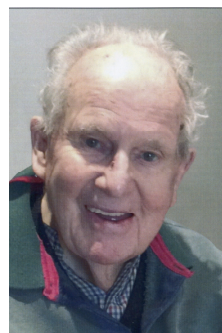


In Memoriam

Rev. Donald George Haydon
12 April 1926—2 March 2017



Rev. Don Haydon, who died at nearly 91 earlier this year, will be remembered by many as a sportsman, a good student with tertiary qualifications in Arts and Theology, and a faithful, effective and much-loved minister and leader within the Methodist Church and the Uniting Church.

Don's ministries spanned more than four decades, from his probationary appointment at Mt Gambier in 1949 to his retirement from Clayton-Wesley in 1991. In her *Pastoral Note* in March of this year, the SA Moderator, Rev. Sue Ellis, described Don's ministry as "spiritually mature, academically sustained and morally courageous" and noted that he

preached and taught the gospel for daily living and had a warm pastoral heart. He was a conscientious administrator, diligently keeping meticulous records and was skilled in leading meetings. He served the church office at Methodist District and Conference levels, as well as at Uniting Church Presbytery and Synod levels.

In retirement, Don continued to serve the church in interim ministry positions, as part of the Uniting Church congregation at Brighton, SA, and, from 1999 until 2011, as Synod Archivist. He was a member of the Historical Society for 38 years, and served on its Council from 1992 until 2011.

The History Centre is always looking for information about people who've served the church in various ways.

Recently, the following people, who have contributed much during their lifetimes, have died.

- *Frank Cornish—member at Malvern, and previously at Blackwood. Old scholar of PAC.*
- *Mary Ruth Thomas, a very active member at Blackwood.*
- *Robert (Bob) William Piper, member at Malvern, old scholar of PAC, founder of Piper Alderman, lawyers.*

If you have any information about ordained or lay members of the Uniting Church or its predecessor churches, we would be glad to add it to our files.

Please send it to ucsahist@chariot.net.au



Argent Uniting Church closes its doors

Argent Uniting Church⁽¹⁾ held its concluding service of worship on Sunday 30 April 2017, bringing to a close its 169 years of Christian witness and service in Payneham. This had begun as early as 1845 when Primitive Methodists established themselves as a worshipping community in the area. Meeting first in 'camp meetings', and in private homes, they officially opened their first chapel on 30 January 1848. A larger and more substantial building replaced this first chapel in 1859, and over subsequent decades this was extended to meet the needs of a growing congregation with a vibrant congregational life. In 1900 this Primitive Methodist congregation joined the newly united Methodist Church of South Australia and in 1977 became part of the Uniting Church in Australia. In 2010, despite demographic change and declining numbers, and the curtailing of many of the congregation's activities and services, Argent's historian wrote in positive terms about its future:

The life of the community has, and continues to be, faithful and fruitful. Activities may have changed over the years, as the needs of the community have changed, but the life of the congregation has remained rich and full. ⁽²⁾

Now, just seven years later, Argent Uniting Church has closed and that optimism may seem misplaced. However, as its congregation affirmed in the final litany of the concluding service:

We come together with so many good and treasured memories . . . as we say farewell to this hallowed place. We come together also with great hope for continuing our life of faith within various congregations nearby. ⁽³⁾

Argent was served by 42 ministers over its 169 years. In retirement, one of our Council members, Rev. Lindsay Faulkner, was attached to the congregation and officiated as worship leader at the closing service.

- (1) The church was originally known as Payneham Primitive Methodist Church. At the time of Methodist Union it became known as Argent Street Methodist Church. The word 'Street' was subsequently dropped from its name when street names in the Payneham district underwent change, but the retention of the name 'Argent' maintained a sentimental connection with earlier times.
- (2) Linnell Hopkins, *Amen...a history of the faith community of Argent Uniting Church*, Linnell Hopkins, St Peters, South Australia, 2010, p. 10.
- (3) *Argent Uniting Church: liturgy for the concluding service of worship and entrusting the property to the Presbytery and Synod of South Australia*, 2:30 pm, Sunday 30 April 2017.



