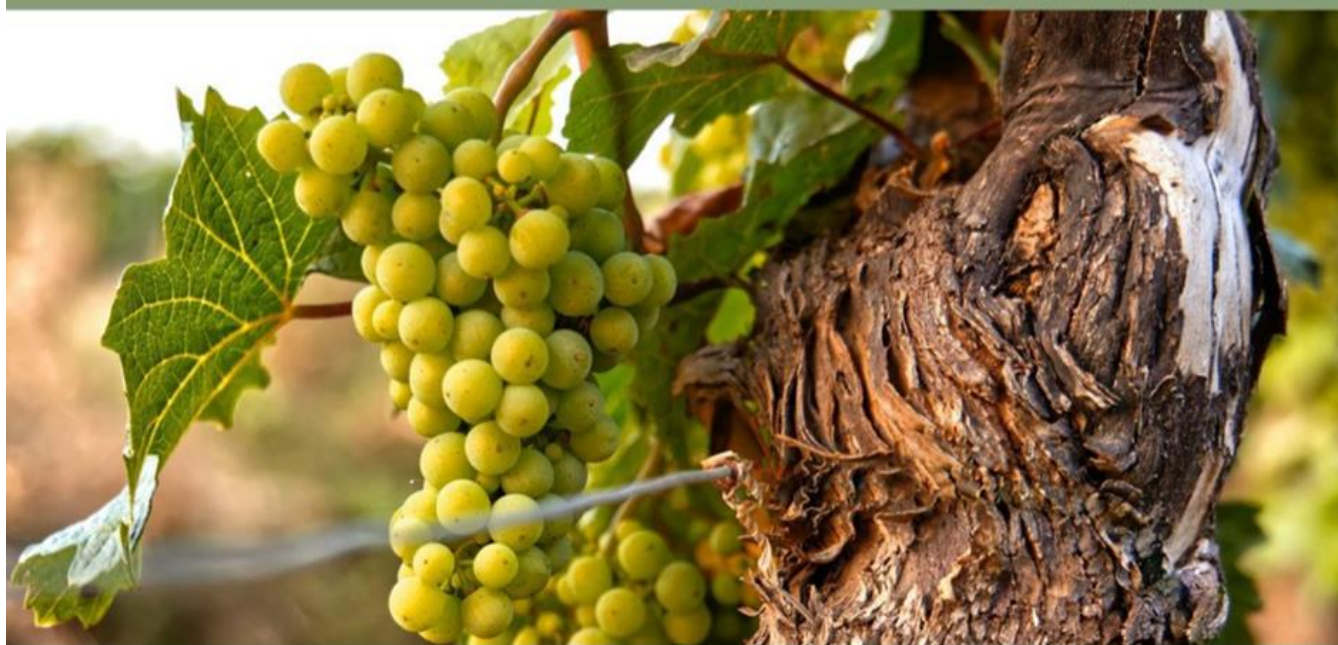


Live in The Vine



**BURNSIDE CITY
UNITING CHURCH**

Raising Children of God

Annual Report 2022

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

BURNSIDE CITY UNITING CHURCH

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Minister's Report

When I think about BCUC and its people the verse from Romans 8:26 comes to mind "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them" (NLT).

The year began with the joy of Rev. Ashley Davis stepping in while I took some long service leave. He lifted our eyes to dream that the best years are yet to come. In his final report at Church Council he noted that one of the best things BCUC has is the people. Many willing, loyal, skilled, faith-filled people serving Christ and his Church.

The role of a Minister at BCUC can be thought of as four-fold: worship, discipleship (including pastoral care), outreach into the community and leadership. Whenever I am asked about "how am I going at BCUC?" my answer is the same "I love my job". We have a healthy Christ focussed direction, encouraging discipleship, God-honouring worship with vitality for all ages and all stages, wonderful new people each week that are welcomed and engaged and good teams of people. There is a palpable and heartening increase in the interconnectedness of the Church. It has been a fantastic answer to prayer to have Nancy start in her role as Connections Coordinator. The role fits well with raising children of God and raising NEW children of God. This last step is where we need to go next. A focussed attention on the 'OUT'. To this end in 2023 we will begin with a new website, we will engage more seriously with our relationship at Seymour, the Connections Coordinator will continue to help with connecting those who use our building and those outside and welcoming new people. We will focus attention on connecting people to Jesus and others to the life of the Church. We also hope to develop a significant Alpha ministry where people are comfortable to invite and bring friends, family and others to come and explore belief in Jesus.

