



BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH



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MEETING of the CONGREGATION

Sunday November 20th 2011

MINUTES AND REPORTS

Nov. 20th Congregational Meeting Agenda

Blackwood Uniting Church 11am

Apologies

Minutes of AGM of congregation 21.11.2010

Pg 3

Matters Arising:

Spoken Reports

Minister's Reports	Revs. L.Jenski and C.Smith	Pg 5
Church Council	Ray Bown	Pg 8
Finance	Ray Bown for P Megaw	Pg 9

Reflection on spoken reports

Rev. Leanne to lead us in discussion on "How do we connect with the wider community?"

Tabled Reports

Property	Tony Otworowski	Pg 12
Pastoral Care	Leanne Jenski	Pg15
Fri night Meals	Tony and Jackie Otworowski	Pg16
Play group	Marnie Agnew, Carys Penny	Pg17
Inter-Church Council	Gloria McArthur	Pg18
Beacon	Gloria McArthur	Pg19
Community Program	Helen Sampson	Pg19
Library Services	Joy Belling	Pg20
Mission and Justice	A. Blake, H. Lee, M. McArthur	Pg21
Journeying with Papua	Jane Bassham	Pg22
Urban Mission Network	Wendy Norris	Pg24
11am Congregation	Mary Thomas	Pg24
Synod	W.Norris	Pg24
YAG	Heidi McNamara	Pg25

Reflection on Tabled reports

Election of Church Council Members including Elders , Urban Mission Reps , Synod Reps and Community Program Reps.

Next Meeting; May 20th 2012

Benediction: Ministers

A.G.M. of Blackwood Uniting Church Congregation Nov. 21st 2010

Meeting commenced with prayer by W Norris at 1105

Attendance 87

Apologies as per sheet

Minutes of the last Nov meeting are accepted. Helen Brown proposed, seconded Marnie Agnew
Consensus

Any business arising? Nil

John Shepherd wanted to ask for the support of BUC for Blackwood circle of friends. There is much antagonism by some members of the wider community towards refugees. They hope to address this (at present there are about to be refugees brought to Inverbrackie).

Wendy explained the procedure of voting, blue and orange cards

Reports were addressed by chair people of Council, ministers and Elders and finance.

Ministers

Rev. Leanne ;5 yrs at BUC mentioned early and difficult times, now more comfortable, thankful for acceptance and support.

Church council

Ewan Hazeldine spoke to the written report

- Mission based budget
- Many successes during the year, meals, playgroup
- Budget income has improved
- Ian Hunter moving has allowed revaluation next year's ministry
- Acknowledged the loss of Pam Marlow and Peter Stephens.
- Challenge to pick up the roles that have been left by them.
- Thank you to Jackie in the office
- 3 applications have been received by JNC for the position of 0.5 person at BUC

Proposed by Ewan, seconded by David Agnew accepted

Thanks were given to Ewan and Joan as they finish their 10 year term on Elders therefore Chair of Council and for the work and leadership they have both given us at BUC.

Finance report; power point will go here

Proposed Ray Bown seconded Marnie Agnew accepted

Elders report David Agnew

- Focus on 9.15 pastoral support
- Acknowledge the work of Glenis Reids work esp. on Elders. Now has other roles so stepping down.
- David resigning from chairperson of Elders

Proposed, David, seconded Chris Bray accepted

Tabled reports were acknowledged

Property

- Bob Lyon and Tony Otworoski spoke re a letter from Synod re Safe refuge on a High fire risk day at BUC. Tabled.
- Reminder of Garage sale and of the financing request for the new signage

Friday Night meals Tony O. thanked Nandos . Penny Harper took over coordination after Rev. Ian left.

Playgroup Marni spoke to the report

Interchurch council and Beacon Gloria McArthur

- Donations are still needed for administration
- Support for the Blackwood Christmas pageant
- Global village funds raised ? amt

11am congregation

We remember, Richard Blackwell and Enid Gear

Sarah Agnew reflected on her semester her on placement in pastoral care.

All reports were accepted.

Election of Elders, Nominations; Michael Bull, Bruce Marriott, Liz Collins, Tony Miller. All were elected unopposed.

Church council election, Carys Penny. Elected unopposed.

Table time

Rev. Leanne spoke on “pondering what is God up to”? Reflecting on the past year.

Responses were “As a community of Gods people we are helping..... so that.....”

Next meeting will be May 15th 2011

Closing prayer Rev. M McArthur

Minister's Report from Rev Leanne Jenki Oct 2011

This year feels like it has gone very quickly and, compared with other years, it seems to have been a 'nothing in particular' year. I'm not suggesting that it hasn't been a hard year at times or that we did nothing but in terms of our life together as God's people it seems that this year we have just "got on with the job!" Has it felt like that to you?

Our 'new' activities don't feel new anymore. Kid's Hope, Friday night meals and Playgroup have become part of who we are and what we are doing to reach out to our local community. In that sense, I think it has been a great year of consolidating our local mission and outreach. I feel very proud to be part of such a dynamic and diverse Christian community.

The first half of the year felt very busy for me (as the only Rev) while we waited for Rev Cogs to join us. It is a privilege to work alongside Cogs and she is exactly the deacon I think this community has been waiting for. In January we appointed Helen Sampson to coordinate our Community Program and she has done a fantastic job. I am sorry to hear she won't be coming back next year.

This year seems to have been filled with lots of baptisms, a significant number of funerals of our much loved long time members of the congregations and of course, in amongst the usual number of weddings, there was the "wedding of the year" between John and Diana Lee.

A highlight of the year for me was the six weeks of Lent when a number of us gave something up for Lent and donated the financial benefit to Uniting World. We raised over a \$1,000 so a big thank you to everyone who supported this project.

During the year we had a number of extra learning opportunities such as The Basis of Union study and five weeks exploring our adult faith using a resource written by Marcus Borg. Early in the year we restructured Council and Elders to eliminate double ups and are yet to reflect on whether this has been a good move. In June, several of us attended the Spirited Generosity Workshop and this learning opportunity has continued to shape our finances and our plans for next year. I have continued working towards my Masters of Ministry although this year has been a low key reading subject. Of course my ministry has involved all the usual congregational tasks such as: pastoral care, worship and preaching, teaching, and the usual meetings, meetings, meetings. My involvement in the wider church has provided opportunities and challenges in addition to our local ministry. I have been co-chair of Uniting Network for some months. At the request/suggestion of Ian Hunter MP (not the Rev.) I created a group called 'Christians For Gay Marriage' to provide an alternative voice in the church and community. I have continued to be a member of the Synod Selection Panel for those applying to train for various Ministries in the Uniting Church. I have recently offered to be the Chair of the Inter-Church Council for a time to help them find some new ways of doing God's ecumenical work.

On a personal note, my last remaining Grandmother died a couple of months ago and, although we had been anticipating her death for quite some time, it was still a very difficult time for me. Thank you for your support during that time.

