

# 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'



Church Email: [churchoffice@ehuc.org.au](mailto:churchoffice@ehuc.org.au)

Church Office Telephone: 9700 2125

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

Church Address: Cnr Hellyer Way/Raymond McMahon EH

AUGUST 2014 Vol.16: No.7



# Endeavour Hills Uniting Church

## Service Times

Sunday of the Month	11 am
1st	Worship Service with Communion
2nd	Worship Service
3rd	Worship Service
LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH	Contemporary-Style Worship Service (February to November)
Wed. Morning (during School terms)	10-10.30 am Morning Worship

## Prayer Chain

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


Mary Mehl..... 9791 5442

Judy Hopkins ..... 9700 7551

Sue Reid..... 9704 9195

Pam Cowley..... 9793 5997

# WORDS OF INSPIRATION



*You will seek me  
and find me  
when you seek me  
with all your heart.  
~ Jeremiah 29:13*

**Please Note:**

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

# USAGE OF CHURCH BUILDING

<b><i>Sundays</i></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><i>Tuesdays</i></b>	7:30-9 pm	Beta Bible Study	Meeting Room (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues)
	7:30 - 9 pm	Property & Finance Committee Group	Meeting Room (4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday)
<b><i>Wednesday</i></b>	10-12 noon	Bible Study	Church and Meeting Room (except School Holidays)
	7:30 pm —	Presbytery	Hall (1st Wed)
	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Church Council	Hall—(2nd Wed.)
<b><i>Thursday</i></b>	10 am—4 pm	Presbytery	Hall—(2nd Thurs)
	7:30 pm -	Presbytery	Hall (3rd Thurs)
	7:30 pm	Singing Group	Church
Friday	10 am - 1 pm	Presbytery	Hall (4th Fri)
<b><i>Saturdays</i></b>	9.30 am – 2:30 pm	Jesuran Worship	All except hall and Presbytery Areas
<b><i>Monday-Friday</i></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>			

# CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

9<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Devotions led by Colin.

## Business Arising

Cheryl has a list of possible supply ministers and also contact details for an exit student, Kharis Susilowati. After discussion it was decided to offer her a .5 position (Sundays and 2 days pastoral work) for 3 months. Kharis has accepted this offer and will commence at the beginning of September. Rev. Ineke Gyles will do communion during this time.

Business Arising from Correspondence. Resignations from their positions on church council have been received from Patricia Matthys and Rufane Smith. Letters have been sent to both thanking them for their valuable contribution on church council.

An invitation was received from Narre Warren North Uniting Church Council to Endeavour Hills Church council to visit to see the outreach programs they are involved in followed by discussion regarding some possible future shared ministry.

Minister's report Lauleti thanked church council for our contribution and commitment during his time with us.

Worship. Lauleti's Service of Release will be held at Dandenong North on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Some elders from Endeavour Hills will assist with communion serving. Pam Cowley will lead our services on 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August and we will invite Kharis to lead our service on 24<sup>th</sup> August. August 31<sup>st</sup> will be led by the "Alive at 11" team. Our AGM will be held during the service on 17<sup>th</sup> August. Rev. Steve Terrell from Presbytery will speak at our service on 10<sup>th</sup> August regarding our future mission.

Property and Finance. Minutes of meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June tabled. Discussion re checking of messages on church phone while we are without a minister. We need to start researching photocopiers as the present one will not last much longer.

Fundraising. The shopping tour will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> October and we will again join with the Neighbourhood Centre for this.

General Business. Discussions on the Report on Marriage paper to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30 pm and 31<sup>st</sup> August at 10 am.

Discussed joint Nominating Committee and Wes Porch, Lynda Greenstreet and Pam Cowley recommended.

Judy Hopkins. Secretary.

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUPPLY MINISTRY

Kharis Susilowati, an exit student awaiting placement, has agreed to do supply ministry with us, starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, initially for 3 months. Kharis will do two days pastoral care and conduct worship on Sundays.

