

# Spicer

## *Matters*



Quarter 1, 2021

# From Matthew



## To the glory of God

Our church building is a significant part of the local scenery and heritage in St Peters. For more than a century the building has stood here and been a part of our local community. The foundation stone declares, "**This stone was laid by Edward Spicer, to the glory of God November 26 1898**". I delight to see a large image of our church on the wall in the Bank of South Australia branch at the Avenues Shopping Centre, reminding people of the beauty of late 19th century architecture and hopefully bringing back a memory or two of visiting us at Spicer.

Over the years, many people have worshipped God here, come to Sunday School, been married, sung, danced, celebrated and even had their funeral service here.



During 2020 our profile was somewhat diminished, but still, our building has stood in the community as a reminder of the presence of God in this place. People have returned to worship, to dance, to learn Spanish and to practice karate. That's right, there are many other activities taking place in our building. The people of our local community are grateful for a great location to engage in these activities.

In the year ahead, we have new opportunities to consider our place in the community. The world has changed dramatically in the past 12 months and we are changing with it. Worship at home, drive-thru church and Facebook live services are some examples of our recent changes.

I invite you to take time with God as this year unfolds and ask God to reveal to you how you can be open to participate in the new things that God is doing among us. Often, we are surprised by change, but sometimes we are able to anticipate and plan for these changes. Or at the very least prepare our hearts to make the most of the changes.

We have developed these three steps.

*Explore*

*Connect*

*Respond – worship God*

Imagine that you have just bought a new car. First you sit in it and explore. You look for where all the essentials are located – seatbelts, indicator, wipers, air conditioning, mirrors. Then you connect by sitting in the driver's seat and turning the ignition. You hear the sound of the motor, the feel of the accelerator and observe the view around you. Then you take it for a spin on the road and see how it responds as you drive. It is not like the car you learned to drive in or the last car that you had. This is a new car, a change and hopefully it will serve you well in the years ahead.

**“but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.**

**They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)**

May we find joy as we serve God together here at Spicer Uniting Church and in the community beyond our doors.

To the glory of God,

Matthew

# Synod Meeting 2020/21

As we gathered together for worship on the first day of the Synod meeting at Adelaide West Uniting Church from 11–13 February, 2021, we were asked to "...discern together the new things God has done, is doing and is still to do, in us, with us, through us, and sometimes despite us".

## Synod is a business meeting

### New presbyteries

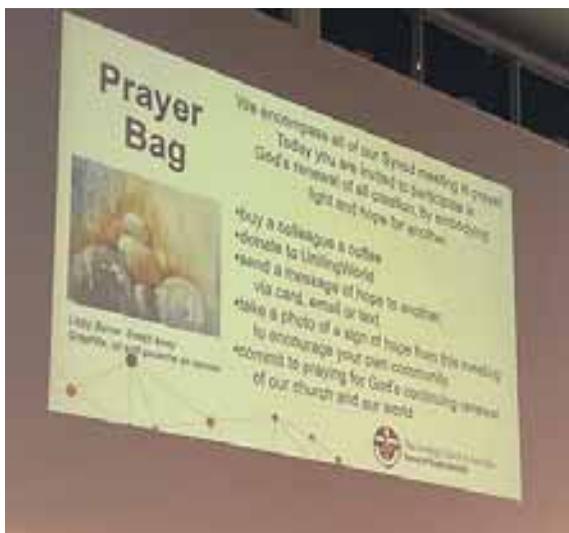
This was the first Synod Meeting since the establishment of the new synod and presbytery structure. Representatives from the three presbyteries reported on their progress so far and ways they are seeking to support their congregations in the future. All three presbyteries are looking at setting up regional hubs, or clusters, of congregations. Wimala Presbytery, of which Spicer is a member, is looking to create three hubs, and we hope to have our regional co-ordinators later this year.

### Strategic priorities

In 2020 the Synod looked at its missional priorities for the next 3–5 years. The result is *Shaping the Future: Strategic Priorities*. Twelve strategic priorities for the Synod were identified. The Wheel has been developed to aid congregations to develop and share their own strategic priorities. Keep an eye out in *New Times* for more information soon.

### Property reviews

In 2017 the *Property Review Project* was commenced. *Building Safety Reports (BSR)* have been sent to every congregation, including Spicer. The project identifies safety and accessibility issues as being a concern for many church buildings. Maintaining ageing properties with limited resources is a common challenge. The *Property Review*



Report calls us to ask “How can we make best use of the resources entrusted to us?” These are difficult conversations for many congregations.

