

The Link



February 2010

Thornleigh Hillcrest
Uniting Church Newsletter

Tempted?

Every year the season of Lent begins (this year on February 21) with the story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness, or desert, as it reads in some translations. The temptations are powerful and remind us of Jesus' determination not to give in to worldly things but to stay true to his calling.

It can be very disconcerting, however, when we try to adapt these temptations to our own lives. After all, how many of us are led to the top of a building and invited to jump off? Or who has ever been tempted to turn stones into bread – literally? Maybe there are other ways, though, that we can relate to these temptations. Maybe they are not trapped in history after all.

Turning stones into bread for Jesus seems like copping out, like taking the easier way rather than fasting. How often are we tempted to take the easier way; to look over our shoulders and to see if we can get away with something? It's not really the way to live, is it? God asks us for integrity and accountability, not sneakiness. Devil worship? How often have you wanted things at the expense of others? When have you wanted to ignore your values and your principles just to have or do what you want?

When it comes to testing God, how often have you asked God for things that really were not in the best interests of everyone concerned? What about times when you tried to make deals such as, "God, if you want me to love you, you'd better do so and so." When we want to take over and tell God what to do, we're testing God.

And so we pray, "Lead us not into temptation."

Editor's clip sheets February, 2010

A Reminder from the Editors

Following the Wednesday night deadline, we have four nights to assemble, scan, design, format and proofread *The Link*. The finished document is then converted to a printing layout and transmitted to the printers on Monday and also uploaded to the website. The printed copies are collected and labelled ready for distribution at church on the first Sunday of the month (thanks, Bruce). **If you are the coordinator of a group or are responsible for the publicity for an event** it would be much appreciated if you can provide your material **before** the deadline. If for some reason you cannot do this, but you still want the item to be included, please let us know well in advance with some idea of the size of your contribution. A late entry can cause many hours of redesign. Supplying your text in electronic or printed format on white background makes the task much quicker for us. Please give plenty of notice for items to be put on the website.

Yours in Christ, Liz and Ron



Church Family News

Remember in your prayers:

Heather Firth who spent Christmas in hospital awaiting open heart surgery on Boxing Day, Jim Mein (Senior), Mavis & Gordon Price, our missionaries – Richard and Lindsey Parker in South Africa, the Wakefield family currently home on furlough from PNG, and members of Broken Hill Church with whom we are twinned, including Pastor Will & Betty Pearson.

Family News (since the last 2009 edition of Weekly News Sheet)

- Adding to the list of new babies born to several of our church families prior to Christmas, may I be bold enough to announce that at 5.29pm on Monday December 21 another grandson, Cobalt Edwin Walsh, was welcomed into the Geary family. A very welcome first child for Claire & David Walsh.
- The Mein's welcomed a new daughter-in-law into their family on December 30 when Alistair married Hayley.
- CathyThompson completed her 2 year course in Clinical Pastoral Counselling.
- Callan San is commencing a new position as IT Security Officer with Rail Corp. early in February.
- Joan Blackmore completed her Diploma in Video Animation and Photography with a Distinction.
- Rev Glen Renton was appointed best employee of the NSW Ambulance Service for the month of December.



Mission Planning Day – new dates

Saturday February 20
Saturday March 6

Missionary Support for 2010

A big THANK YOU to those who have returned a Support Form pledging, with God's help, to support financially the Wakefields and Parkers during 2010. There is still the opportunity for others to indicate their willingness to give a regular amount for the ministry of our missionaries in PNG and South Africa. Forms are available on the table in the vestibule.

Birthdays

February

- 2 Keith Wilson
- 6 Mikaela Wakefield
- 9 Brenda Geary
- 14 Anna Mathew
- 15 Bea Roche
- 16 Ron Newton
- 18 Heather Wilson
- 19 Bruce Sharpham
- 23 Alan West
- 24 Ann Reid
- 25 Bruce Williams



Friendship Group

We will be commencing the new year with our Annual Ladies Coffee & Dessert Evening to be held on Wednesday February 10 at 8pm in the multipurpose hall, to which all ladies of the congregation are warmly invited to attend. We will be very happy to provide transport. Call me on 9484 4091 ahead of time and it will be arranged.

Mrs Jen Spoor from West Epping Uniting Church (who was, for a number of years, our coordinator for Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes) is our guest speaker. Jen and a group of ladies from West Epping UC have set up a charity called "Steps With Hope" who are raising money for education and food for young Laotian refugees who fled the communist regime in Thailand, and who are camped in the surrounding hills. The group is endeavouring to educate 50 teenagers at a time through the charity, which is being assisted by students from Barker College, one of whom will be joining Jen to tell us what they have been doing since the charity was set up a couple of years ago.

