



WELCOME

Wonga Park CRC is a church that is committed to helping people grow in their faith, one step at a time. We believe people do this by encountering God in his living word, through prayer, and in community with other believers.

New here? We would love to meet and connect with you, so please fill in your details on the back of this newsletter, place it in the offering bag and one of our team will contact you.

God's Word: We encourage you to take notes in the place provided, to reflect on what God has been saying to you, and to discuss it with your family, friends and children.

Prayer: We have several places in our worship service where we pray. We would also love to pray with you after the service. If you would like someone to pray with you, please remain in the main auditorium and a member of our prayer team will come and pray with you.

Community: We encourage you to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship. If you are a visitor, please grab a free barista made coffee (available most mornings). We would love to meet you and get to know you more. We have a **cry room** off to the side of the church for parents with infants. During school terms we also run a **Sunday School** program during the church service for primary school aged children, and we have a **crèche** for ages 1-5 at the end of the main hallway.

Submission to lawful authority

Romans 13 (CSB)

A CHRISTIAN'S DUTIES TO THE STATE

1 Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God.
2 So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves.
3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. 4 For it is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For it is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong. 5 Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath but also because of your conscience. 6 And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are God's servants, continually attending to these tasks. 7 Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.

LOVE, OUR PRIMARY DUTY

8 Do not owe anyone anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not covet; and any other commandment, are summed up by this commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law.

PUT ON CHRIST

11 Besides this, since you know the time, it is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over, and the day is near; so let us discard the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk with decency, as in the daytime: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.

SERMON NOTES

FROM THE DEACONS

Yarra Road Primary School

Recently the deacons have made contact with the Yarra Road Primary School (literally just around the corner from our church) to assess how we might extend our ministry of mercy in the local community. There are a number of families in the school who are doing it tough so in consultation with the Principal we are assisting 8 families on a fortnightly basis with food hampers.

In the past we have supported ANCHOR with staple food items; we propose to channel this now to a more immediate and tangible contact with the school. From our present supply we have also helped our own church families when the need arose. We thank you for your generosity in the past and ask you to continue this particularly over the Christmas season and beyond. There is a grocery list on the noticeboard in the foyer to give you some suggestions as the needs are slightly different from those of homeless people.

Church luncheons

Of the surveys returned to us 95 % were in favour of continuing the Sunday luncheons ; however, preferences for either winter months only or all year round gave a 50 / 50 result.

The deacons have therefore decided the following :

From May to October – 1st Sunday of the month :

- *Luncheons provided by the small groups
- *Soup and bread only
- *KISS principle : keep it simple, s.v.p.
- *Coffee and tea available from the kitchen

From November to April (except for January)

- *All congregation members are encouraged to bring a plate (sandwiches, cake, fruit) to share.

The objective of our luncheons is to be able to mix with each other as a church family, to talk with those who are not in our immediate circle of friends and thus strengthen the ties within our Wonga Park church community.

Our first “ communal “ luncheon (i.e. bring a plate) will be on Sunday December 1, 2019.

Hope to see you there!

Family News

Magda Teeuwen :

Magda has for many years enhanced our worship services with her musical talents. Earlier in the year she left to serve on one of the Mercy ships in Dakar, Senegal. However, the pollution there (worse than Beijing) has caused her to develop a condition similar to asthma and as a consequence she has had to leave Dakar. She is now with Hopebuilders in Uganda hoping to be of service there. Please pray that our God will keep her healthy and safe, physically and spiritually.

Henk Knol : Please pray for comfort and strength for Henk who lost his son last week through brain cancer.

DISCIPLESHIP DIGEST

Over the last few weeks we have been looking at the arguments for God’s existence, so that when someone says to us “I can’t think of any good reason to believe in God”, we can say “Well actually I can think of at least 4”. So far we have seen 3 arguments for God’s existence, the argument from the universe’s existence, the argument from the fine tuning we see everywhere in nature and last week we looked at the argument from morality. This week we are looking at the 4th of the arguments, called “Pascal’s Wager”. This is not so much an argument for God’s existence, as it is a reason for believing in God whether He exists or not!

