



**TOOWONG**  
UNITING CHURCH

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

TOOWONG CONGREGATION

LOVING GOD • LOVING ONE ANOTHER • LOVING TOOWONG



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### Special Thanks

to Geoff Rankin for the 40th Anniversary photography (pages 1 - 4) and Tuesday Pastorate "goals" photography (page 18)

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# LEAD MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**MATTHEW SMITH**  
LEAD MINISTER



The congregation listens to Neil Dutney speak about his memories of union on the 40th anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia.

You'll remember that last year was the 40th anniversary of the Uniting Church forming in Australia, and the tagline for our anniversary was "This is all of us". It prompted us as a church to reflect on who we are, and also to think about how the rest of the community sees us. These are great questions for us. What are the important contributions we make to the suburb around us? The answers to these question are contained within these pages.

This Annual Report captures the dedicated effort, planning and investment of our time and energy over 2017. As you have lived out the three foci of our mission statement, **"Loving God, Loving Others and Loving Toowong"**, you know that caring for others sometimes requires a lot of hard work. At other times, we find it's much easier, even rejuvenating. Either way, loving Toowong is our ongoing response to being joined together in Christ.

John Wesley wrote a prayer that sums up the challenge of living out the mission – where our walk follows our talk. He wrote it almost 280 years ago, and it still strikes a chord today;

*"Christ has many services to be done. Some are easy, others are difficult. Some bring honour, others bring reproach. Some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both... Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us."*

No surprise then that we can only be the Body of Christ through Christ's strength that sustains us at every point.

In closing, we express our great appreciation for the ministry Pastor Duncan Barlow rendered to this congregation. Duncan's pastoral leadership was characterized by thoughtful and dedicated care of all and gifted preaching in a time of transition. We continue to uphold Duncan, Alison, Evangeline and Ella in our prayers.

Please be encouraged and inspired by this report, as we continue to serve our Saviour in Toowong.



Cutting the anniversary cake with Toowong Uniting Church members of all generations!



A warm welcome to Matt, Narelle, Gabrielle, Asher and Isabel in January 2018 as Matt started his job as Lead Minister.



# CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

**DIANNE HUBBARD**

SECRETARY, TUC CHURCH COUNCIL



The Council looks back over 2017 with thankful hearts to our Lord and Saviour, who has guided and sustained us during this challenging year. The congregation members are sincerely thanked for their resilience, assistance, strength and prayers during this time without a full-time minister. Throughout the year, the congregation has continued to maintain its mission to each other, Toowong Uniting Church (TUC) and to others in the community.

During the year, the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) considered various candidates for ministry based on the Congregational Profile to which the congregation and the council contributed. After much time, prayer and deliberation, the congregation called Matthew Smith to be the full-time minister at TUC. Matthew and his family also felt called to serve in this place and in January 2018 we welcomed Matt and Narelle and their children: Gabrielle, Asher and Isabel. We look forward to Matt's ministry with us as he leads us into God's vision for our church.

A great deal of assistance was provided by congregation members throughout the year. Members supported Sunday services by welcoming at the door, providing music, presenting sermons, helping in the office,

providing transport, counting the offering and assisting with morning tea. Care for the community was also shown with the pantry continually stocked throughout the year and distributed on a needs basis to the community. In addition, many people spontaneously and organically cared for others through various means of contact and through prayer.

The Council extends their sympathy to members of the church family who experienced poor health and to those who lost loved ones during 2017 and prays that they will experience a time of healing during 2018.

The following is an overview of the activities of the Toowong Uniting Church during 2017. More details about church activities can be found in the other reports in this Annual Reports Booklet.



Above and above left: celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia over morning tea.

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting elected the following elders to the Church Council to serve until the 2018 Annual Congregational meeting: Dianne Hubbard, Garry Jennings, Stephen Longbottom, Wayne Middleton, Karen Nivala, Will Stewart and David Vici. Susan O'Brien was added to the council at a congregational meeting in October, 2017.

Neil Dutney, Wendy Geldenhuys and Shelagh Griffin resigned from the council early in the year and they are sincerely thanked for their contributions during their time serving the congregation in this way. Neil Dutney had served on a church council or as an elder for some 65 years.

Lauren Murray was once again co-opted as a member of the council for the second of two years and as per their ministerial positions, Pastor Duncan Barlow, Rev Evan Stenlake (until the end of March), and Clare Hankamer were ex-officio members of the Council.

## CONGREGATION OFFICE BEARERS

Jane Trewern was elected as Congregational Chair and Dianne Hubbard as Secretary of the Congregation at the Annual General Meeting in March 2017.

## MINISTRY TEAM

The new year began with Interim Minister, Evan Stenlake serving for three days per week (0.6 FTE). Evan led us until the end of March 2017 and he is sincerely thanked for his contribution in supporting the congregation during this time.

