

May 15th 2011 Congregational Meeting, Blackwood Uniting Church

Meeting was opened with prayer at 1100 hrs by W. Norris

Present: 66

Apologies: 28

Welcome to Rev Coral (Cogs) Smith, whom recently joined us. A short interview with W Norris and Cogs to see where she had come from and how she got there.

Minutes of November 2010 Congregational meeting were accepted. No business arising.

Format for today is to brain storm together, in areas that are changing and growing.

1. Rev Leanne Jenski, Gave us the topic of Worship. Are we meeting our worship needs? Table time and butchers paper. Rev Leanne will take these away to look at with others interested in worship.
2. Playgroup: Marnie Agnew gave a short presentation on the playgroup and looked for ideas for the future. Table time and will follow up with discussion with Children and Youth group in the future.
3. Friday night meals: Tony Otworowski was absent but gave a report and numbers are increasing and as a group keen to press on.
4. Youth, Young Adults and potential for childrens ministry in 2012: presented by Heidi McNamara. Table time and butchers paper lists to Heidi.
5. Finance: we received a report from Chair of finance, Phil Megaw. Mainly budget ideas.

We asked for volunteers to go to Synod and Urban Mission network. Carys Penny and Judy Adami would both like to come to Urban Mission network.

Next AGM Congregational Meeting is Nov. 2th 2011

Rev. Cogs closed with a blessing at 1245.

Attached are the power point presentations of Playgroup and Youth.

Meals report.

1.



2.



3.

Benefits to the church:

- Families are getting to know us, what we have to offer and what we are about
- Three women have joined the meals program
- Several mums have joined the community program classes, others have suggested classes they would come to
- Families engaged with the garage sale, both donating goods and attending on the day
- Cost-neutral, brings in more money than we spend



Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Playgroup:

- Morning tea roster
- Meeting & greeting
- Talking with parents
- Lending a listening ear
- Playing with children
- Holding babies while mum helps older child
- First point of contact for pastoral care or enquiries about the church



Where to from here?

