

# INTERACT

The Magazine of the Endeavour Hills Uniting Church

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Love God with all your heart and soul and mind.

Matthew 22:37

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
DISCIPLESHIP—HEART, SOUL AND MIND .....	3
UNITING THROUGH FAITHS .....	5
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT.....	9
CAROL SERVICE .....	10
CHANGE OF WORSHIP TIMES.....	10
MOMENTS OF GRACE .....	11
NOTICE BOARD .....	12-13
EVERYBODY CAN GIVE .....	14
WHAT MAKES THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST AND CHRISTIANITY UNIQUE? .....	15
THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.....	17
THE FUTURE OF ENDEAVOUR HILLS, NARRE WARREN NORTH AND DANDENONG NORTH UNITING CHURCHES .....	18-19
GENEROSITY IS FUN.....	20
RESTORING WHAT THE LOCUSTS HAVE TAKEN .....	21
CARTOON CORNER .....	22
QUOTES & COMMENTS .....	23
A SIMPLE WORD.....	24
INTERACT & THE WEB.....	25
ENDEAVOUR HILLS NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE.....	25
FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE .....	26
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS .....	27
USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING .....	29
LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER.....	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
ENDEAVOUR HILLS UNITING 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.

# DISCIPLESHIP—HEART, SOUL, AND MIND



The Gospel of Matthew is one long conflict from the time Jesus enters Jerusalem. Both the Pharisees and the Sadducees have tested Jesus with trick questions and challenges. Jesus has answered them with parables and challenges of his own. Finally, in chapter 22, the Sadducees are silent. Now the stage belongs to Pharisees alone, and they send up one of their own, a lawyer, to test Jesus further. “Teacher, which

commandment in the law is the greatest?” (v. 36) asked the lawyer.

This challenge to Jesus is meant to set up the triumph of Pharisaical legalism, but instead it allows Jesus to summarize the law in two great commandments and silence his critics entirely. Jesus reframes the discussion by setting the love of God and then love of neighbour as the greatest ethical call for any person of faith. All the other commandments hinge on these two great commandments. Such an overarching call to love God and neighbour demands that we invest our heart, soul, and mind in our lives of faith.

Christians often refer to this great commandment to love God, but most often we refer only to loving God with our whole heart and soul. Mind gets left out of the matter. Even the meaning of heart and soul become limited to a feeling of love and commitment. Thinking, learning, and intellect are then treated as roadblocks to faith. One Sunday a member of a church said to his pastor as he was exiting the church building. “Pastor, I just wanted to come out of church today feeling good. I don’t want to have to think about politics, and problems, and all that stuff. I have enough of that the rest of the week.”

Jesus challenged the Pharisees when he refused to limit our relationship with God to one manageable set of commandments. The Pharisees wanted a very defined space, something like having a school classroom that is designed so all the learners confine themselves to only one or two learning centres. Loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind means that

*(Continued from page 3)*

## **Discipleship Heart, Soul and Mind**

we are in a classroom without walls and everything we come into contact with calls for our examination and response.

The apostle Paul understood the importance of maturing in understanding and faith. He wrote this to the Christians at Corinth, “Do not be children in your thinking...in thinking be adults” (1 Cor 14:20). Our minds matter. Our minds are a gift from God and God expects us to use them so we may grow in understanding and faith.

This has important implications for all disciples of Christ. In our wider church organizations, in our congregations, in our adult education, we never need to be afraid of thinking, asking questions, and searching the scriptures. God gave us minds, and we should use them. Christians can and should be ready to rethink our faith in the context of the scriptures, in light of scientific discoveries, and in the context of history. Research in psychology brings a new vocabulary about human personality into the discussion of theology. Political and social situations demand from us an articulate and faithful response. It is exciting business to be a Christian!

The Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus’ day had closed minds. The religious leaders refused to recognize what God was doing in Jesus. Matthew 22:46 states, “No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.” Our scripture passage ends with the total silence of both Pharisees and Sadducees. It is an ominous silence, which spells the judgement of Jesus’ opponents.

I can think of no greater challenge than the call to “love the Lord your God with all of your heart, and with all of your soul, and with all of your mind” (Mt 22:37). It is a challenge that engages all of our being and it is a challenge that comes with a promise. God has given us heart, soul, and mind and God will work through all of these to deepen our faith and empower our serving. Christian discipleship is exciting business!

*Jeanette Strandjord, excerpted with permission from The Clergy Journal, © Logos Productions.*

# UNITING THROUGH FAITHS

The concept of generously sharing food with neighbours and strangers is built into many religious practices around the world. During Inter-Faith in September we looked at how this generosity works to build community and praise God by focusing on a different faith each week.

Uniting through Faiths has been travelling in Sri Lanka recently.

## **Week 1 In Colombo, Sri Lanka**

More than 90,000 Sri Lankans live in Australia, representing all four major religions found in Sri Lanka – Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity.

