



*We believe we are called by God to be an inclusive
Christian community, committed to justice,
learning, service and care.*



BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH

More than a Sunday Church...

Week of 22nd Dec 2017 ~ Service on Sunday 24th Dec 2017

10am – Rev Phil Hoffmann

Worship Leaders: Chris & Wes Bray

Lectionary readings – 24th December (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16 • Lk 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4, 19-26 • Rom 16:25-27 • Lk 1:26-38

Next week – 31st December – (Christmas 1)

Combined Service – 10am

Followed by a shared morning tea to farewell Rev Phil Hoffmann

Preacher - Rev Phil Hoffmann

Worship Leader – Bruce Marriott

Reflections on the Reading

Reading: The Gospel of Luke chapters 1 & 2 [Fourth Sunday of Advent]

Can you find yourself in the characters of the Christmas story?

Elizabeth and Zechariah ... tired out by life, but sensing the promise of a new hope.

Joseph ... not understanding at all, but faithful and loyal despite.

Star-gazers from the East ... travellers, keen to know, not wanting to miss out.

Shepherds ... acclaiming a baby in meagre circumstance, "just as ours are born"

Mary ... afraid, but pondering, treasuring such joy in her heart.

The blessings of this wondrous love be taken into your spirits this
Christmas.

Rev Phil Hoffmann

This Week

Christmas Service Times

24th Dec at 10am – Combined Service

24th Dec at 7pm – Christmas Eve Family Service

25th Dec at 9am – Christmas Day Service

Final Service of Rev Phil Hoffmann

There will be a shared lunch after a Combined 10am service on Sunday, 31st December in the Main Hall to commemorate and farewell Rev Phil Hoffmann. Please bring a plate of food to share. Donations towards a farewell present can be made to Jacqui in the office, or to Jan Furness or EFT into our bank account as follows:-

BSB: 805 007, A/C No. 00710955, A/C Name: Blackwood Uniting Church
Reference: P Hoffmann Gift

Roundabout Upgrade - Progress Report

The Dept of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) have presented Mitcham Council with a revised upgrade plan which includes replacing the “left turn slip lane” from Main Rd. to Coromandel Parade with a simple “left turn” similar to the present situation. The present path and an approximately 13m long strip of lawn would be retained between the Church garden and the roundabout. DPTI is still recommending that the War Memorial be relocated to the park beside the “Save the Children” Op Shop. A final decision is likely in late January 2018.

Bob Lyon for BUC Property Committee

Office Hours during Christmas period

Jacqui will be taking leave from Friday, 22nd December, returning Monday, 22nd January. If you have any urgent business please contact Jacqui on her mobile 0411 057 393 or email using the work email office@blackwooduc.org.au. Penny Harper will still be coming in Tuesday mornings and Fridays 9:30am to 3pm and Chris Bray will be available upon request.

The Rev Dr Adrian Brown will be available via phone (0417 785 370) or email adriangaye@internode.on.net for any urgent pastoral issues.

BUC Events

Christmas for Everyone! God is with us

Join us at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve for an interactive telling of the Nativity story – roles for everyone & lots of fun!

Property Working Bee

The Property Committee will be holding a working bee on Monday 15th January commencing at 9:00 am. In a true spirit of inclusiveness, members of the congregations are invited to join us for the day. No matter what your area of expertise – painting walls, cleaning chairs, removing cobwebs from a 6 metre ceiling, etc – you will be able to demonstrate your talents to an appreciative audience.

Movie Screening – “The Stones Cry Out”

BUC in conjunction with the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network will be hosting the above movie screening on January 21st at 6:30pm. This screening is sponsored by the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network, an organisation of approx. 500 people across Australia and across more than ten denominations. They are Australian Christians seeking lasting peace for the people of Palestine and Israel. Peter Cranwell recently saw the movie and highly recommends it. Nibbles & drinks will be served from 6:30pm, movie starts at 7:15pm, followed by ½ hour of Q & A's. See poster following.

Neville Pope's 70th Birthday Celebrations

Neville Pope will be celebrating his 70th birthday on 28th January at the Mitcham Institute (103 Princes Rd, Mitcham) from 2-4:30 pm and anyone from the church is welcome. There will be entertainment and dancing (some easy dances for everyone, so soft shoes is a good idea). No gifts, please, but a small plate of afternoon tea would be welcome. An RSVP to npope@bigpond.net.au or 0416 131 771 or 0417 823 537 would be helpful for us to have some idea of numbers, but it's not essential.

Community Classes

Classes during the School Holidays

There will be some school holiday classes being held by our Needlework/Embroidery & Knitting/Crochet teacher on the following dates:-

- Wednesday 3rd January – 1-3pm
- Friday 5th January – 10-1pm
- Wednesday 10th January – 1-3pm
- Friday 12th January – 10-1pm
- Wednesday 24th January – 1-3pm

Classes will be held in the Coffee Lounge and will be at a discount price of \$3.00 a class.

Our return date for next year is Wednesday 31st January & Thursday 1st February 2018.

