



BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH



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MEETING of the CONGREGATION

Sunday November 21st 2010

MINUTES AND REPORTS

Nov. 21st Congregational Meeting Agenda

Blackwood Uniting Church 11am

Apologies
Minutes of AGM of congregation 21.11.2009
Matters Arising:

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Spoken Reports

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| Finance (see insert at back) | Ray Bown | Pg |
| Elders and Lay Ministry | David Agnew | Pg 8 |

Reflection on spoken reports

Tabled Reports

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| Property | Tony Otworowski | Pg 9 |
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| Mission and Justice | A. Blake, C. Megaw, E. Ninnes | Pg20 |
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| YAG | | |

Reflection on Tabled reports

..."Pondering what God's up to" Led by Rev. Leanne

Election of Elders and Church Council Members and Secretary of Congregation
Next Meeting; May 11th 2011

Benediction: Ministers

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 breakfastthese programs designed for community building
 - advance notice of Family Camp at the Koorong 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
 - Noticeboard
 - 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 Maschemedt 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 Ninnes are retiring from the Mission and Justice group. Alastair Blake gave a vote of thanks.
- g) Urban Mission Network
 - 18th 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 Gear – 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 16th 2010

November 21st 2010

Meeting closed with prayer at 12.35

May you live in 'interesting times' is said to be a **Chinese curse**....I am sure no-one has cursed me this year but it has been an **'interesting year'** since our May meeting. We had Rev Ian leave to take up a ministry placement at Semaphore Uniting. We journeyed with Peter and Pam through their illness and we were all very sad when they died - they have left a big hole in our community. We have journeyed with others who have had a tough year due to illness, not to mention my own trips to hospital – all these things and more have made 2010 an interesting time so far.

Some of the highlights of 2010 have been the **weekend music and worship workshop with Robin Mann** and the **Mini Field of Pink Women** event. I believe both events had a big impact on our community for very different reasons. Robin's time with us has injected some new ideas for worship and I thank the Helen Lee Memorial Trust for funding this event. The Mini Field of Pink Women was a wonderful community event and raised over \$1,000 for Breast cancer research. We plan to hold another in October 2011.

At times I was a little frustrated by a lack of communication around pastoral issues. I have missed some important events in people's lives because I didn't know. I would rather have 5 people tell me than no-one. I want you to know that I will make myself available to visit you if you need – just ring and ask me to come.

I am excited by the new focus for our 0.5 ministry position. I believe this will enhance our outreach to our local community. I am currently reflecting on changes I will need to make to my work patterns and priorities to accommodate the shift in focus back to the Sunday morning community with less time available for outreach to the local community.

My wider Synod work has been inspiring as I have watched the Thursday evening group for same-sex attracted women grow and develop. There have been so many amazing "God-moments" as I have journeyed with these women and a particular highlight was a weekend retreat in August. Many of these women were ostracized by their churches and often tell me how wonderful it is to reconnect with 'the church' and a Christian community. I am also the co-convener of Unity&Friends which advocates for a place in the church for Gay and Lesbian people. Apart from monthly Friday night meetings I work with individuals struggling with faith and sexuality issues. I have on average a phone call a fortnight from someone looking for a caring and inclusive church or just needing someone to talk.

I have continued my Master's study program but with only one subject each semester. This year I have been focussing on Missional Leadership and what it means for the church to be participating in God's Mission in a local setting. I have also continued to learn Indonesian so when we have more Papuan students, or if I return to Papua, I might be able to hold a basic conversation.

I have entered into my fifth year of ministry at Blackwood Uniting and this means at some point my name will automatically go back on the "I'm available" list for other placements. I have asked the council to conduct a discernment process in 2011 to help us to discern if you (BUC) and I are still a good match and if we have more things left to do together.

I still feel very privileged to be here at Blackwood Uniting and thank you all for your ongoing support. I would like to specifically thank a few people. Firstly a big thanks to Rev Malcolm McArthur for stepping into supply ministry. His pastoral support especially has been very appreciated. Thank you to Jackie for the skills she offers our community, not only when she is in the office but also behind the scenes too. I am grateful to Penny Harper who has been the stop gap in the office while Jackie has been away. Finally thank you to Janet M who has done a wonderful job with the Community Program over the past three years....I am sad to hear she is not coming back next year.

Blessings Rev Leanne

Minister's Report – Malcolm McArthur

Report to Congregational Meeting Sun. November 21 2010

I had not made myself available for interim ministries since returning from an enjoyable pastoral stint in the U.K. I believe retirement should mean “fresh fields and pastures new” lest ‘one good custom should corrupt the world’. (There I go quoting again!) Yet I have found the last four months of my 0.25 interim fill-in role time-consuming but satisfying.

Leanne's team-work, skills, and pastoral concern continue to win my admiration. It has been a period in which a number of key leaders have faced trauma. Leanne's empathy and outreach must have come at some cost to her. I now appreciate more fully, too, the hours of self-effacing acts of community maintenance, missional commitment and leadership from the many congregational members passing daily through our church buildings. It is inspiring to see so many sacrificing their own needs or pre-occupations out of concern for others.

The gifts which many bring to worship leadership and Leanne's encouragement of us to share our varied faith journeys continue to make the worship experiences special. I am glad, too, that we continue to offer varied styles by offering alternate times, music and inter-action in worship. We are the stronger for it. It has seemed to me important that we continue to reduce our minister's preparation time by having the same preacher at both services on a Sunday, allowing for some weeks when the considerable time taken for preparation of worship is lifted for her. (Preparation of a service of worship now takes longer than it did in four-hymn-sandwich days.)

After a life-time of seeking to work through up to a dozen committees at a time it is was wonderful to be relieved of that expectation in this role. We used to teach of the importance, for any organisation, to keep equal emphasis on missional ***task***, individual needs and group ***maintenance***. I have had no role in the ***I*** corner of that equilateral triangle and very minor role in ***L*** and ***M***. That was appropriate and appreciated by me, but I am concerned at the risk of burn-out for some of our critical leadership. We have been blessed with outstanding lay leadership but no one should be expected to continue too long.

I admire the faithfulness and zeal of some of our oldest members too but increasing frailty and an aging leadership pool brings challenges. Community outreach through Kids' Hope, Friday Night hospitality, the Friday Friendship group, the Play group and of course, Community Clubs is our signature feature. The danger is, that unless we are able to offer group activity for the youth of new people in the district, unless we can again have a 'critical mass' of children and youth, our median age will continue to rise and energy for our community outreach will, perforce, wane. There is our Catch 22. There is a challenge for any new appointee.

Malcolm McArthur, October 2010

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

I am pleased to report to the Congregation on the work of the Council over the past year.

The following people served on Council during the year : David Agnew, Alastair Blake, Ray Bown, Penny Harper, Ewan Hazeldine (Chair), Rev Ian Hunter, Rev Leanne Jenski, Anne Magarey, Heidi McNamara, Tony Otworowski, Ian Penny and Phil Rodda (until April).

The main work of Council has been the implementation of the Mission-based Budget which the Congregation enthusiastically adopted at last year's AGM. We recall that this radically different approach to budgeting followed a period of discernment by the Congregation lead by Rev Rob Stoner, together with our Ministers, in which we firstly determined what we believe God is calling us to do, then how much this mission would cost and finally how we would pay for it. The result was a budget with a deficit of some \$22,000. The last AGM accepted this budget challenge in faith that we had truly discerned God's calling and would therefore be committed to paying the resulting costs.

The Council's Culture of Generosity Task Group accepted the challenge of closing the budget gap and conducted the "Making a Difference" program during April/May when we were encouraged to review our personal giving. This resulted in a wonderfully generous response confirming our commitment to our mission. Particular thanks to Mark Gill and Ray Bown for their leadership in this crucial area. Council has also monitored the implementation of the new mission initiatives over the year, which has seen overwhelming support for the new Play Group, steady growth of the Friday Meals project, review of BUC as a welcoming place and the new sign about to be installed. Council acknowledges the work of the many volunteers involved in this work and is excited to see the outcomes of our discernment starting to bear fruit.

With the departure of Rev Ian Hunter, Council undertook a review of future ministry needs for BUC and proposed that the replacement 0.5 person should primarily focus on outreach ministry providing support and encouragement for the Community Program, Play Group, Friday Meals and Youth. As well this would look at possible new initiatives together with building bridges between these programs and the BUC worshipping community. Rev Leanne would focus on preaching, teaching and pastoral care for both 9.15 and 11.00 Sunday communities. Council's proposal was supported by the Congregation in September. The position was advertised in the New Times and a Joint Nominating Committee has been appointed.

At its last meeting Council acknowledged the work of Mission and Justice Co-ordination Group over recent years particularly in the areas of journeying with GKE church in Papua, the Kaurna, Kids Hope and the environment. We noted that this work may not be able to continue in its present form and will look at new possibilities next year. We thanked Alastair Blake, Enid Nannes and Christa Megaw for their wonderful leadership over the years. In particular Council recorded its formal appreciation in the following extract from the minutes for the leadership of our friend, the Rev Peter Stephens in our work with the church in Papua.

"We note the work of Peter Stephens in initiating our work with the church in Papua with three different aspects: fundraising for an education project, the expedition to Papua from our congregation and the English immersion program. He brought vision and determination to this work. Peter's determination when the English program was almost cancelled by the Assembly at the last moment was impressive. Our journeying with the church in Papua that Peter conceived and nurtured has had a remarkable impact on our congregation and we give thanks for that."

Finance and Stewardship Committee

Separate insert at the end

Report of Elders and Lay Preachers

BLACKWOOD UNTING CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL AGM OVEMBER 2010

RPEORT OF ELDERS AND LAY PREACHERS

1. Pastoral Care

The new arrangements for ensuring that the Pastoral Care needs of the 9.15 congregation are met are working well. Pastoral Care for the 9.15 congregation is the responsibility of a Pastoral Care Committee Co-Convened by Glenis Reid and Marnie Agnew. Pastoral Care is delivered through the Clusters or other meeting groups within the church and any member not associated with a cluster or another regular group is allocated to one of the members of the Pastoral Care Committee. A particular challenge is the efficiency of sharing information between the 11.00am congregation and the 9.15am congregation.

