

Spicer

Matters



Issue 3, 2022

From Matthew



Great joy for all the people

... the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” Luke 2:10 NIV

Just a few weeks until Christmas and we are all finding ourselves busy getting ready for Christmas celebrations, holiday travel plans and time with family. This should not be a surprise; we do this every year. There is so much joy to be found at this time of the year. I delight in the joy that my family find in dressing our home with Christmas decorations. We have lights and ornaments everywhere. There are conversations about food and what everyone would like for Christmas lunch. There are memories of family recipes and favourite dishes. We spend time thinking about what presents to buy for the ones that we love; hoping to find the perfect present.

We also seek to look beyond ourselves. We give to the Christmas Bowl appeal to help people in far away places as they face tragedies beyond our comprehension. We may wonder how our small donations could possibly make any difference in the face of such great suffering and then we are reminded that we are adding our contributions to the giving of many others around the world. I have faith that God is moving in the hearts of all the people and that together we can make a difference.

I am grateful to be part of the Spicer Uniting Church community and to be able to work alongside people with such love for God and each other. I marvel at the creativity and joy with which God has blessed us. I long for all the people in the world to know God through Jesus Christ, as we do and to come into the life-changing relationship we all enjoy.

May the peace of God be with you in this Advent season. May you find the time to celebrate with those you love and remember those who are no longer here with us. (Offer a thanksgiving prayer for the blessings they have brought to you and to others.) We have much to appreciate.

May the new year bring us closer to God and each other as we serve together. Our faith in Jesus Christ, the baby born to be king, is the source of all our hope, peace, joy, and love.

God bless,

Matthew

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7 ESV)

Church Council

“Church council shall give priority in its life to building up the congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope and leading the congregation to a fuller participation in Christ’s mission in the world.

This priority shall be reflected in the agenda of the ordinary meetings”

The above quote from the ‘UCA rule book’ heads every agenda for our monthly meetings. One task we attend to each year is set the fellowship calendar, and for each event (except the Fair and the Quiz night which RAD oversees) one or sometimes two Church Council (CC) members are allocated to lead and ensure the event gets up and running.

Fellowship events are not just for fun (although hopefully they are fun) but an important part of building up the congregation. Through fellowship events we get to know each other better, which helps us to care for and about each other better. But the events are also great opportunities to invite friends, family to a non threatening experience of a community based on love.

2022 saw us come out of the COVID restrictions, likely some of you were concerned to come to the dinner due to being a large gathering, and although numbers were down, we were blessed with perfect weather (again) and it was a particularly happy function. Richard Young as chief cook of the roasts succumbed to COVID but his tutorage of Peter Wilson and Chris May was spot on, they did a brilliant job.

CC has been very grateful to the RAD members, especially our Treasurer, Peter Carrigan. We are very blessed to have this group of committed people. We are enjoying the fruits of their wisdom and foresight in the installation of the solar panels which is saving us substantial sums when electricity is getting so expensive.

CC is also grateful to the large team that prepares, plans and participates in worship every week. A lot of you do this, from the flowers, to the door welcomers, sound, tech, Facebook filming and monitoring, Bible reading, offering collection, children’s creative spot leading, worship leading, morning tea and coffee cart and of course the preaching and music. Thanks to our lay preachers who have filled in so well when Matthew has taken his well deserved breaks.

CC is particularly grateful to the Music group and the substantial load they carry every week. A number of them take turns in being the Music Director selecting the music for each service, following the theme set by the preacher, then rehearsing, liaising with the worship leader and preacher. It is a lot of time and commitment. We are so very blessed to enjoy such outstanding and uplifting music in our worship.

CC made the difficult decision this year that we would not include a line in the budget for a music director. We have been searching in traditional and creative ways to find the right person, but after some years it has just not happened. There are also other budget pressures which has put us into a small deficit, but a salary allowance for a music director would have made the deficit more than we thought reasonable in the current economic climate.

At the last CC meeting we invited the music group to attend where we explored other ways that the music ministry can be supported.

Our children's and youth ministry is an area of high priority and we have been blessed by the leadership of Deb Niven. She has gathered youth leaders from within Spicer who put together a programme that supports and encourages our youth. The programme for the children is also working really well. CC is grateful for Deb's and all the children and youth ministry volunteers.

CC is grateful to Margaret Just, who put together 3 successful gingerbread house events. Thank you to her and all her wonderful helpers, it was an extraordinary commitment to run 3 successful events with such huge numbers attending each session.

Thank you to the leaders and their teams for all of the other events, the fair, the quiz night, the hymn fest, the picnic, the community connect event. Some, like the fair, were record breaking successes, but we are richer for each event having taken place.

I ask that you all ensure that you put the remaining event of 2022 in your diary, the Carols in the park, and put 2023 Easter Sights and Sounds in there too – try and avoid your holidays then, we need you !

