



9 December 2012

Welcome *A warm welcome to all who join us today in giving worship and praise to our great God and Saviour. May this be a time of growing in grace and strengthening our relationship with the Lord and with each other. Please join us for a cuppa after the service. If you are visiting today, please sign our visitor's Book. We have an information leaflet explaining our church's ministries and activities, feel free to take one or ask for one.*

WORSHIP TODAY

9:30 AM Rev Crosby de Krester
Message: TBA
Reading: TBA

6:00 PM Jubilate Choir

Pakenham Community Church Plant (PC3)

10.30 am today Pakenham Living Learning Centre
6B Henry Street Pakenham.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

9:30 AM Rev Peter Mechielson
6:00 PM Br Chris Pretorious

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Transit

NEXT WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – ROAD Workgroup

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges	\$2,053.50
Church Planting Task Group	\$410.85



ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: W. Tiley, A. Coe, C. Daniels,
G. de Groot

Next Week: K & J. de Jong, D & P. Ellings,
B. Elfring, H. Elfring.

23rd Dec P & J. de Jong, T & J. Cram,
C & K. Harrison, I. Meenks

30th Dec A. de Vos, C. de Haan,
M & T. Eleveld, B. Bence

PA & VIDEO :

Today: TBA

Next Week: TBA

GREETERS

Today: Vera Steendam, Con Daniels

Next week: George & Lenny Zomerdyk

Our worship today

This morning we welcome **Rev. Crosbie de Kretser** as he proclaims God's Word to us, and again this evening at 6.00 pm as he directs the **Jubilate Choir** as they share the Christmas message in song through the cantata "**Immanuel : God with us**"

May God's Word of hope and grace, challenge, comfort and inspire us, as we seek to live for God in the week ahead.

Reflection - Courage

We don't always feel very courageous, especially when we face the unknown, or new or difficult circumstances. These moments when we face something for the very first time can be scary and fear rises up in us. Fears can paralyze us and prevent us from having peace, from speaking or acting with discernment, from doing right. **But courage is not the absence of fear...** rather, it is our acting and speaking, when in spite of fear, you bite the bullet, you move or speak to rescue or bring relief or a sense of comforting presence, or to do right... in spite of how you feel.

It is not for nothing, that the words from God, that come to Mary, to Zechariah, to the shepherds, in that first Christmas story are "Do not be afraid...." they bring the reassurance that there is a way through fear... for courage is really about taking heart and will and mind and moving into the space where God needs us to be. God's call on you to move forward with courage can come at any time...

It was required of Mary, at a most inconvenient time, while still betrothed and not yet married.

In our disappointment that another call to serve at Dandenong, has been turned down, the angels words, "Do not be afraid..." remind us that there is a way through. We are to take courage and trust that God will provide as we continue to move forward together (for Mary - a full nine expectant months) in obedience, as God's people. God enables and provides!

Op Shop

Our Church Op Shop opens on Thursdays from 11:00am – 4:30pm and Fridays from 9:30am – 4:30pm. We raise money for various local mission projects. Donations can be dropped off on those days only.

Why don't you drop in sometime.

The Committee

PLEASE HELP

We are urgently seeking support from Young Or Not so Young on a regular/rostered basis during the Sunday morning worship service for people to use the computer/data projector.

Only basic computer skills are required and full instructions and training are supplied for everyone to use. Speak to Colin Pretorius for further information about Data Projector training.

Elder nominations.

The terms of two elders come to an end in a few months. Combined with the uncertainty as to when Harry Burggraaf will be able to return to his duties, the church council is seeking nominations for at least 2 elders to allow us to continue our work effectively. The congregation is encouraged to put forward nominations in writing to an elder or to council.

URY in 2013 – We Need YOU!

Dear congregation,

At the end of this year, several leaders from URY will be finishing their roles as they move into different church ministry areas. As a result, there is an urgent need for new volunteers to give a little bit of their time on Tuesday nights to help minister to youth from both our church and the local community. Any help that you can offer in 2013 will be greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please contact Lynette on 0423 889 912.

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CRCA Web site www.crca.org.au
Our Church Web site
www.dcrc.org.au
Please visit our web site
Your comments are welcome

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- A prayer request has come to us from **Adel Messieh**, spokesman for the Soul Salvation Assembly Melb. (SSAM), who meet in our church on Friday night. They ask us to **pray for Egypt**. There are huge demonstrations happening in response to President Morsi's autocratic, dictatorial imposition of a particularly conservative Islamic view on the general public. What is in jeopardy, is the democratic liberties of the people of Egypt. Pray that these peaceful demonstrations will have a positive outcome for Egypt as a democratic country.
- **Harry Burggraaf** update: While he remains a very critically ill person, the surgeon is surprised and pleased with the way Harry has continued to overcome further issues of an internal bleed and now an infection. Often he slips back into a deeper sleep, again as he requires pain relief for dressing changes, tracheostomy tube changes, etc., but overall he continues to take small, slow bumpy steps toward healing. We praise God for his gracious, loving, healing hand upon Harry. Thank you for faithful prayer support and your love.
- Pray for Church Council as they process the news of Laven Shunmugam's decision to decline the call to Dandenong and also for the Search Committee as they reflect prayerfully on the next step forward.
- **Give thanks** for the Dutch Christmas Service last night, and also the Christmas Carols and dinner celebrations that were held at the Shawlands Caravan Park, with many hearing the good news of Jesus' birth and the purpose of his coming – to bring salvation to our world.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Eunice Marjee	December 12
Gerry de Groot	December 15
Jacob van der Jagt	December 15

With many special thoughts of you and prayers that God will bless
Your birthday and the year ahead with every
happiness.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

THE GRACE GROW GROUP (Triple G)
Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2.00-3.30 pm. Leader is John Nicholson. Everyone is welcome. Contact on 97956252

OASIS GROWTH GROUP

The **Oasis Growth Group** invites new members to attend. We meet the first and third Tuesday of each month but not during holidays. (if you are dropping off kids at URY and want to join us we conclude at 9 – 9.30) At the Burggraaf's, 17 Edgewood Road, Dandenong – Tel 9791 2601 Mob 0408 120 159

COFFEE BREAK LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Meets each Tuesday 10am, at the church, during the school terms.

