
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).

6TH MARCH, 2022—BAPTISM POINTS US TO JESUS

John 1:1-13

CHAPTER 1 PROLOGUE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, 13 who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God. -- John 1:1-13 (CSB)

SERMON NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What does our Baptism signify and why do we baptise infants, not just adults?
- 2) Why is our baptism in some sense not really about us?
- 3) Why did John baptise Jesus?
- 4) What temptations do you face? What does it mean that Jesus also experienced temptations?
- 5) Compare the preaching of John and Jesus. How was their message the same? How was their message different?
- 6) How do you think John could "prepare the way for the Lord?" and "make His paths straight?"
- 7) In what ways could you do this kind of work in your own life?

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Sunday 6 March

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 this Sunday goes toward **Kids Hope**. 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—6/3/22— KIDS HOPE

KIDS HOPE AUS is Australia's largest early intervention, school-based mentoring program. It has been impacting the lives of children in Australian schools since 2004. Over that time thousands of disadvantaged children have been matched with mentors in primary schools.

Caring relationships with mentors have a significant impact on children because they help to meet their emotional and social development needs and enhance their capacity to learn. KIDS HOPE AUS mentored children consistently show increased self-esteem, confidence and resilience.

<https://www.kidshopeaus.org.au/about-us>



Dirk	Schuring	7 March	Hannah	Arnold	13 March
Sanita	Geldenhuis	10 March	Monique	Trigg	14 March
Johanna	Rademan	11 March	Peter	Faber	17 March



The Newsletter team is looking for another volunteer!

Unfortunately one of our team members is unable to continue as part of the team and we are looking for a replacement. Full training will be given and you don't need to be a computer wizz to join. You will only be rostered on for two weeks out of four and we are flexible to change rosters around your other commitments. For more information, please email the newsletter team at newsletter@wpcrc.org.au or call Enè on Mob: 0450211133.



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

To help encourage our congregation to participate in our wonderful Music Ministry, we are opening the first Thursday of every month's practice session at 7.30pm to any member who would like to come and "jam" with our regular musicians/singers. So please come along if you want to try some of our percussion instruments or, bring your own, we would even encourage you to have a go at singing if you like. Who knows you may even discover that you have a hidden talent.



This Sunday is the first Sunday in Lent – that forty day period in the Christian liturgical calendar during which, traditionally, we remember the days leading up to the suffering and death of our Lord on Good Friday, and culminating in his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Traditionally this has also been a period of giving up, especially in the form of fasting, in imitation of our Lord himself who, at the beginning of his ministry, fasted during his forty days of temptation in the desert.

Whilst physical fasting is not an observance honoured by most Christians in the Reformed tradition, we are certainly encouraged to, especially during this season of Lent, remember what our Lord gave up for our sake. This is nowhere better expressed than in that well-known passage in Philippians 2, where Paul writes that our Lord, *"being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!"*



MONTHLY

February 2022 Issue #149



COLLEGE NEWS

It is hard to believe that we are already into the second month of 2022. We wondered whether we would be able to commence with our on-campus program but are pleased to report that it is "all systems go" for a return to campus. We began the year with a Hebrew Intensive next week (14–18 February), followed by the formal start of Semester 1 (for both on and off-campus students) on the 22nd of February. It was a blessing to resume face-to-

face classes and in-person interactions after months of online-only classes. We are very aware that things may change on a dime, but we are very thankful for this opportunity, and we look forward to rebuilding our presence in the Melbourne CBD. In addition to this, we will, of course, continue to use technology to connect with our many off-campus students who are scattered across Australia, New Zealand, and further afield.

We remain committed to our mission of raising, equipping, and supporting people of all generations for Christ-centered life and ministry. We will do this by continuing to offer a sound Reformed and evangelical theological education for the Lord's people in this part of the world. A new year brought no change to our core vision, and we will persist in our efforts to orient everything that we do to align with this vision. Please pray that we will have a God-honouring semester as a college community and that we may contribute to the sharing of the light of Christ with many who desperately need to hear the Good News.

<https://mailchi.mp/0559e005d000/rtc-monthly-april-2021-issue-6177701?e=697a3db4e7>

National Church Life Survey.

Thanks to all who have filled in the survey. In the past week we have had a positive response and as of the time of this writing this now applies to 51 people. Even so, this is still but a part of the whole congregation. As we have received some extension of time we would continue to urge all who have not yet done so to complete the survey a.s.a.p., as it is an important instrument to allow us to gauge the state, direction, wishes and possible concerns of our congregation, which will help session in our future planning.

The anonymous survey should take no more than about 15 minutes of your time, and does not need you to do any writing, as all questions are of the multiple-choice variety.

You will need a church code and all those eligible should have received this in several emails.

Thanks so much for your cooperation.

Harry Berends - survey co-ordinator.

