

INTERACT

The Magazine of the Endeavour Hills Uniting Church

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS THE APOSTLES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST	3
THE TRINITY	5
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UPPER ROOM AND BEYOND	7
EDITOR'S NOTE	8
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING	9
FREEDOM AND QUALITY OF LIFE	10
ENDEAVOUR HILLS UNITINGCARE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE	10
FAREWELL TO THE TU'INAUVAI FAMILY	11
NOTICE BOARD	12-13
WHAT'S YOUR TIME WORTH?	14
THE WORD CAME VIA A FOG	15
TWO TYPES OF GIVING	16
QUOTES AND COMMENTS	17
A MOMENT WITH LAULETI	18-20
INTERACT & THE WEBSITE	20
FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH	21
FRONTIER NEWS	21
DIVINE SQUIRRELS	22
CARTOON CORNER	23
CARING FOR ALL LIVING THINGS	24-26
HOW ACCURATE IS THE OLD TESTAMENT & SHOULD WE TAKE IT LITERALLY?	27
FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE	28
USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING	29
LECTIONARY FOR JUNE	30
FAMILY PRAYER MINISTRY	31
PLANNED GIVING	31
ROSTERS	32-33
ENDEAVOUR HILLS UNITING CHURCH SERVICE TIMES	34
PRAYER CHAIN	34
CHURCH COUNCIL AND OFFICE-BEARERS	35
CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT	BACK COVER
INTERACT PUBLICATION AND DEADLINE DATES	BACK COVER

Please note:

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

THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS THE APOSTLES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST



The Day of Pentecost marked a turning point in the early Christian church. Pentecost, a Jewish feast, was celebrated 50 days after Passover, and pilgrims had come to Jerusalem from all over the world to celebrate the event.

The 12 gathered together in a house when a terrific wind came from heaven and filled the place. They saw tongues that looked like fire, that separated

and came down on each of them.

Immediately the apostles were filled with the Spirit, who caused them to speak in tongues. The crowds of visitors were astonished because every pilgrim heard the apostles speaking to him or her in their own language! Some accused the apostles of being drunk.

Then Peter addressed them, saying they were not drunk. It was only nine o'clock in the morning. Then, empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter preached boldly to them, explaining about Jesus Christ's plan of salvation.

The crowd was so moved when Peter told them of their part in Jesus' plan that they asked the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37, NIV).

The right response, Peter told them, was to be in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. He promised that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

They took the gospel message to heart. About 3,000 people were baptized and added to the fledgling Christian church on that Day of Pentecost.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The Holy Spirit Fills the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost

Points of Interest from the Day of Pentecost Story

1. The apostles had chosen Mathias to replace Judas Iscariot, who had hanged himself. That brought their number back to 12.
2. Before his ascension to heaven, Jesus had promised his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to give them strength and wisdom to spread the gospel throughout the world. (Acts 1:8)
3. The apostles' ability to address these foreign visitors in their own languages was a miracle from God. After they were filled with the Holy Spirit, the 12 performed many other miracles and wondrous signs.
4. Right from the start of the church, we see that God intended his offer of salvation to extend to all nations. Whoever calls on the name of Jesus, repents, and believes in him will be saved.
5. Today, 2,000 years later, believers in Jesus are still filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot live the Christian life without his help. We are to call on him whenever we need strength or guidance.

Question for Reflection about the Day of Pentecost

When it comes to Jesus Christ, each of us must answer the same question as these early seekers: "What shall we do?" Jesus cannot be ignored. Have you decided yet what you are going to do? If you want eternal life in heaven, there is only one correct response: repent of your sins, be baptized in the name of Jesus, and turn to him for salvation.

Jack Zavada

<http://christianity.about.com/>

THE TRINITY

“Good teachers are big talkers,” he said to me. I found this an interesting observation since this was coming from a man who had spent his entire life preparing teachers to teach in elementary schools. “They are people who are effusive, ubiquitous in their interaction with people. They are everywhere, all the time, talking.”



From our experience, and the testimony of scripture, our God seems to be like that — effusive, loquacious. Think of the Bible as a long story of God’s attempted conversation with humanity. We keep rejecting the words of God, turning in another direction, worshipping false gods, attempting to hide, evade, or end the conversation. But God keeps coming back to us. God comes to us in the lives of the patriarchs, in the words of the prophets and in the gift of God’s law. Then, stopping at nothing, God comes to us as the Son — as Jesus. Even when we hung him on a cruel cross, thinking that had probably ended relations between us and God, in three days, God came back to us as the risen Christ. God keeps coming back, again, and even again.

On Pentecost we conclude the church’s celebration of the great 50 days of Easter; God’s supreme coming back to us in the resurrected Christ. But we end Easter in the confidence that we do not end God’s continuing conversation with us. This God is loquacious, effusive.

One way the church has historically attempted to talk about God’s effusiveness, God’s ubiquitous and loquaciousness is through the Trinity. Don’t think of the Trinity as some incomprehensible doctrine of the church, though God’s plenitude is often beyond our incomprehension. Think of the Trinity as our earnest, though groping

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

The Trinity

attempt, somehow to put into words what we have experienced of the overflowing love of God.

