

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.'



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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.



REV. ROBIN YANG

Recently I read a devotional titled 'Greater Things' based on Jesus' words from the gospel of John.

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

In it, the author asks the question, "What does 'greater things' mean? Are we really supposed to do 'greater things' than Jesus did while He was on earth?" It seems impossible since Jesus was a man who healed all kinds of sickness and ailments, cast out demons, even raised people from the dead. Yet He is making the most amazing statement.

To understand these words, we must read it together with the first part of verse 12; *"whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing..."*. Jesus makes an enormous assumption; namely, those who are His followers *should* be doing the things that He is doing. Apparently, in Jesus' mind, it is impossible to call yourself a follower and not have your life look like the person you are following. If you are His follower, then your life will look like His. If you are His follower, you will listen to, absorb, and re-orient your life around His teachings and way of life.

What Jesus proclaims in this verse is not that the disciples should do something, better, or more meaningful than Jesus did. He was inviting them to be involved in something 'greater,' more expansive. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus was opening the door wide for the kingdom to invade earth. The kingdom was breaking into their midst, and Jesus was inviting people to get involved in taking this 'kingdom' kind of life and spreading it like an aroma.

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Greater Things

Jesus came proclaiming that a kingdom was here—a new kingdom, a different kind of kingdom. The kingdom He was proclaiming was foundationally different from the dominant kingdom of the day, the Roman Empire. Rather than a kingdom built upon power and oppression, His was built upon love and grace, upon generosity, compassion, and peace.

As we begin 2016, let us be encouraged that Endeavour Hills Uniting Church is part of this kingdom and that God calls us to do greater things for each other and the community around us. Let us be reminded of our mission statement which is written on the cover of this magazine, “a worshipping, nurturing, learning community... an open door, reaching out to show Christ’s face to all.” Truly a Christ-centered and Christ-honouring vision of the greater things the Holy Spirit will lead us to do.

Undoubtedly 2016 will hold many challenges but will also hold many opportunities. May the call of Christ to participate in the ‘greater things’ of God’s kingdom never be clouded by the challenges. Instead may we seize the opportunities as we all humble ourselves and place our hope in Him. May the Lord renew your strength and may we soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:31). God will do greater things than we can dare imagine because the hand of God is upon you all and His call to do greater things will prevail.

Let me end by saying ‘thank you’ to the congregation for welcoming me and trusting me with the pulpit. I have considered it a privilege to worship amongst you and am grateful for the warm welcome into this community. I will continue to uphold you all in prayer as God leads you into the future. God bless you all.

Thought for the Month

Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself
by what he approves.

(Romans 14:22)

LORD, MAKE ME WANT TO PRAY

Many of our New Year resolutions include a resolve to make more time for prayer, and behind our struggles with time lies a deeper issue - sometimes we have very little inclination to turn to prayer at all.

In my own practice, and in supporting that of others, this struggle to pray is often present. Sometimes it is because subconsciously I think God is displeased with me or disappointed in me, because I have been persuaded that “getting on with the action” is more important and have become over-busy, or because I have become “stale” in my devotional practices and need new inspiration.

But sometimes I simply need to find the grace and humility to say, “Lord, help me to want to pray.” Why is this so? Why do I forget God? Why do I sometimes need prompting to pray?

Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that in the depths of my being I both yearn for God and yet run away from God. I seek grace and mercy and yet I also seek to avoid the “leap of faith” in which I depend on an external source for guidance and help.

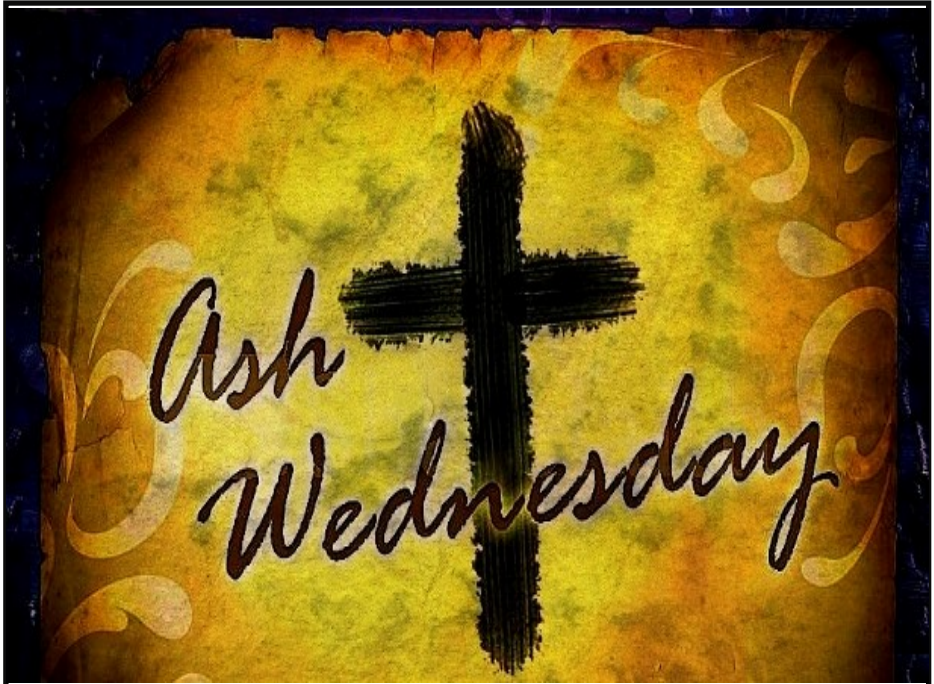
To truly enter into prayer is to experience the deep silence and stillness in which I am alone before my God, and that can be scary. To truly enter into prayer I am invited, like Jesus, to draw aside from what I am expected to do in order to seek wisdom and direction, and this can be threatening. To truly enter into prayer I need to risk acting as if God is always turned towards me in love and there is in this universe a power at work that is on the side of life and goodness.

Now there’s a thought! What would my life be like if I truly believed that I was surrounded by great love, which looks at my goodness and potential more than at my sinfulness, and that when I pray I simply step into that Presence?

Ann Siddal

Ann Siddall is a Spiritual Director . She lives in South Australia.





ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

10TH FEBRUARY 2016

7 PM

There will be a short service on Ash Wednesday led by Rev. Robin Yang. You are all invited to attend this service to mark the beginning of Lent.

EXPERIMENTS WITH TRANSCENDENCE

(LUKE 9:28-36)

When Jesus took Peter, James and John with him to the mountaintop and invited them to see him transfigured by the glory of God, it was also an invitation to them to enlarge their perceptions of what the Christian spiritual life is all about.

At times we reduce the Christian life to maintaining congregations, planning for the future, attracting newcomers and finding practical ways to care for our local communities—all worthy pursuits and important aspects of being Church.



But there is another dimension to this life that we often feel a little nervous about. We do not want to set ourselves up as “too holy” or too pious. And, like Peter, James and John, when spiritual transformation is presented to us we may find our eyes heavy with sleep as we choose to be unconscious to the invitations that are before us.

If we read back through scripture and the history of the church we shall find numerous stories about people who dared to experience transcendence and transformation: those who engaged with the “fire” of the holy in the midst of ordinary, daily life.

The stories range from Moses before the burning bush, to the visions of Isaiah; from Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, to Paul on the road to Damascus; to Anthony in the fourth century, who fled to the desert for 20 years to fast and pray and emerge whole in body, mind and spirit; and Francis of Assisi, who chose a simple, frugal, radically compassionate way of life and, like Anthony, found people joining him and creating community.

The gaunt images of Biblical characters and saints seem a long way from our “normal” experience of church life. Most of us will not be called to emulate the very radical nature of their lifestyle.

But we must never forget that we are “playing with fire”; that we are called and invited to experience the transcendent life, to be transformed over our lifetime, and to be open to transforming encounters with the holiness of God.

Ann Sidall

MARY'S LAMB

*Think carefully about what you will be reading.
This is a new one for me...*

Mary had a little Lamb,
its fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went,
the Lamb was sure to go.

It followed her to school each day,
t'wasn't even in the rule.
It made the children laugh and play,
to have a Lamb at school.

And then the rules all changed one day,
illegal it became,
to bring the Lamb of God to school,
or even speak His Name!

Every day got worse and worse,
and days turned into years.
Instead of hearing children laugh,
we heard gun shots and tears.

What must we do to stop the crime,
that's in our schools today?
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,
and teach our kids to pray!

It is said that 86% of Canadian, American & British people believe in God. Why don't we just tell the other 14% to be quiet and sit down????

Contributed by Maria Harding



NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

9TH DECEMBER 2015

Devotions were led by Wes. Porch.

A request was received from Seaford Uniting Church for help with music on Christmas Eve. Edith John has offered to do this and will also be helping Dandenong North with playing the organ. Thank you, Edith.



