



The VINES Uniting Church

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THE GRAPESVINE 27/11/2022

HERSTORY #4: NAOMI & RUTH

The bible is full of events in people's lives that are in flux. By that I mean they are in the middle of change... the liminal space... between what was and what is yet to be. Naomi and Ruth, like Sarah and Abraham are living it. The book is named after Ruth who is a Moabite and yet commits her way to follow Naomi and therefore God.

Ruth 1:16 "For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

I want to focus on 6 areas based on excerpts from Susan Nelson.

<https://www.womanofnoblecharacter.com/ruth-in-the-bible/>

1. **Your Past is Not Your Present or Your Future**
2. **No One is Unimportant to God**
3. **Character Matters**
4. **Redemption is For Everyone**
5. **Just Do It**
6. **Ruth Was a Woman of Courage**

Let me mention a key part of what is happening to Naomi in this book. Many people get caught up with grief to the point where it overwhelms them, Naomi returns home a devastated woman. In the same way that God changed the names of Abraham and Sarah to reflect a new relationship, Naomi whose name meant Pleasant, changes her name to "Mara" which means "bitter".

Ruth 1:20 – 21 "why call me Naomi when the LORD has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

Have you had a "Ruth moment" in your life?

What about a "Naomi moment"?

We all have moments, the question is what gets us through?

The book of Ruth remains a testimony of choosing to love, and how the power of mutual commitment can change lives.

Rev DJ Prior

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER.

This Sunday 27th November you will have the opportunity at the Congregational meeting to vote for Elders at the Vines. Kristen Waters has been re-nominated after serving as an Elder for 1 year and David McAvena has been nominated. Below is a brief introduction from Kristen and David.

Kristen Waters:

Hi! Thank you for considering me for re-election to the leadership team, which I first joined at the beginning of 2020; (yes, just in time for COVID!). I am keen to continue serving the Church as part of this team. I have given the occasional Children's Talk and am a Co-Coordinator and teacher of our Children's Church ministry. I am a registered school teacher, foster carer, and NDIS worker, and I'm enjoying raising children with my wonderful husband of 13 years, Mark.

I believe that Christ is our cornerstone, and the most important thing we can do as Christians is to love God and love others. After all, *"apart from Him, we can do nothing."* Together, we have a multitude of abilities; every single one of us is blessed with gifts, talents, and purpose. *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."* As we remain in Him and work together for the Lord, I believe our Church can continue to grow in faith and love.

David McAvena:



I have endeavoured to serve God fulltime since the early 1980s through song writing, missionary service in Zambia, and through administrative work in Christian education. My endeavours have given me a deep love for Christ's Church.

When I 'retired' in April 2016 I prayed, "Lord, what would you have me do for the remaining 'season' of my life?" That prayer was answered when I was accepted into a course in Spiritual Direction at Tabor Adelaide and from 2017 to 2019 completed a Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction.

Over the last several years, I have had a growing awareness of God's Presence in the whole of creation, underscored by Colossians 1:16-17 – *"for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*

Chris and I came to the Vines about 14 years ago – I have led worship, a Home Group, and some quiet days [and a few other things]. My desire is to use my gifts and talents and in so doing, continue to serve our Lord at the Vines.

21/11/2022

CURRENT LEADERSHIP AT THE VINES

<u>Minister:</u>	Reverend David Prior
<u>Secretary:</u>	Colleen Farmer
<u>Acting Chairperson:</u>	Leon Magrin
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Neil Satterley
<u>Elders:</u>	Marj Dredge, Leon Magrin, Kristen Waters
<u>Co-opted Member:</u>	David McAvena



PIANO CONCERT

Verelle Fudge will be having a Piano Concert with her students at the Vines Church on

Monday, 19th December at 2 pm.

All are welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

We are again supplying Christmas Hampers to needy families and local schools this year. To do this we need your help with donations of food. The collection boxes will be in the foyer from Sunday 20th November until Sunday 11th December. It would be greatly appreciated if you could provide food from the suggestions lists on the table in the church foyer, or a cash donation marked "***Christmas Hampers***".

Thank you and May God Bless you.

Reaching out in God's Love

FOOD PARCEL MINISTRY

Thank you and may God bless you for your continued support for this ministry. Where has the time gone? We are already preparing for Christmas Hampers. This week we are in need of the following items.

Cereal

- Soup
- Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- 2 Minute Noodles
- Tea
- Toiletries or a Cash Donation marked "Food Parcel Ministry".
- Cereal
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Vegetables

Thank you again.

Leon and the Pastoral Team.

Next week:

4th December

#5 Eve

**Rev. DJPrior, Sue Cook, Jacqui Vanstone
& Pam Ambagtsheer**

Take time to phone a Friend

or meet with others and

CHOOSE LIFE

Share God's love.



LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES

Each Sunday our worship services at the Vines can be accessed live at 9:30am via our YouTube channel. Please use the following link to access our services,

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church

After the livestream, each service will remain on our YouTube channel for watching later. They can be accessed using the same link.

Contacts at the VINES Uniting Church

Rev. David Prior	Minister	0403 991 475
Colleen Farmer	Administrator	0430 646 844
Leon Magrin	Acting Church Council Chairperson	
	Mission & Outreach / Food Parcel Ministry	8322 3658
David McAvenna	Worship Team	8322 7154
Neil Satterley	Church Treasurer	0404 028 827

Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer
by 12 noon Wednesday poppy@adam.com.au