Pastor Duncan Barlow continued leading the evening service (Sunday Twilight) throughout the year for three days per week, (0.6 FTE). He also worked two days per week at Emmanuel College, at the University of Queensland. At the conclusion of Evan's interim ministry, Pastor Duncan Barlow generously led the morning worship, as well as continuing the evening service. We are extremely thankful and grateful for Duncan's service to the church, particularly in pastoral care with many experiencing the depth of this care.



Alison Barlow blessed us often in worship, leading the congregation with the gift of her beautiful voice. The presence of the Barlow daughters, Evangeline and Ella, in children and youth activities was also appreciated.

Clare Hankamer, Families' Worker, continued to be employed for three days per week (0.6 FTE). Clare is responsible to the Church Council for ministry to families, youth work and children's work, and she worked faithfully throughout the year to engage children, young people and families in the life of the church and to encourage them in their faith.

Matthew Smith was called to be the Lead Minister in August 2017 and he accepted this call, commencing his ministry at Toowong on 1 January, 2018.

## CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

Louise Middleton continued to be employed as Church Administrator for 16 hours per week and Lauren Murray continued in her role as Relationships Manager for 20 hours per week. The office is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Louise and Lauren are thanked for their ongoing work, which, during this year, often went beyond their job descriptions, as they supported the church with their administrative and communication skills.

## REPRESENTATIVE TO PRESBYTERY

Once again Will Stewart generously gave his time as the Presbytery representative for the Toowong Congregation and he is thanked for his proactive and faithful participation.

Will keeps the council and congregation informed of Presbytery meetings and any relevant aspects of Presbytery operations.

## FINANCES

During 2017 there was significant expenditure on the replacement of the church roof sheeting, the painting of the exterior of the church and hall, and the upgrade of the sound system to the church.

Consequently, there was a considerable draw-down on bank funds and a resulting Net Loss.

## BAPTISMS

During 2017, the following infants were baptised:

- Nash Curtis Hall, son of Conrad and Yvette Hall, on 19 February 2017.
- Sophia Grace McLachlan, daughter of Robert and Alicia McLachlan, on 28 May 2017.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sunday morning service

Attendance at the Sunday morning services was steady throughout the year. There was an average attendance over both services of approximately 105 persons including children. The congregation enjoyed various members delivering the message in the services.

Prayer ministry was offered at the conclusion of every service, and vibrant, interactive morning teas, supported enthusiastically by volunteers in the kitchen, were enjoyed.

### Sunday Twilight

The Sunday evening service (Sunday Twilight) was held throughout the year. The establishment of this service was generously supported by the congregation, especially through financial gifts being received for the Congregational Plant project.

Despite mixed attendances at Sunday Twilight, the time proved valuable to generate leadership in worship, to welcome new people to the congregation, and the intergenerational aspects of the services were appreciated.

A review of the evening service was conducted at the end of 2017 where the strengths of the service were discussed as well as the opportunities it presented for the future.

### Aveo service

Services were conducted monthly at Taringa Aveo Aged Care by Eric Woodrow who was assisted by volunteers from TUC. These services are greatly appreciated by the faithful residents who attend.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

An ecumenical Christmas carol service was held on the St Ignatius Primary school oval. Local churches of various denominations were involved including some members of our congregation.

The carols proved to be an excellent means for playgroup families and other members of the community to experience the real meaning of Christmas. Donations from the carols went to the Toowong Anglican Women's Refuge and Compassion Australia.

## FAMILIES' MINISTRY

Clare Hankamer is thanked for her continuing dedication to Families' Ministry. Clare's relationship building skills with all age groups continues to be appreciated by parents and children. She has built and trained a keen team of volunteers to assist in this ministry, enabling it to grow, to give our children and youth a grounding in the Christian faith, and to provide a strong outreach to the community.



Clare delivering a Kid's Talk on Easter Sunday 2017.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Council greatly values the dedicated assistance from volunteers who give their time so generously during the year to ensure our young people grow in faith and knowledge of the Bible. It is exciting to see the children deepening their faith as they grow in age and friendship together. More resources will be required as this ministry grows.

### Kids at Toowong on Sunday (KATS)

The Tigers group (pre-schoolers), held in the crèche, is a challenging group in which to maintain consistent attendance. Material was supplied each week for use by parents. The Leopards group (Prep to Year Two), and the Lions group (Years Three to Five), continued to flourish during the year with the children's faith being developed, using the Scripture Union Light curriculum.

### Junior Youth

Junior Youth also met on Sunday mornings. Each session encouraged the attendees to get to know God better as they read the Bible and learned to pray and share with each other. Activities during the year for Junior Youth included leadership activities and training, group discussions and a sleepover.

### Senior Youth

Senior Youth met on alternate Saturday evenings for various activities including Bible study, games and prayer. A camp was held for the first time during 2017 and the growing numbers in the Senior Youth will ensure this activity becomes part of their program into the future. The young people are being encouraged to take part in Sunday Services, and to assist with data and music during the service.

