



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

21 August 2022



From Rev Tom

The SFED (Spiritual Formation, Education and Discipleship) group is presently reading a book called, *The Spirituality of Age: A Seeker's Guide to Growing Older*. One of the odd things we read last week was the claim that when we first get married our love for our partner is somewhat an illusion. It is suggesting that we are more likely falling in love with the characteristics that we are projecting onto our partner rather than who the partner really is. That is a rather shocking claim. But there is a sense that it also has to be true. In reality I still don't know my wife Kathy. There will be things about her that I will not know until we have both lived to the fullness of our lives together. Before we were married I really didn't know what it would be like to live with her. I didn't know what she was going to be like as a mum. I still don't know what she will be like as a retired person, and as she gets old. The person I fell in love with was someone who I knew only a little and the authors of the book claim that a lot of my love was for characteristics that I projected on to her. Fortunately, despite this there is a wisdom in our faith and culture that supports by way of the commitment we make in marriage. That commitment is that we will love and cherish each other till death do us part. I always marvelled at this promise because of two major characteristics. First, it is wonderfully hopeful, and it is wonderfully inspiring each time I hear the vows come from the mouths of the couple. The other element is that love is something that arises out of our will. While most couples getting married experience something of being swept off their feet with the power of romantic affection toward one another, that typically lasts only so long. For some it is a bit scary when they realise this romantic affection has gone. But built into the marriage ceremony, built into the vows, is a much more profound and lasting understanding of love. That is the determination that I will love beyond the romance, and I will love my partner as I continue to discover who that person really is, in all circumstances and stages of life. It might also seem a bit odd to say, but this is equally true in how we learn to love ourselves. For many of us we have all sorts of dreams for our life, all sorts of beliefs in our capacities, and value our particular strengths. But what happens when we get old? What happens when things we were so proud of are not things we can do anymore? What then? Well, it seems then is when we learn even more the nature of God's love, the agape love, the love of the will! We don't value ourselves for all those wonderful things we were going to be, or could do, but we are invited to love ourselves, just as we are, with all our growing limitations. Our bodies become lesser, but a love becomes stronger and stronger. We might have been able to fill a room with the fine smells of a glorious meal, but now with a simple smile we fill the room with the fragrance of love and grace, just as we are. Gone entirely is the love of all the illusions of who we might be, but we love the reality of who we are, and that love is from God, and is of God. Love is never about the worthiness of the subject, it is about the character of the giver.



DIARY

Thursday 18 August

- 10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Saturday 20 August

- 8.00am Men's Breakfast with Gwenda Brownell – Social Justice 'Why Bother?'

Sunday 21 August Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 9.00am** **Holy Communion** - Leader and Preacher - Rev Tom

Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Psalm 71: 1-6, Hebrews 12: 18-29, Luke 13: 10-17

Tuesday 23 August

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

Thursday 25 August

- 10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb
4.00pm Finance team meet on Zoom

Sunday 28th August Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9.00am Worship Service** – Leader: Sue Pepper Preacher: Project Reconnect James Ellis

Jeremiah 2: 4-13, Psalm 81: 1, 10-16, Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16, Luke 14: 1-14

Tuesday 30 August

- 9.30am GCK (Grandparents, Carers & Kids) at Garden Suburb
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie Fair
3.30pm Worship Team meeting at "The White House".

Thursday 1 September

- 10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Sunday 4th September Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost *Ocean Sunday*

- 9.00am Worship Service** – Leader and Preacher – Rev'd Tom

Children's Corner with Cathy

Job 38: 1-18, Psalm 104: 1-9, 24-26, Ephesians 1: 3-10, Luke 5: 1-11

Monday 5 September

- 10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 6 September

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

Thursday 8 September

- 10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
3.00pm Hunter Community Alliance meeting at Garden Suburb

Saturday 10 September

- 2.00pm Waratah Male Voice Choir at The Willows
2.00pm Friendship Circle to attend the Waratah Male Voice
Choir at The Willows



THE PRAYER PAGE

"Lord, give me your eyes and ears today as I move about in my neighbourhoods. Show me your heart and help me to love those people around me who are my neighbours" Karina Kreminski



Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Pam and Mert
- * Margaret Drinkwater
- * Ashley and Lorraine
- * Vicki
- * Judith
- * John Cooper
- * Marion and Ron
- * Judith and family
- * Tony and Nan
- * Jean Townsend
- * Wilma Birch
- * Catherine
- * Eileen
- * Enid Hancock
- * Enid Power
- * Ken MacDonald
- * Fred Bryant

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Congregational Prayer Points

- Project Reconnect
- GCK group
- Preparation of Church Services and impact on the congregation
- Our spiritual journey
- Presbytery next week where Dr Cameron Eccleston from Synod will speak
- Arrangements for lease of Whitebridge property

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Wilfreda's orphanage
- Situation in Ukraine
- Pray that China and Russia will seek peace rather than conflict
- That America will rediscover wisdom and tolerance



Charlestown
& Garden
Suburb

**Hunter
Community
Alliance**



The Hunter Community Alliance has invited **Mayor Kay Fraser** to meet with the 22 member organisations of the Alliance in order to follow up commitments made by the Mayor prior to last year's Local Government elections. These commitments concern a number of initiatives addressing the homelessness and climate emergencies. The meeting will seek to identify ways the Alliance, Mayor and Council can work together to make the policy commitments come to fruition.

