

Pitt Street Uniting Church eNews

A progressive faith community of justice-seeking friends in the heart of Sydney

Thursday 31 August 2017



Dear Pitt Street People,

Margaret is still recovering from the winter bug she imported from New Zealand. She has asked me to write a message for this week's eNews. She does expect to be at church on Sunday.

--

Food, shelter, safety, education. Basic human needs. The government withdrew these necessities from refugees currently transferred from Manus and Nauru to Australia for medical reasons.

These are the same refugees who were offered sanctuary by churches, hospitals, schools and most states and territories in 2016. Pitt Street was one of many Uniting Church congregations which offered to be part of the Sanctuary movement.

On Tuesday, the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce launched an appeal to assist these refugees to stay in Australia. A network of agencies including the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Sydney, the Romero Centre in Brisbane and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne, will offer shelter and financial support.

It is difficult to comprehend that in 2017 we continue to treat people fleeing war, famine and religious persecution as something to be swept under the carpet. *For those who've come across the seas, We've boundless plains to share* - words enshrined in our national anthem have very little substance in Australia today.

If you would like to donate to this appeal go to www.refugeecouncil.org.au/take-the-action/let-them-stay-donate.

Peace, Cynthia

COMING UP AT PITT STREET...

Sunday 3 September

10 am Sunday Gathering
Morning Tea/Coffee
Community Time

11.30 am Quarterly Celebration
Shared Lunch

Tuesday 5 September

5 pm With One Voice Choir

Wednesday 6 September

7 - 9 pm Worship Team
(open meeting)

Sunday 10 September

10 am Sunday Gathering
Morning Tea/Coffee
11.30 am Congregational Meeting
Election of Church Council
and financial reports.
1pm Marriage Equality Rally
Town Hall Square

From 11 July -10 October

Margaret is teaching
Theological Ethics at UTC on
Tuesday afternoons.



Pitt Street Uniting is a congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia. The gathering at 10 am on Sunday is the heart of our community life but we are also a place of welcome and hospitality for the wider community of Sydney for spirituality, justice, ecology, arts, music, meetings and events.

Notices and Coming Events



QUARTERLY CELEBRATION – THIS SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

On Sunday 3 September, the Inner West Neighbourhood Group will host a Celebration Lunch in the church! There are many things in our life together to celebrate and food is always a great addition.

Please join us immediately after the service on Sunday for a simple meal of lovely breads and beautiful fillings... with tea and coffee served by our very own Set up and Put away baristas!

The Inner West group will supply most of the food, but we would be *grateful of any contributions of food to share*. Just bring it on the day! We look forward to seeing you there.



CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIOBN

Last Sunday we announced the names of people who had accepted nomination for a position on Church Council. They are Jolyon Bromley, Gillian Hunt, Meredith Knight, Geoff Maddox, David Robinson, and Margaret Whelan.

On Sunday 10th September, at our Annual meeting, each nominee will introduce themselves and offer some thoughts about how they might contribute to the work of the Council.

Voting will according to Uniting Church Regulations. You must be present at the Congregational meeting and cast your vote in person. You should be a Member or Member in Association of Pitt St. There are 5 positions vacant and nominees need to receive votes from more than 50% of those eligible to vote.



MARRIAGE POSTAL SURVEY

A new umbrella group has been set up to speak out for Australian Christians who support civil marriage equality. Margaret was one of the founders and is on the executive committee. A website has been launched and the Facebook page is very active with over 3200 followers. Please add you support at www.christiansforequality.com.au. Great articles are being shared on the Facebook page and there is video of the media launches in Sydney and Perth. <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianChristiansforMarriageEquality/> You can view it even if you don't have a Facebook account.



PITT STREET VOICES FOR JUSTICE - YES RALLY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY!

1 pm Sunday 10 September at the Sydney Town Hall. People of faith are being asked to join other participants to show their support for LGBTI Australians and call for a YES vote at the postal survey. Several local and national organisations are uniting to host the event including GetUp!, NSW Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby, PFLAG, CAAH and the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras. There will be a large contingent from Christians for Marriage Equality participating. We will gather in the church and carry our Pitt Street and Christians for Marriage Equality signs to the Town Hall. Please contact Meredith Knight at meredithknight255@gmail.com or call 0488 775 519 if you wish to participate.



SYDNEY PRESBYTERY ENERGY FORUM DISCUSSION.

Sydney Presbytery is considering consolidating the properties within the Presbytery's beneficial stewardship with one energy provider, with a possible option to include congregational properties. This process will involve a review of the electricity bills of Churches and Worship Centres and will engage a broker to see if a worthwhile benefit can be obtained. (NB no mention in the notice about eco considerations)

Tuesday 12 September 12:30pm - 1:30pm (prompt start and finish).

Synod Office - 222 Pitt St, Level 2 Meeting Room 4. Light lunch provided.

Please register with Poppy at office@sydneypresbytery.org.au

Notices and Coming Events



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK - REFLECTION ON SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2017

Dr Michael Dudley will present a reflection on Sunday 1 October 2017 built around Mental Health Week and his thoughts upon health and wellbeing. Michael will be using his life experience as a practicing psychiatrist to provide content for the reflection. If you have key questions about mental health and your thoughts by way of response to these questions, you might write to him and inform him of these questions and of any insights that your religious or spiritual life have been able offer you whilst trying to answer them. Michael is undertaking to reflect upon the responses that he receives as he creates his presentation. His email address is: m.dudley@unsw.edu.au



FAITH FUTURES FESTIVAL AT PITT STREET

Part of Common Dreams on the Road 2017. Guest Speaker: Rev Dr Hal Taussig, plus workshops, music and art. **13-15 October 2017**. Mark your diaries now!



EVENTS COMING UP – MORE DETAILS LATER OR ON WEBSITES

- Eremos end-of-year gathering and AGM at Pitt Street Uniting Church. Speaker Roman Catholic priest, theologian, and gay man, James Alison. 2-5pm, Sunday 8 October. <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=297565>
- Eremos Spring Retreat, Sat 28 October. www.eremos.org.au



MISSION PLANNING DAY – RESCHEDULED

New date is **Sunday 5 November**. Starting with the church service and finishing at 4 pm. Taking our mission conversations to the next level. Everyone needed! Please mark it in your calendars and save the date.



WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD – CREATION

The latest issue of "With Love to the World" is now available from Patricia Curthoys, for a donation of \$5. Sixty-eight pages of reflections on the Revised Common Lectionary. Among contributors are the Rev Mary Pearson with reflections on exodus, Paul's imprisonment and refugees. And a delightful cover image from the Rev Dr Geraldine Wheeler.

PITT STREET ONLINE

Sunday Reflections



Read the Reflection: www.pittstreetuniting.org.au

Watch the Reflection: <http://bit.ly/PittStreetYouTube>

Connect/Follow us



Friend us on Facebook.... <http://www.facebook.com/pittstreetunitingchurch>



Follow us on Twitter... <http://www.twitter.com/PittStUniting>

Subscribe to E-News

Email: office@pittstreetuniting.org.au

If you do not have email, pick up a printed copy in the church foyer.

Notices and Coming Events

'WORK OF THE PEOPLE'

Ministry	3 September Pentecost 13	Next Week 10 September Pentecost 14
1st Reading	Interfaith Reading	Interfaith Reading
2nd Reading	Contemporary Reading	Contemporary Reading
Gospel	Matthew 7: 1-12	Matthew 18:15-20
Liturgist	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Reflection	Jolyon Bromley	tba
Reader 1		Ron Brown
Reader 2	Des Perry	Lyn Corby
Liturgy Curator	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Welcomers	Cynthia Coghill Sharon Wellfare	Jill Wright John Wright
Sound Operator	Rodney Monk	Robyn Floyd
Organist	John Aitchison	John Aitchison
Flowers	John Thorpe	Elaine Telford
Recycler	Gerard McEvilly	Vivien Langford
Morning Tea, Set up, put away	Shirley Barbuto Syd Cole Barbara Dutton Sue Gehrig Katy Gerner Susan Nicolson Gordon Nurse Margaret Whelan	Carol Bamba Helen Boerma Mae Cotterell Trina Hodgson Marianne Kaspar Stephen Langford Vivien Langford Abdul Quyaum
Worship Coordinators	Patricia Curthoys John Floyd	Elizabeth Watson Ben Skerman
Communion Team	Allison Forrest Robyn Floyd	

Office:	264 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Church open: Tues – Fri 10 am-4 pm	
Office Manager:	Cynthia Coghill. Mon - Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm office@pittstreetuniting.org.au Tel: 02 9267 3614	
Minister in Placement:	Rev Dr Margaret Mayman minister@pittstreetuniting.org.au	0408 690 800 (day off Friday)
Church Council Chair:	Paul Cotterell	0434 921 874
Deputy Chair:	Elizabeth Nash	0412 005 012
Minister Emerita:	Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon	