

# *St. Andrew's Uniting Church News*

*Mission Statement:*

**To bring the Gospel of Christ to  
The People of the Hawkesbury.**

## **Pastoral Leaders' Team (PLT)**

**Rev Je-Kon Oh** 4578 3820 (Office, Bus. Hrs.) ,  
After Hours: 0410 596 991 or 4578 3421.

Email: minister@richmonduniting.org.au

**Mary Avern** (4578 1105), **Margaret Bailey** (4776 1487)

**Lester Vincent** (4575 1507), **Marcia Groom** (4572 2662)

**Bob Thuaux** (4578 2309), **Heather Fairhall** (4571 1019)

**Michelle Dacey** (4574 1312), **Justin Dacey** (4574 1312)

**Sandi Herbert** (4573 1517)

## **Encouragement from the Bible**

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people . . .

*(Galatians 6:7-10)*

**October 2011**



### **8:30am Church**

Traditional worship followed by morning tea & fellowship.

### **10:00am Church**

In conjunction with our Kids' Sunday program. A family celebration including programs from three years old to Secondary Year 9. Morning tea and fellowship follows.

### **6:00pm *Sundays@Six;* In the Auditorium.**

Modern worship with singers, drama and band, plus supper to follow.



## Unsung Heros And Heroines



Our dear friend, Betty has been a regular helper for ages with our Friday Op. Shop. This special lady turns up every Thursday and Friday to help with setting up the Front Hall with goods for sale and she stays until everything is packed away. Our Betty is so quiet that many people do not know her at all. But she is always there, and everyone who knows her, loves having her around. Dear Betty, we hope and pray that you will be with us for many years to come. A big thank-you, and may God bless you for always being ready to help us out!

### October Church Activities (Services—see page 1)

Sat	1	(Clocks <u>Forward</u> 1 hour)	Sun	16	(Kids' Sunday begins)
Mon	3	Bus Trip, Day 1	Mon	17	Playtime 9:30
Tue	4	Bus Trip, Day 2	Wed	19	Fashion Parade 10:00
Wed	5	Bus Trip, Day 3	Wed	19	Presbytery 7:30pm
Thu	6	Fellowship 9:30	Fri	21	Youth Group 7:00pm
Fri	7	I.D.A. Service 10:15	Mon	24	St. Andrews' Singers 9:30
Sat	8	Blokes 'n Sheds 7:30	Mon	24	Playtime 9:30
Mon	10	Playtime 9:30	Wed	26	M.O.P.S. 9:45
Wed	12	M.O.P.S. 9:45	Thu	27	Seniors' Lunch 12:00
Wed	12	PLT meeting 7:30pm	Fri	28	Youth Group 7:00pm
Thu	13	Coffee'n Chat from 10:00	Mon	31	Playtime 9:30
Fri	14	Youth Group 7:00pm			

## Our Father's Day Present



A hearty thank-you to our good friends, Rudy and Meryl Heynsdyk, who this Father's Day, presented us with a special hand-made plaque to commemorate the occasion. We thank God for the Heynsdyks, and hope Rudy's Father's Day with his family was the best ever!

## The Intellectually Disabled Adults (I.D.A.) Service

This service is held at 10:15am on the first Friday of the month.

Attendance is increasing and everyone is welcome!

The next service is on Friday 7th October.

More information from Margaret Bailey 4776 1487

# Seniors' Lunch

After being entertained by Kurrajong Primary School Band and enjoying our lunch, we sat back to listen to Presentations by Judy Neate and Meigan Williams on the work of 'Peppercorn Services'.

'Peppercorn' normally indicates a nominal fee for services of some kind and the services available in the Hawkesbury cover just about every eventuality.

The Hawkesbury Senior's Leisure and learning Centre on March Street has a comprehensive programme for every weekday, including a Saturday morning 'Heart Moves' exercise session.

Want to learn French, Italian, Computer and discussion of literature? What about Indoor Games, Exercise Classes or Home Cooked Lunches on Tuesday and Thursday?

Peppercorn Services provide transport to Day Centres for activities for groups including disability groups. There is a shopping bus on Monday to the Marketplace and Coles with door-to-door service. There are social outings once a month—perhaps to Bunnings or coffee somewhere.

Visits to Gardens or Historic Sites two or three times a year with a subsidised rate by Hawkesbury Council. There is a volunteer programme of volunteer drivers and carers, funded by the Cancer Council to take people to Nepean Hospital for medical appointments.



*Judy and Mary*

Everything in Peppercorn Services is geared to helping in their daily lives, socially and in quality of living, giving strong support where vitally needed.

Meigan is the manager of Community, Youth and Family needs, looking to help provide programmes which will improve lifestyles and reduce the incidence of child abuse. Meigan receives feedback from the public and schools. 'Family Support' is funded by Hawkesbury City Council and covers parenting, meetings and Advocacy and is 'needs-driven', looking to strengthen and help families recover from abusive situations in the 0 to 5 year old range.

Both Judy and Meigan are fully committed to their work in helping others to live fulfilling lives.

Their energy and enthusiasm helped us to understand more of what is happening in our wider community.

## Worship Planner & Kids' Texts for October 2011

Date	8:30am	10am	6pm	Remarks
<b>2 October</b> (Pentecost 16)	Je-Kon Oh (HC)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	
<b>9 October</b> (Pentecost 17)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	
<b>16 October</b> (Pentecost 18)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh (HC)	Paul Mowen	Kids' Sunday begins.
<b>23 October</b> (Pentecost 19)	Cherie Strudwick	Cherie Strudwick	Tony Blake	
<b>30 October</b> (Pentecost 20)	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	Je-Kon Oh	

*\*Note: This Worship Plan can be changed at any time.*

## Lectionary Planner for October 2011 (Year A)

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
<b>2 October</b> Worldwide Communion Sunday	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Psalm 19	Philippians 3:4b -14	Matthew 21:33-46
<b>9 October</b> Thanksgiving Sunday	Exodus 32:1-14	Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
<b>16 October</b> World Food Sunday	Exodus 33:12-23	Psalm 99	1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
<b>23 October</b> Peace Sunday	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Psalm 1	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46
<b>30 October</b> Pentecost 20	Joshua 3:7-17	Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12

\* KIDS' SUNDAY Bible Texts are all from the Old Testament, i.e. Exodus, Deuteronomy and Joshua.

\* The 10am Service Leaders' Meeting will be held in the Interview Room at 11:30am on Sunday 16 October 2011.

## A Precis of Rev. Je-Kon Oh's Sermon—in the space available

Precis by John Sturgess of Je-Kon Oh's sermon

**On Sunday 18 Sept. Rev. Je-Kon Oh** gave a very clear sermon based on Mathew chap. 22, verses 22-34. These few words can be read and understood without difficulty. As Je-Kon said, sermons are not usually based on such a simple Bible text. Many in the congregation must have wondered, "maybe a short sermon?" Je-Kon explained that the Pharisees had got together to discuss how to discredit Jesus. They decided to ask him a question on Jewish law and expected an immediate answer. It was indeed a challenging task.

The person who asked the question was not someone who wanted to know about the law. He was one of the law experts. He put Jesus to the test. It was a trap. It had been decided to ask what was the great(est) commandment.

When you hear the word 'commandment', you may think of the Ten Commandments, but unfortunately there were more than ten commandments in Jewish law; about 600 commandments.

Law experts put Jesus into this difficult test, fixing their eyes closely on him.

In this hot seat, Jesus seems not to have paused to blink. He quoted back to his interrogator two positive commandments that begin with the words, "You shall love . . ." The first one from Deuteronomy 6:5, "You shall

love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind." It means you shall love God totally with all your being. And the next was from Leviticus 19:18, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." It means you shall love your neighbour as totally as you love yourself. Jesus chose two commandments about 'love'. He said that the essence of the entire Jewish law system was about love in the end.

The apostle Paul put it similarly, "If I could speak any language in heaven or on earth, but I didn't love others, I would only be making a meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging symbol.

I mentioned earlier some problems in the Jewish law system, but when we reflect on our own church history, we find the church has sometimes made similar mistakes. There are plenty of examples. One of the reasons or such mistakes was that some Christians forgot the essence of Christian faith.

Sadly, in some Christian communities love is taken over by some dogmatics, success and wealth.

Let me ask you now, can you explain to others about what Christian faith is in less than five minutes? Jesus tells us, "you shall love." He bound two important commandments into one, 'You shall love God and your neighbour.'

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

-National Shoe Box Collection

*"You have the power to impact a life!"*

Our Congregation, along with many others throughout Australia, is participating in this opportunity to share with overseas children and families in need.

*'Samaritan's Purse is a non-profit Christian organisation providing*

*emergency relief and development assistance to suffering people around the world. Samaritan's Purse is meeting the physical needs of victims of war, famine, natural disaster and disease with the aim of demonstrating God's love and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

*By participating in Operation Christmas Child you have the power to share God's unconditional love with a child in desperate need. Because that's what Samaritan's Purse does through Operation Christmas Child ... one life ... one child at a time.'*

Collect a pamphlet from Heather Fairhall or the Church Office, along with a "standard size" shoebox, and start selecting your items. Stick the appropriate label onto your box to identify your gift for a boy or girl and their age.

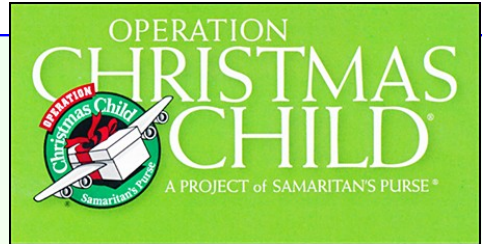
Your filled shoebox will go to a child in need, somewhere overseas. Ideas for items to include are given in the pamphlet along with a list of items that should not be given. You can also include, if you wish, a note or photo.

A donation of \$9.00 or more needs to be placed in each box, in an envelope, to cover freight and delivery. This can be cash, or a cheque made out to "Richmond Uniting Church", as we will send a total cheque from our church for all boxes sent.

All boxes must be left in the Church Office by **SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER**, and we will deliver them to the Samaritan's distribution centre.

For further information, please contact Heather Fairhall (4571 1019)

Web: <http://www.samaritanspurse.org.au/>OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD  
-National Shoe Box Collection





## Book Review

By Cicely Sturgess

There are two books in the Church Library which are guaranteed to challenge our knowledge of Old and New Testament Scriptures.

**'90 Minutes in Heaven' – Don Piper / Cecil Murphy**

**'The Boy who came back from Heaven' – Alex and Kevin Malarkey**

Both man and boy were Christians. Each was involved in a fatal car accident, and encountered an 'out-of-this-world' experience.

**Don's Story** is that of a man with adult perceptions and feelings. He describes being immediately in an atmosphere of love, warmth and light. People he knew came to welcome him and escort him toward the gateway into heaven itself. All around him he heard the sound of angel's wings and glorious music of every kind. He had no memory of his family on earth or awareness of time.

In front of him was a great wall which seemed to have no ending. As the group moved forward, the music and light intensified. He could recognise hymns and chants and praise of every kind, each perfect in itself and distinctive, yet part of a complete whole, glorifying God.

He longed to enter into the Presence of God, to be received by Him, to know the greatest joy that a human being can feel. He moved toward the gate with that expectation and joy in his heart.

