

# st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together

## August 2024



St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter

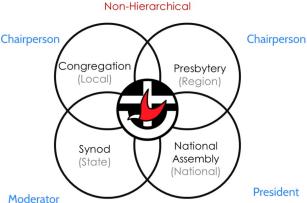
# MORE THAN WE OFTEN KNOW

Sometimes we forget that as a congregation we are not the Church by ourselves. At St. Matthew's Uniting Church we have three services which are congregations of our one congregation. Often we might not know people in the services which we don't attend ourselves. We are still the Church together. St. Matthew's is part of the regional Church called the Presbytery of Parramatta -Nepean. The presbutery is not something separate in itself, but a gathering of congregations of which we are a part of. There is a Presbytery Council, but just like our Church Council is simply made up of representatives of the congregation, the Presbytery Council is made up of representatives from the congregations which comprise it. Then there is the NSW/ACT Synod, which again has

organisational aspects, but at its heart it is just the combining of congregations through their presbyteries at a statewide

level - and in our case inclusive of the ACT.

Sitting alongside all of this, not over it is the National Assembly. Again the National Assembly is simply the gathering of a representative group of Uniting Church people from congregations, through presbyteries and synods to be part of a triennial meeting. Last month saw the meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. The 17th Assembly is the triennial decision-making meeting of the national council of the Uniting Church in Australia. Members worship together, form



Inter-concilliar

community, and discern where God's spirit is calling the Church. The theme for the Assembly was Threads of Love: Weaving Christ's Love Across Čultures and Boundaries. This continues to be our theme across the whole Uniting Church in Australia for the next three years. It reminds us of the unity we have in Christ's love. Guided by this shared vision, we are called to weave together a future where unity is celebrated, diversity is cherished and every thread of our communal tapestry resonates with the boundless love of Christ.

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If you are interested in the kind of things that happen, are discussed and decided upon at Assembly, here is a link to the papers for the meeting which includes an idea of what the agenda was. <a href="https://uniting.church/17th-assembly-papers/">https://uniting.church/17th-assembly-papers/</a>

Of course, the Uniting
Church itself is just one of
the many denominations
of Church in Australia and
one of the huge number
of denominations across
the world. There is always
more happening in the
Church (worldwide) than
we know about, just as
there is more happening
at all levels of the Church.

We can seek to learn about some of this. We can seek to discern if God is calling us to be a part of other parts of the life of the Church. However, we will not likely be able to get the full picture. We just need to pray that we as the whole nation and world wide Church prayerfully connect to God's will and seek to join faithfully with God in God's mission.



Here at St. Matthew's as we get ready for our upcoming annual general meeting, we can be praying for our community. We can be seeking to listen for what God may be calling us to as a Church in this place. There is always more that God is doing and more that the Church is doing with God that we will often know. Yet. we can be a part of that. We can do our part, take up our ministry as we use our God-given gifts to love and serve our neighbour and each other as we seek to join with the whole of the Church in weaving Christ's love across cultures and boundaries.

Many in the Church may not come to know all that we do. Yet, faithfully, we all service God and God's greater good and each little part and offering contributes to helping God bring the Kingdom closer and further into being.

That leaves us with discerning our gifts, our calling and our part to play. That perhaps is something to definitely think about.

**God Bless** 

Jon



## Begins it's 25th year

In August, Coffee & Discovery begins its 25<sup>th</sup> year of being a welcoming and meaningful mission activity for the Senior people of St. Matthew's and surrounding areas.

Some attendees have joined with us as a result of being invited by their St. Matthew's friends and on occasions, others have visited because of a particular speaker or topic on the day.

During the past year with an average attendance of 33, Coffee & Discovery has continued to provide a great time of getting together on a monthly basis which includes the welcome and devotion segment in the church, followed by a superb morning tea and chat time in the hall. Back into the church for the speaker presentation, there is the opportunity for times of learning, discovery, interest, humour and entertainment with the varied speakers.

Also, two wonderful musical presentations provided by our own St. Matthew's musicians, one to complete the program last year and one to begin this year, were very much enjoyed.

Since July last year eight speakers/ entertainers have been from our St. Matthew's community which has been very helpful and their support much appreciated.

As I am always on the lookout for speakers any offers or recommendations of speakers are appreciated.

Coffee & Discovery is very much a team effort which includes the Welcomer/Devotion leaders, Welcomer in the foyer, Multimedia Technician, Transport when needed, Sandwich makers and Cooks, Helpers with setting up and cleaning up, all very much appreciated and which enables this ministry to function in a warm and caring way.



There is always a welcome to all, to attend this relaxed and friendly activity.

Dulcíe Duncum Group Coordinator

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT 2023-2024

The Property Committee meets quarterly to discuss Church property issues and make decisions.

We work to a budget and I think very effectively.

