



NEWSLETTER

20 – 26 March 2023

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ **Lenten Retreat**



A time for rest, reflection and exploring together three Lenten questions:

How might God be drawing me near?
What might God be calling me to release?
How might God be calling me to give of myself?

Sally Jones

A spiritual director, mentor, pastoral supervisor and retreat facilitator. Deputy Director of Bamabas Ministries' Listen into Life Spiritual Direction Formation program'



Registration by 26th March. Gold coin donation on the day. Lunch and tea will be provided. Please contact Sue for more info. (suzannevasilevska@yahoo.com.au) or phone 0432 272 518

▪ **Extraordinary Congregational Meeting – April 2**

During the AGM the proposal to rent the building at 136 North Rocks Road was discussed. It was agreed that an extraordinary meeting should be held to answer the queries. An extraordinary meeting for the whole congregation will be held here at the Church (after the service) on the 2nd of April.

▪ **Safe Church Awareness Training**

Safe Church Awareness Training has been developed to raise awareness of the ways in which we can ensure our churches are safe places for all who we minister to. Synod has indicated the following people must do Safe Church Training, including ministers and other religious leaders, leaders of church-run programs/events with direct contact with children, Church Council members. The training can be completed by all other interested persons.

Members of Church Council are planning to complete this training through the Baptist Church with online modules and followed by a workshop at Thornleigh Baptist Church on May 17 7pm-10pm.

If you are interested please speak to Hilton or Cathy.

▪ **"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.

Dates for your Diary

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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

Community News and Notices



For Richer or For Poorer?

In just over 2 weeks Parramatta Mission will be hosting its Inaugural Rich Person/Poor Person Fundraising Dinner.

This event is an opportunity for us to put ourselves in the shoes of those experiencing homelessness and disadvantaged during the current cost of living crisis, and to better understand the challenges they face.

We extend our invitation to you;

Thursday, 30 March 2023

6.00 PM - 8.30 PM

119 Macquarie Street Parramatta

In hosting this event, we are hoping to not only raise funds for our Meals Plus program, but also to raise awareness about homelessness, domestic violence and the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities.

We aim to inspire dialogue, a new way of thinking, and constructive action.

<https://events.humanitix.com/rich-person-poor-person-fundraiser>

▪ **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

There is a saying in the Middle East. Roughly translated, it goes like this: "Your enemy will count to you every one of your faults, but a friend will even swallow gravel for you." Who wouldn't like to have a friend like that? Who wouldn't want a true friend who will stick with you through thick and thin? The Bible tells us that Abraham was God's friend (see 2 Chronicles 20:7; James 2:23). In fact, God Himself called Abraham a friend (see Isaiah 41:8). But it's in our passage for today that we get to see this friendship between Abraham and the Lord on display.

Read Genesis 18. When God appeared to Abraham, He came in the appearance of a man, but Abraham recognized that it was the Lord That's why Abraham bowed low to the ground in a posture of worship.

Abraham invited God into his hospitality and had his servants prepare "a choice, tender calf" (v. 7). Abraham's friendship with God was not lip service. It involved action. It involved a sacrifice.

And this friendship was mutual. When the Lord rose to leave Abraham's tent, He said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?" (v. 17). Friends share secrets, so God did not want to hide what He was about to do from His good friend. What God was about to do was no small thing: He was going to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for their incredible wickedness.

Abraham remembered that his nephew Lot was living near Sodom. So as his conversation with the Lord continued, Abraham asked Him to spare the city for 50, then 45, and all the way down to 10 righteous people. And God agreed because Abraham was His friend.

On the authority of God's Word, I can tell you that God is eager to renew His friendship with you. God is longing for you to be in close communion with Him. But friends need to spend time together, talking with one another and sharing secrets, so open your heart to the Lord today.

Prayer: Lord, You are a true friend who has endured so much for me I praise You for Your unfailing faithfulness. I long to know You as my intimate friend. Help me set aside time to know You more by spending time in Your Word and in Your presence. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

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/>