**Chairman’s report for 2016 – 2017**

By God’s grace we have had another successful year. A good proportion of this success has been the addition of two more members to the Leaders Management Team sharing the load and improving the decision making. Thank you to the members of the team Margaret Seyfang, Pastor, Dianne Dyson, Secretary and Phyllis Williamson, Treasurer, for all their hard work this year. Thanks as well to our Auditor, Darryl Dyson.

We have achieved our goals of interacting with community through the Anzac service, Carols, regularly contributing to the “Cherry Chatter” and hosting the Garden club. All these activities are aimed at building community. We hope in the longer term that the history group can also involve members of the community. As part of our outreach lay preachers Max Winter and Alan Light are preaching at small churches in the area. Jim Ward, Ron Williamson and myself have assisted Meadows Church in the refurbishment of the hall at the church, Jim doing the architectural drawings, Ron identifying problems and I have worked and advised on their grant applications. Gill Marshman was involved in an international aid program in West Timor and great things are happening in that work, this is also an outreach. We continue to fund various Christian aid organisations including John Symons’s work in Kenya.

Christmas Carols were a wonderful celebration and a great success. For the first time in many years the local Hall was filled to overflowing. We have spent some time trying to determine what contributed to the excellent result and concluded there were a number of factors, our hand delivered invitations, MacDonald’s small animal farm, the “Sherrahs” a gospel singing group, and the weather. There were more children and there was an increase in grandparents with grand children. We would like to replicate this success again this year.

Our pastor has worked very hard, resulting in excellent worship, preachers with different points of view and good music. We thank our worship leaders and our technologist Lyle Seyfang and all who contribute well to making our worship so good. The Pastor has been challenged by new firsts; one was a funeral of a local identity who was not a Christian, it was very successful and very well attended. It was good to get some community members into the church and to familiarize themselves with our history and facilities.

Our church Newsletter edited by Trevor Fletcher is well received being very informative and interesting; our thanks to Trevor and our Pastor for their contributions. It is distributed outside the church and is on the website as well.

We now have social occasions for members, usually a luncheon. This has been successful, the aim being to bring the members closer together; this is a fellowship and fun time. A new activity is for our congregation to attend church at other local churches. This was stimulated by our Church being visited by Meadows church. Visiting is an old tradition: it builds communication between other churches in our region and we learn from that.

The church is increasingly used by other churches for retreats. Perhaps we could publicize this more, people will be aware that we exist and also their donations are useful.

Our numbers are down but we have highly committed Christians and a strong core to do something about this. Hopefully this will be a topic for the Leaders Meeting to discuss and develop a plan that will be put to the members to decide on what we will deliver to the community and more broadly.

After the completion of the new meeting room we have continued with improvements to the Church. We have just started a portico for the western door of the gallery to stop rain getting into it. It was our plan to get a hot water service for our kitchen and that now looks to be a reality. The Garden Club has submitted a grant application to Onkaparinga City for an under sink hot water service for us. This grant required partial financial support from the Club to which they have kindly agreed. Our contribution will be the cost of installing.

In association with the Heritage Adviser we have been determining the priority for repairs to the church’s stonework. This is in preparation for submission of a grant application to Onkaparinga City for partial funding.

The Heritage Adviser informed us that the wooden fence around Isaac Jacob’s grave is the oldest in the Fleurieu area and possibly the state. The Jacobs family has carefully looked after this fence for a very long time but recently the rails felt spongy which was a result of fungal rotting. Under the Heritage Adviser’s supervision, the fence had some more star droppers added for support of the rails and the timber treated to kill the fungus.

The website continues to grow both in the amount of information it carries and in the number of people using it. The total clicks on page content were 4518.

The history group continues in its aims by finding information on the church’s history and its members.

Lastly thank you to the members of the church for their kind support for this year.

God Bless

Alan Dube

Chair Congregational Council

5th June 2017