



Burnside City  
Uniting Church  
*Community, Faith and Purpose*

## BURNSIDE CITY UNITING CHURCH

Burnside City Uniting Church is a new and modern church in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide.

People from all ages and across a growing diversity of nationalities are calling Burnside City Uniting Church home.

Our vision is to be; "A vibrant community, committed to Jesus, passionately engaged in Mission". This is not something we just talk about but seek to live out through a variety of weekend services and mid-week ministries and programs.



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Uniting Church  
*Community, Faith and Purpose*

384 Portrush Road  
Tusmore, SA 5065  
Phone: 8331 3914  
Email: [admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au](mailto:admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au)  
[www.burnsidecityuc.org.au](http://www.burnsidecityuc.org.au)



## Burnside City Uniting Church AGM Report 2018

*A vibrant community  
Committed to Jesus  
Passionately engaged in mission*

## Chairperson of Church Council

This year had many challenges but we emerge from it with an exciting future. At the start of the year bidding farewell to Matthew Bond, with Linda Driver having left a few months prior left us requiring supply ministers. We were most fortunate that Gary Stuckey who had filled in for Linda agreed to stay and Rob Williams increased his time. Both gave us wonderful support and Gary introduced us to meditative worship. Moreover, we utilised our rich congregational resource of lay preachers and pastoral care teams and this will serve us well in the coming years. When Gary left in September we welcomed Trevor Klar as a supply minister and look forward to his focus on small group ministry.

The bright news is that Benji Callen from Port Lincoln felt the call to join us and fulfilled the prayerful expectations of the Joint Nominating Committee and so has been appointed as our minister next year. He has the experience and drive to take BCUC to its next level. We have spent some time constructing the BCUC organisational chart so that he and we know the extent of our resources and service.

We have been concerned about the church budget and the declining giving. An interim ministry is no time for a formal giving campaign but we have encouraged our members to reconsider their giving in the light of the costs of modern living. Because we have saved on salaries due to the generosity of our interim ministers, we have some breathing space this year but certainly face a deficit budget next year. Major projects to do with our property and our mission will certainly receive a boost following the resolution of the Mission Trust Fund management issues with Synod which will see us appoint local managers.

We have made some changes to how Council communicates with the congregation by regular reports from the Chair in CHATS and our new congregational forum CHATS Live where issues can be raised and be placed straight onto the Council agenda. Probably the most challenging issue for congregations is the Assembly decision on same gender marriage. Although there is more to play out, it has been pleasing that this has led to mature, respectful discussions at BCUC where both the issues of basic beliefs about marriage and the desire for unity as brothers and sisters in Christ are being worked through.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of Council for their support and rigorous contributions to the life of BCUC. We mourn the loss of Julie-anne Bingham but are grateful that we have had the opportunity to serve on Council with her.

We look forward to the inevitable change ahead and hope that those who want to help drive the change will join us on Council for 2019.

**Ian Oliver**  
**Chair of Church Council**

## Choir

Throughout 2017 – 2018 the choir has continued to contribute an Introit and an Anthem to the Classic Service. We have a faithful membership of 17 singers who meet each Thursday evening at 7.30pm for practice and fellowship.

The music we sing is sourced mainly from the traditional church repertoire. There are a number of contemporary composers who are responsible for interesting music and we sing their works where appropriate.

In July the choir was invited to Clayton Wesley UC to sing at their morning service. We sang “Lift thine eyes” from Mendelssohn’s “Elijah” and a Bach Chorale. These were received with grateful enthusiasm.

The choir will always welcome new members especially those who sing, or would like to learn to sing either Tenor or Alto. We are happy to provide some one-to-one lessons if that would help.

If you feel that you could contribute in some way, Keith or Lois would be pleased to speak with you.

**Keith Maynard**

**Lois Brooks**

## Stretchers Small Group

This Study Group meets twice monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at the home of Di and Mike Croft. The group has welcomed one new member this year. Our average attendance is 12. Leadership is shared amongst the members.

This past year we have undertaken a variety of study material including:

- The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm
- Lenten Studies prepared by Rev. Dr. Gary Stuckey
- The Beatitudes
- Jesus the Game Changer – a DVD series – four sessions - Jesus, Equality, Forgiveness and Care.

In early September we started “Unwrapping Joy” a five-session study written by Rev. Benji Callen.

We all attended a lecture at BCUC by Peter Pollock in June.

Whilst we have grown in our Christian faith, we have also strengthened our bonds of love and care for each other. This is particularly evident when members are experiencing difficult times with health issues.

Fellowship continues over a cuppa at the end of the evening.

**Di Croft**  
**Convenor**

## Facilities Mission Support Area

This Committee continues to care for the Church Centre and the three manses. In recent years, the Kennaway St Manse has benefitted from a major renovation while the Portrush Rd manse has had significant renovation work carried out. As our new minister is moving into the former of these, some renovation work will be done on the Greenhill Rd manse to maintain its value. While the cost is high, nearly all of this work has been paid for from the Manse Renovation Fund and one generous donation. Increased rent agreed to will pay for the rest.

