

A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART

CHELSEA NEWSLETTER

22 May 2016



We are all People called to be the Body of Christ

Did you know that God has a purpose for every person in His family? From the beginning, God has chosen to work through His people, such as when He used Moses to free and bless the entire people of God. God's heart cry is always toward all of His people.

As disciples we are called to help those who don't know God – but as we see from the Apostles our first priority is to help each other, as people of God to know who we are in Christ and what God purposed for our lives through salvation. This will turn the world upside down.

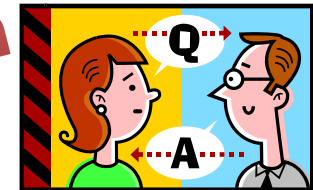
If we practice everything Christ has commanded through our obedient love and relationship with the Lord we will want to naturally share the good news of the gospel with convincing power.

Whereas sin leads to independence and self-centredness, salvation leads to radical interdependence and Christ-centeredness.

And we read in Acts, this is what the apostles did and, as a result of their decision to walk with God and invest in God's people.

“The preaching about God flourished, the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly” (Acts 6:7)

The Pastor Is In



You can catch me at the Church
Mondays, Wednesdays and also
Fridays from 9.00 to 1pm.
OR phone my mobile on 0423 375 714

Latest News

Pastoral Prayer: Please pray for God's healing prescence upon: Chrissy, Lesley I, Gerald, Jean, Leah, Aniko, Eva and Andrea. If anyone wants to join the Prayer chain please let Judi know.

Free Hearing Tests: Australian Hearing will be here on Wed 1st June from 11am onwards offering free hearing tests. Please let Judi know ASAP if you wish to take advantage of this service as times will be set up for each person. Please allow 20mins.

Free Clothing: this service is offered each fortnight and people are welcome to take what they want. Will be reviewed at end of May for continued service by Fiona.

Backyard Spruce up: A job well done by the Men's Shed, the Church thank you. Cafe blinds will be erected with the Men's Shed assistance along with a new hot house and water tank for the Shed.

Energetic Volunteers required: Noel requires assistance with the laying of carpet tiles in the Annex office, repair holes in walls and ceilings. Also painting is required.

Jean's O.B.E. (over blooming 80) Jean celebrates her 80th this weekend. From everyone at the Church we wish you a very joyous Happy Birthday.

Chelsea Community Church of Christ Services

CHURCH SERVICES 10 am Sunday

22 May 2016

Speaker: Judi - Trinity Sunday

Reading: Proverbs 8:1-4 & 22-31

Communion: Noel



29 May 2016

Speaker: Judi - Gospellaires

Reading: Galatians 1:1-12

Communion: Judi

5 June 2016

Speaker: Guest from Prison Fellowship

Reading: As chosen by speaker

Communion: Janice

Due to the children becoming older Children's Church will no longer be held.

Latest News cont'

Your Pantry: we have collected quite a bit of food thanks to donations from various places. Some items will be put out on Wednesday's for those attending breakfast to take. Should you need food yourself or know of someone else who needs it, please see Fiona or Judi.

Churches of Christ Vic/Tas - Churches of Hope and Compassion

An exciting and moving Conference, please refer to attached for further information and ideas for the future.

WHAT'S ON

MONDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ladies in the shed Music with Mummies 	9.30-12.30pm 9.30-10.30 chapel
TUESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS Mornington in the Mens Shed Music for Mommies 	Men's Shed 9-12 noon 9-12noon chapel
WEDNESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Breakfast Men's Shed 	8-10am—hall 9-2pm—backyard
THURSDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Shed AA in the Chapel 	9-2pm—backyard 11am—chapel
FRIDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study for Women CS Aust Afternoon Games 	11-12am Annexe Men's Shed 9-12noon Chapel 12.30-3.30pm
SATURDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ladies in the shed 	10-1pm
SUNDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship Service Childrens Program 	10-11am—chapel Followed by cuppa—hall

Church and Mission office

3-5 Blantyre Ave Chelsea

Office: 03 9773 0301

Minister: Judi Turnham 0423 375 714

**Summarised Points spoken about at the Annual
Churches of Christ Vic/Tas Summit
May 2016**

It is suggested that the aspects of things that are most important for us are hidden (in plain sight) because of their simplicity and familiarity.

Research reveals that the largest social movement in the history of the world today is an immense population of persons actively responding to critical issues of social justice and ecological sustainability. These groups are largely unorganised, grassroots and community based.

In an interesting parallel reports are being submitted regarding radical shifts within the church. Research reveals an increase in the number of churches, mission communities and small groups weaving a fabric of love and care in their communities.

This work is going largely unnoticed – it is something happening at a grass roots level across the globe and has been largely imperceptible to the upwardly mobile, media saturated parts of the world.

So how do we discover it and join in with what God is doing?

Today's society has structured activities of life to happen in different places outside of the neighbourhood – work, shopping, school, recreation, exercise and all the driving in between.

Countless hours of TV, computer time etc keep us from being fully present to the relations of our place.

It is a cumulative effect that separates us from life together at the human scale. Tools, techniques and technologies are used to evade participation in the relationships that surrounds us. We are taught to value speed and scale – blind to what the **SPIRIT** is doing right where you are.