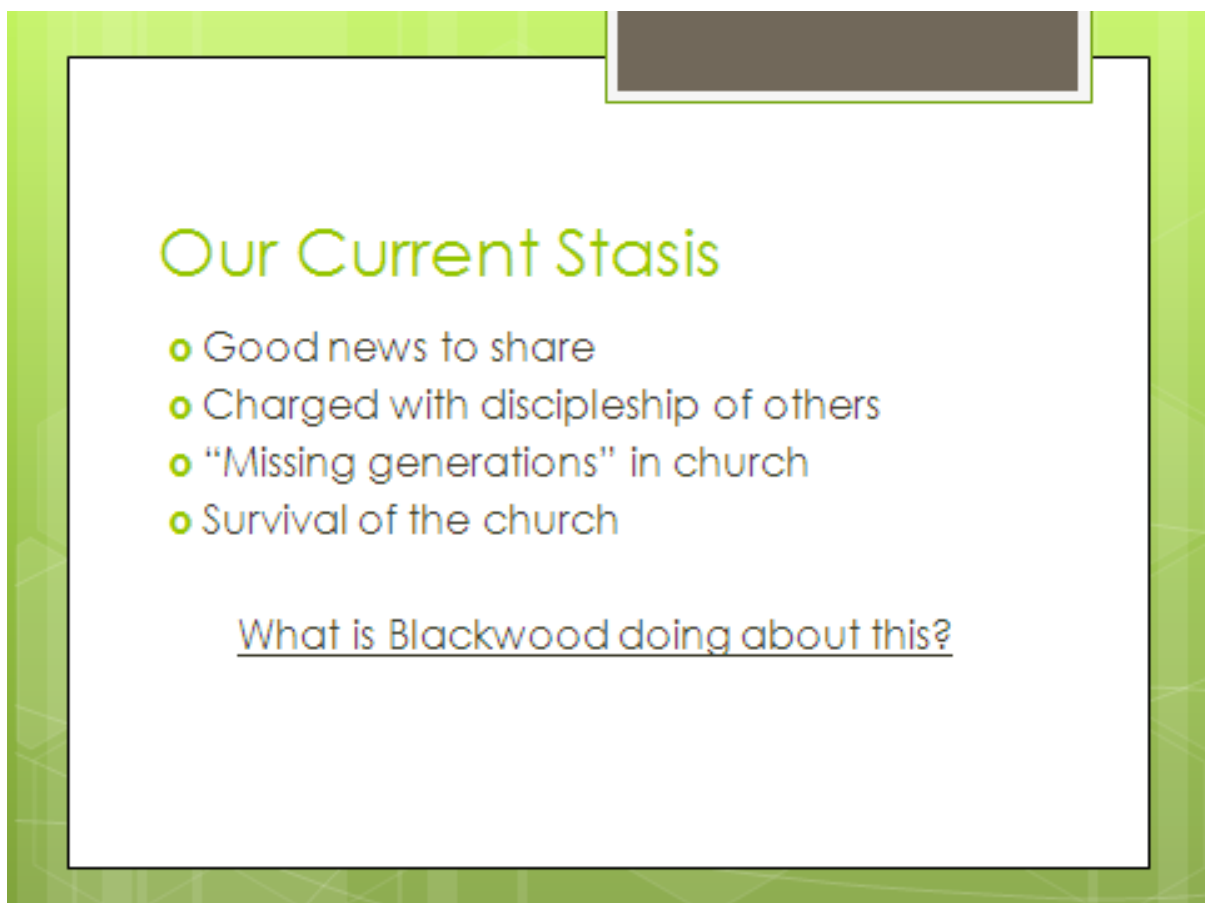
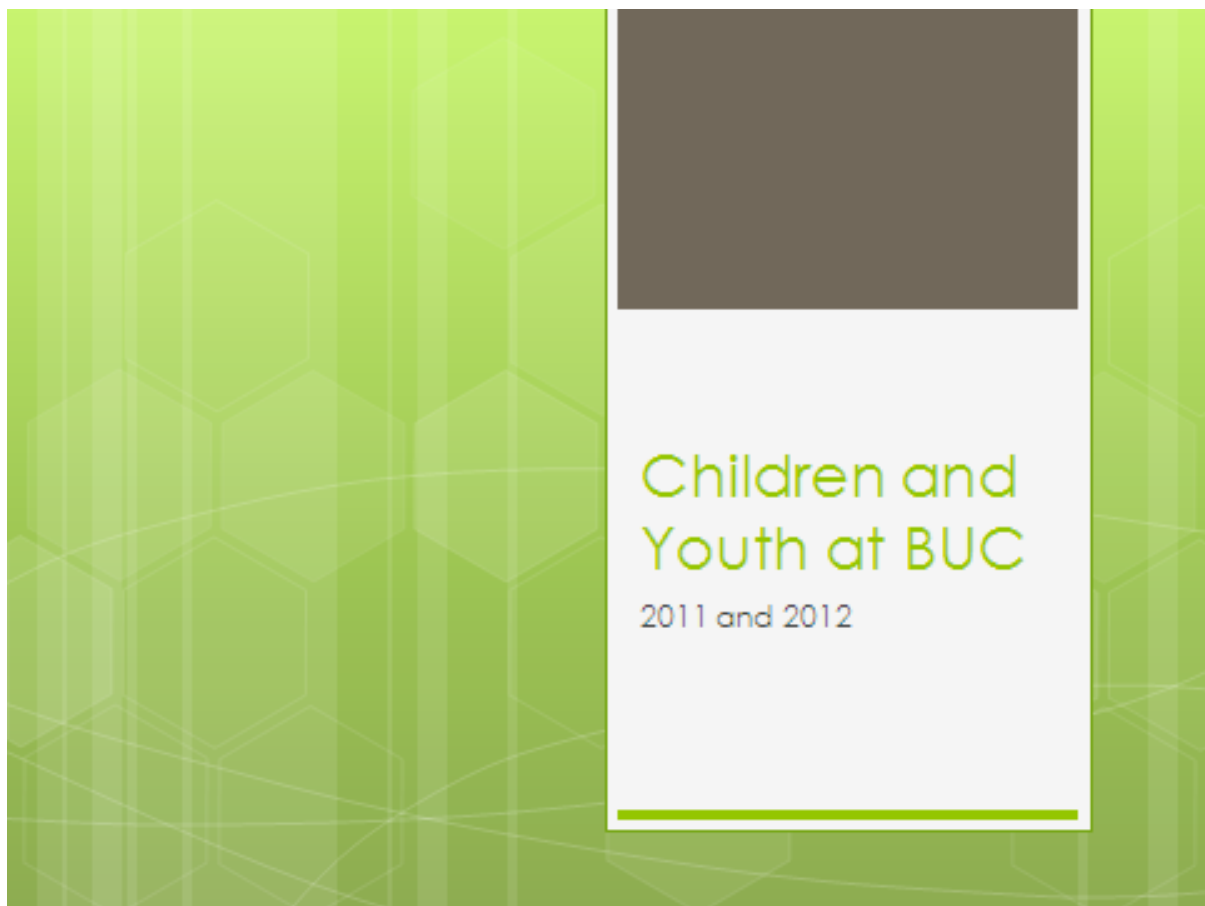
- Can we expand what we offer?
 - A music-based group?
 - A Bible story playgroup?
 - Bible story library borrowing?
- How to we keep in contact with families as their children move on to Kindy and school?
 - After-school kids' club?
 - Holiday activities – in conjunction with Community Program?
 - Once a month family 'Messy church'-style event with a meal?
 - Family events on Mother's Day or Father's Day?
 - Grandparents' day observance?
 - Other?