In Melbourne at least nine Uniting Church ministers were born in Sri Lanka. They come from different ethnicities – Burgher, Sinhalese and Tamil.



In Hinduism, food plays a significant role in rituals and worship. The food offered to the gods is called prasada (a Sanskrit word) which means mercy, or the divine grace of God.

Hindus make the preparing of food, the offering of food to God, and the eating of the food offered, into a powerful devotional meditation. Visiting the temple usually involves bringing food on a plate for God. Some of that food is shared with other members at the end of prayers.

The Hindu devotees of Sri Lanka celebrate the colourful Thai Pongal festival on January 14th each year. Houses are adorned in colourful kolam, intricate drawings done on the floors using flour. Special Pujas (prayer ceremonies) are held in Kovils (Temples) to worship the Sun God. It is customary to cook the Pongal meal and share it with neighbours, especially non-Hindus.

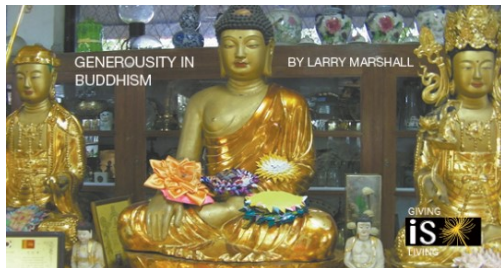
## **Week 2 Generosity in Buddhism**

“If you knew what I know about the power of giving, you would not let a single meal pass without sharing it in some way.” – Buddha

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## Uniting Through Faiths



The teacher and sage Gautama Buddha, also known as Siddhartha, lived in Nepal in the 6th Century BC. It was on his teachings that the philosophy and way of life of Buddhism was founded. Seventy percent of Sri Lankans are Buddhists. Hindus,

Muslims and Christians are also substantial minorities.

**Wesak/Vesak in Sri Lanka:** This sacred Buddhist festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha. This is the most hallowed day in the Buddhist calendar. Wesak is both a deeply religious occasion and a festival of joy across Sri Lanka – it is akin to Christmas on the Christian Calendar. Wesak takes place on the full moon day in May and on the day after full moon. With dawn's light one can witness Buddhists dressed all in white making their way to the temple to observe sila. Here they will spend much of the day meditating, reading religious texts and listening to sermons from Buddhist priests (monks).

In the evening the temples are alight with small oil lamps placed at the foot of the Buddha and around the Bodhi Tree – the tree under which the Buddha meditated until he reached enlightenment. The temples are crowded with devotees bringing flowers and offerings of food. In the capital city of Colombo the celebrations are unsurpassed. Huge pandals (bamboo frameworks) are constructed around the suburbs at each temple and illuminated with beautiful flashing coloured electric lights. These pandals have pictures portraying events in the life of the Buddha.

The most generous and happy feature of Wesak are the danselas (alms giving booths). These are temporary roadside restaurants under tents, set up by the local community at which food and refreshment are given free to all travellers and pilgrims. The Buddha's teachings are practised faithfully at Wesak -- the poor do not go hungry and the stranger is made welcome at the table.

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## Uniting Through Faiths

### Week 3 Ramadan - a month of spiritual renewal, fasting, and generosity

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is also the month in which the Holy Quran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him).

Ramadan serves as a season of spiritual

renewal and gratitude for the generous gifts bestowed upon all human beings by Allah (God). It is a month in which families grow closer, communities strengthen their friendship and individuals reaffirm their spiritual roots through prayer and contemplation and reading of the Quran (Holy book).

During Ramadan the daily fast begins at dawn and ends at sunset. It is a requirement asked of all able-bodied adults, and it is one of the five pillars of Islam (along with a belief in Allah, a pilgrimage to Mecca, charity, and prayer five times each day).

The fasting day begins after the early morning meal (suhoor) consumed before dawn, while Iftar is the breaking of the fast at sunset. Iftar usually begins with water and dates as it was in the time of the prophet Mohammed. Restaurants will serve free Muslim traditional food such as Kanji – the delicious rice porridge – to those breaking their fast.

Muslims in Sri Lanka celebrate the festival of Ramadan in grand style. The end of 30 days of fasting is called Eid-ul Fitr and is a time for new clothes and gift giving, where special meals and sweets are shared with friends and neighbours. Giving alms (zakat) to the poor and needy is also a part of the generosity of this festival of Eid.



*(Continued on page 8)*

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## Uniting Through Faiths



### Week 4 Multi-faith pilgrimage in Sri Lanka – a shared generosity of spirit and respect

“A national vision exists which aims towards a peaceful and prosperous Sri Lanka that is a multi-cultural, multi-

ethnic, multi-faith and plural society, where cultural diversity is recognized as a source of national wealth and strength”. Kataragama Devotees Trust spokesperson

**The Kataragama Pilgrimage:** Kataragama is a place where people of all ethnicities and religions mix and are bonded together in faith. Devotees attend together – with Buddhist temples, Hindu kovils and a mosque standing together in the compound.