Worship continues to be a highlight each week. It's amazing to note that what happens at Portrush Road on a Sunday morning blesses people throughout the following weeks from Europe, India, Sri-Lanka, Fiji and beyond. Worship series that people have found both engaging and helpful include the Last Words on the Cross lent series with the deeply moving finale over the Easter weekend, healing series, the Creed and Wonder Women of the Bible.

Our current Church Council has focussed on developing congregational values and take seriously the role of spiritual discernment and oversight. I am often thankful for our staff team at BCUC. Stuart is a constant and capable support for the many varied ministries of BCUC. Rob blesses others with his gentle words of encouragement and Godly pastoral wisdom. He leads our current pastoral care model, a dual system of care through pastoral contacts and small groups. Nancy now increases the forward momentum with her ability to welcome and connect people quickly and her Christ-like care.

I am also thankful for the many teams we have and the hard, prayerfully considered work they do. This report is like a window to those teams, each line of the Budget also represents children of God serving and being served. Let it help direct your prayers for BCUC. I want to also mention the generous and edifying work of our lay-preachers for 2022 Colette, Ian, Jenny, Merle and Ann.

Sadly in 2022 we have had to farewell to some loved members of our church, who now can say "I now dwell in the house of the Lord forever". We remember and give thanks for:

*Morry Aldridge
Grace Henderson
Peter Kitching
Joan Mason
Barbara Newton
Margaret Roberts
Balan Sanders*

*Jill Schammer
Chris Temby
Ford Topham
Cath Truran
David Truran
Mal Warrick
Neville Wheaton*

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". Romans 15:13

Your brother in Christ
Benji Callen

Burnside City Uniting Church worship by the numbers

169 BCUC Online subscribers
1.5k views of BCUC videos in the last month
125 average monthly attendance
199 individuals in the past month
219 weekly email subscribers



Cutting BCUC Birthday Cake



New BCUC Plaques for Playground wall



BCUC Youngest member



BCUC Sunday Worship



BCUC Table Tennis after 70 years ends



Passover Meal on Maundy Thursday

Church Council Elders' Report

I am reminded of Ashley Davis' sermon series when Benji was away on long service leave, "This will be the Best Year Yet" with opportunities for new beginnings. Indeed, 2022 has been a year of adapting, learning and shown us opportunities for new beginnings. It has helped us identify new opportunities to continue our vibrant and vital ministry to spread the word of God. In the church council we continually remind ourselves that we seek to follow Jesus Christ and become a reflection of his love in everything we do to shape our vision 'Raising Children of God'. We have strategized the agenda for council meetings to focus on UP (Worshiping God), IN (BCUC) and OUT (Outreach).

UP: I am very pleased that the BCUC family has embraced the season of 'Worshiping in Unity' upholding our spiritual values of holy-spirit-empowered community working together. One of the highlights has been the sermon series: 7 Words on the Cross, The Creed and The Wonder Woman. I believe the sermon series would have enriched your faith and drawn you closer to God. The sermons have not only been beneficial to BCUC family, but they have blessed people across the globe through our live streaming, including my family members in India. The Worship Working Group (WWG) has been instrumental in providing inspirational worship ideas. My sincere appreciation to the WWG team and the service directors. None of this can be possible without God's guidance and the prayers. It is a delight and a blessing to take part in the 'Prayer under the Clock' every Sunday at 9:30am. If you happen to be early in the Church on Sunday, please join the rest of the team for a prayer time. Our prayer team is also available after Church service to pray with you.

IN: To support our vision to Raise Children of God, the church council began to develop a set of values for our Church at the last Congregation meeting. The church council has been prayerfully engaged in this process and the defined values will be launched during the AGM as a tool to drive our church ministries and guiding factor for decision making.

Building, nurturing, and caring for BCUC Family members is our priority. We strive to welcome people of all generations, to understand their needs and perspectives, and help them grow in their relationships with Jesus Christ. Our activities and plans reflect an inclusive congregation with a sincere passion for worshipping, learning, and serving God together. We are so pleased to welcome many new people who have become part of our BCUC family and to see their participation in the church services. The 'Big Day In' was an intentional effort to build BCUC community and strengthen our bonds. It also gave us learning opportunities to better serve the Lord in BCUC and was a delight to witness the many talents within the family. I congratulate all who were involved in making this day a grant success. At the same time, some of the faithful members of our church have departed us this year. Though it is sad they are not with us, we had the wonderful opportunity to celebrate their lives in our church. I sincerely appreciate the pastoral care team led by Rob for their care and love. It is our intent to engage our congregation in small groups to discuss, spiritually nurture and care for each other. If you are not already part of a small group, I encourage you to be part of one.