Synod has released a new Safe Church Policy including policies on Keeping Children Safe. Steven Mayes came to speak to Council on these policies. Council needs to read, agree on and implement them. Any breaches of these policies incur heavy fines or a gaol term. We have appointed Steven as the Keeping Children Safe contact person. The Montessori Group has erected signs and has started advertising for children in 2016.

We have booked Bunnings BBQ for 2 dates in 2016, May 14th and October 8th. Workers will be required for these dates. The funds for the first date will be for Mercy Ships and the 2nd probably for the Church.

The playgroup is to have a visitor from Playgroups Victoria and will be receiving a grant from this organisation. Thanks to Cheryl and Steven for their dedication in running this group.

The Kids Hope program will commence next year at Mossgiel Park primary school. We have five possible mentors to be trained and each mentor will need a prayer partner.

A note of thanks was sent to Ashley Williams for taking the group photo on Berlin's last day and for producing the finished photo so promptly.

Judy Hopkins

Secretary.

PANCAKE DAY 2016



Sunday 21st February
\$2.00 per serve

Uniting Care uses the money raised to help with:

- ♦ financial counselling,
- ♦ emergency relief and meals programmes,
- ♦ case management & housing support,
- ♦ drug & alcohol support services,
- ♦ employment services,
- ♦ disability & respite services.



Any donations of pancake mixes and lemons would be very much appreciated.

Please contact Heather Kimber. 9796 8154



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

A new year brings new hope, new challenges and new opportunities. For many, it is a time to make resolutions for the upcoming 365 days.

A recent study found that 32 per cent of people surveyed broke their resolutions by the end of January. How often do we resolve to do something in a

spirit of hopeful optimism, only to forget about them as the year wears on?

We all have our own wishes, goals and plans for the new year. But what about God's plan?

Sometimes, what we want and what we receive from God can be very different.

God's plan for us is not always easy. He pushes us outside our comfort zones. He challenges us. He wants to see us grow.

This can be frustrating. It can be frightening. It's okay to be afraid. But we can also place our trust in God, for He knows what is best for us, even if we don't know it ourselves.

We may forget our new year's resolutions, but God's promise to us – that he will always be with us, until the end of time – is one resolution that will last for eternity.

Reflection: "For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." – Jeremiah 29:11.

May the new year bring you blessings, spiritual nourishment and renewed hope!

Pauline Murphy



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 for the stamps.

Trading Table & Book Sales

The total amount raised in December was \$116.65. The money again goes to Kids' Hope. Thank you to Lynne Bryan for sorting out the book sales.

The first table for 2016 will be on February 14th, and thereafter on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

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 and the Manse will be very much appreciated.

Contact: Bruce Hansen 9706 0585
Email:
bajphansen@bigpond.com

Paper Collection & Packing

The next paper packing day will be held on Friday, 19th February starting at 9-00am at Dandenong North Uniting Church. This will be followed by the quarterly committee meeting. If you can assist please come along.

Syd Swaby

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

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.

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 Parables 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 10 am on Friday mornings (except on the 1st Friday of the month) at Muffin Break in the Food Court, Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre.



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.

A TREAT



Do you sometimes shout yourself a coffee? Maybe a cappuccino, flat white, latte, long black or a short black. What a disappointment when you take a sip to find it is lukewarm.

In Revelations 3:14-21, John wrote to the Church of Laodicea. He noted a fact about the city, a wealthy society, rich from manufacturing of

clothing from the local black wool, and boasting a famous medical school.

But there was one problem. The town water supply came from hot springs some distance away. When it arrived and was piped into their homes, it was still lukewarm.

“Yuk!” the people said.

John told the Church: “That’s what your Christian witness is like, neither cold nor hot, just lukewarm. I wish you were one or the other.”

This story provides something for us to think about. Are we just lukewarm in our living and giving of ourselves in service for Jesus? We promised so much, when we first gave our lives to him, but have we become slack? We need, from time to time, to “take a spiritual rain check”.

Reflection: Read Revelations 3:14-21. “If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.”

P.S. Why not cut down on the treats, make a hot drink at home, and add the savings to your offering on Sunday?

Bill Pugh

A WORD IN SEASON

Some long time ago, Barry Humphries wrote a poem on behalf of Edna Everage entitled "Highett Waltz" in which he claimed "it is beautifully quiet in Highett".

No doubt if he returned

in 2015 he would find Highett a very different suburb! Woolworths has established a three-storey mix of supermarket, shops and apartments. In a space in the shop floor, there is a coffee bar that I sometimes visit. The tables are very close together and it is easy to strike up a conversation with neighbours with a smile.

