

Greetings to all at SPUMC from Australia!

Can it be fifty years? How the years have flown.

Our brief time at Severna Park still lives brightly in our memory. We were privileged to be part of the early years when so many great things were happening: growing at a rate of 10% per year, a music ministry that was second to none, a host of young people eager to be part of a vibrant faith, the excitement of looking to enlarge the buildings in order to serve, carolling on the back of a truck as it snowed us in, a Christian Education programme that was still developing, a “couples” club where you shifted groups each year kept the church ‘small’ and meant that it was possible to get to know more people well more quickly and were a wonderful source of leadership.

Our second son was in the crèche days after his birth.

Edgar Beckett did something radical by building the sanctuary first with the emphasis on quality worship as a way of challenging people to take their worship seriously and practice it where they lived and it worked! The “practical building” things came later.

The SPUMC community we knew was stimulating, encouraging and generous in its support for those beyond its boundaries.

We trust that over these past 50 years the SPUMC community has continued to be faithful to its founding and we have no reason to doubt that this is the case, especially when one notes the contents of the website and I even recognise the names of some of the groups and publications!

I am now retired and my last appointment was serving for 14 years as chaplain at Prince Alfred College, a K-12 boy’s school of the Uniting Church in Australia (a union of Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches) with 1200 students plus their families and alumni to care for. It was a great experience of ministry and being at SPUMC helped inform not only that ministry but others of mine as well. I occasionally serve as interim pastor for churches within our Synod (but only half time!)

We deeply regret that we cannot be with you for the Anniversary Weekend. As it happens, we will be on a planned trip to Spain and Portugal otherwise we would have looked carefully at joining you.

Please be assured that you will be in our prayers not only at the Weekend but at other times as well. Gaye and I pray that you will continue to grow and develop as a faithful servant of our Lord and the United Methodist Church. God bless!

The Rev Dr Adrian and Mrs Gaye Brown