



# **BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH**



## **MEETING of the CONGREGATION**

**SUNDAY 16TH MAY 2010**

## **MINUTES & REPORTS**

**If you are collecting this copy before the meeting, please ensure that you bring it back with you on the day of the meeting. Thank you**

## May 16 2010 Congregational Meeting Agenda

### Blackwood Uniting Church 11am

Welcome / Apologies Minutes of AGM of congregation / Acceptance		Pg 3
Matters Arising:		
Spoken Reports		
Minister's Reports Church Council Mission Budget and Finance Elders and Lay Ministry	Leanne Jenski, Ian Hunter Ewan Hazeldine Ray Bown, separate paper David Agnew	Pg 6,7 Pg 8 Pg 9
Tabled Reports		
Property Community Program & Shed Mission and Justice Youth Helen Lee trust Inter-Church Council / Beacon Urban Mission Network Library services Synod Playgroup 11am Committee BUC communications	Tony Otworowski Janet Maschmedt A.Blake, N Cranwell  A.Blake Gloria McArthur Wendy Norris, Anne Magery Joy Belling Christa / Tim Lee Marnie / Carys Penny Mary Thomas Pam Marlow	Pg 10 Pg 13 Pg 14  Pg 15 Pg 16 Pg 17 Pg 18 Pg 18 Pg 19 Pg 20
Reflection on above reports		
Any recommendations to Council arising from today Election of Synod Reps and Congregational minute Secretary Benediction # A.G.M. scheduled 21/11/10		

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Blackwood Uniting Church      Sunday 22 November 2009

Meeting commenced at 11.10am

1. ATTENDANCE: as per attendance sheets. **Present:** 93    **Apologies:** 18

2. Opening prayer by Wendy Norris

3. Minutes of the AGM 2008 read and approved: CONSENSUS

4. Reports

1) Ministers – presented by Leanne Jenski and Ian Hunter

2) Church Council – presented by Ewan Hazeldine

- Highlights:
- we are blessed in the leadership of Leanne and Ian
  - addition to report
    - a) Freaky Friday event
    - b) Pancake breakfast
- these programs designed for community building
- advance notice of Family Camp at the Coorong on the last weekend in May 2010
  - possible ideas for event – Lat Night at the Proms
  - acknowledge change to Council membership
- Thanks to retiring members

Mary Thomas, Bev Eccleston, Peter Burgess, Marlene Lehmann.

4) Finance: presented by Ewan Hazeldine, Ray Bown and Alastair Blake

- presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Mission based budget

Proposal: that the meeting approve the proposed Mission Budget for 2010  
CONSENSUS

- Ian offered a prayer of thanks and blessing

5) Elders and lay Ministry: presented by David Agnew

- Highlights:
- Urban Mission Network Youth Study
  - Thanks given for 10year service to Bev Eccleston and Mary Thomas
  - Elders are focussing on pastoral care of the congregation and particularly those who are not members of a cluster group
  - Glenis Reid is to chair a new pastoral care group

6) Tabled Reports:

- a) Pam Marlow spoke to Communication group report re
  - Electronic calendar / hard copy is displayed in the church hall and foyer
  - Notice board
  - Web site
  - External signage
  - Event planner
- b) Property Committee – Mary Thomas gave an acknowledgement of work done on refurbishment of the Ladies toilets
- c) Interchurch Council
  - Thanks to Bev Eccleston for her work
  - Beacon program
- d) Community Program
  - Stressed that the program is not about what but about who
  - Thanks to all the volunteers who help out each week
  - Vote of thanks proposed by Ian Penny to Janet Maschmedt for her coordination of the program
- e) Library: thanks to Joy Belling
- f) Mission and Justice:
  - Christmas gifts and cards
  - Trip to West Papua update – they will take a gift from Blackwood to West Papua ( a candle holder made by Daphne Pickett an aboriginal artist
  - Crista Megaw and Enid Ninnis are retiring from the Mission and Justice group. Alastair Blake gave a vote of thanks.
- g) Urban Mission Network
  - 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Blackwood is hosting the meeting. Ideas are welcome and help is needed for catering.
- h) Synod
- i) Finance committee
  - Ray Bown thanked Peter Burgess who is retiring from the finance role

7) Any Other Business

- a) Leanne – response to lack of elders in the 11am community. Angela Smith has offered to help out in this role as “Chaplin to the 11am congregation”
- b) Russel Grear – Russell and Bob Lyon attended a meeting on Fir danger and our response. A proposal has been presented to Council to open these premises as a safe refuge on days of extreme and catastrophic fire danger.

