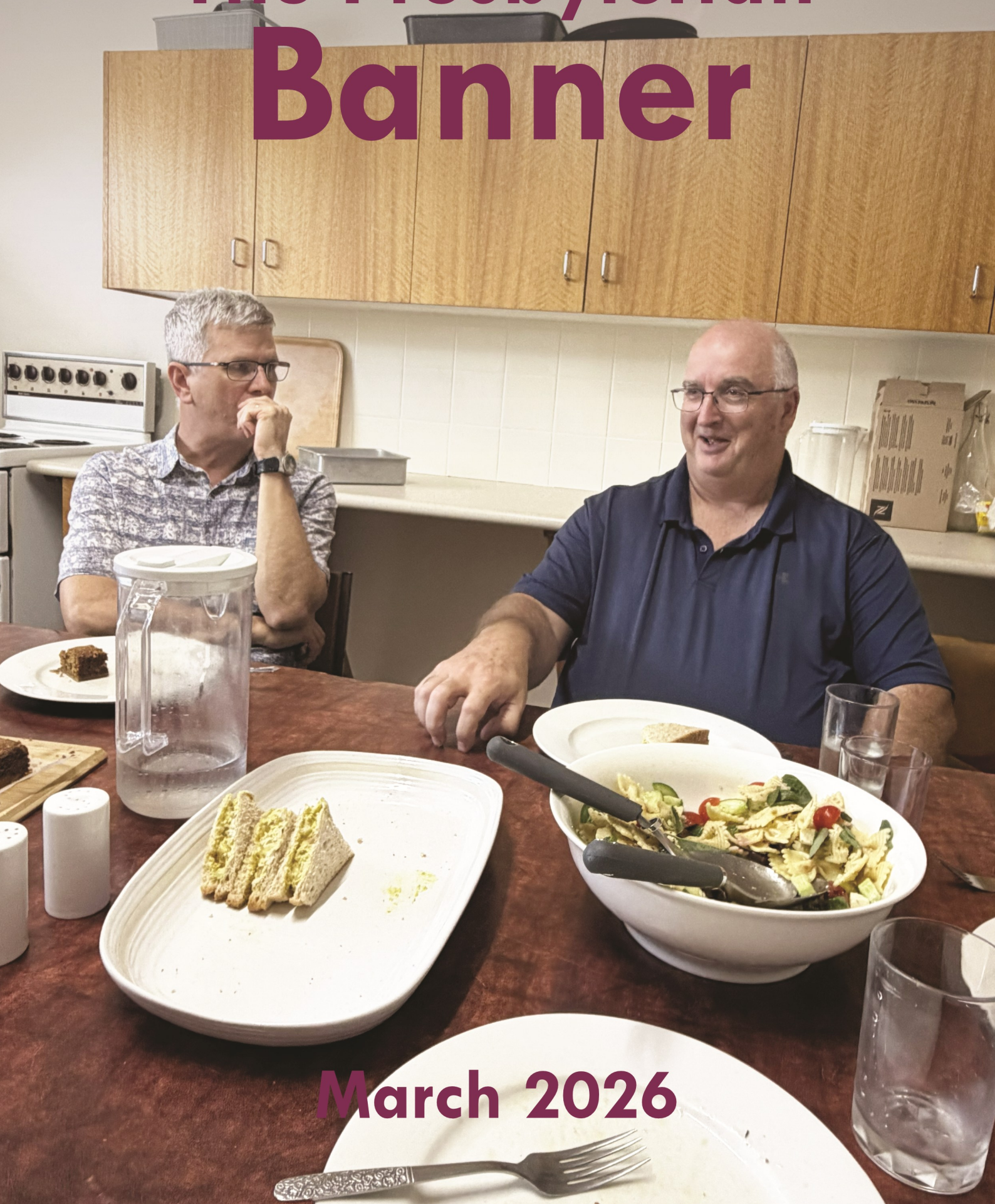


“You are my rock and my fortress; and for your name’s sake you lead me and guide me” Psalm 31:3

The Presbyterian Banner



March 2026

Table Of Contents

- 1 - *Cover* - Stewart Carswell and Glen Hamilton at the meeting of the Northern Presbytery in Maclean on 7 March.
- 2 - *This Issue.*
- 3-5 - *Meditation* - “The Word at Work,” Notes of a sermon preached at the induction of David Lachman on the 8th of January in the Melbourne PCEA, by George Ball.
- 6-9 - *Church News* - Reports from Brisbane, Hastings, Hunter, Hawkesbury Nepean, Manning, Northern Rivers, St Georges, and Ulverstone.
- 10 - *March Search Work.*
- 10-11 - *March Prayer Points.*
- 12 - *Back Cover* - Photos from the meeting of the Northern Presbytery on 7 March.

From the Editor



Prov. 3:19-20 teaches us, “The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.”

God is creator. He formed all things. And his wisdom played an essential role in this work.

We look at the creation around us, and we see that it all testifies to his incredible wisdom.

Reading 1 Cor. 1:30, “But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

Christ, wisdom from God, the personification, the embodiment of wisdom, by whom and for whom all things were created, by who and for who all things exist. As Col. 1:16 says, “All things were created through Him and for Him.”

The world is not just one big massive realm of chaos. There is order and structure to it, wisdom displayed in it, pointing us to Christ.

Appreciating this wisdom is what makes it possible for us to truly live life wisely in Christ.

How can you understand how to live in the world without knowing something about the one who made it, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit? How can you be wise in understanding how the world operates, without looking to the one who in his wisdom created this world and placed you in it?

How can you understand life, without appreciating the wisdom of the one who gave you new life?

Jim Klazinga

The Presbyterian Banner [ISSN 0729-3542] is the official magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

The PCEA was founded in 1846 and adheres to the Westminster Confession of Faith (1647) as a correct summary of the teaching of the Holy Scriptures.

There are congregations in Kalinga in QLD; Maclean, Wauchope, Kindee, Taree, Cardiff, Raymond Terrace, Sydney CBD, and Mt Druitt in NSW; Narre Warren, Carrum Downs, and Geelong in VIC; Ulverstone in TAS.

Subscriptions: \$30 per year in bulk (5 or more) and \$35 for Australian individual subscriptions and \$50 overseas.

Bank details for Direct Credit: Bendigo Bank, BSB 633 000 Ac: 163 581 242 Please add your name in the details panel when making payment.

The opinions expressed in the articles and news reports are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editor, his assistants, or of the PCEA itself.

Reproduction of articles is usually allowed but permission to do so must be sought first.

The magazine is available as a pdf file for free download on the Church website: www.pcea.org.au

Editor: Jim Klazinga, 3 Padua Place, Boondall, QLD 4034

Mobile: 0466 213 763 Email: editor@pcea.org.au

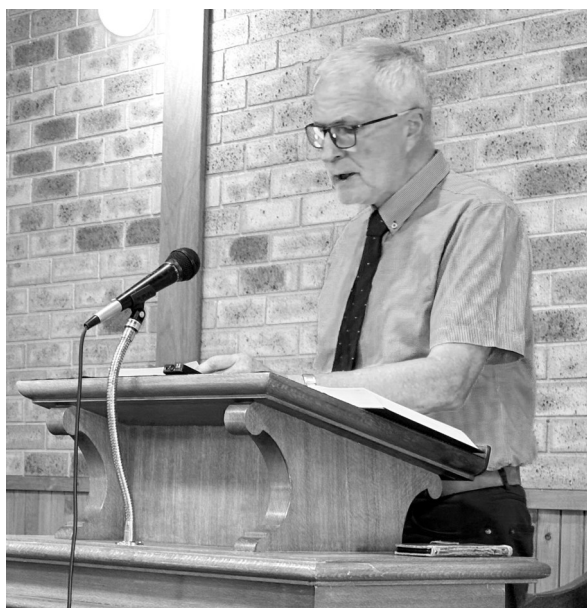
Assistant Editor: Julie Klazinga.

The editor is grateful for the assistance of an informal network of Banner liaisons from the various PCEA congregations.

The Word at Work

by Rev George Ball

The following are notes of a sermon preached by Rev. George Ball, Moderator of the Southern Presbytery, at the induction of Rev. David Lachman on the 8th of January in the Melbourne PCEA.



Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2: 13-14

These early chapters in Thessalonians contain lots of valuable instructions, examples, and warnings about Christian ministry.

Ligon Duncan writes, ‘Paul is actually providing us with a philosophy of ministry: principles for how it is supposed to be done and why. There is rich material here for reflection on what we’re supposed to be doing as we minister in the church. This doesn’t apply only to church leaders – it applies to anyone who serves in the church in any way’

There are lessons here for all – because all are ‘ministers’ (servants).

The aim of minister of the gospel (like Paul) is to please God (2:4). We would also like to please men and women if we could – after all our goal is that they will hear the truth of the gospel, receive it willingly, and be transformed by it.

Many in Thessalonica did. We read in Acts 17:4, ‘Some . . . were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women’.