The Youth group is building momentum under the guidance of Benji, and we can expect to see them more involved in the worship services in the near future. The youth will be also engaging in a conversation session with special people supported by Valerie once a month on a Sunday. It is highly satisfying to see the Kids ministry growing under the leadership of Nicole and the team. We have now started an additional programme for the middle school kids. As in the previous year Kids ministry also reached out into the community through the holiday programme 'Kettle Club'. As a Congregation we keep evolving but the Council recognises the history of BCUC formation. The plaque commemorating the opening of our church building and another plaque explaining the foundation stones of various Churches that united to form BCUC have been mounted on the playground area wall. I pray that God bless all the hands that have faithfully built and served in this Church.

My sincere appreciation and thanks to the facilities team who have dedicated their time to maintain the functionality, comfort, safety, sustainability and efficiency of our buildings and facilities. The finance team led by our treasurer Tim has given us assurance of the financial processes and greatly helps the Council to make informed decisions on future plans. I also take this opportunity to thank Stuart for his able administration which is vital for the efficient functioning of all departments of our Church.

OUT: The Church Council has made intentional efforts to reach out to the community near and far. We currently have good missional relationships with the nearby schools. Rebuilding the relationship between BCUC and our local Uniting Church School at Seymour has been an exciting development recently. BCUC has the opportunity to more seriously engage with Seymour College by providing chaplaincy services and to 'Raise Children of God'. I shall update you with more information as it develops. We have opened our doors for elections and welcomed voters. Benji also moderated an election debate between the candidates for the Bragg electoral community, which was highly appreciated by the Burnside City Council and the members of the community. The council appointed Nancy as the Connections Coordinator to reach out to BCUC members, visitors, and the Burnside community to strengthen and build our faith community. I congratulate Nancy to have accepted God's call to serve and for her stupendous efforts. This position is supported through the Mission Trust Funds (MTF). Through the MTF we have also supported the Soul Food Community Café whose vision is to share the Gospel with residents of north-eastern suburbs. The council has a strong desire to support outreach activities by engaging with the wider community locally, nationally, and internationally. Thanks to our Mission Focus Group and BCUC Cares for taking time to reach out into communities through many ways. We continue to support school chaplains, the Oodnadatta Congregation, Ukrainian Association – displaced people of Ukraine and Uniting World 'Transforming lives through Leadership' - Women in Ministry in the Pacific. We are thankful to the Mission Trust Fund managers for proactively managing and distributing funds.

I am grateful to the BCUC family for putting their trust in the Church Council. I would also like to thank all the Elders of the Congregation and their continued support and service to the Congregation. I thank Benji and Rob for providing guidance that I have relied on.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10

Blessings,

Nirmal Robinson
Chair, Church Council



BCUC future Elders ?

BCUC Annual Finance Report

The budget prepared for 2023 includes total income of \$442k, total expenses of \$(463)k and a further \$(9)k addition to the Property and Manse Maintenance Reserves. The budget deficit is therefore \$(30)k, which compares favourably with the \$(50)k deficits adopted for 2021 and 2022, neither of which has eventuated. Reserves available to meet any actual deficit from 1 January 2023 are expected to exceed \$150k.

BCUC continues to budget prudently, planning for the worst outcome but praying for the best. In 2022 God has continued to answer our prayers. Although we started the year planning for a deficit of up to \$(50)k, this year has seen a number of favourable variances including:

- Use of BCUC hire income expected to exceed budget by \$14k
- Up to \$18k of savings against the salaries budget adopted
- Up to \$9k of savings against the Facilities budget adopted

Most significantly, offering income has been maintained at a similar level to 2020 and 2021.

The graphic illustrations have been prepared to illustrate the key trends identified. In addition to Total Church Income (the red line) a blue line plotting Offerings Income has been added, showing how it has remained stable since 2020 but is now a smaller proportion of total income.

Property related expenditure on the church and manses is budgeted for routine maintenance as advised by the Facilities Committee. For a number of years we have been setting aside funds (\$9k each year) into a separate renovation provision and bank account. By the end of 2023 these will total approximately \$37k for the manses and \$25k for the church available for 'non-routine' work when it arises. This will help to avoid the 'nasty surprise' effect experienced when large expenses arose for manses in 2017 and, to a lesser extent, for facilities in 2019 and 2020. The provisions will be available to meet them in part or in full.

The increasing facilities hire income is expected to reach \$70k for the first time in 2023. It is unlikely to increase further in subsequent years as this would start to impinge upon BCUC activities in the building. In the meantime, however, this income has significantly reduced the facilities expense to be met from offerings (and from the small but steady surplus rental income generated by the manses). Until the BCUC congregation grows to a size which uses the whole building all week, and generates sufficient offering income to maintain the building by ourselves, the current strategy is the most sensible to ensure that our building is both used and maintained.

The 2023 Budget includes all current staff at their current hours, with the Connections Co-ordinator role fully funded by the Mission Trust Fund. It also incorporates some additional expenses for projects led by that role and for children's ministry. Finally, the Mission Focus budget is maintained at \$9k and the BCUC Cares budget increased from \$6k to \$8k (excluding MTF funded donations).

In adopting the 2023 Budget, BCUC will need to pray that God continues to grow our offerings income and that, as in 2021 and 2022, not all of the expenses for which we have budgeted will need to be incurred. We know, however, that our accumulated surplus to meet any deficit is likely to exceed \$150k and that we will have over \$50k in the Church/Manse Renovation Fund at the end of this year. Under these circumstances, the budget remains a conservative and responsible financial plan for 2023.

Tim Piper
Treasurer

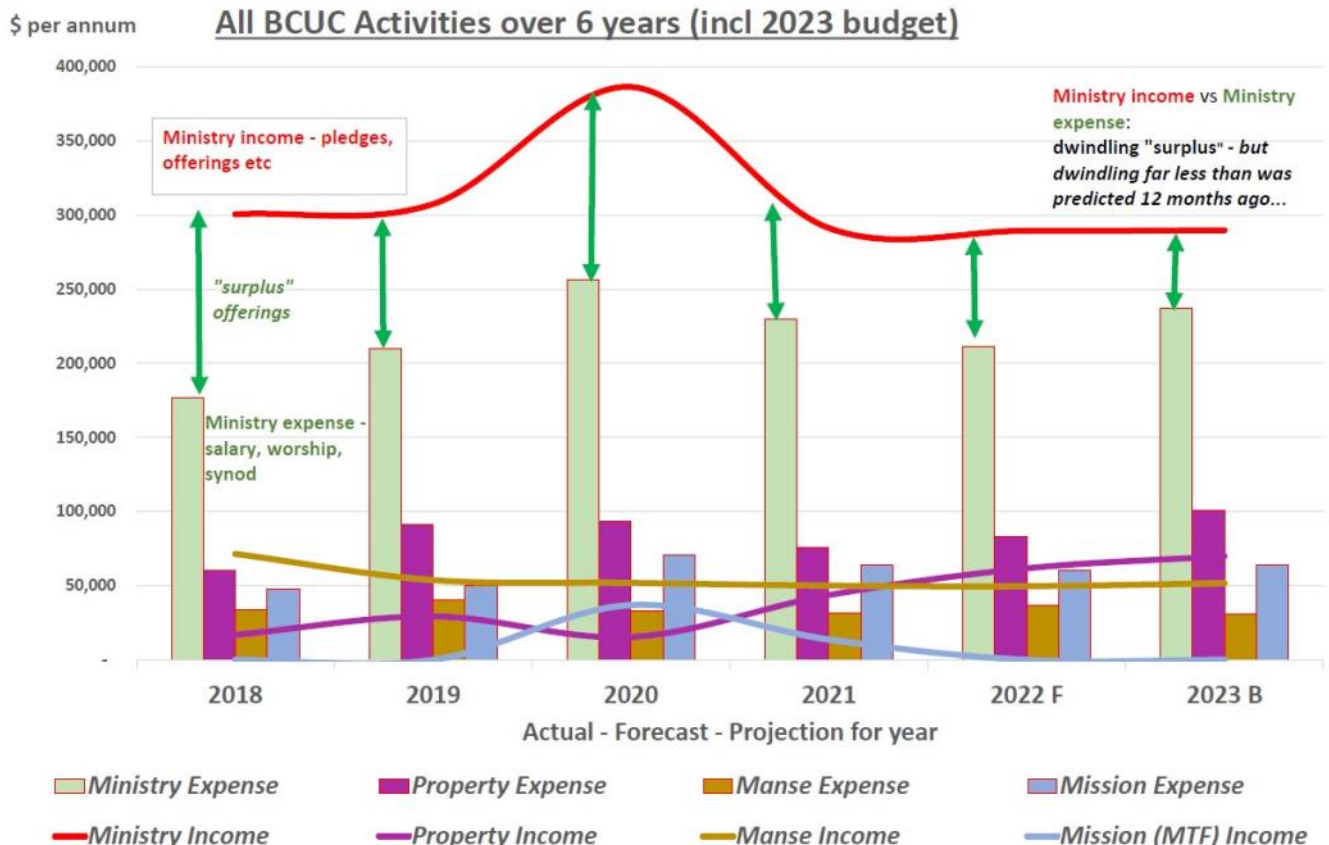
November 2022

"A picture is worth a thousand words": please see below a couple of thousand words' worth of preliminary information about BCUC's forecast financial result for 2022, setting the scene for our 2023

BCUC Income & Expenditure for 8 Years



All BCUC Activities over 6 years (incl 2023 budget)



BCUC Mission Trust Fund

We have set out below a statement which records the activity of our MISSION TRUST FUND for the 10 months ended 31 October 2022. Only cash transactions have been recorded. Funds can only be distributed in accordance with requests made through and endorsed by BCUC Church Council and within the terms of the Funds Constitution.

The managers of the Fund had available an accumulated surplus of \$36,170.38 at the end of October 2022. Under present conditions the managers of the Fund estimate an income of \$43,000.00 for the 2023 year. These funds will be available for Church Council to apply to the missional activity of BCUC in 2023.

The managers of the Fund as at 31 October 2022 are:

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

"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. This 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". 2 Corinthians 9: 11-12

BCUC MISSION TRUST FUND STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE 10 MONTHS ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Interest Received | 6,303.14 |
| Distribution Australian Equity Fund | 32,909.35 |
| | 39,212.49 |
| LESS Mission Support | |
| BICC Schools Ministry | 6,000.00 |
| BCUC Foyer Refurbishment | 3,229.78 |
| BCUC Pastoral Support | 11,388.75 |
| Soul Food Community Café | 6,000.00 |
| Uniting World Pacific Woman's Ministry | 9,375.00 |
| | 35,993.53 |
| SURPLUS FOR PERIOD | \$3,218.96 |
| ADD Surplus brought forward | 32,951.42 |
| UNDISTRIBUTED SURPLUS | \$36,170.38 |
| | |
| STATEMENT OF ASSETS | |
| AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2022 | |
| | |
| INVESTMENTS | |
| UC Invest - Cash at call | 37,670.38 |
| - Term Deposits | 353,000.00 |
| - Australian Equities Fund (Cost \$665,119.82) | 786,918.33 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$1,177,588.71 |
| | |
| TRUST CAPITAL | |
| Mission Building Fund | 512,069.82 |
| General Mission Fund | 500,050.00 |
| Fitness Facilities Fund | 7,500.00 |
| Australian Equities Fund Asset Growth | 121,798.51 |
| | 1,141,418.33 |
| Add Undistributed Surplus | 36,170.38 |
| TOTAL FUND | \$1,177,588.71 |

Fellowship

Hizbiz

Hizbiz aims to facilitate fellowship for men within the church family with an open invitation for members to invite friends. This year the Hizbiz Men's Group has continued to meet on the last Tuesday of every month except December and January.

We began the year with lunch meetings at the Kensington Hotel, and lunch meetings at the 'Kensi' have continued every month with our last one for this year scheduled for the 29 November. Conversation and the consumption of reasonably priced good quality meals is our agenda and our informal gatherings are enjoyed by all who wish to attend.

For more detail contact Leigh Duffett leighduffett1@gmail.com 0406 498 442 or Peter Morris, petantmorris@hotmail.com 0423 967 137.

Women's Ministry

Two election trading tables were catered for, as well as a Muffin Morning Tea, which took the place of Pancake Sunday. One hundred Mother's Day gifts were provided and wrapped for residents at Estia and Clayton Church Homes.

A *March Hatter's Tea Party* was held at the home of Verna Drexel on March 23. We were also invited by Marjorie Hartwig to *Spring into Spring* on September 9 at Scarfe House.

We supported the Women's Safety Services in SA with clothing and pamper items, and also toiletry items for Uniting Communities.

We also spent a morning cleaning the Church kitchen and servery.