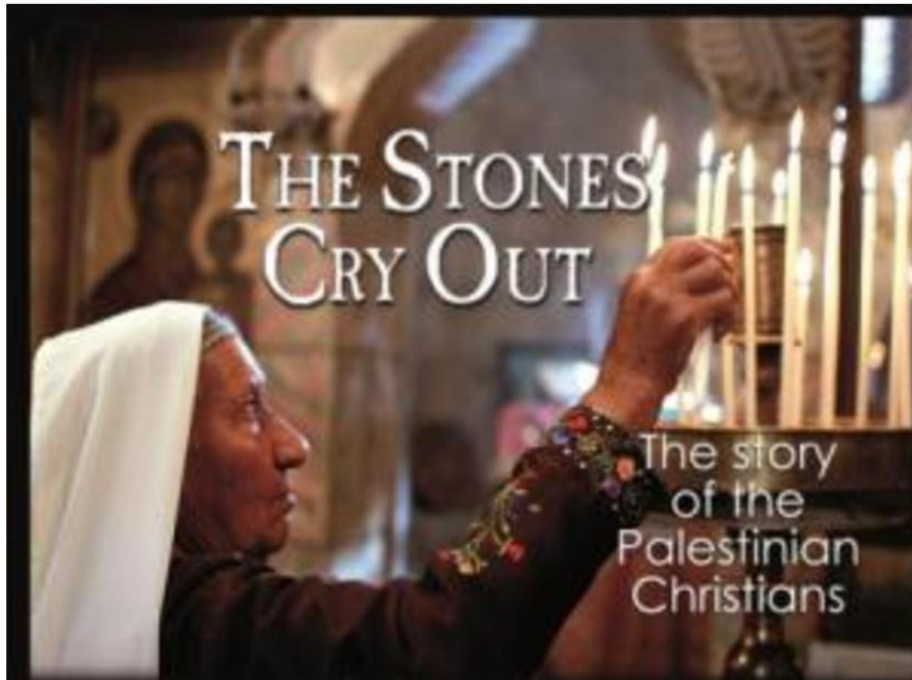
Wider Community

Stillpoint Advent Reflections

This resource, suitable for individual or small group use was written for Stillpoint by Lynona Hawkins. It can be viewed on the Stillpoint website, www.stillpointsa.org.au For your copy, contact Stillpoint at stillpoint@internode.on.net or phone 8271 0329 (office hours 10am to 2pm, Tuesday to Friday) or download from website. Cost is \$15.00.

Thank you from Resthaven

Resthaven Bellevue Heights have sent a card to thank the BUC for the generous donation of 10 Large Print Song Books. They noted that it means more of their residents can participate in Sing-a-long. Thank you to Anne Grear, Bev Eccleston and Jan Rawolle for organising this and for the congregation for their monetary contributions.



SUNDAY, 21ST JAN 2018
6:30PM

MOVIE SCREENING

“The Stones Cry Out”

Held at the Blackwood Uniting Church
266 Main Road, Blackwood
(The Church at the Roundabout)

Christianity was born in Palestine two thousand years ago. From there it spread throughout the Middle East and to the rest of the world. Yet many are unaware Christians still live in the land. For more than 60 years the Palestinians, Christians and Muslims have suffered displacement, expulsion, wars, occupation and oppression. The voices of Palestinian Christians have all too often been drowned out in the turmoil of events. This is their story, in their voices, from the Nakba of 1948 until today.



Held at the
Blackwood Uniting Church
266 Main Rd,
Blackwood

(Parking available
behind church)

This screening is sponsored by the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network, an organization of approximately 500 people across Australia and across more than ten denominations. We are Australian Christians seeking lasting peace for the people of Palestine and Israel.

Nibbles & Drinks
6:30pm

Movie starts 7:15pm
Followed by ½ hr of Q & A

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to the costs of the national screenings upon entry.



PALESTINE ISRAEL
ECUMENICAL NETWORK

Looking ahead in 2017...

Sunday	24 th Dec	10:00am	Combined Service
Sunday	24 th Dec	7:00pm	Chrstmas Eve Family Service
Monday	25 th Dec	9:00am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday	31 st Dec	10:00am	Combined Service followed by lunch for farewell to Rev Phil Hoffmann
Monday	15 th Jan	9:00am	Property Working Bee
Sunday	21 st Jan	7:30pm	Movie Screening "The Stones Cry Out"
Sunday	28 th Jan	2:00pm	Neville Pope's 70 th Birthday Celebrations

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Minister

Rev Phil Hoffmann (0.5)
0412 665 252
phoffmann@blackwooduc.org.au

Rev Dr Adrian Brown (0.5)
0417 785 370
adriangaye@internode.on.net

Church Office
8278 7699

Office Coordinator
Jacqui Harrison
0411 057 393
Monday to Friday 9:00am-2:30pm
office@blackwooduc.org.au

Community Program Coordinator
Jacqui Harrison
0411 057 393
Wednesdays & Thursday 9:00am-2:30pm
office@blackwooduc.org.au

BUC website
www.blackwooduc.org.au