



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

20 November 2022



From Rev Tom

This week I was given cause to read the 1 Corinthians 13 passage – the passage about love, “Love is ...”. I had two examples this week, two men in this case, who in some way have lived this passage, and that has given me opportunity to understand this passage better. The first fellow is an elderly gentleman who perhaps simply had the fortunate gift at birth of a personality that had so many characteristics of love. But then he experienced everything of his life. No doubt he experienced plenty of challenges in his life. But rather than becoming reactive to those negative aspects of his life experience, he maintained his good will, didn’t demand things go his own way, was not irritable or resentful, stayed patient and kind. What happens is that as he maintains this approach to life then he becomes what he lives. Literally, he becomes love. That is why the Corinthians passage says, “Love is ...”. I met another fellow this week. Much younger. I had a bit to do with him about 20 years ago. He called me out of the blue. He wanted to talk to me because his wife wants a divorce. He described himself as having had a bad temper. However, he said that he and his wife have gone to lots of marriage counselling, and he has done a lot of work of his own. What was clear to me was that he loved his wife, and unfortunately wasn’t blessed with the same sort of character as the other gentleman I mentioned. But this love for his wife, and his love of his children, has meant that he has worked on himself. I remember when I knew him 20 years ago that I thought that while he was a likeable chap he seemed a little bit just about appearances. There didn’t seem to be much depth to him. He had little self-awareness. But when I saw him this time I was amazed by the transformation. He was able to reflect deeply about life, and his life. He had developed the capacity to observe himself, and recognise the impact that he had on other people. He was able to acknowledge, even as it caused him great pain, those things about him that had caused his family so much hurt. It was clear that because of his love for his wife, and even though it might be too late for his marriage, he remains committed to living love. That commitment has transformed him, in what I saw, where he began “doing love”, and then becoming love. Love had now become who he is. That was the depth that I could see in him. Perhaps a good challenge, as a reminder to practice this way of love, that we might indeed become love, is to replace our own name for the word “love” in the Corinthians reading: ⁴ (Name) is patient; N is kind; N is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. N does not insist on its own way; N is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ N does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ N bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” And as we live these things we will discover the meaning and truth of the last statement, ⁸ “Love never ends”



DIARY

Thursday 17 November

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

Sunday 20 November – *Christ the King*

9.00am Holy Communion Service, Leader and Preacher – Rev Tom Stuart
Jeremiah 23:1-6, Luke 1:68-79, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43

Monday 21 November

10.00am Visitation at Garden Suburb Aged Care

Tuesday 22 November

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

Thursday 24 November

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

Sunday 27 November – *Advent Sunday*

9.00am Worship Service – Leader – Beryl Gaul, Preacher – Rev Tom Stuart
Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:9-14, Matthew 24:36-44

Monday 28 November

9.00am-4.00pm HCA Community Organising Training at Garden Suburb UC – Day 1

Tuesday 29 November

9.00am-4.00pm HCA Community Organising Training at Garden Suburb UC – Day 2
9.30am - 11.00am Grandparents, Carers, Kids at Garden Suburb
3.30pm Worship Team Meeting at 'The White House'

Thursday 1 December

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

Sunday 4 December – *Second Sunday of Advent*

9.00am Worship Service – Leader & Preacher – Rev Tom Stuart
Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72,1-7,18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 24:36-44

Monday 5 December

10.00am Visitation at Garden Suburb Aged Care

Tuesday 6 December

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie
3.00pm Church Council meet at Charlestown

Wednesday 7 December

4.00pm – 7.00pm Kids Advent Workshop at Charlestown

Thursday 8 December

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
11.00am Worship at Garden Suburb Aged Care
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Saturday 10 December

8.00am Men's Breakfast at Charlestown
TBA Friendship Circle

Sunday 11 December – *Third Sunday of Advent*

9.00am Worship Service – Leader & Preacher – Rev Tom Stuart
Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

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

- * Family of Jean Townsend
- * Family of Ron Box, especially Marion
- * Family of Margaret Asplund, especially her daughter, Susan
- * Tom having a new back device
Inserted on 16 Nov
- * Anne Hall
- * John Trenholm
- * Nita
- * Gloria and John Booth
- * Vivianne
- * Lillian
- * Enid Gaynor
- * Jan Russell
- * Tony and Nan
- * Mert and Pam
- * Judith and family
- * Ashley and Lorraine
- * Ken MacDonald
- * Wilma Birch
- * Enid Power
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max

Congregational Prayer Points

- Pray that Tom will be supported in his role with families experiencing bereavement
- Next Presbytery meeting at Willows on 22nd November
- Community Alliance training at Garden Suburb Church on 28-29th November
- Preparation for Neos
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Lease of Whitebridge property
- Tom and Kathy
- Cathy Beeton
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

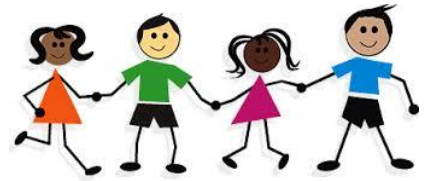
- Flood Victims
- Those experiencing drought in the Continent of South Africa
- Wilfreda's orphanage
- Those with financial difficulties in current conditions
- Protest movement in Iran for women's rights

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power



Children & Family Worker Update

Hi Everyone



Holiday Kids Club Advent Workshop will be held on Wednesday the 7th December 4pm till 7.30pm, let all your family & friends know about our Advent Workshop, it will be full of all the wonders of a true Christmas from craft activities to games, food & the message being 'What's in a name' how many names are there for Jesus, see if you can count them.

