

# Celebrating the Faithfulness of God

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## KBC Life and Ministries

## Senior Pastor Reflection

Beginning my 4<sup>th</sup> year here at KBC a couple of months back, I was struck at how quickly the time has gone and how much the church has changed. Some people have moved on, some new people have come, and the only constant seems to be change. As Rev Dr Paul Beasley-Murray said at a recent pastor's seminar: "Our churches need leadership because our churches need to change. You are either changing, or you are dying." But let's also remember that in reality nothing has changed for this church. As Jill Manton said in her 125<sup>th</sup> history of KBC:

"The church has never wavered in its perception that preaching and

worship are central in the life of the gathered community. Closely associated with this conviction has been the belief that the life of faith is nourished by prayer and fellowship...The obligation to reach out to the world with the good news of the Gospel and with the practical compassion of Christ has also been reiterated throughout the history of the fellowship."

So it might be truer to say, KBC is, and always will be, different to what it was; however, the central and foundational purpose of being a Christ-centred, God-honouring and mission-focused community of faith **NEVER** changes. Our Church Covenant, developed by the church community over the past 20 years or so, simply states that our goals, aims and purpose as a church is to: love God, love one another, and love our neighbours. As long as there is a church and as long as there is a world, this will never change.

So, let's look at the year and reflect on a few things: What has God done among us? What have we done as a church? What have I done as a pastor?

#### What has God done among us?



God has nurtured and sustained us through His Word, worship, creation, fellowship and by the power of His Spirit in our lives. This church is still here and still has a ministry and mission because God has enabled and sustained us. Glory to His Name alone!

What a blessing to have 10 baptisms in the past year! God is adding to our number those that are being saved: Jono Davenport, Huy Doan, Khoi-Khoa Doan, Khoi-Phong Doan, Matt Hill, Minh Huynh, Philana Nguyen, Nathan Nguyen, Kate Steel, Nhan Vuong.

We have had a big year in weddings: Will and Katie-Ann Baird, Cail and Krista Rayment, James and Grace Hayes, Paul and Anita

Pallot, Samuel and Kanh (from VC), Scott and Rebecca (from outside KBC) and still to come: Jacquie Johnson/Andrew Crawford, and Sarah Vosti/Nicholas Barclay.

Of course God partners with people in all of these things; however, we can give thanks and praise to God for the new-birth of people coming to saving faith in Jesus, for the gift and blessing of marriage, and the new life of children. Praise God!

Then there is also the bitter sting of death...We joined with Keith Matthies to say farewell to his beloved wife, Betty, and also with Russell Thompson as he said goodbye to his beloved wife, Joan. "The Lord gives, the Lord takes away; blessed be the Name of the Lord."

#### What have we done?

We have done lots! We have:

Prayed together every Sunday at 9:30am and 5pm before the services and in many other ways; shared life together in worship and fellowship every week over 3 services; supported, grown and encouraged one another through a dozen Small Groups; hosted each other in our homes on Hospitality Lunches and other times; given almost \$250k towards the ministry and mission of this church and beyond; financially supported and prayed for our Global Mission supported workers; provided food and friendship



monthly to the residents at Carrical boarding house; provided friendship, games and loving presence to the families and people through Love Abbotsford; gathered together at our church gatherings to pray, plan and seek God; applied ourselves to learn from God's Word through preaching and teaching; served in countless ways through Sunday services and other events and programs; cared for one another through numerous small but significant acts of kindness; welcomed and supported 50 students through the Res; provided spiritual and other support to residents at Karana Aged Care; advocated for justice and the marginalised through the Catalyst Team and other ways; looked after (only just!) our properties and facilities; sought to honour and serve God through



our vocations, study, homes and workplaces; connected with one another through Ladies' Evening Fellowship, guys and girls groups; taught children about God's love; provided safe and fun programs for youth; given young adults opportunities to serve, learn and grow in their faith; helped homeless and in crisis people coming to the church door most weeks; attended working bees; put on events for Young Adults such as State Youth Games, Tunes Under the Tree, NightChurch Camp, etc; participated in wider Baptist and Church networks; hosted and mostly run the Kew Community Carols; raised \$6000 for Niger as well as countless other financial gifts given to aid and charity by our people; attended and been members of NightChurch Crew, Deacons, Possums Committee, Res Committee, Global Mission Team, Vietnamese Deacons, and other ad-hoc groups;

