



# St Mark's Matters

## The Wedding Banquet

Jesus once told a parable about a wedding banquet, in which a king sent out invitations for his son's wedding. When the day was near, he sent his slaves to remind the invited guests. The preparations had been made, the food was prepared and now was the time for them to come. Sadly, they didn't. Some were indifferent. Some were distracted by other things. Some treated his messengers with contempt. The king was none too impressed.

Eventually the king sent his slaves to the highways and byways, to invite anyone and everyone they could find, the good and bad, the blind and lame, 'so the wedding hall was filled with guests' (Matthew 22:1-14). The king was adamant that his son's wedding would be celebrated, not necessarily by the privileged and 'worthy' but by those who recognized their unworthiness and took up his invitation.

God calls all people to the wedding feast of his Son, through the proclamation of the gospel. He invites us to take part in his kingdom through baptism and faith and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. He even invites us to be part of his work of inviting others into his kingdom. He demands no worthiness, no goodness, no privilege in us, only that we accept his invitation and come to receive his gifts.

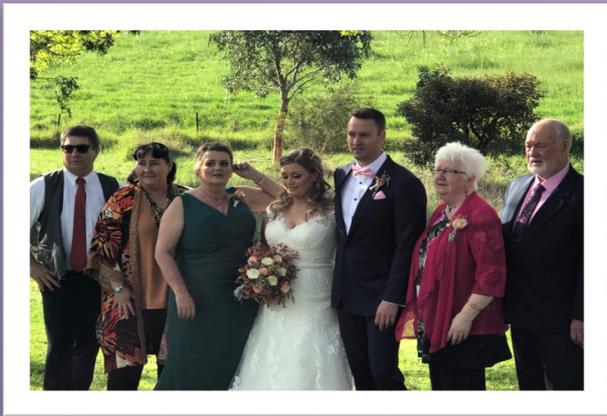
We are having a run of weddings currently at St Mark's! These are joyful occasions to celebrate and be part of. On August 22<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated the wedding of Bernard Jackson and Lyn Wilson, who have been worshipping with us since our return to regular services in June. On September 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the wedding of Shaun Kuchel and Tiffany Dayman, one of our year one teachers at St Mark's school. Before the end of the year we look forward to the weddings of Clara Cavies and Sam Perry (October 9<sup>th</sup>), Tim Footner and Tammy Graetz (October 10<sup>th</sup>) and Zoe Kleinig and Jay Lovelady (December 4<sup>th</sup>).

Some of these people you will know and others you might not. But I encourage to keep all of them in your prayers as they begin married life. 2020 has not been an easy time to plan a wedding! God knows the challenges. He has worked harder than anyone and sacrificed more than anyone for the wedding banquet of his Son. His invitation is for us is simply to come and enjoy the celebration that has no end. Pastor Ben

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Shaun and Tiffany Kuchel

# Building our future on our past

Over the last weeks I've enjoyed reflecting on the generational aspect of our school in a number of ways. We usually describe generations as somewhere between 20 to 30 years but in our school context, as we approach our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have experienced 4 to 5 generations of school families. As I've conducted tours with potential families I've met former students who fondly remember their days here and share the changes they observe now. They talk about the lockers, where our current office is, the shelter shed which has become our hall, the library being in several different locations and even some who recall the disused and unwanted transportable buildings that became our first classrooms.

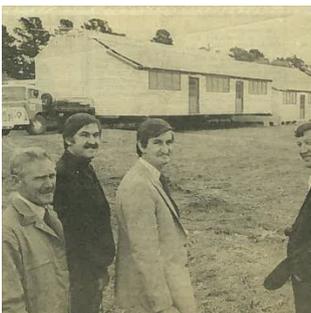
Quite a number remember Miss Schultz as their teacher, and she remembers them. What is apparent to me is the importance and the strong history of legacy leaving as one generation's gift to the next. Each generation inherits the work of the previous generation and works to leave the next generation more than they inherited.

If you wander up to the Foundation classrooms or have seen the fencing around our front office, you will see in a very real way legacy building at work as our current school generation has our turn at developing what we have, both for our current students, and those to follow.

