

27 November 2022



# BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

## An Advent Journey... "From Generation To Generation"

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone and to imagine again what God might unfold for the coming generations.



This Advent season beginning on Sunday 27th November, our theme is **"From Generation To Generation."** I believe this is a wonderful theme to hold us as a community on this Advent journey and throughout the Christmas season. It is also timely for us as a congregation as we seek to find the way ahead, with God's help, as we plan for the ongoing mission and ministry of our church into the future and for the generations that follow us.

The root of the word "generation" is "gen" which means "origin" or "birth." Our theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in our community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are we being called to plant for the future? These are wonderful questions for us to carry in this season.

**From Generation to Generation**...reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after and to a love that won't let you go. May you experience every blessing this Advent.

Grace & peace, Rev Phil

### **Saltbush Gathering - Saturday 10th December @ Ballina UCA**

All are welcome to join in the Saltbush Day on Saturday 10th December. These days of connection, encouragement and worship have been an important part of our ongoing growth as a presbytery. The keynote speaker for the day will be Rev Dr Glen Spencer, Director of Mission NSW/ACT Synod (UME). We will be joined by Rev Bronwyn Murphy (Synod Associate Secretary), Albert Olley (Synod COO) and the Pulse team (including our good friend Pastor Molk).

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 (on a pause until 2023)

**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...

**Red Frogs @ Byron Bay:** 25th November-3rd December @ Byron Bay UCA

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

**Church Council Quarterly Meeting:** Monday 28th November, 2pm @ The Manse

**Advent Small Group:** Tuesday 29th November, 10am @ Byron Bay UCA

**Fair Trade Fair:** Saturday 3rd December @ Bangalow UCA

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

**Christmas Crafternoon:** Tuesday 6th December, 3.15pm @ Bangalow UCA

**Saltbush Gathering:** Saturday 10th December @ Ballina 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](mailto:phild@nswact.uca.org.au)

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692

email: [allthenashes@gmail.com](mailto: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 ASAP.

### 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 will be running an Advent study that also considers this theme. The study will run for 4 consecutive Tuesdays during Advent, beginning on Tuesday 29th November. The group will meet at 10am at the Byron Bay Church during this season and all are welcome for some or all of the sessions.



### Family Gathering "From Generation To Generation: *There's Room For Every Story*" Bangalow UCA, 5pm, November 27th

Our next family gathering is on Sunday November 27th 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 "**From Generation To Generation: *There's Room For Every Story***" and we will be exploring Advent and the story that leads us towards Christmas. The evening will also include a meal.

### Fair Trade Fair - Saturday 3rd December @ Bangalow UCA 8am-1pm

As a Fair Trade Faith Community, one of our key events is our annual Bangalow Fair Trade Fair which is happening next weekend December 3rd. Please come along and purchase some fantastic Fair Trade Gifts in time for Christmas. We have a range of stall holders and will be serving up Fair Trade coffee and tea and some great treats as well. This year we will again be joined by two choirs, Raise The Roof and Awesome Voices, who will be performing during the event. This is a great opportunity to invite family, friends and community groups to a wonderful event and one that supports and promotes ethical purchasing.



### The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival

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 are also finalising musical groups and choirs who will be 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, Bangalow Medical Centre 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.



# Gathered Worship

<b>Sunday 27th November (Advent 1)</b>	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering "From Generation To Generation: There's Room For Every Story" & Meal	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 4th December (Advent 2)</b>	9.30am Byron Bay - Combined Gathering, Communion & Congregational AGM	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 11th December (Advent 3)</b>	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 18th December (Advent 4)</b>	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Outdoor Carols	- Rev Phil

## Advent Readings

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading
27th November	Isaiah 2:1-5	Matthew 1:1-17
4th December	Isaiah 11:1-10	Luke 1:26-38
11th December	Isaiah 35:1-10	Matthew 1:18-25
18th December	Luke 1:39-45, 56-58	Luke 1:46-55
Christmas Eve	Luke 2:1-20	
Christmas Day	John 1:1-14	Luke 2:15-21
Epiphany	Matthew 2:1-12	Matthew 2:13-23

### ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 27 November: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

Week of 4 December: Myanmar, Thailand



### Prayer Points:

- Those who continue to battle ongoing flooding or the aftermath of floods and extreme weather, especially communities in Central West NSW this week. May there be safety, a sense of community and resources for recovery.
- Our Bush Chaplains who faithfully offer support and companionship to people in some of the most remote places across Australia.
- 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.
- The future mission and ministry of our congregation as we seek to explore this through focused mission planning in the coming season. May we be open to God's Spirit leading us and also to moving us in new, exciting and fresh directions..

**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.