## August Worship Services

- 10<sup>th</sup> August Pam Cowley will lead worship and Rev. Steve Terrell – (Presbytery Minister Mission and Education) will talk to the congregation about the process of Reviewing our Mission.
- 17<sup>th</sup> August Pam Cowley will lead worship, followed by our Annual General Meeting, chaired by Brian Hall, Chair of the Congregation.
- 24<sup>th</sup> August Kharis Susilowati
- 31<sup>st</sup> August Contemporary Worship – Alive@11 team
- 7<sup>th</sup> September Kharis Susilowati, with Rev Ineke Gyles leading us in Communion.

## Joint Nominating Committee (JNC)

This Committee has the task preparing our Church's PROFILE to send to Presbytery to help them recommend Ministers for the JNC to consider.

On Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> August our congregation accepted the following nominations to be on this Committee, together with three representatives from Dandenong North and two Presbytery representatives – **Wes Porch, Lynda Greenstreet and Pam Cowley**. We thank them for taking on this important task, and will pray for God's guidance.

## **COMMUNICATION**

You may notice that the Church contact details have changed (see front cover). There is now an email address for our Church Office – and this and the answer service on the phone will be checked daily. You may prefer to contact your carer or a member of church council. Either way, your call will be answered.

## **PHOTOCOPIER**

For those of you who use our photocopier – you have probably noticed its deterioration – in fact it has given up! Please feel free to use the printer for any small printing requirements until we acquire a replacement (working on it – won't be long!).

## **SINGING GROUP**

We are taking a well-earned rest for a few weeks, and then will resume Thursday night practices. Watch Notices for further information. It probably hasn't escaped your notice that we have lost 4 members – so if you are interested in joining, please talk to Michelle or Jean.



## FAREWELL TO THE TU'INAUVAI FAMILY



Sunday July 27th was the first of two celebrations for the Tu'inauvai family. The occasion was joyous but touched with a little sadness that it would be Lauleti's final service at Endeavour Hills Uniting Church.

Many people attended and shared the special moments that they had experienced with the family over the eight year journey. Jenni and Cheryl performed a song that they had written in dedication to the many areas that Lauleti has been involved in. The service concluded with a special song in Tongan performed by the family. Lauleti was presented with a projector and a book of treasured memories was given to the family.

The second celebration will take place on August 3rd at Dandenong North @ 10.30am.



Special thanks to Jeremy Dart of Doncaster bookbinders,  
33 Ebden St Moorabin  
95554633

[www.doncasterbookbinding.com.au](http://www.doncasterbookbinding.com.au)

Who prepared the book for us in such a short time.

They specialise in traditional hand book binding, short run case binding, thesis binding and book repairs ( including bibles).

## **CARAVAN FOR SALE:**



**2001 Jayco Freedom pop-top**  
**16 ft. 25th Anniversary Edition**  
**PRICED FOR QUICK SALE.**  
**\$15,990** (Further details on  
Notice Board)

Contact : Geoff and Jean Lacey  
9700 7246 or 0419 593 855

**DEUTERONOMY 31:6**

**BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID OR  
TERRIFIED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD GOES WITH YOU.  
HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU, NOR FORSAKE YOU.**

# Notice Board

## Lawn Mowing and 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SAMMY STAMP

Please save your used stamps for Sammy Stamp Appeal –this has raised more than \$600,000 for needy causes since it began.

There is a box marked \*Stamps\*  
On the table in the Narthex.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Trading Table

The next Trading Tables will be on

**Aug 10th 2014**

**Sept 14th 2014**

Thanks to your support in purchasing and cleaning up.

