



Uniting Church in Australia

QUEENSLAND SYNOD

MARYBOROUGH PARISH

Bulletin  
OCTOBER 2025

Dear Friends

This month I am sharing a devotion with you that someone pointed out to me. It is entitled "Show appreciation for your pastor":

Paul writes to the church at Thessalonica: *'Now brothers and sisters, we ask you to appreciate those who work hard among you, who lead you in the Lord and teach you. Respect them with a very special love because of the work they do'* (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 NCV). Now consider these twenty-first century statistics:

1. Fifty percent of pastors feel so disheartened they would leave the ministry if they could, but they don't know any other way to make a living.
2. Half of all new ministers won't last more than five years in ministry.
3. Only one in ten ministers will retire while still serving in some capacity.
4. In America, over 1,700 pastors left the ministry every month during 2011.

There are many reasons why pastors walk away. One major reason is inadequate financial support and the toll it takes on their family. Paul addressed this issue directly: *'Let the elders [pastors] who rule well be counted worthy of double honour [financial remuneration], especially those who labour in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The labourer is worthy of his wages"'* (1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV).

Another reason pastors quit is because they are often the target of harsh and constant criticism. Paul gives this instruction: *"Do not receive an accusation against an elder [pastor] except from two or three witnesses"* (V.19 NKJV).

So what do you do? Pray for your pastor. Encourage them. Appreciate them. Let them know that their work matters – not just to you, but to God. And when you do, Scripture assures us: God will bless you for it. (From the latest Vision 180 magazine for 7 November 2025)

I realise this devotion quotes American statistics however there are a lot of similarities here in Australia, especially since the impact of COVID19 on our personal lives, the church and society. The pressures are real. I know a minister ordained only a couple of years before me who told me that four of his cohort, who were ordained, are no longer ministers. I know of others who were

ministers for many years and now are not. The struggle is real.

It reminds me of Peter Olds' funeral and the Bible passage I quoted: *"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"*. (John 13:34-35) Peter embodied this message of Jesus. His solution was to try your hardest to get along with everyone. And what a testimony his life is!

I am still being challenged as I come to the last couple of chapters of the book, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Unchartered Territory* by Tod Bolsinger. Sometimes in books like this you can be reminded of a gem insight of wisdom:

"When what you are doing isn't working, there are two things you **cannot do**:

- (1) Do what you have already done,
- (2) Do nothing."

That is something I admired about Peter Olds, he didn't keep doing the same things through the years. He saw a problem so he invented new things to solve the problem with amazing success and the world benefited. How many of us see a problem and do something about it? Often, we just shrug, grumble, groan, and whinge to anyone who will listen and do nothing because we want someone else to fix it. If we do nothing, nothing will ever change.

When we give up trying new things we can end up stuck in a rut that is hard to get ourselves out of it. For churches, organisations, and businesses this can lead to their eventual demise. We have seen that with Tupperware and yet companies like Lego continue to find new ways to reinvent themselves for the next generations as well as the current ones. I know when my girls were children there were mostly plain blocks whereas today there are even bunches of flowers and bonsais that you can make with the kit just by following the instructions. I wonder what God is saying to us in these times. How could we do things differently?



Blessings

Rev Delma Lovell

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## **CHURCH SERVICES:**

**Sunday 5 October - Rev Delma - Communion**  
**9:00am** St Stephen's Church

**Sunday 12 October - Rev Delma**  
**9:00am** St Stephen's Church

**Thursday 16 October - Rev Delma**  
**3:00pm** Chelsea Retirement Living  
Community Hall

**Sunday 19 October - Nalda Brett**  
**9:00am** St Stephen's Church - Frontier Services

**2:00pm** Bauple Home Group afternoon tea

**Sunday 26 October - Rev Delma**  
**9:00am** Wesley Auditorium

*Please note:*  
*Maryborough's 4th Sunday church service*  
*is held in the Wesley Auditorium.*

Rev Delma will be attending UnitingCare's Full Circle and Reconciliation Awards gala dinner at Brisbane City Hall on Thursday 9 October at 5:30pm. Rev Delma is one of three finalists in the category of "Bringing People Together" for the work she does in her Connect100+ role which includes the Uniting Church Mental Health Forum Maryborough.

