

# A COMMUNITY CHURCH WITH A *BIG* HEART

Vol. 19 Issue Mar5

*"... Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that  
Is the whole duty of everyone."  
Ecclesiastes 12:13*

*A word from our Senior Minister ....*

## *How to Stay Focused*

*"do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil."*

I recently sat on and broke my glasses. I then had to go back to my older glasses with an older prescription while waiting for new ones to be made. Thus I walked around 'out of focus' for some weeks.

Focus is a matter of sight. We focus on the eye chart at the Optometrist; we focus our binoculars when looking at distant objects; we focus our camera lens when we take a picture.

It is not surprising that Proverbs encourages us not to "be wise in our own eyes." We should not trust our own eyes as a source of focus in life.

The challenge is to make sure we are focusing on **God First** and seeing through His "eyes."

Proverbs 3:5 says the same thing—***Trust in God with all your heart and dont lean on your own understanding.***

Our eyes and our understanding are gifts of God, but in a fallen world we need to constantly measure our focus against God's standards and values to make sure we are seeing and acting in a godly way.

As Woodrow Knoll said:

***"The key to godliness is not more knowledge but more obedience."***



# A word from our board ....



A message from our Senior Minister - Rev. Judi Turnham ....

## **Membership with Chelsea Community Church of Christ.**

As we welcome newcomers, it is important to clarify what membership is about. For a copy of Constitution, please see Pastor Judi. We welcome those who wish to become members and those who wish to worship as Christians in Fellowship.

Members and Christians in Fellowship are accepted based on their testimony and observed commitment of faith. The emphasis is on personal behaviour, ongoing discipleship and faith practices as an ongoing and developing relationship with Christ.

## **Members and Christians in Fellowship:**

- Must be at least 15 years of age.
- Accept the core values of the Churches of Christ and support their basic tenet
- Have made a public testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour

**Members** must have been baptized or are in the process of being baptized.  
Or are seeking to transfer their membership from another church.

**Christians in Fellowship** may just wish to identify and worship with the Church as part of their journey of faith.

Being a Member enables you to vote on various policies and procedures of the Church and serve in various roles, including being a member of the Church Board.

If you are not a member and feel God drawing you to serve in our Church, please see Pastor Judi to talk this through.

*"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

*Matthew 6:6*



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## *The Pastor Is In:*

Pastor Judi provides pastoral care to all who attend the church and overall site throughout the week. She is able to meet on or off site, depending on your preferences. Best contact 0423 375 714.

Fiona is also available at times to offer support through the week but also Tuesdays and Thursdays on Judi's day off. Best contact 0467 043 441.



# Student Ministry

## **What is a Parable?**

An interesting lecture this week looking at what a parable is. Have you ever wondered about the message that lies under the surface of the intended message? The book of Matthew is a book that holds most of the parables taught by Jesus. Parables that provide us with Christological directives on how we are to live the life we have been given; regardless of generation. But what's the underlying theme of parables as a whole. To appreciate the teachings of Jesus we need to go back to Genesis, where God created the earth and man and woman in His image, but what does "in His image" mean? We know and understand man and woman being created in His image but have we explored the notion the earth too was created in His image; in the image of "the Kingdom of Heaven". Earth was meant to be an outpost of the Kingdom of Heaven, a land filled with the peaceful tranquillity of flora and fauna, with the love and devotion from man to admire and respect earth as home. With the take over of Satan in our hearts and minds, we need to ask the darkness to leave and start living the way God intended for us to live. How? To induce serenity and calmness in our lives which will encourage others to live peacefully which in turn will produce a stillness back into our environments. To show the dark side it does not belong in the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. As scripture says:

*"on earth as it is in Heaven"*

*Matthew 6:10*

## **CHAPEL LOUNGE**

### **PRAYER MEETING & LADIES BIBLE STUDY - Friday 10am - 1130am**

As we carry on the theme of Jesus as Game Changer week five we have explored 'Democracy' :: Jesus didn't believe in a democratic society instead he taught about freedom which still held some political implications. What do you think is needed for a fair, just and robust democracy? Week Six we looked at Learning to Quiet the Soul :: with the busyness of the 21st Century how do we unchain ourselves from the world.



