



**TOOWONG**  
UNITING CHURCH

# Annual Report 2018



**The Uniting Church in Australia  
Toowong Congregation**

Loving God • Loving One Another • Loving Toowong



## Contact

### Church Office

11 Grove Street, Toowong, QLD, 4066

Hours: 9.30 am – 1.00 pm Tues, Wed and Fri

### Telephone

(07) 3870 9684

### Email

[info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:info@toowongunitingchurch.org.au)

### Online

[www.toowongunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.toowongunitingchurch.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/toowonguniting](https://www.facebook.com/toowonguniting)

### ABN

71 838 223 142

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# Minister's Letter

**Matthew Smith**  
Lead Minister



Narelle, Gabby, Asher, Issy and Matt being welcomed to TUC, 14 January 2018.

Throughout 2018, Toowong Uniting Church (TUC) has purposefully lived out a mission. It's a God-given invitation to be the Body of Christ in Toowong, a mission this church has responded to now for 133 years. We gather in response to the call of Jesus, Saviour and head of our Body, so our call to mission is at Christ's request. God has called you and me to be the agents of His reconciliation here in Toowong. This is no small responsibility!

While reading this annual report, please consider: what is the evidence of the leading and guidance of God's Spirit at TUC, and what has been our response in obedience to that call? How have we been Christ locally, visible on our street, reaching out? How has prayer, worship and service affected our neighbourhood and the many people who have sought us? Read on and find the good news stories within this report, revealing the exciting and diverse ministries we have creatively engaged in through our attempts to live out that great commission.

If you have been at TUC for even just a short period of time, you'll know that there's a real sense of energised people motivated through Christ's love to go further in their journey with God. That journey never ends, and we rely on each other for support and navigational assistance. To give direction, our Church Council has provided dedicated spiritual oversight, giving their time and talent to see the vision for TUC take shape. We are blessed that God has drawn people to TUC who are

deeply passionate about God's kingdom and committed to see that become reality through our obedience as a church. To the entire Church Council team, thank you for serving with commitment and prayerful wisdom. We appreciate you all.

It's been very energizing for me to work with the staff team of Clare, Lauren, Wendy and Garry, who give of themselves selflessly, serve joyfully and have been faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to them. Thank you for the 100% commitment you give in your service at TUC.

Narelle and I have been enormously encouraged and supported by the entire church. We have appreciated the many ways you have welcomed our family, shown grace and given a warm embrace. We are blessed to be sharing life with you here! Every blessing as you serve our Saviour.



**Clockwise from top left:** Alicia, Sophia and Matt catching up before a Sunday morning service. (Photo by Geoff Rankin) | Sue, Neil and Grace chatting after the service. (Photo by Geoff Rankin) | Hospitality Sunday at Warwick and Wendy's home. (Photo by Stephen Longbottom) | Hospitality Sunday at Ray and Gem's home. (Photo by Ray Mackenroth) | The kids preparing for their big entrance at the KATS Nativity Play, 9 December 2018. (Photo by Tim Wonhof)

# Church Council Report

**Dianne Hubbard**

Secretary, TUC Church Council



The whole church came to celebrate at Matt's Service of Induction, 20 January 2018.

TUC has experienced an exciting and fruitful 2018. At the commencement of the year, the Council looked forward to the arrival and consequent ministry of our new minister, Rev Matthew Smith. Now, at the end of this year, the Council looks back with grateful hearts on how God's Holy Spirit has guided TUC through an exciting and eventful year with Matt as Lead Minister.

The Council thanks the congregation who have continued to give their many and varied talents in the service of our Lord, each other, and the community. In particular, the prayers of the congregation were appreciated and valued in enabling the church to maintain its mission within and beyond the congregation.

A great deal of assistance was provided by congregation members throughout the year. Everyone helped in some way by providing music, presenting sermons, helping in the office, providing transport, welcoming at the foyer door, counting the offering and assisting with morning tea. Many continued to lead in formal and informal ways and some took up new leadership tasks. In addition, many people instinctively and spontaneously cared for others through various means of contact and in prayer.

Playgroups and English Conversation provided specific services to the community and the pantry was continually stocked throughout the year and distributed on the basis of individual requests and needs.

The Council extends their thoughts and prayers to members of the church family who experienced poor health and also their sympathy to those who lost loved ones during 2018. May all experience a time of healing in 2019.

The following is the Council's overview of the activities of the Toowong Uniting Church during 2018. More detail about church activities may be found in the other reports in this Annual Reports booklet.



Lunch at the combined Korean/TUC Service, 25 November 2018.

## Council membership

The 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting elected the following elders to serve until the 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting: Dianne Hubbard, Garry Jennings, Stephen Longbottom, Wayne Middleton, Lauren Murray, Karen Nivala, Susan O'Brien, Will Stewart and David Vicig.

Matthew Smith and Clare Hankamer were ex-officio members of the Council.

## Congregation office bearers

Jane Trewern was elected as Congregational Chair and Susan O'Brien as Secretary of the Congregation at the Annual General Meeting in March 2018.

## Ministry team

After accepting the call in August 2017 to be Lead Minister at TUC, Matthew Smith commenced his ministry at Toowong on 1 January, 2018. His induction was held at the church on Saturday 20 January 2018, with David Baker, Moderator of the Queensland Uniting Church

and Brian Hoole, Bremer-Brisbane Presbytery Minister attending. Many clergy from the Presbytery, along with family, friends, members of The Gap Uniting and Toowong Uniting churches also attended.

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

A service of thanksgiving for Duncan Barlow's ministry, attended by Brian Hoole, Presbytery Minister, was held on Sunday, 28 January, 2018. The congregation were extremely appreciative of Duncan's substantial pastoral care skills and of Alison's wonderful contribution through leading worship in song. Their children, Evangeline and Ella were involved in KATS and Junior Youth during their time at TUC.

## TUC University Chaplaincy

During 2018, Grace Branjerdporn served as TUC University Chaplain. She provided a link between international students at the University of Queensland and the TUC congregation. With Stephen Longbottom working with her (and working as part-time chaplain at Raymont Lodge), Grace facilitated TUC being a partner church for Beyond Brisbane, conducted Bible Studies during the week at university and in the church house, and met with international students prior to Sunday services to explain the Bible passages and the sermon. Grace also encouraged international students in leadership, to be involved in TUC's Sunday worship and to share their testimonies where appropriate.

As Grace moves into other phases of her life, she is thanked for her professional and prayerful input into this outreach to the international student community. In addition, her passion and unending energy in bringing overseas students to a faith in Christ is an example to everyone of Christ-like ministry.

## Office team

The church office has been open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm. Louise Middleton continued to be employed as Office Administrator for 16 hours per week until June 2018, leaving to take up duties with Outback Futures. Louise is whole-heartedly thanked for her selfless work in the office and in administering the church property over the past six years.

Upon Louise's departure, Garry Jennings was appointed to the role of Office Administrator from July 2018, and he has ably assisted to engender a seamless transition.

Lauren Murray continued in her role as Relationship Manager for 24 hours per week and she is thanked for her ongoing work, often unseen, as she continues to support the church with her significant relational, communication and media skills.

## Representative to Presbytery

Will Stewart is thanked once again for his proactive and faithful participation as TUC's representative in Presbytery meetings. He kept the Council informed of Presbytery business and outcomes and any relevant aspects of Presbytery operations.

## Vision day

A Vision Day for council members was held at the commencement of the year. At this meeting the council resolved to establish three points of focus for 2018 - worship, mission and pastoral care. While the Mission team has not yet been established, the Worship and Pastoral Care teams were developed as follows:

## Worship team

Central to the worship team, is creating worship which is a response to who God is and what He has done. The worship team leaders, Garry Jennings and Lauren Murray, co-ordinate and oversee all of worship at TUC. This includes detailed organisation as well as music and other creative and productive aspects of worship. The leaders also encourage the congregation to use their gifts, skills, technical abilities and artistic expression.

## Pastoral care team

At the heart of the pastoral care team is conscious Christian care. Its source is God our Father, and its goal is that people might experience not only human care, but God's love and come to know Him or deepen their relationship with Him. This intentional pastoral care supplements and supports the spontaneous, organic caring and sharing that continues to occur within the congregation.

Three teams under the banner of Care & Connect were established, with Dianne Hubbard as overall leader. The Prayer and Care Team (PACT), already operating for three years, meets immediate and ongoing needs, the CONNECT Community team particularly focuses on welcoming, and the CONNECT Clusters help to ensure everyone in the congregation is prayed for and cared for. More work needs to be done in 2019 to develop and consolidate these three teams.

## Finances

Aware that expenses would outweigh income in 2018, the Council committed to a balanced budget by the end of 2019. The financial statements for 2018 indicated a high excess of expenses over income, particularly in the first six months of the year. Consequently, there was a considerable draw-down on bank funds and a resulting Net Loss.

After many years of service, Robert Johnson announced his retirement as Treasurer. The Council is extremely appreciative of the many, many hours of treasury work which Robert has done over the years. He has professionally and expertly maintained the financial accounts and tracked budget v actual figures to ensure responsible stewardship of church finances.

## Worship service

Attendance at the Sunday morning services was steady throughout the year. There was an average attendance of approximately 105 including children, with many young families being represented within the congregation.

Prayer ministry was offered at the conclusion of every service. After each service, vibrant, interactive morning teas, served enthusiastically by volunteers in the kitchen were enjoyed by everyone, giving people a chance to socialise and to get to know each other.

## Aveo service

Services were conducted on a monthly basis at the Aveo Aged Care Facility at Taringa by Matthew Smith who was joined, on some occasions, by volunteers from TUC.

## Families' ministry

Clare Hankamer is thanked for her continuing dedication to family ministry. Clare's time and commitment to prayer for this work and her relationship-building skills with all age groups continues to be greatly appreciated by parents and children. She has built and trained a keen team of volunteers to assist in this ministry, enabling it to grow and to provide Christian education to TUC children as well as a strong outreach to the community, particularly through the Playgroups.

## Safe Ministry with Children

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 UCAQld Safe Ministry with Children. Clare has once again diligently ensured that systems, training and processes are in place to ensure the safety of our children in all programs and events.

Lauren, supported by Clare was responsible for maintaining records for Blue Card and Safe Ministry for Children and they carried this out in an efficient and thorough manner.

## Training

Child Safe Training was undertaken by congregation members at various venues in the Presbytery, including the majority at a session at TUC, led by Clare.

Clare also conducted a series of information sessions on communion so that the children, who were starting to participate meaningfully in this, gained an understanding of the implications and theology of this Sacrament.

## 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 in their friendships together. More people resources are required in 2019 as this ministry grows.

## Kids at Toowong on Sunday (KATS)

The Tigers group (pre-schoolers), previously held in the crèche, joined the Leopards group (Prep to Year Two) in the hall during 2018. This group had three leaders and they were ably assisted by parents. The Lions group (Years Three to Five), with two leaders, continued to flourish during the year with children encouraged in their faith, using the Scripture Union Light curriculum.

## Junior Youth

Led by Clare, Junior Youth met on Sunday mornings. Each session encouraged the attendees to get to know God as they read the Bible, and learned to pray and share with each other.

Evening activities during the year for Junior Youth included a Pancake Party and a sleepover.

## Senior Youth

Senior Youth met bi-monthly on Saturday evenings for various activities including Bible study, games, ice skating and prayer. At various times during the year, leaders included Lauren Murray and Luke Reynoldson. They were gratefully assisted by parents for various events, particularly during Term Four.