We might have been able to say, at some early point, “We all believe in the same God.” However, we believe that God came to us as Jesus. We believe that Jesus is God. And after experiencing that, all of our notions of God had to go back to the drawing table. If Jesus Christ is God, then we have a challenge in talking about God.

When God came to us as the Son, Incarnate in Jesus, God did not have to say, “Call me by my proper name, Trinity.” God didn’t have to. We did. That is, on the basis of our experience of God as complex, ubiquitous, and overflowing with love as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we just naturally started speaking of God as Trinity. We experienced God in these ways. Though it was the same God that we had experienced as the great creator of the world, the Father of Israel, now we also experienced God in the flesh as Son, as the power flowing from God, the Holy Spirit.

There is a modern word for talking about this dynamic structure—synergy. Within the Trinity, there is constant movement and interaction, as the Father gives to the Son, and the Son is constantly returning praise and glory to the Father, and the Father and the Son give to the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit constantly draws everything back to the Father and the Son. There is the beloved, the lover, and the love.

Not long ago, at a party, a friend and I watched a skilful hostess work the room filled with her guests. She moved from one person to the next, introducing people, helping them to meet one another, helping them to make contact, making community out of a group of strangers. “She’s a perfect host,” I said. She wasn’t going to rest until everyone had been brought into the party. She was going to use any means at her disposal to get everyone connected and involved. God, says the doctrine of the Trinity, is just like that.

William H. Willimon, excerpted with permission from Pulpit Resource, CO Logos Productions.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UPPER ROOM AND BEYOND

Historically the Upper Room bears the principal importance as the awesome place of our Lord's final meeting with His disciples prior to His crucifixion. This same Upper Room in ancient Jerusalem, which had been a place of despair, sorrow, weakness and defeat, was about to become the scene of triumph, power and victory. The disciples see in their midst an ethereal form like that of a ghost. But to their amazement the 'ghost' speaks to them in familiar tones, shows them His wounds, invites them to touch Him and partakes of their food. They then recognise the unmistakable presence and the form of their Lord.



The Gospel of John narrates a second appearance of Jesus to His disciples in the Upper Room. Disciple Thomas, who does not believe that Christ has risen, wants proof of the print of nail marks in the Lord's hands. When the desired proof was shown by our Lord in the Upper Room, Thomas cried out 'My Lord and my God!' A gentle rebuke followed, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.' Peter spoke courageously in his sermon and referred to the tomb of David, the significance of it being in close proximity to the Cenaculum or the Upper Room. Though the New Testament does not mention the Upper Room as the locale of Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit, it is reasonable to believe the 'one place' to be the sacred room in which He promised the disciples the Person of the Holy Spirit, forever as their Advocate, Comforter and Counsellor in the Christian life. There the disciples waited and prayed until 'suddenly a sound came from

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

The Significance of the Upper Room and Beyond

heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting.'

The disciples were a group of frail, frightened men not knowing what was happening. They were possessed by an awesome power that transformed them into a Church against which the gates of hell could not prevail. It is in the Gospel of John that the Upper Room achieves its greatest significance for Christian believers. In chapters thirteen to seventeen we have the record of several discourses which Jesus addressed to His disciples as they were seated at the sacramental table on the eve of His crucifixion. They contain everything that is most precious in our Christian heritage, every gift, every promise, every commandment, every warning and every spiritual resource the living Christ imparts to all who love Him in sincerity and truth. The words of Jesus in the Upper Room are an 'Eternal Legacy', the last will and testament which He bequeathed, not only to His disciples but also to those who believe in Jesus by faith as the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

Laksman Pethiyagda

EDITOR'S NOTE

The April Interact article, 'An Eternal Legacy from the Upper Room', was written by Laksman Pethiyagoda.

Apologies to Laksman for inadvertently leaving his name out.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

14th May 2014

Devotions were led by Marion Ward.

Minister's report.

Options for Supply Ministry when Lauleti leaves, and the process for appointing a new minister were discussed.



A Mission Study, facilitated by Steve Terrell, has to be undertaken and then a Joint Nominating Committee has to be appointed. Lauleti's Service of Release will be on Sunday 3rd August.

Worship. On Sunday 25th May the Somers camp leaders will come to our service to tell us about the theme for this year's camp. Pastor Hilda Samuel from Jesuran Healing will preach on June 22nd and Pat Goss from Samaritan's Purse will speak on July 13th. June 29th will be Lauleti's free Sunday and the service will be led by Phil Martin with the "Alive at 11" team.

Property and Finance. Some timber has been stolen from the retaining walls. This will be replaced when other fencing is being done.

Bible Studies. The Wednesday group now shares lunch following the study.

Judy Hopkins.

Minutes Secretary.