But not all were pleased. We read in Acts 17:5, ‘But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason’.

The gospel message brings division. To some the message brings eternal life and great joy, like the man who discovered treasure hidden in a field. To others the gospel is a stumbling stone of offence that brings death and condemnation.

Paul describes it like this in 2 Corinthians 15-16, ‘For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life’

The gospel brings life and healing to some – and death and condemnation to others.

It reminds me of the time when I was a little boy. My mother was a

patient in hospital in a large ward. At the end of the ward was a big white cupboard with the word – POISON – printed in red. That confused and troubled me. Poison in a hospital? I was hoping my mother wouldn’t need any.

Of course, I now know it was the medicine cupboard where all the drugs were kept. The medication for one patient could be the means of healing – but the same medication for another could be the means of death.

The Gospel is like that. For those who receive it by faith it’s a breath of oxygen. But for those who refuse it it’s a whiff of cyanide.

As Paul recounts his brief visit to Thessalonica, he is ever thankful for the Lord’s work of saving grace in their lives.

This is not the first time he has expressed thanks for what God was doing in them. In chapter 1:2 he gives thanks for the evidence of faith, love, and hope in their lives.

Paul’s thankfulness is a challenge to us. Someone has said, ‘If we fail to notice evidence of God’s grace in the lives of others in our church, we will gradually become grumblers rather than grateful’.

Because we are a bunch of forgiven sinners saved by grace, brushing shoulders with one another, and sometimes standing on each other’s toes, we will frequently annoy and frustrate one other. As we say, ‘familiarity breeds

contempt’.

I think therefore it’s a good idea to pause from time to time to be grateful to God for what we see He’s doing in the lives of others – otherwise we will become grumblers (and already there’s far too many of us around!)

In the words of our text, we also see that:

1. He Gives Thanks for The Way they Received the Word (verse 13).

Let’s approach our text by asking a few questions.

Q. What was it in particular they received and recognised as the Word of God?

A. It was the preached message of the apostle Paul (and presumably also Silas).

Luke records the scene in Acts 17: 2-3. ‘Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.”’

It was like another Emmaus Road experience, when Jesus drew alongside those two despondent disciples and ‘beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. He explained to them how the whole of the Old Testament pointed forward to Himself. As a result, their eyes and understanding were opened - and their hearts did burn. Their faith, hope, and understanding were renewed.

I believe that’s the kind of exposition that occurred in the synagogue in Thessalonica.

The preaching came (like that of their Saviour) with clarity, authority and simplicity.

As they listened to the preaching of Paul, they not only heard him preach about Christ – but they heard Christ Himself speaking through the apostle. That’s what they recognised and received.

Q. Can lawfully ordained preachers today claim that same authority?

A. Yes ... and ... No.

No mere man can claim the infallibility or direct inspiration from God that Paul and Silas could (unless he is an apostle, prophet, or the Bishop of Rome!) It’s the Scriptures alone which are the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God.

However, when a man faithfully and accurately explains, expounds, proclaims, and applies the Scriptures in the congregation, it is to be received as the Word of God.

John Stott writes, ‘To preach is to open up the inspired text with such faithfulness and sensitivity that God’s voice is heard’.

Bryan Chappell writes, ‘When we speak the truths of the Word of God, we are not simply speaking about Jesus, nor are we simply speaking for Jesus. We are speaking as Jesus.’

Paul when writing about the importance of preachers being sent out to declare the good news says, ‘faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God’ (Rom. 10:17).

The word of God in this instance is the message of the faithful gospel preacher.

When, therefore, we hear preaching like this from our pulpits

on a Sunday morning we can say that God is speaking to us in the sermon (which is why we are right to give preaching the central place in our worship services - and why we should pray regularly for the preacher and the preaching of the Word).

The preacher (like the apostle) has been ‘entrusted’ with the gospel (2:4). It’s not our gospel. It’s God’s. Therefore, we have no right to chop or change it, modify it, tone it down, or alter it in any way. We are not to add to it or take away from it.

John writes, ‘I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book’ (Rev. 22: 18-19).

Yes, this warning is primarily referring to the book of Revelation, but providentially it’s also placed at the end of the canon of Scripture. Isaiah declares, ‘To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn’ (Isa.8:20).

The pulpit (or lectern) therefore is not a pedestal to propagate the preachers’ own ideas, opinions, politics, or philosophy. It’s not to be used as a place to scold, or to have a dig at someone, or to be a bully.