One last thing to say... I'm not sure if it was a change of a minister or the fact that I have now begun my 6th year (Gosh time flies!) but I have had a number of people ask recently if I plan to stay or, as some have put it, "you're not going to leave us yet are you?" It's a strange thing for a minister to discern when it's time to go. At this point in time I have no plans or timeline in mind. I would like all of us to do some discerning together at

some stage about our future plans and whether or not I should continue to be a part of them or whether it's time for Blackwood to have a change but, in the meantime, we have the busyness of Christmas and our January worship services in different places to enjoy.

I am planning to take some of my long service leave from the end of February until early May and Rev Christine Garner will be coming as a 6.5 supply minister while I'm away.

Thank you again for all the support through out the year, especially when my Grandmother died. I love working alongside you all as we do God's work in our bit of the world.



Deacon Minister's Report Congregational AGM Nov 2011 – *Blackwood UCA - Rev Coral Cogs Smith.*

It has been just on 6 months since I arrived at Blackwood UCA, my initial task was to work out where I was, what I was doing here. Although that is in some ways an ongoing task of reflection and action, I am feeling quite comfortable here living in the Congregation and enjoying the challenges of the role.

Before I move onto that, I would like to share some of my initial observations of **BUCA**.

I will start off by saying that there is a lot going for BUCA. It is a relatively large congregation which has lots of good, friendly committed people, who are interested in God and the world beyond themselves. It is a church in a high visible location to the community that offers good programs and has much to celebrate. Yet, BUCA also has its challenges, and the ongoing task of any congregation is the challenge of how to further interact in meaningful ways with the wider community, in particular the "missing generations", and how best to be the people of God in this time and place.

As a newcomer, I have enjoyed the worship services here although I was surprised by how serious and formal the 9.15 service is – I expect it of the traditional style 11.00 service- not that worship isn't a serious thing. So, perhaps a thought here is how does BUCA, while keeping its intellectual integrity, appropriately seek to express the joy and wonder of the mystery we call God. (It could well be happening on the inside of people and as a comparatively newcomer I am not seeing it yet). Anyway, as a first impression, I thought that it was worth mentioning to Leanne & here in the report.

My role here is primarily in the **Roundabout Playgroups, the Community Program, YAG and the Friday Meals program**, where I have become a regular and familiar face. Those who attend enjoy the meal times, and have made friends there and they look forward to meeting. Some people come for the company, some because they genuinely need a hot meal, others because they need to know that somewhere, someone in the world cares. And everyone is looking forward to the Christmas Meal on Friday 23rd of December.



I am also part of the *Playgroup Team*. In the toddler playgroup, I have been learning the skills of leading the singing or telling a story or the candle time and have been taking my turn. I also visit at the baby playgroup and run it when another of the Playgroup team is away for an extended period recently as happened recently. I have also been involved in the **YAG group**, attending when I can and engaging in the already ongoing work of reflecting on how best to be in youth ministry in these changing times.

My role has also meant that that I was a part of the organising committee for the successful "**Pink Lady Day**" that fundraised over \$2,650 for Breast Cancer causes. Also, we have been able to offer to cook pancakes for the Mitcham Council "**Generator**" Youth Event on the 6th Nov. I see involvement in the local community, as an important part in my role here, although as neither I nor the BUCA resources are "bottomless" care needs to be taken to keep to things that are doable and in line with the mission statement of the church.



Coming up for me in this sort of community involvement area are several events. Involvement in the **Roundabout Craft Fair & Exhibition** (previously called *Display Day*), doing a stall at **Nunyara Community Day** with Helen Sampson to promote BUCA programs, and as yet unplanned things for the **Christmas Pageant**.

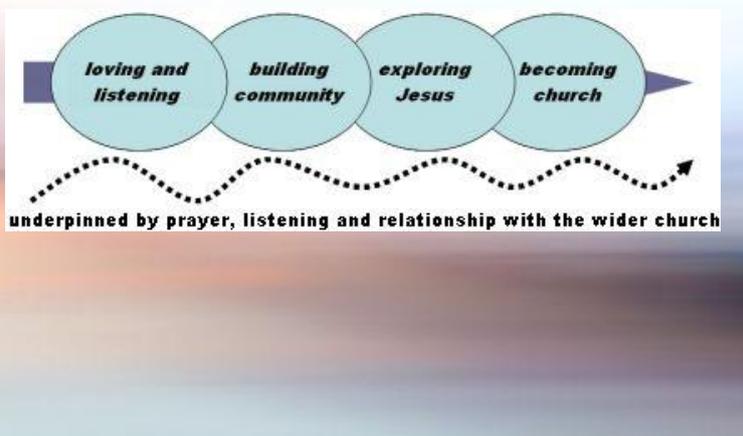
I have been fortunate that there have been two conferences, that I was able to attend, that were relevant to my role here at BUCA. The first was about *MessyChurch*, and we are in the process of forming a team of people who are interested in this alternative, whole family orientated worship style, and we will be (hopefully) planning monthly services for 2012. Such services would be a logical follow on from Playgroup and the Family Celebrations that have been held already. If you are interested let me know.

The other conference was a National Minister's Conference, with an emphasis on the concept of "*Fresh Expressions*", a topic which followed on from the evening that Ruth Mary Bond led recently for those who were interested. (As a point of interest *Messy Church* can be one model of a *Fresh Expression*.)

Fresh Expressions is sort of a different model of ministry, that is not unlike *Urban Mission* but different again. It is less about the church coming up with an answer and a program but emphasises actively listening to the wider community and going on a journey with them.

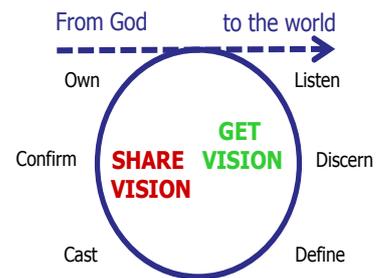
Or as author Ann Morrisy puts it, "*Enabling people to embrace the possibility of God*".

Below is one of the models used in describing *Fresh Expressions* with an "inherited congregation" (us). The model begins by *loving and listening* or perhaps a *loving service* that they can do with the local unchurched people. Such an engagement leads to *building community*. Out of that, people may well start asking everyday theological questions about where God is in their lives, summarised here as *Exploring Jesus*. When you get a community of people exploring Jesus, gathering for worship you may well have a *Fresh Expression* of church. At the *Fresh Expressions* conference we were encouraged to engage those who are not yet members of any church, and going 'out there', working out ways of 'taking the altar to the people, not bringing the people to the altar', 'incarnational mission' that 'encompasses God's Mission for the whole world'. This to me is an exciting view of the quest for future ministry.



listen to them and offer them something that makes sense to them? *Messy Church* and *Fresh Expressions* are new models of community engagement that are not designed to replace the *Inherited Church* or the usual Sunday Worship but rather work alongside them, offering other ways of "*Enabling people to embrace the possibility of God*".

