Our Common Life

Blackall Range Uniting Churches

Maleny | Montville | Palmwoods

Sepember 22 2019

We extend a sincere welcome to everyone. If you are visiting with us, please let us get to know you after the service. Morning tea is served in the Hall.

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Services Today

Montville	8.15am	Rev Bruce Johnson
Maleny	9.45am	Mr Murray Robertson
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev Bruce Johnson
	1.00pm	Tongan Service

Readings (Pent 15)

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9

1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

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Services Next Week September 29

Montville	8.15am	Montville Ministry TG
Maleny	9.45am	Rev Bruce Johnson
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev Graham Warne
	1.00pm	Tongan Service

Readings (Pent 16)

Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15, Psalm 91:1-6,14-16,

1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

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The Week Ahead

Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville (see over)

Tuesday September 24th

7.00am Prayers at Moyra's 5494 2661
9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday September 25th

8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152

Thursday September 26th

9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday September 27th

1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

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Uniting in Christ | acting with love | living with hope| witnessing in faith | working for justice

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The Money Addiction

Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1 ,Luke 16:1-13

The Old Testament tells of a nation called to live in a special relationship with God. However, that nation, Israel, repeatedly strays away from God. They turn to other gods, mainly fertility gods, in other words, gods of prosperity and plenty. Some of them are mentioned by name, for example: Astarte, Chemosh, and Milcom (1 Kings 11:33); and Baal (Jeremiah 7: 8-10). By whatever name, we are confronted here with a reality that is with us still: the lure of money, possessions, prosperity, wealth (summed up by an old fashioned word, Mammon).

Christians become Mammonians. (There, that's a new word!) Claiming to live by faith in God, money looms larger in our thinking than God does. We all feel this lure of Money to some extent. But, in Luke 16:1-13 Jesus makes the point that it is impossible to serve both God and Mammon. If the desire for money and property, wealth and possessions is what drives us, God is not what God should be for us. We have allowed Mammon to usurp the place that belongs to God.

For most of us, it is probably, the major temptation that we face. It is a major force in our society. But that is what the parable of the Dishonest Manager is about. Admittedly this is a difficult story. It seems to sanction dishonest activity. But the main point, as I see it, is that money and possessions are to be used to build up our relationship with the kingdom of God, not to satisfy our selfish desires. Another way of putting that would be to say that the need for money must not be allowed to push love for God and neighbour aside.

God at the centre of our lives rather that money and things. We bemoan the dwindling membership of our churches, but we should join in a lament like that of Jeremiah for our country as so often we, as a people, put economics ahead of compassion, making money ahead of making peace, getting rather than giving, hoarding rather than sharing, fearing rather than trusting.

- What similarities can to see between people today and those of olden times who, living a precarious existence as pastoralists and agriculturalists, clung to worshipping fertility gods while still claiming to be God's people?
- Do you agree (as Luke 16:10-12 seems to imply) that the way a person handles money is a measure of the Holy Spirit's presence in that person's life?
- Money, like fire, is a good servant but a bad master: give examples.
- How does love for God and for others express itself in the way we handle our money and possessions?

Rev Ron Potter **Piula Publications**

GROWING IN FAITH AND LOVE.

Thank you to those who have offered topics for me to consider as subjects for sermons. Some are more challenging than I could tackle in a sermon, so I have settled on some themes that I hope will help a number of people.

Here is a schedule of topics I will try to address.

Montville

Today - God of the living and the dead.

6 October - What's the relationship between worship and service?

Maleny

29 September - God of the living and the dead.

6 October - What's the relationship between worship and service?

20 October - Is there wisdom in the Wisdom Literature?

Palmwoods

Today - Does God care about our suffering?

13 October - God of the living and the dead.

27 October - What is the relationship between worship and service?

As I work through the other suggestions I have received, I will try my best to touch on as many issues as possible within the themes I have named above

CARING FOR OUR PLANET

The service next Sunday, Montville at 8.15 am, will invite participation by writing prayers for our planet and discussing issues relating to our stewardship of God's creation. If you can, please bring along something that you have created to be part of a display linking God's creativity with our own.

LADIES FRIENDSHIP

For the **October** Ladies Friendship morning, we will be doing a craft activity using old Christmas and Birthday Cards. Could you please bring some old cards for us to use and drop them into the shoebox in the hall? Thank you in anticipation.

REFLECTION GALLERY

You have until next Sunday, 29 Sept, to visit Jasmine Davies' Indigenous art display in the Montville Uniting Church. Open 10 to 3 each day.

From the 30th, and continuing on until the end of November, the Gallery will feature paintings by Ron Potter, a visual expression of his faith and experience.

PRAYER & MEDITATION

'SOIL & SOUL' – (Palmwoods Community Garden) on Friday mornings at 8am. All welcome.

Guided Gardening at 7am each Saturday morning (weather permitting). Will be 8am when weather cools down.

BOOKMARKS FOR INDIA

A sincere THANK YOU for your generous response. We were hoping for 30 bookmarks for the girls and we received 90.

"To Him who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations." (Ephesians 3: 20)

GIVE TO THOSE IN CRISIS – BUSHFIRES SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

Local church communities in Stanthorpe, Canungra, Coolum and Noosa Coastal are presently in the midst of the fires across South East Queensland. On top of the devastating drought conditions in the Southern Downs and throughout the south east, these fires will turn financial stress into crisis. It is a testing time.

Your prayers and generous support are greatly appreciated. To give online visit Queensland Synod Disaster Relief Fund web page. If you wish to give by electronic fund transfer, cheque or credit card over the phone please call (07) 3377 9823. Thank you.

LINDY CHAMBERLAIN-CREIGHTON EVENT

As an outreach initiative, we have secured Lindy Chamberlain for a speaking event at the Maleny Uniting Church on Sun Oct 6th at 2pm. All are welcome - spread the word to friends & family – though be sure to book tickets soon as we are likely to reach our seating limit well before the day.

Volunteers are sought to assist the organisers with baking beforehand (slices/biscuits) for tea and on the day seating setup – contact either Annie (0438123306) or Jan (0418115933)

There is no charge for tickets though due to limited seating bookings are essential at https://www.trybooking.com/BEXTQ

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OFFERINGS can be Direct Debited through the ANZ Bank, BSB 014-507 A/c 3762 29735.

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Ministry Contacts:

Minister	Rev Bruce Johnson 0407 180 864 b_hjohnson@me.com
Church Office:	Jing Wang 5429 6995
Hours:	Tuesdays/Thursdays 9 am to 3 pm
Email:	admin@ourcommonlife.org.au
Palmwoods	Pastor Kay Nixon kaynxn43@gmail.com 0412539020 Siale Lolohea 0436 463 538
BRUC Chair:	Peter Callaghan 0458 263 322
Internet:	http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au/
Notice Sheet:	Contributions requested before 10am Weds: admin@ourcommonlife.org.au

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