



CHRISTMAS 2021

PARTICIPATE

IN LIFE • IN CHRIST



A Christmas Message

The hope for many at this time of year is to celebrate with our family and friends. Moving from a time of hustle and bustle to relaxation and rest. Our challenge, at the moment, is that we are entering into a time of change in how the South Australian community is managing the COVID19 pandemic. Uncertainty and anxiety have risen considerably in the last fortnight.

On top of two years of heightened anxiety and uncertainty, many are left feeling the full weight of accumulating fatigue and tiredness. I wonder whether you find yourself in a place of fatigue and tiredness right now? Or do you sit more as an observer within your community of the strains and stressors that are present?

Within the Christian community many celebrate Advent at this time of year. Advent means "arrival" and is a month of preparation for the arrival of Jesus. God amongst us. This practice is not a disconnection from the world around us, but more a preparation to be ready for the what the world brings us.

In Isaiah 26 the prophetic writer talks about "perfect peace" (v3 - Shalom, Shalom in the Hebrew). It is the

idea of God the creator offering a place of calm, joy and hope for those who enter into his kingdom. It is a poem of future home. The arrival of Jesus fulfils this hope, reminding us as Christians that God is amongst us and invites us to enter into his rest.

The prophetic writer in Isaiah does not limit his vision of peace to being an internal presence for the individual. The writer understands the presence of God as an offer of peace to the whole community - of greatest benefit to those with little peace such as the poor or the refugee.

The arrival of God amongst us is the promise of receiving the Spirit of God to build us together as community. Advent calls us to sharing peace with each other and creating communities of peace. My hope is that, within each of our churches, we will be able to share peace this Christmas and extend peace to the community around us. A balm for our stressed and strained community.

Peter Barney
State Minister

News and stories from Churches of Christ in South Australia

From our President



**Participate
in Christ.**

Recently I heard someone say 'We are invited to participate in the God relationship. Yes, there will be struggle and pain. But our God is working to restore all things. To restore them back to the original design'.

I've continued to ponder these words as I've gone about finding a balance in living life, loving God, loving others, leading State Board, and earning a living.

We all face challenges. In our life. In our church. In our families. In our work. And yet, in all of them, we are not alone. We may stubbornly choose to do it alone. But God is there. And we can make the choice to turn to God.

And God is working to restore all things. To their original design!

You remember how it starts. 'In the beginning, God created...' We are part of the original design. What a joy and wonder it is, that through Jesus we are caught up in God's restoration of all things.

What a difference it makes when we as individuals and we as churches, make sure that we keep our focus on Jesus.

May we all play our part!

Convention 2021

Thank you to all those organisers, delegates and attendees who came together for the COCSANT Convention 2021 to celebrate our connections, our identity and our life in Christ.

It was great time of sharing with activities spread across two days, hosted wonderfully well by the Aldgate Church.

On the Friday, the majority of our Ministers spent the day together sharing a time of reflection and gaining insights to strengthen their ministry journey.

Friday night's celebration was open to all and along with times of worship and communion, we were privileged to share in Craig Schultz's ordination. Our time together was rounded out by a number of different stories about mission and ministry from several of our church communities.

Saturday comprised the business meetings with the AGMs of CareWorks and Churches of Christ. CareWorks' reflections on the year that has been brought joy and a sense of hope to the business meeting. It included inspirational stories from three important ministries and church partnerships.

After a delicious lunch, the afternoon consisted of workshops which were valuable and very well received.

The proceedings concluded with a time of communion, reminding us that through Jesus Christ, God's love brings peace, restoration and makes us whole.

Blessings

Leanne Sanders
President



Colonel Light Gardens Church of Christ honored in Australia Day Awards.

An Australia Day Award for Active Citizenship was presented to the Big A Boutique Op Shop, Colonel Light Gardens Church of Christ on January 26 2021. Having been nominated by a regular customer of the shop, winning the award was a delightful surprise as there were several nominees who had reached the final round and

we were honored to receive the award from the Mayor of Mitcham council. The medal and award were for Active Citizenship as an entirely volunteer run service to the community (for over 20 years) providing not only cheap good quality merchandise, but free coffee with a smile and a shoulder to lean on where needed.

Chaplaincy appointments

Two Churches of Christ ministers have been recently inducted as SAPOL chaplains. Colin Heslop at Balaklava, Wakefield and Hamley Bridge and Heather Restall at Sturt Police stations. These are voluntary positions that serve those who potentially work in tough, often unappreciated situations, supporting the spiritual welfare of employees and retired members of SA Police, their partners and immediate families.



Y&YA NETWORK

2022 KEY DATES

EASTER CAMP

15TH - 18TH APRIL 2022

WOODHOUSE 'HOOPER BUNKHOUSE'

PICCADILLY ADELAIDE HILLS

FOR YEARS 7-12 · OFFICIAL DETAILS COMING SOON

STATE YOUTH GAMES

10TH - 13TH JUNE 2022

UNITY COLLEGE

MURRAY BRIDGE

FOR YEARS 7 AND UP · OFFICIAL DETAILS COMING SOON

YOUTH LEADERS RETREAT

14TH - 15TH OCTOBER

LOCATION TO BE ARRANGED

FOR ALL LEADERS · OFFICIAL DETAILS COMING MID 2022

NETWORK GATHERINGS

FIRST THURSDAY NIGHT OF SCHOOL TERMS

6PM BROOKLYN PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

FOR ALL LEADERS

3RD FEB (TERM 1)

5TH MAY (TERM 2)

28TH JULY (TERM 3)

20TH OCT (TERM 4)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CARL MILNE
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World Day of Prayer

Thank you to churches for their support at World Day of Prayer services in March this year. There was a very good response for funds to the Vanuatu projects.

As President, I appreciated people coming to the city service held at Pilgrim UCA, but led by Churches of Christ, with CoC speaker and items.

The 2022 city service will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 170 Flinders St, at 10am on Friday 4th March. The focus country will be England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Julie Walladge

Past President



**Churches
of Christ**
in South Australia
and Northern Territory

Participate
in Christ.

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