

Preaching

9am Rev Richard Wallace

Readings

*Jer 8:18-9:1,
Psalm 79:1-9,
1 Tim 2:1-7,
Luke 16:1-13*



WELCOME TO AUC!

Please join us for refreshments in the breezeway after the service.

CONTACT US

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Aitkenvale Uniting Church

Please pray for:

Leaders at Assembly, Synod and Presbytery for wisdom and discernment in making decisions affecting the wider church.

Our elders and members of the Church Council as they make decisions affecting the life of the church.

The Joint Nominating Committee and Presbytery as they seek to discern the calling of a new ministry agent for our congregation.

Our aging congregation members, for God's strength and blessing. Hospital, Nursing home and Aged care workers who care for the vulnerable in our community.

Fellowship stream members as they organise Saturday's bowls afternoon.

Critical Decisions

Some things just don't go together. Chalk and cheese, oil and water, tomato sauce and ice cream: These pairings are mutually exclusive. Our themes for our worship this Sunday are a bit like that.

On the one hand we have our Gospel reading (Luke 16: 1-13) in which Jesus, the religious and ethical teacher, tells the story of a real rascal who acts fraudulently out of egregious self-interest and gets a commendation, and, on the other hand, as a Uniting Church we celebrate creation. This month is a Season of Creation when we reflect on care for creation and climate justice. Acting in pure self-interest, over against, caring for the earth and its peoples are poles apart, like trying to swallow our ice cream with tomato sauce on it, we gag at the thought.

So let us take a look. This tricky parable tells of a rich man, on discovering his business manager is wastefully corrupt cursorily dismisses him. So the manager, anxious to carve out a new future for himself, and without authority to do so, calls all the people who owe the rich man money. Then he marks their debts down. And we read in verse 8, "and the master commended the dishonest steward for his shrewdness." Who is the "master"? Is it the rich man, or is it Jesus? Well we really don't know. It seems strange and hard to understand. The parable is so hard to understand that there are very many interpretations for it.

I have taken the line before that a Parable as an oral presentation to listeners in the moment has, essentially, a single main point. So what might that point be? Faced with an urgent need the man takes decisive action. He feels he has to do something, there is no way back and he wants to survive. So he gets himself in the good books of the many debtors. He needs a future and so he sets himself about opening some new possibilities.

What might have been this man's other options? A more panicky person might just be overwhelmed with the situation and, feeling the numbness of a catastrophic reversal of fortune, be unable to think of a way through this calamity. Or, maybe, this former manager could just let things ride and go along with it. Things may not be as bad as they look. Perhaps, down the track, he could sell off some possessions and do something with the proceeds. No, the commendation, whoever made it, comes from his confronting his situation and doing something about. He is determined not to be a victim of his errors, but to open a future up with immediate, decisive action. (cont over)

(continued from page 1)

This is our connection with our Season of Creation. We recognise that globally, the earth is in a bad state. The greatest challenge for future generations is climate change. Extreme drought has hit the south west United States, yes there have been droughts before, but studies of growth rings in old trees show that there has been nothing like this in over a thousand years.

In our country repeated floodings, droughts and extreme fires have threatened flora and fauna species. Many are endangered. Individually, many of us, and collectively as a nation, we have just hoped things would not turn out too badly. So now, not out of individual self-interest but out of concern for neighbours in the Pacific and other developing countries we have to make changes that will offer a future for creation. Out of concern for the pygmy possum and orange bellied parrot as well as many other flora and fauna species urgent decisions are demanded. It's not that we are so-called "greenies" or "tree huggers" but are part of the whole of God's creation brought into being through the Word. Because the handprint of God is on the whole of creation, including all humanity we stand for a new way of living in the world.

So maybe the critical decision of the estate manager in Jesus' parable and our modern crises are not so far apart. As we journey through our season of creation we will have songs and hymns and prayers that remind us of the wonders of creation. May they enrich our faith and strengthen our commitment to care for creation.

Grace and peace be with us all, Richard

Sunday Service 18-09-2022

Live Streaming:

We welcome and thank **Rev Richard Wallace** for bringing the message to us today.

Welcome to our service here and to those at home.

To participate in worship, please click on the link below and sit back and wait for the service to start.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM_yuTGxZEXsdQPd3XEQbtA/live

If you miss it, or would like to share it with someone, the recordings are on our website.

Basis Of Union study Registrations are now closed.

Please note the change of venue and times.

The evening group at the home of Kate and Dave Mills will not now go ahead.

There will be a group at **Lesley and Ken Northey's home on Fridays @10.30am**

and another group with **Kate Dix in the church on Thursdays at 9.30am.**

For further information you may contact Kate Dix on 0429 609509



Want to play
Carpet Bowls?

The **Fellowship Stream** invite you to come along and enjoy an afternoon of fun as we play **Carpet Bowls**. We have two new mats now so there should be plenty of room for everyone to have a good game.