Please contact Heather Kimber  
Phone: 9796 8154

## Fundraisers....



### 1.Aluminium Can Collection



### 2.Paper Collection & Packing

## The Andrews Centre

**Please keep donating non perishable food thank you!**

## SHOPPING TOUR

**Please note that this year's shopping tour will be held on Saturday 11th October.**

**Please contact Jenni Porch for further details.**

**(PH: 706 1995)**

**[jporch@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jporch@bigpond.net.au)**

**Please see page 20 for further details.**

# Group News

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group

The group meets at the Church from 10.30 am to 12 noon (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 10am on Friday mornings (except on the 1st Friday of the month). We meet 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!

Just come and have a chat over a cup of coffee. See you there!

## First Friday Lunch

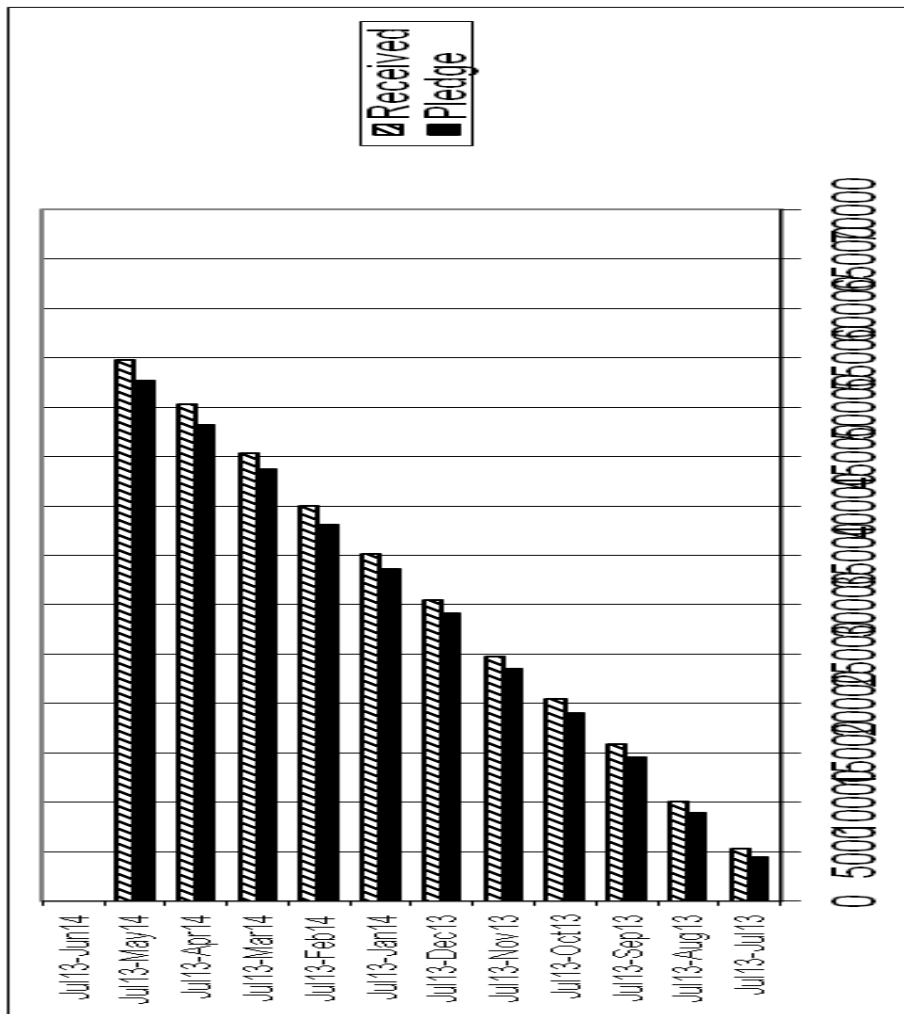


## First Friday Outing

This group, meets on the 1st Friday of each month. The 'outing', usually lunch, is open to everybody, and various people take turns in organising it. Details will be available in the weekly Notice Sheet, usually on the Sunday prior to the event.



# Planned Giving



## DIRECT DEBIT:

Could people who elect to give to Planned Giving through direct debit, please advise the Finance Committee, so that these details can be noted.

