

September 2024

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE

Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION

Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



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Scan the QR Code to access our website.



We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of the lands and waters where we live and work across the country and pay our respects to Elders past and present who have cared for these lands for millennia. We are committed to walking together seeking justice and reconciliation.



High Street Times



The Ranch Documentary

In 2022, MCSC and Peninsula Films recognised there were stories that needed to be listened to. Those in our community who are experiencing homelessness. Those experiencing hardship. Local people. We began piecing some of those stories together to hear first hand of their experience. These stories have formed this documentary. MCSC, with our partners Southern Peninsula Community Support, have operated The Ranch crisis accommodation since 2021, and does so with no Government funding. Local community banded together and made it happen. It continues without certainty, and with the constant threat of closure.

The Ranch is a 30 minute film which speaks honestly and authentically.

Our hope is that it will help inform conversations locally, and provide a sense of urgency to policy makers, to create change.

The Ranch is a special, and locally relevant documentary, keep an eye out for screenings or donate to the website for online access.

"There's so much of the life of Jesus we can learn from"

Listen in as our new UCA President. Rev Charissa Suli, features on Pacific Soul, a podcast of ABC Pacific which explores the beliefs, spirit, lives and stories of Pasifika peoples. Charissa speaks with host Melissa Maykin about what's high on her agenda for her time as UCA President.

The podcast can be found here: <https://www.abc.net.au/pacific/programs/pacific-soul/pacific-soul/104126894>



ZOOM/PHONE DETAILS

For all services:

On a tablet or laptop computer: Go to <https://zoom.us/j/95468493260> and use the password 3199.

(or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and use the meeting number below)

On a phone without video: call (03) 7018 2005

Meeting ID: 954 6849 3260 #

Participant ID: #

Password: 3199 #

From the Minister...



Rev Ross Writes

There is an increasing series of stories in the media, and plenty of stories in movies and TV, of the desire for increased length of life, even unending life. Along with drug treatments, DNA modifications plus intensive diet and exercise programs, there are more extreme proposals, such as cryogenic freezing. This process rests on the belief that scientific progress will bring cures in the future for disease that cannot be cured now. When I read these stories, or see the movies, particularly the idea of freezing for future treatment, I can't help wondering if this is not just a case of clinging to life, or fear of death, but a sign of the transfer of faith from God to science. Because life and death are so important and so invested in emotion, it is not surprising that people with no faith in God will place their faith somewhere else.

In what is our faith?

The amazing part of the concept of cryogenic freezing is that it is totally based in faith. Faith that medical science will discover new treatment for fatal disease or conditions even if at this time such cures are merely a hope. Also people, in a desire for life, are willing to place their faith and hope in the possibilities of research. The extreme limit of cryogenic freezing is the idea that someone who has already died can be frozen and then revived at some time in the future when what they died from can be cured. In my mind that is not just transferring faith from God to science but transferring the idea of resurrection as well!

Faith is belief in things not seen, and so there is faith in almost all aspects of life. People of science may claim to be acting or believing in pure reason, but with so much about life and the universe unknown, much is therefore left to faith – 'given enough time, we will discover the truth of the universe'. And so, the so-called clash of science versus faith is really a question of 'in what do you put your faith?'

For us, our faith is in God, based on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We don't worry about length of life, although we are still at the mercy of our emotions and relationships, because our life is in the hands of God and so death is not a barrier or an end. Faith and hope come alive in the grace of God.



Victorian Council of Churches

This month is the 75th Anniversary of the Victorian Council of Churches, an ideal time to remind ourselves of what the council is all about:

The Victorian Council of Churches gathers together in pilgrimage churches which:

- confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures;
- seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- commit themselves to deepen their relationship with each other in order to express more visibly the unity willed by Christ for his church;
- work together towards the fulfilment of their common mission of witness, proclamation and service.



A Council is not a Church nor a replacement for a number of Churches. It allows individual Churches to work together while maintaining their individuality. This cooperative effort is a sign to those around us that we are serious in our efforts to gain unity.

We pray...



- For those within our church family who find it difficult or are unable to attend worship, including Sheila and Leon Knoop, Gwen Paxino, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Margaret Snyder and Barbara Yates.
- For Ken Gilbert, in hospital for treatment.
- For Fiona Jones, recovering from surgery.
- For Maureen Beens, following recent health difficulties.
- For Enid Churcher, receiving care in a new home.
- For Nylma Carruthers, and ongoing treatment.
- For Jessie Williams, still in rehab after a knee replacement.
- For the Carolus family, with Eileen receiving care, and her sister Val and family.
- For all others who are in poor health and having treatment.
- For Rev. Ross Pearce and Carmen as they return after a short break up north.
- For Jenni Forbes as she waits for repairs and return to her home (Haven) which was damaged by water. For Haven as they try to address the issues affecting their residents.
- For all affected by violence against women.
- For the conflict in Israel and Palestine and now Yemen.
- For Ukraine, still under attack from Russia.
- For all those living with mental health needs in our church family and our community, and our country.
- For those around Frankston who experience homelessness.
- For those struggling with the ever-increasing cost of living.