GETTING & SHARING VISION



It is also important to realise that a *Fresh Expression* is a long term thing; it is not a quick fix. (Maybe 3-10 years?) It starts by learning to listen - and listen for quite a while, it understands that relationships are enough in themselves & when we, the church, lose our personal agendas then that makes a big difference. And although a *Fresh Expression* isn't meant to be a feeder for the regular services, some people may want to come to Sunday worship anyway. In *Fresh Expressions* we are making an investment in relationships; listening to stories and seeking the work of the Holy Spirit, these are gospel principles.

There are two generations of people now who have had no experience of church, how can we

Church Council - Report to the AGM of the Congregation

I am pleased to present my first report to the AGM as Chairperson of Council.

During 2011, the following people served on Council: Ken Bardsley, Alastair Blake, Joy Boase. Ray Bown (Chair), Michael Bull, Liz Collins, Rev Leanne Jensi, Heidi MacNamarra, Bruce Marriott, Phil Megaw, Tony Miller, Wendy Norris, Tony Otworowski, Carys Penny (Secretary), Ian Penny (Deputy Chair), Cogs Smith, Alison Sutcliffe, and John Whitbread.

The year started with a major restructure of Council meetings and Elders meetings. We have combined them, so that Councillors and Elders deal with matters together in Council meetings. This has eliminated the duplication that had often occurred previously, where the same matters were being addressed by both Elders meetings and by Council meetings. To ensure that it gets through all the issues that it must address in its meetings every two months, Council has delegated minor/administrative functions to Council's Executive. The Executive meets in the alternate months, and comprises the two ministers, the office holders (chair, deputy chair, secretary) and a member of Council. The result has been that Council meetings have had a more forward looking approach, with less emphasis on looking at the past (eg reviewing committee reports) and minor matters, and more emphasis on policy.

One of the main issues addressed by Council this year has been the need to review our mission goals for the period beyond 2012, in light of the fact that it will have been three years since we adopted our current set of goals. As part of this process, several members of council (and a member of the congregation) attended a Synod sponsored workshop entitled "Spirited Generosity". This was helpful in outlining the ways in which we can further develop our mission goals and a new mission budget.

In the midst of this process, we received advice that our church has received a substantial (\$96,900) bequest, and Council has considered how we might make best use of the money. The need to make the most appropriate use of this gift has added to the importance of reviewing our mission goals.

Council has overseen a variety of other matters, including:

- Changes to the Helen Lee Trust Fund Deed, to ensure that the real value of the Fund is maintained;
- A revamped Mission and Justice Committee
- Promotion of community-building activities to be run by various groups, and the establishment of a small planning group for 'fun & fundraising' events
- Reviewing Risk Management and Insurance (duty of care) requirements

Council farewelled John Lee, Penny Harper, and Anne Magarey during the year and welcomed Cogs Smith as our new minister on council and Carys Penny to the role of Secretary. Both Carys and I attended workshops for church chairs and secretaries. John Whitbread is not continuing. We thank John for his many and varied contributions to the life and work of Council and will be looking forward to new members taking up the opportunity of leadership in the coming years.

Ray Bown,

Chairperson of Council

Finance and Stewardship Ministry

The Finance and Stewardship Committee comprises five members:

- Jan Furness (Church Council Treasurer)
- Brian Pickering (Community Program Treasurer & Property Committee Treasurer)
- Leanne Jenski (Minister)
- Mark Gill
- Ray Bown
- Phil Megaw (Chairperson)

Key tasks of the Committee include oversight of church finances, supporting the treasurers in their roles, planning future stewardship programs and preparing the annual overall church budget. We have met regularly through the year.

This year been the first for Phil Megaw as a member and Chairperson of the committee and I thank Ray Bown for continuing as a member of the committee and his very active support in transitioning me to this role.

Jan Furness and Brian Pickering have continued their very valuable, regular and time consuming work as the treasurers in ensuring that payments are made and correctly recording all transactions.

Audited financial statements for the accounts of the church for the financial year ended 31 December 2010, are attached. Mission budget documents are provided with a separate report.

Phil Megaw

Chairperson, Finance and Stewardship Committee

Please find audited reports at the back of booklet, or as a separate email.

Blackwood Uniting Church - Proposed 2012 Budget Report to Nov 2011 Congregation Meeting

Progress in 2011

In 2011 we have continued working with a mission budget - a budget built around our mission. This is presented in a way that enables us to see the resources required for each component of our mission. We have also monitored what we have actually achieved. As a congregation we continue to look for how we can best utilise our resources.

We have not had a planned giving program in this year. The last special focus Making a Difference program was in 2010. In mid 2011 five of our congregation members attended a Synod organised Spirited Generosity workshop which gave us some good ideas for continuing to work with the mission budget concept and we were able to share our experiences and encourage other congregations in their adoption of the concept. We have commenced planning for a discernment process in 2012 where all of the congregation, plus some outside our congregation, will be able to review where we have been and what we want to achieve in the future. This will then lead to a focussed Culture of Generosity type giving program later in 2012.

The Blackwood UC congregation has been very fortunate to have received a bequest totalling \$96,750 (arriving in 2 portions of \$74,875 in May 2011 and \$21,875 in September) which has been invested until we as a congregation determine how to best utilise this gift. We propose to actively consider this during 2012 as part of our discernment process. Meanwhile, the interest is going towards our income.

Mission Budget 2011

2011 has been a steady year with BUC being able to meet most of our objectives. Rev Cogs Smith commenced with us in May and this start date meant a \$10,000 reduction in the actual costs to cover ordained ministers costs during 2011. Meanwhile our offerings are down by some 4 to 5% and if that trend continues, our essential offering income will be down by \$7,000.

Miscellaneous & donations income was unexpectedly up about \$5,700, with some significant personal donations assisting this.

Apart from the successful Garage Sale, which met its financial target of \$10,000 profit, we have failed to meet the fundraising goals for the year of \$4,000 budgeted, with virtually none raised. Increased property expenditure of about \$7,000 has occurred. Utility costs have increased and there are always many necessary maintenance tasks to do. Upgrades, including a dishwasher, have enhanced our facilities.

There have been some, but not too significant, changes in spending against key mission goals. In particular, we are spending more than budgeted this year on Pastoral Care (\$10,900), and small increases on Faith Building, Community Building and the Community Program, and less on Worship (\$6,000), Local Journeying (\$6,000), Ecumenical Projects (\$2,300), the UCA (\$4,900) and Wider Journeying (\$4,200).

With overall income down by \$5,500 and spending down by \$7,400, the net effect of the above changes is a slight improvement in the planned surplus for 2011 in the order of \$2,000. We budgeted for a surplus this year of \$3,800, and we now estimate that this will now be a surplus of about \$5,800.