## **CONTACT DETAILS:**

St. Stephens Church  
**25 Sussex Street**

Wesley Auditorium,  
St. Stephen's Hall & Office  
**21 Sussex Street**

### **EMAILS:**

Leaders Council – operational issues  
[lc.ucamaryborough@gmail.com](mailto:lc.ucamaryborough@gmail.com)

Finance- including finance, hall/church bookings  
[financeucamaryborough@gmail.com](mailto:financeucamaryborough@gmail.com)

Other items – availability for roster,  
bulletin items, bluecards  
[ucamaryborough@gmail.com](mailto:ucamaryborough@gmail.com)

### **FACEBOOK:**

Maryborough Parish Uniting Church

### **WEBSITE:**

<https://ucamaryborough.org.au/>

### **POST:**

PO Box 585, Maryborough, QLD, 4650

### **PHONE:**

**0402 425 340** (this number will go through to  
Rev Delma's Number automatically)

## **REV DELMA IS ON LEAVE:**

**Friday 17 October to**  
**Thursday 23 October.**

Please ring the church's mobile if you require  
assistance during this time.

## **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT DEPOSIT:**

The details are:

**BSB:** 014 010

**Account:** Uniting Church Maryborough

**Account Number:** 3873 956 67

*Thank you for prayerfully considering this option to  
support the work of the congregation.*

## **CONNECT100+ NEWS:**

Have you got a notice or information to share?

Submissions for inclusion in the November 2025 Bulletin end 22 October 2025

**MODERATOR'S REGIONAL  
CONVOCATION -  
DRINKING FROM THE WELL:**

On her way home from Brisbane, Rev Delma will be attending the Moderator's Convocation at Nambour Uniting Church on Friday 10 October from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The convocation is about providing a space for ministers and other church leaders to access our curiosity, courage and imagination, to refine and realign with our core values for us to enjoy and flourish in ministry and to gather some tools and resources for our mental health wellbeing.

## BIBLE READINGS:

	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
5 October	Lam 1:1-6	Lam 3:19-26 or Ps 137	2 Tim 1:1-14	Lk 17:5-10
12 October	Jer 29:1, 4-7	Ps 66:1-12	2 Tim 2:8-15	Lk 17:11-19
19 October	Jer 31:27-34	Ps 119:97-104	2 Tim 3:14 - 4:5	Lk 18:1-8
26 October	Joel 2:23-32	Ps 65	2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18	Lk 18:9-14

## BREAKFAST MINISTRY DONATIONS:

Financial donations for can be direct debited to the Breakfast Ministry bank account:

**Account Name:** UCA - MARYBOROUGH PARISH

**BSB:** 014 655      **Account Number:** 4250 44594

## FRONTIER SERVICES RETIRING OFFERING ON

**19 OCTOBER 2025**  **Frontier Services** 

*Standing with people in the bush.*  
The Uniting Church's Frontier Services is Australia's oldest bush charity, dedicated to supporting people in rural and remote communities. For over a century, they have been a trusted presence in the outback, offering practical, pastoral, and spiritual care to those facing isolation, hardship, and limited access to essential services. Support is provided by Bush Chaplains and Outback Links volunteers. If you would like to know more, check out their website: <https://frontierservices.org/>

## WESLEY AUDITORIUM & CHURCH OFFICE INSURANCE REPAIRS:

The church office skylight was replaced on 9 September. Painting repairs in the church office and the Wesley Auditorium storeroom and kitchen (also ceiling sheets to be replaced in the kitchen) are booked in for 1, 2, 3 October through Johns Lyng Group. The Wesley Auditorium will be closed for these repairs. This will finalise the repairs for the hail damage sustained on 4 December 2023.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on **SUNDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2025**, at the conclusion of the service in the Wesley Auditorium. The Congregation is asked to fill vacant Leader positions for 2026. Leaders appointed by the Congregation who serve on Leaders Council are the Elders, Treasurer and Congregation Chair.

