



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

30 April 2023



From Rev Tom

It is not always easy to define what is Neos, our new ministry beyond the existing congregation, and what is not. What I mean by that is, there are some things beyond the church I would be doing anyway. However, even those things are happening more frequently since beginning the Neos journey. Last week I had a meal at one of the cafes in Hamilton. At the table included Tim Costello, a number of Baptist pastors, a number of Uniting Church ministers, a mission worker for Wesley Mission, and a mission worker for Common Grace. Many of you will have seen the fellow from Common Grace as he was in the videos that were viewed on Aboriginal Sunday in January this year. The main focus of discussion was the challenge of being the church in our contemporary context. I discovered during the conversation that Tim Costello, though a Baptist minister, now attends a Uniting Church in Melbourne. He acknowledged the challenge of the institutional church at the present time. He also recognises that the institutional church has done itself great injury with so much focus on the institution, and so much focus on protecting itself. There was a lot of sharing going on by everyone and it was interesting how everyone seemed to be seeking new ways to express the Christian Gospel, going beyond the traditional forms of Christian life. We had all been invited to the occasion, with Tim Costello, by the Hamilton Baptist Church. What I didn't know till I got there was that the Hamilton Baptist Church is at the epicentre of a huge split in the Baptist denomination in Australia over the issue of sexuality. The Hamilton Baptist Church has determined to be overtly welcoming and affirming of people who have homosexual orientation. The reaction in the Baptist denomination has been so strong against this that the denomination has completely changed the way it organises itself (it used to give each congregation independence) so it could throw the Hamilton Baptist Congregation out of the Baptist Union. Clearly Tim Costello, not only a Baptist minister, but once the president of the Baptist Union of Australia (1999-2002), agreed to visit this congregation as a sign of support to the "evicted" congregation. The pastor of the Hamilton Church described the challenge of his congregation being thrust out of the denomination and what that means to them to represent the kingdom of God in this new space. Also, the mission worker from Wesley Mission spoke of how he is involved in planning congregations, including in Windale. He talked about the massive struggle he was having figuring out what church, and worship looks like, for people who are profoundly poor.

The worker from Common Grace, told of how their ministry is by way of online, social media, and multimedia, and focus primarily on the people and issues of First Nation Peoples. The materials we used preparing for Aboriginal Sunday is but part of what they do.

It felt a bit scary experiencing in the story telling the tectonic shifts in the expression of the Christian faith in our culture. I felt the sense of the church being in an earthquake, where even the most solid foundation stones are being shaken ajar. Yet it was such an exciting experience seeing how the new shoots are already there. As the old is disrupted it creates cracks for the new to emerge. It reminds me of the stone at Jesus burial place. That great heavy obstruction, seemingly impossible to move, once the marker of death, cannot contain resurrection life.



DIARY

Thursday 27 April

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

Sunday 30 April – Easter 4 – FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

9.45am Morning tea
10.30am Worship Service in Hall – “How Are You Called?”
11.45am Lunch in hall

Monday 1 May

10.00am Visitation at Garden Suburb Aged Care facility

Tuesday 2 May

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

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

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

Thursday 18 May

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



The worship service today, Fellowship Sunday 30 April, will not be live streamed or recorded. The worship booklet will be distributed as usual.

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

- * Sue Walpole
- * Jacqueline Fenwick and family following Bob's death
- * Peter Ferguson to go home today with medical Support
- * Nola
- * Robyn and Geoff moving to Rutherford Park Opal Care Community today – pray they will settle in smoothly
- * Isabella – home from 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
- * Ashley at Warrabrook
- * Lorraine home from hospital
- * Ken and Sharon MacDonald
- * Rhonda White and family (after death of Bert)
- * Enid Power
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max

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

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power



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.

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.



Congratulations to Ella Beeton, Cathy’s granddaughter, who won the Redhead Public School Anzac Essay Competition. Ella read the essay out beautifully, at the Redhead Anzac Service yesterday.



Hunter Presbytery of the Uniting Church

PRESBYTERY GATHERING 2023

THURSDAY 18 MAY

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

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 Morrisset Station (Tel: Laraine 4973 1342)

Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided

RSVP 11 May

Barbara duftybarb@gmail.com or 0439 002 392

Watch online at <https://vimeo.com/event/3306683>

040740183

Kim Langford: kimlangford@outlook.com.au
Rob Hanks: robhanks@bigpond.net.au

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO

THRIVE

an intergenerational worship celebration

3-5pm 6th MAY

Adamstown Uniting Church
228 Bruncker Rd, Adamstown

PLEASE NOTE:

A message from Ausgrid

There is a scheduled power interruption for Garden Suburb Church on



Saturday 6 May 2023 from 8.30am to 4.00pm.

This power interruption is to enable Ausgrid to carry out critical works to defects on the High Voltage network in the Garden Suburbs area.

What is a circular economy? Free talk

Learn about the Circular Economy, how it differs from 'just' recycling, and what we can do to encourage the transition.

The Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Group will be hosting Council's Asset Optimisation Officer to talk about creating a local circular economy.

Thursday 11 May, 7pm

Glenrock Anglican Parish Hall, 36 Hexham Street, Kahibah



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

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE - HOW ARE YOU CALLED?

This coming Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday in the church calendar and we will be holding our worship service in the hall; this will allow us to share our thoughts about God calling us by name (in addition to sharing fellowship over food before and after the service). In preparation for this you might contemplate the exercise below (in italics) if you haven't already done so.

In Isaiah 43 it is written: "I have called you by name, you are mine." Think about your name and what it has to teach you about your relationship with the Divine. In the Jewish tradition, one is given a Hebrew name at birth e.g. Aliza means 'joy'. However, many of us have had many names over the years, representing a number of external and internal influences. For instance, we might choose to use or leave our middle name, adopt our spouse's name, adopt a saint's name at confirmation, add or drop titles. Our name changes reflect our relationships with each other, our values and sometimes our spiritual understanding at that stage in life.

When many individuals do this exercise, they often encounter emotional linkages (pride or rejection) to saint namesakes, biblical and sacred text references, and more. Other names reflect a legacy in the practice of a particular trade, bespeaking the intimacy between generations, or a relationship to the natural world.

So, what does your name have to tell you? You can explore this by pondering the following questions:

Who gave you your name?

Does your original name tell you something about the influences/expectations placed upon you by others?

Were there role models you were meant to emulate?

What inspired the changes (or lack of changes) you made along the way?

Did you take on (or were given) a nickname?

What does the name you use today tell you about where you've come from, your growing relationship with the Divine, and your take on how you ought to live?

If the Divine were to call you by name now, what would that name be?

Kerrie's Brief Response to 'How Are You Called?'

While I was doing this exercise, I was reminded of my sadness that the name at the top of my birth certificate is not the name given to me by my parents. Heightened security regarding identity in the early 2000's meant a spelling 'error' on my original birth certificate could not be overlooked and a new birth certificate was required (not just correcting the spelling).

On a more positive note, the three parts of the name I use today are shared by some people I admire and love: one is the name of a feisty creative friend who serves others, another name is shared with my gifted and loving sister-in-law and the last one of course is shared with my wonderful husband and children.

What name does God use to call me?? I notice that people use your name when they want to catch your attention or find out where you are, but if they are in the same room, they just start the conversation. I will keep my ear open.... Does God need to call my name or am I in the metaphorical 'same room'? Still, God knows my name and God knows me.