Helen van Garderen.

WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD SMALL GROUP

Anyone who is not currently in a group is welcome to come along and join or just check us out. We have started to study Galatians. All welcome. Any questions can be directed to Harry and Jannette Vanderjagt on 9703 1613 or 0438 872000.

VENTURE BIBLE STUDY

(Young Adults) is on a Monday on a fortnightly basis starting at 7:30 and meeting in the resource room at church. If you want to be part of this group let David Barrot know on 0401 073 954, it would be great to see you there."



Calling of a Rev. Laven Shunmugam

It has been a trying and difficult process for me and the Family as we wrestled with the call to Dandenong. Our NSW Counsellor on previous occasions when I did receive other calls from the CRCA, reminded me that I should after much prayer make my decision and let it lie for week. If I find I am at peace with the decision I made then I should go with that.

I also spoke to numerous members of my Church and the Session and am grateful for their input.

As you are aware, I struggled with the two calls, namely: first to my church at Hawkesbury and secondly, to the Church at Dandenong.

My final decision is to decline the call to Dandenong. I do know that there would be much disappoint amongst all the folks at Dandenong. I humbly ask that you would convey to the Session and congregation how difficult it was for me to come to that decision.

However, I do know that the Lord of the Church will provide a Pastor in His time to shepherd His people at Dandenong. I continue to pray for the Session as they care for the congregation during the vacancy.

May God grant you all the blessings for the work ahead.

In His Service,
Laven.



Compassionate Catalogue 2012.

Please remember that our "gifts" are all associated with "Word and Deed" based ministries that our denomination upholds.

A very "new" gift this year is the **HINDI J.S.B.** (7). Please consider carefully if you can also include one or more JSB's as a gift you give. The reason for embarking on this project is Acts 24: 27 There we read that the risen Jesus spoke to Cleopas and his friend about how the entire Old Testament is about him and we read that their eyes were opened to who Jesus was. So, their hearts burned within them as he taught them about himself. Our goal for JSB is that beginning with the little ones the young churches would be filled with those for whom the Scriptures are truly "OPEN" (Luke 24: 32).

Thanks in advance for considering many Christ centred ministries overseas.

JUBILATE CHOIR –TOUR TO NORTH AMERICA

Our Jubilate Choir is planning a tour to North America, D.V. during September-October 2013.

We have a limited number of places available for others to join this tour. You can either join our group, just to enjoy the tour, or you can join the choir and participate in the singing as well.

A short outline of the tour is as follows:

Departure date: 13 September 2013, from Melbourne to Los Angeles.

Return date: 7 October 2013, From Los Angeles to Melbourne

A short outline of our planned itinerary is as follows:

1. Tour commences in Los Angeles (USA)
2. Travel by air to Chicago (USA)
3. Travel by bus from Chicago to Grand Rapids (USA)
4. Travel by bus from Grand Rapids to Niagara

Falls & Toronto (Canada)

5. Travel by air from Toronto to Calgary (Canada)
6. Travel by bus via the Rocky Mountains to Vancouver (Canada)
7. Return to Australia, via Los Angeles

We are in the process of arranging our singing events and outings, etc. This will be made available to all participants in the near future.

If you are interested in joining this tour, please contact Harold Dykstra in the near future for more details and pricing.

Contact details: Phone number: 03-9700-2378.

Email: harold@infoxpert.com.au.



HELPING IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Christmas 2012

Tammy Peterson is a social worker with the Recovery and Prevention of Psychosis (RAPPS) and the Early in Life Mental Health Service (ELMHS) These services provide mental health services to parents, infants, children, adolescents and youth under 25 years of age. The aim is to deliver specific interventions that meet the treatment needs of each stage of mental illness and recovery. This includes care options that focus on early detection, recovery, rehabilitation, relapse prevention and aims to minimise disability and secondary co morbidity. Tammy has asked for our help again in providing 20 hampers to their clients who live in larger family groups.

The Op Shop, working together with the deacons, have been able to help Tammy by providing her with the money (\$1000) for these food hampers. Enabling these clients with longstanding mental health issues to be blessed with some support for this Christmas Season.

Tammy is very thankful for our support. From the Deacons and the Op Shop team



Have a laugh

Tommy, one of my grandsons, walked into the convenience store and asked the clerk for a box of laundry soap so that he could wash his dog, Petey. The clerk was appalled and told the boy, "Son, you can't use laundry soap on a dog. It might hurt him. Are you sure you want laundry soap?"

"Oh, yes," Tommy insisted. So the clerk sold the boy a box of laundry soap.

The next day, Tommy skulked into the store with a very sad look on his face. "What's the matter, Tommy?" the clerk asks.

"Petey died," the boy blurted out, tears wetting his cheeks.

"That's terrible," sympathized the clerk. "But remember, I told you that laundry soap might hurt your dog."

Tommy responded, "I don't think it was the laundry soap. I think it was the spin cycle."

I took my dog to obedience school, and the dog got a higher grade than I did.