



Parramatta  
Mission



uniting  
church  
in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT

*OUR NEWS for 25th December 2016*

The Magic of  
*Christmas*  
is not in the presents,  
but in *His*   
presence

*Congregational life @ Westmead &  
Parramatta, Hospitality, Community and  
Mental Health Services across  
Greater Sydney and beyond*

*Our Vision*

*A Community Transforming Lives  
Our Values, Grace, Inclusion, Dignity,  
Faith and Hope*

## **HAPPY CHRISTMAS @ LEIGH MEMORIAL!**

Today we will be sharing in a 'Combined' service at Leigh Memorial, including a message and some Christmas songs. Welcome to all of the family members and friends of our congregation who are joining us especially for today and let's enjoy this special celebration together! Blessings also for all those travelling over Christmas and the New Year - keep safe and well, and enjoy some 'down time' plus catch-ups with loved ones.



### **PLEASE NOTE: JANUARY ARRANGEMENTS**

January is traditionally a quiet month at Leigh Memorial. Many of our groups and committees will be taking a break and Rev. Manas will be on holiday leave. 'Bon voyage' to Manas & Nita and prayers for a happy and restorative journey. If anyone has enquiries or support needs during the new year period, please contact the available Ministers (numbers listed on the back page of our newsletter), or leaders team members/ the Mission office.

### **LEADERS TEAM - CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

As 2016 concludes, the Leaders team at Leigh Memorial wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the life and work of our congregation during this busy year. Such contributions may range from simple words of love and support and small, unseen gestures of assistance - to those involving big responsibilities or significant practical tasks. Each one makes a difference and has been valued. Gratitude is also expressed to Rev. Manas and all the Ministers and others who have encouraged us - and our thoughts and prayers are with the families in our congregation this year who have experienced grief and loss. Let's pray for many positive advances in 2017 and a year of peace, goodwill and energy to come! Christmas blessings from Bruce, Liz, Samantha, Moses, Norma, Robyn & Malcolm.

# Foster your faith this week

Is 63:7-9

Ps 148

Heb2:10-18

Mt 2:13-23

## **Parramatta Mission projects supported in the Uniting Church**

### **Please pray for:**

Hospital chaplaincy with patients, staff & families.

Living as a multicultural church.

Ministry with people in prison.

Ministry with hospital patients living with a mental illness.

## **Pastoral message for this week....**

**The world needs a stable influence.**

**O what a gift!**

**We wish you hope and happiness this Christmas  
and throughout the New Year**



Parramatta Mission Office will be closed from  
3pm Friday 23rd and re opening Tuesday 3rd January 2017.  
Mealsplus will be operational on the non public holidays  
during the office closure period

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled  
with much joy and happiness

**Manas will be on leave through January.**

**Veitinia will be providing full-time supply during this time.**



# WESTMEAD NEWS

## **Christmas Deliveries**

Our hampers have been distributed and the meals purchased and delivered to Wesley Apartments. Angle tree presents and hampers have been given to the families. Hand bags have been handed out and much appreciated.

Rev Christine was able to see some of the people in Parramatta who received the Mission hampers as well as some of the volunteers who assisted the process. Thank you to all who have contributed to make a difference in the lives of so many people.

## **Congregational Christmas Lunch**

Such a big thankyou to all who stayed for lunch last Sunday! The food was wonderful and we had some great conversation with each other. It was wonderful to see so many people join in the setting up and the packing up. It was a large team effort but so worth it. Thanks to all involved from the oldest to the youngest and all in between! Special thanks to Sue, Lorna and Georgie for the extra work they put in to help us have a wonderful time.

## **Carols Service and Remembrance Service**

These two services were new but well attended. It was great to have so many people from the different Mayflower Independent Living Villages attend and to have some extra help for the lunch and tea and coffee afterward. Rev Christine had an extra special thanks to May (who came and worked like a Trojan), and Mini, Alyssa and Alan. The Remembrance Service was also well attended and was a quiet yet gentle way to remember some of those we have lost.

## **Christmas Day**

Please note the 9.00 am start and there will not be any morning tea after this service to enable people to get away quickly for their families.

There is a Christmas Day lunch at Parramatta for those who are alone and would like to join with others. See table in the foyer for more information.

## **Contact with Rev Christine**

Rev Christine will have some days off after Christmas but will be working throughout January. She will not be at Westmead everyday but is still contactable. During the week beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> January she will be at Yuróra which is the National Christian Youth Festival. She will not be as contactable during that week.

Whilst worship continues the other activities of the church are in recess until early February. This allows our wonderful leaders and volunteers to have a much needed break. Thank you so much for all you do.  
Please have a safe, peaceful and joyful time during this holiday period.



