



BURNSIDE CITY UNITING CHURCH

Raising Children of God

Annual Report 2021

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

BURNSIDE CITY UNITING CHURCH

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Minister's Report

As I reflect on 2021, three key congregation-shaping verses come to mind.

"Behold I am doing a new thing" Isaiah 43:19

This was a prophetic theme of a Propel conference I attended in 2019. Little did I know this would apply to 2020-2021 and the great shifting sands that churches throughout the world have experienced as we navigate COVID's impact.

"I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you" Psalm 35:1

This and other similar verses came to the worship consultation group as they sought God's wisdom and direction on the path forward for worship at BCUC.

"Together IN Christ"

This is not so much a verse but the key theme found throughout the book of Ephesians. It gives identity, purpose and focus to our community – the BCUC congregation.

In August we launched the new BCUC logo, a project carried over from 2020 Church Council and managed by Ian Olver. Using the 'Engagement Team' at Synod, the logo strikingly depicts our mission: raising children of God of all ages and all stages of faith. We are a home for people coming from all parts of the globe looking for family in Christ. In the logo this is depicted by the raised hands bound by the cross of Jesus. Different coloured hues reflect the ochres of the South Australian landscape, the harvest of the field and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Thanks to the Communications and Facilities teams for doing the hard work to create our new signage.

The move to a single worship service has been a significant change this year. It is good to have clarity for our future and, while we are still discovering what it means, I thank you for your openness to worship God in unity. I give thanks for those who have served faithfully in worship through the year and hope we unlock gifts within the congregation going forward to encourage worship, such as our theme song "Raising Children of God". Many people engage with us online, watching our worship services from home. These have been deeply appreciated by those who can't be at church in person and are a means of sharing the good news to others outside the church. The church's investment in video technology and skills for our live-streamed services also benefits other events such as workshops and funerals. The quality keeps improving thanks to our hard working AV team: thanks especially to Thomas, Brian and Stuart. *"How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"* (Romans 10:15).

There have been many memorable services this year including: Maundy Thursday in a vineyard, building a tabernacle at Mylor, our home-grown Easter musical "He was only 33", the simple kitchen floor service (during our 1 week lockdown), Ben's baptism and Zoe's dedication service, and the Sunday Funday service. We have many 'tendrils' of relationship into our community, and it was heart-warming to see these being leveraged to invite people to come and meet Jesus at our Funday: everyone enjoyed a magic show with a gospel message by Tricky Yippy and the joy of after-church community-forming activities including a BBQ and a climbing wall. 300 people came to our Funday service! Hospitality is deeply rooted in the Christian faith so it was great to have the church council initiative of training 8 new baristas (4 adults and 4 youth) - our newly-trained baristas are now rostered on for after-service coffee each Sunday morning.

In 2021 we focussed our prayers and energy around worship and togetherness, continuing to be formed together In Christ. The wonderful great church Getaway helped consolidate our worshipping community. The preaching series reflect these themes including "Love is...", the "I AM series", Acts, our stewardship series Care-Fully Living, Sacraments (baptism and communion), Ephesians, and Go-tober (highlighting many of the outreach and missional initiatives happening within BCUC). We have been capably led by gifted lay preachers who this year included Ian Olver, Jenny Olver, Merle Paton, Andrew Pruszinski, Ben Randall, Peter Shackelford and Colette Williams.

In the office, Stuart and an able team of volunteers have provided reliable support for many, regularly being called upon to move sand up mountains. In the near future, expect a new website that better reflects who we are.

I want to acknowledge the Facilities team and their many hours of care for our church building, gardens and manses. New developments have included an inviting patio area off the main foyer and bike racks outside church.

While continuing to be a much-valued member of the staff and preaching team, Rev. Rob Williams has guided and encouraged the new directions of BCUC, and is a key leader in the pastoral care space. He is very appreciative of the pastoral contacts and the culture of care within the congregation, which makes the role of being a minister at BCUC joy-filled.

Looking forward to 2022, we will develop and articulate our values as we ask the question: "What does a child of God look like?". We will also continue to develop clear, consistent church structures to enable us to effectively raise children of God. This will set us up well for 2023 when we focus on how BCUC raises new disciples (children of God). We have a pilot team who have been meeting each fortnight since June to be trained in 'Building a Discipling Culture' (BDC). This is an Australia-wide non-denominational movement for effective, simple and repeatable disciple making that places the mission of God in the hands of ordinary people. We plan to roll this out church-wide in 2023.

As part of the wider church engagement, I have been involved in a formation panel for ministry candidates, chairperson of the Period of Discernment/applications panel for new ministers for Generate Presbytery, Generate leadership pipeline and synod business committee.

