



Georges River Presbytery Office

moved to

“Lorne”, 18 The Avenue Hurstville

on 2nd of March 2021

GRP office hours are 10 am to 4 pm, Mondays to Fridays (other times by appointment).

GRP Lorne is a place where you can visit and use the facilities to support your congregation needs.

MISSION EVENT PRESBYTERY GATHERING

 **Georges River Presbytery**
invites you to our *Mission Event*
Saturday 27th March 2021 2pm

welcome
To the new place of Presbytery
18-20 The Avenue Hurstville NSW 2220

RSVP by Friday, 19th March 2021
admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au or 02 9579 4682

This gathering will officially launch the new Presbytery brand/logo and formally bless the Office at Lorne. Local Aboriginal Elder Auntie Barbara Simms, Mr Chris Minns MP and Mr Albert Olley, Chief Operating Officer UCA Synod of NSW and ACT will be our guest speakers for the event. Please contact the office if you have not yet responded to register your attendance. We are very appreciative of the team at Hurstville Uniting who are hosting the formal part of the event and serving afternoon tea.

WELCOMING GRP NEWEST STAFF MEMBER

The Georges River Presbytery has hired an Executive Assistant to support the Mission & Leadership Minister, Business Manager and soon will call a Pastoral Relations Minister. She started her training on 1st of February two days a week and has been on a full-time basis Monday to Friday since the 1st of March.



Frencing Sastradjaja, born in Indonesia from Chinese background; migrated to Australia more than two decades ago. Mother of two teenage boys, she is fluent in seven languages and known for her passion to help others to reach their full potential. Alongside her husband Peter Sastradjaja, she has served the Indonesian Faith Community in Sydney since 1995. Both ordained ministers planted a new church to serve the Next-generation needs in Denistone in 2015; this faith community moved into the Beverly Hills UC site late 2018 and is known as the Arise and Impact English service.

In 2017 Frencing was ordained and completed her MTh; her thesis focuses on Equipping Leaders to serve Next Generations Ministry; is in the process of being printed as a manual to help Nextgen leaders and ministry. Frencing's passion about helping others is shown in her volunteering at Indonesian Diaspora Leaders Committee for women and children's welfare including the next-gen community. She also pioneered the children's ministry of Wentworthville UC Indonesian Faith Community.

Frencing previously worked as an Interior Designer. She obtained her other qualifications in finance, administration and holds a Masters in Project Management. Frencing had more than a decade of experience as an Operations Leader managing all operations, administrative needs, volunteer training, policy, risk, and contracts management, supporting multiple stakeholders to reach the company's objectives within budget, time and resources both locally and internationally.

We are blessed to have her in the role of Executive Assistant with GRP and believe that she will make a difference supporting the Mission and Strategy of Georges River Presbytery.

The Georges River Presbytery would like to acknowledge and thank Helen Bray for her help filling in the position for office administration when an urgent need for office admin arose. Helen had joined GRP in September 2020 and helped with the relocation of GRP office to Lorne. She has now completed her role and started her retirement plans traveling around Australia. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please note our new contact details

For all administrative purposes:

admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au

For all Invoices & all accounts:

accounts.grp@nswact.uca.org.au

For all mail:

18 The Avenue Hurstville NSW 2220

Office Phone Number:

9579 4682

INTRODUCTION OF MRS KYOUNGHEE CHO AS CANDIDATE FOR MINISTER OF THE WORD

Kyounghee came to Australia to study Australian literature more than 20 years ago. While studying at the University of Sydney she met and married Junmo Koo who was an assistant pastor at that time, and they have three children. While Junmo studied at UTC and went through candidacy to become an ordained minister, Kyounghee also did a MA and MTh at UTC. She greatly enjoyed studying theology and some of her studies were published in theological journals. She was also invited to present at international conferences.

Kyounghee Cho started her Period of Discernment in May 2016 through the Sydney North Presbytery with Rev Mary Pearson as a mentor. She transferred to GRP in December 2016 and completed her Period of Discernment in October 2017.

Her home congregation of Bardwell Park Uniting Church agreed unanimously to recommend Kyounghee's application to Candidate as a Minister of the Word.

The Candidates Committee of Georges River Presbytery decided by Consensus to present Kyounghee Cho to the Presbytery to commend her to the Synod Selection Panel to be considered as suitable for candidature for the ordained Minister of the Word.

In September 2019, the Synod Selection Panel agreed that Kyounghee was indeed suitable for candidature and she commenced the Foundational Year of her core phase of formation in 2020. She spent her first Field Education at Burwood Uniting Church and the UTC Faculty has expressed high regard for Kyounghee as an excellent student who has a mature understanding of the biblical witness and the breadth of Christian theological tradition.

This year sees Kyounghee commence the Intermediate Year of formation and we wish her well in all her endeavours this year.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING 4th MARCH 2021**Presbytery Property Committee Update**

Some of the activities that the property committee has been involved with include:

- Working with the Presbytery Business Manager, Barbara Moore
- Renovating the house at 1 Winter Place Oatley. This is almost complete.
- Property Inspections of churches under Presbytery stewardship and inspecting houses in conjunction with real estate agents.
- Fit-out of the Presbytery Office at 18 The Avenue Hurstville
- Moving out from the Penshurst Office
- Fire, Safety, and electrical inspections and actions
- Attending to COVID plans required for hall and church hirers.
- General repairs and maintenance
- Progressing the sale of three properties as part of the Expert Task Group
- More recently, attending to leaking roofs after the recent heavy rain.

GRP REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSEMBLY 2021

Standing Committee of Georges River Presbytery elected Rev Matagi Vilitama and Christine Gordon to attend the Assembly from 17th -19th of July 2021.

MISSION SHAPED MINISTRY 2021

Financial support is available to encourage those who would like to attend the 'Mission Shaped Ministry' training. The program runs for approximately 10 months and is conducted using Zoom. Please contact the GRP office for details regarding this event.

We are currently updating the Georges River Presbytery website and will publish more information about the roles of the new staff on it in due course.

All Easter services to be held in churches in the GRP are published on our website below. Please contact the office if you would like any changes to be made.

<https://georgesriver.uca.org.au/>



The Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) met on the 19th January, 9th February & 9th of March 2021

The following information has been prepared for the use of members of Presbytery and distribution to Congregations within the Georges River Presbytery.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING 19th JANUARY, 9th FEBRUARY AND 9th MARCH 2021

Remember our Chairperson Richard Hanna in our prayers.

Richard is taking time out from his position for medical reasons. While he takes time off to recover, Rev Simon Lee will be acting Chairperson of Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY NOMINATIONS FOR PRESBYTERY ELECTIONS IN MAY

The Nomination Form for Presbytery Elections, with the addition of a Deputy Chairperson position, will be distributed by the 1st of April. Members need to start praying and discerning in preparation for this very important part of the life of our Presbytery.

CROSS-CULTURAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEES

As Presbytery struggles to fill the positions of several committees, Standing Committee will consider closing the Cross-cultural and Social Justice Committees. In this case, Standing Committee will take responsibility for issues and events concerning these two committees.

PRESBYTERY YOUTH: LIVING STREAMS IN CHRIST

The working group is working on a calendar of events to support the youth ministry across the Presbytery. They are looking to develop new leadership and grow youth groups by visiting congregations that are interested in establishing a youth group and developing second-generation ministry.

The first Presbytery youth event for the year was a 'Meet and Greet' gathering on Friday 19th March at Hurstville City UC. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

For more information on Presbytery Youth, contact Rev Dr Matagi Vilitama; mobile: 0420 643 658;
Email: matagiv@nswact.uca.org.au

MISSION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING 8th MARCH 2021

Mission and Strategy Committee was held on the 8th of March from 6pm-8pm at Lorne, Hurstville.

Minister's Retreat is now confirmed to take place on September 21st - 24th 2021 at Hartzler Park, Bowral. A time of rest, reflection, and recharging for Ministers and ministry agents of the Presbytery.

Mission Planning is happening and will be taking place over the next few months. Congregations are at different stages. Some have completed their plans and are in the process of rolling them out; some are in the reporting stage while others are in the preparation stage.

Prayer Meetings are scheduled for 9.30 am Monday to Friday, at the Presbytery Office. Ministers, Elders, and Presbytery members are invited to lead the prayer meetings on Wednesdays, but all are welcomed to join the staff in the Office or remotely any morning for prayers.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Welcome again to Rev Mary Pearson.

Rev Mary Pearson has accepted the call to a three month's supply as GRP Pastoral Relations Minister at 40% capacity.

During the worst of the COVID lockdown period, Rev Mary Pearson was our supply Presbytery Minister. Her weekly "Thoughts" were distributed to all congregations and feedback was very positive. She will be available to ministers for pastoral care, however, all people in leadership positions, particularly those without a congregation minister, may contact Mary for pastoral care. The members of PRC appreciate Mary's many gifts of ministry and look forward to working with her as we endeavour to provide support to GRP congregations and ministers.

Her wise counsel is most welcomed in our Presbytery. We will continue with the process of calling someone permanent to the role.

IMPORTANT DATES

27 th March	Presbytery Mission Event Gathering, 2 – 4.30 pm.
28 th March	Palm Sunday
31 st March	Ash Wednesday
1 st April	Maundy Thursday
2 nd April	Good Friday
4 th April	Easter Sunday
6 th April	Pastoral Relation Committee Meeting, 12.30 – 4pm
8 th April	Property Committee Meeting, 9:30 am – 11.30 am.
13 th April	Standing Committee Meeting 1.30-4pm
15 th April	Mission & Strategy Committee Meeting 6 – 9pm

THOUGHTS WRITTEN BY REV MARY PEARSON

We are living in strange times and we may well wonder what is going on in our world which, it is tempting to think, used to be so much more stable and feel so much more secure. There have been many voices reminding us that a year ago we were focused on fires and smoke. We were beginning to deal with the virus and had no idea how that would develop. We still do not. Now we are inundated with water and many people have, quite literally, experienced that. Maybe the water will drown the mice that have been plaguing the farmers and causing havoc with their grain and hay stores after a thankfully abundant harvest. What is going on in the world? Even voicing that question can make us feel a bit wobbly because it is really voicing feelings that things are getting out of control. Such a question is also an expression of powerlessness in the face of these big events.

There is also an upsurge in protests about the way power and control has too often been abused and that women have for so long been on the receiving end of subtle and not so subtle male dominance. All these things are taking place in Australia where we know we are so blessed in so many ways, especially when we see what is going on in the world where millions of people's lives are scarred and forever changed by violence and injustice. What is going on in the world? How are we asked to live in the world? What does our faith tell us?

As we come to Palm Sunday and Holy Week, the theme of many of our readings is about suffering. The Psalms, of course, give voice to so many cries about human struggle and pain. They have spoken to human experience down the centuries. The Palm Sunday readings give us a powerful image of Jesus demonstrating how different his way was from the ways of Roman imperial power that was about displays of soldiers riding impressive horses and showing who was boss. Throughout Holy Week, Jesus makes choices of a different way. It was not, as we well know, a way that would keep him safe but a way that would expose him to abuse of power. It was the costliest way possible. He did not do this as a victim. He did not blindly accept abuse out of some misguided understanding of what it means to turn the other cheek. He chose this way because it was the way of humility and love that would ultimately show that God has the last word in terms of power and control.

But let's not get there too quickly. If we keep grasping on to Easter Sunday without allowing the force of Jesus' journey – which is the cross-bearing way he called his followers to take – then we will fail to allow suffering to find its way in and to discover the reality of grace that is woven through the Holy Week and Good Friday stories. We may not be able to understand what is going on in our world, but, however vulnerable or shaken we may feel at the unpredictability of things, we know that suffering has the power to draw us close to God, who is there, in it, and that the way of humility and love is ultimately transformative. It is not just individualistic. It is for everyone and so it brings us together. That is God's way, and we see it in Jesus. So maybe we can turn the "I" of this hymn to "we", the "my" to "our". It becomes even more powerful:

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.*

ADVERTISEMENT IN THE LEADER & THE TORCH NEWSPAPERS



UNITING CHURCH
EASTER SERVICES

Please join us at your local Uniting Church this Easter to celebrate God's, triumphant love.

Our hearts and prayers are with all who suffer from the floods. Christ suffered with us as he carried his cross upon which he died a cruel death. Good Friday reminds us about the cross of suffering and death, but Easter brings the good news of resurrection and new life. Jesus didn't just die. He died on our behalf so we may have life and have it everlasting.

We are not defined by any calamity, virus, or suffering, not even death. Because Jesus rose from the grave, Easter allows us to rise again with a new beginning.

May Easter give you an opportunity to rise again and experience God's amazing love

For Easter services please:

- Visit our website georgesriver.uca.org.au
- Or contact the Georges River Presbytery office Weekdays 10 am–4.00 pm (02) 95794682