A camp was held at CCC Samford in June 2018, once again made possible with the assistance of volunteers including Mikayla Hiscock and Luke Reynoldson, as well as Susan and Gary O'Brien as camp cooks. Members of Senior Youth are encouraged to take part in Sunday Services, and to assist with data and music during the service.

## Kittens Playgroup

In 2018 there were two Playgroups. One group continued from previous years on a Friday morning and a second playgroup was established on a Thursday morning. Numbers soon proved that the need for the additional group was high with waiting lists in both groups. The Friday morning playgroup continued under the leadership of Wendy Browne and Clare Hankamer provided leadership for the newly formed Thursday group.

The team of helpers are thanked for ensuring a pastoral care setting for the families attending, providing a great deal of fun for the children, and doing the hard work of setting and packing up. Bible stories and Christian songs have become a regular part of the group sessions during the morning. We praise God that some playgroup families attended Sunday morning worship, especially when there was a special celebration, a testament to this important outreach into the community.

One of the biggest challenges for this ministry is to obtain volunteers for the Playgroups and continued prayer is needed to inspire new volunteers to offer to assist.

## Child Care Centres

During 2018, Clare sustained her relationship with the Toowong Childcare Centre and Jahjumben, conducting activities on several different occasions including Easter and Christmas. Clare is always invited back for the following year as her visits are well-received by the children and the staff at the childcare centres and she has worked hard to build a relationship between the centres and TUC.

On a different note, negotiations continuing from 2017 resulted in a new Memorandum of Understanding between Toowong Uniting Church and Wesley Mission from July 2018.

## Korean Congregation

Once again, the church facilities were used by the Korean congregation. This congregation is a Faith Community under the direction and responsibility of the Bremer-Brisbane Presbytery. This congregation has continued to face continued challenges during 2018.

Two combined services were held during the year, one in May and the second in November. The November service was well-attended by both congregations and a sense of camaraderie was generated with a Korean barbecue being held after the service.

## Property Committee

The committee is thanked for their work during the year. Property committee members are Paul Briggs, Robert Hubbard (Chair, June - December), Robert Lord, Ray Mackenroth, Louise Middleton, (until June) and Garry Jennings from July, (Property Management and Administration), Brad Round (Chair, January - August), Sarah Round (until August), and Barry Whebell.

During 2018, the Committee continued to ensure property maintenance was kept up-to-date and that good risk management practices and processes were sustained.

Investigations were ongoing in regard to future development of the property, the demolition of the bell tower and the solution to the water ingress into the kitchen.

Louise Middleton (January - June) and Garry Jennings (July and ongoing) are thanked for efficiently administering the properties and tenants throughout 2018.

## Prayer Group

A faithful group met for prayer in the church house between 8.30 am and 9.30 am on Monday mornings during the year. Prayer points for both groups included members of the Toowong congregation, the local community, and Australian and overseas concerns.

## Mondays@Midday

Mondays@Midday met over a simple lunch at Monday lunchtimes during Term Two and Term Three. Attended by some members of the English Conversation group and others from the congregation and the community, Jane Trewern and Matthew Smith led the group in a study of the book of Mark, providing a simple and informal way of learning from the Bible, and sharing faith and the Gospel.



**Top:** Cooking up a storm at the combined Korean/TUC Service, 25 November 2018. **Bottom:** Learning about Cross-Cultural Ministry with Andrew Schachtel, 19 June 2018.

## Pastorate

Once again, 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 encouraged and assisted the development of leadership, while providing an environment where people were able to get to know one another in an informal setting. The Council thanks the pastorate leaders for providing a safe environment in which to explore and share faith, and which is welcoming to faith seekers.

## Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas (MTUU) met monthly at the church with Gwen Gloynes, Beryl Mortimer, and June Rayment providing exemplary 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 donation of \$650 to be made to Frontier Services. It is with a sense of sadness that we sincerely thank Gwen, June and Beryl as they step back from the leadership of MTUU after many years of service. Their caring and careful input was central to their ministry in this area.

## 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 after the service and to learn more about TUC over a meal and chat.

## Stitching & Friendship Group

Led by Shirley Holden, this group met in the church hall for friendship and craft. Craft items included a wide variety of items, and contributions were generously made to several charities. Highlights were the Mothers' Day Stall, and the Christmas stall and breakup

## English Conversation

English conversation was held on Mondays during term time from 9.30 am to 11.30 am in the church hall. The conversation group was led by Barry Whebell and Will Stewart, assisted by Jane Trewern, Ray Mackenroth, and other diligent and faithful volunteers from TUC and the community. The classes were very much appreciated by people for whom English is not their first language. The classes were an opportunity to enhance and practise their speaking skills in a Christian and social environment. The volunteers are thanked for their loyal contribution to this ministry.

## Equip

Towards the end of November and into early December five cross cultural Equip evenings were held. Skilfully facilitated by Ross Homel, utilising the book by Andrew Schachtel, "Changing Lanes, Crossing Cultures", the group explored the topic of how to equip TUC for ministry in a culturally diverse society.

## Looking ahead in 2019

The Council looks 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 continue to pray for Matthew as he leads and cares for Toowong Uniting Church and we pray that the congregation continues to be a warm, friendly community which maintains its intergenerational and cross-cultural character, with Christ as its centre.

**Let us approach 2019 with thankful hearts and minds, praising God & giving "thanks to the Lord for he is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 106:1**

## With Thanks

### Wayne Middleton

Church Council Chair, 2016 - 2019

After serving three years in the role as Council Chair, Wayne has decided to hand over the role to accommodate his increasing board responsibilities with Outback Futures. Wayne's leadership of Council over 2016 - 2019 has been characterised by an enthusiastic confidence that grew the vision and mission of TUC. Wayne has brought his consummate management skills to every meeting and challenge that TUC encountered over this time. Under his leadership, TUC called a new minister, renegotiated lease agreements with Wesley Mission, restructured team ministry within the church, and resolved debt issues within our annual budget, returning us to a positive budget for 2019. Wayne has been a confidant and encouragement to many, and especially to the Staff Team. Wayne, thank you for your particular gift of leadership and we appreciate your expression of love for your Lord at TUC.