2. Life and Faith at the Roundabout Forums

The three forums held during 2010 have been very successful in making connections with the community and have seen significant increases in the attendance by individuals not associated with Blackwood Uniting Church.

The Forums were:

Asylum Seekers – Who are They?-in conjunction with the Blackwood Circle of Friends
Meet the Candidates-in conjunction with Action for World Development, Blackwood
Australia's Population Futures.

3. Faith Sharing

Faith Sharing evenings have continued during 2010 with a changed format, due to the difficulty of arranging for individuals who have not previously shared their faith stories to do so. During 2010 one speaker each month has shared the story of their faith journey, followed by questions. Following this the group devotes some time to the consideration of one of a number of questions relating to faith submitted by the group.

It is foreshadowed that the format of these evenings may change again when they resume in March 2011.

4. Study on the Christian Creeds

Rev Leanne led a study of the Christian creeds during September. Further studies on aspects of the Christian faith and/or bible studies are planned for next year, beginning with a study during Lent.

5. Christianity for the Rest of Us

Over the last twelve months Elders and the Church Council have participated together at the start of each other's meetings in alternative months in studying a chapter of the Diana Butler Bass book "Christianity for the Rest of Us" each month. The book outlines the results of the author's research among progressive, thriving churches in the United States which led her to identify the characteristics which have led to a transformation of neighbourhood churches.



Congregational Meeting 21 November 2010
Property Ministry Report

Report No: 2/2010

Date: 01-11-2010

1. Committee

Chairman: **Tony Otworowski**

Secretary: **Bob Lyon**

Treasurer: **Brian Pickering**

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

2. Finance

Position at 30 September 2010

2.1 Opening Balance 1 January 2010 - \$10,641

2.2 Total income - \$19,327

2.3 Total revenue expenditure - \$14,922

2.4 Total Capital expenditure - \$12,841

2.5 Total Sundry expenditure - \$805

2.6 **Closing Balance for period - \$1,400**

3. Headline Achievements for Last Reporting Period

3.1 Landscape garden area facing roundabout completed

3.2 New curtains installed to office and Dene Room

3.3 20 Tables cut down to size as requested by Play Group completed

3.4 Car park entry paving widened

3.5 Coffee lounge ceiling replacement completed

3.6 Coffee lounge painting completed

3.7 External site cleanup and rubbish removed

3.8 Manse bathroom upgrade completed

3.9 Ministers office relocation and painting completed

3.10 New storage container procured and installed in car park

3.11 New Hearing loop amplifier works completed

4. Proposed Works for 2010/11

4.1 External Signage (Target date – TBC awaiting finance allocation)

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 carpet (Target date – End June 2011)

4.3 Hewett Room

4.3.1 Repaint walls, windows and woodwork - (Target date – End November 2010)

4.3.2 Repair warped floor & replace damaged floor tiles - (Target date – End November 2010)

4.4 Foyer

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

4.5 Main Hall & Passage way

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

4.6 External

4.6.1 Repair external guttering and down pipes - (Target date – End December 2010)

4.7 Tables

4.7.1 Replace or repair tops where possible on rectangular & trapezoidal table or replace tables - (Target date – 2011)

4.8 Storage Shed

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

4.9 Aldersgate Room

4.9.1 Replace carpet (Target date – End December 2010)

4.10 Library

4.10.1 Replace Library ceiling (Target date – End July 2011)

4.11 South side of eastern (old) entry alcove

4.11.1 Build new costume/props cupboard (Target date – End December 2010)

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

Your Property Ministry is a dedicated team of people who share their enthusiasm and commitment for our mission by using their skills and experience to maintain and improve the facilities of Blackwood Uniting Church. Our focus is to ensure we can continue to provide a safe and flexible environment to support the community activities and mission initiatives.

We would like to thank Penny Harper for her past commitment and hard work in supporting the work of the Property Ministry. Due to other Church commitments Penny has stepped down from the team and we wish her every success with her other projects.

The Property Ministry is always looking for new members, so if you are able to spare some time and want to join an active friendly group supporting our mission at Blackwood, please contact myself or any member of the team.

6. The date for the 2011 Garage Sale has been set for Saturday 30th April 2011.

This important fundraising activity which occurs every two years is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved and enjoy the experience of working together to achieve a common goal.

Whether you donate goods, support the preparations, work on the day or just spread the word, this fun filled activity is for all the congregation and we look forward to your support once again.

Watch out for the coming months notices and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me or Bob Lyon.