Issues:

- Personnel:
 - Are people prepared to maintain the current level of commitment to ensure the program keeps running?
 - Do we have people who will provide the help needed to do new things? e.g. Sunday morning
 - Connie (Parent coordinator) will be leaving next year
- Keeping families connected once they leave playgroup:
 - What programs/activities?
 - Keeping in touch – possibly via email
 - Transitory nature of Playgroup & the nature of Yen X & Gen Y generations



5.



Current Groups at BUC

- Playgroup (0-5)
- Youth Group (12-18)
- Young Adults "Spirited Conversations" (18+)

A "gap" currently exists for primary school age children

Youth Group

- Mini golf, Easter hunt, games night
- Developing good relationships, positive feedback
- Averaging 4 members
- Expecting new members Term 2/3
- Combining with Belair UC



Young Adults – Spirited Conversations

- Combined group from Belair and Blackwood
- Rev Sarah Agnew facilitates
- Share supper, discuss questions related to faith, spirituality:
 - *How do we respond to violence and hate, in the light of the story of Jesus?*
 - *How do we help someone through a difficult period?*

Integrated Programs

- Provide learning for all ages, variety of activities
- “Funnelling” through programs
- Faith learning, a journey, an experience
- Youth become next leaders of programs
- Prepare, mentor, space to grow, give responsibility

Proposition

- Children's program be reintroduced in 2012 to BUC Mission
 - Part of 2012 Budget
- Short-term action group to plan, initiate and implement and assess
 - Followed by a long-term coordination group, might meet quarterly
- Seek leaders from community
- Extend Kid's Hope programs to other local schools
- Advertise

Potential Program Facets

- Thursday kids group (low cost)
 - Activities, games, quiet space, healthy snacks
- KCO group attendance
- Sunday school
- Children and Youth Ministry team 2012
- Training and mentoring for new leaders

Questions for Discussion

- What does BUC have to offer children?
- For churches with successful programs, what are they doing?
- What environment can BUC foster?
- How can we respond to the need for resources?
- Do you have any ideas for activities?



Congregational Meeting 15 May 2011

Friday Night Meals Ministry Report

Report No:
1/2011

Date: 12-05-2011

1. The Team

- 1.1 Meals Co-ordinator: Jackie Otworowski
- 1.2 Meals Support: Tony Otworowski
- 1.3 Host Leaders: Judy Adami, Jan Furness, Penny Harper, Heidi McNamara, Hilary Moffa, Tony Otworowski, Jane Palmer, Avis Whitbread.
- 1.4 Cook Leaders: Judy Adami, Marnie Agnew, Mary Bowen, Helen Brown, Bev Ecclestone, Joan Hazeldine, Wendy Norris, Janet Paull
- 1.5 Cooks & Hosts: The network of cooks and hosts has grown to include people from Cluster Groups, Playgroup, Weight Watchers, Community Program, Circle of Friends, congregation's family and friends

Over **100** people participate in supporting this Ministry

2. Finance

- 2.1 The Ministry functions predominately on donations from the cooks and host teams
- 2.2 Free food is provided on the first Friday in the month by Nando's at Melrose Park (value exceeds \$150)
- 2.3 Free bread and rolls are provided every week from Bakers Delight
- 2.4 Donations are made sometimes by individuals attending the Friday night gathering
- 2.5 Donations are used to replenish food and consumables stock
- 2.6 **Donation cash closing balance for period - \$115 approx.**

3. Headline Achievements for Last Reporting Period

- 3.1 Average weekly attendance has gone up by **70%** compared to 2010
- 3.2 The total number of people we have shared hospitality with this year is **360**
- 3.3 The maximum number of people in one session has been **34** (Good Friday)
- 3.4 The average number of attendees this year is **22**
- 3.5 Total number of children attended this year is **15**

The core group of attendees has continued to grow from mixed backgrounds in our community. They enjoy, and are very appreciative of the friendship and hospitality provided on Friday nights. The need for companionship and friendship is very evident amongst attendees and we are able to help satisfy this hunger through the Friday Night Meals Ministry.

4. Looking Forward

The Ministry continues to grow with volunteers and support extending beyond our congregation and into the wider community. This clearly demonstrates a mission people can associate with and the need that exists to share kindness and fellowship with others.

The steady increase in the number of people receiving the simple hospitality and friendship we offer has removed the early doubts of was there a need for this ministry in our local community. The stories we hear and the thanks we receive every week, is our testament to the congregations commitment to supporting this initiative through the culture of generosity and discernment process we experienced in 2009.

This call to mission strongly aligns and grows with Blackwood's vision. Through peoples continued generosity and commitment we can live the example set by Jesus to share our love and hospitality with others and make Blackwood a welcoming place for all in our community.

We are always looking for new members to join the team, so if you are able to spare some time and want to share the experience of this mission at Blackwood, please contact ourselves or any member of the team.

Report Completed by: Jackie & Tony Otworowski

Date: 12-05-2011