One writer warns, ‘Spiritual abuse happens when ... a pastor ... wields his position of spiritual authority in such a way that he

Meditation

“Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you.” 1 John 2:24

manipulates, domineers, bullies, and intimidates those under him as a means of maintaining his own power and control, even if he is convinced, he is seeking biblical and kingdom-related goals’ (M. Kruger).

Q. Westminster Larger Cat. 160. ‘What is required of those that hear the word preached?’

A: ‘It is required of those that hear the word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives’.

Q. *Why do we not see more spiritual fruit following the preaching of the Word?*

This is a question that has often concerned and perplexed me. Think of the numerous sermons preached and heard in our churches. With the emphasise that we (rightly) place on preaching - why are we not producing more godly people than those churches which don’t emphasise the importance of preaching?

A. Perhaps we preachers need to examine more critically the quality of our preaching? Perhaps we listeners need to give more diligence to how we hear the preaching of the Word?

Spurgeon said of reading, ‘It’s not the reading of many books that makes a man wise – but the reading of a few good books well’.

I might paraphrase and apply it to hearing. ‘It’s not the number of sermons we hear that produces

godliness – but it’s how we hear them’.

Jesus exhorted, ‘Take heed how you hear’.

2. He Gives Thanks that the Word was at Work in Them (verses 13c-14).

He has already given thanks to God for the evident changes in their lives as a result of their conversion. See chapter one verses 2, 6, and 8-10.

The word was at work in their lives. They were undergoing change. That’s what it should mean in the Christian life. Faith and repentance is not only the door that we enter into God’s kingdom – it’s also the road we are to follow while we are in it.

We live in a new housing development in Newcastle where lots of new houses are being built. One of the builders (McDonald-Jones) uses the advertising slogan, ‘We change the way you live’. It’s a big claim. But it’s really only the Gospel that can make that claim.

You noticed when you drove this afternoon into the carpark in Narre Warren, you had entered a building site, as the Optus Tower is under construction.

It’s very appropriate. Because when we gather on Sunday morning, we are in a sense, entering a building site. We really should put on a hi-vis vest, hard hat, and steel capped boots to remind us we are entering a construction zone.

Every believer is a construction project – where there’s a renovation going on. There is rubble to be removed (repentance), and things to put in its place (faith and obedience).

The Word of God is the architect’s plan to show us what we should believe, and how we should live (Matt. 7:26-27, Acts 20:32, James 1:21).

3. He Gives Thanks They Were Willing to Suffer for the Gospel (verse 14).

‘For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews’ (verse 14).

They had become imitators of the church in Judea in the sense that they too were willing to suffer for the gospel at the hands of their own countrymen (see Acts 17:5).

Paul sees this as evidence of genuine faith – that the gospel was so real in their lives that they were willing to suffer for it. They were willing to live for the gospel, willing to suffer for the gospel, and if need be, die for the gospel.

Say, is the gospel you believe in worth suffering and dying for?

Paul declares, ‘For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us’ (Rom. 8:18).

Suffering is inevitable. Unavoidable. But it doesn’t have the last word.

Mary Matheson (missionary in the New Hebrides 1858-1862, endured much ill health and the loss of her infant daughter) affirmed, ‘One moment in heaven will amply compensate for all we have suffered here’. Is that your perspective?

C. T. Studd famously said, ‘Only one life, will soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.’

* * * * *

Brisbane

[*Note: the following is the congregational report for 2025, to be included in the Northern Presbytery report to synod 2026*]

We give thanks to God for His continuing to work out his gracious purposes in and through our congregation during 2025.

Worship Services:

Services were held most Sundays at our Emma Street building at 10 am and 5 pm. We cancelled one Sunday’s services because of cyclone Alfred.

While Pastor Klazinga led most of the services, we have been blessed by a significant number of guest preachers who have led our worship (in addition to elder Stewart Carswell leading reading services) when the pastor has been on leave, away for church business, having an exchange, ill, or just having a service off because of visiting preachers (32 services in total).

The Lord’s Supper was celebrated six times.

The congregation continued to be blessed by the consistent presence of visitors at our worship services, some of whom attended regularly.

The livestreaming of services continued, for use by those unable to attend the services in person. We also continued to accommodate three senior ladies joining in worship via their phones.

Membership:

Disjunction certificates were issued to Ben and Claire Klazinga. Their family joined a CRCA

congregation close to their home.

Lilah Rose Smith was born to Stephen and Jessie on 29 October.

Peter John Klazinga, son of Micah and Lauren, was born on 15 September and was baptized on 26 October.

Isaac and Eloise Klazinga were married in Hobart on 6 December. Eloise became a member of the congregation by disjunction certificate.

