

REPORTS – Quarterly Church Meeting 10th February 2019

Senior Pastor's Report

1. Christmas and the opportunities to celebrate, thank and serve God at this time of year.
2. Preaching including *Psalms*, Celebration Services & 'Commitments of a Multi-ethnic church'.
3. 'Revisioning' process including prayer challenge.
4. Other miscellaneous updates including social action, efforts to build unity and personal update.

Psalms 1:1-2 (NIV) Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

There's bound to be much in store for us as we head into 2019. The Hales family are starting the year with a wedding and all the joys, challenges and changes that go along with that. Our church is starting the year with a time of revisiting our Vision and Strategies, which will bring its own joys, challenges and changes. In all of this and whatever lies ahead, let us keep our eyes fixed on that which matters most. Let us step into this year with a fresh determination, as we are reminded by the author of the first *Psalms*, to trust God more than ourselves and choose the right path. May we be a people who delight in God and his word, and whose lives bear witness to the blessing that flows from that.

Christmas has been and gone since our last Church Meeting, but once again was a wonderful time for celebrating and remembering Christ with family, friends and the wider church community. As a church we enjoyed the multicultural 'Music Celebration' hosted by the Koreans on 8/12, the 'Carols in the Park' on 9/12, our 'Carols & Nativity Service' on 23/12, our 'All-ages Christmas Service' and lunch hosted by the Mandarin community on Christmas Day. We valued the opportunity to be generous through the Baptist World Aid Christmas Appeal for the work of Chab Dai in poor communities in Cambodia, launched with a visiting speaker from BWA on 16/12. It was wonderful to celebrate the baptism of Carol Hu by Nick Song on the last Sunday in 2018. Her testimony is a wonderful witness to God's goodness.

Also during this time a number from our church have been a part of sharing the good news of Jesus with children and families through the **Scripture Union Family Missions** ('beach mission') at Tanilba Bay and elsewhere. We look forward to hearing back from them their stories of what God has done.

Following Christmas, **preaching** has mostly focused on the *Psalms* through the holiday period. Our *Launch Celebration* and *Church Meeting* will be a week later than usual, on 10/2, as I will be distracted on the weekend of 3/2 with Sarita's wedding (thank-you for your understanding with this). Following this there is a series planned on the '7 Core Commitments of a Multi-Ethnic Church', with *Celebration Services* at the start of March to celebrate 60 years of Baptist World Aid and launch their 'Forty Day Challenge' (you will be hearing more about this), and at the start of April hosted by the Mandarin community. This pretty much takes us to Easter which is followed by *May Missions Month* and while plans can always change, later in the year we are planning a series on *Revelation* as well as a series on Christian basics called *Just For Starters*.

I continue to be encouraged by the growing engagement in social issues led by Adrian Miller and our Catalyst group. You will hear more from Adrian about this but you might consider joining us for a Baptist World Aid '**End Poverty**' **Launch Event** that will be held in a number of locations across Australia, with the Northern Sydney Launch happening at our very own Carlingford Baptist Church on 10/2 from 2.30-4.30pm.

As you are aware as a church we will be engaging together in an important '**Revisioning**' process in the first part of this year. A survey is planned to be released in February with Church Revisioning Meetings

planned for Sundays 10/3 and 7/4 from 3-5pm. This has been preceded by important discussions at the end of 2018 in the separate communities that make up our church, to start our thinking and praying about *how we can best promote God's ongoing work in & through our church community for the growth of his kingdom?* The purpose of the Revisioning is 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 under God. It will be a time of listening to God and each other. As I have said previously, my sense as I have been thinking and praying about this, and watching what God is doing, is that amongst other things God is leading us to take the next steps in becoming more intentionally cross-cultural and cross-generational because it's powerful for the gospel when we provide a living witness of the unity that only Christ brings. Please pray and talk together about this as we engage in this process, and make your involvement and attendance at the 2 Church Revisioning Meetings a priority.

In relation to **prayer**, I would like to challenge you to find a way to connect with others in our church to pray regularly for God's guidance through the Revisioning process. Please consider making a special commitment to come to the special prayer time on Thursday mornings from now until Easter time – we start by 7.30am and finish by 8am on the dot. If you can't make that time, find 1 or 2 or more friends and make an alternative arrangement to pray each week until Easter. Please register any such plans with me so we can encourage each other in this. If we want to find God's way forward for our church, we need to be a praying people.

I would like to commend the ongoing efforts of many to **bring our communities together** more in recent months. We've seen this in the Christmas events, invitations to join the Mandarin community to share in their service and for lunch, dumpling cooking lessons planned for early this year, plans to shape future Youth and Young Adult ministries to bring Korean and Aussie young people together more, much hospitality by individuals and families, and more. God is definitely at work in all this to build something special!

