



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

HERVEY BAY UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

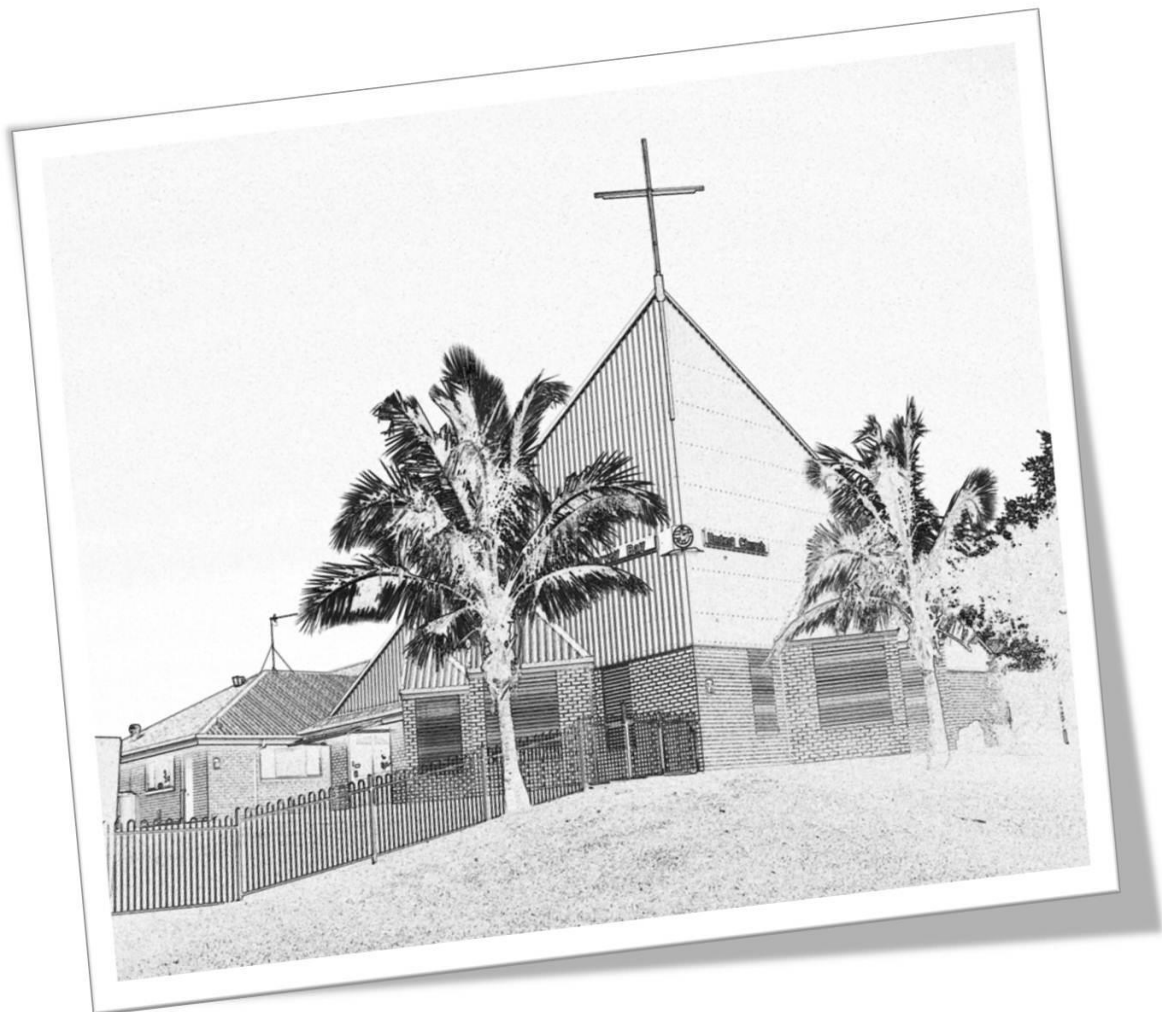


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Take care of a fig tree and you will have figs to eat.
Servants who take care of their master will be honoured.

Proverbs 27:18 **Good News Translation** (GNT)

FOREWORD ANNUAL REPORT

“Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

It is a great privilege to be asked to present our 2017 Annual Report on behalf of all who been engaged in its production. You don't need me to tell you that the past twelve months were full of challenges which were met with great Christian Faith and commitment from a congregation that focused on the future direction of our Church.

We have welcomed new members, opened the time capsule and said farewell to the Huth family. And dare I forget to mention the successful conclusion to the JNC process. As I write this forward, I am very conscious that God is calling our church to be a pilgrim people and focus not just in finding new ways of mission, but to share the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to all in our community. Sure, that brings changes, but we should never fear change but embrace it as it will bring fresh expressions and new growth.

As we welcome our new Minister of the Word, Rev. Luke Smallwood and his family, let us all focus on our core mission to spread the love of Christ to all and be a prayerful church ready to respond to the needs of others.

Please seek the presence of the Lord in all you do and continue to uphold and support the Church with dedication and prayer.

John Grimsey (Congregational Chair).

CHAIRPERSON'S - REPORT

We all know the phrase; “My, hasn't the time has just flown?”, and nothing truer can be said for 2017. I ask you all to consider our Church and its pastoral leaders at the start of 2017 and where we stand now. We have been building towards, ably lead by Pastor Graham, Reverend Wes and all the Elders and lay preaching group over 2017, for the transition that was to come. It is a credit to not only Graham's leadership but to Reverend Wes and all the lay preachers who provided not only Sunday after Sunday of wonderful church services, but all the other duties required of the spiritual leadership of a Church such as ours. It is through the efforts of this amazing team that has allowed such a smooth transition with Reverend Luke now taking up the role of our Pastoral leader. Thanks also go to the members of the reformed Joint Nominating Committee, the Spirit led you through hours of prayerful discussions and private deliberations and the results speak for themselves. We thank the Lord for the arrival of Reverend Luke and family and wish Graham and Anne Louise every blessing and joy with the congregation in Townsville.

This past twelve months has been a very busy year for the Council, not only with the preparation for Graham's move north and Luke's arrival. With Catherine Everiss, our office marvel, feeling that it was the right time for her to move in other career directions, the search for a new office secretary began in earnest. The job began with a hurdle, how did we actually list all the things Catherine did? Writing the job description was a major task in itself, let alone the interview process. The successful applicant has been advised at the time of writing this report and I am sure we will all welcome the new member of

our team and give all support to allow them to take up the role. In particular, a huge vote of thanks to the special group tasked with finding a replacement for Catherine. To Gail Grimsey, Joan Whitmore and Catherine Everiss, our grateful thanks in the huge task undertaken over many months in getting to this point. Also special thanks to Catherine for organizing time to allow a smooth transition from her custodianship of the Front office to our new Secretary at the time of transition for Graham to Luke.

The tasks carried out by the Church Council is many and varied and in the most part goes unnoticed by the congregations. I thank all the members of the council in their work, all for His glory, not for their own goals, to continue his plan for our Church

While it would be difficult to single out individuals for their contributions to the council, I must acknowledge, that again and again, Joan Whitmore and Paddy Walker have contributed above and beyond. With Joan as Secretary and Paddy as Treasurer, the smooth running of the business side of the church is assured and in very safe hands. We all owe you a great debt, ladies.

FINANCE AND MAINTENANCE

The maintenance and up keep is a large and ongoing task. Without the support of many individuals we would not have the quality facilities we currently enjoy. Many thanks go to Barry Dimmick who gets in and does so many of the tasks required, big and small. I would also like to thank Graham Bailey who has taken on the large role of safety inspections and reporting. It is effectively a never-ending task.

