



Dear Friends,

June 1991 has been an exciting one for Northside Parish. About 60 people participated on two Sunday afternoons and worked very hard together to develop a long range plan for our Parish. We discovered that we are larger and stronger than we thought at first. We serve over 600 people in mission during a year.

We also realised that we can do a lot more and that by working smarter (not harder) we may be able to achieve more in mission during the next two to five years.

After looking at various key areas of our Parish life and mission we agreed to concentrate on developing our strengths, on doing even better what we do relatively well now. Having developed some of these strengths we will seek to add and develop some new strengths in the next few years.

This is not simply an exercise of creating a list of what we as members 'want'. We are trying together to discover what it is that God wants us to accomplish in mission in this community. This is an on-going process and for this we seek your prayers.

At the last meeting it was decided that the three areas that we believe we should concentrate on are:

1. Worship;
2. Visiting and
3. Participatory Decision making.

The detailed objectives and timetable will be finalised in the first week of July and shared with members as soon as possible after that.

This long range plan will be reviewed and brought up to date by the members of the parish each year. It is my earnest prayer

1. that all members and adherents will find through this plan a way in which they can meaningfully participate in the life and mission of the parish and

2. that as a result many people in the community will come to see the relevance of the Christian good news for their lives and for their community.

Some of our best years in MISSION are before us!

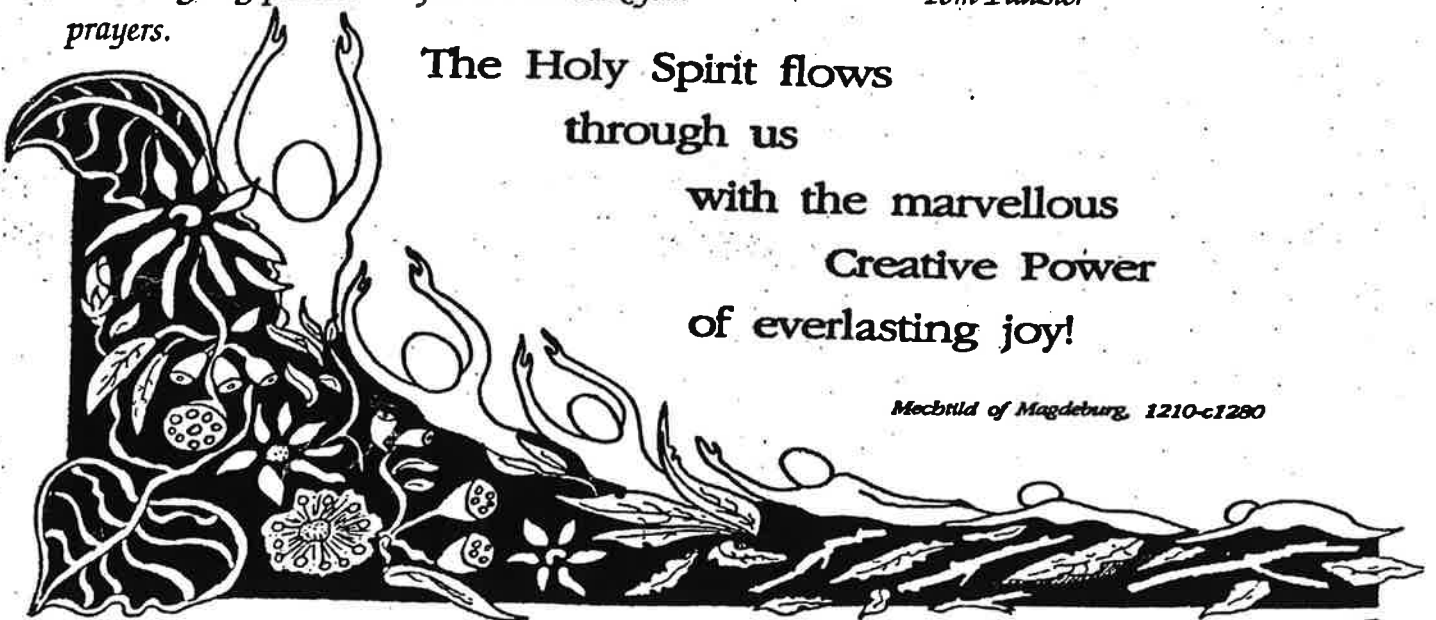
Your minister

Tom Plaizier

The Holy Spirit flows
through us

with the marvellous
Creative Power
of everlasting joy!