Our final meeting is on December 7 at 2pm in the church foyer with a Christmas theme.

Craft, Chat & Sew

In spite of the interruptions we have encountered this year it has been a pleasant and productive year.

Beside the average weekly 10 members doing their own craft the group has made a donation of many warm handmade rugs to Queen Elizabeth Renal Unit and to Sunny (Rev Suni Kadaparambil) the Bush Chaplin Parkin Sturt Patrol.

Beaded bangles and face washers were made for the Christmas boxes and we were able to pack jewellery and stationery bags. We also donated towards the postage.

Morning tea is always an enjoyable time when we can chat and tell of any exciting experiences during the week.

New members are always welcomed.



17 Members
10 Meetings

8 Funeral catering
Approx 15 members
Donations to 9
groups, totalling
\$3,389

10 Members
20 Rugs
60 Bangles
120 Face washers

Fellowship

Coffee, Cake and Conversation

On the first Monday of each month at 1.30pm the older men and women of the Church enjoy meeting together for Coffee, Cake and Conversation. (in lieu of Day Fellowship). Several ladies from the Women's Ministry serve a delicious afternoon tea for which the group is very grateful. There is an occasional musical item, short DVD clip or poetry reading, but the main focus is to spend time together.

Mid year Rob Williams introduced a short Communion Service at 1.00pm on the same day and this has been appreciated by those who have difficulty attending worship on Sundays. If you require transport to attend please contact Di Croft.

Friday Fellowship

This year we celebrated 50 years as a group. There have been memory segments at each meeting and Golden treats each time to celebrate our Golden Anniversary.

A variety of speakers, musical entertainment and outings were programmed and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The Theatre matinee outing was cancelled due to the Cast having COVID. Our average attendance is 35 but this swelled to 60 for Helen Books' Travel Talk.

There is a devotional period each time before we conclude and enjoy a shared afternoon tea.

WhatsApp Group

This relatively new group is moderated by Nancy for the BCUC Church families to chat and share stories, BCUC related information and photos all relevant to BCUC. Keeping in touch with our Church family has been made easier.

You can capture moments that matter the most to you as has been the case with many endearing moments in Kids Ministry. So popular with the Kids Ministry that they have developed their own WhatsApp group.

To join just scan the QR Code below.



25-28 attend
2 members cook
4 members assist and
serve

6 Speakers
2 Outings
2 Musical events

86 participants

Discipleship

Worship

The Worship Working Group have been meeting every 6 weeks tasked with the privilege of overseeing worship. With both the online experience, in-person Sunday 10am worship and now monthly Monday communion, attendances have been increasing. Importantly people are growing in their faith and experience of the living God. It is so good to meet together in prayer 'under the clock' at 9:30am Sunday and 7:00pm Thursday practice. This makes a difference. God answers our prayers. We're encouraged by the range of music ministry offered including the new BCUC Choir (still to be named) and more original songs. Many of the series have been well received. It is great to see people stepping into different roles from service director, IT, prayers, testimonies, visual worship, preaching and videos.

"I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you." Psalm 22:22



Reasons to worship
God: 10,000
170 Hymns/Songs

Library

Our BCUC Library continues to grow. So much so we plan to hold another 'Book Give-away' in the near future to make room for our new books making it possible to regularly add new and up-to-date books. For example the just released book by Dr Patrick Sookhdeo on suffering, which he mentioned at his recent visit to BCUC. This year we have also added several new DVDs.

The Church Library is always open and available to everyone. It is worth the browse. Reviews of new acquisitions can be found in the monthly edition of CHATS. Colour coding system will help you find an area of your interest. Take your pick, but leave the card inside the book in the basket provided and return in 4 weeks.

Anyone interested in assisting in the Library is welcomed.



6 colour codes
Categories
1,000 Books

Big Day In

'Live in the vine' was the theme for our Big Day In on 29 October this year.

Under God's blessing and protector as Our Gardener (John 15:1-17), everyone had a great time with the wonderful opportunity to be together.

Following lunch, Benji led us in worship as a start to our understanding of 'Live in the vine' through various spiritual and practical workshops, the challenging game Croquet, the joys of an International lunch and the amazing spit roast lamb dinner. To finish the day we enjoyed and praised our talents from God's gifts.

It was an enjoyable day for everyone to experience. "We are branches in a true vine."



56 families attended
129 people attended

Discipleship

Small Groups

Our small group ministry is so important for raising Children of God.

