

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.'



To every thing there is a season...

Ecclesiastes 3:1

**Cnr. Hellyer Way & Raymond McMahon Boulevard
Endeavour Hills 3802**

Minister: Rev. Robin Yang

Email: minister@ehuc.org.au

Church Office Telephone: 9700 2125

Web Address: www.ehuc.org.au



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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



Brother and sisters in Christ,

What a joy and privilege my first month of ministry has been. I have loved worshipping together on Sundays, I've enjoyed pastoral visits, enjoyed meeting with Bible Study groups, praying on Friday mornings, practising my vocal cords with our Singing Group, loved coffee & donuts on Friday mornings, met with the Alive team, Church Council and Pastoral Carers, and met and volunteered to teach basic computer skills at the Neighbourhood Centre. I have come to see just how beautiful and faithful members of this congregation are. We are a very blessed group of ordinary people who worship an extraordinary God.

I mentioned in my first sermon of the current sermon series, "Lessons Learnt During My Sabbatical", that I wanted to lay down worship, community and prayer as the foundations of our church. Upon these three pillars will our mission statement stand, and indeed, flourish.

Worship is central to a vibrant Christian community. Therefore, can I encourage everyone to make Sunday morning worship a priority. I would also challenge everyone to see worship as an opportunity to 'BLESS' rather than be blessed. Too many Christians today come to

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A Reflection from Robin

church to be blessed. This should never be our attitude and is the reason why many Christians 'church shop' and can never settle in a spiritual home. It is inward focused and ultimately selfish. Instead, may God give us the grace and strength to 'bless' fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. To bless means we come willing to encourage, strengthen and serve each other. To bless has a heart attitude of selflessness, love and to be Christlike. Know that when we bless others, we ourselves are blessed. *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."* (Philippians 1:21.)

In next month's issue of Interact, I will write about community. As always, it is a privilege and honour to be serving at Endeavour Hills. I would appreciate your prayers; know that I am praying for all of you.

God Bless

Robin



TAKE TIME...

to think; it is the source of power.

to play; it is the secret of perpetual youth.

to pray; it is the greatest power on earth.

to love and be loved; it is God-given privilege.

to be friendly; it is the road to happiness.

BEING HEALED

THE COACH



During a sermon, the preacher observed that we can see God from two perspectives: God as a referee, or God as a coach.

If we see God as a referee, he is like a judge who constantly monitors and reprimands us for our wrongdoing. The referee does not care who wins or loses. His role is to make sure all the players on the field abide by the rules. If we break the rules, we may receive a 'yellow card' for our transgressions.

The other perspective is to see God as a coach. He often pushes us, sometimes beyond our comfort zone. But he does so because he wants to see us improve. He wants us to fulfil our potential and make the most of our gifts. During moments of weakness and self-doubt, he is there to offer us encouragement and strength.

God wants us to grow so we can use our talents to serve others. We can do so much more with our gifts. We can be God's hands in the world, doing his good works. When we feed the hungry, clothe the poor and visit the sick, we are fulfilling Jesus' mission.

Reflection:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.

St Teresa of Avila

Brian Lee

Image by popofatticus via Flickr

ROUTINE



At our home, there is a locked-in pattern. Washing towels on Mondays, sheets on Wednesdays, Church on Sundays, house cleaning and shopping once a week, and dishes every day!

We have personal responsibilities and some shared jobs. That's the plan. But sometimes, something unexpected happens which causes a change in routine. A funeral, a leaky tap, a milk shortage, or requests to pick up the grandchildren from school. It can be a bit annoying to have our ordered existence disrupted!

Long ago the Psalmist gave us the wisdom of experience and how to plan an ordered life—to begin with God as the Master Builder. “If the Lord does not build the house, the work of the builders is useless.”

When our ordered existence is threatened by the tests and irritations of daily life, the words of Paul remind us that, “love is patient and kind”.

Reflection: Read the wisdom of Psalm 127 and pray for our homes, communities, and our government to begin and end each day with the Lord.