Mechtild of Magdeburg, 1210-c1280





Northside Parish
The Uniting Church
in Australia

with churches at
Shirley Rd & Nicholson St,
Crows Nest
6 Holtermann St Crows Nest

Worship Services

Sunday

9.00 am Holtermann Street
10.30 am Shirley Road

Last Thursday

2.30 pm James Milson Home

1st & 3rd Wednesday

10.15 am Georgian House

Groups

Every Sunday 7.30 pm

1st & 2nd 19 Lithgow St
3rd & 4th 1 Eastview St
(Linda McDonald/John Lee
... 438 2626

Judith/Allan Watts ... 439 1861)

Women's Fellowships

2nd Wed 1.30 pm Shirley Road
(Margaret Sangster ... 439 2602)

4th Wed 10.00 am Georgian House
(Mavis Thornton ... 955 8540)

Parish

Office: 10 Holtermann St
(PO Box 419 CROWS NEST 2065)
Phones 439 6033, 439 6015

Minister: Rev Tom Plaizier
11 Lamont St, Crows Nest
Phone Office: 439 6015
Residence: 436 4291

Administrator: Bruce Watters
Office (Mon, Thu): 439 6033
Residence: 955 7593

Parish Elders Council

Secretary: Margaret Sangster ...
439 2602

Parish Council

Secretary: Erica Wylie...419 6170
Treasurer: ...

Shirley Road Congregation

Secretary: Margaret Sangster ...
439 2602

Holtermann Street

Congregation

Secretary: Bruce Watters ...
955 7593

Northsider

Items for Northsider may be left
in the manse letter box.



Junior Church



Sing a New Song

What do birds and children do when they are happy?

What songs do you like singing?

Do you know the name of some birds?

How many birds and children are in this picture?

Parents may wish to talk to their children about the hope we were given in Christ. They may also talk about the new songs or new ways we can bring that hope to our world by raising our voices in praise. By singing new songs with words that tell in today's words of God's love.



Shirley Road Pre-School News

John Lee has easily moved into the Chairperson's role as a parent with nurse educator background, whilst Frances Brand brings insights through teacher training and community insights to the job of secretary.

New multi purpose swings will be installed shortly to replace worn equipment.

The election cake stall delighted the parents and set them thinking about ways to share their culinary genius.

The staff continue to provide happy and consistently pleasant guidance to a contented group of youngsters.

Election Euphoria!!

Politicians may well say "Let them eat cake". The voters certainly elected to buy all the goods provided. Holtermann's street stall at Waverton sold out rapidly. Shirley Road's- three spots reported roaring trades, whilst the Watts and McDonald Lees innovated with a hot dog stand selling likehot dogs. The Manse saw a lively trade for many hours for Taldemunde. With even more goods coming from Colour Code in Willoughby Road (many thanks) children watched videos at the manse. So all in all there was- much action and activity and enthusiasm.

Well done!!!



Many Farewells

Janelle and Rob Fisher have moved to Mosman Uniting Church, however their significant input in church, property supervision and development, finances, pre-school and church life will be a continuing source of satisfaction to many. The Parish extends good wishes for great joy in the exercise of their many and varied gifts (They are just down the road).

Shirley Parkin takes with her the special prayers of the church in her new position in Canberra Church. Shirley's significant input on church worship and her care and concern for members is well recognised. Whilst physically distant, we assure her of our continuing support in exercising her many gifts.

Bev Cameron is now ministering in West Pennant Hills Uniting Parish (Bethlehem Church). Bev has entered her parish with her usual enthusiasm, thoroughness and sincere planning. As Bev enjoys the challenge, we continue to assure her of our availability for support and care.

Bruce Roy - though last in farewell, will continue his links in preaching and planning *Northsider*. Bruce's consistent input and thorough and ordered approach have brought a particular direction to our parish newsletter. His worship services have further reflected his sincerity, planning and presentation. Many thanks for time spent at computer and photocopier and for your continuing support.

Welcome

Leonie Hill now works as part-time chaplain on two days at Georgian House and Wylie Lodge. We look forward with enthusiasm to her continuing pastoral input there. An opportunity for Leonie to meet members will be possible shortly.



Adventuring

It was a cold windy afternoon. Ideal for reading a book. I put on a Mozart piano concerto - No. 21, picked up my half read murder mystery, sat down in my favourite chair and began to read.

The music slowly began to seep through my whole being and took over all my attention. I no longer cared who-done-it. I put down the book, closed my eyes and sat enraptured as Mozart's genius swept me upwards to another element of being. Afterwards, still in a blissful state of contentment, I mused over this controversial musical personality who died 200 years ago and whose legacy to us is somehow eternally linked to our inner senses. So stimulated, thoughts float and soar into things beyond the present, of beauty and of happiness.

It is a constant delight to find how others' talents can contribute to one's development, gradual though it may be, to a more complete human being, and how such encounters are an on-going adventure.

Geoff Caton



Some Directions for People Facing Unemployment

During the past month I have attended two workshops on redundancy and unemployment. You may, like me, have spoken to a number of people with possible job changes pending. The C.E.S. has a number of booklets, pamphlets and retraining options available from local C.E.S. job centres, career reference centres or Occupational Research and Information Centre, 20th Floor, Sydney Plaza Building, 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney (G.P.O. Box 9880, Sydney, NSW 2001) Tel: 218-8613 FAX: 217-8397.

Two helpful books for people undergoing job changes are:

- **Career Transitions** by Paul Stephens

- **What Colour is your Rainbow** (a particularly creative book updated to 1991's climate)

People undergoing the real grief of job changes face losses in peer groups, motivation, financial stability and status.

Some practical suggestions, once they have been enabled to sort through the shock and confusion of their situation, can help in providing direction and focus, thus relieving the stress and assuring them that just as there are some predictable reactions, there are also some available resources. Even when faced with alternatives, then to know someone bothered to understand and guide can assist in healing and restructuring.

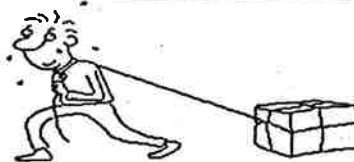
Bev Plaizier

Did you go to work this week?

The answer to that question might seem obvious. But after a few weeks grappling with the question of just what is work, we at home group have come to realise that it is an issue worth considering.

Work in its various forms takes up a large slice of our lives, whether it is being paid for what we do, working at home, voluntary work or unemployment.

We looked at questions such as: What is the meaning of work? Is there a relationship between our work and our vocation as Christians? What is the relative value of different types of work, such as office work, parenting or manual labouring? Who decides



these things. Work is certainly much more than going to the office each day and getting paid for it.

A very interesting series of discussions revolved around these questions, and we have all learnt a lot from them. The studies were provided by ITIM, the inter-church trade and industry mission, an organisation involved in examining christian issues in the workplace

Have a think now. God considers all work as valuable, and calls to us through our lives, including our jobs, to do his work. What work have you done this week?

People in our parish: Stephen Brand

Stephen was reared in a Methodist Parsonage with an older brother and sister; this meant a number of moves to various parts of Sydney and one period of two years in Adamstown. His Mother loved to sing, both in Church and in the home. His father's work was involved with enrichment of family life and mental health. It is of interest that the Reverend Mr Brand was the first Methodist chaplain to be appointed to Callan Park Psychiatric Hospital.

