

FEBRUARY PREACHING PLAN

Feb 5th

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Isaiah 58: 1 - 9a
9.30 Denmark	D Laffin	Psalms 112: 1 - 10
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	1 Corinthians 2: 1 - 12
11.00 Mt Barker	R Anderson	Matthew 5: 13 - 20

Feb 12th

8.30 Lockyer	E Burns	Deuteronomy 30: 15 - 20
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 119: 1 - 8
10.00 AUC	E Burns	1 Corinthians 3: 1 - 9
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Matthew 5: 21 - 37

Feb 19th

8.30 Lockyer	A Hortin	Exodus 24: 12 - 18
9.30 Denmark	T Ayres	Psalms 2 or Psalm 99
10.00 AUC	A Hortin	2 Peter 1: 16 - 21
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Matthew 17: 1 - 9

Feb 26th Lent 1

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Genesis 2: 15 -17, 3: 1 - 7
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Psalms 32
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Romans 5: 12 - 19
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Matthew 4: 1 - 11



THE ARC MONTHLY

ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS

Lockyer, Albany, Uniting Church,
Mt Barker, Denmark



FEBRUARY 2023



Journey into this day knowing that whatever should happen we can never be separated from the love of God, that when we are low, He raises us, and when we are on the mountaintop, He rejoices with us.

John Birch, Daily Prayers from Faith and Worship

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Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>RECORDING</u>
<u>5th Feb</u>	C Ferry	S Harris	C Ferry	T Reed
<i>Lockyer</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>J Ahern</i>	
<u>12th Feb</u>	D Hosking	C Ferry	B Reed	M Little
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>A Webb</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	
<u>19th Feb</u>	B Bickford	M Little	A Tero	M Vertigan
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Ahern</i>	<i>Anne Hortin</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	
<u>26th Feb</u>	D Coxall	E Burns	C Ferry	W Dwyer
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>Alan Hortin</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	

Morning Tea, Lockyer only

5th Feb *J Thompson/S Wood* 12th Feb *J Dunbar/J Ahern*

19th Feb *J Bowman/J Wright* 26th Feb *A Webb*

Please swap with someone if you are unable to take a turn, thanks to those willing to take part to help make services run smoothly.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the people,
To make music in the heart.

Theologian Howard Thurman, courtesy Uniting World

sentence carries within it a world of thought. I believe in One God, not many. I believe in the Father Almighty, a God who is all powerful, and whose child I am. Not many gods, one for bringing a good harvest and one to lead our armies to victory, and so on. I believe in God, the maker of all things, the source of everything in existence. Nothing else created and creates the ever-expanding universe, and everything belongs to God, therefore, nothing in creation is to be worshipped. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, no one else anywhere is Lord. No prime minister, no king, no emperor, no one, is as worthy of belonging to, of following, of obeying. I could go on, but you probably get the idea. The Creed was written, official church teaching – doctrine – was developed, to bring unity in a widely spread group of communities of Christ followers. These groups seem to have had similar ways of worship. However, they had no means to judge what was acceptable teaching, how to deal with arguments coming from pagans, from polytheists, from Greeks and Romans and from within. Peter and Paul already disagreed about what it meant to be a follower of the Way. (Peter believed that followers needed to respect Jewish Law, Paul defended inclusiveness: in Christ there is no longer Jew or Gentile...)

A man named Marcion wanted to break with the Hebrew tradition completely, because Jesus was the fulfilment of the Law. He also believed that the God of the New Testament was not the God of ancient Israel. He advocated limiting the gospels to one Gospel (Luke) and editing the other texts, so that in the early Christian writings there were no longer references to the Hebrew texts. In 144 AD Marcion was excommunicated because of heresy. Other people wrote their own gospels and there were people (read men) willing to accept the Law only in a radically symbolic, or spiritual way. Ignatius of Antioch (martyred in Rome in 110 AD) warned against false teachings, and in his letters he confronts people who claimed that Jesus was fully divine, and therefore he only seemed human: he did not really live, suffer and die. (Now look back at the Creed!)

The Bible itself could not be used to judge of what was true. Too many interpretations were possible, and too many different collections of writings were around. It took *people* to judge whether some claim was true over and against another. It took people like Bishop Irenaeus (130 – 202 AD) to establish that the God of Jesus, the Father, was the same God

Samaritan's Purse executive vice president, was welcomed to the stage. "It was a privilege to pack that first box," she said. "It was evident God was in this. He was doing something beyond us – and still is." A former shoebox recipient also spoke of the life changing



FRANKLIN GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH GROFF IN CHARLOTTE WITH THE SYMBOLIC 200 MILLIONTH SHOEBOX GIFT.

experience that gift proved to be. She has recently participated in a cross-country tour of different drop-off locations and processing centres, carrying with her a symbolic shoebox to encourage people to prayerfully pack boxes in Jesus' name. She concluded by reading the letter she had

written to the child in Ukraine who would eventually receive that special box with the letter tucked inside. "I hope your shoebox brings you hope and joy. I hope every time you see it you are reminded that you are loved. You are not alone. God loves you and wants to know you intimately. There's life and hope in Jesus Christ if you give your heart to Him."

Franklin Graham concluded the event with an account of how he had seen God place just the right shoebox into the hands of a specific child. He talked about how a young orphaned boy in Eastern Europe wasn't excited when he received his shoebox, in fact he didn't even want to open it. When his teacher asked why, the boy explained that he didn't want toys, he only wanted to have parents. The teacher encouraged the boy to open his box, and when he did, he found a photo of the couple who had packed the box, along with their address. The child wrote them a letter, and before long, he received one in return. The couple eventually came to visit the orphanage, and when they left, they didn't return home empty handed, the boy left with them as their adopted son.

"God put the parents in the box," Franklin Graham said. "We see it time and time again when the box is designed just for that child."

brought her when Doug has been away. It is great to have Glenys continue to worship with us.

We have all been feeling a sense of loss at the thought of Valerie leaving Mt Barker to live in the metropolitan area. She has been very involved in many of the town activities as well as church ones and of course has played for both the Anglican and our own congregations. Last Sunday we had an informal lunch after our church service as a farewell to Valerie and we were pleased to have some visit from Albany for the occasion. She actually leaves town next week and will be at church this coming Sunday to play for a final time, we all wish Valerie the very best for her future life and hope she will visit us on a regular basis once she has settled into her new home.

We are very grateful to have another musician, Nita, to provide the music each Sunday, as otherwise we would have no accompaniment for our hymns and none of us are strong enough singers to be able to stay in tune without help. Thank you Nita for being willing to take on this role once again. Love and blessings, Sue Wilson

LOCKYER NEWS: 2023 brings us a New Year. We hope it will be kind to everyone, now the holiday is over it's back to the grindstone. We postponed our Messy Church get together/ picnic at Eyre Park as everyone was snowed under. We are looking instead to February when children are back at school and the visitors have gone home. Vera had a short spell in hospital then transferred to care in Mt. Barker. She has since come back to Juniper which will be more convenient for people to visit, especially Annette who has done a very good job all this time.

We have a new hot water system at Lockyer. Sadly, it is not connected to the hall, however as the hall is not used very often these days the urn should suffice. If necessary, we can double up with the one in the church.

Fellowship begins on the second Tuesday of each month at 12 noon. Bring your lunch and join us on 14th February, the first one for 2023.

At our council meeting it was decided to have the Tennebrae service at Lockyer as usual on 6th April at 5.30.p.m. This will be advertised in the Bulletin and Corina will organise the service.

Holy Spirit, fill us with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience toward each other so the world may see your love in us.

Cheers Joan

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS: I again thank you for all the support given to us, we are well underway for this year already. The dimensions of an empty shoebox must be no larger than that of a sheet of A4 paper when placed on the lid. **WE HAVE ENOUGH** – Exercise books, Biro's, HB pencils, coloured pencils, sharpeners, face-washers, hankies and hair ties. We don't put in toothpaste, (a health hazard if eaten), nor do we put in lollies, anything liquid or breakable, war toys or socks (most of the children don't have shoes) so we don't need any of them. **WE NEED** -marbles, some tennis balls, toothbrushes, combs, soap, small toys (eg dinkie cars, skipping ropes), and jewellery items. We like to put in stickers if we get some and the little books that some of you make for us from small photo albums, I have plenty of cards to cut up to fill them. We appreciate that Esma is still making her beautiful large bags with handles. We hope that Antonia will make all the pencil cases we will need for this year and thanks to those who cut them out for her. We thank all those knitting and sewing for us as we need small knitted toys, they fill any empty corners in the boxes, the slightly bigger ones provide the "something to love". We need smallish items to sell at our fundraising stalls at Scots Markets and at the **Bargain Bonanza on Sunday 12th February**. Our thanks to Lyn who supplies us with lamingtons which are always popular and thanks to those who supply small plants.

I hope you enjoy the following update on the 200 millionth shoebox to be filled. It is great to think that we are part of such a worthwhile project, millions of boxes are sent worldwide every year, our boxes will have gone to Asia as usual. God's blessings to you all, Edith

PRAYER PROMPTS: Please continue to keep Allan and Judy in your prayers, also Eileen Gilbert from Mt Barker. She has spent a quite considerable time in hospital but is home now, still battling! Please also keep the nursing homes in your prayers as Covid is still alive and well, our prayers go out to those recovering from a bout of it.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Around New Year we often look back at the events of the preceding year then switch to thinking of all the changes we can make in the year ahead. This can quickly become too daunting and we become discouraged by the lack of progress. Corina has provided us with an interesting overview and history of the Nicene Creed. The Uniting Church Statement to Nation took time and much discussion to reach agreement, and we still work toward attaining those goals. The issue of a voice to parliament for first nation peoples gains much media attention yet again progress is slow or non-existent. I think the message is: “Don’t give up, look for the positives in progress made, and don’t forget to love, laugh and live every moment to the full.

