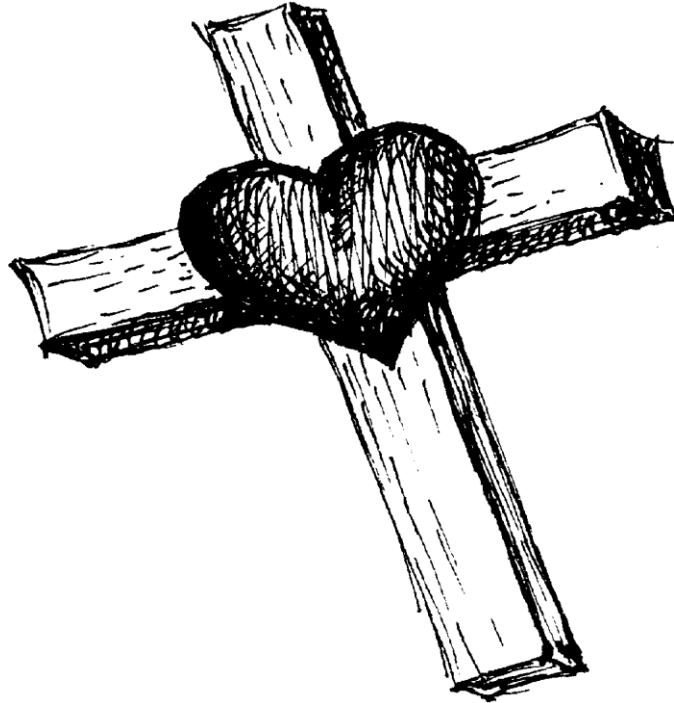


# The Vision



Published for the Kaniva & Serviceton Congregations  
of the Uniting Church & Church of Christ

**September - December 2011**

***Our Shared Ministry Objective:***

To foster Christian fellowship and Spiritual growth  
within our congregations  
and  
Christian witness in the wider community

Website: <http://www.kaniva.info/sharedministry.html>

<b>UCA CHURCH COUNCIL:</b>	<b>CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD:</b>	<b>MINISTER:</b>
Chairperson: Karen Rabone 53922210	Chairperson: Murray Williams 53931277	Matthew Tyas (03) 90164301
Secretary: Robyn Jewell 53931361	Secretary: Louise Rowe 53922632	Mob: 0425 853 325
Treasurer: Ian Champness 53922253	Treasurer: Alwyn Dyer 53922642	31 Commercial St. Kaniva.

<b>Serviceton UCA CHURCH COUNCIL:</b>	<b>Serviceton CHURCH OF CHRIST Secretary:</b>
Judith Carter 53931223	David Wallis 53931260

## ***From the Pastor's Desk.***

“Well times are a changin’”, or are they? In many ways we are experiencing new ways of living, new technology, new wars, new illnesses and cures, new trends etc. To us they may seem new, but if we look back over history everyone goes through change, it is not something new that we are trying to cope with and understand. From the beginning of creation there has been change, and new aspects of life to deal with.



The challenges of community and from where I sit, Christian community is nothing new. It is just that we, ourselves have not had to deal with these issues before. The other reason for change sometimes is because often in life we make choices that may not work out as well as we had first planned. When people came together to share in prayer, worship and growing in relationship, all of a sudden there were differences in opinions, theologies, philosophies, and so from these came separate gatherings with new names and the forming of new traditions. Might I add that these were designed by people, not by God.

God created man and women in His image, to be as one, to work as one, to pray, learn and worship as one in unity with each other and with God. Unfortunately that is not where we are today. The Bible along with God has been placed up on the shelf and we have made things to be what we want them to be. If you do not agree with someone else then rather than seeking the Holy Spirit and looking into God's Word to find the answers, we either dig our heels in and make sure we get what we want, or we take our bat and ball and go somewhere else, with no one ever really dealing with the issue, that issue being us.

