



A Good News / Good Neighbour Church

May 2023

From Apelu

I will be taking two weeks of annual leave from May 22 to June 4. I will be in Samoa for the first week and will be back in Queanbeyan in the second week.

Nicole Alexander will be leading worship on May 28, while Russ Neal from Wesley will lead worship on June 4.

The Bible Study will be on recess while I am on leave and resumes on the 7th of June.

Apelu



The next Jumble sale is on Saturday 27 May.

The Team sort goods on a Tuesday morning. They are always keen to welcome new helpers.

For more information contact Greg Toone
0412 060 465. For more info visit
www.quc.org.au/support/jumble-sale

Next Newsletter

Contributions for the June 2023 newsletter are due by Sunday 28 May for publication Sunday 4 June 2023.

Email to news@quc.org.au.



Bethany Group - Soup & Slice Lunch

The Bethany Group invites ladies to meet with God and receive food for the soul through this ecumenical event.

When: Saturday 3rd June 2023 11:30am
for 11:45am to 1:30pm.
Where: Queanbeyan Uniting Church
Cost: \$10
Topic: Forgiveness - John 21
Speaker: Libby Gale

John 21 is one of Libby's favourite bible passages, she looks forward to sharing it with us. Libby moved to Canberra in 2016 and has worked as a children's minister and is now an assistant school chaplain. She enjoys studying theology at St Mark's Theological Centre. Libby is married and has 2 young daughters. She loves time with her family in the outdoors, baking, and reading books.

RSVP: Judith Griffiths 0410 018 808 by
27th May 2023 (Limited seating so RSVP is
required)

You are welcome to bring your own food if you have special dietary needs, as we can't guarantee to meet every requirement.

Details also available on our website at www.quc.org.au/news/events if you want to share the details with others.

From the Worship Committee

YOUNG ADULT SURVEY

In 2022, nineteen of our young adults were approached and invited to answer four questions in order for the Worship Committee to understand why none of them currently attend church, despite having grown up as part of a vibrant Youth Group, led by employed Youth Workers, and participated in evening worship. The answers to the questions would be shared, anonymously, with the Worship Committee.

Of the nineteen approached, five agreed to speak, five declined to speak, three said they were willing to speak, but nothing eventuated, and six did not respond.

The four questions asked were:

1. Is your Christian faith in Jesus important in your life, and, if so, how?
2. How can we as a church help you to grow in your faith?
3. What do you think it means to worship God, and, to you, what things are important to include in a worship service?; and,
4. What do you think you have to offer to the church?

The conversations were enjoyable, and there seemed to be a genuine pleasure in the knowledge that we were thinking about them. All but one, who is still searching, stated that they have a faith that is an intrinsic part of their being, guiding their lives by providing a moral framework. The time spent in the Youth Group and at evening church services was enjoyed, giving them a sense of belonging, and there was a real sense of grief when they ceased, but, at the moment, there doesn't appear to be any way in which they can see the church helping them to grow in their faith, being basically content with

the faith they have. The church is still seen as being an important part of society, for the good things it does and the teaching it gives, but for some of the young people, there seems to be a preference to offer their time and talents to something other than the church, such as a sporting group.

The concept of "worship" varied, seeming to be an acknowledgement or awareness of God in their lives, and they related more to Jesus walking alongside doing good deeds than to a "God up there" who needed to be praised. A message was seen to be important, but the music, and the words of the songs sung, didn't seem to resonate. One saw all of life being worship and uses podcasts for spiritual input. There was a view that you can worship anywhere so there was no need to attend a church community.

At the moment, none of the young people approached felt they had anything to offer to the church, but thought that perhaps they may in the future. The results of the survey left us with the hope that seeds may have been nudged, and growth may occur in future years.

Robyn Robinson

On Behalf of the Worship Committee`

From the Chair of Church Council

Well, Anzac Day has passed so we can all turn on the heating now without feeling guilty!

Our Easter week services went well and Council is grateful to all those who contributed to, and participated in, these services. Special thanks to Apelu for his leadership through this period, and to Sue Camm and Michael and Jo Shilling and for organising and cooking the Maundy Thursday dinner.

At its April meeting Church Council discussed the results of National Church Life Survey (NCLS) we participated in last year – see the separate article in this newsletter. Council concluded that one of our major priorities was to encourage the involvement of children and young families in the life of our church. To this end, we are writing to the young families affiliated with QUC seeking their views on ways in which we could expand or improve what we offer to children and young families. These might include suggestions for children's activities, changes to the worship service, or other measures to increase the role of children in the life of the church or make it easier for young families to be involved in church activities.

Council would also greatly appreciate any ideas which the broader congregation has on these issues so I encourage you to think about this challenge and speak with Apelu or any of the Council members about any ideas you may have. As we all know, nurturing the faith of children is one of the most important things any church can do if it is to fulfil its mission of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to our troubled world.

