

# INTERACT

## The Magazine of the Endeavour Hills Uniting Church

### Endeavour Hills Uniting Church Mission Statement

The Endeavour Hills Uniting Church...  
a worshipping, nurturing, learning community...  
an open door, reaching out to show Christ's face to all.  
'Together We Grow.'



Snow on the Roses, Brampton, Ontario

*Contributed by Lynne Bryan*

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Please note:

The views in the articles included in this publication are not necessarily those held by the Endeavour Hills Uniting Church.

# A REFLECTION FROM ROBIN

Friends,

It is wonderful that you have picked up and are now reading our Interact magazine for this month.

Our editors do a magnificent job each month putting everything together for you.



In the last issue, I began writing about the three foundational pillars that I believe must support every church. I wrote about worship as the first pillar and encouraged all members to make worship a priority each week. Remember that God created worship for our benefit rather than His. God doesn't need our worship but delights when we remember the abundant grace He has lavished upon us. Worship should change us both individually and as a church. Gathering for worship is our response to God.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another— and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (*Hebrews 10:24-25.*)

The second pillar is community. When we place our hope and faith in Christ, we affirm our identity as a child of God and we become part of the family of God (*Galatians 3:26*). This family is made up of people from every ethnic, social, political and economic background. We are all sinful, broken, fallen and inadequate people. Yet God calls us to love one another. In July's Alive service, I preached on the importance of community and continually made the point, "To be loved is to be known and to be known is to be loved." Known and loved are two of our greatest needs. To be loved but not known is superficial, shallow

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

## **A Reflection from Robin**

and ultimately unfulfilling. To be known but not loved is our deepest fear, for this is rejection—but to be fully known and deeply loved is very like how God loves us.

Imagine what Endeavour Hills Uniting Church would look like if we were all fully known and deeply loved? Would it not be a piece of heaven on earth? Would not all people desire to be part of this community? This is the biblical call and command of Christ when he says to love your neighbour.

It is an unfortunate reality that we all don't know each other's names. If we are to take biblical community seriously, then we **MUST** turn this around. One practical step is for every person (both young and old) to wear name tags on Sundays. There are some who may resist the idea, but before you allow a protest to form in your mind, consider this - what if the only reason someone in the church doesn't speak with you is because they don't know your name? What if each of you wearing a name tag opens the door to fully knowing and deeply loving one another? Will you allow a wall to divide when Christ has called us to unite, all because you won't wear a name tag?

My deepest prayer for our church is that we would humble ourselves before the Holy Spirit and intentionally become the community of God that would bring joy to our Heavenly Father.

## **Thought for the Month**

**Integrity is doing the right thing  
when no one is watching.**

# KEEP IT SIMPLE



Frank was a man for all seasons in our little community by the sea. Mostly he was a fisherman. But when the fish were not biting, he worked many jobs – cooking, waiting at a restaurant, or lending a tradesman a hand. He was a helper of widows and the old, great at church fetes and fetching a trailer-load of seaweed for a garden. You could count on Frank. A friendly, smiling man.

Frank's unforgettable comment on all issues was to say, "Keep it simple." How wise. He was a regular at mass and at our church. He wore no denominational badge and was a kindly Christian.

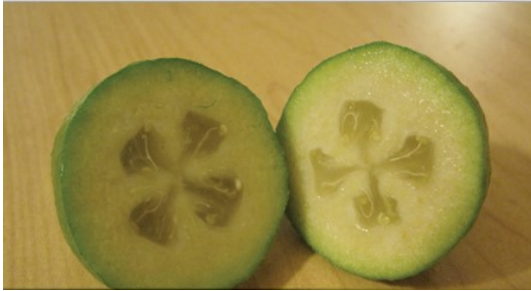
Jesus, the teacher, kept it simple. He used everyday lessons from nature, birds, trees and flowers to explain the Good News of the Kingdom, and the only working rules were for us to love God and our neighbours. What a relief that was to ordinary humble folk weighed down by the impossible expectations of the scribes and Pharisees.

**Reflection:** Frank expressed his faith by living and giving service in a community, ready to lend a helping hand. A profound lesson on practical, active Christian discipleship.

*Bill Pugh*

*Image by 23am.com via Flickr*

# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS



Most of us know the legend of St Patrick using a shamrock to explain the Trinity.

There is also a story which uses the passion flower to symbolise the Crucifixion.

Spanish Christian missionaries discovered the plant in South America and used each part to relate the story.

The pointed tips of the leaves were taken to represent the Holy Lance; the tendrils represent the whips used in the flagellation of Christ. The ten petals and sepals represent the ten faithful apostles (less St. Peter the denier and Judas Iscariot the betrayer). The flower's radial filaments, which can number more than a hundred and vary from flower to flower, represent the crown of thorns. The chalice-shaped ovary with its receptacle represents a hammer or the Holy Grail, and the three stigmata represent the three nails while the five anthers below them represent the five wounds (four by the nails and one by the lance).

The blue and white colours of many species of flowers represent Heaven and Purity. Those of us who enjoy eating the feijoa fruit which ripens around Easter time in Australia will perhaps have noticed that when we slice the fruit in half, a cross is perfectly formed.

