
WELCOME

Wonga Park CRC is a church that is committed to helping people grow in their faith, one step at a time. We believe people do this by encountering God in his living word, through prayer, and in community with other believers.

New here? We would love to meet and connect with you, so please fill in your details on the back of this newsletter, place it in the offering bag and one of our team will contact you. Alternatively send an email to pastor@wpcrc.org.au and we will get in contact with you.

God's Word: We encourage you to take notes in the place provided, to reflect on what God has been saying to you, and to discuss it with your family, friends and children.

Prayer: We have several places in our worship service where we pray. We would also love to pray with you after the service. If you would like someone to pray with you, please remain in the main auditorium and a member of our prayer team will come and pray with you.

Community: We encourage you to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship. We would love to meet you and get to know you more. We have a **cry room** off to the side of the church for parents with infants. During school terms we also run a **Sunday School** program before the church service for high school aged children and during the church service for primary school aged children, and we have a **crèche** for ages 1-5 at the end of the main hallway.

Groups: We have a number of growth groups that meet throughout the week to pray for people, gather around God's word, and care for one another. If you would like to join a group, please contact pastor Chris (pastor@wpcrc.org.au).

"THE TABERNACLE WORKS"

LEVITICUS 16

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of two of Aaron's sons when they approached the presence of the Lord and died.

2 The Lord said to Moses, "Tell your brother Aaron that he may not come whenever he wants into the holy place behind the curtain in front of the mercy seat on the ark or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.

3 "Aaron is to enter the most holy place in this way: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He is to wear a holy linen tunic, and linen undergarments are to be on his body. He is to tie a linen sash around him and wrap his head with a linen turban. These are holy garments; he must bathe his body with water before he wears them. 5 He is to take from the Israelite community two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.

6 "Aaron will present the bull for his sin offering and make atonement for himself and his household. 7 Next he will take the two goats and place them before the Lord at the entrance to the tent of meeting. 8 After

Aaron casts lots for the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other for an uninhabitable place, 9 he is to present the goat chosen by lot for the Lord and sacrifice it as a sin offering. 10 But the goat chosen by lot for an uninhabitable place is to be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement with it by sending it into the wilderness for an uninhabitable place.

11 “When Aaron presents the bull for his sin offering and makes atonement for himself and his household, he will slaughter the bull for his sin offering. 12 Then he is to take a firepan full of blazing coals from the altar before the Lord and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense, and bring them inside the curtain. 13 He is to put the incense on the fire before the Lord, so that the cloud of incense covers the mercy seat that is over the testimony, or else he will die. 14 He is to take some of the bull’s blood and sprinkle it with his finger against the east side of the mercy seat; then he will sprinkle some of the blood with his finger before the mercy seat seven times.

15 “When he slaughters the male goat for the people’s sin offering and brings its blood inside the curtain, he will do the same with its blood as he did with the bull’s blood: He is to sprinkle it against the mercy seat and in front of it. 16 He will make atonement for the most holy place in this way for all their sins because of the Israelites’ impurities and rebellious acts. He will do the same for the tent of meeting that remains among them, because it is surrounded by their impurities. 17 No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the most holy place until he leaves after he has made atonement for himself, his household, and the whole assembly of Israel. 18 Then he will go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it. He is to take some of the bull’s blood and some of the goat’s blood and put it on the horns on all sides of the altar. 19 He is to sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse and set it apart from the Israelites’ impurities.

20 “When he has finished making atonement for the most holy place, the tent of meeting, and the altar, he is to present the live male goat. 21 Aaron will lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the Israelites’ iniquities and rebellious acts — all their sins. He is to put them on the goat’s head and send it away into the wilderness by the man appointed for the task. 22 The goat will carry all their iniquities into a desolate land, and the man will release it there.