We are blessed with a great church council, and a highly capable leadership team with Chairperson Nirmal Robinson, Secretary Christine You and Treasurer Tim Piper. The council is skilled, prayerful, servant-hearted and Jesus-focussed. Along with Rob Williams and Stuart MacAdam, it is a hope-packed encouraging team to work with. At the end of this December through to early February 2022 I am taking some long service leave and am grateful to welcome Rev. Ashley Davis to fill my role. I give thanks that after 12 years of full time ministry I am not limping in exhaustion, but rather energised for the future at BCUC led by the Holy Spirit. This is in part thanks to a congregation that is focussed on God and a great team to do mission together. If you're reading this, I mean you also.

Hebrews 12:1 talks about running the race before us while being "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses". These include the saints that have gone onto glory and been embraced by Jesus the giver of eternal life. In 2021 we give thanks for lives of:

Randolph Alwis
Jill Basedow
Pauline Chan
John Daws
Pam Gilby
Pat Holliday
Gwen Mackenzie
Mary Maitland
Lynette Shepherd
Pam Stace
Reg Stuckey
Kath Taylor
Mary Thompson
Daphne Weller

We pray for their families and friends who will miss their loved ones this Christmas season.

"Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness." Ephesians 6:23 (NLT).

Your brother in Christ,

Benji

Church Council Report

The Church Council began this year with a retreat and an inspirational message from Benji Callen emphasising our duty as Christians to serve the Lord. Following this, the council set its agenda to discern God's direction to love and serve at BCUC and to be grounded in God's word to shape our vision "Raising Children of God". *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11.*

Our major focus has been on Worship that develops a strong community. Worship reminds us that we are all dependent on God, thus dissolving anything that threatens unity. The Church Council formed a consultative group to hear the opinions of our church family and advise the church council about how we conduct worship in BCUC going forward. An extensive period of prayerful discernment resulted in God leading BCUC into a season of worshipping unity. Our sincere thanks go to the consultation group; Jenny Olver, Merle Paton, Ann Piper, Ros Duffet, Benji Callen and all those who contributed into the consultation. We are pleased that the BCUC family has embraced the subsequent changes, have been flexible with our preferences and entered the new season of "Worshiping in Unity". The Church Council also agreed to form a worship working group that gathers to brainstorm and enrich our worshiping experience. Benji Callen continues to be instrumental in providing inspirational worship ideas. We are also in the process of upgrading the audio-visual system particularly considering the decision to continue the online streaming of our services, which is important to support the members who are not able to attend face-to-face worship.

Our spiritual values of holy-spirit-empowered community working together with a common purpose of worship and discipleship is also reflected in the new logo that was launched. The Church Getaway was an intentional effort to bring the BCUC family together. It was delightful to see our church family in action, share praises and lift one another up before the Lord. In this continuing COVID season it is more important than ever to support our members who haven't been able to engage themselves in the worship services. We are very grateful to Rob Williams and the pastoral care team who have continued their conscious efforts to pastorally care for BCUC members. In addition to the prayer chain, a prayer team is available at the end of every Sunday service to pray with you. The council will continue to support mission outreach programmes, some of which were highlighted during the Gotober worship services. Thanks to our CHATS editors who have been instrumental in keeping us up to date on the developments in the life of our church. It is highly encouraging to see the youth group building momentum under the guidance of Benji Callen and to see them being creative during the worship services. Nicole Callen and her team's efforts in discipling BCUC children has been remarkable. The kids' ministry has not only helped in discipling children within BCUC but has also reached out into the community through the kids' holiday programme "Kettle Club". "Sunday Funday" with Tricky Yippy was another well attended local outreach event that focused on 'raising locals'. It is highly encouraging to see that we are able to develop pastoral links with Seymour College through Benji's insights. The Council has recently approved a proposal to employ a part time 'Connections Leader' to further develop the outreach opportunities into the community.

The council would also like to 'prepare the ground' for the BCUC community. We heard Benji Callen and Ian Olver speak about the intersection between Science and Faith, and this is being followed by a seminar series on the Minor Prophets. The finance team led by our treasurer Tim Piper has given us assurance of the financial processes and greatly helps the Council to make informed decisions on future plans. We are thankful to the Mission Trust Fund managers for proactively managing and distributing funds to support missions locally, nationally, and internationally through BCUC Cares and Mission Focus Group. The council has appointed Valerie Aloa as the Work Health and Safety (WHS) officer as we are committed to ensuring the safety of all workers and other persons. We thank the Facilities Team for diligently taking care of the church and the premises. The importance of a welcoming church environment cannot be underestimated, and the Council has approved plans to upgrade the foyer into an even more homely, welcoming environment that will tastefully showcase the activities that happen within BCUC.

