

Next Week's Bible Talks

8:30am Bexley

Jason Veitch on
Reformation - Faith Alone

9:00am Carlton

Phil Colgan on
Reformation - Faith Alone

10:30am Carlton

Phil Colgan on
Reformation - Faith Alone

10:30am Bexley North

Jason Veitch on
Reformation - Faith Alone

6.30pm Church

Phil Colgan on
Reformation - Faith Alone

Events

Prayer Meetings

First Saturday of every month, 8am
Email office@snac.org.au for location.

English for Life

Every Friday during school terms,
9:30-11:30am at St James

Turner's Commissioning

Saturday 13th May, 2.30pm at St James

SNAC Men's Night

Saturday 3rd June (more details to come)

Kids Holiday Club

11-14 July

Contact Us

General Enquiries

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Carmel Vincent (Admin)

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Sunday Locations

8:30am Bexley (Contact Jason)

Corner of Albyn St & Dunmore St, Bexley

9:00am Carlton (Contact Kevin)

St James' Carlton, entry via Henry St

10:30am Carlton (Contact Phil)

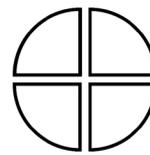
Carlton Public School, entry via Cameron St

10:30am Bexley North (Contact Jason)

Holy Trinity, entry via Carrisbrook Ave

6.30pm Church (Contact Troy)

St James' Carlton, entry via Henry St



St George North
Anglican Church

Glorifying God by
Proclaiming Jesus | Growing Disciples | Serving Together

Weekly SNAC

Edition 666

30 April 2017

Is this week's issue of the Weekly SNAC cursed!?

You may or may not have realised that this issue of the Weekly SNAC is #666... (GASP!) The chances are that you are aware that this number is considered an evil, fearful, foreboding number. It's the number that has bred many superstitions and horror movies. But where does it come from? Funnily enough, this number shows up in the Bible, in Revelation 13:18:

Here is wisdom: The one who has understanding must calculate the number of the beast, because it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

Strangely, over the centuries, people take things from the Bible, which is anti-superstition, and twist it to be superstitious (see 2 Peter 3:16). Nonetheless, over the centuries Christians have debated what this eerie number might mean, who it might point to, and how significant it should be in our minds as believers – does this number represent Satan himself? Is it talking about the Roman emperor of the day? Or is it another prominent figure in history who opposes Jesus? (Most American presidents have been put forward as options!)

In order to dispel our fears of this paper being cursed, or that this bulletin will bring about the Apocalypse, I thought we'd take a closer look at the passage where this mysterious number 666 comes up.

It's well known that the book of Revelation is the last book in the Bible, the last written, and the most symbolic and strange in its content and imagery. What becomes clear as we read it, though, is that it's a symbolic retelling of the story of history – particularly the story between Jesus' first coming (his life, death and resurrection) and his second coming. And, rather than instilling fear, it's meant to comfort the first century Christians (and us), and give them the strength and hope to persevere in following Jesus, even though Satan and the world is opposed to Jesus, and Christians face great suffering and persecution.

So we see the number 666 come up in the wider story of chapters 12-14 – a great, epic story about Satan (the dragon) and his (unsuccessful) war against God. Here's a summary:

- Satan tries to destroy God's Old Testament people (the woman – 12:1) so Jesus can't be born.
- Once Jesus (the child – 12:5) is born, Satan tries to destroy him.
- Once this doesn't work, in his anger Satan turns to destroy the church (the woman's other offspring – 12:17).
- Satan enlists the help of two beasts (13:1, 11 – possibly evil human authorities). These 3 form an "unholy trinity" who try to imitate God and persuade the world to worship them, instead of worshipping God.
- Everyone who worships them get's the mark of the beast on them – 666, a number that's "1" short of 777, the symbolic number of God and his perfection.

And so in this story we see that Satan tries to imitate God, and steal God's worship for himself, but he falls short. That's the meaning of the number 666. Satan tries to make himself look great, and cause all people of the world to follow him, instead of God, and sadly many people do follow him.

(cont. page 2.....)

