

WESLEY NEWS

**SEPTEMBER
DIARY DATES**

Sunday 4th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

HOLY COMMUNION

Baptism of William Michael Olds

PENTECOST 16

Sunday 11th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

Baptism of Patrick George Russo

PENTECOST 17

Monday 12th at 4.00pm

Church Council

Wednesday 14th midday

Come-to-Lunch

Royal Coach Motel

Sunday 18th at 10.00am

Rev Mac Macdonald

PENTECOST 18

Wednesday 21st, 2.00pm

Winter/Spring Concert

Sunday 25th at 10.00am

Rev Mac Macdonald

PENTECOST 19

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

Wednesday 7.30pm

ARTS @ WESLEY

Patchworkers

& Quilters

Monday morning

Contact Pat 8331 9816

WESLEY IS HOME TO

Young Adelaide Voices

Adelaide Harmony Choir

Metropolitan Musical

Theatre Company

Monteverdi Singers

Albert Camus, the famous French philosopher, author wrote, *“In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.”* At present we are seeing the first signs of Spring, the promise that Summer is on its way. Spring can be a messy time of year because the early morning promise of a bright clear day is not always fulfilled. Even so, we do not lose hope because, as the earth’s plants and creatures tell us, the flowers and the fruits will come. Their tenacity and resilience remind us that there are things stronger than death. We are also reminded that even when life seems bleak it is worth living for, to quote Albert Camus again, there is, within us, that *“invincible summer.”*



One of the things we learn from gardening is that the dynamic of nature is an unstoppable force. If we don’t garden, the weeds take over. If we abandon a city, the jungle moves in or the desert obliterates. The forces of nature are constant, relentless and demanding.

Another thing we learn from gardening is that we can modify the outcomes nature produces. In winter we can prune our fruit trees and improve the quality of our crop. We do this by cutting back on old growth so that the new has a better opportunity to give of its best. And we shape a fruit tree to let the light in and the breezes flow through the branches so that we maximise the fruit produced both in quantity and quality. As well, we can fertilize the soil. We can enrich it with trace elements and other nutrients so that the fruit is larger, healthier and tastier.

There is beauty in a garden that somehow speaks to something very deep inside every one of us. “Garden” here has, for me, a very broad definition. A magnificent forest is a thing of beauty and so is a field of golden wheat waving in the breeze as it stretches to the horizon. I guess, however, that the gardens whose beauty most of us have the time to appreciate, besides our own, are those we see on shows like *Gardening Australia* or on our too infrequent visits to the Botanic Gardens on North Terrace or at Mount Lofty or Belair. Perhaps, we should organise a congregational picnic at the Botanic Gardens and have Graham Bell give us a guided tour! I’m sure all of us would learn a lot.

Another quotation from Albert Camus may be relevant here. *“Beauty is unbearable, drives us to despair, offering us for a minute the glimpse of an eternity that we should like to stretch out over the whole of time.”* I think Jesus may have well been saying much the same with these words, *“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.”*

At Wesley, with the process of seeking a new minister starting to get a move on in a serious way, I sense that winter is drawing to a close and spring is just around the corner with the promise of a summer yet to come in the form of a new term of ministry. As I thought about this it struck me that a gardening analogy proved quite apropos for Wesley. I think there are three questions worth pondering. What pruning do we need to do to prepare for Spring and the Summer to follow? What shaping do we need to do let the light in and the breeze (of God’s Spirit) flow through the branches of our congregational structure? Where do we need to fertilize and with what?

We already do some of this. It’s not new nor is it something that only got underway after I arrived. But we need to do more. What kind of summer fruits are we looking for? Do we need to plant some new trees or make sure the old ones bear more fruit? Your thoughts and ideas are really important here so please share them with me and other people on our Church Council. I am looking forward to sharing in the coming Spring with you and seeing it transition into a beautiful Summer as you move into a new season with a new minister sometime early next year. Having said this you need to be aware that in formal terms the process of choosing a new minister has only just begun and that no conversations have been had nor have decisions of any kind been made as to who the new minister will be.

