

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.

LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS FAIR

The other day, I parked my little red Mazda Miata outside the post office, behind a hulking great Ford Explorer. I was standing in line in the post office when a flustered-looking man pushed through the door. "Does somebody here own that little red car outside?" he asked.

"That must be mine." I said. "I just backed into it," he apologized as we went out together. "I didn't see it behind me. I didn't know it was there until I heard a crunching sound."

He had smashed one plastic lens over a light, and his rear bumper, riding up over my front bumper, had chipped and cracked the paint. I got some estimates. I was shocked. The lens alone cost \$118. Estimates for refinishing the bumper ranged from \$200 to \$400. It didn't seem fair. It seemed like an awfully high price for a couple of seconds of carelessness. Yet I have to admit that it could have been worse. Instead of a car, that could have been a child back there. Those few seconds of carelessness could have cost a life, could have plunged the driver into a lifetime of remorse and the child's family into a lifetime of mourning.

Every act has its consequences, and we can't change them simply because the cause and the effect seem out of proportion. But it also

Trust in
the Lord,



because
his love is
constant

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(Continued from page 3)

Life Isn't Always Fair

didn't seem fair because I believe honesty should be rewarded, not penalised. The other man could, after all, have simply driven away and got off scot-free. (That's not a slur on residents of Scotland, by the way—a "scot" was a term for money assessed or paid, like a tax.) I'm not sure where we got the idea that life should be fair. It isn't—it never has been. A famous quote from the Bible says "The rain falls on the just and the unjust alike", Diseases don't discriminate, nor do what insurance companies call "acts of God"—landslides, earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanoes... There are ways of minimising risks, of course—practise hygiene, avoid promiscuity—but there is no such thing as a guarantee against cancer, or being struck by lightning, or having a car accident.

The assumption that life should be fair leads to the image of God as an almighty accountant, carefully calculating the plusses and minuses on the balance sheet of each person's life, and handing out rewards and punishments accordingly. That image contradicts most of our life experiences, because we don't get what we deserve. We get what we get. Period. Life is not a system of rewards and punishments, administered by some divine disciplinarian. Rather, it's about what we do with what we've got. We know that by our most foundational experiences in the family. We don't love children because we expect a reward. We love them for their own sake. Honesty, integrity and loyalty, are their own reward. But it still hurts when we have to pay a lot for a momentary mistake.

— *Jim Taylor*

Tim Taylor is a free lance writer living in British Columbia.

HIDDEN WONDERS



As an early riser (I wake up 5am most days), I wait impatiently for the sunrise before I go into the garden. My cat is even more impatient, so we usually venture out by torchlight at about 6:15am. The birds are just starting to greet the day – blackbirds, crows, lapwings, little corellas and many others. A delightful perfume will fill the air as we walk. Our osmanthus is in flower, producing a most amazing scent.

During one of our morning strolls, I ventured into a corner where I found a solid spider in a big web. A friend identified it, by my description, as a garden orb spider. I had never seen one before, but as the days passed I knew why. For three weeks I watched this spider by torchlight. The amazing thing is that it spins a big web each night, but dismantles it just before dawn, taking about ten minutes to do so. If I don't check before dawn, I miss this amazing spectacle. It then disappears into a tree for the day, only to repeat the web making each night.

Later in the week I found another unusual web, this time a small rectangle about three by two centimetres attached to some plant stems close to the ground. This web belongs to a net-casting spider which throws the net over the unsuspecting prey.

I'm not a great fan of arachnids, but I still found them fascinating and felt privileged to have discovered and observed them at work.

Reflection: How true indeed is this quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson – “All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.”

Janet Soo

EXTENDED VOCATION



Wandering along our suburban street, I passed an Anglican church and noticed a figure on his knees at work. The church garden is always well-tended and is a credit to our friends. The gardener looked up when I greeted

him. Beneath his sun hat, I saw the smiling face of Fred, a local GP who is now retired. As Mary Magdalene discovered, it is surprising who you meet in a garden. Fred and his lovely wife Barbara were always at church, except when Fred was delivering a baby; he was highly regarded as an obstetrician.