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**Back on earth,** although for 90 Minutes he was pronounced dead, a Minister at the accident scene was moved by God to pray that Don should live. His body was crushed and broken. The Minister prayed for life to return to him and specifically that no internal organ, including his brain, would be damaged. Still regarded as dead he was taken to a hospital where vital signs began to show.

**Alex's story** as told to his father when he started to communicate, is boyish, practical, no-fuss. He was 6 yrs old when his father's car was hit by another car. Alex's neck was broken and his head hung down supported only by muscles. His father was apparently tossed out of the driver's seat.

Alex tells it differently. He stood with Jesus in heaven watching the accident scene. He saw three big angels carry his father to the grass verge.

**On earth,** a lady 'saw' three small angels holding up a boy's head as his body



was placed on a stretcher, and she prayed about what she was seeing. Another lady, an artist, also 'saw' the accident and painted a picture of three angels holding up the child's head.

In a matter of fact way Alex said that he had seen angels in heaven, and had spoken to God. He was told that he could not stay there; some experiences he could tell. Others must not be told.

**In both stories** Don and Alex wanted to stay. What Don longed to see – the face of his Heavenly Father, Alex did not mention. Everything was practical. God is, Jesus is, Angels are, Heaven is.

On return to their earthly bodies each suffered continual excruciating pain and disability. For Don it is on-going, for Alex it is partially manageable.

These stories are out on the Internet and are part of the on-going ministries of Rev Don Piper, and Kevin and Alex Malarkey and their families as they reach out to people who need God in their hearts.

The actual accounts of heaven take only a few pages of these two books. The rest of the books deal with the impacts on their families, coping with inability to do anything at all, having constant hospital admissions, depression, anger, pain. Several years went by with a constant stream of helpers, of questioning on Don's part, of managing with the rods in his legs, of partially resuming his church ministry and helping others come to terms with extremely painful recoveries from

accidents. He could help others because of the pain which never leaves him. Later when officiating at funerals he could assure people so much more deeply that being in the Presence of God wipes out all sorrow and replaces it with Joy.

Alex had to learn to talk again, to live in his wheelchair, and gradually, after several years ( supported by slings) experience a semblance of walking. He was able to socialise with his brother and other children but would never walk alone again. He too had rods in his back to keep his body upright.

Reading this book, the transformation of Kevin Malarkey as he had to come to God in his despair, was a miracle in its own right. He had such a burden of guilt about the accident and was forever castigating himself that it was his carelessness which had caused the accident. What set him free was that when Alex could eventually speak, he told his father that the other car was hidden in a dip in the road and it was too late for him to warn his father.

Likewise, these testimonies have helped many people to come to the Lord and for others to desire a closer relationship with Him.

NB. Please put your name and phone number on the borrowing list if you would like to read these books.

# Blokes 'n Sheds

John Thornton is a Christian leader who admits to enjoying the company of 'pagans' as much, if not more, than the company of many who inhabit our churches.

He credits key people in his Christian conversion as being local street kids with whom he worked for several years. John enjoyed a career in the Melbourne textile trade before entering full time ministry; but above all he is a 'sports nut' who has a perverse habit of supporting football clubs that others either hate or have never heard of!



He betrays his Victorian background with the title of his talk – 'Why Jesus would support the Collingwood Football Club.'

## [Our next meeting is Saturday 8 October at 7:30am](#)

Come along, bring one or two guests and see if John can convince you that Jesus would support Collingwood!

We all know that Jesus could do this, the real question is whether Jesus really would.

As usual, a good old fashioned men's breakfast will be served, or for those with excess kilos, a lighter version with cereal and without much cholesterol or excess calories.

Same price, \$5 and no service charge, but don't forget Bob Thuaux 4578 2309, or Lester Vincent 4575 1507 need to know who will be attending so they can go shopping.

It will be another satisfying Blokes meeting. You will enjoy the company!

Please note that the above mention of a service charge is supposed to be a joke. The kitchen staff is still satisfied with their remuneration (zero) and are not threatening to strike (yet). On the other hand, it is always possible to express your satisfaction via Andy's Bus Donation Box.

