



# Everton Park

Jude the Apostle  
Anglican Church

## SERVICES

### TUESDAYS:

- 9:30 am Holy Communion  
[no service on 23rd December]

### FRIDAYS: 1st Friday night of month:

- 7pm Alive & In the House

### SUNDAYS:

- 7.15 am Traditional Communion Service
- 9.30am Contemporary Communion Service with Kid's Time (followed by morning tea).

## December Calendar

### MONDAYS:

- 7 pm Men's Study Group

### TUESDAYS

- 2nd (Carols); 9th; & 16th December - Creative Arts Rehearsal at 7 pm
- 9th December - 10.45 am—Tues Morning congregation Christmas party

### WEDNESDAYS:

- 9.30am Gentle Exercises
- 12.30pm—Beacon Counseling Ministry
- 10 December at 4:45 pm - **BCM Supervision Sem & Christmas party**
- 17th December at 6.00pm - **Parish Council Meeting**
- 24th December at 9.30am - **Christmas Eve Service**

### THURSDAY—Christmas Day

- 25th December at 8.15am - **Christmas Day Service**

### SUNDAYS

- 7th December at 11.00am —**Kids Christmas Party**
- 14th December at 2.00pm —**St Jude's Team Christmas High Tea**
- 14th December at 5.00pm —**St Jude's & BBMA Carols Service**
- 21st December at 7.15am —**celebration Fr Doug & Ps Andrew's ordination anniversaries**
- 21st December at 9.30am - **Baptism of Lucia Peters and welcome of Nathan Parker.**

## CONTACT DETAILS

### SENIOR PASTORS:

Andrew and Lynette Peters

### RECTOR:

The Rev'd Dr. Andrew Peters PhD FAIM

### CREATIVE ARTS DIRECTOR:

Lynette Peters MA (Mus)

### WARDENS:

Jim Smith (Treasurer)

Vicki Herman

Neil Griffiths

### ADDRESS:

- 203 Flockton Street Everton Park
- Mail: PO Box 231, Everton Park 4053

### TELEPHONE:

- Phone: 3353 2020
- Fax: 3353 8877
- Emergency Pastoral Care: 0418 775 166
- Practical Care: 0408 770 748
- Emergency Prayer: 3353 2045

### INTERNET:

- E-mail: stjude@tpg.com.au
- Website: stjudesep.com.au



# The Cornerstone

## December 2014

## Avoiding Closed System Dynamics

Over the last two issues of *The Cornerstone* we have reviewed the nature of open-systems dynamics that have enabled our church to move forward to complete our God given mission. Having broken out of the dynamics of a closed-system church we need to be aware of the things that contribute to closed-system dynamics and develop processes in our church's life that enable us to continue to grow as an open-system church. Two specific things occur in an organisation or church that becomes enmeshed in closed-system dynamics: a fear so deep that it begins to paralyse the organisation in its ordinary everyday activities and operation - that is the work stops. The second is a movement away from the organisation or church's central or core values.

An organisation or church is a *group* within which a number of people join together to *work* toward a common *goal* or *purpose*. That is, an organisation or church forms to engage in a *task* or *work* that enables it to fulfil its goal or purpose.<sup>1</sup> For the church it is its God-given purpose to be a light in the world; proclaim God's Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ to all humanity; and to nurture its members to grow and be righteous men and women of God. When closed-system dynamics grip a church it enters into a *non-work mental state*. This does not mean no work is being done. It means that the *right work* is not being done, because distraction is extremely high in a closed-system church.

A *non-work* or *work avoidance* mental state develops out of a fear of exclusion or separation amongst members of the church. This results in official group meeting decisions being deliberately undermined by members who hold small meetings outside the group (as one member noted *meetings in the car park*). These small meetings seek to undo what has been agreed to and decided by the group. In the church such groups include Parish Council, MU, Creative Arts and Beacon Counselling Ministry. The issues discussed in the car park are never raised in the appropriate meetings by the people who have those issues. The fear makes them hold back from sharing their true feelings with the group. Instead they collude outside of official group meetings to overthrow or hamper decisions made in group meetings. These counterproductive actions lead to

anger, blame and phony conflict within the group and church as a whole.<sup>2</sup> Ironically the very fear of exclusion or separation from the group leads to real separation from the group as well as an enormous waste of the church's resources and its members time. The negative characteristics of this non-work state are:

- Low creativity - members devote creative capacity to self-defeating ends;
- Self-esteem decreases;
- High level of frustration in doing tasks;
- Burnout in highly motivated and committed individuals;
- Predictive capacity decreases—Foresight becomes hindsight;
- Thoroughness and quality decrease;
- The work climate deteriorates;
- Perception narrows;
- High level of disorganization;
- Resistance to learning and change;
- Low or poor rate of task completion;
- High levels of anxiety impeding change;
- Lingering and unresolved discontent;
- Little or no personal development;
- Communication not sensible;
- Inability of people to listen;
- Increased incidence of mental rehearsal prior to speaking;
- Negative feelings prevalent;
- Team controlled by time;
- Ongoing conflicts created by low harmony among roles.<sup>3</sup>

Over the last five years our church has come out of that type of environment and begun to engage open-system dynamics. Although we have moved into more open and inclusive dynamics, the energy needed to build the new church has hampered the ability of our small team of leaders and team members to recover and repair the damage that had been done to our church's life from its experience of closed-system

dynamics. One thing we do know is none of us really want go back to the debilitating effect of closed-system dynamics again.

One of the responsibilities of the key-leader of a church is to launch a vision that enables the members of the church to know its goal and purpose. In addition to that, the key-leader also needs to identify what that *right work* for the church is and set-up processes and protocols that enable it to do what it needs to do to achieve its God-given purpose.

The second thing that occurs in a closed-system church is a movement away from the church's centred or core values. It is this situation that Paul addresses in his *Letter to the Galatians*. Paul challenges the church at Galatia about the undermining of the church's life because trouble-makers had infiltrated the church and brought a different ethos and philosophy into the church's life. Paul notes the effect of this was a movement away from the original Gospel Paul had proclaimed to them. It was a Gospel received by faith in Jesus Christ and came with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Paul argues that the original Gospel he proclaimed was founded on faith in Jesus Christ to become Christians and an on-going faith in Jesus Christ to live the Christian life.

In its place, suggesting that Paul's Gospel was not complete, the trouble-makers insisted that the new Gentile Christians needed to be circumcised and follow the Jewish food laws, traditions and seasons. They needed to complete the Gospel with adherence to the Jewish Law. Paul vehemently argued that to rely on the Law again was to abandon the true Gospel and to be severed from Christ. Such a movement had led the Galatian Church into the grip of closed-system dynamics. They had left their central or core values. Those centred or core values set the parameter of the church's mission and establish the protocols by which it operates.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to adopting and implementing the protocols and canons of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, our parish has also identified a number of centred or core values that enable us to understand the base from which we operate. These are:

**Intimate Relationship with God:** We believe as a community and as individual believers, we should be growing in a vibrant and intimate relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and with each other.

**Worship:** We believe that our vibrant and intimate relationship with God should be expressed in the traditional and contemporary aspects of our worship life as a community

**God's Love and Holiness:** We believe that the love and holiness of the risen Lord Jesus Christ should permeate every aspect of our community and personal life.

**Obedience:** We believe that as a community, and as individual believers, we should be obedient to the will of God in every situation, as reflected in the Scriptures and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**Lost People:** We believe that lost people matter to God, and also matter to us as a community and as individual believers.

**Community Support:** We believe that every member of our faith community needs the support of our faith community through growth groups, prayer, pastoral care and nurture.

**Changing Hearts:** We believe that success and prosperity in our lives, as a community and as individual believers, comes from a heart's response to the living God. We as a Church are in the business of changing hearts and transform lives

**Culturally Relevant** We believe, that as a community, and as individual believers, the expression of our worship, faith and love should be contemporary and culturally relevant, to impact those on the highways and byways as we invite them in.

**Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit:** We believe that as a community and as individual believers, we should be using the gifts and expressing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

**Mission and Vision:** We believe that as a community and as individual believers, we should be committed to and contribute to the Mission and Vision of our Church, in a spirit of excellence.

**Leaders:** We believe that we should be growing and developing great leaders through training, prayer, encouragement and accountability.

**Preaching and Teaching:** We believe that anointed and dynamic preaching and teaching are essential ingredients for the growth and development of our community and its life.