Registration forms are in the church foyer or call me on 0409445933.

Cathy



Diary Dates and End of Year Activities

Group leaders, please provide details of Christmas and end of year activities so that our "Contact" diary is up to date.

Contact Anne Threlfo (annethrelfo@gmail.com, Ph: 0439 754 376) and/or Jenny at the Church office (office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au, Ph: 4943 4019)



Hunter Community Alliance

COMMUNITY ORGANISING FOUNDATIONS TRAINING

Monday 28 & Tuesday 29 November

At Garden Suburb Uniting Church

Contact Helen Fielder-Gil
helenfg@thehca.org.au



This training will be valuable to anyone who is keen to understand more about Community Organising, and the role it will take in our "Neos" mission. Speak with Anne or Tom if you have questions.



"Neos"

Support Team

There is still an opportunity to be part of the "Neos" support team.

Please speak with Rev Tom Stuart or Anne Threlfo if you have any questions or would like to be part of this vital team.



Seeing the Poor and Marginalised as part of the solution, not the problem.

Our Speaker will be **Simon Lynch**, who oversees Opportunity International Australia's work in Indonesia that currently serves over 1.4 million families.

Simon has worked in the Development and Micro Enterprise sector for over 25 years, having both established and developed organisations throughout Asia. He will share of his journey from the corporate scene into development, part of which included living in slums and volunteering with Mother Teresa, where he learnt that the key to good development is ensuring you build a person's dignity in the process. Through walking alongside people in poverty he discovered how incredibly hard working they are and when given a chance, they can turn a very small loan and some training into an ongoing income for their families.

A Men's Breakfast

at Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson St

8am Saturday 10th December

Cost \$12 RSVP: Paul Russell

pmraus74@gmail.com, or 0411 236 047

or sign-up sheet in the foyer.

Please advise of any special dietary requirements

By Wednesday 7th December 2022

*Please do not attend if you are unwell or have been
to a Covid-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days.*

\$10,000 Grant

Our congregation has received a \$10,000 grant from the Hunter Presbytery Mission Development Fund. The purpose of the grant is to conduct professional property studies on our Charlestown and Garden Suburb sites, in order to provide information about possible uses and income earning capacity. We will be guided in this process by Uniting Property. Information gained will assist us as we decide how our properties will be used to generate income.

Income from our properties will be used to provide a sustainable financial platform for our "Neos" Mission. Anne will be speaking at the Presbytery meeting on 22 November to provide an overview of our Mission project.

Hunter Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday 22 November - Invitation

Presbytery will continue Mission Planning with Rev Dr Cameron Eccleston, and all interested members of the congregation are invited to attend, particularly those who attended the August meeting.

Presbytery will be held at East Maitland Uniting Church, 35 William St, East Maitland from 5.30pm. The evening will include dinner, so RSVP is required for catering. Contact Jenny Mathieson by Friday 18 November if possible, and definitely by the end of Sunday 20 November.

Thank
You

Thank you to everyone who has supported the bereaved in recent weeks, through setting up, providing food, assisting in the kitchen, sound and data, music and much more.....

You are all appreciated so much



Hamilton Wesley Uniting Church
& Bill's Place



TREES & ART for CHARITY

Come and see 14 beautiful Christmas Trees that have been decorated by local organisations.

Admire the trees, donate and vote for your favourite!

Your donation will help make a real difference this Christmas to the charities these trees represent.



Affordable, quality artwork by local, well known and talented artists priced from as little as \$50

A great way to buy original art for Christmas while supporting those in need.

15TH NOV TO 17TH DEC MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9.30AM TO 2.30PM
SATURDAY 9.30AM TO 1PM

150 Beaumont Street, Hamilton

KEEP
CALM
AND
ENTER
QUIETLY

As far as possible, please enter our Sunday morning worship space quietly to provide a prayerful space as we prepare for worship.

Please keep in mind also, that conversations prior to the commencement of worship may be broadcast on our live stream.

Thank you.

Toronto Uniting Church
118 The Boulevard Toronto 2283

Nativity Display

All ages welcome!
Activities for children!
Refreshments!



Thursday 1 December 10.00am to 4.00pm
Friday 2 December 10.00am to 4.00pm
Saturday 3 December 10.00am to 5.00pm (including Market Stalls)
Sunday 4 December 10.30am to 12.00noon

Come to see the Christmas story!
Experience the joy of this special time of year!

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

Administration:

P: 4943 4019
E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au
24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290
PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

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>