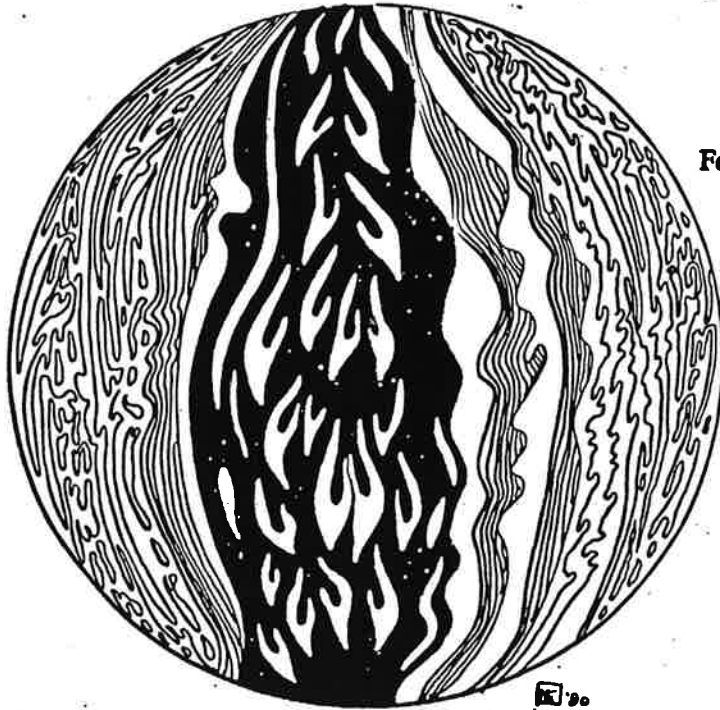




# Northsider



May 1991



Feel the Holy Spirit  
Moving  
and compelling  
you within the flowing  
Fire  
and Light  
of God.

*Mechtild of Magdeburg*

*Our visit for a few days to the World Council of Churches Assembly in Canberra during February was both exciting and inspiring. Exciting because I met again 2 friends from Holland and Scotland whom I had not seen since 1971 in Bossey.*

*It was exciting as we saw people from all over the world from various Christian traditions struggle with the theme: 'Come Holy Spirit - renew the whole creation.' I attended a workshop on a sub-theme 'Come Holy Spirit - set us free' and the emphasis was on discovering freedom in the local Parish. It left me with a certainty that the Holy Spirit has done mighty things in many Parishes and other places - also that our own Parish has already been given a great deal of freedom and power and that it is now up to us to make use of these gifts.*

*During the next few months we will have a chance to do so as we become involved in a program of long range planning for the future work, worship and witness in our Parish and in our Northside community. The main planning meetings will take place on 2nd and 16th June.*

*My deepest wish is that we not only use the freedom that we have, but that we give God some freedom and not tie Him down to our own preconceived ideas and expectations.*

*It is with hope and expectation that we look to the future with a trust that the best years of mission lie ahead of us!*

Tom



## Northside Parish

The Uniting Church in Australia

serving the suburbs of  
 Crows Nest, Milsons Point, North Sydney,  
 St Leonards, Waverton and Wollstonecraft  
 with churches at  
 Shirley Road (& Nicholson Street), Crows Nest  
 and 6 Holtermann Street, Crows Nest.

### Worship Services:

#### SUNDAY (with Sunday School)

(Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month and on major festival days)

9.00 am - 6 Holtermann Street

10.30 am - cnr Shirley Rd & Nicholson St

#### Last Thursday

2.30 pm - James Milson Home

#### 1st & 3rd Wednesday

10.15 am - Georgian House

### Groups:

#### Home Group

SUN 7.30 pm

1st & 2nd 19 Lithgow St

3rd & 4th 1 Eastview St

(John Lee/Linda McDonald... 438 2626

or Allan/Judith Watts... 439 1861)

#### Shirley Road Women's Fellowship

2nd Wed 1.30 pm Shirley Road

(Margaret Sangster... 439 2602)

#### Holtermann Street Women's Fellowship

4th Wed 10.00 am Georgian House

(Mavis Thornton... 955 8540)

### PARISH

#### Office:

10 Holtermann Street

(PO Box 419, Crows Nest 2065)

Phones 439 6033, 439 6015

#### Minister:

Rev Tom Plaizier

11 Lamont Street, CROWS NEST

Phone Office... 439 6015

Residence... 436 4291

#### Administrator:

Bruce Watters

Office (Mo, Th)... 439 6033

Residence... 955 7593

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### Secretary:

Erica Wylie... 419 6170

#### Treasurer:

Rob Fisher... 439 4858

### PARISH ELDERS COUNCIL

3rd Wed 7.00 pm Parish Office

Secretary: Margaret Sangster... 439 2602

### SHIRLEY ROAD CONGREGATION

Secretary Margaret Sangster... 439 2602

### HOLTERMANN STREET CONGREGATION

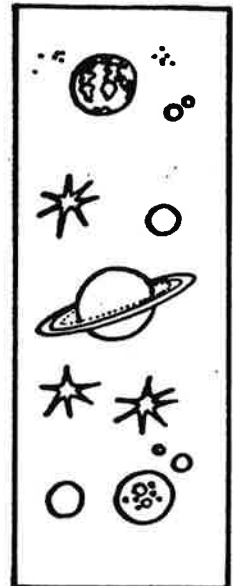
Secretary Bruce Watters... 955 7593

Northsider is published monthly except January.

For issue on the last Sunday of the month preceding.

Items should be left at the Minister's Residence or with a member of the committee.

# Junior Church



## GOD'S GLORY

Colour in these pictures showing God's glory in the plants, seas and oceans, stars and planets.

## Together we can make a difference !

### Election day

Our two projects are:-

• Garage sale at the Minister's Residence — proceeds to Taldumande Youth Refuge.

Start looking through your household belongings for anything you can spare. Bring any small articles to Church as soon as possible please. Contact Stephen Brand for further information: 428 5866

• Sales table outside Shirley Road Church, and, continuing the Uniting Church's presence in Waverton, in Bay Road opposite the Church Hall which will be used as the Polling Booth on that

day. All proceeds to the Church.

Could all cooks, please, start thinking about cakes, biscuits, slices, jams etc., all gardeners start potting plants, all handicraft people start making goods and all readers, please, select for sale all books you no longer need.

We shall have an unlimited supply of potential buyers — here's hoping we can provide sufficient goods for sale!

The Shirley Road Pre-school will have a sales table from 12.30 P.M. on Election Day.

*Jo McEville*

## Racing Demon

Wharf Theatre, Walsh Bay

Two vicars are sitting in the lounge at the Savoy slowly getting drunk on Tequila Sunrises as they try to persuade a sober evangelical curate not to give evidence to his Bishop on the shortcomings of his vicar.

Chortles abound in the many scenes of this play as it lays bare to the public gaze the lives of a team of Anglican Ministers in an inner London parish.

The audience is privy to many innermost thoughts on dogma and ritual and on the relationships with God and with man.

This fast moving play is well produced and cast. It offers a splendid evening out with hours and hours of post mortems.

*Geoff Caton*



## Food for Thought

For three seasons now I have had the same malnourished Ethiopian child dying in my lounge room. My donations do not seem to have helped, and my guilt, arising from living in my basic opulence, in contrast to what I see on my TV screen, becomes uncomfortable each time. I feel hopeless and helpless. But also angry.

The relief systems of helping agencies have major goals for their clients, whether they be individuals, groups or nations. These are to develop self reliance and self determination based on the resources of that client. The initial goal is usually help in removing dependency, for no client can reach any level of maturity by leaning on someone else, no matter how well meaning that someone else may be, or appears to be.

## Autumn Reflection

I was standing warmly musing in the autumn sunshine as my eyes took in the calm blue bay and the trim beach at Balmoral, when I was startled by a metallic crash alongside me. "Great day" sounded in my ear. I turned to find a bus driver who had just plonked his cash box on the sandstone promenade wall.

"It is... that water looks great for a swim ... this beach has so many happy memories for Sydney families."

"Is this where someone tried to shoot the Duke of Edinburgh?"

"No, it was just around that headland on the other shore at Clontarf. But what was interesting here was an open air theatre for people to watch the second coming

of Christ through the Heads."

"I am not sure about the first coming," he said.

Well ... from there on we talked about people's gullibility, life, death, shark nets, religion, water tanks and families, in a flowing, but somehow disjointed way, as we picked up on each other's thoughts. Both gazing at the harbour scene and not really looking at the other. It was a short friendly encounter so fittingly made possible by a glorious setting and a sudden sense of a peaceful companion.

