How time flies!

It’s 2015. Another year rolls around, bringing with it some milestones and significant events.

100 issues of Good News! The beginning of my fifth year as pastor of the Congregation! I turn 55 this year (does that make me a senior?). A year of preparations for the Centenary Celebrations of Frenchs Forest Methodist/Belrose Uniting Church in 2016! How time flies!

I am excited about the year ahead. A year of more worship, fellowship and encouragement. A year of growth as we continue to share and live out the Gospel. A year of focussing on Discipleship: Knowing Christ and Making Him Known. A year to learn together, worship together, grow in spiritual maturity together. A year to see more people surrender to the Lordship of Jesus.

A year to see kids learning about Jesus and trusting him. A year to see more young people attending Youth Group, participating in leadership, being shaped in the image of Jesus, moving through the life cycles of youth and adulthood. A year to see older people growing older in God’s grace, serving faithfully, exercising wise leadership, being Godly role models for the young. What’s not to get excited about? God is good! God’s grace is great!

I hope and pray that you are, or will get, excited about this year as well. Yes, there will be plenty of challenges, but with the presence of God with us by the Holy Spirit, we can face these challenges with joy, and with firm resolve to honour God no matter comes around the corner.

After all, with God, it’s not only time that flies! “The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 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 40:28 – 31

Ian Weeks - Pastor

Belrose Uniting Church: To Know Christ and Make Him Known!
Good News is the newsletter of the Belrose Uniting Church
Good News Editor: Venessa Crane Phone: 9982 5839
E-mail: venessac@tpg.com.au
Pastor: Rev. Ian Weeks Phone: 9451 3916
E-mail: mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au
Postal Address: 2c Morgan Road, Belrose 2085
A Few Precious Memories -
Noel Mansfield

“And how can they hear unless someone preaches to them”
Romans 10:14b

These were very significant words for me when I was first called
to the ministry in 1961. I retired in 1999 and then began five years
of supply ministry. At the end of 2003 I retired from all forms of
ministry. What followed was a great time of travelling in our
caravan to many wonderful places in Australia. But then late 2009
I was challenged to do a period of supply at Belrose.
And now on reflection I give God thanks for choosing Belrose as
the parish of my new beginning. Alma and I seemed to meld
readily into the life of the parish. It became our home for 10
months. The manse was furnished for us with pots, pans,
crockery, cutlery, TV and a computer connected to the internet.
Alma was asked if there was anything else she would like. She
answered “No” but at the same time mentioned that she would
bring her ironing board and iron from home. That afternoon there
was a knock on the door and someone was there to present her with a new ironing board and
iron. This desire to minister to us continued throughout our time with the parish.
Our Lord could not have given us a better place than Belrose to recommence supply ministry.
I was at Belrose for about ten months so there were many special moments. However here are
just a few that come quickly to mind. What I remember most is the faithfulness of the
members and their desire to serve Jesus. There was a genuine warmth to fellowship that was
devoid of conflict. This allowed the several teams of the congregation to work together in
harmony and achieve much for the Lord.

How to Share Your Faith Seminar
One day I mentioned that Alma and I used to take members of our congregation on Lay
Witness missions. And before going on mission every member of the team had to attend a
training program on How to Share Your Faith. This led to my being asked to lead such a
program at Belrose. So I had to rewrite the program for a training day at Belrose. The
Saturday arrived and so did 29 church members. By the end of the day I was greatly blessed
and I believe so were all who attended.

50th Anniversary of My Conversion
I accepted Jesus as my Saviour 26 June 1960. So June 2010 during my supply at Belrose was
the 50th anniversary of my conversion. I determined to celebrate the occasion. And the
congregation joined with me in the celebration. My family attended and led the worship and
the congregation arranged a wonderful lunch. Thank you for making this a very special
memory.

The Young People
I remember distinctively the first Sunday night I stood fearfully in front
of the congregation consisting mostly of members who were 50 years
younger than me. I was not only introduced but had to be willing to answer any questions the young people asked. Would I survive? I only remember one question which was, “What is your favourite Bible verse?” that was something that I had never really considered because there are many verses that have blessed my life. However I said it was John 1:12. “To all who believed in his name, he gave the power (right) to become children of God.” I must have passed the inquisition because after that I had a WOW of an experience with those young people.

Head Splitting
The garden at the manse was overgrown with plants that had not been pruned for several years and weeds that had taken over some areas. Too much for me to handle so I asked for help. The help came one Saturday. Many workers quickly pulled out weeds and cut back shrubs. And all was going so well that I chose to be the person to fill the green bins. I pushed a bin along a rough path instead of pulling it. The wheels of the bin became stuck and the bin stopped, but I didn’t! I fell onto the open rim and gashed my scalp. I was taken to a medical centre and the wound required six stitches.

Congregation Picnics
These were always times of great fellowship, relaxation and fun. A photo tells the story.

And in conclusion, Congratulations on the 100th edition of Good News. It has always carried a positive message and been a blessing to many. And may it continue to do so.
A PEAR TREE, A ROAD AND A CHURCH

On the edge of Warringah Road outside Frenchs Forest High School is a very old tree. It is a pear tree and one of the few remaining pointers to the early history of our area and our church.

Back down the road, just around the corner in Forest Way is a small brick church which was the original site of the Frenchs Forest Methodist Church. Believe it or not that church and that pear tree are very closely linked. Both are also likely to be affected by road work connected with the new Frenchs Forest Hospital.

The pear tree is actually a remainder of the original Holland family orchard which was on the site of Frenchs Forest High. In 1915, 200 acres of Crown land were released at Frenchs Forest for use as soldier-settler five-acre blocks for soldiers returning from World War I. Among these early settlers was the Holland family and in 1916 the first church services were held in the home of the Hollands. Our links as the Uniting Church go back to that service and in 2016 we will celebrate 100 years of worship in the area. The Holland family continues to be recognised through the naming of Holland Crescent which adjoins the High School.

With the widening of Warringah Road that original pear tree is unlikely to survive. However due to the foresight of the late Robert McPherson, a stalwart of the Frenchs Forest Methodist Church, grafts of the tree were taken a number of years ago. Robert's grandson Angus Brown worked with Warringah Council to grow and nurture a number of pear trees from the cuttings taken from this surviving tree as a high school project. These were planted in the Forest High School in 2005 as a project to celebrate the centenary of Rotary International. The trees are planted in a grove in the School not far from the original tree on Warringah Road.

In 1918 land was acquired and the Frenchs Forest Methodist Church built on Forest Way. In a forerunner to current events, in 1958 the front of the Frenchs Forest Methodist Church building was cut back to allow the widening of Forest Way. Hopefully the new road works will not affect this church building but there is always the chance that the grounds might be affected by the widening of Naree Road.

In 1970 two hectares of land were acquired at Belrose and the current Uniting Church built. The original church building was sold and is now the Forest Alliance Church. In 1973 services began at the newly built much bigger, Belrose Church.

In 1977 the Uniting Church in Australia was formed. The Forest Parish of the Uniting Church comprised the Methodist Churches of Beacon Hill, Belrose, Forestville and Terrey Hills plus The Forest Kirk, Presbyterian Church.
Our 2016 Centenary Celebration is:-

i) an opportunity to advise the wider community of the extent and depth of our faithful Christian presence in the Forest over the past 100 years

ii) to create an historical record of the 100 years

iii) to recognise the significant contribution by congregations who have gone before and laid the foundation that we have today

iv) an opportunity to thank God through church services and other events

If you would like to contribute anecdotes, information, pictures or documents to assist the Centenary Celebration please contact Robert Murphy (murphyffoz@bigpond.com)

Some Thoughts about Death

Recent tragic events here and overseas have led me to thinking more about death. Normally I rarely think of it and when I do, I like to imagine myself at about late 80’s or 90’s going quietly off to sleep and waking up in heaven, having suffered no painful or inconvenient illnesses or disabilities. In light of my family history, this is a fairly unlikely scenario.

