

# The Link



August 2011

Thornleigh Hillcrest  
Uniting Church Newsletter

# At Home with God

When I was working full-time, I was always glad to get home and 'be myself'. One of the first things I'd do would be to remove my tie and shoes and put on either thongs or slippers, according to the season.

It's great to get home and be relaxed, not only in what is worn, but also in every other way. We feel comfortable, at ease, when we are with those to whom we are closest. Perhaps, if we have had a difficult day, we feel that we can unwind and share some of the problems we have encountered and get away from the world.

In Psalm 90, the first sentence is 'O Lord, you have always been our home' (GNB). Other translations use the term 'dwelling place' or 'refuge'. What seems to be said here is that humans, since the beginning of time, have been able to find refuge, safety or security in God, the One who controls our world and also our lives.

The first line of AHB Hymn No. 157 is 'Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee'. Why did the author write this? The Rev Augustus Toplady, an Anglican minister in Somersetshire, UK, was walking about two or three miles from his home when he was caught in a sudden, violent storm at a time when he was in a very exposed area. Fortunately, he noticed a big rock nearby under which he was able to shelter until the storm abated. As he was about to leave, he noticed on the ground, a playing card, on the back of which he wrote the first verse of this hymn. Some years later Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, was dying and, on his deathbed, he repeated this hymn and said 'if in this hour I had only my worldly dignities and honours to depend on, I would be poor indeed'. It's significant that the Queen's husband was not relying on wealth and position to gain entry to heaven. He had placed his faith in Jesus Christ and was 'at home with God'.

At home with God! When we read the Old Testament, we discover people who were 'at home with God'. For example, Moses had a number of direct encounters and conversations with God. In Exodus 33:11, Moses entered the sacred Tent and God spoke to him 'face to face' (also Deuteronomy 34:10).

No doubt, Moses was pleading for the people who so often turned away from God and worshipped idols.

When a lawyer asked Jesus about obtaining eternal life (Luke 10:25,26), Jesus asked him what the Scriptures said. The man's response was 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbour as yourself'.

Jesus said 'do this and you will live'. If we are 'at home with God', we will want to love him completely. Jesus is not talking about prescribed behaviour, but a way of being open to God and to others.

As we think about people having a close relationship with God, we need to ask ourselves: are we 'at home with God' and how can we develop this relationship so that we can be more effective in our lives and service for Him?

Will this lead us to concerned action for others?

We need to cultivate our relationship with God if we are to feel and be 'at home with Him'. We need to take time to pray (be in communication with Him). We also need to discover what He is saying to us today by reading and studying the Scriptures in a systematic manner. Only as we do this, will we be able to find ourselves as being 'at home with God'.

During the month of August, the Bible Study series on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings (see separate notice) will be based on FAITH – depending on God. May these studies help us to be more 'at home with God'.

David Richardson

## Church Family News

Remember in your prayers:

Bruce and Norma Chambers; Wendy Clark; Paul Dunlop; Joan Mathews; Grace Cairns and all the Firth family; Rosalie Tregenza's father and sister; Rev Stephen Reid and his son, Luke, both recovering from serious illness; our missionaries – the Wakefield family in PNG and Richard & Lindsey Parker in South Africa; Pastor Will and Betty Pearson and our friends in Broken Hill.

**A SENIORS' FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON** is planned for Wednesday, September 21 at 11.30am for 12 noon at the church. A hot roast dinner and dessert will be served at a cost of \$10 per person.

More details and invitations will be distributed soon, but pop it your diary now please.

Also the next **HOSPITALITY LUNCH** is planned for Sunday October 30. Host homes will be required and guests too, of course! Another date for your diary.



We wish to thank the members of our church family for their thoughts, prayers, help and understanding over the past several months, during Bruce's health issues and treatment, more recently in our bereavement with the passing of Norma's brother. It has been greatly appreciated.  
Bruce and Norma Chambers

# Birthdays

## August

2 Peter Busch  
4 Marie Williams  
6 Helen Whalley  
14 Varun Mathew  
15 Roy Ringrose  
16 Jenny Batt  
21 Joshua Wakefield  
23 Di Thom  
Cathy Thompson

24 Lyn Deutscher  
Jessica Wakefield  
28 Hope Cook  
29 Emma Wilcockson  
Sarah Sharp



## Mingles



In spite of the wet weather, eight of the Mingles ventured to Winda Whoppa in July for a weekend of relaxing around the fire, the obligatory trips to the hardware and craft shops, a spell at the sewing machine or, when the weather improved, an exhilarating hike to the top of Yacaaba headland.



**Saturday August 27** is our planned walk at Muogamurra National Park, organised by Peter Cribb. All are welcome join us at this picturesque venue, which is only open for visiting on a few weekends each year. Picnic lunch and walking shoes required.



## Woodworking Group

The Men's Woodworking Group meets each Monday, from 9am, at Jim Stowe's home at 8 Koorinal Avenue, Thornleigh. All men are welcome to come along and help/learn to make woodcraft items for sale at the annual market day. Bring your own safety gear (ear muffs, goggles etc) and lunch. For more info, ring Jim on 9484 6064.

# Cluster Group

Saturday July 16 may have been mid-winter, but about 45 people were not concerned about the cold as they enjoyed the Pot Luck Dinner in our hall. As usual, there was a large variety of hot casseroles to choose from and some very tasty 'sweet' offerings to conclude our meal together. An unusual feature was a cake made in the shape of a violin.

The evening's enjoyment was enhanced by the musical contributions from a delightful girls' quartet including Meiling McGregor (granddaughter of June and John). They provided many items with great skill and variety which was sincerely appreciated.

Before concluding the evening, our thoughts were directed to the important part that we can all play as members of the Body of Christ – the Church. Donations of about \$250 were given towards our building fund.

On Saturday August 27, Cluster Group will join with the Mingles group for a walk through the Muogomarra National Park, which Peter Cribb is arranging.

Saturday September 10 is an important date as Cluster Group members support the Sydney Welsh Choir in our church; details are shown elsewhere in this issue of 'Link'; Allan West has tickets (\$15 adults, \$5 students).



Shirley Richardson

## Day Fellowship

Our last activity was a most enjoyable lunch at the Berowra Waters Fish Restaurant. Sixteen attended (members & a few husbands). Fish & Chips, dessert & coffee were on the menu.

MONDAY August 22 at 1pm sharp. We will be making gift cards. This activity will be led by Elizabeth Sequeira of Faithbooking. The cost is \$10 per person. This covers the cost of cards, envelopes, decorative items, titles, tape and instructions. You will only need to bring a pair of scissors. Our numbers are limited to 20. All ladies are invited. Please see Heather Firth or Brenda Geary by Sunday August 13 to book your spot.

Regards  
Heather Firth

# NCEA

The Normanhurst Christian Education Association invites you to a Prayer Brunch in support of Magda De Boer and her work at Normanhurst Boys and Hornsby Girls High Schools.

You are welcome to turn up on the day, but an RSVP would help us with catering. Children are very welcome, as there will be toys and a movie set up during prayer time.

9:30 – 11am  
Saturday, August 27, 2011

Chinese & Australian Baptist Church  
Thornleigh  
Cnr Pennant Hills Rd & Loch Maree Ave,  
Thornleigh 2120

T: 9489 3238  
E: Magdabrunch@inet.net.au  
RSVP: August 25, 2011



## Tickets Now Available

### **The SYDNEY WELSH CHOIR**

is to perform at Thornleigh Hillcrest  
Uniting Church on Saturday  
September 10 at 7.30pm.

\$15 adults,

\$5 children

Part of the profits will go to the  
Normanhurst–Hornsby and  
Pennant Hills–Cherrybrook  
Christian Education Associations)



# Faith

## Depending on God

“If you ever struggle with the uncertainties of faith, you'll find good company in the pages of the Bible. All through the Scriptures, we see people's faith in God knocking against the realities of earthly life – sometimes joyfully, sometimes desperately. There are many surprises. Some of the most esteemed Biblical people let us down mid-story, when they apparently abandon their trust in God. And some of the least likely people, pressed by crisis, show remarkable outbursts of pure faith in a God they barely know.”