I had the privilege of reading some of Fred's adventures. During World War II, Fred served in the British Navy's Mediterranean fleet. His ship was torpedoed twice, and each time he was rescued from the sea by a passing vessel. Fred believed he was saved for a purpose - to study after the war and spend his life serving as a doctor, and he did just that, ably assisted by Barbara in medical practice. Upon his retirement, Fred kept the church garden in order as an extended caring vocation, and the garden gave pleasure to all who passed by down the street.

Reflection: Lord, when we retire you still have something useful for us to do. Whatever the sum of years, you have a job for each of us. Please add the best of our time, experience and gathered wisdom to the Church's mission. We can serve and praise you in so many ways. Keep us alert for local needs. Lord of the years, we bring our thanks to you today. Amen.

Bill Pugh

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

In Pope Francis' encyclical on climate change he encourages Christians and all people to take action to reduce the impact of climate change. Most people recognise that human induced climate change will result in hotter temperatures, which have the flow-on effects of more heat waves, droughts, bushfires, floods and other natural disasters. These impacts will affect everyone, but are particularly bad for third world countries. It also has very negative effects for the natural environment, with many species likely to become extinct from climate change.

The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania already made the decision to take action in 2011 by committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020. The question for me is what are we doing at Endeavour Hills Uniting Church to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions?

In looking at the range of possible actions that we can take, I have found the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change to be a good resource <http://www.arrcc.org.au/>. They have produced climate change action kits for four religions including Christianity.

There are so many different things we can do to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Some cost money, such as switching to green power and buying 100% recycled paper, some take time and energy such as walking or riding to church instead of driving, and some involve changing the way we live, such as eating less meat and growing our own vegetables. Let's start talking about climate change, about what we can do as a congregation and individually. We can make a difference.

Andrea Mayes



SOME PROPERTY MATTERS FROM THE PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

MANSE

The painting has been finished inside and outside the building. Carpets and wooden floors should be going down within the next couple of weeks. There are still finishing touches such as lights, curtains, shower doors etc. to be installed.

There is a holdup on the fence (facing John Fawknor Drive) due to the extra height we would like in order to have some privacy, especially from the bus stop. This needs Casey Council approval, involving many forms to complete and fees to pay!

The old heater had to be replaced as it was too old for parts to be available –so we now have floor ducted heating, which is much more efficient than the previous set-up.

Soon we will be asking for help in setting out the garden – the last stage.

Hopefully we will soon have a Minister and family to make use of the Manse, as otherwise we will have to look at temporary tenants. It is obviously not good to leave it vacant for too long.

BACK OF CHURCH

While we are really enjoying the luxury of the space, we also need to raise some funds by renting or hiring out the back rooms of the church building. If anyone knows of someone needing office space, this could be an option, as it worked well for Presbytery last year. Any ideas are welcome – see a member of Property & Finance Committee or Church Council. There are, obviously, some conditions which need to be met.

TREES AT FRONT OF CHURCH ON HELLYER WAY

There has been some talk about removing the trees to allow the church to be seen. These trees have been cut back many times, but grow back. If removed, roots and all, there will be an erosion problem, as well as a cost involved in disposing of the foliage. We therefore need to give this matter more thought.

Geoff Lacey

Chairperson



NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

10TH JUNE 2015

We farewelled Kharis on the last Sunday in May with a lunch and presentation. Kharis had been with us for 9 months.

Berlin Guerrero has accepted the invitation to be our Supply Minister – initially for 3 months, and we are enjoying getting to know him and his family.

Berlin requested a Worship Committee to work with him in preparing services. The first meeting was held last week, with four interested people.



We discussed the Carers' training sessions to be held at Dandenong UCA in July – an open invitation was given to the congregation.

Due to requests from the congregation, the Worship Committee will consider the reintroduction of the "Lighting of the Candles" – except on Communion and Baptism Sundays.

The Property and Finance Group presented the draft budget for the coming 2015/16 year, which was accepted by Church Council and will be presented to the Congregation on the 16th July.

The date for the next AGM was set for 16th August.

After the expenses of refurbishing the manse, and the church maintenance yet to be done, we will need to start fundraising again – for the Church. A sausage sizzle will be arranged at Bunnings. We need more ideas and willing workers—more ideas from the congregation for the use of the back of the Church (to bring in some funds) would be greatly appreciated.

After completion of the Safety Officers' Course, Geoff Lacey has been appointed Safety Officer – Property and Pam Cowley Safety Officer – Pastoral, as per requirements of the UCA.

A discussion was held regarding the trees blocking the view of the church. These have been cut back on numerous occasions and further action will be reviewed when funding permits.

Our new Playgroup was named "Treasure Trove." It will commence in July, led by Cheryl Doddrell and Steven Mayes.



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

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

As I watched the Hong Kong pro-democracy protests unfold late last year, one image in particular resonated with me. It was raining heavily during one of the nights and the standoff between the protestors



and the police was continuing well into the evening. In one of the images circulating on social media, a protestor was holding an umbrella to shield a police officer from the rain. What made this even more remarkable was that only a few hours before the photo was taken, some members of the police force were engaged in a violent confrontation with the protestors.

This brings to mind Jesus' teaching of 'loving your enemies'. It is through reconciliation and love that we can work towards building a more peaceful, compassionate and inclusive world. The Hong Kong protest movement has been dubbed the 'Umbrella Revolution' by the media for the activists' use of umbrellas, a symbol of non-violent resistance in juxtaposition to the tear gas, riot shields and batons of the police.

The umbrella is also a symbol of protection and shelter. Everyone has to weather storms in their lives. But we can give a gentle hug, a listening ear and a compassionate heart to those going through a tough time. We can open our arms to those who seek refuge in our country. We can hold an umbrella over our family, our friends – even our enemies – to protect them during periods of turbulence. Through our kindness and compassion, we can help shelter them from the storm.

Reflection: How can we show love to our 'enemies'? Let us take the time to check up on our family, friends, colleagues and neighbours and reflect on how we can offer them comfort during times of need.

Brian Lee

Notice Board



Sammy Stamp

Please save your used stamps for the Sammy Stamp Appeal. This has raised more than

\$745,000 for needy causes since it began. Please deposit saved stamps in the box marked "STAMPS" on the table in the Narthex.

Thank you to Lucy Mayes who has taken over this job.

Trading Table & Book Sales

The next Trading Table will be on the 12th July. The June takings were \$83.65 & will be donated to the Kids' HopeAus. Thank you to those who supported us. 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

Next Packing Day will be announced in due course. Please keep bringing your old newspapers.

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.

Manse & Other Property Matters

See page 8

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.**

**The next lunch will be on the
7th August**

**Various people take turns in
organising the First Friday
Lunch. Everybody is welcome,
and you are invited to bring
your friends too.**

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

WHERE IS GOD?



In the wake of a natural disaster, Christians sometimes feel a sense of confusion and uncertainty. Where is God amongst all this tragedy? If God loves us, then why does he let innocent people suffer? Like Jesus on the cross, we ask God why he has abandoned us, why he has abandoned the world?

It is something that I have wrestled with many times through my own faith journey. While I do not have all the answers (after all, I believe that doubt inspires us to explore and deepen our relationship with God), I have learnt that we can find God in the most unexpected places.

While tragic disasters can bring much death and devastation, it can also bring out the best in humanity. It is here that we can find God. We see God in the generosity of Australians who donated to the Boxing Day tsunami and the Black Saturday bushfires. We see God in the emergency relief heroes that rush to assist the injured and the displaced. We see God in the outpouring of prayers, compassion and solidarity following the Martin Place siege. We see God in the courage of the survivors as they seek to rebuild their lives.

Through our deeds of love and generosity, we shine God's light in the darkness.