FREEDOM AND QUALITY OF LIFE

"Immediate gratification, pleasure, is all about perpetual and irresponsible freedom. But freedom abused is freedom lost. We all clamour to be free at all times with all things. If we truly were free, for example, all traffic intersections would be festivals of blood and twisted metal, instead of civilized, organized thoroughfares with light signals dictating driving behaviours Freedom needs to be balanced with respect for others and the special awareness that, both to others and to ourselves, we are what we do. And mindless freedom of the moment carries a heavy price tag." (Schlessinger,1996).

A quality life requires the constant exercise of character, courage, and conscience....

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny. (Author unknown)

Contributed by Elke Beecher.

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FAREWELL TO THE TU'INAUVAI FAMILY

As you are all probably aware, Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai has been called to ministry at Blackburn North/Nunawading Congregation as from the 1st September. Lauleti will be on annual leave from the 5th – 31st August (this annual leave cannot be transferred to a new placement).



“Service of Release”

The “Service of Release” for Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai will be held on
Sunday, 3rd August 2014 at

10:30am (NOTE TIME)

at ENDEAVOUR HILLS UNITING CHURCH.

This will be a combined service with Dandenong North congregation,
including Holy Communion.

LUNCH will be served after the service.

Please bring a plate of food to share.



Notice Board

Sammy Stamp



Please save your used stamps for the Sammy Stamp Appeal—this has raised more than \$600,000 for needy

causes since it began.

Our thanks to Warren Ward who makes sure the stamps are not damaged and that there is at least 3mm around the perforations.

Please deposit saved stamps in the box marked “STAMPS” on the table in the Narthex.

Trading Table

The next Trading Table will be on the 8th June 2014.

The May takings were \$70.00.

Please contact Heather Kimber.

Phone : 9796 8154

Paper Collection & Packing

Aluminium Can Collection

Paper Packing takes place at Dandenong North Uniting Church.

The next date will be advised in due course.



Lawn Mowing & Gardening

Anyone noticed the “garden” lately???? If you have an hour or so to start on the weeds, that would be great!!!

Web Site

The web site could do with more photos (with permission from the people concerned). Anyone who can take a few photos at church events is encouraged to do so –e.g. anything from NCYC, photos of children and youth activities, Trading Table, Praise Time Singers, Singing Group etc. — just look around. The more people involved the better our web site will look. (Please submit to Jean Lacey or Marion Ward.) A big ‘thank you’ in advance.

The Andrews Centre

We are continuing to take donations of food to the Andrews Centre each week, which is very much appreciated. Just bring any donations and leave near the door on Sundays.

Notice Board

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group

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

Beta: Ladies' Bible Study Group

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. 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.

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

WHAT'S YOUR TIME WORTH?



How much are you willing to pay for parking to avoid walking five blocks? 10 blocks? When do you choose to pay for a taxi rather than get public transport – how many minutes or hours potential difference does it take? What's worth more to you – the half hour it takes to cook a meal or the \$15 it costs to get takeaway?

Sponsoring a child or giving money to a charity is great. But do these things speak as loudly of love as giving your time does?

Money, in a way, can represent

time – after all, you spent 37.5 hours of your week earning it – but it can also be an easy ticket out of having to give something more valuable such as your afternoon, your weekend or 15 minutes to a stranger in need.

Generosity is not simply a matter of money. If no one has time for you, receiving their money probably won't mean much. This truth is explored at length in all of those films about the sad rich kid who could want for nothing materially but who is terribly unhappy because of absent (often workaholic) parents. This is why taking an hour of your day to drive someone to the airport is a great way to show you care. It's why we intuitively understand how important it is to attend friends' weddings, birthday parties or graduations. It's why we thank somebody when they prepare an elaborate meal for us from scratch.

Reflection: If someone gives you their time, they are offering something that no amount of money or hallmark sentiment can replace. That's true generosity.

Janine Wetherall

THE WORD CAME VIA A FOG

A lovely lady from my church at Apollo Bay went into hospital. She would be there for some time. "Is there anything I can bring you?" I asked. "I would love to have a copy of a Gideon's Bible, the one with references to help people like me, with passages to read under headings." I



rang Max of the local Gideon's at Colac. "Please can you tell me how I can obtain a Gideon's Bible?" "No problem, in fact tomorrow I am going across the Ridge through Lavers Hill and I'll meet you there with a copy."

Lavers Hill was at the top end of our parish. You wound along a winding section of the Great Ocean Road up to Lavers Hill. We arranged a time and a meeting place, outside the little business and post office. When I arrived that morning, Lavers Hill was shrouded in low cloud and thick fog. It was often like that. Would Max be able to come from Colac, probably negotiating patches of fog all the way? I waited and soon a car, fog lights on, loomed out of the fog. In it was a smiling Max with the precious gift. He had been this way many times before. After a chat and a prayer, Max went on his way and I returned to Apollo Bay. Imagine our friend's delight when I presented her with her very own Gideon's Bible at the hospital. When I told her about Max's journey, we gave thanks for Max and the Gideons.

