



## **The New Church Newsletter**

**Hurstville Society December 2016**

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## Episcopal Visit

It's been three years since we had a visit from a bishop, and so we are excited to host the Executive Bishop, **Rt. Rev. Brian Keith**, starting 30<sup>th</sup> of December.

As is normal with flights coming from the USA, he and his wife **Gretchen** will arrive early on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and will have some time to acclimate to our weather and time change before we head off to camp on Sunday January 1. They will be attending camp, but we've also arranged for an **open house/dinner** on **Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>** so that people who didn't go to camp have a chance to meet and socialize with them.

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### Camp 2017 - Day Visitors Welcome!

The count-down to camp is on! If you are intending to join us for the week, you will already have submitted your deposit and registration form. If you wish to attend only during the day, you are cordially invited to do so, however you need to let Chris Kendrick know which day(s) you plan to attend ([kendrickau@hotmail.com](mailto:kendrickau@hotmail.com), 0427 397 701), and pay your fees, by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Day rates are: \$35 adult/\$30 child/\$10 pre-schooler, which includes 1 main meal (lunch or dinner) & 2 supplemental meals (morning/afternoon tea or supper). Additional meals are \$15 (main)/\$5 (supplemental). Anyone who wishes to attend for the day without any meals is welcome to come anytime for \$15/day. Please just let us know at least 24hrs ahead of your arrival; you can pay when you arrive. Day-trippers who wish to participate in any organised afternoon activities (archery, giant swing, etc) will need to pay \$20 per activity; book with Carolyn Heldon ([carolynheldon@gmail.com](mailto:carolynheldon@gmail.com), 0434 581 994) prior to Jan 1. A full schedule of events is available on the church Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/HurstvilleNewChurch](http://www.facebook.com/HurstvilleNewChurch), or upon request. We hope you will join us!

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### Great Minds Think Alike, and So Do Ours

Last month I mentioned that we started streaming our services on YouTube. It took some tweaking and fiddling to get the sound and video working properly, but it seems that the broadcast is actually working well now. These services are available to watch after the fact as well, so they give a nice record of what is going on here. I do encourage you to check them out, and if you are willing, I'd ask you to subscribe to the channel as well. It helps the rankings with YouTube. Similarly, if you "like" the videos it is also helpful. Find these services by going to YouTube and searching "Todd Beiswenger". By the time you read this links should be available on the church website and Facebook.

However, I'm not the only one who is experimenting on YouTube. **Cor Visser-Marchant** down in Canberra has started producing his own New Church content. His channel is called, "Swedenborgian Oz." At this point he's working on a series of videos titled, "New Perspectives" where he takes some basic terms, e.g. love, peace, judgement, and explains

them from a Swedenborgian perspective. The videos are 4-5 minutes long, so they're a quick watch.

I've also learned that **Darren Brunne** up in Brisbane has started a YouTube channel as well. The goal of the channel will be to work through the most useful books like 'Heaven and Hell'. Each video will hopefully be short – around 4 to 5 minutes and will encapsulate a set number of paragraphs. The concept will be “vBooks” that is video books. His channel is “Swedenborg vbooks,” but if you type it into the YouTube search, often it will “correct” the search for you and instead search “Swedenborg books.” So to get to the channel you've got to assert that you actually do want what you asked for. Hopefully this will get rectified in the future. Take a few minutes, and check out some of his work as well.

I don't know what to make of the fact that the three of us came to publishing YouTube videos at the same time, all independently of each other. Apparently the Lord is stirring a similar spirit in each of us!

