

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.'

Draw near
to God
and He
will
draw
near
to you

James 4:8



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

Supply Minister: Berlin Guerrero
Email: berlin_guerrero@yahoo.com
Mobile: 0499 303 911
Church Office Telephone: 9700 2125
Church Office Email: churchoffice@ehuc.org.au
Web Address: www.ehuc.org.au



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Please note:

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

WATCH FOR THE MAGPIES

A pair of magpies have decided to harass our cats.

Anytime either cat goes out, the magpies immediately land nearby and squawk constantly at her. Somehow, they know they're safe. One of the cats is sixteen years old, and moves ponderously. The other is younger and quicker, but partly blind.



The magpies are so predictable that I can use them to find the cats. The other day, little Lucky, the partly blind cat, stayed out longer than we thought she should. I went into the yard and looked for her. She's never easy to find - her dappled grey fur blends subtly into the shadows. But this time, all I had to do was listen.

The two magpies were perched on fence posts, by the hedge, squawking. Sure enough, Lucky lay curled up under one of the trees, peering nervously up through the branches at her tormentors.

I see those magpies as a metaphor for the presence of evil. I don't mean that either magpies - or cats - embody evil. Rather, that evil reveals itself by the company it keeps.

Evil, these days, has a remarkable capacity to disguise itself as good. The old days when everyone knew the difference between good and evil are long gone.

Actually, in the olden days, most people were told which was which, and we, the people, deferred to the superior knowledge of our priests, our professors, and our political leaders. But with the suspicion of all authority and all institutions that emerged in the 1970s, we're no longer willing to let someone else make those value judgements for us.

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Watch for the Magpies

So we find ourselves adrift on an ocean of moral possibilities; trying to distinguish flotsam from jetsam—and they often look uncommonly alike. Of course, everyone promotes their pet cause as good. After all, who'd promote it as evil?

So how can you know the difference?

Look for the magpies, I suggest. Certain kinds of people tend to gravitate to certain kinds of activities. To determine whether a project, a business, a cause, is honourable or questionable; look at the kind of people it attracts.

A sure-fire investment scheme looks good on paper, but what kind of get-rich-quick-without-commitment people flock to it? A door-to-door roofing salesman makes a favourable impression but what kind of friends hang out with him?

Good and evil reveal their nature by the kind of people they attract, the way a magnet attracts iron filings.

One of Jesus' parables (in Eugene Peterson's contemporary translation) concludes with the message, "If you're a crook in small things, you'll be a crook in big things."

We all know that an investment counsellor who has been scrupulously honest in small dealings will probably also be honest with big money, and vice versa. A parent who snaps at children will probably have a short fuse in business dealings. A driver who cuts corners on the road may be tempted to cut corners ethically.

To uncover the cat, watch for the magpies.

Jim Taylor

Jim Taylor is a free-lance writer living in British Columbia.

SELECTIVE HEARING

Our grandfather was hard of hearing. Yet at times he rebuked us when we said something which was not to his expected standard for his grandchildren.

“Now cut that out, you young whippersnappers, I heard that!” he would say. We thought ‘whippersnappers’ was Scottish for naughty boys. We got the message.



Our grandson was born deaf, but by the miracle of a cochlea ear implant, he hears and speaks very well. Sometimes children have selective hearing, especially when there is a job to be done. Even husbands and partners, apparently, have selective hearing.

The same applies to our giving. Jesus, when instructing and sending out his disciples said, “Freely, you have received, freely give”. We hear the first part. Do we really listen to the second part and carry it out?

And that word – freely – needs attention. Sometimes it could be rendered, reluctantly. A big bit for us, the leftovers for God. God’s over-and-above gift to us is grace, free and undeserved. We can never repay him for his overwhelming generosity, but we can share our blessings and abundance with others, freely giving. That is mission. Paul encourages us as he did the Corinthians, “The Lord loves a cheerful giver”.

Reflection: Generous God, our loving Father, we are your children, so blessed each day by your abundance. We thank and praise you. Forgive our selfish, selective hearing, and sluggish response, to the glaring needs around us, and remind us that, of those who are born by grace into a goodly heritage, much is to be expected.

Bill Pugh

BREAKING THE CYCLE



Julius grew up in one of the slums in Kenya. He lived in poverty for most of his childhood, sleeping on wet mattresses and drinking dirty water that frequently made him sick. His father struggled to find long-term employment. His brother was shot and killed by a gang.

Like many children born into an impoverished community, Julius' future seemed bleak and hopeless because he was born on the wrong side of the world. However, Julius was able to receive an education thanks to the generosity of a neighbouring church. The church set up a school and offered to give lessons to children living in the slums. Julius was a keen and attentive student. He loved learning and he progressed so well that he went on to attend university and became the first person from his family to graduate with a degree.