This past year a lot of work was carried out at the Watkins Road property.

The house was painted all through in a pretty grey colour and looks very fresh and modern.

The pool area had to be cleared of all vegetation and two trees removed as the area wasn't compliant. The pool fence had to be changed from chain fencing to Colorbond to the legal height. We now have a compliance certificate. A new pool pump was also purchased for the pool as it needed to be replaced.

The Church gardens continue to be looked after by Katherine Pederson, George Haines and their helpers. The lawns are kept tidy by a band of gentlemen who do a wonderful job keeping the lawns mowed and edged.

New LED lighting was installed in the upstairs area including foyers, kitchen, hall and Classroom 3 Looking brighter and more modern. Under the direction of David Porter, the new floors were installed downstairs in the January holidays making the whole area far more modern. At the same time the walls in the foyer and the toilets were painted adding to the modern look. Thank you to all the people who worked so hard cleaning and painting the walls, we are very grateful.

New glass doors were also installed for the op shop and the Church office. Very effective decals, designed by Jon, were organised and applied to the front door and op-shop.

The sink in the vestry/community room was removed to make way for the banners to be hung in this area. You might remember the photo of Jon dressed from head to toe in white protective gear as he worked at removing the tiles. Bruce Court installed the rod on which the banners now hang.

Bruce continues to attend to all handyman jobs around the Church for which we are grateful as he only needs to be asked once and he is in. During a heavy storm, water was leaking into where the new floor was to



Bruce worked hard to fix the problem areas, by sealing the area with silicone and continuing the pipe into the drain near where the water was pooling and he cleared the gutters of debris. These actions were all very effective.

Other jobs that were attended to were a blocked pipe, repair of the Birko water heater downstairs.

A huge improvement is the addition of the new sanitary/ nappy bins for men, women and babies.

We had two working bees where a lot of extra cleaning gets done. We are grateful for those who come along but we could certainly do with more help so that more jobs can be carried out.

Whether for an hour or for three, many hands make light work.



Jane Jenkyn
Secretary of Property Committee



## ST. MATTHEW'S CARING FOCUS GROUP

Report to the Annual General Meeting 2024

During the last 12 months our church has been in a state of flux and that has affected the performance of the Caring focus Group. There are a great many opportunities to enhance the caring ministry exercised at St. Matthews' and we have been uncertain how best to advance the caring cause.

A workshop on caring actions and opportunities to provide care was conducted last year and led by Mary Pearson. It was well attended and provided participants with ideas on how to be present with people when they are in need.

We continue to look at the attendance lists of people attending worship to flag absences that may point to a change in people's circumstances and open opportunity for congregation members to provide help and support.

The terms of reference for a new person, in the caring role within the ministry staff team and who will hopefully arrive in the near future, will focus on a wider demographic than solely on seniors. This will also encourage the Focus group to spread its wings to all ages in the St. Matthew's community. This will only work when a visible team of carers also will represent all age groups.

We know that a great deal of caring activity proceeds un-heralded by members in the congregation. This activity will continue as people respond their experience of a loving God. The Caring Focus Group will be very much involved in putting in place relevant decisions from the future directions review that is currently in process. Like everyone in the congregation, we trust that the guidance that we seek will provide a clear pathway for our future activities.



Hills Shire Council have prepared a list of services that may be accessed by residents in the Shire. We want to provide links to these services from our own website and will work with the Digital Ministry Focus Group to result in these links being in as clear and user friendly a form as possible.

We are 8 people -

Jeff Cuff
Dulcie Duncum
Bec Gray
Barry Gregory
Eulalie Herat
Jon Humphries
Shamali Perera
Mike Strong

## ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement group initiated the recycled Christmas tree project in 2023. Members of the congregation brought in plastic drink bottles as well as drink cans to be recycled. These bottles and cans were taken to the return and earn stations which supplied us with a voucher. The voucher was take to the supermarket to be exchanged for cash.

The money we receive from this will go to The Sanctuary - a shelter for domestic violence victims.

We have raised \$150 so far and

we are still processing some bottles and cans which will hopefully bring us closer to \$200.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed with this initiative!

Marijke Prinsloo



# MEN'S MORNING TEA

MMT began life over 20 years ago and traditionally the meetings were held in the lower hall on the third Wednesday of each month and each of us brought a plate of goodies.

The meetings were semiformal often with a guest speaker and contributions from some of our own members.

Because of the restrictions required when Covid struck, it was decided to continue

meeting at an external location as it was recognised as a valuable time to exchange ideas, views on issues of interest, etc. Nothing formal and no fixed agenda but a

time to have some 'man talk' with different colleagues each month if we choose - and no clearing up afterwards even when we have a celebratory cake for a birthday!

An unchanged feature has been Barry's joke session - also much enjoyed by other café patrons within hearing distance.

Our attendance numbers vary a little but are typically 16 and includes a few men who are not members of our congregation.

Alan Wright



New members are always welcome



Some of the ladies might be surprised at the ability of us men to clear away tables, pack the dishwasher and sweep the carpet leaving the hall pristine!



### MEETING DETAILS

Venue: McKel's Café, 1, Circa Boulevarde,

Bella Vista.

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

Time: 10am – 12pm

## ST. MATTHEW'S WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Report for AGM August 2024

On the second Wednesday of each month our group of ladies meet in the upstairs hall and the church from 10am to 12noon. We have an average attendance of 13 ladies each month, and there are currently 19 members on our monthly email list.

The ladies organize a varied program for the year and so far this year we have decorated a paper plate for Easter, packed gifts for the Philippines, provided a high tea for members and guests, and played a variety of table games.

We look forward to other activities like an auction to raise money for postage to the Philippines, favourite tea towel morning, a quiz, a review of our favourite book, and a special Christmas meeting in December.

Each meeting starts with morning tea, and includes a devotion prepared by someone who is comfortable sharing a message. The ladies enjoy the fellowship and caring for one another. We strive to assist the Church by supporting missions and outreach organistations.



The group caters for thanksgiving services and just recently provided an afternoon tea after a wedding at our church.

Any ladies who would like to join with this Woman's Fellowship group will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

Margaret Gray Secretary

## ST. MATTHEW'S SENIOR SOCCER

It's with great sadness that I report St. Matthew's Soccer club has needed to finish as an active club.

There have been a number of reasons for this but our club and the association has faced difficult times since Covid and the impact it had on sport.

Our club and others found membership suffered and we had collaborations with other clubs to field a joint team and the need to support each other's home field.

Regrettably the council felt we were not using Greenup enough and our membership had dropped so they gave our home field to another larger club.

This had a real negative impact on the club as over the years we had worked hard to develop the field and this led to players joining other clubs or retiring.

The wonderful history of St. Matthew's Soccer club started in 1977 when the Rev Wardlow Little started the first soccer team for our Church and this grew to a pick of 17 teams and around 205 players in 1985.

Perhaps in the future we can field more soccer players for St. Matthew's although changing demographics in our area was making that a challenge for younger players and this was evident with us just having senior competition players for some time.



This has been a wonderful journey that has seen many hundreds of soccer players touched by the outreach message of the Church with the soccer ball, and perhaps it's not really over just yet.

With Blessings,

Jeff Cuff President/Player

## **MOWING TEAM**

There are currently nine men in the mowing team; Chris Kurukulasooriya, Jeff Cuff, Doug Matthewson, David Porter, Hugh Darling, Paul Vandenberg, Phil Bunn, Roderick Schuster and George Haines. We thank Colin Stoner and Keith Pentland, who have recently retired, for their contribution to the team.

We mow every two weeks in summer and every six weeks in winter.

There are two rostered each time; one to mow and one to do the edging.

A self propelled mower, which was donated by Chris Kurukulasooriya, is available in the garden shed which eliminates the need to transport a mower to the church.



George Haines



# What makes something a treasure?

This was the topic at the July Coffee and Discovery morning. Colin Booth and Jeff Cameron teamed up to provide a fascinating display and talk about treasures.

Treasures often are seen in the eye of the beholder.
Sometimes there is a romantic or family or fanciful connection between the beholder and the object.
An object may bring back memories of an event.
Sometimes monitory value may define a treasure.

Colin brought before us pictures of treasures uncovered from the base of the pyramids which everyone agreed were treasures from antiquity and admired the world over.

Treasures from discovered and recovered ship-wreaks were also examples of treasures that everyone could agree on.

Colin presented some remarkable treasures from his own collection of treasures. Coins, stamps, items made or

obtained by family members and from many other sources made them treasures for Colin and Lyn.



Items inherited by people who then generously donated them to the Op Shop, were given a discriminating inspection by Colin and Jeff before some were sent off to auction houses for their evaluation and sale. Amazing financial results sometimes arose from these auction sales and were added to the donated income for our church. We are fortunate to have such skills available to St. Matthew's.

To end his presentation, Colin reminded us all that some treasures cannot be given a financial value. Family connections fall into such treasured categories and need to be cared for and allowed to grow into items of great worth.



Míke Strong





-facts and other stuff

Thursday

1st August

10am-12pm

Guest Speaker: Alan Wright

The history of Celtic regions in Northern Europe dates back over many hundreds of years. Each has a unique set of traditions, some ancient, some relatively modern. This presentation is a look at some of the customs and practices of six of these regions and includes a wee bit of history and some other stuff.

## Favourite Hymns Singalong

Sunday 11 August

@ 2pm

At St. Matthew's

Led by David Short on the organ and Barry Gregory on vocals

All are welcome to come along for an afternoon of wonderful music and reminiscing singing your favourite hymns.

Please record your favourite hymns on the form provided in the fover.





**Annual General Meeting** 

Sunday 18 August 10am

Following the **9am Combined**Worship Service



## Floral Demonstration & Practical Workshop

24 August 9.30am

Do you love flowers?
Do you love growing, picking, giving, receiving and buying them and then are not sure how to arrange them in a way to make them look good and last longer?

Everyone is welcome to come to a basic demonstration of how to prepare and arrange fresh flowers from the flower markets then you can make your own to take home. \$20 includes all materials and fresh flowers and basic morning tea.

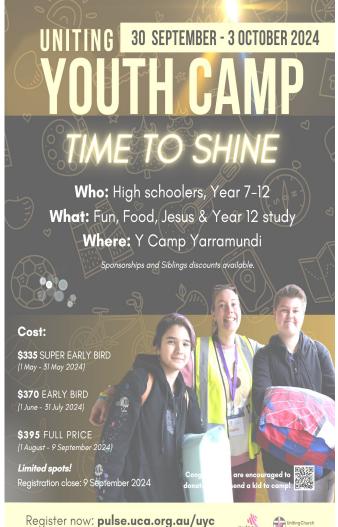
Maximum number of participants is 20 people. Please reserve your spot by calling or visiting the church office by 17th August.

Date: Saturday 24 August Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm Where: St. Matthew's lower hall Cnr Edgar & Charles Sts Baulkham Hills. 9686 3003

All you need to bring is a good pair of secateurs or scissors and \$20 - cash only and be seated ready to start at 9.30 am.







## **Calendar of Events for August 2024**

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday



#### **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and** REGULAR GROUPS



### Wednesday 10th August @ 10am

Please bring favourite tea towel/handtowel/apron

Describe significance or reason Enquires: Dulcie Duncum & Margaret Gray



3rd Wednesday of the month 10am to 12noon

Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevarde Bella Vista

Every third Wednesday of the month Enquiries Alan Wright



### Meeting Dates August 7 and 21

1st,3rd & 5th Wednesdays of the month in the upstairs church hall. 10.00am to 12.00pm

Bring your craft along to do.
Share fun and fellowship with other crafty ladies.
Morning Tea supplied. Enquiries: Jane Cole



## Care and Prayer

All Welcome 11.30am on the first TUESDAY of each month at St. Matthew's February to November

Next Date: 6th August

**IEDITATION** 



**NEW GROUP MONDAY** Evenings 7.30pm-8.30pm Tuesdays at the Church 9.30am-10.30am For more information or to express your interest in attending please contact

Katherine Pedersen
Facilitator kathped56@gmail.com

**ALL WELCOME** 



### **OP SHOP**

Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am-2pm and 1st Saturday of the month 9-12pm

Pre-loved clothes & accessories, Books, Haberdashery, Bric-a-brac, Pot Plants.



Saturday **3rd August** 9am-12pm

Pre-loved Household Items, Electrical, Toys & Books (Fiction, Non-fiction & Childrens Books)

To include your activity in the

**SEPTEMBER** 

In Focus

St. Matthew's

Monthly Newsletter

please send details to Robyn and Lynn in

the Church Office by 15 AUGUST

Thank you

St. Matthew's lower hall Edgar St



SHINE is a special needs social group for all ages after High school. Meets Sundays Monthly for dinner & fun. Cost \$5

Still collecting for their shoebox appeal supporting a school in the Philippines. Donations of small educational items, soaps & combs are greatly appreciated. Please place donations in the box provided at the top of the stairs in the church foyer.

**Giving** From time to time, we receive questions on how someone can make donations to St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills, to further support God's work through the Ministry team and congregation, in the wider Community. To assist with this, we have set up the following account with Uniting Financial Services:

Account Name: Baulkham Hills Uniting Church

- Giving Direct 634634 BSB: Account Number: 100025924

If required a Direct Debit Request Form is available in the foyer or speak with Barry Gregory.

For your support of God's work here at St. Matthew's, a big thank you!

Maintaining contact with you and your family is very important to us.
We would be grateful if you change your address, phone/mobile or email details that you let us know by phoning and leaving a message on 9686 3003

### YOUNG FAMILIES

@ 9.30am service during term for Preschool, Years K-2, and Years 3-8

#### YOUTH and YOUNG ADULTS

#### Fusion Youth Group...

Years 3 to 9. Meet Friday evenings at the church during term time. 5pm—7pm Contact Jon Humphries

jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

#### THRIVE BIBLE STUDY......

For young adults

Fortnightly on Tuesday evenings Contact Jon Humphries jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au



Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

#### MINISTER

**REV JON HUMPHRIES** 

**CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:** 

**ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL** 

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

9686 3003

LOCATION:

**CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS** BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:

**BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH** PO Box 773 Baulkham Hills 1755

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