



# MCC Brisbane Newsletter

May/ June 2006



## The Pastor's Pen

St Paul told his readers that "God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Cor 9:1 and I know (for many reasons) that God loves the people of MCC Brisbane. MCC Brisbane people gave freely and generously to the young people who access Open Doors at Christmas time with hampers and then this past Easter with easter eggs and easter buns as treats for those same young people.

I feel proud to be pastor of such a generous congregation. And I want to remind you of the need for your

offerings at church also. MCC Brisbane is funded purely by those of us who put money in the rainbow bag week by week. Our treasurer could tell you that mostly we meet budget— we have enough to pay for our expenses. And that is great and we can congratulate ourselves on that achievement.

But we could do more if we had more resources! And so I am asking you to think about what you give for the work of MCC Brisbane. And there is more than one way of supporting the work of MCC

Brisbane. We support it with money, we also support this work whenever we give of our time and/or talents to the smooth running of the church.

And so I say thank you God for the many many good and generous people who over the years have kept the work of MCC Brisbane going by their offerings of time, talents and money.

**Anne**

## Stonewall

Our Stonewall service this year will be on Sun 25 June at 7pm at Kelvin Grove. Our guest will be Dr Wendell Rosevear and we will also have the Brisbane Lesbian and Gay Pride Choir performing for us. The Choir have just produced a CD and this will be available for you to purchase on the evening. The Stonewall service is on the 4th Sun-

day of the month so we will be combining the Crave Celebration and Stonewall at this service.

Our guest speaker, Dr Wendell Rosevear comes from a Seventh Day Adventist background and works at Stonewall Medical Centre. He is an out gay man and has worked tirelessly for the well-being of the GLBTI community,

and is a strong social justice advocate. Stonewall originated in 1969 when the patrons of the Stonewall pub— a gay venue in NY— were once again raided by police. This time the dykes and queens fought back. It was a battle lasting 3 days and this is regarded within the GLBTI community as the beginning of the gay rights movement as we know it today.

## Important Dates

- **Sat 13 May** Sister Speak luncheon
- **Fri 26 May** Theological discussion group
- **Sun 28 May** Crave Celebration service Kelvin Grove
- **Fri 2 June** Pride launch
- **Sun 4 June** Pentecost service with other GLBTIQ faith groups
- **Sat 17 June** Pride rally, march and Fair
- **Tues 20 June** GLBTIQ Community Leaders: A celebration of achievement
- **Sun 25 June** Stonewall Service incorporating Crave Celebration 7 pm Kelvin Grove
- **Sat 8 July** Sister Speak
- **Sat 29 July** Christmas in July
- **Sat 2 Sept** Reflection day
- **Sun 3 Sept** Reception of new members
- **15/16 Sept** Sub-regional Conference Sydney
- **Sun 24 Sept** Annual General Meeting

## LIBRARY

There has been a box of videos donated to the church library. Included among these were the complete set of Queer as Folk. Each Sunday evening there are an assortment of books and videos available at church for people to borrow. If there is something specific that you would like to borrow just let Iris or Anne know and we will bring it to church.

## FAIR DAY

MCC Brisbane will have a stall at Fair Day (17th June) and we will take part in the Pride March from King George Square to Musgrave Park. Plan now to be part of this if you can.



*"I'm confused! I thought I was a Fairy, but it seems I'm a PC Small Penguin"*

## AGM

The Annual General Meeting this year will be held on Sunday 24 September. All positions become vacant this year and so we would encourage all members to consider volunteering themselves or nominating someone else for the Board of Directors. The Board itself decides who will fill what position on the Board. The excep-

tion to this is the position of Lay-Delegate, currently held by Adrian Buganey. Adrian does not wish to continue in this position and you could speak to him about what the duties involved in being Lay-Delegate are. None of the positions on the Board of Directors are onerous and we would strongly encourage people to give

it a go. The Board of Directors meets monthly and they are responsible for the administrative functioning of the church.

*Please consider being involved as a Board member.*

## Membership

There are a number of people who would be eligible for membership around August this year. (You must have attended MCC Brisbane fairly regularly for six months in order to be eligible for membership.) So it is



the intention of the pastors to run a class for potential members and all other interested person in early August.

We plan a service for reception of new members on Sunday 3rd September.



## Board Report

This report has been prepared to keep everyone informed of current Board happenings.

The Board of Directors (BOD) meets regularly on the first Monday evening of each month.

All members are entitled to attend, with voice but not vote.

In addition to Rev's Anne and Iris, currently-elected BOD members are:

Adrian Buganey (Lay Delegate)  
Terry Heiner (Treasurer)  
Inari Thiel (additional member)  
and myself as Clerk.