Our 'new' Church Centre is now 7 years old and the maintenance work needed is steadily increasing. In addition, the scope of legal requirements for safety measures and checking by authorised inspectors continues to grow. When necessary, we use tradespeople who have been carefully checked for quality of work and price. Otherwise the work is done on a voluntary basis, mainly by the members of the Committee. Current members are: Brian Richards, Chris Lake, Chris Rogers, Di Croft, James Wilson, Keith Maynard, Leigh Duffett, Malcolm Lake, Peter Wierenga, Ros Duffett, Thomas Pruszinski and Wayne Booth, each with specific areas of responsibility.

***Keith Maynard***  
***Secretary***

## Seniors Second Sunday Lunch

On the second Sunday of each month we enjoy fellowship over a meal after the service. The cost is \$6 for hot chicken and salad then a platter of fruit for dessert in the foyer.

Last year numbers varied between 35 and 40. This year numbers are down and vary between 28-32.

Murray Warner collects the hot chicken and Patricia Holliday helps me prepare the meal. It is a wonderful way to share with each other and develop friendships.

***Anita Wheaton,***  
***Coordinator***

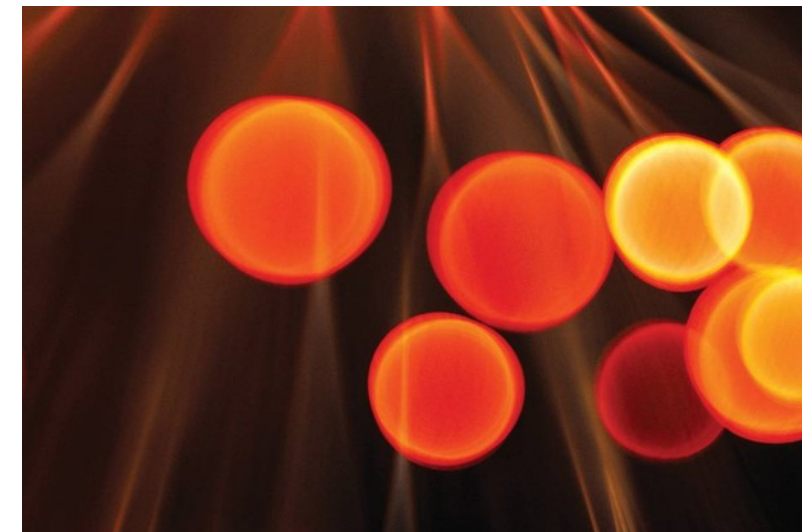
## Rev Rob Williams

The last 12 months have marked significant changes in the ministry entrusted to me at BCUC. My paid ministry responsibilities have increased from 0.2 FTE at the end of January 2018 to 0.4 FTE at present. This current commitment will continue until the end of January 2019.

Basically, my main areas of ministry remain the same – Pastoral Care and Preaching. I have been a member of Church Council since January this year which has been invaluable, giving me a broader understanding of the overall life and mission of our congregation. I experience each of these ministry areas as 'life-giving' to me and I hope to those with whom I have contact. I commend our Pastoral Care Team with Ruth Daws as its Convenor and all Pastoral Contacts for the way they have 'stepped up' throughout this time of transition in our congregation. It has also been a blessing to me and I believe to our congregation, to share in worship with those who, for the first time have responded to God's call on them to preach, as well as those who have returned to preaching more frequently than in the past.

God has been blessing us during the last year. I believe those blessings will continue in the year ahead.

***Rob Williams***  
***Minister in Association***





# BCUC Cares

The BCUC Cares Group formed some 5 years ago under the leadership of Mary Grace, as an expression of BCUC's concern for those seeking asylum in Australia, and others in need.

This year, the BCUC community has again responded very generously to needs identified by the BCUC Cares Group, by.

funding school fees for the children of a widowed refugee mother, and providing regular in-home tuition for the children, and support for the family;

supplying sewing machines and other items for 26 refugee families across Adelaide, as part of the Sewing Machine Project for Refugees initiated by our sister in Christ, JulieAnne Bingham;

donating grocery and other consumable items each month to support the work of Uniting Communities based at Clayton-Wesley Uniting Church; supporting an appeal by the Uniting Church and Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress for funds to build a worship and ministry centre in Oodnadatta;

embarking on a journey to better understand and participate in the Covenantal relationship between the Uniting Church and Australia's First People; and

conducting a free 3 week course in February aimed at helping people with budgeting, reducing their debt and taking control of their financial situation. The course was based on the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) program developed in the UK in 1996 and now offered around the world. For more about CAP go to <http://www.capaust.org/About-Us/The-CAP-Story>

Funds allocated to the BCUC Cares Group in the 2018 budget have been used to support these ministries, and, like the loaves and fishes in the Gospel story, have been multiplied many times over by the generous giving of other groups and individuals both within and beyond BCUC.

**Peter Shackleford**  
**Convenor**

# Giving

The annual "Stewardship Campaign" normally conducted during the month of August was put on hold until 2019 due to our current interim ministry situation. When our new minister takes up his placement in the New Year and becomes established, the format of our Giving program will be further considered.

