

Yarra

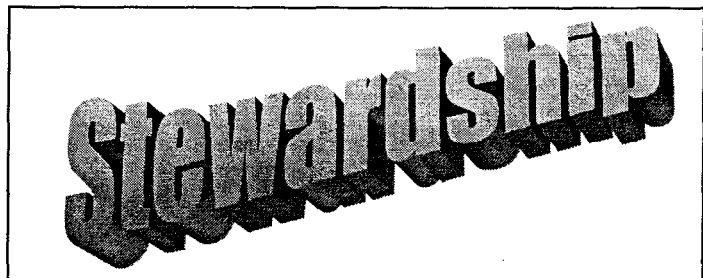
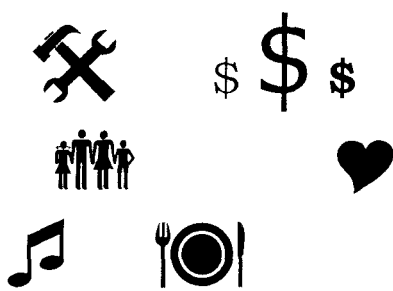
If you haven't got any charity in your heart,
you have the worst kind of heart trouble. *Bob Hope*

Never think you need to apologise for asking someone to give to
worthy causes, any more than as though you were giving him or her
an opportunity to participate in a high-grade investment. The duty
of giving is as much his or hers as is the duty of asking yours.

John D Rockefeller Jr.

You cannot do a kindness too soon,
because you never know how soon it will be too late.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



The highest use of capital is not to make more money,
but to make money do more for the betterment of life. *Henry Ford*

We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give away.

Winston Churchill

Many people despise wealth, but few know how to give it away.

François de La Rochefoucauld

(From *The Good Giving Guide*, 2008)

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Pat's Chat

Leadership

We may feel that we do not possess the skills needed to be a good leader but each one of us has talents and gifts from God which we can use to serve Him in many different ways. I know there are times when I hesitate when I am asked, or even when I volunteer, to do something because I know that there are others who are far more competent than I am. At first I am uptight and nervous, but it is amazing how things fall into place and I know that God will be with me and guide me all the way.

When I sit down at my computer to type my item for "YarraYarns" I just look at the blank screen and then pray for the words to come. Sometimes my mind flashes back to one of my devotional readings, or I remember a conversation I have had with a friend. God uses us in many different ways to serve Him, and often we are quite unaware of it until someone tells us how we have helped them and put a smile on their face.



A Bible Reading: Romans 12:3-8

On a personal note, I am pleased to report that my knee is much better now, with only very minimal pain, so I am back to line dancing and cycling up those hills but I'm taking it easy on the downhill runs.

As always our thoughts and prayers are with members of our congregation who are on the sick list, in hospital, grieving for a loved one or facing surgery. May you all feel God's love and presence in your lives and may you know that others do care and will remember you and your families in their prayers.

We pray especially for Grant, Ros, Rory & Ellie as they serve God in The Gambia, West Africa.

*Pat Thom
Pastoral Care*

New appointments

The Presbytery of Canberra Region has appointed **Arto Avakian** to the position of Secretary of Presbytery. Arto, who has preached many times at Yarralumla, replaces Doug Taylor, the retiring secretary.

Our friends at South Woden Uniting have invited **Rev Jonathon Barker** to be their new minister, beginning in July. We wish them a blessed journey together.

Scripture Union ACT reports that at the end of Term 1, 27 of 28 schools chaplaincy positions had been filled with SU-sponsored chaplains. **Michael Clancy** is the new Chaplaincy Coordinator. (YUC Arts & Crafts regularly gives help to SU for their work in schools, but much more is needed.)

How often do we hear someone say "I can't draw" or "I cannot dance" (perhaps you've said it yourself)? And yet we can, every one of us, for we are created in the image of God, the Creator. And whether we have the gifts of da Vinci or not, the tools of an art school or not, even whether we have hands or not, we can draw - on a canvas or in our minds. And we can dance, with our feet, our hands, our torsos, our hearts.

Donald Schmidt, *In the Beginning*

The art of Prayer

“Lord, teach us to pray”. This was already the request of those who lived closest to Jesus: those who walked with him every day and those who could speak to him at any time.

This seems also to be the most common problem believers have in our days. We find it hard to pray. Perhaps this stems from the belief that prayer should come naturally, by itself, without any effort – that prayer does not need to be taught. Perhaps it comes from the notion that we can treat prayer like an outing to the movies: make time for it when we have the need.

We need to be reminded of Dag Hammarskjöld’s words: “How can you expect to keep your powers of hearing when you never want to listen? That God should have time for you, you seem to take as much for granted as that you cannot have time for Him.”

The other day I listened to an interview with a world famous author. He was asked about the way he works, in other words, where he gets his inspiration from and how he goes about writing. To my surprise, he said he gets up every morning and goes to his study and writes for at least 6 to 8 hours, in the same way as anyone who gets up and goes to work, irrespective of his “feelings” or appetite for whatever the day may hold.

It made me realise that art is hard work. Art may draw from inspiration but it lives



by concentration. Likewise with prayer. It has a deeper source but those deeper deposits still have to be mined.

Elie Wiesel, the well-known Jewish author, holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, has drawn these wonderful links between literature and prayer:

“Literature and prayer have much in common. Both take everyday words and give them meaning. Both appeal to what is most personal and most transcendent in human beings. Both are rooted in the most obscure and mysterious zone of our being. Nourished by anguish and fervor, both negate detachment and imitation, and are negated by them. The writer and the worshiper both draw from one source, the source where sound becomes melody and melody turns into language, which becomes offering. What inspiration is to the writer... concentration is to the believer. Both are as open as an open wound. Both live tense and privileged moments. If one may assume that man could not live without literature, which is not so sure, one may equally confirm that neither could he survive without prayer.”

Prayer is as open as an open wound. In this sense it is an art: the art of survival.

Ockert Meyer

A man approached the minister one Sunday after church and complimented her on the sermon.

“I found it so very helpful,” the man said.

“Why thank you,” the minister replied, “but I hope it will not prove as helpful as the last sermon you heard me preach.”

The man looked surprised. “Whatever do you mean?” he asked.

“Well,” said the minister, “that sermon lasted you for three months.”