This annual pilgrimage attracts believers from all over the island. Some start walking to Kataragama, which is in the south east, from the very northern city of Jaffna. After about two months they finally reach their destination.

These faithful pilgrims are feted by devotees along the way who generously provide them with food, shelter and almsgiving. Some hand over coins tied in red strips of cloth as vows to be taken to the temple Gods. The pilgrimage gains in numbers as the long walk continues through villages and jungles.

Buddhists venerate Kataragama. The Buddha himself rested when he visited Sri Lanka; the Hindus pray to God Skanda who came to Kataragama and fell in love with a beautiful woman of the island; the Muslims come to venerate two important Islamist teachers who are buried here.

In Sri Lanka the annual Kataragama festival is an increasingly popular spiritual exercise. This multi-faith pilgrimage is also helping to build a national vision of peace that is above sectarian religion. It is a perfect example of shared respect and generosity of spirit.

*Larry Marshall*



# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

We had two requests for Baptism, for Shae Cassidy and for Rico Pethiyagoda, both of which were agreed to.

The following items were agreed on:

1. that we dispense with "Lighting of the Candles" on Communion Sundays and also at Baptisms and that a second station be set up for the candle lighting
2. that the \$100 gift offering from the Jesurans goes towards handrails
3. to remove the sandpit in the nursery area, but to cover the other one in some way so that it can be used in the future if necessary
4. to purchase the Fuji Xerox DocuPrint CM405df Multifunction Printer for \$1455 including GST.



## Fundraising:

**Shopping Tour – 11<sup>th</sup> October** – Profits to be shared between the Neighbourhood Centre and the Church, with the Church donating its share to Mercy Ships.

**Fundraiser for Philippines:** There was discussion on the use of the money raised at the fundraiser – there has been correspondence between Lauleti and the Bethany Hospital. However, the Bethany Hospital has been closed (temporarily?) and it was decided to keep the money aside for now and await an outcome.

**"Presbytery on Show"** – 26<sup>th</sup> October at Cornish College. This is to showcase the missions of Churches in the Presbytery. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**Report from Meeting with Narre Warren North, Dandenong North and Endeavour Hills Uniting Church held Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at Narre Warren North.** Wes Porch and Cheryl Doddrell attended from Endeavour Hills Uniting Church. See separate report by Wes Porch in Interact on page 16. All three churches will work on Profiles. Next meeting will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at our Church. All are invited to attend.

**MISSION:** We shall look further into what is needed in our community.

*Jean Lacey*



Advance Notice

# Carol Service

21st December 2014

7 pm for 7.30 pm

Keep the date free!

## CHANGE OF WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES



It was decided at the Annual General Meeting held on the 17th August 2014 that, from the 7th September 2014, our **Sunday Worship** will start at 10.30 am instead of 11 am; our **Praise Time** will commence at 10.20 am. It is expected that these times will be in place until a permanent minister is appointed.

## MOMENTS OF GRACE



The congregation had heeded the call and into the box at the front of the church they laid their offerings. They had collected just enough towels, toothpaste, socks and soap. They were all bundled up and carried to the rooming house and now it was time for them to be given away. The men, shuffling forward with hands outstretched muttered their thanks and lowered their eyes. The word ‘humiliated’ comes from humus which means earth.

To receive a toothbrush does not fill the soul with pride. To give a toothbrush does not fill the soul with pride. For both the giver and the receiver there is an acute awareness of the vulnerability of the flesh, the humbleness of the human. There is no need for words. The toothbrush bought by an elderly woman for a man she does not know, the soap chosen in the supermarket aisle by a little girl to ‘give to the man who has no soap’—these are simple ways to say: “We are the same you and me, your bones are my bones, your flesh my flesh and so I give this to you.”

**Reflection:** At-one-ment is ‘atonement’. Isn’t this all God asks of us? To be as one?

*Alex Sangster*

# 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 & Book Sales**

The next Trading Tables will be on the 12th October, the 2nd November & the 14th December 2014. The September takings were \$92.00.

Please contact Heather Kimber.  
Phone : 9796 8154

## **Paper Collection & Packing & Aluminium Can Collection**

The paper packing is done on Fridays now, as this is when the truck is available. Please watch the Notices for the next loading day.

## **Shopping Tour**

The bus is full, so unless there are any cancellations, there are no more tickets! Our share of the profits will go to Mercy Ships.



## **Lawn Mowing & Gardening**

Anyone who enjoys gardening, look on the church garden as your second home! Thank you to all our gardeners who try to tame the weeds.

## **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 10.15 am for Morning Tea and at 10.30 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.**

# EVERYBODY CAN GIVE



A few years ago I attended a mid-week Service of Communion at an inner-city UnitingCare agency. Gathering together in a makeshift side room, all 15 or so of us sang songs together in no particular

harmony, shared prayers of concern for each other that transcended dogma and order, and welcomed each other in a scene of rag-tag unconventionality.