23 “Then Aaron is to enter the tent of meeting, take off the linen garments he wore when he entered the most holy place, and leave them there. 24 He will bathe his body with water in a holy place and put on his clothes. Then he must go out and sacrifice his burnt offering and the people’s burnt offering; he will make atonement for himself and for the people. 25 He is to burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar. 26 The man who released the goat for an uninhabitable place is to wash his clothes and bathe his body with water; afterward he may reenter the camp. 27 The bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought into the most holy place to make atonement, must be brought outside the camp and their hide, flesh, and waste burned. 28 The one who burns them is to wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may reenter the camp.

29 “This is to be a permanent statute for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month you are to practice self-denial and do no work, both the native and the alien who resides among you. 30 Atonement will be made for you on this day to cleanse you, and you will be clean from all your sins before the Lord. 31 It is a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you must practice self-denial; it is a permanent statute. 32 The priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as high priest in place of his father will make atonement. He will put on the linen garments, the holy garments, 33 and make atonement for the most holy place. He will make atonement for the tent of meeting and the altar and will make atonement for the priests and all the people of the assembly. 34 This is to be a permanent statute for you, to make atonement for the Israelites once a year because of all their sins.” And all this was done as the Lord commanded Moses. -- Leviticus 16:1-34 (CSB)

QUESTIONS:

1. What stands out to you most about the book of Leviticus? Why?
2. What does Leviticus teach us about God's character?
3. What should be your attitude when you enter God's presence?
4. How is God's holiness and our holiness related according to this book?
5. How are the justice of God and mercy of God reconciled?
6. How does it point to Jesus?
7. What was the role of the scapegoat? What did the goat symbolize?
8. According to Psalm 103:12, what does God do with a believer's sin? Have you asked God to remove your sin?

WHAT'S HAPPENING



DIARY



Sunday 19 December

10:00 am Online and in person Worship Service

4.00 pm Zoom for Youth (Online)

GIVING

In our church we have 2 offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various ministry organisations we support. Today it is to the Diaconate. If you would like to support this work you can do so in a few different ways:

In church giving: Simply add your offering to the offering bag.

If using bank transfer: BSB: 063 167 Acc: 1015 8356.

If the offering is for the first collection please add your name and SUN 1 in the description line and if the offering is for the second collection add SUN 2

Any additional gifts for the Deacons are always appreciated and will go towards supporting people within and outside of our congregation.

For the Deacons BSB: 063167 Acc. 1015 8372

Via Church App: Online or via our church app: <https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

2ND OFFERING—19/12/21— THE DIACONATE



Ene	Crous	4 December	Mariaane	Van der Merwe	15 December
Gretchen	Fourie	4 December	Ken	Vanderjagt	17 December
Jo	Reed	5 December	Sarah	Pretorius	22 December
James	Blashki	14 December	Colin	Arnold	29 December



Sunday School Coordinator

We are seeking a volunteer to take up the role of Sunday School coordinator from the start of Term 1, 2022 as Nicky will now be stepping down from this role. For more information, even if you are only curious, please reach out to Chris or to Nicky who will happily discuss all the details with you. We can ensure that the transition is gradual, with plenty of support for the new coordinator whilst they settle into the new role.

CLASSIS MAROONDAH is seeking a new CLERK

Role:

A month prior to meetings, send out a call for agenda items. Compile the agenda material and email it to the churches. Work with the other members of the moderamen to arrange any logistical details (eg meeting location, examiners)

Attend the regular meetings in March, July and November, together with any extra meetings and take minutes of the meeting.

Distribute draft minutes and approved minutes to the churches in Australia and New Zealand. Many classes and presbyteries distribute draft minutes but some only distribute aired minutes

Deal with any incoming and outgoing correspondence needs.

Maintain rosters and records of decisions.

For further info please be in touch with Nigel Cunningham at classis.maroonдах.clerk@gmail.com



Our next turn to help at the Dining Room Mission is on the **28th of December**, just a few days after Christmas.

