



Prayer Update No. 23 - Spring 2016

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Dear Friends

God has greatly blessed ANeW in many ways since we began as a prayer meeting just over five years ago. Through the kindness of the Anglican Parish of Lambton, God has provided great facilities for the 5pm service to meet in at their church. Then, three and a half years ago, a link was developed with the Parish of New Lambton (New Lambton is the suburb next to Lambton, where the new Lambton coal pit was opened after the Lambton coal pit ran out of coal). This link enabled the establishment of the 10.30am congregation in partnership with New Lambton Parish, for which Arthur Copeman also took responsibility.

At the same time members of ANeW Church, Bruce and Carol Hunter, kindly stepped in to lead the ministry to the existing congregations at New Lambton. Bruce and Carol have given great pastoral care to the existing members of New Lambton Parish, which enabled Arthur and the ANeW team to focus on the 5pm congregation and developing the new 10.30am congregation.. Bruce and Carol have decided after three and a half years to 'retire' from this ministry, which will require some re-organisation work for the whole ministry, as there is no obvious successor within the ministry for this work. We thank God greatly for the ministry of Bruce and Carol Hunter.

MONDAY CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL

We write at a time when the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle has been through the first part of a very focused Royal Commission investigation into the incidents within the Diocese of the sexual abuse of children. For those who have been around the Diocese for some time this has been a difficult time as many people we know have not been able to satisfactorily explain their actions in the past. There are still further hearings of the Royal Commission focused on Newcastle to be held in November. It is unclear how this will impact the Diocese in the long term. The Bishop, Greg Thompson's great desire is that this be an opportunity to completely change the culture of the Diocese so that such behaviour and the cover up that surrounded it might never be possible again.

- Pray for Bishop Greg Thompson & Assistant Bishop Peter Stuart as they lead the Diocese of Newcastle through this very difficulty period, that God through his Spirit would enable them to establish the Diocese as a very different place to what it was before.

TUESDAY Arthur Copeman

Arthur has appreciated preaching through 1 Samuel. He was particularly struck by the passage in 1 Samuel 22, where David, God's anointed but on the run from Saul, sets himself up in the cave of Adullam and there he is joined by 'everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul'. This being a great picture of what the church should be – around our anointed king Jesus there is a place where all in need can come to. That place though (the cave) is not at the centre of society, it is on the edge and disregarded by society.

* Pray that ANeW would be a place where all who are in distress in Newcastle could come and find refuge around anointed King Jesus!

In other areas Arthur continues to blend a half time position in a Diocesan role with the work at ANeW and New Lambton. Arthur and Anabelle rejoiced at the birth of a second grandchild within six months on 29th August.

- Please continue to pray for daily wisdom and discernment for Arthur in prioritising his various responsibilities.

Praise God for

- the continued growth of the 10.30 congregation and the ministry to children at that time.
- the continued growth of the 5pm congregation and the growing ministry to teens at that time.

- the time spent in August as a church considering the whole question of what does the Bible say about marriage and what does the Bible say about same sex relationships. It has been helpful to raise the issues and to be focused on what God's word says on this subject.

Prayer

- for wise re-organisation of ministry in the light of Bruce Hunter's 'retirement' from caring for the existing New Lambton congregations.
- for Arthur as his responsibilities change with Bruce Hunter's 'retirement'
- wisdom as we consider how to develop as a church for the future and what new congregations that might require us establishing.
- wisdom as we seek to have the building where we meet on Sunday mornings, renovated so that it can be more useful.
- faithfulness as we finish preaching through 1 Samuel and then move to 1 John.
- for the right leadership team for church for the future.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

WEDNESDAY ALL SAINTS – existing congregations – 8.30am Sunday & 10am Wednesday

Praise God for

- the growing relationship between the Sunday 8.30am congregation (presently 8.45am, but it will be 8.30am from October 2nd) and the new 10.30am congregation.
- the commitment from these existing congregations to an evangelical focus.

Prayer

- for growth in these existing congregations.
- for appropriate pastoral care for the elderly within these congregation.
- for the Wednesday 10am congregation, many of who are collected and brought to church, that God would grow this outreach to people in their later years.

For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:14

THURSDAY YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY – Adam Matthews

This past term we have looked through the book of Colossians and the book of Jonah in our Bible studies. We have been challenged both in our prayer lives and in our evangelism.

Praise God for:

- Our recent weekend away, where we got to spend time getting to know each other better as well as thinking about how we can share our faith with others.
- Close friendships developing through Bible study and church.
- The confidence He is bringing about in various people to serve and be a part of our church community.