Once again I'm amazed at God's way of reminding us of the story of Jesus.

## **Reflection:**

Lord, you have made so many things!

How wisely you made them all!

*Ps.104:24*

*Janet Soo*

*Image by Eric Wessier via Flickr*

# ONCE AGAIN IN THE MARKETPLACE

I have been in the marketplace yet again! This morning as I entered my local shopping centre, I found my way blocked by a mother wheeling an empty pusher



and a little boy making a rather wobbly way on foot ahead of her. He ventured to turn around to look at his mother with a beaming smile from time to time, saying, I believe, "Look at me, mummy! Aren't I clever? I can walk!" His mother returned the beam, and explained to me that he had just recently found his feet.

At the self-serve checkout in our supermarket, I observed another little boy, somewhat older than the one before, watching his mother as she bundled up the shopping. I think he was watching a bag of goods that he thought he could carry. His mother intervened beautifully, taking the bag from him and twisting the handles over his arm to give it more purchase for him saying, "Now, this will be easier for you to carry. Thank you for your help."

How lucky are we to see the incidents of mutual play so often between mothers and children!

**Reflection:** When Jesus realised that his disciples were arguing about who was the greatest among them, he took a little child among them and, taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me".

*Joan Addinsall*

*Image by Julie Elliott-Abshire via Free Images*

# CHIP HEATER



What a privilege it is to turn on a tap and get hot water. It was not always like that. We had a chip heater in our bathroom. It was fired up by placing old newspaper and wood chips from a packing case (or a fallen branch) underneath

it. Gradually warm, then hot, water filled the bath.

In our family this happened several times a night, especially after a football match. There was a copper in the laundry, called a washhouse back then, used for washing clothes by the same process. In the kitchen hot water came via a kettle or saucepan on the stove. And of course shaving water for grandfather!

How we take for granted the privileges we have by turning on a tap, or switch, in our daily lives.

In many countries there are no such privileges.

**Reflection:** Next time an appeal comes for a well, a pipeline, or provision of power in a field of mission, let us thank God for our daily gifts of light, refrigeration, heating, power, and running water—and give generously.

*Bill Pugh*

*Image by Steve Johnson via Flickr*



# LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

When Nelson Mandela was released after 27 years in prison, he faced a daunting task—rebuilding a nation ripped apart by hatred.



How easy it would have been for Mandela to

use his newfound freedom to seek revenge against those who held him in captivity. For me, Mandela's enduring legacy is his commitment to national reconciliation and racial harmony.

It is difficult to forgive those who have oppressed you. Jesus' challenge to 'love your enemy' is perhaps one of the most difficult messages in the bible. The temptation to hurt those who have wronged you is strong.

But when Jesus was dying on the cross, there was no thought of revenge in his mind. Even when he was betrayed by Judas, abandoned by his disciples and hated by his own people, his heart was filled with love. Take a moment to reflect on his words on the cross – "forgive them for they do not know what they are doing".

God's mercy is everlasting. It is through reconciliation that we can bring about peace in this world.

## **Reflection:**

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."

*Matthew 5:43-45*

*Pauline Murphy*

*Image by Dan Cipolla via Flickr*

# SEASON OF CREATION

The Season after Pentecost (called Ordinary Time in some churches) is a long season, stretching almost half of the year from Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) until the beginning of Advent (May 22 — November 20, 2016).

In recent years, partly as a way to break up this lengthy season but more to invite Christians to focus on the biblical mandate to be stewards of the world that God created, some churches observe a “Season of Creation” beginning in September. The website [www.seasonofcreation.com](http://www.seasonofcreation.com) explains part of the rationale this way: “In the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter we celebrate the life of Christ. In the season of Pentecost we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Now, in the season of Creation, we have an opportunity to celebrate God, the Creator.”

The recent initiative originated with Rev. Dr. Norman Habel, a Lutheran minister in Australia, although earlier attempts to observe a season of creation have been around since the middle of the 20th century. Several denominations have embraced and endorsed this season, urging their churches to use or adapt the lectionary readings and worship resources available at the website. In a pastoral letter supporting the season, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines refers to Christians caring for creation as “the ultimate pro-life issue.” How can we care for the world that God has made? The themes for 2016 are:

<b>4th September:</b> Ocean Sunday	<b>25th September:</b> Cosmos Sunday; Social Justice Sunday (Australia)
<b>11th September:</b> Fauna & Flora Sunday	<b>2nd October:</b> Blessing of the Animals
<b>18th September:</b> Storm Sunday	<b>4th October:</b> St. Francis of Assisi Day

## NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

### 13TH JULY 2016



Devotions were led by Colin Wilhelms.

Rev. Robin Yang discussed alternative ways of doing pastoral care. This is to be discussed further at our next meeting.

Next year we may take part in the World Day of Prayer which will be in March and, as it is on a Friday, could perhaps be part of Cheryl's morning prayer group.

Rev. Ineke Gyles has requested that she do a baptism at our church for John William, son of Leigh and Jenny Kenshole (née Jenny Hiller) on July 31<sup>st</sup> during our morning service. Robin will lead the rest of the service.

The budget was presented and approved to be presented to the congregation the following Sunday.

We at last have tenants in the manse—a Uniting Church minister and his wife.

Kids Hope is to start at Mossgiel Park Primary School in the second week of this school term.

The Neighbourhood Centre is currently undergoing some changes. Robin has accepted an invitation to be on the Committee of Management.

*Judy Hopkins*  
*Secretary.*

# Notice Board



## **Sammy Stamp**

Please save your used stamps for the Sammy Stamp Appeal. There is a box marked "STAMPS" on the table in the Narthex.

## **Trading Table & Book Sales**

The total amount raised in July was \$47.50.

The next Trading Table will be on the 14th of August.

All proceeds will go into church funds until further notice.

Continued thanks to those who support & donate books & items for the table.

Please contact Heather Kimber.  
Phone: 9796 8154

## **Lawn Mowing & Gardening**

If you enjoy gardening and lawn mowing, your help with the gardens at the church will be very much appreciated.

Contact: Bruce Hansen 9706 0585  
Email: [bajphansen@bigpond.com](mailto:bajphansen@bigpond.com)

## **Paper Collection & Packing**

Keep collecting newspapers.  
Details regarding packing of paper

will be in the weekly Notice Sheet or in Interact.

## **Casseroles**

For many years Judy Hopkins has been organising meals for people in our congregation experiencing sickness, etc. If you would like to help, please leave your contact details with Judy and she will contact you when needed.

Phone: 9700 7551

Email: [judy.inehills@bigpond.com](mailto:judy.inehills@bigpond.com)

## **The Andrews Centre**

Donations of non-perishable food will be gratefully received.

Just bring along a couple of cans or whatever you can spare and these will be delivered during the week. There are many in our community in need.

## **A Plea from Rev. Robin Yang**

Please wear your name badges. If you need one or wish to have a replacement, see Jean Lacey:  
Phone 9700 7246. Email: [gandjlacey@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gandjlacey@ozemail.com.au)

# Notice Board

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group

The group meets at the Church at 10.00 am for Bible study (except during school holidays). Everyone is welcome.

## Beta: Ladies' Bible Study Group

Come along and join our group as we explore **The Women of the Bible**.

The group meets at 7.30 pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month (except during school holidays) at the Church. Please contact Mary Mehl: Phone: 9791 5442.

## Coffee Break

This informal group gathers at Muffin Break in the Food Court, Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre on Friday mornings (except on the 1st Friday of the month) at **10.30 am**.

**Please note change of time.** Everyone is welcome, so if you are in the vicinity on a Friday morning around that time, please feel free to come and join in. You will be very welcome. No need to book!



## First Friday Lunch

**12.30 pm on the First Friday of Every Month except January.**

**Various people take turns in organising the First Friday Lunch.**

**Check Notice Sheet on Sunday prior to lunch for name and contact details of Organiser and venue for lunch.**

**Contact Organiser by 5 pm on the Wednesday preceding the lunch if you can come.**

## QUOTES AND COMMENTS

Of all the things that we can store, life is not one of them. "You fool!" God interrupts. "This very night your life is being demanded of you." *Fool* is a loaded word in the wisdom tradition of Israel. Fool refers to those who live as if there is no God. The identity fits the man in the parable, not because he is stupid or moronic but because he lives oblivious to God and oblivious to those around him. Foolishly.

*John Indermark, commenting on the parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:16-21), Parables and Passion: Jesus' Stories for the Days of Lent*

To will what God wills is the only science that gives us rest.

Hefty Wadsworth Longfellow

When a place or time seems touched by God, it is an overshadowing, a sudden eclipsing of my priorities and plans. But even in terrible circumstances and calamities, in matters of life and death, if I sense that I am in the shadow of God, I find light, so much light that my vision improves dramatically. I know that holiness is near.

*Kathleen Norris, Amazing Grace*

Time engraves our faces with all the tears we have not shed.

Natalie Clifford Barney

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Unknown

Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible.

Unknown

Faith is an excitement and an enthusiasm: it is a condition of intellectual magnificence to which we must cling as to a treasure, and not squander on our way through life in the small coin of empty words, or in exact and priggish argument.

*George Sand*

The better you know someone, the less there is to say—or maybe, there's less that needs to be said.

Unknown

Just when you think you've graduated from the school of experience, someone thinks up a new course.

*Mary H. Waldrip*

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

*Thomas Edison*

# THE SUPREME IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

We need to pray without ceasing in order to understand and see the necessity and importance of the time spent in prayer. 'Without ceasing' means our prayers must be earnest, coming from the innermost recesses of our being. Prayer manifests the



power of continuous prayer. "So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him." Acts 12:5. When we pray to God, that prayer has tremendous power when it is offered to God. It is believed by well-intentioned Christians that all prayer is offered to God. I do not believe that this is so. A great deal of corporate and personal prayer is not offered to God.

When we pray, we need to come before the Throne of Grace with a definite and conscious approach. We should have a vivid understanding that God waits in anticipation of our prayers. When our minds are occupied with only what we need and little or no thought of Almighty God, whom we are seeking, we cannot expect Him to hear us. Very often our minds are wandering everywhere, without really concentrating on Him to whom we are praying. We need to earnestly come into His presence and meet Him face to face, in the altar of prayer, seeking Him diligently. We petition the things that we desire from Him. Then the power of prayer will begin to work.