Questions as to 1) publicising this (ther2 is a meeting here on Wed Dec 2)

2) does it need trained first aiders on site?

3) what resourced do we need to provide – blankets, food etc?

Russell Gear proposed:

“On days of extreme or catastrophic fire danger Blackwood Uniting Church is to be opened and staffed to form a safe refuge are for the community” CONSENSUS

#### 8) Election of Officers

As per nomination sheet – all elected

Next meetings May 16<sup>th</sup> 2010

November 21<sup>st</sup> 2010

Meeting closed with prayer at 12.35

It is so hard to describe what a minister actually does. Most people know we spend time preparing for Sunday morning worship services and we do weddings, baptisms and funerals. Most people know we attend various meetings either to do with the internal workings of a congregation or meetings that happen in the wider church and/or community. There are also the administrative things to do like writing this report. Over and above all those usual things come opportunities to do things outside the normal ministry tasks. In Feb I was privileged to go to Papua for two weeks and listen as the GKI church shared with us the struggles they face as a church. I know I have returned with a new passion to continue to build on the partnership we have the GKI Papuan church. I have especially enjoyed the visit of Elisha and Elna and the two days spend showing them Kangaroo Island was a special treat.

In November last year I was honoured to be asked to help a local family shape a thanksgiving afternoon for their two children. The mum has a friend who attends the community program and I was recommended as someone who might be open enough to help plan the ritual. We meet several times and got to know each other and out of our conversations a thanksgiving service was planned. It was held in a local kindy and a wonderful time was had by the 40 plus friends and family. Out of that relationship I had a request to conduct a wedding in May. I was pleased to hear that the mum and her two children attend our new playgroup.

In October I was asked by UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide to conduct a 6 week session for same-gender attracted women who wanted to explore their Christian faith in a safe place. Seven months later we are still meeting on Thursday nights and a deep sense of Christian community has formed. From time to time you may have seen some of this group here as they attended the Blue Christmas Service, some of the Christmas services and from time to time individuals attend Sunday morning services. For one woman she has begun the journey of becoming a Christian and is so excited about attending Church of the Trinity each week as a member of a church for the first time in her life.

Thank you to the many who supported me through a difficult time late last year. Thank you to the many people who support and care for me ...while I join others in support and care for you. Thank you especially to my reflection team who have met regularly with me.

2010 has started off as a very difficult year for some in our church community. I think the ripples of serious illness and cancer are affecting us all in some way. I will continue to pray for healing and courage as those of you endure treatment and face uncertain futures. I invite the rest of you to join your prayers with mine and Ian's as the year unfolds.

Time has flown since November and we have begun the new Christian year and have already journeyed through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and well into Easter. That just about sums up Jesus' entire life. Why do I feel like I have accomplished so little in that time? Not really, two of the opportunities that have occupied much of my time outside of worship and pastoral care since we last met in November have been the Friday night meal gatherings and playgroup. The Friday night meals have come together and we have a regular group who join us for a meal and more importantly fellowship of the table. We have had our new playgroup start on Monday mornings and a second "Bubs" group has begun at noon on Mondays. The response has been overwhelming and the leaders and volunteers of these groups have been fantastic. For me it is an opportunity to sit down and get to know both the children and the parents or grandparents on a more intimate level. It is easily the best opportunity for community connection that I have had since being here. Thank you to those who had the vision to see that this might be a need. I also believe God has sent us an angel in Connie who has been the driving vision behind the actual way we gather. Connie moved from Sydney and couldn't find a playgroup for her son that had parents and children playing together. When she called me to see what we had it seemed that the timing for Marnie Agnew, Carys Penny and Jean Potter was about as good as it could get and within a very short period of time the group was up and running. You know how the little things matter? We have members of the congregation who come in on the Monday morning to serve coffee, tea and biscuits to the adults. We have had a few mums in tears they were so overwhelmed by the caring they were receiving. It really has been a wonderful time so far and there are always opportunities for anyone who would like to come and help us out on a Monday morning. I am hoping that as we develop the relationships more deeply through terms two and three we will have the opportunity to gather with some of these families on another night of the week for a meal and table fellowship that will help them connect with God through storytelling and personal sharing. There are already a couple of families who have shown interest in meeting at another time for more intentional spiritual time. It is an exciting time. Of course when we gather at things like playgroup it creates other challenges around safety and care and we will need to do some security work from a property point of view to make sure our little ones are safe but this seems like a small imposition for such a healthy ministry.

