

You are my sunshine (continued).....

He gazed at the tiny infant losing the battle to live.

After a moment, he began to sing.

In the pure-hearted voice of a 3 year old, Michael sang: 'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are grey.' Instantly the baby girl seemed to respond. The pulse rate began to calm down and become steady.

"Keep on singing, Michael,' encouraged Karen with tears in her eyes.

'You'll never know, dear, how much I love you, please don't take by sunshine away.'

As Michael sang to his sister, the baby's ragged, strained breathing became as smooth as a kitten's purr "keep on singing, sweetheart.'

'The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping, I dreamed I held you in my arms.' Michael's little sister began to relax as rest, healing rest, seemed to sweep over her.

'Keep on singing, Michael.' Tears had now conquered the face of the bossy head nurse. Karen glowed.

'Your are my sunshine, my only sunshine. Please don't take my sunshine away.....'

The next day....the very next day the little girl was well enough to go home.

Woman's Day Magazine called it The Miracle of a Brother's Song.

The medical staff just called it a miracle.

Karen called it a miracle of God's love.

NEVER GIVE UP ON THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE.

LOVE IS SO INCREDIBLY POWERFUL.

'The evidence of God's presence far outweighs the proof of His absence.



Operation Christmas Child

A huge thank you to all who have supported
Operation Christmas Child.



Completed boxes should be brought in by Sunday 14th September.



What do we still need? Something to play with—
skipping rope, tennis balls, small cars or trucks, dolls,
marbles (in a bag) and hairbrushes, washers & soap.



If you can help with these— please leave your donations in the box
provided.



We also need financial donations to help with the cost of sending the boxes overseas. Each box costs \$8 to send. There is a donation box on the small table near the door. Anything you can spare will be greatly appreciated.



Good Shepherd Church

Anglican Parish of Bundaberg West

George & Takalvan Sts. Bundaberg

Rector: Rev'd Dr Richard Bowie 41528810
Phone & Fax - Office (07) 41528810
BOX 5120 Bundaberg West Qld 4670

Churchwardens:
Ian Lohse Ph 41 512210
Russ Ford Ph 41516929
Lesley Christensen Ph 41523860

Parish Office: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am – 12 noon

Email address: goodshepherdwest@bigpond.com

Web Site: www.goodshepherdbundaberg.org

The 'family church'... where you're a stranger only once.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

24TH AUGUST, 2008

*The Good Shepherd Family — our purpose is to grow together in Christ,
to worship and learn, to be the Good News.*

Have you completed your Thanksgiving Stewardship Form? If not, forms are available from the sidespersons today.

If you ordered a set of planned giving envelopes—they are available for you to collect today.



No set for you? Let Marilyn know via a care & courtesy slip and a set will be available for you next Sunday.

To those using Direct Debit—if you change the amount of your pledge you need to inform Anfin of the change—forms are available on the notices table.

Parish Family News!

Celebrating Birthdays

24th Georgia & Susan Bass
25th Pat Houchen
29th Jessikah Baumgartner
30th Dorothy Sutton



Best wishes from all your parish family

We have a new addition to our parish family!!



Macaulay Simeon Matteschek arrived safely last Thursday 14th August weighing 9lbs 91/2 ozs. Macaulay is a darling little boy for Michael & Amy and a precious little brother for Portia-lily, Kaleb & Levi. His very proud grandparents are Jenny and Arthur Wedemeyer.

*Congratulations from all the
Good Shepherd Family.*

The "Cookie Jar needs feeding!!!!

It loves both notes and coins!

Feed it, and mow the lawns by proxy!!

LOOKING AHEAD

**In November we will
celebrate our 30th
Anniversary of Good Shepherd
Church.**



**Watch this space for news of our
special celebration.**

COAT—Thank you to all who are supporting the Chinese Orphans Assistance Team—those who have pledged and those who give when they can—your donations make such a difference to these little children's lives. **August donations are now due.**



If you would like a receipt please put your money in an envelope with your name on the front, & a receipt will be available next week.

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY

Wives/partners of members, together with Mother's Union members are invited to our next meeting in Christ Church Supper Room on Tuesday 9th September.

Arrive from 11.30am onwards for (salad) lunch at 12.15, followed by talk on Creation by Tony Osborn.

