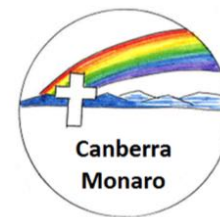




EMMAUS NEWS



Newsletter of the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community

PO Box 3398, Belconnen DC ACT 2617

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A message from our Community Lay Director

Gatherings

Saturday 13 Nov 21
Going Fourth #15
10am - 5pm
Grace Canberra Church

Saturday 11 Dec 21
BBQ 12.30 pm
O'Connor Uniting Hall

Other Meetings

Thursday 18 Nov 21
7.30pm
Board Meeting

Saturday 11 Dec 21
Team Selection Meeting for
2022 Walks

Walks 2022

Men's #91: 20-23 Oct 22
Women's #92: 3-6 Nov 22



At about this time of year we begin reflecting on the year that was and start thinking about the year ahead. However, we have an important event in our Community that is still to come. Of course I am talking about Going Fourth!

Going Fourth #15 will take place on Saturday November 13th at Grace Canberra Church in Belconnen. So please take note of the change in venue, the larger room will allow more of us to meet together. At the time of writing, we

will need to wear masks, pre-register, sign in and maintain social distancing. All things that we have gotten used to by now. There is more information about Going Fourth elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to the Going Fourth Team for being so patient and flexible. I am really looking forward to a great time of fellowship and hearing what God is doing in other people's lives. Please register as soon as possible.

The last Gathering was another highlight of the year. The Country Gathering by zoom did not disappoint, two great fourth day talks, our SD leading us from a small country church and an ex-Country Women's Association Judge officiating with a bit of fun to conclude our time together. With 50 plus Community members joining the Gathering from all points of our Canberra Monaro region and even inter-state, it reminded me that we may be different but we are one, united by the agape love of our God.

2021 has certainly had its challenges for this Community. Even so, God has really blessed us! Walks 89 and 90 were able to go ahead and were such a wonderful time! We have had some great Gatherings both virtually by zoom and in person. I want to thank the many people who have been involved in the Gatherings and for the Community's support and patience as things have often changed at short notice.

The last Gathering for the year will be at O'Connor Uniting Church on December 11th at 12.30pm with a BBQ and a time of sharing and a prayer time. A relaxed time of fellowship, giving thanks and praying for wisdom for the year ahead.

The Board Elections will be finalized on December 11th. We are still looking for a couple of new Board Members and people for a couple of other roles in the Community. If you are at all interested please talk to either Von or myself.

As this is the last Newsletter for 2021, I wish you a happy and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year. It seems strange to be saying this, I have a lot of things still to do this year!

Keep safe, keep in touch and keep praying for each other.

De Colores

Andrew

A message from our Community Spiritual Director

Learning to Pray:

a reflection on Luke 18:1-17



Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually

coming." And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'
 Luke 18:1-17 (NRSVA)

Prayer can be a difficult concept. It raises questions for us about the nature of God and the nature of our role in God's action in the world:

Why does an all knowing God need us to ask?

What difference does my prayer make to the heart of God?

Our reading assures us that we are not the first to ask such questions or to wonder about *prayer*. Earlier in Luke, after witnessing Jesus' own prayer life, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. As a result, Jesus taught them what we now call *The Lord's Prayer* (See Luke 11:1ff).

Yes, prayer can be taught and learned. A *reassuring thought*.

On that occasion, Jesus followed this now well known prayer with a parable that has strong echoes of the first story we just heard. There a reluctant neighbour and friend is persuaded out of bed by the *persistent* asking of one in need. Jesus concludes this story with the assurance that our asking, searching, and knocking will result in God's response.

A second parable is told on that occasion as well. A child asking for a fish or an egg is not given a snake or scorpion – even by an imperfect father. God always gives the best of gifts – the 'Holy Spirit' (Luke 11:13)

The reading above continues this education in prayer. Two more prayer-parable to chew over.

The first is directed at our potential to '*lose heart*'. Again, it is an exercise in *contrast*. The one tasked with making change is clearly *not* good. He is described as arrogant,

disrespectful, and in denial of the importance of his role in a just society. He has given up the pursuit of equality and is more concerned for self-preservation.

But there is one we have come to know as 'the persistent widow'. This unnamed woman pursues a just judgment, badgering the judge until he responds. He eventually reasons that it would be better to grant justice than be worn down by her 'continually coming'.