### Kittens Playgroup

In 2017, the number of families coming to playgroup continued to increase and this has resulted in the establishment of a second playgroup on a Thursday morning during 2018. The strong team of helpers are thanked for ensuring a pastoral care setting for the families attending as well as a great deal of fun for the children. As part of story time, Bible stories and Christian songs were used on alternate weeks. We praise God that some playgroup families have started attending Sunday morning worship, especially when there was a special celebration, a testament to this important outreach into the community.

## SAFE MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN (SMC)

The Toowong Uniting Church believes that every person is precious to God and in following Jesus' example we are committed to following the principles and policies of Safe Ministry with Children. Clare diligently ensures that systems, training and processes are in place to ensure the safety of our children in all programs and events.

The office staff were responsible for maintaining the records and registers for Blue Card registration and Safe Ministry for Children, carrying out these important tasks to meet UCA Qld Synod and government legislative requirements in an efficient and thorough manner.

### Training

Safe Ministry Training was undertaken at various venues in the Presbytery by council members and those working with children. In addition, Chubb conducted Fire Safe Training which was attended by some 15 people including the ministry team, church council and property committee members.



## CHILD CARE CENTRES

During 2017, Clare, assisted by Lauren Murray maintained TUC's relationship with the Toowong Childcare Centre and Jahjumben Child Care, and conducted activities at the centres on several different occasions including Easter and Christmas. They are always invited back for the following year.

On a different note, negotiations have continued throughout the year to develop a new Memorandum of Understanding between Toowong Uniting Church and Wesley Mission.

## KOREAN CONGREGATION

The church facilities are used by the Korean Congregation who have continued to face some significant challenges during 2017. They are now a Faith Community under the direction and responsibility of the Presbytery and Brian Hoole, Presbytery Minister continues to liaise with this congregation.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The committee is thanked for their work during the year, a particularly busy one, due to the replacement of the roof of the church and hall complex, and the painting of the outside of this building. Property Committee members are Paul Briggs, Robert Hubbard (Chair), Robert Lord, Ray Mackenroth, Louise Middleton (Property Management and Administration), Brad Round, Sarah Round, and Barry Whebell. Robert Hubbard has resigned as Chair of the Property Committee and Brad Round has agreed to take on the role in 2018. Robert is thanked for his exceptional contribution as Chair over the past several years.

During 2017, the Committee continued to ensure property maintenance was kept up-to-date and that good risk management practices and processes were sustained. Investigations are ongoing to explore major repairs of the roof and the solution to the water ingress into the kitchen.

Louise Middleton is thanked for efficiently administering the properties and tenants throughout 2017.

## PRAYER GROUP

A faithful group has met for prayer at the church between 8.00 and 9.00 am on Monday mornings during the year. Prayer points always include members of the Toowong Congregation, the local community, as well as Australian and overseas concerns.

## PASTORATES

The Tuesday Evening Pastorate met fortnightly throughout the year. At the Pastorate, a meal was shared, and members took part in worship, prayer and interactive activities. The pastorate encourages and

assists to develop leadership, faith and community and provides an environment where people get to know one another in an informal setting. At the same time, it provides a safe place in which to explore and share faith and which is welcoming to faith seekers.

## MORNING TEA UNDER THE UMBRELLAS

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas met monthly at the church with Gwen Gloynes, Beryl Mortimer, and June Rayment providing genuine and faithful leadership. Contributions from various speakers, time to intermingle in a family-like ambience, as well as delicious morning teas were enjoyed. Gold coin donations at each meeting enabled a gift of \$500 to be made to Frontier Services.

## CONNECT BRUNCH

Held after Sunday services at various times throughout the year, Connect Brunch enabled new people to meet members of the congregation in an informal setting and to learn more about Toowong Uniting over a meal and chat.

## STITCHING & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Led by Shirley Holden, the group met in the church hall for friendship and craft. A wide variety of items using various skills and techniques were created, and contributions were generously made to several charities including the Mater Hospital, the Ipswich Women's Refuge and the Christmas Red Bag Appeal. Highlights were the Mothers' Day Stall, the Melbourne Cup luncheon and the Christmas breakup.

## ACTIVE FAITH

During the year, Grace Branjerdporn and Stephen Longbottom worked as Active Faith Pastors, discipling and mentoring the university students as well as strengthening the relationship between TUC and the students. They introduced several international students who had become Christians to the congregation. They also encouraged the students to participate in an Easy English Bible Study prior to the Sunday service and to take part in services. Personal mentoring and various events enabled Grace and Stephen to share the gospel message through song, fellowship, Bible discussion, testimonies and prayer.

Active Faith was a funded initiative of the UCA Qld Synod and the Bremer-Brisbane Presbytery to provide chaplaincy services, particularly to the University of Queensland, in partnership with St Lucia Uniting Church and Indooroopilly Uniting Church. Sadly, the funding for this project has been discontinued; however, it is hoped that Grace will be able to continue this ministry in some capacity in 2018.