## Synod is part of the wider church

We celebrated 30 years of partnership with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). Synod heard from United Church of Christ in the Philippines about the persecution many church leaders are experiencing from the Duterte government. We are asked to pray for the safety of the people of the Philippines, for peace for the Korean Peninsula and that governments in both areas may act with God’s wisdom and compassion.

## Synod connects & resources congregations

Synod is about much more than meetings and reports. There is always someone new to talk to, something to share or something to learn about what is happening in other parts of our church.

Electives provided an opportunity to find out more about resources and opportunities that are available to help local congregations such as Spicer in their mission.

**Intergenerational Ministry** – The Intergen Team helps congregations to develop an inclusive, all ages approach to ministry, as well as providing resources that can be used by families at home.

**Multicultural Ministry** – Rev Cyrus Kung delivered a revealing discussion of the challenges of being a 2nd Generation Chinese Australian in the church. Rev Dr Paul Goh introduced of the *Intercultural Neighbourhood Project*, which aims to help congregations form relationships with Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups in their local area.

**Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts** – Provides resources and supports artists and congregations to use music, drama and art in their expressions of faith.

If you like to know more about any of this, please ask me.

Emma Parkinson

Wimala Presbytery Delegate to Synod

# Playgroup 2021

Playgroup started up our 2021 year when school commenced. Two of our 2020 group graduated to school, Hugo Just and Zoe Parkinson.

We have a mixture of parents and grandparents bringing along their children for nearly 2 hours of creative play,

story and music. Numbers attending each Tuesday can vary between 5 and 13 children, with girls seeming to outnumber the boys. Ages range from 3 months to 4+ years. The music segment is a favourite part of the programme and we are blessed to have Ann Overall come and play for us each week. It's great to hear the children's appreciation of the music with their "thankyou's" to Ann at the end of our session.

Please spread the word about our Playgroup so that we can grow.

We have a great team of helpers, Michelle, Mary, Ann, Roslyn, Helen, Matthew and Darien and I thank them for their enthusiastic support .

Margaret Just  
Co-ordinator



# Eat Pray Care

## How did Eat Pray Care Start?

Two Spicer friends responded to another Spicer friend in need who was distressed about her children. They took her out for breakfast and they continued to pray for each other and meet regularly. One day they decided it was so rewarding to be able to meet together for fellowship and prayer, they should invite others in the church to join them for their breakfasts. Gradually the group grew and they visioned about what they could do to give them a sense of mission and purpose ... to give back some of the rewards they had gained from Christian fellowship and prayer.

The group was named Eat Pray Care in the first few years together in order to reflect their mission. They shared breakfast and prayed and cared by organising activities that benefited the church family, socially, practically and/or financially. A big focus of their prayer was to pray for the children in the church community which reflected their humble beginnings. Sometimes they organised meal rosters, contributed to the rosters and, mindful of UCA privacy policy, visited and supported people. Over the years they organised many events including the first few church fairs and they donated to a variety of different charities. Church projects were initiated and facilities updated also through the funds raised. The church fair was later handed over to RAD to be the major annual fundraiser for the church and Eat Pray Care continued to organise smaller events motivated by the ideas from their meetings.

Their shared breakfasts and projects provided them with great comfort, a strong vision and a sense of purpose. But also, their strong bonds of Christian friendship enabled them over the years to support each other through fellowship and prayer. This was the greatest gift of all!

## Who is Eat Pray Care?

Eat Pray Care is a group of people who meet on the Second Saturday of the month to share breakfast and fellowship, to pray for the church, its people (particularly the children) and each other. Sometimes, arising from the fellowship and prayer points, their discussion leads to ways in which they might support the church community by organising small fundraising events or supporting those in need. A short devotion is included in the prayer time which is great soul food.

The group is open to anyone who would like to come along.



All of the Spicer Messy Church community were very disappointed that in 2020 we were only able to meet together once early in the year. For the remainder of the year we kept in touch using emails, social media, the Spicer Church website and through 'Messy Church at Home' resources.

So... what does 2021 look like? After some discussion, Church Council decided it would be wise to take a short break from Messy Church, during which we will undertake conversations and research to find out how Spicer can most effectively serve and support families in the local area. Understanding the local context, exploring what is currently being offered in the area, asking as many families as possible about their interests and needs, and learning from the experiences of the wider church, will all help us at Spicer to make decisions about this special ministry. Of course, prayer will underpin this work so I would appreciate your support in that way.

One of the key actions in the Spicer UC Vision and Mission is "Encouraging young people to participate in the life of the church", so that we can \*Reflect the words and actions of Jesus, \*Serve the community and \*Nurture an active faith.