I remembered one woman who had grown up in a wealthy western Victorian grazing family, and who now lived in a humble 'walk-up' on the local public housing estate. Walking to the Mission on account of illness and disability was a daily struggle, but she made the most of it, frequently stopping at the corners along Chapel Street. With her Red Cross ID lanyard and money collector's badge clearly and proudly displayed, she would rattle her tin whilst politely informing passers-by of the important work Red Cross does.

**Reflection:** Over a 13-year period this woman had raised in excess of \$20,000 from donations. That day, as the service progressed, we read the Bible and broke bread together; and I was moved again by the welcome and generosity of spirit.

*Andy Calder*

# WHAT MAKES THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST AND CHRISTIANITY UNIQUE?

Is Christianity really unique, or is it just one of many roads on the path to Truth? Is Christianity truly unique among the many religions around the world? If it is, what makes it so? Unique among all religions, Christianity makes several claims that others do not. First, all other religions exhort Man to reach up to God and grasp hold of Him through his own efforts. Christianity is so unique and remarkable that God reaches down to man. Second, other religions are systems of do's and don'ts to appease God; whereas Christianity is a relationship with God. Third, Christianity looks to the Bible as the singular source of Truth. Finally, Christianity is based upon, truly, the most amazing event in all of human history—the resurrection.

As to the first issue, other forms of religion subscribe to a system of works—those we should do and those we should avoid—which will make us “good enough” to please God and merit His favour. Christianity, on the other hand, is based on the biblical principle that we can never be good enough to be in the presence of a perfect, holy God. The Mosaic Law was given to mankind to prove to us that we can't keep it. Galatians 3 describes the purpose of the Law. It is a “tutor” or “schoolmaster” to lead us to Christ because “...by observing the law no one will be justified” (Galatians 2:16). The impossibility of keeping the Law is revealed in what Jesus called the “first and greatest commandment”. In Matthew 22:37 it is said “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This would mean loving God with every fibre of our being 24/7, with never a thought for ourselves, an impossible task for anyone. But rather than condemning us as law-breakers and leaving it at that, God provided a substitute—Jesus Christ—who obeyed the Law perfectly for us. By faith in Him and accepting His work on our

*(Continued on page 16)*

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## **What Makes Christians & Christianity Unique?**

behalf, we are justified and made righteous. Here is the crucial difference between Christianity and all other religions.

As to the second point, Christianity is not a religious system, but a relationship with God, one that He initiated and maintains. Christians believe that mankind was created specifically to have a relationship with God, but sin separates all men from Him (Romans 3:23, 5:12). Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ walked this earth, fully God, and yet fully man (Philippians 2:6-11), and died on the cross to restore the relationship that was broken by sin. After His death on the cross, Christ was buried, He rose again, and now lives at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for believers forever (Hebrews 7:25). The intimacy of this relationship is revealed in two poignant pictures. Now no longer seen as law-breakers, we have been adopted into God's own family as His children (Ephesians 1:5). Even more intimately, believers are the very "body of Christ" of which He is the head (Ephesians 1:22-23), having been purchased by His blood (Hebrews 9:12). No other religion makes assertions that even begin to approximate this incredible truth.

Another thing that makes Christianity unique is what Christianity does about the Bible—it is the written Word of God, and it is infallible and inerrant and all that is necessary for faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16). Christians believe that the Bible is the inspired—literally "God-breathed"—Word of God and that its teaching is the final authority (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21). Though there are other religions that use prophecy, none are 100% accurate, as are those in the Bible, and none of them point to someone like Jesus who made incredible claims and performed incredible deeds.

Perhaps the most defining principle of Christianity that makes it truly unique in every way and provides its fundamental basis is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Within Christianity, the resurrection is

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*(Continued from page 16)*

## **What Makes Christians & Christianity Unique?**

vitaly important, for without it, Christianity does not exist, and our faith is useless (1 Corinthians 15:14).

It was Jesus' resurrection that changed the lives of the disciples. After Jesus was crucified, the disciples ran and hid. But when they saw the risen Lord, they knew that all Jesus had said and done proved that He was indeed God in the flesh. No other religious leader has died in full view of trained executioners, had a guarded tomb, and then rose three days later to appear to many people. The resurrection is proof of who Jesus is and that He did accomplish what He set out to do: provide the only means of redemption for mankind. Buddha did not rise from the dead. Muhammad did not rise from the dead. Confucius did not rise from the dead. Krishna did not rise from the dead. Only Jesus has physically risen from the dead, walked on water, claimed to be God, and raised others from the dead. He has conquered death. Only in Christianity do we have the person of Christ who claimed to be God, performed many miracles to prove His claim of divinity, died and rose from the dead, and claimed that He alone is "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6) and that no one comes to the Father except through Him.