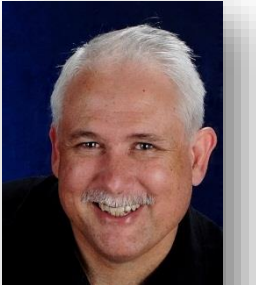
A number of major projects occurred during the year, not the least being the upgrade to the Kent Street manse. It is amazing the transformation that has taken place and it was a pleasure to welcome Reverend Luke and family into their Hervey Bay home. There is still some major work to be carried out in the wet areas early this year and when completed the home will be modern, functional and very comfortable, and has significantly increased the asset value of the manse for the whole congregation. This would not have occurred without the sheer hard work and determination of John and Gail Grimsey. Well done and thank you both.

The other major development undertaken in 2017 was the upgrade to the facilities in the Church Hall at Burrum Heads. This also has been a huge effort with congratulations and thanks go to all those involved on the completion of the task last year. His work is blossoming in the Burrum Heads Church and these new facilities will continue to help gather members of the local community together and more and more people are being involved in Church activities.

It has been a privilege for me to have led the Church Council and the Finance and Maintenance groups this past year, and I thank the congregations Hervey Bay Uniting Church and members of Church Council for allowing me to do so. I will be not standing for the position of chair of the Church Council and associated chair of Finance and Maintenance committee for 2018, although I found the roles in 2017 both rewarding and challenging. I look forward to continuing as a non-executive member of the council and working with the new chair of the Council and all its members, in particular Reverend Luke.

It will be an amazing year ahead for all the congregations in 2018 and I am confident that we are all prepared to help where necessary and support each other all for His greater glory

Andrew Garty



2017 has been a good year, and one that has passed very quickly. It has been a year with some challenges, a year of new opportunities, and a year of preparation for inevitable changes that will come with the arrival of a new minister in the New Year. Through it all the Church has been well led by the ministry team, Church Councillors, Elders, administrative personnel and other Church leaders. I want and need to pay credit to the leadership that they have provided. A particular "thank you" to Rev. Wes Furness, Joan Whitmore,

Paddy Walker, John Grimsey and Sandra Keay for being God's voice to the Church through regularly worship leading and preaching; ensuring that the Gospel is faithfully proclaimed within our Churches, and the community. We also thank those who led, or assisted in our ministries at Masters Lodge, Torbay, Fairhaven, Baycrest, Tricare and the new services at the recently opened Ozcare facility.

I also thank Andrew Garty, Joan Whitmore and Paddy Walker for the hard work they put in as Church Council Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively; for their wisdom, and giftings that have ensured the efficient operation of the Congregation. Thanks also to John and Gail Grimsey for their work as Chair and Secretary of the Congregation. While the Church is not a business, sound business and administrative principles and practices are vital to ensure the Church can financially and effectively support the vital ministry and mission that Christ requires of His Church. Thus, I also offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for the way Catherine Everiss has worked tirelessly to hold things together and keep us (especially me) on task for the last 6 years. As Catherine prepares to also leave, and to take up a new position at St. Stephen's Hospital, I wish her the very best in her new role.

It would be impossible to name all the volunteers who make this Church the special place that it is, without inadvertently missing someone. So, to those 100 or so people who faithfully give of their time and energy every week to serve Christ and the Church, and you know who you are – Thank You! That includes Pastoral Carers, Hospital visitors, communion stewards, those doing the offering and counting, welcomers, bible readers, musicians, morning tea, the flowers, sound and computer operators, J-Crew and T.E.E.N.S. (Teenagers Experiencing Exciting New Steps) leaders, the maintenance team, Crossroads, the Adult Fellowship, Dinners of 8 coordinators, Men's Breakfast, Women's Afternoon Tea, We Care 2 Breakfast Van and Bible Study groups (I've probably still missed someone – if so please forgive me).

I also want to recognise those who serve outside the congregation, and work at the 'coalface' – so to speak, such as the people who assist with the We Care 2 van, THE hospital and prison chaplains and visitors, and our Religious Instruction volunteers that go into our schools every week. Keep up the good work.

This will be my last report as your Pastor. The 10 years of my ministry here among you wonderful people have been amazing; but it has particularly been the last three years, serving as senior minister that will be a time long remembered. Your faith in me to provide leadership, and the encouragement I have received have been a true blessing. It was late last year (2016) that, at a time I was starting to really feel comfortable in the role, that God came tapping me on the shoulder, and to shake me out of my comfort. I was challenged to consider answering a call to ministry in the Aitkenvale congregation in Townsville. Considering the uncertainty that had been troubled Hervey Bay since Brian Hoole left, Aitkenvale expressed a willingness to wait 12 months to allow Hervey Bay time to find another minister. After a lot of prayerful consideration, Ann-Louise and I answered the call to Aitkenvale, despite the sadness of leaving a Church that has been a major part of our lives for 15 years. We knew that if it was God's plan for us, He would provide for the needs of Hervey Bay. Such is God's amazing timing and providence, this has all come together with the calling of Rev. Luke Smallwood to commence in Hervey Bay in January 2018, at the same time that I start in my new position in Townsville. I leave this Church in the sure knowledge that it is in a good place.

This year has been a year of growth. We have welcomed 19 people into membership this year, - Ian and Glenys Allen, Margaret Baker, Elizabeth Carden, Jocelyn Coleman, Jean Davis, Dahlia Farmer, Judith Finden, Christine Foster, Jeanette and Noel Gamble, Val and Brian Hildred, Carol Kernke, Riet Patch, Brian and Loris Sanderson, Brian Stark and Bob Symons. And celebrated the baptisms of Isabelle Louda, Ebony Naylor and our very special little Alexander (Zander) Fitton. In April, we rejoiced with Catherine Owen as she and Ash Awasthi 'tied the knot'.

However, amongst the excitement has also been considerable sadness as we have seen the passing of many dear friends – June Cant, Noel Clarke, Dick Fogg, Anna Hensley, Dalis Jones, Avery MacNamara, Ian Mews, Kath Rogers, Keith Ross, Connie Trask and David Wilson. We have also had a number of friends and families such as the Freeman's and Moore's who have moved away from the area, and who will be missed.

The Congregations within the Burrum area continue to prosper as they offer a special presence within their communities. The extension at Burrum Heads is almost finished – praise God! We look forward with excitement to when community groups start to move in and make use of this new space. The Howard Church and Hall are also looking good with new windows, gutters, external paint, and internal fans. The worship and fellowship within the Howard and Burrum Heads Church communities are things that I will really miss.

Highlights of this year has been the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church, as well as the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation. The Uniting Church's beliefs are based largely on the Reformed and Evangelical tradition. We are *who* we are, because of the actions and works of the Reformers like Martin Luther. It has thus been a big year in the life of the Church as we have reflected on the way Christ has inspired so many people in the past to shape the Church into what it is today.

Another highlight has been the development of the F.A.I.T.H. (Families Are Important To Him) Ministry that has already been successful in making some big changes to provide new, and improve existing ministry to families and children. My encouragement is for F.A.I.T.H. to continue to look 'outside the box' and find effective ways to engage with the current generation and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sadly, my one main disappointment has been that the Property Development has not proceeded to the extent that I had hoped it would. But we **have** come a long way, and things will come together in God's timing. I pray for divine wisdom and direction for those will continue to lead in the oversight of our plan to develop the property.

I thank you for your love, support and care that you have given to me and my family. We have been tremendously blessed by this Church and this community. Remember, *"God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"* (2 Cor 9:8). Look forward with confidence to the new journey that is about to begin. God's abundance, promises that there are good times ahead when we offer up ourselves in service of our Lord.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

Pastor Graham Huth

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL - REPORT

The year, has, as we all know has been somewhat different! Early in 2017 we were made aware that Pastor Graham would be moving on, but it was not until late October early November that changes within my area, as your Treasurer, began to take place.