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It all sounds quite fearsome and frightening doesn't it? But the wonder of this story is actually the opposite. Why? Because what we see happening all throughout the story is God restraining, disarming and defeating Satan time and time again.

The good news is that God is at work to save and protect a people for himself, who aren't marked with 666, but instead marked and sealed with the name of the Lamb and of the Father. Listen to how it speaks about us as God's people at the end of the story:

Then I looked, and there on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with Him were 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads... These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They were redeemed from the human race as the firstfruits for God and the Lamb. (14:1-4)

The wonder of this story is that the battle has already been won! The Lamb who was slain has already conquered! Satan has already been defeated! So if you are a believer in Jesus, then you have no need to fear the number 666. You have no need to fear Satan – he is a defeated enemy. God has redeemed you by the blood of Jesus and written his name of ownership on you, and he is able to keep you to the end. What incredibly comforting news in the midst of a world that is against Jesus, and as we face suffering and persecution! God has sealed us and will keep us to the end!

Troy Munns

Christianity Explained

Our Christianity Explained course is available again in Term 2. This free course provides a great opportunity to hear a clear explanation of the Christian faith.

We have a number of courses available:

Daytime for women (with creche): * 10am Tuesdays at Bexley North.
* 10am Thursdays at Carlton.

Evenings for men and women: * 7.45pm Tuesdays, starting 16th May.
* 5pm Sundays, starting 21st May.

Please speak to your congregational leader or contact Kevin Stepniewski (0421 286 835 or kev-in@snac.org.au) if you would like to come along or for more information.

Coming up at St George North

This term we will be having a special sermon series to commemorate the fact that this year is 500 years since **the Reformation** began, when Martin Luther rediscovered the wonderful truths of God's word that we are saved not by what we do, but by the work of Jesus on our behalf. In the light of that, we will spend five weeks thinking about 5 key aspects of what we believe:

1. We are saved through **Faith Alone**
2. We are saved by **Grace Alone**
3. We are saved by **Christ Alone**
4. Our authority in all things is the **Bible Alone**
5. What are we doing when we share **the Lord's Supper?**

After this series, we will be thinking about the **Wisdom of God** in the books of **Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs** and **Lamentations**.

Safe Ministry Training

There have been some recent changes to the Diocesan Safe Ministry Requirements. Because of these changes SNAC is running a second Safe Ministry Refresher course this year. This course is for anyone who is involved in or would like to be involved in ANY ministry with kids or youth.

Sunday May 28th
2–5pm at St James Carlton

PLEASE NOTE: from now on if you let your Safe Ministry training lapse and do not update you will have to complete the full Essentials course. This is a new Diocesan Requirement.

If you have any questions or would like to attend one of the courses please contact Sarah Munns (sarah@snac.org) or 0403 686 284.

Commissioning Service for the Turners



Please join us at the Commissioning Service for Glen and Dominique Turner, with Judah, Ezrah and Hosea. We will be praying for the Turner family as we send them back to Mumsoma, Tanzania.

When: 2:30pm, Saturday, 13th May 2017

Where: St James Anglican Church,
Cnr Henry & Percival Sts Carlton

Church Finances – Strong start to the year

Praise God for the generosity of his people at St George North. In the first three months of the year our giving was very strong and has set us on a great start to the year. In March our giving almost matched our budget and it was only the slow start to the year over summer that leaves us a little behind at the end of the first quarter.

As you know from the recent AGM we are entering a period of building work around our Parish and so we continue to prayerfully depend on God for his provision not only to meet our budgeted expenses but also the upcoming property expenses. If you have not recently reviewed your giving then please prayerfully consider your giving so that we are able to do all the things under God we have planned to do.

March Offerories	\$69,507	Offerories YTD	\$202,785
Budgeted (March)	<u>\$69,893</u>	Budgeted YTD	<u>\$209,679</u>
Shortfall (March)	\$ 386	Shortfall YTD	\$ 6,894

For those wishing to give electronically the church's Bank account details are:

Bank:	Westpac	Account Name:	Parish of St George North General A/C
BSB:	032 158	Account No.:	268126