Congregational Meeting 21 November 2010

Friday Night Meal Ministry Report

1. The Team

- 1.1 Team leader: Penny Harper
- 1.2 Team Support: Tony Otworowski
- 1.3 Host Co-ordinators: Judy Adami, Jan Furness, Penny Harper, Heidi McNamara, Hilary Moffa, Tony Otworowski, Jane Palmer, Avis Whitbread.
- 1.4 Cook Co-ordinators: Judy Adami, Marnie Agnew, Mary Bowen, Mary Brown, Bev Ecclestone, Joan Hazeldine, Wendy Norris, Janet Paull
- 1.5 Cooks & Hosts: Cluster Groups, members of Belair Church, family and friends

Over 100 people participate in this Ministry

2. Finance

Position at 31 October 2010

- 2.1 The Ministry functions predominately on donations from the congregation
- 2.2 Free food is provided on the first Friday in the month by Nando's at Melrose Park (value exceeds \$150)
- 2.3 Donations are made sometimes by individuals attending the Friday night gathering
- 2.4 **Donation cash closing balance for period - \$100 approx.**

3. Headline Achievements for Last Reporting Period

- 3.1 Attendance records were commenced in May 2010
- 3.2 Since this date food has been provided to **314** people
- 3.3 The maximum number of people in one session has been **18**
- 3.4 The average number of attendees now is **12**
- 3.5 Total number of children attended since May 2010 is **39**

A core group of attendees has now been established from mixed backgrounds and they enjoy the friendship and hospitality provided on Friday nights. They are always appreciative and look forward to the weekly gatherings. Interestingly we have a small group of people who attend, whilst not doing it tough financially, have a need for companionship and friendship.

4. Looking Forward

Christmas Eve Friday Night Meal



We are planning to make Friday 24th December extra special for those in need. We are looking for extra hosts to help Tony O (lead host) and for some volunteers to cook specific items for the meal as per the list on the office window.

We also want 30 X Kris Kringle presents (unwrapped). These need to be suitable for either gender up to the value of \$5. See Penny or Jackie in the office for more information.

5. Your Friday Night Meal Ministry Making a Difference in 2010 supporting and celebrating our mission

The Friday night meal Ministry is an enthusiastic and committed team who share their skills and time to support the wider community.

Our focus is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for members of the community to enjoy companionship and simple hospitality.

The Friday night meal gatherings have the following guiding values for attendees

- This is a safe space for all people.
- Please be respectful of other users, volunteers and property.
- Accept responsibility for your actions.
- Please only smoke in the designated area.
- Violence, drugs & alcohol are not permitted on these premises.

The Friday night Meals Ministry is always looking for new members, so if you are able to spare some time and want to join an active friendly group supporting our mission at Blackwood, please contact myself or any member of the team.

Playgroup Report for the Annual General Meeting November 2010

As we came to the end of our first year of playgroup we look back on a very full and satisfying year.

- During the course of the year we have had involvement with approximately 90 families comprising approx 115 children.
- Five babies have been born in the group with another half dozen expected in the next few months.
- Four children have graduated to full-time Kindy, with several other 4-year-olds still continuing to attend while their Kindy days do not include Monday.
- Numbers have settled to between 20 and 30 families attending each week; this is a much more manageable number! We currently have around 60 families still on the 'regular' list, though not all come every week. Over the course of the year a number of families have dropped out as parents have gone back to work or moved interstate, but there is still a regular intake of one or two new families most weeks.
- The original Mums & Bubs group has disbanded when some mums went back to work and the other babies grew up and were ready for the older group.

The special qualities of the playgroup that set it apart from other groups in the area include:

- Hospitality – the provision and serving of morning tea for the adults, the welcoming presence of Glenis on the front counter, the ready and willing helpers who hold babies while mums and dads do activities with older children, or look after a child while mum breastfeeds...
- Program – free play, both inside and outside, is combined with the opportunity to choose more specific activities like painting, playdough, craft, singing, story-time, dress-ups, home corner and puppet theatre, with a simple theme each week (Friends – term 1, Autumn – term 2, My Body – term 3, Animals – term 4)
- Pastoral care – through the adults from the church who sit, chat and listen with parents, help with a difficult child, take an interest in a child with particular needs, follow-up absences or illness with a phone call or email; and the intentional setting aside of a time to say thanks, happy birthday, welcome and goodbye

Into 2011:

- **Mums & Bubs group:** We are still hoping another Mums & Bubs group will take advantage of the facilities we offer but are waiting for the CYH nurse to contact us.
- **Equipment:** The regular weekly \$2 donations from families more than covers the weekly costs of paint, paper, craft supplies, etc. with the occasional special treat for the end of term celebration e.g. Easter eggs at the end of term 1, face painting term 2, and a balloon artist at our Christmas break-up. However, we would like to continue to purchase books that are suitable for 2-3 year olds, on the themes we explore, and we also wish to add some more play equipment to the outdoor play area. The original climbing equipment was designed for Primary school children and we really need equipment that is of a suitable size and design for pre-schoolers. We hope to apply for some grants but would also like to enlist the church's support in some fund-raising.
- **Worship for families:** We are having our first worship event for families in the afternoon of December 12th, where we will invite families from the playgroup and the Community Program creche, the baptism families and any families of young children that members of the congregation would like to invite, to celebrate Christmas, hear the Christmas story, sing some carols, and participate in a simple worshipful Christmas activity (including making something to take home), with afternoon tea provided. If this is well received we will look at ending each term with a Sunday afternoon celebration of the term's theme, involving Bible story, songs and 'worshipful activity', plus afternoon tea. We also plan to explore the idea of a half-hour weekday "God-time" for little children, and also possibly a half-hour weekday music-time session, and eventually a monthly "Messy Church for families for older children – all in good time... or God's time... If anyone would like to help with these activities please talk to Marnie or Rev Leanne. If you would like to help with hospitality either at the special events or go on the weekly roster, please talk to Jean Potter.
- **Belair Playgroup:** We are assisting Bec Brown from Belair to set up a Playgroup at Belair UC from Feb 2011, along similar lines to ours, specifically with advice and mentoring.

Thanks to:

- Connie Woolston our community co-ordinator, who carries the bulk of the load of organising and presenting each week
- Carys Penny, Jean Potter & Marnie Agnew (BUC committee members)
- the hospitality team who provide morning tea each week
- the pastoral carers (Rev Ian, Sarah Agnew, Glenis Reid, Bruce Marriott & John Whitbread),
- those who have responded to our appeals for money, craft supplies and recyclables, goods and equipment during the year
- the property committee for fixing things promptly, cutting legs off tables, and generally doing whatever we ask, as well as for the new paint job, carpet and curtains which have transformed the Dene Room
- Doug Gibson for repainting our small chairs
- Janine from Blackwood Childcare Centre who freely passes on surplus paper, toys and equipment
- Steph from Mindfield Books for the book carousels and the Thomas the Tank Engine book display shelf which has increased the children's use of books significantly.

Marnie Agnew

For the Roundabout Playgroup Team

November 2010

Mitcham Hills Inter-church Council Inc.**MITCHAM HILLS INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL INC.**

The Blackwood Global Village, involving businesses, organisations, groups, churches of this area were once more an effective part of the national World Vision 40 Hr Famine Appeal. Did we reach our target of \$100,000 from this area? That is still to be revealed but Blackwood Uniting Church contributed \$947 and Heidi McNamara, as a personal subscriber received double that amount. Thanks to all.

BLACKWOOD CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

You are invited to assemble at Gulfview Road, December 3, 6.00pm for 6.30pm beginning to walk time. Find the Blackwood Uniting Church placard and join other churches of the area to present a united presence to the community. See you there!!

Letter to Beacon Supporters

Thank You all for your ongoing interest, involvement and care in assisting Beacon to help our neighbours who find themselves struggling with the 'expenses of life'.

Beacon Volunteers continue to meet new clients and supply support for clients with ongoing problems.

The Mitcham Hills Inter-church Council Inc. was recently notified that our application for a grant from the Commonwealth Department of Families & Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs (F&HCSIA) was successful.

This means that Beacon will be able to purchase its own Laptop Computer and Software to begin the process of becoming and independent 'mobile office' in the near future.

Our use of the office space at the Blackwood Church of Christ will continue along with access to the Internet and use of the church photocopier. Beacon hopes to purchase a mobile phone system in the

near future allowing us to create an independent office. We will be able to have our own Beacon email address.

Mitcham Council has also approved a grant to assist Beacon clients.

Christmas 2010.

Beacon is now working toward Christmas Hampers for our clients. Lions - Blackwood, are happy to work with us again. Their volunteers collect foods and make up the hampers and we supply some donated food items. We distribute Lions' hampers to our clients.

Curves - Blackwood will again be collecting suitable foods for our Hampers and also for the holidays. Curves – Blackwood have been supporting Beacon for 2 years, keeping our shelves well stocked from their Food Drives. We are really heartened by the support of the Manager and Curves clients'. In 2009 Curves supplied toys for the children of Beacon clients.

Beacon also receives a constant flow of food from local churches, schools and other community groups. We are also very thankful for the monetary donations that we receive.

Flight Centre – Blackwood continue to donate 1% of travel sales to anyone who mentions Beacon when booking their trip.

This year BankSA - Blackwood have offered to collect toys for the children of Beacon clients. They have erected a Christmas tree in their office and there are tags on the tree stating the age and gender of a child making it possible for people to purchase a suitable gift for that person. The BankSA manager has also offered for their clients to collect gifts for Beacon adult clients. We are very grateful to BankSA for their generosity and involvement.

The Blackwood Lions Christmas Pageant - 3 December

Beacon Volunteers will be joining the Mitcham Hills Inter-church Council and Christian Pastoral Support Workers represented in this year's pageant.

Beacon has many other supporters and groups who help us in various ways during the year. Without you all supplying these donations Beacon could not continue to assist our growing client base.

Many thanks to everyone for helping us show God's love to many in need in our community.