Reflection: Many people have worked to ensure the Bible is available to more and more people such as translators, printers and distributors. The Gideons donate copies of their bibles to hotels and motels and those who provide technologies which make the scriptures available to the blind and the hearing-impaired. Your word is '*a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path*' – **even when it's foggy.**

Bill Pugh

TWO TYPES OF GIVING

I have observed the generosity of giving from two very different perspectives. In the first instance the giving is enormously generous and emanates from a well-endowed Foundation, managed by very generous and humble people. In the other instance, the giving is in a very small and humble way.



What's interesting though, is the impact may well be the same. I witnessed the giving of a substantial sum of money to our church by a Foundation. The donation was given with grace and no further expectation of acknowledgement. All they wanted was for us to "just use the money to help as many people as possible who are battling and finding life a real challenge."

There are other types of giving too. Giving that is at the other end of the scale. The other day I purchased a Big Issue magazine from a street vendor. All I needed to part with were a few small gold coins. When I went to pay, the vendor's face lit up – he was beaming. "Mate, you have no idea how much this means to me! Every bit helps get me back on track. Thanks for your generosity!" I began thinking, what generosity? Two small gold coins? The person's face told a completely different story and my heart just flew.

Reflection: No one should underestimate how their giving impacts on others. No giving is too large and no giving is too small. I think the important factor is that you do give. All giving will make a difference.

Sebert Ruddock

QUOTES AND COMMENTS

Isn't it the moment of most profound doubt that gives birth to new certainties? Perhaps hopelessness is the very soil that nourishes human hope; perhaps one could never find sense in life without first experiencing its absurdity.

- *Vaclav Havel*

According to birth order theory, only children have characteristics of both oldest and youngest children; they are leaders but also risk takers. Research shows they are more confident, articulate and imaginative than other children. They also hate criticism and tend to be perfectionists. Like the youngest children, they tend to be creative and they have the same element of confidence. They prefer adult company and conversations.

- *DoctorOz.com*

Life is a series of disastrous moments, painful moments, unexpected moments, and things that will break your heart. And in between those moments, that's when you savour, savour, savour.

Sandra Bullock

The peace treaty between Jordan and Israel includes extensive arrangements for the sharing of water resources and a shared program for preserving and improving the existing water quality of the Jordan River and its tributaries. It also includes a comprehensive plan for the creation of shared desalination centres.

- *Wikipedia.org*

In his book *The Politics of Jesus*, John Howard Yoder explains that the cross was "the standard punishment for insurrection for the refusal to confess Caesar's lordship." The phrase "take up your cross" may have been a standard phrase of Zealot recruiting.

A Moment with Lauleti

Pentecost Season – Journey with Spirit-filled power!

As we journey in the longest Christian liturgical season, *Season After Pentecost*, or *Pentecost Season*, we are confronted with various interpretations and different meanings of this vibrant account of the Spirit's coming on the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost Season starts on the Day of Pentecost (Sunday 8th June this year) and concludes on Christ the King Sunday, before we journey into the Advent celebration of the four Sundays before Christmas. The Spirit came to dwell among/with all God's creation. And for any new and even matured experiences, words elude and baffle us and further questions arise for extra understandings: How can we describe something that is new and unexpected, yet totally real and life-changing?

Did people really hear their own language in a society where the languages of Aramaic or Greek were understood by nearly everyone? Was it the phenomena of glossolalia (speaking in tongues)? Or was it that people came together and understood the good news in a vital and Spirit-inspired way?

How can we recapture this momentous event in the life of those first and subsequent followers of Jesus?

For those who were present in Jerusalem on that fiftieth day after Jesus' resurrection, the coming of the Spirit was as powerful and devastating as a strong wind, as purifying and all-encompassing as tongues of fire. The effects were far-reaching, bringing understanding, surprise and astonishment, reaching across barriers of ethnicity, gender and social standing.

Fifty days earlier there was a Passover crowd in Jerusalem that had earlier united against Jesus (Luke 23:13–25), Peter had denied Jesus (Luke 22:54–62), and the disciples had fled (Luke 23:49). Now, fifty days

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

later, a crowd listens attentively as, supported by the eleven apostles, Peter stands up to explain and witness to the power of God in Acts 2. The Acts account of the sending of the Spirit (Acts 2) is many-layered:

- a. It connects with the Hebrew Scriptures and links the events of Pentecost with the Hebrew “Feast of Weeks,” 50 days after the Passover, which commemorates the giving of the Law to Moses in the wilderness; now celebrated by the Christian church for the giving of the Spirit on Pentecost Sunday.
- b. Pentecost also came to be linked with the completion of harvest; now the Christian church celebrates the gifts and fruits of the Spirit.
- c. There is a connection also with the start of Luke’s gospel, in which we hear of the overshadowing of Mary by the power of the Spirit, bringing about the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:35); in Acts 2, the Spirit is instrumental in the birth of the church, the continuing Body of Christ on Earth.
- d. As well as connecting with the Law and Hebrew practice, Peter quotes from Joel, validating this Pentecost experience by relating it to an event foretold by the prophet, when God’s activity in the world would be vindicated (Joel 2:28–32a).
- e. Pentecost can also be seen as a reversal of the Tower of Babel where people were divided by language differences and the inability to understand each other (Genesis 11:1–9). (Adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit* 2014)

Pentecost Season is a season for celebration, wondering, wandering, speaking in tongues and expecting the unexpected to happen. It started on the Day of Pentecost with bright red colours, birthday rituals, free-flowing movements, tongues loosened and varied languages spoken, abilities recognized, and gifts shared.