YOUTH | YOUNG ADULTS | PARENTS

EQUIP NIGHT



20TH MARCH | SCORESBY SECONDARY COLLEGE | 5 PM

Session Chair's monthly update for February 2022

Young Adults ministry, led by Kasha Schubert. The Young Adults has started up for the year. They are back to face to face as well as some people joining in online. They had a great time at their weeklong retreat in Bendigo early January, and even Chris was able to pop in for an overnight visit.

Kasha has also been busily preparing for the upcoming State Youth Service Equip evening hosted by One Hope CRC at Scoresby Secondary College 20th March at 5pm.

It's a great way to connect with other members of our denomination and encourage each other and young adults and families in our faith journey's. He would really like to encourage people to attend.

Our **Deacons** are continuing to help many people from within our congregation with meals and practical help in times of need. They are thankful for all the church members who they can call upon for support in many ways. The Deacons are also continuing to help the Dining Room mission once a month with meals. The number of people attending has risen from 60 to about 75 now. A big thank you to all those who faithfully serve in this ministry.

There has been a lot of behind-the-scenes work done here at church organised by Dale Reed (much appreciated) who is head of Facilities Management Committee. Dale could use more helpers to join the FMC so that we can maintain our beautiful premises and put off the need for major repairs.

Music Ministry. Mia and Hennie van Wyk coordinate the music ministry team. The team is desperate for more volunteers.

To encourage those talented musical people in our church family who may be a little shy in coming forward, the music team have decided that on the first Thursday of each month, the 7.30pm rehearsals will be open for anyone to join - whether it's to sing or try some instruments. Anyone who wants to come and "jam" with our musicians is welcome.

Children's Ministry.—Sarah Pretorius has taken over the leading of the Sunday School and reports that it is running well. She sends a huge thank you to all those who have volunteered to help – the roster for the first two terms is full.

Audio Visual – Cassie van Veen leads this ministry that is a critical support to our worship services. The Audio Visual team is still busy as usual and running well. Cassie appreciates those who have signed up to help but the team could still use more volunteers please.

Enè has stepped down as **Kids Hope** coordinator. Although she continues to be passionate about this role and mentoring, due to Covid regulations she has limited access to the school premises and can no longer perform this function efficiently. Dale Reed has agreed to take her place. Many thanks, Enè, for your long and faithful service in this role.

The **Pastoral Care** team is continuing to meet monthly, and has been arranging that people who are not members of Growth Groups are contacted from time to time.

The **Elders** / Session continue to meet monthly. Abridged minutes of the meetings are published each month in the newsletter (thanks Michelle!) so I won't duplicate the information here. Peter Williams will be away for most of March, so Herman Linde, who is deputy chair of Session, will be the acting leader for the month.

Peter Williams

Throwback Thursday

NEWSLETTER July 2007

CONGRATULATIONS to Hans and Corrie VanderWalt, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary week ago.



Pray for all our choir members who will be traveling overseas next week: Sandra and Lorensz, Henk Knol, Adrian Van Poppel, Phillip Hartono, Henry and Louise Jansen.

May you sing to your hearts' content! Tim, Chris and Josh Vanderveen also left for Belgium and Munich yesterday. We pray that you may all return safe and sound in due time.

This week we give thanks for Michael and James Van Veen, who do a great job on the sound each week and afterwards put the sermon on to CDs for those who want a 'take away' sermon! The CDs cost a little \$2.50 (to cover costs).

We give thanks also for all our musicians, the 'music choosers' and singers who continually make our services a joy to participate in.

...He has shown you, O man what is good—and what does the Lord require of you—but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God...

A small boy is sent to bed by his father. Five minutes later....."Da-ad...."

"What?"

"I'm thirsty. Can you bring a drink of water?"

"No, You had your chance. Lights out!"

Five minutes later: "Da-aaaad....."

"WHAT?"

"I'm THIRSTY. Can I have a drink of water??"

I told you NO! If you ask again, I'll have to smack you!!"

Five minutes later....."Daaaa-aaaad....."

"WHAT!"

"When you come in to smack me, can you bring a drink of water?"



An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mummy, will you sleep with me tonight?"

The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug.

"I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice:

"The big sissy."



A certain little girl, when asked her name, would reply, "I'm Mr. Sugarbrown's daughter."

Her mother told her this was wrong, she must say,

"I'm Jane Sugarbrown."

The Vicar spoke to her in Sunday School, and said, "Aren't you Mr. Sugarbrown's daughter?"

She replied, "I thought I was, but mother says I'm not."

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"

Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."



What did Mrs Cook say when Captain Cook died? "That's the way the Cookie crumbles."

PRAYER POINTS

As well could you expect a plant to grow without air and water as to expect your heart to grow without prayer and faith.” Charles Spurgeon

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

That our God will forgive us all our sins, even the ones we don't realise we do as we humbly seek his mercy and grace.