Bill Pugh

CHOIR AT CHURCH



I was invited to sing in the Hampton Methodist church choir when I was 16 years old. It involved a rehearsal once a week, singing an

anthem in the morning and sometimes at the evening service as well. The conductor needed more tenors (a high part); however, my throat soon told me it was the lower bass or nothing. Four-part harmony was, and still is, very satisfying to me. I enjoy standing next to singers from the other sections of the choir to harmonise and increase my sight-reading skills.

Once married, my wife and I became members of Leighmoor Uniting (previously Methodist) Church at Moorabbin. Here, I also joined the choir. A few years later, I was invited to become its conductor. This involved selecting suitable music, recruiting singers and preparing an anthem for each Sunday service. For approximately 30 years, I shared this role with another musician.

Leighmoor has a fine tradition of regular support from its choir, though the performance of cantatas and choir concerts has now gone by the board.

Today, our choir is led by our minister's wife, who also plays keyboard. We still sing as a choir, though not quite as often as we used to. Nonetheless, the congregational singing at worship services is just as strong as it has ever been.

Reflection: Using one's God-given talents to sing praises during worship services is a pleasure for each chorister. I have no doubt research will prove that these benefits also flow to the singer – physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Geoff Serpell

WAYS OF GIVING

Sometimes retired ministers are 'recycled' to help out in a church. A few years ago I took a service at a suburban church.



All was routine, until we came to the offering. The stewards took the plates from the Communion Table and gradually passed them along the rows.

Now the Bible warns us about jumping to conclusions about people, which is put more forcefully by Jesus. We should not be judgemental about anyone, because this has consequences. But the plates went up the rows pretty quickly! Some people shook their heads, others just passed the plate along.

Much later I found out the answer. Some people make their offerings via electronic debits, from a bank account. Treasurers and budget planners love that! So I was chastened.

There are many avenues of stewardship – envelope systems, open plate etc. Our gifts of time, service, prayer, using our talents in worship services, visiting the sick – these are all mission. How much should we give? That is between us and the Lord, and sometimes we are challenged to give to Share, World Vision, Red Cross, and areas of disaster and suffering.

Reflection: The discipline of regular giving was Paul's challenge to fellow believers, and he asked them to respond, over and above, to help needy Christians when there was poverty in Jerusalem. He recommends responsible stewardship. Read *1 Corinthians 16 :1-4*. Maybe have a thought for the generous widow and her mite, and the noisy temple givers who made such an attention-seeking fuss.

Bill Pugh

BENEFICIARIES



We often think of the word ‘beneficiaries’ as applying to someone’s will, leaving property or money.

As members of the Church, we are all beneficiaries—inheritors of church buildings and halls handed down to us by those who have worked to raise money, or left sums of money in their wills. Years of effort resulted in our now having a place to worship and host all kinds of activities. Local church histories tell stories of wonderful men and women – benefactors – to whom we owe so much for our inheritance.

In other ways, we have been blessed too. Men and women called to ministry have been trained at our theological colleges over many years, supported by beneficiary funds set up by the Church—fees and accommodation paid by funds set aside, including lecturers and professors appointed to teach students in their years of preparation. How blessed we have been.

As inheritors we are now called to do our part to maintain, restore, renew and build for the future.

Stewardship is a practical expression of mission, to show gratitude for our abundant inheritances.

Reflection: Think of ways in which your church and you have benefited over the years. Count those blessings. Is there a challenge for you to do more? Read *John 1:16*.

Bill Pugh

Image by Matt via Flickr

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

8TH JUNE 2016

Our last meeting was held on the 8th June – the first meeting with Robin.

Some items which have been pending for some time have now been completed.

We now have a fully stocked First Aid Kit – stored in the kitchen.



The Trading Table has raised the balance of the \$770 needed for Kids' Hope.

Energy Audit has been carried out on our church building and Property & Finance will look at each item as it needs replacement to see if we can afford to be environmentally friendly.

Robin led a discussion on what we as a Church Council see as "Important and Urgent" and "Community" was one item – getting to know each other outside worship.

Robin will lead five special sermons on "Lessons learnt through my Sabbatical" commencing 19th June.