From mid-December when school finished I have spent a lot of time with grandchildren but on Wednesday 3rd Feb, school resumes so I would like to share the following prayer with you and wish everyone many blessings throughout 2023. Clare

A Back-to-School Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed with our families over the summer, now we pray for the children as they begin the new school year. Bless them

with excitement at the new experiences, joy as they interact with classmates and grant them a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing any fear with confidence, anxiety with peace and tiredness with energy as they settle into the daily routine.

Grant the teachers wisdom, patience and understanding as they impart knowledge and guide their students through the year ahead.



as the One whose breath hovered over the chaotic waters in Genesis, Creator of all. Irenaeus was also the one who determined that the Gospels we know as Mark, Matthew, Luke and John are all trustworthy and should be included in the official scriptures of the church, the canon. Unity was needed, and order was needed

too. So, some semblance of order was created by giving more authority to clergy, especially the bishops. (Cardinals had yet to be invented.) The bishops acted as church judges, and later gathered to attempt to put into words the mysteries and paradoxes of the faith. This worked, insofar as the



The bishops gathering at the Council of Nicea in 325, a fresco in the basilica of St. Nicholas in Demre, Turkey.

bishops agreed. One of the side effects of giving more power to clergy, was that lay people (women!)

were less and less involved in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In Eastern Orthodox churches a screen was put around the altar table. In some churches the entire liturgy was murmured or conducted in prayerful silence as well. This highlighted the mystery, no doubt....

Big questions remained, and some of them keep emerging. How can God be One and Three at the same time? How can Jesus be human and God? Where does the Holy Spirit come from?

More next month in the March Magazine! Blessings, Corina

BITS FROM BARKER: Christmas and New Year celebrations are now just a fleeting memory as both seemed to pass by extremely quickly. Members of our congregation who were still in Mt Barker attended the Christmas service at the Anglican Church rather than holding our own service for very few people.

Nita keeps in touch with Milly who hasn't felt up to attending church for some time now, although Nita has told her she is very willing to bring her. Glenys is now able to attend church on a regular basis thanks to Doug bringing her from the hospital, and to Nita who has

DIARY DATES

- THUR 2nd FEB** } SCOTS CRAFT MARKET in Scots Hall, York St.
FRI 3rd FEB } Open 9am - 3pm daily, come along, support the fundraisers, enjoy a delicious morning tea or a light lunch and browse through the selection of local craft stalls.
- SUN 12th FEB** BARGAIN BONANZA, fundraiser stall for shoeboxes, goods to Edith before Friday 10th please, will pick up if necessary, phone 9842 2729
- TUES 14th FEB** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon
AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome, Contact Joan Stewart 9844 8958 if attending.
- THUR 16th FEB** FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea, 10am, Vancouver Café, ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947

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Message from the Manse: Christian Creeds

'Credo' means 'I believe'. The Christian Creeds are formal statements about what Christ followers believe. We have other words, like 'incredible' that also come from the Latin verb 'credere'. The Nicene Creed, also known as the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, is the only creed that is accepted as authoritative by the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and major Protestant churches. This is it:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

This statement did not come out of nowhere. The words were very carefully chosen and negotiated and agreed upon by many learned bishops, gathering in councils. The Nicene Creed developed over centuries. Why were/are creeds needed?

In a sense, the answer to this question is in the creeds themselves. Every

Operation Christmas Child Report: 200 millionth shoebox

Samaritan's Purse President, Franklin Graham, presided over a community event at the Charlotte Processing Centre in Nth Carolina USA on 3rd December to celebrate the packing of the 200 millionth shoebox since the project began in 1993. He expressed his thanks to the volunteers at Charlotte as well as the thousands of volunteers working in seven other processing centres across the country preparing the shoebox gifts for international shipment, allowing millions of children to learn the true meaning of Christmas and to discover the hope of the gospel. "We give God the glory" he said, "No two boxes are the same, every box has been prayed for, every box counts. It is an honour to be able to touch the world right here from Charlotte." He then shared how Operation Christmas Child began in 1993 when he received a call from a man in England asking for his help on behalf of children in war-torn Bosnia. The Englishman specifically asked for shoeboxes, filled with gifts, to deliver to these boys and girls at Christmas. Samaritan's Purse was already working in Bosnia, and Graham was excited to help. He called his friend, the senior pastor of Calvary Church in Charlotte, asked if he and his wife could fill a shoebox with items for a child, show it to their members, then ask them to do the same. Calvary packed 11,000 shoeboxes and combining them with boxes from their Canadian affiliate office, 28,000 shoebox gifts were sent to Bosnia that year. After packing boxes that first year, Graham said he knew that this project had to be more than giving presents. "It was a waste of our time to just give a gift to a child. We had to make sure that they understood the real purpose of Christmas" he said. "That became our goal – to be sure that every child who received a box heard the Gospel. There's Holy Spirit-filled power in that message. He uses the Gospel to change hearts. We want the children of the world to know this." The person who packed the first box, now



PAULA WOODRING PACKED THE FIRST SHOEBOX GIFT IN 1993 FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD, A PROJECT OF SAMARITAN'S PURSE