AS for the meal gatherings on Friday nights they got off to a slow start with only a few people turning up occasionally. There were many nights when there was no one there for dinner but the hosts. However, since Christmas we seemed to have turned a corner with guests on 90% of the Fridays and as many as 13 sitting down to eat together. This has been a huge commitment from a large team of 100 people who make this happen. The cooking groups have done a fantastic job of getting the food to the church and providing nutritious and delicious meals. The hosts have welcomed our guests and had the opportunity to sit with them and share conversation and a meal. We are now into our third rotation of hosts and servers and everyone seems to be going well. I know our guests greatly appreciate all your effort. WE are also very thankful to Nando's Chicken, Edwardstown, who provide salads and the meal on the first Friday of every month. They have been great to work with. Add to these two things the wonderful time we have spent with Elna and Elisha and the weekly opportunity to be a mentor at Blackwood Primary school through Kids Hope and it has been a wonderful six months of deepening relationships with the wider community. A special thank you to all who have been involved in all of the outreach, pastoral care, education, pastoral care, administration and worship during this time.

Blessings, Ian.

## **Church Council**

### **Report to the Meeting of the Congregation 16 May 2010**

This year has seen a new look Council, following the retirement of a number of long serving members – Bev Eccleston, Mary Thomas, Graham Brown, Peter Burgess and Marlene Lehmann – and the arrival of Penny Harper, Heidi McNamara, Tony Otworowski and Ian Penny. Two further appointments are being sought.

Our key focus of Council this year is to be actively engaged in implementing the new Mission-based Budget which was endorsed by the Congregation at its last AGM, including the new mission initiatives. (see separate reports) The Playgroup is off to a flying start with an overwhelming response from the wider community and wonderful support from the congregation – a second group for mothers and very new babies has also commenced. Friday night meals, after a slow start, is now being more strongly patronized. Work has progressed on the proposed new signage with a start now in sight. A longer term project about nurturing a culture of welcoming is also underway.

Under our new approach to budgeting - mission first, budget second (how to pay for our mission?) – our overarching challenge is to build a culture of generosity or abundance in order to adequately resource what we believe God is calling us to do in mission. A small enthusiastic task group has been working on this with a first project being the “Making a Difference in 2010” program. We were also pleased to tell the story of our experiences in Mission-based Budgeting with the other churches from our Urban Mission network at its gathering in February – we appear to be the first church taking this path in SA!

Council has also been working on renewing the contracts for both Jackie Otworowski (Office Coordinator) and Janet Maschmedt (Community Program Coordinator) and promoting/encouraging further Fun & Fundraising events for 2010. The first event for 2010 will be the Church Camp on May 29 – 31 at Camp Coorong. Further offers from groups to run such events will be welcomed.

Special blessings have flowed from journeying with our Papuan friends through the visit of our group to Papua and the presence in our midst of Elna and Elisha.

In our journey this year, Council will strive to “Make a Difference in 2010” by continuing to implement the new Budget and its associated programs, along with oversighting and encouraging the ongoing work of our church.

In conclusion I wish to pay a tribute to the retiring members of Council and thank them for their individual and collective contributions over their years of service to our church. I welcome our new members and look forward to working together to implement the ongoing decisions of the Congregation as our faith community seeks to be open and committed to God’s calling to mission in our time and place.

Ewan Hazeldine  
Chairperson of Council

**Finance will follow separately**



## **Pastoral Care 9.15 congregation**

Imagine a community where small groups undertake to care for each other by making the occasional phone call to say, “Hi, how are you? I heard you’ve had a bit of a tough time lately,” or “How’d you like to meet for coffee at the Little Leaf and Bean?” Or a note is sent to say Happy Birthday, Congratulations... I’m thinking of you... or Thanks... Where a need to be driven to an appointment is met, where trust is established so a listening ear can be found, where people think to pass on information about coming events, where people are invited to lunch, or the movies, or for a walk in the park, where visitors are greeted and made welcome, where practical help can be offered or asked for, and people are able to be prayed for. Is this the sort of community you would like to belong to? This is the vision of the 9.15 Pastoral Care Committee, the members of which are moving towards equipping themselves and you to fulfil this vision, co-convened by Glenis Reid and Marnie Agnew.

## **Life and Faith at the Roundabout**

The church was nearly full, the speakers excellent, the discussion lively, and the topic couldn’t have been more currently relevant if we’d tried. “Asylum Seekers – Who are They?” – organised by Penny Harper and supported by Blackwood Circle of Friends – was attended on by 90-100 people, with at least half that number not being associated with Blackwood Uniting Church. As we continue to connect with the wider community, providing information and promoting discussion in ways that are relevant and helpful, look out for these forums to come in 2010: Population and Climate Change (speaker: Professor Graeme Hugo); Human Rights and the Rights of Children (speaker: Justice Rod Burr) and, depending when the next Federal election is called, Meet the Candidates.

## **Faith Sharing**

Everyone has a story to tell, and everyone finds a connection of some sort with the stories of those around us. Laugh, cry, empathise, learn... Faith Sharing continues to be an important element in the life of the church and in providing an opportunity for exploring our faith. Contact: David Agnew or Ian Penny.

## **Prayer Circles**

The number of Prayer Circles has recently been increased from five to six. The Prayer Circles offer intercessory prayer for anyone in the church who needs and requests prayer. This unobtrusive ministry provides comfort and spiritual sustenance to, and quietly underpins, our care of the whole congregation. If you want to be part of or take advantage of this resource, contact Lynona Hawkins.

## **Youth Study**

Did you know we have a group of young people who meet regularly (four times a term) on Friday nights? The council commissioned a task group, under the leadership of Ian Penny, to meet and talk with the leaders of the youth group, and to discuss ways in which the church community could support them. Youth leaders also provided feedback on the proposed recommendations contained in the subsequent report. The report has been considered by the elders who have recommended to Council that a working group be established to continue to plan how to meet the needs of the youth at Blackwood. Elders have also supported the establishment of a roster of individuals who are prepared to drive members of the youth group to venues away from the church.



### Congregational Meeting 16 May 2010 Property Ministry Report

#### 1. Committee

Chairman: **Tony Otworowski**

Secretary: **Bob Lyon**

Treasurer: **Brian Pickering**

Members: **Graham Brown, Danny Goldsmith, Russell Grear, Lisa Haddrick, Penny Harper, David Hawkins, John Hewitt, Geoff McLean, Jane Palmer, Ray Pentland, Bob Potter, Jean Potter, Keith Rodda**

#### 2. Finance

Closing balance for 2009 - \$10,641 (credit)

This healthy end of year position was the result of

- 2.1 Higher than expected Garage Sale income
- 2.2 Increased income from hiring of facilities
- 2.3 Diligent management of expenditure
- 2.4 Committed volunteer resources

#### 3. Headline Achievements for Last Reporting Period

- 3.1 Dene room painting completed
- 3.2 New carpet laid in Offices, Dene room and library
- 3.3 Completion of ladies toilet refurbishment
- 3.4 Kitchen clean up and replacement of mugs
- 3.5 Fencing and gate to sand pit play area fixed
- 3.6 External west entrance door repaired
- 3.7 Rotting timber and gutters above entry doors replaced
- 3.8 External woodwork repainted
- 3.9 Internet access link to Manse repaired
- 3.10 Five year property asset replacement plan and budget established
- 3.11 Church established as safe refuge for local community during catastrophic fire warning days

#### **4. Proposed Works for 2010**

##### **4.1 External Signage (Target date – TBC)**

4.1.1 – Co-ordinate the installation of new proposed signage and modify existing grounds to suit

##### **4.2 Coffee Lounge**

4.2.1 Replace existing straw ceiling with gyproc – (Target date – week 1 July 2010)

4.2.2 Replace blinds and curtains - (Target date – End August 2010)

4.2.3 Disconnect and remove existing wall mounted heaters - (Target date – week 1 July 2010)

##### **4.3 Hewett Room**

4.3.1 Repaint walls, windows and woodwork - (Target date – week 4 September 2010)

4.3.2 Replace damaged floor tiles - (Target date – week 4 September 2010)

##### **4.4 Foyer**

4.4.1 Repair worn areas of carpet - (Target date – End May 2010)

##### **4.5 Main Hall & Passage way**

4.5.1 Replace damaged floor tiles - (Target date – End May 2010)

##### **4.6 Dene Room**

4.6.1 Replace existing curtains - (Target date – End April 2010)

##### **4.7 External**

4.7.1 Widen car park entry paving - (Target date – End May 2010)

4.7.2 Repair external guttering and down pipes - (Target date – End June 2010)

##### **4.8 Tables**

4.8.1 Replace tops where possible on rectangular & trapezoidal table or replace tables - (Target date – End November 2010)

