

GOINGS AND COMINGS

The time has come ...

I am finishing my work as Director of the Stillpoint Centre at Christmas, and moving into a new phase of my journey. Amid packing boxes and changing contact details there has been time to reflect on the sense that carrying out this ministry in the context of a spirituality centre has allowed it to fulfil the potential that was always there.

I have never wanted to think of it as just "my ministry", so to all the people along the way who upheld and advocated for a ministry of spirituality in the Synod, to all the people who have shared their own gifts and calling with it, and to all who have served on committees and task groups – thank you.

It is first and foremost a ministry of creating quiet space for listening – listening to God, listening to our deepest selves, listening to those who come to share and reflect on their journey. This has involved spiritual direction, retreats, workshops, congregational visits, programs for the formation of spiritual directors, ecumenical and national networking, ongoing personal formation and study, and the creation of resource material. And it has meant surfing the waves of institutional reviews and re-structures.

My call now is for a gentler life and a clearer focus, away from the responsibilities of "holding the space" denominationally. I look forward to a more contemplative life, home-making, time with friends, reading, some modest travel, and time to take better care of mind, spirit and body.

I like this quote from Lynn Hall, "We did not change as we grew older: we just became more clearly ourselves."

I am giving myself a "sabbatical" from January until mid-May, and will then again offer some spiritual direction, the occasional retreat, and spend much more time writing. Publication of articles in Shalem News and Weavings this year has confirmed this deepened call.

Leaving is never easy, but when one knows the ministry is in the good and wise hands of Gary Stuckey, Meredith Spangler, a Ministry Team and Board the transition becomes a natural one. And for those people I pray God's richest blessings.

Keep supporting Stillpoint. This ministry is a fragile one to sustain in any denomination and it depends on people who share the passion, catch the vision, and engage with the work.

Ann Siddall

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 FAREWELL FROM ANN ~ ANN SIDDALL
- 2 FAREWELL TO ANN ~ GARY STUCKEY
- 2 PRAYERS FOR JERUSALEM ~ ANN SIDDALL
- 3 A GOD WHO COMES! ~ GARY STUCKEY
- 3 OUT OF THE DESERT ~ ANN SIDDALL
- 4 PILGRIMAGE TO LIVING WATER, WHY NOT GIVE THE GIFT OF TIME THIS CHRISTMAS?, STILLPOINT TRANSITION RETREAT
- 5 STILLPOINT CENTRE AND FAITH COMMUNITY PROGRAM 2011
- 6 STILLPOINT CENTRE AND FAITH COMMUNITY PROGRAM 2011 CONTINUED, CONTACT INFORMATION

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* Ann, Gary & Meredith wish you every blessing for Advent & *
* Christmas: May the joy of Christmas give you hope, *
* and the warmth of Christmas bring you love. *
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Farewell Ann

Stillpoint will not seem the same next year as Ann retires from this part of her life and moves into a new phase. Since 1976 when Ann commenced work as a journalist with what was soon to become the New Times, she has worked with the Methodist and then Uniting Church.

Within a short time, because her passion for prayer and the inner life were recognized, Ann convened the newly formed Spiritual Development Task Group. Thus began a journey which developed into becoming the Consultant in Christian Spirituality for the Commission for Mission in the UCA and then with the advent of the Mission Resourcing Network, Ann continued work in the area of Christian Spirituality. Three and a half years ago, after a long and sometimes 'round about' journey, Ann became the Director of the Stillpoint Centre for Spirituality. The reason why this ministry exists in the UCA today is in no small part due to Ann's work over many years.

So Ann, for all those years of work, prayer, sharing yourself with others and encouraging countless individuals and congregations on a deeper journey with God, we say, "Thank you". Your day to day presence around Stillpoint and in our lives will be missed, but we trust we will see you from time to time and continue to experience, even if in a small way, the wisdom and care you have brought to this ministry.