Firstly, in order to pray correctly, we need to be certain that we seek an audience with God, by surrendering completely to Him. It is imperative we have the definite and clear consciousness that we are talking to God. Next we should believe that He is listening to our petition and will grant what we ask of Him. It will be impossible for us to do this with our own effort. It is only the Holy Spirit of God, (Paraclete, the Advocate, Counsellor, Intercessor) who will lead us into the presence of God. "...and I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever." John 14:16. "But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26. Therefore our minds must be completely focused on Him, more than the petition we bring to Him. If our prayer is to

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*(Continued from page 15)*

## **The Supreme Importance of Prayer**

have the desired benefit, it has to be prayed earnestly. Our souls need to stretch out earnestly with intense desire to seek Him diligently.

“And being in anguish He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” *Luke 22:44*. “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission.” *Hebrews 5:7*. Jesus was heard by the Father (and His prayer was granted), who saved Him from death through resurrection. “I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.” *Romans 15:30* Here St. Paul literally begs the Saints in Rome to strive together with him in their prayers. Our prayers prevail with God, when we lay our souls before God, stretched with intensity and agonising desire. When we do not put our whole being into our prayer, it lacks power. It is only when we come to God with an intensity of desire that touches our souls, that we can know a power of prayer that we did not know before. “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” *Romans 8:26*. “And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the Saints in accordance with God’s will.” *Romans 8:27*. Our hope as believers sustains our suffering. The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayers with groans that words cannot express. In *Romans 8:23* it is the believer who groans; in *Romans 8:26* it is the Holy Spirit who groans on our behalf.

Now we know there is power in our personal prayer; but there is much more power in corporate or united prayer. “Again I tell you if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven.” *Matthew 18:19*. “For when two or three come together in my name, there I am with them.” *Matthew 18:20*. But here the asking and agreeing must be real, where the Holy Spirit will bring complete harmony concerning what they asked of God.

*Lakshman Pethiyagoda*



# ARTICLES FOR INTERACT

## A Message from the Editors

Thank you very much to all of you who contribute to Interact. It is very encouraging to have your input and it is greatly appreciated.

We would be really grateful if you would help us by doing the following:

- include your name and contact number in your contributions, so that we may contact you if necessary
- send us the material as an attachment in a **Microsoft Word** format
- avoid sending material with a dark background; this does not scan well, and means we have to spend much more time typing it all.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sue & Ursula

## LOST EMAIL?

One day God was looking down at earth and saw all of the rascally retirees' behaviour that was going on...

So He called His angels and sent one to earth for a time. When the angel returned, he told God, 'Yes, it is bad on earth; 95% of retirees are misbehaving and only 5% are not.

God thought for a moment and said, 'Maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another opinion.' So God called another angel and sent her to earth for a time.

When the angel returned, she went to God and said, 'Yes, it's true. The earth is in decline; 95% of retirees are misbehaving, but 5% are being good...' God was not pleased.

So He decided to e-mail the 5% who were good, because he wanted to encourage them, and give them a little something to help them keep going.

Do you know what the e-mail said?

No?

Okay, I was just wondering, because I didn't get one either.

*Contributed by Maria Harding*

# CARE GIVING

Differently abled we are gifts to each other.

Through the gift of a visitor's touch,  
presence is shared  
... humanity is realised.

We may become vulnerable  
... treading water in a sea of uselessness.

Yet the simple sense of touch  
bridges the abyss between helplessness  
and loneliness.

The precious gift of 'being' for each other  
creates a new reality;  
and giving, gives far more than each  
intends

... to be pondered in a time beyond  
embrace.

Di Price

*Contributed by Lynne Bryan*

# FREE AIR



In the local garage in the suburb where we grew up, there was a long pole with a hose attached. Over it was a sign: 'Free Air'. We kids loved, in grown-up style, to pull up our bicycles alongside it and check our tyre pressure.

In our park we have birds, trees, dogs on leads, babies in prams, and a wonderful playground for children – a swing, a cave tunnel, a barbecue and a sand pit with a shovel to load and dump sand—and heaps of free air!

Sadly, not many children and families use our park. They are too busy inside, watching television or playing electronic games.

**REFLECTION:** Read Genesis 1 and 2. Marvel at all the wonder of God's creation, his free gift for all of us to enjoy. And he breathed into us the breath of life! Thank you Lord! Let us rejoice in, and be thankful for, good clean air for our recreations.

P.S. Mums and dads, it may be a good idea to monitor TV and electronic games time. Encourage the kids to enjoy the air outside. Better still, go to the park and join in the fun too.

*Bill Pugh*

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD



When I stayed on my uncle's farm in the Victorian Mallee in the school holidays, I used to go with him in his ute when he inspected his sheep and

lambs each day. If a sheep was 'down' he would stop and see why. Then he might point out the way in which a sheep would lie down to protect a lamb from the wind and weather. He would inspect the dams to make sure there were no sheep bogged in the mud at the edge of the dams. He was a good shepherd.

