



Presbytery News

Uniting Church in Australia, Presbytery of Canberra Region
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Ross Walker Lodge opened

Theme of community-building so richly embodied

The official opening of Ross Walker Lodge on St Margaret's property in Newton Street, Hackett on 3 August, marked the joyous culmination of several years work by many people from within the local and church communities, as well as both Federal and ACT government. (Indeed, God even granted us an unseasonably warm winter's day to bless the occasion!)

Close to 200 people packed the hall at St Margaret's. Speeches on the history and goals of the project were given by John Goss, church council chair of St Margaret's (who singled out for thanks Keith Baker and Peter Biggs of the Building Committee); and Canberra Region Presbytery chair, Rev. Gordon Ramsay.

Other speakers were local MP, Dr. Andrew Leigh (who suggested that, given their demeanour on the occasion, the collective noun for a group of MPs should be a "smile"); ACT Minister for Community Services, Mrs Joy Burch; and Mrs Audrey Walker, widow of lodge patron Ross Walker, who gave what many felt to be the most heartfelt and endearing speech of the afternoon, detailing her late husband's work with and concern for the disabled.

The overwhelming feeling from the speakers was that, given the proper goals, motivations and willingness for cooperation – along with the ambition to help the needy by allowing them to help themselves and others within a community setting – the obstacles facing the proper merging of resources between church, state and different levels of government can not only be faced, but overcome in ways of immense benefit to all.

After leaving the hall, and upon gathering at the lodge, Mrs Burch and Rev. Ramsay cut the ribbon to officiate the opening. (A humorous note to the festivities was added by one of the builders, heard to remark: "I just wanted to be here to make sure that when the ribbon was cut, the building didn't fall down!")

Raising glasses in a toast, the crowd then followed into the house to inspect the quite remarkable feat of design and construction which is Ross Walker Lodge. With high ceilings and wide corridors, two large common rooms and spacious private quarters, the architecture of the lodge is ideal for fostering the desired combination of independence and shared living which had been the key concept to its founders' vision all through the planning stages.

Residents set to move in within the coming week proudly welcomed friends and family, whose common response was a mixture of delight and awe.

Meanwhile, back at the hall, several prominent members of the church were busily transforming the hall, from its capacity as official meeting place into a more casual setting for afternoon tea. That so many had brought plates of food to share was yet another marker of the enthusiasm and striving for excellence brought to bear by all.

Celebrations carried on well into the afternoon, allowing all those gathered a chance to share with one another their excitement and to bask in the collective sense of achievement.

The theme of community-building, so richly embodied by the new lodge, was thus extended amongst the congregation itself. This renewed atmosphere of daring accomplishment will no doubt manifest itself in a myriad of ways within St Margaret's – and hopefully across the surrounding neighbourhood of Hackett – well into the future.

- Joel Swadling
St Margaret's

The ribbon
is cut to open
Ross Walker Lodge.

Image by
Brian Rope



Mission in North Canberra

Photographs from two major mission milestones



Above: The Sing Australia based at Canberra City UCA choir performs for guests at the official opening of the refurbished Early Morning Centre at City.

Image by Brian Rope



Clockwise from above:

Minister for Community Services Joy Burch MLA and Presbytery Chairman Rev. Gordon Ramsay prepare to cut the ribbon to open Ross Walker Lodge; Andrew Leigh, MP addresses the gathering; Mrs Audrey Walker speaks to the crowd.



Images by Brian Rope

City Centre refurbished

You have bound us together in this bundle of life

On 6 July, the refurbished Early Morning Centre at City was officially opened.

Anne Buttsworth was Master of Ceremonies at the event and thanked the ACT Minister for Community Services Joy Burch MLA and the Government she was representing for the opportunity to work collegially in this important work responding to particular needs in the community.

“Some insist the government should be responsible for and provide all such services, demanding them as a right, whilst some community organisations, including churches, like to believe they have a monopoly on compassion and are the only ones who know how to do it well. But today is a sign of what is possible when governments and community organisations work together and keep their eyes focused on the community they are

called to serve, the people for whom services are intended. We are all part of one community.”