involved dozens of people in music teams for Sunday services, JUST TO

#### NAME A FEW!

#### What have I done?

The Cold Hard Stats: Over 150 pastoral visits with couples, families and individuals. Preached around 45 sermons; organised 55 worship services and attended around 100 (NightChurch, 10am, VC); chaired the Kew Inter Church Council and led the Eastern Pastors Network; hosted a pastor's seminar at KBC; completed a Masters subject on the Parables of Jesus; led chapel at Karana numerous times and helped organise Chat n Chew lunches; had around 80 one-to-one meetings with staff; conducted and prepared for 10 baptisms, 8 weddings and 2 funerals; hosted around 100 people for meals at the Manse; dozens of meetings with homeless and in need people; sent over 2000 emails and received even more; wrote many references and took a number of referee calls; signed lots of certified documents; made and received lots of phone calls; participated in around 90 meetings (Monday team, Res Committee, Global Mission, Deacons, Eastern Pastors, Kew Inter Church); written dozens of reports for Deacons, Church Gatherings, Team Talk and Newsletter reflections; ran the Pew Preachers program; at times struggled with feeling weary and discouraged; produced major discussion papers on governance and family ministry; attended numerous church and people events; oversaw the organising of the Kew Community Carols; organised Leadership Training nights with Peter Corney and Paul Griffiths; led our leaders retreat; planned and oversaw Christmas and Easter special services; managed and dealt with IT issues in the office; attended various BUV meetings and events; worked hard at trying to keep my own spiritual fervour and faith alive; read many books to keep me fresh and up to date with ideas and trends; did well at keeping Friday free as my Sabbath day.

In reflection on what we have done as a church, and what I have done as a pastor, the question of most importance is: what has God done in us, and what is God saying to us as a church?

#### Some further reflection

I'm really happy that we have made some significant steps forward with our governance plans and proposals. Constructive and helpful meetings have been had between members of the Vietnamese Diaconate and the



Student Res Committee. At this stage we are looking to have a combined leaders retreat on Sat 7 Feb to move to the next stage of discerning how we lead and govern KBC.

We celebrate 25 years of Possums Early Childhood Centre finishing at KBC this year. What a wonderful program and service to the wider community and what a blessing that it will continue under the wise, dedicated and devoted leadership of its founding Coordinator, Miriam Schmidt. We thank God for Miriam and her dedication and devotion to this ministry and pray God's continued guidance and blessing as it continues at North Balwyn Baptist.

I really appreciate my co-leaders at KBC among the staff team of Wendy Henry, Stephen and Anouchka

Chatelier, Paul Pallot and Lauren Morgan. They are all dedicated and hard-working people in God's service and on behalf of the KBC community. I'm sad to lose Wendy to the green fields of retirement, but I thank her for her wise and mature leadership and ministry among us these last 2 years. Our Deacons have also diligently sought to oversee and lead a diverse and complex church. I am grateful to Ray Leigh, Deirdre Willis, Amy Repse, Phil Prior and Jono Davenport for their friendship and support in ministry here. And I am grateful for the many hours of time and energy my wife Amanda invests in this church through visiting, mentoring, Sunday worship leading and involvement, supporting and encouraging me, and numerous other ways.

There is always much more to say than is space reflecting on the year that has been. But simply to say thankyou to all those who have laboured and loved God together at KBC and sought to honour the Lord Jesus in word and deed. Let me finish by sharing a couple of personal emails I received this year from international folk who were with us for a season and how they encountered this church. Of course we are not perfect and we always need to grow; but be encouraged by these kind words:

"I simply just want to express gratitude for the leadership and teaching at Kew since I started coming in August. There was always such space left for God to move and change people. So thank you for letting my Father have the time to mould me further into his daughter! I can't really put into words how much God showed me whilst in Melbourne, and so much of that was through Kew, the friends I made there, and small group with David and Mari. It is amazing how vital community and the church are! We just can't do it alone! Well I certainly can't. And I will really miss the Kew community." Becky Steven

"Dear KBC, It's a year ago since we arrived in Melbourne. We had awesome ten months in Australia and we are so happy for the time that we had. That's why we wanted to say thank you for the important part you played especially in the first weeks of our year abroad. You were such a blessing and we are really thankful for everyone who made us feel home. We enjoyed the nights we had at your church, the wonderful small groups and the work in Abbotsford with such an encouraging team. You are doing a great job in Melbourne and we are happy that we could be part of it. All the best for you guys." Jule and Stefan Cramer

Just a reminder that my prayer focus for the church this year had been: Acts 9:31

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

So there you have it-loving God, loving one another and loving our neighbours in a nutshell. So what are our plans for next year as a church? Let me give you a hint, there are 3 major goals and they all involve love...