A few years after he finished his university degree, Julius' younger sister also graduated. The cycle of poverty can be broken. All it takes is for us to open our hearts to the cries of those in need.

Reflection: Nelson Mandela once said: "Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings." Let us work to recreate the world the way God intended – full of life, beauty and hope.

Pauline Murphy

ARE WE ALONE BY DESIGN?

Among the gazillions of celestial bodies and planets in the universe, you might think that we would have detected signs of life with our astronomical space observatories like the Hubble Space Telescope.

Though space scopes 'see' in a spectrum of frequencies, we have not been able to detect, locate, let alone contact E.T. —

nothing that suggests habitation of any kind, much less a mirror earth anywhere in our own or other galaxies, or little green men with pointy ears who have mastered interplanetary space travel.

What does that mean? It possibly means that our little third rock from the sun is the only 'Goldilocks' planet (not too hot, not too cold and just right) in the cosmos. You would burn up in Venus, you would suffocate on Mars and you would sink right to the centre of Saturn and Jupiter.

It possibly means that we are all alone, that we are purposefully made to be alone so that we can realise our uniqueness, that there is a Creator and we are His uniquely created and that we ourselves exist is evidence enough of His existence. There can be no life without one who gives it.

On top of our ability to speak, read, write, think in the abstract and create civilisations, we are also the only species that are primed to look for our Creator and worship Him. It is only on the planet of the apes that orang-utans build churches.

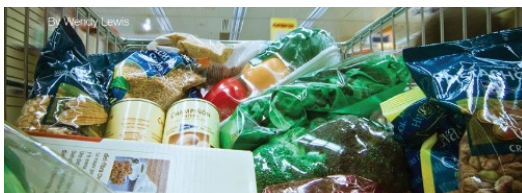
Reflection: God created us for a purpose – to love our neighbours and to give generously. Genesis 1:27 begins with 'God created man in His own image'. Let us strive to follow our Creator and cast a light into the world through our kind deeds.

Kimmy Fam



LITTLE ACTS OF GENEROSITY

The supermarket was crowded, the register lines were long and the aisles a little too narrow for comfortable passing.



Tempers were smouldering, but most of the shoppers tried to move politely around each other.

One of the shoppers I encountered was a lady wearing dark glasses and carrying a white cane. She had a personal carer at her side and I had given way to her a few times as I filled the trolley.

We met each other again at the checkouts. Her carer dashed off to find some forgotten item, and the movement sent an item hurtling off my overfull trolley. Before I could move, the lady reached down for my errant item. Thankfully I remembered my manners and thanked her for retrieving it for me. Before long, we were exchanging pleasantries and sharing views and ideas.

There was a promotion going on and she asked if I wanted my token, explaining she used the promotion to buy gifts for her carers. When I paid and asked for my tokens, the cashier's face lit up with surprise when I asked her to give them to the lady behind me.

Not only had this woman helped me out but she had cheered up my day with her bright personality and "can do" attitude. All I had was my patience and these small tokens to give her. I hope the small gifts she would give her carers from the tokens would likewise "make their day".

Reflection: How many 'tokens' did you give away today? Our acts of generosity may seem little, but they can have a flow-on effect. Take some time out of your busy life to perform an act of kindness.

Wendy Lewis

Image by Kozumel via Flickr

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

12TH AUGUST 2015

Devotions were led by Berlin Guerrero.

Berlin's time as Supply Minister has been extended for three months till the end of November.



Removal of trees at front of church. As no negative comments have been received, it has been decided to remove the trees when the weather is dryer, probably after a Worship Service and a shared lunch, .

Church Council approved a request from Andrea Mayes to start an Environmental Action Group in the Church.

Mossgiel Park Primary School has decided to have the Kids Hope program. Catherine Gonsalves and Lynda Greenstreet will do the Coordinators' training in October and the program will start next year.

It was decided to purchase some knee rugs for use in Church during the cold weather.

Gavin Bartholomeusz tabled some information received from Presbytery on bullying, including information on the process of making a complaint.

David Garnepudi and his family plan to hold a lunch after church on Sunday 6th September to celebrate their daughter Anna's 1st birthday. David will provide some food and the congregation will be asked to bring a plate also.

The playgroup started well with five children attending each week for the first two weeks but only two or three on the other weeks. The weather has been very wet and cold so hopefully numbers will improve. There will be a letter box drop and Cheryl will need volunteers to help deliver these.