Sue Harding  
Messy Church Facilitator



# 2021 Spicer Fellowship Program

22/2	Tues	Lenten Studies (22/2 & 30/3)
14/3	Sun	Meeting of the Congregation
20/3	Sun	Church Dinner
28/3–4/4		Easter Sights & Sounds
28/3	Sun	Palm Sunday 10am
1/4	Thurs	Maundy Thursday
2/4	Fri	Good Friday
4/4	Sun	Easter Sunday
23/5	Sun	Pentecost Sunday
12/6	Sat	Quiz Night
5/7	Mon	Small Group Studies Monday & Tuesday 5/7–27/7
24/7	Sat	TBD
9/8	Mon	Pastoral Partner Training
28/8	Sat	Music Night
11/10	Mon	Pastoral Partner Training
16/10	Sat	Spicer Fair
14/11	Sun	Church Picnic
21/11	Sun	Planned Giving
21/11	Sun	Christ the King Service
22/11	Mon	Advent Studies Monday & Tuesday 22/11–14/12
25–27/11	Thurs– Sat	Gingerbread Houses
12/12	Sun	Meeting of the Congregation
19/12	Sun	Carols in the Amphitheatre
24/12	Fri	Christmas Eve
25/12	Sat	Christmas Day

# Spicer Community Lunch

In December 2020 we celebrated through the truly amazing violin performances of Christmas and classical music by young students of Jill Folauhola, the youngest being only four years of age. We sang carols and enjoyed the challenges of a Christmas carol puzzle.

Then followed a presentation by Naomi, Sustainability Officer with the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, and Megan, Education



and Promotions Coordinator of the authority responsible for collecting waste in the eastern suburbs, East Waste. They shared with us five avenues for recycling of household waste:

- composting of all food scraps, paper products and garden refuse which is collected in the 'Green Bin'
- recycling of paper and cardboard, glass bottles and jars, aluminium cans and aerosols, rigid plastic bottles and containers, tins and cans, aluminium trays and foil by use of the "Yellow Bin".
- recycling plastic bags and other soft plastics (including silver lined lolly, chip and biscuit packets) through the RedCycle bins at large supermarkets
- disposal of electronic waste (anything with a plug or battery) through some hardware stores
- Household Hazardous Waste Depots that accept various hard to recycle items such as motor oils, chemicals, paints, gas cylinders, batteries, light globes etc.

At our first lunch for 2021 in February Brian Bentick gave a presentation titled "Sixty Years On: My Time in the USA". Along with entertaining anecdotes, notable throughout this talk were Brian's reflections on attitudes discrimination and inequality. This was a time when Australia still espoused the White Australia Policy, and Brian's experiences led to new perspectives.

Brian graduated in Economics from the University of Melbourne in 1957 and after some time studying and working in Melbourne was recommended for a scholarship to do a PH.D. at Yale University. His journey took him via Fiji, connecting with a university friend and learning more about life and values there. Next was Honolulu, where he made new friends but what struck him was their hatred and fear of Communism, which later in the mid 1960's led them into a disastrous war in Vietnam. Eventually, he arrived in New Haven and his new lodgings in the dormitory of the Yale Divinity School, where he was to spend two years making many new friends outside of Economics.

During the first Christmas break he travelled by bus to the Deep South to see racial segregation at first hand. Back at Yale, there were disturbing moments in 1961 and 1962 associated with the 'Cold War' between the US and the Soviet Union. The year 1963 was marked by three important events: marrying Teresita, a fellow student at Yale; the March on Washington, which was addressed by Martin Luther King when he famously proclaimed 'I have a dream!' The third event was the assassinations of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald. Brian attended Kennedy's funeral in Washington, and stood near the Kennedy family and the majestic figure of President de Gaulle of France as they passed in the procession. He went on to share reflections on inequality and discrimination experienced by his new friends, even sharing that he met the then leader of the Black Muslims, Malcolm X at a public meeting and he, as were others who stood up to speak, was subsequently murdered.



After completing his studies in 1965 Brian took up an appointment at Adelaide University, but on a number of occasions he and Teresita returned to the USA, sometimes renewing friendships from his time at Yale but also taking his mother on one trip, and seeing many more parts of the USA and Canada. Brian particularly noted that attitudes toward African Americans had changed during the intervening years.

# Ministry Team

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Sue Harding  
Warwick Jarrett (Sec)  
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## Deadline for next issue

Please have all articles to Anne by Thurs 22 April