Please pray for:

- Our Bible study groups to be encouraging, challenging and helpful to each member.
- Opportunities to bring our "church world" and our "non-church world" together that people might come to know Jesus.
- Our upcoming series on the gospel of Mark, that we would know and love Jesus more and more for ourselves.

I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. Isaiah 48:17

FRIDAY **KID'S MINISTRY – Amy Soutter**

We have much for which to praise God with the start of separate Crèche and Preschool programs at the 10:30 Kid's Church at New Lambton; for constant new arrivals at Time Out (our play group ministry) who are considering joining us and for servant hearted leaders in all our teams.

Praise God for

- answered prayer with leaders joining all the children's ministry teams at 10:30 as we double our leadership teams.
- growing friendships between the children, carers & Mums at Time Out.
- united KFC leaders who strive to continue to improve the program through supporting one another and knowing their kids.
- SRE having a well-received presence at the Wallsend Winter Fair.

Prayer for

- the 10:30 kid's church teams to find joy serving God in their ministries together.
- insight for Amy as she seeks to develop Safe Ministry practices for the protection of our church.
- the kids and leaders to grow in their knowledge and to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. 1 John 2:28

SATURDAY **Anabelle Copeman – Admin, teens and kids**

My ministry role has stepped back with Amy returning from maternity leave. She is now looking after the creche and preschool teams associated with the morning congregation. I am still co-ordinating the school age children's ministry in the mornings. We are now teaching up to 10 children in this age group and will soon need to split the group into infants and primary. I am currently planning for the move of the current year 6 children in the evening congregation from the KFC programme to the junior high programme next year.

Arthur and I continue to enjoy being grandparents. There have been more trips to Sydney than previously!! Our second grandchild, Lillian, was born on August 29th. More trips to Sydney!! Our youngest son, Andrew, has been accepted to Moore College, so he and Loren will be moving to Sydney in February. This all changes the shape of my life.

Praise God for

- the growth of the morning children's ministry and the provision of leaders and helpers.
- the mentoring of our youth by the youth team leaders.
- the growth in ministry skills of Shanalle (year13 Youthworks) and her ministry to the teen girls.

Prayer for

- wisdom as Sam Chiswell and I work on the future direction of the youth ministry. We have a larger group entering high school next year.
- energy and encouragement for the Friday night youth team, and Sam Chiswell as he leads them. This group has had very varying numbers.
- that our youth would get involved in the life of the church and start serving in different ways.
- managing the growth in the morning children's ministry; that we would be teaching the children appropriately for their ages.

Search me God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts, see if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Ps 139:23

SUNDAY **WOMEN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT-** **Cathy Young**

Thanks again everyone for your continued prayer for God's work at ANeW and New Lambton. It really is exciting to see how God is growing His people and bringing others to Himself. I have the privilege of spending time with lots of the women involved in these two churches and below are a couple of things to pray for and thank God for.

Praise and thank God

- for two women who have completed their Preliminary Theological Certificate through Moore College (and special thanks for Bob Rothwell their tutor).
- for one of our trainees who gave her first evangelistic talk at another church.
- for the great team of mostly women who help out at "*Time Out for mums*" (for churched and non-churched mums) and for our salvation in Jesus.
- for the growing number of women & leaders involved in Growth Groups; that we are not alone but that God's spirit dwells within us.
- for a terrific prayer meeting (about 60 in attendance) which Dianne & Arthur organised.
- that the Lord is good and His steadfast love endures forever.
- for our evangelistic Ladies Spring High Tea on Saturday 3 September, Kate Rogers, spoke, with eighty five women present including a good number who are not yet Christians.

Prayer

- We are intending to run a Simply Christianity course - please pray that the Lord will bring along those He is calling to Himself.
- for "K" who has recently done Simply Christianity and is still keen to find out more about Jesus.
- for our Weekend Away 14-16 October and the Hunter Gospel Ministries Bible Teachers Training Nov 9-10 (Michael Jensen).
- for our all age Gingerbread Event on Saturday 26 November.
- for me (Cathy) as I speak at Maitland Evangelical Church on 18 September (Ladies afternoon) and Charlestown Presbyterian Church on 22 September (Ladies evening).
- for wisdom and energy in serving God - not in my own strength but in His.
- that I'm wise with time regarding my family.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendour is above the earth and the heavens. Ps 148:13

If at any stage you are praying for ANeW and would like an update on prayer points, you are welcome to email Dianne at: ddouglass83@gmail.com