A date was set for the Congregational Meeting to present budget – 17th July and for our AGM on the 14th August.

Treasure Trove is still attracting more children each week.

Fundraising :

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle to be organised

Shopping Tour – being organised – proceeds to Mercy Ships

Trading Table – ongoing.

Web Site - the congregation will be asked to view the web site and give any suggestions etc. to Jean who will take them to Stan Ashley.

The sign on the corner facing Raymond McMahon Boulevard is to be updated.

*Jean Lacey
for 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 June was \$100.90.

The next Trading Table will be on the 10th July.

We have reached our goal of \$700.00 for the Kids Hope programme, so from this month the money 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 and the will be very much appreciated.

Contact: Bruce Hansen 9706 0585
Email: 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

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)

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.

LOVE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT



It is often easier to perform acts of kindness to people who are similar to us, people we like and empathise with and people like our family and friends.

Why is it so much harder to go out of our way to help a complete stranger?

When we see someone on the street – especially someone who is dishevelled or unkempt in their appearance – we may become suspicious of their intentions. We start doubting and stop loving. We start to judge and make assumptions about their character and their motivations.

Jesus reached out to those on the margins of society, people labelled ‘outsiders’. This included lepers, gentiles and tax collectors. Women in those days were regarded as second-class citizens, yet Jesus chose women as the first witnesses to his resurrection.

His willingness to dine with the poor and those branded ‘sinners’ attracted scrutiny, even scorn, from those who considered themselves more worthy. But God’s love is universal and his kingdom open to all.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus offered companionship to those who were forgotten by society. As followers of Jesus, our challenge is to carry that inclusive spirit into our everyday interactions.

Reflection:

The Bible is filled with stories of Jesus’ ministry to the marginalised. Take some time to read and reflect on those stories. May the love of Christ inspire us to love all people regardless of their social, cultural and religious background.

Lisa Cook

In March this year, Share won the Fundraising Institute Australia National Gifts in Wills Award of Excellence.

Our programme is about encouraging people to leave a gift in their Will to assist local people in our communities who are facing disadvantage and crisis. We feel very honoured and would like to thank our incredibly generous donors for supporting our work.

TALKING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT PRAYER

Just as Jesus taught the disciples to pray it is important that we teach our children to pray and model for them how to pray. Some children (and adults too) can worry about doing it “the right way” so be sure to let them know that the thing that matters is spending time with God.

Establishing prayer routines can be very helpful. Mealtime prayers (both at home and when dining out), bedtime prayers, and prayers on special occasions help to create routines and patterns. Yet we can pray at all times and in all places.



Remind children that prayer is not the same as magic. When we pray, we share with God our thoughts, hopes, and dreams. However, we are not placing an order or presenting a wish list. We can talk with God about what we hope will happen, but we trust God to do what is best. This needs to be stressed for two important reasons.

First, of course, prayers are not always answered the way we think best. Children can often pray in very concrete terms — make Johnny like me; help Grandma get better — and the results are not always as anticipated.

Second, children can also have fleeting bad thoughts that they may then connect with events, such as “I got mad at Kari and now her family is moving away; it’s my fault” or “I was mean to Daddy because he didn’t play ball with me and now Mummy and Daddy are getting divorced; it’s my fault”.

A good way to start our prayers is with thanks, or by remembering how wonderful God is. Simple prayers can work wonders, such as: “God, your world is so big and beautiful. I’m glad I’m a part of it. Please take care of everybody. Amen.” Or, in specific situations, “God, we know you love every person. Please take good care of my friends who are sick, and help them to feel better. Amen.” Words like “feel better” or “help them to know that you

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Talking with Children about Prayer

love them” are prayers that we can be assured, in simple concrete terms, are being answered.

What do we say when prayers do not get answered the way we would like? This can be especially difficult when the results are particularly hard to accept, such as a death or the recurrence of an illness (keep in mind that for a child the death of a pet can be just as traumatic as the death of a person).

