



Greetings Mary Burnett,

"...for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me". Philippians 4:6-7, 11b-13)

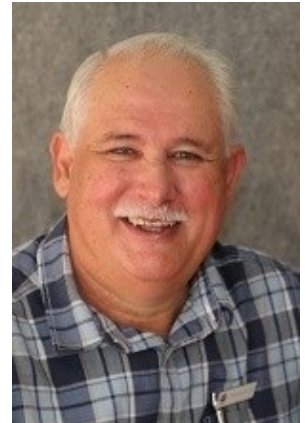
Greetings church,

What a great and comforting passage in these challenging times. When the Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, he shared a secret of his that Christians have long since cherished: "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances" (Philippians 4:11). It is a profound declaration of peace, resilience, and trust in God's provision, regardless of whether we eat steak dinners, or have seasons where we survive on vegemite sandwiches and 2-minute noodles.

Yet, a subtle but damaging misapplication of Paul's words can easily creep in, especially when we try to apply this to corporate congregational life rather than personal circumstances.

Sometimes, when numerical growth stalls, ministries stagnate, or our efforts at church renewal feel demanding, we reach for Philippians 4 as a comfort and sanctuary. "We shouldn't worry about numbers or growth," the thinking goes. "Paul says we should just be content with where we are."

(Cont. next page)



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Join us on [Facebook](#)



Presbytery [Webpage](#)



admin@maryburnettpres.org.au



Admin 0417 509 433



UCA Qld Synod [Webpage](#)

Please submit newsletter articles to the admin officer at admin@maryburnettpres.org.au by 26th of the month.

While Paul wrote this to encourage patience and trust in our God 'who supplies all our needs', we risk turning this deep spiritual virtue into a theological justification for complacency.

For Paul, contentment was not complacency.

Paul's contentment was entirely focused on his own external circumstances: physical comfort, financial poverty or plenty, and personal safety. He was content to sleep in a prison cell or feast at a welcoming table because his internal joy was anchored in Christ, not in his surroundings.

What Paul was never content with was the status quo of the Gospel, and of church health and growth.

The same Paul who wrote about contentment in chapter 4 wrote earlier in the very same letter: "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13–14).

Paul was relentlessly active. He travelled thousands of kilometres, largely by foot, planted churches, mentored leaders, and continuously sought ways to reach new communities. His contentment with what he had never diminished his passion for what God wanted to do next.

This is the danger for many churches; they can become so comfortable with their internal community that they lose sight of the mission outside their doors.

But when a congregation is genuinely content in Christ, they no longer seek growth to satisfy their own needs, secure financial survival, or prove their capacity to the wider church.

A content church can risk innovation, start new programs, and reach into the community with confidence—because their identity is already secure in Christ. They do not work for renewal out of fear or closure, but out of joy. They are freed from the fear of failure.

As congregations across the Presbytery, let us nurture Paul's contentment with regard to our personal comfort, material resources, and current standing.

At the same time, let us not use contentment as a justification for sitting still. God's Spirit is inherently dynamic, always renewing, always initiating new ministries and growing spiritual fruit.

Contentment does give us peace for today, but God's mission gives us work for tomorrow. The harvest is still plentiful...

Many blessings,

Pastor Graham Huth

Graham's Diary

October

4 Preach - Gayndah, Biggenden, Childers
8 PRSC (Gympie)
11 Attend Bli Bli worship
15 Placements
22 Celebration of Ministries - Albert St UC
23-26 Synod in Session

I alone cannot change the
world, but I can cast a
stone across the waters
to create many ripples.
- Mother Teresa

Presbytery Meeting Dates 2026

Save the dates now!

13th - 15th November - Bundaberg

1 Corinthians 12:12

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the
members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with
Christ.*

Is God calling you to serve Presbytery?

Mary Burnett Online Services

[Buderim](#) - YouTube [Bundaberg](#) - YouTube
[Caloundra](#) - Facebook [Cooroy/Pomona](#) - Facebook
[Hervey Bay](#) - YouTube [Gympie Uniting Church](#) - YouTube
[Kawana Waters](#) - Facebook

Apologies if I've missed anyone, please let me know.