Recently, a mother with her two adult children and I smiled at each other. Then came the questions. "Where do you live?" "In Moorabbin, across the highway," I answered.

"Where have you parked your car?" "I walked over the highway."

"How many children do you have?" A sad question! I explained that I was rather elderly, lived by myself, apologised for having no children, and was sometimes very lonely.

Immediately all three of them were ready to answer. "But God loves you and is with you all the time! We are Muslims and our religion tells us that God is the author of love and peace." What a blessing that encounter provided!

Reflection: I immediately recalled a verse of a well-known hymn still in our hymn book, Together in Song No.136:

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Joan Addinsall



UNSUNG HEROES



Frank is a quiet, unassuming man who has served our church for more than 20 years.

Many congregation members are hungry after our Sunday morning services. Frank will come to our

rescue by bringing out cakes, breads and refreshments to appease our grumbling stomachs.

Visitors to our church often remark on the generous amount of food we provide. In winter, Frank prepares coffee to keep us warm; in summer, he brings out icy poles, to the delight of the children. How much joy he brings them!

Frank also keeps the church clean and tidy. He is often the first to arrive and the last to leave. Ministers come and go, but Frank is a constant and reassuring presence at our church.

Fortunately, Frank is not alone in serving his church. Our choir enriches our service, our hospitality team welcomes visitors to our church and our drivers transport our elderly members to and from the service.

And let us not forget the parents who prepare activities for the children's group, and the diligent working bee group who tidies the garden every month.

These volunteers all willingly and happily sacrifice their time to enhance our worship experience. Truly these unsung heroes are the lifeblood of the church!

Reflection: Thank God for all the volunteers who serve in our church and in our community. When we go to church this Sunday, take a moment to personally thank all those who perform small acts of great love.

Brian Lee

Image by Edward silence via Flickr

LENTEN OFFERING 2016

Dear Friends,

The period of Lent has arrived much quicker this year. Be that as it may, the attractiveness of Lent is not so much about how quickly it arrives, but how slowly it progresses once it has begun. It's a time of slow, persistent, deep attention to God, where we are invited to watch without distraction, listen without interruption, and stay put without the inclination to flee.

I have often been helped by the lesson about praying in the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14). Just as the Pharisee was not 'justified', it follows that we will never be 'justified' by the quantum of our giving. Like the Tax Collector, the only measure that can be made is our heart's response to the suffering and neediness of the world.

During the 40 days of Lent, I would encourage you to be attentive to the motivation of your giving ... in particular, the ways in which we sometimes trust in our own generosity. For we will never be 'justified' by the quantum of our giving.

Like the Tax Collector, we are invited to enter into the realm of broken-heartedness, into the realm of love which is a response to God's love and to human suffering. This can't be measured.

In all your discernment, please consider the Lenten Offering which serves as an opportunity for us to respond to the measure of God's love and seek to make a difference not only in the lives of our neighbours but the points of need in communities throughout the world.

May your Lenten journey be one of surrender, leading to mercy, hope and new life.

Dan Wootton

Moderator

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Lenten Offering 2016

THE 2016 LENTEN OFFERING WILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Post-war Ministry Restoration Project (National Christian Council of Sri Lanka): Provision of counselling services to war widows and orphans; ministry support in remote villages; fostering of reconciliation amongst other faith traditions and resourcing of project workers for ministry initiatives.

Easy Learning Adult Literacy and Numeracy Education Program - A free program run by Corio-Norlane Uniting Church for adults who struggle to read, write a letter or understand bills (especially migrants, and people from indigenous communities and/or low socio-economic backgrounds). Lenten donations will provide participants with access to the technology and resources required for them to listen to and work on the different tasks and exercises.

Thirsty Ground: Sharing Faith through Music - A group of singers who meet at Scots Memorial Uniting Church in Hobart to share life & write songs that express their faith. Members possess mixed abilities, have often experienced disadvantage and are on minimal incomes. They perform in the community and Lenten donations will cover costs for visits to regional and remote parts of Tasmania and the production of a new CD, proceeds of which will support people with disability or experiencing disadvantage.

Commission for Mission Disability Inclusion - A multi-faith conference that will explore practices that exclude people with disability from participation in their spirituality of choice and the changes that need to be made. Lenten donations will make it possible for people with disabilities who can't afford the registration to attend and participate in the discussion.

For further information contact:

Share 1130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000 | Ph: (03) 9251 5251 |

Email: shareinfo@victas.uca.org.

Donation envelopes will be available in the Narthex.