# THINGS GOD WON'T ASK ON THAT DAY

## *Things God won't ask on THAT day*

1. God won't ask what kind of car you drove.  
He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house.  
He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet.  
He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
4. God won't ask what your highest salary was.  
He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
5. God won't ask what your job title was.  
He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
6. God won't ask how many friends you had.  
He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
7. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived.  
He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
8. God won't ask about the color of your skin.  
He'll ask about the content of your character.

### Answers Given in a Bible Knowledge Test

1. The first book of the Bible is Guinness's. In the book of Guinness Adam and Eve were created from an apple(Hmm could they mean Genesis?)
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of the Ark. Noah built the ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Moses went to the top of Mount Cyanide to get the 10 Commandments.
4. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
5. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
6. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.
7. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
8. The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he actually obeyed him.
9. Unleavened bread is bread made with no ingredients.
- 10.A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.
- 11.Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
- 12.Solomon had 100 wives and 700 porcupines.
- 13.The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- 14.When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
- 15.When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus sacked in the manger.
- 16.The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.



# 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.

Week beginning:	Families		
3rd August	-	-	-
10th August	DESILVA	HARDING	HARKNESS
17th August	AMOL	HOPKINS	JOHN
24th August	ATAYA	JOHNSTON	KAPITANY
31st August	KIMBER	KNIGHT	LACEY
7th September	MANUOFETOA	MARTIN	MATTHYS
14th September	MCADAM	MCNABB	MEHL
21st September	MORLAND	NAUDE	NEAL
28th September	NORMAN	O'KEEFFE	PETHIYAGODA





# LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

<p>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost August 3, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Genesis 32:22-31</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 17:1-7, 15</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Isaiah 55:1-5</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Romans 9:1-5</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew 14:13-21</a></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Proper 14 (19)</a></b> Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 10, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b</a></p>	<p><a href="#">1 Kings 19:9-18</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 85:8-13</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Romans 10:5-15</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew 14:22-33</a></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Proper 15 (20)</a></b> Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 17, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Genesis 45:1-15</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 133</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Isaiah 56:1, 6-8</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 67</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28</a></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Proper 16 (21)</a></b> Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 24, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Exodus 1:8-2:10</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 124</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Isaiah 51:1-6</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 138</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Romans 12:1-8</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew 16:13-20</a></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Proper 17 (22)</a></b> Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 31, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Exodus 3:1-15</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Jeremiah 15:15-21</a></p> <p><a href="#">Psalm 26:1-8</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Romans 12:9-21</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew 16:21-28</a></p>





# LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

<p>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 7, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Exodus 12:1-14</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 149</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Ezekiel 33:7-11</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 119:33-40</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Romans 13:8-14</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew 18:15-20</a></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Holy Cross</a></b> September 14, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Numbers 21:4b-9</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 98:1-5</a></p>	<p><i>or</i> <a href="#">Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38</a></p>	<p><a href="#">1 Corinthians 1:18-24</a></p>	<p><a href="#">John 3:13-17</a></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Proper 19 (24)</a></b> Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 14, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Exodus 14:19-31</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 114</a> <i>or</i> <a href="#">Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Genesis 50:15-21</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 103: (1-7), 8-13</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Romans 14:1-12</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew 18:21-35</a></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Proper 20 (25)</a></b> Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 21, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Exodus 16:2-15</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Jonah 3:10-4:11</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 145:1-8</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Philippians 1:21-30</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew 20:1-16</a></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Proper 21 (26)</a></b> Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 28, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Exodus 17:1-7</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 25:1-9</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Philippians 2:1-13</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew 21:23-32</a></p>