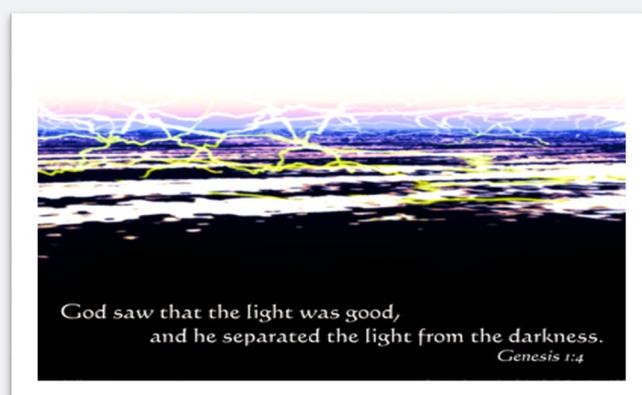
It's an exciting time as we have begun phase one of our masterplan, developing our Foundation classrooms, the spaces outside these rooms and reconfigure the front office. It might be a little hard to picture at the moment amongst the mud but we look forward to creating exciting new spaces for our students to learn and play in.

I'm thankful for those that have come before in our school and provided what we enjoy today, and for our current generation who continue our tradition of legacy building.

James Heyne



Picture: Reg Foyle, Pastor Kriewaldt, Colin Schultz, Glen Matthias



# YOU'RE WELCOME

When do you feel welcome? You might be feeling like you've been living in an underground bunker the last few months as you try to protect yourself and your loved ones around COVID-19. The virus certainly hasn't been something we welcome. It's taken lives of precious people all over the world; not only lives but livelihoods, and so much of what we have relied on to be there when we need it. Maybe you're separated from family who live in another state or overseas. So many travel plans came to nought and they're not likely to come to fruition any time soon.

We spare a thought for those who work in the health systems and the extra pressure they face, including their own and that of their families wellbeing. The winter is arduously cold too and we long for some sunshine. How good is winter sunshine!

What or whom do you welcome? Many grandparents and grandchildren were hanging out to see each other. Skype and Zoom cannot replace face to face contact with people we dearly want to hug and hold...but we have to keep our distance...to stay close!



As God's people we worshipped in ways we've never done before, a smorgasbord of worship styles to keep us in touch with our precious God. These worship services were shared by many who would otherwise not come through our church doors.

What did you miss most about corporate worship? I missed the communal singing; singing to a screen is surreal! Praise is definitely more enjoyable as a corporate activity.

Just like the daffodils Meghan and her family planted in the dark soil under the notice board, hidden from view, growth has taken place. There are leaves and beautiful flowers for all to see, and their joyous sunshine-yellow nodding heads to cheer our spirits. Thank you to the Pfeiffer family; what a great object lesson for your family and for all of us as we see how God gives growth to us too as we look from dark despair to the light of hope in a whole new way. But do we? We can't afford to be the same as we were before COVID-19 because nothing is quite the same as it was before. Let's trust God for whatever the future holds because HIS WELCOME is always warm, inviting, gracious and generous. Bask in the sunshine of God's love and grace where you're always welcome. Joy Christian and Val Schild



# THOSE WHERE THE DAYS!

I was president of Lutheran Youth SA in 1985.

Here are some of my experiences:

**Angaston Convention:** I stayed in the Nuri caravan park with a few others. I think we stayed up a bit late that night. Next morning, I got up and met Pastor and Rena Eckert in the caravan next door!

I remember that the LYSA committee decided that the after social bonfire was perhaps not appropriate anymore and was not to happen. Anyway, Noel Doecke said there was a quiet gathering for the organiser's after we cleaned up on the Saturday night out at the triangle at Lindsay Park. We got there and there were about 200 plus youth there already. Oh well another plan that did not work!

**Tanunda Convention:**

I was billeted to stay in Tanunda, but a friend was billeted at Bethany. I took her out there, and her girlfriend had the house key and we could not get in. We spent most of the night in the car on hills near Bethany waiting for the key. I did not get any sleep. Next morning, I opened the convention proceedings and then lay down behind the stage and got some sleep.

Unfortunately, someone had a car accident outside the Tanunda showgrounds that year. I spent one whole morning organising a tow truck to remove that car.

**Naracoorte Convention: 1985**

This was a great example of a small group of dedicated youth who organised this one due to the small number of youth members in that area. They did an excellent job for this convention which was held at the Naracoorte High School.