Reflection: Where is God? We can find God within our hearts, inspiring us and giving us the courage to share his gift of love and compassion with the world.

Jeff Clarke

THE LOST PACKAGE

I looked up as a squeal rang out from my youngest daughter. I saw it, sitting on our fence – a brown box. As she grabbed the box and ran back towards our house, I dared to wonder if it was the missing package. Inside was a carefully chosen present for her best friend, who is now residing overseas. My daughter also wrote her a hand-written note, an almost unheard-of extravagance to this modern media generation.



Unfortunately the parcel was sent to the wrong address. Her friend had tried to visit the address it had been sent to, but language differences complicated the exchange and so we had all given up on seeing the gift.

But there in my daughter's hands, many weeks later, was the parcel. Her delight was palpable, and her joy was sent out on social media. I asked her if she wanted to wrap it back up and post it to the correct address.

"No, I'll take it to her when I see her later this year. I'm not letting it out of my sight," she said.

I thought of the parables of the lost coin, the widow's joy at finding it, and of the father seeing his prodigal son, the Shepherd finding his sheep. I thanked God for the generosity of the people who returned the parcel, instead of keeping it or throwing it away. I thanked God for the postal system that, without extra charge, returned it to sender. Small parcel, big lessons, great joy!

Reflection: Like the lost parcel, God keeps waiting and watching for us to turn up. He is generous and patient with his love. Through small acts of kindness, we can share His love with the world.

Wendy Lewis

SHARE WINTER APPEAL

Everyday local families like Emma, Hayley and dad Richard, are sleeping rough.

They were just one of many families who found themselves homeless simply because they have fallen on hard times. *Read their story in your appeal brochure.*

A donation to the Share Winter Appeal will make a real impact and go towards food, clothing, medical help and crisis housing for families and children in need.

To **donate**: see your appeal brochure, call **1800 668 426** or visit shareappeal.org.au

Need more help?

If you would like an electronic version of the newsletter ads, a PowerPoint presentation, or more advice on promoting Share, please contact us: Phone: **1800 668 426**

Email: appeals@victas.uca.org.au

Thought for the Month

God doesn't want shares in your life;
God wants a controlling interest.

KIDS IN CHURCH

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

A little kid said, "Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

The kid said, "Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n'Mary."



3-year-old Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime. She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from E-mail."

One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

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Kids in Church

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud.

Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mummy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Contributed by Maria Harding

PRAYER IS THE MAGNETISM BETWEEN THE SOVEREIGN LORD AND A LIVING SOUL

“Pray continually, pray without ceasing” *1Thessalonians 5:17*. “If my people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My Face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” *2 Chronicles 7:14*.

Prayer is the divine communion with our sovereign Lord. It is a divine mystery wrapped in an enigma of an omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient God. Prayer is the electricity generated between a living soul and his Creator God. Prayer is the vision of a believer which gives eyes to his faith. Believers see beyond themselves, with spiritual eyes on an infinite, immortal God.

All the prophets from Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Paul among others, were men of prayer. They all prayed without ceasing and the Saints accomplished their Sainthood by importunate prayer. George Muller of Bristol was a man of persistent prayer, who made petitions only to God for all the resources including money for the orphanages. Nicholas Herman known as Brother Lawrence was a true Christian soul who spent long hours kneeling before the Lord. “I prostrate myself in prayer and worship before Him, who has given me grace to work.”

People of prayer need to impregnate the sanctity of prayer with the spirit of Sunday carried over through Monday to Saturday. True Christian believers need to be people of prayer. It does not matter how conspicuous we are in the church or the world, we fail if we are not people of prayer. Our brains and hearts must surrender to prayer. Believers are very ineffective without prayer. Angels in heaven can do nothing without prayer, but all things are possible with prayer.