### Want to know more?

Then you are invited to come and join in the four weekly studies commencing:

- Tuesday August 2 from 7.30 – 9pm
- Wednesday August 3 from 9.30 – 11am

We will be meeting in the crèche room and share over a cuppa after the study.

## Social Responsibility News

We have been asked by Gordon House to revigorate their vegetable garden. A small team from THUC weeded and fertilised the garden in July. We will revisit in August and plant vegetables.

The Committee will have their next meeting Thursday August 12, 2011 at 7.30pm at Wests, 21 Boyd Avenue, West Pennant Hills.



Barb and Allan West will again be participating in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine from August 19–21. We invite others to take part too. We also invite others from our congregation to sponsor us in this endeavour to raise funds to assist disadvantaged children throughout the world.

We are also supporting the UnitingWorld Fundraising Barbecue 12noon–3pm at the church.

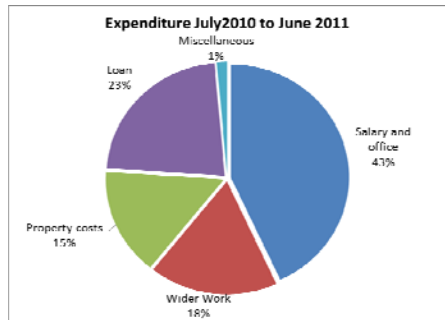
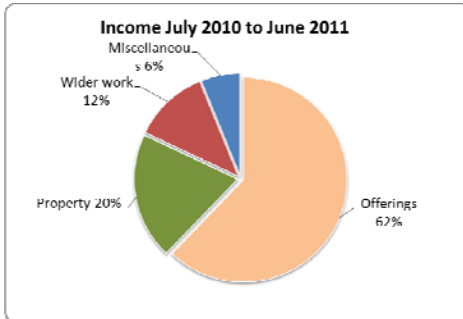
Allan West

# Church Finance

## Financial year 2010-11 summary:

Our church operating income for the year was down by \$9,395 (5%), from \$201,985 in the previous financial year to \$192,590. Expenditure including loan repayments was \$192,239.

The following graphs show items composing income and expenditure for the year:



Compared with the previous year:

- Offerings (excluding Building Fund and Self Help Scheme) reduced by 4% to \$99,492.
- Offerings for the Building Fund were \$8,639, substantially up from \$3,103.
- The Self Help Scheme benefit was \$11,767, 35% down on \$18,003.
- Property rental income reduced by 10% to \$38,420.
- Salary and office costs increased by 4% to \$83,054.
- Costs associated with operation of the church building and the manse reduced by 18% to \$24,101. The figure of \$29,478 for 2009-10 was unusually high (\$19,827 in 2008-09). Our largest property operation cost is cleaning in the church building, \$8,900 per year.
- Interest charges on the church loan increased by 3% to \$24,720.

We paid nothing to Living is Giving (\$9,000 last financial year)

**The Market Day** profit of \$8,317 was most welcome. It enabled the church to pay substantial congregational contributions to our missionaries, the Wakefields and Parkers.

## Church Finance continued

### The Church Loan

- The balance of the church loan was \$324,221 as at June 30. This compares with \$342,908 at June 30 last year.
- Repayments are by deduction from our operating account (currently \$24,000 per year), SHS benefit (11,767 in 2010-11) and the Building Fund (\$8,639 in 2010-11).
- With repayments and building fund contributions at the current level we are expecting to have the church loan paid off in approximately 12 years time. All money collected for the Building Fund is paying off the church loan. Each dollar going into the Building Fund reduces the capital amount owing by a dollar.

