

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'



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

Supply Minister: Kharis Susilowati

Email: kharistar78@gmail.com

Church Office Telephone: 9700 2125

Church Office Email: churchoffice@ehuc.org.au

Web Address: www.ehuc.org.au



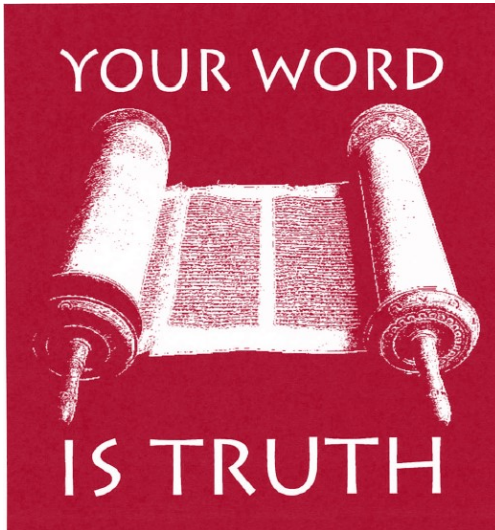
TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHO IS MY FAMILY?	3
ENDEAVOUR HILLS UNITINGCARE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE	4
EASTER—THE LEAP OF FAITH	5
SUPPLY MINISTRY	6
WHAT IS PENTECOST?	7
THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE	8
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT	9
MAKING CHANGE WITH SPARE CHANGE	10
LITTLE THINGS	11
NOTICE BOARD	12-13
PANCAKE DAY 2015	14
THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.....	14
STORIES.....	15
SAFE CHURCH TRAINING	16
SNIPPETS	17
THE ABSOLUTE AUTHENTICITY AND UNIQUENESS OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST....	19
QUOTES AND COMMENTS	21
GIVING THANKS.....	22
CARTOON CORNER.....	23
PAYING ATTENTION.....	24
FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE	25
USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING.....	26
PLANNED GIVING	26
LECTIONARY FOR MAY.....	27
ROSTERS FOR MAY & JUNE.....	28-29
ENDEAVOUR HILLS UNITING CHURCH SERVICE TIMES.....	30
PRAYER CHAIN	30
CHURCH COUNCIL AND OFFICE-BEARERS.....	31
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.

WHO IS MY FAMILY?



One of the more confronting incidents that appears in all four Gospels is the one where Jesus' mother and brothers arrive while he is busy with the crowds, and demand to see him. Confident in their sense of belonging and the rights this brings, they are taken by surprise when Jesus does not immediately respond to them. (Matthew 12: 46-50)

Instead he uses the incident as an opportunity to pose some

disturbing questions — “Who is my mother?” and “Who are my brothers?” And the answer he is looking for is that everyone who seeks to live in tune with God’s way is family.

For some people the experience of family is deeply satisfying and conveys identity, meaning and purpose to life. Family is top priority. For others the lack of close or harmonious family relationships feels like walking home on a winter’s night and being on the outside of houses full of light, warmth and love.

Churches often use the word “family” to describe who they are, or to indicate the nature of their worship. We wish to affirm the institution of marriage and family and to be seen as “family friendly”, yet many people feel excluded because they cannot attend with a “normal family” in tow.

As it is in our small family or extended family units, so it is in the larger family of humankind - love, acceptance and security cannot be

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Who Is my Family

guaranteed. We are frail and sometimes wounded human beings, who cannot meet all of each other's needs.

It would seem that Jesus invites us to examine one of our most fundamental values—having a family, and provides us with questions that disturb us and take us deeper and wider until we see that on his terms, “family” and “belonging” are to do with having a common humanity and a common calling.

It is only by the grace of God that we can hope to live out the call to be “family” - in our family unit, extended family, community, nation and world. So, who is my family?

-- Ann Siddall

Ann Siddall is a Spiritual Director working within the life of the Uniting Church. She lives in South Australia.

Endeavour Hills UnitingCare Neighbourhood Centre

Address:	10 Raymond McMahon Boulevard Endeavour Hills 3802
Postal Address:	P.O. Box 216 Endeavour Hills 3802
Telephone:	(03) 9700 3789
Fax:	(03) 9700 6754
Email:	ehunc@tpg.com.au
Web:	www.ehunc.org.au

EASTER - THE LEAP OF FAITH

Life after death. It is our deepest longing; our bravest statement of faith. Easter gives us the hope that life continues in some way after we die: that death isn't the end, that Jesus is still with us.

