

2021- Building on a solid foundation for a New Year

As the New Year gets underway, it gives us an opportunity to think about what our faith and Christian life will be built upon in the coming year. I am grateful to Ross Swadling for providing some thought provoking questions and reflections on Matthew 7:24 – 27. I hope you will be challenged and encouraged – Ian.

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you that you are a God who has spoken and revealed yourself through your Son, our Saviour Jesus. Lord open my eyes, ears, mind and heart to hear and understand, and apply your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Matthew 7:24 – 27: Jesus said: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Reflect:

Can you name some dangerous things you have done? What about:

- Claiming to be a Christian
- Reading the Bible

Many can be worried about Bible passages they do not understand. However, Mark Twain said, "for me, the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those which I do understand!"

Jesus condemns "sayers" who are not also "doers". The problem is that, while we may SAY Jesus is Lord, we may not DO things that are consistent with him actually being Lord. So, while it is not our outward appearance that ultimately matters; our behavior, our outward appearance and actions, will reflect the state of our hearts. It has been said that if we want to know what we truly believe, we only need to examine our behaviour.

We all know the story of the house built on rock and the house built on sand. One is sound and one is not. Jesus says that it is the hearing **AND** applying of His word that makes a solid foundation for faith and life.

The problem is that precisely because much of our response to God's word is internal and unseen, it is easy to neglect. However, if anyone was to come to church drunk, it would be obvious to everyone. However, nobody may know if we have prayed lately, or read our Bibles, or given generously, or shared the Gospel.

We may be "hearers". We may have heard the Word. Will we seek to take Jesus' words and put them into practice? Will we build a solid foundation on them?

"What do I need to do about it?"

"What changes do I need to make in my life?"

"What action do I need to take today?"

If we are "sayers" and "hearers" without being "doers", it will simply show that we do not really know Jesus at all. If you have it, read Oswald Chambers – *MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST* for 7 January.
Ross Swadling



Belrose Uniting Church

in the Assembly of Confessing Congregations
of the Uniting Church in Australia

Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose

We aim **TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN**

GOOD NEWSWEEK

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world since 1916.

3rd January 2021



**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!** 2 Cor 5:17

In Accordance with
NSW Government Public Health Orders
**Sunday Services are
suspended until further notice**

Check the Church web-site for up-dates

Who are we?

We are all about following Jesus. We seek to worship God in a welcoming and supportive environment that fosters teaching and growth, modelling and sharing Jesus' love in word and action within our church and the wider community.

We are "evangelical" Christians, which means that **Jesus** shapes the heart of our worship, the **Bible** shapes the heart of our life, and the **Gospel** (the Good News about Jesus) shapes our heart for a broken world.

Pastor: Rev Ian Weeks
(P) 9451 3916 (M) 0408 308 196
mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au
Wednesday – Monday (Tuesday off)

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

**Normal Sunday
Services**
9:30am & 5.30pm



Rev. Ian & Anne Weeks are on leave for two weeks from Saturday 26th December through to Sunday 10th January inclusive.

Good Newsweek is the weekly news sheet of BUC.

Contributions to *Newsweek* are very welcome and should be emailed to mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au by **12 noon Thursdays** or given to Rev. Ian.

WHAT'S ON @ BUC – Update your 2021 diaries

Property/room bookings to Denis Wall: deniswall30@gmail.com

Using the Church premises? Don't forget to turn off lights & lock doors.

Mark Your Diary for January 2021:

Sat 2nd – Thu 7th Jan CMS Summer School (for 2021: online only)

To view Summer School online, register at <https://www.nswsummerschool.org.au/>

Membership Updates - Want to explore Church Membership?

In early 2021 Rev Ian will be conducting a Reception of New Members Service including Transfer of Membership from other Congregations. If you would like to explore what Church membership involves, or become a member of BUC, please let Ian know.



2020 has been a challenging year!

We have had to learn to be Church without gathering together for a time, without singing; and without the usual forms of enjoying fellowship and personal contact. But we have endured.

We have learnt new skills like “social distancing”, Zoom meetings, and on-line worship. But we have been blessed.

We pray that 2021 will be very different – for us to meet freely without distancing, to sing for joy to the Lord in full voice, to share in the Lord’s Supper and morning tea without anxieties; and a year of opportunities to worship together, and bear witness to the Lordship of Jesus in our community.

We hope and pray that we will be able to resume Normal Services again soon – but this will be dependent upon the Public Health Orders issued by the NSW Government – we will endeavour to let you know as soon as we can.

Good News Quarterly will be coming out again in late January. Get your articles to Editor Venessa: venessac@tpg.com.au

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.

Our Congregation prayer gatherings are held weekly – alternating Thursdays at 11.00 am & 7.30 pm – but are in recess until further notice.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Healing, Strength & Comfort for:

- * Those recovering from surgery or illnesses: Gordon Allan; Denis Wall; Diana Amos
- * Those grieving the loss of loved ones: Charles Cox & Family; Heather Broadbent & Family; Family of Rev Bob Coleman
- * Those who are struggling with Covid-19 lockdown restriction; disappointment over holiday plans, and missing contact with family and friends

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * The war against Covid19
- * Refreshing and healthy holidays
- * Evangelistic opportunities to share the Gospel
- * Our Church leaders as we prepare for new things in 2021

Have a prayer request?*Email: prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au
*Give to Rev. Ian or *Place a note in the prayer box near Church front door.

January Mission of the Month:

**Sydney Central Coast Presbytery Levy:
A Catalyst for Growing Generous, Inclusive, and
Courageous Churches**

The Presbytery is the regional council of the UCA which has the responsibility for the pastoral care of the Congregations and Ministers within its bounds, and to facilitate mission and ministry.

The Sydney Central Coast Presbytery extends from north of Sydney Harbour, out to Beecroft, Ryde, and Cherrybrook, and up to the northern end of the Central Coast.

Through our Presbytery Levy we seek to encourage other Congregations in ministry within our Presbytery.

