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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.'



**Advent,
a season of hope and anticipation.**

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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.

ADVENT INVITATION



Simone Martini: Annunciation: Uffizi Gallery

In the Uffizi Gallery in Florence there is a wonderful painting of the Annunciation by the 13th century Italian artist Simone Martini. In it a gentle and serious-faced angel kneels at the feet of Mary, and Mary is backing away in fear.

One of her hands has gone instinctively to the neck of her gown, as if protecting herself. The other is in the pages of an open book, keeping open the page she must have been reading when this strange visitation occurred, the page she hopes soon to return to.

These days I have more interest in the poets and artists who have sought to enhance our sense of the coming of Christ, than in trying to

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Advent Invitation

establish a literal interpretation of exactly how it happened, and I find myself attracted to Martini's painting.

The visual image spells out for me a reaction I frequently encounter in myself and others, and that is ambivalence about the holy. We are both drawn to it and yet frightened by it. We want to "be more spiritual" and yet we fear the transforming fire of the holy.

The cost for most of us is related to time. In order to receive the invitation and be open to transformation (which is, after all, what the Christian journey is about) we need to carve out a little time and resist all that gets in the way of this. Yet, like Mary, we are somewhat afraid, and we really want to get back to the familiar things we are doing.

We all know it, deep down, but the rewards for our outer work and our outer appearances are more tangible than the rewards for what occurs in the secret places of our souls. Yet it is here that, like the angel kneeling before Mary, Christ kneels at our feet with the request to be incarnate in our lives.

In the acceleration towards Christmas and the end of the year, may we make a little time to ponder the invitation, and the request made by the One who kneels lovingly and respectfully at our feet—for despite all our self-doubts and apprehensions, this is the greatest gift.

Ann Siddall

Thought for the Month

**A soft answer has often been the means
of breaking a hard heart.**

I'LL WALK BESIDE YOU

As I sit in the church office writing this, a sweet, wavering song comes across the corridor from the Hall: 'I'll walk beside you through the passing years,' is being sung in a clear, soft voice.

It is an elderly male voice making a presentation to a fellowship gathering. The notes are unerringly in tune, the breath control a tad shaky, but the singing conveys the tenderness of love that I suspect has evoked a few tears in the audience.

It is perhaps one of our greatest longings in life, to know that someone will walk beside us through the passing years; who will commit to walk beside us for the long haul. But if we are honest, we know that walking alongside us is not for the faint-hearted!

For all kinds of reasons, people who have seemed to reliably fall into step alongside us change their minds, move on, become preoccupied, or just simply fade out of our lives. Sometimes it has been the very rawness of our need that has made them turn away.

It would be a lonely world, a hard road without companionship. But, clichéd as this comment may sound, Jesus Christ is the only one who can truly make that commitment to "walk beside us through the passing years": and we may freely place all the longings, hopes, despair, hurt, needs and dreams at the feet of the only One who can truly take us as we are, for all time, without fail.

We are not meant to live with suppressed feelings, or to despair of love and intimacy. There is One who will always invite us to lay down our deepest prayers at His feet, and, whether our feelings support this fact or not, we may be assured that the most gracious, tender, restoring and accepting love is poured out upon us - through the passing years.

There's a gracious side-effect to all this - when we understand how deeply loved we are, we become more deeply able to love.

Ann Siddall



SMALL BLUE FLOWERS OF KINDNESS



I got called, a week ago, to spend the night with a friend who is dying, slowly, of prostate cancer. He didn't need me to do anything for him: he just needed someone nearby, in case.

I was an emergency fill-in. The members of his congregation have organised a roster of people to stay with him — for every meal, every night. I get a lump in my throat, thinking about it.

The previous week, I had been hiking with a group who had been friends for forty years. All day, as we stumped along a trail that cut close under glaciers and back down through dense woods, I heard them planning how they could help one of their number who's in declining health. I'm moved.

I read about a Canadian woman who was injured in a car accident in Africa and flown to Capetown for surgery. Her minister in Canada sent an e-mail to the only contact she had in South Africa — the world renowned Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Tutu was in Sweden, but his office staff reached the local minister. When he returned to South Africa, Tutu himself took time to visit the injured woman in hospital. Her surgeon realised that she and her husband were strangers in an unfamiliar land, and took her husband shopping. My glasses fogged up.