Other hopes are attached to this fundamental one. Like, the hope of seeing Jesus face to face; of reuniting with loved ones who have died; of being healed; of being rewarded for hard work; of being comforted for the suffering we have had.

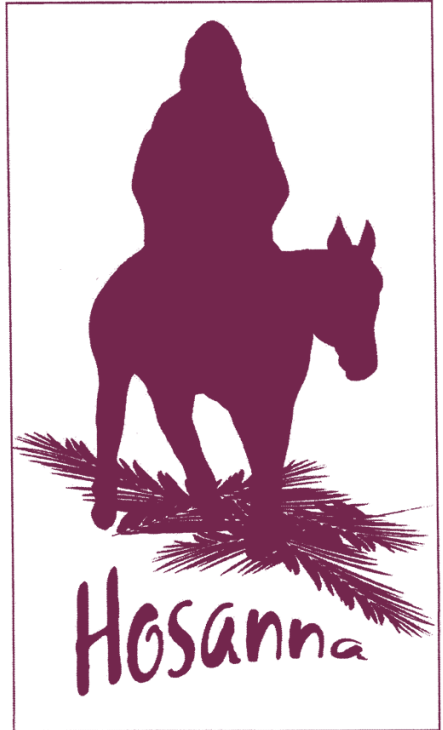
We cling to the promises and prophecies of the New Testament, and we are fascinated by the stories of people who have had near-death experiences. We long to know the real truth.

But could it be that in our finite condition, with our limited consciousness, we are simply not capable of grasping the whole truth? Our imagination fails us because we do not have the experiential tools to construct ultimate meaning.

This is the great leap of faith—to trust in the unseen, to state our belief in a God of love, to trust in resurrection, to be able to be hopeful for ourselves and our world.

Faith is not certainty, it is trust and a willingness to go forward into the unknown. Doubts and questions keep us open to the possibility that the truth is even more amazing than we anticipate. When we try

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

Easter—the leap of faith

to hold onto certainty about facts, we limit God and stifle our imagination.

Easter is a celebration of the great leap of faith, the ultimate act of defiance against despair. No matter what this great unknown holds for us we can trust that it will be all right. Jesus is in it.

Even though our minds cannot yet grasp the truth about resurrection and eternity, we may entrust ourselves to what one hymn writer described as “the silence of eternity, interpreted by love,” (Dear Father, Lord of humankind” TIS 598).

Ann Siddall

SUPPLY MINISTRY

Kharis Susilowati’s last service as our Supply Minister will be on the 31st May. Kharis has another appointment as Supply Minister starting in June, which will give her the opportunity to gain more experience as she awaits placement.

As the 31st the service on the 31st May is our scheduled Alive@10:30 Service, we will say farewell to Kharis over lunch after the service. It would be really good if we could make this a great farewell for Kharis, as we have really enjoyed getting to know her while she has led our Worship.

As from the 7th June Berlin Guerrero will be our Supply Minister, initially for 3 months.

Berlin is another exit student awaiting appointment – more about Berlin later

WHAT IS PENTECOST?



Pentecost is a Christian holy day that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 40 days after Easter. Some Christian denominations consider it the birthday of the

Christian Church and celebrate it as such.

Originally, Pentecost was a Jewish holiday held 50 days after Passover. One of three major feasts during the Jewish year, it celebrated Thanksgiving for harvested crops. However, Pentecost for Christians means something far different.

Before Jesus was crucified, he told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come after him: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever — the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." *John 14:16–18.*

And 40 days after Jesus was resurrected (10 days after he ascended into heaven), that promise was fulfilled when Peter and the early Church were in Jerusalem for Pentecost: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." *Acts 2:1–4.*

Richard Wagner from Christianity For Dummies

THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE!



Wandering in the garden of Joseph Arimathaea early on Easter Sunday, Mary was alone. The disciples and the other women had gone home, amazed and perplexed. All they could find was an empty tomb with grave clothes inside.