We will be doing a BBQ and encouraging the guests to grab a plate and be served the bread rolls, rissoles, bacon, cheese, lettuce and tomato and sauce.

We also will have an alternative meal available and some desserts.

For this I will need some volunteers. If you think you can help on that afternoon/ evening please contact me. The persons working the BBQ's might need to be there from about 4pm and the persons serving from about 5 pm.

I look forward to your response.

Joy van Veen.



WORSHIP TEAM are looking for Singers and Instrumentalists to contribute to worship

If this is something you feel you would like to become involved in, please give Mia or Hennie van Wyk a call to discuss to see how you can become involved. Phone: Hennie 0420204538

BUDGET UPDATE

AS AT END OF OCTOBER 2021

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
FUNDS IN	\$19,417	\$16,616
EXPENSES	\$18,914	\$12,442

WEDDING INVITATION:

An open invitation is extended to all to attend the wedding ceremony of Alister Bennie and Adri Pretorius at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Camberwell at 12.00pm on the 15th January, 2022



Session Chair Monthly Update

December 2021

A lot of things happen in our church each month. Most of us know about only a few of them, so we don't get to see the overall scope of everything that's happening. So most months I'll aim to put together an overview of what's been going on. December is probably a dumb time to start as I'll probably skip January, but I thought it was worth getting it underway anyway.

Starting with Chris:

Chris has been working closely with Michelle, getting her up to speed with the mammoth amount of administration required in the church. He has found it to be a joy to work with her and have that load lightened so he can focus on other areas.

We are continuing our preaching series from Garden to Garden City. Chris has been delighted with the positive feedback from so many people. It seems like this series really fills a gap for people in seeing the big picture story of Scripture.

Chris is also working with 3 couples in pre-marriage counselling at the moment. They meet or met weekly for a number of weeks, for a couple of hours each. This takes up a lot of time, but is such a worthwhile investment in their faith life and future marriages.

He has met with, or is in the process of meeting with, all the ministry coordinators for ongoing support and ministry development. He is particularly excited about some plans being developed for growing our prayer ministry in the new year.

The new youth program has also been announced for the new year (postponed from Term 4 this year due to covid restrictions). GEMS finished at the end of Term 3 and will be joining up with the new youth program in 2022.

For the last month the young adults have enjoyed that restrictions have eased which means they can meet freely. Kasha outlines that they've spent the last month catching up on Wednesday Nights for board game and a time of fellowship which wasn't the same via zoom. Just a few weeks ago they went out to a restaurant for a big group catch up before Michelle flew out to Germany. They've found it great to catch up with one another and continue building the relationships they have, and they're looking forward to the Young Adults retreat happening in early January.

Regarding Session:

Herman Linde has taken up his role as Elder. Martin & Neil are taking on the treasurer role, with Martin as primary, and Lourens has given them a handover as he finishes up as Elder and Treasurer. Martin

will also take over the role of Public Officer (our church is an incorporated body). Michelle has started her administrator role and, in conjunction, is appointed as Session Clerk (a role required in our Church Order).

The AGM has been postponed until February in the hope that everyone can attend in person rather than on Zoom.

Childsafe is now a regular agenda item for Session meetings, and Lynette has been keeping our church family updated with the recent changes and improvements to child safety and legislative requirements.

We're looking to continue our support of Brendan Meyerink in his new central role with the Pioneers Faith mission. We're asking for an update from the van der Wels on their support needs.

The elders and deacons are planning to meet together regularly (quarterly?) and started this with a joint dinner.

The deacons are continuing to support various families within the church. The food kitchen involvement is continuing well. They also dealt with one of our trees which took down the Yarra Road powerlines during the storm a few weeks ago, which involved insurance claims and engaging contractors.

Worship services will continue to be broadcast and recorded as we all meet together again. For this we are heavily reliant on Cassie and James – they could really do with some support. The music team, too, is reliant on a small number of singers, and instrumentalists in particular. The structure of the services will undergo some minor ongoing tweaking over the next couple of months, but nothing dramatic.