A \$96,750 Bequest from the estate of Percival James Thomas (who died in 1988) was received in 2 portions in May & Sept. The funds are invested awaiting future decisions about its use.

Mission Budget for 2012

The purpose of the Mission Budget (see table attached) is to identify the resources required to carry out each significant component of the church's mission. The "OUR MISSION" column of the table sets out our mission goals as agreed by the congregation during 2009.

The "RESOURCES REQUIRED" column shows the type and estimated quantity of the resources needed. It shows the more significant components only. The budget assumes that we will have our full ministerial complement (1.5 FTE) for the whole of 2012.

The "COST" column indicates the estimated total expenditures that are expected to be incurred on account of each of the goals during 2012. Whilst the amounts shown against individual mission goals are based on (amongst other things) estimates of staff time spent on them and to that extent may be considered notional, the total costs represent expected real

cash outlays. In other words, we expect to make payments of \$260,300 next year. There will be some additional payments (eg subsidy payments) between the church accounts, but these are not included in the Mission Budget because they are internal.

Comparison with 2011

Mission budget expenditures for 2012 total \$260,300, a significant \$13,000 greater than the equivalent expenditure estimated for 2011. Much of this is due to increases in ministry costs (including two increases in stipends expected in 2012) and having a full ministry team throughout 2012, above inflation increase in utilities costs, offset by reduced property expenditures.

Overall outcome for 2012 is expected to be a significant deficit of about \$16,000, a negative \$22,000 turnaround from the expected 2011 outcome. The BUC Council has endorsed this level of deficit as necessary to achieve our mission goals. During 2012 we must strive to increase income levels to offset the costs.

Paid staff work time allocation across the various mission activities is expected to be similar to 2011. This can be seen in the table. Funding of \$1,500 has been allocated to support establishing a 'Messy Church' program. Other existing programs continue.

Spending of \$7,500 has been assumed for carrying out a whole of congregation (& wider) discernment process to review our Mission priorities and also for running a planned giving program. Actual costs may easily be above this level if professional support is used for both activities.

Interest from the invested \$96,750 bequest money will help income by a small margin. Spending of that money within 2012 has not been budgeted for, but a discernment process during 2012 is likely to result in plans for use of the money.

This proposed budget has been endorsed by the church council.

Please see Phil Megaw or Ray Bown if you would like a copy of the 2012 budget in the old-format (ie line budget).

Recommendation: that the AGM approves the proposed 2012 mission budget.

Other Comments:

We remind all congregation members of the opportunity available to make regular offering contributions to Blackwood UC via electronic transfer through the Uniting Church's e(give) system. You choose the amount and the frequency at which transfers are made. It is an easy, safe and convenient way of regularly supporting our congregation and thus helping us meet our Mission Goals. Brochures and forms are available. Just ask one of the finance team if you have a query.

Phil Megaw
Chair, Finance and Stewardship Committee
7th November, 2011.



Congregational Meeting 20 November 2011

Property Ministry Report

1. Ministry Committee

Chairman: **Tony Otworowski**

Secretary: **Bob Lyon**

Treasurer: **Brian Pickering**

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

2. Finance

Position at 31 August 2011

- 2.1 Opening Balance 1 January 2010 - \$10,641
- 2.2 Total income - \$29,257 (includes \$6,000 subsidy from Church Council)
- 2.3 Total revenue expenditure - \$21,694
- 2.4 Total Capital expenditure - \$8,271
- 2.5 Total Sundry & other expenditure - \$3,307

- 2.6 Closing Balance for period - **\$1,666**

3. Headline Achievements for Last Reporting Period

- 3.1 Garage Sale successfully completed with \$13,218 funds raised
- 3.2 Hewett Room – Termite damage to floor treated and new replacement floor boards and tiling completed
- 3.3 Foyer Carpet – Worn sections replaced
- 3.4 Rear external welcome sign installed
- 3.5 Bush Fire Refuge signs procured
- 3.6 Christmas star power modifications completed
- 3.7 Chapel new storage cupboard in east alcove constructed
- 3.8 Aldersgate room new carpet installed
- 3.9 Coffee lounge new carpet installed
- 3.10 Kitchen new dishwasher installed
- 3.11 Kitchen and ladies toilet taps replaced
- 3.12 Storage shed reorganised and new storage facilities installed
- 3.13 Guttering above Aldersgate room repaired
- 3.14 Internal directional signage installed
- 3.15 External children's play area extended
- 3.16 New internal doors installed

4. Proposed Works for 2011/12

4.1 External Signage (Target date – End of December 2011)

- 4.1.1 Electronic sign design rejected by Department of Transport
- 4.1.2 Revised sign design to go to Council and Department of Transport for approval October 2011
- 4.1.3 Proposed sign design to be presented at November AGM

4.2 External

- 4.2.1 Repair and repaint external box guttering (Target date – End November 2011)
- 4.2.2 Tree pruning (Target date – End November 2011)

4.3 Tables

4.3.1 Replace or repair tops where possible on rectangular & trapezoidal table or replace tables (Target date – 2012)

4.4 Library

4.4.1 Replace Library ceiling (Target date – Q1 2012)

4.5 Hewett Room

4.5.1 Construct new storage cupboard for Youth Ministry (Target date – End of December 2011)

4.6 Kitchen

4.6.1 Construct new wall hanging storage cupboards (Target date – End of December 2011)

5. Your Property Ministry Making a Difference in 2011 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 at Blackwood Uniting Church. Our goal is to ensure we can continue to provide a safe and flexible environment to support community activities and mission initiatives at Blackwood.

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. Garage Sale 2011

A big thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our garage sale this year. We hope you enjoyed the experience and the funds raised have been put to good use as you can see above. This fund raising activity is an important event in our calendar and we look forward to the next one in 2013.

Pastoral Care Report 9.15

Members: Wendy Norris, Thelma Pike, Lynona Hawkins, Leanne Jenski, Ken Bardsley, Helen Brown, Jan Rawolle, Jackie Otworowski, Glenis Reid.

The group continues to meet every three months and systematically goes through the list of 9.15 attendees to raise pastoral issues that group needs to be aware of.

One of our tasks is to watch over the cluster groups. Recently, we approached Bob and Doff Lyon and asked them to convene a revamped cluster with a number of new people. We also have a list of people who do not belong to a cluster or group and we assign them a member of the pastoral care team to make intentional links between Sundays.

This coming Christmas we will also organise the Christmas Ring around.

Over and above this organised pastoral role we know that there is lots of pastoral care that happens behind the scenes by LOTS of people. Thank you to you all for the care and concern we show each other.

Many thanks also to Marnie Agnew and Glenis Reid who convened this committee until recently.

Rev Leanne

P.S. If this is an area of ministry that interests you then anyone is welcome to join us – just speak to me and I'll let you know when we meet.



