



MIDDLE RIDGE UNITING CHURCH
264 Stenner St Middle Ridge

16th – 18th June 2023

Hospital Chaplaincy

Prayer Points

- Thanksgiving for our graduating Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) students, and blessings on them as they move on from training.
- Pray for God's blessing on the process of advertising our Co-ordinator's position.
- Thanks for God's goodness in funding for an Emergency Department Pastoral Care trial.

Report

- As I'm writing I am thankful to God that the Position Description for the Pastoral Care Service Co-ordinator is being finalised ready for advertising. For the first time in this hospital, and unusually in the Queensland context, this 0.5 full time equivalent role will be half funded by Queensland Health. The remainder will continue to be funded by Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and Uniting churches. Our current Co-ordinator (Marg Thorpe) has requested that the position is advertised, rather than simply being appointed due to her time in the interim role.
- Our Anglican chaplain, Rev Peter Mayen, has been appointed to a temporary Pastoral Care position working in the Emergency Department Friday and Saturday nights from 6pm – midnight. This a 6 month trial has been funded by the Hospital Foundation. Initial feedback from the ward is positive, the staff appreciate an additional pair of hands. If successful we will be fundraising to make it longer term.
- Our leadership team (all those paid by churches) has had a difficult few months. A combination of annual leave and illnesses have resulted in our being thin on the ground at times. I was the last woman standing in March for a few weeks. Then I contracted Covid whilst our other full timer was on annual leave after Easter. Our volunteers have done wonders filling in the gaps, including a couple of experienced volunteers taking the after hours phone for a few days when I'd had it for two consecutive weeks.
- Clinical Pastoral Education is nearing the end for this year. We have had such high quality, capable students who have made a difference to what our team at the hospital has been able to offer.
- I will be running two *CARE Essentials* courses this year, both in Toowoomba.

- A weekly format for 8 weeks starting Monday 10 July at 7pm at Lifeworks, Glenvale.
- An intensive format over a weekend 9am-5pm both Saturday and Sunday yet to be confirmed as at time of writing. Most likely at St Stephens Uniting Church, hopefully in October.
- These courses are booked on the Synod website which can be found by Googling “UCA Care Essentials” or on the following link [CARE Essentials Course - Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod \(ucaqlld.com.au\)](https://ucaqlld.com.au) It is \$100 per participant. Contact me if this is a barrier for someone who would benefit from the training. All sessions must be attended in order to be awarded the certificate.
- As usual, if anywhere else would like to host a course, I’m happy to come and do it at a time that is convenient. I suggest getting ecumenical partners involved too, as this can mean there are sufficient numbers.
- My Continuing Education for this year has been training with my dog Rusty to become a Dog Therapy Team. I’m approximately halfway through the online training course, and it will culminate with me submitting videos of our obedience work, then a trip to Redcliff to do the personality and certification testing. I have approval from our Executive Director for Rusty to attend the hospital once he meets the relevant policy which requires that he be a certified Therapy dog. Yes, he is tiny and being a very good boy given all the distractions.
- I have preaching opportunities at Pilton and Wilsonton later in the year. My last date for Wilsonton ended up with me providing material to their lay team as I tested positive for Covid earlier in the week.



Recommendations

1. That the report be received

Report Submitted by:

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If you have questions, please email before the meeting.