

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Congregational Reps:

Karen Bain
Gloria Green
Norm Green
Irene Beddes
Rev. John Dihm

(Grapevine and website)
(Children's ministry)

CHURCH CONTACT
NUMBER:
0407579349

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

THE GRAPEVINE

APRIL 2024

NORTHAM CONGREGATION
103 Duke Street, NORTHAM, Western Australia 6401



WORSHIP 9.30am
1st and 3rd Sundays

NEWS - ROSTERS - CHURCH INFORMATION

EVENTS

HOLY COMMUNION is on the first Sunday of each month.
BETHAVON & THE RESIDENCY (JUNIPER RESIDENTIAL & COMMUNITY CARE) are supported with pastoral care to the residents, family and staff of Juniper Northam.

NORTHAM CONGREGATION gives financial support for Chaplaincy in local schools.

CHAPLAINCY (DONATION DAY) is the first Sunday of each month.
(Collect the marked envelopes in the Church foyer.)

CAFE FELLOWSHIP every third Sunday of the month.

SONG SERVICE every 5th Sunday (To be advised).

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

SAFE CHURCH AWARENESS WORKSHOP

May 4 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

There will be a Safe Church Awareness Workshop taking place on Saturday 4 May from 9.00am to 2.00pm at Kingsway Methodist Church, 38/40 Kingsway, Nedlands.

UNUSUAL BIBLE VERSES

--*Proverbs 27:15-16*

"A quarrelsome wife is as annoying as a constant dripping on a rainy day. Stopping her complaints is like trying to stop the wind or trying to hold something with greased hands."

--*Job 10:10 NIV*

"Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese."

--*Exodus 32:24 CSB*

So I said to them, 'Whoever has gold, take it off,' and they gave it to me. When I threw it into the fire, out came this calf!"

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10-11: Each time this reading comes up I look at it from a different perspective.

Dad was a shepherd and so were his eight brothers.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

As the reading progresses it says that the hired hands run away because they do not own the sheep so they do not care. This was not the case for my Dad and Uncles.

Dad always complained of a bad back when it started to get cold. He shared the story of when he was 16, he went out with Uncle Alan. There was a snowstorm coming

so they went out to get the sheep into the barn. They took a tractor and trailer out and lifted the sheep onto the back of it. They knew that if they didn't get the sheep under cover, they would crowd next to the fence for shelter. The problem was that the snow would then form drifts and the sheep would be buried under the snow.

It took hours to collect the sheep and take them to safety. Dad said that was why his back always played up in the cold. Uncle Alan however needed to be warmed up in a cold bath because he was suffering from hyperthermia. The drifts where the sheep would have gone measured 6 feet deep. Uncle Alan was OK and continued to be a shepherd for another 60 years. When he finally retired, he worked in a couple of films. I think one was *Pride and Prejudice*. His role was as a shepherd from the Regency period, standing on a hill with his crook in hand, watching the sheep. His dog at his side and wearing a smock.

We all have different visions of what a shepherd looks like. David with his slingshot ready to protect his flock. Jesus with a lamb across his shoulders. Or my Dad wearing wellington boots and walking around the flock every day. Each caring about the individual animal in their care.



by KAREN BAIN

BIBLE READERS APRIL

7. Bev and Owen Walker
21, Karen Bain

PREACHING PLAN APRIL

7. Ann Barnes HOLY COMMUNION
21. Karen Bain CAFE FELLOWSHIP

PRAYERS FOR:

Rev. John's wife, Maralyn,
who is unwell.



I AM AT THE HOSPITAL. I
accidentally drank invisible ink.
I'm waiting to be seen.

SNIPPETS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

A Greek Orthodox Church regional body has banned two local politicians for their support of the legislation that legalised same-sex marriage in the East Mediterranean nation.

Christian leaders are being "killed, tortured and disappeared" in parts of Ukraine that are occupied by Russia, a Christian religious freedom charity has said.

