**REPORTS - Quarterly Church Meeting 4th November 2018**

 **Senior Pastor’s Report**

1. Church camp - thank God for all the ages and cultures learning and having fun together.
2. Preaching update including finishing 1 Timothy, Celebration Services and Christmas events.
3. Updates - Nick Song,Youth and Young Adults,Seed Discipleship groups, Redress Scheme.
4. ‘Revisioning’ process planned for next year – be in prayer.
5. Othermiscellaneousupdates including Project Refresh, Converge, Leaders Retreat, family.

1 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)*“Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh,was vindicated by the Spirit,was seen by angels,was preached among the nations,was believed on in the world,was taken up in glory.”*

In a poetic, succinct way, Paul declares the ‘mystery’ from which all godliness springs – and it’s all about Jesus: God become human, now ruling the world. How are you seeking to live a godly life? Is it through church attendance or good works? Do you really even think about these things? Imagine how good it would look and how powerful it would be for the gospel, if we all lived truly godly lives. And what’s the answer? Quite simply, Paul says, it’s to keep trusting Jesus above all else. It’s not about being religious. It’s about making sure we don’t allow ourselves to be distracted from the main thing. Pray that God will use us to make Christ known.

The big event in our church life soon after our last Church Meeting was our **Church Camp**, and what an encouraging time that was! God certainly answered our prayers. We enjoyed excellent input from Belinda Lakelin and came home inspired and equipped to better share our faith. There was a lovely diversity of people present, in terms of ages and cultures (check out the photo in the foyer if you haven’t seen it yet!), and there was lots of laughter and good conversation as people made new friends. We had loads of fun entertaining each other on Saturday night. Many people had to work hard preparing translations and other communication to enable us to all gather together in this way, but how rich and rewarding it was – a little glimpse of heaven. The plan is to do it again in two years time.

The main focus of our **preaching** since the last report has been to work through 1 Timothy – a challenging, practical book that reminds us to keep the main thing, the main thing, and to live lives that promote the gospel. We’ve enjoyed Celebration Services hosted by the Children, Mandarin Community and today the Traditional Community, as well as a visit from Tim McBride from Morling College. Coming up we’ll be finishing 1 Timothy, we have ‘BaptistCare Sunday’, our Thanksgiving Celebration, and then it’s the lead up to Christmas! As we look ahead to **Christmas**, the Koreans are planning to host again their excellent ‘Music Celebration’, this year on Saturday 8th Dec. On Sunday 9th Dec we have the annual ‘Carols in the Park’. Our ‘Carols & Nativity Service’ will be Sunday 23rd Dec at 10am, and our ‘All Ages Christmas Service’ at 9am.

It has been great to see **Nick Song** settling into his role leading our Mandarin community. His efforts to build bridges between the communities have been an excellent contribution to our wider church, and of particular note is a new initiative to invite English speakers as guests into the Mandarin service and lunch. The first Mandarin Celebration service with Nick at the helm was encouraging, and he is on the way to applying for accreditation with the Baptist Association.

Dan Waugh will report on this, but I am looking forward to having the **youth and young adults** join the 10.15am service. They will bring a freshness and energy to try new things that will benefit the rest of us, but they will also benefit from gathering with people of other ages. It will be

important for us to make sure we change our 10.15am gatheringin ways that give them a voice and help us to be more genuinely cross-generational.

The **Seed Discipleship Groups** are currently meeting occasionally for support and accountability, and I am considering the best strategy to keep promoting a growing culture of discipleship in our church community.

At the recent Assembly for our Baptist Association, it was unanimously agreed that the Association enter the National **Redress Scheme** for survivors of childhood sexual abuse in institutional settings. As a result, each church now needs to decide whether to ‘opt-in’ to the Scheme and a Support Pool.Our church leadership strongly recommends we do this, but it is a significant decision so we have provided all members and interested attenders with information so we can make an informed decision about this, together at our Church Meeting today.

Early next year our church will engage together in a **‘Revisioning’** process, to ask whether we still believe our current Church Vision is God’s call on our church as we look to the future. We will then be asking what are the best Strategies to pursue over the next 3 years to reach for our Vision. It will be a time of listening to God and each other, as we ask how we can best promote the ongoing work of God in and through our church for the growth of his kingdom. My sense as I have been thinking and praying about this, and watching what God is doing, is that God is leading us to take the next step in becoming more intentionally cross-cultural and cross-generational. Please pray and talk together about this over the coming months. We will be looking for ways to grow our prayer focus especially as we approach this time of ‘Revisioning’.