His is no high or noble reasoning, but even this reluctant judge has taken the first step towards intervention.

Importantly, Jesus contrasts this judge and God with two simple questions. Both point to the listener's knowledge of God and assume that God is *not* to be closely associated with the reluctant and slow response of the judge: '*...will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?*'

For those struggling for an answer Jesus makes it even plainer: 'I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them.'

Jesus final question is a sobering wondering on Jesus part if, even with a responding and generous God, faith will survive on the earth.

The second story calls for *humility in prayer* and is openly directed toward those who think much of themselves. Although Jesus continually challenges the notion, the Pharisee was widely viewed as an exemplary religious practitioner and teacher. Similarly, the tax-collector was widely considered a betrayer of his nation and therefore one who forfeited his Jewish inheritance.

Another common perception that Jesus confronted.

These stereotypes have found their way into the prayer life of these two men. One comes before God with an inflated sense of self-righteousness. The other with a deflated sense worth.

Who says society's categorisations have no effect?

But God, it would seem, has a habit of playing the equaliser. The one expecting God's

pleasure is disappointed; the one expecting God's wrath is pleasantly surprised. As Jesus concludes: 'I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

It seems so appropriate that the account of Jesus' welcome of the children follows. Even after all they have witnessed, the disciples are still surprised by the humble nature of the Kingdom they are learning to embrace.

To pray to the God who is perfectly represented by Jesus is to trust in one who is eager to both bring about justice and to hear the cry of the humble.

Conversation Starters:

There is a clear theme of reluctance in these prayer parables. Do you think you are prone to equate God with the reluctance of those around you to do good?

How do you connect prayer and humility? In what sense is prayer a humbling act?

Peace,

Mark

Mark's Blog

Our Community Spiritual Director, Mark Beresford, publishes weekly Bible reflections on his website, Barefoot Follower: Inviting Reflection on the Stories of Jesus (<https://barefootfollower.life>). You are welcome to visit this site anytime.



Serving Roster Co-ordinator Needed

Hi all,

Do you remember how blessed you were by the dining room servants on your walk? Do you have a flair for organising? We need someone to fill the role of Serving Roster Co-ordinator to recruit people to help out on the Emmaus Walks serving the pilgrims and teams at meal times. If you think that this is an area in which you would like to serve in the Emmaus Community please contact Trish Dooley on 0401 854 059 for more details.



De Colores

Trish Dooley

October Zoom Country Gathering

Our Country Gathering on Zoom was a great success. Thank you to all who joined in and to the organisers.

Special thanks go to Judge Jenny, of the best Zoom background, and what a wonderful selection of country scenes!

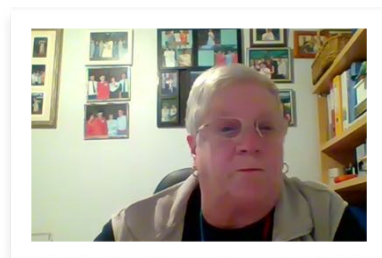
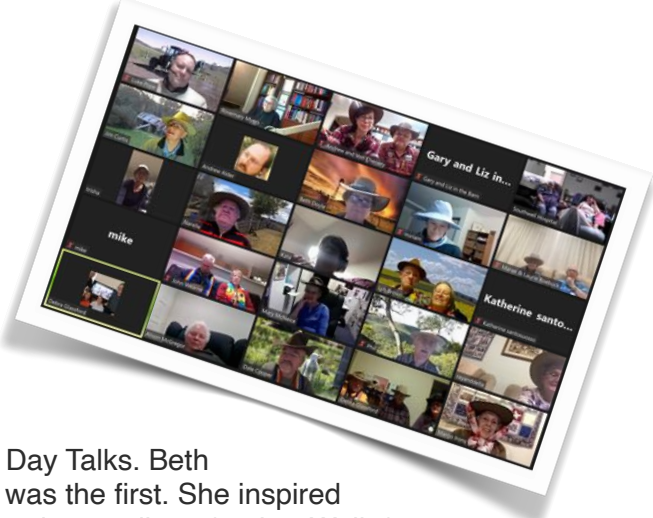
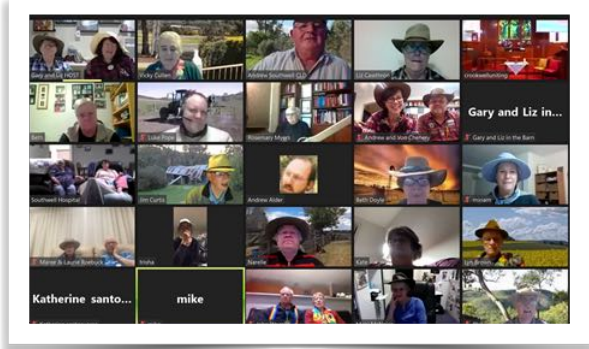
The best hats were judged, and these too had a variety of styles!