The argument is extremely simple: God either exists or he doesn’t, we might never know. But whether he exists or not, the most reasonable position to take is to believe he exists, because if he exists, and we believe in Him, we receive eternal life. But if he exists and we don’t believe in him, we receive eternal condemnation. If God doesn’t exist, and we believe in him, it doesn’t really cost us anything, and if God doesn’t exist and we don’t believe in him, it doesn’t really cost us anything. And so based on the ‘average good’ we get, based on our belief or unbelief, the most rational option is to believe. Or represented visually the argument is as follows:

	God Exists	God Doesn’t Exist	Average cost/benefit to us
We believe in him	We get infinite good (eternal life)	Neutral	Infinite Good
We don’t believe in him	We get infinite bad (eternal hell)	Neutral	Infinite Bad

In essence, Pascal’s Wager tells us that our choice to either believe or not, the ‘safest bet’ is always to believe in God. I find this argument very compelling, but this is probably due to my background as a computer scientist. Pascal’s Wager forms the basis for many computer algorithms. It is the foundation of ‘decision theory’ – which helps computers make decisions. Decision theory is what helps computers beat us at chess, as the computer chooses the move that gives it the greatest benefit at any stage. What makes this interesting, is that a computer, when asked to evaluate the question “Should I believe in God?”, would always choose yes.

ROMANS 13 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Q1: In what ways do you find it easy to submit to our governing authorities? In what ways is it difficult?
- Q2: To what extent should we submit to the rule of our government?
- Q3: How comfortable are you with the idea that God was ultimately the power behind the institution of Nazi Germany, the North Korean Dictatorship and other ‘evil’ governments? How do we deal with this?
- Q4: In what ways does good government point us to God’s good rule over our lives?
- Q5: Australians are notorious for our disrespect for authority. In what ways do you need to change your attitudes toward taxes, the police, the government etc., in response to this text?
- Q6: In the Bible, God commands his people to “seek the good of the city” even when that city is a secular non-believing city. (See Jer 29 and Dan 4:17 for examples). In what ways can we as a church be a blessing to our community?
- Q7: What step do you need to take today to move out of “the deeds of darkness”, in order to put on the “armour of light”?
- Q8: v14 calls us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, as opposed to gratifying the desires of the flesh. How is “putting on Christ” different from “Obeying Christ”? Why does Paul chose this imagery?

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Diary

Sunday 1st March

10:00am Worship Service

11:30-1pm Young Adults luncheon

7:30pm Ministry Leader Training



Women's Share & Prayer Group

We meet once a fortnight at the home of Jemma Lichtendonk, for a social time of sharing what's happening in our lives and praying for each other, the church and wider community issues. If you're interested in coming along, please contact Janette Fernando on 0422 887228.



FACE to FACE
THE UPPER ROOM®

ENCOUNTER THE
Risen Christ
FACE to FACE

An Experience in the
Emmaus Tradition
FOR PERSONS 60 AND OLDER



If you are 60 years or older, desire a deeper more meaningful walk with the risen Christ, hope for Christ's love to be real in every relationship you have, and wish to make a deeper impact on the world and your community of faith by living a life centered on Jesus, then, **Face to Face is for you!**

Presented by the Melbourne Walk to Emmaus Community

Location: Boronia Community Church of Christ, 9 Boronia Rd, Boronia VIC 3155

Dates: Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th of March

Time: 9am until 4pm

Lunch is provided

Costs is \$60.00 per person or \$100.00 a couple

www.facetoface.upperroom.org

For more information please contact Wendy Harrison, Herman Linde or Harry Berends

melbourne@emmaus.org.au

Tel: 0417 398 278



01/3 Jannie & Leonie Holtzhausen
08/3 Lorenz & Sandra Stork

Frikkie & Jeanette Kotze
Leonie Stork



24/2-01/3 Jan & Annelie Van der Merwe
02/3-08/3 Esmeralda & Johan Bakkes

TBC
John & Ilonka Barnard

Happy Birthday

Sarlene Nel 23 February
Henk Knol 25 February
Ina De Graaf 28 February

Janette Fernando 1 March
Magda Teeuwen 5 March
Dirk Schuring 7 March

Women's Bible Study 2020

- Term 1: Thursday 20/2/2020 - 26/3/2020
- Term 2: Thursday 23/4/2020 - 25/6/2020
- Term 3: Thursday 16/7/2020 - 10/9/2020
- Term 4: Thursday 8/10/2020 - 3/12/2020

BUDGET UPDATE

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$4035
Last Month's Offering	\$ TBC
Year To Date:	\$ TBC



CRCA WOMEN'S CONVENTION 2020

May 29th - June 1st 2020

come and join us on
Queensland's beautiful
Sunshine Coast

visit tivolicrc.org.au
wendy 0408 073 680



Spreading the Good News from Nigeria

Bibles for the World Fund Raising Dinner

Come and hear Brian Tucker
speak about his experiences
distributing God's work in
Nigeria last year

There will be a voluntary offering during the dinner where **100%** of the funds raised will be used to produce Scriptures for 3rd world countries

Want more information? Please call Phillip Nel on 9842 0597
Email: philnel@optusnet.com.au

Thursday March 19, 2020 - 6.40 pm for a 7.00 pm start
Lincoln Room, Quality Hotel Manor, 669 Maroondah Highway, Mitcham 3132

Tickets \$25 per person which includes a two course meal
Please book before 6.3.20 and advise of any special dietary requirements



這聖經使你因信
基督耶穌有得救的智慧



PRAYER POINTS

'The church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labours will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption. The creeping wilderness will soon take over that church that trusts in its own strength and forgets to watch and pray.'