Most of our groups meet fortnightly to study God's Word, pray for each other, enjoy fellowship and pastorally care for each other.

Our groups include adult in-person groups, an adult zoom group, a youth group, a group specifically for those who love to pray, and a Mandarin speaking group. This year our two church-wide studies looked at Jesus' Final Words from the Cross and the Creed: What Christians Believe and Why. Other studies undertaken by the groups include Christianity and World Religions, The Lord's Prayer, and Jesus the Game Changer.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is available for members to present their concerns for concentrated and confidential prayer.

As an online ministry, members can be contacted quickly so prayer cover begins as soon as possible.

The 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.

The chain welcomes new members with a heart for prayer.

Monday Communion

Since 2 May the Sacrament of Holy Communion has been celebrated on the first Monday of each month in the Worship Space to meet the needs for some unable to attend the 10am Sunday Holy Communion.

The service is of 25 minutes duration and those attending are encouraged to continue fellowship at the monthly Coffee, Cake and Conversation gathering afterwards.

Rev. Rob Williams usually leads the service with assistance from a dedicated team. From small beginnings, there were 30 worshipping at the November celebration.



7 Adult Groups
1 Youth Group
1 Mandarin Group
90 participants

150 prayer requests
Prayer Chain 66
participants

30 participants

Mission/Outreach

BCUC Cares

They asked him, "When, Lord, did we see you hungry, or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison?" Jesus replied, "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me". Mathew 25:37-40

In Jesus' name BCUC Cares, has reached out to:

- Australia's First People, providing support and building relationships, including 2 trips to Port Augusta with items for their Op shop.
- Asylum seekers and refugees.
- Various groups who provide services for asylum seekers and refugees.
- Those in need of basic daily essentials.



Connections Coordinator

I, Nancy Gao started my new role as Connections Coordinator on 28 July this year.

We have some new families feeling comfortable in joining our Sunday worship, a very active Youth group on Friday nights and our first Big Day In was held.

Members unable to access the newsletter via email are now happily receiving hard copies on Sunday morning.

Outreach has been through BCUC netball club, encouraging players and their families to join in BCUC Sunday service, helping at Marden College morning tea, open events and youth groups. I continue to encourage members from our Chinese bible study group and BSF Women's Fellowship.



Mission Focus

The Mission Focus Group meets to disperse funds allocated for mission within our state, nationally and internationally. This year from our allocation of \$9,000 we supported The Leprosy Mission, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Africa Inland Mission, the Tonga Disaster Appeal and the Moderator's Flood Relief Appeal. We also gave Frontier Services \$1,000 to honour the name of Kath and David Truran in memory of their love and work for the Outback people. Another \$575 was given to Frontier Services earlier in the year, proceeds from a lovely morning tea hosted by Verna Drexel. The main support is for Women in Ministry Project in the Pacific - to support women in further education in particular in the area of domestic violence. Photo shows Susana and Geraldine, two of the women in this program.



\$2,000 Uniting Communities
\$500 First Nation people
\$1,000 Circle of Hope
\$2,700 Refugees

5 Outreach programs
5 new families

\$1,000 Frontier Services in honour of Kath and David Truan

Mission/Outreach

Dr John/Barnabas Pantry

The sales from our Pantry support persecuted Christians in Myanmar.

In there you will find a wide selection of homemade jams, marmalades and relishes, all made by members of BCUC. We also have beautiful greeting cards by Margaret Lang and Ella McLaren.

Earlier this year at our two Parliamentary Elections we raised significant funds from our sausage sizzles, cake stalls and pantry items.

In late October the International Director, Dr Patrick Sookhdeo preached at BCUC and Carolyn Kerslake gave a powerful presentation of their work in Myanmar. We heard of the plight of the people, fleeing their homes and living in the jungle or camps. Their needs are great and we are able to provide some help through sales and donations to our Pantry.



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is embraced by our congregation as a missional project. The Kids Church assisted and many came again for the Packing morning the following day. It was a time of great joy as items were thoughtfully placed in the shoeboxes to be distributed in developing countries.

Glenside Men's Shed made a number of blackboards and wooden toys. We were also fortunate to receive about 150 knitted toys and beanies from two industrious knitters known to one of our Church members. Our own Sew and Chat group enjoyed making beaded bracelets again this year.

Recipients also receive a book in their own language telling them about Jesus and His love for them.



