

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023 • 53RD EDITION



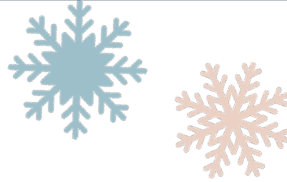
Wishing you a blessed Christmas

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one
and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall
not perish but have eternal life.*

JOHN 3:16



From the CEO



Christian Spiritual Activities

One of the distinctive features of Bethany Christian Care is the Christian spiritual activities that occur at our sites.

We see this as an important expression of our identity as a Christian aged care and retirement living provider.

Every weekday at each of our sites there are half hour devotions – including hymn singing and a Bible message – for both retirement village and aged care residents. Also, each month local churches hold their evening services at our sites – Kuraby Christian Church at The Plains, and Wynnum Christian Community Church at Janoah Gardens.

In addition to these opportunities for Christian worship and fellowship, I am very pleased to report that Christian spiritual activities for residents have continued to grow in number, frequency, and attendance at both our sites. We have a particular focus on providing Christian spiritual activities for our aged care residents because they are often unable to easily attend off-site events like church.

Aged care specific Christian spiritual offerings include Bible studies for men and women, Bible storytelling (using the Wycliffe Bible story telling method), Scripture and Song sessions, and Café Church. Café Church at The Plains has been so well attended that it has outgrown two previous spaces and is now held in the Community Hall.

This past year both Nativity and Easter plays have been performed for aged care residents and their families. These Gospel-centered plays have included staff and residents from aged care and the retirement villages as actors, singers, and presenters. We also install large, Gospel-centered, seasonal banners at prominent outdoor places at our sites each Christmas and Easter.



We are blessed to have a faithful team of volunteer pastoral carers visiting aged care residents at each of our sites.

These pastoral carers are under the supervision of, and work with, our wonderful team of three Chaplains: Bonnie Seip, Marike Wannenburg and Jemima Lee.

This year, to reflect the importance and priority of our distinctive Chaplaincy program and Christian spiritual activities, Bonnie Seip has been promoted to the Executive Leadership Team as Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Manager.

I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas, and pray that you will know the light and life that comes from Jesus – Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

Warm regards,

Rohan Reid
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Bible Study at Janoah Gardens



Cafe Church at The Plains





From the Board table

Our Corporation

Members of the Bethany Christian Care Community may not be familiar with our corporation. Bethany Christian Care is incorporated under Letters Patent pursuant to the Religious, Educational and Charitable Institutions Act 1861-1967.

The Corporation is the incorporated entity known as “Bethany Christian Care” with the ABN 28 041 667 312. Note that our entity does not have a suffix such as “Pty Ltd” or “Ltd”, in its formal name.

Why is Bethany Christian Care incorporated?

It is very common for organisations undertaking business activities in Australia to be incorporated. Incorporated entities are legally separate from the owners or members and have the same powers as an individual. For example, an incorporated entity can own property, enter a contract and appear in court.

Corporation members

Instead of having shareholders, our Corporation has members. Corporation membership is analogous to membership of an incorporated association. The Corporation of Bethany Christian Care and its members are legally separate, and members are not liable for Bethany Christian Care’s debts and obligations.

Note that the situation is different for Board members of Bethany Christian Care who take on many legal responsibilities and liabilities in that specific role.

Who can be a member of the Corporation?

The Constitution of Bethany Christian Care sets out the criteria for membership.

Key Criteria include:

- Being a member of a church known as Christian Brethren or a member of a church affiliated with Christian Community Churches Australia (CCCAust).
- Agreeing to the Statement of Faith and Beliefs in the Constitution.
- Being at least 18 years of age.

What are the role of Corporation members?

Corporation members make important decisions that impact the operation of Bethany Christian Care. Most notably, Corporation members:

- Are eligible to be Board members of Bethany Christian Care.
- Decide who are the Board members of Bethany Christian Care.
- Decide any changes to the Constitution of Bethany Christian Care



Board Member Spotlight: Dr Karen Shepherd



Why were you interested to become a member of the Board of BCC?

When I was first approached to be a member of the Board, I was asked if I could provide guidance and advice from a medical perspective. This was something I was very happy to do as I've known many people over the years who have been very happy at Bethany Christian Care. My grandfather (George Thomas) was a resident of Bethany for 7 years until 2001.

What have you found to be the most rewarding aspects of your role as a Board member?