### The Wider Work of the Church – Contributions to Missionaries, Living is Giving and Christian Education Associations

- During 2009-10 our church contributed \$33,898 our missionaries, Christian Education Associations and other causes. This is down on the figure of \$38,880 for 2009-10.
- The church did not make a contribution to Living is Giving in 2010-11. Our contribution the previous year was \$9,000.
- A breakdown of contributions is:

Christian Education - PH&C Congregational contribution	3,000
Christian Education – PH&C Individual contributions.	850
Christian Education - NH Congregational contribution	3,000
Christian Education – NH Individual contributions.	935
Wakefields - Congregational contribution	2,500
Wakefields - Individual contributions.	8,644
R and L Parker - Congregational contribution	2,500
R and L Parker - Individual contributions.	8,374
Christmas Bowl - Individual contributions.	848
Easter Thank Offering	700
Uniting Church Flood Appeal	1,065
Samaritans Purse - Christmas Child - Individual contributions.	316
Gordon House - Individual contributions.	257
Exodus Foundation	20
Act for Peace Pakistan Floods Appeal	445
Frontier Services	344
Voice of the Martyrs	100



**KU-RING-GAI  
MALE CHOIR**

# A Winter Warmer



**Sunday 14 August, 2.30pm**

**Hornsby RSL Club 4 High Street Hornsby**

**Conductor** - Dr Paul Whiting **Pianist** - Grace Edwards Barnettson

## Guest Artists

**Warren Fisher**  
Opera Australia



**Karen Bruce**  
Soprano Soloist



**Admission \$14** (inc. GST & booking fee)

Tickets on sale at [www.hornsbyrsl.com.au](http://www.hornsbyrsl.com.au) or tel. 9477 7777

Tickets available from Bruce Sharpham

# Parkers Update

Greetings to everyone from a cold and very burnt Brakpan.

We have been experiencing one of our coldest winters with temperatures below zero most nights.

On Wednesday, July 20, we experienced one of the worst grass fires that I have ever seen on this property. The fire jumped roads, which seldom happens, and also jumped our firebreaks. It has burnt most of the property and our home is surrounded by burnt grass. We praise the Lord that the fire brigade arrived to help us put out the fire near our house and also the campsite. The fire was very powerful, and moved very quickly. Our tractor and water pump were not able to cope.

Please pray for one of our neighbours Jannie, who was taken to hospital for smoke inhalation. He was already quite sick before the fire incident. Jannie also lost feed for his cattle and goats worth R7 000 (\$1,000). Another neighbour lost his father-in-law's caravan. Apart from Richard taking in lots of smoke, we are both doing fine after the fire.

Lindsey is doing well, although she is feeling quite nauseous and tired most days. Please pray for wisdom for us as to what work Lindsey can do.

Our Creche Teacher Training is going very well and it is exciting to see the local ladies starting to lead training days. We see our future role as being trainers of trainers.

We look forward to sharing more with you soon.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support,

Richard and Lindsey



# Wilf Edmondson - Untiring Christian Servant

6/2/1915 to 1/6/2011

On June 15, 2011, a large congregation farewelled their long-time friend and colleague, Wilfred Fell Edmondson, at a thanksgiving service for his life held at the Kenthurst Uniting Church. Previously, a memorial service had been held at the Alston Chapel of the Lincoln Grove Memorial Gardens Crematorium in Tamworth. The service was conducted by Rev. Chris Wright, Chaplain to the U.C. St. Andrews Village and Mackay House retirement complex in Tamworth where Wilf has lived in recent years near his daughter Fay, a nurse at the complex.

At Wilf's own request, the thanksgiving service at Kenthurst was conducted by Rev. Rhonda White, minister of the Wesley Uniting Church, Castle Hill. Some years earlier, Rhonda's first appointment on her ordination was to the Kenthurst Uniting Church, adjacent to Kentgrove Retirement Village where Wilf and his wife Maisie lived for many years after moving from Albion Street, Pennant Hills.

As Wilf himself would probably have agreed, he had strong opinions and was a "straight shooter" with words. But he was also humble and Rev. Rhonda told of two occasions which illustrate these points. The first was soon after she came to the Kenthurst church and Wilf and Maisie "summoned" her to a welcoming morning tea in their villa. With some trepidation she went and Wilf told her that there were some issues he had with the church, one of which was that he did not agree with the appointment of women as church ministers!