# Families' Ministry Report

**Clare Hankamer**  
Families' Worker



The beautiful Nativity scene from the KATS Nativity Play, 9 December 2018. (Photo by Tim Wonhof)

This was a very busy year for Families' Ministry with many wonderful answers to prayer and many challenges. I thank God that you uphold this ministry to Him through your prayers!

## Playgroup

It has been such a joy to work with Wendy Browne as Coordinator of the Friday Playgroup and to be able to offer two Playgroups to our community.

We had a hugely dedicated team of volunteers who set up and packed away the Hall, after making it into a lovely playground for the little ones who attended. Their pastoral care of the families was deeply appreciated in answer to our prayers at the start of each session that the Holy Spirit would reveal God's presence to the families as they arrived. Thank you to Sandra Hemming who was part of the team on both days; to Beryl Mortimer, Denise Harch, Arini Stamenkovic and Barb Mitchell who were the team on Fridays; to Lauren Murray who was on the Thursday Team and to Garry Jennings, Bev Homel and Gem Mackenroth who helped on Thursdays in the first part of the year.

The Thursday Playgroup grew over the year; both groups reached full capacity by Term Three. We continued to receive requests to join throughout the year and over the summer holidays. We are operating a waitlist currently. Please pray that we can offer places to families waiting. I am conscious of many families needing the support of the playgroup community, while many who are new to Brisbane and to Australia continue to join us. In 2018, our families came from over 17 countries.

Story and song times offered Bible stories and Christian songs as well as secular ones. We celebrated Easter telling the children about Jesus' death and resurrection, and invited the families up to the church in early December for a Christmas celebration. A number of families joined us for the KATS Nativity Play/Breakup Party on 9 December 2018.



**Top:** Clare leads song/storytime during Friday Playgroup.  
**Above:** The Playgroup Christmas Celebration, December 2018.

We farewelled some families at the end of the year, many of whom had been with us for five years! It was wonderful to have journeyed together during this stage of their lives, and we hope we will continue to stay connected. We also farewelled Barb Mitchell and Beryl Mortimer, both of whom will be sadly missed.

Beryl has truly been a cornerstone of Playgroup since its beginning, shaping its vision. She became 'Grandmother' to many of the playgroup families, taking time to support parents pastorally and to pray for them while she served tea and coffee in what became fondly known as 'Beryl's Café'. Her loving care and prayer for families provided opportunities for parents to share their concerns, ask for prayer and talk about faith – such a valuable contribution.

## Friday Playgroup Report Wendy Browne Playgroup Coordinator

Friday playgroup was a wonderful experience for me, and especially this time, in the new role of co-ordinator. It was delightful to share this ministry with Clare, who prayed for, oversaw, planned and resourced it each week.... fantastic!

A 'shout out' to the wonderful volunteers who gave up their time to come and make Playgroup a very special place for families. Thank you for your support in all ways of this shared ministry; it could not have been done alone. Parents appreciated this opportunity to have volunteers from different ages and stages in life share this difficult stage of their family lives in which they often feel alone and weary, while struggling with issues around parenting. Care was shown in a range of ways: listening, sometimes advising, praying for needs, and providing a safe, cheerful, friendly and engaging space for families to come to. We were privileged to be involved in what we saw as God's work ... sowing seeds, even though we often won't see the 'blooming'.



**Top:** Palm Sunday with the KATS and Youth. **Bottom left:** Special KATS craft in the foyer on Father's Day, 2018. **Bottom right:** Another great shot from the KATS Nativity Play, 9 December 2018. (Photo by Tim Wonhof)

## Kids at Toowong on Sunday

The KATS programme had another great year. The children looked at The Fruit of the Spirit as a major module, while Lions took part in the service and shared what they had learnt through their production, 'Today's Bible News'. Many thanks are owed to Julie McKinnon for leading the children in a lovely Advent hymn.

KATS teachers were again aware of the 'seeds' that God plants in children's hearts during their 7-8 years of attending KATS at Toowong Uniting Church. We felt the urgent need to ensure that this seed landed in good soil and that new faith was nurtured. Children are the church of tomorrow, but also the church of today.

An invitation and appeal is made for more people to become part of this ministry. Teaching skills are not needed. There is a lot of support for teachers, and easy to use material. I (Clare) have found that my faith has grown enormously just by teaching. I know this is true for all the KATS leaders.

A huge thank you to Catherine Wuttke, Dianne Hubbard, Bev Hommel, Mikayla Hiscock and Brendan Tan for their dedication, skill and creativity in nurturing our children in their faith journey this year. I am deeply grateful. Special thanks to Catherine who will be stepping down in 2019. We will miss you and especially your wonderful creativity!



Senior Youth Group, term 1 2018.

## Senior Youth

It was a privilege to work with Lauren to plan and lead Senior Youth in 2018. Her considerable leadership and planning skills ensured that Senior Youth had a great programme to start the year. She planned a beautifully creative opening session for 2018 which led 23 young people through a recreation of Psalm 23 in the church.

I am deeply grateful to Luke who continued to be part of the leadership team despite a busy schedule of weddings in 2018!

Lauren and Luke stepped down from Senior Youth in Term Two and Term Three due to workload and Luke's getting married.

In Term Four, as the sole leader, I made the decision to continue meeting, but at parent's homes. This ensured we had enough leaders with the support of Church Council to affirm parents as Parent Helpers. A huge thank you to all the parents for their support and for opening their homes to youth.

