

30 October 2022

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA



Engaging in mission...

In recent weeks we have continued on the path of discernment as we consider what God is leading us into as a congregation into the future. The Talking About Salt conversations have been an important part of reflecting upon where we are at as a congregation and who we are being called to be. Some phrases about our congregation that were captured during this time include:

- A faithful people seeking ways to represent Christ in life.
- A forgiving people, showing loving, positive actions and an open acceptance.
- Exploring how to share the Gospel and how to connect with the spirituality of people in our community.
- A justice-minded community with a heart to enact God's justice and hospitality.
- A community aware of the need to move into the future



These are reflections and summaries of who we are as a community and things that we value. It is helpful for us to be reminded of these things as we continue to minister to our local community in these days and especially as we seek the way ahead into the future.

In recent weeks some of our leaders have held discussions with people from the Byron Community Centre, Byron Shire Council, Wesley Mission and The Wayside Chapel as we explore ministry and mission to those who are struggling and disadvantaged in our own community, even on our own doorstep. Alongside this, a brave and creative group of our own people continue to meet regularly to seek ways to connect with our families and the younger generations in our community. These are tangible ways for us to ascertain where the needs are within our communities as we seek to serve and as we seek to share the Gospel in word and deed.

In the coming months we will engage in some focused mission planning facilitated by Rev Dr Cameron Eccleston from our Synod's Mission Enablement Team. This is an important step in the life of our congregation and I am encouraging all of our members, attenders and volunteers to participate in these sessions, so that together we can discern the way ahead. There may be times where we need to step out in faith, take risks and dare I say it change! This has always been the way throughout the history of God's people and wouldn't it be exciting to know that the reflections, planning, processes and discernment that we engage in during this season, may enable the continued sharing of the good news of Christ in word and deed in our community for generations to come.

May we be open to hearing the leading of God's Spirit in this season and may we all work together as we seek the way ahead into the future for our congregation.

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...

Family Gathering "We Are All Loved": Sunday 30th October, 5.00pm @ Bangalow UCA

Growing Young: Monday 31st October, 1pm @ Bangalow UCA

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

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

Family Gathering "Advent": Sunday 27th November, 5pm @ Bangalow UCA

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.

Family Gathering - "We Are All Loved" 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 **"We Are All Loved."** The evening will include a meal.

Advent Small Group Study

Advent this year begins on Sunday November 27th. During this time we will be considering the theme **"From Generation To Generation."** Rev Phil plans to run an Advent study that also considers this theme. If you would like to be part of this small group, please chat with Rev Phil and he will finalise a time and day in the coming weeks.

The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival - 18-23 Dec.

We are now well into planning for a new event called **The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival**. Approved by the Church Council, this event will run in an exhibition style in the Bangalow Church from 18th-23rd December. 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 for this period 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, Feros Bangalow and Mirabelle Preschool. 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

30 October	Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4	Psalm 119:137-144	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	Luke 19:1-10
6 November	Haggai 1:15b - 2:9	Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
13 November	Isaiah 65:17-25	Isaiah 12	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
20 November	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Luke 1:68-79	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43

Gathered Worship

Sunday 30th October	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering "We Are All Loved" & Meal	- Rev Phil
Sunday 6th November	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 13th November	5pm Bangalow - (one gathering only)	- Rev Pablo Nunez
Sunday 20th November	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Mr George Graham

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 30 October: Canada, United States

Week of 6 November: Oceania: French Polynesia, Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu



Prayer Points:

- Communities across Victoria, Tasmania, NSW and Queensland who have been impacted by flooding. We pray for the safety of those in danger, care for those facing loss and strength for those responding on the ground.
- An Intercultural Church that makes space for diverse perspectives in reading the Bible. As we engage with scripture, may we be open to learning new truths from unexpected directions as we seek to follow the God of life and work for a just and reconciled world.
- Survivors of child sexual abuse and their families. We pray for justice, for strength and healing as the Church marks the fourth anniversary of the National Apology to Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.
- 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.