



Newsletter

May 2016



Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Honour her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise

Proverbs 31:30,31 ^{NIV}

Our vision: **“Growing a community of faith
committed to Christ and making him known”**

Linking ministering communities in East Launceston, George Town,
Hillwood, Low Head, Pipers River, Riverside & Trevallyn



Helping kids focus on inner beauty

Wise Words

*Children
brought up in
church are
seldom
brought up in
court*



*Be fishers of
men.
You catch
them, He'll
clean them*



*Authority
makes some
people grow,
and others
just swell*

How to teach your children that it's what's on the inside that counts

Two pears sit on a bench. One is shiny, smooth, moderate in size, even-shaped and golden in colour. The other is much bigger, lop-sided, its skin rough and speckled brown, green and gold.

I know which pear my children would choose. The same pear that most of the thinking population would choose, no doubt. The one that came from a regulated environment, selected for its regulated size, shape and texture. The one that was buffed and waxed, weighed and packaged, stored for who-knows-how-long at an even temperature before being stacked on supermarket shelves.

I give you Specimen Number One: the supermarket pear.

The other would have been rejected had it come from the same production line. It came from the garden and its owners allowed it to bulge

into whatever shape nature deigned. They relished plucking fruit from the branches, getting in amongst the sticky leaves, climbing to reach the topmost fruit.

Specimen Number Two: the homegrown pear.

We might even call them the beautiful pear and the ugly pear – but that would be to bend to the constructs of a society that allocates the title of **'Beautiful'** only to the outer façade.

As parents, we know that drawing a knife down through those pears, allowing the halves to fall open on the board can reveal a very different reality. That sinking our teeth into the grainy flesh and allowing the juices to saturate our palate can



reveal a truth about beauty that we must somehow relate to our children.

The sweetest kind of beauty comes from within.

I was at a park recently, letting my two kids run off some energy. I love to watch their enthusiasm in action, the squeals and laughter as they slide and chase and bound. I noticed a mini bus had arrived with a handful of children and their carers. One little boy with a disability whooped as he slid down the slide and my cotton wool child made an observation out loud that made my insides curdle.

It involved the word “ugly” is all I’ll say and rendered me dumbfounded as I struggled to shape a reprimand that stressed grand concepts of acceptance, kindness and ‘don’t-judge-a-book-by-its-cover’. I did badly. As he ran off to play again and I tried to retrieve my heart from my shoes, the carer called me over. She’d seen the whole thing.

I apologised on my son’s behalf. I may have said it three or four times.

But she shook her head.

“It’s ok,” she said. “It’s normal.”

It’s normal to recoil at ugliness. We all do it. She relayed how, when she began working as a carer to children with disabilities, it was painfully confronting and it took some time to get used to.

“He was only saying out loud what we all say in our heads,” she smiled. “What he needs is to know beyond the bulging eyes, the high forehead and lop-sided mouth. He needs to know what a fun kid Sam is.”

And she invited us to come and play. We joined their little party for a while, fed ducks with them, my kids eventually emerged from behind my legs and exchanged hellos with a boy in a wheelchair, another with Down Syndrome and little Sam with his infectious happiness.

In the car on the way home we talked about how beauty was MORE. A little part of this understanding was clicked into place thanks to

Life is a measure to be filled, not a cup to be drained



Closer to the shepherd, further from wolves



Save face. Keep the lower half shut



God wants full custody, not just weekend visits



A man is also known by the company he avoids

*continued
from
previous
page*

*There is
always a little
truth behind
every, “Just
kidding.”*

*A little
curiosity
behind every,
“Just
wondering.”*

*A little
knowledge
behind every,
“I don’t
know.”*

*And a little
emotion
behind every,
“I don’t care.”*

David Wolfe

the caring carer who stepped beyond offense to offer a **kind of education**. I’m so grateful to her.

It’s affirmed for me the importance of story and context in understanding humanity. Beauty is but a thin skin of knowing. When we seek to know more than the exterior that conception made ours, beauty takes on new meanings.

Jesus did this. He spent time listening and noticing what was going on beyond the first impression of disease, shame, position and beauty. He had the most uncanny way of finding the thread of yearning in the most unlikely places. Yearning for better, **yearning for God**. Isn’t that why beauty attracts us so?

