



What's Up

for people in ministry with children and families
Issue 79.....June 2011

Mission Resourcing Network of the Uniting Church SA

reflection

Three bowls of water As for many of you, the recent Easter break was an opportunity for me to worship — three times in three days!

One sermon stands out from the accumulated years of sermons in my memory bank.

On Maundy Thursday we were told about two bowls of water. The first bowl Jesus used as he washed his disciples feet — demonstrating for us clearly that we are to serve one another. Your ministry with children is a ministry of service (and may sometimes include actual foot-or at least hand-washing).

The second bowl, Pilate used as he washed his hands of responsibility; demonstrating that he had nothing to do with what was happening.

My 'children's ministry' brain kicked in: 'Words, good words, significant words, helpful words. But still words. Why just talk about bowls of water? Why don't you have bowls of water for people (children and adults) to see and perhaps touch?

And then I realised there is a third bowl of water connected with the Easter story. In our church it was right there all along, but covered and set aside — the baptismal font.

We believe that in baptism we are washed clean by Jesus and — rather than having nothing to do with what happened, we are somehow joined to both Jesus' death and his resurrection.

We pray that this term you celebrate that new life that Jesus gives you and the children and families you minister with.

comings and goings

Staff news

Heidi Harding has resigned and finished in her role on Wednesday April 27th. The position of Children and Family State Co-ordinator (half time) was advertised until May 15th. Please pray for a swift and smooth transition and God's wisdom in this process.

Until someone is appointed, please contact Mary Jo and Melissa regarding any support, resourcing, training or advice you are in need of. Our contact details are on page 4. Please contact Jo Lohmeyer regarding the **Church &...** conference.

Commissioning

On Saturday, April 30th, Robin Trudinger was commissioned as Families Pastor to The Corner Uniting Church Playgroups.

The commissioning service was attended by well over 100 people, including children and parents from the playgroups and representatives of the congregation and wider church. There were also people from various organisations in the community that have contributed to the development of The Corner UC's four playgroups. It was a rich mixture of formal/traditional elements and informal/modern ones.

There were outrageous stories, gentle reminders, happy singing and lots of growing going on — well, that was the theme of Steve Taylor's 'sermon'. Robyn has been growing a playgroup ministry at The Corner UC for some years now. It was time to celebrate!



Church & . . . is our major Children's Ministry conference this year. This is a great opportunity to gather together, to network beyond our usual communities and to be resourced well.

We would encourage all key leaders of children's and family ministry to attend and to encourage their ministers, worship coordinators and members of their children's and family team to come for at least a day. Saturday will cater specifically for ministers and worship coordinators but all are welcome to every day. If you're unsure about when to attend or have any questions, please contact us.

For an international speaker, workshops and meals at this price - this really is an opportunity too good to miss!

Church & . . . is about being all that is church with families. It will be a time to experience creative, messy & 'All-Age' worship, explore Fresh Expressions & develop ways for people of all ages, stages & backgrounds to be church together. The conference will include keynote sessions from Lucy Moore as well as a large range of workshops & sharing of local stories.

Lucy Moore is the inspiration behind the fastest growing Fresh Expression Messy Church with over 300 recorded groups in the UK & who knows how many unrecorded ones! Lucy is fun loving, down to earth & has a wealth of knowledge to share about the church & families.

Child Safe Environments

Do you or some one from your congregation need to be trained in Child Safe Environments (formerly 'mandatory reporting')? Or do you need a refresher course (required every three years)?

You can register for one of the following dates or arrange for your congregation to hold your own event:

June 17 at Uniting College full course and refresher

August 27 at Coromandel Valley full course and refresher

Sept 2 at Salisbury full course

October 26 at Uniting College full course and refresher

There are other sessions being held in Clare, Mount Gambier and other locations.

For more details or a registration form, contact Karen unitingcarecomms@uca.sa.org.au or 0429 157 270.

Conference Details

Dates: 4 - 6 August 2011

Thursday & Friday: 9:15 – 3pm for family ministry leaders

Saturday: 9:15 – 4:30pm for all leaders

Where: Uniting College for Leadership & Theology, Brooklyn Park, SA

Cost: \$125 for 3 days or \$75 per day.

Registration: Open now via website.

Website: mrn.sa.uca.org.au/happenings/church-a.html

ChYNC – Children and Youth National Coalition, is an annual Uniting Church gathering of the state children's, youth and young adult's ministry coordinators across Australia. Will Hall (Youth & Young Adults SA Co-ordinator) attended with Melissa (who went due to Heidi's resignation).

