

Blackwood Church of Christ

The Monthly Messenger

May 2009

Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God

Surprised by Foolishness.....

The apostle Paul once wrote, 'God chooses the foolish things of this world to shame the wise' (1 Cor 1:27) In a world where performers are celebrities and the most beautiful and successful people in the world (this would have been unheard of a hundred years ago), where the celebrity is perpetuated by glossy magazines that tell us how we should look, and what we must aspire to be, it seems those who don't fit the mould continue to be pushed down and trodden on. Human society hasn't really come far in thousands of years of societal evolution. The unbeautiful, the misfit or the outcast still get laughed at and brushed aside. It's a shameful thing in our society when people continue to get kicked when they're down, and yet we still believe there is wisdom in aspiring to the superficial top of the rung.

The name Susan Boyle has become a household name for exceptional reasons. She was the misfit who was laughed at because she didn't fit the mould of 'making it' in this world. I finally got around to watching her performance on Britain's Got Talent (which can easily be found on You Tube). When she came out on stage and told the audience what her dream was; -to be as heard and successful as singing legend Elaine Paige, they laughed at her and the judges mocked her.

What I loved most about what happened in the following 4 minutes was not the flawless performance or the outstanding voice she shared, but the looks on the faces of the audience and the judges. They were gob smacked to say the least and I hope the tears streaming down their faces were not tears of joy but tears of shame for how they had treated her. The judges gave their comments which were affirming and self reflective of their own shock. At least one judge was willing to be completely honest. Amanda Holden stated the obvious by saying, 'Everybody was against you' as she turned back and looked at an audience in shock and silence. She went on to say, 'I honestly think we were all very cynical and that was the biggest wake up call ever.'

This wasn't just about a talent show but revealed something deeper and not so pleasant about human nature today, how we see people and how we treat people. Amanda was right, it's times like this we have a massive wake up call. We must expect that God will continue to speak to us and surprise us through means by which we have written off as foolish. Ultimately God's foolishness which is wiser than human wisdom, yet is looked upon by us as insignificant and foolish, was revealed to us through a man who allowed the powerless children come to him, and he said the Kingdom of God belonged to them. He was the sort of guy that said when God throws a party the kinds of people who will have places of honour are the misfits and the outcast.

May the actions and words of Jesus be our wake up call when we become complacent or lower ourselves to the standards of this world. May the foolishness that shames the wise not surprise us, because we are already standing with those who don't fit knowing that God's way is not the way of this world and that beauty is found in places we least expected.

Mark

Diary Dates!

EXTREME
Term 2 2009

Blackwood Church of Christ AGM:
Sunday 24th May (after the service)

May 8th 2009
INKHEART (PG)
6.30 until 10pm \$10

Churches of Christ Convention is on this month.

Please see the back page for full details

May 22 2009
Ready, Steady, Cook!
7.30 until 10.00 \$5

See the Extreme Programme for more details

Blackwood Church of Christ

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The Weekly Update

Look Under the Bed

The resource centre has misplaced several items. If you could please look, perhaps find and return these items to the resource centre so others can borrow.

Thank you for your attention to this.

DVDs - Nooma - "Trees", "Flame", "Rain", "Rich", "Matthew", and "Rhythm".

The book "Yami - the story of Yami Lester" is now available for borrowing from the resource centre. So come in and borrow, or put in a reserve request to read this exceptional title.

It Be a Gathering Fellow Gatherers

Sunday 24th of May, immediately after the morning service will be the Annual General Meeting. So, after words of wisdom, a bit of singing and then a few handshakes with friends, grab your coffee and mosie on back into the chapel. Annual reports will be delivered and opportunities to ask questions will be granted. Two important things to note are the proposed changes to the constitution: C. 6.4.4 - Replace existing clause with "Voters shall record the desired votes by marking the ballot papers in appropriate manner in the square opposite the candidate or candidates for whom they wish to vote." C 6.4.5 - Delete the words "Located in the foyer of the chapel."

