

To all our supporters who faithfully pray and encourage us in so many ways, we thank you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whom we find our hope and our purpose.



As Advent looms large on the horizon, Christmas follows, then a whole new year! How quickly it has moved. October has been a busy blend of ministry and family activities. Steve has attended the Diocesan Clergy Retreat and the Board of Ministry, while our family has been camping on the Murray (left) and getting our first taste of the Bendigo Agricultural Show, both pleasant ways to spend sunny Spring times.

One of the more intriguing days in October was the 'Great Cow Rescue' when a cow in the paddock next to us got sick a day after calving, and was noticed by Steve early that morning. As the farmers gathered, they tried hoisting her to a standing position that night but couldn't manage it. However the next morning she was up and eating happily, and now both calf and cow are healthy and happy (pictured). We love this bush ministry!



Another wonderful development is the regular contacts we are getting from unchurched families, where Steve can go and share a clear Gospel presentation with them. There are many thirsty people in this area, and your prayers are breaking through the barriers and allowing us to offer living water. Keep praying that they will hear and receive Christ into their hearts!!

Among the regular pastoral responsibilities, November will be used to prepare for Christmas and 2012, with Christmas services being promoted, Community Carols events being planned and Parish strategic planning days for the next year. The good news is that Steve is to be Priested on the 17th December in Bendigo by Bishop Andrew Curnow. This will enable him to serve the Church in celebrating Communion and providing a Priestly ministry to the local communities.

Please join with us in praising God for:

- The ever growing networks within the community that we are finding ourselves in, and the many opportunities these present to share the message of Christ crucified and risen.
- The time we had as a family to relax and enjoy some life away from front line ministry.
- New families seeking contact with the Church through baptism, KUCA, CRE, Family Church.
- The growth of community in Family Church.
- The acceptance of Steve to be ordained into the Priesthood in December.
- The foundational support from Holy Trinity Flora Hill (South East Bendigo Anglican Parish) that keeps us grounded and cared for in very 'real' ways.

Areas that we would appreciate your prayers in are:

- A number of people in our local congregations are undergoing surgery and others are facing life-changing circumstances very difficult. Pray for perseverance and patience for them, and for us as we walk with each one.
- The Strathfieldsaye Community Carols on December 5th.
- Wisdom in how to reach out to the multitudes gathering at Lake Eppalock over the summer peak season.
- The ongoing development of our understanding of this shared Anglican-Uniting ministry and healthy responses to unforeseen complications.
- Pray for the people of our Church as we commit to pray daily: *"Lord, please show us what you are calling the church in Strathfieldsaye and Emu Creek to do in our community. Amen."*

Steve, Vanessa, Alyssa and Zoe Weickhardt.

Email: s.weickhardt@bushchurcaid.com.au

Post: 918 Wellington St, Strathfieldsaye, Vic, 3551.

Mobile: 0419 004 103

Phone: (03) 5439 4817