We continued to pray for new leaders throughout this period. We are extremely thankful for an answer to that prayer for 2019 with Hamish Gomersall and Lachlan Pennell from Riverlife Baptist Church and Ryan Olsen volunteering to lead Senior Youth with me

### Camp at CCC

Thanks to Matt, we were able to secure a great campsite at CCC, Samford, for the Senior Youth Camp this year. It was so good to take the group away for the second Senior Youth Camp and our first camp under canvas. This was possible because Sue and Gary O'Brien generously offered to cater for us and Mikayla Hiscock offered to lead with Luke and me. We spent time in prayer and worship focussing on the Trinity. The group had lots of fun playing crazy games and with it being a cold night, we were able to enjoy a big campfire.



Having dinner at Senior Youth camp, 2018. (Photo by Sue O'Brien).



The Junior Youth Sleepover, 2018. (Photo by Clare Hankamer)

## Junior Youth

We weren't able to secure another leader for Junior Youth so I wasn't able to offer as full a programme for this group as previously. We have a great group of young people and it was a privilege to lead them through the year.

Sadly, we were only able to run one leadership session with Junior Youth in 2018. Many thanks to Sarah Smith, Bryony and Amelia for helping organise a great evening. We tried to run two events later in the year, but sadly due to severe weather we had to cancel the Moon Walk twice and the Christmas party. It's hoped that we can do more this year with more leaders. A huge thank you to Narelle Waverley-Smith and Ryan Olsen who will be leading Junior Youth with me in 2019.

My thanks to Mikayla Hiscock and Wayne Middleton who led a fun-packed Sleepover at the Church House with me. This was based on the life of Peter and was part of the Junior Youth leadership program.

My thanks also to Sandra Hemming, Iris Marais and Karen Nivala for taking turns as second leader on Sundays during Junior Youth sessions which run in the Church House during the service.





**Above left:** KATS Nativity Play, 9 December 2018. (Photo by Tim Wonhof).



**Top right:** Senior Youth, term 1 2018.



**Bottom right:** Sarah and Brendan help lead the Pancake Party, 24 February 2018. (Photo by Clare Hankamer)

## Safe Ministry with Children

I continue to be involved in Safe Ministry with Children training for Presbytery. I appreciate your prayers as I find this area of my work the most challenging!

We ran a training course with Rev Beth Nolan at Toowong on 24 July 2018. Thank you to so many people who attended this course from Toowong Uniting Church. This really helps in two ways: provision of potential leaders and standby leaders for children's and youth activities and the generation of a greater awareness of our joint responsibility to safeguard our children in the church environment.

This work could not be done without the support of Lauren who manages the administration of Safe Ministry with Children for TUC. It is deeply appreciated. Many thanks to Louise for her support in 2018 as well.

Dianne Hubbard guided us through our Annual Internal Review of the Safe Ministry with Children practices to ensure we conform to the Policy. We submitted the paperwork necessary for the annual Synod audit well before the deadline. Many thanks to Lauren for her diligence in this task.

I am deeply grateful to Dianne in her role as Church Council Secretary for overseeing Risk Assessment for the church in 2018. Her wisdom and support concerning many issues around reporting and risk assessment have been essential to the smooth running of Families' Ministry and I am deeply grateful.

## Childcare centres

It has been a delightful year working in the two Childcare Centres. I was able to go in three times over the year to do an Easter and Christmas celebration as well as a song and Bible story session mid-year, looking at Jesus' miracles. It was lovely to meet a child coming out of the Centre who called out, 'You're that lady who tells us about Jesus!'

Please pray for the Directors and staff at Toowong Childcare Centre and Jahjumben as they support many families in our community, many of whom go to Playgroup. Please pray for our relationship with them; that we can work together to support families. We are now able to have all the children attending the sessions we run with none opting out. This is truly an open door of trust for us to do this work and please pray that God will make Himself known to the children there.

## Pastoral Care and Support

We have been supporting a number of families over the year through Playgroup and in the community generally. Thanks to the congregation for supporting the Pantry which enables us to offer practical assistance. I am also deeply grateful for the formation of the Pastoral Care Team which enables better communication of needs and apportioning of support across the church and wider community. Please pray for the women's shelter in Toowong and for young families and students in our community who do not have the support of family nearby.

# With Our Appreciation

For their extended terms of dedicated service to particular ministry roles, we offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to the following people.

## Robert Johnson



After more than 17 years in the Treasurer's role, Rob has handed over the ledgers with all books balanced and reconciled. As a chartered accountant, Rob often said he found the book keeping side to be very manageable. Even so, it was Rob's clarifying advice as to the state of the finances, his ability to present the details concisely and his approachability to discuss financials, that has made him an absolute pleasure to work with. In addition, Rob has been a member of many committees and working groups within the church over the years, lending to each his considerable financial experience. With over 200 monthly financial statements prepared by Rob to Church Council over the last 17 years, Rob has faithfully provided the numbers that resourced our mission and service to Toowong and beyond. Thank you Rob for your commitment to TUC and our Lord.

## Gwen Gloynes & June Rayment



L-R: Beryl, June & Gwen.

In 2004, these two great friends decided to utilise the newly renovated church kitchen by hosting a monthly morning tea for TUC and the community (MTUU). Being blessed with the gift of hospitality, Gwen and June brought their culinary skills together for TUC, providing a point of gathering and building friendships for many people over the following years. On the third Wednesday each month, long tables of delicious treats would appear, a result of their pre-dawn baking. The ministry of welcoming the stranger has a long tradition in this church, and we are indebted to Gwen and June for furthering our mission to the community in such a delightful way. Thank you June and Gwen for your 15 years of dedicated effort and loyalty in this ministry. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Beryl Mortimer for her leadership with MTUU, organising the speaker and activities each month. Beryl steps down from this role after three years.