Please come to this great evening and enjoy hearing about their work while partaking of some scrumptious coffee and desserts.

Brenda Geary

Second Sunday Club

Sunday, February 13

TBA

Cluster Group News

As it has been necessary to alter our arrangements for Saturday February 20 due to the second Mission Planning Day now being held on that date, we are arranging to have a pizza dinner together at Normanhurst, commencing at 6pm.

To confirm our booking with the restaurant, please let Shirley Sharpham, Shirley Richardson or Beverley Dunlop know as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

After the meal, those interested in finalising the 2010 Cluster Group program are invited to meet at the Richardsons' home for a brief meeting.

Mingles

The group had a barbecue and planning meeting on January 16 where the year's activities were mapped out. New members are always very welcome.

First up is **breakfast at Blu Water Grill on February 27 from 9am**. This function is always enjoyable and well attended. Please tell the Wilcocksons if you are coming for the table booking to be made.

In March, Jeni Tresize is organising a movie/pizza night at the church – the plan is to set aside the money we'd save from actual movie tickets and a restaurant meal and donate it to a worthy cause yet to be decided.

April sees us trekking to Jerusalem Bay and recovering over a barbecue meal at the Newtons.

Normanhurst Christian Education Association Inc.

All those interested in the ministry of NCEA are invited to the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday February 28 at 11.45am at the Normanhurst Uniting Church. The meeting will include an update on the program in the two high schools together with presentation of the financial and other reports. It is anticipated that the meeting will conclude by about 1pm.

David Richardson
NCEA Secretary

Mission Planning Group C - 'Meet and Eat' meals

This group recommends that:

- Once a month – on the first Sunday – a host family invite up to four persons to their home for a meal, at a time of their choosing eg breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea or dinner, and also invite any newcomers to the congregation during the time since the last such function, keeping in mind that this may include children
- A host list be compiled and the monthly host will invite persons from the congregation list who have not attended a meal previously
- A 'Meet and Eat' volunteer convenor will hold 'the list' and will make this available to each monthly host, noting those persons who are involved each month
- Each invited guest may be asked to bring a 'dish' to share at the discretion of the monthly host.

It was noted that two Hospitality Sunday luncheons will take place this year on May 30 and October 31 and therefore there would not be a 'Meet and Eat' meal in those months.

It was also noted that these meal invitations cannot include all the congregation in one calendar year. There may be more than one host in any month, but all persons on the congregation roll will receive an invitation to a meal as soon as this can be accomplished. If adopted, this idea should commence as soon as possible.

Di Thom
Convenor
17 January, 2010

Day Fellowship

Monday February 22 at 1pm

At this meeting, the group will plan the activities for the year and cut stamps.

Social Responsibility Group

Lent Event 2010: February 17 – April 3

The Lent Event raises money to support vital development projects that work towards the alleviation of poverty, community development and recovery from disaster. All projects supported by the Lent Event are overseen by UnitingWorld in collaboration with local partner churches. Following is a summary of the third and fourth projects that the Lent Event will be supporting this year.

Project 3: Education Support for South India



The Tribal Development Project supports the education and nutrition of the Nilgiri Hills Villages. Statistics indicate that 50% of children under the age of 10 living in rural Indian areas cannot read or write. The Tribal Development Project is helping to change this situation by providing learning centres and nutrition programs for the children in these villages. The project has expanded to include youth and adult development initiatives, including women's self help groups, and small business and leadership training.

Project 4: Water Supply and Education for Sudan

This program offers communities access to clean water and education that could otherwise not be attained. In Sudan, water shortage is an issue for many communities. Women may travel up to 16km a day to collect water for their families. This project is helping to change this situation in the Magwi area, by supplying clean drinkable water through the drilling of boreholes. This has enhanced the health, productivity and lifestyle of around 3000 people to date.



The project is also helping to promote community education, the results of which are already being witnessed by the Tapoza people who have recently had a school building built within their village allowing for the first generation of Tapoza people to receive an education.

By going without something for the six weeks of Lent (eg coffee, magazines, chocolate) and putting aside the money you would spend on these for the Lent Event, you can support these important projects. For more information, please go to the Lent Event website www.lentevent.com

Melissa Mottram



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 5 March 2010

*"Let Everything That Has Breath
Praise God"*

Prepared by Cameroon



Where: Seventh-day Adventist Church
Cnr. Yarrara Rd. & Pritchard Street. Thornleigh

When: 10.00 a.m. followed by refreshments

Turrumurra Passion

The Turrumurra Passion is an interactive and slightly modern interpretation of the Passion Play tradition. It tells the story of Easter – the last weeks of the earthly life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Featuring a local cast, the play uses the variety provided by the architectural forms of the building: from the eerie seclusion of the upper room, to the arrest in the garden, and the angry shouts of the crowds bouncing off the colonnade pillars. The audience moves around the building and grounds, from scene to scene, guided by the cast and a narrator.