No members of the congregation died in 2025, though we did note the passing of Dr. W.J. McClean, one of the founding elders of the congregation.

Session:

Elder Wes Hanna serves in the role of Clerk of Session, while Elder Stewart Carswell serves as the representative elder at Presbytery and synod, and as the Safe Church officer. Mr. John Greensill of the Northern Rivers congregation again stands ready to serve as an assessor elder, but we did not need to call on him in 2025.

Deacons’ Court:

The Deacons’ Court was made up of the pastor, the two other elders, and the three deacons. Keith Schmidt served as clerk, while Stewart Carswell served as treasurer, and Micah Klazinga served as assistant treasurer.

Thanks to the generous giving of our members, our contributions continue to be good. Our income was about \$600 a week greater than our expenses.

We continue to maintain a Diaconate Fund. The money in the fund remains available to help members and others who find themselves confronted with a financial emergency.

Offerings were occasionally collected for the Maintenance Fund. Also, on the six Sundays when the Lord’s Supper was administered, extra collections for denominational funds were collected.

Education and Fellowship:

Our Sunday morning pre-service psalm singing class met during the school terms.

The Sunday School still had no regular students.

Lunch continues to be held every Sunday at the church.

One fortnightly mid-week Bible Study met on zoom, making use of online study courses offered by Ligonier Ministries.

A number of young adults meet regularly and conduct their own studies on the Westminster Confession.

The minister led the Men’s Discussion Group, held occasionally following the Sunday evening worship service. Women would meet in a separate group, convened by Mrs. Julie Klazinga.



The pastor occasionally led a class after the morning service, focussing on the Heidelberg Catechism.

Near the end of the year, Pastor Klazinga and Elder Carswell led a new member’s class for one young man who would become a member of the congregation in early 2026.

The pastor continued his practice of sending text messages up to six days a week to members via their mobile phones, informing the congregation of matters for prayer, focussing mainly on the members and activities of the congregation.

The Annual Family Camp usually held in December at Lennox Head in NSW had to be cancelled in 2025.

* * * * *

Hastings

[*Note: the following is the congregational report for 2025, to be included in the Northern Presbytery report to synod 2026*]

Services and activities: Public worship in Wauchope is at 10am and 4pm each Lord's Day with a service in Kindee at 7pm on the third Sunday of each month. A congregational lunch is also held on the fifth Sunday. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was held three times in 2025. A time of psalmody is held monthly after the evening service of the 4th Sunday of the month. Sunday School is conducted each Lord’s Day after morning tea in the Wauchope church. We encourage memorisation of scripture, psalms and catechisms as set by the PCEA

Youth and Fellowship committee. A Sunday School outing and congregational picnic was held at Pilot Beach Dunbogan in December 2025.

People: There were five baptisms during the year. Two new communicant members were added by profession of faith. Sadly one of our members died during 2025 – Nola Tibbs – her funeral was conducted at Anna Bay with many in attendance.

Finance and Property: Upgrades to the church hall were completed in December 2025 to modify the layout to provide a separate meeting room, storeroom and to install a new kitchen. A new multi-function room was completed at the rear of the manse providing an excellent addition to functionality and value to the property.

On the 25th October 2025, our minister accepted a call to be the minister of Geelong congregation. A copy of a statement of Ministerial Service is included below.

We humbly acknowledge the Lord's kindness in sustaining the life and fellowship of the Hastings River congregation over the past year and look to Him as we continue as a vacant congregation.

Statement of Ministerial Service of Rev. John Forbes: John was ordained on 1 August 2008 as minister of Bonar Bridge and Lairg Free Church of Scotland. In 2018 he accepted a call to the Hastings River PCEA congregation in Wauchope and served as minister from 24 November 2018 until the 7 January 2026 when he was inducted to the Geelong congregation after accepting a call

to be their minister. He came to the Hastings with his wife, Mary, and their five children, Katherine, James, Donald, Elsa, and Kenneth. The three eldest children became members upon profession of faith during their time at the Hastings. John, along with Mary and the children were much loved and appreciated by the congregation and many blessings were witnessed and experienced during his ministry. Many new families attended and some are still with the congregation today. Professions of faith were witnessed, many baptisms occurred and a good sense of fellowship was enjoyed.

The books of the Bible and series that John preached on included Matthew, 1 & 2 Samuel, Daniel, Revelation, Nehemiah, Job, Ruth, Jonah, Joel, Romans and Hebrews.

* * * * *

Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

The month of March promises to be a busy and we trust, blessed month for our congregation (Ps 127:1).