The angels, apostles, prophets and saints relied totally on prayer and so it should be with preachers today. It is possible that a sermon may be delivered in an official, entertaining way without prayer; but the quality of preaching and the sowing of God’s precious seed are never accomplished this way. The message or the sermon on Sunday must be received first from God in heaven. If it is not so, the preachers’ human power, oratory and superb language style will only have an earthly secular effect and impression on the hearts and minds of the congregation. A message sent from heaven for the sermon to a minister, is incomparable with an excellent orator who may be a minister not empowered by the Holy Spirit. It will not bear fruit for a successful ministry. Preachers need to spend much time in the closet in communion with God, before they can deliver an expository message, with their faith quickened by the Spirit of God, vision cleared and heart warmed.

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Prayer is the Magnetism...

Until the day of Pentecost the same men who had gathered with the women, continued to wait with one accord in prayer and supplication. The promise of the Father “this power from on high” (*Acts 1:14*) was not the force of a mighty intellect. It was not the acquisition of great learning. It was not any earthly source of power. The effect and energy of all human forces are different, sometimes flawed in service and character and do not result from “this power from on high”. Transmission of such power is directly from God. The Omnipotent power of God is transmitted to His messenger only in answer to prayer, when his soul is agonised like a wrestler, with a longing before a Sovereign Lord. The messenger should know he is thoroughly inadequate without the omnipotence of the Lord he serves, to fully understand the given Word and to deliver his sermon to his fellow men and women.

If we are serious about our Christianity we need to consecrate a place to pray. Secret prayer and holy living are inseparable. Charles G. Finney, Charles H. Spurgeon, David Livingstone, W D Longstaff and John Wesley were great prayer warriors among numerous other men of God who prayed consistently.

Prayer should involve all its elements such as adoration, confession, thanksgiving, sanctification, intercession, listening, meditation, petition, praise, waiting, watching and praying, and singing. This undoubtedly is a prime condition for Christians to be true disciples of Christ in the kingdom of God.

Presently there are eloquent preachers by the hundreds of thousands, but unless they are people of prayer, their effectiveness will be lacking in power enabled by the Holy Spirit of God. In all our praying we need to remember that God will not alter His eternal purposes merely at the utterance of a mortal being. We cannot persuade God to change His mind. When we pray we bring our will in line with the will of God. Prayer changes people and can enable God to answer prayer according to His will. Apart from the superlative devotion to God’s Word and the passion for Christ and God’s truth, when we pray we need to have a sense of His divine presence.

We listen to a preacher giving the sermon every Sunday. Hence the preacher needs to be conscious of the divine power of God’s Spirit. He must have an anointing empowered and sealed by the Holy Spirit. This is essential in the great work of preaching, familiarity with God’s voice, giving him the energy of God’s power that His Word can come alive to those who listen.

Lashman Pethiyagoda

QUOTES AND COMMENTS

“Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.”

Thomas a Kempis

Many are helped to praise God by what they see in the country. But most of us live in cities surrounded by people. We make a great mistake if we think we can't see God in the city. I believe that when I look at people in a bus queue I can see more of God's trust, goodness and beauty than if I saw a sunset or a rainbow.

David Shepherd

A piece of sartorial colour emerged when the former Archbishop of Canterbury met the Press Club in Washington DC. His wife, he revealed, had been in a dress shop trying to choose between two dresses, one red and one green, and finally said to the assistant: “I think I'll have the green, since my husband wears quite a lot of purple”.

“Oh”, said the sales lady. “Trendy husband!”

During a national Anglican meeting a bemused archdeacon came up with the following formulation of what he was hearing:

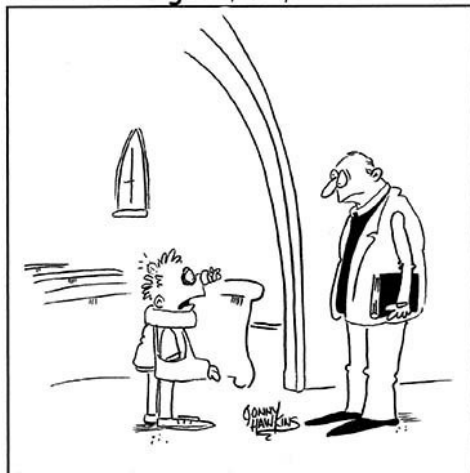
May I share where I am coming from, a concern that keeps surfacing in terms of my personal mind-set, which influences my life style and faith stance vis-à-vis my stratification of ministry, so that I am unable to come to grips with some vehicle for the prioritization of the theological models where it's at, at this point in time.