Considering the fact that unless Jesus returns beforehand, everyone will eventually die, few like to think or talk about death. In fact the word is often not mentioned these days. People ‘pass away’, or ‘pass on’, or according to newspaper obituaries ‘go fishing’, or ‘play golf in heaven’, or ‘become shining stars’. Maybe we are less comfortable with death than previous generations because once the dying were cared for at home and the body lay out in the parlour by relatives who sometimes also even dug the grave. Today hospitals and palliative care hospices often take care of the dying and funeral parlours take care of the body and organise the funeral. Many have never seen a dead body.

As we have seen recently, death can come suddenly and unexpectedly at any age while we are making other plans. We could be young, fit and healthy, playing sport at an elite level, travelling in a plane or car, or simply enjoying coffee in a cafe – one of the little pleasures of life for we retirees!

Some non-Christians such as Kerry Packer say there is nothing at all after death, but most have a vague, often erroneous belief in heaven where everyone goes unless they have committed some terrible crime. If they are kind and ‘good’ by human standards, they are especially worthy of heaven. These beliefs, however, are far from what the Bible teaches. The Bible clearly tells us that we will spend eternity in 1 of 2 places – either in heaven with God, or in hell without Him.

As Christians, we know that ‘man is destined to die once, and then face judgement’. (Hebrews 9:27) As ‘all have sinned’, (Romans 4:12) we stand guilty and ‘the wages of sin is death’. (Romans 6:3) We also know the good news, that Jesus has died in our place, and that when we place our trust in Him and accept that free gift, God declares us not guilty. However, we are often very hesitant both individually and as a church to spell this out to non Christians for fear of sounding arrogant, fundamentalist or dogmatic. (Obviously the time to do this is not immediately after one of their loved ones has died.) Paul infers in Romans 2:14-15, that those who have never had the chance to hear of Jesus are judged by their hearts and consciences, but for all others, where they spend the next life depends entirely on what they do with Jesus in this life. Life on earth is very fragile at its best, and death can come at any time, so we have a duty to explain these things, whether or not they are palatable.

Ann Keiller
The Last Wishes of Alexander the Great

On his death bed, Alexander summoned his generals and told them his three ultimate wishes.

1. The best doctors should carry his coffin.
2. The wealth he had accumulated in money, gold and precious stones should be scattered along the procession to the cemetery.
3. His hands should be let loose, hanging outside the coffin for all to see.

One of his generals who was surprised by these unusual requests asked Alexander to explain. Here is what Alexander the Great had to say.

1. I want the best doctors to carry my coffin to demonstrate that in the face of death, even the best doctors in the world have no power to heal.
2. I want the road to be covered with my treasure so that everybody sees that material wealth acquired on earth, stays on earth.
3. I want my hands to swing in the wind so people understand that we come to this world empty handed, and we leave this world empty handed after the most precious treasure of all is exhausted, and that is TIME. TIME is our most precious treasure because it is LIMITED. We can produce more wealth, but we cannot produce more time. When we give someone our time, we actually give a portion of our life that we will never take back.

Our time is our life. David Keiller

PRAYER for Rhyll

I Our Father we confess that we do not know how to pray malaisied in praise, confused in confession selfish supplication, intermittent intercession, teach us it is we, not you, who must stay.

II All knowing wise God, make us wise furnished for your good deeds and a Christ’s heart that bleeds, pleads your will be done, with open hands and open eyes.

III Heal us Lord Jesus, from the pain from others usurping your holy name sapping our faith as they themselves, declaim and your love for them, so violently disdain Or nonchalantly dismiss their creator, saviour, judge and every act of grace, begrudge, while truth, hope and love, miss.

IV Repentant, Lord, we seek your grace prostrate before your mercy seat with undeserved forgiveness meet your servants, with a longing face. Unplaster our lips that your praise may wring from voices still choked with inanities, silence our follies and undo our vanities, that of you, precious you, we might sing and sing.

From Bob Pryor
PEACE PRAYER SERVICES
AT ST. NICHOLAS LEIPZIG

Painting the angel of peace above the altar, our ancestors surely did not anticipate that peace prayer services would be so important in the future. A decade ago we ourselves could not imagine that these simple beginnings would ever grow so important. In the early eighties, the “peace decades” began, held each November. Young people would gather together for prayers over the course of ten days. While there were huge demonstrations in the Federal Republic of Germany to protest against the arms race, the armament race continued. The only chance we had to discuss and reflect on this burning issue was at meetings held within churches. It was a young congregation in the eastern part of Leipzig which decided to hold these peace prayer services week after week, resulting in the regularly scheduled Monday evening services. Later the responsibility for conducting the peace prayer services was transferred by peace groups comprised of former “Bausoldaten” (people who rendered their compulsory military service by serving in special unarmed units), environmental activists, and people interested in third world issues. Together they sought to stir the public’s conscience and encourage action.

The East German government strongly opposed human rights violations as long as they occurred outside of the Warsaw Pact’s sphere of influence. But now groups had appeared inside East Germany which were demanding justice and respect for human rights within their own country. At times only a small number attended the peace prayer services. Again and again, however, a particular event prompted crowds of people to attend services in protest. The situation grew explosive when the number of people willing to emigrate began to grow. These applicants for emigration - mostly non-Christians - had no other opportunity to gather and compare experiences but in our Church. Because of the different objectives of the “grass roots groups”, consisting of Christians and non-Christians alike, it was not always easy to maintain a clerical atmosphere at these meetings. Still, together we were able to discover the topicality of the Bible’s message, especially the prophetic texts from the Old Testament or Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. These two things do belong together: people need to discuss urgent social problems and they need to meditate and pray to God for support and guidance.

In September 1989, when some people in the crowd declared: “We want to leave” while others shouted: “We are staying here”, the number of arrests climbed. But by that time, more and more people supported the movement. Days saw the windows of the church decorated with flowers; every night brought numerous glowing candles: signs of fundamental change! But the greatest gift was the spirit of peace that reigned throughout, even on October 9, when everything was at stake. This peaceful attitude - for which we had prayed so many weeks on end with the words of the Beatitudes - spread from the hundreds who gathered in the churches for the peace prayer services to the thousands who flocked together in the city squares and streets. Our peace prayer services will continue! We will deal with today’s problems such as support for the unemployed and efforts to integrate foreigners into our city – as we dealt with problems in the past. Our intercessions and our commitment are just as necessary today as in the past, especially for the world’s crisis areas where new wars and conflicts break out constantly. Thus, we can say Dietrich Bonhoeffer that our Christian identity today consists of only two things: In prayer and just behaviour.

Sup. F. Magirius

THE EVENTS IN AUTUMN 1989

“Nikolaikirche – open to all” became reality in autumn 1989 and surprised us all. After all, it united people from the whole of the former GDR: those who wanted to leave the country and those who were curious, regime critics and Stasi (State Security Police) personnel, church staff and SED members, Christians and non-Christians beneath the outspread arms of the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ. In view of the political reality between 1949 and 1989, this defies all imagination. It became reality – exactly 450 years after the introduction of the Reformation in Leipzig, 176 years after the Battle of Nations
in Leipzig. Now it was Leipzig once more. From 8 May 1989, the driveways to the church were blocked by the police. Later the driveways and motorway exits were subject to large-scale checks or even closed during the prayers-for-peace period. The state authorities exerted greater pressure on us to cancel the peace prayers or at least to transfer them to the city limits. Monday after Monday there were arrests or “temporary detentions” in connection with the peace prayers. Even so, the number of visitors flocking to the church continued to grow to a point where the 2,000 seats were no longer sufficient. Then came the all-deciding 9 October 1989. And what a day it was! There was a hideous show of force by soldiers, industrial militia, police and plain-clothes officers.

But the opening scene had taken place two days before on 7 October, the 40th anniversary of the GDR, which entered into GDR history as Remembrance Day. On this day, for 10 long hours, uniformed police battered defenceless people who made no attempt to fight back and took them away in trucks. Hundreds of them were locked up in stables in Markkleeberg. In due course, an article was published in the press saying it was high time to put an end to what they called “counter-revolution, if necessary by armed forces”. That was the situation on 9 October 1989. Moreover, some 1,000 SED party members had been ordered to go to the St Nicholas Church. 600 of them had already filled up the Church nave by 2pm. They had a job to perform like the numerous Stasi personnel who were on hand regularly at the peace prayers. What had not been considered was the fact that these people were exposed to the word, the gospel and its impact! I always appreciated that the Stasi members heard the Beatitudes from the Sermon from the Mount every Monday. Where else would they hear these? Thus, these people and Stasi members heard Jesus Christ’s gospel which they didn’t know, in a church they could not do anything with. They heard from Jesus who said: “Blessed are the poor”! And not: Wealthy people are happy. Jesus said: “Love your enemies”! And not: Down with your opponent. Jesus said. “Many who are now first will be last!” And not: Everything stays the same. Jesus said. “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it and whosoever who lose his life for my sake shall find it”! And not: Take great care. Jesus said: “You are the salt!” And not: You are the cream. Thus, the prayers for peace tool place in unbelievable calm and concentration.

Shortly before the end, before the bishop gave his blessing, appeals by Professor Masur, chief conductor of the Gewandhaus Orchestra, and others who supported our call for non-violence, were read out. The solidarity between church and art, music and the gospel was of importance in the threatening situation of those days. The prayers for peace ended with the bishop’s blessing and the urgent call for non-violence. More than 2,000 people leaving the church were welcomed by ten thousand waiting outside with candles in their hands – an unforgettable moment. Two hands are necessary to carry a candle and to protect it from extinguishing so that you cannot carry stones or clubs at the same time. The miracle occurred. Jesus’ spirit of non-violence seized the masses and became a material, peaceful power. Troops, (military) brigade groups and the police were drawn in, became engaged in conversations, and then withdrew. It was an evening in the spirit of our Lord Jesus for there were no winners and no defeated, nobody triumphed over the other, nobody lost face. There was just a tremendous feeling of relief.

This non-violent movement only lasted a few weeks. But it caused the party and ideological dictatorship to collapse. “He dethrones the mighty ones and enthrones the weak ones.” - “You will succeed, not by military power or by your own strength, but by my spirit, says the Lord”, is what we experienced. There were thousands in the churches. Hundreds of thousands in the streets around the city centre. But: Not a single shattered shop window. This was the incredible experience of the power of non-violence. Horst Sindermann, who was a member of the Central Committee of the GDR, said before his death: “We had planned everything. We were prepared for everything. But not for candles and prayers.” The prayers for peace continue. An initiative for the unemployed developed at the St. Nicholas Church. Thus, the St Nicholas Church remains what it was: A house of Jesus, a house of hope, a place and a source for a new beginning.

Rev. C. Fuhrer From Alison Juniper
In the second year of my ministerial training in 1985 my Field Work placement for the year was with the Rev. Bruce Walker at Forestville Uniting Church which was part of The Forest Parish. Belrose and Terrey Hills Congregations were part of the Parish so I knew a little bit about those Congregations from that time. When I accepted the call to come to The Forest Parish, beginning in January 1996, it was on the understanding that I would pastor the Belrose and Terrey Hills Congregations while working with the other Ministers of the Parish, who were at that time the Rev. Graham Perry who looked after Forestville and Beacon Hill and the Rev. Yvonne Stevenson who looked after The Forest Kirk at Frenchs Forest.

Some of the people who were very special members of the Belrose and Terrey Hills Congregations were:

* Bruce and Helen Stark. Bruce was the person at Belrose who was the main contact with me in the lead-up to the call being made to me. He was very diligent and caring and we developed a strong friendship which has continued on to the present time. I was able to fully support Bruce’s application to become a Lay Pastor within the Uniting Church and we were sad to farewell him and Helen in 2001 when they went to Sussex Inlet as Lay Pastor.

* Pauline Johnston. Pauline was a wonderfully enthusiastic Terrey Hills resident who loved her community and was one of its best-known personalities. I thoroughly enjoyed her friendship and support and was really saddened by her sudden death in 1999.

* The Rev. Arch Grant and Mrs Erla Grant; the Rev. Winston O’Reilly and Mrs Nan O’Reilly; the Rev. Bob Coleman and Mrs Jean Coleman. When I came to Belrose there were 3 retired Ministers in the congregation. They were all wonderfully supportive and encouraging the whole of my time there. Arch Grant had a great love for the Northern Territory where he had ministered for many years, going right back to 1939. Whenever I told a story about the Territory in a service, Arch would hold up the line of people waiting to greet me after the service with his own story which invariably topped mine! Winston O'Reilly was the first General Secretary of the Uniting Church Assembly and its second President. He was a wise, immensely experienced and wonderfully caring man whose company and friendship I treasured. Bob Coleman had been the Minister at Belrose in his second-last placement. On his retirement he and Jean worshipped with us at Belrose and were always interested in what was happening without being intrusive.