In addition to Lord's Day worship, Cardiff Sunday School, the mid-week Bible study/prayer meetings, we are to host a meeting of Central Presbytery at the Cardiff Church facilities on 10 March.

The Annual Congregation Meeting (ACM) is planned for Saturday 14th March from 2 pm at Cardiff.

On 15th March a pulpit swap is to occur with the Rev Ball to conduct St Georges worship and Rev Tso (and family) make a

welcome return to the Hunter to conduct worship.

The congregation has been appreciative of the Rev and Mrs Ball as communicant members of the congregation. They have added to the quality of the fellowship. Rev Ball's preaching has been comforting to the sin-troubled, challenging to the backslidden, and generally providing exhortation to greater faithfulness and holiness of life.

We pray for those who are bereaved, including Mrs Elizabeth King (nee Hunt), family and friends as they grieve the passing to glory of her dear mother Mrs. Margaret McKay Hunt.

Some other matters of ongoing and fervent prayer include faithful Spirit led preaching and teaching, a revival of God's people and this nation, our sister congregations and the various ministries supported by our denomination.

* * * * *

Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

The start of February brings the end of the school holidays. The rhythm of our church activities has begun again. Sunday School and Bible Class and the Friday Bible Study have started. For our students, school is back. We have two students in Year 12 this year, Johnny and Lejend. We pray that they will do their best and leave the rest in God's gracious hands as they work towards the Higher School Certificate.

We are delighted to announce the engagement of Tomassi and Kakala. Tomassi has been a member of our church for some

years and is the son of Lopeti, our gentle and faithful deacon. They are currently having marriage preparation classes with the pastor.

As those of us who are married know, a wedding is a wonderful, magical event, but it is only the beginning of a long journey of sharing your life with your partner through all the ups and downs of life, the good times and the hard times, the joys and the sorrows. It's good to plan a beautiful wedding, but it is also even more important to pray about and prepare for the years of marriage to follow. Many of us enjoyed reading Rev Robin Tso's messages on The Family that were presented in The Banner last year.

It is a great joy to our church family that two precious little girls were born in February. Haylee gave birth to Mercy, and Lyberty and her husband had their little girl, Kalina-Lyrical.

We do pray that God's love and grace will be upon these little ones as they grow up, and that the Lord will bring them into His Kingdom of goodness and love. We pray that they will be surrounded with love throughout their childhoods, but most of all that they will love and follow Jesus throughout their lives.

Both young mothers are very tired and finding these early months of broken nights and busy days difficult so we pray that God will uphold them. This, too, will pass!

* * * * *

Manning

[Report by Pamela Leggott]
From the Manning Mission

Society: It is with great sadness we as a Mission Society are grieving the loss of Mrs. Margaret Hunt.

Margaret followed her mother to become one of our Society's stalwarts. Margaret introduced us to many of the missionaries we now support.

The Mission Society has been involved with missions for over 90 years here at the Manning.

Margaret was our president for eight years from 1993 to 2000, Secretary/Treasurer 2000 to 2017. She has held various positions for 27 years.

Margaret trained the incoming members with a great yearning to see many missionaries prayed for and supported.

I asked Margaret to give the Society a reflection of her time in the group. "Over the years we have always been a small and happy group spanning several generations. We met to pray for missions regularly with our main purpose to praise God and to be informed of the missions cause world-wide, to pray the Lord of the harvest will send workers onto the mission field and to support those who go with prayer. We seek to serve our own missions, and people who have gone from our own church serving in other missions."

Margaret will be missed greatly by her church family and our Mission Society. Absent from us but present with the Lord. Praise the Lord!

* * * * *

Northern Rivers

[Note: the following is the congregational report for 2025, to

*be included in the Northern
Presbytery report to synod 2026]*

Services were conducted in Maclean, both morning and evening, throughout 2025. The services are livestreamed via YouTube and on the phone for those unable to attend. Sunday School is conducted after the morning service.

Wednesday morning Bible studies continue with a time of fellowship prior to the study. Westminster Confession classes take place on Wednesday night in the church library.

Attendance has fluctuated throughout 2025. We gained two new members by profession of faith who had been married in the church in 2024. Another member, the minister’s eldest daughter, joined by profession of faith.

The Annual PCEA Youth Camp took place on the Easter long weekend in 2025. The speaker was the Rev. Jim Klazinga, who spoke on the subject of the Trinity. The Camp forms a high point in the life of the congregation each year. We are ever thankful to the Lord for John and Judy Greensill’s hospitality in this ministry.