Mary's grief shut out the beauty, sight and sounds of the garden. Now there was no place to remember him, no final goodbye. Through her tears she noticed a figure, maybe the

gardener. He might know something.

"If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him." Jesus said to her "Mary!" And in an instant, she knew him, turned towards him, and said in Hebrew, "Rabboni! Teacher!"—a most personal word of recognition.

He had spoken to her in person, by name. She knew him. On the third day he had risen as he had promised. During the next 40 days, before his Ascension, he met with his friends, dining and conversing, just as before. He was Jesus, but they knew him in a different way.

Only Thomas, unfairly called the Doubter, wanted to see the scars in his hands and side. Jesus pointed to each and challenged Thomas: "Stop your doubting and believe!"

Thomas answered: "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus replied: "Do you believe because you see me? How fortunate are those who believe without seeing me!"

Reflection: Jesus left them with the promise to be with them always. Paul recognised him on the Damascus Road, and became the great Apostle of the Church and, because of Easter, would have us believe something more wonderful beyond death. "What the eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, God has prepared for those who love him."

Bill Pugh

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Meeting held on 8th April 2015

Our Draft Profile, together with that of Dandenong North, was presented at the April Presbytery Relations Committee. Narre Warren North's Profile will be submitted to the May meeting, and we are waiting on Presbytery to arrange a meeting between representatives from these three churches plus Trinity, Dandenong.



We discussed the Easter services – Monday to Thursday shared at Narre Warren North with Dandenong North and Endeavour Hills Uniting Church, and Good Friday and Easter Sunday with Kharis at Endeavour Hills Uniting Church.

We discussed various ways of using the back part of our church building – any ideas from the congregation would be welcome. Some usage can be “mission” but we also need some income.

Safe Church Training – to be held at Pakenham Uniting Church on Tuesday 26th May from 1-5 pm (see page 16). Members of the congregation are encouraged to enrol and attend.

It was decided to replace our Church Bible which has been missing for several months.

We will follow up on the Kids' Hope program after the school holidays.

Since Church Council:

Jesuran Healing held their last Sunday service at our Church last Sunday. Their Healing Ministry on Saturdays (9:30am – 2:30pm) will continue until about the end of May. They needed to find a venue closer to transport for their ministry.

We have received a letter from Narre Warren North advising they will be applying for a .5 minister on their own. A meeting will be held with Rev. Andrew Boyle from Presbytery within the next couple of weeks to discuss the possibility of Endeavour Hills Uniting Church also applying for a .5 minister on our own, or exploring other possibilities.

Kharis' last Sunday with us will be the 31st May. This will be a contemporary service, followed by a farewell lunch for Kharis.

Berlin Guerrero – a candidate awaiting placement – will be our Supply Minister from 7th June.

Jean Lacey

MAKING CHANGE WITH SPARE CHANGE



Ask an Australian child under five where money comes from and there's a fair chance that the child will describe "money spitting out of a machine in a brick wall".

Giving in today's world creates challenges around the true value of money because cash appears to overflow, even in the eyes of a five-year-old. As we embrace the convenience of automatic teller machines and online purchasing, it's easy to forget that money is a precious commodity. It's used to support ourselves and those around us, as well as for collective good works.

With the advent of 'paywave' technology, it is easier than ever to live in a cashless society. We no longer have that spare change to donate on a whim to those who might truly need it.

Reflection: The act of generosity allows us to make choices in our giving and to demonstrate to the next generation that the money coming out of the wall can be used for many purposes. It's important to explain to children the relationship between our hard work and the money we receive, and to teach them that a small gift might one day lead to a giant difference in a stranger's life.

Jennifer Bridges

LITTLE THINGS



It takes little effort to show kindness, and yet I sometimes wonder whether this gift of the spirit is endangered. I regularly catch trams. Some tram drivers show little generosity in their actions. They ignore people banging on the closed door or others who breathlessly run for the tram about to depart their spot. But there are also drivers who have an empathetic spirit.

As I sat in the comfort of the tram recently I watched a young woman sprinting down the street, clearly headed for the stop. I hoped for her sake someone would be waiting there to ensure the driver stopped. No one. However the driver braked, opened the doors and waited for the breathless passenger to board. No doubt she was relieved. That small action felt like a gift to me. A reminder of our humanity, and of the power we each have to give freely to others – or to withhold.

Reflection: As you go about your daily activities be conscious of the small acts of kindness and generosity you can demonstrate to a friend or stranger.

Sue Anne Jones

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 very much to Warren Ward for preparing the stamps for donation for many years. Thank you to Lucy Mayes who will be taking over this job.

Trading Table & Book Sales

The next Trading Table will be on the 10 May. The April takings were \$118.95. Thanks to Lyn for her ‘bookwork’. Thank you to those who supported us. Proceeds from the next few months will go towards KidsHopeAus. 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

Renovations are well under way at the Manse. Most of the clearing and demolishing has been done, and the “tradies” are now working on the restoration!

Di Rogers is managing the project and is appreciating the daily help being given by Geoff Lacey, with Stan Ashley, Bruce Hansen and several others from the congregation helping when needed.

Contact Geoff Lacey on 0429 593 855 if you can help in any way.

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

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.

PANCAKE DAY 2015



A belated 'Thank you' to our wonderful helpers on Pancake Day—Christine Summers, Cheryl Doddrell, Rachael Kimber, Andrea Mayes and Lucy Mayes (who prepared the table).

Thanks go to the Smith Family also, who were 'lucky' enough to be on Kitchen Duty! Your help was much appreciated.

Our Church community raised \$150.00 For UnitingCare to help with homelessness.

Thanks again.

Heather Kimber

Editor's Note

It was my mistake that this did not appear in the March issue. Please accept my apologies.

Ursula Ebert

Thought for the Month

**"God could not be everywhere and therefore
he made mothers"**

Jewish Proverb

STORIES



Over the summer break I had the time to catch up on some reading. Coincidentally, among the books on my shelf waiting to be read were two dealing with life in Germany during World War II.

The Book Thief examines the war through the experience of a girl living with a foster family. Illiterate and poor, she is hungry not only for food and security, but for knowledge. Hence, the title of the book. She ‘steals’ books and her foster father teaches her the power of words.

In *All the Light they Cannot See*, we are again taken to a world where austerity means that even the smallest things such as new shoes, a weekly meal including meat and – again – books, assume immense value.

The world of fiction allows us to insert ourselves into a story – “If I was there I would have done such-and-such to help” or “I wouldn’t have ignored such suffering”.

When reading stories set nearly 70 years ago, it is easy to feel complacent and thankful that we no longer live like that today. So it is something of a shock to realise that, in fact, many people still live in poverty in our so-called wealthy society.

Reflection: By giving just a little each week or each month, we can do our bit to provide a hot meal, new shoes or even school books to those who are doing it tough. Giving actually gives us the chance to change a real-life story just a little.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Safe Church Training

Pakenham Uniting Church

Tuesday 26 May 2015

1.00pm – 5.00pm

This workshop will commence with a shared lunch.

Participants are invited to bring a plate of food to share.

The Uniting Church affirms that all people are made in the image of God.

The Uniting Church commits itself to the care, protection and safety of all people with whom it comes in contact.

As a community of faith, we are committed to providing a safe environment for both children and adults to encounter God, to develop relationships as part of a community and to grow in faith.

Who should attend a Safe Church Workshop?

- ❖ Anyone who is involved in ministry with young people (0-18 years old)
- ❖ People in leadership and pastoral roles within the congregation, such as Elders, Church Council members and Ministers.
- ❖ Anyone interested in learning more about practical ways of making our churches safe places.



Participation in Safe Church Training is a requirement for Safe Church Recognition.

Each participant will receive a comprehensive manual. Topics covered in the workshop will include:

- ❖ Safe Church foundations
- ❖ Protecting vulnerable people
- ❖ Child Protection
- ❖ Duty of care and accountability
- ❖ Understanding and responding to abuse
- ❖ Protective behaviours
- ❖ Safe leadership
- ❖ Safe programs and environments
- ❖ Uniting Church Policy and procedures

Safe Church Workshops are offered across the Synod without cost to church members.

<https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/safechurchtraining2015/registration/pakenham/>

For further information please contact the Safe Church Educator Josh Woollett.