## ENGLISH CONVERSATION

English Conversation was held on Mondays during term time from 9.30 to 11.30 am in the hall. With the assistance of diligent and faithful volunteers who facilitate and serve morning tea, these classes were appreciated by people for whom English is not their first language. The classes were also an opportunity to enhance and practise their speaking skills in a Christian environment. The volunteers are thanked for their loyal contribution to this ministry.

## PRAYER AND CARE TEAM (PACT)

This team provided support for people, mainly from TUC, who were in need due to various physical, emotional, spiritual or general life challenges. Support was provided through personal contact, prayer and meals. The group does not replace the informal caring conducted by all members of the congregation for each other.



## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2018

A new season beckons for Toowong Uniting Church in 2018 and it is with a sense of excitement and expectation that we look forward to the year. We look forward to the growing faith and discipleship of all people at Toowong Uniting Church, to the engagement of people not involved in the church, and to the equipping of our current and new leaders.

We ask you to pray for Matthew as he takes on the task of leading and caring for Toowong Uniting Church and we pray that the congregation continues to be a faithful and welcoming community which maintains its intergenerational character, with Christ as its centre.



# FAMILIES' MINISTRY REPORT

**CLARE HANKAMER**  
FAMILIES' WORKER



The Playgroup Teddy Bear's Picnic 2017.

The Families' Ministry has developed over the course of 2017 in relation to programs conducted, and in numbers attending the groups as well as in opportunities for our children and families to grow in faith and friendships. Activities are provided for children from babies at playgroup to teenagers in the Senior Youth Group.

## KIDS AT TOOWONG ON SUNDAY

I am thrilled that over the last couple of years, the Kids at Toowong on Sunday (KATS) volunteer team has remained almost unchanged, with an experienced group of teachers who plan the program. The crèche room has been well used; however, in 2018, many of the children using it in the past are now wanting to move into Leopards, often desiring to be with their siblings. This has meant a broad age group for Leopards which has been accommodated with the help of parents to allow younger children to participate.

A Communion Preparation course was delivered early in 2017 and it was well attended by eight children and their parents.

Lions continues to provide an excellent program for upper juniors, many moving into Junior Youth in 2018 having formed strong friendships and development in their faith.

It was wonderful to celebrate with all the children for their Christmas celebration and party in December. Each year different children are able to take part and as the years go by, it is exciting to see the younger children grow into the reading and speaking roles with great enthusiasm.

We thank God for our KATS teachers: Dianne Hubbard, Catherine Wuttke, Mikayla Hiscock, Brendan Tan, Bev Homel, Kiki Keefer and Sarah Smith. Please pray for our children as we see God at work in their hearts and the seeds of faith develop in them.

## YOUTH GROUPS

2017 was an exciting year for the youth groups as, for the first time, we were able to offer two youth programs, dividing the youth group into Junior and Senior Youth Groups. Junior Youth continues to meet on Sunday morning in the church house during the service, while Senior Youth meets every second Saturday evening in the church house or church hall.

## JUNIOR YOUTH

Karen Nivala, Lauren Murray, Anni Silvonon, and I led Junior Youth during 2017 which included the Leadership Training course with four events over the year including the sleepover in Term Three where the young people experienced what it was like to live in a family affected by HIV. Many thanks go to Wayne Middleton for assisting in leading this event with the regular leaders.



The Junior Youth Sleepover.



Senior Youth members and leaders playing music on camp.

## SENIOR YOUTH

Nathan Holland, Lauren Murray, Luke Reynoldson and I led Senior Youth in 2017. The program was held every second Saturday evening with Bible study, reflection, games and themed discussions.

For the first time, we were able to take the Senior Youth on camp to Hosanna Farm in Northern New South Wales in Term Three. Let us give thanks to God for his provision for our young people and for the team who ran the camp: Mikayla Hiscock, Nathan Holland, Stephen Longbottom, Lauren Murray, Geoff and Renata Rankin, and Luke Reynoldson.

Nathan Holland was farewelled in December 2017 as he will be studying at Bible College in 2018. We thank Nathan for his ministry to our young people. He will be greatly missed; however, we will stay in contact as he studies. Please pray for him.

It has been a privilege to work with Nathan and Lauren to support them in their youth ministry gifts. As Arch Martin Intern students it has been wonderful to see them take on this ministry work and to grow in their faith and gifts.

We hope to go on camp again in Term Two, 2018 and are thrilled that the group are inviting friends along to join us for various sessions.

I thank God for the privilege of working with the youth ministry teams and it is really exciting seeing our young people grow in their faith and love of God and their friendships with each other.



Senior Youth breakup party at the O'Brien's home.





Clare leads song- and story-time at the Friday Playgroup.