It has been exciting to see **Project Refresh** making progress, with a very positive meeting on 3rd Sep. I enjoyed participating in **Converge**, where a small group of leaders from our Baptist Movement went to Canberra 10-12 Sep to speak with politicians about Aid and Domestic & Family Violence. My involvement in the **Consultancy** ministry continues as a service to the wider Baptist movement, although I often find the things I learn and resources I gather are very helpful for ministry at Carlingford.By the time of this meeting the Church Council and Elders will have gathered for our annual **Leaders’ Retreat** for team building and planning. Some people young and old are planning to attend the **Beyond** festival 23-25 Nov.

I have largely recovered from the surgery around my vocal chords at the beginning of August and I’ve greatly appreciated your prayers and support through the process. Erica and I will take a week away to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary in December. Erica has finally submitted the work for her advanced teaching accreditation. We are looking forward to having Sarita back before Christmas, before she gets married on 2nd Feb and leaves us again! Jasmine is approaching the end of Morling’s Plunge course and enjoyed their recent trip to Cambodia.

Yours in Christ,
Steve

 **Church Secretary –

Highlights**

1. Currently we have 163 members.

This period we were saddened with the loss of Vic Eldridge

1. We had a very successful Special Church meeting, held 23 September 2018, voting positively to approve the motion for Project Refresh to commence with development and lodgement of the Development Application (DA).
2. Church Leaders Retreat, held at Camp Kedron – 19 & 20 October 2018
The Elders, Church Leaders and Pastoral Team were all present at this day and a half as we embarked on looking at the year in reflection and the year(s) coming toward us as we seek God’s guidance in preparing for what may come our way.
3. Membership review with all congregations commenced.

## **Dates for the diary**

* 12 November – Church Council Meeting
* 2 December – Thanksgiving Service
* 9 December – Carols at Boronia Park
* 10 December – Church Council Meeting

Ian Read
Church Secretary

**Missions Report - August-October 2018**

1. The church has received prayer/news/correspondence from Baptist World Aid, Global Interaction Hotline, Halders, Hochstetters, Muana & Villy , Sarita Hales, Guntons, Huddlestons, Hamiltons, Finnans, Nelsons, Open Doors, Bible Society, Global Recordings, Prison Fellowship & SIM,. Appropriate news or prayer points have been included in the Bulletin or Church Prayer Fellowship.
2. Amelia Dorey spoke about her coming trip to Japan with Student Outreach to the World.
3. Collections were made of food for HopeStreet and women’s hygiene products.
4. A Drought Relief Appeal for NSW/ACT farmers was announced.
5. Annual General Meetings for HELP International & Asia Evangelical Fellowship International were attended by our people

Yours in Christ,
Sylvia Collinson

**Children’s Ministry & Safe Church Report**

* Church Camp & Children’s Celebration Service
* Leaders Retreat – hopes for the next generation. Discipleship for lifelong faith
* Advent Resources / Children & Youth Transition Planning
* Reaching out to our community families – sharing the Christmas Message

**Children’s Ministry**

Term 3 was a very exciting and busy time for our Children as we attended Church Camp in August and hosted the Celebration Service in September. At our church camp, we had some great times of sharing together in learning and socialising. It was great to see the all-ages experiences (formal and informal) taking place, and the children engaging with the “Sharing Our Faith” materials, and sharing this with their families and the wider church. Our Celebration Service, was a great opportunity for the children to be involved in serving the church community through worship, art, bible reading, collecting offering and planning.

I am looking forward to our Carols and Nativity Service on the 23rd December, as another opportunity to bring the generations together and to encourage our children to act upon their faith in worship and service. It is fantastic to have so many people in our church supportive of our intergenerational gatherings and willing to help develop our children’s skills in this area. I am hoping to continue to build on this, particularly as we look towards our “revisioning” process and strategic plan for the next three years.

At our recent leader’s retreat, we had a fruitful time discussing our hopes and challenges in each of our areas of ministry. A recurring theme was the importance of discipling the ‘next generation’. However this was identified as an area in which many families are not sure how to proceed, and is also a challenge for small groups and our congregations as a whole. With these challenges in mind our church council is planning to spend time looking the “Lost in Transition” research and “Here2Stay” resource, which identify ways for churches to support children’s lifelong faith and discipleship.

In the meantime, as the Advent and Christmas season approaches, I will be making available some resources for families to engage with. Dan and I have also planned some strategies to support the transition between children’s and youth ministries. We hope this will support our children’s continued faith development, and assist them in navigating the new changes to our youth programs.

Another hope, shared at our leader’s retreat, was about reaching out to the families in our community who we have contact with, through our ministries such as Brigades, Playtime and ESL. It is fantastic to see members of the Mandarin community stepping out in faith – visiting out playtime groups to get to know some of the Mandarin-speakers who attend. Many of our ministries will also be sharing the Christmas message with these families, so please be in prayer for our Christmas Parties and SRE (Scripture) Assemblies, and other Christmas events that we can invite community members to share in.

**Safe Church Update**

We have been working through the self-audit compliance checklist for safe churches and we are in the process of updating our forms and procedures to make them more accessible and user-friendly.

Yours in Christ

Emma Ridley

**Youth & Young Adults**

 “On a mission to seek and disciple the lost in our generation and to play our part in promoting His justice”

In summary:

* We have decided to put Friday night Awaken youth on break to work through plans of launching a new discipleship program in 2019. It is hoped that this new program might include youth from Awaken, Hub and the Korean congregation, but this is not yet finalised.
* The Sunday night young adult service (PM) has been stopped, we are instead focussing on joining in with leading and serving at the 10:15 family service.
* A new social outreach program has been started for the young adults to work on witnessing to our friends as a group rather than as individuals

The youth and young adults had a great, if very challenging, 3rd quarter of 2018. Friday night Awaken youth was a whole bunch of fun, though continued to have sporadic attendance from many of the youth, making it hard to build momentum. The challenges this produced, as well a passion to find a more effective way for the young adults to be on mission together, resulted in a term of many conversations, reimagining what it means for us to meet together. At the end of this

time of thinking and praying, our community has decided to trust God and make changes that we think will be vital for our future. Here is what we have just started to put into action:

1. Awaken youth is having a break term where we meet for monthly social nights rather than meeting weekly. This is to maintain relationships while building excitement for the **new youth discipleship program** we will launch at the start of 2019. It is hoped that this new discipleship program will combine youth from Awaken on Friday nights, Hub on Sunday mornings, and possibly even those from the Korean congregation on Sunday mid-day, all into one unified group. While the loss of Awaken and Hub will be sad, we think this has the potential of creating a bright future for the ministry – we think it can solve Awaken’s inconsistencies, Hub’s time restrictions and the Korean youth’s lack of inclusion. However, there are many conversations to be had between now and 2019 and things are far from finalised. If this is to happen effectively your prayer is a vital!
2. Sunday afternoon Prayer and Music program (PM) has stopped meeting, we will instead focus on the 10:15 service as our main service and use the extra time to create a social outreach program for our young adults.
	1. **Joining 10:15** – In joining the 10:15 family service officially it is hoped that we will have greater opportunities to express our unity. We think that our contribution in leadership and service roles can provide the chance to grow a service that is contemporary, but truly values all its generations and cultures.
	2. **Young Adult Social Outreach** – Typically young adult outreach is done by individual Christians witnessing to their own friends. While this is of course important, we can see the value in being able to witness to our friends, not just as individuals, but as a community. With this principle in mind we will be making a commitment to working together each week, at a regular time, to be coming together with our friends in a social context, with an intentionality behind sharing our faith with them.

These are massive changes for our youth and young adult community, and will require lots of ongoing discussion, reflection, trial and error. However, we believe that this is the direction that God is calling us to move, and we are excited to follow. Please support us in prayer and encouragement – come and ask us how things are going!

Yours in Christ,
Dan Waugh

# **Korean Congregation**

## Highlights

1. Church Camp
2. Outdoor Service @Fagan Park
3. Music Celebration

### Introduction

“Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. Act 28:31”

**Church Camp** – 29 Korean attended this beautiful times. Every people tried to overcome the language and cultural difference also enjoyed many chat and time with other groups. We could feel much passion for together as a unity. Many people had to work hard preparing like translations and other communication way to excellent camp.

**Outdoor service** – At Fagan Park we got a outdoor service. Particularly, from start to the end men group prepared everything like food, game and gift so other feel some free and enjoyable. Total over the 50 could feel so happy and joy through this time. It was very nice time to share each life journey and inside story recent.

**Christmas Music Events**- We are planning to host again our ‘Music Celebration’, this year on Saturday 8th Dec. John and Esther collected beautiful and meaningful items and songs for

Christmas season. Specially we want to call from every congregation who got a enthusiastic mind to this event. Kids to adults will prepare various and special items and will show it that time.

Yours in Christ

David Choi **Mandarin Ministry Report**

**I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.（John10:10）**

1. Mandarin Congregation was encouraged to attend the church camp in August. More than 23 people who attended said it was a time well spent.
2. We had a wonderful Mid-Autumn Festival Party with up to 100 attendees (including children). We were pleased to see around 10 people from English Congregation as well as a few ESL class teachers and students and families from play groups.
3. A professional vocalist was invited to help train our Mandarin choir. Choir practice takes place every Saturday afternoon in church during school terms.
4. 11 people attended a 4-sessions training course for Cell Group Leaders in September.
5. Some volunteers from Mandarin Congregation started helping in the Wednesday Playgroup by making friends with parents/grandparents/carers, especially those from Chinese background.
6. “Adult Sunday School” started at the beginning of term 4 and will be held every Sunday morning 9-10am in church during school terms.
7. In order to strengthen communication among different communities, we started inviting families from English Congregation to come in at the end Mandarin service to introduce themselves to the congregation.
8. Pastor Nick is going through some Pre-Application interviews for his Accreditation program and has enrolled in Morling college.
9. Prayer meetings and lunches on alternate Sundays are going well. The number of people staying for lunch has increased and we are pleased to see some families from the English congregation joining us.
10. About 10 people have committed to follow the M’Cheyne bible Reading Plan every day. The purpose of this program is to encourage more people to read the Bible daily.

Nick Song
Mandarin Pastor

 **Catalyst Report**

* Catalyst are hosting the prayer meeting 18 November at 5pm
* We’re aiming to launch the ‘Global Neighbour Index’ guide by Baptist World Aid (BWA) and ‘A Just Cause’
* The BWA big hearted gift store of cards will be set up towards the end of November
* Follow our Facebook page ’CBC doing justice’ to stay informed

BWA and ‘A Just Cause’ have recently released a resource ranking Australia and other wealthy countries on different aspects like national carbon footprint, trade, and generosity. How do we fair

in different aspects comparatively with our neighbours?

We’re in conversations with BWA on the best way to launch and utilise this resource to raise voice against injustice. We’re aiming to have our local member of parliament come and share with us, to involve him in the discussions on where Australia ought to improve.

Voices for justice is another event this resource will be utilised at as groups lobby Parliament in early December. As such Catalyst will be hosting the prayer meeting prior to this (18 November) as we explore some of the issues to be raised, pray for those attending the conference, and our politicians.

For updates on this and other events coming up, follow our Facebook page “CBC doing justice”.

Adrian Miller

adrian.p.miller@gmail.com

**Property Report**

 Areas covered:

 a.) Main Church buildings, b) The Centre, c) Admin. Office, d) Manse,

 e) Associated grounds, Bus.

 f.) Items of worship – eg, Piano, Organ, Sound system and AV equipment.

1. Maintenance of Buildings, Furnishings, Fittings, Gardens, Car park, and Drainage systems.

2. Provision of new/updating equipment used to promote the church’s vision statement.

3. Capital Works – Proposed property developments:

 Provision of new & modified property, internal & external.

4. Legal matters, new/updates:

 Work, Health & Safety, Fire Protection, Health Inspections etc.

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1)i.) Church Buildings

 Lighting replacements have been made in ”The Centre”, Administration & Mandarin Service areas to assist activities.

 The Mandarin units will need, when next replacements are required, new updated fittings to replace the existing 50 years old units. Some current fittings are not available for existing new tubes.

 ii.) Bus

 The bus has recently gone over the pits in preparation for its registration update for another year. Registration will be finalised at end of October 2018.

 It suffered a slight connection to a service station but is still available for use by varying sections of the church. An insurance claim has been made.

 iii.) Grounds Maintenance.

 The Sit-on Mower has been serviced and already has been in service. The grass is growing since we have had wonderful rain.

 A new roster has been prepared for our helping hands to look after the appearance of the grounds. Our sincere thanks to all those involved.

3.) The proposed REFRESH project has taken up much time recently to ensure that the whole church understands the requirements of our responsibilities.

 The church has responded at a Special Meeting to allow the project to move forward by passing the motion put before it to proceed with a Development Application (DA) to the Parramatta Council.

 Our Architect is working on the documentation and drawings required to facilitate our submission to Council.

 It is highlighted that timing is indeterminate as we wait upon the Council after we submit the DA.

 To all DAG members, thank you for your time and effort to arrive at this vital point of the project.

4.) A Work Health & Safety Committee is to be formed. This is another requirement we are to follow and all persons on the property are to adhere to the applicable directions.

 Regular inspections for Fire and Health (Pest) inspections continue throughout the year.

 Fire reports are required to be forwarded to Council and Currency Certificate is issued and required to be displayed in the church foyer.

Milton Purkiss

MTL – Property – 20181023

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