



Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am

John 6: 29-59



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*

Response: *Thanks be to God*



Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.
 Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.
OPEN FROM 9.30AM

**Livestreaming at
 8am and 9.30am only**

8am—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries

9am—Worship @ the Willows
 Led by Mike Strong

9.30am—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea

**2pm—Favourites
 Hymns Singalong**

6.45pm—Worship
 Community Meal

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

What's happening this week at St. Matthew's

MONDAY 12 August
**9am—Sorting & Pricing for
 Op Shop & Garage Sale**
 lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
All Welcome
 community room and church

TUESDAY 13 August
9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

WEDNESDAY 14 August
9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship
 Describe the significance or reason for your favourite tea towel, hand towel and/or apron.
 upstairs hall & Church

7pm—Church Council Exec
 upstairs hall

THURSDAY 15 August
9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 16 August
5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
 "Movie Making" upstairs hall

SATURDAY 17 August
No Scheduled Activities

**SUNDAY
 18 AUGUST**

9am—Combined Worship
 Followed by morning tea

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

10am—Church AGM

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER
 REV JON HUMPHRIES
 Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:
 ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003
 Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

LOCATION:
 CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
 BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:
 BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH
 PO BOX 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au
Weekly newsletter available on website

FACEBOOK:
 @stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570
 SONALI WANIGESEKERA
 PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153
EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

11th August

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalms 130

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Reading for Our Service:

John 6: 29-59

Being Discerning Can Be Complex

It is not always easy or clear what God is specifically calling us or when we are being called. It is not always easy to discern what our gifts are and how we are supposed to use them. The reality is that maybe, even God doesn't specifically call us to specific things, and gifts are really things that evolved over time or develop for specific tasks, circumstance or times. However, what is very clear is that we all have gifts from God as Spirit and are called to use them as part of our call to love our neighbour as ourselves as an expression of loving God with all our being.

Perhaps, sometimes it is only in hindsight that we are able to discern God's call. Maybe God's call is more of a nudging a lot of the time, rather than clear and specific guidance. That may sound a bit controversial, but this has been part of my experience, or at least I have not been wise enough or able enough to discern God's call in many times throughout my life.

I always wanted to be a Paramedic. I don't regret not being one, but I have throughout my life made sure that I have been actively involved in first aid and such things. As things turned out, I was steered away from being a paramedic, and instead turned to architecture. After school, I worked in an architectural firm and did architectural drafting (because I failed to get into architecture at university first round.)

I enjoyed it and was doing well, but didn't feel that this was what I was meant to be.

So, whilst I was pondering what I was meant to do with my life, one day as my mum drove me home from the station, she said that a friend of the family said that I would be a good primary school teacher. Having no better ideas at the time I enrolled in that, and went on to study Primary Teaching. At the end of the course I didn't think that I was likely to get a job. So, I decided to continue studying and complete my Bachelor Degree in Primary Education (I had just completed a Diploma of Teaching.) However, whilst I was on Annual Field Exercise for the Army Reserve, I got a message to call my mum. After a bit of arranging and getting out of the bush to a little post office, I call Mum and found I that I had been appointed to West Pennant Hills Primary School. I took up that role and a year later studied part-time to complete my B.Ed (Primary).

Continued next page.

Been Discerning Can Be Complex—Continued

Whilst teaching I had some experiences which led me to a call to ordained ministry. After a while the Church accepted that I was possibly called and I became a candidate for ordination. Having done several field education placements in congregations, I was prepared and believed that I would be called to congregational ministry. However, at the start of my final year, I ended up being called to Pymble Ladies' College as school chaplain – me who had no private school experience, had not completed my study, but had some chaplaincy training (albeit hospital) and was of course a trained and experienced educator.

I was a school chaplain for over twenty years, and was thinking it was time to move on, but after six or so attempts at discerning a call to other ministries, I thought that maybe it was appropriate, and in fact I was being called to stay on in school chaplaincy, a little longer. I tested this idea with several respected colleagues who agreed that that made sense. However, just after I pulled my name out of being considered for St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills, I had a pointed conversation with a senior member of the Church who told me how I was wrong. I put my name back forward for St. Matthew's and the rest, as they say, is history. I am now the ministry leader at St. Matthew's Uniting Church being called to ministry with the wonderful congregation.

So, the path forward is not always clear. We get hints and nudging's. People call us one way or another, and sometimes in the right way and sometimes not. Yet, God is always calling us onwards in growth. God is always calling us onwards in love. God is always calling us outwards to love. Discernment is always an ongoing endeavour, for even when we have discerned a call to a specific role or ministry for a specific time with specific people, then things change and evolve, and we are called to the next calling. There are times when this is clear and times when it is not.

There are clear times where we are called to move on, but what we are called to next is not. Discerning what God is calling us to is a complex process, even when we wish it was otherwise.

One thing that I have learnt or discerned about God's call is that we are always called to love and serve, just as we are called at times to be loved and to be served. We may not know or understand what we are being called to, but wherever we find ourselves there we will always find opportunities to love and be loved. We may not comprehend or be aware of who we are being called to serve or how to serve them, but there will always be people who need us to care for them, and we will always have times where we need others to care for us. It is in these opportunities, that we might discover that they are themselves the gift, and we get to discover our gifts or the gifts of others as these situations unfold. God as Spirit is always with us, this is the greatest gift of all and the source and inspiration for any gifts which lead us into ministry or service.

Discernment is a work in progress. It is often complex and complicated, but it is never ever anything to worry over or be anxious about. God is always present and at work with us and within us. It is God as Spirit who awakens gifts in us. It is God as Spirit who leads us into ministry. There is discernment work to be done, but more than anything there is the need for contemplation and prayer. It is in the connecting with God that we are more likely to discern what God is calling us to. This may be in prayer by ourselves, but it is often just as likely to come from being part of a community who knows us and loves us – the people and community of God: the Church. Discerning what gifts we have and how we might use them to serve God and others gives us quite a lot to think about, but just as much to pray about and have faith about.

God bless

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

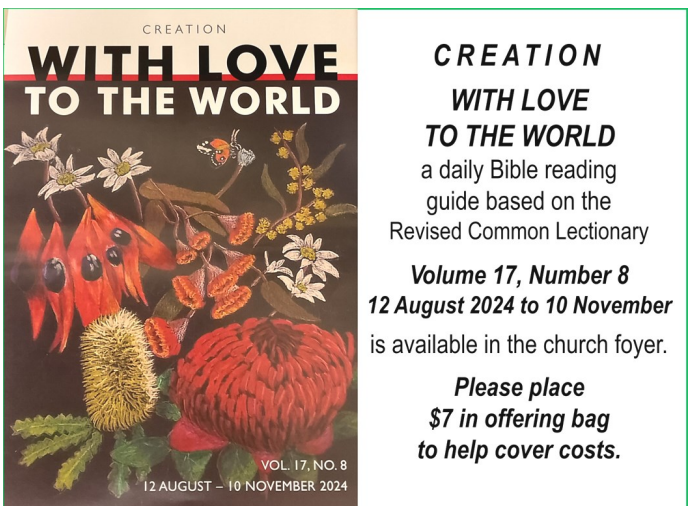


Jesse Cameron
Judith Johnston
Earl Gray

Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

11—17 August
Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali,
Mauritania, Niger



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.*



**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.

Floral Demonstration & Practical Workshop Saturday 24 August

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 Street's,
Baulkham Hills. 9686 3003
office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au**

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.



The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view at the end of each week for the upcoming Sunday on the St. Matthew's website www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.