Or in other words:

I am having problems expressing how to put my faith into practice.

CARTOON CORNER

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"My neighbor beat me up for calling him a reprobate."

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"Ok, Bob ... well - it looks as though your family troubles are all behind you."

© 2013 Jonny Hawkins

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"And these new lights can be lowered and used to make coffee."

DUBIOUS DEMOCRACY

I didn't expect to get a lesson in democracy on a hiking trail. There were five of us hiking that day. On a sunny day, the trail would have been spectacular. It climbed steeply out of the valley, snaked along the side of an emerald green lake, then up beside a stream cascading down. We scrambled across a long-ago landslide to a placid beaver pond. Farther along, the guidebook assured us, was a magnificent waterfall, and beyond that, three more limpid lakes. But this was not a sunny day. The rain came down in squalls. We were cold, wet and miserable.



We stopped by the beaver pond for a soggy lunch. "How many of us want to go on," asked a voice from beneath a dripping poncho, "and how many want to go home?"

The vote was unanimous. We all wanted to go back.

Then I think I said something like, "It seems like a shame not to see the waterfall, since we're so close. We could leave our packs here and be back in 15 minutes."

"You go if you want to," my daughter Sharon replied. "I'll wait here with the packs."

So I sprinted off through a belt of trees. Ahead of me, a waterfall higher than Niagara plunged down a cliff like a column of white lace. I snapped some photos. When I looked up, I saw that three others had decided to follow me. Only now they had gone on ahead, pushing closer to the falls. One of them didn't stop at the falls. He started struggling up the steep, treacherous trail to the top. The other two followed him. So did I.

And so we went to the top. And as we paused there to catch our breath, one of the women asked a penetrating question: "Is this how democracy works? We

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Dubious Democracy

voted unanimously to go back down, and instead we went on and ended up here?”

Yes, unless you have leaders who will take you where you want to go. Over my lifetime, I’ve had the misfortune of belonging to a variety of organizations where people held meetings. They voted. They made a decision. And then they waited for something to happen. But it didn’t. Because no one took the initiative to lead. No one risked being the first in line.

Of course, sometimes the opposite happens. The leader, having got out in front, ignores the vote. History is full of examples of leaders who didn’t take people where they wanted to go. Some of the worst dictators of the last century — Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler — were originally democratically elected. But because someone was leading, the people followed.

Halfway up the hill, when I caught up with the group, I asked, “Where are you trying to lead us?”

“I’m not trying to lead you anywhere,” the person in front said. “Every time I turn around, you’re right behind me!” Followers have responsibilities too.

Jim Taylor

INTERACT AND THE WEBSITE

Many families have opted to read Interact on the website instead of having the printed version; however the printed version will be kept as an option for as long as it is required.

If anyone has any ideas for the website, please contact:

Jean Lacey (gandjlacey@ozemail.com.au)

or

Marion Ward (wardmarion@hotmail.com).

Photos of various events are very welcome.

FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



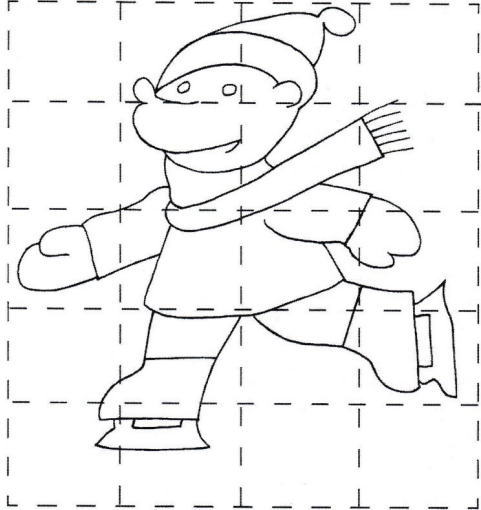
K I D S' C L I P S

Winter Fun

It might be cold in some parts of the world in July. Where could it be?

