



# the grapevine

4 JULY 2021

a weekly bulletin of the Ettalong and Umina Uniting Churches

## notes from Karyn

Well! Last week, before the call to lockdown, I spoke about adjusting being something I am learning is part of what I bring rather than being something I do along the way! Little did I know that this attribute was to be called upon so soon! I have a feeling we may all be in that boat - or should I say situation, at home, right now!

Concern for the welfare of the people is the major factor influencing decisions by leaders in every state and territory. Concern that the latest version of this ever-evolving virus is more virulent than any versions before and affecting a much younger age group as well. Concern that hopes we might have had to be more in control of our situation by now is not evident. Concern that the equipment and processes in place to date might not be as effective as we had hoped. Concern!

Some may want to look back to find fault. But unless it's to learn for the future, it is a futile exercise that will only build animosity and enemies.

**Share birthdays with the Grapevine!  
Please send all submissions to the  
below email address by noon Wednesday:**

**[grapevineuniting@gmail.com](mailto:grapevineuniting@gmail.com)**

To seek wisdom for the future is a better reason to look back.

Some of the questions from journalists this week related to: What is the sign that lockdown is no longer required? Some wanted to know if the current two weeks lockdown in NSW might be shortened. What will life look like once this lockdown is done?

The first answer might be 'zero' community transmissions of the virus. What will get us there? Keeping to the instructions of the health advisors. The answer to the second question is less easy to answer because it requires to some extent a crystal ball to see into the future, but we might have some clues. I'm not here to talk about medicine, I'll leave that to the experts, but I can talk about the future, not because I'm an expert but because, well none of us really are. But, we can be somewhat prophetic and our faith helps us to understand that a little better.



A prophet is not a person who can tell or see into the future. A prophet does not have a crystal ball. What a prophet does have is the ability to be able to 'read the signs' of current behaviour and developments taking place and predict with some discernment where things will lead if we do not make changes. I'm convinced we can all exercise this ability if we put our minds to it. For those identified as Prophets in the Scriptures, it was seen as a God-given gift. And maybe it is that too!

It was a prophetic message Jonah was given to present to Nineveh. He baulked against it. That didn't work! Eventually he gave it begrudgingly and sulked. But the message got through and things changed. Jonah was reminded it's not all about him and despite his attitude, God's love for him was as strong as ever.

Whatever the future holds for us, it will always be in the presence and grace of the Creator, the God of all Life who is love. How we live it and what we do with what we have is frankly, up to us. But we are not alone and God's love for us will be as strong as ever as it is for all of God's creation!

May we face the future as we do every new day - in the grace of God, caring for one another and the earth upon which we live and depend for life, using what we have with cautious consideration of the consequences and celebrating the life with which we have been gifted! God bless you!

Blessings & Peace

*Karyn*

Rev. Karyn Burchell-Thomas

## we pray...

- with St Matthews Lutheran Church
- with Warnervale Uniting Church
- for those who are sick, those who have lost loved ones and others with special needs— Myrle Bowden's mother Myrna and her family, Coral Tauro, Connie Watts, Debra Stewart and Joice Tee
- for the Prayer Group
- for Presbytery Development Officer Rev Fiona Blair
- for the family and friends of Senior Constable David Master

## prayer

Bless, O Lord, those who hear your word and believe it.

We pray for the people who are in remote areas, and live in fear of the world of spirits, that they will know your power as Saviour of the world.

Bring peace to our land and all parts of the world that are disturbed, so that the gospel of salvation may be preached to all humankind.

In Jesus' name we pray.

(Episcopal Church of Sudan. PEW #123.)



## worship services

### THIS WEEK

Friday 2 July 4:45pm  
Family Fun Night, online

Sunday 4 July  
Morning Worship  
Rev Karyn Burchell-Thomas

### NEXT WEEK

Friday 9 July 4:45pm  
Family Fun Night, online

Sunday 11 July  
Morning Worship 9:30am  
Rev Karyn Burchell-Thomas

## this week

### SUNDAY ZOOM GATHERING

4 July at 5:00pm  
Contact Margaret for Zoom link

### MONDAY PRAYER MEETING

5 July at 9:00am via Zoom  
**MONDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
In recess during school holidays

### WEDNESDAY WANDERERS

Canceled due to Covid restrictions

### FRIDAY PLAYGROUP

Will recommence 16 July

### FRIDAY NIGHT TENNIS

Contact Keith Wood



The NAIDOC 2021 theme - **HEAL COUNTRY, HEAL OUR NATION** - calls for stronger measures to recognise, protect and maintain all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

Due to Covid limitations, many NAIDOC events have been forced to cancel, however please visit

**[www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au)**

to learn more about the importance of Naidoc.

## australian church women friday 23 july

Australian Church Women (A.C.W.) Kincumber Branch will be holding their annual Fellowship Day Service on Friday 23rd July 2021 at 10:00am at "Our Lady Star of the Sea" Church, 165 Serpentine Road, Terrigal. Speaker is Major Lesley Newton from Umina Salvation Army. Theme for day is "MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH - HOLINESS IN THE ORDINARY".



# giving

Giving to the church **In person** at worship.

To give by **Direct Debit** speak to Wayne Read or Margaret Gregory to set this up.

**Electronic transfers**, i.e. internet banking can be made to our account:

Account Name:

Broken Bay Uniting Church

BSB: 634 634

Account Number: 100018346

Please identify deposit as:

Offering, REM /Youthlife,

Lent Event etc.

For information on leaving a **bequest**, please speak with Margaret Read.

## current rules



**PLACES OF WORSHIP  
ARE CLOSED**

> **HELP NSW STAY COVID SAFE**



## broken bay uniting church

### MINISTER

Phone

Email

Rev Karyn Burchell-Thomas

0417 215 701

revkaryn@bigpond.com

### PASTORAL CONTACTS

Margaret Read

Pam Carter

0412 555 398

4342 1351

### PARISH OFFICE

Address

Phone

Email

Website

346 Ocean Beach Road, Umina 2257

4341 8536

bbuca@bigpond.net.au

www.brokenbay.unitingchurch.org.au