Our BoD meetings in March and April gave consideration to the following matters to ensure the efficient running of church activities:-

Cooking at QPP. Adrian reported on duty rosters for 10 March and 28 April.

Church outings. Arrangements were confirmed for the Mount Mee May Day picnic and for the Christmas in July dinner.

Church Sign and Notice Boards: To welcome first-time visitors to our evening service and inform them of our location, a new directional sign board is being purchased and will be

placed at the street entry. We are also arranging for a notice board for display in the entry foyer to convey messages, news and current events.

Sale of Open Doors Calendars: To clear stocks of unsold calendars (still current to June 2007) the purchase price has now been reduced to \$10 each. Please see Anne if you wish to purchase.

Closure of MCC Rockhampton.: A letter of appreciation was sent to the outgoing contact/worship coordinator Wayne Larson requesting the return of books and records.

Stonewall Service 25 June: Arrangements were progressed for a guest speaker and attendance of the Pride Choir. Additional Pride Festival event: A proposal was accepted for Justice Michael Kirby to be our guest speaker at a special Pride evening function on Tuesday 20 June. Supporting speakers will be Shelley Argent OAM, President of PFLAG and Dr David Bradburn AM, a leading Cairns sexual health medical specialist.

Pentecost Sunday: MCC Brisbane will be hosting a special inter-faith service on Sunday 4 June

. All GLBTIQ Christian groups have been invited to attend.

Annual General Meeting: In consideration of the planned dates for the church retreat on 2 September and the Sub-regional conference on 16 September, the date of 24 September was fixed for the AGM. Rev Anne suggested that consideration be given to instigating "alternates" as understudies to all office-bearer positions, and that all members be encouraged to nominate for election to these positions.

Other Reports.

Received from:-

Lay Delegate (Adrian Buganey)

Women's Group (Rev Anne)

Theological Reading Group (Inari Thiel)

GLBTI Community Forum (Robert Collins).

Robert Collins

Clerk to the Board of Directors

MCC Brisbane

# I Am Thankful:

## FOR MY PARTNER

Who says it is hot dogs tonight , because he/she is home with me,

And not out with someone else

## FOR MY PARTNER

Who is on the sofa being a couch potato, because she/he is home with me and not out at the bars

FOR THE TEENAGER who is complaining about doing dishes because it means she is at home, not on the streets

## FOR THE TAXES I PAY

Because it means I am employed

FOR TH MESS to clean up after a party

because it means I have been surrounded by friends

FOR THE CLOTHES that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat

FOR MY SHADOW that watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine

FOR A LAWN that needs mowing, WINDOWS that need cleaning, AND GUTTERS that need fixing because it means I have a home

FOR ALL THE COMPLAINING I hear about the Government because it means we have freedom of speech

FOR THE PARKING SPOT I find at the far end of the car park because it means I am capable of walking and have been blessed with transportation

FOR MY HUGE HEATING BILL because it means I am warm

FOR THE PILE OF LAUNDRY & IRONING because it means I have cloths to wear

FOR WEARINESS AND ACHING MUSCLES at the end of the day because it means I am capable of working hard

FOR THE ALARM that goes off in the early morning hours because it means

I AM ALIVE.

## Sister Speak

Sister Speak is a women’s group loosely linked to MCC Brisbane. The contact persons are Claire Webby, Anne James and Iris Sagers. We meet on the second Saturday of each month for social activity one month and a spiritual discussion the next.

## Christmas in July

This will be held on Saturday 29 July at 5:30pm at 40 Redfern St Morningside. Iris is co-ordinating the meal for this evening so please discuss what you can contribute with Iris

## PENTECOST

This year MCC Brisbane will be joining with other GLBTI Christian Groups and together we will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday 4 June 2006 at 7pm at Kelvin Grove.

If you would like to you could wear red/yellow/orange clothing and bring along noise-makers.

## Crave Celebration

Crave services began at MCC Sydney whilst Greg Smith was still the pastor there. They are a Pentecostal style service and were called “crave” services because of the ex-Pentecostal worshippers craving for that style of service.

When we, in MCC Brisbane began planning similar services we decided to keep the name Crave (we gained

permission to do so) in order that we link what we are doing with what is being done in Sydney. We chose to add the word Celebration to differentiate, and to flag the celebratory nature of the services we were planning. Crave Celebration Services will be held at MCC Brisbane on the 4th Sunday of every month at 7pm at Kelvin Grove.

## Time Out

Anne and Iris will be unavailable for 5-7 May. We will be having an anniversary weekend away— and from 13-19 September when we will be in Sydney for the Sub Region Conference and some rest and relaxation.

