



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

7 May 2023



From Rev Tom

Last Sunday was a really special time. One reason it was special was because a couple of people, who haven't been to church for a long time, were able to be there. And they came!! It was a delight to see them, hear them, enjoy their company. I was reminded that worship is not so much what you do, but is a state of the heart. We were asked to write down all the names and titles we have had over our lifetimes. I could write down Thomas Spencer Stuart, son, once master, then mister. Also, brother, cousin, nephew, friend. I became an uncle very early in my life, then fiancée and husband, then father, and much later grandfather. Among all that I had titles of student, musician, sportsman. Other titles include Christian, Sunday school teacher, Youthworker, lay preacher, Lay Pastor, and minister. Of course, I had a number of titles that relate to my role as having leadership in the church, but the thing that I discovered was all those titles brought back so many memories for me. It reminded me of the abundance, the richness of life that has been mine. And it wasn't just the church leadership titles that reminded me of my faith. In fact, it was collectively all of the titles together that reminded me of my faith. They reminded me of my faith because I was filled with awe that my life had been so full, and that awe felt like worship. It was an awe much like gratitude. During the service I sat beside someone and listened to him tell me all the titles that he had. Many were similar to mine. There were many other names and labels that were different. As I listened again I experienced that same awe again. Part of that awe came from the enthusiasm as I heard the stories relating to the labels. The ways that vocation had influenced life, and had helped give a particular perspective to life. I heard the significance of the word husband had inspired the privilege and challenge of being encouraged by way of that relationship in living a life of faith. As I was listening to the person sitting next to me I could hear the hall buzzing of all the chatter. I was hoping that others were also having their hearts strangely warmed just as I. That warmth, I believe, is an outpouring of Spirit that is integral to abundant life, and what we experienced in the telling and the listening was just that abundance. I didn't know how this very different way of doing worship would go. I wasn't sure how people would take to it. However, just as I was walking out of the hall into the foyer a woman caught me on the shoulder and told me how it was just such a special time for her, and that she was so grateful for the experience. Well, that was enough, just that person, to see the glow in her eyes and face, that was enough. God doesn't call us by one name. God calls us by many names, and those names make our lives full and rich, and abundant. And when taken collectively it seems to me that there is the potential for an even more wonderful realisation, that all this is from God and with God! The Gospel reads, "the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."

On Sunday it felt like all the names we have had have actually led us through life, and that the one calling those names was actually our shepherd ... thanks be to God.



DIARY

Thursday 4 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Saturday 6 May

11.15am Friendship Circle Mother's Day Outing to Wetlands
3.00-5.00pm "Thrive" Intergenerational Presbytery Worship at Adamstown Uniting Church

Sunday 7 May – Easter 5

9.00am Worship Service – Leader & Preacher Rev Tom Stuart
Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5,15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

Tuesday 9 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

Wednesday 10 May

10.30am Biggest Morning Tea at Charlestown Church

Thursday 11 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
11.00am Worship at Garden Suburb Aged Care facility
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb
7.00pm Creating a Circular Economy – Glenrock Anglican Parish Hall, 36 Hexham St, Kahibah

Friday 12 May

6.00pm Ladies night at Kahibah

Sunday 14 May - Easter 6

9.00am Worship Service – Leader Beryl Gaul, Preacher Rev Tom Stuart. MOTHER'S DAY
Acts 17:22-3, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

Monday 15 May

10.00am Visitation at Garden Suburb Aged Care facility

Tuesday 16 May

9.00 – 11.30 Needlework n Natter at Garden Suburb
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

Thursday 18 May

9.30am-2pm Presbytery Gathering at Morisset Uniting Church
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Sunday 21 May – Easter 7

9.00am Holy Communion Service – Leader & Preacher Rev Tom Stuart
Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Tuesday 23 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie
12.00pm Ladies Fellowship at Garden Suburb

Thursday 25 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb



NEXT WEDNESDAY 10 MAY

Anne Threlfo will email the booklet, the Spirituality of Age exercise and the livestream link. There will be no Contact, but if you have an announcement you would like to be included in the email, please contact

Anne at annethrelfo@gmail.com or Ph: 0439 754 376.

THE PRAYER PAGE

And so I urge you: carry on an ongoing conversation with God about the daily stuff of life, a little like Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof. For now, do not worry about 'proper' praying, just talk to God."
Richard J. Foster



Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Jacqueline Fenwick and family following Bob's death
- * Peter Ferguson at home
- * Nola
- * Robyn and Geoff Greaves at Opal Rutherford Park
Care Community
- * Isabella continuing with rehab
- * Ashley in hospital
- * Janice Wright
- * Glenda O'Donahue
- * Linden
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Glenn, Donna and girls
- * Sue and Warren
- * Cat and Ezra
- * Enid Gaynor
- * John Booth and Gloria Booth
- * Tony and Nan
- * Mert and Pam
- * Judith and family
- * Lorraine home from hospital
- * Ken and Sharon MacDonald
- * Rhonda White and family (after death of Bert)
- * Enid Power
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Congregational Prayer Points

- Neos and Tom's role week by week
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Lease of Whitebridge property
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- The situation in Sudan
- New state elected parliamentarians
- Victims of floods, earthquakes and fires
- Wilfreda's orphanage and dire circumstances in Kenya, affecting schooling and food affordability
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots



Australia's
**BIGGEST
MORNING
TEA**

Every cup counts in the fight against cancer

Wednesday 10th May
Charlestown Church
at 10:30 am.

