

16 October 2022

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA



From Generation to Generation...



Without meaning to scare you too much, Advent is just around the corner and now only 6 weeks away! This is a reminder of how quickly time can seem to pass as we move towards Christmas and the end of 2022. I am excited to announce this year's

Advent theme today, to allow us as a community time to consider and reflect upon it. This year's theme comes from a line from Mary's song of protest and praise in Luke Chapter 1:

*"Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him **from generation to generation.**"(Luke 1: 48b-50)*

Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faced, Mary could glimpse the scale and scope of the good news she was part of bringing forth. This good news transcends time and space—it was and is bigger than just her. Christ is coming for collective liberation: God's redemption is at work for years to come. Therefore, the promise is meant to be lived out and passed on **from generation to generation**. We are invited to look at the characters in our scriptures and wonder: What did each character pass on or contribute? How did each character participate in God's liberation and love? Which characters try to thwart God's justice and what can we learn from them? What is our role now? What is our generation's task? What will we carry forth, and what should we leave behind?

In recent weeks we have spent time as a community reflecting upon our ministry and mission and I believe we are all aware (or should be) that this is an important season in the life of our congregation as we make plans for the future. This will continue into next year, as we engage in official mission planning with the Mission Enablement Team of our Synod. What legacy will we pass on to the next generation in our region? What choices will we make now with God's help, that can enable ongoing ministry and the sharing of the gospel in word and deed into the future?

So may we all continue to pray and reflect upon our calling as a congregation, as we seek to discern the future for our ministry and so that the here in this place the good news of Christ can be passed on from generation to generation.

Grace & 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...

Open Church: Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Byron Bay UCA

Scripture: Thursday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay PS during the School Term (Rev Phil)

Byron Bay Free Feed (YWAM): Wednesday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay UCA

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

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

Growing Young Group: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

Phase 3 Minister's Retreat: October 17th-19th @ Kincumber (Rev Phil)

Growing Young: Monday 24th October, 1pm @ Bangalow UCA

Family Gathering: Sunday 30th October, 5.00pm @ Bangalow UCA

Minister's Annual Leave (Rev Phil): Monday November 7th - Sunday November 20th

Church Council Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday 22nd November, 10am @ The Manse

Fair Trade Fair: Saturday 3rd December @ Bangalow UCA

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday 4th December (after combined morning gathering at Byron Bay)

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



Combined Gathering & AGM

On Sunday 4th December we will be combining for one gathering at the Byron Bay Church at 9:30am. Following this will be our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please do your best to be there as we have important things concerning the future of our congregation to discuss and an opportunity to hear about the ministry of our church. If you would like to nominate someone for Church Council and/or Eldership, this needs to occur before this meeting. Please contact Corinne Nash our Church Council Secretary for information about this. If you lead a ministry can you please complete an annual report and send it to Corinne by the 25th November.

Fletcher Street Cottage

For the past few weeks Rev Phil has been volunteering with the breakfast program on a Tuesday morning at Fletcher Street Cottage, Byron Bay's Homelessness Hub. Each morning a team of volunteers prepares and serves hot meals to between 30 and 50 people, predominantly those sleeping rough and struggling. As a church we have developed a positive relationship with the Byron Community Centre & Fletcher Street Cottage and they are currently looking for more volunteers to join this particular program. The commitment is from 6.30am-9.30am on any given day Monday to Friday. If you are interested please contact Rev Phil.



Family Gathering - Bangalow UCA, 5pm, October 30th

Our next family gathering is on Sunday October 30th at 5pm at Bangalow. These gatherings are an opportunity to invite family and friends of all ages to join us in a time of interactive and creative worship. This is one way we are seeking to engage and support families and young people in our community. The theme for this gathering is **"God Loves & Accepts Everyone."** The evening will include a meal.

The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival - 18-23 Dec.

We have invited a range of community groups in the Bangalow community to participate by designing and creating a Christmas Tree that reflects their group. These trees will be displayed in the Bangalow Church and the church will be open each evening for people to come and enjoy. We also aim to have musical groups and choirs singing and playing Christmas



Carols to add to the festivities. At this stage we have received a fantastic response from a range of groups who have accepted the invitation, including the CWA, Police Station, Bangalow Public School, Bangalow Men's Shed, Red Cross, Bangalow Koalas, Bangalow Anglican and Mirabelle Preschool, with hopefully more to join us. We see this as a great opportunity to serve our neighbours, through providing an opportunity to join together as community and celebrate at Christmas time. Our own Christmas tree is already being designed and planned. To help with this we would like to take a photo of each person that we will use to decorate the tree. Please see Rev Phil after a gathering in the next few weeks as he is organising these photos.

Lectionary Readings

16 October	Jeremiah 31:27-34	Psalms 119:97-104	2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5	Luke 18:1-8
23 October	Joel 2:23-32	Psalms 65	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-14
30 October	Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4	Psalms 119:137-144	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	Luke 19:1-10
1 November	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	Psalms 149	Ephesians 1:11-23	Luke 6:20-31

Gathered Worship

Sunday 16th October	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 23rd October	5pm Bangalow	- Shared Leading
Sunday 30th October	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering & Meal	- Rev Phil
Sunday 6th November	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	Rev Phil

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 16 October: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

Week of 23 October: The Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago



Prayer Points:

- Students around NSW engaging in the HSC Examinations over the next few weeks and especially those connected to our own congregation, families and community. Also, those who are supervising and administering the examinations in our local high school at Byron Bay.
- The National Conferences of the Uniting Church. We give thanks for the joyful gifts and insights they contribute to the life and faith of our church and pray for their continuing mission and place in the life of the UCA.
- Our church partners across the Pacific who are empowering women as theologians and working to address the root causes of and break cycles of violence through gender equality theology.
- Our Advent theme **From Generation To Generation**. May our Advent journey with this theme continue to develop our growth in faith and encourage our discernment of future ministry and mission in our communities.

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.