For You, Lord, are kind and ready to forgive, rich in faithful love to all who call on You. LORD, hear my prayer; listen to my plea for mercy. (Psalm 86:5-6 HCSB)

- ◇ Give praise and thanks to our gracious Lord and Saviour who, rich in love stands ready to forgive all our sins.
- ◇ Give praise and thanks to God that Ina de Graaf was able to celebrate her 90th birthday last week.
- ◇ Pray for the newly married couples in our church community, pray that the Lord will watch over them as they seek to live to please him in a society that has largely lost its respect for godly marriage.
- ◇ Please continue to pray for those suffering from dementia and their loved ones, Hanna and Johann van der Walt, Suzanne and Phillip Nel and Henk and Maria Knol.
- ◇ Please pray for the people in Queensland and NSW who have been badly affected by the floods, pray that this will cause many to seek the God of all comfort.
- ◇ Please pray for the people of Ukraine suffering in the war inflicted on them by Russia, pray that the Lord will intervene and bring an end to this tragedy.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in China. President Xi Jinping addresses the conference. On 3 and 4 December the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) held a National Conference in Beijing on Work Related to Religious Affairs. President Xi Jinping made it clear that much more work needs to be done to prevent religious 'propaganda' from spreading over the internet. Xi called for more surveillance and control of the internet, and for penalties to apply to religious believers who use the internet to proselytise for their faith or criticise the CCP.

On 20 December China's State Bureau of Religious Affairs posted to its website the regime's new draconian Measures on the Administration of Internet Religious Information Services. [Full text (in English)] The Measures will come into force on 1 March. From 1 March only organisations and individuals with an Internet Religious Information Services License may engage in 'religious information services' (i.e., may provide or disseminate religious information via the internet). To receive a License, the applicant must be 'a mainland resident with Chinese nationality' (thus, no foreign organisations or individuals allowed). Furthermore, they must be 'a legal person organisation or an unincorporated organisation legally established within the territory of the People's Republic of China'. In other words, only CCP-approved registered Churches and CCP-approved licensed clerics may apply for an Internet Religious Information Services License.

According to the State Administration for Religious Affairs, the Measures will 'prevent illegal religious organisations and individuals [e.g., unregistered house Churches and their 100 million members] from wooing believers and engaging in illegal activities on the internet.' Without a License, it will be illegal to 'do virtual missionary work and religious education and training, post the content of sermons, or forward related content'. It will be illegal also to 'organise, broadcast live, or record religious activities'. Meanwhile, it remains illegal to publish content that induces minors (aged under 18) to believe in religion. Any organisation or individual who uploads religious information to the internet without a License, will have their internet service shut down.

Furthermore, they will be categorised as having no social credit score. Chinese citizens need social credit to participate in the economy. Lack of social credit leads to denial of access to goods and services - everything from healthcare and education to jobs and transport. It is a serious penalty. On 8 February attorney Huang Deqi penned an article entitled: 'Where Does Faith Go in the Era of Internet Closure? - On the Administrative Measures of Internet Religious Information.' Huang argued that the Measures violate not merely China's own constitution, but multiple conventions China has signed. With China being a totalitarian surveillance state, it was only a matter of hours before the article disappeared from the web. The Measures on the Administration of Internet Religious Information Services herald a dramatic tightening of CCP control over religion and a major crackdown on freedom of speech. The CCP's aim is to have 'Sinicised' religion (i.e., religion that serves the CCP) as the only religion being seen, heard and accessed in China. 'Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails' (Proverbs 19:21 ESV). –

PLEASE PRAY SPECIFICALLY THAT GOD WILL:

- pour a spirit of deep peace over the Church in China and help her focus not on the denial of internet access but on the faithfulness and power of our awesome Triune God: our Almighty Father who created and fills all heaven and earth; our Saviour Jesus Christ whom the Father has exalted as Lord over all; and the ever[1]present Holy Spirit who never has been and never will be constrained by CCP 'measures'.
- grace Chinese Christian organisations, Churches and individuals with great wisdom and knowledge of His will, so they might be 'wise as serpents and innocent as doves' (Matthew 10:16) as they carefully and faithfully navigate their way through days of escalating repression and persecution.
- redeem these dark days; may Christ continue to build His Church in China (Matthew 16:18). May the Holy Spirit prepare the fields for the Gospel seed that the Church will continue to faithfully scatter by any means possible (Matt 13:1-23).

PRAYER MEETING



Prayer meeting to be held on Thursday the 10th of March at 7.30pm in the church

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

Chris Pretorius
0423 889 913

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

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

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Herman Linde
0411 069 808

Ina Du Plessis
0425 833 596

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

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

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 (Online)

Contact: Chris Pretorius

pastor@wpcrc.org.au

0423 889 913

Wednesday Nights (In person)

Contact: Lynette Pretorius

pretorius.lynette@gmail.com

0423 889 912

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
0421 302 418

ADMINISTRATION

Session Clerk & Church Administrator

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admin@wpcrc.org.au

DEACONS

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Sandra Stork
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Dale Reed
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prayer@wpcrc.org.au
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0411 069 808

Music Ministry

Mia Van Wyk
0420 817 800

Sunday School Coordinator

Sarah Pretorius
0409 221 277

Audio Visual

Cassie Van Veen
0499 230 872

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: