



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

17 July 2022



From Rev Tom Stuart

It has been a tough week or so.

First, the loss of Bev Woodcock, then Elaine Moran. There are also a number in our midst experiencing varying degrees of illness, some with challenging prognoses. Gladly I was able to be part of Bev's funeral. I was reminded in that time that our suffering and grief is best done together. Together we have our strength. It is one of the blessings of church. It is such a lonely world out there but the church, though far from perfect, creates community. In community we find solace. And it is that community that makes present an even greater reality - community with God. There was so much revealed to us in Jesus. Just one aspect of the revelation in him is that of a suffering God. We discover that God is not aloof, but suffers with us, is community with us, and my experience is that we sense something of how God suffers with us when we suffer and grieve with each other. It is all part of this thing we call community. You might be reading this at your computer, wherever you have your computer in your own home. You might be reading it in printed form. Whatever the case, I encourage you to simply sense the unity we have, the love that is shared, and if you need it, receive the love, and if you can, share the love. Somehow, in all the challenges, in all the pain, in all the grief, it is love, and the hope that arises out of love, that transforms everything. Somehow, even our suffering demonstrates to us that God's love is greater.

This day, I pray for us peace, grace, and love. Let us embrace each other in just these things, as we are embraced by God.



DIARY

Thursday 14 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
11.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Communion Service
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Sunday 17 July

9.00am *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*
Holy Communion – Leader and Preacher – Rev Tom

Readings: Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52, Colossians 1:15-28. Luke 10:38-42

Monday 18 July

10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 19 July

9.30 – 11.00am GCK (Grandparents, Carers & Kids) at Garden Suburb
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie Fair

Thursday 21 July

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

Sunday 24 July

9.00am *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*
Worship Service- Leader Kerrie Dixon – Preacher Rev Tom

Readings: Hosea 1:2-10, Psalm 85, Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 11:1-13

Tuesday 26 July

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

Thursday 28 July

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

Sunday 31 July

9.00am *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*
Worship Service – Leader and Preacher – Rev Tom

10.15am Congregational Meeting

Readings: Hosea 11:1-11, Psalm 107:1-9,43, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

Monday 1 August

10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 2 August

9.30 – 11.00am GCK (Grandparents, Carers & Kids) at Garden Suburb
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake

Thursday 4 August

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

Sunday 7 August

9.00am *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*
Worship Service – Leader and Preacher – Rev Tom

Children's Corner with Cathy

Readings: Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20, Psalm 50: 1-8, 23-24, Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16, Luke 12 :32-40

Monday 8 August

10.00am Worship Service at Woodlands

Tuesday 9 August

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

Wednesday 10 August

10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Thursday 11 August

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb
11.00am Communion Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Friday 12 August

6.00pm Ladies night at Kahibah

Saturday 13 August

9.00am Quiet Morning at Garden Suburb

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



- * Woodcock family
- * Moran family
- * Judith
- * Catherine
- * Shirley
- * Olivia
- * Jean Townsend
- * Kelly
- * Emma and family
- * Jonah
- * Ken MacDonald
- * Fred Bryant
- * Eileen
- * Janice
- * Enid Power

- * John Cooper
- * Sally
- * Max
- * Wilma
- * Dianne Antcliff
- * Mert
- * Nan and Tony
- * Brian
- * Dennis
- * Church Council
- * GCK group
- * Those with Covid
- * Mike Smith
- * Recording of Worship Services
- * Our spiritual journeys and development

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

...AND NOW FOR SOMETHING NEW!

...well to most members of our Congregation, at least! A beaut hymn that has been around for a while, with great words and an uplifting tune...if you are a devotee of the ABC's "Songs of Praise", you will know it already. The hymn is:

"Christ Triumphant, ever reigning, Saviour, Master, King"

To help you to become familiar with this new venture, put into your computer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVJIEaT5wBM>

This is sung wonderfully by the Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir in Buffalo USA...great choir and organist (who really 'struts' his stuff...good view of his feet in the interlude!)

To assist us all, we will have a:

music practice at 8.50am on Sunday morning

...yes, I know, you'll have to get out of your warm bed a bit early...Jesus called it 'sacrifice'!!! See you then with your throat well warmed up, ready to praise our King!

Children & Family Worker Update

Hi Everyone

As I write this I am putting the final touches to our Holiday Kids Club, the first one I have not attended in my 13 & a half years of being Children & Family worker, yes, I have Covid but doing OK, just in isolation.

The day will go ahead with our wonderful children's activities team of volunteers lead by Laraine & David Chegvidden, Sue W, Sue P, Kerrie, Lesley, Tom, Jan & our wonderful support team Ellen, Charlie, Karen & Karen's mum, who are parents or grandparents of our kids. I will update you on the day next week.

Our Grandparents, Carers & Kids group will meet on Tuesday 9.30am at Garden Suburb for our first get together for term 3 & then every second Tuesday after this.