### **LADIES BIBLE STUDY - Thursday 1030am - 1130am**

As we move forward with Thursdays bible study we are exploring Ephesians. Week One we are looking at Unity in Christ and the blessings we have received from the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. Week Two we'll be looking at our spiritual position in Christ. How we are placed in position to our Father.

*Copies of our weekly Bible Studies can be obtained from either Judi or Fiona however there are copies on the table in the Foyer.*





**Pergola Area:** Planning is underway to upgrade this area. We have applied for a grant however any loose change can assist with the purchase of new outdoor furniture.

**InterChurch Updates:**

**Pentecost:** will be held at the Baptist Church in Bonbeach. Any ideas are welcomed.

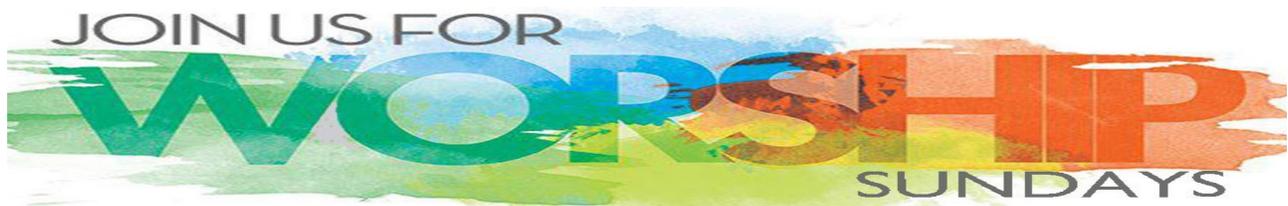
**Maundy Thursday:** Pastor Judi will be conducting the service on behalf of our church and the Uniting Church. This will be held at 6pm on Thursday 18th April.

**Churches of Christ Vic/Tas Annual Conference:** Conference is May 16th to 18th to be held at Kardinia Church Bell Post Campus, Geelong.

The theme this year is *Accerlate—onwards, upwards and outwards*. Keynote speakers will bring a lot of wisdom and knowledge to the sessions.

Please see Pastor Judi or Fiona if you would like to attend.

**Marriage Ceremonies:** Our Student Minister Fiona attended training on Thursday for application as a Marriage Celebrant. This is a 3-step process including accreditation as a non-endorsed minister. The application will be lodged within the next few weeks once Fiona has completed some spiritual cleansing. For further information please see Fiona or Rev. Judi.



**Sunday Services for month of March:**

<b>March 3:</b>	<b>Preacher:</b>	<b>Judi</b>
	<b>Reading:</b>	<b>Exodus 34:29-35 (Noel) / Matthew 6:1-6 &amp; 16-21 (Bob)</b>
<b>March 10:</b>	<b>Preacher:</b>	<b>Judi</b>
	<b>Reading:</b>	<b>Deut 26:1-11 (Ethel) / Luke 4:1-13 (Marg)</b>
<b>March 17:</b>	<b>Preacher:</b>	<b>Fiona</b>
	<b>Reading:</b>	<b>Genesis 15:1-18 (Leah) / Luke 13:31-35 (Val)</b>
<b>March 24:</b>	<b>Preacher:</b>	<b>Colin</b>
	<b>Reading:</b>	<b>Isaiah 55:1-9 / Luke 1:26-38 (Di)</b>
<b>March 31:</b>	<b>Preacher:</b>	<b>Judi</b>
	<b>Reading:</b>	<b>Joshua 5:9-12 (Marg) / Luke 15:1-3 &amp; 11-32 (Noel)</b>