

Connexion Newsletter

Uniting Church Adult Fellowship

NSW/ACT Synod

September 2017



At our meeting held 9th August we were saddened to learn of the deaths of Rev Barry Ridge, Neta Yallop OAM, and Joan Tarry.

Rev Barrie Ridge LTh, died 9th August 2017, ordained 1956, served in many Methodist and Uniting Churches;

Barry served Adult Fellowship on both the National Committee as Secretary for the NSW term 1991-1994, and along with Rev. Ron Sparks organised the Celebration which was held in Ulverstone, Tasmania in 1993. Barry's attention to detail served the National Committee very well at the Consultation in Westmead in 1994.

Barry then took on the role of Treasurer on the Synod Committee when Norma Chambers was President. He went on to become President of Synod Committee and Edith (his wife) served as Secretary and together they followed Norma's tradition of attending as many Presbytery Rallies as they could.

Barry led the team that went to the Consultation in Brisbane and he and Edith attended Celebrations in Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. His wise counsel was, so invaluable. His quiet respect, thoughtfulness and wonderful leadership in prayer and worship has been a blessing to the Synod Committee and he was made honorary Chaplain after carrying out that role for many years in an unofficial position.

Barry was known as 'the face of Fellowship' as the Editor of the UCAF page in Insights for 13 years and kept the UCAF flag flying, trying to get as much information about UCAF activities to the wider church and the wonderful role fellowships play in the Uniting Church. We are very grateful for the many years of service he gave and recognise his faithfulness, his contribution and friendship to all who had the pleasure of working with him.

Neta May Yallop OAM, died 2nd August 2017 in her 94th year. Member, Campsie-Earlwood-Clemton Park Uniting Church, since 1946. Former member of Board for Social Responsibility, and BSR support group. One of those who championed the cause promoting the need, raising finance for 'Chaplain for the Children's Hospital.' Neta served for many years on NSW Synod U.C.A.F. Committee

The citation for her award (Queen's Birthday 2015 included: Service to the community of Canterbury. Vice-President, Canterbury City Community Centre; Foundation Board Member, since 1972; (Formerly Canterbury Community Aid Bureau).

Member, Management Committee, Earlwood Uniting Church Preschool, since 1974. Member, Campsie-Earlwood-Clemton Park Uniting Church, since 1946; Committee Member, Campsie Church Drop-in-Centre, since circa 1996; also involved in organising numerous community activities through the Church.

Joan Tarry 15th July 2017 long-time member of the Board for Social Responsibility, 'helping to shape the Synod's conscience and agenda in the early years of the UCA in the NSW Synod' (Norman McDonald).

We extend our sympathy to their families

ADULT FELLOWSHIP RALLY MID NORTH COAST (SOUTHERN ZONE)
Wednesday 16th August 2017

Gloucester Uniting Church Adult Fellowship hosted this year's rally.

We welcomed 43 members and guests including Chairperson of the NSW/ACT UCAF Allan Secomb and his wife Denise, Laraine Jones and Fay Kohlhagen.

After morning tea, we commenced the morning session with Allan Secomb bringing greetings from Synod. Carl Erasmus inspired us with singing "Amazing Grace" and "Love Letters Straight from Your Heart" Our guest speaker – Gloria Buttsworth is the Australian Co-ordinator for "Days for Girls." She gave us a wonderful insight to the project which she was inspired to start in Australia. Our offering of \$355 was collected for Days for Girls.

A time of fellowship over lunch was enjoyed.

The afternoon business meeting was represented by Fellowship groups from Beechwood, Chatham, Forster/Tuncurry, Taree and Gloucester.

It was a wonderful day of friendship and fellowship.

Sandy Tebbet

Secretary Gloucester UCAF

CHATHAM UNITING CHURCH

HOMELESS people in the Manning Valley will be sleeping warmer in the winter cold, thanks to the Chatham Uniting Church Adult Fellowship.

In May 2017 the Chatham Uniting Church Adult Fellowship held a Dutch Auction which raised \$1200. The amount was matched by the Chatham Uniting Church.

The total of \$2400 was used to purchase some form of bedding and protection from the cold of winter for homeless people in the local area.

BCF Taree was approached to supply forty –5 degrees rating sleeping bags, which they did with a very generous discount.

The Adult Fellowship gave twenty sleeping bags to Catholic Care and twenty sleeping bags to Samaritans to distribute where there is a need.

The sleeping bags are given to a homeless person together with a Backpack Swag supplied to agencies from Sydney, so the sleeping bag goes inside the Backpack Swag.

The Adult Fellowship thanked BCF Taree, and also all those people who attended and supported their Dutch Auction.

Helen Russell



RIVERINA PRESBYTERY RALLY
Wagga Saturday 26th August.