Please Note: Donations are not tax deductible.

A MEMO FOR 2016



The prophet Habakkuk had not heard from God. So many earnest prayers, but no answer. How earnestly you and I pray, yet we hear nothing.

Habakkuk had an idea. He went to the top of his watchtower, and looked for an answer for his complaint. It came loud and clear. He had to learn the lesson of patience. “Though the vision seems slow, wait for it, because it will surely come.”

There is our time – the time of years, days, hours, minutes and seconds, clock time, the time of impatience; and there is God’s time – the time of waiting, faithful expectation, fulfilment, the time of the God who is acting, and acts, when all is ready.

What are your church’s plans, for the New Year? What do you hope for your children, your families, and for this troubled world? As Christian men and women, who belong to the family of faith, let us, with earnest prayer, and a measure of the virtue of patience, commit this year to the Lord. Let us go about our discipleship, living humbly and giving daily. Sometimes our contributions may seem small, but added together with God, all things are possible.

Reflection: Read Habakkuk 2:1-4. Note the message of Hebrews 12:1-2 – let us run with patience the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Bill Pugh

PRAISE THE LORD!

Praise God in his house of worship,
praise him under Australian skies;
praise him for his acts of power,
praise him for his unrivalled might.
Praise with the ram's horn,
praise him strumming on the guitar;
praise him with percussion and dancing,
praise him with magnificent sounds.
Let all the creatures of the earth,
every creature made by the master's hand,
every soul that breathes the breath of life,
give glory to the Lord most high.

Words inspired by Psalm 150 (The Message)

Contributed by Lynne Bryan

Endeavour Hills UnitingCare Neighbourhood Centre

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CARTOON CORNER

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"Listening to a 40 minute sermon is not suffering for Jesus."

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"And next week is the end of Daylight Savings ... we'll be studying our bibles and going back in time."

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"Would you like your ice cream sundae in small, medium or biblical proportions?"

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



Pastors without Borders



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 School Term, 9.30am - 11.30am



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

TELLING THE TIME



We kids sat on a rug in front of the teacher. She was giving us a lesson on telling the time. A big round, wooden clock, with numbers and a small and a big hand pointed to the time. The big hand pointed to 12 at the top, and the little hand was on six. "What time is on the clock?" she asked. And she kept moving the hands around, and we had to say what time it was.

We can't really turn back our clocks and watches and stop things happening. Clocks can be stopped, adjusted, but time still moves on. However, we can save time and use our minutes, hours and lives more usefully.

In his teaching, Jesus emphasised the importance of the present. In the Sermon on the Mount he said, "Blessed are the peacemakers... You have heard it said by teachers a long time ago, but I say to you..." His words are all in the present tense.

For the Church, and for us, the time for mission is present tense – now. So many need our help in practical stewardship, so many are hungry for hope, good news, meaning and purpose.

We are disciples, learners, and apostles, sent ones, here and now.

Reflection: "So be careful how you live. Don't live like ignorant people, but like wise people. Make good use of every opportunity you have, because these are evil days. Don't be fools, then, but try to find out what the Lord wants you to do." Ephesians 5:15-17

Bill Pugh

REFLECTION

“Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.”

I grew up in a really large family. Some of my earliest recollections as a child were racing home from Sunday school being thrilled that “Jesus wanted me for a sunbeam to shine for him each day” and “Yes! Jesus loved me” (two old choruses I used to love singing).

All my relatives were involved in church activities such as dances, concerts and plays, youth groups and picnics and we all loved being involved in these activities.

Many of mum’s family were musical; singers, pianists, instrumentalists in the local council band, and Saturday nights often consisted of sing-a-longs at my aunt’s house where everyone brought food to share; we entertained each other and when you got tired, you found a lap to curl up. It didn’t matter whose lap, there were always plenty of arms to wrap around you as you fell off to sleep.

The example of love and affection shown to me by my family and church family, stayed with me as I grew up and had my own family.

The love I was shown as a child I will never forget. We should continue to look at life with that same sense of childlike wonderment as Jesus would want us to.

Rev Jo Smalbil (Cobar/Nyngan Patrol)

Contributed by Lynne Bryan

LOVE TOWARDS CHRIST

At Christmas and the beginning of a New Year we send greetings and give presents to our beloved friends and relatives. Our final words in a letter or card may read “With love”. To love someone is an awesome feeling God has bestowed upon us mortal beings who were created by Him.