I want to remind you of hiring of our church and church hall. Recently, Mia held her students' concert in our church, and I arranged a car club barbecue in our hall – it's a great location to use for such events. One of my guests said his expectation of a church hall was something dark and old, while our hall was a very pleasant surprise and the sort of place he's happy to visit. Don't underestimate the opportunity our hall hire provides to change people's perceptions of churches and Christians. It's part of the first of our 4 Es – Engaging with our community. Contact Michelle for hall hire details.

Finally, can I encourage you to look for opportunities to remind friends, family and fellow colleagues or students about the reality of Christmas. It might be a word or two, a note on social media or an online bulletin board, or what you write in a Christmas card if you still send those. As an example, I included this in my monthly report for my photography club (so 50+ people read it), and I think it's worth repeating here as well:

“Let me wish you a wonderful and precious Christmas. We can be distracted by shopping, sorting out presents and arranging family gatherings. We can get annoyed by Christmas Carols played endlessly in shops and everywhere, always (for reasons unfathomable to me) “updated” to the singing style of the 1950s. But central to Christmas is God's gift - offered to anyone and everyone who will accept it - of the Christ, to restore the love relationship with God that he designed us for - a gift that was fulfilled at the first Easter. Tinsel and lights are pretty. Giving gifts to friends and loved ones is precious. But there is a greater gift that is the reason for a merry Christmas to also be a joyous Christmas.”

So – let me wish you a joyous Christmas.

Peter

PLEASE COMMIT TO PRAY EACH DAY OF THIS WEEK FOR MINISTRIES IN INDIA AND NEPAL

23 DAYS OF PRAYER

19. Sunday. Pray that all who receive piglets for income generation (Nepal) might come to understand that a believer from another culture seeks to bless them with an extra source of family income in our Saviour's name.

<https://worldtransform.org.au/collections/cc21/products/cc21-19?variant=39581102571601>

20. Monday. Pray for desperately poor families where parents struggle to be able to provide school supplies. Income generation programs (rearing goats or chickens) are presented to the poor of any faith, in Jesus name by our ministry teams.

<https://worldtransform.org.au/collections/cc21/products/cc21-20?variant=39581102637137>

21. Tuesday. Medical Care - is almost non existent in remote tribal communities. Please pray for the safety and the ministry of dedicated teams that minister. Pray mostly that God would touch the hearts of those who are helped by this loving care.

<https://worldtransform.org.au/collections/cc21/products/cc21-21?variant=39581136355409>

22 Wednesday. Victims of Aids are often too weak to work the land. Aids orphans are being cared for by grandparents. Pray that God would bless small micro businesses which are set up to generate some extra income.

<https://worldtransform.org.au/collections/cc21/products/cc21-22?variant=39581103128657>

23 Thursday. Pray for struggling widows who, because of Aids, have no bread winner and can't afford to keep their children properly clothed and fed. Pray that the little financial support that comes to them through this Christian ministry will "bring many sons and daughter to glory."

PRAYER POINTS

"If you believe in prayer at all, expect God to hear you. If you do not expect, you will not have. God will not hear you unless you believe He will hear you; but if you believe He will, He will be as good as your faith." - Charles Spurgeon

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That the Lord will give us the courage to offer ourselves to God as Mary did for him to do with us as he pleases.

"I am the Lord's slave," said Mary. "May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:38 HCSB)

Give praise and thanks to our God for the opportunity he grants us to be used by him for the furtherance of his kingdom here on earth.

Please pray for those who are struggling with illness or disability, pray that the Lord will be gracious to them and grant them healing.

Please pray that those who are near to us but do not acknowledge Jesus as Lord will be confronted with the truth of the gospel this Christmas.