The words, “I don’t understand” can be part of an honest answer. None of us — not even skilled and educated theologians, or wise and wonderful parents and grandparents — understand all of the mysteries of God and the universe. Saying, “I wish I had an answer, but I don’t”, can be okay. Sometimes things happen that are hard to understand, that are painful, and that we wish had happened differently. One thing we do know, though, is that God is always with us, even when we do not understand.

Praying with our children is important. Let them know that prayer is not confined to church or Sunday or special occasions. Model for them that prayer — in many styles and forms — is a key part of a spiritual life.

Resources on children and prayer

Teaching the Lord’s Prayer by *Delia Halverson, Abingdon Press.*

How Do Our Children Grow? Introducing Children to God, Jesus, the Bible, Prayer, Church by *Delia Halverson, Chalice Press.*

Children and Prayer: A Shared Pilgrimage by *Betty Shannon Cloyd, Upper Room Books.*

Thought for the Month

Love is more than a feeling or an emotion. It is a **decision** about how we treat one another.

*Nicky Gumbel.
Bible in One Year*

WORTH REPEATING

US president Abraham Lincoln is purported to have told this story about someone who was lost in the dark night in a thunderstorm. The lightning was crashing all around him and he was afraid. Finally he was driven to his knees and cried out: "Dear God, I'm not a prayin' man so I'll make this brief. If it's all the same to you, God, could we have a little more light and a little less noise?"

In Jerusalem a journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Western Wall to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long, long time. She went to the Western Wall and watched him pray. When he turned to leave, she approached him for an interview.

"Sir, how long have you been coming to the Western Wall to pray?" "For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews, and the Muslims. I pray for all the hatred to stop and I pray for all our children to grow up in safety and friendship."

"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?"

"Like I'm talking to a brick wall."

God enters by a private door into every individual.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

Walter Winchell

Kneading and Rising

As I knead the flour

I think of all the many grains that have been ground to make it. Christ's church is like flour — made up of many people of many races,

ground up to make a single dough.

As I watch the dough rise

I think of the yeast's power;

raising up the weight of flour and water.

Prayer in Christ is like rising dough, drawing together every hope and fear

and lifting them up to God.

Robert Van de Weyer, Celtic Parables

A life spent making mistakes is not only most honourable but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.

George Bernard Shaw

FAMILY LOVE



A baby bird, no more than a few days' old, was sitting in our backyard. Its young wings were damaged, perhaps clipped during an accident. The wounded bird was unable to fly; it was nestled on the barks of our garden. Dangerous predators can lurk in our backyard, none more treacherous than our resident cat!

I observed the bird from afar, unsure what I could do to help it. I am no vet or animal expert and I did not want to cause it further distress.

I watched as two birds – I assume its mother and father – fed it worms as they tried to nurse their child back to health. It was a powerful display of tender love and kindness. Even in the animal kingdom, the bond between parents and children is powerful.

I am often surprised, and touched, by the love displayed by animals, creatures of God's creation. How great is the love of a parent!

Pauline Murphy

FINDING GOD

We may not like to admit it but we all have days when we feel like the whole world is out to get us and we want to hide away in a cave. “No one understands me.”

“I have to do it all myself.”

“Nobody agrees with me.”

“There’s no point in going on.”



All sorts of thoughts and feelings can lead us to that point. It’s okay. It’s quite normal. It’s even biblical.

1 Kings 19:1-15 tells of a time when the prophet Elijah felt overwhelmed and abandoned. After doing his best to serve God Elijah is afraid for his life and runs away. At the end of his rope he cries out to God, “It is enough; now.”

But God’s reply is to provide just enough sustenance to keep Elijah going, and he continues for 40 days and nights - the Bible’s way of saying “for a long, long time”.

During such a long period of time it would seem possible that Elijah could have worked everything out, but after all this time God asks him what’s going on and Elijah answers again, “I’m the only person left who cares about you, God, and everyone’s out to get me.”

So God tells Elijah to wait for God’s presence and a number of surprising things take place. A furious wind, a devastating earthquake, and a fire all threaten Elijah, but God is not in any of those. Instead, Elijah hears God in what various translations call “a soft whisper” or “the sound of sheer silence.”