We **MUST** have numbers for catering purposes by 2nd September. Please phone Howard Kingston (41523530) by that date.

The next Men's Breakfast is in our hall on Saturday August 2 at 7am.



MEN, come along and enjoy breaky and fellowship with other men of our parish family.

Come and Hear
BUNDABERG FESTIVAL MALE VOICE CHOIR



FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

Sunday, 31st August at 6pm
Ann Street, Gospel Chapel
Cnr Ann & Princess Streets,
East Bundaberg.

HYMN FEST
Saturday 13th September
2pm to 4pm

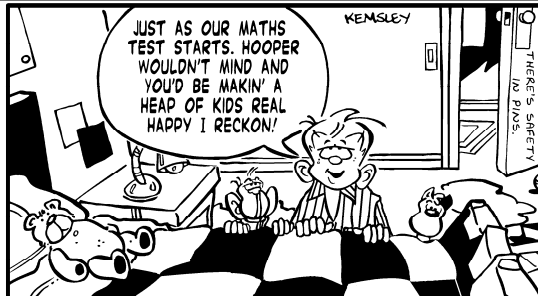
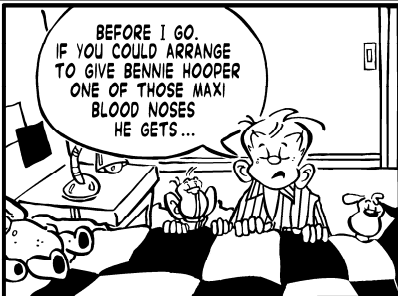


Shalom Performing Arts Precinct
Gold coin entry -- Afternoon Tea

Trivia Night with Mini Cent Sale

Friday 10th October 7pm at Bundaberg Bowls Club, Quay Street
Parishioners.....we need YOUR support to make this fundraiser a success. Can you organize a table of six—parishioners, family or friends? Start asking people to join you for a wonderful night of fellowship and fun!

We also need lots of items for the Mini Cent Sale — Items valued at approximately \$5 — \$7 or grocery items which would be suitable to make into a bucket of groceries. You may know a business which would donate a prize.



This week in the Parish:



Monday		Rector's Day Off
Tuesday	9.30am	Sewing Circle in the hall
Wednesday	9.00am 10.00am 10.00am	Midweek Service Bible Home Fellowship—Contact Heather Heron 41531296 Pastoral Focus Visitor Mater Hospital
Thursday	7.00am	Pastoral Focus Home Visits & Bedside Communion Mater Hospital
Friday	7.00am 8.00am	Prayer Group meet in the church Bedside Communion Riverlea & Gracehaven
Sunday	7.00am 9.30am 4.00pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Service & Sunday School Laate Home Group—Contact Andrew & Louise 4156542680

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE, MY ONLY SUNSHINE

Like any good mother, Karen found out that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her 3 year old son, Michael, prepare for a new sibling.

They found out that the new baby was going to be a girl, and day after day, night after night, Michael sang to his sister in Mummy's tummy.

He was building a bond of love with his little sister before he even met her.

The pregnancy progressed normally for Karen, an active member of the Panther Creek United Methodist Church in Morristow, Tennessee.

In time, the labour pains came. Soon it was every five minutes, every three, every minute. But serious complications arose during delivery and Karen found herself in hours of labour. Would a C-section be required? Finally, after a long struggle, Michael's little sister was born. But she was in a very serious condition.

With a siren howling in the night, the ambulance rushed the infant to the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital, Knoxville, Tennessee. The days inched by. The little girl got worse. The pediatrician had to tell the parents there is very little hope. Be prepared for the worst.

Karen and her husband contacted a local cemetery about a burial plot.

They had fixed up a special room in their house for their new baby but now they found themselves having to plan for a funeral. Michael, however, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. I want to sing to her, he kept saying.

Week two in intensive care looked as if a funeral would come before the week was over.

If he didn't see his sister right then, he may never see her alive. She dressed him in an oversized scrub suit and marched him into ICU. He looked like a walking laundry basket.

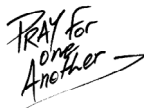
The head nurse recognized him as a child and bellowed, 'Get that kid out of here now. No children are allowed.' The mother rose up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glared steel-eyed right into the head nurse's face, her lips a firm line. 'He is not leaving until he sings to his sister' she stated.

