

Northern Light

December 2012.
ADVENT
Far North Coast
Uniting Presbytery.

Synod of NSW/ACT

"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." Paul ~ Philippians 1:9-11

What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that
the time is short.

1 Cor 7:29 NIV 2011

Advent is a time of waiting, but there are many other things that we have to wait for.

We have to wait until mealtime to eat. Well most of the time in my house anyway. We have to wait until our birthday to open our birthday present. The kids have to wait til Christmas before they can open their Christmas presents. We have to wait to be a certain age to go to school, or to learn to drive, or before we can retire from our work. We have to wait for popcorn to pop, we have to wait for the shower to warm up. We have to wait for the

mail to arrive or at least wait until the computer boots up.

The season of advent is about waiting and staying awake and alert for God. We wait for Christmas. We also await the day when there will be no war or injustice or suffering in our world.

We wait for the promise of God to be fulfilled.

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. Matt 24:42-44 NIV 2011

Rev. James Annesley Deputy Chairperson of Presbytery.

James is Minister of the Word in Grafton / South Grafton. James is the presbytery delegate to the Synod Standing Committee until the next Synod in April. We thank James for his ministry, along with the team at Grafton / South Grafton, and for his ministry on behalf of the Presbytery Standing Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee to other congregations beyond his placement.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT COMES TO US !



Let's meet together for amazing encouragement and worship ! Each day will include highlights from the latest global leadership summit.

* ESPECIALLY FOR LEADERS & those who would like to explore leadership:- (Both days are identical)
Sat 9th Feb 9.30am – 3pm – Maclean Uniting
Sat 23rd Feb 9.30am – 3pm – Alstonville Uniting.

* OF INTEREST TO ALL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS :-
(Both days are identical)
Sat 2nd Mar 9.30am – 3pm – Maclean Uniting
Sat 16th Mar 9.30am – 3pm – Alstonville Uniting.

EXCITING DAYS FOR CONGREGATIONS IN THE
PRESBYTERY ! "The local congregation is the hope
of the world" (Bill Hybels.)

These events were decided upon by the meeting of the

GOD INHABITS THE PRAISES OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

~ A PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME IN THE
HIGH PLACES to kick off the new year.

Mon 21st January 10am – 2pm at Eureka Uniting
Church

Corner of Eureka and Springvale Roads, Eureka.

BYO lunch (some people may choose to fast) – tea,
coffee provided.

\$2 to cover costs.

The prayer times came from proposal from the lay
leaders weekend, which was resolved by consensus at
the presbytery meeting.

Anyone is welcome for all or part of the time.

Options for prayer will be available, around the praises of
God Almighty!

Enquires? Contact Ken Day.

The picture in the last Northern Light was taken at The
Risk (near Kyogle) after worship one Sunday.

Can you recognize where this edition's photo is from?

The Presbytery ... will in particular exercise oversight over the congregations within its bounds, encouraging them to strengthen one another's faith, to bear one another's burdens, and exhorting them to fulfil their high calling in Christ Jesus. ~ Basis of Union.

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING - Sat 16th Feb, 2012 at Casino Uniting Church.

PRESBYTERY STANDING C'TEE & PASTORAL RELATIONS C'TEE meet at Goonellabah 1st Tues morn each month.

Calling for you to nominate people to the Presbytery Standing C'tee & to the Pastoral Relations C'tee. Elections will be held at the next meeting of presbytery for the positions marked *. (The other positions are elected later in the year.)

The membership of the SC shall be confirmed members or members-in-association of the Uniting Church including:

- (i) the chairperson of presbytery (Rev Chris Sparks)
- (ii) the deputy chairperson of presbytery (Rev James Annesley)
- (iii) the secretary of presbytery (Rev Maggie de Leeuw)
- (iv) the treasurer of presbytery (Mr Bruce Robinson)
- (v) the property committee convener (Mr Ian Imrie)

(vi) *up to 2 people ensuring that the make up of the SC has a balance of lay and ordained people*.

At present the 2 lay people are Mrs Barbara Whale (Yamba) and Mr Russell Playford (Casino). Both are available for re-election.

The membership of the PRC shall be confirmed members or members-in-association of the Uniting Church:

- (vi) the chairperson of presbytery (chair of PRC) (Rev Chris Sparks)
- (vii) the secretary of presbytery (Rev Maggie de Leeuw)
- (viii) the ACOMP delegate (Rev Ken Day)
- (ix) *3 other people ensuring that the PRC is 50% lay people and 50% ordained people*

At present 3 lay people are Mrs Lyn Davies (Murwillumbah), Mrs Olwen King (Alstonville) and Mr John Mace (Lismore). All are available for re-election.

The presbytery has the right to co-opt onto SC / PRC any confirmed member or member-in-association of the Uniting Church who is an active member of a congregation, and not necessarily a member of presbytery.

HOW TO NOMINATE SOMEONE:

Read the info on the presbytery website, or ask some one in your congregation to print it off for you. Each step is explained, and after you have had some time praying, you may choose to nominate someone.

Leaping into 2013 ... here's what some congregations are doing. (Want to know more about these ventures? Contact them directly, or through the presbytery, & we can put you in touch with the right person. But be warned: All these activities involved taking risks, and thinking of people outside the local church rather than maintain what always was. But what a fun ride these congregations are on!)

Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby worship on the 4th Sunday morning of each month with the Anglican churches in their towns.

Mullumbimby have a Tuesday night option for worship and meeting together now, with Grace Space, and commencing in 2013 "God and me."

Bangalow have children and teenagers in their congregation, and 2013 will build on opportunities for these young people to grow as disciples.

Byron Bay will commence a Thursday morning worship and lunch option for people.

Lismore Regional Mission have amazing mission breakfasts, attracting many people from the community.

Maclean, Brooms Head, Lawrence, Brushgrove Rev. Alan Palmer will join the Maclean congregations in early 2013 as an intentional supply ministry to assist the church move through changes for future effective ministry.

Murwillumbah congregation worships with the other churches of the town on the 1st Sunday night of each month.

Yamba have opened their op shop now and ready to roll in 2013.

Woombah is a new congregation and 2013 will be an opportunity to make next steps in ministry in their faith-venture.

What's your congregation doing in mission and ministry? If you'd like to let us know, email a line or two, or an article 300 words or less and with a clear photo, if you have one. Email to the presbytery office fncpoffice@gmail.com with NORTHERN LIGHT in the 'subject'.

Contact us – Far North Coast Uniting Presbytery
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Contributions to next Northern Light
Email as an attachment to fncpoffice@gmail.com with NORTHERN LIGHT in the 'subject'.
If you have to send it in paper form, post to the presbytery office please, marked NORTHERN LIGHT.