# *Invitation*

The Hunter Presbytery has pleasure in inviting  
The members of Leigh Memorial Congregation – Parramatta Mission

to attend

The Ordination

Of

Danielle Hemsworth-Smith

as a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in Australia

at

New Lambton Uniting Church  
Corner Portland Place & Regent Streets  
New Lambton

on

Saturday 21st January 2017

at 2.00pm

Afternoon tea will follow.

RSVP : Jenny Mathieson - Secretary – Hunter Presbytery  
(02) 49468143 or [jennyandray@bigpond.com](mailto:jennyandray@bigpond.com)  
by 16th January 2017

# Fijian Congregation



<u>Siga</u>	<u>Veiqaravi e so</u>
31/12	End of Year Thanksgiving @ 7.30pm. Veiqaravi o Siaki Foiakau
01/01	Rev'd Keith Hamilton. Vulavou / Holy Communion
08/01	Yurora commences (8—12 Jan) Departure time TBA
	Multicultural Worship - Inise Foiakau. Vunau vakarau - Akisi Alison
15/01	Vunau - S.Toa ; TuVakarau - J.Foiakau; Veiliutaki - M2
22/01	Vunau - J.Foiakau; TuVakarau - S.Qata; Veiliutaki - M3



What to take :

We have on-site accommodation at Yurora!!!! Please include in your packing :

- Pillow case, bed sheet, towel, toiletries
- Torch for night programs

Fil will bring fruits for snack and biscuits for supper

**Breakfast is provided.** Please bring along **\$80, i.e \$20 @ day** for Lunch and Dinner, for Monday to Thursday. You can talk to your parents/carers and youth leaders about this.

## Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus was like this. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; and before they came together she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 But her man, Joseph, being just and not wishing to shame her, decided to secretly release her. 20 And while he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, "Joseph son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife; for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 For she will give birth to a son; and you shall call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now this has come about in order that he might fulfil the prophecy spoken by the Lord through the prophet saying 'Behold, the virgin will conceive and will have a son, and will name him Emmanuel'" (which translated means 'God with us'). 24 Then Joseph, waking from his sleep, did as he was ordered by the angel of the Lord and he took Mary as his wife 25 but he did not know her until she bore a son; and he called his name Jesus.  
(Translation by Keith Hamilton)



The Leigh Memorial Congregation Music Team leading the Christmas Carol singing last Sunday.



Archaeological dig in Parramatta Square, behind the Fellowship Centre  
119 Macquarie St In the foreground and middle ground you  
can make out the old stream, originally convict built.

## Reflections

One of the messages of our hamper and Christmas present giving is that people are not alone at Christmas. This year, with the generosity of many individuals and business and community groups and church groups, and people of PM, we packed over 1,500 hampers and hundreds of presents which were all distributed to people across Sydney. People of means assisted in making a difference in the lives of people who would have not been able to celebrate Christmas as most would wish. The hampers included food that people doing it tough would not afford. The presents were carefully selected to suit the child, and then gift wrapped. All who received the hampers and presents were thankful for the gift. It expresses in a real way the meaning of Matthew's Christmas story that God is with us in all times and places. The giver of the hampers and gifts was not seen by the recipient, but the gift and message was just as real. We don't always see God, but God is just as present. That presence is the Christmas present.



Blessings this Christmas and into 2017,  
Keith Hamilton

성탄 주일 Christmas of Sunday

주일 오후 1시 30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn)

예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling)

인도자

송영 (Gloria)

새 4장

통 4장

성부 성자와 성령

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) .....다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns)

새115장

통115장

기쁘다 구주 오셨네

새 108장

통 113장

그 어린 주 예수

기도 (Prayer)

주기도문송

새 635장

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading)

누가복음 2:1-14)

말씀 (Preaching)-전현구담임목사

성탄의 주인공은 누구인가?

봉헌 송 (Offertory Hymn)

새126장

통126장

천사 찬송하기들

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

할렐루야! 오늘 함께 예배드린 여러분에게 주님이 주시는 평안이 증만하시길 축복합니다

- 성령충만함으로 주께서 주신 사명 잘 감당하는 건강한 교회로 세워지길 기도합니다
- 한 영혼을 구원하는 전도에 자원하는 마음으로 열심히 동참합니다.
- 매일 성경으로 묵상하는 QT를 하고 적용하는 훈련을 합니다.
- 오늘은 성탄주일입니다 아기예수님을 기쁨과 감사로 영광 돌립니다

폐회 찬송 (Final Hymn)

새502장

통 259장

빛의 사자들이여 어서가서(1)

축도 (Benediction)

담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부

오후4:00

수요기도회 :오후 7시

골로새서 3:1-11

새벽기도회 : 오전6시

골로새서 2:8-4:18

2017 Commencement of the  
Law Term Service  
All are welcome to attend the Service.

Date: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
Time: Commence at 9:00am followed with morning tea  
RSVP: Donna or Coral (phone 9891 2277 or  
wecare@parramattamission.org.au

For catering purposes, please advise of any dietary requirements at time of RSVP



### **2017 Australia Day Tethered Balloons**

Parramatta Mission/Leigh Memorial are again proudly volunteering at the Australia Day Tethered Balloons in Parramatta Park.