*Laksman Pethiyagoda*

### **Thought for the Month**

**The first to apologise is the bravest.**

**The first to forgive is the strongest.**

**The first to forget is the happiest.**

## THE FUTURE OF ENDEAVOUR HILLS, NARRE WARREN NORTH AND DANDENONG NORTH UNITING CHURCHES:

### **Background**

As many of you would be aware there have been rumours, suggestions, talk and even meetings held over the last 5 years or so (some would say 30 years plus) regarding the future of our Church and the relationship between us and our neighbouring Uniting Churches.

These have come to little until Dandenong North and we, Endeavour Hills, agreed to share a minister, but to continue with our own ministries independently. This has been a harmonious and successful partnership and the source of great encouragement for us all.

### **The situation**

*Recent events:* Narre Warren North Uniting Church's continued search for a minister, combined with Lauleti's departure, find the three congregations all in need of ministerial leadership at the same time. All three churches can afford approximately half of one minister each. Together we can all afford one and a half ministers or a different combination depending on the needs of our churches and the gifts and availability of the candidates.

The costs and labour involved in running a church are always increasing and the income is not always assured. While we are all right for the moment I understand that the income for Endeavour Hills has not increased in line with the expenses.

### **The possibilities**

The possibilities offered from combining are wide and could involve either a husband and wife ministry team or  $\frac{3}{4}$  time for a deacon and  $\frac{3}{4}$  for a minister of the word or a full time Deacon and a half time minister of the word. How about a family and children minister? There are many more combinations that are possible if we pool our resources.

*(Continued from page 18)*

## **The Future of the Endeavour Hills, Narre Warren North & Dandenong North Uniting Churches**

### **Purpose of the talks**

After discussion, it was agreed that we share time at meetings and then, hopefully, occasional worship together as well as social events, the purpose of which is to see if we can get along well enough to share this venture. Whilst it makes financial sense to combine, it requires a lot more in terms of our shared ministry aims, purpose, plan, direction etc.

The only decision that has been made so far is to share fellowship with each other with a view to combine. Everyone at the meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> was of one accord and very happy to proceed on that basis.

### **The vision**

The vision shared by many of us, and I stress that this will not be an overnight thing, is for a single Church Council across our three churches with a real hope, **eventually**, for a single place of worship together and a common mission. How does 'North Hills Uniting' sound?

### **The Invitation**

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30 pm at Endeavour Hills Uniting Church and we shall have Ian Firth from Presbytery to advise us regarding our next move including the wisest use of buildings for the Glory of Christ and his mission in our area.

It is an open meeting and all with an interest are invited to be there. We cannot begin the process to call a minister until we resolve this, so I hope this will stir some passion and some prayer as well as discussion about our way forward.

Yours in Christ

Wes Porch

*Vice Chairperson, Church Council.*

# GENEROSITY IS FUN



The secret to living life as a generous person is to remember that generosity is fun. Greed gets so boring – and friends and family begin to avoid you if they feel that all you ever do is take without giving. Surely you have experienced the joy of giving a lolly to a small child, or surprising colleagues with

yummy leftover treats, or giving someone a gift ‘out of the blue’.

I like being able to offer a share of my dinner, a piece of the brownie slice I just made, or a glass of wine from the bottle I’ve just opened. I like buying friends ‘surprise’ gifts of ice cream or chocolate, especially if they’ve had a rough day. I enjoy giving clothes or jewellery that I no longer need to someone who will be thrilled to own them. I especially love lending out books or DVDs that gave me joy. Knowing I can share (and double) that joy with someone else so easily is a bit of a thrill for me. I never tire of seeing their reaction to being given something they didn’t expect to get.

Giving is fun because you get to witness the positive impact you have had on someone else’s life – the difference you’ve made, big or small, meaningful or trivial. Whether you’re close to the person or not, the beauty is you can virtually be generous to anybody you encounter, and their enjoyment of your generosity becomes a joy for you.

**Reflection:** Is there someone in your life you can surprise today or this week with a ‘random act of kindness’? Giving is living – and life is meant to be fun!

*Anonymous*

## RESTORING WHAT THE LOCUSTS HAVE TAKEN



As a farmer's daughter returning to my childhood town of Numurkah a few years ago, I didn't have to go too far to notice the hardship wrought upon our food bowl community. The recent rains which brought serious flooding and long-term benefits also had a devastating impact. After the short-term drying out comes the challenge of

longer-term recovery as farmers get back on their feet again. At the last moment the promise of a great harvest was washed away.

Driving through the Goulburn Valley, the locusts were so thick that children playing tennis on a local grass court were doing so on a moving carpet of brown insects. In the time since that visit there have been widespread floods which have dramatically increased the hardship for those in rural communities – not only crops but homes and infrastructure were seriously damaged. The clean-up for these things is exhausting physically and emotionally, as is asking for help.

The weather-related threats of drought, flood, locusts and fire that communities in regional Victoria face have the capacity to be devastating – and when they occur, there's no quick fix. What can we do to better understand the plights of farming communities? Just because we are not experiencing the same, surely we can at least try to understand what it's like to walk in their shoes.

