



CONTACT

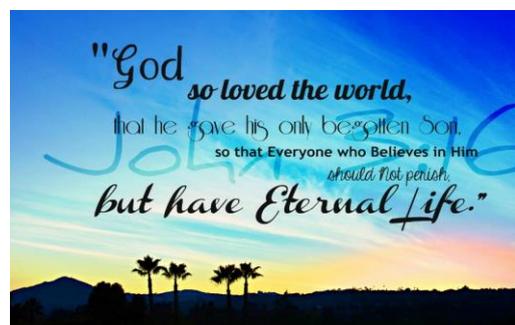
Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

28 August 2022



From Rev Tom

The SFED Group is still reading “The Spirituality of Age: A Seeker’s Guide to Growing Older”. Last week I experienced part of that process in reality. I received a phone call with news that Enid Hancock was in John Hunter Hospital and that she was being treated with palliative care. She hoped to speak to me. I was mowing the lawn when I got the phone call. So, after cleaning up and getting changed I headed for the Hospital. It is not always possible to grab such moments so I made short work of getting to Enid. While it was evident that Enid was weak, and did not have her usual colour, she was clear of mind. We talked about quite a few things, remembered happenings and people, and reflected on her present circumstance. As usual Enid did not avoid the reality of her circumstances, nor did she dramatize anything. Simple, and clear. I asked her if she felt ready, in this final stage of this earthly journey, preparing to step out into God’s love. It seemed like a normal conversation – as if we were having a chat over a cup of tea – even while very special, filled with love. Enid looked directly forward for a moment, and without any sense of apprehension she told me that she was ready. She described a few worries that she had for those who she would leave behind, but there seemed to be a sense of trust that all will be well. Everything about her, her demeanor, the measure of her speech, complete absence of any hint of anxiety, and a certain rarity in the atmosphere confirmed her words – “I am ready!” I have heard it said that our death is the most dramatic psychological event in our lives. That would seem a pretty obvious thing to say. But it never ceases to amaze me the times I have found the person who is dying demonstrating such profound peace. Enid described herself as having had a blessed life. Perhaps she did, but I can’t help but wonder if that will be perspective for most of us as we are nearing our final breath. We worry ourselves ragged at times as we are living our lives, but afterward we see it differently. Do we see it differently in the end because every bit of it was our life, and who we are in that moment wouldn’t be if any part of that life was missing? Is it because when we look back on our lives we see with a greater sense of the love that has sustained us on our way, good times and bad? Is it because, as we are about to let everything go we no longer have to care about security, prestige, and power? So, we are free to sense the goodness that abounds in the present moment, and every moment. We shared a prayer in the final moments of our time together. I felt the nearness of God particularly in that time – somehow radiating from Enid. Indeed, a privileged graced time. There was a very difficult moment however, that pressed on me heavily – as I walked out the door knowing for the last time. The words that came out of my mouth were just habit, and caught me out, “Bye for now!” But maybe there is something deeper in me that wanted to express this as truth. So, Enid breathed her last on Monday night. We mourn and we remember – we too remember a blessed life – and we have opportunity to gather on Wednesday 31st, 10am at the Charlestown Church, to give thanks for the life of Enid Hancock.



DIARY

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*

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

NO MORNING TEA TODAY at Lake Macquarie Fair

- 10.00am “Gathering” at Hamilton Hive
3.30pm Church Council meet on Zoom

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



Sunday 11th September *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Job 39: 1-8, 26-30, Psalm 104: 14-23, 1Corinthians 1: 10-23, Luke 12: 22-31

Monday 12 September

- 10.00am Worship Service at Woodlands

Tuesday 13 September

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

Wednesday 14 September

- 10.00am Ladies Fellowship – Maitland Art Gallery



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

- * Enid Hancock's Family
- * Tony and Nan
- * Mert and Pam
- * Avril Hill
- * Judith and family
- * Margaret Asplund
- * Margaret Drinkwater
- * Ashley and Lorraine
- * Vicki
- * John Cooper
- * Marion and Ron
- * Jean Townsend
- * Wilma Birch
- * Catherine
- * Eileen
- * Enid Power
- * Ken MacDonald
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max
- * Shirley
- * Olivia
- * Kelly
- * Dianne

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Congregational Prayer Points

- Project Reconnect
- GCK group
- Worship Services
- Arrangements for lease of Whitebridge property
- Tom and Kathy
- Cathy Beeton

