



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting Church
Multi-Centre Congregation



23 October 2022

From Rev Tom

I'm back! Back to work! I didn't do anything spectacular by way of trips and recreation while on leave. The main focus of my holidays were two weddings. The first wedding was my daughter Neralie marrying Mitch. The ceremony took place at Hickson St Lookout. The reception was held in the back yard of the residence. The second wedding ceremony was of my nephew's daughter Krysten, and her now husband Justin. Their marriage and reception took place on my nephew's farm at Parkes. The venue was to be on the bank of a creek. However, the spot that my nephew had been preparing for around 6 months, in readiness for the wedding, was now inundated with water! So, in the last week before the wedding Andrew had to double down, find a new location, get the slasher out, prepare the new area, and hope that it wasn't raining on the day of the wedding. The couple and I had a wedding practice the day before. The wind was blowing a gale and with no sound system I figured the wedding was going to be a conversation between myself and the bridal party. But it wasn't going to be that way. At 2pm the next day the sun was shining and the air was still. I reckon I could have whispered and those furthest away would have heard. I have done other weddings where the odds were way against a good outcome. Yet, inclement weather ended up being book ends to a perfect ceremony.

I could develop a theology about weddings. After all, a wedding is the context for Jesus first miracle, creating litres of wine. God loves weddings?! Quite probably so, but it didn't all go to plan for my daughter's wedding. It was blowing a gale for the entire ceremony (though I made sure we had a very large sound system to compensate) and there were three downpours. One downpour was just before Neralie arrived at the ceremony, one during the ceremony, and again when Neralie and Mitch arrived at the reception. But this is a different story! No one cared. Most certainly the joy never stopped flowing from Neralie's disposition!! Mitch forever had a smile, and almost everyone danced much of the evening squelching in mud. It gives practical application to the saying, "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain." I lost kilograms worrying about how things were going to turn out for Neralie and Mitch's wedding ... outdoors! I discovered those things I was worried about didn't have a whole lot of control over the outcome of the proceedings. It was the joy and delight that continued to flow, and somehow bloomed in the adversity, that will remain with me for a long time. I wonder about the lessons in it for me, and perhaps for us all.

Worship service on Sunday 30 October

Guest preacher: Rev Dr Rod Pattenden

You are invited to stay for morning tea following the service to chat with Rod, and with each other.



*"Do not forget that the value and interest of life is not so much to do conspicuous things
...as to do ordinary things with the perception of their enormous value."*

Teilhard de Chardin

DIARY

Thursday 21 October

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

Sunday 23 October – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

9.00am Worship Service – Leader Kathy Stuart. Preacher – Rev Tom Stuart

Joel 2: 23-32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18, Luke 18: 9-14

Tuesday 25 October

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

12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

3.30pm Worship Team Meeting at 'The White House'

Thursday 27 October

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 30 October – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

9.00am Worship Service – Leader Rev Tom Stuart. Preacher – Rev Dr Rod Pattenden

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Psalm 119:137-144, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10

Tuesday 1 November – All Saints Day

Daniel 7:1-3,15-18, Psalm 149, Ephesians 1: 11-23, Luke 6: 20-31

9.30am – 11.00am Grandparents, Carers, Kids at Garden Suburb

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

3.30pm Church Council meet on Zoom

Thursday 3 November

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Sunday 6 November – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

9.00am Worship Service – Leader and Preacher - Rev Tom Stuart

Dedication of Church Council

Haggai 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Psalm 145:1-5,17-21, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17, Luke 20: 27-38

Monday 7 November

7.30pm Girls' Night Out at Garden Suburb – 50th GNO evening!

Tuesday 8 November

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

Wednesday 9 November

10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Thursday 10 November

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

CHURCH COUNCIL



- ✓ Anne Threlfo has been elected Chairperson
- ✓ Margaret White has been elected as a Passionate Worship representative
- ✓ There are 2 vacant positions on the Church Council. Would you consider nominating for one of these positions? Please talk to Anne Threlfo or Julie Fenwick for more information.
- ✓ **The new Church Council will be dedicated during the worship service on 6 November.**





"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

THE PRAYER PAGE

PASTORAL PRAYER POINTS

- Nita
- John Booth
- Vivianne
- Lillian
- Enid
- Jan Russell
- Margaret Mensforth's family
- Tony and Nan
- Mert and Pam
- Judith and family
- Margaret Asplund
- Ashley and Lorraine
- Marion and Ron
- Jean Townsend
- Ken MacDonald
- Wilma Birch
- Enid Power
- Fred Bryant
- Max
- Anne Hall

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER POINTS

- Preparation for Neos
- GCK group and Holiday Kid's as we discern if or how these activities will proceed in 2023
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Lease of Whitebridge property
- Tom and Kathy
- Cathy Beeton
- Worship Committee

WIDER COMMUNITY PRAYER POINTS

- Wilfreda's orphanage
- Operation Hope – Northern Iraq Project
- Protest movement in Iran for women's rights
- Flood victims in Victoria and NSW

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Men's Breakfast News

Last Saturday we had an excellent talk by Dr David Durrheim - who worships at Macquarie Life Church and was Hunter New England Health Public Health Controller during the COVID-19 pandemic response

His talk was about a near death experience he had in 2014 and the coincidences that led to his survival - and he ended up questioning whether this was in fact, a miracle.

Question time (starting at about 26 minutes) was mainly about David's knowledge of Covid 19 with a lot of insights and suggestions - well worth listening to from a general knowledge point of view.

The video of Dr David Durrheim's talk has been added to the Service DVD for this week and there are copies of the DVD at Charlestown - ask your elder if you want one brought to you.

The recording is also available on Vimeo use this link <https://vimeo.com/760659812>

Save the date for the next breakfast on 10th December when Simon Lynch will be talking about ***Seeing the Poor and Marginalised as part of the solution, not the problem.***

