

## RCW Retirement Toast

We are gathered here today to celebrate the retirement of Ralph Carl Wushke, who has been the minister at Bathurst United for the past 18 years.

When Ralph started with us in Sept. of 2000 I don't think any of us - none of us in the congregation or indeed Ralph Carl himself could have imagined what a long and meaningful time he would have with us. Ralph Carl has journeyed with us for these 18 years in love and friendship, and guided us in the Spirit with compassion, intelligence, and patience, not to mention unflagging energy, good humour and commitment.

The journey has been one of transformation – for us certainly, through fabulous liturgy, wonderful sermons, innovative programs, Spirit-filled conversations and relationships, but perhaps most especially as a model of what an eco-justice warrior looks like - and transformation for Ralph Carl as well, I believe– through finding himself in the midst of this “unlikely coalition of justice- friends,” as he noted perhaps in his very first sermon.

Thank you Ralph Carl, from the bottom of our hearts, for who you are, for your years with us, and for helping lead us into a new vision of how we might be in the future.

You're amazing – we will miss you!! All the very best in your retirement.

Let us raise a glass to Ralph Carl!

- *Judi McCallum*