## Dianne Hubbard



For over nine years, Dianne Hubbard has been Secretary of the Church Council at TUC. All who know Dianne are aware of her extraordinary level of professionalism and commitment that she brings to any role she engages in. Dianne's ability to process information and give attention to detail is remarkable enough. Added to this is her inclination to still think about church issues at a high level, and help vision the way forward. Dianne has been a trusted confidant and continual source of encouragement and wisdom to pastors, council chairpersons and elders. Many have appreciated her generous availability and refreshing positivity. As Dianne hands over this important role, she continues her leadership of the Pastoral Care Team. Thank you Dianne for your dedicated leadership on Council and PACT. We are blessed by your service to God through our Church.

## Robert Hubbard



Rob has used his professional experience in building project management to serve our church through his leadership of the Property Committee. Joining this team in 2010 and serving as Chairperson for six years, Rob's understanding of building standards, technical knowledge and his enthusiastic involvement has resulted in many improvements of our physical assets. This has of course, included major renovations, but also Rob has personally responded to the smaller tasks with a selfless availability, such as repairing a child-safe gate for our playgroups. We offer our sincere thanks to Rob as he concludes his significant contribution to this important ministry.

# Property Committee Report

**Robert Hubbard**

Chair, Property Committee



Members of the committee in 2018 were Louise Middleton (Property Manager – half year), Garry Jennings (Property Manager – half year), Barry Whebell, Rob Lord, Ray Mackenroth, Sarah Round, Paul Briggs, Brad Round (Chair – Jan to Aug) Robert Hubbard (Chair – Aug to Dec) and Matt Smith who joined us at the beginning of the year. The committee was very appreciative of the contribution of Sarah and Brad Round’s time on the committee, particularly Brad’s leadership as chairperson this year.

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

A revised five year Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated with Wesley Mission Queensland for their renting of both the Toowong Child Care Centre and the Jajumbeen Child Care Centre.

Duncan Barlow and his family vacated the manse at 16 Grove Street Toowong in April 2018 and Outback Futures signed a two year lease for that property for occupation from 01 May 2018.

There was no significant expenditure during the year with the largest cost being the replacement of the carpet in the Vestry and the Communion Prep room, including the stairs down to the hall. However, research work was undertaken and costs obtained for the following:

- waterproofing of the hall kitchen’s ceiling cracks and repair of its concrete cancer
- repair or demolition of the bell tower (decision to demolish) and a
- land use study of all properties.



Volunteers at the Working Bee in May 2018.

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

- installation of a metal vertical extension to one end of the Sherwood Road brick fence
- replacement of damaged window tinting to the church and church house
- purchase of two new safety ladders
- rejuvenation of the garden adjacent the driveway gates on Sherwood Road
- completion of the five yearly asbestos audit
- reinstatement of the perimeter termite barrier around the church and hall and
- the safety testing and tagging of all electrical appliances.

Two working bees were held during the year with a number of volunteers attending. Each time a good number of maintenance and cleaning activities were undertaken during a time of good fellowship and teamwork.

The most significant maintenance costs for 2019 will be repairs to the concrete ceiling in the hall kitchen, the demolition of the bell tower, and possibly some work on the provision of a PWD (Persons with a Disability) toilet at the church level.



Volunteers at the Working Bee in October 2018.

The committee again worked well together during 2018. I thank all members for their contribution to the continuing stewardship of our properties here at Toowong UCA, and I advise that Paul Briggs has kindly agreed to accept the role of Chairperson of this committee in 2019.

# Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas

**Beryl Mortimer**  
Coordinator



**Top:** The Christmas MTUU celebration, November 2018. **Bottom left:** Some of June and Gwen's delicious treats. **Bottom right:** Barbara, Dianne and Dot with some of Dot's bears at the Christmas celebration, November 2018.

Morning Tea under the Umbrellas continues to be one of our most enduring and popular activities and has maintained enthusiastic response during the past year. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

The beautiful refreshments generously provided by our hostesses, June Rayment and Gwen Gloynes, have been the highlight each month, ably supported by a variety of programs and speakers provided by members of the group. The numbers have consistently averaged more than twenty men and women on each occasion.

It was with a sense of sadness, mixed with a huge amount of gratitude, that we received from June and Gwen their decision to finish their roles as hostesses in charge of this wonderful fellowship which they established in 2004. Each month through a gold coin donation it was possible to give generous support to Frontier Services. During June and Gwen's years

of service a total of \$5550 has been donated to this key mission! In addition, following a request by Barry Whebell (undergoing cancer treatment at the time), almost \$3000 was raised as part of Australia's Biggest Morning tea.

The success of Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas ensures that it will continue as an important part of the community and outreach for TUC and certainly indicates the valuable ministry that Gwen and June created all those years ago. Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas looks forward with confidence to another terrific year of fellowship in 2019 under Wendy Geldenhuy's capable direction. We hope you will be available to join us!

# English Conversation

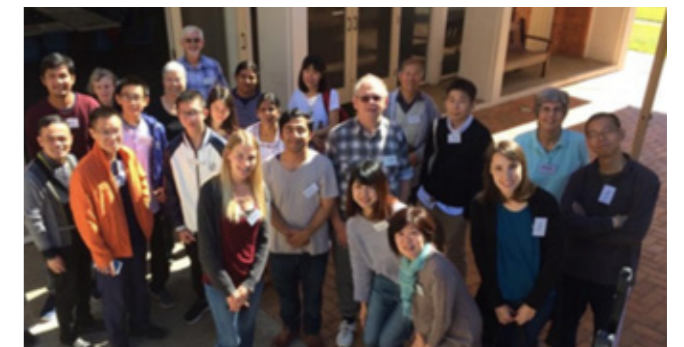
**Barry Whebell**  
Coordinator



Just some of the students from the English Conversation group.

Our Monday English language classes have again been very successful throughout 2018 with numbers varying as we receive new arrivals and farewell those returning to their home countries. We meet on Mondays from 9:30 am - 11:30 am in the hall and are led by Barry Whebell.

These conversational classes are an important TUC outreach to new arrivals in our community who seek assistance with their new language in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. We finished 2018 with 17 students and look forward to an exciting 2019 supporting these and other newcomers to our community. We need to say a big thank you to Will Stewart and his wife Sherry McGowan, Jane Trewern, Peter Hamilton, Ray Mackenroth, Berilyn Morrison, and Margaret Johnson for their dedication throughout 2018.



# Tuesday Pastorate

**Luke Reynoldson**  
Pastorate Leadership Team



Some of the members of 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 Karen Nivala and Shelagh Griffin for their roles over the years. Numbers tend to be around 15 – 18 each fortnight and often reached over 20 mid-year.

In 2018 we looked at Sustainability, Scripture, Spirituality, Simplicity, Sent-ness and Still-point with special guest speakers leading us in the studies. We also looked at the readings from Sunday lead by various members of the group. In 2019, we will continue looking at the previous Sunday's scripture readings.

The evening starts at 7.00 pm 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 big thank you goes to Matt for his support with leadership and regular participation in the group.

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 and weddings, new jobs, good results, travels near and far and had lots of fun together. Anyone is most welcome to drop in anytime!



The 2018 Tuesday Pastorate Christmas Breakup at Southbank.

## What is a pastorate?

A pastorate is a mid-sized group (25-30 people) that meets regularly for food, fellowship, teaching and prayer. Although some of the intimacy of a traditional 'small group' (up to a dozen people) is lost, there are three big advantages:

1. It is easier to join a larger group than it is to break into an established small group of people who know each other well.
2. It is more stable. If six people are away in a normal small group, the group stops functioning. If six are away in a group of 25, you hardly notice.
3. It is easier to plant new groups. You can send a core of eight people to plant a new pastorate, without threatening the sending group.

### Why is a pastorate effective for growth?

- Safe place of integration (big enough)
- Safe place of experimentation (small enough)
- Safe place for invitation
- Safe place of preparation
- Safe place of transformation

### Purposes of a pastorate

- Means to incorporate new Christians into fellowship
- Mechanism for introducing people to unique Christian practices – worship prayer etc.
- Engine for church growth
- Tool for discipleship
- Space for the safe and measured discovery and exercise of spiritual gifts

# University Ministry

**Grace Branjerdporn**  
University Chaplain



The "House of Peace" dinner at Ross and Bev Homel's home during the 2018 Beyond Brisbane event. (Photo by Geoff Rankin)

**The university ministry in 2018 was a vibrant ministry with various arms and activities.**

Each Sunday we had an Easy English Bible Study before the service to help the students understand the bible passage of the sermon better, as well as to give the students an opportunity to practice the Bible Reading or Prayer where they were participating in the service.

Every Thursday, we also had a gathering called "Catalyst" whereby students had an opportunity for fellowship over dinner, involvement in a Bible Study/ Discussion and Group Prayer. We saw many people come to know Jesus through this ministry.

We also had multiple camps that were held throughout the year in Easter and during the mid-year semester break. TUC was the partner church for Beyond Brisbane, an outreach project of Power to Change to international students on local campuses. Approximately 15 leaders were part of this mission project, and many students were connected to our ministry through this project.

Stephen and I also led a Bible study on Friday nights for Raymont Residential College with approximately 10 students attending. It was great to be involved with these students who were seeking to know God better.

We want to thank TUC for the continual prayer support, encouragement as well as financial support for the ministry. We praise God for the way that He has transformed lives through this ministry and for the fruit we have seen.



Friday night Raymont Bible study.

# Worship Team

**Garry Jennings**  
Worship Team Co-Leader



The whole church worshipping during Easter 2018.

**Worship this past year has been a continual source of God's blessing. Our pool of talented worship musicians continues to grow, bolstered recently by the addition of several of our youth. We are truly blessed as a community to have such a large and capable team of musicians willing to be so generous with their time. This year we set ourselves a goal of learning a new song every quarter and we have stuck to that goal. Our youth and young adults have played a big part in helping us find and learn new music.**

A huge thank you to Luke Reynoldson and Brad Sheen who have consistently and generously offered their skills in audio visual tech to implement the new sound system, teaching others how to operate it also. This is a behind the scenes, but nonetheless vital, part of our Sunday services, facilitating the whole congregation to come into a space of worship.

An equally huge thanks to the swathe of people who serve on Sunday morning in other ways: bible readers, door greeters, prayer writers, computer and sound operators, offering counters and morning tea servers.

Everyone is contributing their gifts towards making TUC a truly vibrant community of Christ and our corporate gatherings on Sunday morning continue to reflect this.

During the coming year we aim to form a dedicated worship committee to find ways to deepen our experiences of worship together even further. If you have ideas for expressions of worship for Sunday mornings, please get in touch with either Garry Jennings or Lauren Murray. We'd love to hear from you.

# 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.

## The ladies enjoyed a busy year once again combining craft and friendship.

During the first term the ladies enjoyed learning how to make a Cathedral Window Bag and a necklace. Of great importance in 2018 the group contributed poppies for the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, '5,000 Poppies Project' in time for Remembrance Day 2018, to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.

In Term 2 our Mother's Day stall was again well received. The ladies came up with some interesting pieces. They also learned to make a jersey stretch necklace/scarf.