Far too often we give our love and affection to material or secular objects. It is a time we focus our minds and attention excessively on worldly pleasures and give less importance to the greatest gift we ever received from God—our Lord Jesus Christ. Have God and Christ been so secularised that we forget the meaning of Christmas? Do we give less of our love to the person Jesus Christ, who loved us first and gave His life for us, and more to worldly pleasures? Is it strange to believe that our salvation depends on our love for the Lord Jesus? Are we contented that our salvation is secure, merely because of our baptism in Christ? Is our attendance in church on Sunday merely to feel good about ourselves because we have come to church? Do we live from Monday to Saturday without Christ and God? There are so many questions without answers.

Formal and ignorant lip worship or babbling meaninglessly is not true worship. “It is not as though God’s Word has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.” (Romans 9:6) It means there is a separation of unbelieving and believing descendants of Israel. There is no guarantee for a place in God’s **family** on the basis of physical descent. It is sad that all are not true Christians who are members of the visible **church** of Christ. “If anyone does not love the Lord a curse be on him.” (1 Corinthians.16:22) We are very familiar with our faith in

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Love Towards Christ

the Lord Jesus. Loving the Lord is as equally important as faith and belief

in Him. There cannot be any true religion without love towards Christ. If we have no feeling of love towards Christ it may be because we have no sense of debt to Him, no feeling of obligation to Him, that we have not received anything from Him. If that is our condition we need to plead with the Holy Spirit to teach us to open the eyes of our understanding about our true condition of guilt and emptiness in the sight of God.

As the New Year has dawned upon us, we need to begin by reading and studying the Bible like a person escaping from a fire. Our Lord Jesus expounded the law of God in Matthew Chapter 5. We can also read Romans Chapters 1 to 3 regarding our human nature. The books of John and the Acts of the Apostles are a wonderful start for the New Year. When we begin to study Scripture with earnest prayer, we are empowered by the Spirit's teaching. Religion is not merely an affair in the church, chapel, services and Sunday attendance. "All Scripture is God breathed." "Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1: 21). "I have treasured the Words of His mouth more than my daily bread." (Job 23:12b.) We see the banners in church—Joy, Peace, Hope and Love. 1 Corinthians 13 speaks of love; verse 13 reads, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Love towards Christ is the first and foremost.

We start with our love for Christ. Where there is true love there is faith and grace. Love is an evidence of grace. Soli Deo Gloria.

Lakshman Pethiyagoda

QUOTES AND COMMENTS

Some bishops and clergy make such heavy weather of reconciling the Bible story with modern scientific and historical knowledge.

“Why do they want to reconcile them? If you are the recipient of a message which cheers your heart and fortifies your soul, which promises you reunion with those you have loved in a world of larger opportunity, and wider sympathies, why should you worry about the shape or colour of the travel-stained envelope, whether it’s duly stamped, whether the date on the post mark is right or wrong?”

Winston Churchill in My Early Life

The best preacher is the heart; the best teacher is time; the best book is the world; the best friend is God.

Talmud

It is possible to get all “A’s” and still flunk life.

W Percy

Sorrow is the mere rust of the soul. Activity will cleanse and brighten it.

Dr S. Johnson

Dear Abbv.

Happiness is knowing that your parents won’t almost kill you if you come home a little late. Happiness is having your own bedroom. Happiness is having parents that trust you. Happiness is getting the mobile call you’ve been waiting for. Happiness is getting good grades and making your parents proud of you. Happiness is being a member of a popular circle. Happiness is having parents who don’t fight. Happiness is knowing you are as well dressed as anybody. Happiness is something I don’t have.

A few days later the Dear Abby newspaper column carried this response to the above letter from a 15 year old.

Dear Abby,

Happiness is being able to walk. Happiness is being able to talk. Happiness is being able to see. Happiness is being able to hear. Unhappiness is reading a letter from a 15 year old girl who can do all these things and still says she’s unhappy. I can talk, I can see, I can hear, but I can’t walk.

