

The logo for 'urbanlife news' is displayed on a dark background. 'urbanlife' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, with 'urban' in white and 'life' in orange. Below it, 'news' is written in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo is a solid orange rectangular area.

Note From Sue:

I was late getting this in to the church office, probably because I was writing for the December notice sheet, then Christmas was just around the corner and I didn't want to admit it. It's not that I don't enjoy Christmas; I love getting together with friends and family, spoiling loved ones and being spoiled myself. I love the smells of Christmas: the pudding with lashings of brandy, the ham that sits in the fridge and the fresh Christmas tree in corner.

I love hearing Christmas carols both cheesy and non.

I love the sense of anticipation, the secrets kept and the secrets blabbed.

The last thing I want to think about is the craziness of Christmas preparation: the shopping, the traffic, the stores, the crowds, the expense. I am putting it off for as long as possible, but I wouldn't want to miss it completely.

The Jewish people, on the other hand, had been waiting patiently (and not so patiently) for hundreds of years for the arrival of a saviour. Every Passover they gave thanks for their salvation and looked forward to the coming of the person who would free them from their lives of captivity. So much anticipation with so many feasts over so many years and the majority of them missed it when it finally happened.

These days, Christians all over the world celebrate the birth of a saviour at Christmas. As the time draws near they engage their FAITH in God, they share their LOVE for Him and each other, they are confident in the HOPE they have in the future and they celebrate with JOY the birth of Jesus.

Let's use this time at Advent to eagerly anticipate the celebrations at Christmas and prepare our hearts with love, joy, peace and hope.

Sue

We'd like to thank Sue for her work on the 'Note From Sue' over the past few years. It has been great to get a quirky and thought-provoking point of view from outside the urbanlife staff, but within the church family. There was always an idea or a thought that we could relate to! Sue will be having a break from this in 2010. So, "Thanks Sue"!

Missions Update:

In November we collected funds towards the SRS Christmas dinner, that has become an annual event at urbanlife. From that offering, we raised \$854. If you missed out, but still wish to give, direct deposits can still be made into the urbanlife bank account (BSB:063 885 Account: 1005 3608).

In December, we continue our ongoing support for the 2h Project, which brings health and hope to the people of Cambodia. 2h works with local communities to assist the poor and disadvantaged. They do this through cataract surgery, birthing programs, farming projects and micro-businesses. If you would like more information about the work they do, follow this link: <http://the2hproject.com/>

Café Cause:

The Café Cause for December aims to invite our café public to join with us in running the SRS Christmas Dinner (for residents of local Supported Residential houses). These are people who are struggling with mental illness or injury, and who may not be able to afford a nice lunch, or who would spend Christmas in isolation.

Café patrons, and local businesses have been invited to get involved, either by donating time, goods or money. The Café is selling bags of shortbread (made by urbanlifers) for \$2.50, along with some gorgeous home-made Christmas cards for \$2. Funds raised will go towards the cost of the lunch.

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SRS Christmas Lunch:

Yes, it is that time again, when we run around planning a fabulous Christmas lunch, with all the trimmings, for a bunch of people who might otherwise be having a very lonely Christmas.

Urbanlife are accepting donations of food, toiletries and gift items, as well as funds to assist with the costs. People can also get involved by helping out with the preparations or actually with the lunch on Christmas Day. At this stage, people are still needed to help with the post-lunch pack up.

If you can help, fill out a response card (available in café or on Sundays), or call the church office on 9879 8311.

Any donations can be delivered to urbanlife café 8:30am-4pm weekdays, or on Sunday mornings.

urbanlife kids:

A huge thanks once again to the wonderful team of volunteers who put their time and creative energy into teaching our precious kids. Your effort and dedication is truly appreciated!

If you are interested in being involved in urbanlife kids, whether on a regular basis or occasional support (eg during school holidays), please see Jo McNair or Katrina Farley.

During December the kids program will focus on Christmas. Please pray that the kids grasp that Christmas is about more than just Santa and presents.

6 December - Primary aged kids from 10.30 (Esther), creche for pre-schoolers from 11.00 (Narelle, Hannah)

13 December - Primary and pre-schoolers from 11.00 (Katrina, Stephen)

20 December - Primary and pre-schoolers from 11.00 (Calum/Jana, Hannah)

Summer holiday program - Primary and pre-schoolers from 11.00

27 December - no Sunday service

3 January - no kids program

10 January - Tony and Sharni

17 January - Laura and Hannah

24 January - Bronwyn and Hannah

31 January - Stephen and Deanne

Three of the current creche group are starting Prep in 2010 (Annika, Dylan, Ty). Please pray that they settle in well at school, and that the mums adjust to the big change!

What's on at urbanlife: December 2009

The Regulars:

My Dolls Space—every second Monday 11am-3:00pm

Chick with Sticks—meet every second Wednesday 12:30-3:30pm.

urbansafe Krav Maga—every Wednesday 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm. \$12, see David Stone for more info.

urbankids Playgroup—meet every Thursday morning. See Katrina Farley if you are interested in enrolling

Prime Timers—for people over 55 who enjoy friendship, company and support. See Bronwyn Dwight for details.

GT's and Life Groups—there are heaps of these meeting every week and there is bound to be one to suit you! So speak to Tony Crossett about how to get connected or pick up a GT brochure from the café.

Sunday celebration service—

Join us through the month of December as we celebrate and explore the themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Love & Joy.

Speakers and topics are listed below, and copies of previous messages can be purchased from Elisa.

Services start at 10:30am and concludes with coffee at 12:00pm.

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Week 1

Tue 1st Music Practice: 7:30-9:30pm
Wed 2nd urbansafe Krav Maga: 7:30-9:00pm
Thur 3rd urbankids Playgroup: 9:30-11:30am
Sat 5th Prime Timers: Christmas outing — contact Peter & Bronwyn Dwight on 8741-2998
Sun 6th Celebration Service: 10:30am-12pm—Advent: “Peace”, with Tony

Week 2

Tue 8th Music Practice: 7:30-9:30pm
Wed 9th urbansafe Krav Maga 7:30pm 9:00pm—FINAL for 2009
Thur 10th urbankids Playgroup: 9:30-11:30am
Sun 13th Celebration Service: 10:30am– 12:00pm—Advent: “Love”, with Anthea

Week 3

Mon 14th My Dolls Space: from 11:00am—FINAL for 2009
Tue 15th Music Practice: 7:30-9:30pm
Thur 17th urbankids Playgroup: 9:30-11:30am
Sat 19th Gift Bag packing– preparation for SRS Christmas Dinner
Sun 20th Celebration Service: 10:30am– 12:00pm– Advent: “Joy”, with Anthea

Week 4

Fri 25th Christmas Day! SRS Christmas Lunch at the urban
Sun 27th No Service

Sun 3rd Normal Sunday Celebration Service resumes: 10:30am-12:00pm
Jan 2010

[More Details?](#)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at reception@urbanlife.org.au or call 9879 8311