

# G DUC Grapevine

AUGUST 2018

## CONVERSATION BETWEEN GOD & ST. FRANCIS

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started on ages ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. F: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. F: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. F: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. F: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?



ST. F: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. F: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. F: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. F: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. F: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: 'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

## This month's services

### BIRTHDAYS

#### JULY

Darren Penn

#### AUGUST

John Miller

Pat Duch

Lynda Smith

Glenice Benney

Lois Mellross

Andrew Robertson

David Gibbons

Bruce Van Every

Ian McLaverty

Brenda Jacobs

Jacque Frew

5 Aug — 9.00 am Jenni's Team

10.45 am Jenni's Team

12 Aug—9.00 am Rev Ian Porter HC

(Wayne's Team assisting)

10.45 am Rev Temukisa HC

5.00 pm Messy Church

19 Aug —9.00 am Café Church

10.45 am Ken & Pat Handley

26 Aug—9.00 am Denise's Team

10.45 am Rev Margaret Manning

**PASTORAL GATHERING**

Elders and Pastoral Carers will be gathering on Friday 24 August for a training session.

Rev Temukisa will provide details soon.



The pastoral work of the congregation is important as a fulfilment of the tasks given to us all by Christ. We support one another in times of need with words, prayers, visits, meals, or a helping hand. We all do this, not just those appointed as elders/pastoral carers. We would be happy to add more to the pastoral carers list—please talk to Wayne if interested.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To Angela and Chris Tutty on the birth of a new grandchild—George William Hurst, in New Zealand.

**WEB SITE**

Do you check the church web site? Synod are working on revising our web site at the moment and we are looking at what needs to be retained. We have been congratulated for having a regularly updated site that includes the news sheet, Grapevine and Messy Church newsletters as well as lots of photos, selected sermons and information about our activities. Please let Wayne Myers know what you like from it. The web site address is -

<http://drysedale.unitingchurch.org.au>



- 8 Aug—1.00 pm Communal Prayer Time
- 18 Aug —8.00 am Prayer Breakfast
- 19 Aug —6.00 pm Special Birthday Dinner
- 22 Aug—1.00 pm Communal Prayer Time
- 24 Aug—Pastoral Gathering

**MESSY CHURCH**

12 August is the next Messy Church with the theme of Superheroes. We know Jesus was a superhero who could walk on water; Daniel was able to control lions; Elijah ascended to heaven in a chariot of fire. What will our superheroes find at Messy Church? 5.00 pm start.



**SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS**

We're off to the Clifton Springs Golf Club again to celebrate our special birthdays with dinner on Sunday 19 August. Please add your name to the list in the foyer if you would like to attend. This time we recognise Darren Penn (40 years), Lynda Smith (60), Glenice Benney (80) and Lois Mellross (80).



**LOOSE CHANGE**

The Nepal chicken farm project got off to a good start with \$163.45 in July. Bruce Van Every reports that the land has been donated for the chicken farm to be set up on. Our target is \$700.



10.45	KITCHEN	WELCOME	READING	ELDER/PRAYERS
AUG 5	Audrey	Marg Macg	Jenni's Team	John/ Jenni's
12	Irene & Bob	Carol	Irene	Ken/Bob
19	Marguerite & Alma	Carol	Ken/Pat	Ken/Pat
26	Margaret F	Ken	Carol	Bob/Carol

W@9	KITCHEN	COUNTING	FLOWERS
AUG 5	Wayne's Team	Colleen	Denise McLaverty
12	Jenni's Team	Glenda	Susan Duncan
19	Denise's Team	Margo	Jenni Nickelson
26	Graeme's Team	Ian	Win Baker

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***Our Vision—Reaching out with God's love and care***