The story may be well known, but The Turrumurra Passion brings it to life in a new way. The Turrumurra Passion is written and directed by Dave Cornford, and enters its 12th season in 2010.

Bookings Open February 1

2010 Season Dates

Friday March 19	8pm
Saturday March 20	7pm
Friday March 26	8pm
Saturday March 27	7pm
Monday March 29	8pm
Tuesday March 30	8pm
Wednesday March 31	8pm



Where

Performed in and around the grounds of historic Turrumurra Uniting Church Turrumurra Avenue, Turrumurra. Sydney, Australia.

Wear

Comfortable shoes. Some of the performance is outdoors.

Bookings

Tickets are free, but bookings are highly recommended.

Important Dates for 2010

Elders' meetings

Retreat Saturday, March 27
Monday April 19 at 7.30pm
Monday July 19 at 7.30pm
Monday October 18 at 7.30pm

Church council

February 17 at 7.30pm
May 19 at 7.30pm
August 18 at 7.30pm
November 17 at 7.30pm

Congregational meetings

March 17 at 7.30pm
June 20 at 2pm
September 15 at 7.30pm
December 15 at 7.30pm (reports due Nov 28)

Working bees

May 29
July 31
October 31

Remember this: When people choose to withdraw far from a fire, the fire continues to give warmth, but they grow cold. When people choose to withdraw far from light, the light continues to be bright in itself but they are in darkness. This is also the case when people withdraw from God.

St Augustine



Diary Dates

- **KYB** (Know Your Bible) meets at 10.30am each Monday.
- **Ashleigh Lodge Service** is on the third Sunday of the month at 10.45am.
- **Kids' Time** meets at 4-6pm on Mondays in school terms.
- **Indoor Bowls** meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 1pm.
- **Day Fellowship** meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 1pm, and at other times for outings.
- **Friendship Group** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 8pm.
- **Second Sunday Club** meets on the second Sunday of the month at 4pm.

February

Sun 7	8.45am Worship (HC) – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
Sun 14	8.45am Worship – D Richardson 10.15am Worship – J Mein
Sun 21	8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
Wed 24	LINK DEADLINE
Sun 27	9.30am Worship – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton

March

Sun 7	8.45am Worship (HC) – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
Sun 14	8.45am Worship – 10.15am Worship –
Sun 21	8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
Sun 27	9.30am Worship – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship –

Grounds & Gardening

February

13,20	D Firth, D Thom
27,06	S Holmes, S Wilcockson

Contact List

MINISTER

Rev Glen Renton	12 Nicholson Ave, Thornleigh 2120	9875.1844
	Church office	9980.8411
	Mobile	0418 429 899

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON	Jim Mein	9980.8670
CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY	Cathy Thompson	9838.0656
CHURCH COUNCIL TREASURER	Steve Williamson	9875 2262
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Bruce Sharpham	9481.8376
FINANCE & PROPERTY CONVENOR	Bob Parker	9484.5476
PRAYER CHAIN CONVENOR	Roma Ringrose	9484.1221
ELDERS:		
CHAIRPERSON	David Richardson	9980.8353
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON	Rosalie Tregenza	9481.8713
SECRETARY	Claire Foulis	9484.4575

Barry Clark	9894.5516	Shirley Richardson	9980.8353
Norma Chambers	9484.1993	Dianne Thom	9484.2549
Beverly Dunlop	9481.9291	Allan West	9484.5693
David Firth	9484.3405	Barbara West	9484.5693
Fred King	9481.8873	Brian Wilcockson	9484.1459
Gill Mein	9980.8670	Sue Wilcockson	9484.1459
Jim Mein	9980.8670	Bruce Williams	9489.6174
Ron Newton	9987.4201		

CENTRE BOOKINGS	Mobile: 0418 429 899	9875.1844
Rev Glen Renton	Email: bookings@thornleigh-hillcrestuca.org.au	

WEEKLY NOTICES	Brenda Geary	9484.4091
By 6pm Wednesday	Email: pbgeary@unwired.com.au	

NEWSLETTER (<i>THE LINK</i>) EDITORIAL COMMITTEE			
Rosalie Tregenza	9481.8713	Amy Stowe	9683.7087
Liz & Ron Newton (Editors)	Email: newtonr@ozemail.com.au	9987.4201	
	14 Carinya Rd, Mount Colah 2079		

Website	www.thornleigh-hillcrestuca.org.au
---------	---