Ailleen Templeton Beacon Coordinator 8 November 2010

Donations to Beacon

Beacon has received grants during the year, but only a very small portion can be used for Administration. The major percentage is to be directed to Client Needs only. As Beacon grows, so does the expense of Administration

This includes rent, photocopying, printer ink cartridges, newsletter mailouts, stationary items, and so the list goes on.

As these costs rise, we may be unable to continue some of these. We are therefore looking for monetary donations to help cover these costs.

You will need some 'How to Donate to Beacon' brochures. Also, thanks for the support we are getting.

Community Program Report to the Congregation, November 2010

It is that time of the year when the Program classes have ended, but we still have the Create-about event to go, so we haven't really breathed and reflected. What has 2010 been like for those in and around the Program?

- It has been a year of some sadness, with some of our participants undergoing long treatment for illness or disease, and some just beginning that journey. There has been grief and loss, due to death or inability to attend classes.
- We balance that with news of new life, either for participants or their offspring. We have a number of great-grandparents attending!!
- Where once this Program was envisaged to serve young mums in the area who may have been lonely and had few social connections, the reality now is very different. Most young mothers are going back into the workforce when their child is 12 months old, and so may only consider attending a program such as ours for a short time. We now serve the older participant, who may be working part-time or has retired. This demographic is determining our classes offered, although we continue to send publicity to kindergartens and schools, and to promote the free crèche.
- We experience a dramatic drop in attendance in the winter months, due to illness and grey nomads flying north for the winter. This is not restricted to our Program, but is a fact of life for all Community activities involving this demographic.
- A recent article in the Hills and Valley Messenger highlighted the importance of the Community Program to one of our participants, Sue. This was a really sensitive article, and we are grateful to the Messenger for the positive publicity that it has generated.
- Attendance at our Shed program on Wednesday mornings at Belair UC is very stable. We have a very active group of men who refurbish bikes, support each other and tell the most dreadful jokes. The Community Program Management Committee has recently voted to support the continuation of their work by granting money to extend the shed they occupy.
If you know anyone who needs a good bike, the Shed is open Wednesdays 9.30-12noon for a great bargain (or you can donate a bike to them)
- We have an excellent cast of tutors who faithfully attend each week, many of them going beyond what we expect of them as tutors. So many of the student's pastoral concerns are passed on by the tutors, and they play a vital role in the caring of the Program.
- Our Program would not function without our cast of volunteers – we rely very heavily on their efforts and good humour. If you have any time spare regularly on a Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning, and could help out in the office, that would be greatly appreciated. To the volunteers who help set up, shift furniture, help in

the office or care for our participants, a huge thank you – you are the face of this church to the Program participants, and you do it so well.

- Create-about is nearly upon us. This is our only fundraiser for the Community Program for the year, and we need your help!! If you can give us an hour to sit at the door and greet people, or to shift furniture on Wednesday 24th and back again on Saturday 27th, or to help out in the kitchen for an hour, we would be most grateful. This is an opportunity for the Community Program people to see the church in action and to “cross-pollinate”, you never know, you may meet someone really interesting.
- If the Community Program is to really be such a large part of the Church’s outreach to the local community, then it is going to need more participation from the church body. It is not enough for the Coordinator and two pastoral care people to take care of everyone’s needs in the Program. Whilst the Program is very largely self funded, it is very much understaffed in terms of pastoral care and volunteer time. If you think you could play a role in this important ministry, please see Leanne to find out how you can help.
- Finally, this is my last report to the Congregation, as I am not renewing my contract. I wish the church well into the future, and I pray that Community Program can continue to reach out and help people make important connections that can make such a positive difference in their lives.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Blackwood UC, and thank those who have supported me and made the days sparkle. Janet Maschmedt

BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH LIBRARY REPORT

Do you want to be inspired? To grow in your Christian faith? To learn how to help others more effectively? Or just to relax and be entertained? The church library has books, DVDs and CDs for you.

“Frida” is the story of a girl whose family was brutally murdered and she herself was left for dead in Rwanda but who learnt to forgive and inspire others to forgive.

In “Three Cups of Tea” Greg Mortenson brings schools and hope to people living in the remote mountains of Pakistan. In “Stepping Out of Darkness: One Women’s Story of Triumph Over Depression” Lisa Limrick uses diary entries to describe her depressive illness but she also sensitively describes the importance of God’s working in her treatment and subsequent lifestyle.

“Kingdom, Grace, Judgement: Paradox, Outrage and Vindication in the Parables of Jesus” by Robert Farrar Capon offers a fresh adventurous look at all of Jesus’ parables treated according to their major themes. The author’s daring insight bridges the gap between the biblical world and our own. “God in the Present Moment: Prayer in the 21st Century” by Hedley Beare gives suggestions how to pray and is a challenge to a more active and meaningful prayer life.

Several donated books are helpful in pastoral care. “What Can I Say” by Karen and Simon Fox tackles the dilemma which faces many of us. In her book “Walking Through the Waters” Nancy Regensburg brings a spiritual perspective to what is often a chaotic, frightening experience. She kept a journal during the diagnosis and treatment of her husband’s Hodgkin’s disease and here shares her insights guiding readers to spiritual resources. “House Rules” by Jodi Picoult is not only an entertaining novel but also gives us a glimpse into the world of both a child with Asperger’s as well as the effect it has on the family.