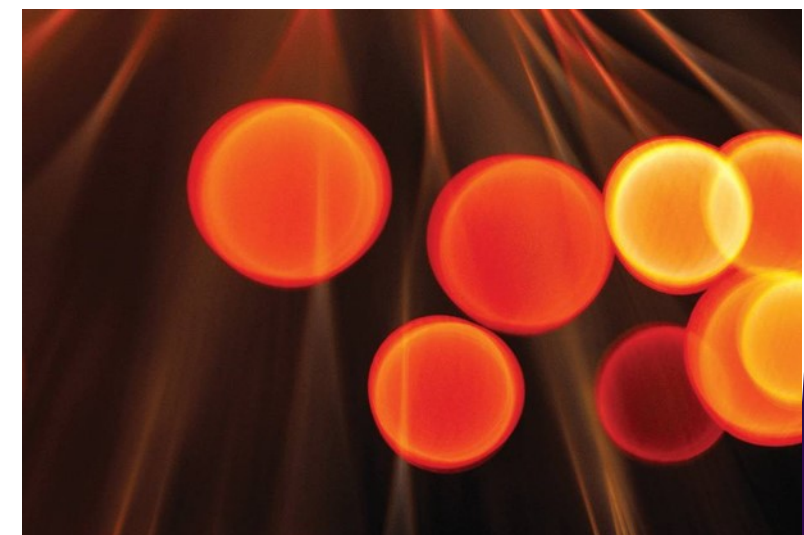
During the year we have experienced a gradual reduction in our giving trends through natural attrition with people leaving by movement away or bereavement and our income growth is really not replacing this and is therefore not sufficient for future needs.

In lieu of the annual campaign, it was decided to have a continuous review. To this end, three brochures were developed and printed on different coloured paper for easy identification. These are -

- **Regular Giving 2018-2019** designed for members of the Congregation to review their giving now to cover the position over the next year.
- **Donations** designed to assist where making a donation outside of regular giving to the church general fund or to the Mission Trust Fund.
- **Bequests and Estate Planning** which provides detailed explanatory information.

Should you need to discuss or require further information on the above, please speak to Mrs Gill Cibich or I will be happy to make time to confidentially discuss any matters with you.

**Ray Nicholson**  
**Recorder**



## Junior Church

Every Sunday morning, at around 9.20am a few adults are lead out of the sanctuary by the young BCUC members for a half hour of learning, fun and activities. This half hour in the week is the most fulfilling period of the week for the adults as well as the young BCUC members.

As adults it is a learning experience unbelievable. It involves learning by doing, learning by listening and learning by questioning. Young people are concrete thinkers and by using their bodies to act, speak, make, and share, they widen their own understandings of the church and their faith.

Together the children have made, over this past 12 months, some outstanding pieces of work depicting their faith, as evident on the walls of their rooms and quite often seen in the foyer.

Our young BCUC membership is approximately 22, although we pray to grow in numbers. However, our adult team is lacking in volunteers? If you want to be part of this wonderful learning experience, come join us.

***Gaynor Strapp/Heather Walraven***  
***Convenors***

## Thursday Friendship Club

Friendship Club celebrated its 16th Anniversary in August and we invite new members. We have 20 members on the roll but attendances vary between 14-16.

We begin at 12noon with lunch (soup, main course then a slice of cake with tea or coffee). At 1pm we begin our activities, Scrabble or Canasta, then conclude at 3pm.

We enjoy celebrating birthday's with a decorated sponge and all the trimmings.

For the last few weeks members have brought their own sandwich for lunch while I have a sore shoulder.

***Anita Wheaton and Nancy Wood,***  
***Coordinators***

## Tuesday Ladies Table Tennis

Every Tuesday morning around twelve ladies meet in the Activities Room to enjoy playing table tennis. This activity is a wonderful social outlet as we also share morning tea, conversation and celebrate each others birthdays.

This year the group has financially supported Kids Camp Out, Operation Christmas Child and we gave a donation to the Women's Ministry Group to help towards buying some Mother's Day gifts as well as our usual donation to BCUC. We also purchased a new electric kettle for the kitchen servery to replace a broken one.

New players are always welcome.

Blessings,

***Marlene Richards***  
***Convenor***

## Library

A steady flow of people continue to browse and borrow from the Church Library.

Over the last twelve months we have bought a second display shelf, so that as well as in the Foyer as in the Activities room, peoples' eyes will be directed to recently acquired books and DVDs. Or, where 'treasures' usually on the shelves and harder to find, can attract attention.

The Librarians hereby thank all who have made donations. In order to make way for new acquisitions, we have twice this year held a "book give-away" in the Foyer, which have proved popular with church members and others using the Church facilities.

We finish with a request to all library users : please remember to return any books within six weeks; DVDs in two. Thank you !

***The Library team,***  
***Judy Carne, Owen Davis, Anneke van de Loo***

# Operation Christmas Child

Our congregation has supported this project for many years, last year completing 138 boxes. Our shoeboxes of small gifts left South Australia in the first container, which went to Madagascar. Many of the children had never received a gift from anyone!

Four years ago an exciting new opportunity started for the children. As well as receiving a shoebox, they were invited to learn about God and his love by attending a course called **The Greatest Journey**. Many children have now given their lives to the Lord and new Churches have been planted. A simple shoebox is creating many opportunities!