Is it just ageing that causes these unpredictable surges of gratitude?

All around, I can see abundant evidence of what we used to call "man's inhumanity to man" — except that it wasn't just men, of course. It ranges from blatant stupidity to downright malice. People ignore other people, hurt them, despise them, exploit them—and then, in the middle of the disasters, the crises, and the misery, come these small acts of love and compassion.

Years ago, I saw a matched pair of paintings by (I think) a South African artist. The first portrayed the ruin left by a forest fire — blackened timber, charred ground, wisps of smoke sifting upwards against a ruthlessly glaring sky.

The second painting was identical, except that in one corner, a tiny blue flower was blooming. And it changed everything. If I recall correctly, the artist called the first painting, "Despair." He called the second, "Hope."

I find it a powerful metaphor for today's world.

Jim Taylor.

DECISION, DECISIONS!

Join the great throng of those of us who are trying to decide! We are trying to decide what to buy for Christmas gifts, how to organise the day to keep everyone happy, how to finish our year's work, how to make time to see everyone, how to write a sermon that can possibly say anything new, and how to survive the 'silly season'.



About now the magazine articles will appear with helpful hints about what to buy, what to cook, how to take care of ourselves so we look radiant on the day, and how to avoid family conflict! Christmas is a massive production, a major feat of creativity and stamina!

So, what do you want for Christmas?

Yes, I know about the wants that accompany opening gifts (it's never the right size, the right smell, the right sound, or the right colour - unless you have very discerning friends and family) but what do you really want?

Don't try to give a "correct" or "religious" answer, like wanting peace in our world, more people to come to our special church service, advertisers to put the Christ back into Christmas, an end to world poverty—even though all of these are worthy "wants".

This is about what you really want. What in your heart of hearts, whether conscious or needing some excavation, is your deepest longing, the motivating factor behind your daily expenditure of energy?

It matters, because that kernel of untapped, un-proclaimed longing deep within us is placed there by God, like a seed sown into our hearts from the moment those hearts began to beat.

These "wants" are designed to take us into the direction of the gift, and the life that is more possible than we have yet believed. The life that Jesus Christ came to reveal to us and invite us to participate in: the life that is good news for us and for others.

So go on! Unwrap the layers that are covering the longing that will take you to the greatest Gift of all.

Ann Siddall

HONESTY TEST

When my son was seven years old, he found a wallet on the street. My son was determined to return the wallet to its owner, and we spent an hour looking for the person who dropped it. In the end, we took it to the police station in the hope that its rightful owner would pick it up.



We never found out the fate of the lost wallet, but this story made me reflect on the sincere hearts and tenacity of children.

Japanese Red Cross recently produced a video campaign that took the form of a social experiment. Titled 'Can You Do the Right Thing?', it involved a stranger deliberately dropping a wallet in front of a child on the street. The test was to determine whether the child would take the wallet, leave it or let the person know they dropped it.

In the video, every single child returned the wallet to the stranger. Some even dusted the wallet to make sure it was clean before returning it. It was a heart-warming display of honesty and goodwill.

Jesus often presented children as examples of the type of faith adults should adopt – simple, modest and genuine. As parents, it is our responsibility to be models of generosity for our children, but I believe we can also learn a lot from our children's pure hearts.

Reflection: Lord, help us lead by example and practise honesty and generosity in our own lives. Open our eyes to the wonderful gifts of our children, so that we can nurture them into responsible and kind-hearted adults.

Brian Lee

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

14TH OCTOBER 2015

Devotions were led by Wes Porch.

Our church has been registered for training with Kids' Hope and some of our members will be doing this training later this month.



There has been one planning meeting to prepare for the Carol Service on the 13th December, with a second meeting scheduled for later.

Olive Morland and Rev. Ineke Gyles have been leading a worship service at Craigcare Nursing home and as Ineke is unwell and unable to do this Olive is in need of help. Please speak to Olive for more details.

After a trial period of carrying the Bible in from the front of the church we will, in future, be carrying it in from the back of the church following the announcement of the Introit.

Rev. Raja Rajakulendran will be leading the service and conducting Communion on the first Sundays of November and December.

The Singing Group will be starting practice again in readiness for Christmas.

A bowl will be set out till the end of November for the Syrian Refugee appeal and a retiring offering will be collected on 8th November for the handling charges for the 50 Samaritans Purse boxes. We have applied to Bunnings to have a sausage sizzle to raise funds for Mercy Ships.

The Church members who have volunteered to be on the roster for the operation of PowerPoint are much appreciated.

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

***Plant seeds of hope for future
generations***

share
restoring life, joy, hope

Did you know that you can include a gift to Share in your Will?

A gift in your Will is a simple but powerful way that your support for Share can live on and on. Your support, through a bequest or legacy, will one day make a significant difference to the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our communities.

You will be planting seeds of hope for future generations.

To receive a copy of the free information booklet, *Sharing the Seeds of Hope*, or for a confidential discussion, call Gail from the Share team on **03 9251 5251**.

Alternatively, you can visit **www.shareappeal.org.au/wills**

A TRIP TO THE TIP

Recently, my wife and I were part of a group of 24 holidaymakers who embarked on a four-wheel drive trek to Cape York (also known as 'The Tip'). Unused to such tours, we were a little apprehensive about who our companions might be. Would we all get along? It turns out we did.



One pairing stood out, and not because they were the oldest and youngest of our group. Arnie, in his 80s, had always hankered to see the Cape. Nick, his mid-50s son-in-law, obligingly took time off work to accompany him.

As the days went by, our admiration for Nick steadily rose. Diligent but not stifling, he bantered with and tended to Arnie's various needs and more. His extra hands would suddenly appear when erecting and dismantling tents. Vegetables were efficiently chopped and tea towels quietly washed. Cameras were commandeered so that their owners could appear in shots. A steadying arm was offered whenever required. Ever watchful, he rarely missed an opportunity to lend a hand.

As his good-humoured anecdotes flowed, we learned of his volunteering with the fire brigade and many other community activities. We discovered he had previously taken time off to take two young nephews on similar adventures.

What a sense of achievement it was to see Arnie finally make that tricky, stumbling last 400 metre trek to 'The Tip', stabilised whenever necessary on Nick's arm. No wonder an appreciative cheer arose from the rest of the group. Mission accomplished.

Sometimes meeting people like Nick and Arnie adds a sparkle to your day. Nick's easy-going nature was a gift to us all – a privilege to observe, an example to emulate.

Reflection: So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

[Colossians 3:12]

Ian Menzies

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 \$50.00. The money again goes to Kids' Hope. Thank you for your support.

Dates for Trading Table are as follows:

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.

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

Friday 6th November



12.30 pm

**215-225 Parkhill Drive
Berwick 3806**

**Everybody is welcome, and
you are invited to bring
your friends too.**

Contact Ursula by 5 pm on
Wednesday 4th November if
you can come.

Email:

uebert@bigpond.net.au

Phone: 9548 3378

Mobile: 0400 426 273

THE DIVINE PRODUCTION



On Sunday 13 September 2015, I was privileged to participate in a service celebrating 100 years of witness at Deepdene Uniting Church—a wonderful multicultural congregation! A

packed church with glorious singing by the choir was the climax of a week of activity.

A highlight was the exhibition of historical memorabilia in the hall. It was outstanding to see the programs from many productions over the years. One included a broad spreadsheet outlining detailed plans of one particular production. So many roles, so many actors, so many behind-the-scenes workers. It was a masterpiece of design.

Hundreds of young people were involved in these productions.

God has a master plan for the world, lovingly and carefully designed. We are called to share in the plan and to play our part. We are gifted with a measure of time, talent and energy for our roles, our stewardship. The big picture is being directed by the Spirit. As we humbly live every day, and witness to our Lord, we play our part in his divine production.

Reflection: Heavenly Father, Creator and Redeemer, in our time and place, we are called and privileged to play our part on the stage of human history. Please guide our lives according to your purpose and plan, as revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Bill Pugh

CHRIST IS THE ONLY FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

"For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already laid, which is Christ Jesus." *1 Corinthians 3:11*. Prophet Isaiah sees the Messianic age of Christ in 700 BC. *Isaiah 32:1-2*

"And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." *Matthew 16:18*.