Congregational Meeting 20 November 2011 Friday Night Meals Ministry Report

7. The Team

1.1 Meals Co-ordinator: Jackie Otworowski

1.2 Meals Support: Tony Otworowski

1.3 Host Co-ordinators: Judy Adami, Elizabeth Williams, Penny Harper, Heidi McNamara, Tony Otworowski, Jane Palmer, Avis Whitbread.

1.4 Cook Co-ordinators: 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 Programme, Circle of Friends, congregation family and friends

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

8. Finance

- 2.7 The Ministry functions predominately on donations from the cooks and host teams
- 2.8 Free food is provided on the first Friday in the month by Nando's at Melrose Park (value exceeds \$150 every month)
- 2.9 Free bread and rolls are provided every week from Bakers Delight (value exceeds \$50 every week)
- 2.10 Jeff & Jo Baker, franchisees at Blackwood Michelle's Patisserie have recently commenced supplying us with free food from their business
- 2.11 Donations are made sometimes by individuals attending the Friday night gathering
- 2.12 Donations are used to replenish food and consumables stock
- 2.13 **Donation cash closing balance for period - \$398**

9. Headline Achievements for Last Reporting Period

- 3.17 Average weekly attendance has gone up by **138%** compared to 2010
- 3.18** The total number of people we have shared hospitality with this year is **990**
- 3.19 The maximum number of people in one session has been **36**
- 3.20 The average number of attendees this year is **23**
- 3.21** Total number of children attended this year is **54**

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.

10. 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 demonstrates there is a need for this ministry in our local community. The stories we hear and the thanks we receive every week our testament to the congregation's commitment to supporting this initiative.

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 us or any member of the team.

Report Completed by: Jackie & Tony Otworowski

Date: 04-11-2011

Roundabout Playgroup Report

This is the second year of operation of the playgroup and it continues to be very popular with 20 – 35 families attending each week. We meet on Monday mornings from 10.00 – 11.30am. A baby playgroup for first-time Mums meets from 12.00-1.30pm. Lynona Hawkins has been a coordinator in that group and while she has been away Cogs has been her replacement.

The year began with an organizing team comprising of a parent, Connie Woolston, Marnie Agnew, Carys Penny, Jean Potter and Glenis Reid. Sarah Agnew was also part of the team in term 1. In term 2 Coral Smith replaced Sarah. Connie left the team at the end of term 3 and Simonne Shadrett replaced her as a current

parent. We are very much indebted to Connie for the vision and hard work she contributed to the playgroup from its inception.

The program is organized around a theme for each term and this year we have had summer, transport, music and colours. Songs, story and craft activities are related to the theme. Parents participate by reading stories, helping prepare crafts and offering ideas and skills. There are many volunteers involved from the Church community including providers of morning tea, helpers to set up and others who participate in the program by playing an instrument or talking to parents and children. Nina Merton played the organ on one occasion for the children and Bruce and Bonnie Marriott played and sang several times.

An occasional e-letter is emailed to participants to let them know dates and other information. We have bought new equipment including many books, a tunnel, a rocker, ride-ons, easel and a kitchen unit for the doll's corner. Paints and other consumables are also bought but painting paper has been donated from the Blackwood Community Child Care Centre.

Each term we have offered a family spiritual time on a Sunday afternoon in the chapel, and these have been attended by about 6 - 10 families. They include a "God" story, Christian songs and craft activities finishing with afternoon tea. The families include play groupers and others who hear about it through sources such as the community program, grandparents at BUC, the Blackwood library or by word of mouth.

Some Playgroup parents have become supporters of the Friday meals and some attend the community program. This has been an unexpected bonus.

We were unsuccessful in our application for the Forsyth Grant, through Uniting Wesley Care, for \$10,000, to extend the playground. However the area has been made larger by the removal of the internal fence and we have received a wonderful donation of \$500 from a church member which will be put to good use. It is hoped that we will extend the present outdoor climbing equipment with a slide and eventually move the fences so there is more room for children to ride around safely. The soft fall material needs to be replenished immediately and should be done every two years.

We are very thankful that we have so many dedicated people to support this program which is meeting the needs of so many. We get many positive comments from those who use it including a grandmother who said. "You are really doing a wonderful thing here."

This is a Mission objective which will continue for many years. Carys and Marnie

MITCHAM HILLS INTERCHURCH COUNCIL INC

Exciting developments within the Council next year will result in a more active role for church representatives and possibly a higher profile as churches work more closely together in this area.

Rev. Leanne Jenski has taken over the chairperson's role for an interim period to develop a different framework of operation.

It is anticipated task groups will be set up around particular areas of responsibilities, eg. Mission Outreach (Beacon, 40hr Famine), Schools, (Kids' Hope, CPSWs), Ministry/Clergy gatherings, Executive (Finance and Admin), Gatherings and Celebrations and others if required. The task groups will have their own meeting patterns and report twice a year to the full membership body.

The full meetings of the whole Council will meet four times a year (Feb. May. Aug. and Nov). At full meetings, reports from each task group will be tabled, more time to be spent on sharing news from churches and possibly small groups interacting with key task group people or visiting personnel.

Two planned events for 2012 are related to the CoroAlive 175 celebrations. A Men's choir is being formed to give a concert and a good old fashioned Church Picnic involving all the churches in the area is planned for October 7, 2012 at Weymouth Oval. Watch for details next year.

This year on Sunday November 20^t 3.00pm, the Council will participate in the Community Day organised by the Nunyara Conference Centre.

Then on Friday 2nd December, the ministers and leaders of local churches will lead the Christmas Pageant through the streets of Blackwood. You can show your support--- look for the Blackwood Uniting Church banner and walk with us.

Gloria McArthur

BEACON EMERGENCY RELIEF

The last few months have been extremely busy with grant applications, assisting clients seeking payment plans with Utility Providers, keeping in touch with local businesses and organising functions to offset administration costs.

Grants have been received from Morialta Trust and a 3 year grant from FaHCSIA. These grants help to cover client needs, but not administration. With 39 clients and their families, including 15 new clients this means we have assisted 109 people. Beacon has conducted 124 interviews throughout the year. The main issue with our clients is lack of money that then impacts on health issues and financial worries. We are now pursuing a strong focus with clients to encourage them to receive Budget Advice and Financial Counselling. A trained financial counsellor offers this free service when available from her regular employment. Since FamiliesSA cut 44 Financial Counsellor positions and delegated them to Non Government Organisations with less funding available, waiting times for appointments range from 3 to 10 weeks. This is not helpful when the client is distressed with oversize bills and notices.

Support received from the churches of the Mitcham Hills Inter-Church Council is much appreciated. This is a unique ecumenical group supporting families in our area who are experiencing difficulties in their daily lives. God at work in the Mitcham Hills, through us.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? *Food donations for 20 Christmas Hampers – a joint venture with Lions-Blackwood, -- will be distributed on December 14th.*

Purchasing a voucher for \$30 on either Drake-Blackwood, Woolworths-Blackwood or Coles-Blackwood to be given to families to buy fresh food produce.