There are several ways we can all support the program:

- Donate small, new items for the boxes
- Make a donation to help cover all project and shipping costs
- Pack your own box

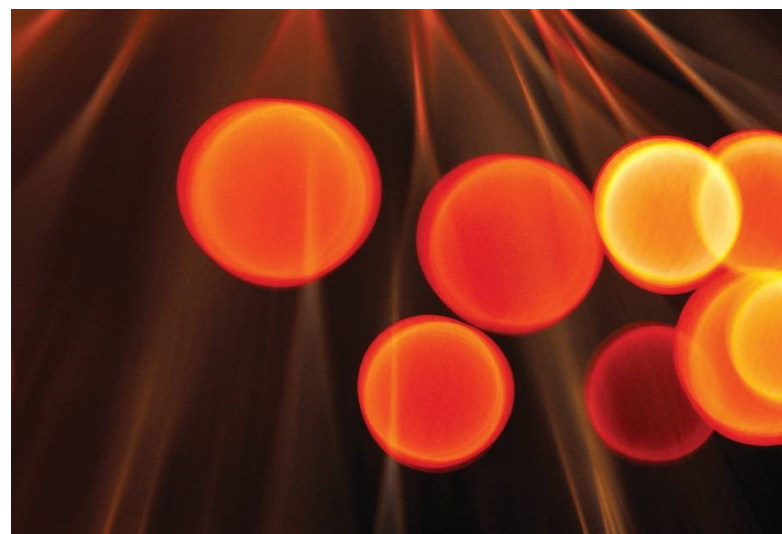
Pray for the children who will receive our boxes

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary worldwide of the Operation Christmas Child project as part of Samaritan's Purse.

Whilst the shoeboxes are packed in October each year, the collection of items, knitting and sewing occurs all year. If you are interested in being involved, please speak with Di.

**Di Croft**

**Convenor of Operation Christmas Child**



## Dr Jon's

We are now in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of supporting the work of Dr Jon in Northern Thailand amongst the ethnic groups of people who have fled from persecution in Myanmar; their homes and lively-hoods having been destroyed.

Dr Jon, a British trained doctor, has given medical care and all manner of social support to these refugee families. He has been instrumental in starting a school for the many refugee children.

As in previous years various products, mostly jams, marmalades, relish and chutneys have been readily bought by members of BCUC, and visitors to functions in the building.

We are thankful for all the support and donations throughout this year, which have contributed substantially to Dr Jon's ability to cover living expenses. Recycling your 'deposit' cans and bottles have assisted us too, as well as purchasing entertainment vouchers and the occasional sale of plants and fresh produce.

**The Pantry team,**

**Di and Mike Croft, Anneke van de Loo**

## KCO 2017

KCO was quite an adventure this year with thunder, lightning, rain and strong winds. Consequently it was cancelled two hours after it was due to begin! However in that time we enjoyed games in the hall, a concert and communion.

The tents, which had been erected needed to be taken down and the perishable food shared among the campers.

Some families stayed in the Victor area and enjoyed swimming, or climbing a well loved fig tree, whilst other children had sleepovers. It was a weekend of fun, fellowship, and wise decisions.

Many thanks for the continued generous support from the church community.

**Gaynor Strapp**

**Convenor**



# Monday Day Fellowship

A good year has been [informative and interesting insight in the diverse and fascinating Gahad](#) by all. Much variation, interest and fellowship.

March , Deb Mugford spoke on her work with Bright Futures in India, Kenya and Uganda.

In April, a most lapacus Islands was given by Ian Olver, when many of the congregation joined us.

Our first bus trip was to the Ingle Theatre. Enjoyed by all ,much reminiscing.

Life of a Policeman was the topic in June. The very interesting life of Sandy Morey.

At this meeting we said farewell to our late member and friend Jesse Watt.

July is always birthday month. The West Croydon Singers entertained us, followed by a gourmet afternoon tea. Members of the fellowship and congregation brought friends for this celebration making a great day.

The Burnside Council member Kate Kenning informed us of all the services that are available for the aged. A most valuable afternoon giving us this information that many of us had no knowledge. She also informed us of the Government My Aged Care Program. This was in August.

Dr Robert Waltham , retired Cardiologist ,an excellent speaker, used a power point presentation on “How Long Can we Live”. This was presented with a great sense of humour.

October bus trip will be to Tickle Tank. The original water tanks supplying water to Mt Barker, purchased by Irene Stone Pearce and developed into a lovely home and garden. What an achievement.

November Heather Maynard will inform us of the Life Line Program.

The year ending in December with light entertainment, chat and a High Tea.

Donations have been given to Red Dove Cafe, Operation Christmas Child, Frontier Services, Uniting Communities, School Chaplain Program, and OzHarvest SA

We always welcome and encourage to our meetings, visitors for any interesting meeting and of course our regular members

***Ruth Daws***  
***Convenor***

# Women’s Ministry

Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup> – 24 women attended an Outback Links breakfast from 9 – 11am at the home of Antoinette Morris. This successful morning in a beautiful garden setting raised \$280.00 from the collection and a further \$300.00 was donated to Outback Links from the Women’s Ministry funds.

Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> - Election Day helpers were rostered on the cake and plant stalls in the church foyer with money raised going to Schools Ministry.

Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> – 15 women gathered in the church hall at 1.30pm to wrap Mother’s Day gifts for distribution to residents at both Estia Health and Clayton Church Homes on Mother’s Day. After lovingly wrapping 100 gifts we enjoyed afternoon tea and fellowship.

Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup> – Jocelyn and Ray Nicholson gave a talk in the church hall at 7.30pm on their recent Antarctic adventure and this was followed by supper.

Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup> – A group of 13 women cleaned and tidied the church kitchen and servery areas and this was followed by coffee and cake and a short meeting where we decided to distribute some of our funds to the following worthy organisations –

RAHAB (an outreach to women in the sex industry) \$400

Leprosy Mission \$150

Operation Christmas Child \$250

2 new sewing machines to refugee women (through BCUC Cares) \$200

Oodnadatta Building Appeal \$400

To purchase new plastic water jugs for church use to replace the heavy glass ones.

Wednesday July 18<sup>th</sup> – This was the second year that Ann Ellis hosted a fun afternoon of playing the Quiddler card game in her home. Sixteen women attended and this was also an opportunity to support a new group called “Love, Hope and Gratitude” who are based in Mt Barker to assist victims of domestic violence. Essential items and also pamper items were donated on the afternoon and then delivered to Mt Barker by Di and Ann.

Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup> – a delicious Pancake Brunch held at the home of Ruth Daws from 9.30am. Donations from this event went to the Frontier Services Drought Support Appeal.

Special thanks goes to Jocelyn Nicholson as data base and communication manager and to Di Croft who handles the financial records and transactions. Please contact Jocelyn if you would like to receive email information on our upcoming events.

***Marlene Richards***  
***Convenor***

## Monday Communion

At BCUC we take communion on the third Sunday of the month. The following day (Monday) there is another opportunity to share the elements in the Chapel during a short service conducted by one of our Ministers. Some of our older members, who for various reasons find it difficult to attend on Sundays, appreciate this time to worship, pray and share communion within a caring group of friends.

We are very grateful to Gary and Rob who have conducted this monthly service with sensitivity and care for those attending. They are always available at the conclusion of the service for private prayer.

A time of fellowship concludes the afternoon.

**Di Croft**  
**Convenor**

## Sri Lankan Christian Fellowship

Sri Lankan Christian Fellowship is a gathering of Christians predominantly from Sri Lanka, South East Asia and also some Australians.

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month, at the Burnside City Uniting Church (BCUC) at 7.00 pm. Our prayer time begins at 7.00 pm leading on to the Service proper at 7.30pm followed by a time of Fellowship.

The goal of SLCF is to reach out to the Sri Lankan/ South East Asian communities that consist of people belonging to *other faiths and traditions* with the message of the *Gospel*. We are in a continual process of establishing relationships so that they too may see and hear the Message of Christ through our interactions. We continue to build on the foundation of *Prayer, Study of God's Word and Fellowship* and make efforts to '*reach the unreached*.'

On behalf of the SLCF, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the BCUC and its Pastoral/ Eldership Team for their continual support, kindness and generosity over the years.

**John Hapuarachchi**  
**Chairperson, SLCF**

## Administration Mission Support Area

The Administration Mission Support Area's role is to work with and support other Mission Action and Mission Support Areas with administration tasks. Communication and consultation is key for these overlapping areas.

In 2018 our Administrator Deb responded to a special request from Bright Futures to work with them two days per week. The BCUC Council supported the reduction of her hours and employed a part time casual administrator to undertake some of the tasks. Stuart Macadam was appointed and became responsible for the web site, scrolling notices and newsletter. The job share had its challenges but worked well over time, with Stuart successfully able to work off-site for some weeks.

The focus on the web site continued over 2018 with the decisions made in 2017 consolidated and carried through. As a first point of contact the web site continues to be important to BCUC's relationship with the local community as well as our own BCUC community.

With the interim arrangement of part time Ministers more has been asked of the Administration area in orienting, inducting and coordinating support for the Ministers. Our thanks go to Deb for the major role she played in this and in sharing her knowledge and experience within BCUC as issues arose that needed attention.

There is much still to be done and in 2019 the focus will need to be on adjusting to the altered way of functioning within BCUC's structure – requests for volunteers and for people to share their skills in the Administration support area have not been successful in 2018 so many tasks have been more difficult or are left 'pending'.

With no full time Minister in place I took on the role of line manager at the request of Church Council. I would like to thank Deb and Stuart for their dedication to their tasks, their willingness to work together and their positive cooperation to support myself and BCUC's complex community.

**Valerie Aloa**  
**Convenor**



# BCUC Netball Club

Our Netball Club has just finished it's 5th year of competition. Since our last report we've competed in a Summer 2017/18 and Winter 2018 season. Last summer we fielded 9 teams, and of these teams 8 competed in finals, and of these, 4 reached the Grand Final, and our Under 17 team won the premiership. A very successful season, with a larger than normal summer break whilst new courts were laid - which are marvellous to play on compared with the old courts! For Winter season we fielded 5 teams in the SA United Church competition however this year we introduced the option for players to have matches on a Monday night, as it was highlighted last year that we didn't cater for players who could not play on Saturday afternoons. This resulted in two extra teams playing in the Eastern Districts Competition under the Burnside City Uniting Church Netball Club name. Both of the Monday night teams reached finals with the Div 6 team narrowly missing out on the premiership by 2 goals. Of the five Saturday afternoon teams, 3 made finals with 2 teams finishing runners up. We also had two teams compete in the Junior Carnival during the July school holidays, where players had a round robin competition and played around 7 games each for the day!

Another highlight of the Winter Season was having four players and one of our coaches represent the SA United Church Association in Sydney in the October school holidays. Congratulations to Richard Pak Poy (coach), Erin Mackenzie, Amy Gabrielsen, Alexarah Harris and Zoe Parsalidis whose team came 2nd in the Under 17 competition. A great achievement!

Our club numbers remain steady this summer, with 8 teams competing, being four senior teams, one Under 17, two Under 15 and an Under 13 team (including one boy). It would be a challenge to grow the club further, as finding volunteers to coach and assist in running the club is always difficult. We would ideally like a Burnside City Uniting Church member to be on our committee as a liason between the church and the netball club, and help to nourish the relationship between the church and the netballers. Netballers already have a sense of mateship and community, and I'm sure there's potential to nurture that within the BCUC community. We thank Isobel Williams, who attended and spoke of her sporting and other achievements and challenges she faced growing up, at our end of season breakup in August.

Ruth Daws our President often remarks how wonderful it is that our club has attracted such wonderful young people and their families. All players show respect and sportsmanship on and off court - not to mention loads of skill and determination on court. Above all the players enjoy themselves and love the game which is very satisfying to all looking on!

**Cathie Malyschko**  
**Coordinator**

# Worship and Music Ministry

This year we have taken time to consider what we are doing now and where we seek to be over the next 5 years. We remain contemporary and intergenerational focused and have been thrilled that the senior Junior Church class has led our worship service, three times this year. We continued to welcome new WAMM members with a new guitarist, singers and additions to our tech team, including two young men from Junior Church who will be mentored into the team. We have also continued to include new names in our worship roster, in all areas. These are exciting times.

This year has also been the year where our vision for serving 'Café Coffee' has been fulfilled. One of our young adults and his friend decided to take this vision forward. Now most Sundays they are there with the espresso machine ready to serve fantastic coffee (or hot chocolate) from 8:30, until 11am. The vision is for people to pause and share their faith over a no-cost café quality coffee. The time in-between our two service times is an ideal time for everyone to come together, every week, as one church family. Please plan to have a coffee before the Classic or Café services and you can catch-up with those coming out from 9am...

We continue to look at the 'ah - wow....' moments in worship that allow us to listen, look, think and experience worship in a new and sometimes even exciting, different – or confronting/challenging way. Each week we aim to do something that is new or creative, so that our Church family might experience God in a different way. The team has done much work in this area.

We have had the opportunity to attend a 4 week course organised by the CMLA – (Centre of music liturgy and the arts) working through the book 'The Art of Curating worship' written by Rev Mark Pierson. A couple of our team were fortunate to attend an intergenerational conference and we are preparing to have one of the UCA InterGen team, come and speak with us as a church. We have attended a couple of Hillsong-led conferences organised by the Journey Church and some of our Junior Church attended one that was specifically focused for them. Our final conference for this year was 'The Revelation Conference' led by Rev Mark Peterson. In addition, a couple of our team have been able to attend Hillsong in Sydney. These are all such great and inspirational times of worship and forward thinking.

We are excitedly planning some 'in-house' workshops and training specifically for all Tech teams and those interested in learning more about what our system can do or just learning how to use it.

We really appreciated Gary and how through a presence of peace and calm, we had the opportunity to see things and do things differently. He taught new ways to many of us through the use of prayer and meditation. We also thank Trevor for this time of transitioning us in preparation for Rev. Benji Callen.

We regularly pray and listen to God, so that we can be the church that He has called us to be.

**Michelle Pruszinski.**  
**9am - Worship and Music Ministry Coordinator**

# Prayer Chain

There are approximately 60 people who pray for situations sent in from members of BCUC. Requests are generally via the Prayer Chain email and I send them along the chain for prayer. A bi-monthly update is emailed to members, and also mailed to several members who prefer receiving it that way. The prayer requests vary from life-endangering and changing situations, to daily worries and fears. We also pray for and share times of great joy, and it is always special to share news of answered prayer. For the past several months, stories of answered prayers have featured in the Chats magazine.

What of the challenges and goals? They remain unchanged:

- Increase the prayer chain members, both electronically and by mail.
- Encourage those who are less physically able to join in prayer.
- Encourage prayer requests from the congregation. More than 90% of the requests still come from the ministry team and members of the prayer chain, rather than the congregation.

For prayer requests (which are kept confidential), to join this ministry and any questions you might want answered first, please contact: Jenny Olver (see details in the church directory)  
[prayer@burnsidecityuc.org.au](mailto:prayer@burnsidecityuc.org.au)

**Jenny Olver**  
**Coordinator**

## Playgroup

Our children, parents, grandparents and carers have enjoyed another year of friendship, craft, play, story and singing with families connecting and caring in a deep and positive way. New members continue to come along each week and we are consistently seeing 13-25 families, with over 60 families on our books.

Playgroup is a great way to play with your child or baby with the support and friendship of others. We offer a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities and crafts. Tables are set up in the hall with craft activities, painting, puzzles, play dough and fruit where families can move about freely as desired. Just before playgroup finishes we have a pack up time where everyone puts the toys away before a short structured time of singing and stories.

Our aim is to provide a caring Christian environment for parents to explore creative play and have fun with their children. We encourage families to be involved with helping with the cutting up of fruit, leading the singing time or reading the story. I believe it is important for the families to take ownership of the group, as this promotes a caring and loving environment.

Playgroup is co-ordinated by Diane Schutz, (who started in this role in May 2017) assisted by volunteers, Gaynor, Jinitha and when needed Roweena. It is a missional outreach of BCUC; a place where many families from the wider community come with their children and receive support and encouragement in relaxed, positive surroundings. New volunteers are always welcome.

We continue to pray that God will reveal Himself to families at Playgroup through the love they receive, the conversations that are had and through the ministry offered.

**Diane Schutz**  
**Playgroup Co-ordinator**

mainly music



Being involved in mainly music on Monday mornings is a great way to begin the week! From 10:00am to 11:30am songs and rhymes give 20-23 families opportunity to dance and sing about the world we live in and our loving God. Morning tea and playtime follow. We celebrate the children's birthdays, Mothers' and Fathers' Days, Easter & Christmas.

The mainly music team members are Marie Roberts, Verna Drexel, Lisa Price, Leonie & Bob Clarke, Ros Spangler and Chris Lake. We are ably assisted by a great group of helpers who come as often as they can. Thank you all for your loving service to the families who attend.

We have parents who are bringing their second and third children and so we are able to build caring relationships with them over the years. Once a year we have an evening programme so that fathers and other siblings can come. Grandpas and Grandmas often bring grandchildren.

The underpinning aims of mainly music which guide us are generosity, creativity, connection, celebration and honour.

We are now in our 11<sup>th</sup> year and anyone who would like to help the programme in any way is very welcome to speak to Chris Lake, arrange a visit to see the programme in action and discover how they could be involved.

**Chris Lake**  
**Convenor**





# HizBiz—A BCUC Fellowship Group for Men



It has become the custom for this group to begin the year with a meal and movie night at BCUC on the last Tuesday in January. This year we enjoyed sharing seafood and chips followed by the movie, **“Wesley - A Heart Transformed Can Change the World”**

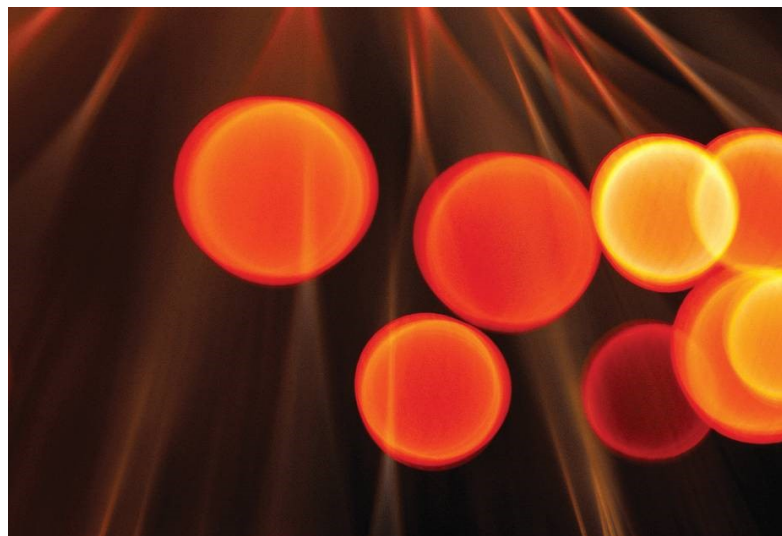
The Marryatville Hotel was the venue for the rest of our meetings in 2018, gathering for lunch at noon on the last Tuesday of every month except December.

There is usually about twenty men who mostly select one of the specially priced senior's meals and all the while sharing stories and showing interest in each other's well-being. We have solved many of the world's problems but to my knowledge our solutions have not been taken up by the people who can institute change.

The majority of attendees worship regularly at BCUC but as the meeting is open to anyone we have invited others from outside our BCUC family and they too attend regularly. Don't wait for an invitation. Just turn up on the last Tuesday of the month (except Dec). You will be welcomed.

For more detail contact our leader, Rex King 8372 3002 or secretary Leigh Duffett 8379 5398.

**Leigh Duffett**  
**Coordinator**



# Finance Mission Support Area

Over the past 12 months the BCUC Finance Committee has made a number of policy and procedure changes aimed at paying all Tax Invoices, claims forms and Retiring Donations with a week of receiving them. Our policies and procedures are available for Congregation members to read. They are housed in a white plastic folder in the cupboard next to the photocopier.

We were also the first committee to undertake a review of our membership requirements and number of committee members in line with the Church Council's new Organisational Chart.