"Oh well ... back to work," he said, picking up his cash box and returning to his bus.

"I guess so. See ya." I stood there alone but felt that we had both shared something very human.

*Geoff Caton*



In thinking about the problems of world hunger, the American authors, Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins, in their book "World Hunger - 10 Myths", pursue these thoughts. They point out that hunger in a country is not as the result of scarce resources of food, of too many people or lack of desire for change. It is because there is a system of control of resources in which the decision makers are minimal and self seeking. The U.S. aid given goes into that system of control and so increases the power in the hands of that special few. This lessens the power of the people and blocks hopes for change.

This book backs up these conclusions with an impressive list of resource material.

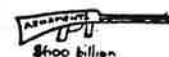
*Geoff Caton*

## Pontius' Puddle



### Did you know that:

- 250,000 children die every week in the Third World due to malnutrition, poor hygiene, dirty water and disease.
- The cost of ensuring a safe water supply for all people is estimated at \$3 - 4 billion per year.
- The world spends \$600 billion on armaments per year.



### In Australia:

- An estimated 2.5 million Australians live below the poverty line.
- 10% of the population owns more than 60% of the wealth.
- Up to 40,000 people are homeless and a further 60,000 people lack secure housing.



## Peace at any Price?

A tragic wave of human misery has crossed our screens for many months. We were told that peace was returning to the Gulf.

But with its supposed return comes the awareness of the legacy of human displacement; misery and hunger.

Whilst irreparable long term damage to species and organisms has left a void.

Alongside these appalling events, poverty stricken Bangladesh faces the aftermath of devastating floods.

Food shipments are being rushed to aid African countries set to face a severe famine. Its magnitude like that of the Geldorf Appeal famine. Closer to home unemployment has seen an increase in poverty.

A kind of "care fatigue" or apathy may lead us to look at our own economic problems (hardly comparable) and maybe shut down our response to both situations.

Or we may ask what can one person really do? What does it really matter if I don't get involved?

Aligning ourselves with the poor and marginalised can release that strong and Christlike vision to bring change, healing and hope.

"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

*Rev. Plaizier*

Rev. David Gill of the A.C.C. has set up a special Gulf Appeal. Whilst Force Ten's Grahame Tupper seeks funds urgently for Bangladesh.

Address Donations to:-

Australian Council of Churches,  
P.O. Box C199 Clarence St.,  
Sydney NSW 2000.



Lord Christ at times we are strangers on this earth, disturbed by the violence, the harsh oppositions. (....)

Like a gentle breeze you breath upon us the Spirit of peace.

Transfigure the deserts of our doubts to prepare us to be bearers of reconciliation wherever you place us, until a hope of peace arises in our world.

*Prayer by  
Brother Roger Taize*

### Soap Savers Unite (or uniting soap savers)

Soap savers, yes soap savers are coming back into vogue.

Attending a term of home ecology I was given an audit sheet to monitor the chemicals and additives used in my home.

A startling exercise. Reading all the labels can be hazardous to the conscience!! So beware!!

I've pondered my own contribution to saving the environment for many years. My new knowledge of the toxic waste we generate has lead me to further change.

A vigorous return to string bags suds saving and simpler cleaning products has ensued.

Living and working in Fiji on a mission stipend lead us to soap savers, string saving and home vegetable gardening. Our Indian neighbours used a jam tin pierced with holes for a soap saver. The "chook yard" at the childrens' home on our compound provided a ready use for used vegetable scraps. Now I've started a compost bin. A small step.

Larger steps are being taken by our local council.

However, the latest Northern Herald reports only 27% of residential waste as being recycled by 83% of residents. Council policy they say provides for 50%. They urge a more thorough sorting of waste. Something into which we may all put renewed energy.

Within our parish notably Jo Melville collects used foil containers as a parish fund raiser.

Whilst a dedicated crew of workers collects and trims used postage stamps for the Stamp Committee of Synod.

If you have goods for the Church Op Shop at Holterman Street which continues to service customers, please contact Jean or Keith Glasse.

A resource list of items like large ladders, folding beds, or seldom used but useful tools or household items is being compiled by the Northsider Committee. By the way, they are: Geoff Caton, Jo Melville, Bev, Plaizier, Rhonda Barker, and Bruce Roy continues to give his invaluable guidance. Thank you Bruce for your previous years of singularly good service.

Happy saving and sorting,  
*Bev. Plaizier.*