

The last pine trees on Pine Avenue where I live were cut down recently. Part of me is relieved since their pollen and seeds were messy. But seeing the bird's nest lying on the ground afterwards became for me a symbol of the impact this season is having on many.

In conversations throughout the week, anxiety, stress and concerns are shared. The nest of security and well-being we have built, whatever the shape, is under threat and we don't know what the future will hold.

Thankfully, friendship and kindness continue to be expressed. St. Andrew's is grateful to be able to be a place of hospitality, community and practical care. As the programme continues to evolve, we find we are becoming like a drop-in centre—a space to land and rest from the cold harshness around us.

Sharing the Goodness Around

UnitingCare Emergency Relief in Gawler shared with us from the abundance of non-perishables they have received. Thank you to Jill Polkinghorne, Avril Noy, Christine and Graham Sturdy and Phil Wass for making trips to Gawler to collect the pantry items. In speaking with the Sturdy's, it sounds like the trip wasn't too onerous as they discovered a lovely café and coffee shop on the way! St. Paul's Community Care reopened this month so we were able to help kick start their pantry by sharing some of what we received.



Christine and Graham Sturdy

A Season for Soup



Peter and Peta Thomas

Minestrone, broccoli & bacon, cabbage, pea & ham, pumpkin and chicken noodle. The variety is as endless as the cooks in the kitchen. The hot soup has been especially welcome during these cold months. If you are willing to make soup (at home or in our kitchen), please let Avril know.

Measuring the True Cost and Benefits

The UnitingCare Glenelg Board is in the process of finding ways to measure the actual cost and service provided by our Emergency Relief programme. Since July, we began tracking all food donations including non-perishables and home-made soup. We are also learning how to put a dollar amount on volunteer hours. These figures can be added to infrastructure expenses to reveal the true cost of running the ER programme.

We hope this picture will be useful when applying for grants and help our partners to understand the real nature of what happens on the ground. We are truly blessed by the generosity of so many. Also, the UCG Board is working with the Church Council to create a Memorandum of Understanding with the intention of clarifying the relationship between them. The data being collected will guide us as we look for ways to share the load of serving our community.

Growing Love

Thank you to the organisations and businesses who continue to help us grow love in Glenelg through their donations. Zonta has been a steady supporter with offerings of food, clothing and funds to purchase winter coats. Holdfast Rotary continues to provide BBQ on the third Tuesday evening of the month as well as gifting us with warm clothing. Baker's Delight, Carusos' and SA Gourmet Meat keep us in a steady supply of bread, fruit & veg, and protein.



Lachie from SA Gourmet Meat and Vicky from Zonta

Green Thumbs Needed

Spring is just around the corner—we promise!—and our garden is in need of attention. This space has great potential but needs fresh vision and willing hands to coordinate this project. Our hope is that it can provide a green and calming presence for those who visit. A few have mentioned the idea of a monthly market in the courtyard which would also be lovely.

The current planters have become overgrown or are in disrepair. We are open to a reconfiguration. If your interest is sparked by this opportunity, please speak with Avril or me (Christine).



Pantry Gets a Facelift

During the recent lockdown, many found themselves cleaning closets, drawers and gardens. Well, thanks to our fabulous volunteers, our non-perishable pantry has been organised, complete with labels on the shelves. This organisation makes it easier to find items quickly, especially when the food trollies in the Community Care room need to be restocked during the day.

Sustained by Prayer

In mid-July, we began gathering on Sundays to worship in community. In order to practice physical distancing and other COVID Safe procedures more easily, we've been meeting in the hall which is already full of spirit given the hospitality and friendship happening during the week.

All are welcome to this time of prayer and encouragement as we continue to journey through this challenging season. Gather at 9:45 to sanitise and sign-in for a 10:00 am start.

Tuesday evening prayers continue as well. This reflective gathering includes gentle music, prayers of intercession and candle lighting. We begin at approximately 7:15 pm and all are welcome.

*Peace be with you,
Christine*

Snapshot of One Day

Distribution on Thursday 6 August included:
190 kgs. of fruit and vegetables
30 kgs. of bread and bakery items
7 litres of hot soup
10 take away containers of beef stew
15 take away containers of chicken & rice
Plus 38 bags of non-perishables