I am very grateful to the Elders of the Council, Benji, Rob and the congregation for your support and contributions to the life of BCUC. Our gratitude also goes to Stuart our administrator who's work, especially on the weekly email has been pivotal in keeping us informed in these COVID times. *"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."* Romans 15: 5-6.

Grace and Peace,

Nirmal Robinson

Chair, Church Council

BCUC Annual Finance Report

2021 has been a far less dramatic year than 2020 for BCUC's finances (which means that I have less to write about this year), but has been none the less ground breaking for that. We have progressed and improved on a number of fronts during 2021.

1. Refining and strengthening our processes

BCUC's Xero system offers a simple, effective and contemporary means to maintain our records and control our finances. We have continued to learn more this year, and I am especially grateful to Susan Peng who has stepped up to manage the weekly payment process for me and oversee much of the prime data entry each week.

Neither Susan nor I need to visit church to fulfil our roles, but the finance team members still attend most weeks to check the batches Susan has prepared and then process the electronic supplier payments with Westpac. This ensures a proper segregation of duties, with each party's role being verified and cross checked by another.

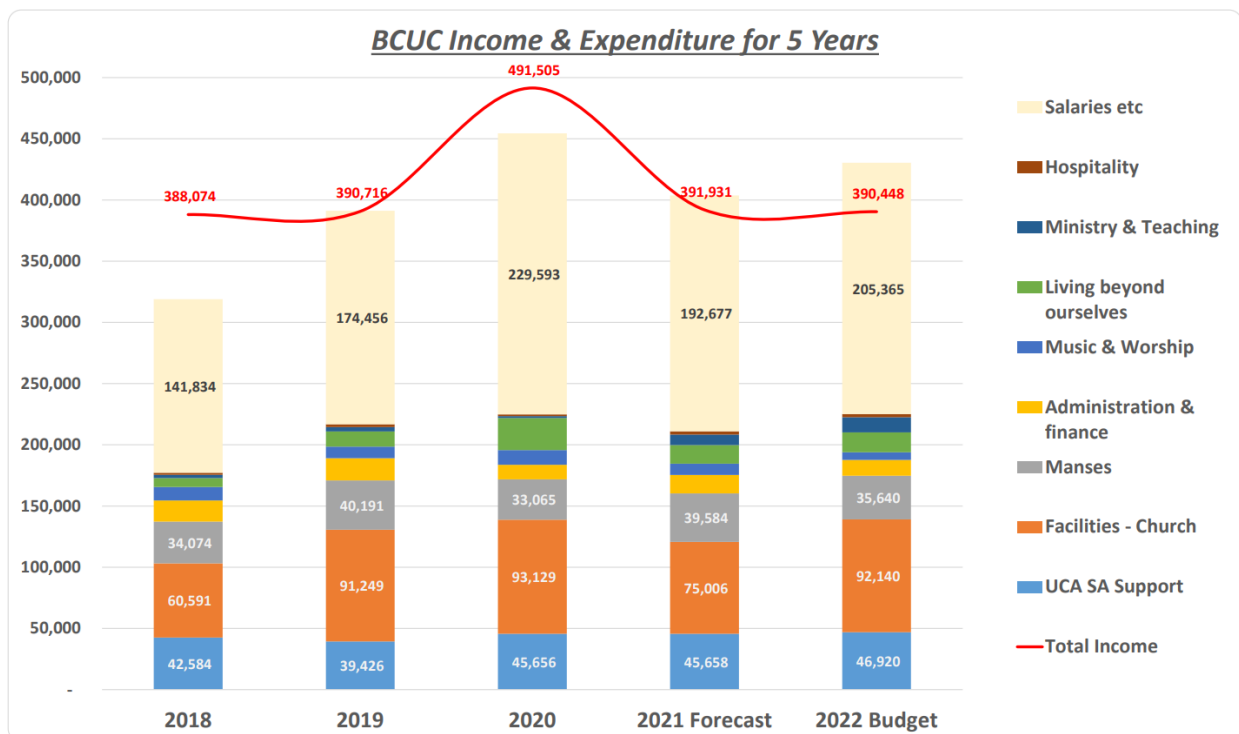
Paypal withdrew the card terminal (EFTPOS) service in June, and so we have replaced it with Tyro, an even simpler and cheaper alternative. The tithe.ly giving facility available within Elvanto also provides a seamless and secure method for digital giving, monitored via a secure online portal. (See BCUC website giving button for details of how to use it).