The Regional Ministry proposal was discussed but we will need to attend another meeting before making any decisions.

Judy Hopkins.

Secretary.



Playgroup
For Under 5s

Treasure Trove

A place to play, explore, discover,
enjoy, journey, adventure, & share!



Endeavour Hills Uniting Church
Corner Raymond McMahon Boulevard and Hellyer Way
Mondays School Term, 9.30am - 11.30am



For enquiries or to link in please call Stephen on 0408 684 366

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

Social disadvantage is a complex issue, but the media's portrayal of poverty can sometimes be overly simplified.

This is reflected in television ads where a Western 'saviour' comes to the rescue of children in developing countries. One of the unintended side effects of this goodwill is that those living in poverty may feel pitied. They may see themselves as passive victims rather than active agents of their own transformation. They are denied a voice and a say on how to change their own lives. Charity may unintentionally establish uneven power relations between the giver and the receiver.

Giving should not be a one-way process. Giving means working together with those in need. It means lifting others up with us. We should not treat those who are living in impoverished conditions as 'victims' needing our salvation. This robs them of their dignity and humanity.

Instead, we can listen and learn from them. Rather than adopting a paternalistic approach, we can work with disadvantaged groups as partners to create more fulfilling and empowering change.

We will discover that the outcast and the marginalised have a lot to teach us too.

Reflection: Giving should be an act of humility. It means listening and understanding the concerns of those in need. It involves keeping an open mind and accepting that there are many ways you can 'give'. Rather than seeing generosity as an act we do 'for' others, let's see it as a journey that we undertake together – a partnership that enriches both the giver and the receiver.

Jesse Goh

Image by Dana Smillie/World Bank via Flickr



Notice Board



Sammy Stamp

Please save your used stamps for the Sammy Stamp Appeal. There is a box marked "STAMPS" on the table in the Narthex for the stamps.

Trading Table & Book Sales

The total amount raised for August was \$54.60. The money again goes to Kids' Hope. Thank you for your support.

Dates for Trading Table are as follows:

September 13th; October 11th;

November 8th; December 13th.

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

The fence is now up. It just needs the posts to be painted. The curtains are ready to hang. So – to the garden....

Cleaning up needs to be done before any planting can be considered. Please see Bruce Hansen or Geoff Lacey if you can assist.

Office Space for Hire

Do you know anyone interested in hiring the old Childcare office and kitchenette? Phone and internet connections can be arranged.

Painting of Church

The church will be painted, first inside and then outside. Worship Services will continue as usual.

Notice Board

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group

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

Beta: Ladies' Bible Study Group

Come along and join our group as we explore **The Parables of the Bible**.

The group meets at 7.30 pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month (except during school holidays) at the Church. Please contact Mary Mehl: Phone: 9791 5442.

Coffee Break

This informal group gathers at 10 am on Friday mornings (except on the 1st Friday of the month) at Muffin Break in the Food Court, Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre.



Everyone is welcome, so if you are in the vicinity on a Friday morning around that time, please feel free to come and join in. You will be very welcome. No need to book!



First Friday Lunch

**12.30 PM ON THE FIRST FRIDAY
OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT
JANUARY.**

Various people take turns in organising the First Friday Lunch. 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 for lunch.

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

A CUP OF COFFEE



I love a cup of coffee. For me it is a social experience, and the person I most enjoy sharing this experience with is my mum. We often go down to the eatery at the bottom of her building to find a table. Our table choice varies with the season.

Sometimes it is near the open fire, at other times in the sunny area overlooking the pond. We like to talk and share our lives as we quietly sip our coffee.

Sometimes we have coffee with other family members, but I selfishly like it best when it is just the two of us. I can remember a time in our lives when having coffee was too expensive an extravagance for us. There are times when we can make choices about where our nourishment comes from and times when we can't.

During my overseas travels, I learnt of a program called 'suspended coffee'. It is similar to the 'pay it forward' concept. When you order a coffee, you can also pay for a 'suspended coffee'. People who cannot afford a cup of coffee can go into the cafe and ask for suspended coffee. They receive the warmth and comfort from a drink they otherwise could not afford. I was thrilled to learn that this program has made it here to Australia too.

Reflection: The disciples learnt that God's gift was for sharing. In loving one another, we express our faith and it is this love that will conquer the world (John 15:1-8). Perhaps for you, that love can be shared one coffee at a time.

Wendy Lewis

Image by Duncan C via Flickr

BLEEDING HEARTS

The phrase 'bleeding heart' is sometimes used to describe people who are deemed excessively sympathetic towards disadvantaged people. They are categorised as being 'too soft'. Compassion is derided as a weakness.

