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Minister: Rev Con Despinidic - 42713235/ 42261750

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Please feel free to contact Pastor Con should the need arise.

Elders: Wendy 42292483, Leonie 42261750 / mob 0428180355

Tim 0422599894 Annette 4271 6763 / mob 0401089938

Church notices: Jennifer 42833630 – or to Con by Tues 2.00pm

Email: ramsayja2@bigpond.com



Wollongong Congregational Church

17th July, 2016

Welcome to all worshipping with us this morning.
During our service we will be celebrating Holy Communion.
You are invited to share in this celebration with us.

Please continue in fellowship over a cuppa after the service.

ROSTERS		
Date	17 Jul	24Jul
Prayers	Con	Max
Bible Reading	Dianne Pam	Wendy Andrew
Lawns	-	Rob
Servers	Rob Jennifer Lenore	Richard Annette
Cleaning	Cleaners	Cleaners
Morning Tea	Robyn George	Lynda Leonie
Welcome	Don	Roger Robin
Comm. Prep	Judy	-
Creche	-	Jill
Power-point	-	-
Counting Offering	Davina Robert	Rob

Prayer Chain. If you have a request, please ring Con or Leonie. If they are not available please ring Wendy, Annette or Tim. Phone numbers above.

Last quarter, April-May-June 2016
Income \$19,084.29
Expenditure \$16,427.01
Difference + \$ 2,567.28

Please note that we can accept your offering by Direct Debit
Please see our Treasurer.

Building Fund \$11,349 (includes grant monies) If you would like to help with the cost of repairs etc please place your gift in an envelope marked Building Fund.

Emergency Food Coordinator
Jill Donnelly 4229 5248

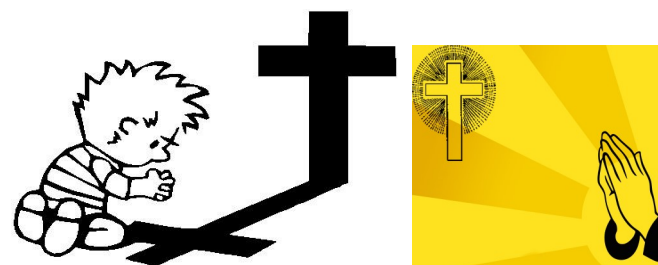
This 4 weeks' regular tithed giving will go to the work of
THE BIBLE SOCIETY
Additional gifts may be placed in the plate at any time, using a suitably labelled envelope.

THIS WEEK.

Monday 12:30 pm Bible Study at Leigh's - fortnightly
Tuesday 10 am Bible Study at Annette's
Wednesday 7:15 pm Men's Bible Study at Church.
Thursday 10 am Home group at Ruth's.
9:30 -11am Playday in the hall

Next Sunday 24th July 10 am Worship Service

7.00pm Evening Fellowship / Service.



Is it possible to give God our minds?
I believe that it is. Is it easy?
No it is not easy, nor should it be!
Why? Because God does not want robots;
mindless machines.

True worship is God directed, 'I look to the heavens and then man directed,' the vertical and the horizontal, making the shape of the cross. **My attitude towards God and my attitude towards my fellow man are important. In fact my attitude towards God will influence my attitude towards my fellow human beings:** I believe that the worship of God leads us into depths of relationship, not only with God but each other as the body of Christ. I do not believe that relationships should be forced, but I do believe that they are something that we work on. Romans 12 is about the wonderful dynamic that there should be within the life of the Church- true fellowship with God produces true fellowship within the church: For the basis of the true fellowship is the worship of God and grasping the love of God that is released in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Fellowship is a *Two Way Street*; any good relationship means that one works at getting to know that person and getting to know someone takes time and effort. One of the mysteries and blessings of being part of the church of the Lord Jesus is the fact that we are all different, with different likes and dislikes, different personalities and even different political views.