Council also noted that the NCLS indicated that participants considered QUC to be a welcoming and inclusive church and agreed on the importance of our continuing to make newcomers to our church feel welcome. This is something to which we can all contribute by being willing to talk to visitors and newcomers, especially over morning tea.

Looking ahead, Council agreed to again hold our mini-Spring Fair in conjunction with the October Jumble Sale and Shed. That means the date for the Fair will be Saturday 28 October 2023. All contributions of items for sale at the Fair will be very welcome; this year we are particularly looking for contributions to the plant stall, so, as Costa says, "get potting!"

Finally, Uniting had previously indicated that they were intending to install a defibrillator at QUC. However, it now appears this is not going to happen, so Council has confirmed its intention to

acquire a defibrillator for the church. This should occur over the next month or so.

Ian Robinson
Chair of Church Council



Bennie's Basket' Food Pantry

Congregation members are invited to bring along a grocery item or two each week to be placed in a basket at the church. Once a month, on communion Sunday, these items will be blessed as part of our offering to the work of God in our community, before being passed on to St Benedict's.

Bennies has provided the following advice; UHT milk, CEREAL (only Weetbix, cornflakes & Rice bubbles), tinned tuna large or small, Spaghetti and Baked beans, 2 min noodles, Pasta; Spaghetti or Spiral, Baby food or formula. But DEFINITELY NO tinned beans or lentils. See the noticeboard for more details.

Church Council sees this as a practical way in which QUC can assist St Benedict's in its valuable work in our community and encourages those who can do so to participate in this scheme.

Ian Robinson
Church Council Chair

QUC: 2022 CHURCH LIFE SURVEY

KEY RESULTS

QUC participated in the 2022 National Church Life Survey. This survey is conducted across all major church denominations every five years to provide an indication of what is happening in churches over the nation. This year 38 members of the congregation filled in the survey questionnaire, substantially fewer than the 69 members who participated in the previous survey. The small number of responses may have distorted the value of some of the reported findings of the survey. The main findings of the survey for QUC are set out below. If you would like to see the full survey results, please do not hesitate to contact me.

PEOPLE

The congregation is relatively small, predominantly Australian born, well-educated, and ageing. A high percentage have attended the church for more than 5 years and are regular in attendance.

- Estimated weekly attendance has stabilised in the last two years at around 40 people, but is substantially lower than reported five years ago (70 people).
- 84% have attended for more than 5 years; 16% have arrived in the last 5 years.
- The average age is 68; 95% of attendees are aged 50 or over.

WHAT WE VALUE

The congregation values community care, justice, traditional services and teaching.

Attendees most value:

- The church's emphasis on community care and justice (48%);
- Sermons, preaching and teaching (48%);
- Practical care in time of need (36%); and
- Traditional styles of worship (33%).

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Building a sense of community, spiritual growth and developing a clear vision for the church are key future priorities identified in the survey.

The most commonly identified future priorities were:

- Building a sense of community (47%);
- Spiritual growth (38%)

- Worship services that are nurturing (38%);
- Establishing a clear vision for the church (34%).

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Faith is very important to the congregation and most find worship services and preaching helpful.

- 16% have experienced much growth in their faith in the last 12 months; 53% have experienced some growth in their faith;
- 100% see faith as an important part of their identity and 91% agree that faith influences their decisions and actions;
- 81% find the preaching usually or always helpful to their lives.

RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER

The congregation has a strong sense of belonging and considers itself inclusive and friendly. However, only a minority want to get more involved (perhaps reflecting the small size and age profile of the congregation).

- 95% have a strong sense of belonging;
- 97% agree the church is inclusive;
- 76% find it easy to make friends;
- 66% take part in group activities at the church;
- 18% want to be more involved in the church; 71% are happy with their current level of involvement.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

The congregation is strongly committed to community service and environmental care but relatively few have invited others to the church.

- 66% are involved in community service, social justice or welfare activities, either through the church or through other organisations;
- 18% invited someone to a church service in the last 12 months; 53% would be comfortable inviting someone but didn't.
- 94% agree Christians have a responsibility to care for the environment.

VISION, INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP CULTURE

Much of the congregation is actively involved in ministry and generally supportive of new

initiatives. But less than 50% of the congregation are aware of and strongly committed to the vision, goals and directions of the church.

- 42% are aware of and strongly committed to the vision, goals and directions of the church;
- 84% would support the development of new initiatives in ministry;
- 61% perform some leadership or ministry role and 97% agree it is easy to get involved in the ministry of the church;
- 76% agree the church has clear systems for how it operates;

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

No children or youth responded to the survey. Satisfaction with what is offered for children and youth is low.

- 29% of the congregation were satisfied with what the church offers for children aged 12 years and under.
- 17% of the congregation were satisfied with what the church offers for youth aged 12 to 18.

WORSHIP

There are generally high levels of satisfaction with worship services.

- 81% usually or always find the preaching helpful;
- 73% appreciate the music;
- 67% usually or always experience inspiration in the service;
- 79% are usually or always aware of God's presence during services.