As someone who tends to feel strong emotions when I witness injustice in our world, I can easily identify with the 'bleeding heart' label.

But I believe it is important to care. I believe it is important for our hearts to 'bleed'. Our ability to feel compassion and sympathy drives our desire to help those in need.

The media bombards us with stories of death, sorrow and grief every day. When it becomes too much for us, we turn off the television screen or turn to the next page in the newspaper. We shut it out of our minds so that we do not have to think about, and feel, the suffering of others.

We can become desensitised to images of poverty. We can become apathetic to the homeless man sleeping on the streets at night. We begin to ignore acts of casual racism and remain silent in the face of injustice. We stop caring.

Jesus did not shy away from being a 'bleeding heart'. He cared deeply about people, especially the outcast and the forgotten. There was no limit to His love and compassion. He came into a broken world and redeemed it with his mercy. And finally, on the cross, he bled for us.

I am proud to be a 'bleeding heart'. For a heart that bleeds is still beating. It is when our hearts are cold that the world becomes a darker and lonelier place. So let our hearts continue to bleed for those who suffer.

Reflection: Everyone is precious in the eyes of God. Will you open your eyes, and your heart, to the suffering of others?



Rowan Lee Daniels

Image by Lotus Carroll via Flickr

SAMARITAN'S PURSE



Items Needed

Clothing for boys and girls aged 2 to 14

T-shirts, polo shirts, boys shorts, skirts, dresses, knickers.

Items for school

Exercise books, pencil cases, grey leads, coloured pencils, crayons, chalk, erasers, pencil sharpeners.

Toiletries

Soap, face washers, toothbrushes, combs, hair brushes, scrunchies, hair clips, hair elastics.

Toys

Balls, skipping ropes, marbles, musical instruments, yo-yos, Slinkies, cars, finger puppets.

Soft toys – Teddy bears dolls etc.

Special items

Stickers, sunglasses, small bags, jewellery, craft kits.

Prohibited items.

Things that leak or melt – toothpaste, shampoo, play dough.

Food or lollies.

Used or damaged items.

Breakable items.

Items that can scare or harm a child including war related toys, knives or skull and crossbones.

Religious, racial or political items.

It would be helpful if you could remove all wrapping and price tags.

THE LORD SPEAKS TO THE CHURCH THROUGH HIS SERVANT SAINT JOHN

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:22

This verse is written to all who call themselves Christians. In the second and third chapters of the book of Revelation this verse is repeated to the seven churches. The Lord Jesus sent seven different letters to the seven churches by the hand of His servant John. Each letter concludes with the same solemn words: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” No part of Scripture was written by chance. In all His dealings there has always been design, purpose and plan. There was design in the size and orbit of each planet. There was design in the creation of the earth, sun, moon and stars, the universe etc. by the Lord. There was design in every verse of the Bible. There was design in every repetition of a verse in the Scriptures. There was design in all creation, animate and inanimate. In all the seven epistles our Lord Jesus speaks on matters of doctrine, practice, warning and promise. He finds fault with false doctrines and ungodly inconsistent practices, and rebukes them forcefully. At other times we see that He praises faith, patience, work, labour and perseverance with high commendation. We need to take the warning of the Lord seriously if we are true Christians.

Sacraments, church government, liturgy and the observance of ceremonies cannot be compared to faith, repentance and holiness. Repentance towards God, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and holy living are of utmost importance in saving souls. We should not be content with a mere outward part of religion. We cannot be complacent and be satisfied that all is well just because we come to church on Sundays. We must be “born again” (John 3:7) and must have faith that works by love. We must be a “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

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The Lord Speaks to the Church...

by the Spirit in our hearts. We do it because this seems to us the mind of Christ. Moral high ground as it is called is not always safe or scriptural.

In the present age, religion has become divided into separate systems. We notice the first system is where religion has become a corporate business. It is a requirement to belong to a body of people. Vast privileges are conferred upon members both for time and eternity. The predominant criteria rest on the love of Mammon, the personification of riches. Those who belong to this group are proud members of a great ecclesiastical corporation with numerous privileges and immunities. In the second system religion is eminently a personal business between a living soul and Jesus Christ. We cannot save our souls by being a member of any ecclesiastical body whatsoever, however sound that body may be. Such membership will not wash away a single sin, or give us confidence in the Day of Judgement. There must be a personal faith and relationship with Christ, personal dealings between a believer and his Creator God, and personal communion between our hearts and the Holy Spirit. The grand question is whether we have felt the work of the Spirit in our hearts. If not we are lost. The anointed evangelical ministers/pastors try their utmost to reach out to congregations who thirst to know God and His truth. They do so because they are fully convinced by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that it is the system of the Holy Scripture. They do so because it is the only system of teaching which God will bless. No church will flourish so much as that in which repentance, faith, conversion and the work of the Holy Spirit are the grand subjects of the minister's sermon.