Phone: (03) 9340 8810 or email: safechurchtraining@victas.uca.org.au



Culture of Safety



National Council of
Churches in Australia



Safe Church
Training Agreement
MAKING SAFE DECISIONS

SNIPPETS

My name is...

A teacher had just given her second-grade class a lesson on magnets. Now came the question session, and she asked a little boy, "My name starts with an M and I pick up things. What am I?" The boy replied instantly, "A Mother?"

From: Illustrations Unlimited. Edited by James S Hewett 1988. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. All rights reserved.

Looking out for Mum

A penny-pinching miser defended himself against criticism aimed at his parsimonious ways. He said, in his own defence, "Why, I couldn't stand for my mother to go on year after year working every night scrubbing and cleaning office floors, so I just bought the office building." The listener asked, "Well, what did you do for your dear mother then?" The miser smiled proudly and said, "Well, she was immediately moved to the day shift."

From: Illustrations Unlimited. Edited by James S Hewett (s) 1988. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc All rights reserved

"Hi, Mum!"

A five year old boy was fed up with his mother. The angry child ran up to his room, found a suitcase, packed it, and came stomping down the stairs, sputtering threats and saying how wonderful it would be to get away from home. The gentle mother told her son goodbye and closed the front door.

From a window she watched her distressed boy trudging down the street with the old suitcase bumping his leg. Now and then, the youngster would stop and look back. At last, he turned in at a neighbour's house and walked up the steps and rang the doorbell. As if she had been cued for her role in the drama, the gracious housewife invited him in and gave him cookies and fruit juice. Meanwhile, the boy's mother telephoned the neighbour to explain what had transpired.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Snippets

Toward evening, the lad thanked the neighbour for a pleasant visit and went bouncing home with his suitcase as if nothing had happened. Slamming the front door behind him, he exclaimed, “Hi, Mum!”

After dinner and their nightly ritual, the tired son went to bed. Curious to see what her son had taken on his trip, the mother opened the suitcase and found his favourite cowboy hat and toy pistol, some bubble-gum, a toothbrush, and his packet of church envelopes.

500 Illustrations — Stories from Life for Preaching & Teaching by G Curtis Jones & Paul H Jones. Used with permission.

You can’t fool Mother Nature!

Early May brought unusually warm weather. The planting instructions on the box of corn seed said, “Plant after all danger of frost, and after the ground is thoroughly warm.” I decided to chance it. Early corn would be wonderful. I lost! The ground was too cold. The seed rotted in the furrows before it could germinate.

Two weeks later it was warm again. The new box of corn seed said, ‘Earliest possible planting date: May 15.” I tried again on May 15. I wanted that early corn. I lost again! It was too early. The ground was still too cold and wet for the sensitive corn seeds to germinate.

Ten days later I was ready for round three. (It was going to be an expensive year for corn!) But the experts were right. One cannot rush the delicate balance of necessary weather patterns and soil preparation for sweet corn.

Human life is very much within that delicate balance of nature. We are neither above nature nor beyond nature. We are interwoven in nature. The marvellous and creative gift of human life is to be valued as part of creation itself. Know your strengths and your weaknesses. Know the rules for maximum quality of life. Know that God wants maximum bodily health through you for as long as life endures.

—From On A Wine and A Prayer by Brian K Bauknighr. © 1998 Dig tcnOolts for Living. Used with permission.

THE ABSOLUTE AUTHENTICITY AND UNIQUENESS OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

The story of Exodus is a Biblical saga that enlightens us about the escape of God's people from slavery in Egypt. It tells of the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea and the forty years of wandering through the wilderness, led by Moses. This story, though a historical saga, has an in-depth appeal as a parable of a modern pilgrim in search of God. In the twenty-first century, after thousands of years, the pilgrim is still looking for the Promised Land, not knowing what it looks like and only believing in a vague hope to seek freedom and opportunity. It is merely a figment of the imagination in order to overcome our bondage and misery and the longings of the pilgrim are lost in futility in the mountains of meaninglessness. We often ask many questions such as: "How can I find my way back to God, the One and only true God?"; "How shall I learn to live the life of God?" In Ecclesiastes Chapter 1 Solomon says "Everything is meaningless, such as wisdom, pleasure, folly, toil and advancement." In conclusion he says in Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man", and verse 14 says, "For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil".