Recent additions and reviews of books can be viewed on the church’s website.

Thanks to all those who have donated books and periodicals and Chris White who looks after the library in my absence. Joy Belling

Mission and Justice Report

1. **Activity in 2010:** In the early part of the year, the experiences of the group who visited West Papua and the visit of Elna and Elisa for English immersion enriched us all. The Kids Hope program has continued to be a blessing to children and their mentors. Issues about the environment have challenged us. Our journey with the Kurna people continues to be a slow one of building trust. We focused on each of these priority themes in our Sunday worship for one month during the year. Mary Thomas' dried fruit sales have resulted in significant support for Frontier Services and there have been occasional sales of Fair Trade products and Outback Pride bush food products. We thank the people who have laboured on these and other Mission and Justice activities. A new Mission and Justice brochure showing these activities is available and details are included on the church's Web site.

2. **Priority Themes for 2011:** For the past two years we have focused on a set of priority themes with the structure: local, Indigenous, international and environmental. In 2011 we will continue this with the themes:
 - **Journeying with the Blackwood Hills Circle of Friends:** We will seek to support this community group in their work with refugees and asylum seekers.
 - **Journeying with Aboriginal People:** This is mainly a focus on our recognition project with the Kurna people, but will include other Indigenous issues, particularly our contact with Ngarrindjeri people.
 - **Journeying with our Partner Churches:** This is mainly a focus on our relationship with the GKI in Papua but will also include issues faced by other churches in partnership with the Uniting Church in Australia.
 - **Sacredness of All Creation:** This is a focus on awareness of our impact on the environment and how we respond responsibly.

3. **Papua:** Council has noted the work of Peter Stephens in initiating our work with the church in West Papua through fundraising, the visit to Papua and the English immersion program. He brought vision and determination to this work. Our journeying with the church in Papua that Peter conceived and nurtured has had a remarkable impact on our congregation and we give thanks for that.

A new group under the leadership of Jane Bassham has been formed to continue the work Peter began. We have informed the Synod International Mission office that Blackwood is prepared to host students for English immersion in 2011 if the program is repeated.

4. **Coordinating Group:** We thank Nancy Cranwell for being part of the coordinating group this year. We have asked Council to consider how our Mission and Justice work is best led into the future.

'The virtue of hope is nothing more than the ability to imagine something different'

Paul Collins, *God's Earth*

Alastair Blake and Enid Ninnes
Mission and Justice Coordinating Group

Urban Mission Report

We have had 4 gatherings at different churches throughout the group. It is always great to share the resources others use and learn from the education sessions.

Our next meeting is on Nov. 27th at Newland and I will be car pooling if you want to join us.

I encourage you to go on the website www.urbannetwork.org.au to read the bulletins and keep intouch with the advertised upcoming activities with in the churches. You can also access the site through Blackwood Unitings website, link is under leadership.

Wendy Norris and Anne Magarey

11am Worship Annual Report

The congregation at 11 am has had several sad occasions in the past year. We have farewelled both Dorothy and Noel Playfair , Rev Arthur Barnes and Rev Peter Stephens./ All of these folk gave great service in many fields not only to the 11 am group but to the wider community of Blackwood . They are all missed.

The group at 11am has had some other changes. Rev Ian's departure has allowed many to reacquaint with Rev Malcolm McArthur and we all thank him for his services and Pastoral Care

Pastoral care continues to provide support for the members of this group and together with 11 am lunches, the congregation has maintained a cohesive and caring community. The purpose of the lunches has changed as we relinquished our support of Ephrem Nagesh of Addis Abba whom we had supported for 6 years after the youth group had already provided for him through Christian Children's Fund. In his place, money has been sent to Frontier Services to help fund OldTimers in Alice Springs .

The first Friday Friendship has provided support to Mini Fields of Pink with dollars given during the year at our meetings. This group is open to all folk for a friendly safe place to share and enjoy fellowship together. Each meeting has a guest spot and I thank those who so willingly provided interesting talks The attendance at these afternoons is between 20 and 25

My thanks to the 11 am committee for their support in the past year and in particular to Jan Wiseman who keeps the Pastoral Care lists

Mary Thomas

I wish to personally thank you, the people of Blackwood for your continuing support of the Riverland through sales of dried fruit. The profits from this venture have benefited the Frontier Services in caring for remote Australia This year, \$ 4000 has been sent to this great service.

Synod notes from Nov 2010

Rev Rob Williams was installed as Moderator of the Uniting Church SA. Rob passionately explored his theme for his three year term, 'An Empowering Community Centred on Jesus'.
Came from Tusmore U/C

Hearing from the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)

The story of Congress is a story of an empowering community centred in Jesus. Rev Denise Champion affirmed their statement of faith, a strong belief in the One God together as a Uniting Church that has a covenant embedded deep within its heart. Rev Hohaia Matthews celebrated the ministry wins of Port Augusta's Congress, and discussed some of the ongoing difficulties. He queried the place of the Congress within the life of the Uniting Church SA as it continues to take shape under the Strategic Plan. Rev Wally Fejo shared a dance.