A year later, a similar invitation to tea was made and Wilf apologised to Rhonda and told her that he had been quite wrong, that he thought she had done an excellent job and that he had completely changed his mind about women in ministry!

During the service, in response to Rev. Rhonda's invitation, several people paid tribute to Wilf's dedication and service in many areas, one such person being Alan Cadman, the former Federal Member of parliament for the district.

Wilf and Maisie were active members of the Thornleigh Methodist/ Uniting Church from the 1940's to the 1980's, serving God and his people not only in the church context but in the wider community. Wilf was a local preacher, taking services both in the local church and in widespread other locations and he served as a representative of the Leprosy Mission.

From 1951 to 1962 he was general superintendent of the Sunday School which in those days was very large. When the former Methodist Girls' Comrades and Order of Knights were replaced by the Methodist Youth Fellowship, Wilf was appointed as the leader. Former members of that youth fellowship, now grandparents, speak of how they made their commitment to Christ through the ministry of Wilf in those fellowship meetings. When the Uniting Church was formed in 1977, Wilf was elected as the foundation leader (Secretary) of the newly established Council of Elders.

Wilf's missionary activities extended far beyond the local church. Together with others including the late George Banks (Olga's husband), Wilf took the gospel message and Christian fellowship to people in gaols, psychiatric centres and nursing homes, including Berrima Gaol, Emu Plains Prison Farm, North Ryde and Parramatta Psychiatric Centres and Hillmont Hospital (now Ashleigh Lodge, the Presbyterian aged care facility in Hillmont Avenue, Thornleigh). This kind of outreach activity has continued over the years in various forms to the present day with many former and current members of the congregation involved.

Wilf never ceased being a servant of Jesus. Even in his declining months in the nursing home in Tamworth, Wilf was busy trying to help and minister to people. He also kept in touch frequently with his old friends from Thornleigh, among whom Marg and I were privileged to be counted. God will surely have greeted him with "Well done, good and faithful servant".

Sincere sympathy from the congregation at Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church is extended to Wilf's two daughters, Joy Oxlee and Fay McDarmont and their families.

Dick Craymer.

Wilf and Maisie Edmondson at their home in Kentgrove Village  
January 2003





# Important Dates for 2011

## Congregational meetings

September 21  
December 7 AGM



## Church council

August 17  
November 16



## Elders' gathering

October 17

## Working bee

October 29



# Diary Dates

- **KYB** (Know Your Bible) meets at 10.30am each Monday.
- **Ashleigh Lodge Service** is on the third Sunday of the month at 11am.
- **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** normally meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 1pm, and at other times for outings.
- **Men's Woodwork group** Mon at 9am

## August

- Sun 7      8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton  
              10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
- Sun 14     8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton  
              10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
- Sun 21     8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton  
              10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
- Wed 24     *THE LINK DEADLINE*
- Sun 28     8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton  
              10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton

## September

- Sun 4      8.45am Worship (HC) – Rev G Renton  
              10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
- Sun 11     8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton  
              10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
- Sun 18     8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton  
              10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton

# Grounds & Gardening

## August

- 13, 20      R Newton, B Sharpham  
27, 3 Sept   D Firth, A West

# Contact List

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## MINISTER

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	Church office	9980.8411
	Mobile	0418 429 899

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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
Beverly Dunlop	9481.9291	Dianne Thom	9484.2549
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Jim Mein	9980.8670	Sue Wilcockson	9484.1459
Ron Newton	9987.4201	Bruce Williams	9489.6174

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Rev Glen Renton	Email: <a href="mailto:bookings@thornleigh-hillcrestuca.org.au">bookings@thornleigh-hillcrestuca.org.au</a>	

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WEEKLY NOTICES	Brenda Geary	9484.4091
By 6pm Wednesday	Email: <a href="mailto:pb.geary@optusnet.com.au">pb.geary@optusnet.com.au</a>	

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