In the Upper Room, well known as the Cenaculum in Jerusalem, our Lord Jesus answered those difficult questions with the staggering claim in John 14:6—"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". No religious leader in history has ever uttered this mysterious claim. It is not only a claim merely pointing the way to God, but a claim to be the way, to be the truth and to be the life. The liberal atheist will bristle with indignation to the claim that the Lord Jesus is the only way to God by believing Him only. He may question other great world religions, their philosophers, doctrines and philosophies. Have they not brought people to God? Are these not

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

The Absolute Authenticity and Uniqueness of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

highways converging upon the same destination? Notorious terrorist groups claim Allah is the only true God. Allah never claimed to be so. Can men without Christ reach God? We cannot reach God by philosophical, scholarly, intellectual high ground. By reading, studying, discussing and arguing can we build up a sufficiently convincing case for Christ or God's existence? If we begin with uncertainty we will end up in uncertainty. If we reason our way to God's presence, we will be forever at the mercy of our own minds. It is useless to be sure today and unsure tomorrow. Can we reach God by pursuing a journey on the path of an emotional experience? The poets and mystics feel their way into God's presence by a kind of extra-sensory-perception (ESP). Some follow an ethical path in the pursuit of God by way of legalism – merit and good works. It is like the Jews during the time of our Lord Jesus, who refused to eat an egg that a hen laid on the Sabbath Day.

John Wesley searched passionately for God in a myriad ways. He studied, he prayed, he laboured but felt utterly lost. Ultimately the Spirit of God poured upon him to help him realise that Christ is the only way to God. His trust was in Christ alone, and Wesley found his way home to the promised land of his soul.

Finally we come back to the Upper Room. Like amnesia victims who have forgotten their way, we know who we are and where we are going and ultimately know where we belong. Like in the Cenaculum in old Jerusalem we discover our way back to our eternal God. This is the only place in the whole world where pilgrims can find their way back to God and learn the truth about God and live the life of God. We will be restored in mind and heart. It is the only promised land of all human souls, where we reign with Him throughout eternity.

Laksman Pethiyagoda

QUOTES AND COMMENTS

“Faith is not something to lean on, it’s something to stand on. Alas, many of us, to quote a witty Frenchman, use ideas as a drunk man may use a lamp post: not for illumination but for support.”

J. Mania

“The most important thing in the Olympic games is not to win but to take part. The most important thing in life is not to triumph but to struggle. The essential thing is not to conquer, but to have fought well.”

The Olympic Creed

I feel about fame the same way as the fellow who found himself in heaven. He didn’t ask whether he deserved it. He just kept quiet and stayed.

Walt Whitman

“I believe that the spirit of prayer is like a lamp which will lose nothing of its own brightness by setting other lamps aflame.”

Bramwell Booth

Two hard working secretaries were comparing notes at the end of the day. “Isn’t it hard the way we have to work?” sighed one. “Hard, isn’t the word”, replied the other. “Why, I typed so many letters yesterday that last night I finished my prayers with “Yours truly.”

“We do not inherit the world from our parents, we borrow it from our children.”

Hazel Henderson

GIVING THANKS

There are many things for which I am grateful. After many weeks of dry conditions, a tropical downpour filled my water tanks and revived my drought-stricken garden. I give thanks for signs of life in plants which I thought may not survive. As I write this, I hear yellow-tailed black cockatoos circling and landing to drink from



a bird bath. I think of all the birds I regularly see and hear, both in my garden and on my daily dog walks. I recall the colour and chatter of rainbow and musk lorikeets as they come to bathe and splash water. Galahs, cockatoos and the stunning king parrots are all visitors to my garden, along with Eastern and crimson rosellas. I can hear the cooing of doves, the song of blackbirds and, every now and then, lapwings calling in the night. I give thanks for the delight these feathered creatures bring.

I give thanks for family, friends and people I meet in the street—for their love, friendship and compassion. We share our joys and concerns, or maybe sometimes just a smile or a wave, but they each fill little gaps in our lives.

Reflection: Give thanks for all that we have and share the beauty of the world with those around us. There is a small modern hymn which I feel perfectly sums up my thoughts –

“Give thanks with a grateful heart,

Give thanks to the Holy one,

Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son”.

Janet Soo

CARTOON CORNER

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"They're perfect for each other. He wants to be the head of a church someday ... and she wants to be the neck that turns it."

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



PAYING ATTENTION



“How are you?” is a common question, but rarely answered. “Fine, thanks, and you?” follows almost as surely as “Who’s there?” follows “Knock, knock.”

Often one has to persist. “But how are you really?” We have become so used to being superficial that truly paying attention to

another is almost a dying art.

The Twitterverse has shrunk communication to pithy and often trivial remarks of less than 140 characters. Silences have become uncomfortable or awkward, and rarely empathetic. Information overload has swamped nuance. Distraction abounds.

Counsellors are taught ‘reflective listening’, where they are trained to repeat or rephrase what they have been told, to show they have actually heard and understood it.

True conversation involves more. It means allowing a story to be told, as well as contributing to it. Too often a tentative start by one is overtaken by a counter-tale from the other: “Oh, my friend had the same thing and she...” meaning the original tale is overtaken, lost in the chatter of one who wasn’t really listening at all.

To truly listen to each other is a wonderful gift—a loving gift, a heartfelt gift. Likewise, we should listen for God. We should stop every now and then and disregard the distractions. Be open. Observe. Pray. Give God our attention, our heart. For what else do we really have to give?

As Christina G Rossetti put it:

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Reflection: Pray that in your dealings with others you may “Make your ear attentive to wisdom and incline your heart to understanding” (Proverbs 2:2); and take time to “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10).

Ian Menzies

FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Hidden Words

Use this code to solve the puzzle. Matt 17:5

I	M	H
T	S	L
E	N	O

□ □ □ □ □ □ Y □ □ □ □ □ B □ □ V □ D,

WJCL LJJ J AL WJCC PCTAOTD;
_____;

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ !”

! ”
!

Answer: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

Mothers and Women in the Bible

M _____ Mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25)

0 Daughter-in-law of Naomi (Ruth 1:4-14)

T _____ Christian woman raised from the dead by Peter (Acts 9:36-43)

H _____ Mother of Ishmael (Genesis 16:15)

E _____ Mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-57)

R _____ Jacob's wife (Genesis 29:9-12)

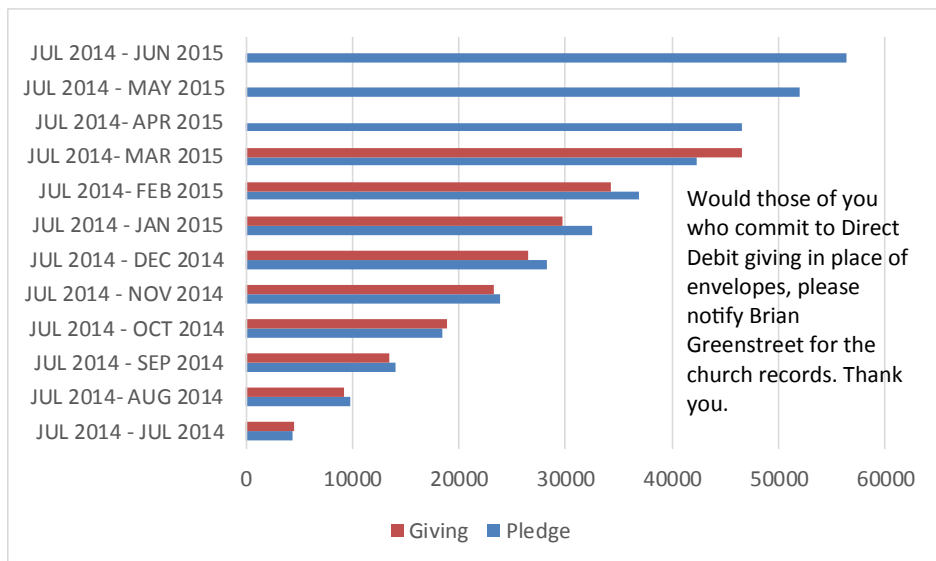
S _____ One of the women at the tomb (Mark 16:1)

Answer: Mary, Orpah, Tabitha, Hagar, Elizabeth, Rachel, Salome

USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

Sunday	10:30 am	Worship EHUC	All 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 in School Holidays)
	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Property & Finance Committee	Meeting Room (4th Wednesday)
	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Church Council	Meeting Room (2nd Wednesday)
Thursday	7:30 pm	Singing Group	Church
Saturday	9.30 am – 2:30 pm	Jesuran Worship	Meeting Rooms & Church
ALL GROUPS will have access to toilets and kitchen.			

