 19 April 2023) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass

Synod News...

Join Blue Care Sunday: Celebrate 70 years of faithful Service

Blue Care Sunday is a special day to reflect on the origin of Blue Care. It honours the story of the Rev Arthur Preston, superintendent minister of the West End Methodist Mission, and Sister Olive Crombie, the first nurse for the Blue Nursing Service in 1953.

The Blue Care Sunday service is happening on August 21. Join us to celebrate the staff, volunteers, carers, and community; continue to celebrate 70 years of faithful service to the community.

Participating in Blue Care Sunday means helping transform communities and promoting compassionate care, inclusivity, and dignity for all individuals. Resources and support, including informative articles, engaging activities, and powerful stories of impact, are available for hosts to ensure meaningful events. A PowerPoint resource for Sunday service is [available here](#), with an expanded Word document with even more resources available for Liturgy [available here](#).

Read more at [Journey Online](#).

UnitingWorld Sunday

The Uniting Church collaborates with churches in the Pacific, Asia, and Africa to make a positive impact on communities. UnitingWorld, the UCA's international aid and partnerships agency, works with the global church to address poverty and injustice. Join the movement by participating in **UnitingWorld Sunday** and receive valuable resources, including a sermon by Rev James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches, delivered from a sailing canoe.

Resources and more information are available at www.unitingworld.org.au/sunday