

Friday Forum 20 November 2015

7.15 -9.30pm Effective Living Centre 26 King William Rd Wayville

Speaker: Val Webb

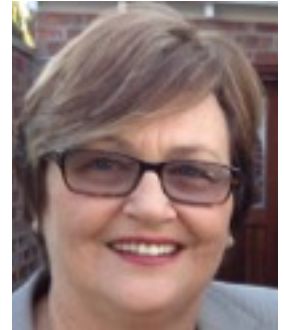
Testing Tradition and Liberating Theology

The evening commences with wine and cheese at 7.15pm, followed by the South Australian launch of the book *Testing Tradition and Liberating Theology*. This will be followed by a presentation by Val Webb, and an opportunity for questions, concluding at 9.30pm.

Tickets: \$20 waged, \$15 concession, \$12 Friends of ELC

Bookings: www.effectiveliving.org/pcnetsa

Enquiries: ph 08) 8271 0329 Tues, Wed, Fri 10-2.30



Networking Day Saturday 21st November 2015

Morning Program - Preaching the Progressive Message in the 21st Century

Speakers will be Alison Whish, Phil Carr, Jana Norman
10am coffee for a 10.30am start

Afternoon Program - Val Webb

Practising theological hospitality: building bridges not borders

There is no cost to Networkers for the day, but there will be a small fee for those who just wish to drop in to hear Val, in order to help defray the costs of her visit.

Please RSVP by Wednesday 18th November for catering purposes

phone: 8271 0329 Tues, Wed or Fri 10am - 2.30pm or email pcnet@effectiveliving.org

**Val Webb will also speak at Pilgrim UC on Sunday 22nd November at all three services
8am, 9.30am and 11am**

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY NETWORK of SA

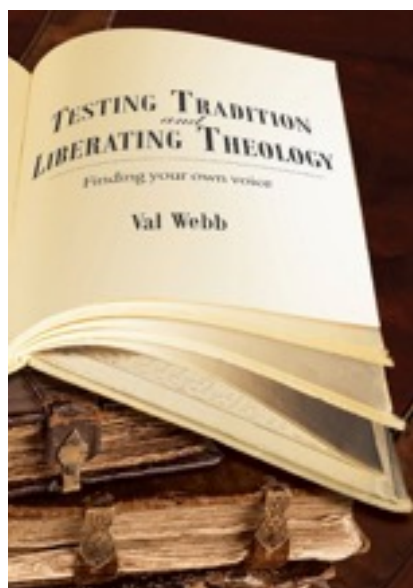
Mail c/- Effective Living Centre,
26 King William Rd,
Wayville 5034

Office Tues, Wed, Fri 10am-2.30pm

Committee Members 2015

Jonathan Barker	Maureen Howland
Ros Chittleborough	Sue Jarrad
Esmond Dowdy	David McKirdy
Jana Norman	

Testing Tradition and Liberating Theology - Val Webb



About the book

There has never been one truth, despite what people claim. Theological ideas have waxed and waned through history, taking conflicting turns with changing leaders, world views and political forces. This fast-paced, lay-friendly book, backed by serious, inquisitive scholarship, follows this maze, shining a spotlight into dark corners and dusty shelves to observe ideas silenced and others declared eternal. This book offers readers permission to think for themselves.

“Val Webb invites us into a broad yet comprehensive sweep of much that has influenced the theological landscape for today’s 21st Christian. In doing so Webb both encourages and provokes our thinking about who we are and what we believe. Above all, the book is a call to the lay people of the church to accept responsibility for their own theological explorations

and to no longer be shrinking violets in the important matters of informed faith”. Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes, Executive Director of the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria-Tasmania.

About the author

Val Webb is an Australian theologian who holds graduate degrees in science and a Ph.D. in theology. She has taught in universities in the United States and Australia and has written ten books including *Like Catching Water in a Net: human attempts to describe the Divine* which won the religion category of Best Books USA Award in 2007. She now lives in Mudgee, Australia. Val is in demand as a speaker both in Australia and internationally. (www.valwebb.com.au).



Common Dreams Brisbane

17th and 18th September 2016, Somerville House Brisbane QLD

<https://www.facebook.com/cd4brisbane>

Networking Day Saturday 21st November 2015

Morning Program - Preaching the Progressive Message in the 21st Century

10 am Coffee

10.30am - 11.00am Speakers - Alison Whish, Phil Carr, Jana Norman

11.00am - 11.30 Small Group Discussion

11.30 -12.30 Speakers' panel and small group sharing

12.30pm - 1.30pm Lunch (provided for a donation)

Afternoon Program - Val Webb

Practising theological hospitality: building bridges not borders

Workshop 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Preaching the Progressive Message in the 21st Century

Progressive theological thought has become more evident in church life, as part of the diversity of the church. This poses challenges to those preaching to a diverse congregation, and of being inclusive of those who have both literal and non-literal interpretations of the bible, as well as holding varying views towards language, creeds and rituals. This workshop has presentations from three speakers on this topic, followed by questions to the panel. Expect a lively conversation as we navigate this difficult terrain respectfully and creatively!



Alison Whish

Alison is an ordained minister and has recently returned to the Synod of SA as minister with the Newland Memorial congregation in Victor Harbor, after placements in Tasmania and Victoria. As the Presbytery Minister Leadership Development in Tasmania her role was to support the development of leaders across the island, as the many small communities, often lead by lay leaders, asked questions about their future life as church. Her prior experience in the Mid North of SA while General Manager at Uniting-Care Wesley Country SA offered some insight into the challenges the Uniting Church in Tasmania is facing. Alison enjoys singing and vigorous conversations on diverse topics.



Phil Carr

An ordained minister of the UCA since 1969, Phil Carr maintained pastoral responsibilities and contributed to church boards and committees on both State and National level. He was Executive Officer, Cancer Support Fellowship, Founding Director, Malvern Centre for Counselling, a professional member of both state and national counselling associations, and a lecturer in the School of Medicine at Flinders University. His approach to preaching has evolved over many decades, and he now finds his sermon content to be more conversational than deductive...sharing from his heart to the listener's. Phil aims to take a non-traditional slant to the text to surprise and make the original context palpably real, with practical application.



Jana Norman

Jana Norman has been a minister at Pilgrim Uniting Church for four years. Pilgrim is an exciting and challenging place in terms of progressive theology expressed through a variety of liturgical styles, lots of engagement with the wider community, and long-standing commitments to reconciliation and renewal. Prior to Adelaide, Jana worked for Territory Palliative Care, Berrimah Prison, and Nightcliff Uniting Church in Darwin. Jana was ordained 22 years ago in the historic, socially progressive UCC. She holds a Masters in Divinity from Yale University and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Florida. She has written and edited theological and liturgical resources for socially engaged congregations for many years, among current interests

being research into how worship relates to evidence-based indicators of spiritual well-being. **PAGE 3**

Networking Day Saturday 21st November 2015

Practising theological hospitality: building bridges not borders

In this workshop, Val will discuss the future of the progressive Christian movement and how we can keep all doors open without creating new religious boxes. She finds that some leaders hailed as "progressive" today are off in directions that many do not go, but everyone becomes labelled with the same brush, and sometimes excluded from being a voice in many settings that need our voice. Val will talk about the aims, hopes and future directions of the progressive movement, and how to keep the movement useful to people who in taking first steps out of traditions may be frightened by some of the emerging "atheism" language. She will link this with her new book which holds this together by offering many ways to think, without demanding one as best.



Report : Climate Change - the Science and the Lies

The Friday Forum *Climate Change: the Science and the Lies*, held at Pilgrim Uniting Church on Sept 4th was a great success with over 130 people attending.

Our thanks to our excellent presenters, Prof Tony Eggleton and Rev Brian Phillips for an enlightening and informative evening.

Tony Eggleton gave us an in-depth look at the science behind climate change with compelling data that left us in no doubt as to the human contribution to global warming. Brian Phillips emphasised the fact that our world is rapidly changing, and that we need to respond ethically and urgently, by identifying what is happening, realising what this will lead to, and deciding what it is that we need to do.

Both speakers were unequivocal that this is the most serious challenge facing humankind, and that it's past the time for feel-good platitudes. To quote Brian "we've had almost seventy years of fiddling while the planet burns". Its time to put our knowledge into practice and to become eco-warriors.

We were left wanting more, and asking, "Where to from here?"

If you were unable to attend, or would like to revisit the presentations, you can download a copy from the PilgrimUC website www.pilgrim.org.au/climate2015/

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

Would you like to be listed on the PCNet database to receive the newsletter electronically or would you like to update your details? Do you know of anyone who might like to receive the PCNet newsletter? Phone the Effective Living Centre, 8271 0329 Tues, Wed or Fri, 10am-3pm or email pcnet@effectiveliving.org with your contact details.