Please pray for those who are separated from loved ones, who are lonely or for whom Christmas is anything but a time of joy, may they find their peace and comfort in Jesus.

Please pray for those who are homeless, who have a poor relationship with family or who allow their pride to override their need for reconciliation with family members.

Please pray for our nation that the Lord will use this time of year to soften people's hearts and make them open to the truth of Jesus coming for their sake.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Vietnam. Since the 1990s, conversions to Protestant Christianity have escalated markedly among the ethnic minorities of the Central Highlands as communities have gained access to Gospel radio and Scriptures in their own languages. Despite their minority status, Vietnamese Christians are massively over-represented among the country's pro-democracy and human rights advocates and activists. Unfortunately, religious freedom is but a mirage: it appears in the Constitution but is eviscerated by law.

The Communist regime justifies its persecution by falsely accusing Christians of crimes against national security: eg. 'Undermining the unity policy' (penal code Article 116) and spreading anti-state propaganda [i.e. negative/ critical reporting] (penal code Article 117). Vietnam's revised national security laws (enacted January 2018) and its new Cyber Security Law (enacted January 2019) have made getting information out of Vietnam a very risky business, especially as Vietnam develops into a heavily militarised surveillance state.

The Vietnam Human Rights Network's 2020-2021 report lists 288 prisoners of conscience. Among them is Protestant pastor and religious liberty advocate Nguyen Trung Ton (50). Ton was arrested at his home in Thanh Hóa, north Vietnam, on 30 July 2017 and charged with 'carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the People's administration'. On 5 April 2018 a Hanoi Court sentenced Ton to 12 years in prison. Before his arrest, Ton was abducted and severely beaten with police batons, leaving him with serious leg injuries. Denied medical care, Ton's legs have never healed, leaving him barely able to walk.

Also on the list is music teacher Nguyen Nang Tinh (45). Tinh was arrested at his home in Nghe An, north Vietnam, on 29 May 2019. On 15 November 2019 a lower court in Nghe An sentenced Tinh to 11 years in prison and five years house arrest for 'conducting propaganda against the state', ostensibly for Facebook posts deemed 'anti-state'. Authorities have repeatedly refused Tinh (a devout Roman Catholic) access to a priest. In March 2021 Tinh's wife raised concerns about his deteriorating health – specifically joint pain, decaying teeth and kidney stones.

The Central Highlands provinces of Dak Lak, Gia Lai and Phu Yen have long been a hot-bed of repressive and violent persecution of ethnic minority Christians. Hmong and Montagnard/Dagar Protestants are routinely, and without justification, treated as subversives and separatists. Persecution includes intimidation, harassment, threats, violence and Cultural Revolution-style kangaroo courts where believers are publicly shamed and pressured to 'confess their crimes' and renounce their faith. The Campaign To Abolish Torture In Vietnam lists 79 'Montagnard Prisoners of Conscience Serving Prison Sentences and House Arrest Amounting to Eight or More Years'. All are Christians – Roman Catholics and Protestants. Most are pastors, priests and religious liberty advocates. Some have been tortured and many are suffering failing health. Almost all have been charged with 'undermining the unity policy' (penal code Article 116). Of particular concern is the prisoner Y Yich. A Montagnard Protestant from Gia Lai, Pastor Y Yich was arrested in 2013 and sentenced to 12 years in prison plus three to five years' probation for 'spreading Dega [Montagnard] Protestantism, using the internet to communicate with Montagnard pastors and "FULRO reactionaries" [i.e. Montagnard Protestants] in the US and meeting with other former prisoners of conscience' (under penal code Article 116). Previously imprisoned from 2006-2011, Pastor Y Yich is in poor health due to torture in detention, high blood pressure, rheumatism and stomach inflammation.