As the Season after Pentecost stretches ahead of us for almost half a year, there is time and space to explore more about the coming of

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

the Spirit in our lives and what it means to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus in the presence of the power of the Holy Spirit.

On Pentecost Sunday the disciples received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that affirmed Christ's presence with them always. Though Jesus is no longer on earth and because of this Spirit from God dwelling among/with God's people, disciples throughout the ages are never alone. We are never alone! We are journeying in the presence of the Holy Spirit!

Let us be like the first disciples of Jesus, spirit-filled. Their fears were transformed into fearless witnessing; their status changed from persecuted minority to welcoming community; their horizons expanded from Galilee to the extent of the world; and their minds grasping the amazing realization that although Jesus was physically no longer with them, each of them had within them the Spirit of God and some of the gifts needed to continue Jesus' mission and ministry.

I wish you all a spirit-filled journey with openness to the prompting of God's Spirit in our lives and in our community of faith in this Season after Pentecost!

Shalom.

Lauleti

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 (ganjlacey@ozemail.com.au)

or

Marion Ward (wardmarion@hotmail.com).

Photos of various events are very welcome.

FRONTIER NEWS

The Rev. John Flynn once famously said that ‘without women, there would be no outback’. The May edition of Frontier News pays homage to this mantra, and then some.

Thankfully people such as John Flynn, and many others associated with Frontier Services since that time, have recognised the deep inner strengths and qualities that women brought to the land. It was they who were, and remain, the often unheralded “heroes of the outback” - holding families, businesses, churches and communities together - through thick and thin, through feast and famine, through the good times and the bad, much as their indigenous sisters have done for thousands of years before (and continue to do to this day).

Building upon the traditions established by a host of great female pioneers of all cultural backgrounds the May edition of Frontier News documents some of the grit and determination it takes for the wonderful women of regional and remote Australia to build what many might consider a quite extraordinary life.

Grahame Ryan

National Development Manager

FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH

Friday June 6th at 12.30 pm

Food Star Family Restaurant

442 Princes Highway, Narre Warren, Vic 3805

\$16.50; Seniors \$13.50

Please contact Pam Cowley by 5 pm on Wednesday 4th June.

Email: theburches@bigpond.com

Mobile (SMS): 0477149361

Home: 9793 5997

DIVINE SQUIRRELS



There were five houses of religion in a small Texas town: The Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, the Catholic Church and the Jewish Synagogue.

Each church and Synagogue was overrun with pesky squirrels.

One day, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

In The Baptist Church the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery and drown the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped somehow and there were twice as many there the next week.

The Methodist Church got together and decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. So, they humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back.

But the Catholic Church came up with the best and most effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter ...

Not much was heard about the Jewish Synagogue, but they took one squirrel and had a short service with him called circumcision and they haven't seen a squirrel on the property since.

Contributed by Maria Harding

CARTOON CORNER

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"I got a ticket on the way home from church. You said 'Godspeed to you' and I went in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye."

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"Do you have one that shows if I'm reflecting Christ?"

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"We find that for our choir music, the bigger the hair, the better the sound is absorbed."

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"Your anecdotes, quotes and jokes are getting a little stale, Reverend. Do you need a holy ghostwriter?"

CARING FOR ALL LIVING THINGS



At the end of the story of the great flood we are told that God promised never again to destroy all the living things on the earth. The rainbow in the sky is a reminder to us of this special covenant. During the weeks of June, let us remember this promise, too.

Ancient people believed that the universe was made up of four elements: earth, wind, fire, and water. Even though today we know that there are many more elements than that, this can be a fun and intriguing way to focus on the wonderful world that God has made.

Sacred space

Set a cloth on a table or other flat surface that you can use for a worship space during the month. Each week you will add a different element to the table.

June 1: Earth

Place a bowl of dirt on the table. Plant a seed in it and be sure to water it on a regular basis.

The planet earth is our home. God made it and filled it with good things. Over time, we have not always cared for the Earth. We have sometimes acted as if there are endless resources. How can you help heal the earth? Some ways are:

- plant a garden, and grow some of your own food
- clean up a park or street
- recycle

Thank you, Creator God, for this wonderful Earth. You made it, and said that it was good. Help us to remember that it is good, and that it is a gift from you. Help us to take care of it. Amen.

(Continued on page 25)

June Interact

(Continued from page 24)

Caring for All Living Things

June 8: Fire

Place a candle on the table and light it (or purchase a small battery-operated candle).

On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples saw what looked like tongues of fire dancing on each other's heads, and they knew that God's Spirit was with them. Just as fire provides heat and makes light, so the Spirit helps us do God's work in the world. We can do this by:

- donating food to or working at a food pantry
- using low-energy light bulbs
- helping a neighbour do yard work or housework

Powerful God, give us the energy to change the world, one small task at a time. Remind us that we can do the work of Jesus because you are with us, every day. Amen. (Blow out the candle — relight it and take turns if you like.)

