



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

"From Generation To Generation - God meets us in our fear"

In Luke Chapter 1, when the angel Gabriel appears to Mary, she is perplexed, confused and no doubt, afraid. And yet, the angel's news is: "Do not be afraid." We hear this refrain all throughout the readings of the Christmas story. This is actually recognised as the most common phrase in the Bible. In fact, in quite a poetic way it occurs 365 times, once for every day of the year. As we engage in this journey through Advent, this is a wonderful reminder of our invitation to not be afraid. Despite the reality of the world around us and in our own personal experiences and circumstances, we are invited to trust in the faithfulness of God and we remember this in the coming of Christ at Christmas time.



Artwork by Carmelle Beaugelin

From generation to generation, God shows up in the midst of our fear and uncertainty and confusion. From generation to generation faithful people have said, "yes," to God, despite their circumstances, apprehension and fears. In Luke 1, we hear Mary's "yes" as she responds by saying:

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."- Luke 1:38

This is Mary's humble "yes" to the calling of God into the future. Perhaps the most remarkable annunciation in this passage, is not the messenger's revelation to Mary, but Mary's "yes" to the call. Mary's words have rung down through the centuries as a model of human response to God's unexpected calling and plan.

From generation to generation, our ancestors in faith have also accepted this invitation. I wonder how we will respond to God's invitation in our days? As a congregation, we are exploring the way ahead in ministry and mission in our communities into the future. No doubt there will be times when we will be asked to make difficult decisions and explore change that may be uncomfortable. However, if we are to follow in the path of Mary's humble "yes," then we must also seek to respond to God's calling in a faithful manner, no matter how challenging it may appear at the time.

As you continue your Advent journey this year, may you remember that from generation to generation God meets us in our fear.

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 9:30am-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...

Advent Small Group: Tuesdays 13th & 20th December, 10am @ Byron Bay UCA

Outdoor Carols: Sunday 18th December, 5pm @ Bangalow UCA Carpark

Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival: 18th-23rd December, 6-8pm, Bangalow UCA

Mission Planning Day: Saturday 11th February @ Byron Bay UCA

Christmas Gatherings

Christmas Eve 24th December, 5pm @ Byron Bay UCA

Christmas Day 25th December, 8:30am @ 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



Family Social Event - Friday 20th January, 2023, Broken Head Park

To provide opportunities for connections and time together, we are having a Family Social Event on the 20th January. This will take place at the Broken Head park opposite the beach starting at 5pm. Everyone is invited and please bring a picnic meal to enjoy. There will be opportunities to chat, spend time together and maybe play a fun game of cricket. This is one way we are trying to encourage our families and kids to connect and have fun.

Advent Small Group Study - Tuesdays 10am @ Byron Bay UCA

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.



Christmas Bowl

This year during our Christmas gatherings we will receive an offering that will go to the work of the Christmas Bowl. Through the Act For Peace international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches, these funds are distributed to over 30 projects in 20 countries around the world. This work results in the improvement of life for people facing some of the toughest conditions in the world. The heart of this work is to create a just and peaceful society and involves supporting displaced people, building unity and transforming systems for the benefit of the marginalised and disadvantaged. Let's come to these gatherings prepared to give generously.



Outdoor Carols Bangalow UCA Car Park, 5pm, December 18th

On December 18th we will be gathering for Outdoor Carols in the carpark of the Bangalow Church. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy, while we join in singing carols together. We will be joined by the Anglican Church and other people from our community for this event. Please invite family and friends along for this special night. At about 6.15pm we will have the 'cutting of the tinsel' as the official opening of the inaugural Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival, followed by the opportunity to see the Christmas Trees on display in the church building for the first time.

The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival

The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival is now just a week away. This event will run in an exhibition style in the Bangalow Church from 18th-23rd December, with the official 'cutting of the tinsel' opening following the Outdoor Carols event on 18th 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. The church will be open each evening from 6-8pm for people to view the trees. 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 have a range of musicians, vocal groups and choirs joining us each evening and they will be singing and playing Christmas Carols to add to the festivities. The final night, Friday 23rd December, will also include an appearance by Santa for Santa Selfie Night. Invite your friends and come along to celebrate Christmas with our community. .



Gathered Worship

Sunday 11th December (Advent 3)	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 18th December (Advent 4)	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Outdoor Carols	- Rev Phil
Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)	5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day)	8.30am Bangalow	- Rev Phil

Advent Readings

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading
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 11 December:

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

Week of 18 December:

P.R. China, Hong Kong, Macau

Summer Schedule - January 2023

Date	Location & Time
1st January	Bangalow UCA 5pm (Communion)
8th January	Byron Bay UCA 9:30am
15th January	Bangalow UCA 5pm
22nd January	Byron Bay UCA 9:30am
29th January	Bangalow Park 5pm (BBQ/Picnic)

Prayer Points:

- All those who experience gender-based violence. We pray for God's healing, justice, strength and love to be poured over society as we work for a world beyond violence.
- 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 beginning in February 2023. 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.