



The Friendly Word

CHURCH OF CHRIST WEMBLEY DOWNS MARCH 2nd 2008

No limits on love

This week's readings:

1 Samuel 16: 1-13 *David the shepherd boy is anointed for future kingship.*

Psalm 23 *David's "Shepherd Psalm"*

Ephesians 5: 8-14 *Living as children of light.*

John 9: 1-41 *Jesus heals a man born blind.*

Today please pray for the people of Germany and France

DeeJaySpins.....

How are we handling Lent so far?

We are half way along the journey from Ash Wednesday to Good

Friday – a good place to pause and ask ourselves “what does this Lenten journey mean anyway?” After all, it is not a word or phrase that is found in the Bible, nor is it part of our post Enlightenment sensibilities. It seems to belong to a rather austere mediaeval chapter in the Church's story.

Over the years, we have come to understand the wisdom of pausing at different times in the church year and reflecting on the nature of the season. For us, the forty days of Lent give us an opportunity to reflect on the true nature and cost of discipleship as the Sunday Gospel readings have us journeying with Jesus and his disciples to Jerusalem and the dreadful events of Good Friday. Of course, this is always against the background of what we Easter people celebrate each Sunday – Jesus who lived, died and rose again that we might live!

On Wednesday nights we have been joining with the Uniting Church to reflect on the similarity of the Lenten and Sabbath rhythms, discipleship and resurrection joy, work and restoration.

If the Lenten journey is proving to be a hard slog, rejoice! Today, the fourth Sunday in Lent is traditionally celebrated as *Laetare Sunday* – a day of celebrating the ultimate destiny of the journey in the risen Christ – a time for Lenten pilgrims to lay aside their cares and burdens and celebrate the life that comes from Jesus' self-giving and teaching. Again is this so different from what we do each time we gather around the Lord's table? So yes, Lent can be a significant reflective journey, but it is never meant to press down or discourage. It is an opportunity to hear the voice of the Risen Christ summon us along the

journey that is not afraid to embrace the cost of learning from him in order to be fully embraced by the life he gives.

Shalom

Dennis Ryle

PEACECHURCH MEETS TONIGHT!!

Listening Journeys—Where to After ‘Sorry Day?’

This is the question Peace Church will be looking at this evening at 7.00pm

Scott Vawser will share stories and insights from a recent “listening journey” in the North West. We anticipate his words will heighten an awareness of possibilities for our own “listening journeys” as opportunities for engagement with the pain and aspirations of our nation’s first peoples come just a little nearer within reach.

Following “green church” feedback, Wendy will have net bags available this Sunday night – packs of 4 for \$11.

Important dates !!!!

**** GARAGE SALE:** Only 4 weeks to go! How will you be involved? Maybe you would like to make pickles, jam etc. or cakes and biscuits that can be made now, carefully wrapped and frozen. We will be offering free tea and coffee and will have pieces of slice to sell. If you could help in this way, see Wendy about the size needed.

****VOSE Theological Seminary** are advertising a leadership workshop on March 8 and a book sale on April 12. Details are on the notice board.

****World Day of Prayer** is a world-wide movement led by Christian women who call us together to observe a common day of prayer and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship of prayer and service. This year’s district service will be held **HERE THIS FRIDAY** at 10am. It’s been prepared by Christian women of **Guyana**, (Of course you knew that Guyana is in South America, bordering Venezuela, Surinam and Brazil.) and all are welcome to take part.(As we are hosts, we hope for good support from our own people.)

****If you use the building between Services, you will notice that there is a lace cloth on the communion table. If you have a nice cloth that you would like to donate, please see Wendy H. so that the other one can be returned to its owner.**

****Our Combined Lenten Study series continues with the third study from **Life in Balance: Time to Play.** It’s here at 7,30pm on Wednesday evening. Like to do some pre-reading? Try Isaiah 11: 6-9 and Matthew 18: 1-5**

****For your diary:**

March 7—World Day of Prayer Service here at 10am.

March 21—Good Friday service at 9.30am

March 23 - Easter Service.

April 5: Women's Ministries morning tea at Subiaco Café.

May 1 to 3: Church Camp at Landsdale.

May 11: Combined Pentecost Service at St Paul's

This Tuesday **Sacred Spaces continues a Lenten Journey with Ignatius. All welcome at 7.30pm

**Have you left a mobile phone, jumper, jacket or scarf at church? They are in the lost property box and if you would like to have a look, ask Wendy H.

ON THE GRAPEVINE

** Happy Birthdays this week to **Alexandra Kidd**. (tomorrow)

Among those missing at the moment is **Cecilia Stokes, visiting her daughter in Huonvale, Tasmania—a lovely part of Australia!

Congratulations to **Cherryl & Clive Robartson on the arrival last Monday of grandson number 4— **Brodie Francis**, born to **David & Beth**

. **It's good to have **Colin Gribble** (formerly of Melbourne) & **Jan Gough** (formerly of Moora) meeting with us. You're very welcome!

Is **Linda Pilton looking any older? (*Be consoled by the knowledge your life has now begun!*)



Friends are like the walls of a house. Sometimes they hold you up, sometimes you lean on them. But sometimes, it's enough to know they're just standing by.