Involvement is warmly welcome and invited.

If you are able to support by volunteering your time to guide Balloon passengers to their designated balloon, please contact Donna Kelly (9891 2277 or email [donna.kelly@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:donna.kelly@parramattamission.org.au))

Thank you

# The light shines in the darkness

**Theme: Good News!! Jesus Christ is born**

## Scripture

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

*All the north shall see (God's salvation)*

**Psalm 98**

*Sing a new song, make a joyful noise*

**Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12)**

*God has spoken by His Son*

**John 1:1-14**

*The Word became flesh and lived among us*

## Song Suggestions

**Beauty for brokenness hope for despair,  
Together in song (690)**

**Joy to the world, Together in Song (263)**

**Christ be our light,  
All Together Okay (313)**

**The north wind is tossing the leaves,  
Together in Song (322)**

**The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
Together in Song (307)**

**You shall go out with joy,  
Together in Song (755)**

## Call to Worship

God of Grace

Search us and know our hearts  
For as we gather to celebrate  
the birth of your son, Jesus  
We know that even the darkness  
Will not be dark to you

We live in a world where  
people are hungry  
and yet, in the face of this  
We sing

Joy to the world!  
A baby is born  
Let us rejoice at the  
glorious mystery  
The coming of Christ

## Prayers of Intercessions

Risen Christ you call us to  
celebrate the Glory of God.

We pray for people who  
don't have enough food to  
nourish their children.

We give thanks for the work  
of Christian Care in Zimbabwe

teaching farmers conservation  
farming enabling them to  
feed their families.

We pray for all people  
responding to environmental  
changes and challenges.

Give us generosity of spirit as we  
respond from our own abundance  
to the needs of others. Amen

## Dedication of the Offering

God of life,  
We ask your blessing on  
all that we offer  
May the money we share,  
the gifts that we bring  
and all that we are  
Glorify your holy name.  
Poking holes in the darkness  
For your light and love to  
shine through. Amen

## Sermon starters

The statement that the Word of God comes "in flesh" was a shocking thought to contemporaries of St John. How could the One who is above all things, the Creator, become one with the flesh he himself created? In reaching out, in identifying with humanity in its weakness, God takes the path of humility (Philippians 2:8). In Jesus is the supreme expression of God's will for the world, the will that "all the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 52:10 and Psalm 98:3) will see salvation. Some worshippers on Christmas Day are not frequent attenders at church. As God reaches out to all peoples, so the Church can reach out to those who rarely hear its message of salvation. "How beautiful are the feet" of those who bring such good news (Isaiah 52:7).

## Sending Out

Loving God,  
Who has walked this road  
Who has shared our  
laughter and pain  
Your light shines in the darkness  
And the darkness does  
not overcome it.

You come to us  
In search of us  
Revealed in Christ  
Born in suffering  
Yet lighting the way  
Give us the patience and courage  
To share your joy and  
peace with the world.

# Zimbabwe Conservation Farming

*Helping farmers in Zimbabwe learn the new skills they need to survive*

Zimbabwe has been hit by a devastating drought, and farmers are struggling to grow enough food. The farming techniques they've used for generations just aren't working any more.

Beauty and her husband spend hours each day in their fields under the boiling sun, but even with all their backbreaking work, they can't grow enough to support their family.

Beauty is struggling to keep her children healthy with the tiny yields she's getting from her farm. They're malnourished and can no longer go to school. She has to beg from her neighbours for household supplies like soap.

Once Jessina was feeling the same despair as Beauty. Her husband Stanley had been forced to leave his home and look for work in South Africa, but even with the wages he sent home, there just wasn't enough for the family to survive on.

Then Jessina met Newton, a field coordinator with Act for Peace's partner Christian Care.

He showed her how to farm differently using a new method called conservation farming.

By changing a few simple things in her fields, she was able to grow far more than she had before.

Jessina now has enough food to feed her children, and is able to sell her surplus produce to buy extra livestock. Stanley has returned from South Africa and been reunited with his family.

Jessina's story has a happy ending, but there are still so many families like Beauty's who are struggling as the drought goes on.

With your gifts to the Christmas Bowl, Christian Care Zimbabwe can teach farmers like Beauty the agricultural skills that can ensure they always have enough for their families to eat.

ZIMBABWE



## The difference your gifts to the Christmas Bowl are making:

Act for Peace's partner in Zimbabwe, Christian Care, is one of the leaders in conservation farming techniques. They have worked with thousands of farmers in drought-prone areas and have dramatically improved their capacity to provide food for their families. But many more farmers in Zimbabwe are still facing severe hunger. With your gifts to the Christmas Bowl, these farmers have a chance to join the program and always have enough to eat.

