



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

14 January 2024

From Rev Tom

I have been using some of the post-Christmas and New Year periods to do some planning for the year. It became apparent that this year the Christian calendar moves quickly. Ash Wednesday is the 14th of February, so we will be in Lent shortly, and Easter Sunday is March 31. I bet the hot cross buns are up for sale! Usually, at this time of year, I endeavour to encourage everyone to come up with some New Year resolutions. We can get a little cynical about New Year resolutions ... the resolutions that we never keep. However, even that tells us something. It causes us to face our lack of capacity to stay with our commitments. And then we have learned something at least, rather than if we had simply ignored the whole thing altogether. And as we call ourselves Christians we are committing to be followers of Jesus, we are making a commitment to be on the way to somewhere. So, I think, as Christians, we have an even greater cause for setting ourselves New Year resolutions. But what would that resolution be? Well if you know you have particular problems with New Year resolutions then make the start small. Perhaps deciding to read the Gospel that is set for this year, the Gospel of Mark. Sit down, read it through, done! New Year's resolution complete. Perhaps it is to decide to read a Christian-themed book. Koorong Christian Books is now at 10 Medcalf St at Warners Bay. Parking is right next to the entrance. And there is an abundant range of books. Or you could set a spiritual task. One task that I think would be great for all of us is a commitment to be less negative. Paul talks about being filled with the Spirit, which has the qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, and so on. But the trouble is we spend so much time thinking negative thoughts that the Spirit doesn't get much of a look in. We too often think that our negative thoughts are necessary. We must judge people. Nothing is further from the truth, remember "do not judge lest you be judged!" I read just the other day of a woman who was told to count whenever she started thinking negatively. She would count, "1, 2, 3, 4 – 4, 3, 2, 1 – 2, 3, 4, 5 – 5, 4, 3, 2 – 3, 4, 5, 6" and so on to 100. If she got lost she would start again. She said that it was amazing how she found she had so much more energy doing this. Why did she have so much more energy? Because all our negative thoughts drain energy. We deplete ourselves. Negative thoughts rob us of energy and leave us without what is needed to do the good the world so desperately needs. In any case, what other New Year resolutions? What about contacting someone who has gone off your radar, and it would be good for both of you to reconnect. Maybe a member of your family. Maybe the next-door neighbour. I want to push you in this. So much so I have this space here. Grab a pen. Make sure you have a comfortable seat. Spend some time in reflection. My New Year resolution is! Write it down, here:

My New Year's resolution:

DIARY

Thursday 11 January

10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

Friday 12 January

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Sunday 14 January – Epiphany 2

9.00 am Worship Service including Holy Baptism of Logan Peter William Smithies
Leader & Preacher – Rev'd Tom

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-11; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Tuesday 16 January

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 18 January

10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

Sunday 21 January – National Aboriginal Sunday

9.00am Worship Service including Holy Communion
Leader: Rev'd Tom Preacher: Rev'd Dr Chris Budden

3 John 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-2

Tuesday 23 January

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship Meeting

Thursday 25 January

10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

Sunday 28 January – Epiphany 4

9.00am Worship Service Leader: Sue Warren Preacher: Project Reconnect
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Tuesday 30 January

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

4.00pm Worship Team Meeting

Thursday 1 February

10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY
17 JANUARY 2024

THE PRAYER PAGE



Pray that the Australian Church can model today, the example of the early Christians, in making space for all people to flourish in community.

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Tony has had a fall
- * Pray that Graeme can access a rehab facility
- * Jean recovering from Pneumonia
- * Fred Bryant in hospital
- * Daniel Stuart
- * Family and friends of Glenda O'Donahue
- * June Locker
- * Family and friends of Tom and Kathy
- * Ryan Walpole in rehabilitation
- * Kathryn Gray
- * those suffering with Covid
- * Those in our Congregation who have lost loved ones in recent months
- * Mac
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Peter Ferguson
- * Nola in hospital
- * Isabella
- * Ashley
- * Janice Wright
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Mert
- * Judith and family
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * Enid Power
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- those affected by climate change in Australia eg droughts and fires
- Tom and NEOS as he follows ideas and opportunities including with Wesley Mission at Windsor, Hunter Community Alliance, Greater Charlestown Sustainability Group
- Hunter Community Alliance's arrangements towards the Founding Assembly in April 2024 , as approaches are made to encourage politicians to attend and give support to local initiatives to reduce emissions
- The situation in Israel and Gaza
- The victims and families of the earthquake in Afghanistan
- Consequences of climate change around the world
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots
- Fabian, Wilfreda and children as Kenya experiences floods



2023 Christmas Appeal

As many of you might remember we had money saved from when we had support from Target, but, due to the generosity of you, our church family, during that period, we had enough cash to be able to continue supplying Northern Settlements which is now known as "MOSAIC multicultural connections" and also both East Lakes and West Lakes Women's refuges for a few years.