**Clare Convention: 1984**

I was billeted at this little cottage and it rained all night. Outside my bedroom there was a leaky gutter. All night I heard the gutter dripping and never got any sleep.

**Eudunda Convention:**

As usual it was cold. I worked in Angaston at the time and had to go back that Saturday morning to open the office. I was billeted at Riverton. I decided to stay with friends in Angaston on the Friday night to avoid the trip back on Saturday morning. My hosts did not have a ride back to Riverton. They were lovely people, but I remember they heated the water for the shower in a chip heater.

**Loxton Convention: 1986**

I was billeted with the secretary of the local winery. Very nice people. We sat down to tea the Saturday night before the social(dance). They bought out an assortment of the wine from his winery. I was billeted with 3 young girls because I had a car. Well, we got to the social late and I think for those girls it was their first wine tasting ever!

**General:**

There were great times at LYSA. Our group at Mount Barker were very active at the time. We had plenty of girls (my two sisters, Matthias girls Valerie Henke etc) so we were asked to youth weekends quite often. We had 4 cars (Graham Foyle Dave Matthias, brother Ian and mine. Graham was our mechanic!). The boys at Keith invited us all the time! I remember staying at the Borgas farm in the workers house..was it cold! I also remember someone getting stuck on a sandhill on the way home from church. The social was at the Padthaway hall, I think. I have a vague recollection that a table with the supper on it collapsed.

I remember the Adelaide Hills amateur hours. We would spend hours finding an act and preparing it for the night. One year we were bereft of ideas. I saw this kid's book about fire engines. That was the act. We had our youth in cardboard fire engines racing through the aisles at the Oakbank area school hall. Not our best idea and we did not win!

I also remember the times at Plus 20s. Graham Foyle drove a coach (not a bus) from South Australia to Port Fairy. Such fun. The Saturday night we decided we would head to the speedway at Warrnambool in the bus, 25 of us! I do not know if we got in trouble next day!

Michael Pfeiffer



# My Youth Days



Mock Wedding  
Andy Wright the Bride  
Hedley Bridesmaid



Another mock Wedding  
Julie Pfeiffer and John Orr



Who got bogged on the way home  
from church?



Day at the Beach



# My Youth Days



Clare Convention 1984

Ros Kuchel  
Deidre Smith (Priebennow)



Baling paper  
at Zilm's



Gloria Mathias  
Judy Batt  
Valerie Henke



Christian life week

## The Garden of Two Halves

A friend once told me that when you arrive at a new house it is best to just watch the garden for the first year. Don't make any changes in that year, she said, just pay attention to the light and see how things grow. After watching the garden that lines the Manse driveway for a year I came to a distinct impression — this was a garden of two halves.

The first half of deep bed with rich each Autumn find their feet. flowers — they success with hellebore regardless of am hoping the waratah's shade will mirror result in a garden count that as a



the garden sits under the glorious canopy of leafy oak. A soil, but minimal light, it receives a thick blanket of leaves which can be overwhelming for small plants still trying to This is how I lost my first planting of foxgloves and wind simply could not shrug off the avalanche. We've had better bore because, although small in stature, they send up flow what is happening around them. This is an attitude that I

waratah will also adopt. Bought on a on a prayer, my theory is that the waratah's natural habitat and miracle. The plant is still alive, so I half-miracle!

The second half of the garden bed is morning light, but receives the full aloe stands in the corner casting a over the few plants that I have tried to with the most interesting history is the last year when news of the Amazon



narrower. It is shielded from the force of afternoon sun. A flowering sympathetic but not-so-shady eye introduce. Of these plants the one blue wattle. The wattle was planted forest fires captured world headlines.

I thought planting the wattle was a small act of hope, something I could look at when the world's ecological news got too grim. Unfortunately, or perhaps quite appropriately, a wattlebird chose that exact shrub as it's final resting place — I found it sprawled across the bush a few days after planting. I chose to politely relocate the bird rather than dwell too long on its potential symbolism!

The driveway garden entered a new phase this Winter. In early June I heard about a plant offer being made available through the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association. The selection of twenty plants consisted of a blend of native shrubs, grasses and groundcovers. They arrived in excellent condition and I hope that as they grow their varying sizes will help to create a layered affect across the garden. The plants are bird and bee attracting and some are even important sources of native caterpillar food. I know this is true because one of our plants was eaten by a hungry caterpillar! This was sad, but we were excited to see a small cocoon appear on the stripped branches a few weeks later.

While the garden presents a number of challenges, I like to think that if it has already contributed one extra butterfly to the world then it might contribute even more in the future.

Meghan Pfeiffer

## DARKNESS AND LIGHT

St Marks Women's Fellowship regularly spends time in Bible Study at their meetings. Studies are taken from Lutheran Women Magazine, and come from a variety of writers. The August Bible Study was prepared by Val Petering of St Petri, Nuriootpa. Val chose light as a theme. She began with the words of Jesus from John 8: 12, *'I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in*

*darkness, but will have the light of life.'* When you go into a dark space and switch on a light, what happens to the darkness? How does the light dispel the darkness? There is powerful imagery here, understood only in the light of Jesus' truth that he is the light of the world, the one who can 'make the darkness bright!' A further insight shared on light describes light as 'God's Eldest Daughter' with light having been created on Day One, underlining its importance.

Thank you Val for these wise words that draw us to the light of the world-Jesus!

COVID-19 has brought darkness to the world in a whole new way. So much of what we once controlled and enjoyed has been taken out of our hands; isolation, division, lock-downs and social

distancing appear to have switched off the light of so much of what we know, love and enjoy. We must listen to our leaders or pay the penalty for disobedience! As a follower of Jesus have you learned

anything valuable through COVID-19? Unknown times like these surely drive us to God's word to find peace, hope, comfort and stillness. St Paul writes in Philippians 4:6 *'Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he's done.'* Peace will be your encouragement and hope your consolation.

The darkness of COVID-19 challenges most people; the unknown touches on every aspect of our lives. What will happen to my family, my job, my education, my church? My whole future seems to be in jeopardy, but Christ's light shines through as we trust him with patience and perseverance. See the Holy Spirit at work lighting up the way, dispelling the darkness so we can live in the light of Christ. As Christ's followers it's time for us to fire up our lights, to reflect Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life to a darkened world with little hope and let's go forward with optimism grounded in Jesus, the only true Light in the world!

Joy Christian



## Falling Off the Cliff

Have you heard the story about the young hiker who tripped as he was walking along the edge of a cliff ? I guess the view was so spectacular that he didn't concentrate on where he was walking and unfortunately tumbled quite a distance down the cliff face until he landed on a ledge. No doubt in shock and considerable pain ,he looked about and wondered what to do next. Fortunately , his first port of call was his loving God in whom he had always had such confidence. Naturally God replied that He was on His way and the shattered young man sat back and waited.

That evening a fellow hiker was also walking along that cliff edge and heard the muffled cries of the young man on the ledge below. "Hold on mate. I'll get help" ,he said to which the young victim who replied that he was OK because help was on its way. The next morning , a fishing vessel was passing along the cliff face and saw the stranded young man .They signalled that they would get help but once again he waved them off ,indicating that help was coming .It was a long painful time before once again he heard a voice calling up from the beach below , offering to get help . And once again, the foolish young man declined this offer of help. A few days later, our young victim died and when he reached Heaven he asked God why He hadn't come to save him as He had promised. " I did come to help, you know . I came three times and you wouldn't let me help !"

Recently I "fell of a cliff" ....not really a cliff but I fell and really knocked myself out .Stunned and in considerable pain, I sat on the ground contemplating what to do. I remember asking God to help me sort this out. And He did! You came ,many of you my dear friends at St Marks ,and I saw in every one of you the face of Jesus and the heart of God ! You came to lift me up off the ground, to ease my pain and calm my uncertainties and I thank you all so much for your love and care. As a result, I feel that my broken knee healed and my shattered confidence grew so quickly and it was God working through His people .

Carlene Zweck



**St Marks has again participated in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection.**

**“We collect shoebox gifts for around the world as an expression of Gods love. “**

**Franklin Graham President Samaritans Purse**

**This year we hope to fill 50 Boxes. We thank all those who took a shoebox. Thankyou to Lisa and the Geiger family for coordinating this project.**

**REMINDER about 10c RECYCLABLES for ST MARKS REDEVELOPMENT**

For some time now many of us have been saving our 10c recyclable cans, bottles, juice containers, flavoured milk cartons and bottles, etc. A dedicated bin is situated behind the church (near the other bins).

The money collected from these recyclables has gone towards paying off the redevelopment debt and over time has added up to a sizable sum! I'd like to say thanks to everyone who has contributed. J

Could I please encourage congregation members (and friends) to consider saving recyclables and leaving them in the green bin with the blue liner? I will collect and take them to the recycle depot. (Or give me a call if you'd like me to pick up from your home – 0417942921).

This is a fund-raising activity that everyone, young or old, can contribute to. Every 10c counts!

Thank you all in anticipation, and God bless,



Vicki Mc Neil

PS. It would be greatly appreciated if sugary containers could be rinsed first – thanks.

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Dudley Delffs, *The Faith of Queen Elizabeth: the poise, grace, and quiet strength behind the crown*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2019. Available from Koorong in Weymouth Street, \$27.99.

While browsing in Koorong some days ago, my eye fell on a book I had heard about but never seen, this attractive account of the faith of the world's best-known woman, Queen Elizabeth II. The author, Dudley Delffs, an American novelist and biographer, shares with many Americans a lifelong affection for British culture and the monarchy. During recent trips to the U.K., he told various people he was writing a book about Her Majesty's faith, and noted their reactions. Each chapter ends with an anecdote about these encounters.

The author takes us step by step through the many storms the Queen has faced through nearly seven decades on the throne. As the ten chapters elucidate, she has weathered them with enormous resilience, thanks to her sense of duty and her call to serve, her humility, respect for all people, patience under criticism, keeping calm and carrying on, her grace and grit, her compassion, her wit and wisdom, and above all, her sincere Christian faith.

The book begins with the story of the Queen's low-key attendance at "the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scripture Union, an international, interdenominational, evangelical charity founded to help children and young people grow in their faith and relationship with God. ... Unable to attend less conspicuously, Queen Elizabeth sat at the front of the church with other distinguished guests and service participants. She bowed in prayer, sang hymns she knew by heart, and beamed at the performance of a children's choir from St. Mary's Primary School. As a new hymn, 'God of unchanging grace' by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, rang through the church to commemorate the Scripture Union Jubilee, Her Majesty subtly nodded her approval. While she serves as patron to more than six hundred charities, Queen Elizabeth seems especially dedicated to Scripture Union."

Delffs goes on to recount the many dramas Her Majesty has had to cope with, and how her faith has strengthened and inspired her. What her faith means to her can be seen in these two excerpts:

(1) From her Christmas broadcast in 2014: "For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace ... is an inspiration and an anchor for my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none." (page 132)

(2) "The Queen has made no secret of her reliance on the Bible as the primary source of her faith in Christ. The Queen Mother instilled a great love of the Bible in her daughters when they were young, reading from the King James Version as well as having them memorise favourite passages, often from the Psalms. 'People don't know that almost certainly every night the Queen kneels beside her bed and says her prayers because that is what her mother did, we know, and her grandmother before her, and that's how she was brought up,' Robert Lacey, royal biographer and historical consultant for *The Crown*, has explained."

"At the centre of Elizabeth's coronation, [the Bible] was described as 'the most valuable thing that this world affords.' From the beginning of her reign, the Queen has consistently cited references from the Bible, particularly in her annual Christmas broadcasts. 'To what greater inspiration and counsel can we turn,' she asked rhetorically, 'than to the imperishable truth to be found in this treasure house, the Bible?' In her 2016 address, Her Majesty explained, "Billions of people now follow Christ's teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ's example helps me see the value in doing small things with great love." (page 183).

## Eulogy::Gwen Donhardt (nee Hamdorf)

Eldest daughter of Arthur & Dorothy Hamdorf Meribah.

Born on the 7th of September 1935 at the Loxton Hospital and Baptized at the Meribah Lutheran Church.

Confirmation – April 13<sup>th</sup> 1952 – by the Late J.H.B. Treager Lutheran Church/ Meribah.

Married Richard Leslie Donhardt on February 5<sup>th</sup> – 1955 at the Meribah Lutheran Church by the late J.H.B. Treager.