Christian leaders have warned that religious freedoms in Australia are under increasing threat after the release of the Australian Law Reform Commission's (ALRC) highly anticipated report on faith-based schools on Thursday.

The Evangelical Fellowship of India's (EFI) latest annual report on religious liberty sounds a chilling alarm over the escalating violence and systematic persecution faced by the country's Christian community.



REV JOHN!
On 13th April.

A SHOPPER ASKS

"where are the Arnold Schwarzenegger action figures." The assistant replies, "Aisle B, back"

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERY

In the afternoon the meeting focussed on discussion of proposals relating to the health and vitality of our congregations and faith communities. It was clear that many of our congregations are currently struggling to meet the UCA's expectations of congregations. The Presbytery adopted a set of characteristics to identify those congregations which are struggling and a process on how best to engage with them to help them discern their future and offer support as they move in new directions. Conversations have already begun with some congregations who have requested that they be dissolved, and as a result a proposal was agreed to dissolve several congregations, and in some cases to re-constitute them as faith communities. PRC is still in conversation with other congregations about their future and will be bringing further such proposals to a future Presbytery meeting.
by BOB OXLEY

I did some Financial Planning yesterday. I found out that I could retire at 97 and have financial freedom for 11 and a half minutes!!

THE TRUTH IS HARD

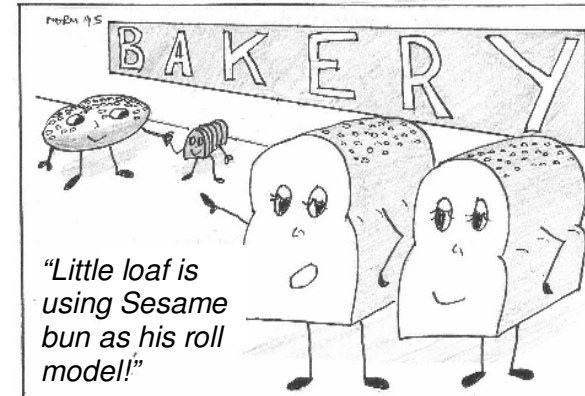
Gregg Ten Elshof is a Professor of philosophy at Biola University in the US. He says there is a reason why the truth hurts. A phenomenon called the 'backfire effect' is what happens when someone is presented with irrefutable truths on a matter that should shift their thinking. Instead they double down.

SHIRE WORKERS

A shire worker was digging a hole and another was filling it in. A passerby asked why they were doing that. "well," said one of them. "there are normally three of us, but Joe, who plants the tree in the hole, is off sick today."

LEAST RELIGIOUS TOWN IS IN WA

The least religious town according to the ABS is found in a small, sleepy town in Western Australia with the postcode 6705, where 66.5 per cent of the population in Gascoyne Junction stated that they had no religion.



SMARTPHONES AND CHILDREN

Humanity has engaged in the "rewiring of childhood" in an experiment with the smartphone that began in the early 2010s and has left children suffering from unprecedented levels of addiction, mental damage and social deprivation, warns American social psychologist Jonathan Haidt.

EASTER AND PASSOVER

Acts 12:4 in the KJV reads "And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people." How the word Easter got there is very interesting. The King James Version was not a new translation, but a revision of existing texts, largely stemming back to the work of William Tyndale, who used the word Easter. In the New Testament William Tyndale chose to translate the Greek Πάσχα (Pascha) as Easter. He did it not only in Acts 12:4, but in all 29 places where it was used in the New Testament.

A SWEATER I bought was picking up static so I returned it to the store. They gave me another one free of charge.

WHEN MY FRIEND JOYCE FOUND OUT SHE COULD CLONE HERSELF SHE REJOICED

Dick Smith after ABC news item...

"This claim by the CSIRO that you can run a whole country on solar and wind is simply a lie. It is not true. They are telling lies. No country has ever been able to run entirely on renewables- that is impossible. (Recently the ABC Fact Check apologised to Dick Smith after they found their "fact check" was incorrect.)