



**TODAY @ BCUC—Big Picture—life in God's service**

**Sunday 3rd September**

9am Contemporary & 10:30am Classic: Rev Rob Williams

10:30am Café: Rev Matthew Bond

Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b, **Romans 12:9-21**, Matthew 16:21-28

**UPCOMING WEEK @ BCUC**

**Monday 4th September**

10am mainly music

1:30pm Monday Day Fellowship

**Tuesday 5th September**

9:30am Playgroup

9:30am Ladies Table Tennis

2pm BCUC Cares

**Wednesday 6th September**

7:45am Prayer Meeting

9:30am Prayer Meeting

**Thursday 7th September**

9:30am Craft, Chat & Sew

12noon Friendship Club

6pm Worship & Music Ministry

7:30pm Choir practice

**Friday 8th September**

7pm Youth Group

**Sunday 10th September**

12noon Prayer Meeting

12noon Seniors Second Sunday Lunch

**Next Sunday @ BCUC— life in community**

9am Contemporary & 10:30am Classic: Rev Dr Gary Stuckey

10:30am Café: Rev Matthew Bond

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, **Romans 13:8-14**, Matthew 18:15-20

Prayer Requests: [prayer@burnsidecityuc.org.au](mailto:prayer@burnsidecityuc.org.au)

If you require more information please contact the church office or visit our website.

T: 8331 3914 E: [admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au](mailto:admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au) W: [www.burnsidecityuc.org.au](http://www.burnsidecityuc.org.au)

384 Portrush Road, Tusmore 5065

**Sunday 3rd September 2017**

**WELCOME**

*Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service , so that we can get to know each other better.*



**Be devoted**

**to one another in love**

**HONOUR**

**one another above yourselves**

**Romans 12:10**

**Ministry Team Contacts**

**Minister: Rev Matthew Bond** Ministry Team Leader 0400 777 410

**Minister: Rev Dr Gary Stuckey** 0437 708 183 (Supply Ministry 14/08/17-31/01/18)

**Minister in Association: Rev Rob Williams** 0424 123 171

All Ministers are available for Pastoral Care as required

**Youth Coordinator: Ben Randall** —0403 369 154

**Administrator: Deb Mugford** Monday—Thursday 9am—2:30pm

**Office Hours - 9am—12 noon Monday to Thursday**



**A Vibrant Community, Committed to Jesus,**

**Passionately Engaged in Mission**

## A MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW

This is the latest statement on Marriage from the President of the Uniting Church released on 28 August, 2017. I believe it is helpful for members of Burnside City Uniting Church to hear these words.

### *The Marriage Law Postal Survey and Respectful Conversations*

The Australian Government has announced the process it will follow for the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

Survey forms will be mailed out to all eligible voters from 12 September with voters asked to return the completed survey by 6pm on 27 October 2017.

Full details of the process are available on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

As explained previously, the Uniting Church is conducting its own longstanding independent discernment on marriage and we will not be recommending any position to UCA members in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

(The Uniting Church in Australia currently understands marriage as 'the freely given consent and commitment in public and before God of a man and a woman to live together for life'.)

I would however take this opportunity to again remind members of the need for respectful conversations on the issue of same-gender marriage. As the public debate intensifies, we must redouble our efforts to choose our words carefully, including when we speak of our sisters and brothers in Christ. For those who feel the need to share their views, pointed criticism of other Christians lacks grace and falls short of our stated ecumenical values. In Paragraph 2 of the Basis of Union we state our belief that Christians in Australia are called to bear witness to a unity of faith and life in Christ which transcends cultural and economic, national and racial boundaries. We may disagree with each other on any number of issues as Christians, but as Paul said in Romans 12:5 "We belong to one another". So please speak with love.

The Uniting Church's official definition of marriage is between a man and a woman. Also we are committed to being an inclusive Church that embraces LGBTIQ people as full members and to culturally appropriate discussion about relationships and marriage across our diversity. Public speculation on how the Uniting Church might respond to a change in the Marriage Act is unhelpful, and distracts focus on our own discernment. Under the Marriage Act, ministers of religion cannot legally solemnise a marriage without an approved liturgy. Whatever the outcome of the postal survey and any subsequent changes to the Act, our Church's position on marriage will remain the same until such a time as our national Council, the Assembly, decides otherwise and approves an appropriate liturgy. This is not a matter in which individual Uniting Church congregations can act unilaterally. I would like to acknowledge that this national conversation is difficult and painful for many. If in the course of the public debate you experience sadness or distress and you need help, please seek support.

*Stuart McMillan*

*President, Uniting Church Australia*

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS & NOTICES

### eMAC

We were so excited to to continue our work on the vision and mission of BCUC we advertised the next eMAC for the wrong date! Please note that the next eMAC will be on **Tuesday September 19 at 7pm**. Come along and find out more about our vision and mission and plans for the future.

### Meeting of the Congregation

There will be a short Meeting of the Congregation before the eMAC at **7pm on Tuesday September 19**. Agenda items are

- Approval of the auditor
- Acceptance of the Audit report

### Monday Day Fellowship

**Monday September 4 at 1:30pm**. Come and hear Sara Phillis speak on travel and it's challenges. Contact Ruth Daws for more information.

### About Face

Do you have a burn to learn more about the faith journey of the First People's in Australia? If so, About Face, a faith and cultural exchange taking place in January 2018, may be for you. For more information check online at [aboutface.org.au](http://aboutface.org.au) or ring Gaynor Strapp.

### Family Fun @5

**Saturday 16th September from 5.00pm-7.00pm** at BCUC. The theme is "Where is your treasure?" Craft and games are followed by an interactive story and a shared meal. This is great opportunity for families with pre-school & primary children to have an enjoyable evening together. Please see Chris Lake for more information

### BCUC Saturday Friendship Club

The next meeting of the club is on **Sat 16th Sept** & is an old fashioned movie night at the Ingle Theatre at Pasadena. The cost is \$10. Please see James Wilson or Leigh Duffett to book. Bookings close Mon 11th Sept. Car pooling at Burnside Council car park at 6pm.

### Seniors Second Sunday Lunch

**Sunday September 10, 12noon until 2.30pm**. Come and join us for friendship, fun and food. Chicken & Salad plus a fruit platter.

### Aged Care Ministry

There will be a meeting to continue planning for Aged Care Ministry in local Nursing Homes on Wednesday September 13 at 2pm in the Chapel. All welcome. Please see Verna Drexel for more information.

Please e-mail articles for the BCUC weekly news to Deb Mugford at [admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au](mailto:admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au) no later than 12noon on Tuesday