



NEWSLETTER

28 November – 4 December 2022

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ **Our Guest Preacher this Sunday is Sue**

Steve will be on annual leave until 11 December. **Sue (4 Dec) and Cathy (11 Dec)** will be our guest preachers while Steve is away.

For any pastoral needs, please contact Robyn (Pastoral Care Team Leader). Other church matters please contact Cathy (Church chairperson).



Community News and Notices

Are you looking for Christmas presents?

Our new gift guide is here! It's such a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people striving to overcome poverty and injustice.



You can champion the ethical gift-giving movement this Christmas by giving gifts that fight poverty and build hope.

These are gifts that won't be left collecting dust but will transform the lives of those who need them most!

Go to <https://everythingincommon.com.au/> to start shopping

Join us for Retreat Yourself 2023

We warmly invite *all young adults aged 18ish to 30* to come and join us for a weekend of community, worship, beach fun, great food, prayer, and sharing as we discuss *Courageous Discipleship*.

Who: Young Adults aged 18ish-30

When: 3-5 February 2023

Where: Chittick Lodge, Gerringong

Cost: \$200 early bird (expires 31/12/22);
\$240 full price

Registration: [Register here!](#)

Registrations close: Mon 24/01/23

This will be an amazing time that will set you up for a big year ahead, along with building great relationships with other Young Adults across the Synod. Expect big things and prepare to be challenged as we seek to grow closer to God as disciples of Jesus Christ.



NEW - (optional) RY23 LEADERSHIP DAY

The Synod leadership and PULSE are putting on a day of leadership conversation, community, and challenge from Thu 2 Feb (starting 7pm with dinner) through to about 5pm Fri 3 February.... right before RY23 kicks off proper!

Anyone is welcome to participate in this extra day - just select the text box when you register to say you are coming. Best part - IT'S FREE. No additional cost. 3 nights for the price of 2!

▪ **Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links**

Uniting Church Assembly: <https://uniting.church/news/>

NSW & ACT Synod: <https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/>

▪ **Moderator's Flood Appeal to help devastated communities**

The Uniting Church NSW/ACT has launched a special appeal to help those communities devastated by record-breaking floods.

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/media-release-moderator-s-flood-appeal-to-help-devastated-communities/>

Reflection of the Week

Many people today have right beliefs. They would agree that the Bible is the Word of God. They would contend that Jesus is the Son of God. They might even possess great theological knowledge. But they do not necessarily act on what they believe.

Nehemiah was a man of right beliefs *and* right actions. He put everything on the line to follow God. The task before him was a dangerous and difficult one, but Nehemiah could not rest knowing that the walls of Jerusalem lay in crumbled heaps. As we will see, he was the kind of man who could show the world his faith by his works (see James 2:18).

Read Nehemiah 1. When Nehemiah received news that the walls of Jerusalem were in shambles, he was not the only one with that knowledge. But the reason that we have a book in the Bible bearing Nehemiah's name, and not someone else's, is that Nehemiah alone acted. He trusted God enough to praise Him, to pray—and then to get to work rebuilding the broken walls of Jerusalem.

Today, we hear about "broken walls"—things that have gone wrong in our culture, in our families, and in our churches—but too often we think that someone else will fix them. Can you imagine if that had

There are many excuses Nehemiah could have given as to why he was not the man for the job. First, he was in Persia, serving under the king. He was not free to leave. Even asking the king for permission was dangerous. Second, Nehemiah was a cupbearer. As far as we know, he had no experience organizing a great building project like a city's wall construction. And finally, Nehemiah had a lot to lose. He was a wealthy man working for the most powerful man of his day.

But none of these obstacles prevented Nehemiah from following the Lord. Instead of seeing all the possible reasons why someone else should go, he saw the only reason that mattered: God's name should be glorified, but the broken walls of Jerusalem were telling the world another story.

What are the broken-down walls in your life—situations where things are not as God would have them? There may be plenty of reasons why someone else should act rather than you, but there's only one reason that matters: Jesus has called you to follow Him. So praise Him, pray, and then do what you know God is calling you to do.

Prayer: Lord, give me the strength to do what You are calling me to do. Help me to pray and act boldly on behalf of my family, my city, and my nation. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" (Nehemiah 2:3).

E - give (Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks Community Church
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Prayers

If you have any prayer requests or would like to know of those with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please contact Robyn, Steve or Pastoral Care Team.
Robyn: 0424791916

Ministry Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steve Lee / minister@northrocks.org.au / 0433 698 690

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson

Secretary: Sue Vasilevska

Treasurer: Anne Crabb

Team Leaders

Worship: Steve Lee Discipleship: Alex Chow Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska

Intergen: Cathy Nelson Mission: Steve Turner

North Rocks Community Church

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Uniting Church in Australia <https://uniting.church/>

NSW & ACT Synod <https://nswact.uca.org.au/>

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery <https://parramattanepean.uca.org.au/>