Thirty people from Leeton, Narrandera, Harden, Batlow, Tumut, and Wagga (Wesley and Pilgrim Churches) gathered in Wesley Church. for worship led by Rev Daniel Yang, Minister of the Korean Church, Chaplain to CSU and supply minister in Wagga Wesley Congregation. His sermon was based on Philippians 4: 8-9

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

His sermon began.....

“Never too old to learn: the ageless joy of learning”

I am so excited to be here.

I have never thought I need to learn about ageing.

It is just very natural thing but at the same time

God made us natural born learners- curious, sociable, skilful, joyful, compassionate and creative by nature.

That's who we are. That's why we are here today.

Rev Professor Bruce Stevens, Wicking Chair of Ageing and Practical Theology, School of Theology Charles Sturt University, Director of CAPS and based at the Centre for Christianity and Culture, Canberra, took us on a journey back into our lives, discovering things we didn't think we knew or remembered.

With opportunity to listen, to talk with others we experienced a little of what it means to bring our life together. 'In youth we learn. In age we understand'.

Bruce's challenge to us: How can we author a different story?

ILLAWARRW PRESBYTERY – 40th birthday UCA

On 25 June, the northern zone of the Illawarra Presbytery held a 40th anniversary luncheon celebration at Corrimal.

The Corrimal church is central to these areas [to 5 congregations]:-Wollongong Wesley, Keiraview, Corrimal, Northern Illawarra (Bulli) and Austinmer. We had an attendance of 135 people and there was a great atmosphere over lunch in the renewal of old friendships.

There was much hilarity as people talked about their early days in the Uniting Church and what the Uniting Church meant for them. We all joined in singing the specially written song of celebration.

There was the cutting of the large celebratory cake by two men who had had their birthdays at that time. Everyone went home with a specially inscribed pen to mark the occasion and their own decorated bookmark.

A special note of thanks must be given to the planners and other workers involved in the day. We look forward to many more celebrations.

After expenses were cleared the amount of \$200 was given to the Corrimal Region Uniting Church to assist with their outreach programs.



PARRAMATTA-NEPEAN PRESBYTERY ADULT FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016-2017 (part of)

The Fellowship Group met in July, November, February and May

During the year representatives from the following Congregations have been present at meetings – Baulkham Hills, Blackheath, Blacktown, Carlingford, Grantham Heights, Hazelbrook, Northmead, Leigh Memorial, Centenary North Parramatta, Quakers Hill, St Clair, St Marys and West Epping

During our meetings, we hear about activities from the Congregations – what is happening in their Fellowship Groups and special events that have taken place since we last met. We also hear what is happening with the UCAF NSW/ACT Synod Committee and the wider church.

Each month we have interesting Speakers from various walks of life

The Presbytery Gathering for 2017 was held at St Andrew's UC Glenbrook on Saturday 22nd July. The Morning Speaker was Rev Susan Phalen – her Topic was: Stand By Me: Caring for People and Communities affected by Crisis, Disaster or Trauma.

At the Afternoon Session, we had a very good demonstration of Godly Play

It was a wonderful day of Fellowship and thanks to the St Andrew's Glenbrook Congregation for their hospitality.

Representing the UCAF Committee were Allan Secomb and Laraine Jones.

It was good to have Mr John Cutts Secretary of the Presbytery and his wife Rev Sharon Cutts with us.

14 Congregations from the Presbytery were represented – Baulkham Hills, Blaxland, Carlingford, Centenary – North Parramatta, Grantham Heights, Glenbrook, Hazelbrook, Leigh Memorial, Northmead, Quaker's Hill, Richmond, St Clair, St Marys and West Epping.

Jan Dunstan - Secretary

NSW STATE UNIT OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN – SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY

On Monday 17th July, we commenced our Spiritual Enrichment Day with a lovely morning tea provided by the ladies of Woy Woy Presbyterian Church. John & Alison Wiseman led us in a very uplifting praise session incorporating Bible readings from Isaiah 6 and Psalm 139. Our President, Pamela Freeman, ably led us in Bible study. Pamela had us read through Psalm 103 and select the verse/s that spoke to each of us. We then shared our verse/s in table groups. Lunch time provided a time to catch up with friends and make new friends. The afternoon session, again led by Pamela, focused on 'Please, Pray with me'. Music again feature as we listened to various artists and songs used as prayers. We then shared with a neighbour in prayer, praying for a specific need of theirs.

Rally Dates for your Diary

The Hunter
Macquarie-Darling
Far North Coast

Monday 11th September
Thursday, 14th September
Thursday, 14th September

Toronto
Gilgandra
Casino

This edition (and previous editions) of Connexion is available on the NSW/ACT Synod website <http://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/>, then follow the link under 'Resources & Applications'

Produced for the UCAF NSW/ACT SYNOD COMMITTEE

Readers are invited to submit articles and reports for publication, in this your Newsletter.

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