This blindness can cause us to miss the very particular ways **GOD** is at work.

Communities of Hope and Compassion

If we want to contribute to healing and flourishing, we have to be intentional about fostering a common way of life in the community. We have to practice living in relationship with people who are different from us.

Questions:

1. How can we help with the energy crisis – drive less, walk more
2. How can we lower the rates of crime- develop collective efficacy in the neighbourhood
3. How do we work through racism, classism, sexism etc – start with being present in the community and learning to welcome difference in the neighbourhood
4. How can we solve a multitude of food problems – buy from local grocers, create farmers markets and foster community gardens
5. How do we help with loneliness and isolation – create communities of hospitality that care
6. How do we sustain through global economic failures – practice import substitution, local ownership and gift economies.

The Good news:

Your parish is a relational microcosm that helps bring many cause and affect relationships back together again.

Being in collaborative relationships in real life – where you live, work and play, awakens you to the effects of your actions, both on people and on the place itself.

It creates a context where your church can see whether its faith is more than just talk.

The local place becomes the testing ground, revealing whether you have learned to love each other and the larger community around you.

The central core of the Good News is healing and reconciliation. A whole new way of being in which our restored relations with God through Christ helps us to enter in relationally with one another despite our differences.

Beginning the Journey

There are 5 elements that begin your journey.

1. **Listening** – attending to God, to one another and our neighbourhoods
2. **Discerning** – discovering where the Spirit is inviting us to join with God in our neighbourhoods
3. **Testing** - engaging simple actions to join with God in the neighbourhood
4. **Reflection** – gathering to ask – what did we do? What are we learning? Where did we see God at work?
5. **Deciding** – determining what are the new ways we will now join with God in the neighbourhood.

It's not just the listening by itself that's important but the ways in which, via this listening, people keep sharing the stories of what they are observing, discovering and hearing.

Moreover, within these stories we are continually inviting one another to name those places where we might see God at work ahead of us. This ongoing, cumulative process of listening, sharing stories, and reflecting begins to shape an environment where people imagine fresh ways of travelling lightly as followers of Jesus into their neighbourhoods.

Don't panic!

The whole journey begins small and without a lot of fanfare, so that people can practice new practices without being in the spotlight.

The journey should occur parallel to the normal programs, events and rhythms of congregation life, not in their place.

In other words, several things are happening simultaneously. All who are interested may participate in the listening of conversations and Dwelling in the Word.

Meanwhile a small group of members enters into the discerning and experimenting practices to try going lightly in the way of Jesus into the neighbourhood. It is okay that most people in the congregation will stand on the sidelines of the latter steps, gently observing. Most people learn new habits by watching others do them first. The journey through the first 4 steps takes 18-20 months. At that point it is essential to invite the congregation to decide whether and how to repeat the cycle.

Judi's suggestion:

With support from those interested in forming a small group – pray and discern is God calling us to invite the neighbourhood to share with us at the site or do we set up something outside, within the community.

For example:

- Advertise – The Church in Your Community invite you to share in a bite to eat, cuppa and a chat. To gather together to share food and life stories.
- Questions – what do we want it to look like? What is God the Spirit up to ahead of us in our neighbourhood? How do we test it out? How will we promote it? Who do we target?

At Sunday Worship

Invitation given to 1 or 2 persons each week who wish to share an example of:
Where was God with you this week?

Encouraging each of us to briefly share our story and testimony means we can practice this, develop confidence in this sharing and then be able to take this out into the neighbourhood.

That is what Jesus has called us to do – active discipleship.

We cannot become complacent and expect people to find us and join us. Luke's Gospel calls us to simply yet transformational practice the church at every level by embracing:

- Following Jesus together
- Into the neighbourhood and
- Travel lightly

This is an exciting and imaginative invitation.

These will help us truly join up with God, remake church and ultimately take our part in transforming communities so they reflect the reign of God.

Being a Place of Hope and Compassion in the Neighbourhood

Churches of Christ Vic/Tas have been going down a path of Renewal to encourage our Churches to be places of Hope and Compassion. The 2016 Annual Summit challenged all of us to actively get on board.

Chelsea is held up, amongst others, as a Church that has been a place of Hope and Compassion for many years with active outreach and thanks go to Steve Rose and others who initiated this.

The Summit's theme this year and beyond invites us to a stance of humility and gratitude, openness and learning, renewal and freshness, expectation and involvement, relationship and sacrifice – into a particular posture before God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

For Chelsea, we cannot rest on our laurels and believe that *'we are there.'* God's call is not just a head thing – it also involves the heart, hands and feet. It is hard work but, I am sure you will all agree,

THERE IS NO BETTER WORK

In utter dependence upon Jesus Christ as our ever-living Saviour, Teacher, Lord and Friend, we are encouraged to:

- Dig into the Bible
- Up our faith
- Branch out into the community

In response to the many ideas presented at the Summit and through written material, we must start a process of listening and then discernment to answer the following:

1. Based on the listening we are doing where might the Spirit be inviting us to join with God in our neighbourhood?
2. Are there some concrete steps we can take to test out this scene of the Spirit's invitation?

For more information see additional leaflet provided.

