



# The VINES Uniting Church

152 Reynell Road Woodcroft SA 5162



## THE GRAPEVINE – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Church Office: (08) 8322 8661

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Theme for Sunday: **How to Have Peace When We're Facing Giants**

Bible readings: Numbers 13:1 - 14:4 (NRSVUE)  
Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSVUE)

We face the giants of failing health, unemployment, grief and sorrow without adequate preparation. We rarely plan for these; they just happen. Our response to this is determined by our faith and our relationship with Jesus, who's coming we celebrate again in a few weeks.

The choice for us is rarely expressed directly as 'forward or backwards.' The natural inclination for most of us in a crisis is to put the brakes on, to be the pillars of the church who hold the church up, and to move to a conservative, cautious strategy. We choose a soft landing wherever possible.

The strategy of Caleb and Joshua was courageous: to go forward boldly and confidently, sure of God's blessing. It is a strategy we can apply today – or not.

John the Baptist's confronting call to repentance, and to get ready for the one (Jesus) who is greater, is the way we find true peace, so we can face the 'giants' safely.

May God bless you as you step out in faith, going forward (not backward) with Jesus.

*Ian*



❖ OUR VISION:

*To be a vibrant, growing community of Faith.*

❖ OUR MISSION:

*To reach out and reflect God's Love –connecting others to Christ.*



**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve**  
**7 pm**  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day**  
**9 am**

The **Christmas Bowl** is an annual appeal organized by Act for Peace, aimed at supporting humanitarian efforts and providing relief to those in need.

- It began in 1949 and has raised significant funds for various causes, including supporting refugees and rebuilding homes after disasters.
- The appeal provides essential aid such as food, clean water, healthcare, and education, helping families recover from crises.
- Contributions from churches and individuals help fund programs that ensure dignity and hope for communities affected by conflict and disasters.
- The Christmas Bowl is a testament to unity in Christ and practical Christian action in response to global challenges.
- Each year the Vines supports this important Charity Envelopes are available in the church foyer should you wish to make a donation.

**CAFÉ CHURCH**

At our Congregation Meeting last Sunday, a concern was raised about the frequency of Café Church. Cafe Church is meant to be an opportunity for conversation and reflection on what our faith is about and how God impacts our lives. We understand things so much better when we have a chance to talk them through. The next Café Church will be on December 28<sup>th</sup> and then they will be bi-monthly in 2026 and will provide for this interaction. More information to come.

The last Grapevine for 2025 will be prepared on the 17<sup>th</sup> December for the service on 21<sup>st</sup> December. It will recommence on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026.

# HOPE

I have been asked for a copy of the ideas on "Hope" which was the theme last Sunday. As we progress through this Advent season, I believe it would be helpful for us to reflect upon the very significant story, and to see where these statements connect with our own journey of faith.

**Biblical hope: "A strong and confident expectation, an unwavering trust in the unchanging Character of God!"**

**What is our Hope? Hope is an optimistic state of mind, that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes, with respect to events and circumstances in one's own life, or the world at large.**

Without "hope" we have nowhere to go! I leave these thoughts with you to ponder!

Grace and peace, Marj.

## **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

The Wednesday afternoon Bible study Group will go into Christmas and New Year recess on Wednesday, **17<sup>th</sup> of December, 2025.**

The first meeting of the Group in 2026 will be on Wednesday the **4<sup>th</sup> of February, 2026.**

There will be an informal Christmas breakup gathering at the Church, at 2.30 pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, all attendees are welcome. Please bring a plate (with something sweet or savory to eat and share on it).

Any questions, please contact Richard B either at the Church on Sunday or on 0415 401 402.

And a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

## **BANK ACCOUNT – OFFERING**

For members of our congregation who wish to give with flexibility on time and amount, The Vines church has set up a bank account with Westpac to receive such offerings. The details are:

Name of Account - Vines Uniting Church BSB 035 053

Account Number 479588

No further details will be required so the information will remain private.

**Colin Dredge, Treasurer.**

NEXT WEEK: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Bill Scerri

### *Our Goal*

*To reach out to the  
community and  
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/@thevinesunitingchurch6373/streams>

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**

Colleen Farmer	Secretary	0430 646 844
Colin Dredge	Acting Treasurer	0403 003 534
Marj Dredge	Outreach Activities / Pastoral Team	0421 279 935
Jacqui Vanstone	Pastoral Team Convenor	0413 995 159
David McAvenna	Worship Team	0421 278 345

Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer  
by 12 noon Wednesday [poppy@adam.com.au](mailto:poppy@adam.com.au)