I know that my children’s understanding of beauty is a many layered thing and that



countless small experiences will build and contribute to it. But as parents, we can help. Here are a few ways I do it:

- ❖ *Reading stories of Jesus’ reaction to “ugly” people*
- ❖ *Meeting “different” people & discovering commonalities*
- ❖ *Letting them see me happy in my own skin*
- ❖ *Rewarding beautiful acts of kindness*
- ❖ *Encouraging them to talk through prejudices*
- ❖ *Giving them visual cues (like the supermarket pear and the homegrown pear, or the rough outer surface of an abalone shell contrasted with its smooth, pearlescent inner) for understanding beauty better*

And someday they will know that the gnarled, misshapen folks, the ones marked by storms and hardship are very often the ones that demonstrate the greatest beauty.

Claire Van Ryn

Since she stopped writing the Keeping The Faith column for the Examiner Claire continues to write articles which can be found on her blog: faithlikeamushroom.wordpress.com

Project SAM camp @ George Town

What? You want me to weed the beach?!

In our youth ministry, we want to shift the culture from one of consumers (put on a good program and they will come) to one of collaborators (we are all working together – leaders and youth – to build **God's kingdom and to tell** how great he is). We also want to help our young people to see God at work in other parts of our state, and overseas.

So in the last school holidays, we took a group of nine Launceston-based youth, and 3 youth from George Town, up to George Town for a 3

day camp, where we could spend time with God and with each other, we could experience living faith in a community different from our own, and we could serve the local community through practical projects, like preparing a wooden boat for a **new life as children's** playground equipment!

And yes, we did make them weed the beach!

For more info on what Project SAM is about, visit www.projectsamtasmania.com

*The beach
is looking a
bit better
now ...
... and we're
sick of sea
spurge!*



Riverlinks

| May 2016 | |
|-------------|--|
| 1st Sun | Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's |
| 2nd Mon | Combined MST Meeting – 6:45pm in the Parish Office |
| 3rd Tue | <i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town Home & Study Groups – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at in the Parish office – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's |
| 4th Wed | <i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Men's Shed – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's |
| 5th Thur | <i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's |
| 6th Fri | <i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Re:Fuel – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town |
| 7th Sat | Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton Dessert Night – 6:00pm at St MM's George Town |
| 8th Sun | *** Mother's Day *** |
| 9th Mon | <i>(each Monday)</i> Child's Play – 9:30am at St O's Cadorna – 2:00pm |

| May 2016 | |
|--------------|--|
| 10th Tue | |
| 11th Wed | |
| 12th Thur | Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm |
| 13th Fri | Biggest Morning Tea – 10:00am at Graham Fairless Centre, George Town |
| 14th Sat | |
| 15th Sun | |
| 16th Mon | |
| 17th Tue | |
| 18th Wed | Ainslie Service – 2:15pm |
| 19th Thur | PresCare Legana – 10:45am |
| 20th Fri | Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town |
| 21st Sat | Ray Hawkins Book Launch – 2:00pm at Newstead Baptist Church |
| 22nd Sun | CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at the Catholic Church |

The deadline for the June Newsletter edition is 23rd May

Calendar

| May 2016 | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 23 rd Mon | |
| 24 th Tue | |
| 25 th Wed | |
| 26 th Thur | Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's |
| 27 th Fri | |
| 28 th Sat | |
| 29 th Sun | Riverlinks Together – 10:30am at St Mary Magdalene's George Town |
| 30 th Mon | Grief to Grace National Conference |
| 31 st Tue | Grief to Grace National Conference |



| June and other dates 2016 | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 3 rd & 4 th June | SYNOD at Tailrace Centre, Riverside |
| 18 th June | LMST Retreat (TBC) |
| | |
| | |

Service Times For Worship Centres

| East Launceston | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 st | 10:00 am | Morning Prayer | |
| 8 th | 10:00 am | Communion | |
| 15 th | 10:00 am | All In Service | |
| 22 nd | 10:00 am | Communion | |
| 29 th | - | No Service | |
| George Town | | | |
| 1 st | 9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am | Hillwood Pipers River George Town | Communion Communion Communion |
| 8 th | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Low Head George Town | Communion Communion |
| 15 th | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Pipers River ABU Service | Morning Prayer Anglican Church |
| 22 nd | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Low Head George Town | Communion Communion |
| 29 th | 10:30 am | George Town | Riverlinks Together |
| Riverside & Trevallyn | | | |
| 1 st | 10:00 am 10:30 am | Riverside Trevallyn | Communion 10.30 Worship @ St O's |
| 8 th | 10:00 am 10:30 am | Riverside Trevallyn | Praise & Worship 10.30 Oikos @ St O's |
| 15 th | 10:00 am 10:30 am | Riverside Trevallyn | Communion 10.30 Oikos @ St O's |
| 22 nd | 10:00 am 10:30 am | Riverside Trevallyn | Communion 10.30 Worship @ St O's |
| 29 th | - - | Riverside Trevallyn | No Service No Service |
| Each Wed | 10:00am | Trevallyn | Healing Service |
| Peace Haven | | | |
| 8 th | 10:30 am | Holy Communion | |
| 15 th | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer | |
| 22 nd | 10:30 am | Holy Communion | |

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office
399 West Tamar Hwy, Riverside - 6324 0039 office@riverlinks.net.au

Lennie's Legends
Relay for Life Team Fundraiser




Dessert Night

**Saturday
7th May
6pm**

at the Anglican Church,
Anne Street

\$10 per person
includes a small gift for
mothers

RSVP to Louise 0474 508 164
by Wednesday 2nd May



Pete Woodcock is coming all the way from the UK to speak at this year's **Men's Bible Conference** Saturday 16 July at the Branch, Kings Meadows

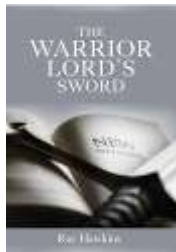
Grief to Grace will be having their national conference in Hobart from 30th - 31st May



The conference will be looking at abuse, trauma, and how they affect the brain.

For more details contact info@griefftoGraceaus.org.au or contact the Parish office for a registration brochure

Book Launch for Ray Hawkins latest 31 day devotional *The Warrior Lord's Sword*

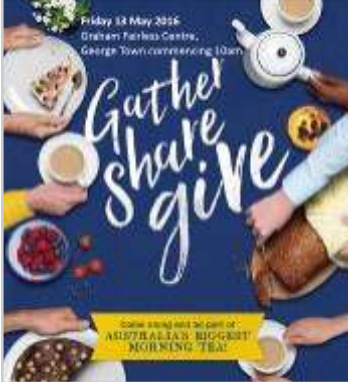


Saturday May 21, 2pm
at Newstead Baptist Church,
Wentworth Street, Newstead

The afternoon will include some musical items and a book review, followed by an afternoon tea

This devotional book is also available directly from Ray Hawkins postage free. Contact Ray on 6383 4757 or @ ray.haw3819@bigpond.com

Friday 18 May 2016
Graham Fairless Centre,
George Town commencing 10am



Biggest Morning Tea
10am Friday 13 May
at Graham Fairless Centre
George Town

Looking for Part Time Work?

Interested in becoming a School Chaplain?

SU Tasmania is seeking to appoint chaplains at these schools:

- Latrobe High School
- Exeter High School
- East Tamar Primary School
- Waverley Primary School
- Bracknell Primary School

Chaplains are employed under the school chaplaincy guidelines established by the Tasmanian Department of Education.

A poem for Mother's Day

*This prayer is a poem written by
St Anselm, an eleventh century
Archbishop of Canterbury.*

Gather your little ones to
you, O God,
as a hen gathers her brood to
protect them.

Jesus, like a mother you
gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a
mother with her children.

Often you weep over our sins
and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from
hatred and judgement.

You comfort us in sorrow
and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us, and
with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying we are
born to new life;
by your anguish and labour
we come forth in joy.

Despair turns to hope through
your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we
find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the
dead, your touch makes
sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy
heal us;
in your love and tenderness
remake us.

In your compassion bring
grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may
your love prepare us.

*Good mums
let their kids
lick the
beaters.
Great mums
turn off the
mixer first*



*My mum says
it's her house
but when its
time to clean
it magically
becomes my
house too*

Loving God,
as a mother gives life and nourishment to her
children, so you watch over your Church.

Bless the mothers in our midst, that they may
be strengthened as Christian mothers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine
forth.

Grant that their sons and daughters may
honour them always with a spirit of profound
respect,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.



A lesson on judgement ...

What seems to do wonders for the early bird does nothing for the worm



*There are two rules in life:
1. Never give out all the information*



*With age comes wisdom.
And hairs in strange places that need to be plucked*

It's tempting to judge people based solely on what we see on the surface, but that's never a good idea. As Jesus pointed out, we can be so quick to see the flaws in others and blind to our **own flaws. It's not our job to judge a person's heart or motives, and even when we try, we're not very good at it, because we can't see a person's whole story. Here's what I mean...**

Behind that cocky man with the **"tough guy" demeanour, is often a small child who felt picked on or powerless and promised himself that when he grew up, he would never be a victim again.**

Behind that woman who flaunts her physical assets and sexuality is often a little girl who felt neglected, abused or unloved and is haunted by the thought of being alone or undesirable.

Behind that greedy business tycoon is often a kid who grew up poor and experienced the powerlessness that poverty often brings so he promised himself he would never feel the pain of poverty again.

Behind that know-it-all, arrogant intellectual is often a **kid who felt "stupid" in school or powerless in other areas and now hides behind a facade of**

intellect or academic degrees as a way to regain control of his/her life.

Behind that hardened criminal is often a scared kid who was surrounded by crime and brokenness all his life and never saw a path to escaping it.

A person's past pain never justifies their present sin, but knowing their story can often give us more compassion and less temptation to pass a harsh judgment.

My Aunt Laurie is one of the **most lovable people you'll ever meet.** She has a contagious joy and her laughter fills the room from the moment she walks in **the door. Even now, as I'm writing these words and thinking about her, I'm smiling.** To know her is to love her, but **she wasn't always so lovable. In fact, there was a very dark time in her life when she was unrecognizable from the warm and joyful person she is today.**

Decades ago, she was addicted to heroin, she was a convicted felon and she was involved in a string of dysfunctional relationships with some dangerous men. If you were to meet her back in that season of her life, you would have probably passed by on the other **side of the street. You wouldn't**

have wanted to get to close. You may have shaken your head in disapproval and labelled her as a “junkie” or a “criminal,” and on the surface, your judgment would have been correct, but there’s always more to the story than what we can see on the surface.

I’ll bet your perspective would change if you knew the rest of the story. She wasn’t always a “junkie.” In fact, the dark path that led her down that destructive road can be traced back to a single moment on a day that tragically changed her life forever. I was only five-years-old, but I remember the moment vividly. I remember it, because it was the first day I ever saw my father cry.

Aunt Laurie and her family were enjoying a beautiful summer day out on the lake. Her daughter, Tina, was leaning over the side of the boat to look at the water below when she slipped and fell in. Her Dad, my Uncle Dean, heard the splash and instinctively did what any father would do; he jumped in after his little girl. Neither of them knew how to swim. They both drowned that day.

A few days later was the kind of funeral you pray your family never has to experience. Dean and Tina were placed in the same coffin, and when my Aunt saw the body of her husband

holding the body of her little girl, something inside her broke. It was the kind of pain no human heart could possibly endure. When she made the decision to put that needle into her arm for the first time, it wasn’t so that she could feel high; it was so she could feel numb.

Now, does her tragedy justify her sin? No. But knowing her story changes something. Doesn’t it?

It’s never okay to sin, and we never should justify our own sin or anyone else’s, BUT stories like Aunt Laurie’s remind us that hurting people in this world need our love, not our judgment. They need our support, not our condemnation. It was Mother Theresa who **poignantly said, “It’s impossible to judge someone and love them at the same time.”**

SO, the next time you see someone acting completely unlovable (and we’ve ALL been unlovable at times), extend them some grace. People usually need love the most in those moments when they **deserve it the least! It’s not our job to judge people, fix them or change them. It’s just our job to love them and trust God to do the rest.**

Dave Willis

DaveWillis.org



*Sometimes
God answers
our prayers
by changing
our
circumstances
and
sometimes
he answers
our prayers
by changing
our
perspective
about our
circumstances*



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21-23 Arthur St
East Launceston
0438 378 233

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George Town
0439 821 038

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Hall - Jetty Rd
Hillwood

Low Head
Low Head Rd
Low Head

Peace Haven
185 Penquite Rd
Norwood

Pipers River
School Rd
Pipers River

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www.projectsamtasmania.com

camp at George Town



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