

**THE PURPOSE OF THE HURSTVILLE NEW CHURCH IS TO BRING YOU CLOSE TO THE LORD, HIS WORD, AND EACH OTHER.**

We extend a warm welcome to everyone, and invite you to take what you like and return it willingly. We use the Bible and the Heavenly Doctrines revealed by the Lord and published by Emanuel Swedenborg to guide us in our lives, especially in our relationships. We freely share our love and understanding with each other, and try to give one another support in our spiritual journey.

**Pastor Rev Garry Walsh** became our new pastor in September when he returned to Australia after graduating from theological college in 2001 and spending 12 months as assistant pastor in the Oak Arbor Society near Detroit in USA. Garry is Australian and has a wife **Laurel** and 3 daughters.

**The New Church** is an international organisation of people striving to improve their conscious relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, the one and only God Who rules heaven and earth.

**Worship Services** are held each Sunday at 10:00 AM. **Sunday School** for children ages 0-14 runs concurrently with the Sunday Worship service. In summer there is child minding during the services.

**Young People's Group** is held every second week on Friday evenings.

**Doctrinal Classes** are held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month (summer excepted) beginning at 7 30 pm. Tea and social precede the class on the first Friday each month at 7.00 pm..

**Discussion classes** on fundamental New Church teachings are held on Wednesdays at 10.00 am.

**The Swedenborg Bookroom**, at 22 Dudley Street, Penshurst, contains books by and about Emanuel Swedenborg for sale or loan. It is open by appointment.

Our Address is 22-24 Dudley St., off Hillcrest Ave. in Penshurst  
Tel (02) 9580-1589. Fax (02) 9570-8447  
Email: [newchurch@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newchurch@optusnet.com.au)

<http://www.newchurch.org.au/hurstville>

Call or come at anytime.



## **The New Church Newsletter**

**Hurstville Society February 2004**

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### **Family Camp**

**5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2004**

Once again the **Kiah Ridge Conference Centre** in Tahmoor, NSW provided the backdrop for an extremely successful New Church Family Camp. Over 90 people enjoyed at least part of this year's camp. Some of these people had travelled extraordinary distances. Representatives from Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria were in attendance. Overseas visitors included 11 from the extended **Keyworth** clan together with **Katie Taylor** from Canada who is currently interning with them from the Bryn Athyn College. **Scott Maddock** and **Jeff Smith** were there from the U.S. (More will be said about them later.) **John Cunningham** once again made the trip from the UK. And, this year we were particularly blessed by the company of **Mikhail Roshchin** from Moscow.

### **Theme**

The unifying theme of this year's camp was "Worship". Each combined group session together with the adult sessions touched on some aspect of this theme.

The aim was to identify the central teachings on worship and to see if we could form personal conclusions about how we might engage in meaningful worship in our lives. **Rev. Julian Duckworth** was once again, "Principal". He was assisted this year by **Revs Chris Skinner, Richard Keyworth, David Millar** and **Garry Walsh**. Julian Duckworth also led the youth sessions that dealt with the subjects of self-identity and our interactions with others in our community.

### Outings

As in previous years a day was set aside for a group outing. A caravan of cars made their way to the beautiful Minnamurra Rainforest. Following a bush walk and lunch, the group set off to the seaside town of Kiama. Unfortunately the famous blowhole was not going that day, but the clear skies and fabulous ocean views still made the trip very worth while.

A couple of days earlier, a large group of campers had made the short drive from Kiah Ridge to see the sights of Avon Dam.

### Evenings



An extremely varied collection of presentations and activities filled the evening program. A highly professional trivia night was one offering. **Norman Heldon** provided a journey into the world of poetry, including a remarkable costumed transformation into the tragic figure of Hamlet.

**Mikhail Roshchin** provided insights into the growing presence of the New Church in Russia.

Later the same evening, **Scott Maddock** and **Jeff Smith** gave a presentation on the people and places that have been part of their World Service Tour so far.

An evening of bush dancing and sword dancing, led by **Julian Duckworth** on piano, **Helmut Lopaczuk** on accordion and **Carolyn Heldon** on flute, proved



### Spotted at the Art Gallery

Pictured are **Michelle Heldon** at the Art Gallery of NSW in front of her HSC body of work with the subject matter **Grandpa Heldon**.

If you can make it the Artexpress exhibition at the Art Gallery is on display each day until from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. until 21<sup>st</sup> March 2004. Entry is free.

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### RECIPE BOOK for sale

*Favourite Tried and Tasty Recipes*

Produced by the New Church in Australia

All proceeds of this fundraising recipe book will go to the Youth Appeal to help young people attend the New Church Summer camps in Australia. Thank you for your support.

The Hurstville Society has a small quantity of these books for sale at only \$8.00. Please contact Garry or Laurel Walsh

### Birthdays

#### January

Happy Birthday to **Margaret Heldon** (9<sup>th</sup>), **Dave Buck** (14<sup>th</sup>), **Rachel Heldon** (15<sup>th</sup>), **Garry Walsh** (19<sup>th</sup>), **Kerry Lockhart** (24<sup>th</sup>), **Kaye Macfarlane** (30<sup>th</sup>)

#### February

Happy Birthday to **John Hicks** (9<sup>th</sup>), **Mike Lockhart** (11<sup>th</sup>), **Anne Lawrence** (21<sup>st</sup>) and **Kathryn Kennedy** (24<sup>th</sup>)

that will include his preaching in Hurstville on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. This will be part of a visit that will see him also spend time in Perth and New Zealand.

## Assembly 2005

Details for the planned General Church Assembly in 2005 have now been announced by the incoming Executive Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas L. Kline.

You are invited to attend the 2005 general Assembly. This is to be hosted by and held in the Bryn Athyn Society. We are looking toward a family assembly with programs for children as well as adults.

Dates: Sunday afternoon, June 5th, 2005, through Wednesday, June 8th.

"We realise that these dates are not ideal for many. They do cause problems with school schedules, and they can be problematic for many in this worldwide church. However, the dates chosen seem the best among other possible choices. A key ingredient is the involvement of Academy students. The dates coordinate with Academy graduations, so that Academy students (who come from all over the world) will be able to participate. We apologise to those who may find this inconvenient, and we hope that as many as possible will be able to attend what promises to be an inspiring event."

From the Rt. Rev. Thomas L. Kline

## News Notes

**Lori, Naomi and Jeffrey Heldon** have been off enjoying a trip through New Zealand. They were joined there by Lori's mother **Endrede Gladish**. We look forward to having Mrs. Gladish spend some time in Hurstville during February.

**Ted Simmons** has been experiencing difficulties associated with a faulty heart valve. We hope that the current non-invasive treatments he is receiving will give him some relief.

**Trevor Favell** has succumbed to continued bouts of poor health and has now moved full-time into a care facility at South Hurstville. We wish him well in his new surroundings.

very popular. And, as has historically been the case, our talent night was filled to overflowing by almost too many entertaining acts for one evening to hold.

## The Collage

Another highlight of camp was the afternoon where individuals or small groups worked to decorate their own rectangular section of material. All of these individual pieces were then painstakingly sewn together by a team led by **Margaret Heldon**. The result was a single, large tapestry that blended the individual inspirations into a unified whole (see picture on front of Newsletter).

## Until Next Time

We leave this year's camp confident of meeting again in the not too distant future. Negotiations are continuing that might see us meet in **South East Queensland in 2005**. Given the success of this year's camp, wherever and whenever the next camp might be, it is something we all look forward to with great anticipation.

## Rev Doug and Christine Taylor



The Hurstville Society has recently been blessed by a visit from Rev Doug and Christine Taylor. Originally from South Australia, their formal connection to the Hurstville Society began when Doug became pastor of the Society in 1963.

Twelve years later they were called to service in the U.S. In 1989 Doug took up the pastorate again, this time leading the congregation for five years. To top this off, Doug and Christine returned to serve the congregation for three month stints during 1998 and 1999.

After so many years away, it was nice that Doug and Christine were able to spend the 2003/4 Christmas season with family and friends in Adelaide and Melbourne. Before and after this time in the southern States, the Taylors were

based in Hurstville. It was a time to catch up with old friends, visit old familiar places and some new ones, catch some cricket and even visit friends in New Zealand on one weekend. Doug led Hurstville's Sunday worship services twice during this time. He and Christine's charming presence will always be missed during those stretches when they are away.

### Scott Maddock and Jeff Smith



Few visitors to Hurstville have made the type of energizing impact that Scott and Jeff have. We are honoured that they chose to make us one of their stops during their World Service tour. Part of their mission was to seek out international opportunities for young people studying at the Bryn Athyn College to serve as interns. These two young men worked tirelessly while they were here. Their work, as we imagined, went way beyond manual tasks like gardening and painting.

Regarding the latter, we also offer a big "thank you" to **Carolyn Heldon** who spent many hours working to brighten up the Swedenborg Bookroom in Baringa.

Much of their work simply involved bringing people together. The Christmas party they organised was a huge success. Young people from the Roseville church and Hurstville came together to decorate the church ahead of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services as well as to simply celebrate the season.

Both Scott and Jeff identify the camp as the highlight of their stay in Australia.

Colin's health had been poor for many years. As the cancer progressed he increasingly relied on the tireless help and friendship of Ian Brown. It was Ian who brought Colin to Hurstville during recent visits.

Although Colin never officially joined the New Church, he was undoubtedly a New Churchman at heart. His passing leaves our church community without one of its most astute theological minds. Despite the sadness at losing our friend, we find comfort in knowing that his pain has mercifully ended. He will also have a chance to explore the realities of the spiritual world that he had spent so many hours reading, thinking and praying about.

### Notes on the February & March Calendars

The pastor, Garry Walsh and family will be away on holidays from the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> of February.

Garry will also be away from the 15<sup>th</sup> of February through the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March to attend the annual General Church clergy meetings in Bryn Athyn USA.

The result of these pastoral absences is that the worship services on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of February will be lay led.

There will be a **Pastor's Council** meeting following church on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. The main item of discussion will be the prospect of holding one or more evening services in addition to the normal Sunday morning service. If you would like to contribute thoughts on this subject please contact someone of the Council prior to the meeting. The current Pastor's Council is: Cliff Adamou, Lori Heldon, Ralph Horner, Kaye MacFarlane, Patricia Walsh. (For additional thoughts on this subject please see the "Thought On The Sabbath" discussion above.)

There will also be only one doctrinal class in February. This will be held on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be no shared meal/tea this month. The next tea and class will be the 5<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss** has announced that he will be paying us a short visit

The teaching that says that a person who “acts deliberately and from conviction against one commandment acts against the rest” must be counted as one of the Lord’s ‘hard sayings.’ It is, of course, balanced by the teaching that everyone is excused who acts against a commandment because they don’t realise what they are doing or are unable to stop themselves. Still, for people with anything more than a peripheral knowledge of the commandments, the truth still remains that the deliberate failure to regularly observe the Sabbath must be a concern. Does this teaching compel everyone to find a synagogue or church to attend each Sabbath? Depending upon a person’s circumstances and conscience, this may indeed be the case. However, as *The True Christian Religion* no. 301 states, the real focus of the Sabbath should be on Divine instruction on the things that are conducive to salvation and everlasting life, as well as a time of helpful service to the neighbour. How a person achieves this in their own life is something they must answer for themselves.

The Gospel of Mark tells us that, “*The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath*” (2: 27). There is something innate within each of us that needs each week’s Sabbath. We need that time away from some of the tasks that occupy the bulk of our lives. We need to engage with the Lord and the lessons He teaches us. We need to think about the wellbeing of others and provide help where we can. The Lord did not proscribe the weekly Sabbath break to keep us submissive to Him. Instead, the Sabbath has been proscribed because our spiritual health depends upon it.

It is highly unlikely that the Sunday morning worship service will disappear from the Hurstville Society’s weekly calendar. The use in having consistency and regularity in the timing of worship cannot be underestimated. This does not, however, preclude us from looking at other services and activities that might usefully supplement this (ed.).

### **The Passing of Colin Terry**

It is with sadness that we note the passing of our friend Colin Terry on New Year’s Eve 2003. Colin was a retired Church of Christ minister who read the Writings for many years. He had been an occasional visitor to both the Hurstville and Roseville congregations and was an avid reader of this Newsletter.

We hope that this highlight, together with their other experiences with the Hurstville congregation help show potential new interns that the Hurstville Society is a place where they will be truly welcome, will be kept busy both with their work and social life and will be remembered for a very long time.