##### **4.9 Storage Shed**

4.9.1 Reorganise and install enhanced storage system to improve capacity - (Target date – End October 2010)

5. Your Property Ministry Making a Difference in 2010 supporting and celebrating our mission



'Great sense of being able to contribute'



'Enabling a place to support the Church's mission'



# BUC Property Ministry



'More than just bricks & mortar'



'Put into reality other groups visions and ideas'



'Channelling my skills to help others'



'Working together to achieve a common spiritual goal'



'Friendship & comradeship'



'Learning and growing'

## Community Programme report to Congregation, May 2010

Since I last reported to the Congregation, there has been a flurry of activity within the Community Programme.

Late November saw our newly named "Create-about" happen. It was a risk to only have stalls from within the Programme, Church community and not-for-profit organisations, but one we think paid off. The sense of community was very real and given how awful the weather became on the Friday afternoon and all day Saturday, our takings were exceptional. A huge thank you goes to all who participated and lent us their time, muscle and enthusiasm.

This first term of the year has seen a small reduction in the number of classes offered; in part due to lack of interest and also to availability of teachers. We have also experienced a reduction in volunteer hours, making the office a very busy place on Wednesday and Thursdays. If anyone would be able to be on an emergency roster to help with the phone, photocopying and general enquiries, please leave your name at the office.

Over the course of the Wednesday and Thursday each week, over 350 people come into our classes. This represents 350 opportunities to witness to God's love and demonstrate the care of the Church.

The Church provides so much more than a venue and tables and chairs. Each week participants have the opportunity to meet with others and form important connections that may have significant impact on their lives. Here are two stories of how the Community Programme makes a difference:

Jenny\* is a lady who is very sociable, but suffers from at times crippling depression. She has found a warm and accepting place at the Programme and organises her working life around being able to attend both Wednesdays and Thursdays if possible. She credits her belonging to this community with getting her out of bed and "being a lifesaver". The friends she has made are strongly committed to her, and she in turn is always keen to welcome newcomers and for them to feel as comfortable as she is.

Fiona\* is new to our programme this year, having seen the sign outside, and came wanting to get to know some people, as she was lonely. She is also new to the area, after the sudden death of her husband six months ago. Fiona joined a group and now a few months on, "hangs out for Thursdays", looking forward to a group that laughs and cries together, and is very supportive in her times of need or sadness. She thinks groups like this should exist everywhere!!

All the elements that go together to make this, or any caring community, do not happen by chance. To make a difference in people's lives requires commitment, passion and a real sense of purpose; all of which are exhibited by the many volunteers and tutors who contribute so much to the Community Programme. Thank you to all who help in any way - without your input, we would just be an activity provider.

Janet Maschmedt,

Community Programme Co-ordinator

## Mission and Justice

The theme of Journeying has been retained for 2010. It is about our journey of faith on which, as our Basis of Union says, we are all pilgrim people always on the way. It is also about journeying in partnership with others whom we wish to support, listening carefully to them and adding to their voice. That is the Uniting Church way of doing mission work.

We have also continued the four priority areas from last year: journeying with Kurna people, the church in Papua, the environment and all creation and the Kids Hope program. We will focus on each of these areas in our worship for one month during the year. In January we focused on trees, water, biodiversity and climate change. As a result, Anne Magarey has formed a new group of people interested in this work. In July we will focus on our journey with Kurna people and in October on Kids Hope.

For the four Sundays beginning on 28 February our focus was on our journey with the church in Papua. We have had an interest in Papua for some time now, but the coincidence of the trip to Papua by members of our congregation with the arrival of Elna and Elisa from Papua to undertake an English immersion program has given Papua a special place in the life of our church.

Both parts of this partnership have given us opportunities to both give and receive. Those who went to Papua took the valued gift of international friendship, found practical ways to support their new friends and received hospitality of a kind we could emulate and had life changing experiences. Elna and Elisa have relished their once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire new fluency in English and learn about us and the world. To us they have brought gifts of graciousness and the art of friendship. Their music and joyfulness have been a blessing for us.

The future of the English immersion program, which was organized under the auspices of the Assembly agency UnitingWorld Australia, is uncertain. Perhaps we will have the opportunity to participate again, but for the time being we thank all the many people who contributed to Elna and Elisa's program. Especially, we recognize Peter Stephens, without whose vision and perseverance these things would not have happened.