Thirteen and happy

FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

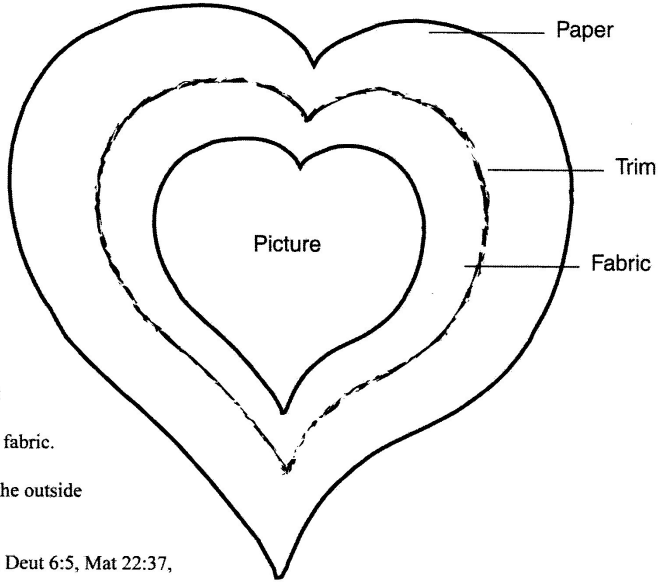
Make a Valentine

Be sure to ask permission to use these materials:

1. Stiff paper
2. Red fabric
3. **Trim:** lace, braid, yarn, etc.
4. **Picture:** you with the person you are sending the Valentine to or a nice picture from a magazine
5. Scissors, glue, pen

Instructions:

1. Cut out the heart from paper.
2. On the back side write a message to your Valentine. It could be a Bible verse about love.
3. Cut out a smaller heart from fabric and glue it to the front side of the paper.
4. Cut a picture to fit inside the fabric. Glue it to the fabric.
5. If desired, glue trim around the outside edge of the fabric.



Some Bible verses about love: Deut 6:5, Mat 22:37, Rom 13:8, 1 Cor 8:3

07-02p5a

Secret Code

Use the code to fill in the blanks.

J's to S's

F's to Y's

M's to E's

E's to R's

S's to M's

L's to H's

X's to N's

C's to O's

K's to P's

B's to D's

D's to I's

A's to T's

G's to L's

O's to G's

T's to A's

H's to U's

I's to F's

I C E

O C B J

A M S K G M

D J

L C G F

T X B

F C H

T E M

A L T A

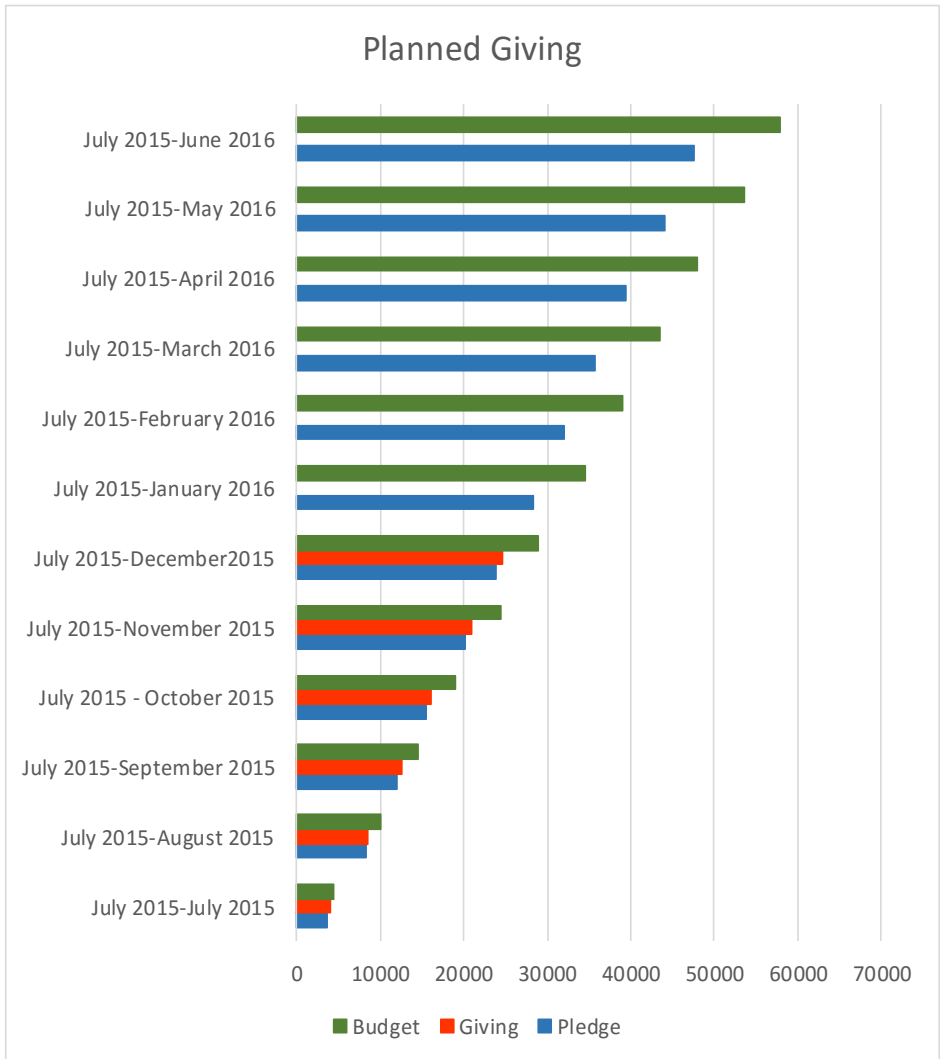
A M S K G M

Answer: For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. 1 Cor 3:16

USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

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

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 February

Date		Readings
Transfiguration February 7th 2016		Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)
Ash Wednesday February 10th 2016		Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Lent 1 February 14th 2016		Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13
Lent 2 February 21st		Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17 - 4:1 Luke 13:31-35
Lent 3 February 28th		Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9

February Roster

February 2016	7	14	21	28
Bible Reading	Elke Beecher Pam Cowley	Stan & Sue Ashley	Michelle & Rufane Smith	Youth
Communion Preparation	Pan Cowley Sandra Cox			
Communion Servers	Judy Hopkins Elke Beecher Colin Wilhelms Cheryl Doddrell			
Counting of Offering	Brian Hall David Garnepudi	Wes Porch Grant Allison	Brian Greenstreet Bruce Hansen	Pam Cowley Sandra Cox
Door/Offering	Christine Summers	Grant Allison	Stan & Sue Ashley	Andrew Moore
Early Word		Michelle Smith	Stephen Mayes	Sue Reid
Flowers	Lynda Greenstreet	Artificial Flowers	Mary Mehl	Artificial Flowers
Kitchen	Joan Hansen Sandra Neal	Heather Kimber Pam Cowley	Mary Mehl Christine Summers	The Smith Family
Organist/Pianist	Sue Reid	Edith John	Sue Reid	BAND
PowerPoint	Rufane Smith	Andrew Moore	Ursula Ebert	Jean Lacey
Preacher	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang	TBA	TBA
Duty Elder	Judy Hopkins	Cheryl Doddrell	Colin Wilhelms	Diane Hall
Public Address	Colin Wilhelms	Paul Watkins	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Geoff Lacey

March Roster

March 2016	6	13	20 Palm Sunday	25 Good Friday	27 Easter Sunday
Bible Reading	Colin Wilhelms Gavin Bartholomeusz	The Smith Family	Stan & Sue Ashley	Diane Hall Mary Mehl	Edith John Elke Beecher
Communion Preparation	Delilah Spencer Elizabeth Moore				Heather Kimber Christine Summers
Communion Servers	Pam Cowley Diane Hall				Judy Hopkins Pam Cowley Elke Beecher Diane Hall
Communion Steward	Brian Greenstreet				
Counting of Offering	Catherine Gonsalves Lynne Brian	Sandra Cox Grant Allison	Brian Hall David Garnepudi		Pam Cowley Bruce Hansen
Door/Offering	Andrew Moore	Sandra Cox	Stan Ashley	Christine Summers	Grant Allison
Early Word		Michelle Smith	Stephen Mayes	Preacher	Pam Cowley
Flowers	Lynda Greenstreet	Artificial Flowers	Artificial Flowers	Artificial Flowers	Anne Williams
Kitchen	The Gonsalves Family	Delilah Spencer Elizabeth Moore	Sue & Stan Ashley		Jacqui Gacutan Delilah Spencer
Organist/ Pianist	Edith John	Olive Morland	Sue Reid	Edith John	Olive Morland
PowerPoint	Rufane Smith	Andrew Moore	Ursula Ebert	Rufane Smith	Andrew Moore
Preacher	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Duty Elder	Pam Cowley	Cheryl Doddrell	Colin Wilhelms	Diane Hall	Pam Cowley
Public Address	Geoff Lacey	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Colin Wilhelms	Geoff Lacey	Gavin Bartholomeusz

Endeavour Hills Uniting Church

Service Times

Sunday of the Month	10.30 am
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 0477 149 367

Church Council

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 Garnepudi 0452 551 077
Jean Lacey 9700 7246
Pam Cowley 0477 149 367
Diane Hall 9700 5104
Colin Wilhelms 9794 7175

Elders

Pam Cowley 0477 149 367
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

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 Groups 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 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
March 2016	28th February 2016	6th March 2016
April 2016	27th March 2016	3rd April 2016
May 2016	24th April 2016	1st May 2016
June 2016	May 29th 2016	5th June 2016

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