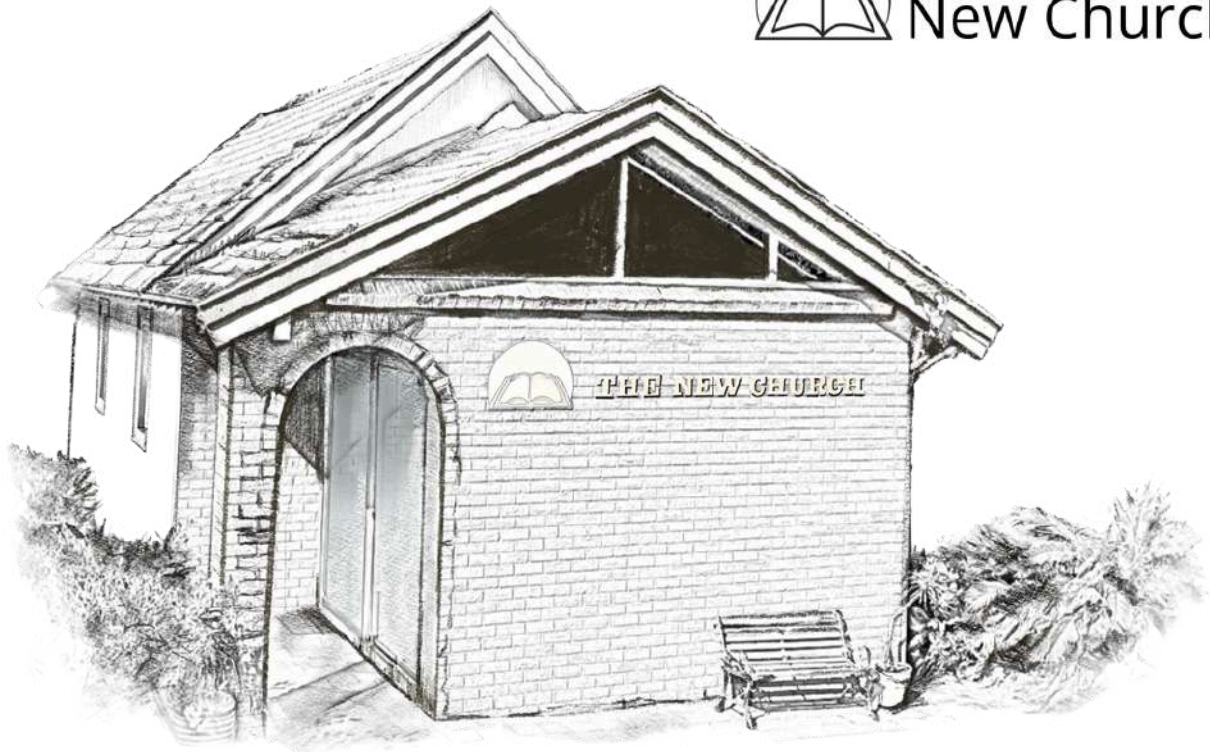




Hurstville EST. 1905  
New Church



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## **The New Church Newsletter** **Hurstville Society October 2025**

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### **The Cornerstone of Our Faith**

By Rev. HyunJin Yang

*“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation,  
A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation;  
Whoever believes will not act hastily.” (Isaiah 28:16-17)*



I've recently pondered about the meaning and the weight of living in faith. It also occurs to me that we do face different hardships and challenges from inside and outside along the way, and that there are times that force us to ask what it is all about. And if we do find ourselves struggling, what would help us most to reconnect with the life of our faith? I wonder perhaps it begins with looking back to the cornerstone of our faith. I wonder it begins with remembering where it first began for us.

## **The Weight of Living in Our Faith**

In my mind, living in faith or the life of faith are differentiated from going as things go or living as we feel like. It means that we live for something beyond ourselves, beyond our feelings, and beyond what we think we are destined for. In my mind, the life of our faith as a Christian means nothing other than our dedicated life of seeking what the Lord our God says in His Word and of striving to live by it.