Apart from my normal, weekly, monthly and yearly Hervey Bay Church Accounts, I have inherited from Pastor Graham, Dan Dinna House Accounts and BAS Statements BAS Statements are the quarterly taxation returns relating to the GST charges and is differently one area of taxation accounting that is unfamiliar to me, but, I am slowly ploughing my way through all the required paperwork, for this area of taxation accounting.

Hervey Bay Church and Dan Dinna House operate individual accounts for reporting purposes, and for clarity of their individual financial positions; but for GST share the one ABN number. Therefore, for GST BAS Statement returns, both entities are balance and calculated separately before, being consolidated into one account, then transferred onto the required BAS forms for sending off to the Taxation Department.

With our new incoming Minister, Rev Luke Smallwood, the Kent Street Manse, which has been for many years utilized as a rental property is now finally back as a, "Church Manse!" Although, the property is well constructed and structurally sound, it requires a well-deserved makeover in major and minor areas of the property especially, within the kitchen and bathroom areas. Under the guidance of John and Gail Grimsey, plus Andrew Garty, we have endeavoured that Rev Luke, Tiffany, and the children have, if not a fully remodelled home when they arrive; certain areas, will have been attended too, while other areas, requiring repairs and upgrades will be undertaken, once the "Smallwood family" have settled in. The current estimate for the entire property upgrade is approximately **\$49,000.00**, and the money to utilize the Manse upgrade is to come from the Oleander Street house sale, which is held in a reserve account, and managed by Presbytery and Synod. Unfortunately, these funds are not accessible to the church until, we have make an officially application through Presbytery to access them. Presbytery will not meet again until March 2018. Although these are the rules and we must accept them; financially we find ourselves working with one hand tied behind our back because we cannot access necessary Oleander Street funds until official approval is given.

In the meantime, we are funding the upgrades from the Hervey Bay Church Account and being very careful not to over spend and leave ourselves short for the day to day expenses. Moneys spent by the Church will eventually be refunded once approval have been given to access Oleander Street reserves funds. Once everything has been completed, Kent Street Manse will be a financially and artistically a better-looking property, inside and out; but, even more importantly, a much improved, acceptable, comfortable and liveable home for our Minister and his family.

Not only has Kent Street recently undertaken a makeover but Burrum Head Community Church has from the latter part of 2016 and throughout the whole 2017 embarked upon a major church extension, therefore all but a few expenses have passed through the Treasurer's desk for direct payment or ongoing to Presbytery for payment, once they became involved through advancement of funds from Synod Reserves Funds.

Howard UC; although they have undertaken improvements, it has not been of such a major scale as Kent Street and Burrum Heads. There are still upgrades to come, although those already completed has made a major improvement in the church and the hall. Again, those upgrades were funded from the sale of the Torbanlea Church and held in a Reserve Fund managed by Synod. As before all invoices for payment by Synod has passed through the Treasurer's desk.

Now back to Hervey Bay financial reports for 2017

This year we have exceeded our budgeted expectations and estimates. Some budgeted areas are down while others are up but, overall, we have a **SURPLUS FOR 2017**.

The bulk of our monthly and yearly expenses as usual goes towards the payments of one fulltime Minister plus a Secretary along with the Missionary and Service Fund requirements. These payments are an automatic monthly transfer from Hervey Bay's Church Bank Account to Synod's Bank Account. Therefore, it is imperative, that we have sufficient funds in our bank account to meet these automatic transfers. But just as important, we still have additional cleared funds, to meet the church's obligations to our weekly and monthly creditors.

It is anticipated that there will be increases in most items as the country slowly recovers from low wages and low interest rates. Therefore, as a church if are to meet our obligations we need to increase our income through the weekly cash offering and those you have "direct deposit method" please don't forget to increase them at the beginning of each year. This is the only time I will ask you for an increase in your church offerings. For I know from experience that "God providing we are faithful God will continue to supply all our needs; financial, spiritually and physically."

The church report is strictly, church income and expenses. Capital expenditure; \$1825.15 a new Water Cooler in the kitchen and shown separately are donations for missionary outreach.

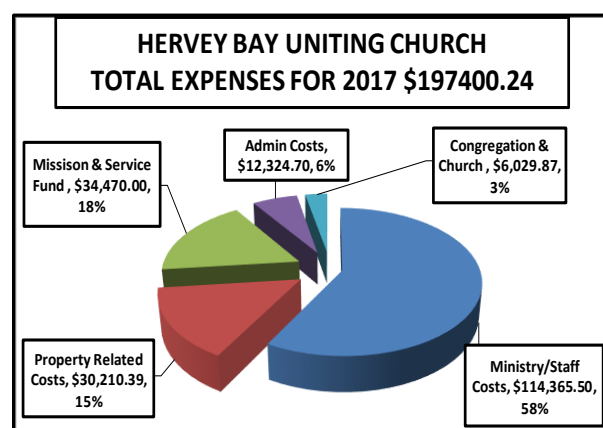
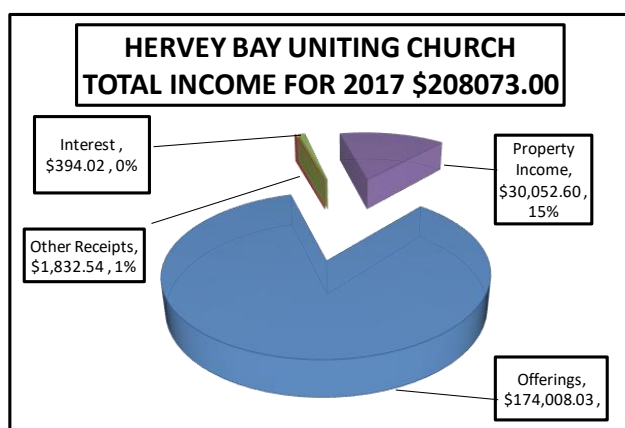
REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31.12.2017

Hervey Bay Uniting Church <i>P.O. Box 5072</i> <i>HERVEY BAY QLD 4655</i>	
INCOME & EXPENSES FROM JANUARY 2017 TO DECEMBER 2017	
Income	
Offerings	\$174,008.00
Interest Income from UCIS	\$394.02
Property Income	\$30,052.60
Other Receipts	\$1,832.54
Total Income	\$206,287.16
Expenses	
Ministry/Staff Costs	\$114,365.50
Property Related Costs	\$30,210.39
Mission Related Costs	\$34,470.00
Administration and Other	\$12,324.70
Congregation/Church Service C	\$6,029.87
Total Expenses	\$197,400.46
Operating Surplus	\$8,886.70

Hervey Bay Uniting Church BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR 01.01.2017 TO 31.12.2017	
Assets	
Current Assets	
ANZ Banking Group Pty Ltd	\$39,576.68
Reserves 88 Oleander Ave - sold	\$189,695.93
Reserves 12 Gympie Str. Torbanlea Sold	\$31,312.33
8 and 10am Coffee & Tea Float	\$60.00
Heritage Bank	\$639.30
Maintenance Team Petty Cash	\$100.00
Investment Cash Mment Account	\$55,000.00
Loan - Burrum Hds over 5 yrs	\$10,000.00
Accounts Recievable	\$2,130.69
Pre-Payments	(\$62,596.71)
Fixed Assets	\$149,390.18
Total Assets	\$415,308.40
Liabilities	
Sundry Creditors	\$6,727.32
Total GST Liabilities	(\$2,680.95)
Total Liabilities	\$4,046.37
Net Assets	\$411,262.03

MISSIONARY- Mth Special Payments	OUT GOINGS
Missionary Donations	
Christmas Bowl	\$177.80
Compassion Fund (Local Mission	\$1,090.00
Donations Somalies refugees	\$800.00
Frontiers Service sale of jam June	\$401.00
Kairos Outside ministries	\$318.15
Lenten Appeal	\$4,391.00
Mission Offerings	\$1,234.00
RE Donations & Support	\$660.50
Samaritan's Purse	\$985.00
School Chaplaincy Support	\$560.50
UCA Flood Disaster Relief	\$475.00
Uniting World - relief program	\$199.60
We Care 2 donation	\$50.00
MISSION INS AND OUTS	\$11,342.55
Special Payments	
Weddings	\$300.00
Funerals	\$1,150.00
TOTAL SPECIAL PAYMENTS	\$1,450.00
TOTAL FOR HERVEY BAY ONLY	\$12,792.55

And for those who like Charts – Pie Charts



The church will be advised when 2017 Audit Report arrives, but like last year, should be available prior to the Congregational Meeting. If not, copies of the Audit will be available in my office.

As always before closing I would again like to thank all the unseen Sunday Counters. To Graham and Catherine, Joan and Gillian for their assistance throughout the year.

To Johns, Gail and Andrew as together we have attended to Kent Street refurbishments in 2017 and as we continue to work together on the Kent Street upgrade in 2018.

As always and regardless of the many hours involved including the additional work load plus the new learning curve of BAS Statements I have enjoyed being the 2017 Hervey Bay Uniting Church Treasurer; hopefully I will be allowed to continue within this position in 2018!

As already reported in my Hervey Bay Treasurer's Report I have inherited Dan Dinna House at least for the present, which does entail additional and a new learning curve. Therefore, my report is very small.

Again, our major tenant 60 & Better Healthy Ageing is continuing to meet the needs of people through the day to day activities held at Dan Dinna House.

When the complex is not being used by 60 & Better, it has proved very attractive to other groups within Hervey Bay also, Sunday for a church service.

The annual floor re-sanding as usual will take place during the Christmas break. Initial work on the verandas which were mentioned in Pastor Graham's report last year has commenced.

The Financial Reports indicates that Dan Dinna has a surplus for 2017.

DAN DINNA HOUSE	
Balance Sheet	
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2017	
Assets	
Cash Assets	
ANZ Community Hub Account	\$6,974.81
Church Investment Account	\$10,000.00
Trade Debtors	\$186.00
Total Cash Assets	\$17,160.81
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,425.94
Total Assets	\$18,586.75
Liabilities	
Trade Creditors	\$273.00
Total GST Liabilities	\$45.53
Total Liabilities	\$318.53
Net Assets	\$18,268.22

DAN DINNA HOUSE	
INCOME AND EXPENSES	
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2017	
Income	
Lease Payments	\$13,090.92
Hall Rental	\$7,597.51
Total Income	\$20,688.43
Expenses	
Administration Costs	
Property Insurance	\$2,872.32
Admin Management Fees	\$403.40
Public Libability Insurance	\$144.05
Running Costs (cleaning etc.)	
Consumables	\$380.98
Cleaning	\$2,061.00
Repairs and Maintenance	
Repairs	\$4,214.08
General Maintenance	\$3,461.36
Council Expenses	
Council Rates	\$4,128.75
Services	
Electricity	\$364.40
Total Expenses	\$18,030.34
Operating Surplus	\$2,658.09
Other Income	
Other Expenses	
Capital Deposit new Verandas	\$5,000.00
Total Other Expenses	\$5,000.00
Net Deficit	(\$2,341.91)



Patricia (Paddy) Walker
Treasurer



AGED CARE MINISTRIES REPORT - 2017

Providing ministry to residents of the various Aged Care Facilities in Hervey Bay has for many years been an important part of the outreach of our church. Many former members of our church no longer have the mobility to get to a regular church service because of age and ill health and they really appreciate the short Praise services and visits that are provided. We greatly appreciate our church members who use their gifts and talents in helping lead, play the piano, and help with singing and relating to the residents. Each month a service is held at Fairhaven village, Masters Lodge, Tri care, Baycrest, Torbay and services were commenced at the Oz care new facility in December 2017.

TRI CARE

We continue our services on the 1st Tues of each month with sincere thanks to Eunice for playing the piano, with regular helpers, Jean Hyne, Heather Owen, Terry Pike & Averill Collins assisting the residents with the music and for those who attend when able. Our thanks also to Lorraine Turner who fills in at times with music during Eunice's absences. Although most residents are physically or mentally disabled one can sense the pleasure they get from joining in with the old hymns, by moving their feet or hands in time with the music. One lady has a "Teddy bear" which she dances up and down in time with the music. It's her child. Our sincere thanks to Allison from Tricare who endeavours to ensure that Residents are in place for the service.

BAYCREST

Baycrest is visited the second Tuesday of the month and held in the Chapel. The service is usually led by Lorelle Dimmick and occasionally by Meg Boyce. May Jacobson has been playing the organ and the helpers are Heather, Shirley & Jean. We have 6 to 8 regular residents attending. Others would love to come but as we are not allowed to "assist" them so they unfortunately miss out.

OZ Care

As this is a new aged care facility Joan consulted with Lynn Priestly (who formerly worked at Fairhaven) and was able to arrange to have a service before Christmas. Our thanks to those from our Church who came along to support us for that first service. The staff were very friendly and co-operative, offering a cup of coffee and chocolate cake after the service. Owing to the facility being open for a short time only a few residents attended but we are sure that the numbers will increase as the number of residents increase. Our first service in the New Year will be on the third Tuesday in February at 10.30a.m. and each month following.

FAIRHAVEN

Fairhaven services are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month with thanks from Joan, Eunice and Coral who have led the services or played the piano. We have about 30 regular's residents who attend here and the staff are most co-operative special thanks to Sharon Berry the Churches of Christ Chaplain. Again much appreciation to: Heather, Glenys, Marge, Jill and Jean for their support.

TORBAY CHAPEL SERVICE

Half hour services are held on the 4th Saturday of the month at 9:15am at the Torbay Chapel with an average attendance of 16 folk. As those who attend come from both independent living villas & the low care hostel section, a reminder notice is placed in the letter boxes. At every second month either Rev Wes or Pastor Graham took the service and offered Communion for those attending. The alternate services were taken by our lay preachers Pat Walker and Joan Whitmore. Music is usually provided by Lynn Furness, Janice Jensen or Coral Deeth. Thanks to our regular helpers Thora, Elsie and Jean.

At Torbay we are very thankful for the regular Pastoral care visits done by Thora, Carol, Joan and Jean. Lynn, Meg and Joan also have assisted with distributing communion to shut in folk who wish to participate (after the elements have been blessed at the church communion).

Co-ordinators of services Joan Whitmore, Jean Lochard, Lorelle Dimmick & Lynn Furness & Sandra Keay.



UNITINGCARE / TARGET CHRISTMAS APPEAL - REPORT



Unfortunately, due to the lack response to E-Mails and phone calls to our local newspaper, we were unable to receive any publicity for this appeal this year, however, this did not prevent us being able to assist those in need this Christmas.

This year took on the same format as last year with people being asked to purchase \$1.00 bauble as they passed through the check-outs at Target. Approximately \$3,000 was given by the public through this scheme. This was the amount sent to us by head office in the form of gift vouchers at the commencement of the appeal, in anticipation of what we would need to assist the people of our community. We also received \$150.00 in donations from the Church. There were also Gift vouchers for \$300.00 left over from last year.

There were only 68 gifts donated into the Target store this year, with the Friday Business Men group very generously donating approximately 30 gifts.