### **Thoughts On The Sabbath**

The December 2003 edition of the Hurstville Newsletter included a copy of the Pastor’s Report for 2002-2003. In that report, in the section dealing with worship services, the following remarks were made:

It is a reality of modern life that business and personal factors have resulted in some members of the congregation attending less regularly than they once might have. This is a trend that has been more pronounced in recent months. It raises the question of whether Sunday morning worship is going to continue to be the most appropriate time for a portion of the congregation.

The Sabbath, as we know, is more a state of mind than a date on the calendar. Although, having said that, regularity and consistency of worship are still important.

No doubt these thoughts raised a few eyebrows. They certainly seem to have for **Beryl Laidley** (Mrs. EJ), who has responded with the following thought provoking letter that she has kindly allowed us to reprint here.

“The Editor,  
I read with interest and some slight amusement the suggestion that Sunday morning may not continue to be the most appropriate time for the Society to hold its weekly services of Divine worship.

My amusement was triggered by my experiences of trying to find a meeting time which suited all interested people all of the time! I would “dip my lid” to the person who could do that!

If we vary the Sabbath when would be an appropriate day? Muslim worship of Friday; Jews, Seventh Day Adventists and Seven Day Baptists on Saturday, and

other Christian churches on Sunday. That does leave Monday to Thursday, which, in our culture, are business days.

I acknowledge that, owing to the varying time zones around the world, the Sabbath is kept at varying times. Perhaps the Lord ordered our world in this way so that every day was a Sabbath to the Lord somewhere in this world.

There are many instances in the Word and in the Writings concerning keeping the Sabbath.

If we just take the natural sense as shown in TCR 301\*, it is meant to be a day when we rest from our labours, give our mind and heart to the Lord, and also exercise love to our neighbours.

TCR 302\* explains that the Sabbath is meant to be a spiritual time of conjunction with the Lord and heavenly peace.

It is up to each of us to make sure that we make preparation within our mind and our physical/social climate to keep the Sabbath with the Lord and reap the rewards of our day of peace (Isa. 58: 13, 14).

Some time ago on a “Compass” programme, I heard a psychologist, who was also a Jewess, say how much she valued the Sabbath practices of her faith, and she found, in her work, that many people broke down because they had no form of Sabbath. She also contended that communities benefited when the Sabbath was observed as a day of rest.

I concede that it is not possible for all of us to attend a service of Divine worship at a set time and place every week. However I believe that it is better to set aside a time to regularly join with others of our faith, even if it is the first Sunday of every month, than to try to accommodate a few people.

Considering the effort the Lord makes on our behalf, shouldn't we make a small effort for Him?"

Respectfully submitted

Beryl Laidley

\* True Christian Religion (TCR) 301, 302 and 303 portions  
*Sabbath' in the language of the original means rest. Among the Children of Israel the Sabbath was the holiest of observances, because it represented the Lord. The six days represented the Lord's toils and battles against the hells, the seventh His victory over them, and so rest. Since that day represented the completion of the Lord's whole act of redemption, it was for that reason the height of holiness. When, however, the Lord came into the world, so that representations of Him ceased, that day became a day of instruction in Divine matters conducive to salvation and everlasting life, and a day for love towards the neighbour.*

*In the spiritual sense [the third commandment] means a person's reformation and regeneration by the Lord. 'Six days of work' means the fight against the flesh and its lusts, and at the same time against the evils and falsities which are implanted in one by hell. The seventh day means the person's conjunction with the Lord and his or her subsequent regeneration.*

*In the celestial sense this commandment means being linked or conjoined with the Lord, leading to peace as a result of protection from hell. The Sabbath means rest and, in this highest sense, peace. This is why the Lord is called the Prince of peace.*

### **Further Thoughts**

Staying with *The True Christian Religion* and its teachings on the observance of the Sabbath, it is worth considering the relevance of the following:

*A person who acts deliberately and from conviction against one commandment acts against the rest. This is because acting deliberately and from conviction is utterly denying that it is a sin, and if anyone else says it is, the person dismisses that opinion as worthless. If anyone thus denies and dismisses sin, he or she pays no heed to anything which is called sin. This is the position held by those who are unwilling to be told anything about repentance. On the other hand, those who by repentance have removed some evils which are sins, reach the position of believing in the Lord and loving the neighbour. The Lord keeps them determined to abstain from further sinning; so if through ignorance or some overwhelming longing they sin, this is not counted against them, since they did not intend it nor convince themselves that it was allowable.*

True Christian Religion 523