Aileen Templeton, Co-ordinator, Gloria McArthur (Volunteer)

Community Program Report to the Congregation November 2011

This year the Community Program has continued to meet the social, craft, art and fitness needs of many people in our community. We started the year with just over 200 enrolments across 26 classes held over each Wednesday and Thursday during term time. In Term 2 we introduced three new classes: Paper Making, Knitting & Crochet and Zumba. Knitting & Crochet and Zumba classes have had good attendance and will continue into 2012. During the year we have had an additional 85 enrolments into our existing and new classes from people who have not had contact with the Community Program before and during Term 4 we

recorded our 310th enrolment! All of this is in addition to strong attendance at the Continuing Learning sessions held throughout the year.

Fundraisers are an important way of raising awareness amongst participants of needs within our wider community, as well as a great time of shared hospitality and friendship building.

This year, the Community Program raised, over \$1000 for outside causes across the year. In Term 1 we held Uniting Care's Pancake Day and raised \$248, in Term 2 we supported Australia's Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer Research and raised \$385.90. In Term 3 we supported Operation Christmas Child, led by one of our Patchwork & Quilting groups and raised \$261.20 towards shoe boxes and transportation costs. Additionally we held a morning tea to support Rotary's "End Polio" campaign and raised \$201. Fundraising for the Community Program included holding a Jam Stall in conjunction with a book launch at Mindfield Books in May which promoted the program to the local community and raised \$113. Our annual Winter Wool Sale raised a further \$124 through the sale of donated wool. Josie Dennison has again been faithful each week in helping us set up our trading table and at the time of this report we had raised \$1,026 through sales of donated items.

A new style weekly newsletter *The Artisan* was introduced at the beginning of the year to help with communications throughout the program, as well as to provide a consistent message to all participants. In addition to a weekly 'editorial' we have included advertising for community events, community forums, other 'church' activities to further link the two communities together.

In keeping with Blackwood UC being a Fair Trade Community, Fair Trade Tea and Coffee has been adopted by the Community Program, including 'real' dripper coffee being made available throughout the program. There has been a lot of support for this, subject of course, as always, to personal taste! It's been another way of raising awareness of the plight of those less fortunate.

We've setup a Facebook group for the BUC Community Program which has had some interest. In Term 4 we've held 2 classes on Facebook – led by Rev Leanne. Hopefully, this will generate a bit more interest for those who are into online groups!

We've purchased new safety mats for the Patchwork & Quilting groups to cover over extension cords and reduce the chance of trip hazards. This means that the small mats we have can now be used in the hall by the embroiderers and others who require additional lights to assist them.

During the year we've had 3 new Crèche workers, one of whom comes from the Belair congregation. Two others have come and gone as their other work commitments have dictated, but we have been grateful for the work they did during their short times with us.

Sadly, two of our regulars, Maxine Kell (Patchwork & Quilting) and Lorraine Roper (Art) passed away during the year. They will be truly missed by all those who knew them in this place and we remember them with fondness for the friendship and care they showed others in their midst.

The Community Program wouldn't operate if it wasn't for the ongoing, reliable efforts of the tutors, crèche workers and many volunteers who so faithfully contribute efforts to the program throughout the year.

The importance of the Community Program to many people should not be underestimated – I have heard stories all year from participants about what the program means to them – the opportunity for support and friendship which is shared in this place is a great gift from the church to the wider community and has significant impact on individual lives.

Looking forward to 2012 there are still opportunities for people to volunteer – it would be great to have more pastoral carers to support the participants. Additional office volunteers would ease the pressure when others aren't available. And of course it would be great to see more 'church' people participating in the program!

While I won't be continuing on next year, I am sure a new coordinator will be found who will continue to build the program and create positive community in this place.

On a personal note I'd like to thank the Blackwood UC community for 'having me back'! It's been great to catch up with people who were influential to me and my faith when I was here as a teenager and to get to know others who have joined the community since then. I hope I have been able to contribute in a positive way to the life of Blackwood UC and look forward to seeing the program continue for many years to come.

Helen Sampson Community Program Coordinator

LIBRARY REPORT 2011

'A library doesn't need a window. A library is a window' Through books and other media we can discover anew the wonder of our Christian faith and learn about other people.

Biography can be a means of learning about people, their lives, their thoughts and their dreams. This year we have added at least eight biographies to the church library.

"Life without limits" is the story of 28 year old Nick Vujicic born without arms or legs who has become a successful international speaker and has learnt to surf, skateboard and dive. When Nicole Watson the author of "Sam's heart" was pregnant she was told that he had a serious heart condition, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, and in order to survive he would need surgery within the first seventy two hours of his life. Nichole tells how her faith sustained her and her family through the trauma of having a very sick baby. In "Infidel" Ayaan Hirsi Ali describes her life growing up as a Muslim in Somali and Kenya. Later, in the Netherlands, her life was in danger as she spoke openly about the plight of Muslim women.

Two recent additions are helpful for worship leaders. "Stages on the way: Worship resources for Lent, Holy Week and Easter" is published by the Wild Goose Worship Group and contains litanies, meditations, monologues, poems, prayers, readings, scripts and symbolic actions. "The worshipping body: the art of leading worship" by Kimberly Bracken Long is essential reading for all worship leaders interested in how their presence and movement during worship can enhance the experiences of their congregations.

Every three years church librarians meet for their National Conference. This revitalizes our enthusiasm for our ministry, gives us an opportunity to share ideas and listen to inspiring speakers. This October we had eight interstate delegates and heard several authors including Christobel Mattingley who has written over 50 books. Many of these are children's books with social justice themes.

We have recently started a section for the Community outreach program. This includes books on such topics as quilting and also seven volumes on "The Great Artists, their lives, works and inspiration".

Next year I would like to add more DVDs to the church library and would welcome any suggestions.

Thank you to all who have donated books and periodicals and to all who have returned their loans on time.

Joy Belling

Mission and Justice

Several years ago, our church made the decision not to have a Mission and Justice Committee, but instead to have a small Coordinating Group. The idea was that a concern for mission and justice was part of the life of the whole congregation – something not to be delegated to a committee.

The role of the Coordinating Group is to maintain an overview of mission and justice activity in the congregation and sometimes to promote initiatives that gave shape to our understanding of mission and justice. A feature has been the adoption each year of four priority themes: something local, a relationship with Indigenous people, something beyond our own nation and a concern for the whole of creation.

The theme of Journeying was introduced as a reminder that we express our concerns for mission and justice not by doing something **for** people, but by doing something **with** them. We join them in their journey of life and build a relationship with them so that together we can achieve something.

In his book *Prophetic Imagination*, Walter Brueggemann says “the focus of the work of Jesus was not dismantling but the inauguration of a new thing.” That is the spirit of our mission and justice work. In our journey with people we seek to imagine a better world, find new hope and achieve a new thing together. And it is the spirit of our congregation that many mission and justice initiatives occur without any committee meetings.

