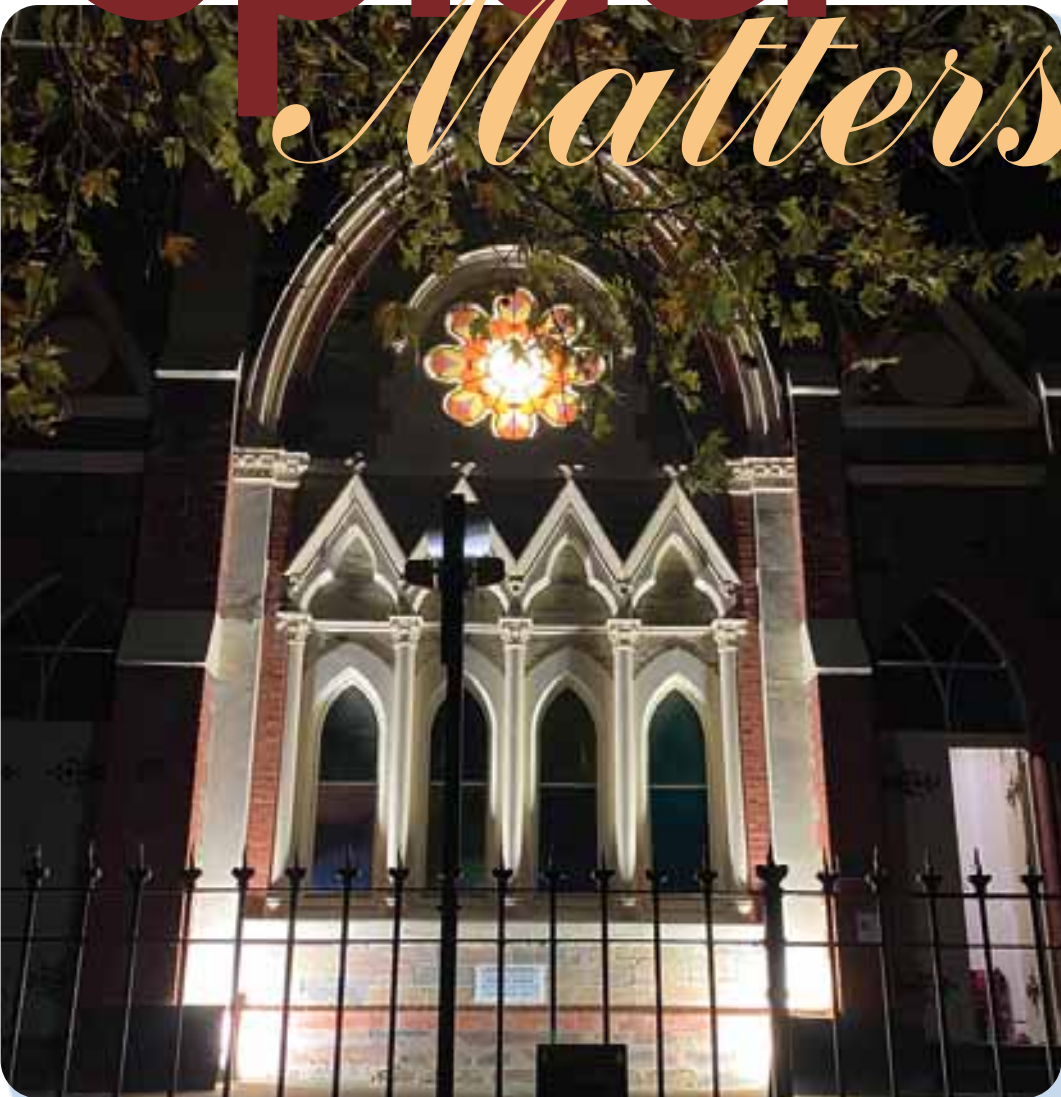


Spicer

Matters



Issue 1, 2022

From Matthew



“We have worked hard all night.”

⁴When he [Jesus] had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. (Luke 5:4–7 New International Version)



Dear Lord,

Please help me to remember and appreciate the hard work of my church family. Christians have worked hard for generations and I should not take the fruits of their labour for granted.

Amen.