## Reflection Day

On Saturday 2 September there will be a Reflection Day at the Sisters of the Sacred Advent House in Lapraik St, Albion (next to St Margaret's School). This will be facilitated by Keith Cameron-Smith, Anne and Iris.

A reflection day enables us to take time out, to hear God and

God's will for us, to know ourselves and each other a little better. We will spend time listening, time talking, and possibly times of silent reflection.

This day will cost \$20 and this will cover the use of the facilities plus a hot lunch.

## Theological Reading Group



MCC– Bris's "theological reading group" meets on the last Friday

of each month, discussing published journal articles and theological books, while enjoying coffee and comestibles. The group operates anarchically, and is open to anyone who is interested in theology, and has the time to read the papers and attend our gatherings.

Since its inception in mid-2005, the group has read a diverse range of material, beginning with Michael Nausner's paper, "Towards community beyond gender binaries: Gregory of Nyssa's transgenering as

part of his transformative eschatology" (Theology & Sexuality 16 (2002), 55-65, and continuing with "Reading Job 'positively' in the context of HIV?AIDS in South Africa by Gerald West with Bongzi Zengele (Concilium, 2004/4, 112-124), and an introductory chapter from Michael Carden's book, Sodomy: a history of a Christian biblical myth (London; Equinox, 2004), among other things.

For the April gathering, the group is considering some material from the Lutheran World Federation's on-line discussion site, "The Fisher's Net" [www.luthersem.edu/wfdiscuss](http://www.luthersem.edu/wfdiscuss) focusing on the paper, "Theology, Resistance

## Sub- Regional Conference

This will be held in Sydney over the weekend 15-17Sept. It is co-inciding with the 20th birthday celebration for MCC Good Shepherd and will be held in various venues to be announced. For those wishing to attend transport will be provided to venues from the YWCA Darlinghurst.

This will be a great opportunity to get to know other MCCers from the Australia/New Zealand region, and also our Regional Elder, Rev Elder Debbie Martin. Think about whether you can be part of this and speak with the pastors for more information.

and the Practices of Christian Life" by Teresa Swan Tuite, of Yale University. This paper, from the "Death and Injustice" forum, explores the significance of the liturgical practice of passing the peace as an "everyday" site of resistance to systemic divisions along economic, racial, gender, linguistic and other lines.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 26 May, from 5:30-6:30pm at the Coffee Club coffee shop in Park Road, Milton. If you'd like to join us, contact Inari [inarithiel@netscape.net](mailto:inarithiel@netscape.net) or Anne [pastor@mccbris.asn.au](mailto:pastor@mccbris.asn.au) to obtain a copy of the reading.

## LGBTIQ Community Leaders– A Celebration of Achievement.

On Tuesday 20 June at 5:15pm MCC Brisbane in conjunction with Freedom2B(e) will be hosting a function at which we will honour Shelley Argent (Pflag Co-ordinator) and Dr David Bradford, a sexual health doc-

tor in Cairns. Both these people received honours in the Australia Day honours this year.

The main speaker at this function will be Justice Michael Kirby. This event is being sponsored by MCC

Brisbane, Quac and QUT in the Owen J Wordsworth room, level 12, S Block, Garden Point Campus.



# MCC BRISBANE CONTACT

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The Church in Queensland is  
MCC Brisbane

The Pastor is Rev Anne James. The  
Assistant Pastor is Rev Iris Saggers.

Anne and Iris are available as a  
'friendly ear' or 'shoulder to cry  
on'. Anne and Iris are also available  
for commitment ceremonies, Bap-  
tisms and Funerals by arrange-  
ment .



## Zero Tolerance Policy

MCC churches have zero tolerance  
for sexual harassment or predatory  
behaviour of any kind.

At MCC Brisbane we want all peo-  
ple to feel safe, and we will do all in  
our power to see that no sexual har-  
assment , bullying or predatory be-  
haviour happens at any church  
function. Please feel free to speak  
with the pastors or any member of  
the Board of Directors should you  
experience such behaviour at a  
church function.



## SERVICES

We have a **9.30am Home Group** each Sunday  
morning. This is a very informal service and is  
held in the downstairs section of **40 Redfern St  
Morningside**. At this service we have prayer,  
singing, an informal Holy Communion, Bible  
readings and a time of discussion followed by  
morning tea. A train leaves Central Station at  
8:52 am which gets you to Morningside Station  
in time to walk along to Redfern St. which has a  
KFC on the corner.

We have a more traditional style service each  
Sunday evening at **7pm** at the **Quaker's Meet-  
ing House 10 Hampton St Kelvin Grove**.

All are welcome at either of these services.

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