



Peel Valley Congregation

Hallsville & West Tamworth



9 August 2026

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

Matthew 14:22-33 (NLT)

Jesus Walks on Water

²² Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home.

²³ After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves.

²⁵ About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water.

²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

²⁸ Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

²⁹ "Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

³² When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.

³³ Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

Other Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Romans 10:5-15
Psalms 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b



"Fear is the glue that keeps you stuck.
Faith is the solvent that sets you free."

~ Shannon L. Alder

Minister's Reflection

Stepping Away, Stepping Toward

In Matthew 14:22-33, we meet Jesus in a moment of deliberate withdrawal. After feeding the five thousand, he sends the disciples ahead and goes up the mountain by himself to pray. It's a small detail in a dramatic story, yet it carries enormous weight. Before Jesus walks on water, before Peter steps out of the boat, before the storm is calmed—Jesus steps away.

That rhythm matters. Jesus serves, then rests. He teaches, then listens. He gives himself fully to the crowds, then gives himself fully to God. His retreat is not an escape from ministry; it is what enables ministry to continue with clarity, courage, and compassion.

The UCA acknowledges that Ministers and lay leaders alike need to follow that same rhythm. The work of pastoring is a joy and a privilege, but it is also demanding. Rev Sam and I carry stories, sorrows, hopes, and responsibilities that don't always fit neatly into a calendar. Each year I have made it a priority to attend a spiritual retreat for ordained Ministers. This coming week I am attending a retreat organised by Saltbush for ministers in rural placements which will be held at Saint Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong, NSW from 10 August - 13 August. A spiritual retreat is not a holiday but rather it is a time to let God speak without the noise of deadlines, meetings, or expectations. It is a time to remember that before I am a leader, I am a disciple.

The story on the lake shows what happens when we neglect the rhythm Jesus models. The disciples are battered by the wind, straining at the oars, overwhelmed by forces they cannot control. Jesus comes to them from a place of prayer, steady and centred. Peter steps out of the boat with courage, but when fear rises, he sinks. Jesus lifts him—not with frustration, but with compassion.

Retreats help ministers return to the boat with that same steadiness. They help us face storms without being swallowed by them. They help us recognise Jesus' voice when the wind is loud. They help us lead not from exhaustion, but from renewal.

Thank you for allowing me time to step away to pray so that I may return ready to walk with you through whatever waters lie ahead.

Rev Geoff



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We continue to pray for Lynne Bowd, who had part of her lung removed last Thursday. She is still in hospital in Sydney.
- We pray for Bill Davidson who has cancer.
- We pray for people working for peace.
- We give thanks for sunshine, fires and heaters.
- We give thanks for medical staff who seek to bring healing and wholeness.

Meg's Musings

Today hasn't been an easy day.

53 years ago our first baby was born - with heart and lung problems.

John lived for less than 3 months, yet I still miss him. As Laurie died last September, this is the first birthday that I have remembered John without having someone around who also knew and loved him. It reminded me that we can never know what other people are going through at any particular time. But God knows. He cares about our highs and lows, our joys and our sorrows.

God is there for each one of us, ready to share as much, or as little, as we are ready to share with Him. God understands - always.

Blessings from Meg

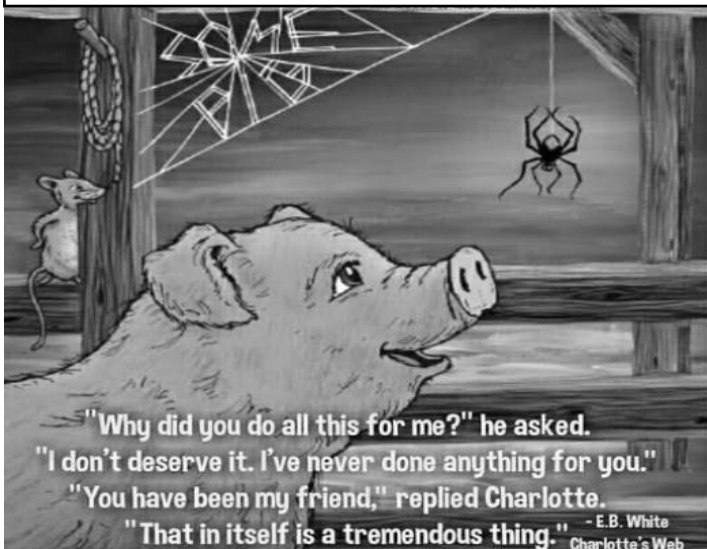


CHURCH SERVICES 11am West

16 August ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

23 August ~ Meg Mangan

30 August ~Worsh & Get Togheter @ Southside followed by lunch



A religious person will do whatever he is told, but a spiritual person will do what is right, no matter what he is told.~Carol Santana

A teacher gave her students a test with just one question... and the answer changed their entire outlook on life.

On the paper was a simple drawing: A CHAIR.

And the question: "What's the most important part of this chair?"

The students wrote answers:

- The legs
- The seat
- The backrest



When the paper came in, the teacher shook her head. "None of you got it right." She smiled and said: "It's the part you don't see. The screws holding them together. Without them, the chair collapses."

In life, it's the same. It's not always the big, visible things that matter most. It's the unseen support - family, health, kindness, small daily choices. We focus so much on the big pieces, but forget what truly holds us together - The unseen screws.

Never take the invisible screws in your life for granted. They are the reason you're still standing. ~ unknown



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville
9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday.
Cuppa and a chat always available.

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

The Treasures of Fab Finds

The items we get are a wonderful mix,
Like people, they vary, from baubles to bricks,
Each has a purpose, a use, and a place,
With its own characteristics and beauty and grace.