Term 3 proved to be quite busy. Our ladies made a trinket box, folded fabric coasters, and a Christmas tree. Why the Christmas tree? For the annual Christmas in July celebration of course! Celebrated with a special morning tea everyone enjoyed the morning. In conjunction with Christmas in July our group this year chose to support the work of 3RD Space Brisbane, a drop-in centre in Fortitude Valley where homeless people can find practical support, friendship and dignity. The ladies donated many practical care items to assist 3RD Space including 33 pairs of men's socks, 29 pairs of ladies' socks, 11 pairs of men's undies, 45 pairs of ladies undies, 49 knitted beanies, 19 knitted wool scarves. What a wonderful effort by the ladies and what a difference these simple items we take for granted will make to those in our city who otherwise have little means of their own!

In term 4 our group returned to the familiar theme of Christmas! But not before enjoying Cup Day in style once again. The ladies learned to make Santa cutlery holders and our Christmas Stall was another successful morning. Again though, in conjunction with Christmas, the ladies demonstrated their kindness toward others less fortunate and readily participated in two special appeals. Firstly, the "It's in the Bag" Charity. These "Bags" were distributed to homeless "at risk" women experiencing domestic violence. And secondly, the group filled many of the Red Bags for the Wesley Mission Christmas Appeal.

Did you know that every Craft morning throughout the year the lovely ladies in our group bring a contribution to the Toowong Uniting Church Food Pantry? Our members are glad to contribute what they can to help others.

This year, we are donating \$240.00 to the Toowong Uniting Church. On behalf of the Stitching and Friendship Group, I sincerely thank the Toowong Uniting Church for their ongoing support and for the continued use of the facilities.

We look forward to another year of fun, friendship and craft in 2019.

# Financial Reports

**Robert Johnson**  
Treasurer

## Notes on Financial Statements

The Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December, 2018, with comparative figures for the Year Ended 31 December, 2017, comprise:

1. Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December, 2018
2. Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December, 2018.

The statements are based on the cash basis of accounting. Capital expenditure is written off in the Comprehensive Income Statement.

A detailed Comprehensive Income Statement is available on request.

## Comprehensive Income Statement

Net Loss for the year was \$52,448.06 (2018 - \$86,574.31, less Provision for Major Maintenance created in 2015 and 2016, \$40,000.00 = \$46,574.31).

Church Council budgeted for a loss of \$17,432.80. The main reasons for the Loss and budget variation were:

	Total	Budget
Offerings	172,310.84	200,000.00
Property Rental Income	30,143.94	40,000.00
Property Expenses	42,444.81	65,894.00
Administration	74,801.81	63,611.00

Due to the unfavourable actual income to budget, two appeals for additional offerings was made during the year which yielded approximately \$10,000.00.

### Capital Purchases \$4,409.10:

Carpet in Vestry, \$2,905.46, Ladder, \$672.00, Epson Data Projector \$628.00, CAD Drawings Foyer \$160.00, Microwave Oven \$43.64.

Contributions from Toowong Child Care Centre and Jahjumbeen increased by \$8,686.38 to \$53,631.30. The Manse was let to Outback Futures Ltd from 1 May, 2018 resulting in an increase of rent of \$1,760.87 per month. Without these contributions, our mission activities would be severely reduced.

## Statement of Financial Position

Cash at bank, \$20,714.79 and on deposit at UCIS, \$418,721.25 (2017, \$26,769.09 and \$453,993.37).

# Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 31 December, 2018

	Dec 31, 2018	Dec 31, 2017
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Current/Savings		
General Parish Fund	20,462.86	25,769.09
St George Visa Debit Ac		
St George Bank Debit Visa Ac	251.93	1,000.00
Total St George Visa Debit Ac	251.93	1,000.00
Total Current/Savings	20,714.79	26,769.09
Other Current Assets		
11 - Term Deposit	418,721.25	453,993.37
Petty Cash Float	100.00	100.00
Total Other Current Assets	418,821.25	454,093.37
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>439,536.04</b>	<b>480,862.46</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>439,536.04</b>	<b>480,862.46</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Tax Payable		
GST		
Tax Collected	5,446.45	734.77
Tax Paid	-5,748.06	-12,158.02
Total GST	-301.61	-11,423.25
Total Tax Payable	-301.61	-11,423.25
Total Other Current Liabilities	-301.61	-11,423.25
Total Current Liabilities	-301.61	-11,423.25
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-301.61</b>	<b>-11,423.25</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Bal Equity	492,285.71	538,860.02
Net Income	-52,448.06	-46,574.31
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>439,837.65</b>	<b>492,285.71</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>439,536.04</b>	<b>480,862.46</b>

# Statement of Receipts and Payments

For the Year Ended 31 December, 2018 (Abridged)

	Jan - Dec '18	Jan - Dec '17
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Appeals - Collections	1,070.15	1,836.10
Contributions/Other Income	69,322.82	69,312.18
Donations - Received	2,358.95	2,834.88
Fund Raising - Income	0.00	1,782.30
Offerings	172,310.84	182,394.59
Rental Income	30,143.94	25,551.57
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>275,206.70</b>	<b>283,711.62</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Administration	74,801.81	62,777.92
Capital Purchases	4,409.10	11,266.86
Christian Education	7,552.15	6,855.85
Donations - Given	4,760.59	3,519.48
Fund Raising - Expenses	0.00	769.50
Ministry - Local	96,098.00	15,276.60
Ministry - Other	35,319.54	35,391.05
Ministry - Plant	15,327.70	45,302.40
Ministry - Wider Work	51,113.08	48,337.01
Parish Expenses	5,557.69	3,454.54
Property Expenses	42,444.81	154,744.02
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>337,384.47</b>	<b>387,695.23</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-62,177.77</b>	<b>-103,983.61</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>		
Bequest	0.00	7,812.70
Interest Income	9,729.71	9,596.60
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>9,729.71</b>	<b>17,409.30</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>		
Other Expenses	0.00	-40,000.00
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-40,000.00</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>9,729.71</b>	<b>57,409.30</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-52,448.06</b>	<b>-46,574.31</b>

