



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

"Young people these days..."

We have all probably heard someone say this at some stage in our lives. Maybe you might have even said it once or twice yourself, or at the very least thought it! It's the classic derogatory quote used to describe the actions or opinions of a 'younger person.' It is usually said by someone one or more generations older than the young person and highlights the generational gap, implying that there is something innately wrong with youth or the younger generation and the way that they think or behave. Unfortunately, within the church this phrase and those like it have been repeated often and this has had a negative effect on younger generations and their sense of identity and belonging within the church.



In churches, where loving God and loving others is our core, young people often get the rough end of the stick when it comes to attitudes and how people view them. Often things are said in a way that isn't meant to be demeaning or offensive, but the result is that younger people end up feeling put in their place because of what is or isn't expected of them.

Empathising with young people today is one of the six key strategies of Growing Young and this strategy highlights the responsibility of the older generations to be empathetic to young people and the pressures that they face today. This involves acknowledging that life is different for the younger generations and then seeking to understand and support young people on their journey in life and faith.

One way to begin this is by realising the three main questions young people are dealing with and that they are similar to what we all faced when we were younger. These questions are:

Who am I? (Identity), Where do I fit? (Belonging), What difference do I make? (Purpose)

Here we have three crucial questions that all people need to answer for themselves throughout life, but they are of particular importance to teenagers and young adults as they mature in life. We know through social changes, family changes, technology advances and other reasons, that life is very different for the current younger generations and that young people today find themselves under all sorts of pressures that are challenging. It is our role to empathise with this experience and support and care for young people through this stage in life.

Of these three questions above, Growing Young suggests that:

"We think that young people's deepest questions about identity are best answered by God's grace. We are convinced that teenagers 'and emerging adults' need to belong is ultimately met through the unconditional love of community. We believe their hunger for purpose is satisfied by being involved in God's mission in the world."

So may we continue to explore what it means to empathise with today's younger generations. Engaging in this demonstrates our love for them and our desire to see them grow and thrive in faith, as they explore their identity in Christ, their belonging to the community of faith and their role in the ministry life of the church.

Grace & peace, Rev Phil

MISSION AND MINISTRY

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

Every Week...

Open Church: Tuesday 9-11am @ Bangalow, Wednesday 9-11am @ Byron Bay.
Open Church begins again from the first week of February.

Scripture at Byron Bay PS: Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm
(Scripture is currently on pause and will resume in 2022 as a result of the COVID situation and NSW Roadmap.)

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

The Op Shop has now reopened a few days a week at the discretion of the daily volunteer teams and this has been well received by our local community who have enjoyed being able to peruse the great range of affordable clothing and goods, as well as engage with our wonderful volunteers.

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

Growing Young Bookclub: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

Growing Young: Monday 21st February, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

Family Gathering: "New Beginnings" Sunday 13th February, 5pm @ Bangalow UCA

National Church Life Survey (NCLS): Sunday 20th February during worship gatherings

Harvest Festival (with dinner and auction): Sunday 6th March, 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



NCLS

The National Church Life Survey (NCLS) is an important tool to collect information about and for churches across our country. The survey usually coincides with the Census but due to COVID in 2021 it has been postponed until February 2022. We will be completing our survey forms during our gatherings on **Sunday 20th February**. The information collected in the NCLS provides valuable information for our denomination in its ongoing planning and funding, so please do your best to complete a survey.

Byron Bay Church Monthly Morning Tea

On the first Sunday of each month we celebrate Communion during our gatherings. The Byron Bay Church will host a morning tea following each of these Communion gatherings as an opportunity to connect and enjoy spending time together. If you are attending please feel free to bring along some delicacies for us to share.

Family Gatherings At Bangalow (Growing Young)

During each term we are planning to host three gatherings during our 5pm worship time at the Bangalow Church. Each themed gathering will include craft, stories, activities, music and opportunities to explore life and faith in an inclusive, open, fun and engaging way for all ages. These are wonderful opportunities for us to engage with families and young people in our community and to invite friends and families along. The schedule for Term 1 2022 is:

February 13th - New Beginnings

March 6th - Harvest Festival and Auction (with meal)

April 10th - Easter & Fair Trade.

Lectionary Readings

13 February	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalms 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
20 February	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
27 February	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalms 99	2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2	Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)
6 March	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13

Gathered Worship

Sunday 13th February	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - "New Beginnings" - Family Gathering	- Rev Phil
Sunday 20th February	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 27th February	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 6th March	9:30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Harvest Festival	- Rev Phil

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

Week of 13 February: Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

Week of 20 February: France, Germany, Monaco

Prayer Points:

- Those unable to join our gatherings at this time due to illness, recovery from procedures and their wellbeing. May they experience God's peace and healing at this time.
- The people of Tonga and the work of our Church partners responding to the tsunami disaster.
- Uniting Church communities engaged in fresh expressions of Christian community and all those who are following the call of the Spirit to serve the communities around them.
- Our Growing Young Project, as we as a whole church engage in the idea of ministry to the younger generations and as we respond to new ideas, activities and ministries as they arise.

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.