



NEWSLETTER

13 – 19 February 2023

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ Ash Wednesday Service, 22nd February @ 7 PM

Our 40 days journey in Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Please come and join the reflective service. We hope to spend this holy season of Lent reflecting on our Lord's sacrificial love for us and for the world.

▪ "40 Days of Blessing" during Lent

This year during Lent, NRCC is going to share God's blessing with those who are important to us. Do you want to be blessed to be a blessing to others? Then, let's walk this 40-day's journey together as God's family.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap." (Luke 6:38)

Choose 40 people whom you want to share your blessings with. Pray for them. Share your blessing. A message of blessing will be provided each day during Lent.



NRCC 2023 Lent Activity

When: During the 40 days in Lent

Who: 40 people you feel led to share God's blessings with

How:

1. Choose a time to reflect on a word of blessing
2. Pray for the person
3. Share your blessing with the person using text, email, phone call or social media.

▪ **Women's Conferences**

[CWCI Conference](#) March 10-12 at The Tops Conference Centre. Robyn is organising for a group from NRCC to attend the Saturday sessions. Please talk to Robyn if you are interested in attending.

[SMBC Conference](#) March 18, 9.30am-3.30pm at Croydon. Please talk to Jacky if you are interested in attending.

▪ **Beryl's Marmalade**

Beryl has made some marmalade to raise some funds for the church. If you would like to buy some it will be available on Sunday or from the office for \$5 a jar. Thank you Beryl.

Dates for your Diary

CC and the ministry team leaders have discerned together and put the dates of the events/activities for this year on our church calendar. Please feel free to contact any of the leaders if you feel led to participate or want to share your thoughts and ideas.

NRCC 2023 Calendar

March			April		
10-12	CWCI Women's Conference	Robyn	1	NRCC Lenten Retreat	Sue
18	SMBC Women's Conference	Jacky	2	Palm Sunday with Youth	Cathy
25	Fellowship @ Koorong	Sue	7	Good Friday	Steve
26	Monthly Youth Gathering	Cathy	9	Easter	Steve
			30	Monthly Youth Gathering	Cathy
May			June		
28	Pentecost	Steve	3	NRCC Women's Retreat	Sue
			17	EQUIP Conference	Robyn
			25	Monthly Youth Gathering	Cathy
July			Aug		
22	Mental Health First Aid	Steve	11-12	Men's BASECAMP	Alex
30	Monthly Youth Gathering	Cathy	27	Monthly Youth Gathering	Cathy
Sept			Oct		
9	Trivia Night		15	Potluck Lunch	Sue
			28	NRCC Spiritual Retreat	Steve
			29	Monthly Youth Gathering	Cathy
Nov			Dec		
26	Monthly Youth Gathering	Cathy	3	Advent	Steve
			25	Christmas	Steve

Community News and Notices

▪ **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

One of the clearest pictures of identity transformation in the Bible is found in the life of the apostle Peter. Before Christ, Peter found his sense of security in his own competence and self-reliance. His occupation as an expert fisherman of the Sea of Galilee and his courage were the sources of his confidence—his very identity. So Jesus made sure to sanctify Peter in these two areas of his life.

Read Luke 5:1-11. In this passage, Jesus humbled Peter with a miraculous catch that demonstrated His lordship, obliterating any boast Peter might have had in his expertise as a fisherman. Jesus' actions were not malicious; rather, He was preparing Peter, as He is preparing you, to do great and mighty things for Him. He humbled Peter on the Sea of Galilee—the source of his false security—in order that he would find his eternal security as a child of the King.

Over time, Peter began to trust in Christ's sufficiency instead of his own. When Jesus called Peter out of the boat and onto the water, Peter believed that if the Lord had commanded him, he could do it. Even though he lost his focus on Christ and began to sink, this moment demonstrated how much Peter's faith and confidence in Jesus had already grown.

Jesus knew that Peter's courage would fail a final time. He knew, so He told Peter, "[T]his very night, . . . you will disown me three times" (Matthew 26:34). But even after this betrayal, Jesus restored Peter. Sitting by the very Sea of Galilee in which Peter had once found his identity, Jesus asked him, "Peter, do you truly love Me?" The old Peter would have said, "Oh Lord, I love You. I will die for You!" But the new, transformed Peter humbly replied, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you" (John 21:17, emphasis added).

Jesus will strip us of our earthly identity so that He can replace it with something greater. Many of us may be in the middle of our own stories of transformation. Be encouraged! By the end of his story, Peter had exchanged independence for dependence, false courage for trust, and self-confidence for reliance on Christ. And on the Day of Pentecost, it was a transformed Peter that preached to the multitudes and saw 3,000 people give their lives to Christ.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for Your patient work of transformation in my life. Help me overcome my unbelief that prevents me from trusting in You completely. Make my life a testimony to Your love as I build my life on Your faithful promises. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"And we all, . . . are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

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

Interген: Cathy Nelson Mission: Steve Turner

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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/>