June 15: Wind

Place a pinwheel or hand-held fan on the table.

In John 3:8, Jesus compared God's Spirit to the wind. We cannot see the wind, but we can see what it does. So it is with the Spirit of God. Give everyone a chance to blow the pinwheel or to fan themselves for a brief moment. We can help to keep the air clean when we:

- drive less, ride a bike, walk, or take public transport
- plant a tree (trees help clean and recycle the air)

Spirit of God, blow through us like the wind. Refresh and renew us. Bring us new life. Help us to love you and serve you each day. Amen. (Blow the pinwheel or wave the fan.)

(Continued on page 26)

(Continued from page 25)

Caring for All Living Things

June 22: Water

Place on the table a bowl of water or a small fountain. Our bodies contain more water than anything else. Most of the earth's surface is covered with water. Jesus spoke of himself as "living water." Many people in the world do not have access to clean water. You could:

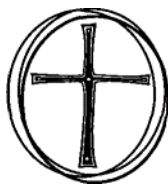
- reduce your use of water
- support clean water projects in other countries
- drink less bottled water and encourage local governments to provide safe drinking water

Great God, water of life, flow through us. Refresh us. Wash over us and make us new. Help us to make sure that the water around us flows free and clear for all to enjoy. Amen. (Run your fingers through the water.)

June 29: Rainbow

Place a rainbow on the table or hang a sun-catcher nearby. God hung a rainbow in the sky as a reminder that never again would God destroy the earth and the things that lived upon it. Celebrate God's family by:

- getting to know your neighbours
- cooking food from another culture



God of all people, you love every one of us. Help us to remember that each person is a brother or sister. Amen.

FOR OUR TEENAGERS

HOW ACCURATE IS THE OLD TESTAMENT AND SHOULD WE TAKE IT LITERALLY?

Speaking of the Old Testament, Paul says, 'All Scripture is God-breathed'. The Bible teaches that the Old Testament, like the New Testament, is God's Word. Because it is God's Word we are to take it very seriously.

However, we need to recognise two things about the Old Testament. Firstly, as you might know, the Old Testament is made up of lots of different kinds of books which are written in different ways. To take an example, the OT often talks about God as if he had a body. So, it refers to God's 'arm', his 'eyes' etc. These are to help us understand something of God's character - his arm refers to his strength; his eyes to the fact that he sees everything. We are not to read this as if God has physical arms and eyes.

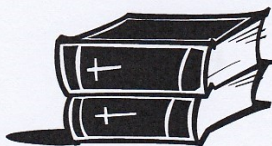
Secondly, the New Testament tells us that the Old Testament is fulfilled in Christ. That means when we read the Old Testament we need to remember where it is heading.

Have you ever seen the Bruce Willis film *The Sixth Sense*? If you have you will know what I am talking about. If not, don't worry! Once you know the ending of that film, if you were to turn round and watch it again, you would watch it in a very different way. The same is true of the Old Testament. Because we know that it is pointing to Jesus, we read it with that in mind. So, when we read certain commands in the OT, like not eating certain foods, we know that in the NT Jesus tells us that these commands no longer apply. So, we don't just read those commands, we read them understanding that Jesus has brought them to an end.

Answers are kindly provided by our friends at Christianity.net.au

Contributed by Phil Martin

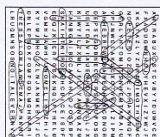
FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



Books, Books, Books!

Find the books of the New Testament in this word find puzzle. (For books with more than one part, such as 1 and 2 Timothy, you will find Timothy listed only once.)

Matthew	1 Timothy
Mark	2 Timothy
Luke	Titus
John	Philemon
Acts	Hebrews
Romans	James
1 Corinthians	1 Peter
2 Corinthians	2 Peter
Galatians	1 John
Ephesians	2 John
Philippians	3 John
Colossians	Jude
1 Thessalonians	Revelation
2 Thessalonians	



Answers

AMTRABUXCSTCVBYTDUWVCE
FXADUGWNHOJYHEVXIZYWJF
XKGTAZLYZHRBTIMOTHYSMC
NDPETERIOZSIEJPRAKNNQF
GERLYHTOMITSNHEMTABAIU
VPJNWCEAKUCXOTYEILZIPM
AHHEBREWSBANEQHSKCDNOR
DEPSEGQBNECPTRSIRUFOSG
USHTDAVIAUENHOJWAVLLJX
KIWYFLZXMLJFLIYAMNGAZM
HANBGAIBOCAOAHLDJOSSBP
SNAIHTNIROCEHCDICEISDF
ESQJKIERFGDSKNGLPTHELU
VGMHJAWHIUNOMELIHPZHIJ
KYIMJNHOJZLNJANMKBITJC
DNLEPSOKFOMPGOLMQHNARI
THESSALONIANSEMAJPNKNT
LRUQMNSOSNOITALEVERNVS

Books of the Bible Cards

Look inside your Bible for a list of the books in the Bible. Use note cards to make a total of 66 cards. Write the name of one book of the Bible on each card. Then mix them up and use them to play games.