In every letter to the seven churches our Lord Jesus says, "I know your works." To one church the Lord Jesus says, "I know your labour and

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The Lord Speaks to the Church...

patience”, to another “your tribulation and poverty” and to a third “your charity, service and faith.” But to all He says “I know your works.” The works of all professing Christians are immensely important and God blesses them. But they cannot save our souls; they cannot justify us; they cannot wipe out our sins; they cannot deliver us from the wrath of God. All these cannot save us.

If we think so we are fearfully deceived. The doctrine of justification by faith supersedes by far the deeds of the law. “Each tree is recognised by its own fruit.” (Luke 6:44) “They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him.” (Titus 1:16) False teachers stood condemned by the test of personal conduct. Saint Paul maintained a remarkable balance between doctrine and practice. Our Lord Jesus was pleased with the church at Smyrna, where the Christians suffered immensely under the persecution of a large Jewish population, where Polycarp, the much loved Bishop of Smyrna, was martyred. The Lord was also pleased with the Church in Philadelphia. Our Lord had solemn warnings for the Churches at Ephesus, at Pergamum, at Thyatira, at Sardis and at Laodicea and He was not pleased with them. Where are these churches now?

Let us strive to be unmistakable Christians, who started well in the Christian life amidst all persecution, and finish well for the glory of God to be with Christ. Let us hold fast to the Spirit of God we already have and continually seek to have more. Though we may be people of science, or arts and literary attainments, people of the world, of pleasure and business, let us strive to be people of God. May we live that all may see that the things of God are the first things and the glory of God the first aim of our lives, to follow Christ our supreme desire in a timeless Kingdom from everlasting to everlasting. Our Lord, come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:8)

Lakshman Pethiyagoda

SHARING OUR PRIVILEGES

Melbourne is frequently voted the world's most liveable city. Beautiful weather, low crime-rate, quality education, safe housing – there's a lot to love about the city.

But food, peace and shelter are luxuries for many people. More than 50 million people are refugees or displaced people. Even in a developed economy like Australia, more than 100,000 people sleep homeless every night.

We do not choose the location or circumstances of our birth. Some of us are just lucky to be born at the right place at the right time.

It can be easy to feel guilt for our good fortune. But we can turn this guilt into productive action.

We can donate to organisations assisting communities living in poverty. We can volunteer at a soup van and offer food and companionship to the homeless and the lonely. We can lobby our government to be more generous in its allocation of foreign aid and its refugee intake.

I believe that we all have a responsibility to share our privileges with those who are not as fortunate as we are. No one deserves to live in poverty, loneliness and insecurity, but we can all do our bit to bring about a fairer and more just world.

Reflection: Take some time to think about all those who do not have the love of a family, the security of a home and the certainty of their next meal. What can you do to help those who are less privileged than you are?

Lisa Cook

Image by Yasser Alghofly from Flickr



QUOTES AND COMMENTS

A priest, on hearing children's confessions, was puzzled to find child after child, after the confession of more familiar sins, confessing to "throwing peanuts in the river." He wondered whether they were repenting of wasting school food, or of river pollution, and then decided to press for a little more explanation when the last and smallest child came in. The smallest penitent, however, failed to confess this. "Yes," said the priest, "is that all? Isn't there something you have forgotten? What about throwing peanuts in the river?" "But, Father," said a bewildered voice, "I am Peanuts."

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.

Mark Twain

People do not expect from the church a constant stream of great statements. They expect love, concern and caring.

Mother Teresa

To worship is:

- to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God
- to feed the mind with the truth of God
- to purge the imagination with the beauty of God
- to open the heart to the love of God
- to devote the will to the purpose of God.

William Temple

Epitaph in a Country Churchyard:

Here in death lies Mary Jones who in life weighed 20 stone.

The text inscribed below was:

"Open wide the gates of heaven."

The flower committee member, sorting the flowers after the service, was asked what she did with them. "Oh," she said innocently, "we take them to the people who are sick after the sermon."

LIFE WITH PONTIUS PUDDLE

Pontius' Puddle



Pontius' Puddle



Pontius' Puddle



REMEMBERING TO FORGET

These may sound like strange words, for older adults seem to have a constant fear of forgetting. Many of us become irritated when we cannot remember names or dates, or where we put our glasses, or how much medicine we took today. Sometimes forgetfulness makes us feel as if we are losing our minds.



