

Church News

Welcome to the weekly email



Can you think of an experience that you found really embarrassing? Perhaps showing up at a party overdressed or underdressed compared to everyone else. Maybe it was saying something that was inappropriate considering the people you were with? Perhaps it was holding a different opinion to others who you respected and feeling awkward expressing your viewpoint in front of them.

To 1st century audiences the message about Jesus was filled with embarrassing and even more offensive ideas. The belief in one God and that all other gods did not exist led to the accusation that Christians were 'atheists'. The belief in a crucified Messiah and the inclusion of Gentiles on an equal basis with Jews was profoundly offensive to Judaism. However, possibly the most offensive aspect of the Christian message was the idea of salvation by grace. Both Jews and Gentiles considered moral behaviour to be the way of Salvation. In contrast, the central message of Paul's letter to the Romans is that salvation is a free gift and not earned by good deeds or religious devotion. The Apostle Paul had every reason to soften the message to fit more easily with his 1st century audience. Instead, Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone first for the Jews and also for the Gentile."

The message of grace not works can still be an offensive message to 21st century Australians. What made Paul so courageous and unashamed? We will be looking at this question over the next few weeks when we look at the letter to the Romans. So why not take a few moments now to read the 1st five chapters of Romans.

See you on Sunday

Chris

Senior Minister

DNA Starts back this Week.



Youth group is back on for those in Year 6 to Year 12 @school. DNA will kick off the year with dinner this **Friday, 3rd February** at **6.30pm** at Holy Trinity Church Hall. For more details please contact Lauren on ☎0421 556 082 or Harry ☎0433 249 749. Could parents please go to www.concordanglican.org.au and print out and fill in the confidential information/permission form and get your child to bring it on Friday night.

Men's Katoomba Convention 2012



Each year a group of men get together from our parish to attend Men's Katoomba Convention. So set aside **2nd to 3rd March for Men and Work**. MKC 2012 will be looking at what God thinks about work. So take a break from your normal work and join us up the mountain as Gary Millar and Paul Grimmond help us to unpack what work means for God and the Christian man.

Registration is \$70.00.

To Register Online at www.mkc.kcc.org.au; or complete a registration form (available from the back of the church).

Let us know if you are attending by filling in the list at the back of the church.

Bible Study Groups



Bible study groups meet throughout the week. There are groups for men, women and mixed groups. If you are interested in joining a bible study group then please contact either Phillip Castle on ☎9743 6757 or Chris on ☎0414 262 142.

Safe Ministry Training



It is this time of the year for Safe Ministry Training.

If you are involved in any form of children's ministry or youth ministry, from crèche to DNA, then you must have completed the Safe Ministry Training Course.

Youthworks is running courses in March for those who need to do either the **Safe Ministry Course Part A and Part B** (this is for those who have not done the training before) and the **Refresher Course** for those

who did their training 3 years ago. More details about times and venues can be found at Youthworks website <http://www.youthworks.net/events/march-safe-ministry-week>. Lyndel will also be running the Refresher course in early March for those who have completed their training 3 years ago and now need to do the update. If you have any questions then please contact Lyndel on 80335604 or 0414431189 or email her at lsdc@tpg.com.au.

MTS Apprentice



Michael O'Hara has started work as our new MTS apprentice. Could all those who have pledged financial support to this ministry initiative please begin your payments. If you have any questions please speak to Peter Rowe on 0403 264 348 or Glenn Davis on 0433 566 111.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Can all those involved in organising morning tea at church please remember that under no circumstances should peanuts or tree nuts be used in any food thank you.

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"Our mission as the family of God is to know, proclaim and glorify Jesus Christ as Lord."