- Draw a card and put it in a New Testament or an Old Testament pile. Check the table of contents in a Bible to see how many you have right. (If you are playing with more than one person, take turns drawing a card from the center and have each player make a pile of Old and New Testament cards.) Put any wrong guesses back in the pile in the center and keep playing until all the cards have been used.
- Draw five cards and put them in order from Old Testament books to New. Draw five more and keep filling in the spaces until you have drawn all the cards and put them all in order.
- Separate the cards into Old and New Testaments piles. Then see if you can put the books in order.
- Use your imagination and make up other games on your own!



USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

Sunday	11 am	Worship EHUC	All Areas Except Presbytery Office
	2—3 pm	Jesuran Computer Classes	Hall
	3-6:30 pm	Jesuran Worship Service	Church
Tuesday	7:30-9 pm	Beta Bible Study	Meeting Room (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)
	7:30 - 9 pm	Property & Finance Committee	Meeting Room (4 th Tuesday)
Wednesday	10-12 noon	Bible Study	Church and Meeting Room (except School Holidays)
	7:30 pm —	Presbytery	Hall (1st Wednesday)
	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Church Council	Meeting Room (2nd Wed.nesday)
Thursday	10 am—4 pm	Presbytery	Hall—(2nd Thursday)
	7:30 pm -	Presbytery	Hall (3rd Thursday)
	7:30 pm	Singing Group	Church
Friday	10 am - 1 pm	Presbytery	Hall (4th Friday)
Saturday	9.30 am – 2:30 pm	Jesuran Worship	All except hall and Presbytery Areas
Monday- Friday	Business Hours + meetings	Presbytery	Back Office
		Other areas for meetings as necessary	
ALL GROUPS will have access to toilets and kitchen. “Hall” = old pre-school area			



Lectioary for June

Date		Readings
Easter 7 1st June 2014		Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11
Day of Pentecost 8th June 2014		Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23
Trinity Sunday 15th June 2014		Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20
Pentecost 2 22 June 2014		Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10 24-39
Pentecost 3 29th June 2014		Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42

FAMILY PRAYER MINISTRY

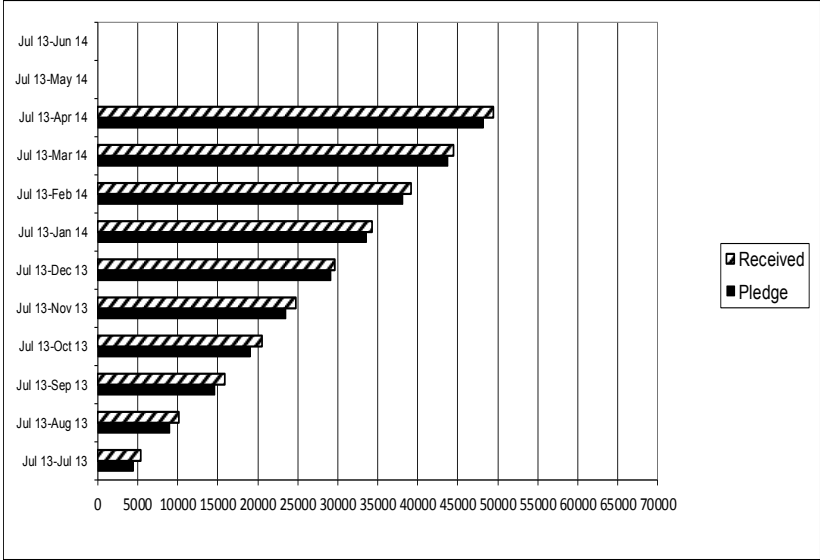


In our Family Prayer Ministry we pray for three families of our congregation every week, from Sunday to Saturday. This is in addition to our Prayer Chain Ministry, and other special requests mentioned during Worship Services.

Please keep the families listed below in your prayers during the weeks indicated.

Week beginning:	Families		
1st June	TU'INAUVAI	WARD	WATKINS
8th June	WEGMANN	WESTCOTT	WILHELMS
15th June	WILLIAMS/POOLE	ABRAHAMA	ALLISON
22nd June	ASHLEY	BALTHAZAR	BARTHOLOMEUSZ
29th June	BAXTER	BEECHER	BRYAN
6th July	COWLEY	COX	DODDRELL
13th July	EBERT	EDGECOMBE	GACUTAN
20th July	GARNEPUDI	GONSALVES	GREENSTREET
27th July	GYLES	HALL	HANSEN

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.