**Reflection:** Loving our regional neighbours can be as easy as taking the time to understand the short and long-term problems for these communities, and listening to them – not only giving generously when disaster strikes but continuously keeping them in our prayers.

*Isabel Thomas Dobson*

# CARTOON CORNER

**Salt and Light** by Jonny Hawkins



**Salt and Light** by Jonny Hawkins



"Less fire and brimstone .... more touchy-feely!"

**Salt and Light** by Jonny Hawkins



"I heard it was the only way Mabel could get him into church."

**Salt and Light** by Jonny Hawkins



"The Lord is working through you. I saw a vision from God in your hair today."

## QUOTES AND COMMENTS

The minister said, "Next Sunday I am going to preach on the subject of liars. And in this connection, as a preparation for my discourse, I would like you all to read the 17th chapter of Mark."

On the following Sunday the minister said: "Now, then, all of you who have read the 17th chapter of Mark, please raise your hands."

Nearly every hand in the congregation went up. The preacher said, "You are just the people I want to talk to. There is no 17th chapter of Mark."

In Matthew 22: "We have 613 rules here; now which is the most important?" the lawyer was asking. If the lawyer had been asking about baseball, and Jesus had replied that "three strikes and you're out" was the most important, the lawyer would have had reason to produce a counter-argument. "How come the most important rule isn't 'four balls and you walk'?" he might have reasonably said. What Jesus' answer achieves, however, is to undermine the whole notion of the

law as rules and regulations. What Jesus claims is that the whole law is about love, not rules; about really loving God and one's neighbour, not about figuring out how to avoid stepping on cracks in the legal sidewalk.

*Tom Long, Matthew*

God is a circle, whose centre is every-where and whose circumference is nowhere.

*Voltaire, after Blaise Pascal*

The stuff I put into my bread doesn't taste like much. Plain tap water. Flour. Oil. Yeast. Molasses. Salt. But when I take it out of the oven, the aroma fills our home and the food is a banquet for all. If I can do that with the tasteless ingredients for bread, think what kind of a banquet God can provide with the ingredients in my life?

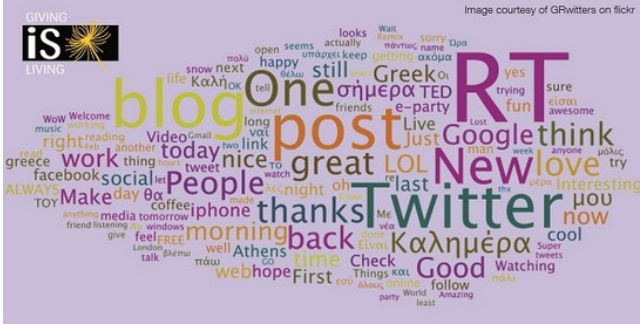
*Ralph Milton*

### **A Man without a Country**

When we die our bodies become the grass. And the antelope eat the grass. And so we are all connected in the great circle of life.

*Mufasa to Simba, in Disney's The Lion King*

## A SIMPLE WORD



In the New Testament is the small letter of James, a kind of a self-help book for navigating the nastiness of ourselves and the world in which we live. In Chapter 3 he rails

against the power of the tongue—'it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell'.

Wow! Whilst I mightn't put it quite like that, the old expression 'Sticks and stones will break your bones, but names will never hurt you' is definitely a furphy! James is right. The tongue can do significant damage, as we witness every day in our personal and professional lives, and when we read the newspapers. However, thoughtful words, loving words, encouraging words, can soothe, nurture and encourage, and can be as easy to give.

I am one of those 'difficult' people with dietary requirements. Restaurants, hotels, and even friends have to think more carefully when they create tasty and attractive meals and snacks for those with allergies and intolerance to certain foods. Following a recent conference, I popped my head in the kitchen door to thank the chefs for the efforts to which they had gone to cater for me. The food had been tasty and created no challenges for my health. As I left, the head waiter came rushing after me to thank me for thanking them! He said the chefs never get acknowledged even though they go to great lengths to meet people's requirements. Makes you think, doesn't it.

**Reflection:** It doesn't take much to acknowledge another person. To thank the person cleaning the table at the café, to call out thanks to the person who opened the door or took your order, to smile at the stranger in the street—but it might just be enough to make their day.

*Penny Mulvey*



## **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](mailto:ganjlacey@ozemail.com.au))**

or

**Marion Ward ([wardmarion@hotmail.com](mailto:wardmarion@hotmail.com)).**

Photos of various events are very welcome.

## **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](mailto:ehunc@tpg.com.au)

Web [www.ehunc.org.au](http://www.ehunc.org.au)

# FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

## Dove of Peace

Here is a symbol of peace.

Connect the dots.



## Peacemaking

In our world there is always trouble between nations. In Romans 14:19 there are wise words about peace. Unscramble these words to learn what this verse is.