The Maclean Manse, used as an Op-Shop by the Lower Clarence Christian Education Association (LCCEA), raises substantial funds to provide SRE teachers in local schools. In turn, the LCCEA makes a donation to the Northern Rivers Congregation.

The Bethesda Retirement Units are operated by a management committee under the supervision of the Deacons’ Court. All units have been occupied throughout

the year and there is a long waiting list. Major reroofing and replacement of verandahs was required on five of the seven units. The sale of the Lismore manse provided the funds to commence works, which are expected to be complete by March 2026.

* * * * *

St Georges

[Report by Alex Steel]

At our Prayer meeting on 11 February a presentation of the work of Creation Ministries Internation was made by Dr Mark Harwood. His subject was titled “From Genesis to Jesus” and was appreciated by the 35 people present.

The restoration and repairs of the church building has progressed since the beginning of this year to where it is now estimated 50% is completed.

This has included:

- Installation of seismic bracing in the steeple.
- Removal of a further nine courses of stones down to course 19. The spire is to be rebuilt to its former height as part of the current works.
- Replacement of damaged stones has continued in lower levels.
- Removal of wooden louvres, partial lightning rod and some lead-lighted windows for repairs.
- Removal of church roof and gutters and repairs of roof timbers which has necessitated supporting scaffolding being erected in the church nave.

Despite these minor inconveniences and co-operation

of the builders the congregation has been able to meet three times each week as usual for which we are thankful. .

* * * * *

Ulverstone

[Report by Zach Dotson]

Is it because February is the shortest month of the year that it feels like it just flew by? It seems like not that long ago it was the New Year, and now it’s almost March.

In terms of church news from the Ulverstone Congregation, there is one big piece of news. The Lord has answered our prayers. We have been praying for nearly two years for visitors to come, and in January and February, the Lord has answered our requests. We have had a number of local visitors, and some of them even stuck around. We thank God for His goodness to us, and we ask that our brethren in the denomination continue to pray for us, as we desire to grow and be used by God for His Glory on the Northwest Coast of Tasmania.

In terms of the ministry, Pastor Dotson is preaching through Mark in the morning, and on the last Sabbath of each month, he preaches on Church principles. The “Church Principles” series is designed to help us better understand what it means to be a Biblical Church, as well as topics like membership, worship, and the local church. In the evenings, we are continuing through the book of 1st Samuel and in the next couple of months will begin 2nd Samuel. Please remember us before the Throne of Grace.

March Search Work

“With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!” Psalm 119:10

Senior and Intermediate

(Intermediate omit questions 6 and 7)

Acts 27:27-44

1. What did Paul say to the centurion when the sailors were about to escape from the ship?
2. How were the sailors prevented from killing the prisoners, and how many escaped safe to land? (2 verses)

Acts 28

3. Why did the people of Melita [Malta] change their minds and think Paul was a god?
4. What was the response of the people when Paul had healed the father of Publius? (2 verses)
5. When they reached Rome, what caused Paul to thank God and take courage?
6. What was the answer of the leaders of the Jews after Paul had called them and spoken to them? (2 verses)
7. What verses from the prophecy of Isaiah did Paul quote describing the Jews? (2 verses)
8. What did Paul do for two whole years in Rome? (2 verses)

Junior

Daniel 2

1. What did Nebuchadnezzar say he would do to the Chaldeans if they did not make known his dream?
2. Why did Daniel ask Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to desire mercies of the God of heaven? (2 verses)
3. In the dream, what became a great mountain and filled the whole earth?
4. How did the king promote Daniel after Daniel revealed the secret of his dream?

Find the verse(s) in the Bible that answer the questions, write/type them out, and send to:

Mrs Irene Steel

18/1-55 West Parade, West Ryde NSW 2114

or Email: iesteel@gmail.com

A book voucher is awarded at the end of each year to children who send in the answers.

March Prayer Points

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Sunday, 1st: Pray that God may work in the hearts of our ministers preaching today, that they may have a sense of their own need to humble themselves under the Word.

Monday, 2nd: Pray for the ministry of the St Georges congregation in Sydney.

Tuesday, 3rd: Pray for the St Georges office-bearers: for Rev Robin Tso; for elders Donald McIntosh, and Alex Steel; and for deacons Chris Oakley, Ken Shaw, and Allan Steel.

Wednesday, 4th: At last year’s meeting, it was resolved: “The

Synod gives thanks to the Lord for the opportunity and privilege to be involved in the work of missions at home and abroad, both in giving, in praying and being directly involved during this past year.” Pray for the continuing ministries of the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India.