Many things can be taken from this story. First, when we think we can’t go on, God provides for us - one moment at a time, one step at a time. Second, when we are filled with the sound of our own self-pity God comes to us in stillness when we stop and listen.



**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

CARTOON CORNER

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"I didn't realize a law firm could bill you into the afterlife."

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



Pastors without Borders

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"I want to hide God's word in my heart. Too bad I don't have memory foam."

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"This should look good on my resume, right Preacher?"



Praise to you God,
you who answer prayer.
To you we come
when volumes of work overwhelm us.
You give us rest and relief.
You silence the roaring of the seas.
You silence the roaring of their waves.
You silence the tumult of the peoples.
You make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.
You water the earth and enrich it.
Your river is full.
Each day we plough
and you water the furrows abundantly,
softening us with showers,
blessing our growth.
You crown us with your bounty.
Your wagon tracks overflow with richness
and we give thanks to you, O God.
We give thanks, your name is near.
Amen.

Contributor Unknown

SHARE WINTER APPEAL

Each week, hundreds of parents and children are in desperate need of help. Families in our community are on the brink of hunger and homelessness. To do your bit and spread hope, please support Share's Winter appeal.

To donate call 1800 668 426 or visit shareappeal.org.au

CHRIST'S PROMISE ON PRAYER & INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The promise given to us, His believers, is on several varieties of prayer—"I say unto you", "ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you". Our Lord asserts that all forms of true prayer will be heard. "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (*James 5:16*). All forms of prayers must be offered in the name of our Lord Jesus, and are in the promised blessings. We may ask the Lord, loudly and continually, every day the prayer that is in our hearts because of the promise that when we ask, the Lord will hear us. In addition to our vocal prayers for our needs, we may be diligent in abundant, importunate and prevailing intercessory prayer. We humble ourselves before the Lord and seek the blessings we need and answers to our prayers. Our hearts speak to God of our innermost longings, strivings, emotions and labours. We should not cease praying until we receive answers to our prayers and speaking to God with much intimacy and affection. Our prayers grow from asking which is our petition, to seeking, which is our pleading, and then to knocking, an urgent request like a stranger knocking at the door. In each of these stages of prayer there is a distinct promise. He who asks will have; but he who seeks will go further; he will find and be joyful, seize and hold, understand, and his desires will be fulfilled. "...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ". (*Ephesians 3:17,18*). All the asking, seeking, knocking, in each case separately will be according to your faith. "According to your faith will it be done to you." *Matthew 9:29*. These three methods of prayer are a variety of graces in that faith asks, hope seeks, and love knocks. Faith asks because we believe God will give. Hope—having asked, waits in expectation and therefore seeks for the blessing. Love desires to enter into His presence. Love knocks at His door until He opens it.



Our prayers need not be eloquent with much ingenuity, scholarship, training, talent, wit or intelligence. We pray with our faith and belief in the

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Christ's Promise on Prayer

promise that Christ has given us. Our prayers progress to the pinnacle in intercessory prayer for other disciples in Christ. In John Chapter 17 it is awesome and inspiring to read our Lord's longest recorded prayer; first he prays for Himself, then He intercedes for His Disciples and thirdly He prays for all believers (*John 17: 1- 26*). How glorious it is when we spend time with God in prayer, asking what we want from Him for us and for others! We come boldly to the Throne of Grace with love and intimacy, the power of being used by Almighty God as instruments of righteousness for His wonderful work of making believers. His habitation shows forth His glory. In a secular world that is perishing, we seek grace from God to instil and cultivate in us an unceasing prayerfulness on behalf of all creation. In a united body of Christ there is tremendous strength and power from above. We need not plead our case from mortal, external and secular sources. We need to bind together when we approach the throne of God by an unceasing devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ. Our supplications or petitions need to be continuous and unceasing, powered by the Holy Spirit; the church will then put on her beautiful garments to strengthen and unite the church. Prophet Isaiah speaks of the garments of praise in Isaiah 61: 3 The life, power and the glory of the church are fundamentally prayer and intercessory prayer. The life of its members is dependent on prayer and the presence of God is secured and retained by prayer. Prayer gives a peculiar sacredness to the church, a sanctuary, a holy of holies where the Shekinah dwells. The church is a sacred edifice only when His divine presence is there. When we engage in persistent, prevailing prayer, though we may lack everything else, it becomes a Divine sanctuary. We may have a costly, beautiful building, perfect in all its appearance, attractive to the eye, but it will only be a building just like any other building, nothing Divine in it. When prayer is in the church God is always there. Prayer is the chief attraction for all spiritually-minded church-goers. While preaching of the Word is of great importance for the edifying and uplifting influence of Scripture on the mind, yet prayer is its predominating, distinguishing feature. Prayer distinguishes God's house from all other houses. Faithful believers meet with their Lord at church.