Now the best scones on display all looked mouth-watering. After the judging of these country scones, some bakers put theirs to the test and ate them! By their expressions as they ate, they were delicious!!

It is estimated that about 50 people attended from all over the country including Murrumburrah, Rye Park, Crookwell, Yass, and of course, Canberra. This was all quite a bit of fun!



Jenny Ball



We had the Fourth Day Talks. Beth Walters from Bega was the first. She inspired us with her further understanding after her Walk from reading the book, "Worry Less and Pray More".

outside the box' during these COVID times. He emphasised the blessings he had received since his Walk.

Luke Pope, who is from Cooma, presented his Fourth Day Talk from Port Lincoln in South Australia by 'thinking



Our CLD capably led us through the Emmaus Service program. The uplifting songs in the service such as, "Way Maker" and "The Heart of Worship" were pre-recorded and lead by Henna, providing spirituality to all of us attending the Country Gathering on Zoom.

De Colores - Margo Irons



Going Fourth #15
Saturday **13 November** 10am to 4 pm
Grace Community Church



Come along to hear three special messages on the theme

“Everything that has breath praise the Lord”
Psalm 150:6

New Venue!!



Join us on **Saturday 13 November**
Grace Canberra Church
Swanson Plaza, 11-17 Swanson Ct, Belconnen
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring your lunch, name badge and worship book

Prepare for sharing, fun, fellowship, food opportunities and hearing God’s word
Morning and afternoon tea supplied

Due to Covid regulations it is essential to pre-register by sending an email to
The registrar at registrar.canberramonaro@gmail.com

Cost \$10 - pay at the door (cash or EFTPOS)
Or by direct deposit to Canberra Monaro Emmaus
BSB: 634634 Account Number: 100021977
Please put your name as the reference

Our Newsletter Editor - Dale Cooper



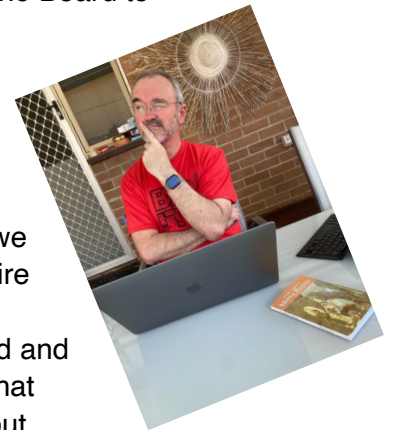
Hi folks

Dale Cooper, Walk No' 71, Greenhills in 2010, Table of John (sounds of clapping).

I volunteered a year or so ago to edit the Emmaus Newsletter thinking that might be a useful way to help out the community without having to actually do a whole lot! Ok, so I got that wronghaving to decide on a suitable format, do I use MS Word or Apple Pages ...do I use pretty graphics and lots of them ..or keep it 'clean' and streamlinedtoo much colour? too little? I way overthought the whole thinghopefully what I've ended up with is a helpful way for the Board to communicate clearly to the community!

I'm sitting out on my deck at home, quarantining for two weeks after a few days in Helensburgh for the arrival

of a new grandchildand wondering what else to write in this 'get to know' spot. SoI've been married for 40 years to the lovely Katy and we have four kids, all married / partnered, and four grandkids. I spent my entire working life in the Army in uniform and also as a Defence civilian. I had a grand time ...although I still wrestle with the whole issue of loving the Lord and my enemies (that was a hard one, thanks Jesus) and trying to reconcile that with military service. Feel free to (gently) let me know if you've figured it out.



This year has been a little eventful for me ..major family illnesses including surgery to remove my prostate cancer (any men over 40 reading this - be sure to get your PSA checked yearly ... please drop me a line if you want to chat about prostates!).