To ensure that there are no “Conflict of Interest” issues one of the major changes is that Finance Committee members can no longer serve on the Facilities Committee, Administration Support Group and the Mission Trust Fund Committee.

Also, in the future all new Finance Committee members will be required to have Financial Management expertise and experience and/or financial qualifications.

All members of the Finance team are actively involved and each has specific responsibilities in areas of payment of accounts, church giving, collating of monthly bookkeeping for the CBU and undertaking research as required.

Sadly our Treasurer, Randolph Alwis, will be stepping down from his position in 2019. Under his guidance, vast expertise and accounting knowledge, we have been able to achieve a number of procedural changes which has ensured that for the past 2 years BCUC's bookkeeping reports were passed by the Auditor with little or no follow up.

Thank you to my Finance Team, Randolph Alwis, Anne Wierenga, Ray Nicholson and Russell Thomson. Also to Gaynor Strapp and Keith Maynard who are now serving on other Committees.

I would also like to thank the Administrator, Deb Mugford, for helping us follow up with our suppliers and Church members as required and when paperwork is missing, incorrect and/or missing signatures for approval.

**In His Service**  
**Gillian Cibich**  
**Chairperson**  
**BCUC Finance Committee**



## Family Fun @ 5

Family Fun @5 is an outreach to our own families and to the wider community. We have some regular attendees who don't come on Sundays.

This year the Easter FF@5 event on Good Friday was exceptionally well attended by children and parents. Gary Stuckey involved the children in the Easter story. The June event was based on the story of Zacchaeus.

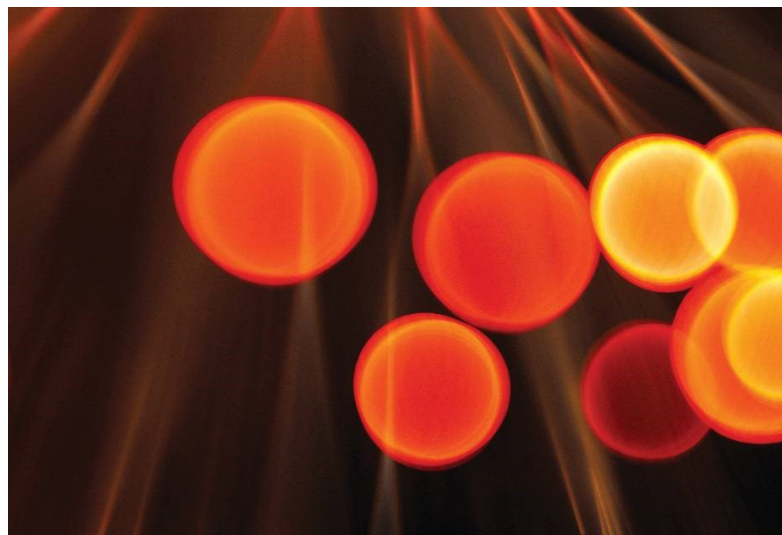
The planning for September is based on the parable of the Good Samaritan.

When the children arrive various craft activities and games involve them for about 45 minutes when we have the story. This is followed by a simple meal.

Aside from the FF@5 planning team of Heather Walraven, Leonie & Bob Clarke. Karen Shin, Lisa Price & Chris Lake there are other volunteers on event nights to help with craft, welcoming visitors, meal preparation, making popcorn, photography, supervising games, setting up and clearing up. This is our chance to make friendly links with the wider community.

Thanks to all who have helped in any way to make FF@5 enjoyable opportunity to interact with families and explain how gospel truths relate to everyday life.

**Chris Lake**  
**Convener**



## Saturday Night Friendship Club

The Saturday Friendship Club's final meeting of the year will be held on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> November and will be a Christmas Dinner which includes our Annual General Meeting. All members of the church are welcome.

The club is still operating well, with attendances varying from 27 to 54. The year started well with a mystery bus trip to "The Egyptian Coptic Church" at Cowandilla, where we were warmly welcomed and learned about the successful running of this church.

One of our meetings of note was, A talk given by Prof Stephen Lincoln, who gave information about, Climate Change and Future Energy.

Each year we have a theatre night and this year it was a performance of the musical "Holiday Inn", given by the Therry Dramatic Soc. Inc at the Arts Theatre.

Others speakers have given talks about, Engineering a city ( Bridges of Port Adelaide), A history of the Jews, Zimbabwe and Sir Hubert Wilkins.

The August meeting was most successful and had an attendance of 54. Helen Brooks was the speaker and her informative and most interesting talk was about "New England in the fall" plus features of New York, Boston & Washing DC. The photographs & history details were excellent and appreciated by all who attended.

During the year the club made a \$100 donation Craig & Helen Waldock at AIM.

Our meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month, with a 7-15 for 7-30 pm start. We usually conclude with a basket supper and thanks to all of the people who donate the food each month. To cover expenses, members make a \$3.00 donation for each meeting

We shall be in recess for December 2018 and January 2019. Visitors are always welcome at all of our meetings. We always conclude our normal meetings with Devotions and as listed above, a lovely basket supper.

The success of any organisation is due to good planning and thanks to the committee who once again have done a wonderful job

**Marjorie Hartwig – President**  
**James Wilson - Secretary**