

Embracing Ministries

An initiative of the Anglican church of Canberra and Goulburn

Minnows Music 2019 Term 1

Baby & Preschool Minnow
Starts 10am on Fri 15th Feb

Primary Minnows Group 10am
on Sat 23rd Feb



Booking is essential contact
info@embracingministries.org

Christmas for a Parent with a child with special needs

This year I wanted to get to one of Embracing Ministries Christmas services. But it was just too hard as my little one is sick. I especially thought I would be able to attend the Anglicare service as I thought the kids would be in school, sadly my son was sick so I didn't get there. The lack of inclusion is one of the main reasons we do not attend church. I think honestly that churches are one of the least inclusive places for parents with children with disability.



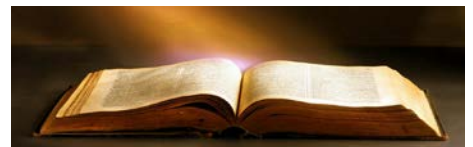
I was so blessed that Andrea shared her Christmas talk with me through email and it affected me in so many ways. I forget that not all people live in the disability world I guess that's why including us is so hard. Before having a child with disability I was scared of disability, mainly because I was ignorant, I didn't know much about it or what it would mean to our family. But I have discovered that disability has become my life. You learn, you grow, you live. And so much of life goes on as before. After reading Andrea's talk it struck me that her talk of finding love in the most unlikely places is important. How smart you are is not as important as how well you are loved or how much you love others. I didn't know that before my kids came into my life. We live in a culture that praises intellect over kindness, a culture that values a high IQ more than compassion. But at the end of our lives those things will matter little, what will matter is how we lived life, how we loved, how we reached out with open hearts. Perhaps to some the little milestones go unnoticed, or they seem insignificant, but when you parent a child with a disability, no milestone goes unnoticed. You become so aware of the small things, and those small things have a way of bursting your heart with pride for your child. I have had the great joy to share those experiences with other families through Embracing Ministries this year.

Because we notice milestones, we celebrate. We celebrate the small and the big, we celebrate with others around us. The team at Embracing Ministries have sat with us in tricky times. The tears shed at hospitals, for the tears of helplessness, the tears of loss.

But in those dark moments God has brought the most amazing people into my life who understand this journey as intimately as I do. And I have learned what it means to allow God to be in control when I feel things are too hard. Those tears have given me strength, helped me to move past my own needs and care for the needs of others. I give thanks for the encouragement, love and care from the Minnow Embracing Ministries Team.



The key message this year I would like to share is love is freely given, with expecting nothing in return. We love because we are loved. Thank you to all who volunteer at Embracing Ministries and Anglicare with love from a thankful mother.



Wednesday Morning Prayer

Revd Andrea will be leading Morning prayer, term time starting from the 6th February from 9am-9.30am. This is open to all people and will be held at the meeting room in the Anglicare office in Holt. For more information contact Andrea.

Embracing Ministry supports and nurtures the spiritual life of all people, regardless of their abilities

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Retreats for 2019

In 2019 we have planned a number of retreats. These retreats are for all carers and parents of a child (any aged child) with a disability.

As we minister to many families across Canberra we have created retreats for those who live Northside and Southside of Canberra for the encouragement of friendships, relationships and support between people who live in the same area. However, this is a suggestion as all people are welcome on any retreat.

This year we will also be offering a Christian retreat for those who would like to have a time of prayer, meditation and bible study. We will use the Benedictine Abbey for this retreat. In 2019 the retreat at the Abbey are 21st -23rd June & 20th - 22nd Sep. All people are welcome as the Abbey also offers a place of quiet and rest.

For the Northside group we offer the 15th Feb and the 18th Oct. For the Southside group we offer the 10th May and the 26th July. Please remember that people welcome to either retreat.

If you would like to book into a retreat please contact the Embracing Ministries office by email info@embracingministries.org To book your place this year we ask for a payment of \$60 to secure your place.

Embracing Ministries

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Bank Details:

Anglican Investment Development Fund (AIDF)

BSB 702 389

Acc: 0520 9841



After the success of Little Treasures last year, Embracing Ministries will now be offering our second Little Treasures Christian Holiday program in the Easter school holidays for Primary School children of all abilities. We are so blessed and thankful for our partnership with Radford college as they have offered the use of their Early Learning Centre again this year. We give thanks for this wonderful provision and their generosity.

14th April Little Treasures 2pm-3pm

Family meet and greet is a chance to get to know the leaders and mentors on the program.

15th-18th April Little Treasures Christian Program 9am-2:30pm

The theme and stories will be Celebrating and journeying towards Easter. Each day will have a different part of the story. We will end the program with a end of program service at 2.30 on the 17th April were we will celebrate the gift of all people being welcome to the banquet table together.



Schools Ministry Sunday

This Sunday is a chance for churches to start the school year by praying for students, parents, teachers and Christian ministries in schools. Resources can be found on the CEIS website <https://www.ceis.org.au/>

If you would like a social story to help your child settle back at school, please contact Andrea. Social stories can help your child get excited about school and assist with any anxiety or worries they may have.

On the 9th February Churches are encouraged to celebrate and pray for all school ministries. Celebrating all school ministries in the ACT, including SUACT, Christian Education In Schools (CEIS), School Chaplaincy ACT, The Salvation Army, Young Life, Fusion and breakfast clubs and SUPA clubs.

Embracing Ministries will be celebrating Schools ministry Sunday on the 3rd February at St Barnabas in Charnwood at 9am and at St Michaels in Hall at 11am. We will take the opportunity to pray for children, parents and staff as the school year commences 2019.

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