



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

"From Generation To Generation - God dwells with us"

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us..."
(John 1:14).

Unlike the other gospels, John's gospel offers us a cosmic glimpse of Christ's birth. Christ's beginning was with God, therefore, Christ has been with us since life began. This Christmas, we celebrate the many ways God dwells with us from generation to generation, since the beginning of time. Like Mary pondering the angels' message in her heart, we are invited to dwell in our worship, perhaps embracing stillness, contemplative practices, creativity, and prayer as we engage with the reality of God's presence with us. In the fullness of this season, may we dwell with God—in silence or in song, in prayer or in stillness.



Artwork by Lauren Wright Pittman

Like light refracting through a prism to reveal all the colours of the rainbow (as in this artwork above), Christ illuminates the fullness and beauty of creation. May we see this beauty around us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ again this Christmas. As our Advent journey concludes and we celebrate Christmas this year, may you remember that from generation to generation God dwells with us and may this inspire you in the coming year.

At this time I would like to thank you all for a wonderful year of ministry and community life and pass on richest blessings to you, your families and friends during the Christmas season and into the New Year.

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 Feb 2023)

Scripture:

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

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

Op Shop is now on break and will reopen at some stage during the week beginning 16th January.

Upcoming events...

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.

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.

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 (Day Of Mourning Gathering)
29th January	Bangalow Park 5pm (BBQ/Picnic)

Gathered Worship

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)	5pm Byron Bay	- Rev Phil
Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day)	8.30am Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 1st January	5pm Bangalow (communion)	- Rev Phil
Sunday 8th January	9.30am Byron Bay	- Rev Phil

Advent Readings

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading
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 25 December:

Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan

Week of 1 January:

Middle East: Egypt, Israel and Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon



Prayer Points:

- Communities of faith as they gather to conclude the season of Advent and celebrate Christmas, making way for the arrival of the Christ child.
- Our theme through this season: **From Generation To Generation**. May our 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.