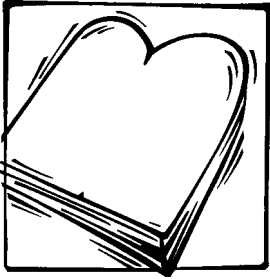
ELT    SU    ENTH    EUSRUP    AWHT    SAMEK

ORF    PACEE    DAN    TAULUM    DINGBLUIUP

What can you do to have peace in your life? Think of those around you. Are there disagreements and troubles sometimes? What can you do to have fewer arguments and problems?

Answers: Romans 14:19 Let us then pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding.

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



The Bible tells us that Moses brought God's law to the people of Israel on two stone tablets.

Some people think of the commandments as "rules" from God, but really they are more like good advice. The commandments tell us how to live together, showing love for God and neighbour.

You can find the commandments in the Bible in Exodus 20 and in Deuteronomy 5. You'll notice that some commandments are quite long and others are very short, and you might even have a hard time finding ten of them. Don't worry!

Christians have somehow never been able to get together on how to number God's laws. Martin Luther saw verses 1-6 as one command about honouring God alone and not worshipping idols. Other Christians find two commandments in those verses. Similarly, at the end of the list, Lutherans have separated the prohibition of coveting (20:17) into two parts: against coveting the neighbour's house and against coveting everything else that is your neighbour's family or property. Other Christians see that verse suggesting only one commandment.

The Ten Commandments are thought of in two parts: commandments concerning our relationship with God and commandments concerning our relationship with our neighbours. Later, Jesus would say that there is no real difference between the two; showing love for the neighbour is showing love for God, for it is God who desires us to love our neighbour. When we do these words, we live.

Find a piece of paper and draw two stone tablets. Write "loving God" on one and "loving neighbour" on the other. List the commandments in your own words, writing them on the tablet you think each relates to —loving God or loving neighbour.

## **You are there**

- Read Exodus 19:16-25. What is one word that would describe God in this story?
- What sights, sounds, and feelings do you think you would experience if you had been standing at the foot of the mountain when God visited the people?

*(Continued on page 28)*

*(Continued from page 27)*

### **The Ten Commandments**

- Go back and read Exodus 19:3-6. What does this awesome and powerful God say to Moses about the people of Israel? What kinds of things does God want for people?
- How do you hear the commandments — mostly negatively (do not kill) or positively (help other people)?

### **Moses' mountain/my mountain**

The book of Exodus gives a very vivid description of Mount Sinai! Exodus 19:16 tells us, "There was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled." This holy mountain is mentioned over and over in the Bible, but it is not the world's biggest mountain. Compare the height of Mount Sinai with other peaks around the world:

- Sinai, Egypt, 5000 ft/1525 m
- Everest, Nepal-China, 29,035 ft/8850 m
- Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, 19,340 ft/5895 m
- Kosciusko, Australia, 7310 ft/2228 m
- Denali, Alaska, 20,320 ft/6194 m

What is the highest point in your area? How does Mount Sinai compare with it, and with other mountains of the world? It is not the highest of all mountains but it is a very important mountain because it is a place where God meets with people.

### **The 11th commandment**

Love God. Love your neighbour. This is a summary of the Ten Commandments, and they cover pretty much everything. If you could write an 11th commandment related to love of God or neighbour, what would it be? Add it to the list of commandments you started earlier and share your idea with friends and family.

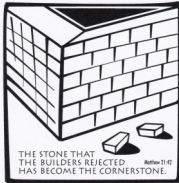



*Excerpted with permission from Crossings with Kids, Grade 4, © Logos Productions.*

# USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

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



# Lectioary for October

Date		Readings
Pentecost 17 5th October 2014		Exodus 30:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46
Pentecost 18 12th October 2014		Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14
Pentecost 18 19th October 2014		Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
Pentecost 19 26th October 2014		Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46

# FAMILY PRAYER MINISTRY

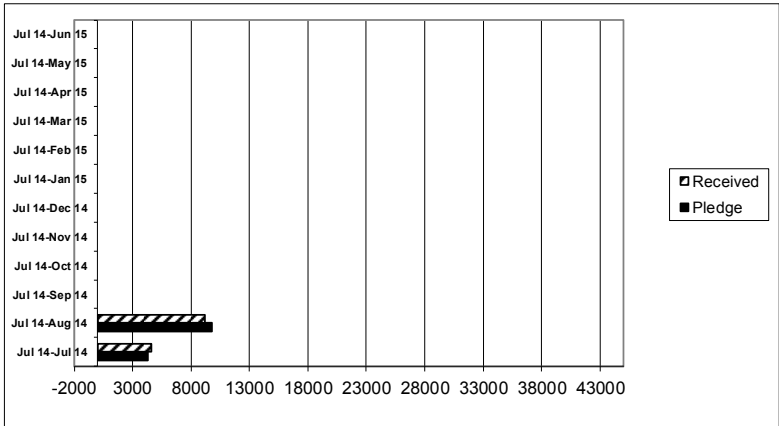


In our Family Prayer Ministry we pray for three families of our congregation every week, from Sunday to Saturday. This is in addition to our Prayer Chain Ministry, and other special requests mentioned during Worship Services.