If anyone requires more information in regards to these matters or futher matters relating to the AGM please do not hesitate in speaking with Greg Ratcliff or Andrew Tidswell (Secretary)

The AGM is an important time of year for our church, so please make a special effort to attend and learn more about the church we all love.

AGM -- All Get Merry

Today's Reading Brought to You By:

The letter 'U'
and John 10: 11-18

Second Wind - (insert funny line)

The Second Wind Forum on 23rd May at the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church - 8am - 5pm will help you get your second wind for mission or cross-cultural ministry. There will be workshops, cross-cultural opportunities and a Missions Mini Expo. Sadly no bean eating or cabbage scoffing is allowed, it is not that kind of wind. Please contact the BHBC on 8370 0333 if this forum stimulates your learning desires. A second wind is better than a second round of golf.

A Cuppa, A Natter and Some Chatter

The Annual Australian Church Women's Morning Tea will be held this year at 10am Wednesday 24th of June at Our Lady of the Way, Laffers Road, Glenalta. All are invited (men as well) to come hear about the "Prison Fellowship SA". Please mark this in your diary, an interesting and enlightening time of sharing.

Bring Out Ya Junk! Bring Out Ya Junk!

Saturday October 24th 9am to 2pm is the church's GIANT Garage Sale for 2009. Let us gather up some really cool stuff and share it with the community by selling it on to new homes and new appreciations. That old chair in the shed may find a new home (well bottom) at someone's desk. The toy bunny with one ear could be destined to have the other bitten off by a toddler. Please remember, no livestock; sheep and cattle, though interesting in themselves, do not do well stacked on tables with crockery and old kitchen utensils. But electrical stuff, provided it is safe to use is okay. Computers, if they actually work, have passwords and software are okay, but the old typewriters, well, they don't really sell.

Help us make this a great day, as always. Bring the children, who always enjoy fossicking in the toys area, eating scones or having a lovely sausage. Spend a little time helping out for an hour on a table maybe.

The Garage Sale is one of our best fundraisers, so let us show the community our junk is just as good as anybody else's.

Nomad Alert!

The little grey nomad in the foyer has tallied up \$1547.60 so far this year, so a big thankyou to all the supporters of this little trolley of positivity in our troubled times. Please continue to offer products and continue to support this grand effort. Everything counts in these difficult times. Also, don't forget to buy cards from our temple of cards.

Blake Prize - Let the Artists Arise

21st June to 31 July the Blake Prize comes to Adelaide. This exciting arts prize and event is the Archibald of the Religious arts world. The 57th prize comes to the Marion Cultural Centre, 287 Diagonal Road, Oaklands Park - 8377 2904 or email the gallery at info@gallerym.net.au For more on the Blake Prize visit www.blakeprize.com.au. One of the more exciting events to come to Adelaide in 2009. Make a point of attending the showings and seeing first hand faith expressed in the interpretations of religious artists.

News in Brief (not underpants)

Messenger deadline has been extended to those who can email robert@altair-australia.com their news items no later than Thursday noon. Non-emailed news must be in Robert's message box by Wednesday noon.

A Few \$ Keep Light Burning

Donate to Beacon and help those who are really struggling at this time. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. All cash donations must go directly to CareWorks and be earmarked, or clearly marked for Beacon Emergency Relief. These funds will then be passed on to the Beacon fund and then onto people in desperate need.

From the Wise Old One

The editor has his moments:

1. Mummy, there's hair in my soup. Quiet son, dad hasn't noticed his hair piece missing yet.
2. Why did Colonel Sanders cross the road?. He was chasing the chicken.
3. I thought I was the strongest man in the world for many years until someone told me that anyone can break wind.

Blokes' Breakfast

1st Saturday of the month at 7:30am

Sunday Roast

1st Sunday of the month after the Church service

Coffee 'n' Chat

1st Tuesday of the month from 10:30am at Cafe Primo

Women in Prayer

1st Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm

Sewing Group

3rd Tuesday of the month from 9am

Friendship Centre

Every Wednesday during school term from 1pm

Bookworms

Last Friday of the month from 1:30pm

The Big Cup is Back

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea returns this year on Thursday 28th of May. Dawn Chivel will be hosting events on this day. Last year's was a huge success, so let us pony up for another tea break to help the fight against cancer. Please contact the church office if you need further details. Or speak to the lovely Dawn.