We wish you all the best and every blessing for what we trust will be a new, rewarding and fulfilling phase of your life.

Gary Stuckey



Prayers for Jerusalem

(Preceded by the reading of Psalm 122)

We pray, O God,
along with the Psalmist,
for peace in Jerusalem
and in the Middle East.

For the joy
experienced by so many
when their feet finally
stand within the gates
of the Old City,
there is all the pain
of those who cannot any longer
stand on the land that once was their home.

For the joy
of entering sacred sites
and being filled with awe
that Jesus was in this place,
there is all the turmoil
of walls and fences,
security checks, armed soldiers,
bomb threats
and stone throwing.

We pray, O God,
along with the Psalmist
for the peace of Jerusalem.
May this apex of religious fervour,
this ancient land so many have claimed,
be turned from a cauldron of hatred
into a place of peace and community.
In the name of Christ,
in the name of Christ,
Amen.

Ann Siddall



Out of the Desert

**Out of the Judean desert he came,
wild man of God,
with uncombed hair,
matted beard,
unwashed feet.**

**Out of the hot, dry desert,
where the wind whistles
between the mountains,
and sand blasts the rocks,
he came with fire in his belly.**

**In the wilderness
he discovered the power of his voice,
crying out to God
above the cries of falcons and eagles,
above his own inner resistance.**

**“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight”:
and though they did away with him
his cry still rings out
from the pages of Scripture.**

**As Christmas approaches,
and we enter our own hot, dry season,
may the words of John
still claim our attention
and call us to put our house in order.**

**For Christ comes,
entering our lives again
as the year draws to an end,
and if you will not hear his prophets
at least be quiet enough to hear a baby's cry.**

Ann Siddall



A God who comes!

People who know me know I hate waiting. I don't mind journeying through life at a contemplative pace, but I don't like being held up unnecessarily along the way.

Supermarket queues are a particular danger zone for me! If the queue is too long I begin to get agitated and start looking around for a shorter or seemingly faster moving queue. If there is one, I'll go and join it. Of course the inevitable happens. There's a hold up in the new queue and if I'd stayed where I was I would have gone through faster! If I have to sit through more than one change of red light I find myself frustrated, especially if it's because someone has been daydreaming and missed the green. And so on it goes. I am by nature an impatient 'waiter'!

And now we come to Advent, a season in which the Church asks us to, of all things, celebrate waiting! And I don't think we in the Church are good at waiting. Advent is not Christmas, but as soon as we come to Advent the pressure is on to start singing Christmas carols. We don't like waiting!

But there are different types of waiting - do you remember as a child what it was like waiting for Christmas? Or birthdays? They would seem so slow in coming around. It was as if they would never seem to arrive. And yet the waiting was an important part of the enjoyment of the event, as we knew that there was going to be something good at the end.

And that is the sort of waiting we experience at Advent. It is a waiting with joyful anticipation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It is a waiting for the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. But it is also a waiting for Christ's coming again, the theme of the first Sunday in Advent. And in this waiting, we make a strong affirmation about God. God is not apart from us - instead, we believe he comes to us and enters into the fullness of the human experience.

So as we wait during Advent, we celebrate a God who comes to us as a Christ-like God, full of love, light and life. And that is worth waiting for.

Gary Stuckey



'Pilgrimage to Living Water'

This is the title of a new resource created by the UC Assembly Spirituality Network in conjunction with Rev. Alistair Macrae, President of the Uniting Church. It is inspired by the Assembly theme for 2009-2012 "Living Water: Thirsty Land" and is an invitation for congregations, presbyteries, networks and groups to consider making a reflective walk to a local water source, as a way of deepening and renewing faith. A kit of Bible studies, prayers and liturgies, and suggestions for organizing a Pilgrimage are available by download from the Assembly web-site: <http://assembly.uca.org.au>.

Taken from the icon produced by Rev. Rob Gallacher especially for the Pilgrimage. The icon may be borrowed from the Synod Office for use during a Pilgrimage.



God of pilgrim people
you stir a thirst deep within us
we move out in search of Living Water
and find our spirits refreshed.

God of pilgrim people,
we make this journey not just for ourselves,
but for a thirsty land, and a thirsty world.
Bless us as we begin our journey.

Why not give the gift of time this Christmas?

You can purchase a day or half day retreat for a friend, family member, work colleague or even your minister - this is a lovely idea for someone who may not usually allow time for themselves.

Prices and options:

Half day in quiet room	\$30.00
Whole day in quiet room	\$50.00
Half day retreat (with resources)	\$40.00
Whole day retreat (with resources)	\$60.00
Half day retreat (with resources & spiritual direction)	\$60.00
Whole day retreat (with resources & spiritual direction)	\$80.00



Gift vouchers may be purchased from the Stillpoint Centre:

5 Burnell Drive, Belair SA 5052 8178 0048

stillpoint@internode.on.net

Stillpoint Transition Retreat



Everybody at some point in their life will face significant change as they move from one phase of life to another. It may be from study to work, from work to retirement, from one job to another, or some other noteworthy transition in life. These times can be challenging, but they can also offer an opportunity for reflection and growth that will make the transition a positive experience.

The Stillpoint Spirituality Centre is able to offer a one day Transition Retreat to assist people in the negotiation of these life changes. Anyone who is about to enter, is in the midst of, or has recently been through a time of transition will benefit from participating in the retreat.

Over one day, four segments exploring various aspects of transition will be offered and while you will be guided through the day by a leader, essentially it is a time to connect in a deep way with God and to hear what God is inviting you to.

The cost for the day at Stillpoint is \$80.00 or to receive the material for use in your own time: \$40.00.

If you are interested, simply contact Rev Gary Stuckey at Stillpoint to talk about any questions you may have or to make a booking for a Transition Retreat Day.

Phone: 8178 0048

Email: gary.stillpoint@internode.on.net

Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community Program for 2011

STILLPOINT SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

RETREATS - GOD'S GRACIOUS GIFT OF TIME

Lent Retreat Days

'The Road to Jerusalem and Beyond'

Self-led one-day retreat using material prepared by Lynona Hawkins. 31st March, 1st or 2nd April. 9.30am - 4pm.

Spiritual conversation available if requested at time of booking. Up to six people per day. \$25 full day: \$15 half day.

Also available for home use: \$15.

Residential Retreat

'The Path of Happiness'

Silence, prayer, reflections. 18th - 22nd September (Sunday to Thursday). Leader: Rev Gary Stuckey.

At Nunyara Conference Centre and Stillpoint Spirituality Centre. Cost: TBA

Advent Retreat Days

Self-led one-day retreat using specially prepared material. 25th November, 1st or 10th December, 9.30am - 4pm. Spiritual conversation available if requested at time of booking. Up to six people per day. \$25 full day: \$15 half day.

Also available for home use: \$15.

Transition Retreat

This is available at Stillpoint Centre on request as a personal or small group retreat for people in transition (ministers, people relocating, retiring, grieving or journeying through endings and beginnings of various kinds). Three experienced retreat leaders available. Room, Leadership & Material: \$80. Room and material only: \$40.

Personal or Small Group Retreats at Stillpoint Centre

We have two quiet rooms (max numbers 15) where you can reflect and pray privately (material, spiritual direction, and facilitation available on request). For individuals, ministry teams, small groups.

On-Line Retreat ~ "Finding the Stillpoints"

An on-line five session retreat with Materials sent out at agreed intervals and opportunity for personal, e-mail or phone contact with a spiritual director if desired. (Note: This needs to be booked well in advance.)

MID-WEEK MEDITATION & HOLY COMMUNION

At 11.30am on Tuesdays we gather in the Lounge to say the Office of Sext followed by a time of Meditation. At 12 noon we gather for Holy Communion. All are welcome to join us for either or both times of reflection.