Although we only received 1/3 of the gifts that we received last year, we catered for 70 families in comparison to 40 last year and approximately 250 children and adults in comparison with 160 last year.

This year, as with last year we partnered with We-Care -2 who provided food hampers to their clients and then referred them on to us for gifts. We also had the privilege of assisting the Prison Ministry with gifts for those who were unable to share Christmas with their loved ones. There were approximately 100 gifts given through the School Chaplains to families they assessed as needy. Vouchers for \$400.00 were given to We Care 2 towards the cost of the food hampers, and a voucher of \$200.00 given to the Prison Ministry to assist the prisoners families.

The balance of the monies were used to assist Nursing Homes – to purchase food and toiletry items for the needy – families within our Church and community who were identified as needing assistance and the purchase of toys and gifts to make up for the shortfall of donation of these items.

My sincere thanks to the girls from WOW who assisted with putting the family gifts together, and for Sylvia for assisting with the purchasing and decorating of the “Santa Bags”

On behalf of Uniting Care, our sincere thanks to Gary, the manager of Target and his staff for their efforts in raising the monies for this appeal.

We pray that next year, we are able to continue to assist the needy within our community, with the help of the media, and more importantly, with God’s help.

We thank God for His provisions that we were able to bless others with these gifts. May He continue to bless our Church so that through our example, others will be drawn to Him.

Joan Whitmore
Co-Ordinator

WOW(Women on Wednesday)REPORT



WOW is a great group of women who meet regularly at church on Wednesday evenings 6.45-8.30pm.

WOW really is about connecting and sharing our lives, hopes, dreams, struggles, successes, burdens and joys with each other on a weekly basis, and most importantly, the love of Jesus and all He means to each and every one of us.

This last year has been a challenging, supportive year with many people suffering illness and deaths within our group. We have had about an average of 10 faithful worshipping women come every week. We have enjoyed fellowship, friendship, faithfulness, food, with each other.

Some of the studies we have done were the Rick Warren study we did on **Daring Faith**. Daring faith requires taking risks. It requires the courage to step up and face the giants . . . and to face the unknown. It might be easier to stay in our comfort zone, but when we bravely step out to where God has called us, history is made, and lives are changed forever. We learned we must be bold and daring to live an extraordinary life of faith. We sure have an AWESOME God who is always there for us, we can be thankful to God just for being God and He is in control. One of our memory verses was "According to your faith will it be done to you" Matthew 9:29.

We also studied Philip Yancy's **What So Amazing about Grace** and one of his sayings we enjoyed was "Grace can work like perfume, spray a little in a crowded room, and it can change the complexion of the whole room." Some of the sessions that really made us think hard and challenged us were *Extending Grace When You've Been Wronged*; *Grace in the Face of Disagreement* and *Grace Set Loose in the World*. Philip Yancey really is an insightful and compassionate speaker and presenter who made us consider how we put our Christian beliefs into practice.

We shared with each other about our journeys too. Within our group we have amazing talented women who have been missionaries and been overseas serving God too and we enjoyed these incredible women's journeys.

The women of WOW continue to organise a monthly Women's Afternoon Tea (Feb to Nov) on the last Saturday of each month. This is a lovely way for the women of our church and their friends to meet, chat, listen to an interesting speaker and enjoy some wonderful food. All proceeds from our \$5 donations go to the speaker's organisation (or one nominated by them). In 2017 we have had wonderful speakers!

Feb: Marilyn Gunders (Christmas Is Christian F'ship)
Apr: Elaine Dietsch (plight of women in D Rep of Congo)
June: Jan Carlson (WeCare2)
Aug: Alicja Nolan (Un World, Paama Is Vanuatu)
Oct: Maree Hill (Nikenbah Animal Refuge)

Mar: Carolyn Stafford (RFDS)
May: Elsie Whitby (Legacy volunteer)
July: Brenda Sandr (Rhema 105.1)
Sept: Jacinta Garty (Girl Guides)
Nov: Averil Collins (Fashion collection)

WOW meet during school term time and begin each term with a Bring and Share Dinner which is a great way of catching up with each other. We celebrate birthdays, and milestone birthdays usually require a special coffee date at one of our great Hervey Bay cafes!

WOW members continue to financially support an overseas project (The Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation in Africa) and a local community organisation (Yoorana Women's Domestic Violence Centre) as our way of showing God's love and making a small difference to the lives of others.



Thora Nolan and Julie Noble

M AND M'S – (Women's Bible Study) REPORT

Our M and M's (Mary and Martha's) Bible study group had another great year studying God's Word.

We do KYB (Know Your Bible) studies. These studies are made especially for women and are invaluable to our everyday lives.

We meet on Monday mornings at 9.30am. We have a roster system where we have our meetings at one another's homes. This works very well as we all have a chance to be hostess. We do our homework and share our answers and find that our answers reflect on what God is teaching us.

After our study time we have a dedicated prayer session and pray for each other during the week. We have lots of fun, friendship and food (of course). We still support a little girl in Thailand through Compassion.

Any ladies who would like to know more about what we do or would like to join our group are very welcome to drop in and share morning tea with us. Our place for meeting each week is in the UC under Mondays.

This term we are studying Solomon - Kingdom and worship (2 Chronicles 1-9).

For more information please contact Lynne Alexander on 4194 2538.



BLOKES FOR CHRIST (BFC) – FORMERLY F-TROOP – REPORT



FANTASTIC CHRISTIAN MATESHIP

BFC has met regularly on Wednesday evenings throughout 2017. We commenced in the New Year with discussion about our name which had been F-Troop for many years, Determined to give the group a fresh image that our people might relate to! After considerable time the new name was agreed by all members and has become our title.

During the year we have enjoyed sharing in Bible Study and fellowship with membership varying from about 6 to 12 men. We have welcomed several new members during the year and we never say good bye to anyone. Some of our members have and are suffering various ailments and are not always able to attend but are very welcome when they can and always kept in our prayers.

Studies which we have participated in include:

1. Lent 2017 - 'He chose the Nails' by Max Lucado
2. 'God is Closer than you think' by John Ostberg
3. 'Gospel in life' by Timothy Keller
4. Advent 'Because of Bethlehem' by Max Lucado

- 'The Gifts of The Spirit'
- The Uniting Church's view on marriage equality.
- The use of 'seeking consensus' in our voting system at the Uniting Church
- We have recently been previewing the lectionary reading and doing a study around those.
- We are about to launch into a new series called 'God is closer than you think'.

Any men who would like to join us are most welcome. We would love to have you.

Blokes For Christ ✝

MEN'S BREAKFAST - REPORT



2017 was the third year for our monthly Men's Breakfast.

The breakfasts were well received with attendance ranging from 18 into the low thirties, with one notable exception.

The year kicked off with a huge event with over 70 attendees as Roly & Sandra Keay presented a travelogue of their experiences on tour in the Holy Land. This event gave us the opportunity to open up the breakfast to the ladies in the congregation as well.

Other events through the year included speakers from our own membership, including Don Wright giving his experiences working with orphans and disadvantaged children in Africa, Ps. Graham Huth (as part of his farewell tour) on his trips around the churches and cultural icons in the Mediterranean, and former youth leader at Hervey Bay UC Gareth Nolan (son of Hugo) speaking on his year in Vanuatu.

We were privileged to receive a presentation by local Aboriginal elder Goomblar, and learn about the wreck of the Maheno from John Anderson of the Historical Society.

Our diet and monthly menu was explored by Pat Filippelli from Diabetes Queensland in a very informative and helpful presentation.

We did have a couple of false starts as the August breakfast was cancelled due to health and availability reasons, whilst the planned presentation by the QFES did not eventuate due to timing issues.

The Men's knowledge and intelligence were also tested at times by a couple of group activities as we expanded our minds through "Breakfast Braining" and celebrated "The Joy of Christmas".

As in previous years the Breakfast funds can accumulate, and although a couple of breakfasts ran at a slight loss, we did create some surpluses and made donations to both Don's and Gareth's missions.

We hoping to present another interesting range of speakers and events in 2018, so if anyone interested in volunteering to join the speaking roster, or who may have a suggestion please speak up.

Run by volunteers with no elected officers all men in the congregation who wish to be involved are invited to get in contact with Iain Everiss, Graham Bailley, John Diestch, Roly Keay, or ask at the office.

Our gathering is always looking for new faces to assist the above guys and head chef Phil Ayoub and we're keen to provide a forum for men from all parts of the church to get to know one another, so spread the word, come along on the first Saturday in the month at 7am (starting in February next year – coffee ready at 6.30) and enjoy the food and fellowship

ADULT FELLOWSHIP - REPORT



I have much pleasure in presenting the 2017 Annual Report. We had a busy and very rewarding year. We have welcomed new members: Elsie Ross, Gillian Ayoub, Helen Elsmore and Betty McCoy who shared and enriched the Fellowship with their participation and contributions at our monthly meetings (third Friday) and at special functions. We presently have 24 members and an average of 16 members attending every meeting.

In March we hosted the World Day of Prayer Service. This years' theme was for the Women of the Philippines. We have invited Filipino women from different churches in the Bay to join us and requested them to wear their Filipino costumes, and it was a success, a very good turn up from other churches in Hervey Bay. Also in March, nine ladies from our Fellowship attended the Mary Burnett Presbytery Adult Fellowship Area Day held in Gympie Uniting Church. The Hervey Bay Adult Fellowship always have the biggest number of attendance, and I handed a good collection of old stamps given by members of our church to Hazel Bachler as a fundraising of the Adult Fellowship.

In early May we hosted a Mother's Day Morning Tea with Helen Elsmore organising and it was great fun for all who attended. All proceeds went to the Adult Fellowship Project for 2017, Clean Water for Papua New Guinea'. Later in May we had the privilege of leading the 8 am Sunday Service and invited Eunice Pike as guest preacher and with some members of the fellowship taking parts.

In June we had the 40th UC Birthday Morning Tea with guest artist the Bush Band. IN July, we had our very popular Soup and Crusty Luncheon and again a great success. On our August meeting we had our guest speaker, Mr. Lyle Goschnick who talked about Workplace Health and Safety, a very interesting and important topic.

October, we had a special morning tea for Pastor Graham and Ann-Louise Huth. It was a 'Fun and Social Aussie Sing Along Morning' and was enjoyed by all. With the love and generosity of the ladies of the Fellowship we gave Pastor Graham and Ann-Louise a send –off gift.

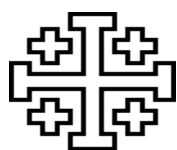
Through the activities that we do together as a group, we have given donations to many organisations here and beyond, as we have done in the past. November was our Annual meeting and followed by a break up lunch at Kondari Resort.

We would like to invite and welcome ladies from our church to join us every third Friday of each month at the church. We have devotions and a good home –made morning tea before each meeting.

We thank the Lord for His faithfulness, goodness and guidance in everything that we do as a group and pray for the coming year with enthusiasm and a hopeful heart in serving HIM.

From the Ladies of the Fellowship, SHALOM.

Frances Cadman



CROSSROADS – REPORT



Crossroads had another successful year in 2017 and we have had an enjoyable time with some fun activity evenings throughout the year.

At our AGM in January, those present moved that the 2016 Crossroads Annual Report be received. All positions were then vacated. The following positions were filled:

Chairperson:	Julie Noble	Devotions:	Joan Whitmore
Secretary:	Meg Boyce	Catering:	Norma Dale (assisted by other volunteers)
Treasurer:	Rodney Boyce	Birthday Cards:	Jan Thomas

During the year we have had some very enjoyable evenings:

- Feb** – News sharing and balloon fun with Breannah Mitchell from Balloon Mania
- Mar** – Mini Olympics

- Apr** – Music Fun with:- The Bush Boys
- May** – Hawaiian Night
- Jun** – Drumming Circle with Kellie from Music Pathways
- Jul** – Inclusion Church service and lunch at our annual lunch at Hog's Breath Cafe
- Aug** – Cooking Night
- Sept** – Games night (Nefertiti Dance Group unable to attend due to ill health)
- Oct** – Movement to Music led by our volunteer Neroli
- Nov** – Christmas craft
- Dec** – Christmas break-up dinner catered by Meals on Wheels, followed by carol singing and Christmas games

Our July lunch and Christmas break-up dinner were again great times of fun and fellowship over food and were very well attended by Crossroaders, volunteers, family and carers.

All our evenings have provided enjoyment, fun and laughter for everyone. We trust in God that this will continue successfully in 2018. We will continue meeting on the 3rd Friday of the month from 7-9pm.

Thank you very much to Joan Whitmore, Sylvia Wright and Meg Boyce who have shared the role of leading us in a time of devotion at the beginning of our evenings.

We have a great group of volunteers, both old and new who give up their time to be part of the Crossroads family and I thank them very much for their involvement, compassion and assistance.

With a little help from some recorded music we try to sing our Crossroads song "One More Step Along the World I Go" at the beginning of our evenings, after devotions which everyone is really enjoying, and I think it makes everyone feel included in our Crossroads family.

Julie Noble

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS - REPORT



Wes's Bible Study

Again a number of our members have shared in studying the Word of God during 2017.

This year we have had an average of twelve members, and we studied The Beatitudes, The Lord's Prayer, and The Advent of Our Saviour. We studied these with the help of William Barclay's Daily Study Bible material.

I believe that each one of us grew in our understanding and our faith relationship with our Lord as The Holy Spirit guided us through these most interesting studies. We all felt quite a thrill to come to the scripture and to realise just how much more we need to learn, especially those parts of the scripture that we believed that we did understand! This is an important lesson to learn, that no matter how often we return to the bible there is so much more for us to uncover and to understand.

Our God is a great God and he has supplied for us so much inspirational material in His book we call the bible. As we read this book regularly we need to be always amazed at what we uncover and what becomes new to us each time. Regular reading of the scriptures and study are so important for our Christian life to be complete. This is a wonderful way of being refreshed and renewed in our spirit. The Word of God will always help us to live contented and fulfilled lives through the power of the Holy Spirit

and we need to know how important this is for each one of us in our daily lives. We live in an age of turmoil and we need the love of our God in our lives to help us to be quiet & content, and in the knowledge that God is in control despite the troubles and the difficulties which may be all around us.

In 2018, we are planning to study The Book of Revelation and we would love to welcome any new members. So watch out for the starting date in the UC.

Yours in faith,
Rev Wes Furness

KYB (KNOW YOUR BIBLE)

KYB bible study groups have been offered to our church ladies for the past 30 years.

It is part of the interdenominational ministry of the Christian Women Communicating International. They are now offering materials for men & mixed groups. The studies are designed to help the participants through personal study & group sharing, to know God's Word and its message for today. Our Tuesday afternoon ladies group do 4 studies a year with a break during school holidays. The M & M group who meet on a Monday morning also use some of the studies. Groups are also held through the Burrum Heads & Howard churches.

Thirteen of our members attend our studies, we also have in our group one or two from the Lutheran, the Baptist, the Bible Church & Salvation Army. Because our numbers increased to 20 ladies we had to move from meeting in a home to the church Seminar room (where we meet together for prayer and an introduction, summary and then divide into 2 groups for our discussion.)

During the year members also get the opportunity to attend a study introductory sessions and some special CWCI functions to listen to special guest speakers share the Word.

For 2017 we covered the gospel of John part 2, Haggai/Zechariah, the Holy Spirit and Solomon.

The ladies who come enjoy as well as the study the fun and fellowship, the sharing times, and the uplifting of each other through prayer in all life situations. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and lead us to grow in our spiritual walk and our knowledge of our Lord Jesus so that we can be more effective disciples for Him. Enquiries Lynn Furness 0427809224.

Lynn Furness



J-CREW - REPORT

I want to start by saying that it is a privilege and joy to have the opportunity to lead and co-ordinate J-crew again this year in 2017 and that significant changes have occurred to our ministry that have been positive steps towards providing meaningful Sunday school learning for our young people. We welcomed new faces and though sadly, some were here for only a short time for various reasons we enjoyed making new friends and growing together in the knowledge of God. We really enjoyed getting to know John and Elaine Dietsch's grandchildren – Lilianna, John and Madeline, and the Moore Family with their kids – Kirrily, Abbie and Lachlan. We certainly saw the light of Jesus in these children!!

2017 seemed to fly by but our curriculum – Scripture Union's 'LightLive' – was closely linked to the lectionary and helped us interact with the stories of Jesus. Towards Christmas we learnt about Jesus being the ultimate and best gift of God. There was some great craft moments – like the huge paper stars that we made for J-crew Christmas service and there were some fun videos to watch that helped us understand the stories of Jesus in a more relevant and interactive way.

Special thanks to Gail Grimsey for her design, preparation and creation of a Christmas Angel banner that J-Crewers made angel craft for. It was a personalized design whereby each young person had the opportunity to decorate an angel to be attached to the banner alongside their name for pride of place on the church wall at Christmas time. It was a beautiful recognition of our Sunday School members. Thanks also to Julie for assisting in this process.

Due to the small number of teachers available, several people answered the call to teach or assist in J-crew to increase the effectiveness of this vital ministry and we thank Josephine Darkey, Kevin Kingswell, John Dietsch, Graham Baillie, Sylvia Wright, Lynne Anderson, Helen Elsmore and Shirree Royall for stepping forward. It was planned that these additional teachers and helpers would start their part in earnest for the new year after J-crew recessed for the Christmas Holiday break.

I cannot express enough my particular thanks to Julie Noble who has supported J-crew constantly throughout the year (as she has in past years) and with graciousness and kindness has worked alongside me in our respective roles in this ministry and provided warmth and experience in the teaching of our youngsters. Not only that but she does this in addition to many other responsibilities and activities she is involved in, in our church and beyond. Barb Carrier is another who I am very grateful to for her lovingkindness and willingness to serve in this ministry and we are truly blessed to have these ladies on board so that J-crew can be an ongoing concern year in and out.

Thank you to the congregation and FAITH ministry team for their support of this ministry and we ask for prayers for God's renewed blessing and guidance in 2018 with a continuation of the 'Livelight' curriculum and the appointment of additional others to the J-crew ministry team. Please remember our young people in your prayers as they seek (or rather are sought) by God for meaningful relationship with Him. They are the church NOW, as our recently appointed minister Luke Smallwood has pointed out and their building up should be considered as vital to the life of our church here in Hervey Bay. I pray that my passion for this ministry as a teacher and co-ordinator is directed in ways according to God's will, and may He get the glory in the good things that J-crew brings.

With much appreciation and love,



Leigh Payne

LIBRARY - REPORT

There has been little activity in the Library during 2017. Some very good reading material has been donated mainly to the Christian Living and Devotional sections with quite a number of DVD's and CD's. All books and DVD's etc are easy to borrow and may be returned at any time. Thank you to the congregational members who have donated material for the enjoyment of others.

I shall be away for a few weeks this year, so if someone has an hour or two each month to tidy the library and catalogue any new books, please let me know.



Yours in Christ

DINNERS OF EIGHT – REPORT

Three times a year (usually February, May, August), those involved meet together in different groups of 8 each time at the home of a host, for fun and fellowship while enjoying the food provided by all who attend. It is a great way to get to know members from both services, and to make new friendships during the approximate 2 hour get together. The 4th yearly occasion is held in November at the Church Hall with everybody invited to enjoy a communal get together, sharing a “bring and share” dinner. This program is also open to any new people, and regular notices to this end are announced at Church.

The participation broadens our understanding of each other, and is an opportunity to share our Christian love and walk with each other. The hosts provide and arrange the venue, and suggest/co-ordinate what food the other six members of the group should bring. The meal can be held in the evening or day time, not necessarily at the specific date suggested, and at/in whatever location/form suits the host.

Sixty six of our Church members (from both services), participated in our Dinners of Eight program for 2017, including the help of eight hosts. The 4 occasions arranged for this year went well, with most members being able to attend all of the dinners. Where any vacancies occurred, another person/s were invited to join for dinner.

These events have worked very well, and we welcome any other folk who would love to come and join with us in this program.

At a meeting of the Hosts on 6 November, it was decided that Wes and Lynn would now run the program, and after seven years, Hugo and Thora could hang up their “knives and forks”. Please speak to Wes or Lynn Furness for any further details or to join. (Tel 4125 0193).



Hugo Nolan

THE 8AM CHOIR - REPORT

Well, this year has gone very fast but once again the choir have had a good year. We are always glad of new members and this year we have welcomed Rod and Antonia into our choir.

Once again this year the choir have worked very hard in our one hour a week practice and have achieved a great deal. The singing improves all the time and as their leader I appreciate the effort they put in.

I put in front of them, music that is sometimes quite difficult but they never give up and we always manage to sing those pieces in our 8am service. I know that the choir are very much enjoyed in our services and also know that the songs we sing bring great blessing to those who listen.

Our one aim is to bring each of us, congregation and choir, closer to our God Who has done so much for us.

If you are interested in joining our choir, our practices are on Wednesday afternoons from 3pm until 4pm. The fellowship is great and we often laugh together, so it not all hard work.

We hope to continue as a choir this year, with the leading of God, and hope to continue bringing blessing to those who hear us.



Eunice Pike

BREAKFAST FOR THE HOMELESS /WE CARE 2 VAN - REPORT

We give thanks to the Lord that we have been able to continue our church's outreach to folk who are homeless and disadvantaged in our community. Members of our church have continued to make themselves available to volunteer early on Wednesday mornings to cook, service and provide breakfast at the seafront oval.

We provide this service in conjunction with our Christian brothers and sisters from the New Life Christian church (We Care2 foodbank etc) who provide the van, cooking facilities and food. They depend on grants etc., donations from the community and individuals to help provide this service.

Our aim is to serve the Lord in being his hands and feet, being good listeners as well as being non-judgemental of the clients who come for the free breakfast.

We were encouraged this year that four men from our congregation who are part of the Older Men Unlimited have come forward and offered to help with towing the van as well as cooking the meal. We give thanks to our team of 5 drivers and 6 men who take turns in the cooking on the BBQ and to the team of 10 ladies who take turns at helping to serve in the van. We also are thankful for extra helpers who are willing to sit and talk to the clients and show God's love by their interest and caring.



Helpers are required to fill out volunteers form and do a necessary training session.

Thank you to the church folk who have provided some non-perishable food items (e.g. tins spaghetti, noodles, nuts, tins of salmon or tinned meat, muesli bars etc) in our donation box in the church foyer. If anyone would like to know more about this service or would like to give a donation please contact Lynn Furness 0427809224.

Lynn Furness
Co-Ordinator

BURRUM HEADS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - REPORT



Elders: Dawn Fletcher
Jillian Thompson

At the Burrum Heads AGM on 5th February 2017 the following office bearers were elected:

Chairperson	Marion Renner	Secretary	Jan Martin
Vice-chairperson	Dawn Fletcher	Treasurer	Chris Thompson

Our very exciting news is that our building extension IS FINISHED. We have been blessed abundantly by generous donors and willing workers, and we are so grateful. The outside of the building has now been painted and we are hoping that 2018 will be a year where we can focus on the direction our Lord wants to lead us with this wonderful addition to our space. It is our hope that this church will truly be God's hands, voice and heart in this community and be touched by the Spirit to feel a passion for God's work that we cannot contain.

Church attendance numbers continue to fluctuate between sixteen, when people are travelling away, and twenty-five. Some of the regular visitors to our services, feel they are 'coming home to family' and of course, we also feel the same. We have welcomed some new people to our church family but sadly quite a few of our folk have lost husbands, parents, siblings and children. Dick Fogg, who was a major driving force in getting our building project under way, passed away in February after two years of ill health.

Our **Mainly Music** program continues to be a very positive outreach. We finished 2017 with fifteen families with eighteen children. Five of these children will attend school in 2018. We had eight leaders and helpers during the year, although some were away at different times and one of our helpers has had major health problems this year. God has sent us some beautiful people over these four and a half years, mainly music families, leaders and helpers, and we feel assured that he knows who needs to be here and he will send them.

Our outreach over the past year has included mainly music, catering for Anzac Day, Cookie Decorating at the Village Christmas Party, a Car Boot Sale and Carols by Candlelight. Some of these activities helped to make some extra funds for our Building Fund but others were just done as a service to our community.

We continue to be blessed each week by our ministers, priests and lay preachers who come out faithfully to provide services and our KYB group continues to uplift and strengthen our ladies.

It continues to be our prayer that we may reach out to our community to show God's love but always be mindful of our "flock" and never forget who it is we serve.

Dawn Fletcher
Elder/President

HOWARD AND TORBANLEA CONGREGATIONS- REPORT



As we present our annual report we give our thanks and praise to God for his goodness and loving care as a worshipping congregation to his glory. May our lives shine Christ's light into the darkness of the secular world so that we fulfil our mission of spreading the Good News to the world!

A community growing.

We have had the joy and privilege to welcome several new people to our Sunday worship service as well as being joined by visitors and old friends. We pray and seek more people will join with us to hear God's word.



Ecumenical Love

The Anglican services each 4th Sunday of the month continues to be a blessed and happy arrangement. God is always the centre of our worship and denominational procedures are secondary.

The Howard/Torbanlea Uniting was involved with the organising and running of The Coalfest held in July. This is an opportunity for the Church community of Burrum District to come together as one family of God, to Worship God and to celebrate his love for us. Through his Grace not works we are saved. It is a great opportunity for reaching out to the wider non church attending community. Offering at The Coalfest Service is dedicated to Chaplaincy at The Howard/Torbanlea State Schools.

Gods message

We thank God for all those that minister to us they so faithfully make the journey each Sunday with God's message. We are greatly appreciative of their willingness to serve God in this ministry. The word enlightens and inspires us to continue to be a light unto the world.



Graham Huth

The congregation at Howard/Torbanlea Uniting Church are saddened to see Graham move, as have been blessed by the love and the support we have received. Our joint prayers go before Graham and Anna-Louise and pray that they will fulfil the mission God has given.



Luke Smallwood

With Joyful hearts we welcome our new minister Rev. Luke Smallwood and look forward to this new phase in the life of our church. We pray that Luke and his family will thrive in our parish and that Luke will inspire us and likewise we inspire him.

Great losses

The Granddaughter of our organist Jeanette Stock was called the Lord after a long illness. Although Kate did not attend our church regularly she always came to visit when she stayed at her grandparents. She was a delightful girl who truly loved the Lord.



Avery McNamara went to sleep in the arms of the Lord in this past year. Avery has had a long relationship with the church and contributed in many ways. Now her light shines in the presence of the Lord.

Ken Baker another of our loved congregation also past on. Ken's Love for the Lord was evident and now he is also in glory.

Our prayers go out to the families and friends, that they will find comfort in the Lord, so that they too will have peace.

Music Ministry

All though Jeanette Stocks, our church organist has moved to Hervey Bay she has continued served in this ministry with her music when possible. Jeanette's dedication has been wonderful blessing to us and we are so appreciative of her talents. We are grateful to Lynn Furness for the time that she has given her musical talent. We thank God for all that he provides for we always seem to have some form of music when our wonderful organists are not available.



Period of Discernment

We have one person from our congregation Louise Crittenden on a journey through a Period of Discernment. It is a time of Study, practical application in many fields of the church as well as reflection and prayer to find out what God is directing. Coral Deeth is the current mentor giving guidance and support through this process. God is constantly talking to us, but it can often be difficult to know if we are hearing what he is saying or hearing what we want him to say.

Harvest Festival

For our Harvest Festival service, the congregation brought home grown fruit, eggs, vegetables, baked goods, jams and crafted items. Hymns were sung thanking God for his goodness to us a harvest time. The Anglican minister gave a message appropriate for the day. After the service the goods were available to anyone for a donation rather than a set price, we didn't want the sanctuary made into a market place. All proceeds went to the church maintenance fund.



Property

Progressively we have been getting work done to both the Church and the hall from the proceeds of the Torbanlea sale. During 2018 we have had the church and hall painted and a ramp put into the hall. This is an ongoing process to ensure that the building remains safe and secure aesthetically pleasing as we endeavour to encourage more people to attend so that they can come to have a relationship with Christ.

Maintenance

We thank God for those that help with the day to day gardening and maintenance of the property. Noel Kuskie, Noel Gamble, Barry Whitby and Greg Walker these fine gentlemen do a wonderful job.



Property hire

A.A and U3A continue to hire the hall which brings in some income. The Hall was also used during the Coalfest for an art display. Plants were for sale to support the school chaplaincy.

Prayer for all people

Father God in this world of hardship, with so many lost and lonely people, we pray that your Holy Spirit will lead and encourage them to have a relationship with you. We pray that persecution of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world will stop and that the churches everywhere will be full and overflowing of people praising and worshipping you. Amen



Closing

In presenting this report we thank the Hervey Bay Church for their unwavering support in their help to further our faith in God's work in the community of Howard and Torbanlea.

Dawn Reed
Elder of Howard/Torbanlea Congregation

Louise Crittenden
Elders at Howard/Torbanlea
Congregational Secretary

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE FIGURES

2015 - 2017

Year	10am children	10am adults	Total 10am	8am	Total Attendance	Combined Services
2015	8	66	74	96	170	142
2016	8	66	74	86	160	134
2017	11	58	69	89	158	148

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



192 Confirmed Members
 13 Baptised Members
 111 Adherents
 11 Members in Association
 361 on Pastoral Roll



Weddings:

Bengt Malgrem Jonsson to Breanna Wignall

Ashutosh Awasthi to Catherine Owen

Benedict Connolly to Robyn Rutherford



Baptisms:



Isabelle Louda

Ebony Nayler

Alexander Fitton



In Memoriam:

Noel Clarke

Keith Ross

Dalis Jones

Ronald Wines

Avery MacNarmara

Alice Cant

Ken Baker

Ian Mews

Kath Rogers

Doug Richards

Joan French

Kath Frost

John Pilgrim

Desmond Learmont

Donald Currie

Peter Brown

Elva Schonrock

Give all your cares to the Lord and He will give you strength. He will never let those who are right with Him be shaken.

Psalms 55:22 [New Life Version](#) (NLV)