The prayer chain regularly and continuously keeps particular needs in prayer. You can ask for prayers through the prayer chain by contacting Marlene, phone 5971 2840 or email marlene.thresher@gmail.com, or emailing directly to hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com. The prayer chain is a small group of church members who are dedicated to prayer, and consider all communication and prayer needs strictly private and confidential unless specified otherwise.



HSUC Office Administrator

Role purpose

The Office Administrator plays a key part in supporting the Church's goals of celebrating and witnessing God's love in the world. The role provides 4 core responsibilities:

1. Customer-focused reception and front-of-house duties.
2. General administration including development and maintenance of Church documents, and calendar management.
3. Management of building usage, including bookings and invoicing.
4. Preparation of material for a variety of Church services.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing courteous and helpful reception services, including greeting visitors to the Church, checking, responding and/or referring voicemails, emails and post, reporting maintenance issues to the management committee, ensuring (where possible) that the congregation has the most up-to-date information.
- Regular administrative duties, including the management of several calendars, production of the weekly news sheet, preparation of the High Street Times for distribution, reporting of song usage for Church services and special events, preparation of Church rosters (compiled from various rostering groups), maintaining congregation contact and pastoral care details, maintaining and updating Church website (and Facebook page when time permits), development and updating of documents such as forms to capture information, booklets and signage, updating of wedding, funeral and baptism registers, providing administrative support to the Minister and Church council.
- Managing the usage of the building by being the first point of contact for both current and potential external hall hiring groups, meeting with prospective hall hirers to show them the spaces available for hire and talking to them about their needs, communicating to hall hiring groups on behalf of the hall hiring committee, monthly invoicing and reconciliation, chasing up outstanding invoices, ensuring each groups insurance is up-to-date, passing on maintenance concerns as necessary, calendar management and liaising with the Church council to ensure HSUC fundraising events are included in the calendars.
- Preparation of material for services, including special liturgical events and other special services such as funerals, baptisms and weddings, including orders of worship (both hard and electronic copies), producing content for data projection, downloading videos and/or photos to be included, preparing items for Baptisms (certificate, candle and Bible), liaising with families and funeral directors, and coordinating with Church volunteers, to ensure funeral services run as smoothly as possible.

Please note: the office administrator does not have access to the Minister's calendar or schedule, emails or voicemails.

Walkie Talkies on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

Do you enjoy walking and talking with friends? Then Walkie Talkies may be for you. We gather in different places each Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9.30am. We then walk for up to an hour, with much talk, in beautiful surroundings. These photos show us on recent walks on Carrum beach and at Cannons Creek – enjoying the emerging Spring flowers.



During or after the walk, we continue the conversation over tea or coffee. For more information, phone Ley on 0408 355 622; or speak with Alan or Bronwen Mathews

Change of Date for Armchair Travel Fundraiser

Date for your diary – November 10th, 5.00pm-7.30pm

In recent years at HSUC, we have enjoyed several armchair travel slide shows to raise funds for the North India Woman and Child Community Health Project

– a.k.a the Jagriti Bhalai Kendra Society (JBKS.)

The project has been a significant outreach campaign by High Street Uniting Church, and Helen Beeby has provided



remarkable leadership to support JBKS and fundraising efforts to sustain the work for more than 12 years.

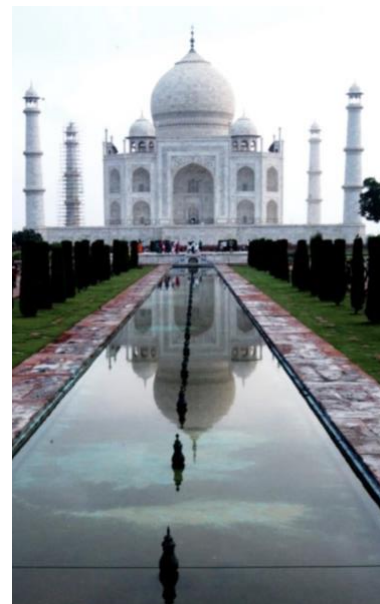
Friends, this note is to inform you that on Sunday, 10th November, Alan Mathews plans to offer another armchair travel for our enjoyment. It will begin at 5.00pm; and be followed by a 'bring a plate' light dinner to share with fellow armchair travellers.

The vibrant and culturally fascinating images are from the pilgrimage Helen, Bronwen and Alan went on in September 2019, with five other Aussie travellers, to see the work carried out on the ground. Visiting villages we watched and learned about the work to empower people – mainly women and children - offering support and education in health, nutrition, gender equality, breaking down of the class system and help in setting up small cottage industries.