Planned Giving





Lectionary for May

Date		Readings
Easter 5 3rd May 2015		Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8
Easter 6 10th May 2015		Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:1-17
Easter 7 17th May 2015		Acts 1:15-17. 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19
Pentecost 24th May 2015		Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27
Trinity Sunday 31st May 2015		Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

May Roster

May 2015	3	10	17	24	31
Bible Reading	Judy Hopkins	Smith Family	Pam Cowley Heather Kimber	Warren & Marion Ward	Sue Reid Catherine Gonsalves
Communion Preparation	Pam Cowley Sandra Cox				
Communion Servers	Elke Beecher Judy Hopkins				
Communion Steward	Brian Greenstreet				
Counting of Offering	David Garneputi Warren Ward	Brian Hall Patricia Matthys	Sandra Cox Lynne Bryan	Catherine Gonsalves Grant Allison	Pam Cowley Bruce Hansen
Door/ Offering	Grant Allison	Christine Summers	Sandra Cox	Murray John	Andrew Moore
Early Word		Michelle Smith	Steve Mayes	Pam Cowley	Sue Reid
Flowers	Lynda Greenstreet	Artificial Flowers	Anne Williams	Artificial Flowers	Artificial Flowers
Kitchen	Delilah Spencer Elizabeth Moore	Smith Family	Joan Hansen Sandra Neal	Jacqui Gacutan TBA	Heather Kimber Pam Cowley
Organist/ Pianist	Edith John	Sue Reid	Olive Morland	Olive Morland	Band
PowerPoint	Andrew Moore	Ursula Ebert	Marion Ward	Jean Lacey	Patricia Matthys
Preacher/ Duty Elder	Kharis Susilawati Judy Hopkins	Kharis Susilowati Diane Hall	Kharis Susilowati Pam Cowley	Kharis Susilowati Judy Hopkins	Kharis Susilowati Diane Hall
Public Address	Geoff Lacey	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Warren Ward	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Geoff Lacey
<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> <p>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.</p>					

June Roster

June 2015	7	14	21	28
Bible Reading	Cheryl Doddrell Pam Cowley	Smith Family	Marion & Warren Ward	Elke Beecher Pam Cowley
Communion Preparation	Pam Cowley TBA			
Communion Servers	Pam Cowley Judy Hopkins Diane Hall Cheryl Doddrell			
Counting of Offering	Brian Hall Wes Porch	Grant Alison David Garnepudi	Sandra Cox Warren Ward	Bruce Hansen Lynne Bryan
Door/Offering	Christine Summers	Grant Allison	Sandra Cox	Andrew Moore
Early Word		Michelle Smith	Steve Mayes	Elke Beecher
Flowers	Artificial Flowers	Artificia Flowersl	Artificial Flowers	Artificial Flowers
Kitchen	Sue & Stan Ashley	Smith Family	Gonsalves Family	Joan Hansen Sandra Neal
Organist/Pianist	Olive Morland	Edith John	Sue Reid	Band
PowerPoint	Andrew Moore	Jean Lacey	Ursula Ebert	Marion Ward
Preacher/ Duty Elder	Berlin Guerrero Judy Hopkins	Berlin Guerrero Cheryl Doddrell	Berlin Guerrero Diane Hall	Berlin Guerrero Pam Cowley
Public Address	Warren Ward	Geoff Lacey	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Warren Ward

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

Marion Ward 5943 1459

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 Ashely

Ursula Ebert

Finance & Property Committee

Chairperson

Geoff Lacey

Treasurer

Catherine Gonsalves

Secretary

Brian Greenstreet

Committee Members

Brian Hall

Sandra Cox

Stan Ashely

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
May 2015	April 26th	May 3rd
June 2015	May 31st	June 7th
July 2015	June 28th	July 5th
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