My experience has been that the Holy Spirit will lead us into relationships. My dedication to God impacts my relationship with others. Romans chapter 12 gives us insight into true worship and true fellowship. What does it mean; "to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice".

In the first century there were those who taught that 'the body was only a prison house, something to be despised and even be ashamed of.' [Barclay p156] Frail though we might be, and maybe riddled with disease and decay- our bodies make up part of who we are and it is with the whole of our being that we worship God. Body, Mind and Spirit. The Lord Jesus put it this way: ³⁰ *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*" Mark 12:30 We all face the reality and restrictions of our humanity, our bodies and circumstances- even these can be subject to the Lordship of Christ. **The whole of our being IS service and worship.** . ²¹ *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.* Philippians 1:20,21

Moving onto verse 2: Is it possible to give God our minds? I believe that it is. Is it easy? No it is not! Nor should it be! Why? Because God does not want robots mindless machines. I have always wondered what it would be like to have the power to inject people with a dose of faith, and a dose of the gifts and fruit of the Spirit. Image walking out of church on a Sunday and being injected with a dose of these things, whether we like it or not! If I had the power to make you believe what I believe, to be the sort of person I wanted you to be and so on. What would happen to the person God created? I believe that each of us is precious in God's sight, each one of us is unique. God in His wisdom has given us the freedom to make spiritual and physical choices. Thus the struggle and battle for the mind; we think that we think, yet we are influenced by so many things- they are not all that good for us. I believe that there is a battle for the mind; I also believe that we should allow God to win it!

"God transforms our minds and makes us spiritually minded by using His Word. As you spend time meditating on God's Word, memorizing it and making it a part of your inner man, God will gradually make your mind more spiritual."

[Wiersbe p 554] 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 4:17 Colossians 3:1-11

Prayer Points

- ◇ Please continue to pray for the Evening Service;
- ◇ Wisdom and opportunity to reach our community with the Gospel;
- ◇ Wisdom as we move forward with our maintenance program;
- ◇ One new family;
- ◇ Continue to pray for Jean Millman who is in Port Kembla Hospital.
- ◇ For Janice and her son Steve.
- ◇ Lynda would appreciate continued prayers for Ron who is in care.
- ◇ Leigh's Grandson, recovering after accident, pray for Eric and his parents.
- ◇ John, Joyce Souter's son, as he continues treatment for cancer.
- ◇ For the Board of Education and its teachers for 2016, the local SU /ISCF staff worker, the Pastors' network, Gideons and Crossroads.
- ◇ Our FCC Churches; Padstow Chinese;
- ◇ Church family members ; Davina and Robert Clarke ;
- ◇ Please bring our annual meeting before the Lord, also the nomination of office bearers. (9th October)
- ◇ Pray for the needs of Pulse 94.1 FM Appeal;
- ◇ Also for the effectiveness of Con' radio program;
- ◇ Please pray for Con and his family, as Con's dad passed away in hospital on Wednesday morning.

FCC \$1 Habit. . Donation Money Box will be available at morning tea.

Seminar: Wendy Oxman is conducting an information Seminar on Dementia on July 23rd at the church. 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. All welcome. Bring lunch to share.

Emergency Food for church folk who are ill. A review is being held for helpers. Please let Jill know if you can help on the roster. Thank You.

ROSTERS will be prepared for the months August, September and October. Please let Jo and Jennifer know if you are unavailable for any roster **OR** if you are able to help on any other service . We need this information no later than 24th July. Thank You.

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| ◇ | 23 July | Seminar Day-Dementia 9.30 am – 2.30 pm. |
| ◇ | 14 Aug | Church Meeting |
| ◇ | 17 Aug | Church 1-Day Camp at Girl Guide Campsite |
| ◇ | 28 Aug | Nominations open for Church Office Bearers |

Pastor Con on Pulse 94.1 FM Sunday Worship 7-10am. Also Tuesdays 10 pm to midnight.	Daily devotions 6:45 am.
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