## Key Fact

More than 1 in 3 families in Zimbabwe are experiencing severe hunger now.

**\$25 can provide farmers in Zimbabwe with seeds so they can grow food for their families.**

**\$25**



Beauty, Zimbabwe, Act for Peace



Beauty and her husband, Zimbabwe, Act for Peace

Beauty and her husband toil long hours under the boiling sun to no avail.

Your gift to the Christmas Bowl can help Zimbabwean farmers facing severe hunger to always have enough to eat.

## 5 Fundraising tip No. 6

Play the Christmas Bowl video for your Christmas service so everyone in your congregation can see the difference made by the conservation farming program to the lives of farmers like Jessina.



***Merry Christmas from the Reception Team at Parramatta Mission.***

***Thank you for a wonderful year.***

***We wish you all good health & happiness for 2017***

***Tracey, Donna & Coral***



**Merry Christmas from the Fellowship Centre Staff**

# Prayer Points

*Our Congregations are committed to praying for our Congregations, Staff and the People we walk with in their journey of recovery:*

*We pray for:*

- ♥ *For radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking witness and service, and extravagant generosity*
- ♥ *UC congregations of the Cumberland Zone: Dundas/Ermington, Northmead, North Rocks, Carlingford, West Epping, Centenary – calling a new minister, Wentworthville, Holroyd, Greystanes, Grantham Heights, Parramatta Mission, Auburn.*
- ♥ *PM Leigh Fijian: Families who are travelling overseas: Mili, Ofa, Sereana Sanoko, Milika, Vocea and Vosalotaki families. Niko Balavu's health and his family. Wendy Morris as she continues voluntary work with the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma and Uniting World.*
- ♥ *PM Leigh Memorial: Mario, Liz, Col, Betty, Willamena, Nell.*
- ♥ *PM Westmead: Rebecca and her family, Kevin, Robyne, Flora, May, Robyn and Greg, Rajes (Sandra), Phyllis, Billie, Vita, Satik, Nancy, baby James and family, Caroline and David A, Ashima and Anusha Saxena, Mr and Mrs B and family, Jane and Brad and baby Coco, Vicky, Col, Mere and her family, Al, Mrs G and family, Lorraine, Jan, David and Tracey, and Judy, S and his family.*
- ♥ *PM UnitingHospitality; UnitingHope; UnitingRecovery; support services of Finance – IT and Payroll, People and Culture, Property, Housing and Maintenance, Fundraising and Marketing, Reception; For all who walk with people on difficult journeys of life.*
- ♥ *We pray for all who receive a Christmas hamper, for people lonely at Christmas, for staff working on Christmas Day walking alongside people every day of the year.*
- ♥ *We join with churches around the world to pray for Ghana, Nigeria*
- ♥ *Prayers for all who are travelling, and all who are holidaying, and all who are keeping organisations going through working at this time. Prayers for people who feel lonely at Christmas New Year.*

## Message from the Ministers

We express our heart-felt thanks and gratitude to all our people of Parramatta Mission, for your love, prayers, support, encouragement and many acts of kindness to us.

May this season of Christmas enrich you as you discover God's love, peace, joy and hope afresh in your life.

In 2017 may God journey with you and his Spirit dance in your heart with laughter and love.

Manas & Nita, Christine & Scott, Catlin & Shaun, Hyung-oo & Hannah, Keith & Julie and our Families

# Worship Services at Parramatta Mission

<b>Mon to Fri</b>	<b>9.00am - 2.00pm</b>	<b>Open Church @ Leigh Memorial</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1.10pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion @ Leigh</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Leigh Memorial Congregation @ Leigh</b>
	<b>9.45am</b>	<b>Westmead Congregation @ Westmead</b>
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Leigh Fijian Congregation @ Leigh</b>
	<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>Korean Faith Community @ Leigh</b>
	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Praise, Prayer, Cake &amp; Coffee @ Leigh</b>

## Contacts

**Leigh Memorial Congregation** – Leigh Congregation leaders,  
Veitinia Waqabaca, through the church office, 98912277

**Leigh Memorial Church** 119 Macquarie St Parramatta

**Leigh Fijian Congregation:** 9891 2277

**Leigh Korean Faith Community Minister:** Rev Hyun Goo Jun 0433 320 588

**Westmead Congregation** Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly 0409 925 607

**Westmead Church** 175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead: 98919354

**Senior Minister/Group CEO** Rev Keith Hamilton 0417 487 446

**Church Office:** 9891 2277 **Email :** [wecare@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:wecare@parramattamission.org.au)



For all e-tree news follow the link below  
<http://www.parramattamission.org.au/etree>

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