



Services

Sunday morning 9:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

St Andrews Groups

Pre-Schoolers
SALT

Youth Groups
Kid's Club
Andy's Club
Chaos
Senior Fellowship

Adult Groups
SAS
Interact
Time Out
Men's Dinner
Ladies Dinner

Bible Study Groups
Phill Pratt's Young Adults
The Taylors'
Ladies
Kyngdons'
John Wilson's
Paul Hall's

Sporting Groups
Soccer Team

Editorial

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches" Luke 13:19

Archbishop Jensen concluded: we must trust in God and be energetic.

Frequently Christians find that their ministry projects yield only modest results, even after much hard work. It is worth reflecting on the account the van Donges give of their time of ministry in this issue. Although it is a very different context to Australia, God gave sustained growth, after the time of sowing and watering. This is just like the proverbial mustard seed of which Jesus spoke.

Ladies Dinner

Kerrie Stewart spoke about any one can become a Christian, and how important it is to go to difficult places such as Uzbekistan and Northern India. Christians in these places need and deserve good teaching just as much as we do. We should also be getting out into our community. The local community needs to hear the gospel.

Our eyes were opened to the need to reach people of all the various backgrounds in the Oak Flats area. We enjoyed having some visitors along. Dr Helen Rienits will be speaking at our next Ladies Dinner (held in the church). Invite your friends and neighbors to come with you.

Men's Dinner

Les Stewart focused our thoughts on Absalom, one of King David's sons. Because he wanted to be the next King, Absalom worked hard at portraying the right image. He tried to persuade people to support him. But in reality he was a murderer and a traitor to his father. Men today need to be men of substance, not image. To be a man of substance means building relationships at home, daily life and at church. A relationship with God provides the foundation.

Houseparty

We gathered at Burrill Pines for the first time in 2 years for a Houseparty (which means learning, fellowship and fun. Accommodation was motel, cabin, or tent. Our speaker was Bishop Glenn Davies. His 'Studies in John' gave us much to think about. I enjoyed seeing how OT themes such as 'light' and 'God's word' keep on appearing in John. The emphasis on Saturday afternoon was fun (sand modelling, swimming, bocce, and sand-golf). And a few people managed to just sit around watching!



Four parishioners celebrated their birthdays with a cake on Saturday

night. We now have Glenn Davies' talks on discs – see Harley Mills if you would like to borrow.

Interact

Around 30 adults saw film 'The Kite Runner' which helped people to realise again how great a blessing it is to live in a nation with a Christian basis and background. The film depicts the life of an affluent family in Afghanistan before the Taliban dictatorship, and then life under the Taliban. Before watching, we 'feasted' on Pizzas.

St. Andrews Seniors

The seniors group enjoyed the now familiar format of a short service followed by a long lunch.

Youth Work news

Andy's Club have been studying the life of Jesus by watching the movie Miracle Maker, followed by discussion questions with Bible references. Usually 15-20 attend on Thursday evening. Excursions have included going to Keith Bond Oval for games, pizza making, and an end of term party. Some Balarang students from Scripture have attended (very few from this school have in the past).

Chaos have been looking at the seven 'I am something' statements of Jesus, which John records, plus the eighth 'I am' meaning 'I just am'. Chips at Kiama, BBQ



at lake, beach and ice cream have been recent excursions. A 'Woolies run' (which means each person has to buy a cheap food item) has proven to be fun.

High School Scripture has recommenced. Tim had a class of 20 students from year 7, with about half showing interest. Graham took a small class of special learning students with a few good debates about proving God. Almost none of the High School students we spoke to are connected to any church. With the help of a few year 12 students, Tim has started a **lunchtime group** at the high school with a maximum of 8 students.



Kids Club had an outing to Shellharbour Village. Rhonda Slocombe gives the talk in the rotunda

Thirty-One Years of God's Faithfulness

Our church has been privileged to be supporters of Shord and Ann van Donge almost as long as anyone can remember. We just had a memorable week of fellowship with the van Donges who are finishing up ministry in central Africa. Shord and Anne

reported to the parish in these words:

"Since relinquishing our role as Africa Directors for WEC mid-2008, we have been able to unwind and rest after years of pressure. As we look back on 31 years of involvement in Africa, several things stand out – wonderful opportunities, challenging roles, and most of all, God's great faithfulness.

Shord first set out in August 1970 for French studies in Europe, then proceeded to Ivory Coast, West Africa and spent four years in youth ministry. We were married late in 1975 and served with WEC Australia for 5 years before God opened the door for our return to Africa as a family in 1981, with Michelle just 10 months old.

We saw God's perfect timing when shortly after our arrival we were asked to launch a new 'church plant' in Abidjan, a city of 2.5-3 million people. From a small group of 6 believers that met in a school classroom for the first 'service' in October 1981, the ministry had grown to 6 congregations by the time we left Abidjan at the end of 1990. We were privileged to 'lay a foundation' on which others have built. This ministry has now grown to 18 churches, comprising several thousand believers and led by 12 African pastors and church planters. Their vision is to plant many more churches in the future.

Then followed 6 years as 'field leaders' of a team of 50 missionaries,



giving pastoral care, building a strong team and developing a range of ministries before moving on to become WEC Regional Directors for Africa in 1995. For nearly 13 years we travelled extensively serving WEC teams across Africa, mentoring team leaders, and assisting teams with member care, vision & strategy, crisis management etc. All to help accomplish our WEC objective of 'reaching people, planting churches'. It has been an honour to serve the Lord in these ways".

Still on the missionary theme, Parish Council has resolved to link with Adrian and Anita Lovell, who will take over the Scarratt's work in the southern half of South America. (Peter & Sarah Sholl will take the northern half). Both the Sholls and the Lovells are with CMS. (We are not losing the connection with the van Donges, we are adding this new connection to keep more alive our link with the people of South America who have received ministry from the Scarratts). Adrian and Anita have studied at Moore College, they are presently training for missionary service in Melbourne, and will visit the parish later this year.

Website news – don't forget to check the church website (standrews.org.au) for photos of Ann & Joshua's wedding, as well as photos of the recent houseparty.

The Jesus Ute

On 14th February a few of the men went to see the 'Jesus Ute'. First stop was the very excellent Motor Museum at Dapto, followed by



BBQ, and this was followed by meeting an unusual man. Andrew Fisher races the "Jesus Ute" (I admit it is a Ford) professionally. Putting Jesus name on his racing ute means two things: i) it is hard to get commercial sponsorship, ii) he must keep a good witness to Christ constantly in his life, since everyone knows he is a Christian.

How did this ute get its name? Andrew says "I was thinking of putting a fish (a Christian symbol) on the back of the Ute or having a 'Christian' nickname (you have to choose a nickname in the Ute series) and my wife challenged me by saying, "Well if you really want to make



a statement why don't you advertise the 'Jesus. All about Life' campaign on the Ute?"

I want to live my faith out in a practical sense. I love motor racing and feel privileged to be able to compete at the level I do, however I also love the Lord Jesus Christ, so to bring my two loves together is very exciting. The 'Jesus. All about Life' program is a perfect bridge between the two areas of my life because it is not about doom and gloom and persecution."

At the BBQ Andrew spoke about how Christian men need to persist with their faith. Bible reading and fellowship are indispensable for this.

You can follow the Jesus Ute on the Bible Society of NSW webpage.