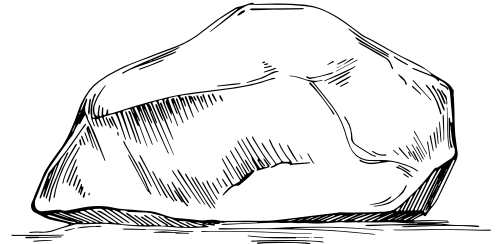
And it may certainly be a rugged way, as it is often a direct challenge to our natural love of living as we feel like. It certainly has the uncomfortable 'weight' on our shoulder (see Matthew 11:28), as the life of our faith means that we continue to seek and stand with what the Lord says even when the world and our 'natural self' convince us otherwise.

So, it is often a struggle in the choice of choosing the Lord's pathway over the natural way that we are innately drawn to. It is often a struggle of trying to listen for His voice among many noises and to see where His truth lies in the middle of the world we live in. And none of us is spared from somehow skipping this step on the way. It is part of the life of our faith.

In other words, we may find times where it is not our faith in the Lord but faith in something else or ourselves that is at the helm of our life.

Along the way, we may feel that our faith has become a tradition in the forms of thoughts. We may find ourselves thinking that it is no different than going to church on Sunday or being reminiscent of memories of the Lord's teachings from afar. We might even feel as though the 'weight' is not on our shoulders to proudly and humbly bear but it is oppression in the heart that we no longer want.

## What Is the Cornerstone of Our Faith?



We all experience ups and downs. So, we will experience high points, where we feel confident that we're really living out our faith in the Lord, and where things just make sense without needing to try hard to make them make sense for us. But how should we renavigate if we find ourselves at one of the low points? How do we find our way back? Wouldn't it be helpful if we started digging down to the root of our faith, asking ourselves where it begins, or rather where it first began for us.

We may find other questions to be relevant, such as: 'what was the most important teaching that touched us down to our spirit, not just our intellect?' 'What was one truth that found us and led us out of confusion (or out of the wilderness) and into our love to the Lord and His church?' One that touched me recently was that the Lord desires and wills to share His life – His love and wisdom – with us in every single moment (See *Heaven and Hell* 399). He can't possibly do otherwise because such is His Divine characteristic that cannot change.

There are teachings that are basic but fundamental as such that will gravitate us back to our faith in the Lord regardless of where we may be. A truth of cornerstone may differ for everyone. And then, what was yours that touched you deeply and became the foundational support of the life of your faith in the Lord? Or was there a teaching or what the Lord says in the Word that affected your life in some way or in some great way? Wouldn't it be helpful if you can look back to it?



## Who Is the Cornerstone of Our Faith?

Wherever we may find ourselves, it is always good to look back and reflect on where it all began for us. Even as a people of congregation, we should ask something similar: 'what is the cornerstone of our faith? One thing grateful about it is that there is nothing to argue about it! The most Christian and New Church faith sit on the faith that the Lord Jesus Christ is our God, the only God (See Matthew 28:18; John 17:2; *True Christianity* 294). It is our faith in Him that should support every other aspect of our life of faith (See Ephesians 2:20).

There is power, in fact great power, in seeing the Lord as the cornerstone of our faith and life. This is to say that we allow our life to be built on the Lord and His guidance. This is to say that we put our trust in God whose wisdom and support are as solid as a bedrock that is not moving nor failing. But this is also to say that we are not putting our trust so much in ourselves because we are fallible and weak on our own. This may sound like weakness on our end, but in this faith, we may discover great comfort, and it is there that we can reconnect with the life of our faith in the Lord again and mover from there.

**In early 1921 property was purchased at Dudley Street. Plans were drawn up by Rev Richard Morse and submitted in June 1921. The heading on those plans reads: Church Building for the Sydney Society of the General Church of the New Jerusalem, Dudley St, Kogarah. At this time Mora White wrote in New Church Life [NCL]: "We are looking forward to all sorts of lovely things when we have our own little building. After worshipping in a private house for so**



(Image above is the cornerstone of our church building. The meaning of the words inscribed in Hebrew is 'Holiness to the Lord.' Thanks to Owen Heldon who sent the image, which has been the inspiration of this article.)

## Church Field Day Outing (September 21st)



After church service, eight of us headed down to the Royal National Park in two cars. Unfortunately, not everyone was able to come along. However, it was extra great that Owen and Margaret could join.



Our bush-walk destination was Bungonna Lookout – a gentle walk from the parking area, not too long, nor tiring. Before the walk, we made sure to fill our stomach first, enjoying a BYO lunch at a bench near the trail entrance.



It was refreshing for many reasons: we bonded together in a different way. The view from the outlook was calming and beautiful. Nature itself provided us with different subjects to talk about. Taking extended breaks here and there gave us more chances to soak in both the scenery and each other's company. We were also blessed with almost the perfect weather –a sunny day, blue skies, and the comfortable high for the day being 21 Celsius.

## **Canberra Visit (August 28th)**

I had such a lovely time with Heulwen and Barrie Ridgeway. It had to be a

short, a day trip, but it was really great to meet with them. It was my first time visit since October last year. We had Holy Supper at the chapel in the Calvery Aged Care, which was followed by a talk I offered. It was an enriching time for the three of us. We started with a prayer and then moved on to a recitation that we read together. And after the Holy Supper, we shared our thoughts, which made our service about an hour long. I really appreciated the quiet and thought-provoking time.



We had lunch and coffee together at a café at the Calvery. We had quite a bit of things to catch up since the last time. I look forward to my next visit with you!

(A photo of us three at a café after lunch)

Shortly after, I had a stop to make on the way home. I left my favourite winter jacket (that my father-in-law gave me) at Phillip's place the last time I stayed over there in May. I had to pick it up. On the other hand, it was such a perfect reason to stop by their place and have a chat with them. It was good to meet with Phillip and Eleanor. I couldn't stay longer as then I would have had to drive in dark.

## **The Hurstville Society News**

### **Update on Sunday Service Live streaming on YouTube**

We now have implemented two camera system, one for wide-shot and one for close-up. The big change behind the scenes is that we've started using what is called a 'switcher'. This device lets us to switch between two cam-



eras (and more) by simply pressing a button on it. The initial set up was a bit tricky, and we had a couple of hiccups – like the livestreaming image breaking up at times – but things seem to have settled down.

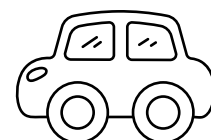
One of the reasons for the change was the low-light setting in our church combined with the high aperture of our previous camera. (Many thanks to Phillipa who pointed it out to me!) This meant that the image it captured and transmitted wasn't always clear. And I thought it was important to see improvement for those who join our service online as well as anyone who wants to tune in and know about what our church service is like.

For some more details, our previous camera is still used for wide shot. It is still a good camera! What's new is that we now have another camera that is optimized with a lower aperture for the low-light setting, and this new one is used for close-up. So, the wide shot will show the whole front part of the church, while the close-up will mainly focus on me and the sanctuary area during readings and sermon.

On another note, I can use our recorded service footage to create shorter videos. These can be uploaded on our Facebook channel and YouTube channel, serving as a useful window of sharing and representing the message of our church service.

### **A New Church Car**

About a month ago, we discovered that the church car would need a repair that could cost about three times value of the car. And we thought that almost turning 17-year-old Honda Odyssey had served its use and that we should let it go. In place of it, we purchased Hyundai Kona in Denim Blue colour. I've been driving it about three weeks now, and it treats me and YoungHee well. I thought I would share an image of the car, but I decided not to, because if so, you may be too jealous of me. :)



## What's Coming Up?

### Family Service (5th)

We will continue to see the first Sunday of each month as our family service. A useful reminder of the format is that we will have a short children's talk prior to the main talk, and that there is going to be a Q & A and discussion time after the first postlude. Rewinding how it went last time, I reckon the Q & A and discussion time went quite well with the help of your participation. Hope to see you all!



### Doctrinal Class + BYO lunch (9th)

Normally, we don't know what our class is going to be about, but this time, we do! Rev. David Miller as our guest speaker will be giving us a class on the origin of evil. We will still meet at Baringa, where we will connect with him via Zoom on the big TV screen.

Out of the ordinary, we also know what our class is going to be in November. On the second Thursday of the month, I will be giving a class on the 'human proprium', which is occasionally translated as 'a sense of self,' or 'our self', or the like. Just so you know, this will be the second part of my first class on the topic I gave last year.

These two classes are a series, where we will be delving into the New Church teachings on the nature of who we are as a vessel of life, and other relevant topics. For those who would like to join online, I'll also be sending out a Zoom link in the Weekly Updates for those weeks.

### Holy Supper (12th)

Please expect that we will have Holy Supper on the 12th of October. It is one of our quarterly, and it will be meaningful if you can join. Those who can't join in person can also participate online.



## **Roseville New Church's 150th Anniversary (19th)**

We have decided to cancel our church service on the 19th of October, so that we can join the Roseville New Church's 150th anniversary service on that Sunday. So, there will be no church service on the Sunday here at Hurstville. The Anniversary Service will center around giving thanks for 150 years of faith, community, and spiritual growth of the Roseville New Church. Following the service, there will be a catered lunch in their church hall. Save the date for the special day!

The Roseville New Church is aware that we will be joining the service. That said, you're welcome to reach out to Rev. Howard Tompson to personally let him know of your intent of attendance of the service at [revhathompson+ssnc150th@gmail.com](mailto:revhathompson+ssnc150th@gmail.com)

### **Sign up and Get Free Gift from General Church Education!**



I am forwarding the following invitation from General Church Education:

Greetings from General Church Education! As this new school year gets underway, the friendly folks at GCED are beginning to work on the Family Gift Mailing list for the coming year.

- Any family with children from birth to age ten with an interest in the New Church is welcome to sign up for these free gifts. There is no baptismal requirement.
- We send three gifts during the year to help families celebrate Christmas, Easter, and New Church Day.

- Each packet includes hands-on projects, books, etc. including supplies, and a family talk.
- If you are interested, you can visit and follow up in the following link: <https://newchurch.org/landing-pages/family-gift-mailings/> Please note, we keep this information confidential. It is stored in the General Church database and is not used for other purposes.

## In Memory of Bill Burke

Some of us may remember Rev. Bill H. Burke who served the Hurstville Society as a visiting minister from September through November of 1998.

He passed into the spiritual world on August 23rd.



The following is a tribute from Morning Star Chapel on his passing:

Rev. Bill H. Burke, a man of profound faith and service, passed peacefully into the spiritual world on Saturday, August 23rd, at 10:30 p.m. with his beloved wife of 67 years by his side.

Bill's life was a testament to his dedication to others. After 30 years of service in the U.S. Navy, he answered a different calling, embarking on a remarkable spiritual journey that saw him attend two theological schools and preach in churches across the country. For a time, he also shared his wisdom as a teacher at the Bryn Athyn Elementary School.

His ministry started in Lakeland, Florida, and led him to a church in Americus, Georgia, before he established his own community, the "Church of the Open Door." While earning his BA in Theology in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, he not only taught fourth graders but also provided comfort to those in the hospital. His pastoral care also reached communities as far as New Zealand and Sydney, Australia. He and his wife, Eleanor, eventually made their home in Alpharetta, close to their church.

Bill's kindness and spirit touched many. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; his sons, Stephen (Wanda) of Americus and Stuart (Jayne) of Lilburn; and his granddaughter, Megan (Trey) of Murrayville.



Happy Birthday to Stuart Heldon (10th),  
Murray Heldon (13th), Darren Kermond (20th),  
Cameron Walsh (20th)

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