Mark 3:25 (NIV) *“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”*

I have been reading a book by Jim Cymbala “Fresh Power”, and it speaks with truth and honesty about many issues within churches and communities of today. I encourage you to get a copy and read it for yourself (he has written several other books that are well worth reading). At one point he asks, *“Have we forgotten we are serving the God who brought Jew and Gentile together in the book of Acts?”*(pg 102)

If God can bring opposing nations and religions together in unity and love then surely we can come together when we already worship the one God. When I say come together I mean put everything of our human desires aside and come together as God's children to love and serve God first and then each other, just as Jesus loves each of us. *Romans 15:5-6 (NIV) May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind (unity) toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

It is time for us all to take a good hard look in the mirror and see who and what we have become, because who and what we have become is not of God, does not show the love of Christ and does not show a unified body of Christ to the world that we live in. I urge each of you to fall on your knees in repentance to God for what you have

done to His church and His children. Set your eyes on God and God alone, showing the love and humility of Jesus to everyone whether you agree with their thoughts or not. We are not going to think the same as everyone else, and God made us that way, but we are called to live in unity, as one. *Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV) There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

If this does not speak of Unity for the body of Christ, then what does?

May God guide and speak to us all as He needs to so that we hear Him, and change the current direction we are heading.

I do not share these thoughts lightly but out of love for each of you as God's children, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss any of these issues with you further and hear what God is saying to you in your life, if you wish.

In Christ  
Pastor Matt



### **What is church?**

- Church is not about giving money every so often.
- Church is not about going and sitting in a pew every week.
- It is not about going on the cleaning, or maintenance roster or being a part of one of the committees that are associated with the church.
- Church is the gathering of Christian community, and being committed every day.
- Church is about living out the life of Christ in community and fellowship, not just on a Sunday but every day of the week, everywhere you go.
- Church is about being there to support one another, to share in the good and the hard times. To come together and share in community worship and prayer. To sit and think and listen to what God is doing in your life, and what He wants to do in your life.

Doing the former things will not get you into heaven. The only way into heaven is by asking Jesus into your heart, and asking for forgiveness from the sins that you have committed, and then living this out every day of your life, and sharing it with others.

God Bless  
Pastor Matt

## History of Shared Ministry and Co-operating Worship

Written by David Wallis (Serviceton)

The Shared Ministry of the Kaniva and Serviceton Churches of Christ and the Kaniva and Serviceton Uniting Churches is the sharing of one Minister between the two denominations at Kaniva and Serviceton. The Minister's position alternates between the Church of Christ and the Uniting Church on each change of Minister.

At the start of Shared Ministry it was considered that the churches meet separately and the Minister be shared week about. The other ministry positions would be filled by lay preachers. With insufficient lay preachers to fill the ministry appointments and numbers attending services lowering some consideration was had of how to function.

Maybe with Serviceton churches having co-operated week about for many years a consideration may have lent toward trying that at Kaniva.

Serviceton took about fifty years to get to that place. For 15-20 years monthly combined gospel services were held between the Methodist Church, Church of Christ, Anglican Church and the Presbyterian Church. A combined choir sang at these services and at public functions. Some Lutheran members sang in the choir. As the numbers in the community lessened the Presbyterian, Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic fellowships closed and their buildings either moved or demolished. The Methodist, and later the Uniting Church and the Church of Christ firstly met together once a quarter. This increased to twice a month, then to four Sundays a month week about co-operating, with one week a quarter on their own. Finally it was decided to co-operate in worship, week about between the Church of Christ and the Uniting Church at Serviceton every week. A Serviceton Bible study has operated fortnightly for over forty years with families from babies upwards attending from the Uniting Church, Church of Christ, Lutheran and for a period the Presbyterian Churches.

Kaniva had alternated evening services between the Kaniva Church of Christ and the Kaniva Uniting Church prior to the consideration of Shared Ministry.

Without the co-operating history of Serviceton the Kaniva Church of Christ and the Kaniva Uniting Church, from the start of Shared Ministry, commenced co-operating in worship week about for the morning service. (This is not Unity or one church). This has operated successfully for over ten years with the alternate services being held in their respective buildings.

Under this system:

1. Each church worship is practised
2. The identity of each denomination is kept with material from each other's "Outside Work" shared between members of both denominations. Support can be given and received from each denomination's departments.
3. Both denominations' buildings continue to be used.
4. A larger congregation often leads to better worship, better singing and better sharing.
5. The worship is the co-operating of two denominations – Not Unity
6. If there was one United/Combined church in Kaniva what affiliation would be had to brotherhoods, departments etc? What outside work would be supported or receive support from when needed?
7. As a co-operating congregation the 'church' is seen in the community as one Christian community.
8. When Shared Ministry and co-operation commenced in Kaniva the Uniting Church Fellowship Centre was used for Sunday School. The removal of the Kaniva Uniting Church chapel has made Sunday School space limited.