Colour the ice skater. Cut the picture apart and then put it back together.

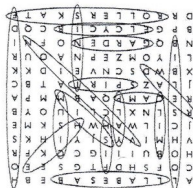
Cut on the dotted lines.



Summer Activities

Here are some summer time activities. Can you find them in the puzzle? Make your own list of things you would like to do.

Camp	Music
Swim	Read
Baseball	Garden
Bible School	Bicycle
Horseback Ride	
Tennis	
Trips	
Vacation	
Play	
Fish	
Hike	
Climb	
Roller Skate	



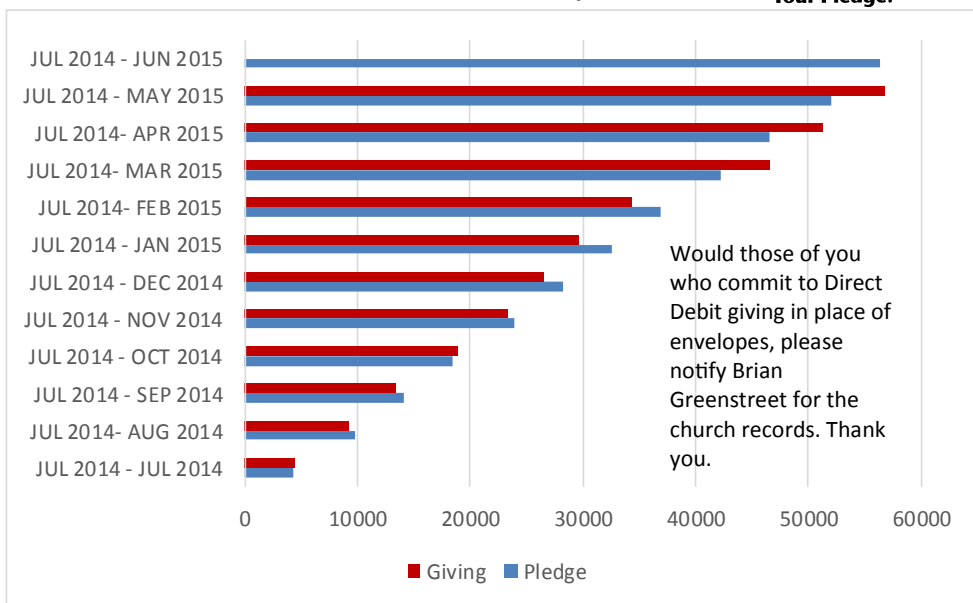
A	L	L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B	E	B	H
C	O	F	S	H	D	F	T	G	S	E	E	O
H	O	B	U	I	I	I	G	C	C	K	F	R
V	H	M	I	V	Y	S	J	Y	I	H	K	S
J	C	I	L	W	A	H	W	H	S	K	M	E
R	S	L	N	X	L	C	L	I	U	O	Y	B
R	E	C	A	M	P	Q	A	B	M	M	P	A
J	L	A	Z	S	P	I	R	T	A	T	B	C
X	B	W	D	S	C	N	V	E	I	D	K	K
L	I	Y	O	M	Z	E	P	N	A	O	U	R
N	B	Q	G	A	R	D	E	N	O	F	N	I
B	P	G	E	L	C	Y	C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

July 2015

USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

Sunday	10:30 am	Worship EHUC	All Areas
Monday	9:30 – 11.30 am	Play Group “Treasure Trove”	Hall
Tuesday	7:30-9 pm	Beta Bible Study	Meeting Room (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)
Wednesday	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)
Thursday	7:30 pm	Singing Group	Church
ALL GROUPS will have access to toilets and kitchen. “Hall” = old pre-school area			