Our **new Elders and Church Council** are settling in well. Sylvia Collinson and myself attended a **seminar on Cross-Cultural Ministry** in November. A number from our church attended the **'Beyond'** Justice Festival also in November. We are bound to hear more about **Project Refresh** as the year proceeds, though we are at the Development Application stage which requires a lot of work behind the scenes with little concrete progress to report in the short term – please keep Milton and the team who are working on this in your prayers. My involvement in the **Consultancy** ministry continues this year with a new team being formed for training. Be encouraged that one or more people from our church have been offered a place and will be participating in this valuable training – an investment that has potential benefits both for our church and the wider family of churches in our Baptist movement.

At a **personal** level, Erica and I had a great week away celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary in December. Erica was greatly relieved when she found out she was successful in her advanced teaching accreditation. Jas is planning to start study at Macquarie Uni this year, having greatly enjoyed Morling's Plunge course in 2018. Sarita and Jono expect to be on their honeymoon by the time of our Church Meeting and Sarita also starts the year settling into a part-time job with HopeStreet Women's Services in Darlinghurst while remotely completing some work for Bloom in Cambodia. We are all thankful to be on this journey with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Carlingford.

Yours in Christ,
Steve

Mission Report

The work of **HopeStreet** and **BaptistCare** was highlighted again in our services with the visit of Gordon Buxton in November. Many of our people volunteer in different ways for this important ministry. Alma & Barry O'Rourke's collection of food supplies etc for last term was well supported and thanks were received for our generosity.

We were pleased to welcome Rev John Lewis from **Baptist World Aid** to preach at services on 16th December and to update us on the work of BWA, especially in Cambodia. Our Christmas Appeal focussed again on Chab Dai, Cambodia. So far \$8,628 has come in. In future Adrian will be looking after our BWA connections.

A variety stall to raise money for **Prison Fellowship** Angel Tree appeal was organised by Margaret Gourlay in November. Money raised went towards gifts for children of prisoners in the name of their imprisoned parent.

Amelia Dorey joined a student team which went to Japan for 3 weeks of outreach opportunities in December. A number of individuals supported her with prayer and finances.

Again a number of our young people went to various locations over Christmas/New Year with **Scripture Union** Family Missions.

Prayer letters and mission magazines continue to come in from many different contacts. These form the basis for weekly prayer points and the bulletin Mission Spot. Christmas greetings were received from a number of these, and emails sent to them on behalf of the church, with Christmas wishes and assuring them of our continued prayer.

I would like to **thank** all those who have prayed, given and otherwise supported the many mission involvements outside our church, during 2018. It is a healthy sign that people are willing to give of time, money and effort for God's kingdom work throughout the world.

Sylvia Collinson

Children's Ministry & Safe Church Report February 2019

Children's Ministry

Term 4 2018 in our children's ministries had a busy time getting ready for Christmas. Our playtime groups always have a beautiful time sharing the real Christmas story and our tradition of encouraging generosity is still going strong with our "Gifts for the Elderly". All the gifts were much appreciated by the residents at Aminya. At North Rocks and Carlingford West Public Schools we had the opportunity to share the Christmas message with the school community and it is great to be able to partner with other churches as we do this. "The Really Good News of Christmas" books produced by the Bible Society have also been gifted to some of the students again this year. This fantastic little book is also available from Koorong. Advent Trees to encourage faith discussions at home were also made available to families in the lead up to Christmas.

Our Explorers Kids Church has been trying out some worship songs, and we decided to give a worship dance a go. "Nothing is Impossible" by Planetshakers was chosen, and proved popular with (almost) all our Explorers and Oasis children. We then decided to perform this song during the Thanksgiving service, and the children did a fantastic job. A big thank you to Abigail and Angela Choi for helping teach the dance to the children, and to Katya Dorey for enthusiastically leading our worship session each week. In 2019 we want to continue to explore creative ways for children to "Encounter God" through worship, prayer and service as well as bible stories.

At our Carols & Nativity service it was great to have children (and adults!) volunteering for many aspects of the service including music, acting and bible reading. Thank you to Lucy Lawrence for writing all the music parts for the carols, and to all the people who were involved in making this such a wonderful celebration. Our Hearts of Hope prayers have also been collected (to add to next year) with many prayers for family members to come to know Jesus and for our church to spread God's love and truth in the community. Lets keep these prayers in our hearts and on our lips as we approach the exciting time of revisioning this year.

Last year we launched the Pray@11:02 colouring bookmarks to help our children engage in prayer for our movement of Baptist Churches. Many children enjoyed engaging with this resource and a few mentioned how they kept them in a special place at home. So we are hoping to launch our own colouring prayer reminders for CBC's revisioning process.

In 2018 our Boys Brigade celebrated their 60th anniversary, and this year they are planning a special reunion event - 16 March 2019 at the Pennant Hills Hotel. Contact Garry McPhee for more details. Garry

is putting together a publication celebrating the history of Boys Brigades at Carlingford and would love input from anybody who might have memories, photos or other details to share. Last year we also had a number of new leaders join our children's ministry team. It is great to have new team members especially Mandarin speakers who are able to better include young children and family members with limited English. This year we are considering possibilities for incorporating a preschool program into our creche on Sunday. Please be in prayer for this ministry, particularly being able to resource it with enough leaders and all our ministries. We are also planning to have some more training opportunities for our children's ministry team and are looking forward to the Connect Day organised by the Baptist Association on March 2.

Safe Church Update

Updated ministry orientation and leaders application packs added to our website. Plans underway for update to admin page on website to make safe church content more easily accessible.

Ministry team leaders please look at completing ministry approval and risk assessment form for your ministry this year.

Safe spaces courses running at local churches check creatingsafespaces.org.au

Please check details are up to date with office of the Children's guardian to receive reminder when WWCC is due to be renewed. Please let the church office know when your number is renewed.

Yours in Christ,
Emma Ridley.

Youth & Young Adults Quarterly Report – February 2019

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

In summary:

- A group of youth and young adults participated in the Tanilba Bay and Gerringong Beach Missions over new year
- *The Table*, the new combined youth discipleship program launches in February on Sundays at 2:30. This program will mix mentoring, youth services and occasional social outings.
- Friday night young adult social outreach events will resume after signs of effectiveness in 2018
- Young adults will continue a pattern of being a part of the multi-cultural, multi-generational 10:15 service, while holding the Wednesday night Immerse program just for young adults after positive feedback.

Youth and young adults from CBC joined in leading at both Tanilba Bay and Gerringong Beach Missions again this year. At both sites there were many returning faces along with new connections and despite lots of new leaders on team things went very smoothly. Please pray for ongoing relationships and that God will enable deeper connections next year. As a point for prayer, there was an unfortunate accident at the Gerringong site that saw one of the team members named Tim break his neck. He is still in hospital receiving treatment. Please pray for him, his family and that God might use the injury for his glory.

The final quarter of 2018 saw the end of Friday night Awaken Youth group (a final week being held in January) as well as Sunday morning Hub. I personally was a part of these programs throughout all of my high school years (and every year since). It is hard to say goodbye, especially when there is no guarantee of success for our new program, but I am convinced that it is the way towards a move inclusive and thriving youth group at our church. In February *The Table* (the new youth program) will launch on Sundays at 2:30-4pm. This program seeks to better fit the culture of Carlingford than a traditional mould, while making the most of CBC's strengths in mentoring. From week to week it will mix mentoring, youth services and occasional social outings. New leaders will be needed, and it is hoped that we will find some of both Korean and Mandarin speaking background. Please pray for a smooth start, new leaders, and youth that are willing to get serious about growing in faith.

The weekly Friday night social outreach events for young adults have been somewhat successful so far in helping us work together to connect, witness and share with non-Christian friends. After positive feedback we will continue our efforts, hoping for more consistency after the Christmas, New Year period. Please pray that we will make more and more connections and have opportunities to share and help out.

We have also had very positive feedback on our new pattern of being a part of the multi-cultural, multi-generational 10:15 service, while holding the Wednesday night Immerse program just for young adults.

We want to take more and more steps towards greater unity so please introduce yourself if you see us around! We know there is much experience in the church for us to learn from.

Yours in Christ,
Dan Waugh
Youth and Young Adults Pastor

Korean congregation Quarterly report- February 2019

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Rome 8:28

1. **Music celebration night** finished in exciting and memorable at last 8/12. Wonderful united choir team showed we are really one body in Love of Jesus Christ. Chinese choir team & 10am guest (Erica and Eve) together in this time and showed how meaningful this item in this church. From this year we want extend to joining group for all generation and diversial groups. Also we want to make some idea that how we can share this item with our local nieghbors.
2. Korean congregation will **start New Personal Bible study** called “D.B.S” (Daily Bible Study) Also New group is going to start the discipleship training course from the first week of February.
3. Korean youth will join the **new youth group program of Dan** from February. 7 Students are going to join the program and we are trying to find some Korean youth teachers for this.
4. 2019’ theme word is “**back to basic**”. It means we will try to rethink and check our basic living life as a Christian in our each boundary and try to improve our biblical knowledge and background more through the Bible and resources involved with Christianity. Main focus is remind, remember that who we are and how we should live as a Christian at our basic life and also we want to challenge that question ‘How we can escape from our mind trap like weakness in guilty and disappoint behaviors in each personal life.
5. We will be strengthened for **our prayer time** at 9 pm on Friday and prayer group And also will try to settle and encourage the **new local group meeting** in Carlingford and Parramatta area.

Yours in Christ
David

Mandarin Ministry Quarterly Report – February 2019

Psalms 143:8 (NIV) : Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

1. We are very grateful that the sister Carol Hu was baptised on the last Sunday of 2018 and she shared her wonderful testimony about God’s goodness with the congregation.
2. We had a wonderful Family Christmas Gospel Lunch attended by more than 100 people (including children). We were pleased to see some people from English Congregation as well as a few ESL teachers and students, families from play groups, and people from the community.
3. The professional vocalist, Sister Carol, helps train our Mandarin choir every Saturday from 2:00 to 3:00 pm during school terms. The choir has already presented songs during celebration worship and outreach events.
4. We had a regular adult Sunday school from 9:00 to 10:00 on Sunday morning and there are about 15 attendees each time.
5. Six brothers and sisters participated in the discipleship training, and we have completed the first phase (6 weeks) of the course.
6. Pastor Nick had completed the Pre-Application interviews for his Accreditation program with the Baptist Association and had submitted all the materials for the formal application online. He is waiting for the formal interview with representatives from the association.

7. Pastor Nick has enrolled at Morling college internal unit course for accreditation. He will take two courses this coming semester.
8. We started a new bible reading plan and more than 20 people are committed to reading the Bible on a regular basis using "Daily Reading Guide". In addition, we encourage the congregation to use the book "Prayer, Praise & Promises: A Daily Walk Through the Psalms" (Warren W. Wiersbe) for daily spiritual devotions.

Nick Song
Mandarin Pastor

Catalyst Team report, February 2019

- Thanks so much to those who gave to the Christmas appeal and purchased big hearted gift cards in December :)
- CBC is hosting the northern Sydney Catalyst Launch for 2019 on Sunday 10 February at 2.30 to 4.30. We would love those who have an interest in social justice topics our community is looking at to be there.
- BWA have released an app for their 60th anniversary this year to use, giving ideas of how to practice justice day-to-day.
- The Catalyst Team are in conversations with BWA about how to best become informed leading up to the Federal election, on topics concerning the church more particularly. How can the church best engage with this part of our culture? More news/discussion to come at the launch in February.

Adrian

Property Report for Church Meeting dated 20190210 **CBC - MTL - Property**

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 Kitchen
The Church kitchen has suffered from refrigeration troubles. Thanks to our Mandarin friends who very quickly assisted by the supply of a stand-by unit. This gave us time to purchase a new unit now in service.
 - ii.) The Centre
The refrigerator has again powered off and has caused waste of food etc.
It has been cleaned and made operational again. Users are required to watch what is put into the unit with timing of "use-by" dates etc. It would also be helpful to ensure the unit is also operating.
If not operating please advise admin. office or writer.
 - iii.) Bus (Insurance Claim. (See previous report)

Repairs have been completed from the earlier incident. However, to complete the repair work the signage has to be replaced. This will be done in February. New Hub Caps have been installed.

iii.) Grounds Maintenance.

Our volunteers are following the roster to ensure the grounds are kept in shape. The recent storms have given some challenges with our trees being stripped of branches. Large and small. The council has recently removed the debris to allow mowing to occur to keep up appearances.

The roster is always looking for more helpers to man the ride-on mower and the other edging, blowing activities to keep the areas.

To assist in this requirement a training session is being held led by Lindsay Casey with other team members. Included in the session are some Mandarin Congregation representatives members who we welcome their willingness to join in the teamwork.

Other members are always welcome.

Alamein Ave lawn area has been re-seeded to cover the bare areas. Bare Paspalum patches are noticeable; this is due to poisoning of the weed. The new grass is slowly coming through with continuing care from Stuart Pittendrigh and his helpers.

3.) REFRESH PROJECT

Our Architect, with the help of other required consultants, continues to work on the documentation and drawings to facilitate our DA submission to Council.

It is highlighted that the timing of our receipt of approvals from Council is subject to its requirements being met by CBC.

4.) SERVICE INSPECTIONS

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

Reports of these inspections are submitted to Council. Copies are displayed in the church foyer.

Milton Purkiss

MTL – Property – 20190117

Mob: 0412 445 137

Quarterly Church Report – Secretary

10 February 2019

Highlights

1. Currently we have 170 members.
2. We have been advised that Parramatta Council is conducting a public consultation exercise regarding Land Use Planning and Harmonisation. This is 'open' for public consultation 21 January through to 4 March 2019. The impact of this exercise will become known in due course. No further action required for now.
3. Membership management tool design to be finalised and implemented, accompanied with ongoing review of all congregations.

Dates for the diary

- 18 February – Church Council meeting
- 10 March & 7 April - Revisioning
- 18 March – Church Council meeting
- 8 April – Church Council meeting
- 20 May – Church Council meeting
- 2 June – Quarterly Business Meeting