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### **Offertory Bowl**



We were just gifted this new offertory bowl for the church by **Graeme McLeay**. It is hand made out of cedar, and was crafted in the Southern Highlands. At the facility where Graeme lives there is a wood turners club that is right next door, and this bowl was made by the president of that club. It really is a beautiful piece of work, and actually a rather timely gift as well since the old bowl was developing a crack in it. We tested it out this past Sunday and found that it accepts \$20 and \$50 notes without trouble. Feel free to bring in a \$100 note to make sure they fit. :)

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### **NCIA Meetings**

The NCIA recently held a joint meeting session with the COM (Council of Ministers) and the board. There were some issues at hand for the organization that were discussed and resolved. Among them were a proposal to allow individual membership, as opposed to having to be part of a society, which was accepted, and a question regarding the ordination of women. At this point the COM provided a statement to the board as how it understands things, however due to the structure of the NCIA the board still has some say regarding the implementation of the statement. This means that the issue is not fully resolved at this point, so until then I'll refrain from further comment.

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## Christmas Events

Well, here we are again, and you're near the end of yet another year. Christmas is upon us, which you've no doubt noticed if you've set foot in any store. Here's a quick rundown of the December schedule:

4<sup>th</sup> - Outdoor Service

5<sup>th</sup> - Dinner & Class, 7pm

11<sup>th</sup> – Roseville Carols, 7:30pm

18<sup>th</sup> – Pageant, 7pm

25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas day service, 10am, conveniently on a Sunday!

1<sup>st</sup> January – NO CHURCH.

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## Christmas Pageant

With Christmas comes our lovely pageant, with live actors, thoughtful readings from the Word and inspiring music, which creates a beautiful, welcoming sphere for the nativity season. It will be held on the Sunday evening prior to Christmas Day - which, this year, will be **Sunday, December 18th at 7pm**. *{Please note: no morning worship service, that day!}* This will be our primary social Christmas event, with everyone encouraged to invite friends and share in the array of food and festivities afterward.

Our resident children embrace different roles each year, and this time around they'll be offered the opportunity to portray the host of angels. If you have a child aged 4+ years who would like to join us, please let Jenn know! (If you have a child younger than 4 years who would like to participate, please also let her know.) We'll also need adults to fill other roles, first and foremost Mary & Joseph, and we'd like to have wise men, Herod and a chief priest, if any gentlemen would like to help out. If you are willing to contribute to the pageant, it really would be much appreciated! We will have one practice session, which will take place after the worship service on the Sunday prior, around 11:15am, December 11th. If you can help with the pageant but can't make the practice, please still let Jenn know! Thanks. ([jenn@beiswenger.net](mailto:jenn@beiswenger.net), 0411 719 754)

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## New Copies of the Writings for Cheap!

The Swedenborg Centre has an offer where you can buy a box of the Writings for \$50. It isn't a complete set, but you get 18 books which should keep you busy for a while! You're getting a 90% discount off the regular price and this is what you get:

Arcana Coelestia 12 volumes (Elliott's 1999 translation, paperback).

Conjugal Love (Chadwick's 1996 translation, paperback).

Swedenborg's Secret (by Lars Bergquist, hardback). Swedenborg biography.

Divine Love and Wisdom (paperback)

True Christian Religion 2 volumes (Chadwick's 1988 translation, paperback)

Divine Providence (paperback)

This offer is only available for the complete box of contents as described above. If you wish to order individual books separately then please order them at the normal price in the usual way, e.g. by phone, email, visiting us or from the online bookshop at <http://www.swedenborg.com.au/bookstore>

Due to expected high demand, orders for these boxes will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis and they will be made available until we run out of boxes. The time to order is now, and we can help facilitate the transaction by making the box available for pickup at a few locations (like the Swedenborg Centre, Roseville Manse, or Family Camp at Stanwell Tops). If you wish your box(es) to be posted to you, most postal destinations are covered by the \$50 payment per box, except for a few more remote locations where postage may exceed \$50 per box, in which case we ask that you cover the entire postal bill. Joe Vandermeer ([joe@swedenborg.com.au](mailto:joe@swedenborg.com.au)) can give you a quote if you provide him your destination address.