Secondary schooling was completed at Drummoynne Boys' High and he then went on to complete a Social Work degree at the University of NSW in 1972. Stephen's first job was with the Department of Social Security - an exciting time for him in the early Whitlam era with its explosion of welfare issues. After about five years, he worked for the Health Commission at Rockdale with a team on a community development model. Wanting to return to casework, Stephen moved to the Rockdale Community Centre and, after three years, he moved to the Bondi Community Centre where he carried out casework and group work with a multi-discipline team for four years. Wishing to refine his Social Work skills, Stephen transferred three and a half years ago to the North Sydney Community Mental Health Centre. Stephen will describe his present work in a separate article.

In 1975 Stephen married Frances, an Infants' Teacher; they lived in Crows Nest and, more recently, Lane Cove. Many years ago they travelled through India for ten weeks and, the following year, they trekked through Nepal for five weeks. In 1980 they bought a car and travelled for a year in Europe. Further travelling of this

nature has been postponed for a while as son James arrived in 1985, Rosalie in 1987 and Martin in 1991.

Stephen's interests and hobbies include bush-walking, bird watching (a bit difficult with a couple of energetic and talkative young ones in tow), gardening, doing handyman jobs around the house, singing (he has appeared in many musical plays staged by the Eastwood Uniting Church Musical Society) and studying. After completing his Social Work Degree Stephen finished half an Arts degree at Macquarie Univer-

sity; he would like to exercise his brain with further studies in the future.

Life has had its dark moments for Stephen in that he developed polio as a toddler resulting in twelve months comparative isolation from his family; when he was thirteen he underwent major surgery necessitating more hospitalization and there was further corrective surgery eight years later. Participation in physical activities at school was limited but, later, Stephen was able to play competitive squash at Macquarie University.

As sometimes happens with children of ministers, Stephen ceased being involved with the Church in early adulthood. Five or six years ago he started to become involved with church life as he felt there was something missing in his own life. Stephen is becoming more and more involved in church life, having recently become an Elder; together with Frances, who has just become the Secretary of the Pre-School, and the children, a very positive and growing contribution is being made.



The Two Brians

A few weeks ago, Brian Entwhistle spoke to the Board for Social Responsibility Support Group about the work of Camp Quality. In 1983, Vera Entwhistle, Brian's wife, seeing a great need for help to children with terminal cancer and their parents, set up the community funded endeavour known as Camp Quality. The aim is to enrich the lives of the children and to give support to the parents. Since 1983 camps have spread throughout Australia and to seven other countries.

The children attend, free of charge, week long camps, supervised by medical and nursing staff and each child is accompanied by a volunteer adult carer. The children can do whatever they like at camp, or nothing at all, depending on how they feel; they can ride in a helicopter, go hot air ballooning, abseiling, canoeing, fishing, practice archery, pottery and horse riding, to name a few of the activities. For others, who are less mobile, there are Sailing Camps and also Ski Camps for amputees.

Brian told us about several individual children with cancer, but I would like to tell you about 10 years old Brian, who had leukaemia. Big Brian was his companion at camps over a five year period and he maintained contact in between camps. One day, little Brian asked his companion "What is it like when you die and go to Heaven?" Big Brian, who had been asked this question by children before, answered "You know when you have been out with Mummy and Daddy and you go to sleep in the car - Daddy picks you up when you arrive home and carries you in and puts you into your own bed; you half wake up, but when you realise you are safe and in your own bed, you settle down happily and go to sleep again. That is what dying and going to heaven is like." Little Brian seemed contented to accept this answer at the time, but a day or so later he said to Big Brian, "I've been thinking about what you told me about dying and going to Heaven and I don't think it is like you said. I think it is like this - you know when you see a ship at sea and it sails away, getting smaller and smaller until just a speck on the horizon and then it disappears. You can see it no more, but the ship is still there and the people on that ship are the same as they were when the ship was in port - it is just that you can no longer see them." At his last camp he hugged big Brian, saying "Goodbye, I'll see you again upstairs."

As I heard this story, the following verse in the Bible came into my mind: "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child, will never enter it."

Jo Melville