



The New Church Newsletter

Hurstville Society June 2018

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The World Is Good, People Are Good

By Rev Todd Beiswenger

I really believe this: people are good. I came across a video not too long ago featuring Rob Greenfield and it is titled, "The World is Full of Good People." You can check it out for yourselves on YouTube. Rob believed that the world is full of good people, so to prove his point he flew from San Diego California to Panama City, Panama. It was a one-way ticket, and the only things he took with him were the clothes on his back and his passport.

To survive he worked odd jobs, he ate food that others were going to waste, he collected cans and other rubbish to sell for recycling and most importantly relied on the generosity of the people he met along the way. He managed to travel his way through seven countries, countries that I might add don't have any great reputation for safety, without being robbed, beaten or murdered. It's not the picture you normally get of Central America when you read or watch the news. But the fact is that in 37 days he made his way back to San Diego and had 10 cents in his pocket!

People are good! Haven't you experienced it? I hope so. My experience has been that people are far kinder than we realize, and that they are very interested in sharing their help with us if we'd only ask. While there are a lot of debates in the world about what is right and wrong and which method is a better way of doing things, what the Lord and His angels care most about is what it is that we intend. What is our purpose behind the actions we take? Are we *trying* to be good? Are we doing what we think is right?

For me, one of the most attractive teachings of the New Church is that the world is becoming a better place. There is a whole set of teachings that tell us that the prophecies of Revelation have already taken place, and that there is a new Earth forming right before our eyes! This is what New Church day is all about. The world is becoming better. It's not perfect, but the fact is that it is probably a lot better than we give it credit for. Happy New Church Day.

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In Google I Trust

By Rev Todd Beiswenger

When we first moved here, we obviously had no idea how to get around. Thankfully Erik Sandstrom had left behind a map book in the van, and we used it anytime we went anywhere. A few months later we got a Sat-Nav device, but over time it became to be a point of pride when we could go more and more places without needing some form of paper or electronic assistance. These days I mostly know where I'm going, but I do use Google Maps before setting out to check traffic.

A few weeks ago I made a trip down to Canberra. That's a pretty easy trip to map out, and there isn't much in the way of alternatives. Just go to the M5 and keep on going. It's so easy. I didn't bother to check Google Maps. I was leaving a little later than usual, so I

wasn't surprised to find more traffic on King George's Rd than normal. As I was sitting in traffic going so slowly through Beverly Hills, I should have clued in that this was slower than normal and checked Google Maps. I didn't. As I approached the M5 on ramp I saw cars turning into the ramp... and stopping. Somehow I should have gotten the clue that this wasn't just normal morning traffic. While waiting and waiting to enter the M5 I should have checked Google Maps... but I didn't.

As it turns out there was an accident on the M5 just before Revesby. If I had checked Google Maps at any time before entering the M5 I could have taken side roads around the whole mess. Instead I plunged right into it. I finally did consult Google, and it told me to get off the M5 at the next exit and go around it. Which I did. It just took me 45 minutes to get to the next exit. Overall the delay was about an hour.

What's the moral of the story? It's that we do this with the Word too. We get comfortable and maybe even prideful that we know where we're going and what we're doing. We don't ask the Lord for help and guidance with a lot of the smaller things in life. Should I check Google Maps every time I leave the house? Maybe not, but the Lord does tell us to meditate on the Word day and night, and to never let it slip from our minds. Checking the Word might save us a lot of trouble, even if it seems like the decision is simple enough.

I'm not advocating literally opening up the text every time we do something, but we do need some sort of an internal check. "Why am I doing this? Who am I benefiting? Myself? Others? Is this actually the right thing to do?" Hopefully you are running your life well enough that the answer is a quick and easy, "Yes, this is fine" and you move on.

But I can't help but wonder what if Australian cricket captain Steve Smith had consulted a higher authority before turning a blind eye to the ball being tampered with? He might have saved himself some trouble.

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New Church Day Celebrations

Every year we do some sort of a celebration around June 19th, for New Church Day. This year at our society meeting we decided to do a **pot-luck lunch** after the service on June 17th. (*Please bring something to share*) As per our recent tradition we're going to have a red dragon piñata for the kids to attack, but we're also going to have something new as well. **Kerry Lockhart** and **Karen Evans** are going to team up to create a treasure hunt. The plan is that it will be done for two levels: an easier hunt for the little ones, and something more challenging for the older ones. While the details of the hunt have yet to be worked out, we're going to work on tying together the hunt with the teachings about the Holy City New Jerusalem as described in the book of Revelation. While that's subject to change, the goal is to have something that is fun and Biblically educational. We hope you'll come out and enjoy the festivities!

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Working Bee Progress

We had a working bee a couple weeks ago, and I want to say that we are making progress! The last year or so we've put most of our efforts on the front of the property, but because of all the progress that has been made out front we were able to put some effort into the gardens in the back. It helped a lot that **Mike & Kerry Lockhart** put a fair bit of effort out front, but the net result is that things are looking up. Ever since Norm Heldon's retirement from gardening we've been playing catch up to get things under control, and while the weeds are still plentiful, it feels to me that we're slowly winning. Thanks very much to our hard working volunteers who put all the effort in to keep the place looking good! It is very much appreciated.

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Perth Trip

On Friday June 8 I'll be heading out to Perth for one of my regular trips. The last couple of years my visits have usually been near Easter and one before Christmas, but we're going to get an extra visit in this year just before New Church day. They've got a bunch of little kids out there these days, so it's good to keep in touch with them and teach these little kids about the Word and teachings of the New Church. As usual, I fly out on a Friday, will lead a couple of classes, a worship service, then fly back Sunday afternoon.

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Clergy Meetings

I'm going to be racking up some frequent flier point in June, because I'll be leaving on the 25th for Bryn Athyn, returning on the morning of July 4th. These meetings don't have a singular doctrinal focus, but rather the main event is the nomination of a new Executive Bishop. This time around there are six nominees for the position.

Name	Current; Recent Experience
Erik Buss	2010 Asst Pastor in Bryn Athyn; 10 years Pastor in Westville Republic of South Africa
Peter Buss Jr	2013 Asst to the Bishop; 11 years Pastor in Glenview (Chicago)
Glenn "Mac" Frazier	2016 Asst Pastor in Glenview; 6 years church planter in Austin Texas
Bradley Heinrichs	2002 Pastor in Kitchener Canada, 9 years Executive Vice President of the New Church in Canada
David Lindrooth	2004 Director of New Church Outreach; 8 years pastor Ivyland New Church
Derrick Lumsden	2014 Pastor at Sarver; 5 years Pastor at Westville Republic of South Africa

As with last time this happened, the clergy will be using a ranked voting system to determine the nominee. The idea is that it is better to get the person who everybody sees as a clear #2 than to get the person who 51% think is the #1 and the other 49% think he's #6.

Once the new person is nominated, their name is sent to the General Church Board of Directors, where they will interview him, and if they approve of the nominee will then be sent out to the General Church members for a final confirmation/affirmation of the selection. This person will take office starting July 1 2019. As you can imagine, this will likely have ripple effect throughout the organization, plus the fact that Mike Gladish will be retiring from his job as Pastor of the Washington Church, starting a round of musical chairs for the clergy.

Beyond the selection process though, the meetings will have a full agenda of papers being presented, and professional development workshops being offered. There's becoming a greater emphasis on offering workshops this year, as people are finding them just as beneficial as doctrinal presentations. For example, there will be workshops on public speaking, advertising the church, counselling, among others. We've still got a range of doctrinal papers being presented, including one titled "Refocusing on the Lord's Agenda" by me. It'll be my first time presenting at the meetings, so it should be an interesting experience.

Of course there will be ample opportunity to talk and network with other clergy to learn what it is that they are doing successfully, and some social events in order to just catch up with old friends. It'll be a busy week.

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Movie Night – The Incredibles

You're invited to our New Church Day 'birthday bash' on Saturday, June 2nd! Ice cream will be served at 6:15pm; the movie, 'The Incredibles', will start at 6:30pm. This is a fun movie and also teaches some great lessons, like teamwork, empathy and the downsides of revenge! RSVP - if you want ice cream! - by Friday June 1 to Jenn (jenn@beiswenger.net or 0411 719 754) to make sure we have enough to go around (and let us know if you have food sensitivities). Feel free to bring a bean bag/comfy chair - and everybody's welcome to this free event, so bring a friend, too! Hope to see you here!

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Not Quite Retired... Yet.

About two years ago **Rev. Julian Duckworth** announced he would be retiring at the end of May 2018, in line with his 70th birthday. As many of you know, **Rev. Howard Thompson** has agreed to take the position after Julian's departure, but there have been the usual delays in getting the visas for the Thompsons to move to Australia. At this time the hope is that Thompson's will be arriving in August, and that Howard will take over the services in September. In the meantime, while Julian is getting his well deserved send-off,

he's not actually fully leaving. The Duckworths are moving – have moved – to Port Macquarie, but have agreed to take services in Roseville twice a month (first and third Sundays) during June, July and August. So Julian has retired... sort of.

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St. George on a Sunday

Mark your calendars and plan to pop in to see St George on a Sunday ~ 19 May - 29 July 2018 at Hurstville Museum & Gallery!

This is a photographic exhibition which captures residents of the St George region and their favourite spare time activities -- and, guess what, Jenn was one such resident whose favourite Sunday activity was captured 'on film'! She signed up to represent that some people do still go to church on Sundays! As a result our very own [Hurstville New Church](#) and gardens will be featured in this exhibit.

<https://www.facebook.com/HurstvilleNewChurch/?fref=mentions>

While I haven't seen the exhibition, I have been informed that there is a picture of Jenn in the church gardens. We had hoped for more, but it's better than none!

Hurstville Museum & Gallery collaborated with TAFE NSW St George College of Fine Arts for this project. Students were given the opportunity to get hands-on experience and work closely with the local community, taking the photographs for this exhibition.

Official opening: Sunday 27 May, 2.30pm. RSVP online (<http://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=372817&>). All welcome, afternoon tea provided.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Angela Heldon** and **Michelle Heldon** (8th), **June Kirsten** (9th), **Izaak Horner** (17th)

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