## **UC Elders' Report**

At our June meeting, Elders, along with other pastoral carers, workshopped some of the ideas and principles behind being an effective pastoral carer. Led by Diane Eastwood, we considered what was useful and beneficial to the visiting and caring role, and what approaches were less useful. It became apparent that we all need to be mindful of the different situations that are affecting people's lives, and that one of the most effective approaches was to listen carefully to what people have to say. Thanks to Diane for her preparation for this session.

Recently, Elders again met and spent some time ensuring that church rolls were as accurate as possible, in the light of the increased emphasis on pastoral care. Consideration was also given to the conduct of the sacraments and the conduct of funerals, especially as the wider Uniting Church is currently conducting training in these areas. "Mission" theme discussions will be held over to the next meeting in October.

## **Catering Report - August 2011**

Things have been fairly quiet since our last report, with the only catering we have done being the provision of cakes for a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We have used \$6000 of our investment money to help the church cover the cost of the power board upgrade in the main hall and the new stove which was installed in the church manse a few months ago. Our general catering account balance is \$3752.95.

## **Fellowship Report – August 2011**

Fellowship members have had three meetings since our last report. In May, we had Alaine McFarlane as our guest speaker. She spoke about her family's travels overseas and also about the quilts people made and were then delivered to an orphanage in Cambodia. Alaine's talk was accompanied by an interesting powerpoint presentation. At our June meeting, hostesses Alison Moar and Margaret Wallis tested our thinking processes and knowledge with an enjoyable competition afternoon. July saw us having a relaxing progressive dinner with soup at Kath Rich's home, casseroles at Kath Shurdington's, and dessert and the meeting at Barb Champness' home. Coming up, we will be having a guest speaker, mystery trip and a craft night.

## **Resources Team Report**

At our recent Resources Team meeting, several matters were discussed and dealt with. These included:

- Repairs to the Serviceton Hall required after the demolition of the old church have been completed
- Work on the manse is still a work in progress
- The upgrade and relocation of fire extinguishers in the main hall was still to be attended to.

Also reported was a donation from the UC Caterers of \$6000 to cover the cost of the power board upgrade in the main hall and the new stove installed in the manse, and the replacement of dead plants on the church block courtesy of Landcare. A shelter and seat for the church block picnic area is to be attended to in the next few weeks. An updated "Use of Hall Conditions" was discussed and approved by the meeting. Oasis requests for another pinboard, partition and small chairs and table

are being looked into. The pulpit is to be returned to the body of the church. It was reported that a committee has been formed to look into the signage at the churches, and the meeting indicated that they would like to see a draft of the sign and offer suggestions via representatives on the committee.

There was also some discussion on the church finances and concern was expressed at the need to draw on rapidly dwindling reserves. It was noted that there needs to be restraint exercised on expenditure, as funds are not unlimited.

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“Use of Facilities Proposal”

Following the distribution of the Use of facilities proposal and the notes taken at the forum in October 2010 it now has been decided to hold an open forum for all Uniting Church members.

This forum is your opportunity to put forward your opinion on the Use of facility document and the future direction of the shared ministry between the Uniting Church and Churches of Christ.

The forum will be held on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at the Uniting Church at 7pm.**

If anyone would like to be picked up to attend the forum please contact your Elder and they will arrange a pickup person for you or contact Karen Rabone on 53922210.

The shared ministry has been in place now for 12 years and has an important role to play in our community, along with the other ministry roles within Kaniva and district. The forum is an ideal platform to look at the future direction of this ministry.

Church council encourages all members to attend this forum to put forward your opinions and ideas on how we as the Uniting Church arm of the shared ministry, see the future direction of the shared ministry, including the use of all buildings, facilities and resources.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the forum on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Yours in Christ  
Karen Rabone  
Chaiperson UCA Church Council

Without GOD our week would be:

Sinday, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday,  
Thirstday, Fightday and Shatterday

Remember seven days WITHOUT GOD,  
makes one WEAK!!

## **MUM'S EMPTY CHAIR**

A woman's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her mother.

When the minister arrived, he found the woman lying in bed with her head propped up on two pillows.

An empty chair sat beside her bed. The minister assumed that the woman had been informed of his visit...