So what does “remembering to forget” mean?

Joseph had a lot of bitter memories: the hatred and jealousy of his brothers, their treacherous betrayal and their murderous act of selling him into Egypt. But he had learned the grace of forgiveness. He even named one of his sons Manasseh-“God has made me forget.”

We need to remember to forget old wounds from the past. Old resentments and bitterness need to be discarded so that we can face life and death with a clear conscience. Sometimes people suffer from depression because they hold on to old resentments. This kind of depression may even be repressed anger.

We need to forgive ourselves. No doubt the brothers of Joseph had to learn that, for they did feel guilt over their cruelty to their brother.

There is no sense in torturing ourselves with regrets over what might have been or with remorse over our sins. Rather, we need to turn these emotions over to God. For God alone can help us forget what we need to forget.

From No Wrinkles on the Soul - A Book of Readings for Older Adults by Richard L. Morgan, ©1990. Upper Room Books, Nashville.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?



In our country parish, Harvest Festival was a real celebration of colour, singing and thanksgiving. The church was decorated with leaves, flowers and sheaves of grain. Local produce was placed on a table in front, later to be

taken to our Bush Nursing Hospital and people in need. Kids in the country lived close to nature. They knew about the grain harvest and that milk came from cows.

It is not a bad idea today to put a packet of cereal and a bottle of milk on the table. Sit the family around the table, turn off all distractions and just have a discussion. How did the Weetbix get into the packet? Where did it come from? And who put the milk in the bottle? Lead our children's thoughts back to consider the source of all things, the role of nature in providing the water for seeds to sow, and the seasons in which to plant, grow and harvest. Consider what we can share and give to those who have less, by our Share appeals and the Christmas Bowl, and remind them why we say Grace before our meals.

Reflection:

Lord you are the source of all that is. You send the rain to water, provide the rich soil to grow, and in season shine the sun to ripen the grain. You have given us the machinery for farming, and the ability to store and market the produce of our farms. You have given us hearts to love and share with those in need. We praise and thank you, dear Father and Source of all. Amen

Bill Pugh

Image by Nesson Marshall via Flickr

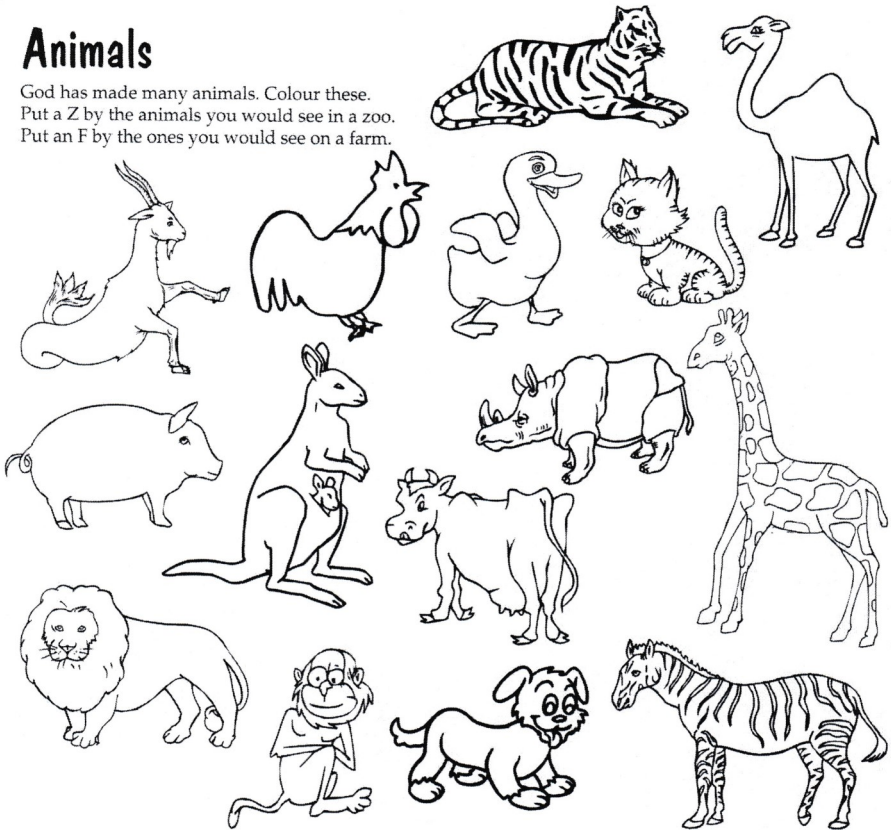
FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



K I D S' C L I P S

Animals

God has made many animals. Colour these.
Put a Z by the animals you would see in a zoo.
Put an F by the ones you would see on a farm.