When: **Saturday 24th September** to commence playing at 1.30pm

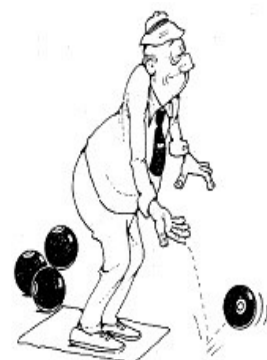
Where: In the Breezeway at the Church

Please bring a small plate of food to share for afternoon tea.

Put your name on the list at rear of the church or RSVP to:

Glenda Dodge 0490 031 902, Margaret Finter 0429 061 541,

Joan Gist 0417 609 333, Jayne Jackson 0415 275 790



A letter to inspire

Most people of our congregation will remember or know Betty Savage. She has a long association with our church and a most valued member. And most would know that she had a massive stroke some months ago which has left her bed ridden. She is now in care in a nursing home.

I am sharing some extracts (with Betty's permission) from an inspiring letter which she recently sent to me. It shows what a wonderful, caring, strong woman of faith she is.

I have just finished reading the Annual Reports of the Aitkenvale Uniting Church and also the Outreach. This has been a pleasure of mine, made possible because my brother and sister-in-law (Frank and Ruth Keech) have very faithfully brought it to me after each Sunday's service since I have been unable to attend church. After reading the reports I was led to jot these notes down (and Wendy managed to read my writing and type them up for me).

I commend the church council for providing the Outreach to the congregation on a regular basis. Thank you on behalf of a very grateful reader who misses going to church but still feels connected by being able to read the Outreach weekly. I felt very grateful when I read that Karen Mobbs does our Outreach each week in a voluntary position and has been doing it since 2018.

In a recent Outreach, the following caught my eye: 'Stockland Lane – Can you Bake, Colour-in?'. I was intrigued. What an opportunity for outreach to the community! I love baking and I would if I could. Unfortunately, present circumstances like not being able to get out of bed, prevent me from being part of this outreach opportunity, I do miss attending church.

I am very thankful that throughout my time in hospital and the nursing home, that God has been my strength giver, my comforter and my 'go-to person'. I give thanks to Him and I know with his help, the support and help of a loving family and the prayers of so many kind people I will get back to church. Thanks be to God who watches over our 'church on the corner' that has been my home for over 50 years.

Recently, during one of my many quiet times, I remembered something that is worth reading, which some of the congregation may not be aware of:

Over a period of time, this little church on the corner, through its well led groups, was able to inspire, enable and support some of the youth in these groups and encourage them as they explored further involvement in the 'wider' church. Eventually some of these youth began thinking about 'Jesus' and ministry within the church at large. After successful study, some were appointed to ministerial roles within Queensland. Some still hold positions within the Uniting Church of Queensland, while some may have retired. It is possible that, at the moment, a young person in one of our youth groups or congregations may 'feel' the call of Jesus while being nurtured and encouraged by the leaders. It is good news to think that we all have the opportunity to encourage our youth on their 'getting to know Jesus' journey. May God be with us as we journey together.

I wish you all the best with your colouring-in, your baking and your outreach.

From a 'would be cook if she could'!

Betty Savage

Thank you Betty. You remain an inspirational woman for us all - for your Christian witness and care for others. May God bless you.

Ron Store

Furniture Needed for a Refugee Family

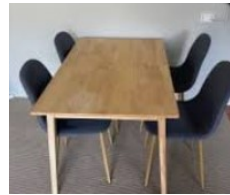
I volunteer with St Vincent De Paul, supporting a Congolese family. They are a family of 4 – Grandma, daughter, son and granddaughter. This year, they have had 4 different share house situations. They are moving into a unit in Mundingburra and need some furniture. Do you have any of the following:

- ◇ A queen size bed and mattress;
- ◇ A dining table and chairs;
- ◇ And/or a couch;

that you can donate to help them set up their home?

If you do, please contact Kate Mills.

0449 182 126 or millsmob@gmail.com



**Offerings to date
13 September 2022**

Week \$1,129.22

Budgeted offerings year to date.
\$20,922

Offerings Year to date
\$18,340.67

Difference minus \$2,581.33

Donations Year to-date \$5042

Go Group

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 September.

At the Church

Besides yourself, bring a relic (something old).

Come and have a cuppa and a chat.

Vi



Rosters & Readings for 25th September 2022

9am Service

Preacher	Kate Dix
Reader	Val D
Door Stewards	Merle
Offering	Greg S, Peter P
Livestream	Carmel
Data	Ken
Organ	Don A
Morning Tea	Vi & Bill R

Lectionary Readings

*Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16,
1 Tim 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31*

**9
more
Crest
Bags
ready
for
donat-
ing!**



AUC Prayer Network. (aucprayer@bigpond.com)

If you wish to have a prayer request circulated across the AUC Prayer Network, or would like to be included in the prayer network notices, please email your request to our direct email address: aucprayer@bigpond.com, or phone Kate on: 0429 609 509.

(Important: requests for prayer on behalf of others requires their personal permission. This is due to confidentiality requirements and government legislation. Please ask first.)