'I guess you were expecting me, he said.  
'No, who are you?' said the mother.  
The minister told her his name and then remarked, 'I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up.'

'Oh yeah, the chair,' said the bedridden woman  
'Would you mind closing the door?'  
Puzzled, the minister shut the door.  
'I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter,' said the woman.  
'But all of my life I have never known how to pray.

At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer,  
but it went right over my head...'  
I abandoned any attempt at prayer,'  
the old woman continued, '  
until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me,

' Prayer is just a simple matter  
of having a conversation with Jesus.  
Here is what I suggest..  
'Sit down in a chair;  
place an empty chair in front of you,  
and in faith see Jesus on the chair.

It's not spooky because he promised,  
'I will be with you always'..  
'Then just speak to him in the same way  
you're doing with me right now...'

'So, I tried it and I've liked it so much  
that I do it a couple of hours every day.  
I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking  
to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous  
breakdown or send me off to the funny farm.'

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old woman to continue on the journey.

Then he prayed with her, anointed her with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her mama had died that afternoon.

Did she die in peace?' he asked.

*Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, she called me over to her bedside, told me she loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found her .*

But there was something strange about her death. Apparently, just before Mum died, she leaned over and rested her head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?'

The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, 'I wish we could all go like that.'

Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive.

I asked God for water, He gave me an ocean.\*

I asked God for a flower, He gave me a garden.\*

I asked God for a friend, He gave me all of YOU...

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

**Happy** moments, praise God.

**Difficult** moments, seek God.

**Quiet** moments, worship God

**Painful** moments, trust God.

**Every** moment, thank God.



## **Church of Christ News**

### **Get in touch via new technology**

Churches of Christ, Australia, has a new website which you are encouraged to visit: [www.churchesofchrist.org.au](http://www.churchesofchrist.org.au). Browse around the different links—links to Victorian churches as well as other states, latest news, Mission and Ministry, Global Mission Partners and COCOA, etc. Recent topics include: “Melbourne Indigenous Church News”, “A Call to Pray for London”, “It’s time to dispel the myths about school chaplains”, and “Radically Faithful”.

Maybe Facebook is for you.....’Churches of Christ Vic/Tas’

Or Twitter? [twitter@COCVT](https://twitter.com/COCVT)

More and more of C of C information is being put on the internet. For more details on what is available or how to access, see Church Secretary Louise.

### **Vale Ken Clinton**

Ken Clinton passed away quietly on Sunday, August 7, 2011. He has been a past lecturer at College of the Bible and an incredibly active minister as well as being a past Vic/Tas Conference president. He has had a profound influence on many lives over the years and has left an outstanding legacy formed through his love of the Word, his dedication to Christ, his encouragement in the spirit and his devotion to Churches of Christ. He is survived by his wife and an extended family. Please pray for them at this time.

### **Horn of Africa Appeal with GMP/COCOA**

When John Gilmore spoke to us recently, he told us some things about the needs in Africa. The Horn of Africa Famine Appeal by COCOA addresses some of those needs. This is from a recent GMP news letter:

“A COCOA emergency relief appeal has been launched for those in urgent need of humanitarian assistance across the Horn of Africa. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimated that as many as ten million people are now affected by drought and food shortages. The situation is described as the worst in 60 years and the most severe food security emergency in the world today. The Famine Early Warning systems Network warns that the current resources available are ‘inadequate to prevent a further deterioration’.”

For further information on how you can help this appeal or in other needy areas of the world, visit [www.inpartnership.org.au](http://www.inpartnership.org.au) or see Secretary Louise.

### **“Vision” Radio—88.0 FM:**

Don’t forget about this amazing gift which enables the message of God’s love to spread through the community. The very professional station is a positive witness to our community and over 400 other Australian communities. Please pass the word around, so that more may tune in to a positive influence in their lives.

## **News of our sponsored children at Khayelihle Village**

**Pelina Ndlovu** (born January, 1997): *height: 161 cm; weight: 50 kg; religious activities:* attends youth group and mid week prayer meetings; *educational performance:* below average; *general comments:* She needs guidance pertaining issues of self presentation. However, she is a quiet person who interacts less ever since she went to high school.