#### **Nicholas Tuohy**

## Vietnamese Congregation



2014 has been so far an eventful year for the Vietnamese congregation. God has touched and challenged us in many ways and we can see that He is working amongst us. It has not been a smooth ride but lessons we have learned along the way were invaluable.

We have started out the year with the launch of "With A Mission" short term mission trip to Vietnam in January. This trip was meant to introduce the second generation young people and those who came to Australia recently for their education a chance through mission, to connect to God and to each other; this indeed has been the result. We see much remarkable

improvement in the engagement of the young people, the CBD University bible classes has restarted in the later part of the second quarter. While still seeking for a ministry leader for the young people and "With A Mission", we see that the youth has begun to take on leadership role in the church, from the engagement of QVEST (Kew Vietnamese English Speaking Team) leadership, to the overall youth activities and services within the congregation. We are also glad to have our first marriage between two young key people this year within the group but also sad to see them (temporarily) move to NSW for the next two years due to their visa requirements. This was discouraging at the start, but out of it, we see other young people stood up to take on the responsibilities left behind, which is always a wonderful thing to witness.

After many years being in the role of the secretary of the congregation, I am glad to welcome Linh (Glen) to the role. While he is new to the role in a Baptist context, he is experienced and is much more active than me in



terms of getting things done. Many 'renovative' activities have started, including the reviewing administration processes, improving audio/video for the service and much more, but the most obvious one is the current renovation project for "the Lounge" in the hall, this would not have been possible without Linh's leadership and the many volunteers and supporters (both financial and effort) across our entire church. We have received over \$8000 in direct donation towards the project and with the total budget for the first phase of this renovation at \$12,000, we are looking at transforming this low use space into an area for fellowship and outreach, especially for the young people. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who have generously donated their money, time, effort and other

resources towards the project. Please keep on praying for us so that this space will become a space that God can use to touch young people's hearts in many ways. We are aiming to have this new space ready before Christmas this year.

The reason we are investing into the lounge as well as other things such as sporting activities and seeking a

ministry leader for the young people is because we see this as something that God is opening up for us. We have seen the impact when these young people committed to Jesus and to the church and then beyond this place and themselves, towards their family and places they lived and worked. This is not only missional, but we have found in many ways, it is also an amazing foundation for the building of fellowship across different groups of people we have within the congregation.





We have a number of new members, with the baptism of several new people early this year, and we are looking at another 4-5 baptisms before the year ends. Praise God. We have seen a good increase in numbers attending the 1:30pm service during the second and third quarter of this year with several members of other churches asked to be part of the congregation. This has slowed down starting this quarter, but opportunities for pastoral care are plenty.

With Pastor Tai assisting with his wife, we found that some of our vision can now be realised. We now have another weekly outreach and fellowship point at Fitzroy Housing Commission every Thursday night. The

group attracts some local people as well as members of other churches who found the discussion to be really helpful. This new ministry is only starting and we appreciate your prayers so that it can overcome the challenges of time and resources and more people will be reached for Christ.

As part of our 'side doors' ministry, we have established two new 'clubs' that allows us to reach new people, a Photography enthusiasts club and a Culinary Club, both started well. We have yet to see anyone come to Jesus

via these clubs yet, but they are great opportunities to make new connections with new people within the community. Do pray for us and the new leadership of these clubs.

You might have seen the herbs/veggie garden outside the BBQ area of the hall. This garden was the vision of the father of an international student who himself has yet to make any commitment but the father while visiting his son here from Vietnam, has declared his faith. He is now back in Vietnam, growing as a Christian and is a testimony of the wonderful fellowship, although not without challenges at

Vietnamese Christmas Celebration

times, we have amongst the adults within the congregation.

We look forward to 2015, and with the proposal for a new governance for Kew, we had a chance to reflect and focus a bit more on how the congregation got here since the Vietnamese ministry started by Kew Baptist Church in 1981, I am sure some of you still remember that time. This is always in my heart and in the hearts of those who were there at the earlier time. We still give thanks to God for the vision and the commitment that as a congregation, Kew has been involved in the Vietnamese ministry over those years. Being members of the larger congregation, the Vietnamese congregation will continue to pray and look forward to being involved in a vision that will take us beyond what is immediately before us but again, challenge, prepare, move and encourage all of us to be brave and courageous to the calling of being witnesses of Christ to those God has placed around us.

#### **Khoi Doan**

## MightChurch

#### **DISCIPLESHIP**

This year has seen some encouraging foundational development of discipleship within Kew NightChurch. Early in



the year we were able to facilitate a 2 day intensive course exploring the role of discipleship in the church and delve into some specific tools and frameworks for enabling and progressing through discipling relationships. Since then we have seen minor, but significant expansion of discipleship in the church, especially amongst members of the NightChurch Crew, the majority of which have entered into either intentional mentor or disciple roles. This has been a blessing as we believe that significant development of a discipleship culture will most naturally start from a small group taking it seriously and then spread slowly and intentionally through the congregation. There have, however, been struggles in gathering a broader response amongst members of the congregation. This is no doubt due in large part

to the transitory nature of Kew's congregation but also potentially due to the broad array of activities and busyness that many members of the church and the Crew bear. It is our hope and prayer that the seeds that have been sown this year will continue to grow and eventually flourish.

#### **Kyle & Jane Horton**

#### **PRAYER & SERVICE LEADING**

This year Mel and Caz, as part of the Crew have helped co-ordinate prayer at KBC. We both strongly believe in

the power of prayer and that God yearns for us to talk to him and with him about everything. Our role has included drafting the roster for corporate prayer during and individual prayer after the NightChurch service. We created a roster to get more NightChurchers involved in the prayer and to give more structured times for them to grow in praying for people and our community. We attempted to start a system whereby those rostered would go up the back during the last bracket of songs, to create a less awkward time, however, this has not really been implemented. We believe that prayer is an essential aspect of church and are so thankful that Jesus has provided us with recognised prayer warriors to contribute to this ministry



We have also been involved in organising prayer nights outside

church times. These nights allowed people to gather together for worship and corporate and smaller group prayer. However, we found that this structure was possibly not best suited to a younger congregation who are not necessarily excited about prayer to begin with. In the future we aim to run nights teaching on and exploring gifts of healing and prophecy and on spiritual warfare, in which many members of the congregation have expressed an interest. And we are excited for where God will take this new journey!

Mel has also organised the NightChurch rosters for service leaders. We have a variety of amazing people who are passionate about God and seeing his people meet with him, be challenged by him and worship him each week! They are such an amazing team of service leaders, and they make my role very easy!!

#### **Caroline James & Mel Hill**

#### **EVANGELISM**



Encouraging evangelism in our church has been a pleasure, as it is such an important part of our faith. If Jesus means so much to us, let's share with everyone about how much he loves us and what he's done for us! Earlier in the year a group of us took a trip into the city to visit 'Urban Seed' and see their ministry to drug addicted and homeless in the CBD, hopefully with the aim of giving us ideas of how a similar life can look in our local suburb. A large focus of theirs is on relationships, and personalising our interactions with people who seem 'different' to us, rather than throwing money at a situation, getting right amongst it personally, as Jesus did. We have so many opportunities to love people outside our culture and who are in great need of loving, but it often means going to places and searching for opportunities, rather

than waiting for them to come to us. I look forward to being able to open people up to the wide range of these opportunities in the near future.

#### **Mat Hunter**

Lentils evangelism is a night where a small group of Christians go to the restaurant to spend time with people and hear their stories. It is an opportunity to be used to spread God's word.

#### **Crispin Newmarch**

#### **COUPLES MINISTRY**

Coby and I have enjoyed kick starting a new ministry within NightChurch this year that focuses on couples. It is our desire to honour God with all our relationships and this particular relationship is no exception! The aim is to connect newer couples with older couples to chat, hang out and hopefully provide some guidance and direction when needed. We are looking forward to hosting more events with guest couples sharing on lessons learned and lessons still being learned.



**James & Coby Docking** 

#### **GUYS MINISTRY**

While in the previous two years at Kew Baptist Church, we have run Valiant Man, 2014 saw the men's ministry take a new shape. This year we have had several men's breakfasts throughout the year held at local cafes, with



between 5-12 men in attendance. Each breakfast we had someone share what God was doing in their life followed by casual discussion where guys could ask questions, share their thoughts and be real with one another.

While in previous years we had run Valiant Man as a course in sexual discipleship, this year we are running a shorter 5 week course called the Conquer Series. This course explores the harmful effects of pornography, along with biblical truths and practical tools to pursue sexual integrity.