### Positions to be voted for are:

Chair of Congregation	Secretary of Congregation	Presbytery Representative
Elders (no limit)	Treasurer of Leaders Council	

Note: Current Elders, who will continue to serve throughout 2026, are Marion Tappenden.

**NOMINATION FORMS** are available on Sundays or email copies can be requested through Rev Delma. Forms must be returned no later than **Wednesday 15 October 2025**.

Please prayerfully consider these roles and if you have queries, please talk to Leaders Council Chair, Bruce Grant; Leaders Council Secretary, Ros Martin; or Rev Delma Lovell.

## DATE CLAIMER: MUCAF CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

**Date:** Thursday 27 November 2025

## DATE CLAIMER: LIFELINE BOOKFEST:

**Dates:** 6, 7, 8 November

**PRAYER MEETING:****Every Monday 8:30am - 9:00am**

St Stephen's Church

**BREAKFAST MINISTRY:****Every Tuesday 7:00am - 8:00am**

St Pauls Anglican Church Hall

A community breakfast for those in need.

**CHATTY TUESDAY:****Every Tuesday 9:30am - 12noon**

Wesley Auditorium

All are welcome to come for a cuppa and a chat, play boardgames or bring your craft.

**GIRLS' BRIGADE:****Every Tuesday (during school terms)**

Cadets 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Upper Section 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Wesley Auditorium

**MEMORY SUPPORT CAFE:****Wednesday 8 October****11:30am - 1:30pm**

Wesley Auditorium

Providing support for carers of those with dementia or memory loss.

**PARISH TEA:****Monday 13 October 5:30pm - 7:00pm**

Maryborough Services &amp;

Citizens Memorial Club

*RSVP to Nalda Brett on 0407 628 072**before 10:00am on 13 October.***BOOK CLUB:****Tuesday 21 October 2:30pm**

Wesley Auditorium

Join us for a chat, a cuppa and to share discussions on our readings.

**LEADERS COUNCIL MEETING:****Monday 27 October 4:30pm**

Wesley Auditorium

**MARYBOROUGH UNITING CHURCH****ADULT FELLOWSHIP MEETING:**

Thursday 9 October 1:30pm

Wesley Auditorium

All are welcome. Afternoon tea following the meeting.

**DATE CLAIMER: NOVEMBER NOEL****Date:** Saturday 29 November**Time:** 6:00pm**Venue:** St Stephen's Church*This Old Mental Health Week community organisations are uniting for Maryborough.***UNITING FOR COMMUNITY  
MENTAL HEALTH EXPO****Date:** Thursday 9 October 2025

10:00am to 1:00pm

Maryborough City Hall

Uniting Church Mental Health

. . . . . (an activity of Uniting Church Maryborough)

**FELLOWSHIP MORNING TEA**

Fun, Friendship, Food

**Date:** Saturday, 11 October 2025**Venue:** Maryborough Services & Citizens

Memorial Club, 163-175 Lennox St,

Maryborough

**Time:** 9am Café opens for orders

10am Program starts

**BRING A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER****RSVP by 5 October 2025**

Contact Diana Collins on 0407 382 783

Or dscollins2@bigpond.com

**GIRLS' BRIGADE TOMBOLA****Date:** Saturday 15 November 2025**Time:** Doors open at 11:00am**Venue:** Wesley Auditorium, 21 Sussex Street**ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH FLOOR  
LONG-TERM WATER DAMAGE:**

It has been discovered that the floor at the front of the church on the left-hand side, under the first stained glass window has decayed due to water ingress over several years, possibly through the bricks and the stained glass window. The cupboard and carpet runner in this area has also been damaged, leaving behind mould and mildew. The books from the cupboard have been recycled as they can't be used because of the mildew.