Annesley College

The floor of the Presbytery and Synod showed their warm and sincere appreciation to the Annesley Task Group for their efforts in the difficult recent weeks. Chaplain to the Moderator, Lynne Aird prayed for the future of Annesley's College and their students, staff and families as well as the Church. All current information regarding Annesley is available at sa.uca.org.au/annesley

Strategic Plan update

The Synod heard updates from the conversion growth and profile raising task groups of the Uniting Church SA's strategic plan. For more information on the strategic plan, [click here](#). Latest information on the Strategic is available in November *New Times*.

No to Mandatory Detention

The Moderator will write on our behalf to Ministers of Parliament affirming their positive actions towards refugees but also call for end to Mandatory Detention. The floor overwhelmingly endorsed the proposal that was brought before the Synod by Andrew Clarke and Rev Adam Tretheway. You can read the full proposal and subsequent media statement [here](#)

Lent Event SA

Lyn Leane thanked the Uniting Church SA for their 34 years of congregational support for Lenten Appeal, and she and Ian Price proposed that the Presbytery and Synod of SA be part of the National Uniting Church's Lent Event next year. The proposal was approved. For more information on the change of name, and process, contact [Lyn Leane](#)

Tim Lee and Wendy Norris

Report to Congregation – November 2010

Blackwood Uniting Church Communications Group (BUCComms)

The last BUCComms report to the congregation was written by Pam Marlow and published for the meeting in May of this year. Pam was very much the driving force for this group and we have all keenly felt her loss. Most of the activities reported on previously are still ongoing with individuals from the group carrying on the tasks.

1. Electronic church calendar –

- a) This is updated regularly by Penny Harper (backup by Karen Collins) after noting bookings/events recorded on the Wall Board and Booking Book in the office.
- b) The calendar automatically makes this information available via the church's website to members of our church as well as those in the wider community wishing to learn more about our activities/events and what rooms are being used.
- c) Penny (backup by Karen) also prints out a hard copy of the calendar and pins it on the "What's On" board in the foyer each week to make this information available to visitors and/or people without computer access.
- d) The publicly available calendar is augmented by a hidden BUCComms calendar that keeps track of bookings while respecting the privacy of some groups/individuals.

2. Noticeboards –

- a) Continue to be used as before although the strict use of each board is not always monitored now.
- b) The group looking into “Welcoming” in our church have made some suggestions for additional information to be included. This has not been acted on as it will mean some discussion amongst the BUCComms team members to sort out the details and volunteers to look after the new ideas.

3. Website –

- a) The website is updated several times a week by various members who’ve come forward to look after different areas.
 - b) New areas (or significantly developed areas) of the website since the last report include: Quote of the Week (Enid Ninnnes), Rooms for Meetings (Ray Bown & Bob Lyon), the Library’s Recent Additions and Book Review (Joy & Bryan Belling), church History pages (Keith Rodda), Roundabout Playgroup (Marnie Agnew), Youth & Young Adults (Heidi McNamara), Mission & Justice Update (Enid Ninnnes), Coming & Regular Events as well as News Archive items, we have added “A Fair Trade Community” description to our home page, the main menu has been redesigned to keep the “Home” button clear of any submenus, and new Links have been added to the sidebar.
 - c) Additions to the website discussed in the last report have not made much progress due to Karen’s added responsibilities at her workplace. Stay tuned!
 - d) One of the companies that had been giving free hosting to Uniting Churches’ websites through the Synod has changed ownership and the new owner is no longer prepared to give us all free hosting. We will be “moved” along to the Synod’s own system, but we now have to pay a (very reasonable) price for this service and the support the Synod offers along with it.
4. **External** signage (erecting an electronic sign facing the roundabout) – Joan Hazeldene led this project for BUCComms, along with a subcommittee, taking it through possible design scenarios, costings, and investigated necessary Mitcham City Council permissions. It has now been handed over to the Property Committee who are working with Council to take this project through to completion when all the pieces have been put in place.
5. **List of useful contacts** for promoting events at Blackwood UCA – A database of contact details was very much a personal project of Pam Marlow’s. The basic database files have been handed over, but it will take someone with an interest in marketing our church’s activities effectively, some Access database skills, some time and a willingness to adopt this project to take it forward.

The key word here is taking things “forward”. Although Phil Marlow has given Karen Collins the collection of BUCComms material, including the digital files that Pam had been developing, Karen is not in a position to take over the role Pam played for BUCComms. So, we are looking for someone to guide this group and, perhaps, bring some more new ideas about how we can better communicate within and without the Blackwood Uniting Church Community. If you’d like to learn more about what BUCComms have been doing (or expected to do), please feel free to contact Karen Collins or Leanne Jensi