BURNSIDE CITY UNITING CHURCH
Raising Children of God

**Minister's Report**

Dear Members of BCUC

I am pleased to report that our church is growing and thriving, with attendance from a diverse range of ages and stages of faith. We have much to be thankful for, including the growth of our congregation, our finances, and the use of our building which has enabled deeper connections with the wider community. In particular we have new fruitful partnerships with YAV (Young Adelaide Voices), the Chinese language group, and Sing Australia. We have further consolidated our relationship with Seymour College through the provision of casual chaplaincy.

I want to express my gratitude for the work of Nancy, whose contribution has been invaluable in connecting new people to the life of the church and people to Jesus. It is important to note that growth, multiplication, and numbers are not the primary aim of our church but rather the consequence. The hope is to grow and multiply in raising children of God who raise children of God. To grow in **prayerful listening**. To grow in **learning and showing love**; love of Jesus and others. To be a place where all people ages and stages can grow and deepen in **friendships that encourage** and to **share the joy** found in the Holy Spirit in a world that cries in sorrow.

There is much to be thankful for, and we must recognise that any steps forward cannot be claimed by any person, leader, or strategy. The glory belongs to God alone.

During the middle of 2023 we look forward to completing our new website. Additionally, Stuart our church administrator will be on leave for three months starting on May 24th. We are very grateful for Heather Walraven, who will step in and fill that position during his leave.

Looking forward, we believe that God has a big vision for our church. Many people gifted in the prophetic have declared this over BCUC - that we are to be an influence shining the light of Christ that radiates beyond our congregation, into the community, the state, and globally. The MTF will be a key to helping unlock that vision.

The vision will be far more than mine or Church Council's but will be from Jesus as discerned through the whole congregation including those of the next generation. We will all need to exercise prayerful listening as we partner with what the spirit is already doing now and into the future. Not just what the Spirit did 12 years ago when BCUC first started or 46 years ago when the Uniting Church began.

I am confident that at BCUC God will continue to provide excellent gifted people with skills, capacity and heart for what God wants in this world.

In the short term we will continue to live out the values by the grace of God. They are a critical lens from which to make decisions. To this end I encourage us all to engage with the Peacemaker series from June. It will highlight for us biblical skills on how to respond to everyday conflict in a healthy disciple-making way. It is very practical teaching that will go a long way towards having encouraging friendships and learning love. I hope we can all explore this through the sermons, kids programs and small groups.

For 2023 the Church Council will begin to press in with prayer as to the next 5 years of BCUC while also working to further consolidate clear and consistent church structures that enable all of us to live out our values and raise children of God.

We must also press into the 'out' of the church, building a culture of disciple-making, including how each of us can share our faith with others. This will be a focus of the teaching at our Great Church Getaway in October 20-22 at Mylor.

In conclusion, there is much to be thankful for by the grace of God, and we look forward to continuing to grow and deepen in our faith, friendships, and community partnerships. We must trust in God's vision and plan for our church, and we will continue to exercise our values to make the best use of the resources we have been given.

Your brother in Christ,
Benji

May 2023