Word Puzzle

Cross out every other letter to discover a message from Proverbs. You must decide which letter to start with and where the words begin and end.

**AABSCODFETFAGNHSIWJEKRLTMUNRO
NOSPAQWRASYTWURVAWTXHYBZUQT
SARHZACRBSBHCWDOVRADESFTWISR
YSAUDPGATNHGUENR.**

**EPGRIOKVLEFRJBHS
15:1**

Answer: A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

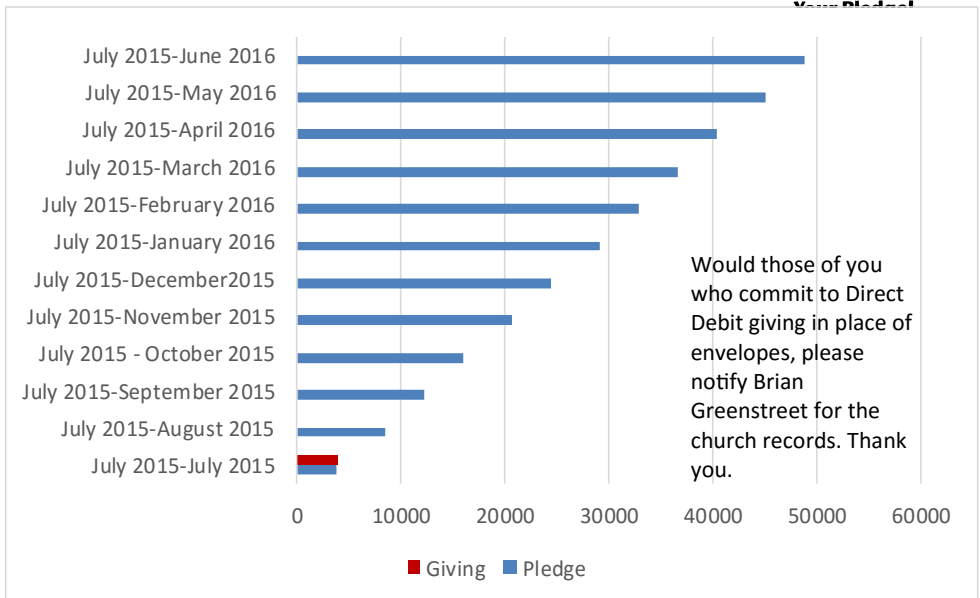
USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

Sunday	10:30 am	Worship EHUC	All Areas
Monday	9:30 – 11.30 am	Play Group “Treasure Trove”	Hall
Tuesday	7:30-9 pm	Beta Bible Study	Meeting Room (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)
Wednesday	10-12 noon	Bible Study	Meeting Room (except School Holidays)
	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Property & Finance Committee Group	Meeting Room (4 th Wednesday)
	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Church Council	Meeting Room (2 nd Wednesday)
Thursday	7:30 pm	Singing Group	Church

ALL GROUPS will have access to toilets and kitchen.

“Hall” = old pre-school area

Planned Giving





Lectioary for September

Date		Readings
Pentecost 15 6th September 2015		Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17 Mark 7:24-37
Pentecost 16 13th September 2015		Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38
Pentecost 17 20th September 2015		Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
Pentecost 18 27th September 2015		Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 Psalm 124 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

September Roster

September 2015	6	13	20	27
Bible Reading	Pam Cowley Lynne Bryan	Cheryl Doddrell Catherine Gonsalves	Wes and Jenni Porch	Youth
Communion Preparation	Pam Cowley Sandra Cox			
Communion Servers	Pam Cowley Colin Wilhelms			
Communion Steward	Brian Hall			
Counting of Offering	Grant Allison Wes Porch	Brian Greenstreet Pam Cowley	David Garnepudi Catherine Gonsalves	Sandra Cox Brian Hall
Door/Offering	Christine Summers	Andrew Moore	Sandra Cox	Grant Allison
Early Word		Berlin Guerrero	Stephen Mayes	Elke Beecher
Flowers	Lynda Greenstreet	Artificial Flowers	Anne Williams	Artificial Flowers
Kitchen	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	Stan & Sue Ashley	Heather Kimber Sandra Neal	Jacqui Gacutan Mathy Watkins
Organist/Pianist	Olive Morland	Sue Reid	Edith John	Band
PowerPoint	Rachel Gonsalves	Jean Lacey	Andrew Moore	Rachel Gonsalves
Preacher/ Duty Elder	Berlin Guerrero Colin Wilhelms	Berlin Guerrero Cheryl Doddrell	Berlin Guerrero Judy Hopkins	Berlin Guerrero Pam Cowley
Public Address	Geoff Lacey	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Paul Watkins	Colin Wilhelms