Rev. Ivan Roberts shared a prayer for the Early Morning Centre as it seeks to respond to the needs of those in our community. He also prayed for the ACT Government in its support for the EMC, its philosophical and material commitment in responding to the needs of those on the margins of society; and for the diligence of departmental staff in the practical implementation of such services.

“Eternal spirit of love and compassion, you have bound us together in this bundle of life. Give us grace to understand how our lives depend upon the courage, industry, honesty and integrity of others; that we may be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness, and faithful in our responsibilities to them.”



Top: Joy Burch cuts the ribbon whilst the EMC Manager Chris Stokman looks on.

Above: Guests obtain morning tea at the refurbished EMC opening.

Words and images by Brian Rope

Greenhills Executive Director

Commissioned by the Moderator of the NSW/ACT Synod



In May 2011, the Greenhills Boards appointed an Executive Director, to be in overall charge of the operations of Greenhills. Mr Peter Badowski was commissioned in this position by the Moderator of the NSW/ACT Synod, Rev Niall Reid, at a ceremony at Greenhills on 7 August 2011.

Peter Badowski comes to Greenhills after extensive and broad experience in management in the Department of

Defence, most recently working as the Project Manager in the DoD offshoot, BAE Systems. Peter was responsible for all non-engineering aspects of the business – budgeting, client and customer relations as well as responsibility for all staff. Peter has achieved a record of constant achievement across all aspects of his work and will be able to bring all these skills to the benefit of Greenhills. Peter has worked to a Board before and understands some of the tricky demands such reporting requires.

Importantly for Greenhills, Peter worked for ten years as the Administration Manager at the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex, at Tidbinbilla- and loved it. Peter really enjoys the rural environment

of Greenhills and the drive through the countryside to get to work.

Peter has a clear commitment to working in the community as demonstrated by his position as Team Leader of a community fire fighters unit, responsible for training, induction of recruits, and maintenance of equipment. He has had extensive experience as a volunteer with other not-for-profit community organisations. In addition, Peter is a Justice of the Peace.

The Board of Greenhills joins with me in warmly welcoming Peter Badowski to Greenhills and looks forward to a happy and effective association.

**- Averill M B Edwards
Chairperson, Greenhills Board**

The view from the Chair

The way the Uniting Church seeks to live out its mission

There are some great gigs that the Chair of Presbytery gets to participate in. Representing the Uniting Church in the region is indeed a privilege. One such 'gig' was officiating at the opening of the Ross Walker Lodge in Hackett on August 3.

The Ross Walker Lodge is the latest part of the way that the Uniting Church seeks to live out its mission and its calling in this area. It is a place of partnership and empowerment. It is yet another way that our church has chosen to live out its unquestioning commitment to are isolated, disenfranchised or vulnerable.

As it has said since its beginning, The Uniting Church is dedicated to the eradication of poverty, the affirmation of the rights of all people to equal educational opportunities, adequate health care, freedom of speech, employment or dignity in unemployment if work is not available. It commits itself to opposing all forms of discrimination which infringe basic rights and freedoms.

In this region, along with congregations living out the call to be a Christian community, the various community services which are provided have each risen from the vision and compassion of people based strongly in their local communities.

Whether it is Aged Care, or working with homeless people, whether it is providing services to vulnerable and isolated people, or working with young families, the various UnitingCare services in the ACT

share a strong, driving compassion.

So when it comes to Ross Walker Lodge, it is standing in a good heritage. Like Stepping Stones for Life, the Ross Walker Lodge has grown from a motivated and compassionate local community who have discerned a need and have a sense of a positive way forward.

Standing behind the Ross Walker Lodge are the values of compassion and respect: a deep and abiding commitment to the care and wellbeing of people and the respect to take each individual seriously.

The Ross Walker Lodge is designed to enable residents to have as much independence as they wish, but also security, companionship and a good quality standard of living at an affordable price. It is a people-centred approach, a strengths based approach.

But the other great value that is expressed in the work that has resulted in the construction and operation of the Ross Walker Lodge is the collaboration and co-operation that has occurred in bringing the project to fruition. That is and must always remain a hallmark of the work of the Uniting Church, which was formed because of our understanding that God is bigger than the boundaries which we too often create around institutions, or even world views.