Our priority themes this year are:

Journeying with the Blackwood Hills Circle of Friends: We have highlighted plight of asylum seekers and maintained contact with the Circle of Friends through members of the congregation who attend its meetings.

Journeying with Aboriginal People: We have continued, slowly, to build a relationship with Kurna and Ngarrindjeri people, often in their sadness. We are still seeking a way of recognising the Kurna people with a public art work.

Journeying with our Partner Churches: Our ongoing work with the church in Papua is described in Jane Basshams report from her committee. The difficult situation in which the Methodist Church in Fiji works has been highlighted. Our wider relationships are also focused during Lent, when we support partners in Australia and overseas, and at Advent with our support of development and peacemaking activities of overseas partner churches through Act for Peace.

Journeying into the Sacredness of All Creation: The January ‘Worship in the Park’ services are a reminder of our part in and impact on creation. Next year we plan to observe World Environment Day (June 5) in ways that link us to local aspects of a worldwide movement.

We acknowledge and thank the many people who undertake mission and justice work. Among them are: Mary Thomas who tirelessly sells dried fruit to raise funds for Frontier Services, Enid Nannes and Christa Megaw who sell Fair Trade and Outback Pride products, Jane Bassham for solidarity work with the church in Papua, John Shepherd for his work with the Blackwood Hills Circle of Friends and Lynona Hawkins for challenging us in our inner pilgrimage.

Malcolm McArthur, Heather Lee and Alastair Blake
Mission and Justice Coordinating Group

Journeying with the Church in Papua – Jane Bassham

Background.

Following some long time interest by some members of the congregation in Indonesia and discussions with Synod SA, culminating in a visit by 7 members of BUC and a member of the Synod mission team, to Papua in February 2010, the Blackwood Uniting Journeying with the Church in Papua Group was formed as part of our church's ongoing interest in this region. This group has representatives from the Mission group on it.

Our Group's Purpose: to Journey in Partnership with the Church in Papua, one of the church partnerships of SA Synod, by:

- Supporting the goals of GKI.
- Planning for visits of Papuans as part of the Immersion in English program,
- Supporting the people of Numfor and Biak (the areas of Papua Synod SA asked us to focus on),
- Awareness – ourselves & our church about things Papuan,
- Fundraising

NB please note 'Papua' refers to the Western half of the island called Papua, not PNG.

The group: Coordinator: Jane Bassham. 20 Members: a mix of members of the Blackwood Uniting Church and interested parties, who are on the email distribution and some of whom also attend the meetings we have.

2011 – if you would like a full story about 2011, please contact Jane Bassham.

Support the goals of GKI as we understand them based on BUC visit to Papua in Feb 2010, and as we learn of them via John Barr, Adam Trethaway. In particular, the Immersion in English Program is aligned with GKI goals as we understand them. As is the support of Numfor and Biak.

Hot off the press: we have the opportunity for Jappy Wombrow to visit 11th December this year. Jappy is a member of GKI, whom we met in Papua in Feb 2010. We will be able to learn more of the GKI goals first hand shortly! GKI have just had their Synod meeting, which John Barr attended.

Immersion in English Program

Basically, our plans were in full flight for the arrival of Nancy Wambrau and Naomi Degai for an English Immersion course in February of this year. That didn't come together for a range of reasons, the final one being the Australian Government did not grant them visas. John Barr followed this up as high as it could go with the Australian Government. We are hopeful of resolution so the English Immersion course can recommence, but we have no timeframes as yet.

Our Fundraising activities – Cards sales, Cake Stall at Community Program, Quilt raffle by the Quilting group Community Program, BBQ at the Garage Sale.

3PW – Women's Training Centre run by GKI - Adam Trethaway stayed at 3PW when he was in Abipura and purchased some more bark paintings which we will make into cards, to sell as a fundraiser.

Flora – 4 year old girl on Numfor born without a left lower leg - Adam Trethaway met with Flora and Flora's mother and presented them with the quilt when he visited in August this year.

Papuan friends –Members of the group have occasional communication with our Papuan friends (mostly via text, email and Facebook).

Triono Syahputra, International Potato Center (CIP) Project coordinator for ACIAR (AH/2007/106) project in Manokwari, Papua Barat, was studying in Adelaide in February 2011 and spoke about his work in Manokwari and we had lunch with him at Seaclyff. BUC who visited Papua met Triono when we visited in Feb 2010.

Our communication strategies in 2011:

January 2011 –Papua was featured on the Mission Board in the church foyer.

October 27th 2011 Blackwood Newsletter to pray for GKI during their synod.

Occasional announcements at church.

Finance update: we have about \$1,800.

Linking in with synod occurs via Adam Trethaway,(International Mission Officer) who liaises with the Blackwood Uniting Journeying with the Church in Papua Group

Focus for 2012:

1. Support the goals of GKI – as we learn of them via John Barr, Adam Trethaway. This may include a visit by some Papuan Ministers of the Word in 2012.
2. Planning for visits of Papuans as part of the Immersion in English program,
3. Supporting the people of Numfor and Biak (the areas of Papua Synod SA asked us to focus on),
4. Awareness – ourselves & our church about things Papuan,
5. Fundraising
 - Proceeds go towards supporting our Partner Church in Papua, GKI.
 - This includes (as outlined to us in a recent visit by Adam Trethaway, who visited Numfor in August 2011:
 - Building a kitchen for the medical clinic on Numfor
 - Support further training for the nurse who plans to work at the clinic's practical
 - Equipment
 - Other needs as they arise
 - Supporting Flora's ongoing needs. Flora has a congenital left leg malformation. She was approximately 2 years old when we met her. We plan to support her ongoing needs, which will include a below knee prosthesis and therapy to enable her to walk. We are in ongoing discussions about what this may entail.
 - Supporting the English Immersion Program when it recommences.

Recommendations:

The fundraising is integrated into Blackwood Uniting Church's total mission.

This fundraising is used to support the ongoing needs, as outlined in the priorities for 2012.

Urban Mission Network Report. Nov 20th 2011

www.urbannetwork.org.au Please refer when want to keep up with what is on offer. The other churches advertise through here, and there is always something on.

The next meeting is Nov. 24th at Pilgrim 6 – 6.30pm a sharing of resources and the A.G.M. If you would like to come, let me know so I can RSVP for the meal and perhaps car pool.

During the year, we have had 2 workshops for Chairs and Secretaries. They have been helpful. A session at Scot church on Childrens ministry.

A worthwhile group and would encourage anyone else to go along and see what else is happening around the state.

Wendy Norris

11 am worship report November 2011

The last 6 months have been underlined by the absence through vacation or ill health of several of our community. We were glad to welcome back travellers in the last month but our prayers and concern for those who are unwell continue. Due to this, we have not had any “events” to report but I note that there is an Outback lunch on Nov 6 th to support Frontier Services

Dried fruit sales: Thanks to the Tuesday Bible Study Group for your willing efforts in packing this fruit. The profit goes to Frontier Services in the main but with exceptional donations made to other 1 off causes.

First Friday Friends: This group continues to fill a niche with attendance between 16 and 24. My thanks to friends who help so willingly every month and to those folk who provided interest spots to the group

Lastly ,many thanks to all the people who help with the worship- in particular, Keith and Catherina for organ music; Mignon, Gwendoline and Catherina for their sterling effort with communion preparation and to the ladies from 9.15 and 11 am worship groups who provide the floral arrangements each week

Mary Thomas

Synod Report Nov. 20th 2011

The October 2011 Presbytery and Synod meeting began with worship and an acknowledgment of the Kurna people, on whose land we meet. Sarah Agnew shared the story “**Let’s Eat!**” with a Bible reading, and Moderator Rev Rob Williams spoke on the importance of love – even though not all are easy to love.

E-updates are designed to keep Uniting Church people informed about the information shared and decisions made during the Presbytery and Synod meeting. Therefore subscribe and get their regular emails on Synod affairs.

Andrew Dutney led us in Bible study and reflection Friday and Saturday. morning. This will be his last November synod with us before he becomes president of U/C Assembly in July 2012.

The rest of synod was mainly updates on all the groups that work out of the synod office and around the state.

Proposals on the role of the church in church schools.

The proposed plans for the Annesley site.

We are looking for lay reps. From BUC to attend these meetings. The dates for next year are,

- **2 - 3 March 2012 - business and resourcing**
- **22 - 23 June 2012 - business and resourcing**
- **1 - 3 November 2012 – AGM**

I have enjoyed either being a rep. or the proxy and attending. It is a great way to meet the people we hear about and the plans for the future.

Please consider having a turn.

Wendy Norris

Blackwood Youth Report November 2011

In mid 2010 the Blackwood Uniting Church Council accepted a report from a Youth Development Sub Group, which made a number of recommendations/goals concerning future actions over the next 3 years regarding youth within the Church and covering an outreach programme to the many youth in the Blackwood Hills. This report summarises the last year's achievements and looks towards 2012.

Goals identified for Blackwood Uniting Church Re Youth in 2010

Vision For Youth at BUC: A youth ministry that provides safe and inclusive Christian experiences for young people of all ages which is committed to justice, learning, service and care.

Short Term Goals

1. Increasing Church Member Awareness, Enthusiasm and Ownership of Youth Activities

Progress

- Heidi McNamara's leadership of the youth group has re-established the YAG as a BUCA activity. Previously the youth group was led by three dedicated young adults who had little contact with the church community.
- Improved communication of the programme for each term.
- Heidi has involved other church members to support the youth activities, rostered them to support activities and drive as required.
- Procedures to improve duty of care have been improved.

2. Support Existing Youth Programme – Ages 11 to 17 years

Strategies

- Incorporating YAG activities into BUCA information flows.
- Encouraging the creation of a Christian learning programme for this age group.
- Offering funding for YAG leaders to attend leadership programmes.

Progress

- BUCA joined with Belair UCA in 2011 to run a combined youth group to better utilise the resources between both churches.
- Better communication has resulted in improved attendance at youth activities (Attendance - 2 to 8 young people).

- Reverend Coral Smith was appointed in May 2011 as the Outreach minister. Coral has been able to attend some youth group activities and is forming relationships with the participants.
- One member of the youth group attended SAYCO in 2011.
- A Christian fellowship/worship /discussion time is being explored from 7.00 on YAG evenings.
- Funding was provided for training throughout 2011 as required. (*Thank you!*)

3. Re-establish the Young Adults Group – Ages 16 to upper 20's Progress

- A “Spirited Conversations Group” has been formed between Blackwood and Belair Churches to cover the 16 to 30 age group (Attendance - 4 to 6).
Rev Sarah Agnew (Belair) is facilitating this group.

4. To sustain and develop leadership teams for each age group.

Progress

- Leadership of the Blackwood 11 to 17 age group needs a succession plan, as Heidi has moved to the inner northern suburbs and is considering finishing up with BUC YAG at the end of term one 2012. New leaders should be sought from within the youth group, the BUC community and perhaps the wider community if the program is to continue.
- Heidi spends up to 8-10 hours per fortnight in planning and running the youth 11- 15 group. She has also become involved with the Synod Youth Planning Group with Will Hall.
- It has been suggested that a leadership team will be created for 2012 comprising Heidi (for term one), Coral Smith, Ian Penny, Rebecca Agnew, plus at least two others, to assist in this time of transition.
- Heidi is also developing a survey, to invite those youth whom we are in touch with to help us reflect on how YAG and BUC's youth ministry should develop in 2012.

Will Hall Visits & Discussion.

During the course of this year, we have had several conversations with the Synod Youth Worker **Will Hall**. Will was able to give us encouragement, perspective and broaden our ideas about youth ministry to think beyond the square. He encouraged us to reflect on our relationships with youth, both inside the church and beyond the wider congregation, to assess our strengths in ministry and how we could use these. He also helped us to reflect on different models of youth groups (i.e. *Attractional* vs. *Missional*) and also what might it look like if we were to dream our own *Fresh Expressions* of youth ministry for the Blackwood Area.

Longer Term visions & issues- 2012 & beyond.

1. The big dream of part-time youth leader is of a person who would foster relationships with the youth of the Blackwood area. However, this is not likely in 2012, as we currently do not have enough people and momentum. Therefore, we are still working out the future pathways involving youth, the wider community and BUCA.
2. With changes to leadership of the youth ministry, and participants growing out of the youth group age, the organised, regular youth group may not be run in 2012.
3. The work from now into the first term of 2012 is to continue to explore the future opportunities as they unfold. Heidi's Youth Group Survey will help us listen to these younger people.
4. We are also exploring the idea of being involved in the youth of the wider community. Cooking pancakes at the Mitcham Council “Generator” Youth Event is a beginning to explore such options, an example of one way to become involved in an outreach programme with youth in the wider community. This new possibility will need careful thought and reflection as we explore how sustainable it is and what are its developing goals and mission.

Conclusion

There has been much good work done this year and we especially give thanks for **Heidi's** ministry, which has been meaningful and delightful for those involved. We give thanks for her efforts and wish

her well wherever her future journeys take her after Term 1, 2012. We also give thanks that **Rev Sarah Agnew** and Belair UCA are prepared to work with us in this area, **Rev Mark Reissen** of the Blackwood Church of Christ, who co operates with us ecumenically, as well as the support of the wider **BUCA** congregation who assist in many ways,

And so, in 2012 we need to keep examining our options, consulting with those we are striving to serve, and look beyond “tried and true models” in order to continue to seek an authentic expression of youth ministry for BUCA that is viable and meaningful for both the youth and the church.

Heidi McNamara, Ian Penny, Rebecca Agnew, Coral Cogs Smith