The **pillowcases** arrive, so resilient and tough,
To protect all our pillows when sleeping gets rough,
While **Leeja** is working, resourceful and thorough,
Inspecting each seam from the edge to the furrow.

The **cushions** are piled, so plump and so soft,
Designed to hold weary old spirits aloft,
While **Sharon** steps in, most supportive and kind,
The gentlest soul that you ever will find.

The freshly washed **sheets** are reliable and clean,
The sturdiest bedding that you've ever seen,
While **Fay** is on duty, so caring and bright,
Ensuring the bric-a-brac is displayed just right.

The heavy **wool blankets** are built to endure,
To keep out the chill and keep families secure,
While **Meg** wanders by, ever thoughtful and warm,
A comforting presence in any cold storm.

The delicate **doilies** of intricate lace,
Are filled with old-fashioned and elegant grace,
While **Trish**, optimistic, is humming a tune,
And brightening up the whole afternoon.

The kitchen-bound **aprons** are built for hard graft,
To protect from the spills of the culinary craft,
While **Judy** stays practical, helpful, and quick,
At clearing the clutter and doing the trick.

The boxes of **books** are informative and wise,
Full of logic and facts to open your eyes,
While **Gale**, analytical, tidy, and smart,
Can tell every author and title apart.

The wire **coat hangers** are steady and strong,
To hold up the heavy coats all winter long,
While **Paul**, most dependable, out in the back,
Is moving the boxes and clearing the rack.

The fluffy, thick **doonas** are joyful and bright,
Bringing sheer luxury into the night,
While **Leanne**, compassionate, bubbling with glee,
Is making the rounds with a hot cup of tea.

The leather-bound **shoes** are so solid and sound,
Made for the pavement and walking the ground,
While **Nance**, ever steady and fixed as a rock,
Is sorting the shelves by the tick of the clock.

.....continued

Thrift like the planet depends on it.

The silk winter **scarves** are so welcoming and fair,
Adding glamour and warmth to the chilly world out there,

While **Marg B** is generous, open, and true,
And extends a warm welcome to everyone new.

The boxes of **craft items** sparkle with spark,
Imaginative projects to leave a new mark,
While **Sue**, so positive, lively, and clever,
Is happily chatting and busier than ever.

The fedoras and **hats** are for making a splash,
With a visionary style and a whole lot of dash,
While **Vinnie**, innovative, bold, and so grand,
Arranges the front window displays by hand.

The lace window **curtains** are artistic and neat,
Courteous and cheery to dress up the street,
While **Mirja**, creative and exceptionally polite,
Is making the tables look sunny and bright.

The sparkling **jewellery** is precise and pristine,
Meticulous gems fit for any old queen,
While **Pat**, who is careful, detailed, and bright,
Is polishing gems till they catch all the light.

The stacks of old **crockery** are versatile ware,
Ready for coffee or tea anywhere,
While **Debbie**, resourceful and quick with her hands,
Is sorting out all that bric-a-brac demands.

The steam from the **iron** rises up in a cloud,
Pressing garments to make any customer proud,
While **Michael**, reliable, steady, and quiet,
Smooths out every shirt in this colourful riot.

And just like the donations we receive,
Our workforce is made up of all kinds
Well done to each and every one of you,
Who make up our community at Fab Finds!

To all of you a big heartfelt thanks,
For your efforts and your smile,
Making our customers all feel welcome,
So they want to stay a while.

~ Margaret Crowell

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION Our goal:

**"To be transformed communities, experiencing,
enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."**

Mission: **"Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."**

Minister: **Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202**

Rev Sam Sadrata 0431 216 188

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**

Elder: Margaret Crowell

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

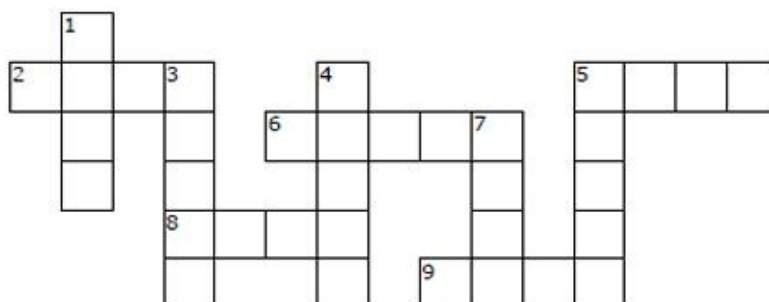


..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The natural movement of air
5. To travel along on your feet
6. Moving swells on the surface of the sea
8. A small vessel for travel on water
9. An unpleasant feeling caused by danger

DOWN

1. To go downward in water
3. A lack of confidence or belief in God
4. A firm belief in God
5. A liquid that comes down from the clouds as rain
7. To rescue someone

FEAR	FAITH	DOUBT	WAVES	WATER
SAVE	WIND	BOAT	WALK	SINK

G E V E N I N G R P B C Y P O
 S S C P Q N T S D U R O O A W
 C I V D O U B T K O X A A M C
 U D N W A L K I N G F F Y T E
 O N E K G A X B Y A U Y S U O
 S J D U K L A W C F Q N I T M
 D L V H O Q L B O G A M Y P H
 D Z O E I C O J U W Q N B L Z
 D J Y F M M N O R V A J W N W
 T K V W L I E A A D X T O Q A
 I A W I N D M F G P V R E F V
 F P S A V E U R E W S B A R E
 V L A K E D Y A S P K Y Y S S
 C Y O X H E Z I T U Z U A I K
 R H A N D A N D Q Y N H W X H

Sermon4kids4

EVENING	HAND	DOUBT	WAVES
COURAGE	AFRAID	SAVE	SINK
LAKE	WALKING	BOAT	WIND
PRAY	COME	WATER	ALONE

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus