

All who would valiant be ..

"As I walked through the wilderness of this world I lighted on a certain place where was a den, and I laid me down in that place to sleep, and as I slept I dreamed a dream. I dreamed and behold I saw a man clothed in rags standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hand, and a great burden on his back. I looked, and saw him open the book, and read therein; and as he read he wept and trembled and not being able longer to contain, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, 'What shall I do? ... What shall I do to be saved?'"

With these words the great seventeenth-century author John Bunyan begins his *Pilgrim's Progress*. And with this question, the Pilgrim or Christian sets off on his journey through the "wilderness of this world." We too are on such a journey, and like the Pilgrim's wilderness, our own is filled with dangers to our faith. We can easily get sidetracked, lose sight of the cross and fall into a pit or take a wrong turn. As christian pilgrims, we keep our eyes set on the one who leads us. We know the end of the story at the beginning: Resurrection follows crucifixion; death and suffering are ultimately defeated. The light of Christ will break through the darkness and despair of Good Friday; joy will replace sorrow, and life will overcome death.

And so we set off on our lenten journey, keeping this vision of the "celestial city" in view and knowing that the sojourn in the wilderness will be brief. We set off trusting in Jesus Christ to sustain and preserve and forgive us. We set off following the master, confident that he will lead us out of the wilderness singing the words of Bunyan:

All who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,
let them in constancy follow the master.
There's no discouragement shall make them once relent
their first avowed intent to be true pilgrims.

Who so beset them round with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound; their strength the more is.
No foes shall stay their might; though they with giants
fight,
they will make good their right to be true pilgrims.

Since, Lord, you will defend us with your Spirit,
we know we at the end shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away! We'll fear not what men say,
we'll labour night and day to be true pilgrims!

The season of lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 13th February. As advent prepares for Christmas, so lent prepares for Easter. It is a season of journeying, of pilgrimage, of renewing covenants. Just as Jesus was driven into the wilderness after his baptism, so we are driven by the scripture readings of lent to re-examine our basic vocation - to be Christian.



RELIGIOUS
GALAPAGOS

REFORM
and live
the Gospel!



Northside Parish

The Uniting Church in Australia

serving the suburbs of
 Crows Nest, Milsons Point, North Sydney,
 St Leonards, Waverton and Wollstonecraft
 with churches at
 Shirley Road (& Nicholson Street), Crows Nest
 and 6 Holtermann Street, Crows Nest.

Worship Services:

SUNDAY (with Sunday School)
 (Holy Communion is celebrated on the first
 Sunday of the month and on major festival days)
 9.00 am 6 Holtermann Street
 10.30 am cnr Shirley Rd & Nicholson St
Last Thursday
 2.30 pm James Milson Home
1st & 3rd Wednesday
 10.15 am Georgian House

Groups:

Home Group
 SUN 7.30 pm 1st & 2nd 19 Lithgow St
 3rd & 4th 1 Eastview St
 (John Lee/Linda McDonald... 438 2626
 or Allan/Judith Watts... 439 1861)

Shirley Road Women's Fellowship
 2nd Wed 1.30 pm Shirley Road
 (Margaret Sangster... 439 2602)

Holtermann Street Women's Fellowship
 4th Wed 10.00 am Georgian House
 (Mavis Thornton... 955 8540)

PARISH Office: 10 Holtermann Street
 (PO Box 419, Crows Nest 2065)
 Phones 439 6033, 439 6015

Minister: Rev Tom Plaizier from 11 January 1991
 11 Lamont Street, CROWS NEST
 Phone Office... 439 6015
 Residence... 436 ...

Administrator: Bruce Watters
 Office (Mo, Th)... 439 6033
 Residence... 955 7593

PARISH COUNCIL
Secretary: Erica Wyllie... 419 6170
Treasurer: Rob Fisher... 439 4858

PARISH ELDERS COUNCIL
 3rd Wed 7.00 pm Parish Office
Secretary: Margaret Sangster... 439 2602

SHIRLEY ROAD CONGREGATION
Secretary: Margaret Sangster... 439 2602

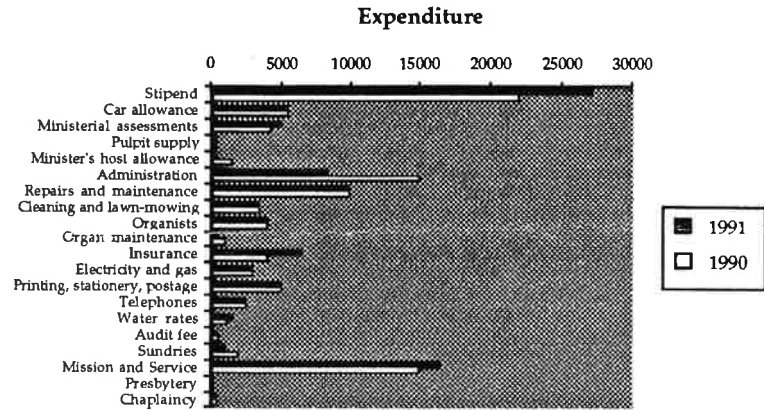
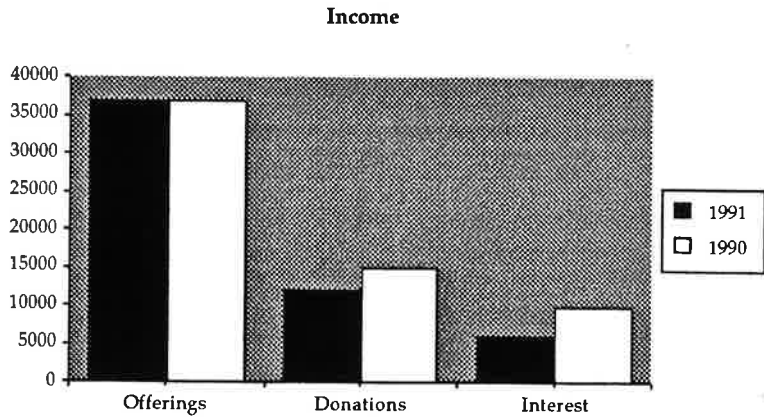
HOLTERMANN STREET CONGREGATION
Secretary: Bruce Watters... 955 7593

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 for issue on the last Sunday of the month preceding.
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 editor, Bruce Roy (45 King Street, Wollstonecraft
 Phone 957 5367 or 960 9268) by the *second*
 Sunday of the month preceding.

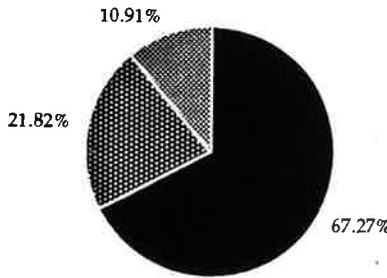
1991 Budget Summary

	Church Account		Property Account	
	1991	1990	1991	1990
INCOME	\$55,000	\$62,000	\$70,000	\$60,000
EXPENDITURE	<u>\$102,400</u>	<u>\$101,200</u>	<u>\$18,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
	(\$47,400)	(\$39,200)	\$52,000	\$40,000

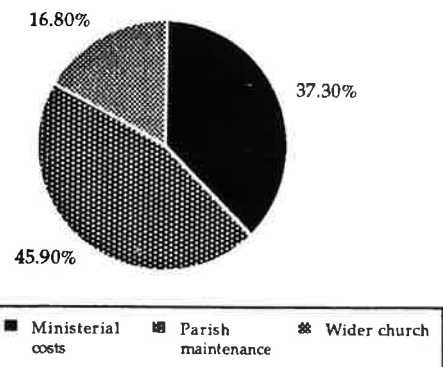
Budget "Pictures":



1991 Income Summary



1991 Expenditure Summary



Where your pleasure is, there is your
 treasure: where your treasure, there your
 heart; where your heart, there your
 happiness.
Augustine of Hippo

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

23 Dec 90 at Shirley Rd: George
 William Charles TULLOCH,
 son of Sylvia and Gavin.

**The
Seventh Assembly
of the
World Council of Churches
meets in
Canberra, Australia**

7 to 21 February

Remember the conference and those who participate in and support it in your prayers

The WCC Assembly will gather about 3500 people, 1000 of whom are official delegates of member churches.

The theme of the Assembly is *Come Holy Spirit - Renew the Whole Creation*. This is the first time that a Spirit-centred theme has been chosen for the Assembly. The General Secretary, Emilio Castro, a Methodist pastor from Uruguay, says that it is an indication that the churches, as they face a new millenium, and a world that has become so complex, increasingly feel the need to fall to their knees.

It is an acknowledgement to the world of its dependence on the Spirit of God for the true renewal of both the churches and the world. It is an acknowledgement that the true transformation of our lives ultimately comes from the power of God to heal, to restore and to reconcile.

Sub-themes indicate some of the areas of concern:

- Giver of Life - Sustain your Creation!
- Spirit of Truth - Set us Free!
- Spirit of Unity - Reconcile your People!
- Holy Spirit - Transform and Sanctify Us!



"Vile Sodom and tainted Gomorrah perished in fiery horrah. For re-viewing their odium, Mrs. Lot turned to sodium - It could happen again, here, tomorrah."

from D.R. Bensen's
*Biblical Limericks:
Old Testament Stories Re-Versed*

 *From the Minister.*

Dear friends in the Northside Parish,
How do you make someone feel welcome? Some come to the induction service, some ring up and say hello, others make speeches and many prepare a special supper. But to put on a special fire works display was certainly original!!*

Thank you to all who, in spite of storms and lightning, have made Bev and me feel welcome in this Parish. Your welcome, support and prayers are much appreciated.

We are certainly looking forward to an exciting and challenging time as together we seek to discover what is God's purpose and mission for the Northside parish in this community.

In looking back we can see that this parish through its two congregations has achieved a great deal in the past for which it can be proud. It has

a rich tradition of worship, fellowship and practical involvement in the community.

We now have a great opportunity to build on this past and develop the things that this parish is good at, so that we become even more relevant to the community we are placed in and faithful to the God we are seeking to serve.

Bev and I are keen to get to know the members in the Parish as soon as possible. Please have patience with us as we try to attach the right names to the right faces and as we recover from the packing and unpacking phase and the teething problems associated with settling into an almost finished new manse.

Tom Plaizier

* Holtermann Street Church was struck by lightning the night before the induction.



Hidden Books

I once made some remarks about hidden books in the Bible. It was a lulu; kept some people looking so hard for the facts, and to others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the books were not capitalised. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments

for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others might require judges to determine. We will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one, and there will be loud lamentations when you see how simple it is. A little lady says that if she brews tea, she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, there are sixteen in this paragraph.



Vestry	Door
9.00 10.30	

• Lectionary readings are from the Uniting Church lectionary [Year B]
 • Sunday collects are from *Uniting in Worship*


Rosters	Vestry	Door	Readers
Holtermann St Shirley Rd	Bruce Watters 955 7593 Margaret Sangster 439 2602	Bruce Watters 955 7593 Nancy Rowand 412 4893	Bruce Watters 955 7593 Erica Wyllie 419 6170


3 4th Sunday after Epiphany
 Colour Green
 Readers
 Lectionary Deut 18.15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8.1-13
 Mark 1.21-28
 Collect
FATHER IN HEAVEN, you have shown us in Christ that your love for us is never-ending. Enable us to love you with all our hearts and to love one another as Christ loves us.

4 Monday
 PRAY for an end to the Gulf crisis

5 Tuesday
 PRAY for balanced reporting of the Gulf crisis.

6 Wednesday
 10.15 am Worship at Georgian House
 PRAY that a more just world comes out of the suffering of war

7 Thursday

 The Seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches begins in Canberra (until 21st)
 PRAY for the WCC Assembly, for acceptance of challenge and strength of purpose.

8 Friday

 PRAY for acceptance of challenge and strength of purpose at Northside parish.

9 Saturday
 PRAY that the peoples of the USSR will have patience, wisdom and discipline as their new identity emerges.

10 Last Sunday after Epiphany
 (The Transfiguration of Jesus)
 Colour White
 Readers
 Lectionary 2 Kings 2.1-12a
 Psalm 50.1-6
 2 Corinthians 4.3-6
 Mark 9.2-9
 Collect
LORD, you revealed the true splendour of Christ in the glory of his transfiguration. Enable us to listen carefully to his voice, that we may be changed into his marvellous likeness.

11 Monday
 PRAY for peace in South Africa.

12 Tuesday

PANCAKE NIGHT!
 6.00 pm
 at the manse
 \$7 adults • \$2 children

PRAYSE God for the fellowship we enjoy together.
13 Ash Wednesday
 Joel 2.1,2,12-17a Psalm 51.1-12
 2 Cor 5.20b-6.2 Matt 6.1-6,16-21

1.30 pm Shirley Rd Women's Fellowship
 PRAY for renewed commitment to obedience to God as Lent begins

14 Thursday
 PRAY for lasting peace in Papua New Guinea.

15 Friday
 PRAY for families badly affected by the recession.

16 Saturday
 GIVE THANKS for people who take the time to listen.



17 1st Sunday in Lent
 Colour Violet
 Readers
 Lectionary Genesis 9.8-17
 Psalm 25.1-10
 1 Peter 3.18-22
 Mark 1.9-15
 Collect
ALMIGHTY GOD, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weakness of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save.

18 Monday
 GIVE THANKS for those whose selfless action serves as inspiration to imitate them.



19 Tuesday
 PRAY for courage to accept ourselves as we are and to accept others as they are.

20 Wednesday
 10.15 am Worship at Georgian House
 7.00 pm Parish Elders Council

PRAY for the lost and lonely, and for strength to reach out to them.

21 Thursday
 GIVE THANKS for the fulfilment of leisure and re-creation.

22 Friday
 GIVE THANKS for the freedom of living in the Spirit.

23 Saturday
 PRAY for balance between preserving the natural world and satisfying human need.

24 2nd Sunday in Lent
 Colour Violet
 Readers
 Lectionary Genesis 12.1-8
 Psalm 33.12-22
 Romans 4.1-5,13-17
 John 3.1-17
 Collect
O GOD OF ABRAHAM, Isaac and Jacob, you called our ancestors to a journey of faith; and in your Son, lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life. Grant that, being born again of water and the Spirit, we may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways.

25 Monday
 PRAY for an end to First World greed and a sharing of resources with the developing world.

26 Tuesday
 PRAY for young adults trying to find a place in our turbulent world.

27 Wednesday
 10.00 am Holtermann St Women's Fellowship
 PRAY for the homeless and unemployed

28 Thursday
 2.30 pm Worship at James Milson
 PRAY for the disabled, the chronically ill and those who care for them.

1 Friday
 PRAY for those who grieve

2 Saturday
 PRAY for the housebound and lonely

You know you are growing older when ... you're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist, and 106 around the golf course.