School Ministry

BCUC is blessed to be surrounded by many fantastic schools. This fact has changed the demographics of the area as families continue to move close by. Our outreach to the local schools is many and varied.

Aside from the parents and children of BCUC who actively participate and witness the love of Jesus in our local schools, BCUC has been active through the following: significant support of our local Pastoral Care Workers (PCW) through the hard work of BICC (Burnside Inter Church Council), a small group partnering with the PCW from Marden Senior College to provide food relief, staff morning teas for Marryatville and Marden, ongoing and strengthening links with Seymour College (including numerous speaking opportunities at assemblies), involvement in Christian Options Programs and school Christmas plays. Thanks for your continued prayers for school leaders, staff, students and families.



In total we have sent
\$6,000 this year

30 boxes packed by
Kids Church
183 shoeboxes on
packing day
30 people assisted
\$2798.50 donated

4 PCWs
26 local schools
1,000s of Children

Kids and Youth Ministry

Kids Sunday Worship

As always, Kids Church has brought many joys and some challenges. Our kids are growing. What joy it is to see their faith blossoming.

As COVID's influence reduced we returned to worship with the whole Church family for the early part of worship. They continue to learn, question, delight and discern as we work through the gospels. Their questions are both challenging and illuminating. They help us to see God's word in ways we hadn't imagined.

This term we started an Upper Primary group. This group moves the focus from learning about Christ's character to exploring the concept of personal faith more directly. It is awesome to see sparks igniting in the kids' hearts.

A couple of our Sunday helpers have taken to lead teaching and they have been wonderful. As our classes grow we are always looking for more teachers.



25 Kids average
4 Classes
8 Leads and 7 Helpers
52 Bible stories

Fifteen32 Youth

Fortnightly Fridays we often meet to eat, have fun in faith and enjoy hanging out together.

Out comes the whiteboard, the bibles and lively discussion about living out our faith today.

Our WhatsApp group chatter reminds us what we're going to do. Some old friends and some new friends are being made.

Combining with other local youth groups from Austral Asian Christian Church and Burnside Family Church we formed 'East Youth United' which meets once a term for worship, speaker and prayer.

We look forward to forming a youth band.



8-15 Youth
0 Broken bones

Kettle Club

Our second year of Kettle Club ran from Tuesday 19 July to Friday 21 July and was well received. It was themed around "More than you can imagine", Ephesians 3:20. Gideon was the focus of learning with the main mode of learning being interactive enactment and craft. The children enjoyed making flat bread, fleece blankets, trumpets, paper fire torches, paper prayer chain and yes, clay pots.

We started each day with prayer, followed by praise and worship, then the lesson. The afternoons were filled with activities, craft, an outing to Tusmore Park, Jumping Castle in the car park and to end the week a trip to Bounce.

Some families new to BCUC expressed their wish to continue as BCUC worship members.

We give thanks to the volunteers from BCUC and the community, the BCUC Council and the Lord for this enormous opportunity.



17 children average
21 children last day
\$15/day registration
Approx Budget \$1500

Kids and Youth Ministry

Playgroup

We have had another great year at Playgroup. One of the highlights this year was Playgroup in the Park, where we enjoyed outside activities and the play equipment. We had themes throughout the year which covered topics from underwater animals to rainbows.

Playgroup 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.

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.



6-12 Families
1 Coordinator
3 Volunteers

Mainly Music

Monday morning is alive with mums, dads, grandparents, and children enjoying singing, dancing and learning together. Our songs include God's love and creativity. Songs are both active and quiet, funny and serious.

We celebrate the Seasons, Birthdays, Mother's Day and Father's Day. Children receive a gift on their Birthday and at Christmas. Theme days included Teddy Bear's picnic, Dress-up Day, Easter story with Benji.

On 24 October this year mainly music at BCUC celebrated 15 years. This was celebrated with a cake and candles.

The team and helpers bring their skills to make a wonderful programme. The dough table and craft table are favourite activities.



36 Mondays
16 Families
20 Children

Netball

Summer netball has proven to be the most popular of the two seasons, with a record ten teams playing this summer season, up from three teams over winter. There are currently 83 juniors (age 6 - 17) and 35 seniors registered.

It has been a successful year, with some parents volunteering to coach and a couple of players learning to umpire.

The eleven and under team won the premiership in the winter season and in August we had a breakup and presentation night in the BCUC hall.



83 Juniors
35 seniors

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

*"For all who are led by
the Spirit of God
are Children of God"*
Romans 8:14

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