Blessings

Cathy



Sunday 31 July

at 10.15am

following worship

(The meeting will be live streamed)



Agenda items include: Budget, Mission update, Hunter Community Alliance update



Come Away

Quiet Morning

Saturday 13 August
9am - 12.30pm
at Garden Suburb Uniting Church

Cost \$10 includes morning tea. Register with Anne Threlfo annethrelfo@gmail.com Ph: 0439 754 376



Notes from Church Council Chairperson

Greetings all

The Church Council met last week and began with prayer for all those in the congregation with particular need, and for all whose lives have been impacted by the floods. Other matters included:

- Advice is to be sought from Presbytery regarding the next steps in Mike Smith's accreditation as a lay preacher since Mike's course work is almost complete.
- The Council acknowledged the work of the Hunter Community Alliance in the past year – see a portion of a letter from the Alliance elsewhere in Contact.
- SFED is reading and discussing the book "The Spirituality of Age: A Seekers Guide to Growing Older."
- We heard the encouraging news that Ben Waters (who preached several weeks ago at Charlestown) is assisting Cathy with some SRE classes.

In order to maintain momentum in our move in our new mission, the Church Council adopted a number of proposals:

- From the beginning of 2023, the congregation will begin a transition period where initially, 20-25% of the Minister's time will be spent in new mission work. The proportion of the Minister's time spent in the new mission will gradually increase in the next few years until it is full time in about five years' time. There will be continuing discussions as to how the Minister's current work will be reorganised. This will be a primary topic for conversation and questions at the Congregational meeting on 31 July.
- An application is being made to the Synod Growth fund to finance that part of the Minister's stipend which is committed to the new mission.
- The Whitebridge property is to be leased as soon as possible in order to generate an ongoing income to fund the new work.
- Conversations have commenced with the new Presbytery Strategic Mission Consultant, Rev Dr Rod Pattenden about the development, progress and support of our Mission Plan.
- A conversation with Uniting has recommenced concerning the Uniting Development on the Tiral St property. We were shown plans which are in the final preparation stage before being submission to LMCC for approval. Stage 1 includes the Residential Aged Care facility which includes community space, as well as a tower of Independent Living Units.

Thank you for your faithful prayerful support of the new mission of our congregation, as well as the continuing life of our present congregation. We live and move in the sure knowledge that we are loved and held by our gracious and loving God.

Warm blessings to all!

Anne Threlfo

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Banner Workshop



Exploring the role of the visual in worship while preparing for the Seasons of Creation

Prepare for the celebration of Seasons of Creation during September through learning simple skills in paper cutting banners that could be used in your church.

Participants will have a hands-on experience of techniques in paper cutting that can then be used to develop a project in your local congregation. This workshop is focused to give you tools and ideas to have fun with this medium or inspire your congregation during the Seasons of Creation from 1st September to 4th October this year.

Cost: \$15 for refreshments and material

Saturday 28th August 2- 4.30pm

**Jesmond Park Uniting Church
15 Robert St Jesmond**

Rod Pattenden is an artist and art historian
who likes to pray with his eyes open!

Booking to pattenden@bigpond.com Rod 0418 861267

An update from.....

Hunter Community Alliance

Remember as you read the achievements and plans of the Alliance, that Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting Church has played a part in all of it!

Your Alliance grows from strength to strength thanks to your active participation.

The Year Past

A recap of our success over the past 12 months:

- Winning \$12m for social housing in Newcastle LGA;
- Commitments to reduce carbon emissions in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie LGAs by 100% by 2035; and for investment in diversification away from fossil fuels;
- Commitments to plan for and invest in heatwave and sea-level rise inundation;
- Commitments of 15% affordable housing quotas in Lake Macquarie and Newcastle;
- Commitments from Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Councils to substantially improve their work on homelessness by: better data collection; public protocols and training for staff interacting with the homeless;
- Contributing to the successful advocacy for 16,500 new Afghan refugee places;
- 50 community leaders trained in Community Organising Foundations;
- The relationship development of leaders at our March 2022 retreat on Wonnarua land;
- Growing your alliance with six new member organisations;
- Deeper connection to the stories that matter to people in the Hunter through your listening campaign and relational meetings;
- A new strategy team, new leaders, and an endorsed plan towards founding.

These have all been opportunities for the Alliance to fulfil its mission:

- The identification, development and recruitment of individual leaders;
- The strengthening of partner organisations through cross-organisational relationships and use of community organising skills within organisations;
- Strengthening your Alliance with leaders, relationships, training, and funding.

The Year Ahead

This year, 2022-23 will see the ***continuation*** of this work, as well as some new endeavours:

- A discernment assembly in September 2022, to start forming a policy and action agenda, including on housing and climate strategies at state and federal jurisdictions;
- Holding councils accountable to their housing and climate commitments;
- National Advanced Community Organising Training in September;
- More Community Organising Foundations programs
- Deeper listening across the Alliance agenda;
- Growth in membership size and diversity.

New challenges will come our way, but together we are well placed to tackle these.

(The letter was signed by Callan Lawrence, the Lead Organiser; Theresa Brierley, the Chairperson; and Peter Coughlan, the Acting Treasurer.)



Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

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Children & Families Resource Worker:

Mrs Cathy Beeton
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Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church Contact Person

Administration:

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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>