Pastoral Relations & Standing Committee

2026 Meetings

**Submissions accepted for considera-
tion up to 1 week before meeting.
(Z = Zoom)**

8 Oct (F2F)

5 Nov (Z)

3 Dec (F2F)

All ministry agents are required to have a Professional Supervisor.
Professional Supervision Covenant forms are available on the [Presbytery website](#).



JOIN US ONLINE

FOR RENEWAL PRAYER
TUESDAY 7-730PM

Renewal Prayer Gathering

As we long for God to make all things new, we remember God's goodness in the past; the glimpses we have had of God breaking through in new and beautiful ways throughout our lives, and across history. We remember these moments, and we lift up our voices in prayer asking that God would open our eyes to what God is doing in the world now and our minds to imagine what could be done.

Join us every **Tuesday night** as we gather **online**, from **7-730pm** (Qld time), in prayer to thank God for the new life we have experienced and ask that we might be part of the ongoing work God is doing now in renewing all things.

To join us simply use this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81994146488?pwd=VDcxd1dCbjluaHZQR3JsM0wySGdWUT09>

If you are unable to join us, you might like to join us in this prayer during the week

Prayer

*God, you are great,
and we praise you today and every day -
not only for what you've done,
but for what you're doing next.
Help us speak of your greatness
not as a memory of days gone by,
but as a living testimony:
your presence still changing and guiding us,
in the way of Jesus.*

*Help us listen closely too,
hearing what you ask of us:
to let go of the ways we've always done things,
to hear the quiet voices at the margins,
to release our need to command and control.*

*Lord, you are gracious and kind,
slow to anger, rich in love.*

*Make us that way too -
especially toward those who will lead differently than we
did.*

*Help us trust that your goodness doesn't depend on us
staying in charge.*

*Renew our church, God -
not as museum of what we built,
but as your home still being built,
with space at the table for all who long to join your life.
For your name's sake, and for theirs.
(source PSU email 10/9/26)*

Let me know what's happening in your congregation
admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

Uniting Church Governance 101

(formerly Property Trust 101) - 12.00pm to 1.30pm, Thursday 15th October



Interested in understanding the church governance or the Property Trust? New to a board or council?

Uniting Church Governance 101 (formerly Property Trust 101) is designed for anyone who has an interest better understanding the Property Trust, its operations and how it supports the wider church. Led by the Synod Corporate Governance Specialist, Simon Moore, the presentation provides valuable information for board or council members or those interested in church governance.

The presentation will include:

- the polity of the Uniting Church
- the corporate structure of the church
- the obligations and responsibilities of governing body members, and
- an opportunity to ask questions on notice or during the session.

The session is delivered over a lunchtime, with face-to-face and online attendance options. A light working lunch will be provided for those attending in person.

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Location

In person

Uniting Church in Australia - Queensland Synod Office - Joycelyn Baillie Room
60 Bayliss St Auchenflower

Online

Microsoft Teams

Bookings

[Register using this link](#)

(Source PSU email and Uniting News)

Noosa Coastal UC - Sunrise Beach



Soundz Familiar is the name of the band and that is exactly what it did as they joined us at Noosa Coastal Uniting Church (Sunrise Beach) to play tunes from the 50's through to the noughties.

The idea all came about when Lee came to worship one Sunday morning and saw just a few people in the worship centre and wanted to help revitalise the congregation. Lee knew a few members of the band and thought why don't we try something different so that people at least get to know where the congregation was located.

And so, we organised a free concert for people to come to. The band played songs from The Beatles to Cyndi Lauper and Amy Winehouse as people sang along and danced their hearts out. Nearly eighty people turned up and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, so much so that they asked when we can do it again.

Nearly two thirds of the people who attended were not regular church attenders and contrary to their expectation the roof did not fall in and the church people who hosted did not have two heads.

Rev Neil Storey
Noosa Coastal UC



Have you read any good books recently?

Email your review to me at admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

Montville Reflection Gallery

Space to rest and reflect 10 am to 3 pm most days of the year!
Montville Uniting Church, 152 Main Street, Montville Q.



Mercy

An Exhibition by Olga Bakhtina

I chose to call this exhibition “**Mercy**” because it feels like something our world needs now more than ever, in international conflicts, in politics, in our communities, within our families, and in the way we treat ourselves. I also love that mercy echoes the French *merci*: compassion and gratitude, two simple words that have the power to change how we see one another.”

The exhibition brings together new works alongside a selection of older favourites. Throughout the paintings created in 2026, lilies of the valley appear as a recurring motif of compassion, renewal, and mercy.

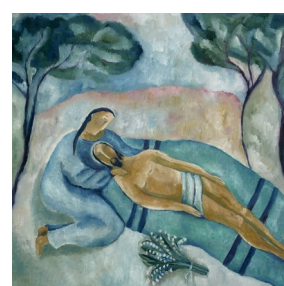
Additionally, the exhibition presents a painting and a series of drawings on the life of St Francis of Assisi, whose 800th anniversary of death is being marked this year, and whose life and teachings are deeply connected to mercy.

Biblical stories have always fascinated me because they are, above all, stories about people. Although they were written thousands of years ago, they continue to reflect the same human experiences we know today: love and betrayal, compassion and indifference, fear and courage, hope, and mercy. Human nature has changed very little.

My paintings revisit these familiar narratives through a contemporary lens, exploring the timeless relationship between humanity, faith, and the possibility of transformation.

The collection Mercy was also exhibited at St John’s Cathedral in Brisbane in July–August 2026.

To find out more about Olga Bakhtina and her work, visit olgabakhtina.com





Hervey Bay Uniting Church
 hosted a successful and much-enjoyed Market Day on Saturday, 19 September. The community event raised over \$3.300 to support the Hervey Bay Hospice. It was a day of sunshine, laughter, song, community and great food.



October

4 Older Person's Sunday

20 Anniversary - National Apology to Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

30 Filipino National Conference (until 1 Nov)

November

1 All Saints Day

22 Reign of Christ Sunday

25 Nov - 10 Dec 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence

[Click here](#) for the Uniting Church Assembly 2026 calendar.

Presbytery Office

Maroochydore Uniting
Church
6 Millwell Rd
Maroochydore
Mon - Fri 9am -
3.30pm



Drop in for a cuppa *Except - PRSC face to
face meeting days - see page 3 for dates

Presbytery Postal Address

Mary Burnett Presbytery
PO Box 1635
Sunshine Plaza
4558





WHERE FAITH MEETS LIFE

Mission Essentials Gap Year 2027

Live Your Faith Find Your Purpose



Scan for more information



WHERE FAITH MEETS LIFE

Live Your Faith Find Your Purpose

- A year long, live in, part - time program, based at Caloundra Uniting.
- Grow in your faith, Understand your calling, learn about mission.
- Return to your home congregation a confident Christian leader.



Scan for more information



WHERE FAITH MEETS LIFE

Live Your Faith Find Your Purpose

- Engage in hands on ministry across the life of our congregation; Church Plant, Schools, Childrens Ministry, Age Care, Community Out Reach.
- A program designed for Uniting Church young adults



Scan for more information

renewal

PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING • SYNOD 39

INVITATION – Celebration of Ministries Service

This October the Queensland Synod will host its 39th Synod in Session. An important part of the business agenda is the Celebration of Ministries that gives acknowledgement and recognition of retired ministers, joyfully welcomes newly ordained ministers and gives solemn reflection of those ministers that have passed since the last Queensland Synod meeting.

You are invited to attend the 39th Synod in Session Celebration of Ministries Service

Date: Thursday, 22 October 2026

Time: 10.45am for 11.00am

Venue: Albert Street Uniting Church, 319 Albert St, Brisbane City

RSVP: Friday, 9 October 2026 via [Register Now](#)

Lunch will be provided after the service in the Burnett Room

(Source Uniting News 28/7/2026)





Experienced Ministers and Pastors interested in taking the next step towards becoming a Professional Supervisor are invited to an upcoming online information session offered by the Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT.

So you've been thinking about becoming a Supervisor? will be led by Rev. Jan Reeve, Supervision Development Officer with the NSW and ACT Synod.

Open to Ministers and Pastors from any Synod who have been in ministry for several years and have experience of receiving supervision, the session will explore the role and responsibilities of a Professional Supervisor, the education and learning pathway involved, and what participants can expect if they choose to pursue this ministry.

The session will be held online via Zoom on 8 October, from 11:00am to 12:30pm AEDT.

For more information, contact JanR@nswact.uca.org.au or [visit the NSW and ACT Synod website.](#)

(Source UCA National Update 22/9/22)

Please pray for our chaplains

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| * Ps Theo Masselos (Buderim PH) | * Mr Peter Robertson (Hervey Bay) |
| * Rev James Stevenson (Buderim PH) | * Mrs Helen Cifuentes (Caloundra/Maleny) |
| * Ps Kristen Porter (Buderim PH) | * Ps Peter Sutcliffe (Bundaberg retirement living) |
| * Rev Keren Seto (St Stephens) | * Ps DongWoo Oh (Bundaberg aged care) |
| * Ms Donna Hamill (St Stephens) | |
| * Ps Jim Hall (Bli Bli/Gympie) | |
| * Mr Craig Doherty (Sunrise Beach) | |





72 HOURS OF PRAYER CHALLENGE

**12pm Friday 23.10
to 12pm Monday 26.10**



From **12pm Wednesday 23 October to 12pm Monday 26 October**, the 39th Synod in Session will gather on the Sunshine Coast to discern God's direction for our Church. Behind every decision made in that room, we'd love to have a community praying it through.

We're inviting congregations, faith communities, and small groups across the Synod to **take responsibility for a 12 or 24 hour block of prayer** during those 78 hours.

Choose your "day", gather your people - in person, online, or simply as individuals praying in your own homes at the appointed time - and hold Synod in prayer for those hours.

You can even join others praying across the State in the Online Prayer room that we will be hosting throughout the event.

We will send you material to help guide your prayers for the business for the day and prayer requests that have been submitted by delegates and others across the Synod for the work they are undertaking.

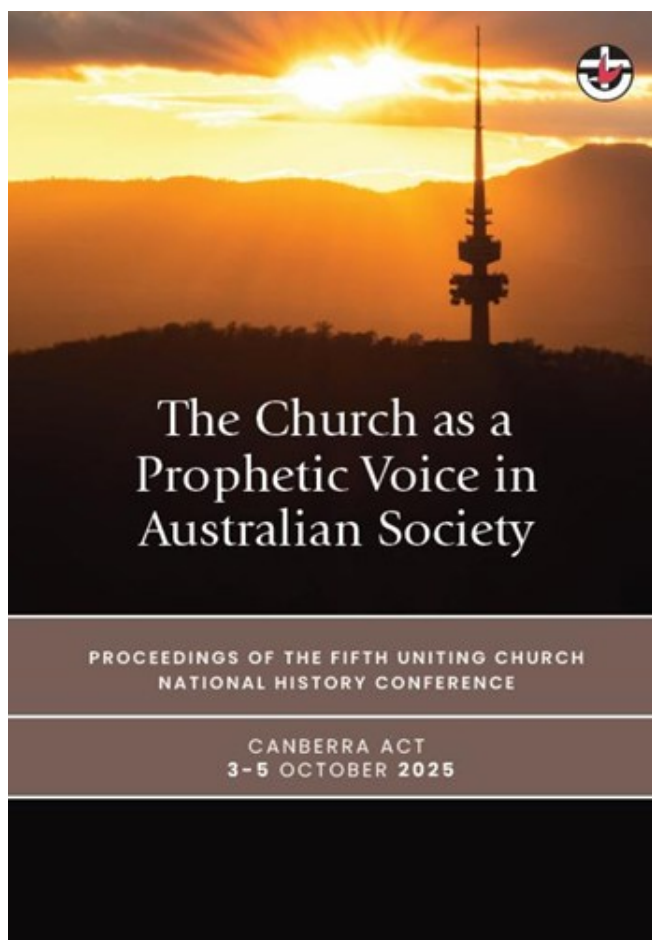
This challenge isn't about filling a roster. It's about communities across Queensland standing together, so as Synod meets, it meets upheld - start to finish - by the prayers of the people it serves.

Will your community take up the challenge?

To register your interest simply use the QR code on the attachment.

(Source Email from Synod 15/9/26)

UCA National History Society Conference Book



A book of papers from the Canberra Conference of our Uniting Church National History Society held on 3-5 October 2025.

The book has 14 chapters each being a talk presented at the conference.

The chapters show the diversity of topics where our church has been a voice and is committed to being a voice in the nation.

The book is \$20 plus postage \$10.20

Click this link for the [order form](#), and email to:

E: ucnhs2025conference@gmail.com

SCAM ALERT

Moreton Rivers Presbytery have alerted of a potential scam through a Facebook post from an overseas church. They've experienced a number of congregation members receiving a phone call from their minister. The minister's phone number appears to be correct and their voice sounds the same. However, both the phone number and voice have been cloned and are fake. The minister then asks the congregation member for money to help pay for something such as bibles. You can imagine what happens next.

Please advise your congregation members to be aware of this advancing technology and please only discuss financial exchanges face-to-face.

(Source Moreton Rivers Presbytery Newsletter)



This Advent, inspire generosity by hosting an **Everything in Common gift stall** or including UnitingWorld in a retiring offering.

Everything in Common gift cards represent donations to many of our vital projects. In recent years, thanks to Uniting Churches across Australia, families in Asia, Africa and the Pacific gained better access to food, clean water, small business support, and hope in the face of poverty and a changing climate. Let's do it again!

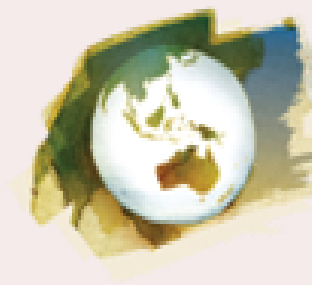
Stallholder packs and cards will be **available from mid-October**.

[Register your gift stall here](#)

This year we also have new **Everything in Common retiring offering envelopes**. If you can't run a stall or if some people in your congregation would prefer to give in this way, let us know and we can send as many as you need. Email: **info@unitingworld.org.au** or ring **[1800 998 122](tel:1800998122)**

(Source Uniting News 6/10/26)





UnitingWorld

connecting communities for life



This is a
good news
story



This is a good news story: a village once ruled by landlords, where Dalit families in North India had no land, no vote and no way out. Then one study centre opened for 40 children. Fifteen years on, that same community holds every seat on their local council.

UnitingWorld has launched an appeal to help our church partners write the next chapter

. [Find out more.](#)

7 DAYS WITHOUT PRAYER MAKES ONE WEAK

Church Council Updates?

If your church council members or Presbytery Reps have changed please don't forget to inform Kylie, at admin@maryburnettpres.org.au to ensure your church council is kept informed.

Also, for compliance with ACNC, complete the change of key person form which needs to be sent to both directory@ucaqld.com.au and admin@maryburnettpres.org.au. Synod will use this form to update the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) register. Change of Key Persons Bulk form is available on the [Presbytery Website](#).

Kylie Aalbers
Presbytery Administration.

Congregational Training Funds

Did you know???

Congregations can apply to Presbytery for funding to train members!

Areas of training could include, but are not limited to

Church Governance – Leadership – Team Building – Mentoring

Preaching – Teaching – Leadership of Small Groups

Evangelism – community connection – Outreach

Administration – Book Keeping – Organisational Systems

Music – Audio-Visual – Technical

Pastoral - Care Essentials course

Congregations within the Mary Burnett Presbytery can apply for up to \$500 per year for training.

Forms are available on the [Presbytery Website](#), under Resources, Forms. Alternatively you can email Kylie - and request a form be emailed to you.

Kylie Aalbers
admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

Dates for your Diary

2026 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS Start time: **9.00am**

14 November - Bundaberg UC
Business meeting Saturday 9am

2026 PASTORAL RELATIONS & STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING (Venue subject to change)

8 Oct (Gympie)
5 Nov (Zoom)
3 Dec (Gympie)

Start time: 9.30am (Gympie) or **1-3pm** (Zoom)

Submissions accepted for consideration up to 1 week
before meeting.

SAFE MINISTRY TRAINING

* Ministers - 13 Nov - Bundaberg

Joshua 1:9

"Remember that I have commanded
you to be determined and confident!
Don't be afraid or discouraged for I,
the Lord your God, am with you wher-
ever you go"

Quote

The art of being wise is the art of
knowing what to overlook.
William James

CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING

* Ministers - 13 Nov - Bundaberg

INDUCTIONS, COMMISSIONINGS, SERVICES OF CONCLUSION

- * 20 Dec - Conclusion - Ps Alan Mulcahy - Cooroy/
Pomona UC
- * 17 Jan - Decommissioning - Kumbia

FINANCE, INVESTMENT & PROPERTY (FIP) MEETINGS (4th Fri excluding Oct & Dec)

- * No October meeting
- * 19 November 2026 Last one for 2026.

SYNOD

- * 22 - 26 Oct 2026

ASSEMBLY

- * 8th - 13th July 2027

MINISTERS RETREAT

RETIRED REVS



www.maryburnettpres.org.au

Are your details on our
website correct?

Please email changes to
admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

MARY BURNETT PRESBYTERY

WHO ARE WE?

The Presbytery, as a Council of delegates from congregations and agencies, are disciples witnessing the love and transformation of Jesus in order to better serve our ministry agents, congregations and other places of ministry within its bounds.

Presbytery Contacts

PS Graham Huth (Presbytery Minister)
presmin@maryburnettpres.org.au
0456 556 528

Mrs Naomi Cavalli (Secretary)
secretary@maryburnettpres.org.au
0401 161 165

Mr Peter Coombes (Chairperson)
chair@maryburnettpres.org.au
0400 300 267

Kylie Aalbers (Admin Officer)
admin@maryburnettpres.org.au
0417 509 433

Johan Frank (Treasurer)
treasurer@maryburnettpres.org.au
0478 888 727

Property Committee
Wendy Jensen - jensenlw@bigpond.com
Kylie Aalbers - admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

Safe Ministry (Safe People, Safe Environment)
Vacant

Professional Supervision coordinator
Period of Discernment Coordinator
CEM coordinator



PASTORAL RELATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ps Graham Huth
Mr Peter Coombes (Pres Chair)
Mrs Naomi Cavalli (Secretary)
Mr Johan Frank (Treasurer)
Mrs Wendy Jensen (Property)
Mrs Kylie Aalbers (Admin, Property)
Rev Neil Storey
Ps Steven Fincham
Rev Nathan Barton
Mr Eamon Dunne

POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESBYTERY

Mary Burnett Presbytery
PO Box 1635, Sunshine Plaza, Qld 4558
Office Address: Maroochydore UC
6 Millwell Rd, Maroochydore



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08-25-2014

CAN YOU HELP SET ME UP SO I CAN
FRIEND AND LIKE JESUS, TEXT HIM MY
PRAYERS, AND SHARE ALL HIS TWEETS?

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WORK DAYS

Grahams day off varies, according to his schedule. Please leave him a message if no answer, and he'll get back to you when he's able. Kylie - Mon-Thu, Naomi Tue-Fri
Thank you.