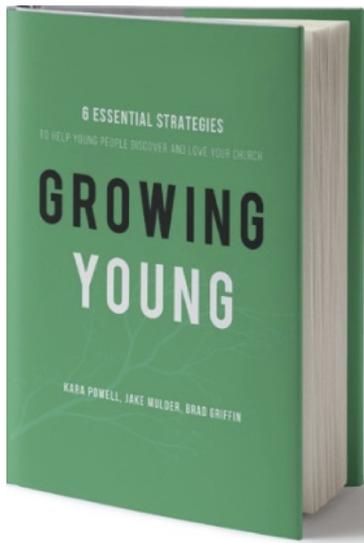


16 May 2021



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

Growing Young...



Church growth has been a key focus of our NSW/ACT Synod since adopting a proposal at our Synod gathering in 2019. Growth was presented in terms of discipleship, relationship, number and impact. I wonder what growth you have noticed in our congregation over the past two years. It may be confronting to even consider this. Churches around our Synod, especially regional and rural areas, are asking these questions and we as a church have been regularly reminded of the need to consider our future and where God is leading us, whilst acknowledging our current reality. These past few months we have initiated the Vision Task Group and the Growing Young Project as some tangible opportunities for us to reflect on who we are, what God is doing and how we can grow into the future.

Last Monday Pastor Molk led an introductory session for those involved in the Growing Young Project (by the way it isn't too late to join this group). It is an often presented idea that one way for a church to grow is through ministry to young people and in turn their families. Molk asked us a great question: How seriously do we take ministry to young people as a church? Molk also quoted a Christian leader who said: "The number one job of a leader is to define reality." We live in an era where things are changing and the church as we may have known it is growing and developing in new ways. Unfortunately, our connection with society has changed and we find ourselves in a position of ageing congregations, with less people in our church communities. Through all this we trust that God will grow the church and that we will make a Jesus-shaped difference in this world.

The Growing Young resource focuses on six core commitments: Keychain Leadership (empowering young people), Empathy Today (stepping into the shoes of the younger generation), Jesus' Message (taking seriously a Jesus-centred way of life), Warm Relationships (peer and intergenerational), Prioritise Everywhere (engage young people in all facets of the church) and Best Neighbours (enable young people to neighbour well in the wider community). As a church we are all in this together and you will hear this language used over the coming months, as we explore the idea of growing young together. Maybe you could reflect on these concepts in the days ahead.

May God open our eyes to the needs of younger people and their families in our community and give us a vision for how we can grow into the future as a church.

Grace and peace, Rev Phil

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Men's Cooking @ Bangalow Uniting Church: 10am Fridays (Not yet running)

Scripture at Byron Bay PS: Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm

Open Church: Tuesday 9-11am @ Bangalow, Wednesday 9-11am @ Byron Bay

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop: Monday to Fridays 9am-1pm

Uniting Sewing and Social Group @ Byron: 9am-3pm and 6pm-9pm, Mondays

Growing Young Bookclub every fortnight from 24th May 3.30-5pm Bangalow UCA

Upcoming events...

Church Council: Tuesday 18th May 11am @ Bangalow UCA

School Strike For Climate: Friday 21st May 10am Main Street, Byron Bay

Growing Young Bookclub: Monday 24th May 3.30-5pm Bangalow UCA

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:

BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6601 2010

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

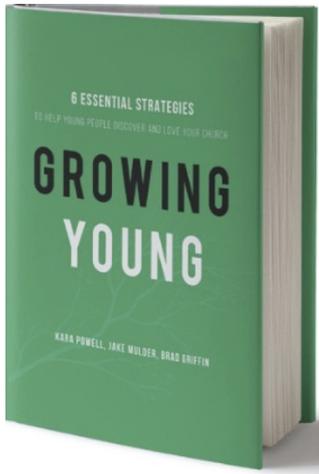
Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692
email: allthenashes@gmail.com



School Strike For Climate

On **Friday May 21 at 10am** there is an event in Byron Bay for this Australia wide awareness and action. Around Australia young people are appealing for a post-COVID recovery that protects all from climate change and creates a prosperous future. In 2019 our Synod declared we would support young people in their call for greater action to address the challenge of global warming. Currently, our world is on track for 3 degrees of warming by the end of the century. The consequences in terms of drought, bushfires, sea level rise, heat waves, species loss and agricultural decline will be devastating. That is the world our inadequate action is bequeathing to our young people and their children. This is clearly a serious and sobering challenge. Rev Phil will be attending this march and has been able to source a number of Uniting Church shirts for those who would like to join him and show their support. It would be wonderful for our community to see that we as a Uniting Church, support the care of God's creation and the activities of our younger people.

Growing Young Project



The Growing Young Project has now started. The first bookclub-style gathering is Monday 24th May 3.30-5pm at the Bangalow Church. In this session we will discuss the first chapter of the Growing Young book. From that point onwards, the group will meet every fortnight at that time to discuss a chapter of the book. If you want to join in, see Rev Phil for a book and otherwise start reading the first chapter and reflect on the questions at the end of it!

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 16 May: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal
Week of 23 May: Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles



Prayer Points:

- The Growing Young Project and those participating in the group. May we all be challenged to consider the future, how we can grow as a church and engage with younger generations.
- India and the deepening COVID-19 crisis and for those who are impacted by the travel ban to Australia.
- The upcoming Climate Change strikes. May we all grow in our awareness of how to care for God's beautiful creation.
- Our Open Church initiative. May people from our community who need connection be brought through our doors and might we be surprised with what comes from this idea.

Gathered Worship

Sunday 16th May	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 23rd May	5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 30th May	9.30am Byron Bay Communion 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 6th June	5pm Bangalow Communion	- Rev Phil

Lectionary Readings

16 May	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
23 May	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
30 May	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
6 June	1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20	Genesis 3:8-15	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35

Newsletter Items If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.