We also thank all the people who are engaged on the many other Mission and Justice journeys that are part of the way we respond to our seeing Christ in every person and recognizing the sacredness of all creation. The diverse work that this church does will be gathered up in our new pamphlet.

We regret that Peter Stephens, who is part of the Mission and Justice Coordinating Group, has not been able to participate in preparing this report. We look forward to working with him again.

Nancy Cranwell and Alastair Blake  
for the Mission and Justice Coordinating Group

## **Helen Lee Trust Fund**

Until her death in 2007, Helen Lee was a leader in the life of faith at the Blackwood Uniting Church. She bequeathed money to the church and the Helen Lee Trust Fund was established for the purpose of making grants to perpetuate Helen's ministry by promoting the provision of quality music for worship and special occasions, study and fellowship activities that enrich the Christian life of the church, or the development of innovative worship that combines progressive Christian thinking and evangelistic zeal. It is a perpetual fund, now in excess of \$10,000, and only income from the fund will be used.

The Fund Management Committee has made the first allocation from the fund to enable a weekend workshop with the musician Robert Mann which will be held later this year. The workshop will enhance the role of music in the excellence of our worship and will be an encouragement to the church's musicians.

The Management Committee will soon be inviting submissions for the next allocation from the Helen Lee fund. The Committee also invites donations or interest free loans to augment the fund. We hope that the Fund will make significant contributions to the life and witness of our church.

Alison Sutcliffe, Brian Pickering, Alastair Blake

## **MITCHAM HILLS INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL INC.**

Report to Blackwood Uniting Church May 2010

A busy period!! The Inter-Church Council has endeavoured to show the Christian Churches in this area working together by sponsoring a number of events in these early months of 2010.

THE CPSW COMMISSIONING SERVICE was held on Sunday February 28, in the Lutheran Church. The Christian Pastoral Support Workers are in constant need of your prayers and support as they seek to be the church working in the school communities.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER This Service planned by women in Cameroon, and led by various representatives from the churches here was coordinated by the women of the Blackwood Lutheran Church on Friday March 5 10.30am.

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC Designed to showcase the musicians who perform in our churches each week and the programs of our schools, St Peter's Lutheran Church provided an ideal venue. Over \$1000 raised was directed to the work of CPS Workers in the schools. Our thanks go to co-ordinators, Sue Rodger (Lutheran Church), and Maxine Moore (Church of Christ), to Tony Busch (Anglican), the compere and to Patrick Collette and his "Combo" group who ably represented our church and set the high quality of the whole concert being the first item. Special thanks to Oliver Matters (Belair Uniting) for piping us into the Festival.

ECUMENICAL STUDIES For years, could be close to 30 years, the churches of this area have successfully combined to participate, bi-annually, in study groups, across denominations. There has been growth in friendships, in understanding and in strengthening of the Christian witness in the community. Two years ago, the Heads of Churches, who commission these studies, decided to use the period Easter to Pentecost as the focus for these groups to allow individual churches to follow their own studies during the important time of Lent, leading to Easter. Very few registrations, resulted in the Blackwood Church of Christ inviting us to join their groups. Some cross fertilisation will occur for which we must be thankful.

EASTER PROGRAM for Junior Primary students in seven primary schools, Bev Eccleston and her helper Ali Moore were invited to tell the Easter story. CPS workers are always full of praise for the work Bev and Ali do. Thankyou Bev.

BEACON Thanks to the people who helped to replenish the food shelves at the Church of Christ where our program operates on Wednesday. New opening hours are 9.00am to 1.00pm. As we are an Emergency Relief program, we offer help with food, food vouchers, some utilities or pharmaceutical requirement. Some low key budgeting skills can be offered where there appears a need, and an informal time of chat and coffee is being trialled for many facing difficult times. Bev Eccleston and Gloria McArthur Church Representatives.



## **Urban Mission Network Report**

Blackwood Uniting Church is a member of the Urban Mission Network of the Uniting Church in South Australia. Members of the network tend to be urban churches with a progressive outlook. The Network aims to 'encourage each other in ministry and mission, share resources and provide mutual support'. The well-being of congregations and ministers is at the centre of what the network does.

The Network conducts four gatherings each year, hosted by one of the member Churches. Blackwood hosted the most recent meeting, on 18 February. The gathering was preceded by a Ministers' Retreat at the Belair Uniting Church. At the gathering, Blackwood members provided information on their mission based budgeting and their recent visit to West Papua. A meal was also provided. Gatherings can be quite large, so hosting one requires a lot of preparation.