The Ross Walker Lodge is truly a combined effort. It has grown from the local community and a demonstrated need. It works closely with the



Above: Gordon Ramsay receives the Certificate of Occupancy for Ross Walker Lodge from ACT Minister for Community Services, Joy Burch.

Image by Brian Rope

Stepping Stones for Life project, which has a long history of quality support and care. It has been established with the support of the broader Uniting Church Community.

It is working in partnership with the UnitingCare Disability network. It has been planned and formed in partnership with and the support of Housing ACT & Disability ACT, as part of the Community Service Directorate. It has been funded as part of the Australian Government's stimulus package.

But most importantly, it is all possible because of the goodwill, the compassion, the generosity and the relationships which are of the people who comprise this Lodge, this community, and the generosity of the God who has formed us.

Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in the project.

I commend the ongoing work of the Ross Walker Lodge to the prayers of the people in this region.

- Grace and Peace
Gordon Ramsay



L: The front row at the opening of RWL. Image by Brian Rope.

Presbytery Profile

Rev. Apelu Tielu

My name is Apelu Tielu. I was born in Samoa, the eldest in a family of five boys and three girls. I am married to Amy Grace (Grace), and we have two grown daughters, Amabel Sera and Amy Jane, who live and work in Canberra.

I am a passionate supporter of the Brumbies and Manu Samoa, and to a lesser extent the Wallabies and the All Blacks. The weekend I was ordained was very special and now historical, because Manu Samoa convincingly beat the Wallabies for the first time; the head coach of Manu Samoa is my cousin, so this was his gift to me.

The things that I enjoy doing are singing, travel, eating, fishing, watching rugby, sleeping and driving my turbo Mazda CX-7; it flies! My real passion in life, however, is learning. For me, life is a learning exercise. So I enjoy reading, observing, analysing, and writing. I have published many professional articles in economics and science as well as book chapters. I have also written articles for newspapers and have published a novel (still have copies for sale).

Due to my love for learning, I have been studying almost non-stop since I began schooling. I think I have spent more time studying than doing anything else. As a result, I have studied many different subjects and have completed degrees in mathematics, education, economics, crop science, animal science, biblical studies and theology. I have completed postgraduate studies in economics and I am currently writing an honours thesis in biblical theology.

Before I came to ministry, I was a mathematics teacher for a year, an economic lecturer for seven years, and a public servant, as a trade economist, for eleven years. My favourite thing at the moment, however, is parish ministry. I am really enjoying being a parish minister. I love working with

people, and the teacher in me ensures I enjoy leading worship and preaching.

I try and look at the positive side of things and people, because being negative can have an adverse impact on me. So apart from rugby league, I really do not have any dislikes.

I have had many memorable moments in my life, and it is difficult to say whether anyone really stands out. But the ones that remain special include winning my first Samoan Government scholarship after high school, which allowed me to go to a foreign country, New Zealand, for the first time. Getting a Samoan government scholarship then was really something special in Samoa, because there were few. Other memorable moments include my marriage to Grace; the birth of our two daughters; the publication of my novel, and my ordination as Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church.

My spiritual journey began in Samoa. Growing up in Samoa, it was difficult to escape the spiritual life, because everything in Samoa was shaped by the Christian faith. So while still in my early teens, I had a strong sense that God was calling me to ministry. However, I did not feel I was ready then. I was quite certain I would get kicked out very quickly had I gone to ministry then, because I held views that the church in Samoa did not, and still not, share, especially about the role of science. I believe I would never have been a minister if I did not come to Australia and joined the Uniting Church.

As a newly ordained minister, I am hoping to do more for the church and for the places that I serve. I have been a scholar most of my life, and while I do enjoy parish ministry, I do believe the best use of my gifts would be in the area of research, teaching and writing. As of now, I am enjoying parish ministry, and I want to focus



Above: Rev. Apelu Tielu
Image by Amy Jane Tielu

my energy on that. The question that is guiding me at the moment is, "What is the Christian life about?"