2. Finalising the 2020 accounts and audit

BCUC's official accounts for 2020 were prepared for us by our new auditors, Galpins (based on Kensington Road at Norwood). They also audit two other large Uniting Churches in Adelaide, so they were immediately familiar with all of the detail in our accounts.

Galpins applied a contemporary, systems-based audit approach which prompted several more improvements within our controls. They were also able to audit the Mission Trust fund as part of the same assignment.

The audit was completed in July, with accounts available for the AGM in August. In 2022 we shall be able to bring forward that timetable considerably, aiming to have audited accounts available by Easter. Although BCUC is not required to lodge accounts publicly with the National Charities Commission (ACNC) it is reassuring to know that, if we were, they have now been prepared and audited to the required standard



Refreshing the five year graph for BCUC income and expenditure illustrates how 2020 delivered our second significant surplus in three years. Covid provided a windfall of Jobkeeper money which it then prevented us from spending.

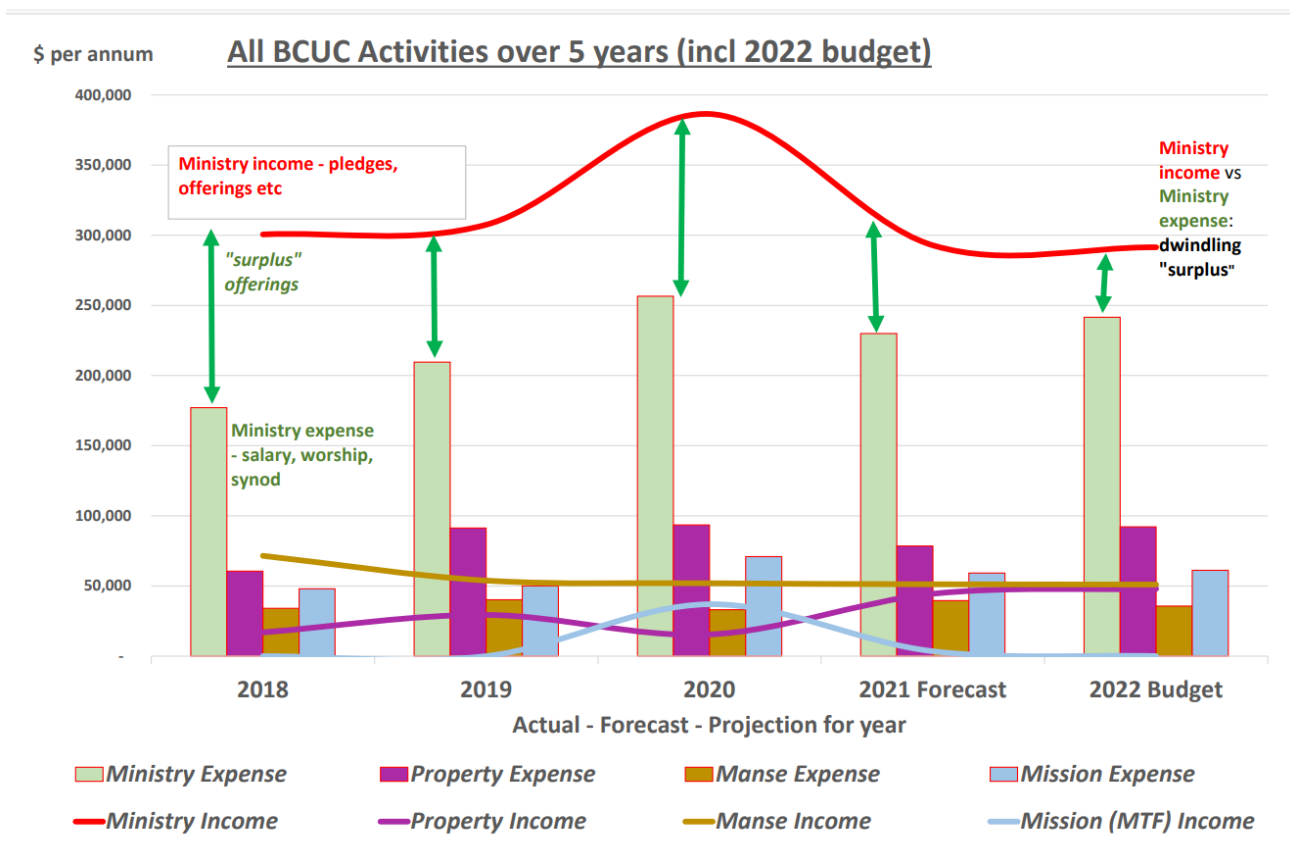
This helps to explain how the church had accumulated reserves of almost \$167,000 by the beginning of 2021.

3. Planning for the Future – 2021 and the 2022 Budget

2021 has seen God bless BCUC’s finances yet again: the budgeted deficit has not materialised and is not now expected to. The clearer picture of “where we are” that emerged at the end of last year is now clearer again.

In 2020 I introduced the idea of dividing BCUC’s activity into three groups and considering each one separately. These were:

- Church Facilities & Properties – maintaining our church costs more than the income it generates, but the two manses rented out generate enough rent to maintain all three manses and contribute to the broader budget each year
- Church Ministry and Operations – our weekly activities employing ministers and others to run services and lead the congregation in raising children of God. This is the heart of BCUC in Burnside, ministering to our local community, so weekly offerings meet these salary and ministry costs.
- Church Mission and Giving – this includes giving recommended by the Mission Focus group and BCUC Cares, paid from Church income rather than the Mission Trust Fund (MTF). I have also switched into this category our contribution to Synod to support the wider church in SA



This illustration helps to show all of these components in proportion. The ministry income not needed for ministry expenses cannot meet all of the mission and net property expenses. It would be so easy to cut back our mission giving because “we haven’t got the money” – but we have. We started 2021 with almost \$167,000, and we still have most of it left.

Of course, it will be hard to keep “balancing the books” from this position. Facilities and Properties cost us more to maintain than they generate, but in 2021 the income from external users hiring BCUC has climbed significantly, bringing our combined properties much closer to being cost-neutral. The church facilities also help to increase our contribution to the wider church when we can make them available to others at reduced or zero cost.

BCUC’s offerings have held up in 2021, but behind the headline figures, the dominant trend is still one of gentle decline. Pledged giving fell sharply mid year and has only partially recovered. We have seen several new e-give donors, but loose offerings fell from \$34,000 in 2019 to \$16,000 in 2020 and 2021. Perhaps Covid closures and the move to a single service explain this?

It has been encouraging to set up new expense lines this year for fresh activities such as The Getaway, Kettle Club and the Sunday Funday. Budgets allocated for activities that no longer occur (eg KCO, Family Fun@5) have been reapplied to their new successors. These are good indicators of a church that is exploring new ways to reach out and serve its community.

To reinforce the independence of the MTF (and avoid double counting), donations funded by it are now being excluded from the Church’s figures for 2022 and beyond. Of course, our community’s total mission giving will comprise what the MTF donates directly as well as donations from the church’s income.

As I wrote last year, BCUC has planned for budget deficits since 2018 – and now in 2021 we’ve finally got one. God has protected us from big deficits and allowed us to accumulate a useful buffer of cash and reserves (although new givers will always assist in growing this). We can continue to plan for deficits knowing that if/when they materialise there is time to address them and re plan without immediately cutting back on our ministry and mission.

Tim Piper
Treasurer

November 2021.

PS – I am always on the look out for anyone who would like to serve on the Finance Committee. We have more fun than you might expect managing and monitoring the finances for BCUC, and understanding Xero is a useful skill. If you are interested, please have a chat with me about what is involved.

BCUC Mission Trust Fund

We have set out below a statement which records the activity of our MISSION TRUST FUND for the 9 Months ended 30 September 2021. Funds can only be distributed in accordance with requests made through and endorsed by our Church Council and in accordance with the Funds Constitution.

The managers of the Fund had available an accumulated surplus of \$41,440.34 at the end of September. At our most recent meeting in October, we have distributed further funds of \$24,375.00 at the request of Church Council. These funds were for Uniting World (Women's Ministry in Fiji) \$9,375, ACT for Peace \$1,000, Barnabas Fund \$1,000, Leprosy Fund \$1,000, Red Dove Café \$1,000 & L'Arche SA (Faith based ecumenical Charity who establish community homes for people with intellectual disabilities) \$1,000 & up to \$10,000 to Church Council for the Foyer Upgrade. Under present conditions we estimate an income of \$36,000 next year. These funds will be available for Church Council to apply to the missional activity of BCUC in 2022.

The managers of the Trust Fund as at 30 September 2021: -

Mike Croft (Treasurer/Secretary), Deb May (Chairperson), Angus Paton and Donald Sarre.

Rex King's position became vacant. We thank Rex for his time on the Mission Trust Fund and have valued his contribution and enthusiasm.

BCUC MISSION TRUST FUND STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE 9 MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Interest Received	3,122.46
Distribution Australian Equity Fund	12,258.79
	15,381.25
LESS Burnside City Uniting Church Mission Support	
BICC Schools Ministry	6,000.00
Frontier Services - Chaplains appeal	1,000.00
Frontier Services - General appeal	1,000.00
Uniting World Covid Response appeal - India	1,000.00
Uniting World Covid Response appeal - PNG	1,000.00
	10,000.00
SURPLUS FOR PERIOD	\$5,381.25
ADD Surplus brought forward	36,059.09
UNDISTRIBUTED SURPLUS	\$41,440.34
STATEMENT OF ASSETS	
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2021	
INVESTMENTS	
UC Invest - Cash at call	42,940.34
- Term Deposits	471,500.00
- Australian Equities Fund (Cost \$545119.82)	715,785.76
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,230,226.10
TRUST CAPITAL	
Mission Building Fund	512,069.82
General Mission Fund	500,050.00
Fitness Facilities Fund	6,000.00
Australian Equities Fund Asset Growth	170,665.94
	1,188,785.76
Add Undistributed Surplus	41,440.34
TOTAL FUND	\$1,230,226.10

2 Corinthians 9: 11&12 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. ¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

Fellowship

Hizbiz

The Hizbiz Mens Group meets on the last Tuesday of every month except December. The January gathering was at BCUC where a meal of fish and chips was followed by a Giant Twin icecream. After chewing and chatting we watched the movie "I Can only Imagine".

All other meetings have been at the Marryatville for lunch. The gatherings are open to BCUC members, friends and neighbours.



Women's Ministry

We continued the tradition of providing Mother's day gifts which was started 10 years ago. Estia Residential Home received 25, Clayton Church Homes received 70 and Adelaide East Domestic Violence Service received 20.

Another tradition is cleaning the church kitchen and servery areas on a bi-annual basis. New chopping boards and serving plates were purchased. We catered for several funerals and the Pentecost Service lunch in May. Meeting for a coffee and chat at VP's is always enjoyed.



Sew 'n Chat

Thursday morning is an enjoyable time and is a very good outreach programme.

Lovely crafts are produced, including this year knitted rugs for the needy, bracelets and knitted face washes for Operation Christmas Child. Members also do their own projects, all of a very high standard.

There is much chatter, a reading, and a delicious morning tea enjoyed by all.



Members 24
Meetings 11

2 Coffee at VP's
2 Church cleanings
6 Catering functions

20 Knitted rugs
150 Face washers
60 Bracelets
11 Members

Fellowship

Monday Day Fellowship

This year we were able to enjoy many months of friendship and fellowship getting to know members, interesting speakers and a bus trip. Always with afternoon tea.

Our annual film day "June Again" enabled us to donate \$1000 to various groups

Next year first Monday each month we will have conversation, coffee and cake for seniors with Women's Mission serving us. All are welcome.

Saturday Fellowship

This year we enjoyed an activity every month from February to November.

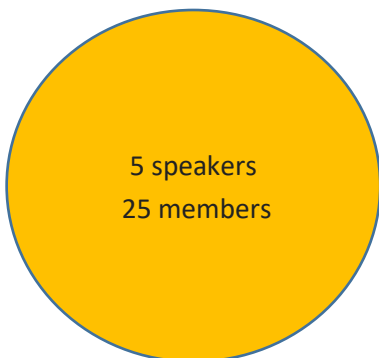
These included speakers on Sustainability, travelogues of Portugal and Budapest, Operation Flinders transforming young lives, Adelaide Airport and a Pilgrimage to Russia. There was also a musical evening presentation by PAC boys, an Arts Theatre presentation of The Hello Girls, a mystery bus trip and a Christmas lunch.

Thursday Friendship Club

"For many of us this get together is the highlight of our social week"

Celebrating 20 years of getting together and sharing with friends. Members bring their own lunch and spend great quality time with each other while enjoying a game of Canasta, Scrabble and Quiddler.

We would love to have you join us and enjoy fellowship with us each Thursday, 12 noon till 3 pm.



Discipleship

Worship

Church Council appointed a Worship Consultation Group to discern God's will for the worship format of Contemporary, Café and Classic services each Sunday morning. The process was thorough, prayerful, difficult and encouraging, leading to recommending BCUC enters a *season of unity*, with one service. Since the early August launch, worship has been full of variety, enacting Council's pillar "I can't wait worship".

Despite the ever-changing Covid regulations and technical demands of live streaming, the grace, acceptance and optimism shown by our people has been uplifting

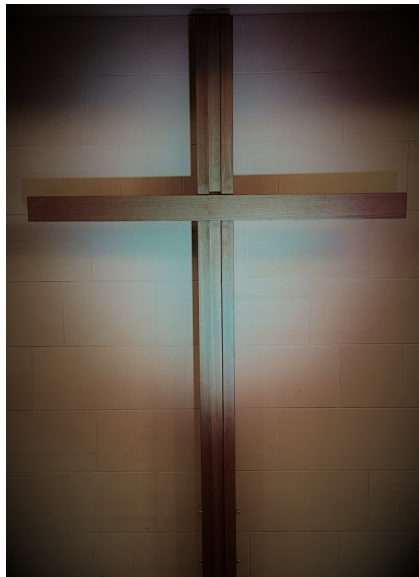


Church Service
Approx 130 attend
Live Stream
Approx 120 views

Prayer

The Prayer Chain is available for members to present concerns for concentrated and confidential prayer. As an online ministry, prayer has continued throughout the Covid. The requests vary from life-endangering and changing situations, to daily worries and fears. We pray for and share times of great joy, and it is always special to share news of answered prayer.