In John 10: 11-16, Jesus says he is the Good Shepherd. I think he must have had the words of David's Psalm 23 in mind when he said this. I once came across a version of this Psalm in modern language. David knew that the Lord was his Good Shepherd and would lead him in all the right ways. The Palestinian shepherd did not 'drive' his sheep from behind as we might, but led them to green pastures and beside still waters. If danger loomed, the shepherd would put his rod and staff to good use to protect his flock. He prepared every good thing for his sheep, which he knew by name.

## **Reflection:**

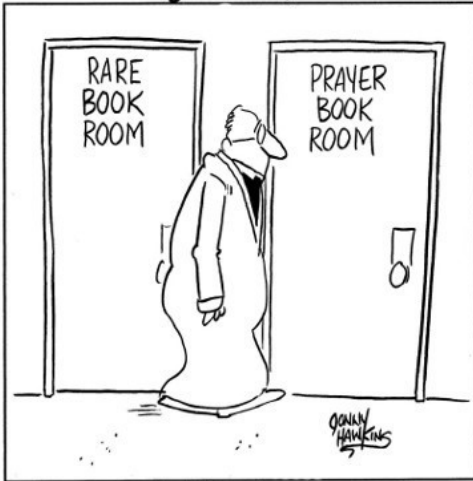
In the New Revised Standard Version of this Psalm, the final verse reads:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long

*Joan Addinsall*

# CARTOON CORNER

**Salt and Light** by Jonny Hawkins



**Salt and Light** by Jonny Hawkins



"We're hoping cooler heads will prevail."

**Salt and Light** by Jonny Hawkins



"Is it true we'll be taken up by raptor?"

**Salt and Light** by Jonny Hawkins



"Do you like my ring tone?"



Playgroup  
For Under 5s

# Treasure Trove

A place to play, explore, discover, enjoy,  
journey, adventure, & share!



Endeavour Hills Uniting Church  
Corner Raymond McMahon Boulevard and Hellyer Way  
Mondays 10am - 12 noon during School Term



For enquiries or to link in please call Stephen on 0408 684 366

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE

It will soon be time to pack the boxes.

Items needed are:

- clothes for children ages 2-14
- dresses, skirts, tops, shirts, t-shirts, boys shorts, knickers for boys and girls.
- special items – stickers, sunglasses, jewellery, hair clips, small purses.

Contact Judy Hopkins

## WORTH REPEATING

As a university student hurried to her two-hour final exam in chemistry she encountered one of the campus chaplains in the hallway. She immediately stopped him and asked, "Will you pray for me at 4 p.m.?"

"Of course," said the chaplain. "But why do you want me to wait until then?"

"My two-hour chemistry exam begins at 3 p.m. and I'd like an hour to see if I can do it on my own."

Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.  
*Confucius*

We are only visitors here in this part of Creation. We are guests of the one who owns this Creation. We are always to keep in mind that we can own nothing here, not even our own lives. So the purpose of life then is not to acquire possessions but to honour the Creator by how we live.

*Arthur Solomon, There Is No Middle Ground*  
*Science and religion no more contradict each other than light and electricity. William Hiram Foulkes*

Life is a tragedy for those who feel;  
and a comedy for those who think.  
*Chinese Proverb*

Work is complex. Through it we can redeem or we can destroy; we can liberate or enslave.

*Matthew Fox*

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.

*The Dalai Lama*

Nothing worth doing can be accomplished in a single lifetime.

*Reinhold Niebuhr*

God has been active in every culture, in every religion, in every place on the earth, breaking down the walls of hostility that separate us from each other.

*The Rev. Keith Wright*

### **A morning prayer**

So far today, God, I've had a productive day: I haven't gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I haven't cursed, sworn, or had any wicked or evil thoughts. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm going to need all of the help I can get. Thank you. Amen.

One Sunday morning, a preacher announced to the congregation, "This morning I have prepared three versions of my sermon. I have a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. So, let's take up the collection and see which sermon I'll deliver."



# WHAT DO YOU KNOW?



How do you find out things today? Most people will use a search engine of one sort or another. In 2003, the amount

of data was estimated to be 5 exabytes, which then was 37,000 times the information stored in the USA's Library of Congress. In 2007, it had grown to be 161 exabytes. Today, it is harder than ever to make an estimate because so much is loaded every minute of every day that it just keeps going on and on and on!

What is an exabyte? Well, some may remember measuring information in bits and bytes. Then came the kilobyte. In the 1990s we celebrated going from 64 to 128 kb. I just bought a tablet with 64 gigabytes. There are a million bytes in a gigabyte and there are a billion gigabytes in an exabyte. But this is all old hat, because we now talk about zettabytes—that's 1000 exabytes! Put it another way and we are talking 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 bytes. That's a bite that is beyond me to chew!

What do we do with all this data? We watch it, play it, access it, communicate it, read it or just scratch our heads and are dismayed about it.

Most of what it is doing is transforming humanity, one person at a time, from a storer of information to a user and accessor of data. It is creating a just-in-time generation who access knowledge when needed. The question is, will it create wisdom?

*"Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding." (Proverbs 3.13)*

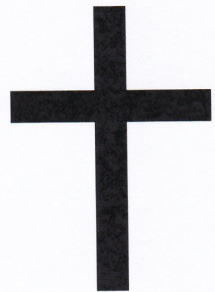
Every last zettabyte...