Thank you to the leaders and their teams for the groups that provide outreach, Playgroup, the movie night group, EPC, the Thursday lunch group. Hopefully this Spicer Matters will enlarge on each of those group's activities for 2022. *(Editor's note: some of these groups have provided reports during the year.)*

CC is also responsible for the pastoral care of our members. Thank you to the team who organise the pastoral partners and each of you who have accepted that role.

We all felt deeply the loss of Marilyn Cowley this year. It is in such times that our Spicer community shows its deep strength in its ability to care for each other.

Thank you to the CC members, we are a highly committed and diverse group where robust discussion is always respectful.

Lastly thanks to our minister, Matthew. He is an extremely hard worker, with seemingly endless energy and certainly endless passion for what is best for Spicer. He communicates so effectively with every generation and people from every walk of life. Matthew is very often our 'front man' for Spicer. He wears his Christian faith proudly and we are so very blessed and the richer for having him as our minister.

Spicer is blessed indeed with an abundance of willing contributors, and participators, all working together to support each other and the mission of spreading the Good News in our neighbourhood, and beyond.

On behalf of CC I would like to extend to each of you God's richest blessings over this Christmas season, and look forward to 2023 with hope, and enthusiasm lead by the holy spirit.

Pam Mc Ewin
Chair



Congratulations

Michaela and Ash on
your marriage.

Church Calendar 2023

Event	Date
Spicer Playgroup 30th Birthday	12 February
Hymn Fest	26 February
Church Dinner	25 March
Easter Sights & Sounds	29 March–31 March
BBQ after church	7 May
Quiz night	17 June
Hymn Fest	9 July
Spicer 40th birthday	16 July
Spicer Community Connect	29 July
Regressive Dinner	26 August
Music Night	16 September
Spring Fair	21 October
Church Picnic	12 November
Gingerbread House Making	23, 24, 25 November
Carolling in the Neighbourhood	10 December
Carols in the Park	17 December

Mid-winter Spicer Community Connect



This year the focus of SCC was on Lego creations and Dramatic Arts. A cast of, mostly, young people performed an original play, directed by Ruthmary, called Three Little Pigs and 1 Bad Wolf. Richard and Peter offered tuition to anyone interested in learning about lighting and sound. While the rehearsals were happening, a passionate group of Lego legends showed off their projects and took on a Lego challenge. Let's not overlook the crafts, charity muffins, Marilyn's knitting circle and pizza dinner. The event concluded around a campfire with smores, hot chocolate and great fun.



Music Night



Oh what a night....And dancing is back! This year's Spicer music night was one filled with so many favourite love songs and everything in between.

From the very first beat in Set 1 the dancers were up and moving. That really set the tone for the night. Looking back at the video the band can be seen really enjoying the sounds and especially enjoying the scene out front.

Some comments from the audience perspective – was this year's music night was one of the best! The audience being able to be up and dance, including Von, was awesome. Fiona and Louise were up grooving the night away. Much toe-tapping and singing along. A joyful night.



I've had comments that it was funky, energetic and had something for everyone!

We were very fortunate to have the talented Rod back on stage and of course, Rod's son Flynn. An up and coming musician, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. We missed Kate this year who was unwell on the night and unable to join the singers.



As always, a big, big thank you to those who helped and supported the music group this year. To Peter W leading the tech team, Sonia W on the door, the team of pew movers and set up helpers and clean up helpers, Ian J and team – a huge thank you.

We love what we do. Each week we are passionate and love being able to be a part of worship at Spicer. Producing and performing for music night is just the icing on top!

Thank you and we look forward to music night 2023!



Cassi



RAD

Fair

The Spicer Fair seems a distant memory.

What a great day it turned out to be from both a financial point of view and connecting with the community.

Let's recap the numbers.



	2022	2021	% change
Visitors	610	501	22% increase
Plants	\$3027.70	\$2479.50	22% increase
Cakes	\$2327.00	\$2282.55	2% increase
Craft	\$1167.00	\$1043.50	12% increase
Books	\$1230.90	\$1230.80	
Barbeque	\$1184.10	\$507.85	233% increase
Coffee	\$243.00	\$360.10	
Bric-a-brac*	\$948.60	\$1140.05	
Devonshire teas	\$768.00	\$713.85	7.6% increase
Total	\$10896.30	\$9758.20	11.7% increase

* The remaining items were taken to the Salvos



Spicer invested in 4 more EPTFOS card readers giving us a total of 6. This proved very useful on the day as 30% of our takings was via this method (up from 25% the previous year).

Thank you to all those that contributed leading up to the day, on the day and in the clean up afterwards.

A special thank you to the people that arranged the advertising and promotion of the event. We know that all forms of our advertising were successful, including reaching a significant number of people through facebook.

Financial Position

Spicer's financial position remains sound. We forecast our net income to be above budget in 2022, because of not appointing a Musical Director.

The 2023 budget includes approximately \$7200 on organ maintenance in the 1st quarter; further upgrades are planned for visual and audio equipment to enhance our worshipping and live streaming of services and we have set aside \$5000 for Ministry resource projects.



Other Projects to be Undertaken in 2023

RAD will investigate options and costs to upgrade the Matthew room. The work is not budgeted for in 2023 however we will keep the congregation posted of any developments.

I would like to thank all our RAD members, our Treasurer, Peter Carrigan and our Secretary, Peter Wilson for their service to Spicer throughout 2022.

RAD is looking forward to serving Spicer again in 2023.

Brenton Niven



Photos courtesy of Phil Grace



Gingerbread House Fun





Spicer Community Lunch

The World Food Supply Depends on a Healthy Bee Population

Our July meeting was addressed by Roy Frisby-Smith, an amateur bee keeper, who explained the elements of beehives and the functions of the queen and drones within it. Interesting facts are that drones are distinguished by their large eyes and all bees have four wings and breathing holes in their abdomen. Roy advised us to be quiet among bees in order to avoid stings. If stung, it is recommended that the victim brush off the sting quickly in order to avoid injecting venom into one's system.



Many years ago the main problem affecting bees was the Wax Moth. Now there are a host of diseases and parasites which can lead to zero or defective pollination of fruit and grains. Distorted fruits and vegetables are a symptom of defective pollination. It is also the case that effective pollination increases the shelf life of fruit and vegetables. Bees share the role of pollination with moths, wasps, flies and bats, but these do not produce honey.

There are many Australian bee varieties. Bumble Bees are found only in Tasmania. The Blue Banded Bee is solitary, partial to Lavender and builds its nest in soft soil. Other varieties include the Teddy Bear and Stingless varieties.

Consumers directly benefit from consumption of Honey, Beeswax and Royal Jelly. However the indirect benefits of pollination of crops in general are worth more than 400 times the direct benefits. Weed control is important in maximising these indirect benefits, because it forces bees to focus on pollinating crops which are important to humans. However some human food crop pollens do not have all the nutrients needed by bees.

Threats to the viability of hives include mites which carry viruses, small hive beetles which eat and contaminate honey, and mice. Strong hives will rob weaker hives which may have a disease. In the extreme we get colony collapse disorder (CCD).

How can people protect hives? Observe quarantine; maintain cleanliness; encourage lady birds and lace wings, spiders which prey on bee predators; do not exterminate wasps unnecessarily because they also attack predators.

Significant Holiday Happenings

Our topic for August was to share for 5 mins about a 'Significant Holiday Happening' and we were delighted to hear from many speakers from those who attended.

- Pam Keeping told us of a wonderful journey to Sri Lanka where their group distributed backpacks and she purchased a sewing machine transported by rickshaw to a lady who now earns a living with what she sews.
- Geoff Peters told of the time he and Bev travelled to Moscow in 1990 to hear their daughter Jane give a violin recital in the Moscow Conservatorium, after Jane had won the Bronze Medal in the Moscow International Violin competition in 1986
- Ruth Palmer spoke of one trip travelling near Oodnadatta. They came across a person travelling, long distances, via foot, with a donkey laden with the camping gear. It turned out the donkey would only walk for six days and rest on the seventh!
- Matthew Bond told of a short cruise in the Pacific where he and Ruthmary were able to celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary. On the way back from visiting an historic church on the island Lifou they were invited to enjoy a local swimming spot in a cave. In the dark by the light of a torch they were encouraged to jump off a small ledge into the water below. They were surprised when they discovered it was fresh water and not salty.



- Kate Argue spoke about her 2017 trip to India to attend her son's wedding. It was the first time her children had been together in 8 years. The wedding was a very extravagant affair that lasted 5 days. She brought in the beautiful Lehenga garments to show us, that had been made for her for the wedding.
- Marina Dodigovic told of us of her time in Dubai helping girls with their English. These girls, who were very upset with the school, learned about the power of forgiveness.
- Lorraine Lea went with her brother and his wife on a holiday from England across to USA enjoying Boston, New York, Washington and across to the highlight of a helicopter flight at the Grand Canyon and seeing Hoover Dam.
- Chris May shared about the holiday he and Cheryl took along the Mekong River and the surrounds. At one stage he ended up on the back of the wrong bike which caused much laughter.
- Di Thorpe told us about her wonderful walks on a holiday, both in Scotland near Fort William (including helping a girl lost in fog up on Ben Nevis), and then across to France including a five day walk in the Pyrenees.
- Michelle Moore ended these accounts with a flying account of her visits to Fiji, Ayers Rock, Hong Kong, Egypt, a Mediterranean Cruise and Singapore where they lost their passports. They also visited China, including seeing the Terracotta Warriors. The Floriade in Canberra was also a highlight.

It was wonderful to hear of these special memories.

In My Mother's Kitchen

Our September gathering was entertained as members recollected what kitchen life was like in their mother's and grandmother's day.

- Michelle spoke of experiences of mixed brands of tea, pressure cookers, egg and bacon pies, Anzac biscuits, and using ragged feet to polish the floor.
- Brian demonstrated the use of a utensil specifically designed to manually peel an orange in polite company. This tool came into his family through his mother marrying a German-Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany.
- Jane Minney spoke of a kitchen transistor radio tuned to ABC morning news and Russ Tyson's hospital half hour.
- Pam reminisced about Sunday afternoon cake, a Japanese wooden tray to display freshly baked scones and Hot Cross Buns made from potato mix at Easter.

- Lorraine's mother was a life member of the CWA and she co-authored a short story entitled "Apron Strings and Fiddlely Things". Each week, her mother would bake with her neighbour.
- Roslyn wore her mother's pinafore when she described her mother as a domestic arts teacher who lived in a home which reared 100 laying hens at any one time. Roslyn brought along several items including an egg weigher and flour sifter.
- We were lucky to have in attendance Louise, the daughter of Marilyn Cowley, for 30 years a resident of London. Louise belongs to a community cooking group there.



- Darien brought along a metal meat mincer inherited from his grandmother and used in Port Augusta for three generations.
- Molly, one of five children, spoke of her mother's busy life: full time chef; home maker; baking her own bread and mending the family clothes and teaching the children to cook.
- Peter reminisced about eating bread and dripping during and after the war years. After all, dripping is only a form of fat derived from meat, whereas dairy butter is fat derived from the cream of milk.
- Finally, Mary Allen brought along a mystery kitchen implement made of metal which she challenged us to identify. No one could. And we look forward to the mystery being solved.

Helping Everyone to Live Safely

Kate Grace spoke at the October lunch, ably assisted by her husband Phil. Kate drew on her experience with law enforcement in South Australia, including the State Intelligence Branch; geographic mapping of key offenders; and Crime Prevention Branch dealing with repeat offenders, and CCTV facilities.

To support personal safety Kate shared a useful tip on preventing personal falls through training the brain to handle personal imbalance. She recommended buying and using personal alarms. Other advice included:

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Walk confidently and establish a routine.
- Know your neighbours and tell them what you are doing.



She reminded us that we should crime proof our homes as much as possible by installing a key safe to house the keys to our home to enable emergency access by care givers; installing high quality security doors; leaving the radio on when we are not at home; putting some garments on the clothes line when going away for extended periods and promptly bring rubbish bins in from the footpath.

Kate and Phil then spoke extensively on computer and telephone security. Change passwords frequently. Avoid the use of the word 'yes' if approached by sales persons on the telephone. Hang up immediately when rung by those purporting to have detected a fault in your computer or internet connection.

Limiting Global Warming By Local Cooling

Our speakers in November meeting were Bec Taylor from Resilient East (Climate Ready Eastern Adelaide) and Eleanor Walters, a Town Planner from Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council (NPSP). They gave us an overview of the latest data on climate change and what the NPSP council is doing to adjust to it.

Climate change is expected to lead to more intense heat, rain and wind, warmer oceans, and rising sea levels, species loss and more frequent and intense bush fires. Climate scientists recommend steps be taken to limit the average rise in daily temperatures to no more than 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

The obvious but costly remedies are more recycling, electric vehicles, increased use of solar and wind power, improved design of buildings to save energy and reflect heat, street and other tree planting, encouragement of cycling and walking through town planning, and water conservation. For example, permeable paving reduces water run off to the benefit of street trees and the establishment of wetlands and stormwater management is also strategically important.

Resilient East is a joint program of 8 councils to promote greening of open space, change business practices in favour of climate stability, limit water runoff for the sake of street trees, select heat tolerant tree species and prevent development in flood prone areas.

Trees and natural vegetation play an obvious role in cooling the urban environment: artificial lawns are to be discouraged because they store heat. Tree canopy and temperature mapping are important tools in telling us how well we are doing in achieving our temperature goals.



As a town planner, Eleanor pointed out that State Government initiatives to promote infill land development can conflict with local efforts to increase open space and cooling. Nevertheless, important local government initiatives remain: limiting the demand for land fill by waste reduction and soft plastic recycling; tree planting; installing LED street lights; requiring new buildings to be constructed of heat reflective materials; installing battery charging stations;

storm water management to retain water for local trees rather than sending it out to sea, thus minimizing manual watering; encouraging local gardeners with tree planting information and information about purchasing mulch from local nurseries at discounted prices for local residents.

We are most grateful to Bec and Eleanor for giving us the information to allow us to do 'our bit' to help solve the climate change problem.

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