The next gathering will be held at Brougham Place Uniting Church on Thursday 27 May.

The Network holds lunches for all Ministers, Ministers in training, and retired Ministers approximately twice per year. These are always well attended and appreciated. Ministers have the opportunity to discuss anything of importance to them with their peers, and 'network'.

Anne Magarey is a member of the UMN Reference Group, which meets monthly. The reference group organises gatherings, Ministers' retreats and lunches for member Ministers and congregations. Christine Secombe is the coordinator, and she is proactive in supporting all members of the group.

## LIBRARY REPORT MAY 2010

What difference has the church library made in people's lives in the last six months?

It has provided material for worship, bible study and devotions. Also people have borrowed books for their own private devotions.

It has provided inspiration. For example "Mama Jude" by Judy Steel is the story of a South Australian nurse who has transformed the life of many Ugandans through her love, assistance in providing medical supplies and loans for widows to start a new life. A DVD "The Life and Faith of C.S. Lewis is also inspirational. "Calling the rainbow nation home" by E.T. Sundby is the story of one person's search for truth and self acceptance.

During the last six months we have added a number of books on depression which have been published by Beyondblue.

Another comforting and challenging book is "Wanting to soar like the eagles, upheld by grace" which is a book of poems written by Dorothy McKay about her experience of cancer. Other helpful books are listed in the booklet "Books for Bibliotherapy"

The web page continues to grow thanks to the BU C website team. There is a good introduction to the library which is worthwhile reading. As well as new acquisitions a new book or DVD review is added every month. There are currently seven – check it out!

Thank you to all who have donated books or have written book reviews.

*Joy Belling*

### **Uniting Church SA Presbytery and Synod Meeting**

Friday evening 26<sup>th</sup> Feb – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb

On Friday evening, we gathered at Adelaide West Uniting Church in a service of worship. A number of people were commissioned into new roles in the Uniting church and our Rev. Ian Hunter was officially recognised as a Minister in the UCA.

On Saturday we listened and interacted with Dave Andrews, who lives with his family in an inner city Christian community called the Waiters Union in Brisbane. They work with Aboriginal people, refugees and people with disabilities. Dave is an author of many books, including 'Christi-Anarchy' and 'Not Religion, But Love' and 'Plan Be.' On the Saturday morning he talked to us about 'Plan Be' - Be attitudes for 21<sup>st</sup> century disciples. I encourage you to read this short but pithy book and plan to be challenged about reading the beatitudes.

During the afternoon, Rob Stoner introduced his book 'Fresh Directions; Developing mission-shaped church and ministry.' The Presbytery agreed to ordain Peter Wait as Deacon and Tim Hein and David Kowalick as Ministers of the Word. Also, it was agreed to replace the existing Preamble to the Constitution with new wording that affirms indigenous people and their relationship with the Uniting Church.

Christa Megaw

## Playgroup Report for Congregational Meeting May 2010

An almost tangible buzz fills the playgroup rooms every Monday morning – Glenis popped her head in one morning for a quick look, was seduced by the buzz and has been back every week since. Mums, Dads, kids and grandmas sit in a semicircle on beautiful colourful cushions. Connie leads the singing with enthusiasm (and a much better voice than she gives herself credit for). Rev Ian leads the kids up hill and down again with the Grand Old Duke of York, and it immediately becomes the favourite song of at least one small boy... Mums with babes on their laps beat their babies' feet or clap their hands in time to the music... The older children enjoy a story, others run off to paint or pound playdough or cut and stick and make at the craft table. The new paint smocks are well used. In one corner Carys provides an audience for a child telling a story with puppets in the small puppet theatre. Nearby a Dad lolls on the floor with his daughter, playing with the dolls' house. Mums sit with kids who like to draw, giving the mums a chance to chat and catch up on the past week. Outside a child sits in the water play trough, others climb, ride and play with trucks in the sand pit. Inside Jean's hospitality team bring in cups of coffee and tea, water, and a simple snack, taking cups to mums with babes in arms – or very happily relieving the mums of the babies while they take a break and get their own cuppa. Marnie talks to a single mum who has found the Friday night meals a God-send at the end of the fortnight when money has run out. Glenis talks to a mum who wants to borrow a Bible story book to read to her children. Conversations are happening everywhere, and the hospitality creates its own special warmth and acceptance – and is remarked on by more than one person, with surprise and gratitude. We had two new babies born during the term, and recently had our first playgroup family baptism (and there's a possibility of another one down the track).