## PLAYGROUP

In 2017, we saw numbers increase at Playgroup to 30+ families per session (approximately 70 people per session including children). Although this was very exciting, with many people being referred to us, it resulted in pressure on the Hall space and volunteers. The Church Council approved a second Playgroup mid-2017; however, we were unable to launch this until February 2018. I am delighted that there is already a thriving group of families and a team of volunteers and thank God for His provision. The new group is held on Thursdays and has the same program as Fridays. The Friday group is now at capacity with a waitlist, and the Thursday group is almost at capacity. Wendy Browne has been appointed as Playgroup Coordinator (paid position) to support me to run the Friday Playgroup while I establish the Thursday group.

Let us thank God and humbly pray that this work will bear fruit for Him as we serve over 50 families in our suburb. We also thank God for the Playgroup families who were able to worship with us at Christmas for the Community Carols and at our Christmas services. Please pray as we meet as a Playgroup community, that the families who attend will experience God's presence and come to know Him for themselves.

We thank God for the following wonderful team of Playgroup volunteers who give so faithfully and positively of their time and gifts to provide interaction with families and a fun, safe environment for the children.

Thursday volunteers are Sandra Hemming, Bev Homel, Garry Jennings, Gem Mackenroth and Lauren Murray, and Friday volunteers are Denise Harch, Sandra Hemming, Barbara Mitchell, Beryl Mortimer, and Arini Stamenkovic.

## CHILDCARE CENTRES

I was invited into the Toowong Childcare Centre to develop their vegetable patch in 2017 and it was great to reconnect with the children there and at Jahjumbeen again at Easter and Christmas with Lauren Murray. We were given a wonderful opportunity to share the good news of Jesus' birth and resurrection through stories, song and craft and it is a blessing and very satisfying to have the children recognise us and anticipate the activities with great excitement. We have been invited back to conduct the same sessions in 2018.

Please pray for Toowong Childcare Centre Director Angeles Stark and her new baby, Acting Director Laura



Top left: Song-time at Playgroup. | Top right: Bushwalking on Senior Youth Camp. | Bottom: The KATS Nativity Play.

Gaucheta Cepeda and staff; and Jahjumbeen Director Ashleigh Crouch and her new baby, and Acting Director Kate Redward and staff.

We thank God for this continuing relationship with both centres and ask for prayer that the children will come to know Him.

## SAFE MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

We are continuing to work towards full implementation of the UCA Qld Synod Safe Ministry with Children Policy which incorporates screening and training of volunteers, safe ministry practice and ongoing risk assessment. An annual internal audit was conducted in August with Dianne Hubbard, Lauren Murray, Louise Middleton and myself to review, evaluate and improve processes. Also in August, the required Volunteer Register for TUC was submitted to Synod for their audit; and a risk assessment audit was carried out on the church site, by the Synod Insurance Team.

I continued to work closely with my professional supervisor, Brian Hoole, and Lynette Drew to work through issues arising especially reporting obligations. I strongly appreciate their support and guidance in the absence of a lead pastor at Toowong in 2017.

I appreciate the investment that our congregation has put into this vital work through staffing and the support of Church Council. I ask for your continued prayers that we are given wisdom in carrying out this work and that our church is a safe place for all especially children, youth and the vulnerable.

I thank Louise Middleton and Lauren Murray for their diligent and thorough work in administering the Safe Ministry Policy Volunteer Register and volunteer screening.

I take this opportunity to thank Dianne Hubbard in the huge role that she undertakes as Risk Management Coordinator for Church Council, and also for her encouragement, mentoring and support to me throughout 2017. It has been wonderful and deeply appreciated.

As we move into 2018, we pray that God will continue to bless our families and pray that everyone feels that they are welcome and able to seek, deepen or share their faith within the community at TUC.



# PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

**ROBERT HUBBARD**

CHAIR, PROPERTY COMMITTEE



Members of the Property Committee in 2017 were Paul Briggs, Robert Hubbard (Chair), Rob Lord, Ray Mackenroth, Louise Middleton (Property Manager), Brad and Sarah Round, and Barry Whebell. Sarah Round and Paul Briggs joined the committee for our last meeting of the year in December, and they were both warmly welcomed as part of the team for the ensuing future.

During the year the committee held five formal meetings and a number of informal gatherings to discuss various maintenance issues.

The most significant expenditure during the year was the replacement of the church roof sheeting inclusive of new gutters and downpipes, and the repainting of the exterior of the church and hall complex. This required a substantial draw down of our bank funds and considerable inconvenience to the congregation and users of the hall over some weeks. The Property Committee thanks the congregation and the hall users, particularly the Kittens Playgroup for their patience during this time.

The other significant area of expenditure in 2017 was the upgrading of the sound system to the church including the installation of a visual display at the rear of the church for the benefit of the musicians and those who speak from the lectern. The Property Committee thanks Luke Reynoldson and Brad Sheen for their advice, input and time in the process of purchasing and installing this upgrade.



Volunteers at the Working Bee in March 2017.

There were also a number of smaller maintenance type activities carried out within our properties, including the:

- installation of a new boundary fence to the manse
- installation of additional child proof power points in the crèche
- purchase of two new first aid kits
- installation of fall risk signs to the church entry and mezzanine balustrades
- replacement of cracked window panes in the church and church house
- replacement of a rusty water pipe in the church house driveway
- investigation of the cost to install a PWD (Persons with a Disability) toilet at the church level
- servicing of the church air conditioning units, and
- the annual termite and pest control inspections.

Two working bees were held during the year with over 30 persons attending the March one and more than 20 persons attending in October. Each time a good number of maintenance and cleaning activities were undertaken during a time of great fellowship and teamwork.

The most significant maintenance costs for 2018 will be some structural repair work to the steelwork at the top of the bell tower and repairs to the concrete ceiling in the hall kitchen.

The committee again worked well together during 2017. I thank all members for their contributions to the continuing stewardship of our properties at Toowong UCA, and I advise that Brad Round has agreed to accept the role of Chairperson of this committee in 2018.



# MORNING TEA UNDER THE UMBRELLAS

**BERYL MORTIMER**  
COORDINATOR



Top: The Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas Christmas Celebration. | Bottom: Delicious treats made by Gwen and June.

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas (MTUU) is an important part of the TUC program. It is provided generously and graciously by our hostesses Gwen and June on third Wednesday each month for 15 – 20 grateful participants in a variety of age groups.

This year the program has focused on a “Getting to Know You” theme enabling the group to enjoy a diversity of personal stories given by some of the members. We have also appreciated contributions given by Pastor Duncan and Alison Barlow.

The delicious morning teas throughout the year including the beautiful “spread” which our hostesses provide on the final occasion for year, are always a highlight.

Important aspects of the group are the support the group attendees give to each other and the family-like

atmosphere experienced during the time together. When necessary, contact is made with members of the group between meetings especially in times of challenging circumstances for various individuals.

Coin donations contributed each month resulted in a donation of \$500 to Frontier Services.

A huge thank you goes to Gwen and June for their tireless generosity for MTUU, personifying practical Christian love.

# ENGLISH CONVERSATION

**BARRY WHEBELL**  
COORDINATOR



Volunteers and students having fun in class.

The Monday English conversation group continued successfully throughout 2017. As expected with international visitors, some had to return to their home countries due to their visas expiring. Those spaces always seemed to fill with new arrivals turning up each week. Weekly numbers were up to fifteen.

A big thank you to Peter Hamilton, Margaret Johnson, Ray Mackenroth, Will Stewart and Jane Trewern for their marvellous support throughout the year. Also thanks go to helpers from the wider community: Tie Hong, Berilyn Morrison and Jen Tan for their assistance. During a meeting at the end of 2016, Will and Ray were appointed joint leaders for delivery of the weekly lessons.

As I mentioned last year, these classes are an important outreach for TUC to new arrivals in our community who are seeking assistance with their new language.

2018 has commenced well with fourteen attendees and I look forward to another successful year.



# TUESDAY PASTORATE

**SHELAGH GRIFFIN**  
PASTORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM



The TUC Terrific Tuesday Pastorate.

It has been another full year for the Tuesday pastorate, with great food, great conversation and great prayer times, where participants have a safe environment in which to explore and express their faith, and where faith seekers are always welcome.

There have been a couple of changes in leadership, with big thanks to Laura Healy and Maggie Jenson for their roles over the years and a warm welcome onto the team for Ross and Bev Homel and Lucy Harriman. Numbers tend to be around 12 – 18 each fortnight and often reach over 20 mid-year.

The group continues to follow the five goals of the pastorate:

To Equip, Encourage, Explore, Enjoy and Express and this year adding an extra E, to Engage.

In 2017 we looked at the character of Jesus and some of his disciples, reflecting on this topic in our own relationships. At the end of the year a different style of study was used, utilising Bill Hybels material on 'Just Walk Across the Room'. This study was designed to help us feel confident about sharing our faith with others

in an easy manner and connecting with people at a friendship level within our community.

The evening usually starts with dinner and dessert followed by singing and sharing. The study follows with plenty of time for discussion and reflection. We close around 9.00 pm after a time of prayer for ourselves, others and our communities.

A roster is created by the leaders at the start of the semester with all regular members having the opportunity to take on different roles and develop their talents in various areas, always with the support of the team. The role of 'host' is also designated to one of the leaders each week. We have a Facebook group and share emails to communicate.

A big thank you goes to Duncan for his support with leadership and regular participation in the group, and also for his great jokes and fried rice.



For a bit of fun, the five goals of Pastorate were visualised in 2016 using toys.

We continue to support and pray for those who are looking for work, or wanting to change a work environment, who have various health challenges, are moving house, have loved ones in crisis and students who are studying and face the regular stress of assignments and exams. We have also celebrated engagements, new jobs, good results, travels near and far and had lots of fun together. Anyone is most welcome to drop in anytime.