"With Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone..." *Ephesians 2:20*

"So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See I lay a stone in Zion a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation." *Isaiah 28:16*

I believe the entire Bible was a translation from the original Aramaic and Hebrew to Greek (for the Greek speaking Jews) the Septuagint. In Greek the word for Peter is 'petros', which means a small pebble or stone. It is recorded in the ancient manuscripts that our Lord spoke Greek, and He used the word "petra" which, when translated, means a big stone, boulder or rock. The foundation of the Church of Christ was built on a rock and not on a small pebble. Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." *Matthew 16:16*. This was the truth revealed to Peter by God and not by any mortal being. The Church of Christ cannot be built on a human foundation.

The Church is not a material building in the spiritual sense. It is not a temple made with hands using mortar, wood, brick, sand, stone, marble, glass or metal. The "Church" is a body of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, holy and righteous, called out of the world and set apart from the world. The Church of Christ consists of converted disciples who have repented of their sins, fled to Christ by faith in Him and made new creatures in Him. *2 Corinthians 5:17*. In Greek "ekklesia" is a gathering, an assembly of Christians presently called a congregation. It comprises all God's elect, all who have received God's grace, all who have been washed in Christ's blood and clothed in Christ's righteousness, born again

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Christ is the only Foundation

and sanctified by Christ's Spirit. Such people of every nation compose the "Church", the body of Christ Jesus. All members of the world wide Church of Christ come to the throne of grace. They all worship with one heart and are led by one Spirit.

In the plan of salvation according to Scripture, the Sovereign Lord God the Father chooses, God the Son redeems, and God the Holy Spirit sanctifies every member of Christ's body. They are the three Persons in the triune God, all-encompassing one God. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, because of me." *Matthew 5:11*. "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets." *Luke 6:26*. If we are never persecuted because of our religion and they all speak well of us, we may well doubt whether we belong to the Church built on the mighty rock. The body of Christ has suffered warfare from the powers of hell for six thousand years. The devil with his schemes has been waging war against the Church from ancient days and continually assaulting the people of Christ. But the gates of hell will not prevail for those who belong to the Church built on the solid rock of Christ Jesus.

We all need to live courageous lives. We need to be bold, very bold, to confess Christ to an unbelieving world. We should never be ashamed of Him, because He was not ashamed of us on the cross. Even as I am writing now about Christ's foundation, I believe our Lord intercedes for us before His Father in heaven. We need to strive to live holy lives, live like citizens of heaven, let our light shine before men so that the world may profit by our conduct, and let them know to whom we belong and whom we serve. May we be true disciples of Christ who know and follow the mind of Christ Jesus.

Lakshman Pethiyagoda

CARTOON CORNER

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



Everyone needs a pat on the back, thought Pastor Wilford. Whether it's encouraging a long-time believer or burping a baby Christian.

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"I think it's for all the people who fall."

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



Jess suspected the group to be some kind of cult.

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



FUTURE MINISTRY

AT

ENDEAVOUR HILLS UNITING CHURCH

As you may know, there have been several meetings between Presbytery and the churches in the Dandenong/Casey area who are without ministers - Noble Park, Dandenong North, Dandenong, Endeavour Hills, Narre Warren North and Berwick.

None of these churches can afford a full-time Minister, so a proposition was put forward to set up a “Regional Ministry Model – Heatherton Road Cluster”. This concept has been developed from an idea by Rev. Elizabeth McMillan (Presbytery) to try to find some way for all the churches to keep their own buildings and congregations, and also develop in a regional sense to find a way to grow both in mission and in numbers, as well as to share in ministry across the region.

Each of the churches has been asked to sign their acceptance of a Proposal which will set up a Regional Ministry. Each Proposal will be relevant to the Ministry proposed in their area, taking into account their needs as a church community, future mission, and their financial situation. Endeavour Hills has signed this Agreement. Initially this is for a 3 year term.

In our Profile we requested a Minister (.5) on our own. This is now considered a possibility and will go through the Placements Committee of Presbytery on the 13th November. It is expected that the Placements Committee will put forward the name of a Minister who will have a conversation with our Joint Nominating Committee (JNC), together with representatives from Presbytery, between the 17 -20 November. If this meeting is successful then we could have a Minister as early as December/January.