Planned Giving





Lectionary for July

Date		Readings
Pentecost 6 5th July 2015		2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13
Pentecost 7 12th July 2015		2 Samuel 6:1-5,12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29
Pentecost 8 19th July 2015		2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34,53-56
Pentecost 9 26th July 2015		2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21

July Roster

July 2015	5	12	19	26
Bible Reading	Lynne Bryan Gavin Bartholomeusz	Judy Hopkins Heather Kimber	Wes & Jenni Porch	Lynda & Brian Greenstreet
Communion Preparation	Heather Kimber Christine Summers			
Communion Servers	Pam Cowley Elke Beecher			
Communion Steward	Brian Hall			
Counting of Offering	Catherine Gonsalves Pam Cowley	David Garnepudi Wes Porch	Brian Hall Brian Greenstreet	Grant Allison Sandra Cox
Door/Offering	Grant Allison	Stan & Sue Ashley	Christine Summers	Murray John
Early Word		Judy Hopkins	Stephen Mayes	Lynda Greenstreet
Flowers	Artificial Flowers	Artificial Flowers	Mary Mehl	Artificial Flowers
Kitchen	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	Mary Mehl Christine Summers	Heather Kimber Pam Cowley	Jacqui Gacutan Mathy Watkins
Organist/ Pianist	Olive Morland	Edith John	Sue Reid	Band
PowerPoint	Jean Lacey	Andrew Moore	Jean Lacey	Marion Ward
Preacher/ Duty Elder	Berlin Guerrero Pam Cowley	Berlin Guerrero Cheryl Doddrell	Berlin Guerrero Judy Hopkins	Berlin Guerrero Diane Hall
Public Address	Geoff Lacey	Colin Wilhelms	Paul Watkins	Warren Ward

August Roster

Aug 2015	2	9	16	23	30
Bible Reading	David Garnepudi Gavin Bartholomeusz	Judy Hopkins Heather Kimber	Gonsalves Family	Colin Wilhelms Mary Mehl	Stan & Sue Ashley
Communion Preparation	Delilah Spencer Elizabeth Moore				
Communion Servers	Judy Hopkins Cheryl Doddrell Diane Hall Colin Wilhelms				
Counting of Offering	Pam Cowley Warren Ward	Wes Porch Bruce Hansen	Catherine Gonsalves Lynne Bryan	David Gamepudi Brian Greenstreet	Sandra Cox Brian Hall
Door/ Offering	Andrew Moore	Christine Summers	Sandra Cox	Grant Allison	Stan Ashley
Early Word		Judy Hopkins	Stephen Mayes	Pam Cowley	Sue Reid
Flowers	Cheryl Doddrell Edith John	Artificial	Mary Mehl	Elizabeth Kapitany	Artificial
Kitchen	Sandra Cox Joan Hansen	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	Gonsalves Family	Jacqui Gacutan Mathy Watkins	Heather Kimber Pam Cowley
Organist/ Pianist	Edith John	Sue Reid	Olive Morland	Edith John	Band
Power Point	Jean Lacey	Andrew Moore	Marion Ward	Andrew Moore	Jean Lacey
Preacher Duty Elder	Berlin Guerrero Colin Wilhelms	Berlin Guerrero Judy Hopkins	Berlin Guerrero Pam Cowley	Berlin Guerrero Cheryl Doddrell	Berlin Guerrero Diane Hall
Public Address	Geoff Lacey	Colin Wilhelms	Warren Ward	Paul Watkins	Gavin Bartholomeusz
<p align="center">A Reminder</p> <p>If you swap, would you please make a note on the Roster on the Notice Board? Also, it may be a good idea to make sure you are not doing conflicting duties!</p>					

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

George Balthazar 9700 3998
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
August 2015	July 26th	August 2nd
September 2015	August 30th	September 6th
October 2015	September 27th	October 4th
November 2015	October 25th	November 1st
December 2015	November 29th	December 6th

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