When it is time to go home, we light the candle and take a moment to name and say thanks for the good things that have happened: new friends, time to play, new babies, sunshine, rain, pancakes and hot cross buns (and the people who serve them)... We sing our goodbye song, a child blows out the candle and we wave goodbye till next week. Three-year old Anosh, who had very little English at the start of the term and threw a tantrum at the end of his first day because he had such a good time he didn't want to go home, leaves us with a beaming smile because he knows he will be back again next Monday. We relax and take a deep breath (or three)... until the mums and bubs arrive at 12 noon. But Lynona takes care of them...

Interest continues to grow, there is potential for another playgroup, possibly for three year olds, and the mums and bubs group is expanding as more mums finish their CYH courses. Carys and I dream of a Bible story playgroup too, one day...

Why don't you drop in one day for a quick look – you might get hooked as Glenis did...

Marnie and Carys

# Blackwood Uniting Church Communications Group (BUCComms)

## Report to Congregation – May 2010

Pam Marlow

In about April 2009, this group was tasked to assist in the flow of information at Blackwood Uniting Church. This was a recommendation to the Church Council by the group they had looking at the future directions of the church. Since November, the following has been achieved:

1. The electronic **Church Calendar**: this augments the Wall Board and Booking Book in the office and makes this available via the internet to members of our church as well as those in the wider community wishing to learn more about our activities and events. The “What’s On” boards in the foyer and the Main Hall (updated each Sunday morning) makes this information available to visitors and/or people without computer access. This calendar is augmented now by a hidden BUCComms calendar that tries to keep all of the balls in the air.
2. Church **Noticeboards**: have new labels.
3. The **Website**: we are getting feedback from individuals, Janet/Community Program and the office saying people have found out about our activities/services from the website and come in to see how to get involved. It is routinely updated as follows (people currently responsible in brackets):
  - a. **Newsletter** – uploaded weekly to “Downloads” page, usually within 24hrs of publication ie Friday/Saturday (Karen or Pam)
  - b. **News** articles (from the newsletter) entered into the News section– uploaded at the same time as the downloadable newsletter (Karen or Pam).
  - c. The Church **Calendar** is updated from the newsletter weekly (Penny or Pam)
  - d. The Lectionary, called “**This Week’s Focus Readings**”, on the right sidebar of the Home page is updated Sundays (Pam or Karen)
  - e. “**Quote of the Week**” at the bottom of the Home page updated weekly (usually on the weekend – Enid)
  - f. “**Book/DVD Reviews**” – a new one is up every month (Joy & Bryan)
  - g. **Community Programme** – each term and special events (Jackie or Penny and Karen)
  - h. **Continuing Learning** – each term (Anne Grear and Karen)
  - i. **Rosters** available from the Downloads page (Jackie or Penny and Karen)
  - j. **YAG** – each term and special events (YAG team and Pam)
  - k. **Playgroup** – each term (Marnie and Pam)
  - l. **Walking Group** – each month (Ray)
  - m. **Urban Mission Network** – each month (Wendy and Karen)
  - n. **Coming Events** – special events (Karen)
  - o. **News Archive** – articles in the media concerning our activities (Karen & Pam)
  - p. **Rooms for meetings** – (Ray and Bob)
  - q. **Pictures** - as available (Rachel, Irma, Ray and Karen)
  - r. **History** page (Keith Rodda, Bryan Belling and Karen)
  - s. **Regular Events** (Karen)
  - t. **Imminent website additions to watch out for:**
    - i. *Other Events – upcoming events of interest to our church but not based there (Pam)*

- ii. *Downloads section to be enhanced with more forms available – eg events planner, booking forms for rooms, Playgroup and other application forms, police clearance, etc. (Karen and Pam)*
  - iii. *Photo gallery – for different events and general life in the church (Karen)*
  - iv. *How to find us – bus, train, driving details (Pam)*
  - v. *Recordings/podcasts of the Sunday services (Ray and Tim)*
4. **External Signage:** Joan Hazeldine’s sub group is working through the issues involved in erecting an electronic sign facing the roundabout.
  5. **List of useful contacts** for promoting events at Blackwood UCA: A database of contact details has been developed. A check list of the steps that might be involved in organising the promotion of an event is also available as well as a blank promotions planner. These will soon be available on the “Downloads” page and in hard copy in the office. If you are organising an event I am happy to work with you through this process to produce a promotions plan for it.

***We have been asked to check out and price promotion via local cinemas. How should we promote what the church can be to the un-churched?***