It's fantastic to work with such a great group of fellow Christians for such a worthy purpose. I look forward to our meetings very much!

Can you tell me about you and your family?

I was born here in Brisbane and have one sister. I've been married to David, a control systems engineer, for 23 years. We have two children, Madison and Alexander (known as Zander) who are both at university. We also have a fat lazy, incredibly fluffy rag doll cat called Gus.

What do you like to do for fun?

My work is usually high pressure so fun for me is relaxation. This could be reading a good book, catching up with friends for a coffee or visiting relatives.

How did you come to know Jesus?

I was blessed to be brought up in a Christian family with many Christian relatives. I attended a Brethren assembly for many years and heard the Gospel every week. I was saved when I was 11 on the day which turned out to be my husband's birthday.

What is something that not many people know about you?

Two things come to mind - my first job, along with my best friend from school, was being dressed up as a "Christmas Belle" at Myer when we were 15. We were supposed to help the photographer take photos of the kids with Santa. It was quite difficult job as Santa rarely turned up so the kids were cranky and we looked utterly ridiculous.

The second thing is that David and I were part of a small mission team from Grace Bible Church that went to the Czech Republic. Our accommodation was at a lumberjack training camp in the middle of a forest. It was an amazing experience which culminated in David proposing to me on Charles Bridge in the middle of Prague.





From The Plains Retirement Village



The workshop at The Plains has been an amenity valued and used over the years by many retirement village residents. The communal workshop provides a small area for residents to continue their woodworking hobbies.

Recently it has also become a key part of a production line as one of our Residential Aged Care (RAC) volunteers, Brian Schmidt makes comfort crosses for our RAC residents and their families.

Brian, a talented woodworker, is a resident of The Plains retirement village and when he moved in brought a lot of his tools and equipment with him.

After sourcing the right timber, Brian prepares rough cross shapes, before refining them, rounding the edges, smoothing the surface and applying a finish to preserve the timber.

Most of the process is able to be completed in The Plains workshop thanks to the wide variety of gear available.

Brian has undertaken to produce dozens of the hand-size crosses to include in care packs given to RAC residents. Bethany Christian Care appreciates the time and talent Brian has generously given to this task.



Meet Karen Timms (The Plains - Admin Assistant)

Can you tell us about your role at BCC?

I am an Administration Assistant at The Plains and I look after downstairs Reception. I welcome and help everyone who comes in.

I answer the phones and either help them or put them through to someone who can. I am part of a great team that is privileged to get to know all our residents: in Aged Care, Serviced Apartments and Independent Living.

What have you found to be the most rewarding aspects of your role?

I love meeting people and hearing their stories and testimonies. I love hearing the singing from the hall during devotions. I pray each day that God will equip me with all I need for whoever He will bring into my path to serve.

Can you tell me about you and your family?

I have 3 sons and 1 daughter. Their Dad passed away when Kate, the youngest was 12. They are all now married; the boys are all dads and Kate will become a mum in April next year, that will be the 6th grandchild.

But wait, there is more. I remarried in 2008 and Ces had 3 sons and a daughter. Sadly, his second son passed away in 2017 – he did leave behind a wonderful child named Lachlan who is now 12.

All Ces' other grandchildren are girls, 7 of them; plus Lachie has a half-sister. Ces' daughter is having child number 5 and lots of people are hoping for a boy.....All these children make Christmas very busy but I wouldn't



have it any other way. Family is very important to me.

What do you like to do for fun?

Spend time with family, cook, sing, write poetry, and go away in our caravan.

How did you come to know Jesus?

I was 3 when a Baptist Church bus picked my brother and I up and took us to Sunday School.

We moved when I was 5 and the Baptist Church was 2 streets away, so I was allowed to walk. I started staying for church after Sunday School and was noticed by a lady who found out who I was and where I lived.

She was the Girls Brigade Captain and asked mum if I could join and invited me to their home. I started spending a lot of time at their house with their family – they prayed a lot and read the Bible and they taught me about Jesus and how He wasn't just at the church. I gave my life to Jesus when I was 10.

What is something that not many people know about you?

I love trains. I have been on several, but I want to travel on every train in Australia and maybe then on some in other countries.



From Janoah Gardens Retirement Village

Barren to bountiful.... An apt description for a small area of garden at Janoah Gardens that residents have developed into a Community Garden.

The resident-led initiative has produced a selection of vegetables and flowers growing abundantly. Resident, Roy Machen, started the process and was quickly joined by other residents as they cleared, dug and planted the garden beds.

There is now a variety of produce, including lettuce, radish, beans, bok choy, kale and zucchini. The residents harvest these and they are available for residents to purchase and enjoy. There is also a seating area and a BBQ for residents to use - provided by residents.

The residents' generous sharing of time, talents and resources has resulted in a beautiful and functional garden area that all can enjoy.

Bethany Christian Care appreciate and thank all the residents who contribute to the success of this area. We trust there are many years of abundant produce and enjoyment for all residents.



Aged Care Activities at The Plains

Ekka 2023



Italian Day

Island Day



Meet Barbara Ginn from Janoah Gardens

Can you tell us about where you live at Bethany Christian Care, and how long you have lived there?

I have been at Bethany Christian Care for about 8 and a half years. My husband, Hilton, and I lived in a unit at Beth Eden for about 5 years before Hilton moved into aged care about 3 ½ years ago. In December 2022 we both moved to Janoah Gardens.

Can you tell me about you and your family?

I've been married to my husband Hilton for 55 years. We have one daughter, Shelley, who lives in Brisbane and an adopted boy, Ashley, who lives in Central Queensland. Shelley previously worked at Bethany Christian Care in the Norman Park era.

What do you like about living at Bethany Christian Care?

I am very comfortable, happy and content living at BCC. We chose to move from Hervey Bay to Bethany Christian Care as they had retirement living and an aged care facility together.

I have felt supported through the changes my husband and I have experienced. When the time came for Hilton to move into care, the process was smooth.

Hilton and I enjoy the Christian spiritual focus here and activities such as devotions.

What do you like to do for fun?

I enjoy playing the piano and having my wonderful little companion dog – Jonty. I also enjoy word puzzles and reading.

I treasure the times I can take Hilton to my unit and being able to play the piano and sing with him.



How did you come to know Jesus?

My maternal Nan had the biggest impact in my life. I grew up going to church with Nan and went to Sunday School.

I was taught to read the Bible and pray and from that learnt to trust in the Lord. I moved to Brisbane in my teenage years and became much more conscious of the object of my trust.

What is something that not many people know about you?

When I was teaching in Brisbane, I studied singing for 2-3 years part time at the Qld Conservatorium of Music.



Jonty

Meet Ellen Pyrke from The Plains

Can you tell us about where you live at Bethany Christian Care, and how long you have lived there?

I transferred to The Plains last July from another aged care facility to be nearer my Ipswich family who still have two school-age children. I also have family at Maroochydore and Townsville.

Can you tell me about you and your family?

When our children were young they were blessed to have had parents who travelled frequently and took the children with them.

The children were taught the joys of knowing and understanding different cultures from many parts of the world.

What do you like about living at Bethany Christian Care?

I regard Bethany Christian Care as being like a little bit of heaven – where one can immerse oneself in Christian beliefs every day.

I particularly enjoy morning devotions in the hall with favourite hymn singing to either the piano or organ, plus a fifteen minute “thought for the day” from an inspiring speaker. Café Church on Friday mornings led by the Chaplaincy team is also very meaningful.

Some amazing themes that stand out in my memory in the last few months have been Ekka day, Farmyard Visit, a Bagpipe Band, Bollywood cultural events, the Jesus Revolution movie, the Redeemer Lutheran College Children’s Choir, Islander Day, Markets in the Courtyard, Birthday parties and Shopping Trolleys.

Not to mention workouts with carpet bowls and exercise groups with the physiotherapist.



The talented, enthusiastic, gracious and caring staff just about bend over backwards to put smiles on our faces and to make us all feel happy and welcome on every occasion.”

What do you like to do for fun?

I try to walk twice a day within the beautiful gardens and premises of The Plains. I invariably meet others, who similarly like to stop for a friendly chat – a nice way to make new friends!

I like to talk with other residents and staff about their life’s journeys and knit, read, do puzzles, listen to music on my CD player (with headphones), keep in touch with friends and family by email and watch Netflix movies on the computer.

How did you come to know Jesus?

I gave my life to Jesus, aged 12 years, at a Hyman Appleman Campaign in Brisbane (those around eighty-eight years as I am may still remember him!) and have been conscious of God’s love, care and protection ever since, even when I strayed and made some bad decisions.

What is something that not many people know about you?

Not many people know that, in my seventies, I transcribed the Book of Job into 167 verses with approximately 150 illustrations. It took me about three months and was a wonderful spiritual exercise.

It taught me never to give up believing in God and, although He seems to be somewhat elusive at times, He never abandons those who keep in touch with Him.





Aged Care Activities at Janoah Gardens



Strictly Ballroom Dancing



Scottish Dance Group

Birthday Celebrations



David - November



Maureen and Merle - October



Melody (Registered Nurse)
and
Kirra (Clinical Nurse) - November



Beth Eden Closure

In August 2022, Bethany Christian Care's Board made the difficult decision to close Beth Eden. At that time, Beth Eden was home to 49 residents residing in independent units and aged care.

In September 2022, a consultation process about the proposed closure was commenced with all residents. In addition to finding new homes for all the residents, Bethany Christian Care undertook to support each resident through the moving process including in practical ways and financially.

This included facilitating all aspects of each move (packing, moving, unpacking and setting up), as well as financially contributing to additional expenses.

In November, the retirement village residents voted in favour of closing the retirement village. Our team worked closely with residents and their families to ensure their new home met their preferences.

Suitable alternate accommodation was found for all residents assisted by our team.

Some residents chose to stay in the Graceville area and Bethany Christian Care were able to agree a cost neutral arrangement with the operators of their new homes. Others took the opportunity to relocate and be closer to family outside of Brisbane.

There were also some residents who chose to relocate to The Plains and Janoah Gardens and we have been privileged to continue providing a home for them.

The final resident of Beth Eden moved out in May and subsequently, the property was placed on the market. After an Expression of Interest sale process the property is now under contract.



Long serving staff

Congratulations to the following staff who have attained years-of-service milestones:

20 years

Sue Woods (Lifestyle Assistant - The Plains)

10 - 15 years

Pinky Chot (Lifestyle Assistant - Janoah Gardens)

Glo Richards (Registered Nurse - The Plains)

Yulian Wu (Domestic Services Assistant - The Plains)

5 - 10 years

Jodie Shannon (Residential Care Manager - Janoah Gardens)

Kleah Dizon (Registered Nurse - The Plains)

Aires Ross (Lifestyle Assistant - The Plains)



Aedan

Son of
Michelle Abellana
(Clinical Nurse,
Janoah Gardens)



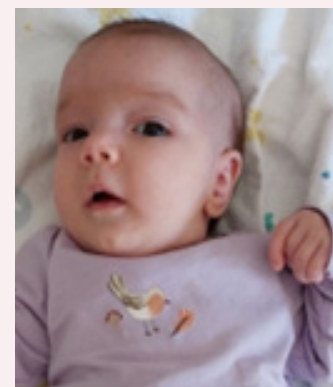
Shiloh

Daughter of
Gretchen Tomas
(Lifestyle Assistant,
The Plains)



Michael

Son of
Glo Richards
(Registered Nurse,
The Plains)



Miriam

Daughter of
Eleanor Mitchell
(Systems and
Processes Manager,
Head Office)

Babies of Bethany

We are excited to introduce new babies to the Bethany Christian Care community!



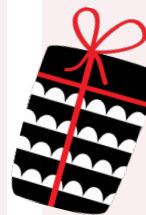
Isaac

Son of Diana Masih
(Domestic Services
Assistant
The Plains)



Ava

Daughter of
Kim McDonald
(Admin Assistant,
Head Office)



Chloe

Daughter of
Esther Rayward
(Registered Nurse,
The Plains)





Peace on Earth

By Bonnie Seip

Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Manager

Peace is at the heart of the Christmas message as Jesus came to earth with the good news of peace which is for all people everywhere.

He came as the Prince of Peace.

"To us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6).

You may know this line from a Christmas carol, "Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled". I think this is a picture of Jesus as God's gift of peace to us. God revealing himself to us through the person of Jesus.

Jesus came to earth in a peaceful way, as a baby in the very humble environment of a manger and continued to live a humble life.

The angels announced the birth of Jesus as 'good news of great joy, for all people'.

It is good news because a helpless baby, who is God, becomes the one who changes this world once and for all.

Jesus is so different from any other figure in human history because he didn't come to help us escape our unrest but to transform our lives.

This little baby, Jesus, brought the promise of forgiveness that brings assurance of love and the hope of peace.

Jesus changed things forever.