* Norm Gatford. Norm was a lay preacher and choir member at Belrose who made a strong contribution to the life of the church until his death in 2002.

* David Keiller. David’s skills as a facilitator were greatly used in annual planning days when the Church Council mapped out a strategy for the coming year. I met with him regularly to pray and was always thankful for his friendship and encouragement.

During my time at Belrose we were able to appoint Gayle Young as Family Worker and Zoe Peter as Youth Worker. Both women made strong and effective contributions to the life of the church and the three of us worked well together as a team.

The Congregation supported Steve and Theresa Parker in their work in Papua New Guinea and it was always a blessing to have them visit when they were on leave. I found that God frequently had a word for me through Steve’s preaching. I was delighted that Steve was inducted as Pastor of the Congregation on the day of our farewell in 2004.
There were many events that were highlights for me during our time at Belrose. Some of them were:

* The wonderful Combined Churches’ Family Fun Days on Anzac Day.
* The restructuring of the leadership of the Congregation with a Church Council elected on the basis of Ministry gifts.
* 27 weddings, mostly of people from within the Congregation.
* The participation of a significant number of people in our Alpha Courses.
* The involvement of a significant number of people in Emmaus Walks.
* The monthly Combined Churches’ Prayer Meetings.

* The support of many people through “Mission of the Month.”
* The establishment of 2 morning services in 2004.
* The close of services at Terrey Hills was sad but the sale of the property enables the redevelopment of the Belrose property.
* The disbanding of The Forest Parish gave us the opportunity to completely focus on our own mission.
* The separation of our Preschool from Forestville also gave us the opportunity to look after our own ministry through the Preschool.
* Our Church Camps at Elanora and Grose Vale were excellent times of teaching and fellowship.
* A mentoring programme was introduced by the Rev. Les Scarborough with some excellent relationships being formed within the Congregation.

I always enjoyed leading worship and preaching each week during our 8 years at Belrose. Having 3 services each Sunday, each of them very different, was challenging but rewarding. We were blessed with excellent musicians at each service and I am thankful for so many wonderful experiences of God’s goodness and grace as we worshipped. The Preschool provided a wonderful service to the families of the community and I regarded it as being very important to support the Board, the Director and the staff as I was able.

I visited many of our Congregation who were residents at Wesley Gardens and was able to have informal meetings with the CEO and Chaplain.

When I look back over my diary and read of all the people and events that I was involved with during our time at Belrose I give God thanks for the opportunity to be part of so many wonderful peoples’ lives. May God continue to bless his people at Belrose!

From Wendell Flentje

THOUGHTS OF AN OLDER PERSON
Remember that we old folks are worth a fortune, with silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in the kidneys, lead in the feet, and gas in the stomach. While I may have become a little older since I last saw you, I have in the meantime become quite a frivolous old gal, having two gentlemen with me every day. Will Power helps me get out of bed, and Arthur Ritis never leaves me alone.

The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, “Oh I do that all of the time. No matter where I am, in living room, the study, in the kitchen or upstairs, I always ask myself what I’m here after!”

(Contributed by Norm Gatford)
Courtesy of Cathie Browning
VISION 2000 -
"GOOD NEWS” BEGINS!

It was the year 2000 AD, and at Belrose Uniting Church things were starting to move. A whole new vision for the development of the church was taking shape, and a small group of us (Kathie Lynn, Donal Carr, our minister Wendell Flentje and myself) got together to plan a way to communicate to the whole church the changes that were unfolding.

We decided that a monthly folded broadsheet, newsy and fun and with lots of variety, would help everyone to take ownership of church happenings across the generations. We also wanted to distribute to the Preschool families - our number one mission field - and to people with an on-the-edge connection with the church.

Our publication was to be called "Good News", and as I read back over my folder of many of the issues, that's certainly what it was to become.