In May 1955 their first home was at Hope Forest via Willunga. They were members of the Victor Harbor Parish for 55 years.

While they were living at Hope Forest they had 3 children born at the McLaren Vale Hospital. Neville, Bruce and Kaye.

After 5 years Richard and Gwen moved to Strathalbyn where they laid their roots to begin their life. Gwen helped and worked on the farm with Richard for about 10 years at Angus Plains.

Then Gwen got a job in a corner shop where the Corner Bakery is currently at Strathalbyn serving customers fabric.

In the late 1970's Gwen obtained her MDI to be able to train students to receive their driving license. She continued to do this for just over 40 years, She trained students that now have children and then trained their children and retired last year after suffering a slight TIA.

Gwen in the past 10 months worked hard to recover from her stroke so she could live independently and regain her driving license which was booked in September this year. She was giving her driving tuition to build and regain her confidence up and during this time found that she had not lost her skills that she had developed and fine tuned over the years. The family were so proud of her as this would have given her independence back.

During the time of her training Gwen developed a huge social friendship with the community and public. We are sure the people she taught admired her the same as we did and appreciated the time and effort she put aside in her life to help them.

Now go with the Lord and rise to the Heaven's to join his Father and be in a safe place with Dad and Marg.

RIP Gwen

(Supplied by the family.)



## CHURCH REGISTER

### Baptisms

Date	Name	Born	Parents
28/7/20	Sharna Jones	1 9/5/92	Adult
28/7/20	Everleigh Jones	1 0/1/20	Sharna Jones

### Weddings

Date	Bride	Groom	Location
4/7/20	Bethany van de Meulengraaf	Thomas Padget	Bethlehem, Adelaide
22/8/20	Lynette Wilson	Bernard Jackson	St Mark's
19/9/20	Shaun Kuchel	Tiffany Dayman	Glen Lea Homestead

### Membership In

Date	Name	From
6/9/20	Anthony Fox	
20/9/20	Melanie Schwarz, Ryan, Zach & Lachan	St Michael's Hahndorf
20/9/20	Neil & Greer Hein, Matthew & Mitch	Redeemer, Nairne

### Funerals

Date	Name	Died
14/9/20	Gwen Donhardt	28/8/20

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**St Marks**   
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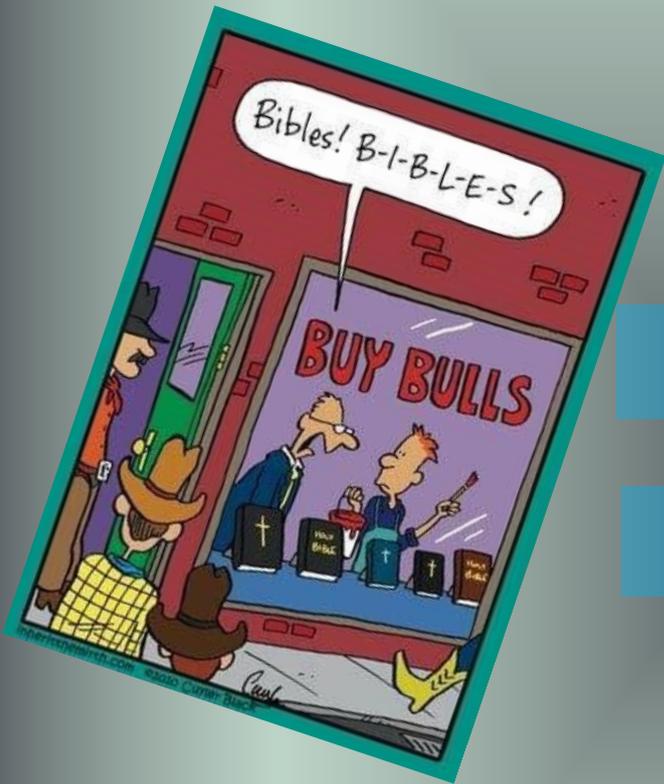


Kluske Baptism



New members  
The Heins

Out and about  
at  
St Marks



It has been a privilege to  
publish the Matters

The Editor  
Thanks You!



New members The Schwarz'



Erica's Farewell



Youth Convention 1991