## The Tribulations of being an Editor

Once more,, the request on the back page of this Newsletter: “Please send your news and views and other articles for the newsletter.” has produced another interesting article **from Bruce Fairhall**:

John, I thought this might be of interest to you - clipped from another (recent) magazine.

### HEAD-HITTER

The origin of the word editor was long lost in the mists of obscurity. It has however, recently been ascertained that, owing to the continued series of perplexities and mental struggles endured by the unfortunate race in question, they have been from the earliest times in the habit of slapping their forehead with their hands. Hence the term Head-hitter corrupted by degrees into Editor.

*Illustrated London News, 30 January 1847  
'Communication from the Philological Society')*

Bruce, Thank you for your article.

In 1847, 164 years ago, it may have been thought that the respected name ‘Editor’ was derived from the action of a stressed person hitting his or her forehead in desperation. But it is well know that meanings and derivations of words often change over time.

‘Editor’ could have been derived from HEAD-HITTING, but by self infliction is unlikely, Why? Simply because for at least the last 100 years it has been accepted that ‘Editor’ is derived from **HEAD-EATER**.

This fact is still current and hack reporters may forget it at their peril.

*John Sturgess, Newsletter Editor,  
St. Andrews’ Uniting Church Richmond.*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING DURING THE WEEK



### SUNDAYS

**Paddlers** Age 3 to Kinder: 10:00 -11.15am (Heather Fairhall 4571 1019)

**Kids Sunday** Years 1-5: 10:00 -11.15am (Robyn Duignan 4572 7517)

**GWU** Junior High Youth Years 7-9: 10:00 -11.15am (Greg. Inskip 4573 1002)

### MONDAYS

**Playtime** 9.30am -11.30am Parents and preschoolers (Caroline Kidd 4578 5583)

**Andy's Hands-on-Help** 9.00am -1:00 pm, Maintenance & Fellowship. (Bob Thuaux 4578 2309)

### TUESDAYS

**Church Council** 7.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Tues in odd numbered months. (Greg. Inskip 4573 1002)

**Pastoral Leaders Team** 7.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday even numbered months. (Je-Kon Oh)

### WEDNESDAYS

**M.O.P.S** 9.45-11.45am Fortnightly in school terms for Mums and preschoolers.

(Rachel Pilcher 4578 0001)

### THURSDAYS

**Senior's Bible Study** 12 noon -1.30pm Bible Study (except 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday)

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday: **Adult Fellowship** 9:30am (Irene Milne 4578 1482)

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday: **Coffee 'n Chat** from 10:00am

3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays: **Seniors All Together** 10:00am – 12 noon

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday: **Seniors Lunch** 12:00 –1:45pm

For information on Thursday seniors' activities contact Sandi Herbert (4573 1517)

### FRIDAYS

**Op Shop** 7:30am -12 noon clothes and wares. (Anthea Inskip 4573 1002)

**Youth Group** (Years 6-10) 7:00pm every week in school term. (Greg. Inskip 4573 1002)

**SATURDAYS** **Blokes 'n Sheds**, alternative months at 7:30am (Bob Thuaux 4578 2309)

**SMALL/HOME GROUPS are a valuable and integral part of St Andrew's ministry.**

*We encourage all members to join a group. For further information please speak to our Minister Rev. Je-Kon Oh - Phone 4578 3421 (Home)*

### CHURCH OFFICE

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Web: [www.richmonduniting.org.au](http://www.richmonduniting.org.au)

*Please send your news, views and other articles for the newsletter.*

*email [jcsturgess@westnet.com.au](mailto:jcsturgess@westnet.com.au)*

Church Administrator: Bruce Fairhall: 4571 1019

## St. Andrew's Uniting Church

**25 West Market Street, Richmond, NSW**

A congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia.

St. Andrew's is a member of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations.