

Dear Friends,

In this evening's Confirmation service tonight we witness a number of people - mostly young - confirming the promises made for them at baptism by their parents and sponsors. These people are now publicly declaring *their* repentance towards God, *their* faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, *their* commitment to His Church, and *their* desire to be empowered with His Holy Spirit for life and service. This is a great cause for celebration together, and we rejoice that the Lord has been at work, in the lives of these individuals, in their families, those who have been preparing them for confirmation, and the whole church. "Raise up your army of holiness and love, Lord."



We also celebrate some new members being welcomed in to fellowship as members of St Matthew's as part of the wider communion of the Anglican church. We welcome those who have settled in our district from other parts and those who have come to faith in Christ as adults - praise God. (The names of confirmees and new members are on the back of the bulletin.)

- It was encouraging to a large number to hear reports and pray at the Annual General Meeting last week. A new Vestry (or Parish Council) was appointed: as Wardens, Eddie McLeod and Allen Theobald and as vestry members, Pauline Spry, Vernon Clarke and Brian da Costa. My appointments: as vicar's warden, Noel Martin and as vestry member, Marilyn McLeod. Vestry has a large responsibility in the administrative, financial, maintenance, planning and spiritual leadership in the church - pray for them, and for myself as I lead the team.

We are needing at least 3 others who will be part of a building/maintenance team to support the vestry in a committed way. Let Eddie or myself know if you would like to volunteer for this.

- The vestry needs your yellow commitment forms to the youth ministry to be handed in this week or next week. Please pray and respond to this for this important ministry for next year.

Loving greetings,

Peter

Our WARMEST WELCOME to any newcomers here today, and our regular St Matthew's community

TODAY AT ST MATTHEW'S

- 9.00 & 10.45am MORNING WORSHIP**
 Genesis 11:1-9 'The Tower of Babel'.
 •Creche - Church Hall (9am only).
 •Crying room - church.
 •Sunday School - Church Hall.
- 9.00am YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS:** Years 7/8: Theobald's
 Years 9/10: boys - downstairs Woods; girls - Endeavour Centre.
- 1.30pm Baptisms of Fiona Mitchell & Shelley Rate at 19 Miller Street, Berwick.**
- 6.30pm CONFIRMATION SERVICE & WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS**
 Please bring a plate for supper.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their souls from death, and keep them alive in famine. Psalm 33:18,19

THIS WEEK

- Tues 26th**
 7.45pm School of Intercession at the Smith's.
- Thurs 28th**
 Peter's & Brian's day off.
- Fri 29th**
 7.30pm YAWN - Saints of the Century.
- Sat 30th**
 1.30-3.30pm Dancing Lesson No. 4 - for the Stepping Out Dance.
Cleaning: Major, Lake, Fritzlaff, Schultze, Humble, Hendricks
Gardening: Hughes, Bristol
Flowers: Hazel Hendricks

OUR PURPOSE
 Loving Disciples,
 Worshipping God,
 Extending His Kingdom.

OUR VISION
 A regional church based on
 150 home groups by the year
 2001, reaching families &
 needy communities.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ENDEAVOUR HILLS YOUTH

During 1993 we have been blessed by the steady and faithful ministry of Brian Shields amongst our youth. The costs of his ministry have been met by generous support from the Diocese, the Op Shop from All Soul's Sandringham, St Matthew's members and sacrifices made by Brian himself. When St Matthew's members were asked to contribute to the Youth Ministry Fund it was for the period to the end of December, 1993.

The Vestry for 1992-93 confirmed their commitment to Brian Shields' ongoing ministry in this place. To enable Brian's ministry to operate effectively will require the combined commitment of the diocese, St Matthew's and Brian. To retain Brian's ministry for 1994 the following is an evaluation of what is required.

Stipend	\$21,076	Diocese commitment	\$18,000
Allowances	\$7,700	St Matthew's commitment	\$10,998
Workcover	\$222		
Accommodation	\$7,280	Brian Shields' commitment	\$7,280
	\$36,278		\$36,278

This matter will be discussed in more detail at our Annual General Meeting, where St Matthew's people will be asked to confirm the vestry's decision by indicating over the next 3 weeks their financial support. We believe that as God has supplied in the past year, we will see him do even greater things in the year to come.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ENDEAVOUR HILLS YOUTH

Keep for your records:

For the ongoing Ministry to Youth in Endeavour Hills, I commit myself to the following course of action in 1994.

- ☐ I will commit myself to monthly support of \$_____
- ☐ I enclose \$_____ for the support of the Youth Ministry.
- ☐ I will make a cash donation of \$_____ before March 31, \$_____ before Sept 30.

Signed _____ (optional)

Please go before the Lord and see what He would have you do.

Completed forms should be put in a plain envelope marked 'Treasurer' and placed in the collection basket.

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AM NEWS

PO Box 167,
Camberwell, 3124
Ph: 882 7055 Fax: 882 7913

Anglican Youth Ministries works with the parishes of the Diocese of Melbourne to support, develop and encourage the growth of youth ministry. Working amongst young people within and outside the Anglican Church.

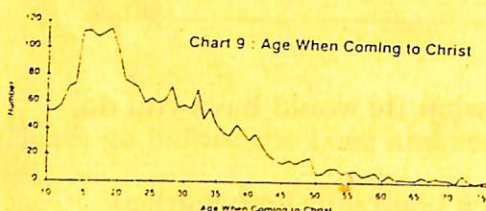
Youth Ministry - Main Game or Side Show?

Is youth ministry in the local church as a critical part of the churches life or some sort of side show? One often gets the impression that a lot of churches see their youth ministry as being very important, but it is seen as tangential to the major issues of the churches life. Work amongst adults is often seen as being more important and youth ministry can sometimes be viewed as a motherhood thing - we all agree it's significant, but not critical.

I want to suggest three reasons why effective youth ministry is critical to the life of a local church and part of the main game of church growth in the 90's.

One: Openness to Faith

There is a large body of faith development literature that points to the teenage/young adult years as being the years of most openness to making a faith commitment. This is borne out by recent New Zealand research which shows that the ages at which people are most likely to respond to the Gospel are 13-40 years of age and 13-23 in particular.



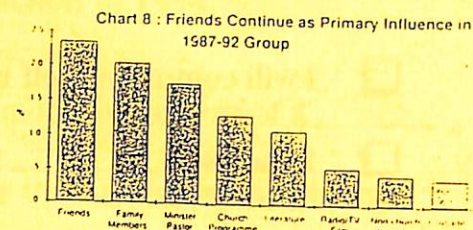
Youth ministry is critical because it deals with people at the point in their lives when they are most open to faith.

Two: Largest Circle of Friends

The point in peoples lives when they have the most number of friends is often acknowledged to be when you are at school or University/College. As people grow older their circle of contacts get small and their development of new relationships slows. In my own experience I've had a smaller circle of friends since I got married and more so since we've had children.

If people come to faith through the influence of friends then the point at which we can reach the most number of people is when they are teenagers and young adults. I've always believed that youth

are the best evangelists to youth and so once again youth ministry is a vital component of a growing church.



Three: Churches with an effective Youth Ministry are more likely to attract and keep new members.

A 1989 Group Magazine search article in U.S. highlighted some of the following findings:

- 80% of respondents considered Youth Ministry to be important in their choice of that church.
- Youth ministry was the second highest criterion for why people chose a church (59%) and 74% saw it as a critical reason for staying in a church.
- 70% of respondents said they would have second thoughts about joining a church that didn't have a strong youth ministry programme.

These figures need to be tested in our context, but it would be surprising if the high priority given to having an effective youth ministry wasn't borne out in our experience in Melbourne.

In what Peter Kaldor has described as the "Protestant Supermarket" in Australia in the 90's, the presence of absence of an effective youth programme will be a critical factor in people choosing and remaining at a church (the same applies to children's ministry as well).

Youth ministry is a part of the main game of growing churches in Melbourne in the 90's. It is even more critical in a Diocese like ours that still has relatively small numbers of teenagers and young adults involved.

Stephen Hale

Sources:
Both graphs from "New Vision New Zealand" Ed. B. Patrick 1993.
Youth Ministry: It's Impact on Church Growth by Jolene Roeh/ Keparlain Group 1989.

NEXT SUNDAY - October 31

9.00am & 10.45am Morning Worship
6.30pm Worship Fest

Next Sunday's Rosters:

Creche:
Rate, Clark

Sidespeople:

9.00am - Theobald
10.45am - Seskis
6.30pm - Seskis, Hughes

COMING UP AT ST MATTHEW'S!

St Matthew's Coming Events

Nov 5

Pool & Darts Night with Special Sausage Sizzle at Eddie's, 23 Vanderhaar Avenue, Berwick. Cost \$5. BYO Drinks. Proceeds to Gideons.

Nov 6

St Matthew's Stepping Out Dance. 7.30pm in the Church hall. \$5 per couple, \$3 per person. Pay at door. Bring a plate of supper.

Nov 7

Mission Box Sunday. Lorraine Sawkins will be collect the boxes during the service. If you require a mission box please see Lorraine.

Nov 21

Note: PM Service time change from 6.30pm to 7.00pm.

Nov 28

Sunday School Concert.

Dec 6

Church Banquet in Church hall.

Other Events

Oct 29 & 30

Teen Challenge 'Turning Point' Seminar. Cost \$50. (\$70 per couple; \$40 for 7 or more). See Brian or ring 728 2842 if interested.

Oct 30

Awakening '94 Training Day. Contact Rob Petty 700 3609

Oct 31

Keith Rayner will answer The Questions People Ask - Part 1 - 'Can We Believe the Bible?' Sunday evenings at 7.30pm at St Paul's Cathedral.

Nov 2

Dandenong Women's Aglow meeting at the White Peacock, 3 Princes Domain Drive, Hallam. Sharing Time. Cost \$8. Please book by Oct 30. Contact Marilyn 796 1347 or Lorraine 796 1407.

Nov 6

St James' Dandenong Family Fair - 9am - 4pm

Nov 20

Healing & Wholeness Service led by Canon Jim Holbeck at St James', Syndal (cnr Blackburn Rd & Stableford Ave)

DIFFERENT STUFF

Wanted - Berwick Anglican Church is having a family camp at Merricks Anglican site on Nov 19-21. They would like a couple of people to run the children's ministry for 12 Sunday School children on the Saturday from 9.30 - 12.00. Lunch will be provided. Peter & Jeanette Woods will be the speakers for the adult sessions.

Bible Reading Notes

Every Day with Jesus is available now. Please see Lynette Clark.

**Our WARMEST WELCOME to any newcomers here today,
and our regular St Matthew's community**

TODAY AT ST MATTHEW'S

**9.00 & MORNING WORSHIP
10.45am**

- Creche - Church Hall (9am only).
- Crying room - church.
- Sunday School - Church Hall.

9.00am YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS: Years 7/8: Theobald's
Years 9/10: boys - downstairs Woods'; girls - Endeavour Centre.

6.30pm WORSHIP FEST

*Lord, you show us the path that leads to life; your presence fills us
with joy, and your help brings pleasure for ever. Psalm 16:11*

THIS WEEK

**Tues 2nd
7.15pm**

Dandenong Women's Aglow meeting at the White Peacock,
3 Princes Domain Drive, Hallam. Sharing Time. Contact
Marilyn 796 1347 or Lorraine 796 1407.

Thurs 4th

Peter's & Brian's day off.

**Fri 5th
7.30pm**

Men's Group - Pool & Darts Night with special sausage
sizzle at Eddie's, 23 Van Der Haar Ave, Berwick. Cost \$5.
BYO Drinks. Proceeds to Gideons.

**Sat 6th
1.30-3.30pm
7.30pm**

Dancing Lesson No. 5 - for the Stepping Out Dance.

St Matthew's Stepping Out Dance in the Church Hall. \$5
per couple, \$3 per person. Pay at the door. Bring a plate of
supper.

Cleaning: Spry, Poretti
Gardening: Martin, Ellis
Flowers: Joan Luxford

OUR PURPOSE
Loving Disciples,
Worshipping God,
Extending His Kingdom.

OUR VISION
A regional church based on 150
home groups by the year 2001,
reaching families & needy
communities

ST MATTHEW'S STEPPING-OUT DANCE



Saturday

**November 6
7.30pm**

at St Matthew's Church Hall.

**Cost \$5.00 per couple
\$3.00 per person
Pay at door.**

Bring a plate of supper.

**featuring
Dennis Farrington Band
MC Mr Bob Yeomans**

Dress: neat semi-formal

PRAYER NOTES

*Do not abandon me, O Lord; do not stay away, my God! Help me now, O Lord my saviour.
Psalm 38:21,22*

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Let us pray (that our lives may reflect our faith.)

God of power and mercy, only with your help can we offer you fitting service and praise. May we live the faith we profess and trust your promise of eternal life. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FOR OUR CHURCH

Pray for •Peter, Jeanette and family that they may know the joy of the Lord and unity of the Spirit in their ministry and family relationships.

•Brian, Jan and family that they may know God's peace and protection.

•Shirley, Egils and family that they may know God's presence with them at all times.

•Steve, Shellie and family for God's blessing upon Steve's ministry and their family relationships.

Pray for all ministries; for Sunday School and our young people.

Pray for all VCE students doing exams this week.

Pray for Cindy Bruechert, Allison Wytkamp and the Home Group they lead. Pray for the co-leaders.

FOR THE SICK & GRIEVING

Pray for Daryl Blackwell (awaiting surgery - Nov 8), Debbie Johnson (Ruth Schultze's friend), Mary Bracegirdle, Jodie Ramage. Pray for continuing healing for Pat Hughes, Jan & Phil Shields, Shirley Seskis, Jeanette Woods, Junette Blackwell. Pray for the Breen family as they mourn the loss of Elaine's mother.

FOR THE WIDER CHURCH

Pray for all missionaries that they may know God's peace and encouragement in their ministry.

Pray for continued financial and physical provision for David and Jenny Neibling.

FOR THE WORLD

Pray for those in government in Australia that they may know wisdom in their decision making.

Pray for all still suffering because of world events.

Prayer Chain Co-ordinators -

Mary Doherty 700 3851

Ruth Schultze 791 3194

Peter Woods (Pastor) 700 4457	Brian Shields (Assistant/Youth) 807 2327
Shirley Seskis (Home Groups) 796 6582	Office (Helen Bristol) 700 2349
Steve Smith (Prayer) 706 2160	