I have come to realise that the teaching of the church over the years have been dominated by Pauline theology, where sin, hell and the death of Christ seem to have dominated. As a result, the Christian life has tended to be pharisaic rather than Christ-like. So the Christian life has been more about getting others behave rather than getting one's house in order. In other words, the Christian life has become more about morals, about ticking the boxes about 'dos' and 'donts', about being good.

Jesus on the other hand has said that the greatest commandment is love of God and love of neighbour. For me, this is what the Christian life is about; it is about love; it is about compassion; it is about living for others; it is about sharing. This life is higher than the moral life, because when we do it well, the morals will just fall into place, and we do not have to try and be good; love and compassion will look after that. If we try and be good, we are always going to fall short. There are 613 laws, and there is no way anyone will satisfy them all. But living life as Christ did will liberate us from the pious and righteous life. So this is really my quest, and what I hope most, if not all, of the people in my parish will understand, if not live, by the time I leave.

An ordination and induction

Marking the completion Rev. **Apelu Tielu's** internship

The Ordination of Rev Apelu Tielu was held on 16 July at Wesley Uniting Church in Forrest, ACT, which was Apelu's home Church. This occurred at the completion of the internship which began in the Yass Parish in August 2010.

The moving service was conducted by Presbytery Chairman Rev Gordon Ramsay and included bible readings by Apelu's daughter Amabel and his sister-in-law Dr Tabitha Bullecer.

There were moments of humour, as Presbytery Secretary Harold Small gave an overview of Rev Tielu's journey towards ordination and in Rev. Janis Huggett's introduction to her address "What Cats Have" (Servants).

Mrs Sue Demoor, Mr Gary Southwell and Mrs Marilyn Swain from Yass Parish were also participants in the ordination service.

Another twenty or so members of the Yass Parish attended the service, along with parishioners from Queanbeyan Parish, and members of Rev. Tielu's family and friends. Others present included Rev. Colin Bradford, Rev. Gregor Henderson, Rev. Ian

Turner, Rev. Carolyn Thornley (Dean of Candidates at UTC) and the wonderful Wesley Choir and organist and conductor Garth Mansfield.

On 17 July a separate Induction Service was held at St Andrew's in Yass, formally welcoming Rev. Tielu as Minister of The Word in Yass Parish. This service was conducted by Rev. Duncan McLeod, The Presbytery Minister and was a day of celebration for the Yass Parish. A shared lunch followed the service.

Again family members of Rev. Tielu participated in the service. Dr Bullecer and his niece Nada Tielu read the bible lessons. A number of other family members and friends also travelled to Yass for this service. Mrs Marilyn Swain gave the children's address, Rev Alan Swain brought the message of the Word and Dr Owen Graham brought "Prayers of the people". Barbara Badger was the organist.

Mr Ron Badger represented the Yass Ecumenical group and brought words of encouragement and blessing from the other churches in Yass Valley. Members of the both the Rye Park and Yass congregations also partici-

pated, with a group of four representing both congregations presenting the Bible, baptismal water, wine and bread, to Rev Tielu as symbols of the ministry to which he has been called.

A second group, again representing four generations also took part. Mr Gary Southwell, Deputy Chairperson of the Church Council, presented Rev. Tielu to the people of the Yass and Rye Park congregations, and on their behalf offered the right hand of fellowship.

**- Dorothy Horsman, OAM, JP
Yass**



Wesley music ministry

The choir has been continuously active since May 1930

Music has played an integral part of life in the Wesley Church community ever since the first church building was opened on the site in May 1930. A choir has been continuously active as part of that community for more than seventy three years.

With the opening of the new National Memorial Methodist Church building in November 1955, there was more scope for music ministry with a large choir and a pipe organ available for the first time.

The Wesley Music Program today comprises a 27-member choir whose repertoire extends from the baroque era to the present day. Complementing the Choir, are twelve Wesley Music Scholars, half of whom are secondary students. Amongst this talented group – two of the school students already hold music Diplomas – are two violinists, a cellist, an oboist, a classical guitarist, an organist and six singers.

The contribution made by the Choir and Scholars to our worship is warmly appreciated by the 10.30am Congregation. It is significant that when new members, (this year numbering 27), are welcomed each year on the Anniversary of Church Union, most claim the Music Program rates very highly in their decision to choose Wesley.

**- Graeme Brown,
Director of Music
Wesley Church**

The Wesley Music Centre

Music to ensure community outreach in perpetuity

The Wesley Music Centre is part of the Wesley Uniting Church complex. Opened in 2002, it includes a purpose-built Music Room with excellent acoustics, seating up to 140 people. The sought-after space was designed specifically for small-scale chamber concerts for instruments, keyboard and voice, for master classes, for recordings and other musical events and is also ideally suited for lectures, symposia, seminars and workshops. The acoustics can be varied for different events. Associated spaces include a seminar room, a tutorial room, a recording studio (bio box), foyer with kitchen facilities and the Centre office.

The Centre was financed entirely by the Wesley Music Foundation (ACT), set up in 1999 to promote music and music education with the aim of en-

suring a strong music program and community outreach in perpetuity. The Foundation is on the Register of Cultural Organisations and has a Public Fund for tax deductible donations. There is a Friends of Wesley Music group supporting events and fund raising. The Foundation has raised well over \$2 million for the construction of the Music Centre, musical instruments and the Wesley Music Scholarship Program (84 scholars to date). There have been no church or government grants.

In 2010- 11, there were around 120 public musical events as well as a diversity of other activities including music courses, recording sessions, private music teaching, regular U3A courses, music examinations, master classes and public lectures. The Centre has organised four national ecumenical

December. The 40- minute concerts feature a great variety of performers. The growing audience includes people bussed from retirement villages, workers in nearby offices, colleagues and friends of artists and a diversity of people from the community at large.

A number of joint ventures have been organised with community associations, including the Music Teachers' Association (awards and master classes for young players), the Canberra Classical Guitar Society and the Carillon Society of Australia (awards for young composers). The Music Centre also supports fund raisings for charities and students in need of financial support for various purposes, including attending seminars and overseas studies.

There are many positive benefits for the Wesley Congregation from the Music Centre's activities. For example, a significant number of new church members and church choir members come through the Music Centre every year, and the music life of Wesley's traditional 10.30am service is frequently enriched by instrumentalists and singers who feature in Music Centre activities.

**- Garth Mansfield
Director, Wesley Music Centre
and Secretary, Wesley Music
Foundation**

The increasingly popular Wednesday Lunchtime Live concert series runs for an average of 45 weeks from February to



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Have you entered our limerick competition yet?

See page ten for competition details.

Weetangera Burial Ground

The settler-era people of the region were faithful

A little-known part of the Canberra region's and Uniting Church's history is hidden in plain sight beside William Hovell Drive in Belconnen, ACT.

The remains of the Methodist Church and burial ground for the settler-era property "Weetangera" which gave its name to the nearby suburb, are a quiet reminder that the settler people of the region called Ginninderra were faithful.

Across the Limestone Plains, others were worshipping at the St John's "Church of England" near Duntroon.

The Weetangera Methodist church was built in 1873 and demolished in 1955. A cairn marks the site of the church, and the cemetery remains as a reminder of the settler families.

The names on the graves are a strong reminder of the Southwell family, their workers and neighbours. The Weetangera Public School is on Southwell Street.

The earliest grave is marked 1875 (Ernest Southwell), the latest 1964



(Elsie Kilby). The youngest burial is for another Ernest Southwell, born to Harriet and Samuel Southwell, but who died at 15 months just after his grandfather."

The site is also, oddly, another link between the Uniting Church and the Australian Capital Territory. When the Commonwealth Government

acquired the land for the ACT, there remained a few 'private' parcels which were acquired later, the last such parcel being the churchyard cemetery of "Weetangera" only about 20 years ago.

- words and image by Peter Ellis
Presbytery Communications
Committee

Our most significant people

Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians and UCA-ers

Your Presbytery Communications Committee has decided that it would be an interesting exercise to ask readers to identify the most significant Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians and UCA members from our Presbytery region.

So, you are invited to identify a past or present member of our church (and the three traditions from which we came) whom you believe has been, or is, particularly significant in the area covered by what is now the Canberra Region Presbytery.

We don't just want names, we would like to know why you think a particular person is amongst the most significant of all the people who have been part of our church in this region.

When we have compiled a list from your nominations, we will look at putting together some articles about the people and what makes them significant.

You can define "significant" in any way you wish. It might be because of what they brought to a particular posi-

tion or task. It may be because of the contribution they made to Christ's mission in this region. It might be something else altogether that you feel makes a person significant.

I have some ideas of my own of people whom, perhaps, should be on the list, but I will refrain from sharing them until I have received suggestions from some of you.

- Brian Rope
Editor

The need for pastoral carers

Some people in the Church still see pastoral care as a yoke

She said, 'I can't imagine not being here' and I said, 'I can't imagine that either', for she was a force to be reckoned with. So young, just married, fiercely alive and out of options. What I didn't say is surely only an unloved person 'disappears' after they die.

Pastoral care is all about being *here* – even when the person is on their way to somewhere we can't follow. We are companions on their journey and any point in time when they hesitate; when they become mindful. We explore and wonder with them, we allow the person to speak out over the roar of procedures and physical detail. We hear the things that matter.

I think some people in the Church still see pastoral care as a yoke – a job on a list of jobs. Pretty mundane, like clean the house, write the sermon, visit the sick. It is not a duty. It is a privilege, a vocation and a ministry.

The wonderful volunteers of yesterday that 'visited the sick' and brought them company and comfort are being replaced with trained volunteers who have studied pastoral care in a supervised environment. That is a very fancy way of saying they have learned 'listening'.

Much has changed over the last thirty years. Most often hospital visitors were meeting with people of strong faith traditions – so making a little church contact was very comforting.

Now, we are meeting with un-



Above: Hospital chaplaincy volunteer organist Ruth Pillans and Chaplain Jean Shannon.

churched people; people who identify with our faith tradition. That is, they will put Uniting or Methodist on their hospital admission forms but they have no links with *any* community. They have little time for the 'church' they remember from their childhoods. Now they are in great spiritual need and do not know how or where to connect and with whom.

These people are our church – in the hospital. They are the body and we serve them, joyfully.

So now we need a new set of volunteers: people who are willing to train in listening so that they too can become companions. There is nothing

we can teach the people on their journeys but they have so much to teach us – if only we would listen.

A pastoral carer is a moment of stillness in the crazy world of medicine and objectification. A pastoral carer is a hearth that warms another's heart and allows them to dwell in contemplation. A pastoral carer's holy, strong, silent presence often allows another to reach inside themselves and draw forth their own healing energy that comes directly from God.

- Jean Shannon
Presbytery Hospital Chaplaincy
Leader

UCA Services are conducted at the Canberra Hospital on Thursday mornings at 9.30 AM. Currently there are organist roster vacancies on 29 September, 20 October, 27 October, 17 November. If the chaplaincy service could get two more regular volunteers, then the keyboard players would only be required once a month!

Did you know that it is possible to subscribe to the Presbytery Website?

All you need to do is go to the Website: <http://canberraregion.unitingchurch.org.au/>. A little way down on the right hand side of the home page is a box saying: "Want to receive this site's content by email? Enter your email address and follow the instructions in the pop up window".

GIANT GARAGE SALE

SAT 24TH SEPTEMBER AT
YASS UC HALL IN CLIFF STREET
LOTS OF GOODS - CAKES -
PLANTS - SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Our limerick competition

Tanner ministry model and Gordon waiting room

Tanner Ministry:

A model of ministry stirred
A lowly but grandiose word.
So let's wield a spanner
To facilitate Tanner
And silence the critics absurd.

Gordon waiting room:

The State of the Art "waiting room"
Has "baldies" and "grey heads" in
gloom
For one and all
Receive the call
To stoke the fires or play a tune.

They were two more of the entries received in our limerick competition, based on articles in our May 2011 issue.

Have any of the published entries so far inspired you? Then put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard.

For those readers who still have not seen the rules, here they are:

Entries must be a limerick as defined at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limerick_\(poetry\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limerick_(poetry)).

Entries must address a story from the current issue of Presbytery News.

Entries must be received by one week before the closing date for the next issue of Presbytery News, up till the November 2011 issue, and entry implies the right to publish in Presbytery News and on the Presbytery Website.

So, your challenge now is to read all the stories in this issue of Presbytery News and submit a limerick based on one of those stories to the Editor not later than 25 October 2011.

Five Leaf Eco-Worship Award

Canberra City honoured for its environmental focus

Canberra City Uniting Church has been honoured for its environmental focus with the presentation of a Five Leaf Eco-Award in the category of Eco-Worship.

The awards are an ecumenical environmental change program targeting religious institutions. They are based on the creation care concept, which treats care for the environment as a basic tenant of religious faith.

Canberra City is the sixth church in Australia, and the first in the ACT, to receive this prestigious award.

The award was presented during the congregation's City at Night service in order to to acknowledge the particular dedication of this congregation to caring for the environment.

This has included participation in a range of working bees that conducted weeding and established an

environmental resource room at Greenhills and holding discussions on issues around ecological footprints, greening the church and responses to the disappointment felt by many after the perceived failure of the Copenhagen climate change summit last year.

Rev. Myung Hwa Park, who accepted the award on behalf of the church, trained in eco-theology while living in Ireland and was one of the driving forces behind the campaign for the award. "Receiving this award makes

us feel even more committed to caring for the environment, which I see as a crucial responsibility for modern Christians," Rev. Park said.

Five Leaf Eco-Awards Director Jessica Morthorpe, who presented the award, said she was hopeful that it would inspire other local churches to get involved in the program. Ms. Morthorpe said, "The word is slowly getting out, currently we have fifteen churches nationwide involved in the program, as well as many more who have expressed their interest.



Right: City at Night congregation members pose with their Award.

Resourcing ministry response

Giving meaning to even the humblest task and calling

It is twenty one years since I experienced God's call into ministry in a church office where I helped the editor produce the monthly congregational magazine.

The following year I wrote an article called "Looking behind the scenes" in which, amongst other things, I attempted to describe what was different about such an office.

In today's terminology, I would probably have said it was about resourcing ministry – whether through worship and prayer that began each day, or through the congregational magazine, the bulletin, the book-keeping, the library, the counselling, or just through being somewhere for people to spend an hour or two helping things happen and enjoying the warmth of fellowship.

It was also about resourcing ministry further afield – organising missions to churches at their invitation; arranging

seminars and conferences where leaders from elsewhere would bring their gifts to encourage and build up the churches here; organising schools of discipleship for local people here and from elsewhere and publishing an Australia-wide magazine to further encourage renewal and ministry. The list goes on.

Looking deeper, there was the modelling of covenant relationship - a two-way relationship described in our membership leaflet, encouraged in our life together and taught more widely through Sower Courses.

"Covenant groups" led by elders and pastoral assistants were places for spiritual nurture and growth, as well as enjoying fellowship. Some of the groups formed around particular areas of ministry. Those working in the office could be described as one such group and increasingly I was drawn into that group by invitation and because of what I was doing and what

I needed.

Of course there were problems and dilemmas. But from where I was sitting, what I saw, what I was doing, what I experienced, was ministry which resourced ministry and at the heart of it all was relationship, 'koinonia', the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, releasing gifts, changing lives, shaping ministry and giving meaning to even the humblest task and calling. Such relationship can't be made to happen or orchestrated. It is a gift.

What I learnt has stayed with me as I continue in the church through which I have received so much. I share it now in case there is anything relevant and helpful to the current discussion on resource ministry.

**Carolyn McAllister
O'Connor**

(This was a welcome response received to the cover story in the May 2011 issue. Editor.)

Professor Peter Newman

He preaches a biblically based theology of hope

In late April, I attended a Wellspring Conference at the St John Retreat Centre in Shoalwater, about sixty minutes south of Perth.