# THE CROSS OF CHRIST

One of the most recognizable symbols in the world is the cross. It appears in all sorts of forms and in all sorts of places. Several countries use it on their flags, such as Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and others. People often associate it with health and healing, most notably because of the International Red Cross society. Some people wear crosses as jewellery and use them to decorate their homes. And, of course, many Christian churches adorn their buildings with a cross of some kind or are built in the shape of a cross.

Perhaps the most common version is the Latin cross. In Roman Catholic churches it often appears with the body of Jesus on it and is called a crucifix, emphasizing the death of Jesus. When the cross is empty it emphasizes the resurrection of Jesus. Both are important symbols.



This version of the cross is most often associated with churches in the Russian and Eastern Orthodox traditions. It may be closest in appearance to the cross on which Jesus was crucified (although that cross probably had other pieces of wood on the sides to support it). The small piece at the top represents the sign that Pilate ordered placed over Jesus' head and the piece at the bottom represents where Jesus' feet were nailed to the cross.

*(Continued on page 26)*

*(Continued from page 25)*

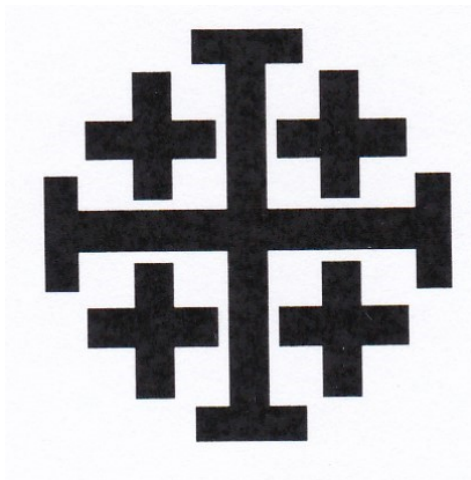
## **The Cross of Christ**

### **Decorating a cross**

In the later 20th century, Christians in El Salvador and other parts of Latin America began to create crosses that told stories. Using bright colours, they would paint wooden crosses with pictures from the Bible and from their own lives, often connecting the two.

In many instances, deep meaning was painted into the pictures, such as Jesus telling parables. The people creating the crosses embedded several layers of meaning about their lives during a time of persecution and oppression. When Christians in other countries saw the crosses they drew connections between the biblical stories and the situations of the Salvadorans and others. These crosses became powerful ways of witnessing to the Christian faith and connecting faith to real life.

You may wish to create a cross in this style. Draw a cross shape on paper and decorate it with pictures using markers or paints or by cutting apart photos or pictures from magazines. What story do you want to tell?



# FINDING GOD ON A BUS

I am sometimes reminded of God's grace in the most unexpected places.

One day, I was on the bus during peak hour.



Buses are normally fairly quiet spaces. Even on full buses, people are usually texting, browsing or reading. You generally don't see people talking with their fellow passengers.

On this particular occasion, it was hot and humid and the bus was packed with people going home from work. No doubt many passengers were frustrated by the long commute.

Suddenly, a woman on the bus collapsed. She had been standing and was carrying several bags of groceries. The other people on the bus immediately rushed to her aid. Fortunately, she quickly got back up again and was helped off the bus by a couple of fellow commuters. They walked her to a nearby bench to make sure she was okay.

For me, what stood out was the instinctive nature of the people on the bus. Even when they were seemingly immersed in the world of their mobile phones, their instant reaction was to reach out and help a fellow human being in need.

It is easy to be cynical about humanity, but that moment reminded me we are all made in the image of God.

**Reflection:** We can often find reminders of God's eternal goodness in small, everyday acts of kindness.

*Brian Lee*

# FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

## Animal Scramble

Unscramble the names of the animals.



W O L  
8 down



O K Y E N M  
1 down



I E T R G  
9 across



O G D  
7 across



A B R E  
5 down



N O L I  
2 across



O A D L P R E  
2 down



L P A T N H E E  
6 across



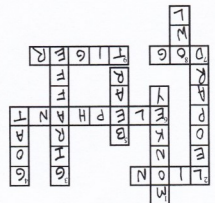
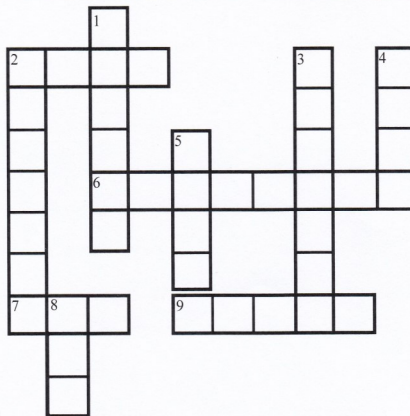
E R F G F I A  
3 down