Lakshman Pethiyagoda

KINDNESS

Before you know what kindness really is you must lose things, feel the future dissolve in a moment like salt in a weakened broth. What you held in your hand, what you counted and carefully saved, all this must go so you know



how desolate the landscape can be between the regions of kindness. How you ride and ride thinking the bus will never stop. The passengers eating maize and chicken will stare out the window forever. Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness, you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho lies dead by the side of the road. You must see how this could be you, how he too was someone who journeyed through the night with plans and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside, you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing. You must wake up with sorrow. You must speak to it till your voice catches the thread of all sorrows and you see the size of the cloth.

Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore, only kindness that ties your shoes and sends you out into the day to mail letters and purchase bread, only kindness that raises its head from the crowd of the world to say, "It is I you have been looking for", and then goes with you everywhere like a shadow or a friend.

Naomi Shihab Nye, Words Under the Words, Eighth Mountain Press, 1995

Contributed by Robin Yang

SPIRIT JOURNEY



A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way.'

Isaiah 35: 8:8

You are Lord of the Holy Way, O God,
and You travel with us on our spirit journey.
We travel with you where Holy activity
and transforming work takes place,
for You do not lead us along the single lanes of townships.
We do not walk the solitary path to a holy shrine.
We tread a dual path of living, active faith.
Like the many intersecting highways of our land,
Your Holy Way connects and interconnects us
with the spirit journey of those we encounter along the way,
and in them we find you.

Linda Sutton

A PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

God our Father, you see children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world. I ask that you help young people at school in Victoria to develop healthy relationships with others. Help students to show respect to their teachers and peers. May they enjoy learning with, and from, them. Give them strength to get through difficult times—feeling lonely, the stress of exams, problems with friendships or in their family. Help them to face challenges with hope and confidence, knowing that there are others to support them as they go through tough times. Where there is failure, help them to see it not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

QUOTES AND COMMENTS

A good friend remembers what we were and sees what we can be.

Author Unknown

Life is neither a good nor an evil; it is simply the place where good and evil exist.

Seneca

Everyone has enough weeding to do in their own garden.

Flemish Proverb

A Soul met an angel and asked of him: "By which path shall I reach heaven quickest — the path of knowledge or the path of love?" The angel looked at him wonderingly and said: "Are not both paths one?"

Faith is not making religious-sounding noises in the daytime. It is asking your inmost self questions at night — and then getting up and going to work.

Mary Jean Irion, Yes, World: A Mosaic of Meditation

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped

was hurt, but without saying anything, he wrote in the sand: "Today my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking until they found an oasis where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but his friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "Today my best friend saved my life."

The friend, who had slapped and saved his best friend, asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand, and now you write on a stone. Why?" The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away; but when someone does something good for us we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

Bobbie Palmer

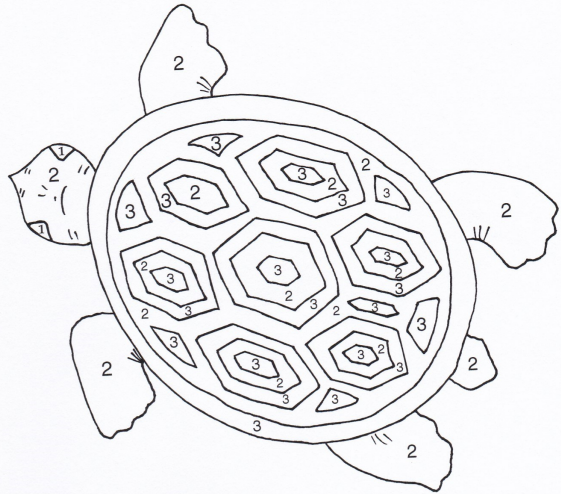
FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Draw and color

Color the turtle using the code below. Feel free to color in some underwater plants for the turtle to swim around.