June Rosters

June 2014	1	8	15	22	29
Bible Reading	Brian & Diane Hall	Judy Hopkins Heatther Kimber	Sue & Stan Ashley	Sue Reid Catherine Gonsalves	Cheryl Doddrell Murray John
Communion Prep	Sandra Cox Delilah Spencer				
Communion Servers	Diane Hall Pam Cowley				
Communion Steward	Brian Hall				
Counting of Offering	Clifford Naude Manusiu Tu'inauvai	Leena Garnepudi Grant Allison	David Garnepudi Wes Porch	Brian Hall TBA	Sandra Cox Clifford Naude
Door/Offering	Christine Summers	Murray John	Sue & Stan Ashley	Andrew Moore	Sandra Cox
Early Word		Judy Hopkins	Lauleti Tu'inauvai	Sue Reid	Phil Martin
Flowers	Lynda Greenstreet	Artificial Flow- ers	Anne Williams	Catherine Gonslaves	Artificial Flowers
Kitchen	YOUTH	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	Sue & Stan Ashley	Jacqui Gatucan Mathy Watkins	The Smith Family
Organist/Pianist	Edith John	Olive Morland	Sue Reid	Edith John	Alive@11
PowerPoint	Marion Ward	Andrew Moore	Ursula Ebert	Jean Lacey	Marion Ward
Praise Time	Olive Morland	Tu'inauvai Family	Edith & Murray John	Michelle & Rufane Smith	Alive@11
Preacher/Duty Elder	Lauleti Tu'inauvai Diane Hall	Lauleti Tu'inauvai Judy Hopkins	Lauleti Tu'inauvai Colin Wilhelms	Lauleti Tu'inauvai/Hilda Samuel Pam Cowley	Phil Martin Cheryl doddrell
Public Address	Warren Ward	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Colin Wilhelms	Paul Watkins	Geoff Lacey

July Rosters

A Reminder

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!

For those needing access to the church, please note that **Jesuran Healing** is using our church every Saturday from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

July 2014	6	13	20	27
Bible Reading	Mary Mehl Lynne Bryan	Elke Beecher Geoff Lacey	The Smith Family	Marion & Warren Ward
Communion Prep	Christine Summers Heather Kimber			
Communion Servers	Diane Hall, Colin Wilhelms Pam Cowley Cheryl Doddrell			
Counting of Offering	Pam Cowley Lynne Bryan	Manusiu Tu'inauvai Grant Allison	Leena & David Garnepudi	Wes Porch Patricia Matthys
Door/Offering	Christine Summers	Murray John	Pam Cowley	Andrew Moore
Early Word		Elke Beecher	Michelle Smith	Lauleti Tu'inauvai
Flowers	Edith John	Artificial Flowers	Elizabeth Kaitany	Mary Mehl
Kitchen	YOUTH	Tu'inauvai Family	The Naude Family	Heather Kimber Pam Cowley
Organist/Pianist	Olive Morland	Sue Reid	Edith John	Alive@11
PowerPoint	Andrew Moore	Ursula Ebert	Marion Ward	Jean Lacey
Praise Time	Geoff Harkness	Olive Morland	Tu'inauvai Family	Alive@11
Preacher/Duty Elder	Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai Diane Hall	Pam Goss- Samaritan's Purse Colin Wilhelms	Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai Judy Hopkins	Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai Cheryl Doddrell
Public Address	Warren Ward	Paul Watkins	Colin Wilhelms	Gavin Bartholomeusz

Endeavour Hills Uniting Church

Service Times

Sunday of the Month	11 am
1st	Worship Service with Communion
2nd	Worship Service
3rd	Worship Service
Last Sunday of the Month	Contemporary Style Worship Service (February to November)
Wednesday Morning (during school	10.00 to 10.30 am Morning Worship

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 9793 5997

Manusiu Tu'inauvai 9706 1881

Church Council

Minister

Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai
9706 1881

Chairperson

Cheryl Doddrell* 9700 1674

Vice Chairperson

Wes Porch 9706 1995

Treasurer

Catherine Gonsalves 9796 9852

Church Council Secretary

Patricia Matthys 9706 1649

Minutes Secretary

Judy Hopkins* 9700 7551

Council Members

Gavin Bartholomeusz 9700 5015

Pam Cowley* 9793 5997

Rev. Ineke Gyles 9703 1870

Jean Lacey 9700 7246

Rufane Smith 9704 5535

Marion Ward 9700 1878

Colin Wilhelms* 9794 7175

*Elders

George Balthazar* 9700 3998

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, Patricia Matthys. Email: church_council@ehuc.org.au

Staff/Office Bearers

Congregation Chairperson

Brian Hall

Congregation Secretary

Anne Williams

Presbytery Representative

Gavin Bartholomeusz

Editor Interact

Sue & Stan Ashley

Ursula Ebert

Finance & Property Committee

Chairperson

Geoff Lacey

Treasurer

Catherine Gonsalves

Secretary

Brian Greenstreet

Committee Members

Brian Hall

Sandra Cox

Work Groups

Conveners

Administration

Jean Lacey

Hospital Visiting Team

Judy Hopkins

Pastoral

Judy Hopkins

Prayer Chain

Mary Mehl

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'

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 5 pm on the deadline dates indicated below:

Month	Deadline	Publication Date
July 2014	29th June 2014	6th July 2014
August 2014	27th July 2014	3rd August 2014
September 2014	24th August 2014	7th September 2014
October 2014	28th September 2014	5th October 2014