Uniting History SA July 2017

Making Uniting Church History

Guest Editor: Dr Judith Raftery

The energy generated by the inaugural Uniting Church National History Conference, held at Pilgrim Church, Adelaide, 9-12 June 2017, took many people by surprise. Sixty-one people registered as participants, most of them for the whole conference and a few as day registrants. Of these, 30 were from South Australia and 31 from interstate. Admittedly this was not a huge turnout, given that there are approximately 70 members of our local Uniting Church South Australia Historical Society alone. However, those who were involved in the conference — who presented papers, listened to the papers and points of view of others, enjoyed the special evening events, joined in workshops, took part in a special celebratory service on the Sunday morning, networked over meals and coffee, and worked with admirable concentration during the final business session — expressed great enthusiasm for this pioneering venture, and for the Uniting Church National History Society that was formally inaugurated during the conference.

The organising committee accepted 18 papers for presentation on the Saturday of the conference. Two of these were withdrawn before the conference began, but the 16 that were presented, in two parallel streams, were evidence of considerable breadth of interest in the history of the Uniting Church and its antecedent denominations among laity and clergy, and among amateur and academic historians alike. They generated lively discussion among their listeners, and pointed to further areas of research waiting to be pursued. All of this was very gratifying to those of us who had taken a punt on being able to organise a national conference and had believed that among Uniting Church people there were plenty who could provide us with the intellectual stimulus and pastoral and ecclesial challenges that would make it viable.

And there will be more such conferences. As part of a discussion on the draft constitution for the new Uniting Church National History Society, participants at this inaugural conference agreed to hold national conferences biennially, and gratefully accepted the offer of the Victorian-Tasmanian Historical Society to host the next one, in Melbourne, in 2019. Of course conferences aren't the only way of promoting our history, and they won't be the only thing that the newly

appointed national committee* focuses on. But they will continue to provide those of us who are committed to preserving and reflecting on our history a means to support each other and learn from each other. If you missed this first history-making conference, please consider being at the next one.

Dr Judith Raftery
President, UCSAHS and Convener, Conference Organising Committee

*The members of this committee are William Emilsen (NSW, chairperson), Wendy Beresford-Maning (NT), Alison Longworth (WA), Glen O'Brien (NSW), Julia Pitman (Qld), Judith Raftery (SA), Robert Renton (Vic-Tas).

Our Next Meeting

Our meeting on Sunday 8 October will be a panel conversation, and the topic of discussion will be **Leaders of the Women's Suffrage Movement in SA.**



Brougham Place Uniting Church

This panel discussion will explore the values and convictions of church members who led the women's suffrage movement in SA in the late 19th century. To be held in Brougham Place Uniting Church, North Adelaide at 2:30 pm.

This will also be an opportunity to appreciate the significance of this 1861 heritage-listed building and to hear about the influential ministry of Rev. James Jefferis, the progressive Christianity leader of his day!

Afternoon tea will follow.



A Pilgrim People: 40 Years On

National Uniting Church History Conference



All of this is us

Uniting Church in Australia

Highlights of the Uniting Church National History Conference

According to written feedback provided by participants, conference highlights included:

- a great choice of worship leader (NSW Moderator, Rev. Myung Hwa Park) who offered stimulating cross-cultural worship experiences
- the keynote address from Associate Professor Renate Howe: wonderful, informed, wise, pertinent, insightful, timely, a challenging opening to the conference
- the Sunday night celebration: inspiring, an excellent reflection on the three traditions, a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of the new society and the birthday of the UCA
- the catering: excellent, hospitable, will be hard to equal

and the most important take-aways were:

- being energised for preserving and promoting UCA history, enthusiasm for the task ahead
- feeling encouraged by prophetic and visionary messages
- good networking, meeting old friends and new people
- hoping that some of the issues raised will be followed up by synods and Assembly

As one participant summed it up:

"If the UCA continues to engage with its history and if everyone becomes 'rememberers' there is great hope for the future for the UCA."

A major thank you

The success of the conference owed much to the generosity of Pilgrim Uniting Church, which made its facilities and the services of many of its members available throughout the weekend. Conference participants greatly appreciated the graciousness and

efficiency with which this support was offered. The Historical Society offers Pilgrim its heartfelt thanks, and acknowledges the various costs borne by volunteer caretakers, overtaxed 'techies' and the 'hospitality team' who, working in conditions not really up to the task, kept us so well-fed and watered.

The next edition of the newsletter will include a summary of Associate Professor Renate Howe's keynote address.