On day 3, Wellspringers were privileged to spend time with Professor Peter Newman, who heads up The Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute. Professor Newman holds a special interest in the theology of sustainable cities.

The sustainability of cities is going to be one crucial piece in the bigger sustainability puzzle, given that for the first time in human history, more people now live in cities than in a rural environment.

What an inspiring speaker! Expressing no doubts about humanity's contribution to climate change and no doubt that peak oil may well be as great a challenge to us in the near future, Professor Newman, nevertheless is a man with strong belief in our capacity to create a quality future. He preaches a biblically based theology of hope in contrast to the 'theology' of fear perpetrated so frequently by the media, politicians and those who see the only answers as those that will ultimately destroy community.

From his deep knowledge of all facets of sustainability, Professor Newman could readily point to cities and countries which have begun to find crea-

tive solutions to the challenges of global warming and shortages of oil. He could also explain how ordinary men and women could contribute so that our country and our cities can adapt to ensure a sustainable future.

At 7.30pm, Friday 25 November, Professor Newman will be guest speaker at the last 2011 public Forum to be held by Christians for an Ethical Society (CES) at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra. I encourage you to come along and be inspired to create a quality sustainable future for generations to come.

**- Heather McLaren
Chair CES**

Following retirement

A message from Colin Bradford, now living in Sydney

Gai and I are now living in Sydney, following my retirement on 1 July.

But as I have been reminded, ordination is for life, and so now as a retired minister the call into ministry has changed but is still very real. At the time of writing, I am in the last two weeks of my placement with North Belconnen. By the time this is published, I will have entered another stage of ordained ministry.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank those with whom I have been privileged to serve from February 2003 to June 2011. The people of North Belconnen welcomed Gai and me into their midst, and together we have seen significant changes in the life of the congregation, and the continuation of some effective ministries. Gai and I thoroughly enjoyed these eight years.

I thank the Presbytery for allowing me to participate in several councils of the church at different times. Serving on the PRC was a great privilege as it allowed me to participate in the life of other congregations through consultations, placement procedures and as a liaison person to St James, Wattle Park and Yass congregations.

While chairperson of Presbytery, and deputy chairperson, I was privileged to preside at several induction and commissioning services.

My election by Presbytery as a member of the eleventh Assembly in Brisbane in 2006, when Rev Gregor Henderson was installed as President, was a blessing I will never forget. At that Assembly, the UCA established the ministry of Pastor. As chairperson, I was privileged to commission the Presbytery's first Pastor. Subsequently several of our Lay Pastors



Above: Colin and Gai Bradford

made the transition to ordination.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and thank my colleagues in ministry who share monthly lunches at the George Harcourt Inn, weekly lectionary explorations, annual Kaltara Retreats, and who share their good ideas willingly and freely.

I will miss the many friends that I have found in the Presbytery.

- Rev Colin Bradford

Music Calendar
Wesley Music Centre and Wesley Uniting Church
www.wesleycanberra.org.au/music
Enquiries: Garth Mansfield, Director, Wesley Music Centre.

Wednesday Lunchtime Live Concerts:
Wednesdays, 12.40 – 1.20pm. \$2. Refreshments \$1.

Other Concerts:
Sunday 21 August 3pm Art Song Concert "Works of Genius – The Most Beautiful Songs from the Great Composers" \$30/20/10. Tickets available ONLY at the door. More info: www.artsongcanberra.org
Enquiries 02 6156 2604. Wesley Music Centre.
Saturday 27 August 9am-5pm Piano Master Classes with Edward and Stehania Neeman. \$10/5/2. Enquiries: Jenny Kain 02 6254 6133 or jennykain@bigpond.com. Wesley Music Centre.
Sunday 28 August 3pm 'Z.o.o.' Guitar Duo - Guitarists Peter Constant and Marion Schaap. Enquiries 0403 640 669. More info: www.zooguitar duo.com or www.classicalguitarcanberra.org.au. Tickets at door. \$25/20. Wesley Music Centre.
Sunday 4 September 3pm Organ Concert by Sarah Kim. \$30/25/15/5. Enquiries 6232 7248. Tickets at the door. Wesley Church.

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