Thursday, 5th: Pray for Micah and Lauren Klazinga and their family, who moved from Brisbane to Geelong last month.

Friday, 6th: Give thanks for the engagement of Tomassi and Kakala of the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation.

Saturday, 7th: Pray for the Northern Presbytery, which is scheduled to meet today in Maclean.

Sunday, 8th: WSC Q&A 60 states: “How is the Sabbath to be sanctified? The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God’s worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.” Pray that God may be praised today in our public and private exercises of God’s worship.

Monday, 9th: Pray for the ongoing

March Prayer Points

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

ministry of the Hunter congregation in Cardiff and Raymond Terrace.

Tuesday, 10th: Pray for the Hunter office-bearers: for elder Ian Miller; and for deacons Richard Alley, David Barnes, John Fluit, Ken George & Ian King.

Wednesday, 11th: Pray for the ministry of Rev. Shanmugan Partheepan in the Reformed Protestant Mission in Sri Lanka.

Thursday, 12th: At last year’s meeting, it was affirmed that synod “gives thanks to God for the churches with whom we have formal fraternal relations and for those churches with whom we have contact and resolve to pray for the Lord’s blessing upon their work and witness.” Please pray for the ministry of the Australian Free Church. Pray for our relationship and contact with them.

Friday, 13th: Pray for the baby girl Mercy, born in February to Haylee of the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation.

Saturday, 14th: Pray for the baby girl Kalina-Lyrical, born in February to Lyberty and her husband of the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation.

Sunday, 15th: John Owen, in his collected works, writes, “The enjoyment of heaven is usually called the beatifical vision; that is, such an intellectual present view, apprehension, and sight of God and his glory, especially as manifested in Christ, as will make us blessed unto eternity. Wherefore, in the contemplation of this mystery doth a great part of our blessedness consist; and farther our thoughts

cannot attain.” Pray that our services today may encourage God’s people to rejoice in the glory of God manifested in Christ.

Monday, 16th: Pray for the continuing ministry of the Manning congregation in Taree.

Tuesday, 17th: Pray for the Manning office-bearers: for elders Clive Alley, Young Lee, Trevor Leggott, Neil Robinson, and Peter Smith; and for deacons Paul Dyson, Mark Hamilton, Marshall Reid, Alistair Weber, and David Wilson.

Wednesday, 18th: Pray for the work of the Dumisani Theological Institute in South Africa.

Thursday, 19th: Pray for David Kerridge in his work as Clerk of Synod as he compiles the reports for this year’s meeting in May. Reports are due by this Saturday.

Friday, 20th: Pray for the family and friends of Mrs. Margaret Hunt as they mourn her death.

Saturday, 21st: Pray for the various educational programs being conducted in our congregations.

Sunday, 22nd: From a prayer entitled, ‘Christlikeness’ from ‘The Valley of Vision’ – “Father of Jesus, Dawn returns, But without thy light within no outward light can profit; Give me the saving lamp of thy Spirit that I may see thee, the God of my salvation, the delight of my soul, rejoicing over me in love. I commend my heart to thy watchful care, for I know its treachery and power; Guard its every portal from the wily enemy, Give me quick discernment of his deadly arts, Help me to recognize his bold disguise as an angel of light, and bid him begone. May my

words and works allure others to the highest walks of faith and love!” Pray that the preaching in our services today will assist those attending in knowing their sin and praising the God of their salvation.

Monday, 23rd: Pray for the continuing ministry of the Hastings congregation in Wauchope.

Tuesday, 24th: Pray for the Hastings office-bearers: for elders Doug Hamilton and Glen Hamilton; and for deacon Neil McKinnon.

Wednesday, 25th: Pray for Young Lee and his work with Indigenous children in Taree.

Thursday, 26th: Give thanks for our church buildings, and pray for wisdom for the Deacons’ Courts as they work on maintaining our properties.

Friday, 27th: Pray for the continuing restoration and repair work being done on the St Georges church building.

Saturday, 28th: Pray for the Hastings congregation as they prepare to host synod, being held in Wauchope from the 5th to the 9th of May.

Sunday, 29th: Pray that our worship today may give glory and honor to the gracious God who alone saves.

Monday, 30th: Pray for the ministry of the Northern Rivers congregation in MacLean.

Tuesday, 31st: Pray for the Northern Rivers office-bearers: for Rev David Kerridge; for elders Ross Campbell, John Greensill, and John McPhee; and for deacons Gordon Law and Peter Van den Burg.