Color code

- 1 – Black
- 2 – Green
- 3 – Yellow



Solve It

Use the Key below to solve this word puzzle. The number and letter combinations below each line are your clues. Where they intersect in the Key is your answer. For example, 5/C is the letter G.

Key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	F	D	W	B	A	S	M	G	A	C	X	I
B	H	L	Y	I	D	X	F	M	H	D	T	N
C	Y	H	E	O	G	Z	O	I	T	E	U	O
D	P	R	A	V	J	T	Z	A	F	A	L	N
E	A	B	K	O	N	Q	G	V	E	W	C	A
F	B	S	D	H	W	D	A	H	R	L	O	E
G	P	R	H	X	M	F	O	Q	B	S	C	S
H	D	D	I	K	N	D	G	T	E	R	I	E
I	T	W	N	L	C	U	S	M	H	F	J	A
J	I	D	Y	O	T	N	I	O	M	K	G	T
K	V	T	J	P	F	J	L	O	U	A	G	V
L	M	D	N	Z	K	T	I	W	E	Q	D	H
M	E	K	A	R	S	W	E	G	A	Y	L	E

G

5/C 7/G 2/J 8/I 1/E 10/B 12/M

6/L 4/F 9/E 3/A 11/H 11/D 6/H

10/K 3/L 4/B 9/J 9/A 4/T 5/M 11/F 5/K

6/D 8/F 3/C 9/L 8/D 2/G 12/J 1/B

8/K 7/B 1/M 4/D 9/H 2/D 10/M

4/H 7/L 5/E 6/F 12/I 6/J 1/H

8/M 12/C 2/A 12/G 7/F 2/I

9/C 2/C 3/M 2/K

12/A 1/I

10/E 5/A 2/F

11/J 4/J 7/C 11/L

Gen 1:25

Answer: God made the wild animals of the Earth and every kind . . . and God saw that it was good.

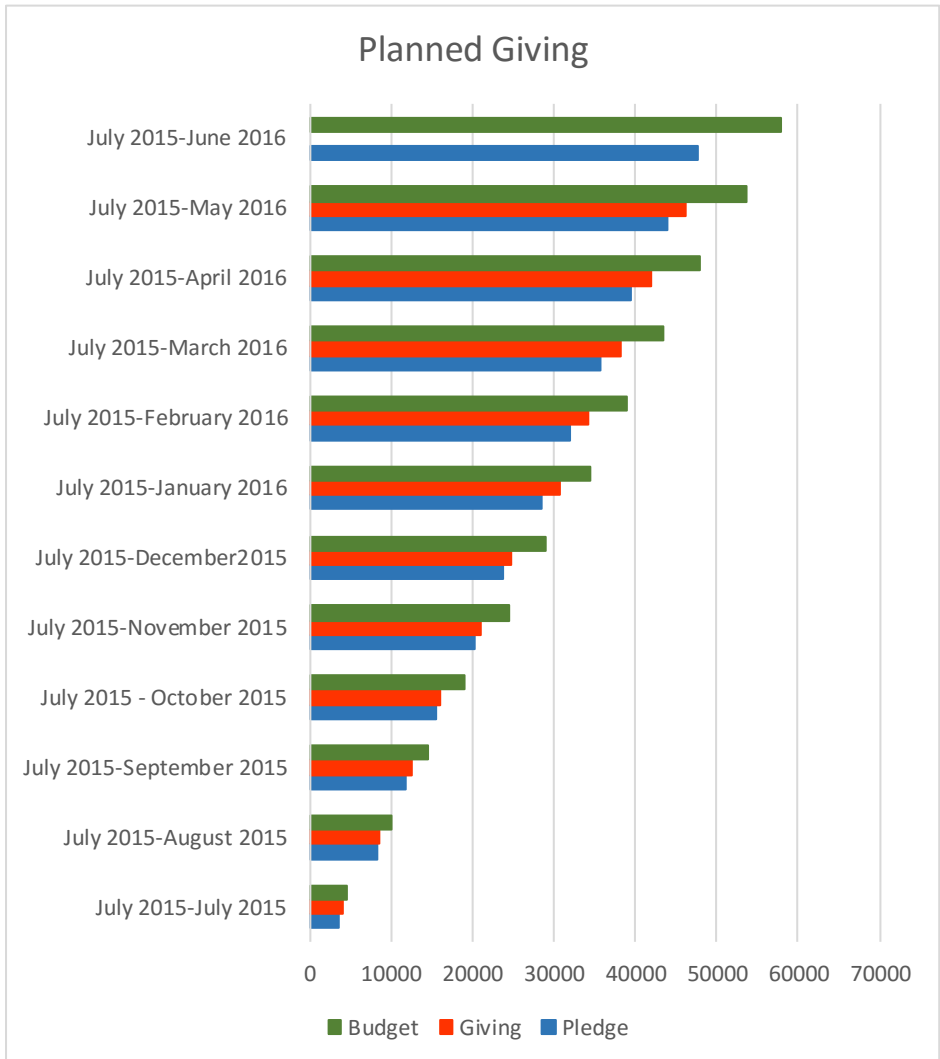
USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