# AUGUST ROSTERS

AUG 2014	3	10	17	24	31
Bible Reading	<p>SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT DANENONG NORTH AT 10:30 AM</p> <p>SHARED LUNCH AFTER SERVICE</p> <p>SEE NOTICES FOR MORE DETAILS</p>	Jenni & Wes Porch	Brian & Lynda Greenstreet	Sue & Stan Ashley	Colin Wilhelms Gavin Bartholomeusz
Communion Prep					
Communion Servers					
Communion Steward					
Counting of Offering		Clifford Naude Sandra Cox	Grant Allison Leena Garnepudi	David Garnepudi Wes Porch	Pam Cowley Brian Hall
Door/Offering		Andrew Moore	Sandra Cox	Stan Ashley	Grant Allison
Early Word		Pam Cowley	Lynda Greenstreet	Michelle Smith	Judy Hopkins
Flowers		Artificial Flowers	Anne Williams	Artificial Flowers	Mary Mehl
Kitchen		Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	Patricia Matthys	Jacqui Gacutan & Mathy Watkins	Catherine Gonsalves
Organist/ Pianist		Sue Reid	Olive Morland	Edith John	AA11 team
PowerPoint		Marion Ward	Patricia Matthys	Andrew Moore	Jean Lacey
Praise Time		Edith & Murray John	Jean Lacey	Olive Morland	AA11 Team
Preacher/Duty Elder		Pam Cowley Diane Hall (Re v Steve Terrell)	Phil Martin Pam Cowley (AGM)	Kharis Susilowati Colin Wilhelms	Wes Porch Judy Hopkins
Public Address		Warren Ward	Colin Wilhelms	Paul Watkins	Gavin Bartholomeusz

If you swap, would you please make a note on the Roster on idea to make sure you are not doing conflicting duties!

# SEPTEMBER ROSTERS

September 2014	7	14	21	28
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Elke Beecher Judy Hopkins	Diane & Brian Hall	Heather Kimber Pam Cowley	Colin Wilhelms Gavin Bartholomeusz
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Patricia Matthys Pam Cowley			
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Judy Hopkins Elke Beecher			
<b>Communion Steward</b>	Brian Greenstreet			
<b>Counting of Offering</b>	Patricia Matthys Leena Garnepudi	David Garnepudi Wes Porch	Patricia Matthys Pam Cowley	Grant Allison Brian Hall
<b>Door/Offering</b>	Christine Summers	Sandra Cox	Andrew Moore	Grant Allison
<b>Early Word</b>	—	Lynda Greenstreet	Pam Cowley	TBA
<b>Flowers</b>	Edith John	Artificial Flowers	Elizabeth Kapitany	Artificial Flowers
<b>Kitchen</b>	Elizabeth Moore Delilah Spencer	Smith Family	Mathy Watkins Jacqui Gacutan	Naude Family
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Olive Morland	Sue Reid	Edith John	Band
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Ursula Ebert	Patricia Matthys	Andrew Moore	Marion Ward
<b>Praise Time</b>	Michelle & Rufane Smith	Geoff Harkness	Olive Morland	AA11
<b>Preacher/Duty Elder</b>	Kharis Susilowati Rev Ineke Gyles (Communion) Judy Hopkins	Kharis Susilowati Diane Hall	Kharis Susilowati Pam Cowley	TBA Colin Wilhelms
<b>Public Address</b>	Geoff Lacey	Gavin Bartholomeusz	Paul Watkins	Warren Ward

**ENDEAVOUR HILLS UNITING CHURCH and  
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

# Shopping Tour



*Grab a bargain shopping at factory outlets.*

*The Neighbourhood Centre and Uniting Church are holding a combined fundraising tour, so book your seat now. You can relax and chat while the driver takes you to 10-11 outlets on the day, with a great variety of ranges and discounts. Everyone is welcome so why don't you invite a friend or relative to share your day out.*