#### **Luke Gibbons**

#### **GIRLS MINISTRY**

It's been great to see lots of women getting involved and taking the initiative to organise and run events. Earlier



in the year, during Easter, Caitlyn Pryse, Marny Croot and Alice Foote organised a great night based on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Approximately 30 women attended this event, which included a traditional Passover meal, a barbeque and reflection time, dessert and great conversation. This was a great night, which provided a lot of women, old and new, a chance to connect and share.

Another time, a small group of women met at Alexandra Gardens and shared in a picnic on a Sunday afternoon before going to church together. In addition, a group of women also attended St Hillary's Anglican Church to hear well known social commentator Melissa Tankard Reist speak on the sexualisation of young women

in the media. This was a confronting night, but a great chance to talk and better understand this issue.

More recently, the women from the NightChurch congregation have joined with women from the Student Residence. It's great to see the women from these two communities getting to know and support each other. A huge thanks to Alice Foote who has taken on leadership in the area of women this term. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the women of Kew has been greatly appreciated and we look forward to a couple more events before the year is finished.

#### **Kate Steel**

#### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

One of the great things about NightChurch at Kew Baptist is there are always people doing fun things and inviting other people to join them. Moving the service start time to 5.30pm allowed us to organise an after church dinner get together every week and also a partnership with a local restaurant (which we visited

monthly). Heaps of other things were organised by various people throughout the year with highlights including the NightChurch Camp, Tunes Under The Tree (TUTT) and State Youth Games. Big thanks to everyone that organised a social event thoughout the year.

#### Matt Hill

As I was support staff in the Res, throughout the year I tried to run events that would be open to the students living here but also to members of the NightChurch congregation in order to encourage connections and hopefully form friendships over time. These events usually consisted in running a movie night, one of my passions. This became difficult at times to run



consistently as I had to find a balance in and around my full time study but also attendance varied quite a lot from different weeks. I plan to continue to run events into next year but advertising more broadly and giving more notice. I would also like to run a few of these events in places such as the church hall and other people's houses, not just in my flat at the Res.

#### **Simon Pickering**

## Small Groups and Pastoral Care

As I conclude my ministry at KBC this month I think back over the last couple of years and give thanks to Jesus



for his call to serve him in the leadership team of his church and the privilege and responsibility that it is. I am so grateful to him and to the many people here who have partnered with me in many roles of service. It has also been a privilege to enter into the lives of those who make up Kew Baptist Church and to help one another on our journey of discipleship. So thank you to all who have assisted me in my role as Associate Pastor for Small Groups and Pastoral Care, as without you such ministry would not function.

#### **SMALL GROUPS**

Our NightChurch Small Groups are going very well, and I am grateful to Paul Pallot who gives so

much time and care to the leaders and group members while leading a small group himself. And I am delighted that the groups continue to build one another up in faith and love, and in obeying Jesus' command to make disciples.

There are 7 NightChurch Small Groups currently functioning and some other special interest groups, which will grow and develop in 2015. These will aim to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of the Church – to love one another and to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matt 28:19)

Our morning congregation has 3 Small Groups – one led by Margaret Manley, one by Marion and Peter Todd, and one of young families, co-ordinated by Hannah Constantine. Each has a different focus and meets the needs of the particular demographic. Some have enjoyed using Ken Manley's new book 'On the Way to Faith.' I have also enjoyed reading it!

There are over 120 people in Small Groups and their development has meant that more people are being nurtured with an emphasis on spiritual formation, pastoral care and outreach. All the Small Group Leaders are doing great work and I value and thank them for their faithful commitment to this ministry. I pray that they will continue to grow in their leadership development and joyfully continue to build and multiply their groups. New leaders have also emerged and are developing in their leadership, which is a real foundation for growth and evangelism in the coming year.

Our Resource Library has been a great help this year and many of our group leaders have come in to the ministry centre to use the books, Bible studies and DVDs and to get advice regarding their groups' study materials.

The goal of our Small Group ministry has been 'To connect with God, to connect with each other, and to connect with the community and the world around us. And to change the world by announcing and demonstrating the good news of the Kingdom of God, revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.' I pray that this will become more and more the focus in the year ahead as each member supports and encourages one another!



In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. Ephesians 2:21-22

#### **PASTORAL CARE**

Pastoral Care is extended in a wide network across our congregations, primarily in Small Groups, but also with an excellent Pastoral Carers' Team who exercise loving ministry among our seniors, and those who are sick, shut in or in hospital. And we have recently established a new, larger Team for 2015. Thanks to all of you who are

involved in this valuable ministry.



