

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2014 – 15

OVERVIEW

This year we have achieved all our goals for the community of Cherry Gardens and country congregations. We have maintained a high standard of worship with the involvement of members in the congregation in a number of roles. The property has been maintained well and the completion of the new meeting room has continued albeit at a lesser pace.

MATTERS SPIRITUAL

The search for a pastor was ended when Margaret Seyfang kindly accepted the role of Volunteer Pastor. Margaret prior to her appointment was very busy with her musical ministry. She will reduce this by the end of the year to allow more time as pastor. She now has a Mentor Rev. Cheryl Wilson who is Chaplain at Cottage Grove Nursing home. Margaret will participate in training and pastoral retreats with the 3Dnet as part of her development as a pastor.

The leadership team is now down to two following Roger Waldron and Jim Richardson's resignations. Jim Richardson has been a real asset to the church and we are sad that he resigned.

We are fortunate to have a new member Rosie Mac Gillvray and look forward to friendship and her contribution to our church.

Our worship leaders Margaret Seyfang, Di Dyson, Gill Marshman, Stephanie Dube, Annetta De Boo and Phyllis Williamson give excellent introductions. Their leadership being in concert with the theme of the sermons and influenced by own different backgrounds.

We are grateful for our own lay preachers Max Winter, Margaret Seyfang, Annetta De Boo, Alan Light they put a lot of work into their message we all learn a lot from their insights into our Christian faith. We have a great diversity of lay preachers from outside our church Mark Pearse (Yankalilla) Dr Patrizi (a prison Minister), John Symons (ACCI), Alan Light (Ironbank Faith Community), Bob Ricks (Coromandel Baptist Church) to name a few coming from different organizations broadening our faith and knowledge.

Trevor Fletcher, John Penberthy and Margaret Seyfang on piano and Lynette Whellan who plays the violin and oboe have again provided beautiful music, which is always an important part of our worship.

We thank Lyle Seyfang for his role as the technologist to the Church he also manages the amplification it is an important contribution to our worship.

Sunday School

We only have Sunday school when children come to church, nevertheless our faithful band of Sunday school teachers Gill Marshman, Stephanie and Prim Dube, Pauline Knott, come prepared on their rostered day with an activity.

Maintenance

Cherry Church is unusual when compared with other churches in that all members have a roles such as greeting, cleaning, flower arrangements, morning tea, gardening, maintenance and we praise God for all their contributions. We have approached Onkaparinga City about the risk of people tripping over the bund at night near the front entrance to the church. They recognize the substantial risk of people injuring themselves and their suggestion is to have a street light on the electric pole next to the gate. To avoid the light being a

nuisance to the community they suggested a timer be put on the light to operate between 7.30 to 11.00pm.

OUT REACH

Community carols. Again this year we were supported generously by Onkaparinga City to conduct Community Carols they gave funds to allow us to contract Old Macdonald's small animal farm. Our aim was to attract more families and with younger children to the Carols. The small animal farm had animals that children could pick up and or pat and this proved popular. The event started an hour before the commencement of the Carols and most of those who visited the exhibition of animals went onto the Carols. This event increased the number of people at the Carols to 120 plus. The carols program concentrates on singing old and modern carols. Di Dyson was our lively Master of Ceremonies and ensured the program was kept to time. Lynette Whellan(oboe) and John Penberthy (piano) provided the music. They also played an instrumental arrangement of "Away in the Manager" using the two most popular and commonly known tunes for this Christmas carol John was the accompanist.

Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg delivered a greeting from Onkaparinga City, as they are joint partners of the carols. She focused of the generosity of people towards needy members of the community even in tough times. The Cherry Gardens Poet Society read "The fire at Ross's farm" written by Banjo Paterson. Max Winter gave a brief message on "A particular kind of peace".

The evening finished with a country supper, our gift to the community. Our aim is to give the community a chance to chat and meet new people in so doing strengthening community. The community donated \$273 for Christmas Bowl. We have applied to Onkaparinga City this year for funds to again have Old Mac Donald's small animal farm as an attraction for Community Carols

Anzac Service and breakfast

This Anzac event celebrated the centenary of World War one. The Church assisted with the service providing the Chaplain Reverend David Houston who was M.C. and as well he gave the message. David chose the hymn that was sang at the first Anzac service a hundred years ago. Our musicians were Margaret Seyfang (keyboard) and Lynette Whellan (oboe) and Lyle Seyfang (bugle). The church provided amplification both at the breakfast and the service managed by Lyle. Five hundred attended which was well above the average. This showed that the community wanted to honour the fallen soldiers for their sacrifice on this important day.