**Anglican Core Values and Beliefs:** We believe that the retention of our Anglican core values and beliefs are important to our ongoing effectiveness as a Church. Though we may need to change the expression of those values and beliefs we will not let go of them.

*God Bless*

*Ps Andrew*

1. *Groups at Work* – Mink, Mink & Owen, 17; 2. *Groups at Work* – Mink, Mink & Owen, 19-20.; and 3. *Groups at Work* – Mink, Mink & Owen, 20.

4. For further information on Galatians see *Holiness without the Law* by Ps Andrew Peters.

# Christmas Day Appeal Kazakhstan Mission

Our Parish has supported the missionary ministry of Demetri and Michelle and their family to Kazakhstan by :

Ⓟ **Monthly support—ongoing contribution per month**

Ⓟ **Once off – special Christmas Day donation.**

Demetri and Michelle cover a broad range of ministry work that also includes Teen Challenge. If you wish to give monthly please contact Jimmy Smith. Any money coming in for once-off donations on Christmas Day will go to them as an extra blessing for Christmas.

## Teen Challenge Kazakhstan – October 2014

Teen Challenge Kazakhstan continues to make an impact on the drug-addicted and most needy men, women and children in the nation. Another sector of the community where Teen Challenge is having an increasing, positive effect is in the areas of education and early childhood care and development.

Teen Challenge Kazakhstan's "Little stars" kindergarten opened its doors in January 2013 with only six children and three teachers. Today there are six different age groups containing 82 children from two to six years of age. There are six teachers, six assistants and 12 other staff members. In June 2014 the first six students graduated from the pre-school program to begin their journey at primary school.

In keeping with President Nursultan Nazarbayev's vision of having a tri-lingual country by 2030, the kindergarten teaches the children three languages: Kazakh, English and Russian. An individual approach is used with each child, and the centre limits groups to a certain number in order to ensure that children get a high level of care and input. "Little Stars" has a good reputation in the neighborhood and is a great social support for the surrounding community.

Sveta and her husband Dema (pictured, right) serve in full-time ministry at Teen Challenge. One of their sons, Daniel, attends Little Stars kindergarten. "I work as the book-keeper for Teen Challenge House of Mercy woman's refuge and rehab program. My husband and I also pastor a church together. Altogether we have three boys, aged ten, nine, and six. I'm so grateful for "Little stars" kindergarten. Our youngest



son, Daniel, goes there and he loves it so much. Every evening he tells us all the new and interesting things he is learning! The atmosphere is very friendly and the teachers and staff are wonderful. I'm also so thankful for the huge discount that they provide for our family. Because of that I'm able to keep serving in the ministry and have peace in my heart knowing that my son is secure and being well looked-after".



## St Jude's Christmas High Tea

**14th December from 2.00 to 3.30 pm**

*Ps Andrew and Lynette request the pleasure of your company at our end of year*

*Christmas celebration for our church members and teams.*

**Food:** Could you please bring cakes and scones (there will a list in Foyer)

**Other Refreshments:** drinks and other refreshments will be provided.

**RSVP:** Tuesday 9th December

## Kid's Christmas Party

**9th December from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm**

**With games, great food and presents.**

**Parents/grandparents need to stay for this event**

**RSVP: Tuesday 2nd December**



# Thanksgiving Services

2014 has been full of excitement and challenge. On the one hand, we have finally owned and dedicated our new church. On the other hand, a number of our families have faced adversity after adversity in a number of different forms. God calls us to lift up our hearts in thanksgiving no matter the circumstances we encounter. As we draw to the end of this year we give thanks to God for His mighty works. I suggest you use the space below to individually give thanks to God for:

~ .....

~ .....

~ .....

To give thanks for this year and sowing our seed of commitment for 2015 our Thanksgiving Services will be on:

**Sunday 14th December &  
Tuesday 16th December**

Thanksgiving packs will be given out a week beforehand so members can bring their Thanksgiving Commitment cards to be blessed on Sunday 16th & Tuesday 18th

*“whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully”* (2 Corinthians 9:6).