A VISIT FROM SANTA

Picture it — the transcontinental passenger train rumbling through the Rocky Mountains, near the continental divide. Suddenly the engineer applies the brakes. The train squeals to a stop. And there, standing in four feet of



pristine snow, is Santa Claus, with his sack of toys slung over his shoulder, accompanied by an elf helper. The passengers crowd to the windows. Some of them rush to the vestibule between the cars. The conductor flings open the doors. Passengers clamber down into the snow. They take pictures. They ask questions. They shake Santa's hand. This really happened.

It was in the mid-1960s, says Gord Rutherford, who was a warden in Yoho National Park at the time. Back in those days, Canadian Rail housed most of its workers in Field, but a few lived in isolated "section houses" where they tended their particular sections of track. Every year, two of the residents of Field became Santa for the surrounding areas. Art Davis put on the full Santa suit, complete with beard and large round belly, "that shook like a bowlful of jelly when he laughed". Glen Brooks was always Santa's helper, complete with a little green elf's hat. They distributed gifts to each of the children in Field, at a special party. But during the evenings before, they drove over often dangerous roads through the park system to

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A Visit from Santa

drop in on isolated families, so that no one missed a visit from Santa. This particular evening, Art Davis and Glen Brooks were going to the section house at the east end of Wapta Lake. To get from the TransCanada Highway to the section house, they had to cross the main railway line, and at that moment, the passenger train came through.

Art and Glen waited, thinking they might wave at the passengers as the train roared by. But the engineer saw them, and he did the unthinkable — he stopped the train. For half an hour, the passengers enjoyed a visit with Santa. The story warms my heart, partly because I think about those two men who travelled, Christmas after Christmas, on icy and poorly ploughed roads, often at some personal risk, and always at a considerable investment of time, to brighten the lives of isolated children; and also because of that engineer, who recognised that magical moments sometimes matter more than schedules. Granted, train schedules were less rigorous in those days. “Trains were often late, especially in winter,” Gord Rutherford recalls. Even so, an extra half-hour must have created problems for dispatchers. Some passengers may have been inconvenienced by arriving later than expected at their destinations. But I’m sure that every one of them remembered the night they met Santa and his helper beside the railroad tracks, with the stars bright overhead and the spruces laden with snow bending near to witness a once-in-a-lifetime scene. So here’s to spontaneity, especially at Christmas.

- Jim Taylor.

Jim Taylor is a freelance writer living in retirement in British Columbia

QUOTES AND COMMENTS

There is an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody, when actually Nobody blamed Anybody.

Does this sound familiar to anybody?

Even though we often feel afraid of being 'pushy' or different, there is nothing wrong with the Gospel, but the timidity in us. God has given us a triple bonus by the Holy Spirit: POWER, to be authoritative when there is the indwelling of the risen Jesus in our lives; LOVE, which is being 'other-centred'; and SELF CONTROL, which is the opposite of timidity.

Satan has his favourite sentences, too. Among them: "I'll start tomorrow", "Just this once won't hurt", "It's too late now." "Let's refer that to a committee." "There's no such thing as Satan."

A minister wrote to a wealthy, influential business executive requesting a contribution to a worthy charity. A curt refusal ended with "As far as I can see, this Christian business is just one continuous give, give, give."

The minister thought it over and then replied: "I wish to thank you for the best definition of the Christian life that I have ever yet heard."

An inscription above the fire-place of an old English inn says, "Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there."

Endeavour Hills Uniting Church

Carol Service



13th December 2015
7.15 pm for 7.30 pm
Keep the date free!

DISCOVERING NEW FLAVOURS

Our Minister told us that the season of Advent is not about waiting for something expected. When you know what to expect, you make lists of things to do—and we all make enough of those, as we prepare for Christmas.



Rather, she said, Advent is about being ready for the unexpected. But how can you get ready for something you don't expect? Perhaps you can't get ready. You can only be ready. You can be open to new possibilities.

In Montreal, last month, a Bob & Karen, a couple I knew, took me to a neighbourhood pub. Karen ordered a vodka and orange juice, with a little cranberry. The barkeeper, who was very busy filling orders, didn't hear "a little" correctly. He thought the waitress had ordered Kahlua and cranberry. So that's what he made.

