

MCC Brisbane Newsletter



From the Pastor's Pen

As we approach the Christmas Season I would encourage people to see it first and foremost as a time of spiritual significance. Whether we believe literally in the traditional story of the birth of Jesus, or whether we understand this to be stories told in an attempt to speak a deeper spiritual truth of God's love for humankind, still the meaning of Christmas is spiritual. I realise that there is a lot of pressure on us all to attend end of

year functions, work do's, and parties of various kinds. Added to this is the desire to find just the right gift for each special person in our lives, and to plan so that we can spend Christmas with family or family of choice. I would encourage each one of us (myself included) to make a real effort this year to stop regularly and ask "what is really important here?" "Where do my priorities really lie?" and then to adjust our lifestyle accordingly. I venture

to suggest that in years to come we will not remember the perfectly set Christmas table or the many parties, but we will remember the love we shared and the new things we learnt as we took time out to listen to 'God within'. Iris and I wish each and every one of you a really blessed and happy Christmas and a fruitful and satisfying 2007.



Tithes, Offerings and Donations

There is now the option of giving to the Church via Direct Debit if this works better for you. It enables you to keep your giving up to date, even if you are away, and for those who rarely use, and therefore generally have very little cash on hand- now you can still give

to the church without having to remember to get out some cash before you come to Church. MCC Brisbane bank with Bank of Queensland, BSB number 124001 and the account number is 93020321. If you make a note when you deposit the money that it is either

Tithe, offering or donation then this will show up on the information that the treasurer is given (the treasurer will not be given the name of the depositor however- you can remain anonymous). This will assist the treasurer to keep track of the church's financial situation.

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Special points of interest:

- New Board of Directors appointed
- Christmas Hampers for Open Doors
- New Direct Debit system for church offerings
- Church BBQ at Orleigh Park on 18th. November

Christmas Hampers for Open Doors

Last year we provided hampers to Open Doors GLBTI Youth Service for their young people in need. Open Doors works with young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

This year we are again getting together 15 hampers for Open Doors to distribute. There will be a laundry basket at church

each week and you are encouraged to place in this basket items suitable for a hamper eg. - small non-perishable items such as long-life milk, tea, coffee, milo, sugar, crackers, crisps, nuts, dried fruits, tinned meals and fruits, baked beans and spaghetti, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, etc plus special treats of little



Christmas cakes, pies and other treats. We were able to help in a substantial way last year and I would encourage you to be even more generous this year. Thank you.



Christmas and New Year's Eve services

Christmas Service

Christmas Eve this year is a Sunday - so our Christmas Eve service will be at the Quaker Meeting House as per usual for a Sunday. There will not be a Christmas Day service.



Those who don't have Christmas in their hearts will never find it under a tree.

New Year's Eve

Sunday 31st December is New Year's Eve this year. I would urge people to make it to church before they go on to their New Year's Eve parties. How better to start the New Year than in worshipping God, and parties do not

really warm up until after 9pm - so you have plenty of time to get to your party after the service has finished.



Inclusivity

Metropolitan Community Churches worldwide have a policy of inclusivity.

Because we believe God accepts and welcomes all people we seek to make all feel welcome and included. You can never be all things to all people all of the time - but we attempt to use language which doesn't exclude,

and as we at MCC Brisbane attempt to have a variety of worship styles, so we are doing what we can to be inclusive.

Inclusivity within MCC also means we seek to use either non-gender specific language for God, or we balance out male and female language. All Christian churches would say

that God is Spirit and therefore God is neither male nor female. We simply live that out in the ways we talk about and address God.

Board of Directors

All MCC churches must have a duly elected Board of Directors to take care of the administrative running of the church. Our AGM was held on 24th September and we have a new Board of Directors (BOD) - this consists of-

Anne James pastor/moderator
Marie Solomon clerk - assisted by Ray Burt (shadow clerk)
Tracey Nickols treasurer - assisted by Paul McGuren (shadow treasurer)

Thank You

Thank you to those who have served on the BOD in recent years. Those who have served and are now retired from the BOD are Adrian Buganey, Terry Heiner and Inari Thiel. Robert has served for a number of years as clerk and is now serving as lay-



Church Library

Whilst we were in Sydney recently Anne and Iris bought some new books and DVD's for the church library. Anne is currently reading the 2 excellent books which will soon be available for borrowing - they are entitled "Sex and the Sacred "by Daniel A Helminiak and "Coming out

Robert Collins - lay delegate
Johann DeJoodt - general member

Iris Saggars also attends BOD meetings regularly in her role as Assistant Pastor - she has voice but no vote.

All are welcome to attend BOD meetings as a general rule - these are usually held on the 1st Monday evening of each month - 7pm at 40 Redfern St Morningside.

delegate.

These BOD members have served during two changes of pastor and so they have had to work very hard to keep the church afloat - thank you.

Church BBQ

On Saturday November 18th there will be a BBQ at Orleigh Park at 11-30am. Adrian is organising the meat and salads for this so you need only bring any drinks you want and \$5 to cover costs. Orleigh Park is on the Brisbane River at West End and the City Cat stops there.

Spiritually - the next step." by Christian de la Huerta.

If people have books still which they have had out on loan for a long time - please could you get them back soon so others can borrow them.

Congratulations-

To **Lavinia and Carolyn** on their engagement - they plan to have a Civil Union in NZ sometime down the track.

To **Anthea and Susan** on gaining residency in Australia - we look forward to welcoming them one day as Australian Citizens.

To the members of the new **Board of Directors**

Sister Speak

All who identify as female are welcome to attend SisterSpeak on the 2nd Saturday of each month. In November we will be having a discussion at 40 Redfern St Morningside at 2pm. In December we will have a Christmas function at a yet to be determined location



MCC Brisbane Services

MCC Brisbane has four different styles of service you can attend.

Each Sunday morning at 9-30am there is a Home Group style service at 40 Redfern St Morningside.

This is an easy walk from the Morningside train station. This service is very informal with a discussion, prayers, some singing and an informal Holy Communion. Our evening services are held each Sunday at 7pm at Quaker Meeting House 10 Hampson St Kelvin Grove. In the evening - on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month we have a somewhat standard protestant service.

In the evening of the 4th Sunday we have a service of worship Pentecostal style with modern bouncey music (we call this our Crave Celebration service).

In the evening of the 5th Sunday (in those months in which there is a fifth Sunday) we have an 'old style' service with hymns from yesteryear.

This would mean there is at least one service a quarter which you could expect to meet your needs.

**Zero Tolerance**

**Rev Anne James - pastor and
Rev Iris Ssaggers - assistant
pastor - can be contacted on
(07) 3891 1388.**

Their Emails are

spaganne@iinet.net.au and

isaggers@iinet.net.au

**The church address is PO
Box 317 Fortitude valley Qld
4006.**

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

At MCC Brisbane we want all people to feel safe, and we will do all in our power to see that no sexual harassment, bullying or predatory behaviour happens at any church function.

We have a risk management policy which covers this and other matters and is available for perusal before and after church - just ask the greeters to show it to you.

Please feel free to speak with the pastors or any member of the BOD should you experience sexual harassment, bullying or predatory behaviour at any church function.