



## 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.

## GIVING NO CAUSE TO STUMBLE

### Romans 14

#### The Law of Liberty

Welcome anyone who is weak in faith, but don't argue about disputed matters.

2 One person believes he may eat anything, while one who is weak eats only vegetables. 3 One who eats must not look down on one who does not eat, and one who does not eat must not judge one who does, because God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge another's household servant? Before his own Lord he stands or falls. And he will stand, because the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person judges one day to be more important than another day. Someone else judges every day to be the same. Let each one be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 Whoever observes the day, observes it for the honor of the Lord. Whoever eats, eats for the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; and whoever does not eat, it is for the Lord that he does not eat it, and he gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself. 8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 Christ died and returned to life for this: that he might be Lord over both the dead and the living. 10 But you, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written,

As I live, says the Lord,

every knee will bow to me,

and every tongue will give praise to God.

12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

#### The Law of Love

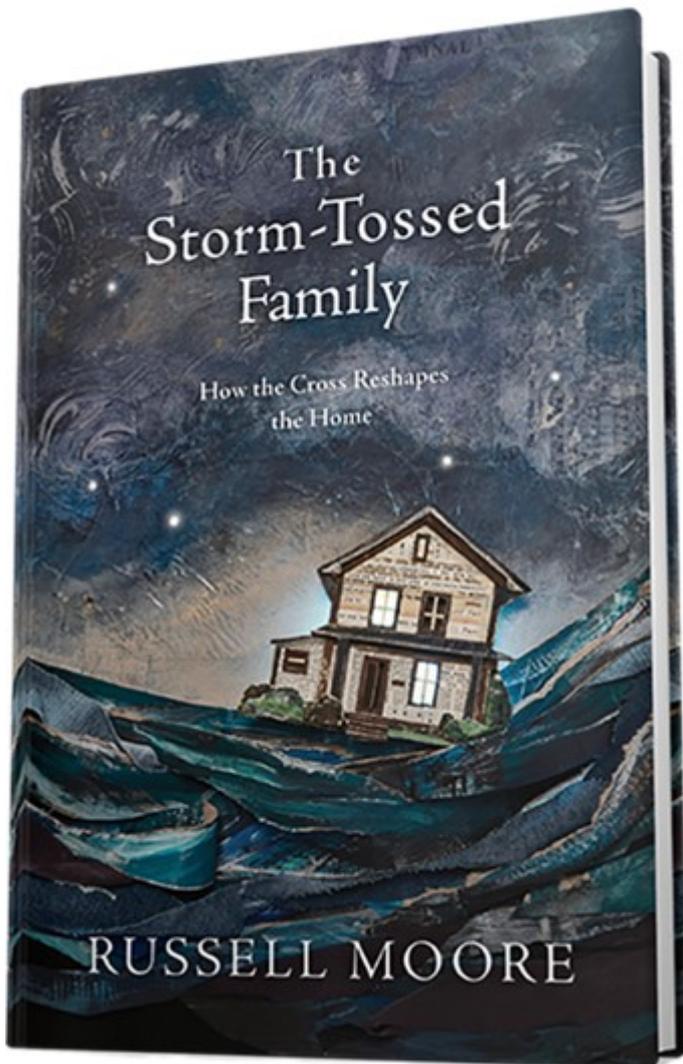
13 Therefore, let us no longer judge one another. Instead decide never to put a stumbling block or pitfall in the way of your brother or sister. 14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself. Still, to someone who considers a thing to be unclean, to that one it is unclean. 15 For if your brother or sister is hurt by what you eat, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy, by what you eat, someone for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore, do not let your good be slandered, 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 Whoever serves Christ in this way is acceptable to God and receives human approval.

19 So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another. 20 Do not tear down God's work because of food. Everything is clean, but it is wrong to make someone fall by what he eats. 21 It is a good thing not to eat meat, or drink wine, or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. 22 Whatever you believe about these things, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But whoever doubts stands condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith, and everything that is not from faith is sin. -- Romans 14:1-23 (CSB)

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## SERMON NOTES

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This week I want to recommend a wonderful book to you all: *The Storm-Tossed Family – How the Cross Reshapes the Home*, by Russell Moore. This book won Christianity Today's book of the year award in 2016 and is a wonderful resource especially targeted at parents and families.

Moore makes the point that whether you are married or single, whether you long for a child or a shepherding a full house, you are part of a family. Family can be the source of some of the best times of human joy, but at the same time our families can leave us "crumpled up on the side of the road". Our families make us who we are, and our families can break our hearts. So why would God arrange the world this way, that we are born into families when our families have so much power for good or evil over us?