Then Karen towed Michael to his sister's bedside.

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Our Parish Prayer

Father God, equip our Good Shepherd family with the resources we need.
Empower us all by your Holy Spirit.
Strengthen, protect and guide us – especially in our times of need.
Remove the obstacles that would block our endeavours to do your will.
Make us one, within the fold of your church.
We ask in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.



Pastoral Focus Prayer.

God our Father,
Grant us the skills to serve your church;
The ears to hear the calls for help;
The lips to speak your words of truth;
The eyes to see the needs to fill;
The feet to go to those in want;
The mind to meet the doubts we find;
The heart of love to share your peace;
The hands to work without reward;
We ask this only to do your will,
Through Jesus, our Saviour, Redeemer and Friend. Amen.



Prayer of Evangelism.

Heavenly Father, Set our hearts on fire to go into the world in your name.
Grant us wisdom, and the confidence to speak your word.
Give us the strength and the will to continue through all circumstances.
Help us take the Good News to all who will listen,
so they may know Jesus as their Lord and master.
May we glorify your name in all we say and do. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



In your prayers, please remember:-

Our Parish Family prayer list this week (from our parish directory – to show we care)

Dulcie Brandon; Betty Dabelstein; Joan Egan; Gloria Finger; Pat Houchen; Phil Itzstein;
John Marles; Fay Morris; Shirley Spargo; Alison Vercoe.



Absent Friends: Parish Family not with us today.

For those in need:

Prayers for Healing: "Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest"

Judy; Barry; Anna; Clara; Phyllis; Norah; Reg; Mark; Audrey; Dave; Ben; Sarah; Bev; Richard; Sherryl;
Chris; Bon; ... (and those known only to the Lord).

Special Needs:

Matthew; Vivienne & Don; Kym; Emma; Linda, Neil & Brendan; Julia; Bonny & children; Janet, Dudley
& Family; (& those known only to the Lord)

Pray for the political situation and the people of Zimbabwe

Our School Chaplains: Fr. Andrew, Paula, Kelli, Steven, Adrian, Noel, Craig, Teresa & Brenda

Our Link Missionaries with CMS – Shirley Gent in Pakistan and the Hayes Family – Bruce, Libby
and their children Daniel, Julia, Stephanie & Ruth in Nepal **and BCA Missionaries** - the Keith
Family—Rev'd Mike, Chantalle and baby Rachell in Lightning Ridge.

Years Mind – we remember- (i.e. the anniversary of the death of a loved one):-

Sam Griffiths; Reginald Wells; Cyril Costin;

Thanksgiving for the Life of:

Today's Worship—Pentecost 15

Sentence: Jesus said to them, 'Who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Matthew 16:15-16

Readings Today:

Old Testament: Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm Psalm 124 page 361
New Testament: Romans 12:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Readings next Sunday:

Old Testament: Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26 page 332
New Testament: Romans 12:9-21
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice
holy and acceptable to God,
your spiritual worship.
Do not conform yourselves to this age,
but be transformed by the renewal of
your mind, so that you may judge what
is God's will, what is good,
pleasing and perfect.

YOUR OFFERTORY TRUST

Our Offertory gift is not to be a haphazard hit and miss affair. It requires intelligent planning both by the contributor and those who budget the Church finances. Every single member of Christ's Body has the responsibility for the welfare of the whole. If each does his and her share, no one is unduly burdened and the Word of God moves to its fulfillment.



ABM Reflections of Today's Readings

In a few weeks' time Paul will insist that authorities are instituted by God. Yet we applaud the action of Moses' mother in disobeying the edict of the Pharaoh by hiding Moses in the bulrushes. The abiding values of the gospel have to be discerned and lived out, with science and technology especially, throwing up ethical challenges unimaginable in the first century. Paul seems to think that the *renewed mind* will be given the capacity to discern the best way to go. Jesus' assertions about Peter, given to the disciples elsewhere, give the Church a huge responsibility in providing moral guidance. Despite the Church's sad history, Paul would still insist that Christians' renewed minds, working together, can determine God's will. (The instructions are given to "you" plural)

1. Pray for the willingness to reflect, pray and think together to discern God's way for us.
2. Pray for the church in Egypt especially the ministry amongst Sudanese refugees.