O T G A  
4 down

## Animal Crossword

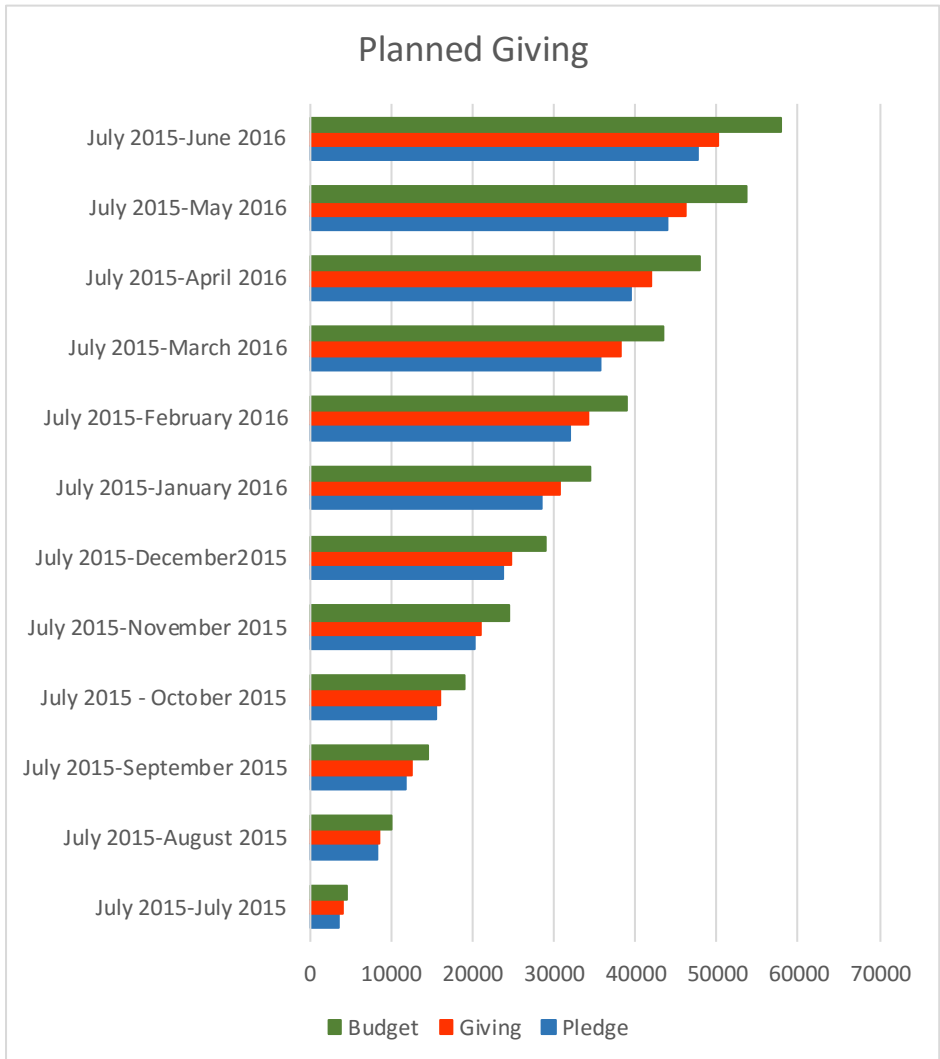
Use the animal names above to fill in the crossword puzzle.



# USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

<b>Sunday</b>	10:30 am	Worship EHUC	All Areas except Childcare Office & Nursery
<b>Monday</b>	9:30 – 11.30 am	Play Group “Treasure Trove”	Narthex and/or Nursery
	Afternoon	Montessori	All Childcare areas
<b>Tuesday to Friday</b>	All Day	Montessori	All Childcare areas
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30-9 pm	Beta Bible Study	Meeting Room (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)
<b>Wednesday</b>	10-12 noon	Bible Study	Meeting Room (except School Holidays)
	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Property & Finance Committee Group	Meeting Room (4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday)
	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Church Council	Meeting Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)
<b>Thursday</b>	7:30 pm	Singing Group	Church
<b>Friday</b>	8.30-10 am	Prayer Group	Meeting Room
Outside Montessori Hours		Church Use	All Areas except Childcare Office & Nursery
<b>ALL GROUPS will have access to toilets and kitchen.</b> <b>“Hall” = old pre-school area.</b>			
<b><i>Please Note: The church is cleaned on Friday nights or Saturday mornings.</i></b>			





# Planned Giving



Would those of you who commit to Direct Debit giving in place of envelopes, please notify Brian Greenstreet for the church records.  
Thank you.



# Lectionary for August

Date		Readings
Pentecost 12 August 7th 2016		Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40
Pentecost 13 August 14th 2016		Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56
Pentecost 14 August 21st 2016		Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17
Pentecost 15 August 28th 2016		Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14

# August Roster

August 2016	7	14	21	28
<b>Bible Reading</b>	David Garnepudi Geoff Lacey	Pam Cowley Mary Mehl	Colin Wilhelms Gavin Bartholomeusz	Youth
<b>Communion Preparation</b>	Christine Summers Judy Hopkins			
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Diane Hall Judy Hopkins			
<b>Communion Steward</b>	Brian Hall			
<b>Counting of Offering</b>	Wes Porch Lynne Bryan	Pam Cowley Brian Hall	David Garnepudi Sandra Cox	Bruce Hansen Grant Allison
<b>Door/Offering</b>	Andrew Moore	Pam Cowley	Christine Summers	Grant Allison
<b>Early Word</b>		Rev. Robin Yang	Stephen Mayes	Michelle Smith
<b>Kitchen</b>	Delilah Spencer Elizabeth Moore	Mary Mehl Christine Summers	Pam Cowley Judy Hopkins	Jacqueline Gacutan Elizabeth Moore
<b>Organist/ Pianist</b>	Olive Morland	Sue Reid	Edith John	Band
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Jean Lacey	Rufane Smith	Ursula Ebert	Andrew Moore
<b>Duty Elder</b>	Judy Hopkins	Pam Cowley	Colin Wilhelms	Diane Hall
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang
<b>Public Address</b>	Colin Wilhelms	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Geoff Lacey	Colin Wilhelms