Another year has begun and once again we have to consider Covid restrictions and possibilities as we plan to serve God together. Wise decisions have been made to keep us safe as we gather for worship and other community activities. Easter Sights and Sounds has been pushed back to 2023 and many planned events remain uncertain. Like the disciples in the Gospel, we may be feeling the strains of working hard all night and having nothing to show for our efforts. The thought of letting the nets down again did not appeal to the disciples, but they were obedient and did as Jesus asked them to do.

This year, we are asked to be obedient to the call of Jesus and to continue doing what God has asked us to do. We are called to glorify God in all that we say and do. We are called to be witnesses of God's great love and saving grace. We are called to help people explore their faith, connect with God and each other and to respond to God. Our response to God is our worship. We can worship in community together on Sunday morning and we can worship God throughout the week, wherever we are at any moment of the day or night.

Please do not grow weary of your calling to glorify God. Please join with me as we explore new ways to be faithful disciples in these challenging times. Let's all begin on our knees and be ready for the wonder of serving God together in 2022.

May God bless you with faith and courage,

Matthew

*Image source – Benziger Brothers, Inc. Bible Stories for Little Children
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Worship Leading

Always rejoice, constantly pray, in everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 NLT)

Worshipping God is what we are called to do together. We do this as a community at Spicer on Sunday mornings and we do this in a variety of ways as we live our lives. God is at the very centre of our being and worship flows out of us in ways that we may consider so natural that we take them for granted. It could be a thought, a breath or even a simple comment to a friend.

Worship is us recognizing God in our lives and giving God the glory.

Our church is blessed with people who are called to assist us in worship. We have singers, musicians, sound and data techies and most recently our Facebook Live hosts. All of what I do as a Minister of the Word is connected with worship.

A central key to our community worship on Sunday mornings are our Worship Leaders. They are members of our congregation who regularly give us the gift of their time and talents to lead us in prayer and praise. They carefully consider the Scripture, themes and music of the worship service and ask God to inspire them to lead us into a place where we can all respond to God and hear from God.

We are looking for more Worship Leaders to join our team. The good news is that we know where they are. They are in our church. The challenge is having the courage to step into a rewarding new ministry that will require discovering gifts that you may not know you had and gifts that will bring you into a wonderful new relationship with God.

Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

(James 4:8a New Living Translation)

Please talk to me or one of our Worship Leaders for more information.

Matthew

Church Calendar of Activities for 2022

Event	Date	Who is in charge
Barbecue	TBD (orig Feb 6)	Richard and Warwick
Community Connect	TBD (orig Feb 19)	Kate A
Church Dinner	Mar 26	Pam and Richard
ESS	Postponed until 2023	Matthew and Marg J
After Church BBQ	May 22	Pam and Richard (Warwick?)
Quiz night	June 18	Kate G and Julia L-J
Organ Hymn Fest	July 3	Sue H
Community Connect	July 30	Kate A
Regressive dinner	Aug 27	Pam and Richard
Music night	Sept 17	Emma P
Faire	Oct 22	RAD
Church Picnic	Nov 13	Matthew
Gingerbread houses	Nov 24, 25, 26	Marg J and Jane A
Caroling	Dec 11	Kate G, Kate A, Cate B
Carols in the Amphitheater	Dec 18	Sue H, Matthew, Andrew P



RAD

Resources and Development

RAD welcomed Peter Carrigan as our newly appointed Treasurer at our first meeting in February. Peter has taken over from Jane Cooke, who stepped down from the position after 3 years of dedicated service. We thank Jane again for all her work.

Peter tabled the financial statements for the 2021 calendar year which showed Spicer realised a surplus of \$5696 against a budgeted deficit of \$6799, a great result!

2022 may prove to be challenging from an income point of view. The hire of our buildings has traditionally been an important income stream for the church, and our budget reflects this. We don't know the effect COVID-19 will have on our hirers however we remain positive that all our hirers will return soon.

Fund raising will be especially important this year. The first opportunity we have to raise funds is at the State Elections on the 19th of March.

RAD will be running a sausage sizzle on the day which should generate valuable income.

Other opportunities to raise income will be our Quiz night mid-year and the Fair in October.

Safety is something we must always be mindful of. You may have noticed the carpet in the church had become very uneven in places, causing a tripping hazard. The carpet has been professionally stretched recently. This has rectified the issue.

If you see anything that could be deemed a safety issue please report it to Matthew, Helen or one of our RAD team.

Now that the hall has been painted RAD members will be working on improving the condition of the hall floor.

There is no major asset development planned for this year, 2022 will be dealing with any maintenance issues as they arise.

RAD is short for Resources and Development. RAD's function is to ensure the maintenance and development of our material assets to best meet the needs of Spicer's activities and mission as directed by Church Council. We are a dedicated team of individuals who maintain Spicer's assets through working bees and the like.

We are always looking for more talent to join our numbers, women, and men, young and old.

So, if you have an interest in the finances of the Church and/or are interested in the maintenance and development of our resources you are very welcome to join our team, whether that be attending our meetings on the 3rd Monday of most months and/or helping at working bees.

Brenton Niven



Spicer Community Lunch

Improving Rural Health in China in Earlier Times



Our February meeting was addressed by Peter Peterson, whose research team contributed significantly to improvement in rural health in parts of northern China in the early days of the Communist regime.

Peter received his research training in New Zealand and London and was invited to China by the Chinese Academy of Science on behalf of the Endemic Diseases Institute of China. The problems which Peter and his colleagues were called upon to address were the effects on human health of aspects of the natural environment. These included excess supplies of Arsenic and Fluoride, as well as deficiencies in natural endowments of Iodine and Selenium.

Excessive intake of Arsenic leads to forms of skin cancer, while too much Fluoride in the water creates dental and bone disease. The local coal

supply also has a high Fluoride content, which is ingested when coal is burnt in the home as a fuel for cooking and heating.

On the other hand, deficiency in Iodine intake creates problems for the Thyroid Gland, leading to Dwarfism, while lack of Selenium retards development of the foetus and children, because this element is needed for development of the heart muscle. The problem of Selenium deficiency was exacerbated by the local diet of white rice, in preference to brown rice which contains Selenium in its discarded husk.

Peter's research team recommended dealing with Selenium deficiency by a minor change in diet: giving children one egg per day. When they returned some 18 months later they found a vast improvement.

Peter and his Chinese colleagues justifiably look back with pride on their significant achievements in overcoming problems of bureaucracy, language and customs to improve the health of people in the area to which they were assigned.



Coffee sponsorship update

THANK YOU



Hi, my name is
Ameto



AMETO'S UPDATE AND NEW PHOTO!

Here is an update on your precious sponsored child!

Watching your sponsored child develop can be a source of great joy. We hope this update is a great encouragement and a reminder to you of the difference you are making in Ameto's life.

Thank you for the role you play in Ameto's development through your sponsorship, your prayers, and through your letters filled with hope and encouragement.

**Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about Ameto's updated information by calling:
1300 22 44 53.**

God Bless,
Compassion Australia

Your support makes such a difference!

Because of your support — and the love and care of the staff at his child development centre — Ameto is provided with education and healthcare, and the encouragement needed to be socially confident and plan for his future.

Above all, Ameto is introduced to the love of Jesus and given an opportunity to hear the gospel message in a personal and culturally relevant way.



Ameto

TG081700059

My birthday is 3 December 2010

My country is Togo

A little bit about me....

Ameto lives with his mother.

His mother is sometimes employed as a farmer. There are no other children living in the household.

Ameto helps with the following duties at home:

Carrying water
Cleaning
Kitchen chores

Ameto's favourite activities and interests include:

Art or Drawing
Playing hide and seek
Sunday School/Church
Bible class

Ameto attends school.

Ameto is in the school equivalent of year 4.
Ameto's favourite subject is Art.

Ministry Team

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Church Council

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Kate Argue
Cate Bond
Matthew Bond (Minister)
Sue Harding
Julia Lloyd-Jones (Sec)
Pam McEwin (Chair)
Emma Parkinson
Richard Young

RAD

Matthew Bond
Peter Carrigan (Treas)
Stephen Diprose
Malcolm Germein
Warwick Jarrett
Darien Just
Chris May
Brenton Niven (Chair)
Tony Nobbs
Peter Wilson (Sec)

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