Invite your friends and help
to fund raise for the Cancer
Council.

Donation at the door.

THANK YOU Everyone for your prayers, phone calls, cards and thoughts for Peter whilst he was in hospital over the past couple of months.

We do appreciate you being part of this difficult journey.

Kind regards Peter and Anne Ferguson



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2023.



“WHAT’S FOR LUNCH?”

An invitation is issued to ALL members of the church to join us for our Annual Mother’s Day Outing.

The Place – The Hunter Wetlands Centre – 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland.

Date - Saturday May 6th 2023.

Time –11-15 am for 11-30 am for Morning Tea There will be a new Art Exhibition for all to see on the day. This will be followed by Lunch at 12-30pm. To be bought at cafe.

For those interested, there is a guided tour at 10-30am for the energetic. There is an entry fee of \$5 to the Wetlands. Approximate duration of tour is 45 minutes. Please phone Grahame on 0402335410 if interested.

Consider Car Pooling. Meet at the church if you need a lift. Please notify Mike Warren on 0408447793.

Please let your seasonal hosts extraordinaire for the day, Grahame Pricter and Noel Drinkwater know by phoning 0402335410 or 0428431169 to book your “place at the table.” **RSVP ASAP**

I/We, Will be//will not be attending the “*Mother’s Day What’s for lunch?*” on Saturday 6th May 2023.



Hunter Presbytery of the Uniting Church

PRESBYTERY GATHERING 2023

THURSDAY 18 MAY

Morisset Uniting "Church in the Trees"
Corner Awaba and Kahibah Streets, Morisset

9.30 am - 2.00 pm

"LOOKING UP!"

Guest speaker

Flying Padre David Shrimpton



Featuring:

- Worship time with guest speaker David Shrimpton
- Collection point for knitted items for the needy
- Fashion parade from the Op Centre
- Time to browse and shop at the Op Centre
- Pickup from Morisset Station (Tel: Laraine 4973 1342)

Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided

RSVP 11 May

Barbara duftybarb@gmail.com or 0439 002 392



Notes from Church Council Chairperson

This month's notes are going to be delivered live following the worship service today, Sunday 7 May. I will email the notes on our email list, and there will be paper copies available for those who don't have email.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Anne Threlfo

Ph: 0439 754 376

Email: annethrelfo@gmail.com

With Love to the World booklets

are available this weekend for those that have ordered them.

Please note that the price for the booklets have gone up to \$7.00 per copy.

What is a Circular Economy?

It's a bit challenging reading a poster if you can't understand what it is about!

Wikipedia tells us — A **circular economy (CE)** is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. CE aims to tackle global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution by emphasizing the design-based implementation of the three base principles of the model. The three principles required for the transformation to a circular economy are: designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems." CE is defined in contradistinction to the traditional linear economy. The idea and concepts of circular economy (CE) have been studied extensively in academia, business, and government over the past ten years. CE has been gaining popularity because it helps to minimize emissions and consumption of raw materials, open up new market prospects and principally, increase the sustainability of consumption and improve resource efficiency.

To hear more about the Circular economy in Lake Macquarie - Please come along to Glenrock Anglican Parish Hall - 36 Hexham Street Kahibah next Thursday night 11 May at 7pm

Register at the link below (or tell Paul Russell)

link for registering <https://events.humanitix.com/circular-economy-free-talk>

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

Children & Families Resource Worker:

Mrs Cathy Beeton

M: 0409 445 933

E: Cath4858@gmail.com

Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church Contact Person

Bank Account Details for the Charlestown Garden Suburb Multi-Centre Congregation:

Bank Account held with: Uniting Financial Services

Account Name: Charlestown Congregation General Account

BSB: 634 634 Account No.: 100030837

For Offering please put Ref: Offering

Keep up to date with happenings and info:

Webpage: <http://www.chagsuca.org.au>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CharlestownUnitingChurch>

Project Reconnect: <http://www.projectreconnect.com.au>

Worship Services: <https://tinyurl.com/CHaGS-YouTube-Link>

Administration:

P: 4943 4019

E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au

24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290

PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

Snapshot of Your Life

Part One

Take some time to go through scrapbooks of photos of yourself at earlier stages of your life, perhaps one for each decade. Let yourself be drawn to a half dozen or more that really speak to you: evoking feelings in you of what it was like to be at that age, circumstances, and stage in your life.

Now ask yourself, as pictured in each photo, the following questions:

What were you alive to?

What were you asleep to?

What more was there yet to awaken to that you were unaware of at the time?

Part Two

Now find a recent photo, one that speaks to you, and ask yourself these three questions:

What are you alive to?

What are you asleep to?

What more is there yet to awaken to of which you are unaware?