Moore answers this question by pointing us to the Cross of Jesus. He explains that the cross radically reshapes the Christian family, and that once we understand that, we are finally set free to be the families God intended us to be. Steering us through the difficulties of being male and female, our sexuality and divorce, Moore recaptures what it means to be a parent, a grandparent and a child. If you only read one book this year, let it be this one.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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### Questions:

Q1. What things do we do in our church that are adiaphoric? (You will need to have listened to the sermon to know what that means!)

Q2. To what extent are Christians free to disagree? Where do we draw the line?

Q3. What does Paul mean when he talks about weak faith? Weak in what sense?

Q4. Why do you think weak faith goes hand in hand with keeping rules?

Q5. What do you think the danger is for those who are "strong" in the faith according to Romans 14?

Q6. If strong faith leads to liberty, and freedom from religious rules, does that include all religious rules? Which rules/laws are we required to keep and which can we leave with our conscience?

Q7. How does Jesus' work on the cross inform how we are to live with those who have "weak" faith?

Q8. What stumbling blocks do you need to remove out of your own life right now, for the sake of the weaker believer?

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

# Diary



### Sunday 15th March

10:00am Worship Service

7:30pm Ministry Leader Training

### Wednesday 18th March

7:30pm Young Adults

### Thursday 19th March

10am—11:30am Women's Bible Study

### Friday 20th March

6:30pm GEMS

7:30pm IGNITE Youth



## CRCA WOMEN'S CONVENTION 2020

May 29th - June 1st 2020

come and join us on  
Queensland's beautiful  
Sunshine Coast

visit [tivolicrc.org.au](http://tivolicrc.org.au)  
wendy 0408 073 680

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](http://www.facetoface.upperroom.org)**

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

[melbourne@emmaus.org.au](mailto:melbourne@emmaus.org.au)

Tel: 0417 398 278

*Happy  
Birthday*

**Brent Vanderjagt**

**16 March**

**Annamarie Westendorp**

**16 March**

**Peter Faber**

**17 March**

**Ameri van Dyk**

**22 March**



15/3 Peter & Margreet Day  
22/3 Jack & Michelle Organtzoglou

Adri & Bart van Leeuwen  
Martin & Annemarie Van Zyl



09/3-15/3 Rachel & Pieter Viljoen  
16/3-22/3 Schalk & Annandra Kock

Joy van Veen & Dirk Schuring  
Sanika Kock & Elmarie Kock



## 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](mailto: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



**EQUIP NIGHT**

MARCH 22ND  
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
WONGA PARK CRC  
251-253 YARRA ROAD, WONGA PARK  
DINNER INCLUDED

**Feasting on the Word**

WORKSHOPS

YOUTH: How to read the Bible for all it's worth

PARENTS: Ways to read the Bible with your Family

VICTORIAN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES YOUTH

## BUDGET UPDATE

Finance Overview		
Jan-20	Budget	Actual
Funds in	17,090	15,491
Expenses	17,373	26,775
Year-to-date		
Funds in	127,405	132,374
Expenses	147,035	135,043

## PRAYER POINTS

"Shall I give you yet another reason why you should pray? I have preached my very heart out. I could not say any more than I have said. Will not your prayers accomplish that which my preaching fails to do? Is it not likely that the Church has been putting forth its preaching hand but not its praying hand? Oh, dear friends! Let us agonize in prayer. ~ Charles H. Spurgeon

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

*That no matter what happens around us or what ever we hear we will not be shaken but continue to trust in our Lord who is our rock and our fortress.*

*'Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which can never be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forever more.'* (Psalm 125:1-2 NIV)

- Give thanks and praise to our God who surrounds us with his protection in all circumstances so that we can stand strong even if all around us fall.
- Please pray for the marriage relationships within our congregation, pray that those who are struggling in their marriages will seek the strength and guidance of our Lord and be willing to bow to his will.
- Please pray for the elderly amongst us, that as they grow more frail, they will experience the strength of the God in whom they have put their trust.
- Please continue to pray for Brendon Meyerink as he continues to struggle with debilitating headaches. Brendon has been diagnosed with New Daily Persistent Headache and it is believed that his body pain is caused by the same condition. It is not an easy condition to treat as there is nothing designed specifically for it that has had much success.
- Please continue to pray for Lydia Oppermann. She is home again but still in a lot of pain. She has been told that the results of this latest operation may not take effect for up to six weeks. Pray that the Lord will grant her relief from her suffering.
- Please pray for Bram and the work he is doing in Flores, pray that the Lord will pour his blessing on that project and that nothing will be able to disrupt it so that his holy name will be honoured.
- Pray for the church in Pakenham, that the Lord will firmly establish this congregation there and that they will be a light and a beacon to the community surrounding them.
- Please pray for the church throughout our nation that we may set a good example for the community in response to the panic that is gripping us.
- Please pray for our governments as they grapple with the ramifications resulting from the corona virus. Pray that God will grant them wisdom as they are tasked with the responsibility of steering our nation through this crisis.

Please pray for God's children in North Korea. Eun Hye closed the bathroom door. She was now in the safest place in the camp for North Korean street children. Her parents and sisters were in China, her brother with an uncle in North Korea. Earlier, she had also stayed with her uncle, until there wasn't enough food for all of them. That's when Eun Hye, 16 at the time, decided to leave and turned to the streets so her little brother would survive. Only a few weeks later, she was caught by police and brought to a camp for street kids. It was a crowded place with over 2,000 children. For food, she received five tiny dirt-covered potatoes three times a day. With no opportunity to wash themselves, the children's bodies were filthy and tormented by maggots.

Every day, children passed away because of malnutrition. In the quiet of the stall, Eun Hye remembered the prayers of her grandmother. She remembered the way her grandmother would kneel and speak to the one she called "Hanonim," which means Lord. Eun Hye whispered the words she had heard her grandmother whisper so often before. "Hanonim, please save me, rescue me. Bring me back to my family," she said. In this place, nobody wanted to go to the bathroom unless they had no choice. But Eun Hye came to appreciate those precious moments alone with the God of her grandmother. "Lord, save me from this pain, sadness and death," she would pray in the quiet of the bathroom.

Two months after her arrival in the camp, the guards asked for volunteers to collect chestnuts in the mountains. It meant a long, difficult journey. Eun Hye and the other children were very weak and she had no intention of participating in what could become a walk of death. But then she heard a voice in her head she didn't recognize that told her to volunteer. So she joined the group. On the journey, they had to cross a large reservoir with small boats. Then she was placed in a unit of four children. Two climbed up the trees to pick the chestnuts, while two others stayed down to collect them. Eun Hye saw this as an opportunity to attempt an escape with another girl in her group.

"Can you swim?" Eun Hye asked. The girl shook her head. Once again, Eun Hye prayed for help. Later, when no one was around, Eun Hye and her friend escaped and found a rope at a nearby house. When they arrived at the reservoir, the girls tied the rope around their waists. Eun Hye used all the strength she had to swim to the other side, dragging her friend through the water. They reached the shore safely and walked all the way to the city. Afraid they would be caught again, they decided to board a train. Because they didn't have train tickets nor travel permits, they dug a hole under the wall with their bare hands and accessed the railway track. Once through, they went their separate ways.

Eun Hye went back to her hometown to see if there was any word of her parents or siblings. She found neighbours and strangers who helped give her a little food to survive. Again she prayed, "God, I have no place to go. My future looks so bleak. Please guide me." Eventually, the family of a nearby farmer took her in. Now her prayers shifted from survival to finding her family: "Thank you, Lord, for what you've done for me. May I please continue to live here, and please help me find my family." One day, a family friend contacted Eun Hye. "Your father and brother are with us," they said. She ran to see her father and brother. She was elated at the answer to her prayer.

Eventually, she asked, "How is mother?" "Your mother and your sisters are fine," her father said. "They are married in China. Life is so much better there." Upon hearing his words, Eun Hye made up her mind to escape North Korea and return to China with her father and brother. They went to the river at night. Her father tied her little brother to himself with a rope and made sure both of them arrived at the other side safely. Eun Hye swam on her own. Behind her, North Korea was pitch black. The Chinese city in front of her burst with lights. When they finally reunited with her mother and other siblings, they celebrated. Eun Hye told her mother about her prayers in North Korea.

She quickly noticed her father had told the truth about the living standards. There were no street children, no blackouts, every household ate rice, and everyone was friendly. That Sunday, Eun Hye went to church with her mother. For the first time in her life, she saw the cross on the wall and she could see other people praying. They prayed with the same words as her grandmother had, so many years ago. She didn't understand the Chinese sermon, but she felt at home. She realized that the prayers of her grandmother and her family allowed her to make it safely to China. "Later, a translator explained to her how Jesus had died and was resurrected to cleanse us of our sins," Eun Hye says.

