

## **Congregation Chairperson's report for 2018-2019**

With God's grace we have progressed through another year. At the 2018 Annual General Meeting, Margaret Seyfang continued as Pastor of the Church, Ruth Work was elected as Treasurer, Dianne Dyson continued as Secretary and Darryl Dyson continued as Chairperson.

Our pastor, Margaret Seyfang decided to relinquish her role as pastor at the end of September 2018 and with her husband, Lyle is now worshipping at Ascot Community Church. We thank Margaret and Lyle for their work for our church over the years that they were with us. Managing their various responsibilities was a significant task. Anthony Hails has taken over responsibility for data projection from Lyle, Dianne Dyson took over quite a workload including the roster and Darryl Dyson the Newsletter and Cherry Chatter articles with assistance from other members of the congregation. The newsletter is on the website as well. No discussion has been held yet on whether we will look for another pastor.

Jane and Rob Linn, Steph Dube and John Howland have joined the Leadership and Management Team. We are grateful that we now have a team of 7 which includes Ruth Work, Dianne and Darryl Dyson.

The trial of closing the church on the fifth Sunday of the month was discontinued as our secretary found that there were so many people who were prepared to take on the various responsibilities for running the church. Alec McFarlane has taken on some of the music as well as some members of Coro Baptist Church, who now help us regularly. We are blessed with varied and bountiful food each Sunday for morning tea.

During May we had an excellent shared barbecue lunch at the home of Jane and Rob Linn and another outing is planned for September at the Atelier Café, Crafers. The church is occasionally used by other churches for studies and retreats.

Our congregation numbers are down somewhat, so it is imperative that the congregation considers action to address this situation.

The Building Committee has continued to work with the City of Onkaparinga to resolve issues caused by old roadworks in the 1960s that placed earth against the entrance porch wall. This has caused damage to both the entrance porch and the church itself. Drawings by architect, Jim Ward in conjunction with Ron Williamson's experience as a builder have been invaluable. The old bell tower has been re-erected on the northern side of the Church. Stone Mason, David Habel has completed repointing damaged and decayed mortar around the church building. We are grateful for a Heritage Grant from the City of Onkaparinga that helped us with both the re-pointing and re-erection of the bell tower.

Gill Marshman continues to be involved in an international aid program in West Timor and great things are happening in that work.

We regularly make various donations. The following are those made during 2018:

- Assemblies of God- Symons support \$50 a month Total \$600.00
- Second chances \$100.00 January 2018
- Second chances \$150.00 Nov 2018

- Samaritans purse \$100.00 May 2018
- Mission-  
UC mission & service fund \$110.00
- Interserve - Kath Williams \$150.00
- Act for Peace/Christmas Bowl \$200.00
- Assemblies of God - Symons support January to June 2019 \$300

Once again, we co-hosted the Anzac service in April 2019, organized and ran the Community Christmas Carols evening in December 2018, made regular contributions to the “Cherry Chatter” newsletter and hosted the Garden club.

The 2018 Community Carols attracted more than 150 adults and children. Face Painting, a balloon twister and craft activities were actively pursued by the many children who attended. We are happy to thank the Cherry Gardens Memorial Hall Committee, who provide the excellent venue free of charge for us each year, the Cherry Chatter committee for their support and publicity, our MC, Gill Marshman, Tabor Music, especially Dr Janelle Fletcher and music students, Beth, Sam and Nahni and soloist, Gabrielle King (Gabbi). Rebekah Nelson accompanied by John Penberthy sang The Holy City and The Little Drummer Boy. A high quality sound system was provided by Anthony Stewart of Red Brick Music and Steve Sherrah, vision by Anthony Hails, the members of the Cherry Gardens Uniting Church for setting up, for the supper, publicity, transporting the Clavinova etc., the organising Committee: Steph Dube, Gill Marshman and Dianne Dyson, Mr. Alan Light, the Cherry Gardens Men’s Poetry Group, especially the help from Terry Whittle in organising them. There were more children and once again there were families and grandparents with grandchildren.

We would like to replicate this success again this year, and have a small grant from the City of Onkaparinga to assist with expenses. Steph Dube has taken on oversight of organizing the Community Carols and is looking for a small committee to assist her with this task.

On 17 March 2019, we celebrated 170 years since our church was opened, as a combined effort by the Bible Christians and Wesleyan Methodists. Around 90 people enjoyed the message from Reverend David Houston “Becoming More Than We Have Been”. Worship Leaders were Stephanie Dube and Dianne Dyson, music by John Penberthy and Lynne Whellan, and sound and vision by Anthony Hails. Prayers were by Rob Linn and Bible Readers were Stephanie Dube and Margaret Jacobs. The old church bell tower had been re-erected prior to the anniversary and the bell was tolled with gusto by Margaret Jacobs. The President of the Conference, Dr. Deidre Palmer brought greetings from the Assembly. Grateful thanks go to the many volunteers who helped prior to and on the day. Video footage and photos by Darryl Dyson.

A sumptuous morning tea followed with Margaret Jacobs and Margaret Bennett cutting the 170<sup>th</sup> birthday cake which was made especially for the occasion by Lee-Anne Bain of Strathalbyn. This was a special time of celebration, reflection and fellowship.

With significant help from Jim Ward and Alan Dube, the Jacobs Family is about to replace the fence around the Jacobs grave. Alan Dube has applied for a grant to assist with the cost.

Darryl Dyson  
Chairperson of the Congregational Council  
31 July 2019