# ACTIVE FAITH

**GRACE BRANJERDPORN & STEPHEN LONGBOTTOM**  
ACTIVE FAITH PASTORS



A special Christmas "CONVERGE" gathering with many international students.

Stephen Longbottom and Grace Branjerdporn undertook the Active Faith Chaplaincy role over the course of 2017. This role aimed to strengthen ties between TUC and university students, and support the faith of university students. During this time, Grace and Stephen saw God work in many ways. Some of the highlights included:

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Grace and Stephen conducted multiple young adult events such as Converge and a Carolling/Christmas Light Tour, attracting approximately 15-30 students. These events comprised of sharing the gospel message through song, fellowship, Bible discussions, reflections, testimonies and prayer.

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

Each Sunday morning prior to morning service, an Easy English Bible study that covered the minister's sermon passage for that day, was held for international students. During this time, the students were also trained to participate in the service (e.g. Bible reading, children's message), and experienced fellowship over breakfast.

Approximately 15-20 different students attended this Bible Study over the course of the year, and three TUC members have joined. It is pleasing to note that positive feedback has been received about the Bible Study. For instance, students report that it helps them understand the Bible better and fosters their relationship with God. Students and congregational members have also benefitted from the students' involvement in the service.

## DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Grace and Stephen led individual Bible studies on the University of Queensland campus with a total of 10-15 different students attending throughout the course of the year. These studies were held during the week with those



Top: Carolling at Jane's house. | Bottom left: A Power to Change fellowship dinner. | Bottom right: Leading the Kid's Talk.

who were interested in learning more about God. Some students were non-believers who became Christians through these Bible studies, and others were trained to lead Bible studies themselves.

## CHRISTIAN CAMP

An Easter "Breakthrough" Camp held by Power to Change, was attended by Stephen and Grace. Four of the students in whom Grace and Steve had invested time and prayer gave their lives to Christ. These students were then disciplined to become Christian leaders.

## ONGOING POWER TO CHANGE EVENTS

Grace and Stephen were involved in a range of Power to Change International Student Ministry events such as Catalyst, a Thursday night gathering, and various fellowship events (e.g. dinners, outings, leadership training). These opportunities were invaluable in sharing the gospel through friendship ministry to a range of 100-150 students.

## FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Unfortunately, the funding for Active Faith from the Synod and Presbytery was discontinued at the end of 2017. However, Grace hopes to develop and deliver a University Chaplaincy program in the new year.



# STITCHING & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

**SHIRLEY HOLDEN**  
COORDINATOR



Some members of the Stitching & Friendship Group enjoying a cuppa before they get to work on their various craft projects.

## Everyone in the group enjoyed another busy, productive and pleasurable year.

During Term One the members made fabric and felt brooches and Easter cards. They were also shown how to make fabric tissue holders and Grub Stitch roses.

Term Two was a busy one with the Mother's Day stall being very successful and the ladies being very creative and coming up with excellent ideas. Another activity during this term was making a Raggy Quilt. In addition, the Mater Hospital put out a call for Cuddle Hearts for the Critical Care Unit. Everyone was happy to participate and made 51 packs of the hearts, 153 Cuddle Hearts in total. In addition, a friend of one of the group made 19 baby beanies for the Mater. The ladies agreed the Cuddle Heats project was a very special 'feel good' project.

Christmas in July was held again with everyone bringing a plate of food for a special morning tea. During Term Three, 69 knitted beanies were knitted for the "139 Club" and toothpaste, toothbrushes, shavers, shaving foam, socks and coats were also donated. A Christmas cinnamon stick decoration, a decorated felt Christmas tree and a fabric hanging hearts decoration were made. The ladies learnt how to sew a cushion cover without a zip – a very popular item.

All the ladies dressed up and wore fascinators for this year's Melbourne Cup Day during Term Four, with food brought by participants making the Cup Day special. One of the activities of this term, was the making of a folded fabric Christmas decoration, and the Christmas stall was a great success. The festivities at the Christmas break-up lunch held in the hall on 5 December were enjoyed by all.

Demonstrating their generous hearts, the group members donated various items to the Ipswich Women's Refuge and the Christmas Red Bag Appeal. Also, the members are thanked and congratulated for supporting the worthy cause of the Toowong Uniting Church Food Pantry throughout 2017.

The group thanks the Toowong Uniting Church for their continued support in allowing the ladies to use the hall and facilities. This year, \$300.00 was donated by the Stitching and Friendship group to the church.

I thank everyone for an excellent year and I hope all members are looking forward to another year of fun, friendship and craft in 2018.

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

**ROBERT JOHNSON**  
TREASURER

## NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December, 2017, with comparative figures for the Year Ended 31 December, 2016, comprise of:

- Balance Sheet as at 31 December, 2017
- Income Statement for the year ended 31 December, 2017.