"Women in Prayer"

Please note that Women in Prayer are not meeting this month, we'll see you all on the 1st Wednesday of next month.

A Note of Thanks Amongst the Sadness

A very generous thank you is offered to all those who helped and supplied food and serving assistance for the two recent funerals in our chapel for Ian Corlett and Ron Todd. Thank you all for your generosity in time and cooking. Everyone's contribution was greatly appreciated, not to mention all the men who played musical chairs.

On the Web and Not a Spider in Sight

The church website has been comprehensively updated with past and present newsletters, rosters, current events, all documentation including police check forms, application forms, values statements and the church constitution. Other AGM related documents will be available shortly. There is a new 'members page' in the top right of the website where most of this is found. It is password protected. Check out www.blackwoodcc.org.au and leave your comments if you want to make suggestions or just let us know how much you like it.

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Local News

Elders Spot

The past month has been a very busy one. Easter Services were well attended and a good time was had by all those who spent the Easter weekend together down at Goolwa. We trust that Easter was a special time for each of you.

We were saddened by the deaths of Ronald Todd and Ian Corlett, both of whom have family and many friends here at Blackwood. We extend our love and prayers to their families and friends as they come to terms with the loss of someone who meant so much to them. We wish to acknowledge the devotion they both showed to the life of the church and the qualities that set them apart, as people who will be greatly missed.

Mark's trip to South Africa has been confirmed and we wish him well as he prepares to attend the World Vision *Spiritual Leadership & Missional Development* Conference in Johannesburg in June. We pray that this trip will both encourage and inspire Mark as he seeks to explore ways we can partner with a church in Sudan. We plan to have a film night in the not-too-distant future to raise some money to offset the cost of the trip. Further details will be in the Messenger in due course.

A Blackwood Church of Christ Fundraising Committee is being put together. These people will not be responsible for running all the fundraising activities, but will be the 'ideas people' who can think up new and creative ways for us to raise funds to continue our work in this community and maintain our property.

I would again draw your attention to the up-coming **AGM**. We would encourage as many people as possible to attend this meeting. It will be held immediately after the service on Sunday 24th May. It is a great opportunity to reflect on the year gone by and all that we have achieved, and also to acknowledge the contributions made by so many in our church community. It will also be a chance to look to the future and where we see ourselves in 2009/2010 and beyond.

Thank you!
'Curves Blackwood'
for ongoing support of the Beacon
Emergency Relief Program

Conference Events

Sunday May 3rd @ Aldgate C of C

3.00pm. Thanksgiving service for the Grand Opening of our new building, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP by April 27. Phone Ruth Park on 8339 6286 (9-12pm Mon-Fri)

"Life Care" Seniors' Lunch @ Parkrose Village.

Weds 13th May at 12.30. \$13.

Women's Event @ Brooklyn Park C of C. Thur

14th May at 11.30. Speaker from 'Angel Flight'. \$10.00. Café style lunch provided.

Saturday May 16th

8.45 @ Marion Church of Christ. Business Session. Lunch \$7 -bookings essential.

Workshops: 1.00pm @ Marion C of C

Community Life (Your church & Its Environment)
Palliative Care

Treasurers Refresher

Leading Communion

Celebration 7.00pm @ Marion C of C

Featuring Jeanette Wormald. Speaker:
-Grant Simpson

G.R. Sterling Lecture @ Prospect C of C. Thurs

14th May at 7.30pm. Speaker: Merrill Kitchen - Principal, CCTC. Theme: "The Declaration & Address & Its Implications For Us Today".

Reporting Evening:- Aldgate C of C.

Friday 15th May.

6.30 -Coffee & Dessert.

7.30 -Reports

Bicentenary Celebration of the Declaration & Address. "The Great Communion"

October 4th @ Mile End C of C at 2.30

"Bringing All Churches Together"