I believe that the Emmaus Walk is a wonderful, wonderful 'retreat' ...and all of us who support the community ... attending Gatherings, praying, being on team, making Agape, serving at Greenhills and contributing in all sorts of other ways, are building up both ourselves and fellow believers for service, reigniting pilgrims (and our) love for Jesus and his children. And sponsoring a brother or sister to be a Pilgrim on an Emmaus Walk is such a loving way to help them on their faith journey.

I think a plug for the Newsletter is an appropriate way to sign off ...please contributeshare with the community what you are up to, what Jesus is doing in your life, what your Fourth Day experience is like. We are familylet's share and encourage one another.

De Colores

Dale



Recognise this Location?

The Letter Reading and Cross Ceremony (LRCC) area known as the Greenhills outdoor chapel has so many precious memories for many of us who have done our Walk or been on Team there.

The Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community have been offered the opportunity by the management at Greenhills to refresh this area.

A tidy up of the Cross Area is needed and would be a relatively simple thing to do.



Seize an Opportunity

Upgrading access to the outdoor chapel from the Conference area is a pressing need. The stairs are failing, the ground is uneven and slippery.

This is a much bigger job. It will take time, money and equipment. It could be done over a few weekends or even over a couple of years.

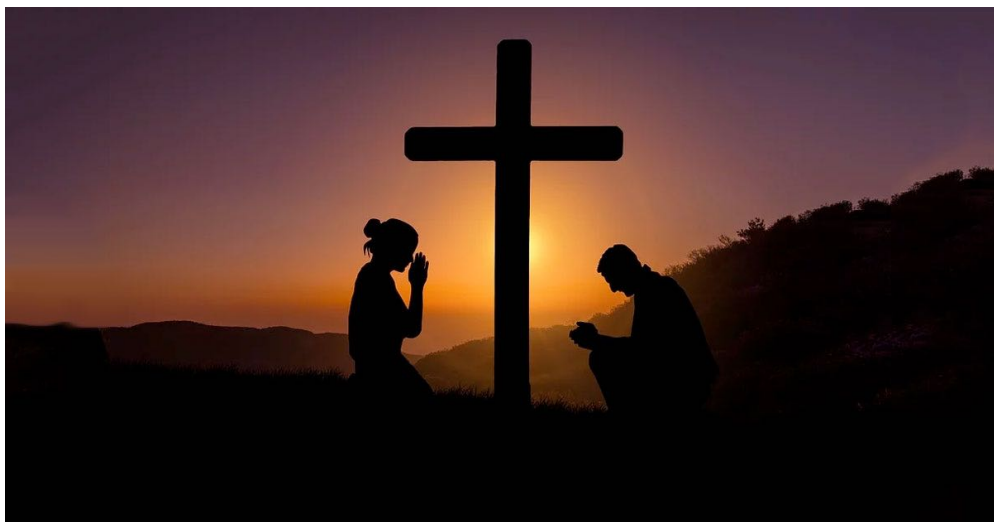
Are you interested in being involved?

Is there a Tradie, Project Manager or someone with the skills who would like to lead the project?

If you are interested, please let me know - contact me on **0428 272262**.

What a wonderful opportunity to get out into the open, fellowship and make an improvement to both Greenhills and our Walks.

De Colores Andrew Southwell



Noticeboard

Direct donations

Have you thought that instead of making a one-off donation at a Gathering, you could make a regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly donation? By doing this, you will help ensure that we can keep supporting pilgrims and meet the running costs of Emmaus. To make a direct deposit use the following details:

Name of bank account: Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community

Bsb: 634634, Account Number: 100021977

Credit card payments now available

Our Community is introducing the use of a Square Card – tap and go service.

You don't have to pay with cash. Pay with credit or debit cards.

It will be available for the Going Fourth on 13 Nov 21.

Emmaus Newsletters

You can opt in to receive Newsletters from both the Australian Emmaus Community and the Upper Room.

News from the Australian Emmaus Community

[News \(emmaus.org.au\)](http://emmaus.org.au)

News from the International Emmaus Community

The Upper Room –

Reunion groups can use zoom

Emmaus has a Zoom license that is available for all the Emmaus Community. If you would like to use it to hold a Reunion Group Meeting, Bible Study, Team Meeting or to have a chat with friends over coffee, then please use it, that is why we have it.

Just contact Von Chenery at canberramonaro@emmaus.org.au to book in your meeting