

People, Participation and Prayer: a church isn't a building of brick and wood. It's a group of people gathered by God who are building their lives around Jesus. That's why belonging to church means more than just Sunday services. In this **Newsweek** are some of the things we are doing, events and activities we think are worthwhile, and people and things to pray for. Pray regularly for our Church family.

Please pray for our world, our community, and each other

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Philippians 4:6, 7

Staying at home doesn't mean we can't keep connected. Take opportunities to phone around our church family to say hi.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:-
Healing, Strength & Comfort for:**

- * those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and for those who are vulnerable to infection; missing the embrace of family and grieving the loss of loved ones
- * local businesses & their staff
- * those who have lost their jobs
- * our health care service personnel
- * our Governments & those in leadership

Want to "worship at home"? Look out for live Services on the internet such as:

FF Baptist Church Sundays 9.30 am
www.ffbc.org.au

St Faiths Anglican Narrabeen Sundays 9 am & 6 pm
<https://stfaiths.church>

Pittwater UC 9.30 am & 6 pm Sundays:
<https://pittwater.online.church>

Wesley Mission 10.00 am Sundays:
www.wesleymission.org.au/christian-life/congregations-online

St Matthews Anglican Manly Sundays 10am & 6pm
www.stmattsmanly.org.au

**June Mission of the Month:
The Bush Church Aid Society**



The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia has a heart for people living in remote and regional Australia.

"We are committed to going the distance to reach Australia for Christ. Since 1919, BCA has been reaching outback Australians with the good news of Jesus."

- Under God, the BCA does this by
- * proclaiming Christ so that people may respond to Him;
 - * nurturing Christians in their faith and ministry;
 - * strengthening local Christian communities in their mission.

Pastor Jack Harradine, a UAICC/UCA minister, works with BCA in the Broken Hill Congregation - *we supported Jack with his Christmas Party for disadvantaged families.*

By supporting Bush Church Aid, you are reaching people in rural, remote and regional Australia with the saving word of Christ.

Check out the BCA web-site
<https://www.bushchurchaid.com.au/>

Please keep giving! I encourage you to make use of the electronic funds transfer option from your bank account to the Uniting Financial Services Congregation account using the following information:

Belrose UC Property Committee
BSB 634-634 Acc Number 10000-1487

Belrose Uniting Church
Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

GOOD NEWSWEEK
28th June 2020 CV-19/14
The Season of Pentecost



Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ from Frenchs Forest to Terrey Hills; from the beaches to the bush, since 1916.

Boldness!

And can it be that I should gain, an interest in the Saviour's blood. Died He for me who caused His pain, for me, who Him to death pursued. Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me!

*No condemnation now I dread: Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.*

(Charles Wesley)

The Book of Acts records for us the amazing transformation of the Jesus' disciples. The cowering and fearful witnesses of Jesus' crucifixion became bold witnesses of the risen Lord, fearlessly proclaiming the good news that Jesus is alive and He is Lord! In the face of opposition from civil and religious authorities, we see the early Church openly sharing the Gospel, empowered by the Spirit with boldness.

But it wasn't just boldness in evangelism. There was a boldness in prayer (see Acts 4:23 – 31) as they praised God for what they had experienced, and asked God to reveal the truth to those to whom they witnessed!

Boldness should not be confused with arrogance. There is no room for self-righteousness or personal boasting in the Christian faith. The disciples were acutely aware that their new relationship with God was a result of God's gracious gift in Christ Jesus, nothing that they could boast of. This boldness is reflected in that great hymn by Charles Wesley (possibly my favourite) *"And can it be .."*. That same humble boldness that comes from a heart grateful to God for His mercy. *Lord, by your Holy Spirit, grant me boldness that comes from a grateful heart, to bear witness to your goodness to all I come in contact with.* Ian Weeks

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Wednesday – Monday (Tuesday off)

Church Website: <http://www.belrose.unitingchurch.org.au>
Prayer Requests: prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



Coronavirus Conversations

(What have you been doing during the “Coronavirus Confinement?”)

Venessa Crane reports she is going well and still very busy. A new wheelchair is on the way and Venessa is going through the slow process of ensuring the new chair will be a good match for her. She has also commenced a new course studying film making and editing. Well done Venessa.

Allison Pitt has been co-opted onto the Church Council and is making a valuable contribution already. This is in addition to all her other work and the time she spends with Venessa, supporting her with the new course, among other things.

Bill Schnabel is now back home after spending time at Wesley Gardens. He can be contacted at home on 9450 1476

Leila Cradock has been thrilled by the support from her friends at Belrose Uniting Church. She is going well and appreciates having family nearby.

Bob and Cathie Browning are coping with the Covid-19 restrictions although Bob would like to get out more and do a few things. Cathie is back on the golf course and enjoying catching up with her golfing friends. It can be a busy week which often includes a day trip to check the horses on the farm near Wollombi.

Bruce Cox & Kathy are busy sorting out the family home – Bruce’s Dad, Charles, has moved into the same Aged Care Community in Forestville where his wife June is, PTL!! Bruce & Kathy’s return to Africa has been delayed by this responsibility as well as the coronavirus situation – please pray for them at this time.

Happy New Year!! The new financial year starts on 1st July which means you have until Tuesday 30th June to take advantage of **Tax Deductible Donations** to charities such as **FACE** (SRE in our local High Schools). You can **donate to FACE** through the Church bank account or directly to the FACE Westpac Account BSB 032 123 A/c 289 584 or send to Rev Ian (FACE Treasurer).

Coronavirus Update

State Government restrictions are being somewhat relaxed to allow gatherings in churches of up to 50 people. However the Presbytery has given the Church Council an extensive list of requirements that need to be put in place if Sunday Services are to resume. The Church Council is responsible for drawing up a **Covid-19 Safety Plan** to submit to the Presbytery to show how we can meet these requirements for the safety and well-being of our Church members and the wider community before we can resume Sunday Services – **we will keep you posted!!**

However, the weekly Prayer Meetings at Church have resumed in the Worship Space with appropriate health safeguards, and so the next Prayer Meeting at the Church will be on Thursday 25th June 11.00 am And then on Thursday 2nd August at 7.30 pm

If you are unwell or vulnerable to infection, please do not attend the Prayer Meetings – join us from your home in “Spirit”.

Because of Pentecost, We Have A New Boldness Acts 4

One of the effects of the Day of Pentecost was to empower the followers of Jesus with a new boldness – a boldness to fearlessly proclaim that Jesus is not only alive, but also is the Messiah who is worthy of our complete trust and surrender. They called people to repent and to submit to the Lordship of Jesus, and suffered persecution and oppression as a result. But this did not deter them!

Pray: *Lord, as with boldness did the early Church proclaim the good news, may we also have boldness to trust you completely, speak about you graciously, and follow Jesus faithfully. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

1. A New Boldness In Word and Deed **Read: Acts 4:1 – 21**

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples continued the ministry of Jesus – proclaiming the arrival of the Kingdom of God in the Risen Christ with great signs and wonders, calling people to repentance and faith, and ministering to the sick and demon possessed. These previously fearful disciples were transformed by the Holy Spirit into bold witnesses to the saving power of the Gospel.

When confronted by the religious authorities, they could not contain their urge to tell of who Jesus is and what God had done by Him. They confessed before the rulers and elders that Jesus alone is Lord and that salvation is found in no-one else (v 12). What boldness!!

Reflection: What stops me from being bold in my witness to Jesus?
How might we be perceived as arrogant as we proclaim the gospel to the world around us? How might we refute such a suggestion?

2. A New Boldness In Prayer **Read Acts 4:23 – 31**

When Peter and John returned to the gathering of the Church, they recounted their experience. This caused the Church to pray. Their prayer was not for their comfort or deliverance from opposition. Rather, they prayed that God would continue to use them to share the good news about Jesus regardless of the reactions of the world around them. Their prayer acknowledged that the message of Jesus will be unpopular and bring opposition. So they prayed for more boldness to continue to proclaim the Gospel.

Reflection: What impresses you about the prayer in this passage?
What comfort or confidence do you draw from this prayer?
What does it prompt you to pray for in this current age?

Challenge: Identify three people that you think you might be able to have a conversation about Jesus with.
Pray for them – that they might be receptive.
Pray for yourself – that you might be alert to the opportunities and bold in those opportunities.

Evangelism = sharing the good news about Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leaving the results to God!