The meeting will take place on

Thursday 8 September at 3pm
at
Garden Suburb Uniting Church

You are invited to attend, lend your support and witness the Community Alliance at work.

For more information, contact Rev Tom Stuart or Anne Threlfo

SFED group are currently reading a book entitled

Spirituality of Ageing: A Seekers Guide.

If you have any thoughts or insights from your own experiences, let us know, as we each experience God's presence differently and where God is.

In the near future we aim to share insights from this book and your thoughts as well.

Talk to your elder about this.



Waratahs at the Willows

Come and enjoy

The Waratah Male Voice Choir with a programme including Gospel, Musical Shows and modern songs.

Musical Director Annette Phillis and Accompanist Wendy Church



**2pm Saturday
10 September 2022**

Warners Bay Uniting Church at
The Willows - 342 Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay
Donation \$20

Supporting Christian SRE (Scripture) in our local high schools provided by the Charlestown and Warners Bay Christian Education Associations Includes a delicious afternoon tea, served at the conclusion of the performance.

Tickets available from

OR Contact Paul on 0411 236 047

UNITING CHURCH SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Employee Assistant Program (EAP)

If you need some extra emotional support during a stressful time, you can access an experienced Psychologist for counselling, coaching and support, as well as referrals to other services. Appointments can be face-to-face, on the phone or on Zoom. More information at <https://nswact.uca.org.au/staff-intranet/employee-assistance-program-eap/> or ring 1300 360 364.

UNITING CHURCH SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR ALL CHURCH MEMBERS

Speak Out in Confidence

There may be a time when you hear, see or experience something which concerns you about the safety or well-being of our church. If you don't feel that you can discuss this with our congregation leaders, you can contact "Speak-Out" to voice your concerns. You will be able to speak to someone in confidence. More information at <https://nswact.uca.org.au/speak-out-in-confidence/>, ring 1800 951 145 or write to PO Box 895, Darlinghurst NSW 1300



The Uniting Church in Australia - The Hunter Presbytery

Gathering

10am Tuesday 6 September

(morning tea from 9.30am, BYO Lunch)

"Hamilton Hive"



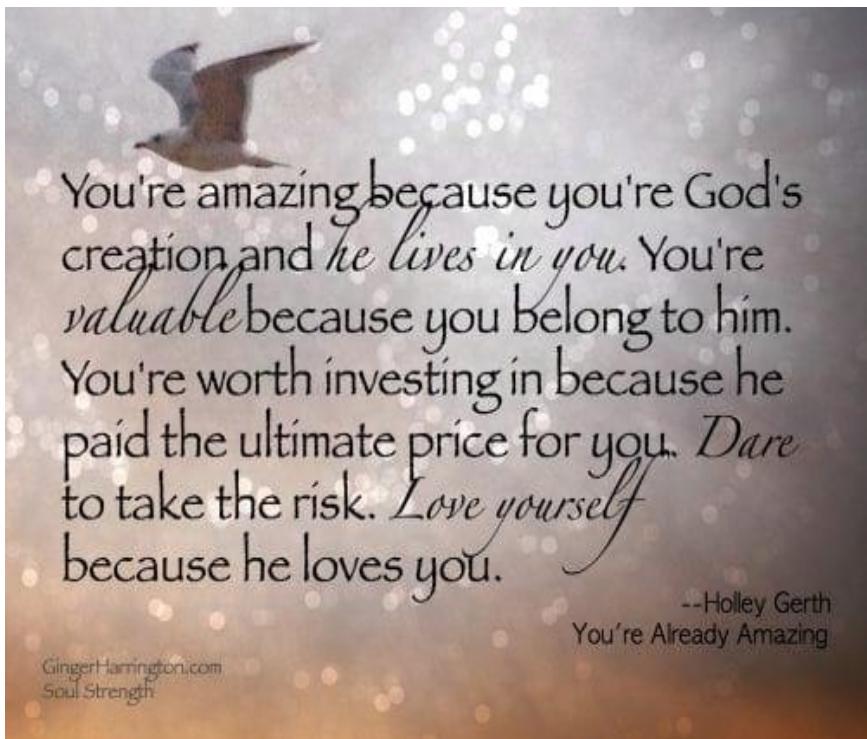
150 Beaumont St, Hamilton

(next to Hamilton Uniting Church)

Guest Speaker – Rev Jon Owen

Pastor & CEO – The Wayside Chapel





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
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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>