October Roster

October 2015	4	11	18	25
Bible Reading	Brian & Diane Hall	Judy Hopkins Heather Kimber	Colin Wilhelms	Youth
Communion Preparation	Heather Kimber Christine Summers			
Communion Servers	Judy Hopkins, Elke Beecher, Diane Hall, Colin Wilhelms			
Communion Steward				
Counting of Offering	Wes Porch Lynne Bryan	Pam Cowley David Garnepudi	Grant Allison Catherine Gonsalves	Brian Greenstreet Bruce Hansen
Door/Offering	Stan Ashley	Christine Summers	Andrew Moore	Murray John
Early Word		Judy Hopkins	Stephen Mayes	Michelle Smith
Flowers	Artificial Flowers	Artificial Flowers	Elizabeth Kapitany	Artificial Flowers
Kitchen	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	Joan Hansen Sandra Neal	Jacqui Gacutan Mathy Watkins	Gonsalves Family
Organist/ Pianist	Edith John	Sue Reid	Olive Morland	Band
PowerPoint	Jean Lacey	Andrew Moore	Rachel Gonsalves	Jean Lacey
Preacher/ Duty Elder	Berlin Guerrero Diane Hall	Berlin Guerrero Cheryl Doddrell	Berlin Guerrero Colin Wilhelms	Berlin Guerrero Judy Hopkins
Public Address	Paul Watkins	Colin Wilhelms	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Geoff Lacey
<p style="text-align: center;">A Reminder</p> <p>If you swap, would you please make a note on the Roster on the Notice Board?</p> <p>Also, it may be a good idea to make sure you have not been rostered for overlapping duties!</p>				

Endeavour Hills Uniting Church

Service Times

Sunday of the Month	10.30 am
1st	Worship Service with Communion
2nd, 3rd	Worship Service
4th (when applicable)	Worship Service
Last Sunday of the Month	Contemporary Style Worship Service (February to November)

Prayer Chain

Endeavour Hills Uniting Church is fortunate in having an active Prayer Chain. If you have any Prayer Requests, please contact any member of the Prayer Chain listed below:

Mary Mehl 9791 5442

Judy Hopkins..... 9700 7551

Sue Reid 9704 9195

Pam Cowley 0477 149 367

Church Council

Chairperson

Cheryl Doddrell 9700 1674

Vice Chairperson

Wes Porch 9706 1995

Treasurer

Catherine Gonsalves 9796 9852

Church Council Secretary

Judy Hopkins 9700 7551

Council Members

Gavin Bartholomeusz 9700 5015
David Garnepudi 0452 551 077
Jean Lacey 9700 7246
Pam Cowley 0477 149 367
Diane Hall 9700 5104
Colin Wilhelms 9794 7175

Elders

George Balthazar 9700 3998
Pam Cowley 0477 149 367
Cheryl Doddrell 9700 1674
Diane Hall 9700 5104
Judy Hopkins 9700 7551
Colin Wilhelms 9794 7175

Our Web Address

The Endeavour Hills Uniting Church web page is available for viewing at <http://www.ehuc.org.au>. Church Council oversees its maintenance. Please send all correspondence etc. to the Secretary, Judy Hopkins. Email: church_council@ehuc.org.au

Staff/Office Bearers

Congregation Chairperson

Brian Hall

Congregation Secretary

Anne Williams

Presbytery Representative

Gavin Bartholomeusz

Editors Interact

Sue & Stan Ashley
Ursula Ebert

Finance & Property Committee

Chairperson

Geoff Lacey

Treasurer

Catherine Gonsalves

Secretary

Brian Greenstreet

Committee Members

Brian Hall
Sandra Cox
Stan Ashley

Work Groups

Conveners

Administration

Jean Lacey

Hospital Visiting Team

Judy Hopkins

Pastoral

Judy Hopkins

Prayer Chain

Mary Mehl

Contributions to Interact

Any material you may have to be included in Interact may be sent in one of two ways:

1. e-mail (preferred method) to interact@ehuc.org.au putting "Interact" in the subject line
2. leave in the green Interact folder which is located on the stand to the right of the kitchen window.

Your articles, notices, goods & services for sale etc. are very welcome, **BUT please include your name, phone number &/or email address in case it is necessary to contact you.** Material should be submitted by **12 noon** on the deadline dates indicated below:

Month	Deadline	Publication Date
October 2015	September 27th	October 4th
November 2015	October 25th	November 1st
December 2015	November 29th	December 6th