Author: A.W. Tozer

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That the Lord will forgive us for all the times we fail to measure up to what he commands us in his word.

Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. (Titus 3:1-2 NLT)

Give praise and thanks to Jesus for demonstrating to us what it means to walk in the ways of the Lord and how we can be more like him.

Please continue to pray for our sister Lydia Oppermann. She had an operation last Monday, but it doesn't appear to have had the desired result. She is still in a great deal of pain. Please plead with our heavenly Father for healing.

Please pray for Henk Knol who was also in hospital earlier this week. Henk had an episode where the doctors say that he suffered from a lack of oxygen to the brain, but he appears to be alright now.

Please pray for those who work behind the scenes preparing rosters for the various needs and activities of the church. Let us give thanks for them as this is often a thankless task.

Please pray for the church at Cobden, a small but faithful church in the west of our state. Pray that the Lord will encourage them in all they do.

Pray for the church in our nation, that we will humble ourselves before the Lord and seek his forgiveness for sins and guidance for the way forward.

Continue to pray for our nation as various events over the last couple of months have caused great devastation and suffering as well as strain on our national economic wellbeing.

Pray for northern Africa and especially for our brothers and sisters facing terrible hardship on top of persecution. One of the world's oldest and most destructive insects is wreaking havoc in Africa. Hundreds of millions of locusts are eating their way through the continent, putting crops, food security and millions of lives at risk. It's almost like a page out of the Old Testament book of Exodus. Authorities are calling it the worst outbreak in decades as billions of locusts swarm across East Africa. "Today locust swarms are as big as major cities and they are getting worse by the day," warned Antonio Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations. "I ask the international community to respond with speed to ensure an effective response and control the infestation while we still have the chance. Experts say the average swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts, travel 100 miles in a single day and grow as large as 250 football fields. "The swarm in one day can eat the same amount of food as the entire population of Kenya," said Keith Cressman, an expert with UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Desperate farmers are using blankets and other clothing or beating on pots and pans, to chase away the hungry pests. But it's doing very little to stop them from devouring crops. "We know that in Ethiopia there are about 420 square kilometres that have been affected so far," said Rosanne Marchesich, an emergency response team leader with the United Nations.

"There has been extensive crop damage in those areas and we expect that the impact it will have on food security and agricultural livelihoods, both for the farmers and the pastoralists, can be significant," added Marchesich. And now the UN is warning the swarms of the fast-breeding insects could grow more than 500 times between now and June. "I'm seeing a big catastrophe ahead and a very big food security concern if we don't address this problem immediately," said a worried farmer in rural Kenya. Caught in the path are some 19 million people, who've already dealt with severe food shortages. Now they face another looming catastrophe.

"The window to contain this crisis is closing fast," warned Qu Dongyu, FAO's director-general. "The swarms are highly mobile; the terrain often difficult; the logistical challenges immense. But left unchecked, and with expected additional rains, locust numbers in East Africa could increase 500 times by June." The United Nations is sending urgent appeals while infected countries deploy thousands of troops and use planes to spray pesticides against the destructive bugs. "It gives you a sense of the scale of the crisis we are facing and we need to address it immediately," said Dominique Burgeon who works with FAO.

The countries of Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya are facing what experts say is the worst locust infestation in nearly 70 years. Earlier in the week, authorities spotted locust swarms crossing the border into Uganda and Tanzania. South Sudan is also at risk. For local farmers further south in countries like Zambia, they are facing another crisis, the lack of water. Two years of little to no rain and failed harvests have forced 28-year-old Consepter Hamalambo to abandon her cornfields again this year. She's among some 2 million in this country facing food insecurity.