The waitress brought the drink to the table apologetically.

"Before you throw it out," Bob said, "let's see what that mixture tastes like."

He took a sip through the straw. His eyes widened. He passed it to his wife. She took a sip. Her eyes widened. They passed it to me. I took a sip. It was delicious.

Only at that point did we say anything to the waitress who had been watching with considerable bewilderment. She had a sip. "Wow," she said, "That is smooth!"

We agreed, and I now mix Kahlua and cranberry for guests.

Three bartenders have told me they've never heard of any such drink. But they also agree that it is marvellous. The Kahlua takes the sour

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Discovering New Flavours

edge off the cranberry; the cranberry takes the cloying sweetness off the Kahlua.

Now I don't want to suggest that Christ is a mixed drink. Although I think it might be argued that the harsh black-and-white of the crucifixion counteracts the pastel sweetness of the nativity stories, and vice versa. But let's derail that train of thought.

The point is, we were able to recognise an unexpected benefit. We did not simply discard that drink because it didn't fit our expectations.

In the same way, the shepherds and the Magi were able to recognise the worth of an unexpected birth. I'm sure they didn't expect the same thing, and I'm sure they didn't respond the same way. The Magi brought gifts and worshipped; in all probability, the shepherds brought beer breath, unwashed bodies and fleas, and caroused. But they were both open to the unexpected.

Herod was not. And so, the story goes, he slaughtered all the baby boys to make sure that the unexpected didn't happen.

As Christmas settles into a routine for most of us - trees to trim, gifts to buy, cards to send, meals to prepare - I wonder how open we are to hear and to celebrate the unexpected in our lives.

Jim Taylor

SHOES, ANYBODY?

It is said that when Mahatma Gandhi boarded a train one day, a sandal slipped off his foot and landed beneath the train. The distinguished Indian leader did not have time to retrieve it. Quickly Gandhi removed the other sandal and threw it back down the track in the direction of the other sandal. When asked for an explanation, the teacher replied, "The poor man who finds the shoe lying on the track will now have a pair he can use."

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FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Colour the Dog

If you don't have a pet. . .
Here is something you
might wish you had. Think
of ways you could help
someone with a dog so you
could play with one.
(Example: Take a
neighbour's dog for a walk.)



Colour the dog.

Word Find

Sometimes we wish we had something we see on TV or that our friend has.
Paul has some advice in Philippians 4:11. Unscramble Paul's words.

... O F R I V H E A R D A E E N L
O T E B T C E O N N T H W T I
R T E A V H E W I V H E A

Answer: ... for I have learned to be content with whatever I have.

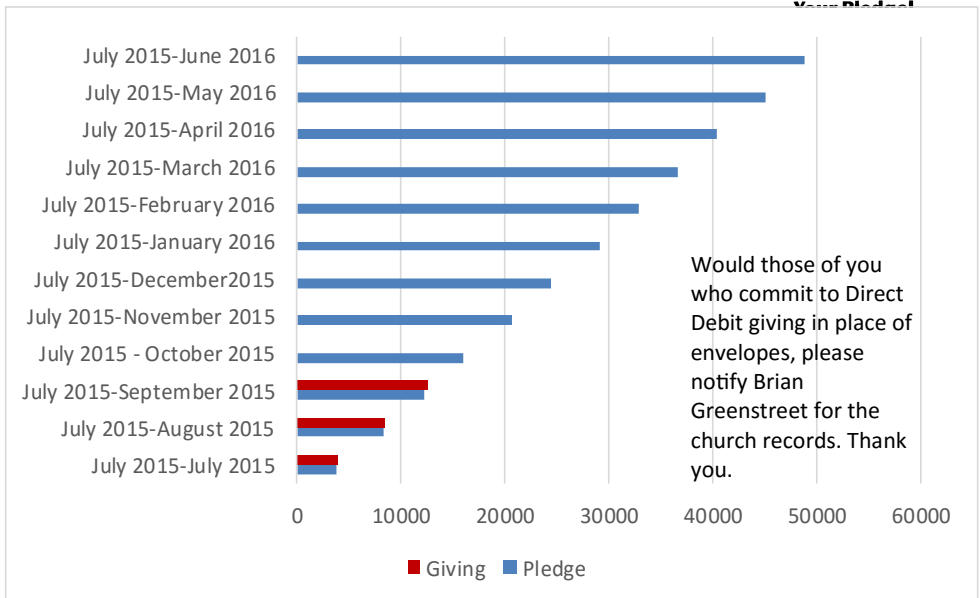
USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