The key highlight was spending time with a group of people who are passionate about ministry and conversing about resources, events and directions for these ministry areas for the Uniting Church.

Key conversations and directions are occurring around:

- theological training for leaders in these ministries and on-line courses.
- Safe Churches program (developed in NSW, currently rolling out in NSW & Vic) and wider UC engagement.
- how the children's team can network better nationally and how to support churches in other states who do not have ministry coordinators.
- NCLS will include children aged 8 – 14 this year and youth can complete it online. Children were last included in 2001 so churches are encouraged to include children this year.
- National KCO networking (part of the conversation at ChYNC included ideas from other states on how they are developing KCO Junior Leaders).
- Assembly 2012 with a particular focus on communication: some new ideas, strategies and resources.



Percussion instruments

Most kids of most ages like to make noise. Percussion instruments are a good way of making noise — that can be controlled to some extent. Kids can use percussion instruments with songs. Some prefer it to actually singing. They can use percussion instruments at specific clues in a story, eg ‘and they heard a big wind’ or ‘and they all marched’. They can use percussion instruments to call one another to different activities or places.

One of the simplest and most inexpensive percussion instruments around is a plastic water bottle. Mostly they have ridges or designs of some sort that make interesting sounds when rubbed with a pencil or biro. Partially filled with sand, small stones, beads, dry peas (whatever) and carefully sealed, they make great sounds when shaken. Use your imagination. Let your kids use theirs.

Ministry of Pastor

Sharonne Price, Executive Officer, Pastoral Relations, explains:

The Uniting Church is enthusiastic about lay ministry. Of course! The work of the people of God — the *whole* people of God — is at the heart of the Church’s mission. The Uniting Church is enthusiastic about youth and children’s ministry, and wants to support, recognise and celebrate those in leadership. The Ministry of Pastor is one of the ways the wider church provides oversight, nurture and training for lay people in ministry leadership.

A Pastor is a person whose role includes one or more of the following:

- teaching the beliefs and practices of the Uniting Church
- pastoral oversight of members and/or groups under the auspices of the Uniting Church
- leadership of worship within the Uniting Church
- evangelism or service auspiced by the Uniting Church.

Pastors may be full-time or part-time, salaried or voluntary.

A pastor need not use the title of ‘Pastor’ — it defines the position and the support structures around the appointment as much as it provides a title for ministry.

A Pastor must complete two core competencies:

- understanding the Basis of Union, and the background, organisation and life of the UCA
- understanding the Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice of the UCA and an ability to demonstrate its requirements in practice.

Alongside these core requirements, Pastors work with a Presbytery-appointed helper, a line-manager or supervisor to develop their general competencies — that is, learning what it takes to grow in ministry and develop knowledge and skills for the journey along the way.

So the Ministry of Pastor may be for you! If you would like to learn more, call the Pastoral Relations Team at the Presbytery/Synod Office on 8236 4204. We’d be delighted to assist you as you discern the way forward.

All-age worship ‘Happy Birthday to the Church’, a resource for planning intergenerational worship for Pentecost (this year June 12th). This resource helps congregations organise a worship party catering for people of all ages. It’s a party with a purpose: to be the church that was born at Pentecost, to worship the God of Pentecost, to recall the events of the birth of the church, to remember and celebrate who we are and to enjoy being together as God’s family. The document includes general notes about all age worship and about Pentecost as well as a fully scripted sample service. Download the resource from <http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au/childrens-ministry/all-age-worship.html>.

On the same site you will find an archive of other all-age worship services prepared by the Resource Centre for Children’s and Family Ministry.

Also check out the UC NSW Children’s and Family Ministry site for more great ideas for Pentecost: www.childrensministry.org.au.

Faith Family The theme of the term 2 issue of *Faith Family* is ‘rights and responsibilities’ — what it means for children and in families. This issue will be sent to all congregations who subscribed in 2010. We hope that invoices will be received in June. Payment will need to be made before August 19th to ensure that you receive the next 2 issues. We apologise for the ongoing delays with our invoicing. If you have questions about this please contact us. Subscriptions are still \$1.00 per family per year, plus postage.



Resources to borrow Our corner of the Uniting Church SA Office has bookcases full of a variety of resources for children's and family ministry. They are here for you to browse or borrow.

We have samples of a number of 'Sunday School' curricula, including: KidMo, Light, Living Stories, Tammy Tolman, Come and See Jesus.

We have a full sample set of the new **Seasons of the Spirit** materials.