*Pelina writes:* (grammar and spelling is Pelina's)

"I would like to say how are you May Jesus Chirst bless you. And I enjoy this holiday with may friend Moreblessing, Asline and I like to say when I grow up I want to be a hotel manager and I enjoyed this holiday easter day in the church and I like to read some books newspaper and I hope you enjoy this holiday May god bless you all the times Thank you for sponsoring me. From Perlinandlovu

**Sipho Mkandla** (born May, 2005) *height: 106 cm; weight: 23 kg; religious activities:* Sipho is a member of Grade 1 and 2 Sunday School class as well as Junior worship; *educational performance:* his performance is below average; *general comments:* He is clumsy and naughty however plays well with others.

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### **BIBLE VS MOBILE PHONE**

*Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our mobile phone?*

*What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?*

*What if we flipped through it several times a day?*

*What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?*

*What if we used it to receive messages from the text?*

*What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?*

*What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?*

*What if we used it when we travelled?*

*What if we used it in case of emergency?*

*This is something to make you go....hmm...where is my Bible?*

*Oh, and one more thing.*

*Unlike our mobile phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being*

*Disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.*

*Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities? And no dropped calls!*

*When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you!*

## SERVICETON NEWS

In the Bible, we find so many promises from God saying he will be with us, we do not have to fear and he will not let us down. Isn't it great that in this world of uncertainties that we can always be certain of his unfailing love. God wants us to share that hope and love with our community.

Ladies Fellowship had a family tea with Kym, Margreet, Andrew and Anita Diment who shared about their work in Varanasi, India. It makes you think about how easy it is for most of us in Australia. Later in July we filled quite a number of shoe boxes for "Operation Shoe Box" and also trimmed stamps for "Sammy Stamp" project. By the time this comes to print we would have enjoyed our annual progressive tea with Soup at Angela Heinrich's, Casseroles at Helen Wallis' and sweets at Judith Carter's. We have also enjoyed leading a Karinya Service in July. Over the last few months we have also helped cater for a few things. Any money raised will be distributed to various missions at our AGM in November.

Our All Age Sunday school, although small in number continues to have fun while we seek to get to know God more and more. Our memory verse at the moment is "Be imitators of God". We can't go wrong if we put this in to practise. Soon we hope to hold a movie night and coming up in October is our Outdoor Service and picnic.

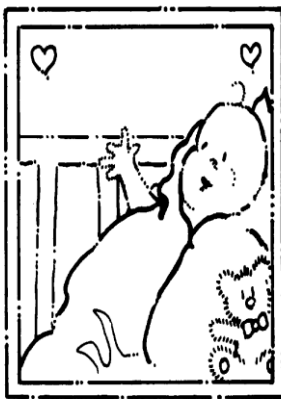
Our Tuesday night Bible Study group continues to study the book of John using a "Max Lucado" Study guide. I think the Young Adult Group is looking at Corinthians. These groups are a great way to encourage and be encouraged in our faith.

It is also good to see the Bordertown and Kaniva Youth Groups growing. They will be combining in October for a bowling night in Horsham.

\*\*For more details on the Kaniva Youth see Paul Wallis or the Carters and for more info on Bordertown Fuel Youth ask Trav or Millie Carter or check out face book.



Our Sunday Services continue to be a precious part of our church family. Thank you to all those who do their bit, whether it be preaching, cleaning, bible reading, music, communion or smiling and encouraging. You are all very special. We have been saddened by the passing of Phillip Mackay. His caring nature will be greatly missed. We give thanks to God for a very lovely man. Our love and prayers are with Brenda and the whole Mackay family. We, as a church, also extend our love and sympathy to Val Clarkson and family on the passing of Barry. Our prayers are with all in our community who may be grieving at this time.



We rejoice with the families of three babies. "Cooper Jay Wallis" born to Jason and Heather on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June is the first grandchild for David and Helen Wallis. Also on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June "Tate Michael Neale" second son for Belinda and Jeremy and 5<sup>th</sup> grandchild for Leon and Jenny Tink was born.

Just in time for this report, Maya Lily Grosser was born on August 17<sup>th</sup> to Trent and Hayley who is the first grandchild for Beth and Darryl Grosser. Congratulations to you all. Children are a blessing from God.

We also rejoice with Travis and Millie Carter who were married on the 5<sup>th</sup> August at Miranda, Sydney. Our prayer is that you will continue to grow in your love for the Lord and each other.

Whatever your situation is may you know God's love, peace hope and strength in your life.

God's Blessings  
Judith Carter