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## SESSION MINUTES

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**Session Meeting Minutes (abridged version) held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at WPCRC.**

**Present:** Chris P, Peter W, Jack O, Peter D, Margreet D, Gerry S, Tim G.

**Apologies:** Lourens G

- Peter W led us in a time of sharing and praying for our personal needs.
- Discussion on Chapter 7 of the elder book: “**Model Maturity**” began and the focus of this chapter was on how you can be a leader of God’s people even if your personal life is not in order. In leadership it is important to know what parts of your life can be a hindrance when sharing the gospel with others. Being a leader you must be a growing Christian and the church community must see your growth in Christ and also see that you are still growing. The church needs to see the gospel transforming the life of an elder. They need to know that you read the Bible and pray every day, not because you are the church’s designated elder, but because you have learned that you don’t have strength each day to resist temptation or to serve the Lord. Through this modeling, an elder can point church members beyond themselves by looking to Jesus, the One into whose image we are being transformed. The final statement tied up the chapter “lift their (our) gaze to Jesus, the One into whose image we are being transformed”.
- Minutes of the last meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were passed.
- The **Young Adults** would like to establish a **Community Garden**. Abigail Remminga represented the Young Adults in their request to set this up in the area that is commonly known as the ‘church overflow parking area’. This garden would be primarily built and managed by the young adults and it will be a place to meet with each other and invite the community in. Abigail is hopeful that once established the Community Garden will be used by many within the church community and beyond. Session approved the concept.
- The **Ecumenical Relations Review Committee** asked for feedback and time was spent working through the relevant questions.
- It was decided to set up an **allergen free zone** as some members of the church community are allergic to the toxins in perfume and after-shave. Clearly the congregation needs more education on the effects of the chemicals used in these products and how they can be triggers for asthma sufferers. The allergen free zone will be the section of seating from the music area to the back of the right side of the auditorium. Session would also like to encourage members not to wear perfume or after shave on a Sunday while at church.
- The **church cleaning** was discussed as more people are taking themselves off the church cleaning roster. Consequently, this is becoming a burden to those who remain on the roster as they are cleaning more frequently. Clearly, the roster system is not working. Session has accepted that there is a concern and would like a concrete costing and proposal put forward to either Session or the FMC for further discussion about seeking alternative cleaners/solutions. Please feel free to have your input into this matter.
- The **Deacons’ Ministry** is planning a women’s event later this year and has approached Frida (van der Zaag) a survivor of the war in Rwanda to be the guest speaker. It was decided to postpone the April luncheon because of COVID-19 and to follow health regulations.
- The **church finances** had a cash surplus for the month of about \$5k. It was budgeted to have a small \$1k shortfall, thankfully the amount ended up ahead of budget for the month by about \$6k. Year-to-date the finances are ahead of budget on offerings by about \$4,5k but have a saving on expenses of about \$18.5k where we have not spent funds that were budgeted to be spent. This has put us ahead of budget y.t.d. on bottom line by about \$23k.
- Jack O reported on the **Church Operations**. Solar lighting will be used for outside lighting, in particular at the stairs and dark spots around the church. There will be a working bee in April 2020 and an announcement will be made. Panic bolts will be placed on the doors to help as a security issue. The 2 front doors will not have these panic bolts. The painting of the church is slow going but it is continuing. Other repairs will be undertaken on a needs basis.
- A **State Youth Service** will be held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at WPCRC from 5 pm. Tim G asked for some suggestions on what food to cook, who could serve etc. It was suggested to have a bbq. Tim G would like volunteers so please see him.
- Heidi Kruger has designed the previous **Church logo** and has offered to re-design a new logo. She will create the “4 E’s” (from the Vine Project) in the form of banners which will be placed at the front of the worship area. A small working group will continue to meet and work through how best to promote the church and its programs visually.
- It came to the attention of Session that it would be good **inform the church** when there is a visiting minister or pulpit change. This will now be communicated via the newsletter.
- The meeting concluded with prayer at 10.55pm.
- The next Session meeting will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

*fold and tear-off here*

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## CONNECT WITH US

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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:

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## KEY CONTACT DETAILS

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### ELDERS

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**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 Geldenhuys  
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

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

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**WOMEN' BIBLE STUDY**

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Margreet Day  
0491 117 900

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**ADMINISTRATION**

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**Session Clerk**

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Yvonne De Reus  
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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

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**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

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## GIVING

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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/>