The Cherry Gardens Community Association for their contribution for the special occasion wanted to make a replica of the Church's Honour roll. The Congregational Council generously agreed to allow them. There is now that roll in the Memorial Hall with additions that were left out in the original list at the church. The church assisted in setting up of the Memorial Hall for the breakfast the night before the event and taking it down and cleaning after the event. We efficiently provided morning tea and coffee and home made Anzac biscuits for the 350 people who attended the breakfast. I congratulate and thank our members for all the effort that they put into this event it was a great success. Dr Gill Marshman brought three staff members of the Kupang Hospital in West Timor to a service at Cherry Church. We had an enjoyable fellowship and we all learned a little of our different churches and worship. One of the staff asked if

anyone lived at the church! That was surprising as they do in Kupang. Our 20+ members was tiny compared to their 400! They were doing an Oncology course at Flinders hospital to up grade their skills to start an Oncology unit in the Hospital at Kupang in West Timor.

The Garden Club still meets at the Church monthly it is a very active group led by Ray Wise, numbers vary between middle twenties to 70. The other activities of the club are visiting Open Gardens and coffee mornings where members show of their gardens.

The new meeting room is an asset and Vines Church continues to find it attractive to conduct Alpha courses and retreats. Our contact minister Rev. Beth Seaman on visiting our church suggested that we should promote our church as an attractive place for retreats for city churches as a quiet, pretty place with good facilities and close to the city.

We have given donations to Missionary Aviation, earthquake victims in Nepal, Second Chances, John Symons (ACCI), Dr Patrizi (Prison Chaplain), Scot and Rachel Litchfield, Christmas Bowl, Diabetes SA, Iron Bank Faith Community.

History Group

We continue to collect information on all events that the church is involved in. We have been slowly collecting photos and information about our former and present lay preachers and ministers. Darryl Dyson has continually updated our web site. The Centenary celebration at the Memorial Park at Cherry Gardens was videoed and a link was put on the website to utube as the file exceeded what the Uniting church in SA website could carry. We now have a copy of the deed of title of the transfer of the land in 1849 from Mr Field to the church. It is a copy of a hand written transcript as the original vellum document had deteriorated and was unreadable. We have recently been able to give information to a NZ family about a wedding that was thought to have been conducted in 1860. After a search by Darryl Dyson he found out that Harriet Gardener married Phillip Le Maistre on the 2nd of May in 1861 at our church. Our minutes only go back to 1926 as the rest back to 1849 were destroyed by fire so we have pasted a little history in that gap. Recently we were interested in the Memorial Park and who planted the trees back in 1923. What was known that 9 golden cypress trees were planted in memory of the fallen soldiers from World War one, however, there were more trees and inspection by Onkaparinga City revealed more trees and that they were rare. Again another search by Darryl shows that the trees were voluntarily planted by Charles Hookings a head Gardner for Francis Snow a plant importer with a very notable garden in Stirling SA. Charles Hookings was a strong Methodist whose son fought in World War one and it could be that he planted these trees as a memorial to his son. Quite a discovery that could lead to changes in the park to showcase to visitors these rare trees.

Anne Donnell has recently it has been discovered was the first Australian nurse to volunteer to serve in the Anzac campaign. She was from Cherry Gardens and her parents must have attended Cherry Church as their graves are in the church grounds. Mr. William Donnell was the first teacher at the Cherry Gardens School. Her history thanks to Darryl is now in our history collection.

We have applied to Onkaparinga City for funds to furnish the History room (formerly the annexe) if successful we will apply for another grant to upgrade the ceiling and redecorate it.

With the generosity of Ben Moulton, Senior Conservation Officer Okaparinga City, we have established a sward of Kangaroo Grass (Themeda triandra) the grass that attracted the original settlers to Cherry Gardens. It is near the Donnell grave. This grass has been greatly diminished in Cherry Gardens by grazing and out competed by introduced species. We have also conserved, supported by Onkaparinga City, a pure original stand of Kangaroo grass on the northern side of Orchard road. The Council will care for this stand.

The new Meeting room

A huge effort that was put into completing the Meeting room to a usable level caused exhaustion to our team. So the Building Committee decided that with the funds left to employ Contractors. Ron and Phyllis Williams and Jim Ward know good tradesman so they have ensured that we get the best trades people and the best price. Their great skills have stretched our dollars considerably. The eaves were completed with colourbond mini orb which finishes off the building beautifully.

The storeroom and loft has been insulated and lined for an amazingly low price. The contractor gave the church the insulation and also gyprock lining for free. They dealt with some second hand gyprock that we were given as well using bits and pieces to line the loft. Both rooms are all flushed and painted by Ron Williamson and looks so good that it seems a shame to use them for storage. There is some thought to use the storeroom for our church office.

Recently the congregational Council agreed to set up a separate fund to finance the leadlight in the new meeting room. Until we get a sketch with colours and complexity the cost is a stab in the dark \$800 to \$1500, which is something to aim for. The theme will be about the Founding fathers and their faith in building church 13 years after the State was settled. So we are hoping the founding families might find this attractive to invest in.

Acknowledgements

Thank you all for your contributions for supporting the church in its mission of outreach to the community and making sure there is continuation of a place of worship in Cherry Gardens for 166 years. We are all so dependent on one another and of course the Lord for all this to happen. I think the Lord would say "well done you good and faithful servants".

Alan Dube
Chair
Congregational Council
Cherry Gardens Church
9th June, 2015