CORE QUALITIES OF CHURCH LIFE

The survey identifies 9 core qualities considered to be central to a vital and growing church. These are: Belonging; Faith; Faith Sharing; Inclusion; Innovation; Leadership Culture; Service; Vision and Worship. Using a single indicator question for each quality, a score out of 10 has been allocated to QUC for each core quality. A score of 5 is the average score of all churches who participated in the survey. On this basis QUC scored above average on:

- Vision (6.4/10);
- Worship (5.4/10); and
- Service (5.3/10).

We scored close to average on *Innovation* (4.9/10) and below average on the remaining indicators.

Ian Robinson



Safe Church Awareness Workshops

The NSW & ACT Synod Safe Church Unit will be offering a number of Safe Church Awareness workshops across the Canberra Region Presbytery in the coming months.

Who needs to attend?

Church Council and Elders, Pastoral leaders, Ministers, Ministry program leaders and helpers, including with children/youth and SRE/Scripture in schools

Workshop Topics:

Safe Church Foundations, Duty of Care, Child Protection, Protecting Vulnerable People, Understanding and Responding to Abuse, Safe Leadership, Recruitment & Supervision, Safety in Programs and Environments, Uniting Church Policy and Procedures.

Bring:

Please arrange/bring your own lunch and pen

No payment on the day:

Individual Congregations or Presbytery will be invoiced for participants

Dates:

13th May @ Goulburn Uniting Church

[CLICK HERE for a flyer with information and registration details.](#)

8th July @ Tathra Uniting Church

More information to come shortly.

4th November @ Canberra City Uniting Church

[CLICK HERE for a flyer with information and registration details.](#)

From the wider church



Interfaith Dialogues - The Voice and Reconciliation: Is it possible to speak authentically of love and justice in an unjust world?

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture is presenting four public Interfaith Dialogues, hosted by Profs Stan Grant and Anthony Maher. The discussions will include a panel of six faith leaders from different religions. Each panelist will briefly engage with introductory remarks addressing the above questions followed by a Q & A hosted by Stan Grant between the panel and the audience.

Interfaith Dialogues - The Voice and Reconciliation: Is it possible to speak authentically of love and justice in an unjust world?

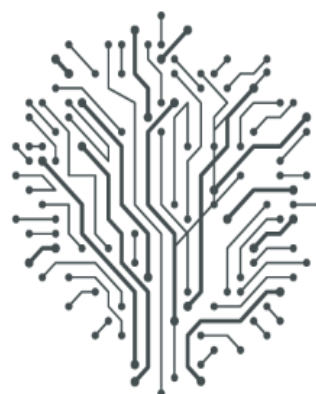
When: Wed, 17 May 2023 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Where: Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture 15 Blackall Street Barton, ACT 2600

More Info and Tickets:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/interfaith-dialogues-the-voice-and-reconciliation-tickets-598164434927?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=escb&fbclid=IwAR00TKB-Ohh4_k-WjQe3bml_6Jg1zb8CVWih0LgmlO-AB7IMMIUZaX-Oqd0

Ministries to connect with



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/>



20 National Circuit, Forrest ACT 2603

www.wesleycanberra.org.au/music

For all the latest concert dates and other information:

[CLICK HERE](#)

To receive regular updates via newsletter, please email us your details at wesleymc@music.wesleycanberra.org.au

Regular Ministries of QUC

Ministry	When	Contact
Bible Studies and Small Groups	Various times, weekly or fortnightly.	Apelu Tielu
Jumble Sale	One Saturday per month (usually the 4 th), 9am-12pm.	Greg Toone
Pastoral Care		Apelu Tielu
Sunday Morning Worship	Sundays, 9:30am.	Apelu Tielu
The Shed	Same dates as Jumble Sale.	

If your ministry group's details are missing, or incorrect, please email news@quc.org.au to correct them for the next newsletter.



Your generous giving helps us fulfil our vision and mission – locally, nationally and internationally. There are a number of ways you can regularly give and/or make a once-off donation.

1. **Direct Giving** (encouraged) - is giving that you arrange with your own bank (can normally be set-up as weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually) into:

**QUEANBEYAN UNITING CHURCH AT CALL ACCOUNT,
B.S.B. 634-634, ACCOUNT NO. 100 020 066**

2. **Cash** (or Cheque) offering put in the offering box each Sunday.
3. **Weekly Envelopes** - cash (or cheque) put in the offering box each Sunday before or after worship. The envelopes are freely available to be picked-up from the back table at the church.



Church Office (by appointment)

For general enquiries (including [room use/hire](#)) please see our webpage www.quc.org.au

You can contact our **Minister** Apelu Tielu 0409 550 088 or email minister@quc.org.au. Apelu works from the church office on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Please check with him a suitable time.

Chair Church Council email council@quc.org.au



If you can't make it to church, you can join us on Zoom via [this link](#).
To access the service, you will need to have a Zoom account and be logged in.