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### **Passing of Bryan Clancy**

Many of you may have known Bryan Clancy who is the brother of Kerry Lockhart and at one time was known as Uncle Bryan to many of the kids who were part of the Hurstville New Church in the 80s. He passed into the spiritual world on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October after falling into a bad state of health. Here is some of what his nephew, **Scott Lockhart**, had to say about his Uncle Bryan:

“Bryan was a good man. He lived with us when I was a kid and is probably a good bit to blame/thank for my tendencies to go my own way (and be cheeky doing it). He taught me strine. I had no choice. But Bryan was also deeply troubled, which was obvious when I was a kid and then I understood it more as I grew up. ... He was always there to help anyone who needed a hand. He was one of the smartest blokes I've ever met. Even though he didn't always handle relationships with his family well, he never stopped loving his kids. He never stopped loving their mother. He never stopped loving us. Bryan had his flaws. Some of them were huge. But he was a flawed diamond. Despite his flaws, he was still a diamond. I always loved that goose and I'm going to miss him. You see, despite everything, Bryan was a good man.”

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### **Social Tennis**

The tennis court sees a variety of players come through on a weekly basis, both competitive and social groups, young players and older. We're even hoping to host some tennis camps for kids, these school holidays! (Details to come - stay tuned!)

The Friday morning group is a very friendly bunch consisting mostly of retired women; unfortunately their numbers are so low that they're considering dropping it altogether. Are you interested? You needn't have much experience (although *some* is helpful!). They play from around 9:30am until about noon. Your first session is free, subsequently it's \$7/session or \$20 for the month. If at all interested, please contact Jenn, or just show up on a

Friday morning until December 16th. There is also a social group, which would welcome additional players, on Saturday afternoons. Rackets are available to borrow for either session, balls are supplied. Hope to see you there! (\*P.S. Jenn plays with the Friday morning group, and really enjoys it!)

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## Halloween Party

We hosted a Halloween party on 30<sup>th</sup> of October in an attempt to have some fun with the event, and do it in such a way that the fun was family friendly. All were encouraged to wear a costume, but not a costume that featured blood, gore and other dark themes. We had a nice variety of costumes, and even many of the adults dressed up as well.

But the party was also a place for games. We had several simple games set up, and were a bit unsure as to how well the kids would take to them, but it didn't take us long to get the answer. They loved it. They got to do some bowling, bobbing for apples, and try to knock down the cans by throwing bean bags at them. Not to mention a ring toss, and a kid favourite: Russian roulette with eggs. A big thanks to **Jenn Beiswenger** for organizing and making this night happen, as well as **Lori, Huily & Kristen** who helped out with the decorations.

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## Food Drive

One of the efforts we've been making the last few years is to donate food to the Kogarah Store House. This year we tied in the food drive to the Halloween party by making admission to the party some sort of offering to the food drive. As a result we collected even more food and toiletry items than normal! While I didn't think to weigh it all up before taking it over, I'd suggest that it was close to double our normal volume. As always the people at Kogarah Store House were very excited and appreciative of the donation. In fact, they had the opportunity to give some of it out just after I dropped it off as a man came in looking for some help. I really like that we do this as it is a great way to help out in a very real and direct way in our local community.

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## Exodus Foundation

One of the many joys of Christmas is the gift of giving to others, and you are invited to give to others less fortunate through our annual Exodus Foundation canned food drive. They are specific about what they can use: canned protein e.g. ham, chicken, spam, braised steak; canned fish e.g. tuna, salmon, sardines; canned soups/casseroles; canned spaghetti; canned baked beans; instant noodles (only in a cup); 'Virtual cans' (supermarket gift cards). They encourage us to give *ring-pull cans*, as some of their recipients don't have can openers, and *cans with pictures*, for those with poor literacy skills. Items can be dropped off through Monday December 19th, to the boxes just inside Baringa. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

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## Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Sam Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>), **Gai Kennedy** (2<sup>nd</sup>), **Beryl Laidley** (14<sup>th</sup>), **Ken Horner** (16<sup>th</sup>), **Patricia Walsh** (19<sup>th</sup>), **Kristen Johnson** (29<sup>th</sup>)

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