



3rd February 2019

Passionately Pursue Growth

A number of years ago I planted two fruit trees at the back of our house. I had visions of these trees growing tall and strong, providing a shady area and producing an abundant crop of fruit. Now, I'm not a great gardener but I have watered these trees from time to time and I've even tried pruning them. I still remember the first year that we saw blossoms appear and then waited eagerly for the fruit to ripen. Can you imagine my disappointment when the time came to pick some fruit and to my horror I discovered they only produced apples!

I was hoping for some plums, a few nectarines, some peaches and maybe even some oranges... but all they grew were apples. I know what you're thinking - how absurd. 'Henry, if you planted apple trees, you're only going to get apples!'

I know, it is absurd. I didn't really expect to get oranges or peaches from an apple tree. I planted apple trees because I wanted apples. In fact I measure the success of my apple trees by the fruit they produce. A healthy growing apple tree produces a good crop of apples and I'm not disappointed when there are no plums or nectarines.

I wonder in our own lives how we judge our own success? Usually we measure our success in some way by what our life is producing. We set our sights on what we hope to achieve in areas of our lives, such as career, family, lifestyle etc. and then we judge ourselves based on whether we achieve the results we had in mind. But what if the fruit we're working so hard to produce in our lives is not what we were designed to produce?

Apple trees produce apples. Peach trees produce peaches. In fact the tree doesn't even seem to be trying that hard to produce the fruit. It just happens. If the tree is healthy and growing it will produce the fruit it's supposed have.

I want to suggest that we might be just the same ... if we are healthy and growing the fruit will come!

That's why this week's message is an encouragement to **Passionately Pursue Growth**. I hope you can make it.

Henry

We acknowledge that the land we meet on is the traditional lands for the Kurna people.

CREATE - After School Activity Club

Starts Tuesday 5th : 3.30-5.30pm
@ Playford Uniting Church
Call Nick : 0402 808 744

INTERESTED IN BAPTISM OR MEMBERSHIP @ PUC ?

Sunday March 3rd will be a big weekend. We are offering the opportunity for baptism and membership at Playford UC. Baptism is an exciting step of our life in Christ and one that is both a personal and community celebration. Membership in the Uniting Church, or as we call it "becoming a partner" involves a public declaration of your faith as well as making your commitment to the Playford family. If you are interested in baptism or becoming a partner, or maybe both please see Pete or Henry.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 3rd February: Henry Rouse
Passionately Pursue Growth
John 15:1-8

Sunday 10th February: Rev Peter Riggs
Passionately Pursue Connection
Hebrews 10:24-25

Sunday 17th February: Rev Peter Riggs
Passionately Pursue Giving
2 Corinthians 9


Last Sundays' Message

By Rev Peter Riggs

Click here ["A Year of Passionate Pursuit"](http://playford.ucasa.org.au/podcasts/) or go to <http://playford.ucasa.org.au/podcasts/>

Playford Uniting Church

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A people **Awakened** by the Spirit, **Moving** in our Communities, **Cultivating** Hope and **Transforming** Futures.