

**Church Contact Details:** PO Box 205, Wollongong 2520; 4226 1750

**Website:** [www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org](http://www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org)

**Facebook:** Wollongong Congregational Church

**Minister: Rev Con Despinidic** 42713235/ 42261750 Mob. 0427431709  
[cdespini@gmail.com](mailto:cdespini@gmail.com) Please feel free to contact Pastor Con should the need arise.

**Elders:** Wendy 42292483/ mob 0407936981, Tim 0422599894,  
Leonie 42713235/ mob 0428180355  
Annette 42716763/ mob 0401089938  
Robert 42293462 /mob 0418612280

**Church notices:** Annette [ameldrum@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ameldrum@ozemail.com.au) or 42716763 or Con



# Wollongong Congregational Church

12th March, 2017

Welcome to all worshipping with us this morning.

Please continue in fellowship over a cuppa after the service.

Please join us tonight at 7pm for our Evening Fellowship.

## ROSTERS

Date	12 Mar	19 Mar
Prayers	Leigh	Con
Bible Readings	Annette Pam	Lynda Joan
Lawns	-	-
Servers	Annette Max	Davina Robert Jennifer
Cleaning	-	Cleaners
Morning Tea	Gordon Robyn	Judy Lynda
Welcome	Don	Irma
Communion Prep	-	Jill
Kid's Club	Laura	Jill
PowerPoint	George	Glen
Counting Offering	Rob	Wendy

### Prayer Chain.

If you have a request, please ring  
Leonie or Con

### Offering.

**New Westpac Account:**  
Wollongong Congregational Church  
BSB: 032695  
Account No: 494743

**Building Fund balance**  
\$12,528.65

**Emergency Food Coordinator**  
Jill Donnelly 4229 5248

**This weeks' regular tithed giving will go to The Wollongong Combined Churches Education Board (WCCEB)**  
Additional gifts may be placed in the plate at any time, using a suitably labelled envelope.

**Next Sunday 19th March,**

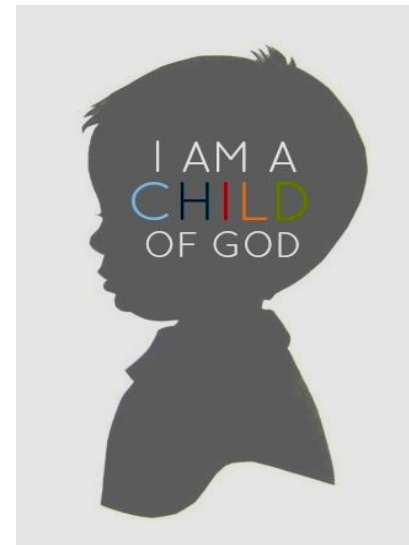
**10am Worship Service 7pm Evening Fellowship**

### THIS WEEK:

**Tuesday:** 10am Bible Study at Annette's

**Wed:** 15th & 22nd March, 7.15pm Alpha Course at church

**Thursday:** 10am: Ruth's home group  
9.30-11.00 am: Playday in the hall



### Psalm 100: v3

Know that the LORD  
Himself is God;  
It is He who has made us,  
and not we ourselves:  
We are His people and the  
sheep of His pasture.

“It is He who made us, not we ourselves.”

In verse 3 of Psalm 100, we read “Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us **and not we ourselves.**” This psalm is often used as a Call to Worship because it declares so powerfully whose world this is and where our focus is to be placed. But it’s obviously not enough for the psalmist to simply state that it is God who made us; he also stresses the alternative. Not us! This is particularly relevant in today’s world with its widespread practice of self-creation, basic to capitalism and marketing with their promises of reinvention and self-promotion, based on images provided by society itself. Most of us, for much of the time are caught up in the business of making ourselves something. And it is usually over and against others. Self-creation is driven by comparison, rivalry, competition and fear. It starts in childhood and education, and gathers pace as we grow and enter the workforce, building reputations, promoting our achievements, planning our futures, providing for our security and defending ourselves against threats.

But humanity was created in **the image of God** and thus has a purpose. We are God- breathed and our lives are to share and express God’s life. Human beings have no independent existence but are dependent on God from beginning to end. However, the Genesis accounts of Adam and Eve and the Tower of Babel reveal how quickly humanity was determined to make themselves in **their own image.** ‘Let us **make ourselves** wise’, “Let us build us a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens **that we might make a name for ourselves.**” In both cases, it didn’t turn out well.

It was in Jesus’ life, death and resurrection that God acted to heal humanity’s destructive determination to make itself in its own image. In Philippians 2, Paul describes how Jesus refused to grasp at being God, became a human being, a servant even, and by his obedience to death on a cross reversed the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the Garden. What humanity continually failed to do, God did through his Son. In echoes of the Genesis creation story, the NT describes Jesus as ‘the image of the invisible God’, ‘the ‘second Adam’, the ‘first-born’ of a new humanity. John’s gospel begins “In the beginning was the Word’ and Paul writes, “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come.” Christians do not follow a new teaching, but are a new creation, living a new life – the very life of the crucified and risen Christ through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. We no longer reflect Adam’s likeness, but Jesus’. All is new.

When Paul tells the Philippians they are to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, he doesn’t mean that they have to work hard to be saved; that would mean them **making themselves righteous.** What he means is that, as it is God who is working out his good purposes in them, they are to unlearn and put off all those habits of self-creation that belong to the old world, and allow God to be God by giving him the freedom to continue to transform them into the image of his Son; a new creation based not in rivalry and fear, but in love.

Richard

## Prayer Points

Please pray for;

- ◇ Wisdom and opportunity to reach our community with the Gospel;
- ◇ Wisdom as we move forward with our maintenance program;
- ◇ One new church family;
- ◇ Ron Ratcliffe recovering from surgery.
- ◇ Janice and her son Steve,
- ◇ Gail and Ray (Hong Kong) for the children & families in all 3 schools
- ◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA; Adam and the Togo Group
- ◇ Edwards family working in Fiji; Roger Dethlefs also in Fiji
- ◇ Our FCC Churches; *Bexley Congregational Church*
- ◇ Church family members; *Jeff, Lenore & Izack Rinses*
- ◇ Pray for the needs of Pulse 94.1 FM and the effectiveness of Con’s radio program
- ◇ God’s leading as we make decisions concerning our property.
- ◇ New SRE teacher, Heather Grant, at Illawarra Sports High School.

Concerns were raised at our meeting in relation to the hall and we have decided that we will not use the Sunday School room for the foreseeable future.

**HOT CROSS BUN Fundraiser for WCCEB.** Half dozen \$6. Delivery 2nd April. Orders to Lynda with money by 26th March.

## Diary Dates:

**13th April: Tenebrae Service**

**14th April: Good Friday**

**FELLOWSHIP OF CONGREGATIONAL WOMEN (FCW)**

**FRIDAY 5 May Dinner 7pm at Revesby** RSVP by 5th April

**SAT 21 Oct, 1 day Conference, Stanwell Tops** speaker Gill

Davis, Coordinator High School scripture Northern Illawarra

Pastor Con on Pulse 94.1 FM      Sunday Worship 7-10am.  
Also Tuesdays 10 pm to midnight.      Daily devotions 6:45 am.