Seasons of the Spirit is a lectionary-based resource created by an international team of writers and editors representing denominations from Canada, the USA, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand. "One inclusive program integrating the learning, worship, and serving ministries of the church" Ministers and worship leaders will find a wealth of material in the *Fusion (Congregational Life)* resource, while the age-Level (*Encore*) resources span birth to adult.

The *Seasons of the Spirit* year begins with the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season. There will be a discount on orders before the end of August for the 2011/12 year.

Seasons of the Spirit resources are now available in three formats: printed/hard copy; CD (with printed posters and music supplied) and online.

For more about Seasons of the Spirit, contact MediaCom Education Inc (1800 811 311 or by email admin@mediacom.org.au).

If you are using *Seasons of the Spirit* this year, please note that in September *Seasons* departs from the standard lectionary and observes a four-week 'Season of Creation' with September 4th as 'Forest Sunday'. The United Nations has identified 2011 as the Year of Forests, so this can be an extra special celebration.

But wait, there's more: MediaCom are planning a *Seasons of the Spirit* workshop for Sunday July 24th at Rosefield Uniting. This will be an introduction for people who are considering using the resource and encouragement for people already using it. We will bring you more information as details are confirmed.

An Easter Outreach Story from Rae Wilson, Two Wells UC

Just thought I'd paint you a bit of a picture about our little Easter outreach we did.

I was really pleased that at such short notice, and with the support of our CPSW and a few loyal helpers, we had a lovely couple of hours on the Wednesday before Easter at 10am.

There were 15 children who attended. Only one of which I call a "Sunday School" person. The rest attend the local Primary School.

The morning took shape like this:

Children arrived and were either encouraged to colour in a big egg, to be used for a game later (which they did with much enthusiasm), or to make the little baskets and decorate a chocolate cup cake — that they could give to someone else. The baskets also had a little double sided card which said **'At Easter we remember that Jesus died on the cross because He loves us.'** and on the other side **'At Easter we celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead and that He is alive today.'**

When Nathan Wilson (age 9) was asked who he would give his basket to, he chose two people who volunteer in the church's Op Shop.

Then we read an Easter story, followed by Resurrection Eggs which children shared and talked about. The children were very attentive.

One of the mums had put a lot of work into her Easter tomb craft which the children made and took home so they could roll the stone away on Easter Sunday and decorate with butterfly stickers or pick flowers or whatever.

Another mum had an Easter Hunt which the kids all enjoyed. We played the 'Stick the Chicken on the Egg Game' and also a team game where the children ran up and down with an egg on a spoon and put the eggs in the baskets.

This was followed by hot cross buns which one of our church ladies came and prepared for us. All finished by about 12.15 and everyone had fun and were reminded of the First Easter.

Not mind-blowing really, but it had a good feeling.



Nathan Wilson and the Op Shop volunteers to whom he gave his Easter basket

coming soon

For kids

Spin – a ministry training conference for children in grades 3 – 7, organised by Kids R Us.

Saturday July 23rd, 9.20am – 3pm (registration opens at 8.30am)

At Life Christian Centre – 245 Angas St, Adelaide

\$10 per person includes lunch and showbag.

Key speakers are Andrew Shepherd and Josh Greenwood.

Praise and worship, workshops, games and heaps of fun.

A great opportunity for children to meet with other children, to encounter Christ and be equipped for ministry.

Melissa has personally known children whose lives have been changed by attending this conference.

For more information contact Melissa or visit www.kidsrus.org.au/sa.

To register contact Miriam on 0433 969 109 or email miriam.shearer@edgechurch.com.

contact us

Children and Family Ministry Team, Mission Resourcing Network of the Uniting Church South Australia includes Melissa Cellier (Outreach Coordinator) and Mary Jo Zwar (Resource Coordinator). Currently the State Coordinator position is vacant.

Jo Lohmeyer is also part of the team, assisting with events and many administrative details.

Our Contact Details are:

Direct phone number: (08) 8236 4281.

Postal address: Children and Family, Uniting Church, GPO Box 2145, Adelaide, SA 5001.

Office: Uniting Church SA State Office, Level 2, 212 Pirie Street, Adelaide.

Email: children@uca.sa.org.au To contact an individual, use 'mcellier' or 'mzwar' in place of 'children'.

Website: <http://missionresourcing.net.au/childrens-ministry/childrens-and-family-team.html>

The photo on page 1 is from the commissioning of Robyn Trudinger at The Corner UC on April 30th.