Grace and Peace
Jim Winn

Wesley Uniting Church
Kent Town



RESTORATION OF WAR MEMORIAL WINDOW



A memorial window to the young men who attended the Kent Town Methodist Sunday School was placed in the Main Hall at the Church property 96 years ago. It is a stained glass window and replicates the Gothic shape of the lancet windows in the church. It has the inscription "The Lord is my Shepherd" and "To the Glory of God and to the memory of the young men of the Sunday School who laid down their lives in the Great War 1914-1918." The memorial window was unveiled in July 1920 by Mr Paul Scott.

(ref. M Edwards "The House of God – The Gate of Heaven"). It is complementary to the Honour Roll located in the church which contains the names of 106 members of the church who served in the Great War 1914-1918.

The window was in need of major restoration. The lead had deteriorated and the timber surrounds needed replacing due to rot which allowed rain to leak into the hall. The Church Council agreed to a project to restore the window and to apply to the ANZAC Day Commemoration Fund 2015-16 for a grant to assist with the cost of restoration. The application was successful and the project proceeded, supported by a grant from the ANZAC Day Commemoration Council, Department of Treasury and Finance. The total cost of the restoration, comprising renewing the leadlight window, replacing and painting the supporting timber frame and repairing the surrounding wall, was \$13,700.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

This project is an example of the ongoing maintenance of the historic property. At present the Council is working towards completing the restoration of the upstairs rooms at the back of the church. A notable improvement in this area has already been achieved by Life Skills but the stairs and room above the Minister's Vestry have to be painted and the walls plastered, and the outside corner of the church repointed. **Donations towards this work are appreciated.**

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

The 151st anniversary of Wesley Kent Town was celebrated with a service of worship on **Sunday 14th August 2016**. Rev Jim Winn was the preacher and the augmented choir led by organist Graham Bell provided some beautiful music. It was lovely to see so many members present and to welcome back people who have had past association with Wesley. It was a truly joyous occasion.

SMALL STUDY GROUP

A small study group series led by Rev Jim Winn, will commence on **Tuesday 13th September, 2016**. They will be held at **10.00 am** in the Minister's Vestry. A separate information flyer is forthcoming and Jim will provide further details during Sunday morning services.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Graham & KK Stacey return to Adelaide in the middle of this month. Singapore recently celebrated 51 years of nationhood and Graham & KK were there to enjoy the festivities. It was a spectacular event, held for the first time at the brand new national stadium under the world's largest dome. It was staged over 2 hours with 70,000 attendees and 10,000 performers. The highlight of the night, according to Graham was the indoor fireworks display.

Deborah White also returns home this month following her sojourn in Umbria, Italy. We will welcome her back into the choir. **Beryl Kennett** will be travelling to France with her daughter for a month and **Sonja Cherney** is heading off to Vienna and Bratislava. **Pam & David George** are still caravanning in Queensland. Pam is gradually recovering from her broken collarbone and cracked ribs. **Mary Davidson** has been spending time in respite at Resthaven, Mitcham, which is why she hasn't been at church recently. We look forward to seeing all of them again soon.

COME-TO-LUNCH

The next monthly lunch will be at the **Adelaide Royal Coach Motel**, 24 Dequetteville Tce, Kent Town on **Wednesday 14th September at 12.00 noon**. We hope you can join us and share some fellowship together. Trevor has booked a private room for us. Parking is limited so please aim to arrive early. **Please note the change in venue.**

2016 CONCERT SERIES



The first of our Spring concerts will be held on **Wednesday 21st September at 2.00 pm**. It features Tenor, Tasso Bouyessis and organist, Graham Bell. All concerts are held in the Church with a generous afternoon tea to follow in the hall. Admission is \$10 at the door.

JUST A THOUGHT

The bamboo that bends is stronger than the oak that persists.
Japanese proverb

CONTACTS

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Church Office: Tracy Shepherd

Monday – Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm (school term)
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