In May 2021, just as Vietnam's devastating fourth wave of COVID-19 was taking hold, a couple who attended a meeting of the Revival Ekklesia Mission in Ho Chi Minh City, tested positive for COVID-19. Though the meeting comprised a mere 11 believers (everyone else was participating on-line) and the church had been meticulous in its adherence to health orders, the government seized the opportunity to attack Protestant Christianity. In an appalling case of malicious scapegoating, the REM church was blamed for the outbreak and criminally charged with the crime of 'spreading dangerous infectious diseases in humans' (penal code Article 240). REM's leaders have been publicly blamed and shamed on state-run media and social media. On 14 October police in Go Vap District questioned REM's pastors - the Reverend Vo Xuan Loan and her husband, the Reverend Phuong Van Tan - after 11 other REM members were also interrogated.

PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WILL:

- continue to build His Church in Vietnam; as repression intensifies and the darkness deepens, may many Vietnamese awaken to the moral depravity of atheism, the deadness and insufficiency of false religion and the sufficiency of the living Christ to transform and renew;
- intervene for the dozens of Christians cruelly incarcerated in horrific conditions simply for leading unregistered house churches, speaking out against injustice and corruption, and/or promoting righteousness, liberty, and human rights. Lord in your mercy, encourage, sustain, and deliver them! (Psalm 146);
- encourage and bless Pastors Loan and Tan, of Ho Chi Minh City's Revival Ekklesia Mission, and fill them with peace; also pray for their attorney, Dang Dinh Manh, that the Lord will equip him and use him, that justice may prevail. - Source @ www.ElizabethKendal.com 2021.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Most of our pastoral care takes place within our growth groups, but we also have a dedicated pastoral care team to supplement this. If you would like to be visited, please feel free to contact any of our pastoral care team

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Kasha Schubert
0450 012 177

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

Michelle Organtzoglou
0488 777 517

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

Ina Du Plessis
0425 833 596

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

GROWTH GROUPS

We have a number of growth groups in our church, please contact the person listed below to connect to one. We have a few specific groups (noted below) as well as some general groups.

Sunday afternoons (Afrikaans in person)

Contact: Lourens Geldenhuys

insightabs@bigpond.com

0409 990 398

Monday Nights (currently online)

Contact Peter Williams

pw4@live.com.au

0431 500 006

Wednesday Nights

(Young Adults, hybrid in person and online)

Contact: Kasha Schubert

kasha.schubert@hotmail.com

0450 012 177

Wednesday Nights (In person)

Contact: Lynette Pretorius

pretorius.lynette@gmail.com

0423 889 912

Wednesday Nights (Online)

Contact: Neil Bester

neil_bester@yahoo.com

0429 569 149

and Martin Van der Merwe

martin.vandermerwe@bigpond.com

0458 908 148

Wednesday Nights (Online)

Contact: Chris Pretorius

pastor@wpcrc.org.au

0423 889 913

Thursday Mornings (In person)

Contact: Wendy Harrison

wendy@tagroofing.com.au

0407 801 630

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

ELDERS

Pastor

Chris Pretorius
0423 889 913
pastor@wpcrc.org.au

Youth Pastor

Position vacant

Chairman and Worship Services

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Finance

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

Growth Groups

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

Harry Berends
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**Session Clerk & Church
Administrator**

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Lizet Kritzinger
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Dale Reed
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Child Safe Coordinator

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

MINISTRY LEADERS

Prayer Ministry

prayer@wpcrc.org.au
Herman Linde
0411 069 808

Music Ministry

Mia Van Wyk
0420 817 800

Sunday School Coordinator

Nicky Bester
0439 084 987

Audio Visual

Cassie Van Veen
0499 230 872

Crèche ministry

Sarah Pretorius
0409 221 277

Kids Hope Coordinator

Enè Crous
0450 211 133

CAP Money Course

Neil Bester
0429 569 149
Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 14

CONNECT WITH US

If you would like someone from church to connect with you, please fill in this page, tear it off and put it in the offering bag.

Your name:

Contact number:

Contact email:

Notes: