



College News December 2023

Joan Riley, Principal

Enrolments are open for study in 2024! Please contact Academic Dean and Acting Registrar Dr Damian Szepessy for enrolment and study plan advice – dszepessy@sbc.edu.au

It is the season of Advent and St Barnabas College has just completed its first year with University of Divinity. We have come a long way in a short time and a lot has happened in between. As a member college of the University, we are one of twelve denominationally based institutions and one of three in Adelaide. Our partner colleges in Adelaide are the Australian Lutheran College and Uniting College for Leadership and Theology. Nationally, we are one of four Anglican colleges. This presents opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing. We are stronger together than apart, which is important in current Australian higher education, especially theological education, and the rapidly changing environment of our church communities.

We're looking forward to congratulating the first St Barnabas College graduates of University of Divinity on Thursday 14 December at Adelaide City West Uniting Church at 7.30 pm. **Dean**



McDonald and Andrew Mintern will graduate at this inaugural event.

As Advent reminds us of a season of new beginning, we also remember what has been before. In October we saw the final class of Charles Sturt University students taught by The Rev'd Dr Cathy Thomson. One season has closed as another begins. I give thanks for the time we journeyed with CSU and St Mark's College, remembering that much learning happened and good relationships were formed between students and between staff members. Many lay leaders and clergy in South Australia received their degrees from CSU and will have good memories of those years. Cathy has now retired from teaching at the College, and everyone wishes her well as she continues to minister, now at St Catherine's Church in Elizabeth Downs, and beyond that as God leads her.



The final CSU lecture for St Barnabas College, 5 October 2023

Theologian in Residence



From 23-25 September, The Rev'd Professor Dorothy Lee, Research Professor of the New Testament at Trinity Theological School in Melbourne, visited Adelaide as part of our Cathedral-College education program. Dorothy conducted a seminar at St Barnabas College, public lecture at St Peter's Cathedral, and preached at the Sunday eucharist services. Dorothy was inspiring as she delved into the Gospel of John and shared her insights and deep theological wisdom.

The Rev'd Professor Dorothy Lee delivering an inspiring seminar at St Barnabas College

Staff Movements

In October we farewelled Jennifer Ramos from Education Administration Officer. Jennifer had only been part of the College staff for a short time, but quickly became part of the staff family. Jennifer has moved on to be the Executive Assistant to the Archbishop of Adelaide. This means she is only next door, and we still see her happy, smiling face nearly every day!



Jennifer's last day at St Barnabas College

Alison St Jack, Academic Registrar and Administration Manager is also leaving us at the end of this year. Alison is moving into a higher calling of caring for her lovely family in a more active way. We will miss Alison so much. Her wisdom and experience in universities has been invaluable over the last almost two years and she has been a key person in the accreditation process to become a member college of the University. And most importantly she is a warm, welcoming, and patient human being.



Alison and Joan on the day we sent the final application to the University!

University Studies at St Peter's College

An exciting initiative between St Barnabas College, St Peter's College and University of Divinity will commence in 2024. In this program advanced Year 12 students will study a Theology subject onsite at the school which will contribute to their SACE and be accredited fully by the University. Experienced lecturer and theologian The Rev'd Dr Theo McCall, who already teaches with the school and College, will guide students through their first experience of university studies. Some of the school staff will study alongside the Year 12s towards a Graduate Certificate in Theology, working toward their own professional development. Please pray for this program which is a pilot for University of Divinity.

University Studies at St Peter's College Program – here are key staff (L-R) Mr Nick Carter, Academic Deputy, The Rev'd Dr Theo McCall, Chaplain and teacher, lecturer at SBC, and Mr Simon Roberts-Thomson, Director of Studies, outside the Old School House at St Peter's College



Centre for Missional Research and Praxis

St Barnabas College is preparing to engage in research in mission and praxis in an Australian context. Following the intention of the Vision of the Diocese of Adelaide, the College is seeking to draw in students and scholars interested in energising the life of the Church by creating a space for sharing ideas, building collegiality, and working together on projects which focus on the mission of God and the practical application to serve God's work in the world. Watch this space!

Greek Reading Group

St Barnabas College Greek Reading Group has come a long way. From our early beginnings in 2019 struggling with the Gospel of John, we have moved through the harder texts of the Letter to the Ephesians, Philemon, Hebrews, and then the Hellenistic Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria. First, we tackled parts of *On Abrahamo* and this year we have been working steadily through *De Opificio Mundi*. We have learned so much about Hellenistic Platonism and Jewish theology and have been challenged in our Greek language. Next year we are planning to read something else...

If you would like to join the Greek Reading Group at an advanced level, or if you are interested in starting at a more beginner's level, please contact Joan! You will be welcome.

St Barnabas College Supporting the Diocese of Adelaide Domestic and Family Violence Working Group

At the beginning of 2023 I handed over the role of convening the Domestic and Family Violence Working Group to The Rev'd Paula Bullock. The group continues to meet at the College, and we work together to support prevention and response to this social scourge. Caralyn Lammas, Coordinator of Education Programs is now leading the MATE training rollout across the Diocese and is coordinating events to try and engage a wider group of people in the important work of prevention and response to violence in our communities. Although there was insufficient attendance to go ahead with the White Ribbon You Can Ask That panel event on 23 November, the working group and Synod Office staff gathered at the Cathedral to read a Mother's Union litany and light candles while the Cathedral bells rang for one hour to commemorate the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The following day some of us attended



a rally on the steps of Parliament House calling for a Royal Commission and noting that four women had been killed in one week in South Australia.



Library News

Katrina Dal Lago, Librarian

Clive Rodger Donation

A Milestone Morning Tea was held in the library on 9 November to celebrate the end of processing and cataloguing the large quantity of books donated by Clive Rodger in 2015. These books went towards developing the library as you know it today. While the original donation included approximately 70,000 books, after all the sorting and processing, 29,700 books have now been added to the library. Over the last 8 years, many volunteers have worked tirelessly performing various tasks such as sorting, cataloguing, and processing to ensure they are available to borrow. The Milestone Morning Tea acknowledged the work of all volunteers past and present, and we celebrated their accomplishments in completing this massive project. In 2024, many of the current volunteers will continue working in the library doing other tasks to support the library and its users.

St Barnabas Rare Books

We are happy to announce that the St Barnabas rare books collection has been relocated from Flinders University back to St Barnabas College. As background, the St Barnabas Collection was given to the Flinders University Library in 1986 when St Barnabas' Theological College was located in Belair. Many of the volumes were published before 1800, and the earliest book in the collection is a selection of the works of Lactantius, a 2nd century CE theologian and rhetorician, published in 1532. Also notable is a 1533 edition of the Works of Gregory the Great, which features pieces cut from a contemporary manuscript as endpapers. There are nearly 1300 titles in the collection.

A significant portion of the collection came from the library of the Right Rev'd Augustus Short, first Bishop of Adelaide (1847 - 1881). In 1881, the year of his retirement, he donated many of his books to two libraries, and others were added later by his family. One of these was the library of the then new St Barnabas' Theological College, established in 1881 in North Adelaide, and the other was the Theological and Ecclesiastical Library of the Diocese of Adelaide, in Leigh Street, which was set up for use of the clergy.

Now, the collection will live at St Barnabas College, and time will be spent assessing the items one by one. Before this, however, background work needs to be done to evaluate how the collection will be curated. In the meantime, it is lovely knowing that these books have come home again.

Looking Ahead

In 2024 the Cathedral-College education program will include:

- *The Gospel of Mark in an Era of Loneliness*, a public lecture to be given by The Rev'd Dr Michael Trainor at the Cynthia Poulton Hall on **Thursday 29 February at 7 pm**.
- *Creation and the Cross*, a book by renowned theologian Elizabeth Johnson – reading group led by Rev'd Canon Jenny Wilson and Rev'd Grant Moore on every second

Wednesday of the month at 2pm in St Barnabas College, June-November, in person or on zoom.

- Theologian in Residence: The Rev'd Rachel Taber-Hamilton, indigenous North American theologian. Dates and more information to follow.

Community of Learning Programs – for information on forthcoming non-accredited programs, seminars, learning and professional development opportunities contact Caralyn Lammas at educationprograms@sbc.edu.au

Christmas Holiday Closure

The College will be closed at:

12:00 pm on Thursday 21 December 2023 and will reopen at 9:00 am Monday 8 January 2024.

Library Closure

The library will be closed for a longer period from: **12:00 pm on Thursday 21 December 2023 and will reopen at 9:00 am Monday 22 January 2024.**

Please remember:

- If you have finished with your library books, please return all items before the closure date.
- Contact the library for a renewal if you would like to keep books over the break.
- The reservations and document scanning services will be unavailable during the library closure.

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May you be deeply blessed in this season of Advent as we reflect on the cosmic event of the birth of Jesus in Nazareth so long ago and yet so imminent in the presence of Christ among us.