This year we were able to support 13 MOSAIC families (being made up of 16 adults and 20 children) giving a total of 75 gifts.

Imagine our surprise when we approached the 2 Women's Refuges, that we support with gifts, to be told that they had been inundated with gifts this year and were not requiring assistance. This was just as surprising as it was wonderful to hear that the community was gathering together to support Women and children escaping difficult circumstances.

On the other hand, Mosaic continue to need, and are very appreciative of, our assistance which we are able to continue with the reserves we still have.

We donated 46 gifts to Lifeline as they were not suitable for our current clientèle, but would be useful to others as well as helping Lifeline as they would be income producing for them.

Praying that 2024 is a year of blessings for all of you.

Sue & Warren Pepper

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

The 2024 SRE (Scripture) Dedication Service
will be held at 2.00pm on Sunday 11th February 2023
at The Willows - Warners Bay Uniting Church
342 Hillsborough Road Warners Bay

Save the date - Men's breakfast

Community Changing Communities

Come and hear Wesley Mission's John Lewis talk about their new
initiative - Missional Communities


8am Saturday 17th February

\$12 RSVP: Paul Russell pmraus74@gmail.com,

or 0411 236 047

Please advise of any special dietary requirements

By Wednesday 14th February 2024



Ash
Wednesday

You are invited to a gathering of prayer,
reflection, and renewal beginning your
Lenten journey to Easter

Garden Suburb Uniting Church
Marshall St
4:30pm 14 February 2024

Errors and omissions in the 2023 directory

My apologies – please insert or correct entries as shown in the update list below.

Please let me know right away of any other errors or omissions

Paul Russell 30 December 2023

Gaul	36 James St Teralba 2285 Graeme graeme.beryl@icloud.com Beryl graeme.beryl@icloud.com	4041 0263 0419 599 807 0429 851 170
Greenwood	Villa 144 178 Lake Rd Elmore Vale 2287 Dianne	4955 7990
McLean	Unit 8 Rosecourt 78 Dudley Rd Charlestown 2290 Fay	4943 1903
Rozek	95 Prospect Rd Garden Suburb 2289 Peter Nancye nancyerozek@y7mail.com	0419 986 334

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

6pm Wednesday
10th April 2024
The Great Hall,
University of Newcastle

YOU ARE INVITED

Everyone in the Uniting Church across the Hunter is invited to participate!

Issues:
'Just' Energy Transition in communities
Housing and Homelessness

Engaging National and State Leaders

"This is the world as it is.
This is where you start" Saul Alinsky



Whisper of God Retreat Day



Discerning your gifts for passionate living



An opportunity to explore spiritual practice and reflection, to give space to hear the gentle whisper of God and the creative and curious work of the Holy Spirit in and through us. Listen to what God is calling you to in the year ahead and explore how you might experience fullness of life, purpose and joy. Led by Rev Greer Hudson, Period of Discernment Co-ordinator for the Synod of NSW and ACT, supporting people to explore, articulate and celebrate their gifts in mission and ministry. Greer is a trained InterPlay leader, a labyrinth and retreat facilitator, a dancer, a storyteller, and a mother. Greer is passionate about embodied spirituality – about how we might experience God through more than words.

Saturday 17th February 2024

10am - 4pm \$20/15 conc.

Adamstown Uniting Church - Brunner Rd Adamstown

Bring lunch or purchase nearby

Bookings here: [Whisper of God Retreat Day Tickets](#)

The Hunter Presbytery Uniting Church in Australia

Tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/whisper-of-god-retreat-day-tickets-741824776877?aff=oddtcreator>

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

Administration:

P: 4943 4019

E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au

24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290

PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

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>