Wednesday 9.30am Prayer group of faithful, prayerful members meet for a short Bible study followed by a time of prayer arising from that study, plus prayers for others. Prayers always include prayers for BCUC leaders, members and worship, as well as each other. The group has continued through Covid.



Prayer Chain: 70
participants
Wednesday Prayer
Group: 40 meetings

The Great Getaway

We hoped for a time of all ages enjoying each others company building friendships memory making and growing in God together. God blessed us with all this and more.

At the Mylor Adventure Camp in September, we shared worship and study sessions focused on Ephesians. Team-building activities included Frisbee golf, pool activities, nature walk, and board games. Other highlights were an all-ages quiz night, great food, toasting marshmallows/campfire, and a wonderful riverside setting. 108 people attended.



42 people in family
groups(including 22
children), 20
additional adults, 46
day visitors

Discipleship

Small Groups

Raising Children of God means growing in our understanding of God, ourselves and our relationships with others. Small groups are a key tool for growth.

Groups meet weekly or fortnightly to study God's Word, pray for each other, have a time of fellowship and pastoral care for each other. In addition to regular adult groups, we have groups catering to families with children, to those whose first language is Mandarin, to our youth, and to those who love to pray. Groups participated in whole-church studies, and also picked their own studies. We would love to see a growth in this ministry in 2022.



Library

BCUC Library is “bursting at the seams” as regularly new, up-to-date books are added to the collection. Therefore the plan is to have another ‘Book Give-away’ of older volumes early in 2022.

As two members of the Library Team have left BCUC, I was most grateful for Kaye Morphet’s offer to assist with keeping books and shelves in order.

Monthly, in the church magazine ‘BCUC Chats’, we familiarise the congregation with our latest acquisitions.



Baptisms

Cara Bartlett, a sister in Christ was welcomed into the family of God by baptism 10th October. We pray for her family and look forward to continuing to provide opportunities as a church community to be the village that helps raise Children of God.

A big celebratory service on the 14th November began with the baptism of Ben Randall by full immersion. May the Holy Spirit continue to transform his old life into a new one: cleansed, welcomed, loved and blessed with the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit.

Lord stir in the hearts of others so we may celebrate more baptisms in 2022.



10 small groups
Over 110 people participating
4 whole-church studies

Approx. 1000 books
6 colour-coded categories
11 working bees
50 Sunday tidy-ups

2 Baptism
1 Dedication

Mission/Outreach

BCUC Cares

BCUC Cares attempts to discern God's call to our Church to walk with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in Christ and to care for asylum seekers, refugees and others who are marginalised.

In 2021, in partnership with other agencies, the people of BCUC have responded to this calling with gifts of food and other necessities; clothing, bedding and household goods; and financial support.

Christians Against Poverty

On-line and face-to-face, we have provided people, from a range of areas and backgrounds, with tools to successfully navigate their way through their finances, giving them a more financially secure future. BCUC has supported us to become a CAP Money Plus church providing extra guidance and support for those in significant financial difficulties.

Mission Focus

Keeping true to our credo of mission locally, nationally and internationally we have donated this year to Red Dove Cafe, Frontier Services and Angel Tree (Prisoner's children); L'Arche, ACT for Peace; and Leprosy, Barnabas Fund, and the Uniting World Covid Crisis in PNG and India.

The Mission Trust Fund is sponsoring the Women in Ministry in the Pacific Project with \$9,300 per year which assists women studying in Fiji at the Theological College.



20+ crates
3 carloads
\$3800 to date

1 on-line course
1 face to face course

Support 9 Missions
4 women at
Theological College

Mission/Outreach

Dr John/Barnabas Pantry

The Pantry is in its 14th year. The team produces jams, marmalades, relish, chutneys, etc. It is open every Sunday.

As Dr Jon, who lived and worked to support Myanmar refugees, after a stay in London, has not been able to return to Thailand, the Pantry proceeds are now contributing to a specific project of Barnabas Fund which supports displaced villagers, mostly Christian, on the Myanmar/Thai border. Families whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed by the Myanmar army.