# September Roster

September 2016	4	11	18	25
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Cheryl Doddrell Elke Beecher	Lynda & Brian Greenstreet	Catherine Gonsalves Lynne Bryan	Youth
<b>Communion Preparation</b>	Pam Cowley Sandra Cox			
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Cheryl Doddrell Colin Wilhelms Pam Cowley Elke Beecher			
<b>Counting of Offering</b>	Lynne Bryan Catherine Gonsalves	Brian Greenstreet David Garnepudi	Sandra Cox Wes Porch	Bruce Hansen Brian Hall
<b>Door/Offering</b>	Grant Allison	Andrew Moore	Christine Summers	Sandra Cox
<b>Early Word</b>		Lynda Greenstreet	Stephen Mayes	Sue Reid
<b>Kitchen</b>	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	The Smith Family	Jacqueline Gacutan Delilah Spencer	Catherine Gonsalves Ruth O'Keeffe
<b>Organist/ Pianist</b>	Olive Morland	Sue Reid	Edith John	BAND
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Andrew Moore	Jean Lacey	Ursula Ebert	Rufane Smith
<b>Duty Elder</b>	Cheryl Doddrell	Judy Hopkins	Pam Cowley	Colin Wilhelms
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang
<b>Public Address</b>	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Geoff Lacey	Colin Wilhelms	Gavin Bartholomeusz

# Endeavour Hills Uniting Church

## Service Times

<b>Sunday of the Month</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>
1st	Worship Service with Communion
2nd, 3rd	Worship Service
4th (when applicable)	Worship Service
Last Sunday of the Month	Contemporary Style Worship Service (February to November)

## Prayer Chain

Endeavour Hills Uniting Church is fortunate in having an active Prayer Chain. If you have any Prayer Requests, please contact any member of the Prayer Chain listed below:

Mary Mehl ..... 9791 5442

Judy Hopkins..... 9700 7551

Sue Reid ..... 9704 9195

Pam Cowley ..... 0429 932 111

## Church Council

### Minister

Rev. Robin Yang 0416 190 723

### Chairperson

Cheryl Doddrell 9700 1674

### Vice Chairperson

Wes Porch 9706 1995

### Treasurer

Catherine Gonsalves 9796 9852

### Church Council Secretary

Judy Hopkins 9700 7551

### Council Members

Gavin Bartholomeusz 9700 5015

David Garneputi 0452 551 077

Jean Lacey 9700 7246

Pam Cowley 0429 932 111

Diane Hall 9700 5104

Colin Wilhelms 9794 7175

## Elders

Pam Cowley 0429 932 111

Cheryl Doddrell 9700 1674

Diane Hall 9700 5104

Judy Hopkins 9700 7551

Colin Wilhelms 9794 7175

## Our Web Address

The Endeavour Hills Uniting Church web page is available for viewing at <http://www.ehuc.org.au>. Church Council oversees its maintenance. Please send all correspondence etc. to the Secretary, Judy Hopkins. Email: [church\\_council@ehuc.org.au](mailto:church_council@ehuc.org.au)

## Staff/Office Bearers

### Congregation Chairperson

Brian Hall

### Congregation Secretary

Anne Williams

### Presbytery Representative

Gavin Bartholomeusz

### Editors Interact

Sue & Stan Ashley

Ursula Ebert

## Finance & Property Committee

### Chairperson

Geoff Lacey

### Treasurer

Catherine Gonsalves

### Secretary

Brian Greenstreet

### Committee Members

Brian Hall

Sandra Cox

Stan Ashley

## Work Group Conveners

### Administration

Jean Lacey

### Hospital Visiting Team

Judy Hopkins

### Pastoral

Judy Hopkins

### Prayer Chain

Mary Mehl

## Contributions to Interact

Any material you may have to be included in Interact may be sent in one of two ways:

1. e-mail (preferred method) to [interact@ehuc.org.au](mailto:interact@ehuc.org.au) putting "Interact" in the subject line
2. leave in the green Interact folder which is located on the stand to the right of the kitchen window.

Your articles, notices, goods & services for sale etc. are very welcome, **BUT please include your name, phone number &/or email address in case it is necessary to contact you.** Material should be submitted by **12 noon** on the deadline dates indicated below:

Month	Deadline	Publication Date
September	28th August 2016	4th September 2016
October	25th September 2016	2nd October 2016
November	30th October 2016	6th November 2016
December	27th November 2016	4th December 2016

This issue of Interact was prepared by Ursula Ebert and proofread by Marion Ward.