Sunday	10:30 am	Worship EHUC	All Areas except Childcare Office & Nursery
Monday	9:30 – 11.30 am	Play Group “Treasure Trove”	Narthex and/or Nursery
	Afternoon	Montessori	All Childcare areas
Tuesday to Friday	All Day	Montessori	All Childcare areas
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
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.			
Please Note: The church is cleaned on Friday nights or Saturday mornings.			

Planned Giving



**Remember
Your Pledge!**



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 July

Date		Readings
Pentecost 7 July 3rd 2016		Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Pentecost 8 July 10th 2016		Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10: 25-37
Pentecost 9 July 17th 2016		Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10: 38-42
Pentecost 10 July 24th 2016		Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85 Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19) Luke 11:1-13
Pentecost 11 July 31st 2016		Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

July Roster

July 2016	3	10	17	24	31
Bible Reading	Pam Cowley Gavin Bartholomeusz	Judy Hopkins Heather Kimber	Diane & Brian Hall	Youth	Gavin Bartholomeusz Elke Beecher
Communion Preparation	Christine Summers Diane Hall				
Communion Servers	Pam Cowley Elke Beecher Colin Wilhelms Cheryl Doddrell				
Counting of Offering	Brian Greenstreet Wes Porch	Grant Allison Pam Cowley	David Garnepudi Brian Hall	Sandra Cox Bruce Hanson	Catherine Gonsalves Brian Greenstreet
Door/Offering	Andrew Moore	Grant Allison	Sandra Cox	Christine Summers	Pam Cowley
Early Word		Judy Hopkins	Steven Mayes	Sue Reid	Elke Beecher
Kitchen	Delilah Spencer Elizabeth Moore	The Smith Family	Mary Mehl Christine Summers	Jacqui Gacutan Elizabeth Moore	Catherine Gonsalves Ruth O'Keeffe
Organist/ Pianist	Edith John	Olive Morland	Sue Reid	Band	Edith John
PowerPoint	Ursula Ebert	Jean Lacey	Rufane Smith	Andrew Moore	Rufane Smith
Duty Elder	Pam Cowley	Judy Hopkins	Diane Hall	Cheryl Doddrell	Colin Wilhelms
Preacher	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang	Rev. Robin Yang
Public Address	Geoff Lacey	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Colin Wilhelms	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Geoff Lacey

August Roster

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

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 Cowley0429 932 111

Church Council

Minister

Rev. Robin Yang

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 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

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 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	31st July 2016	7th August 2016
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