Dr Alma Ram has been the leader of this work supported by the Church of North India's (CNI) Diocese of Amritsar. Now in her mid-70s and dealing with Parkinson's Disease, Dr Alma is retiring from the project but will continue to support other programs run by the Diocese of Amritsar. We hope to hear from her during our armchair travel fundraiser.



Alongside the project imagery, there will be scenes from the towns and countryside of North India – plus other exotic sights, including a visit to the Taj Mahal. A framed photograph from the pilgrimage will be raffled. We look forward to sharing with you at the event.



For those who are interested in what happened to the money from the sale of the old Wesley property, Keith Holmes our ever-diligent treasurer has provided the following:



Money For Mission Fund:

The original investment of \$1,200,000 of the funds available from the sale of the Wesley site was made with U Ethical on 1st September 2022 as follows:

\$1,080,000 with U Ethical Australian Equities Trust

\$120,000 with U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust Wholesale.

Payments of earnings from the trusts are made twice yearly in January and July.

The refund of Franking Credits occurs late in the year,

Note: Synod are also holding an amount of \$459, 307 for Capital Works.

Earnings:

Date	Equities Trust	Income Trust	Franking Credits	Total
12/01/23	17152.12	1126.82		
26/05/23	137.19			
10/07/23	16941.39	2111.39		
14/12/23			11668.78	
2023				49137.69
08/01/24	20689.74	1921.05		
05/07/24	58630.69	2560.69		
2024(to date)				83802.17

The money is invested for a minimum of seven years and an income stream of around 4% (about \$48000) per annum was guaranteed by Synod. This year, the earnings from the Equities Trust were much higher than expected but this is very unlikely to be repeated.

Keith Holmes
Emma Lindenburg



Although the collection plate appears to be half full our treasurer maintains it is half empty!

[Aware that there may be new readers out there who have heard mention of “Larder” but may not be aware exactly what it is the following is a reprint of an article by Dawn Peacock explaining the wonderful work they do. -Ed]

OPERATION LARDER INCORPORATED

Forty-one years ago the Congregation of the former St Andrews Presbyterian Church was challenged by Rev. Alan Coulson when he said “There are many people in Frankston who do not have access to adequate Food. What will you do about them”? Operation Larder was born and Incorporated to the ACNC as a fully volunteer not-for-profit organisation.

Initially, boxes of staple non-perishable foods were packed and given to the Frankston Council’s Citizen Advice Bureau to distribute. We later realised that this arrangement did not suit all folk in need. Eventually the most efficient way to satisfy all was to have a Mini-Supermarket to allow folk to select the foods they preferred. We undertook to supply 24 items of non-perishable food and 8 hygiene items for the Community Support Frankston to distribute.



We had a team of volunteers rostered to keep the shelves supplied. All was going smoothly until along came COVID-19. For several weeks we were unable to buy adequate food as supermarket shelves were emptied. The State Government gave a large grant to Food Bank Victoria, hence food became cheaper and more readily available. The Uniting Church however recommended that we were not to have volunteers over 70 years of age out in the community as they were at high risk of catching the virus. As our volunteers were mostly over 80 years of age, we had to change our system.



Fortunately we had one ‘young’ lady who took on all the ordering and collecting the orders from Food Bank and various other suppliers. Without her Larder would have been unviable. Where does the money for all this food come from? The Frankston Council gives grants to us together with the Lord Mayors’ Appeal. We apply to philanthropic organisations - the Andrews Foundation, The Colliers Foundation and the Uniting Church Share Appeal. Our budget is between \$50,000 and \$60,000 with various community groups also donating goods and money.

At Christmas, in conjunction with Community Support Frankston we pack over 1000 Bags of Christmas hampers so our clients can celebrate Jesus’ Birthday. Written by Dawn Peacock.

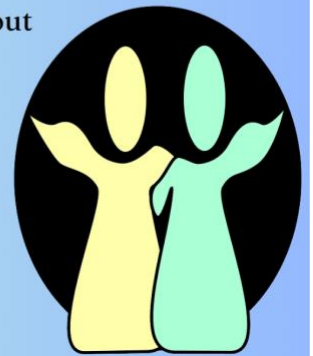


Save the date!

SUNDAY,
29TH
SEPTEMBER
2024

5th Sunday Fellowship

Join us for a combined service at 10:00am,
followed by morning tea and a special
presentation by Dr. Stephanie Robinson about
her research in Antarctica



High Street Uniting Church, Frankston

Working Bee

**Saturday, 14th
September
9:00am - 12:00noon**



It has been quite some time since the last working bee, so we are asking for some volunteers, especially a few fit men, to help with pruning of trees and cleaning up around the back of the church, etc.

As the saying goes: "Many hands make light work".

Anyone who thinks they can help out for an hour or two on that morning, please add your name to the list of volunteers! The list will be available on Sundays, or you can call the office!