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

Week beginning:	Families			
5th October	MOORE	PORCH	REID	RODGERS
12th October	SAMUELS		SHAW	SLEETH
19th October	SMITH		SPENCER	SUMMERS
26th October	THOMAS		WARD	WATKINS
2nd November	WEGMANN		WILHELMS	WILLIAMS
9th November	ABRAHAMA		ALLISON	AMOL
16th November	ASHLEY		ATAYA	BALTHAZAR
23rd November	BARTHOLOMEUSZ		BAXTER	BEECHER
30th November	BRADONJIC		BRYAN	COWLEY

## 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.

# October Roster

October 2014	5	12	19	26
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Mary Mehl Judy Hopkins	Lynne Bryan Catherine Gonsalves	Smith Family	Joan Hansen Elke Beecher
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Christine Summers Heather Kimber			
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Judy Hopkins Diane Hall Colin Wilhelms Pam Cowley			
<b>Communion Steward</b>				
<b>Counting of Offering</b>	Patricia Matthys Leena Garnepudi	Wes Porch Sandra Cox	Grant Alison Brian Hall	Sandra Cox Leena Garnepudi
<b>Door/Offering</b>	Sandra Cox	Andrew Moore	Grant Alison	Christine Summers
<b>Early Word</b>		Sue Reid	Michelle Smith	Lynda Greenstreet
<b>Flowers</b>	Lynda Greenstreet	Artificial Flowers	Anne Williams	Artificial Flowers
<b>Kitchen</b>	Gonsalves Family	Sandra Neal Joan Hansen	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Sopencer	Stan and Sue Ashley
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Olive Morland	Edith John	Sue Reid	Band
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Andrew Moore	Jean Lacey	Marion Ward	Patricia Matthys
<b>Praise Time</b>	Edith & Murray John	Michelle & Rufane Smith	Jean Lacey	Band
<b>Preacher/Duty Elder</b>	Kharis Susilowati Judy Hopkins	Kharis Susilowati Diane Hall	Kharis Susilowati Colin Wilhelms	Wes Porch Pam Cowley
<b>Public Address</b>	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Colin Wilhelms	Warren Ward	Gavin Bartholomeusz



# November Roster

November 2014	2	9	16	23	30
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Pam Cowley Heather Kimber	Cheryl Doddrell David Garnepudi	The Porch Family	Brian & Lynda Greenstreet	Judy Hopkins Lynne Bryan
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Sandra Cox Delilah Spencer				
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Pam Cowley Geoff Lacey				
<b>Communion</b>	Brian Hall				
<b>Counting of Offering</b>	Pam Cowley David Garnepudi	Sandra Cox Leena Garnepudi	Lynne Bryan Patricia Matthys	Grant Allison Wes Porch	David Garnepudi Sandra Cox
<b>Door/Offering</b>	Sue & Stan Ashley	Pam Cowley	Andrew Moore	Christine Summers	Grant Allison
<b>Early Word</b>		Judy Hopkins	Kharis Susilowati	Lynda Greenstreet	Judy Hopkins
<b>Flowers</b>	Elizabeth Kapitany	Artificial Flowers	Mary Mehl	Edith John Cheryl Doddrell	Artificial Flowers
<b>Kitchen</b>	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	The Smith Family	Sandra Neal Joan Hansen	Mathy Watkins Pam Cowley	Jaqui Gacutan Heather Kimber
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Edith John	Sue Reid	Olive Morland	Sue Reid	Band
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Jean Lacey	Patricia Matthys	Andrew Moore	Marion Ward	Jean Lacey
<b>Praise Time</b>	Olive Morland	Geoff Harkness	Jean Lacey	Michelle & Rufane Smith	Band
<b>Preacher/Duty Elder</b>	Kharis Susilowati Pam Cowley	Kharis Susilowati Judy Hopkins	Kharis Susilo- wati Diane Hall	Kharis Susilowati Colin Wilhelms	Kharis Susilowati Judy Hopkins
<b>Public Address</b>	Paul Watkins	Colin Wilhelms	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Warren Ward	Geoff Lacey

## 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.

# 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 ..... 9793 5997

## 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

Pam Cowley 9793 5997

Jean Lacey 9700 7246

Marion Ward 9700 1878

Colin Wilhelms 9794 7175

## Elders

Cheryl Doddrell 9700 1674

Judy Hopkins 9700 7551

Pam Cowley 9793 5997

Colin Wilhelms 9794 7175

George Balthazar 9700 3998

Diane Hall 9700 5104

## 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](mailto: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

## 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](mailto: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:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>
November 2014	26th October 2014	2nd November 2014
December 2014	30th November 2014	7th December 2014