"I didn't harvest any crops last year or this year due to the drought which forced me to look for work elsewhere," Hamalambo said. "I've been going door-to-door asking people in my village for work just so I can buy some food." World Vision, the Christian aid group, is distributing maize meal, drought-resistant maize seed, and cowpeas to families hardest hit by the drought. "There's not enough water to generate electricity so businesses and companies have 15 hours, 16 hours of no electricity a day," Mark Kelly with World Vision Zambia said. "That also has an impact on people being able to earn money, that has an impact on being able to buy food." Source: CBNNews

SESSION MINUTES

Session Meeting Minutes (abridged version) held on 11th February 2020 at WPCRC.

- Present: Chris P, Peter W, Jack O, Peter D, Margreet D, Lourens G, Tim G.
Apologies: Ryan W
- Minutes of the last meeting held in November 2019 were passed.
- Chris P reported on the Convention which went really well. He has stepped down from a leadership position on the Convention Committee. Tim G will give a small presentation and feedback to the church about some of the events from Convention.
- Tim G received a glowing report from Hope in the Hills regarding his vicariate. Well done Tim.
- WPCRC will host an evening on the 27th July for the "Apologetics – led by Tom Woodward". It would be good to pencil this evening into your diary now.
- Discussion on Chapter 6 of the Elder book: "Shepherd Together" was had. Chris P defined that the heart of shepherding is a communal task. The question is what does that look like for the church/Session? Are Christians becoming lazy? Are people more motivated when they love what they do? Chris P asked Session what commitment each elder has to give to the work of the church. All elders and pastors bring individual gifts and therefore it is absolutely important that the task of shepherding is collective. Through working together, we can each carry the load together.
- Unfortunately, Session had to accept the resignation of 2 elders namely Ryan W and Chris F for personal and work related reasons. The resignation of Martie S as deacon was also accepted. Session wishes to thank these 3 members of Session for their faithful and loving work within the congregation; our prayers are with each of you.
- Jack O informed Session that there will be a working bee in the coming months.
- Peter W outlined some of the community events that will happen for the upcoming year. One such event will be a community Christmas Carol service; Sunday School has made some minor changes.
- The method of digital giving was discussed with the congregation during a worship service. Equally, how messages and news will be communicated was explained to the congregation. If you are finding logging onto Elvanto and/or downloading the church app, there will be training offered after the worship service. Please ask for help as many are willing to help out and get you connected.
- Herman L discussed with Chris P the changes to Emmaus and asked that WPCRC becomes a partner church for the new program Face-to-Face. Herman would like the church to be involved; this will be to provide a dinner, pray for the group and promote the activities of the group. The dates for the Encounters, as they are now called, will be in March 2020.
- The meeting closed with open prayer at 10.05 pm.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th March 2020.

CONNECT WITH US

If you would like someone from church to connect with you, please fill in this page, tear it off and put it in the offering bag.

Your name:

Contact number:

Contact email:

Notes:

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

ELDERS

Pastor

Chris Pretorius
0423 889 913
pastor@wpcrc.org.au

Youth Pastor

Tim Gray
0448 660 291
youth@wpcrc.org.au

Chairman and Worship Services

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Finance

Lourens Geldenhuis
0409 990 398

Facilities Management

Jack Organtzoglou
0403 377 559

Youth and Children

Ryan Weston
0430 465 125

Growth Groups

Peter Day
0404 227 776

DEACONS

Margreet Day
0491 117 900
Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840
Gerry Smedes
0432 559 725

WOMEN' BIBLE STUDY

Margreet Day
0491 117 900

ADMINISTRATION

Session Clerk

clerk@wpcrc.org.au
Yvonne De Reus
0430 219 858

Newsletter Editors

newsletter@wpcrc.org.au
Neil Bester
0429 569 149
Enè Crous
0450 211 133
Will Roodt
0401645075

Treasurer

Nelleke Arnold
treasurer@wpcrc.org.au
0448 469 569

Child Safe Coordinator

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

MINISTRY LEADERS

Prayer Ministry

Herman Linde
0411 069 808

Music Ministry

Mia Van Wyk
0420 817 800

Sunday School Coordinator

Nikky Bester
0439 084 987

Audio Visual

Cassie Van Veen
0499 230 872

Crèche ministry

Abigail Remminga
0497 370 820

Creative Space

Elmie Schachtner
0416 805 656

GEMS

(primary aged girls group)
Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

Kids Hope Coordinator

Enè Crous
0450 211 133

GIVING

In our church we have 2 offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various ministry organisations we support. If you would like to support this work you can do so in a few different ways:

In church giving: Simply add your offering to the offering bag.

Bank Transfer: BSB: 063 167 Acc: 1015 8356. For the Deacons **BSB: 063167 Acc. 1015 8372**

Via Church App: Download it here <https://wpcrc.org.au/app/>