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Wilfreda's orphanage
- Operation Hope – Northern Iraq Project
- Hunter Community Alliance meeting with Lake Macquarie Mayor Kay Fraser
- Gathering at Hamilton Wesley Uniting Church with Rev. Jon Owen as speaker 10am, 8th September



Meeting at The Willows
on 10th September at
2.00pm
to hear the Waratah
Voice Male Choir





Notes from Church Council Chairperson

Greetings all

As always, we are the recipients of God's care and grace as we step into the path being prepared for us. Here are a few recent footsteps:

- The Church Council recently submitted an Expression of Interest to Synod for funding from the Synod Growth Fund. Unfortunately, we were not invited to proceed into the next round of applications. The application process did provide us with an opportunity to consider some of the practical aspects of moving forward with our Mission Plan, so it was a valuable experience. Synod will be providing us with some feedback, which will be useful in future applications.
- With the assistance of the Uniting Church's Synod property team, an agent has been engaged to market the Whitebridge property for leasing. We have no way of knowing how long it will take to find a suitable tenant.
- Rev Dr Cameron Eccleston from Uniting Mission and Education presented the first of four workshops on Mission at this week's Hunter Presbytery meeting. The focus was on a Presbytery strategy for the future. Our congregation was very well represented with seven members of the leadership attending to contribute to discussions.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and encouragement. The next Church Council meeting is on Tuesday afternoon, 6 September.

Grace and peace to you, sisters and brothers.

Anne Thorolfo

Progress Report - Leasing Whitebridge Church

Last Monday three people on behalf of the Church Council met with Alfred Santos of the Strategic Property & Operations group at Synod Office and two staff of the real estate company Knight Frank. We have selected Knight Frank to handle the leasing process.

They had a good look around the site and have made arrangements to come and take photos later in the week. It is planned that the marketing campaign will go live on 5th September - after which people will be shown around the site (including allowing for ongoing use of the building).

It is very uncertain how long it will be before someone expresses a commitment to leasing - it could be weeks to many months. Once that stage is reached we will have minimum 6 weeks to provide vacant occupancy (but could be longer).

Vacant occupancy is when all the contents has been removed plus any fixtures we wish to retain. Whitebridge Property and the Wellness Centre committees has already started looking at this process.

If you have any questions please talk with Lorraine pepper or Paul Russell.

28 August 2022

Children & Family Worker Update

Hi Everyone

I hope everyone is doing well & staying warm as we get hit by another cold blast from the south, will winter ever end, I'm sure it will & then we will be complaining of the heat. Though whatever the weather brings we can count our blessings for each & every wonderful day we have.

I have just returned from a week away traveling around country NSW & just stepping over into Queensland for a night, what an amazing place we have, to see from the farmlands to the mountains, rainforests & back to the seaside each & every place is unique & special in its own way. We are so blessed.

Our Grandparents, Carers & Kids group will meet this Tuesday at Garden Suburb 9.30am, we are open for all people to come along, bring a book to exchange, have a cuppa & a chat with or without kids. We look forward to meeting new friends.

Blessings

Cathy



On Wednesday 14 September

Ladies Fellowship are meeting at
Charlestown Church at 10am

to depart for the Maitland Art Gallery
and Café for lunch!!!

Contact Sue Warren if you need transport

Come and enjoy the fellowship!



Waratahs at the Willows

Come and enjoy
The Waratah Male Voice Choir

2pm Saturday on 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



Orchestra Nova

presents



Concert for Children

Sunday 4th September at 2pm

Conducted by Stephen Aveling-Rowe & Robin Fischle

Let the children come along to dance, march and prance around to such well known pieces as Toy Symphony, In the hall of the Mountain King

Radetsky March, Pizzicato Polka, and

Pirates of the Caribbean!

Warners Bay
Theatre

\$15 adults
\$5 children
\$20 family



<http://orchestranova.org.au>



UCAN is hosting these events in coming weeks.
Everyone is invited to attend online



Move Beyond Coal Campaign Briefing

Thursday 8 September - 7pm-8.30pm

Register here for more info and for a Zoom link to be emailed to you:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/move-beyond-coal-ucan-campaign-briefing-tickets-404993034067>

Electric Vehicle Information Forum

Wednesday 7 September 7pm-8.30pm

Register here for more info and for a Zoom link to be emailed to you:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/electric-vehicles-are-they-a-viable-option-an-online-forum-tickets-383276599627>



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
E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au
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>