The statements are based on the cash basis of accounting. Capital expenditure is written off in the Income Statement with the exception of the creation of a Provision for Major Maintenance of \$40,000.00.

A detailed Income Statement is available on request.

## INCOME STATEMENT

The cash operating loss for 2017 was \$86,574.31, with the Net Loss for the year being \$46,574.31, after crediting Provision for Major Maintenance \$40,000.00, which had been created during 2016 (\$20,000.00) and 2015 (\$20,000.00).

It was a good result under the circumstances.

Church Council budgeted for a loss of \$41,514.78. The main reasons for the loss and budget variation were:

	<b>COST</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	
Roof repairs	69,484.37	70,000.00	
Scaffolding	5,250.00	0	Included in Roof budget
Painting	33,908.00	0	Done while scaffolding was erected
	<b>\$108,642.37</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>	
Ministry Stipends	97,212.70	119,546.40	Not employing Supply Minister, April - Dec

Capital Purchases, \$11,266.86 was for the new sound system. A parishioner kindly donated \$5,000.00 in 2016 for this new sound system.

Offerings totalled \$182,394.59, including Evening Plant of \$10,670.00 and Evening Service, \$7,919.35, a decrease of \$18,361.16 (9.15%) on 2016. Rental Income increased by \$2,974.43 to \$25,551.57. Property Expenses increased by \$90,850.61 to \$154,744.02, mainly due to replacement of church roof and painting, as stated above. Expenditure increased by \$53,727.76 to \$387,695.23.

Contributions from the Toowong Child Care Centre and Jahjumbeen increased by \$12,272.04 to \$44,944.92

## BALANCE SHEET

Cash at bank, \$25,769.09 and on deposit at UCIS, \$453,993.37, on 31 December, 2016 was \$480,762.46 (2016 - \$577,283.83). GST expenditure on roof repairs and painting paid in October, 2017, contributed materially to a GST refund received since 31 December, 2017 of \$11,424.00

In November 2017, a Bank Debit Card account was opened with \$1,000.00 at St George Bank to provide card purchasing facilities for some staff members.



# BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2017

	DEC 31 2017	DEC 31 2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Current/Savings		
General Parish Fund	25,769.09	37,887.06
St George Visa Debit Ac		
St George Bank Debit Visa Ac	1,000.00	0.00
Total St George Visa Debit Ac	1,000.00	0.00
Total Current/Savings	26,769.09	37,887.06
Other Current Assets		
11 - Term Deposit	453,993.37	539,396.77
Petty Cash Float	100.00	100.00
Total Other Current Assets	454,093.37	539,496.77
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>480,862.46</b>	<b>577,383.83</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>480,862.46</b>	<b>577,383.83</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Provision for Major Maintenance	0.00	40,000.00
Tax Payable		
GST		
Tax Collected	734.77	293.20
Tax Paid	-12,158.02	-1,769.39
Total GST	-11,423.25	-1,476.19
Total Tax Payable	-11,423.25	-1,476.19
Total Other Current Liabilities	-11,423.25	38,523.81
Total Current Liabilities	-11,423.25	38,523.81
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-11,423.25</b>	<b>38,523.81</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Bal Equity	538,860.02	553,125.00
Net Income	-46,574.31	-14,264.98
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>492,285.71</b>	<b>538,860.02</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>480,862.46</b>	<b>577,383.83</b>

# INCOME STATEMENT (ABRIDGED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	JAN - DEC 17	JAN - DEC 16
<b>ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Appeals - Collections	1,836.10	783.55
Contributions/Other Income	69,312.18	89,445.06
Donations - Received	2,834.88	8,482.00
Fund Raising - Income	1,782.30	2,866.40
Offerings	182,394.59	200,755.75
Rental Income	25,551.57	22,577.14
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>283,711.62</b>	<b>324,909.90</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Administration	62,777.92	59,846.36
Capital Purchases	11,266.86	10,325.82
Christian Education	6,855.85	7,385.33
Donations - Given	3,519.48	6,631.46
Fund Raising - Expenses	769.50	947.65
Ministry - Local	15,276.60	90,252.00
Ministry - Other	35,391.05	35,712.82
Ministry - Plant	45,302.40	22,869.71
Ministry - Wider Work	48,337.01	26,499.00
Parish Expenses	3,454.54	9,603.91
Property Expenses	154,744.02	63,893.41
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>387,695.23</b>	<b>333,967.47</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>-103,983.61</b>	<b>-9,057.57</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME/EXPENSE</b>		
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Bequest	7,812.70	0.00
Interest Income	9,596.60	14,792.59
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>17,409.30</b>	<b>14,792.59</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSE</b>		
Other Expenses	-40,000.00	20,000.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE</b>	<b>-40,000.00</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>57,409.30</b>	<b>-5,207.41</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-46,574.31</b>	<b>-14,264.98</b>