**Day: Saturday**

**Date: 11 October 2014**

**Time: Bus departs at 8.00am and returns  
at 6.00pm**

**Departure: From the Uniting Church  
11 Hellyer Way, Endeavour Hills**

**Cost: \$31.00 (BYO lunch)**

***Phone 9700 3789 to book your seat.***

***Payment of \$31.00 due by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September at the  
office.***

**Endeavour Hill Uniting Care  
Neighbourhood Centre**

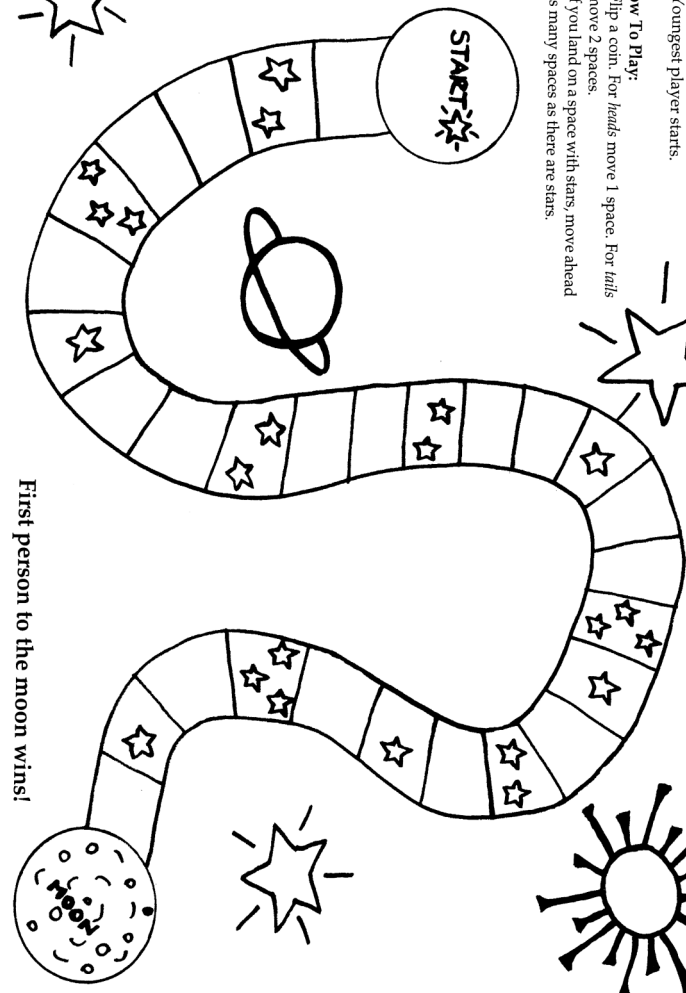
**Phone 9700 3789 (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm)**

**[www.ehuc.org.au](http://www.ehuc.org.au)**



# FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

## K I D S K L I P S



### Walk on the Moon Game

#### Get Started:

- Each player has a game piece (buttons, beans, or coins).
- Youngest player starts.

#### How To Play:

- Flip a coin. For *heads* move 1 space. For *tails* move 2 spaces.
- If you land on a space with stars, move ahead as many spaces as there are stars.

First person to the moon wins!

# A Moment with Lauleti

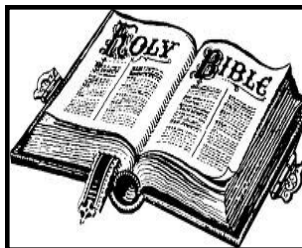
**May the grace and peace of the Lord be with you always!**

Saying hello and welcoming someone is mostly great and exciting! But saying farewell, especially to someone you hold so dearly, is never easy. I was reflecting on some farewells in my life, and I think especially of the times when we visited Tonga with my family. When the day of departure came, I walked one last time through all the favourite spaces in the place where I grew up. I paused for a while here and there remembering special joyful and challenging experiences, and also some painful events. Then there was the loving embrace of my father, my mother, my sisters, my brothers and friends with deeply encouraging farewell words over and through teary hugs and kisses.

I heard about a booklet by a pastor, Roy Oswald, entitled "*Running Through the Thistles:*

*terminating a ministerial relationship with a parish*". Oswald recounts that when he was a young boy growing up in rural Saskatchewan the quickest way home from school was over the fields. It was shorter but occasionally they would come upon enormous thistle patches. He and his older brothers either had to walk around or find the narrowest gap and sprint across.

