**Congregation Chairperson’s report for 2017-2018**

By God’s grace we have progressed through another year. Due to Alan Dubé’s surgery early in 2017, Darryl Dyson was elected as Congregation Chairperson, and a contract auditor was engaged. The chairperson and secretary were overseas for four months during the year, so Ruth Work acted as secretary and Alan Dubé acted as chairperson. Many thanks for their willingness to support the church in this way.

Once again, we hosted the Anzac service, Christmas Carols evening, regular contributions to the “Cherry Chatter” newsletter and hosted the Garden club. During History Week in May, our meeting room was used by Garry Scroop to launch his book on the history of the Scroop family, “Henry Scroop, His Life and Times”. The event was a great success attracting many people, however, it was a big commitment from a few in the congregation. Without organised support, big events such as this may be difficult to host in the future.

The project committee has been working with the City of Onkaparinga to resolve issues caused by old roadworks placing earth against the entrance porch wall. Drawings by architect, Jim Ward in conjunction with Ron Williamson’s experience as a builder have been invaluable. Gill Marshman continues to be involved in an international aid program in West Timor and great things are happening in that work, this is also an outreach. We regularly make various donations. The following are those made during 2017 and up to the Annual meeting in 2018:

* Act for Peace (Christmas Bowl Appeal), $963
* Yorketown Uniting Church following damage to their Church during a storm, $100
* Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), $300. MAF operate a fleet of aircraft to provide support to isolated communities in Australia and overseas.
* Interserve Australia, $200. This organisation delivers a number of aid projects in Asia and the Arab world.
* Second Chances, $100. Provides support to children of offenders to try to stop the generational cycle of offending.
* Queensland Floods Disaster Fund, $200
* John Symons for work in East Africa including Chad and Mbale in Kenya, $600. In particular this enables John to pay for secondary education for a number of children in those countries where education is not subsidised by their governments.
* Support to local families in need, $1420
* $100.00 to Samaritans Purse
* Other donations as per the Treasurer’s report

Christmas Carols were a wonderful celebration and a great success once again with more than 130 people attending. Many thanks to a grant from the City of Onkaparinga to help us stage the event. Hand delivering advertising postcards in addition to those distributed by Cherry Chatter, event notification in Cherry Chatter and on our Facebook page and website contributed. The balloon artist, local group, the “Sherrahs”, a gospel singing family band, face and hand painting and cooler weather helped too. There were more children and once again there were families and grandparents with grandchildren. We would like to replicate this success again this year, however we do not have a grant to assist with expenses. As the Leadership Management Team has organized the past two carols nights, it will be useful to have a separate committee to organize the event as the leadership team has a continual regular workload.

Our pastor, Margaret Seyfang, has worked very hard to fill the roster with good preaching and music each Sunday. We thank our worship leaders and our IT person, Lyle Seyfang and all who contribute to our worship. We are blessed with varied and bountiful food each Sunday for morning tea. This year we have trialed attending other churches such as Eden Hills, Upper Sturt and Clarendon when any month has a fifth Sunday. This needs to be reviewed to see what the congregation think about continuing or discontinuing this practice. Our church Newsletter is now edited by Margaret Seyfang and continues to be well received, being very informative and interesting. It is distributed outside the church and is on the website as well.

The church is regularly used by other churches. Our congregation numbers are down somewhat, so it is imperative that the congregation considers action to address this situation.

A portico for the western door of the gallery has been built to stop rain getting into the gallery. With the help of the Garden Club, a grant was received from the City of Onkaparinga to purchase a hot water service for the kitchen. The church paid for this to be installed. The Jacobs Family is about to replace the fence around the grave. As many pickets as possible from the old fence will be salvaged and reused.

Our treasurer, Phyllis Williamson has decided to step down after many years of excellent service. We thank Phyllis for her dedicated service, particularly during construction of the meeting room when her duties were considerable.

Darryl Dyson

Chairperson of the Congregational Council

21 August 2018