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





Lectionary for November

Date		Readings
Pentecost 23 1st November 2015		Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrew 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34
Pentecost 24 8th November 2015		Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44
Pentecost 25 15th November 2015		1 Samuel 1:4-20; 2:1-10 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18) 19-25 Mark 13:1-8
Christ the King/ Reign of Christ 22nd November 2015		2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37
Advent 1 29th November 2015		Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

November Roster

Nov 2015	1	8	15	22	29
Bible Reading	Stan & Sue Ashley	Smith Family	David Garnepudi Mary Mehl	Brian & Lynda Greenstreet	Youth
Communion Preparation	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer				
Communion Servers	Cheryl Doddrell Pam Cowley				
Communion Steward	Brian Greenstreet				
Counting of Offering	Pam Cowley Sandra Cox	David Garnepudi Brian Hall	Lynne Bryan Brian Greenstreet	Bruce Hansen Grant Allison	Sandra Cox Wes Porch
Door/Offering	Andrew Moore	Christine Summers	Sandra Cox	Grant Allison	Pam Cowley
Early Word		Berlin Guerrero	Stephen Mayes	Lynda Greenstreet	Berlin Guerrero
Flowers	Artificial Flowers	Mary Mehl	Artificial Flowers	Cheryl Doddrell	Artificial Flowers
Kitchen	Jacqui Gacutan Mathy Watkins	Joan Hansen Sandra Neal	Pam Cowley Heather Kimber	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	Smith Family
Organist/Pianist	Edith John	Jenni Porch	Edith John	Sue Reid	Band
PowerPoint	Jean Lacey	Andrew Moore	Rachel Gonsalves	Rufane Smith	Andrew Moore
Preacher	Rev Raja Rajakulendran	Berlin Guerrero	Berlin Guerrero	Berlin Guerrero	Berlin Guerrero
Duty Elder	Pam Cowley	Diane Hall	Judy Hopkins	Colin Wilhelms	Cheryl Doddrell
Public Address	Paul Watkins	Colin Wilhelms	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Paul Watkins	Geoff Lacey

December Roster

Dec 2015	6	13	20	25 Christmas Day	27
Bible Reading	Diane & Brian Hall	Brian & Lynda Greenstreet	Rufane & Michelle Smith	Wes & Jenni Porch	Colin Wilhelms David Gamepudi
Communion Preparation	Delilah Spencer Elizabeth Moore				
Communion Servers	Pam Cowley Diane Hall Colin Wilhelms Judy Hopkins				
Counting of Offering	Catherine Gonsalves Brian Hall	Brian Greenstreet Bruce Hansen	David Garnepudi Catherine Gonsalves		Wes Porch Sandra Cox
Door/Offering	Andrew Moore	Sandra Cox	Grant Allison	Murray John	Christine Summers
Early Word		Lynda Greenstreet	Stephen Mayes	Berlin Guerrero	Judy Hopkins
Flowers	Anne Williams	Artificial Flowers	Cheryl Doddrell Edith John		Artificial Flowers
Kitchen	Gonsalves Family	D.Spencer E.Moore 7pm: M. Watkins J. Gacutan	Smith Family		Joan Hansen Sandra Neal
Organist/ Pianist	Edith John	TBA 7pm—Band	Sue Reid	Edith John Sue Reid	Edith John
PowerPoint	Jean Lacey	Andrew Moore 7pm :R Gonsalves	Rufane Smith	Ursula Ebert	Jean Lacey
Preacher	Rev R. Rajakulendran	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Duty Elder	Pam Cowley	Diane Hall 7pm J. Hopkins	Judy Hopkins	Judy Hopkins	Colin Wilhelms
Public Address	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Paul Watkins 7pm-Geoff Lacey	Colin Wilhelms	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Geoff Lacey

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

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
December 2015	November 29th	December 6th

This issue of Interact was prepared by Ursula Ebert and proofread by Marion Ward.