How glad I am to have kept that folder, right from the very first “Good News” (January 2000) until the end of my time of work on the church staff in 2008. It's heart-warming to read of the establishment and progress of the pre-teen youth group, the excellent teenage programmes, our young family work, the various mens' and women's groups, the departure of Wendell and arrival of Steve Parker, the employment of Family and Youth Workers, and of course all the weddings, babies, healings, missionary news and fun photos of church events.

Special mention should be made of the front page of the March 2002 “Good News”: Nicola Pengilly's delightful story of her 5-year-old son Jackson's first day at school - complete with a photo of the little guy.

So what was in that first “Good News” of January 2000?

*Rev Wendell and Mary Flentje's Christmas message - explaining that Jesus is the most significant person in all of history.
*An article about Belrose-FM, the expanding Friday women's programme.
*A book review by Andrew Lynn ("The Case for Christ").
*An invitation to the next Christianity Explained course, being held at the Attwoolls' home in Terrey Hills.
*Mission of the Month was Steve and Theresa Parker, our missionaries in Papua-New Guinea.
*And we were encouraged to pray for outreach at the upcoming 2000 Olympics.

In 2004, Sandra Murphy became the "Good News" editor and we moved to bi-monthly, and in 2007, Venessa Crane took over.

May God continue to bless this very significant publication, which in reality has become a history of His ongoing work at and through Belrose Uniting Church.

Gayle Dean   (BUC's Family Support Worker 2000 - 2008)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday of Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Morning Worship</th>
<th>Family Service</th>
<th>Evening Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>1st Sunday 252 Family Experience Service</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#1.1 What is a Disciple? Matthew 4:12 - 25</td>
<td>#1.1 What is a Disciple? Matthew 4:12 - 25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Lord's Supper</td>
<td>The Lord's Supper</td>
<td>The Lord's Supper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#1.2 Our Task: To Make Disciples</td>
<td>#1.2 Our Task: To Make Disciples</td>
<td>#1.2 Our Task: To Make Disciples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#1.3 The Heart of a Disciple Maker</td>
<td>#1.3 The Heart of a Disciple Maker</td>
<td>#1.3 The Heart of a Disciple Maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>22nd Lent 1</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Youth Service + Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#2.1 Life in the Church</td>
<td>#2.1 Life in the Church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ephesians 4:1-16</td>
<td>Ephesians 4:1-16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1st Lent 2</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>1st Sunday 252 Family Experience Service</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#2.2 Living Locally</td>
<td>#2.2 Living Locally</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</td>
<td>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8th Lent 3</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Lord's Supper</td>
<td>The Lord's Supper</td>
<td>The Lord's Supper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#2.3 Living Globally</td>
<td>#2.3 Living Globally</td>
<td>#2.3 Living Globally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 96</td>
<td>Psalm 96</td>
<td>Psalm 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#3.1 Why study the Bible? Psalm 1</td>
<td>#3.1 Why study the Bible? Psalm 1</td>
<td>#3.1 Why study the Bible? Psalm 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>22nd Lent 5</td>
<td>Ladies Fellowship Annual Service</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Youth Service + Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#3.2 Studying the Bible Prayerfully Psalm 119:1 – 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 119:1 - 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>29th Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Youth Service + Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#3.3 Studying the Bible Intelligently 2 Timothy 3:10-17</td>
<td>#3.3 Studying the Bible Intelligently 2 Timothy 3:10-17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Experience Service</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td></td>
<td>Service 9.00 am</td>
<td>Service 7.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5th Easter Sunday</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>1st Sunday 252 Family Experience Service</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Youth Service + Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>The Lord’s Supper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#4.1 OT &amp; Creation Genesis 1:1 – 2:3</td>
<td>#4.1 OT &amp; Creation Genesis 1:1 – 2:3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Youth Service + Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#4.2 OT &amp; The Fall Genesis 3:1 - 24</td>
<td>#4.2 OT &amp; The Fall Genesis 3:1 - 24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Rev. Ian Weeks</td>
<td>Youth Service + Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#4.3 OT &amp; Abraham Genesis 12:1 – 9</td>
<td>#4.3 OT &amp; Abraham Genesis 12:1 – 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>