## Merchant Card Facility



St Jude's has its own merchant card facility that means members and guests can use their credit or debit cards to make payments for:



- Tithes and offering;
- Mission donations;
- Building Fund donations *[not for Tax Deductible Education Trust donations]*
- Event fees
- Book Purchases; and
- Other.



Please see Jimmy or Ps Andrew if you wish to use this facility.

## Baptism / Welcome

**Lucia Abigail Peters:** we will be baptising Lucia on Sunday 21st December at the 9.30am service.

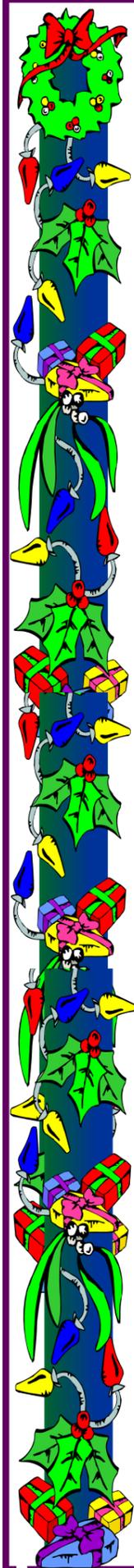
**Nathan Parker:** we will also be welcoming Nathan into our congregation, who has been baptised in the family church in Sutherland, Sydney on 23rd November.

## New Lighted Sign

Cornerstone Ministry Centre

## Ordination Anniversaries

Fr Doug Dickinson and Ps Andrew will be celebrating the anniversaries of their ordination on St Thomas' Day, Sunday the 21st December at the 7.15am service. Fr Doug celebrates his 55th anniversary and Ps Andrew celebrates his 34th.



# Christmas Carols

## 14th December 2014

at 5.00 pm

**Brisbane Brass Music Association**

with

**St Jude's Contemporary Band**

**Carols, Christmas readings, children's item and drama**



Picture from Family Christmas online



Picture from Gospel Clip Art

# Christmas Day

## 25th December 2014

at 8.15 am

**Communion Service with carols, drama and children's item**



Picture by Dona Gelsinger



picture from markwoodward.org

**Christmas Eve - Morning Service**  
at 9.30 am on 24th December



Scott being received

Cathy being confirmed

Chloe being confirmed

Annette being confirmed



Khalil being confirmed

Chloe being confirmed

Dee being confirmed

Gifts from St Jude's congregations

## Confirmation/Reception Service



On Friday night the 28th November Bishop Jonathan confirmed six of our members - Cathy Birgan, Chloe Birgan, Annette Weaver, Khalil Hamdan, Chloe Dale and Dee Dale. He received into the Anglican Church Scott Birgan.

During his sermon Bishop Jonathan outlined the development of the church's services of Baptism and Confirmation. He noted that what had in the early church been a complete service became extended over time due to the rapid growth of the church from the 4th Century onwards. The original service included the baptism in water; anointing with oil; lighting of a candle and the laying of hands by the Bishop.

Bishop Jonathan noted that our relationship with God is always initiated by God not us. For many baptism is that initial engagement by God with a person, from which confirmation stands as the person's later mature response to God.

Bishop Jonathan went on to emphasise the importance of prayer and reading the scriptures. Quoting the Archbishop of Canterbury he noted four things: 1/ be people of prayer; 2/ be deeply embedded in Christ; 3/ you have the hope of the world in your hands; and 4/ do not undersell your faith. He then went on to quote C.S. Lewis who noted three things about Jesus—His peasant shrewdness, intolerable severity and irresistible tenderness. Bishop Jonathan noted that in really knowing Jesus we need to be confronted by His intolerable severity when he deals with things in our lives, as well enjoying the irresistible tenderness He shows towards us. We also need to be tender, encouraging and challenging to others in their lives



Creative Arts team providing drama and worship for the confirmation/reception service

# MU Christmas Lunch



Some 36 people enjoyed the MU Christmas Lunch. It was a great time of fellowship and sharing with great food provided by the staff of the Arana Leagues Club. There was a presentation to our Chairperson Joan Cooper of chocolates and flowers in thanks for her hard work and leadership during 2014.



# Bahamas Competition Results

**Multimedia:** Kevin Herman  
**Poster:** Chloe Birgan  
**Colouring:** Jemma Parker  
 Nate Birgan



# St Jude's Day Pictures