BE STILL AND KNOW

A monthly gathering for prayer and reflection at the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre. Tuesdays 1pm - .2.45 pm.

No registration required. All welcome. Gold coin donation. February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12,

August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8.

ART SPACE ~ led by artist Beth Chandler (Dates & Cost: TBA)

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS' FORMATION PROGRAM

A three year formation program run by a team from the Ecumenical Spiritual Directors' Association (S.A.) for people called to the ministry of companioning others in their spiritual journey: Next intake: May 2011. Twelve places available and participation is via an application process. Closing date for applications is February 5. Sessions: May 5 - 7, August 25 - 27, November 10 - 12. Contact the Stillpoint Centre for more information.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Rev Gary Stuckey is a member of the Ecumenical Spiritual Directors' Association (S.A.) and offers accompaniment for your spiritual journey, or can connect you with another Director from the Association. Bookings are essential.

Program for 2011 continued

STILLPOINT ON THE ROAD

Stillpoint is committed to resourcing congregations and is able to offer a limited number of opportunities each year for retreats and workshops in country or metropolitan churches. Themes can range from a general retreat to give people "time out" for spiritual refreshment, retreats on particular themes (e.g. seasons of the church's year); workshops on prayer, spiritual growth in congregations, discernment, intercession, living contemplatively, spiritual practices and so on. Talk to us about your needs.

KERNEWEK LOWENDER 2011 ~ Cornish Retreats

1) Praying with the Cornish Saints - a 2 day live-out retreat

Monday & Tuesday, 9th & 10th May, Moonta Mines Uniting Church Hall, Moonta
\$50 inc. meals and program. Registration essential and closes 18th April 2011.

2) Celtic/Cornish Prayer and Spirituality Workshop - Gormola Spyrsek 2

2pm - 4pm Saturday 14th May, Wallaroo Uniting Church. \$10 payable at the door.

For more information on either event or to register your interest contact Robin Pryor -ph: 03 5988 5257 or email: robron@pryor.org.au

STILLPOINT FAITH COMMUNITY

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

Holy Communion, singing, prayers, meditation, silence, and a time of community afterwards for those who wish.

6.30pm in Nunyara Chapel (unless otherwise indicated):

January 9, January 23 (Turkindi Room), February 13, February 27 (Stillpoint Centre), March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24 (Easter Day, 7.30am Stillpoint Centre followed by breakfast), May 8, May 22, June 12 (Turkindi Room), June 26, July 10 (Turkindi Room), July 24, August 14, August 28, September 11, September 25 (Stillpoint Centre), October 9, October 23, November 13, November 27, December 11, December 24 (Stillpoint Centre.)

6.30pm at Lefevre UC (63 Gedville Rd, Taperoo)

Jan 16, Mar 20, May 15, July 17, Sept 18, Nov 20

A CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

7.30pm at Stillpoint, 2nd Wednesday of each month from February - November.

Open to those with previous experience of meditation. Gold coin donation.

REFLECTION GROUPS

At Stillpoint, Mondays & Tuesdays 7pm - 8.30pm.

1) A Lenten Study will run for 6 weeks from 14th March - 18th April.

2) A Second Study based on the writings of Thomas Merton will run for 8 weeks from 25th July - 12th September.

Further information available closer to the time.

BENEDICTINE DAYS

8.30am - 4pm Saturday 5th February & Friday 3rd June.

BROCHURES with details of costs and registration for all events will become available in due course. Please contact us for further information.

Stillpoint Spirituality Centre & Faith Community
"Nunyara", 5 Burnell Drive, Belair, SA 5052
phone: (08) 8178 0048
email: stillpoint@internode.on.net
web: www.sa.uca.org.au/goto/stillpoint

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs, 9.30am - 1.30pm
Centre Director: Ann Siddall
Minister of the Community: Rev Gary Stuckey