He writes: "I can still vividly remember the experience: running full speed in bare feet across 20 feet of prickly thistles yelping in pain all the way through." At the end there were always a few thistles stuck in his feet, but the ordeal was over. This is how many people, pastors, ministers and lay people alike, manage their departure from a placement. There are thistles of joys, challenges and pains.



# A Moment with Lauleti

But I personally found these thistles in the last eight years of ministry here at Endeavour Hills to be a significant part of my continuing formation for Christ's mission and ministry in the Uniting Church. I have grown in faith, advanced in theological understanding, leadership skills, pastoral care, ministry in a culturally diverse community, developing music skills, ministry with youth and children, ministry with elderly people, chairing Presbytery's and Synod's committee meetings and so on.

I am deeply grateful to you all and to God for calling me to be a servant and a shepherd at Endeavour Hills and Dandenong North congregations for the last 8 years. Words will not be enough to convey my deep appreciation for what you have done for me and my family.

God has empowered me to preach Christ's gospel, to call people to repentance, to assure people of God's mercy, and to baptise. God strengthened me to teach, inspire and encourage you all, both by word and example, as you have been entrusted to my care for the last eight years. I led you in worship, and celebrated the Lord's Supper and conducted many baptisms and confirmations. We have taken Christ the Good Shepherd as our example, caring for all God's people, coming from diverse cultural backgrounds and serving with each other in God's witness to the world.

Unfortunately everything has to come to an end, including life itself! But God's promises keep our hope, faith, vision and longing alive. Even in the midst of trickery and human deception, God keeps God's promises in unexpected awesome ways.

It is my prayer that God of the covenant will continue to guide us in our different ways as we live in a world where many promises are broken. May God help us to continue to trust in the promises the Triune God have made with us, and help us to create a trusting, covenantal community with all of God's creations.

In Romans 8:26–39, Paul reminds Christians then and now that nothing

# A Moment with Lauleti

will separate us from God's love, even when life's circumstances are difficult and challenging. I want to leave you with this profound reading in contemporary English:

*Romans 8:26-39 (MSG)*

*<sup>26-28</sup> Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.*

*<sup>29-30</sup> God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun.*

*<sup>31-39</sup> So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not*



# A Moment with Lauleti

*trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:*

*They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.*

*We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.*

*None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.*

May God's blessing continue to abound in each and every one of you.

Malo 'aupito! (Thank you so much)

Mou nofo aa! (Good bye)

Lauleti



## **WEB SITE**

The web site could do with more photos (with permission from anyone concerned). Anyone who can take a few photos at church events is encouraged to do so –eg: anything from Somers Camp, photos of children and youth activities, trading table, praise time singers, singing group etc. Please send to Jean Lacey or Marion Ward. The more people involved, the better our web site will look.

## **INTERACT & THE WEB SITE**

Many families have opted to read Interact on the website instead of the printed version. The printed version is still very important, and it is intended that this will be kept as an option as long as required!

If anyone has any ideas for the website, please contact Jean Lacey – [gandilacey@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gandilacey@ozemail.com.au) or Marion Ward – [wardmarion@hotmail.com](mailto:wardmarion@hotmail.com)

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## Church Council

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## 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)**

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Judy Hopkins

### Pastoral Care

Judy Hopkins

### Prayer Chain

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## 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. It would help if the contribution was written in a word document format and attached.
2. Leave in the blue 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. Please include your name, phone number & email address in case it is necessary to contact you.

Material should be submitted by 5 pm on the deadline dates indicated below:

Month	Deadline	Publication Date
Sept	31st Aug	7th Sept
Oct	28th Sept	5th Oct
Nov	26th Oct	2nd Nov

This issue of Interact was edited by Sue & Stan Ashley and  
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