Your Pantry purchases and jar returns are much appreciated .

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes of small gifts to children in developing countries. These children are also given the opportunity to learn about Jesus and his love through the Greatest Journey program.

This year Kids Church were excited to assist and many returned with their parents the next day when the majority of boxes were packed .

We prayed for the children who will receive them, that they will know their box has been sent with love. They will be distributed in **Cambodia** this year by our partner Churches and schools

School Ministry

Four Pastoral Care Workers support students, staff and families in local schools. All children have death in the family and need support.

One Pastoral Care Worker wrote in the school newsletter how to prevent news media impinging negatively on mental health. Another provides food for needy students.

Our team presents plays at Christmas and Easter to get the real message across. Prayers and donations needed.



Team of 6
Approx. proceeds
\$4,000 per annum

30 boxes packed at
Kids Church
33 people assisted on
Packing Day
184 boxes sent
\$2541.20 collected in
donations

8 PCW Support
Group meetings
4 BICC meetings

Kids and Youth Ministry

Kids Sunday Worship

Yet another year has gone by and we have continued to see God working in truly marvellous ways.

Kids Church has continued to develop and grow. We have welcomed a few new families which has been wonderful.

Our service begins with prayer and worship with all the kids together. Then our Kinder Group head out for their programme. Both age groups have followed the Hill song BIG Curriculum which has been great on some levels. It uses media, stories, games and craft to enhance the learning and message.

Fifteen32 Youth

“Lord grow our group of amazing, welcoming and encouraging young people of all ages, all stages from age 12 to year 12. Grow them in understanding your love for them, in wisdom and in numbers.”

We thank God for answered prayers. Now up to 16 people from around the community come fortnightly in term time to eat together, share some laughs, discover Jesus through the “Youth Alpha” video series, journal and pray together.

The seed is growing.

Kettle Club

2021 saw the beginning of Kettle Club. The vision was ‘growing together’ - growing together in faith, in Spirit, in prayers, in friendship, in togetherness and in God’s word. A 4 full days program with music, singing, activities based on the book of Nehemiah.

Children attending included BCUC kids and children outside BCUC congregation. Significantly, the BCUC youth members were involved as youth leaders. The bulky budget items were outdoor activities. Overall the program was well received by both the kids and their families and we look forward to 2022.



12-25 Children
5 Leaders
4 Helpers

16 Youth
Held fortnightly
Approx. 240 pieces
of pizza

28 Children
10 Leaders

Kids and Youth Ministry

Playgroup

Playgroup is a missional outreach of BCUC. Our aim is to provide families from the wider community a caring Christian environment for parents to explore creative play and have fun with their children while enjoying the support and friendship of others. We offer a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities and crafts. The hall is set with craft activities, painting, puzzles, play dough and where the children can have their snack brought from home.

We finish our morning with a short-structured time of singing and stories.



Mainly Music

Held weekly on a Monday, Mainly Music, through songs and example, enables sharing our loving, creator God with children and their carers. Ages range from 6 months to 5 years.

After the team prayer time, excited children arrive. Singing, dancing and playing instruments are followed by snack time and play time for children cared for by the team. The chat time over coffee is valued by the adults as many do not have family support nearby



Netball

This year we have 5 teams competing in the Winter Season and 9 teams in the Summer Season. Some wins, some losses and lots of fun had at training sessions.

Last summer three teams came first in their grades. The winter teams braved the cold and wet weather on Saturday afternoons.

New teams have been formed this summer and the players are making new friends. We are thankful for our players and supporters.



Approx. 14 children
Approx. 10 families

Approx. 22 children
Approx. 18 families
weekly
7 helpers:

14 teams
3 premierships

Raising Children of God

lyrics: Ian Olver, Music: Ann Piper

Verse 1

Seeking guidance
From Christ, our inspiration
How to love and live life to the full
We will reach out,
Beyond our congregation
Through each of us, His mission to fulfil

Verse 2

Seeking unity
Is what our Lord commanded.
Diverse our views but unified in Christ
To stand as one,
To prevail when life is tough
Honours Christ, His selfless sacrifice

Chorus

In all we plan
The focus is on Jesus.
He is our strength
For ev'rything we do
When we discerned our role,
With Christ we set our goal:
By grace, to raise children of God

Verse 3

We delight in the
Presence of each other
Worship, praise as fam'lies young and old
Spreading the word
And joy of Christ around us
Proclaim the greatest story ever told!

By grace, to raise children of God,
By grace, to raise children of God

Burnside City Uniting Church
384 Portrush Road, Tusmore SA 5065
Email: admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au
Web: www.burnsidecityuc.org.au
Phone: 08 8331 3914