



We are Church

A progressive, inclusive Christian faith community for all of God's people to be safe, seen and celebrated.

May 2024

Hi everyone,

Dates for your calendar

Here are some dates for your calendars

9 June - WAC 9am at Bellavista

23 June - WAC 9am at Bellavista

Youth Social - watch the WhatsApp group

14 July - WAC 9am at Bellavista

28 July - WAC 9am at Bellavista



12 May was Mother's Day. The children were wonderful and handed out chocolates and flowers. I have attached the piece I wrote that tried to acknowledge all those for whom Mother's day can be tricky. I hope that you find it helpful. Graeme spoke from Matthew 28, which is well known as the passage about the "Great Commission", drawing our attention to verse 17 "When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted" reminding us that doubts do not disqualify us from being disciples of Jesus.

On 19 May Charlotte and Gareth hosted a WAC social. Thanks James family for opening your home. It seems these events and the casual nature of them, are quite popular for WAC. That's the idea, friends. They are another opportunity to do church - because sharing some food and fellowship is as good as meeting at Bellavista! In June I am planning a Teen/Young-Adult social as it is Youth Month.



We had Global Teachers Institute host our 26 May WAC meeting. Hassiena, Charles and Tanya facilitated some excellent discussions around trust and activism. We will be repeating these workshops later in the year so you will be able to do the one you missed. Once again thanks to Hass and her team for helping us to think through some crucial issues and for giving up their time to be with us at WAC.



Finance Update

- Our Investment account continues to grow.
- We continue to give a set amount per month to 'Be True 2 Me' and 'Neighbours'.
- We give R500 to the teens to distribute to causes they deem important.

Banking details

If you would like to make a contribution to We are Church, here are the details:

FNB Current Account

Account Name: We Are Church

Account Number: 6302 7817 569

General Notices

If you would like to get involved by serving at WAC please get in touch (jane@codrington.biz)

Some helpful resources

This is the link to the "We are Church" **YouTube Channel**. This is where the recordings of our talks are kept. Please go there and subscribe. Once we have 100 subscribers we will be able to name it "We are Church".

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzK3t1lg1v-ADNAd3_rQ-zA

Some of you may want to follow the readings that I often refer to. Here is the **Lectionary** link:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=B>

Mother's Day

Today is Mother's Day or Mothering Sunday - it a day to acknowledge ALL women. It is a joyous day for many and an incredibly tough day for others. It is complicated, it is layered. It is emotive.

Today we think of women who are actively doing the hard work of mothering, changing nappies, those who wear the badge of food stains, doing school lifts, packing endless lunch boxes, to-ing and fro-ing to sports fixtures, and often with very little recognition.

We want to mention women who are navigating the challenges of single motherhood this Mother's Day - carrying the emotional and physical load alone shows your resilience and strength - we see you.

Women who are parenting and mothering children that are not biologically theirs and on a day like this, they undoubtedly take a moment to think about the birth mothers of those they call their own may God bless you!

And then to Mothers of Special Needs children, children who are neuro-diverse, your on-going, relentless love is unmatched.

And to expectant mothers - we are excited. At WAC there is one baby on the way that I know of....

Then to those who have experienced pregnancy loss or miscarriage and to those who have struggled with infertility or who have been unable to conceive, those who are desperate to be mothers, we are sorry for our insensitivity sometimes and we pray that you'd know God's comfort today.

And to women who have lost a child and grieve, no matter the age, through illness or tragedy or through estranged relations - this is a heartache no who has not experienced it themselves will ever fully understand. No-one. It never goes away. Never. It is a hole that you live with and we acknowledge how enormously painful that is today.

And then for those of you who are blessed to be able to sit here and give thanks for your moms. As you reflect and you are grateful - we celebrate with you today.

Those of you who have strained, complicated or estranged relationships with their own mothers and to all those who have experienced trauma or abuse at the hands of their mothers, Mother's Day must feel weirdly disconnected from this day.

We think of ageing mothers, mothers with dementia who don't know their children and then those whose moms have passed. We remember you today and your grief.

We recognise women who have chosen not to have children, we respect that choice, we also recognise those who have not had the opportunity to start a family and we also acknowledge that sometimes because of the experiences of LGBTQI folk, some face barriers to starting families.

On Mother's day there are also many women who are in the empty nest stage of life and navigating the change that comes with children moving away. That feeling of not being needed is recognised today.

All those whose moms are far away today and those who won't be able to just give their moms a hug or those whose kids are far away but sit here thinking fondly of their moms and kids, we smile with you.

So today is special and complicated - let's try and hold those two things together in this moment and lean in to it.

Today we want to honour the mothers of our community who share that special love with all of us - we are so grateful for the role you play in our community and we want you to know that. And for those of us whose relationship with mother's day doesn't always resonate, I hope today you are comforted by the love and care that we share within our community and are held by that, knowing that the roles we all hold are valuable and important.

Many women are spiritual moms and mentor moms - no matter the stage of life, your age, position or status, you will never know the full impact of your input and wisdom and we honour you ALL today.