Pastoral care is essentially about discipleship, and where we offer care to others in ways that help them in their relationship with God bringing comfort and restoration to their whole being. The following is an excerpt from our recent Pastoral Carers' gathering. "Pastoral care is not only the comfort of those in painful circumstances. It is about *nurturing the whole church in discipleship*. The 'healthy' – that is, the fit, able, happily married, gainfully employed – need pastoral care too. The widespread, though usually unconscious, understanding in the church about pastoral care, that it is about keeping people happy rather than making people holy. This needs to be *replaced. So we need a more wholistic approach."* 

The purpose of pastoral care is to help people grow as followers, or disciples, of Christ. It is essentially about mentoring one another into the wholeness of life and personhood that faith in Christ calls us into. This is a much richer understanding of the *scope* of pastoral care. It is for all, and it is about the whole of life, and addresses the development of Christian *character* not just relief in painful circumstances. And there is a goal, as spelt out by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:11-16, of us all coming to maturity in Christ. It is not just about each of us individually doing so, but about full maturity being found in a *community* of faith. It is essentially a two-way process of *mutual care*.

A working definition is: "Helping one another grow in the love of God, likeness to Christ and fruitful service in the whole of life." As loving and caring Christians, we should all keep aware of the need for pastoral care in one another. 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.' 1 John 4:7

Pastoral care is for everyone and as I have been privileged to spend time visiting our senior people in their homes and in hospitals, I have also been meeting with some of our young adult leaders to support, encourage and pray with them. And I do pray that they will continue in their growth and love for Jesus. It is a joy too, to have had input into the lives of our young families, especially as they have welcomed their newborn babies into the world! Attending the Ladies Evening Fellowship, too, has given me opportunities to spend time with the ladies in our fellowship and to hear about their lives and faith journeys.



Preaching is both a privilege and a responsibility. In



sharing God's Word and challenging others (and myself as well) I think about the words of Timothy: *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.* (2 Tim 2:15) I have enjoyed leading services and preaching throughout the year at KBC and as a guest speaker at Auburn Baptist. Leading services and preaching at Karana (bi-monthly) has been a special time ministering to the residents. And it has been a pleasure to visit and pray with those of our congregation who live there.

#### **SEMINAR AND PASTORS' NETWORK**

It was good to attend a Seminar at Whitley earlier in the year and to hear various speakers on subjects such as



the Church, newcomers, spirituality, hospitality, and significant activities in coming to faith.

Meeting together with other Pastors in our region on a monthly basis to share the journey has been a valuable part of my pastoral ministry and I have appreciated the partnership with these coworkers of the Kingdom in our area.

#### **MINISTRY TEAM**

I want to thank Nick, Paul and Lauren for being such a great Team to work with, to pray with and to share in the ministry at Kew Baptist Church. I really appreciate all their dedication and hard work as they strive for excellence in all they do and in all they are. Thanks to the Deacons and the Res Staff, Steve and Anouchka, for your partnership too. May God continue to fulfill his

purposes at KBC!

As I retire from formal Pastoral ministry I leave you with the words of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in chapter 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**Wendy Henry** 

## Young Adults and Youth

My role in 2014 has primarily been focused on discipling, training and equipping young adults in ministry, and helping them to grow and live out their faith. Through a number of various ministries and groups, I have sought to support, equip, encourage and challenge other leaders of the young adult ministry in their roles. Rather than

"doing" all the tasks of ministry myself, my focus has been on delegation to others, both for their and the church's benefit (e.g. Exodus 18).

Summary of the year – how God has been at work

God has been at work in an incredible number of seen and unseen ways through the Young Adult ministry of Kew Baptist Church in 2014. While my role has given me the privilege of seeing much of the work of God among the lives of the young people. I am very aware that there is much that God is doing that I don't get to see, and snippets of conversations I hear regularly encourage me with small insights into vast quantities of examples of the way God's Spirit is transforming people day by day.



One way in which I have been able to see God at work at Kew has been through the NC Crew. Through prayer and seeking God's guidance in late 2013, we took steps to create an informal leadership group for NC, both to



have specific people who undertake specific ministry responsibilities, and to provide general care and pastoral oversight of the congregation. 2014 has been the first year for the Crew, and it has been great to have a group of people responsible for various important ministries in the church. In particular, the Crew has been a great way to ensure that important ministries that often do not come as naturally are looked out for. It has been encouraging to meet with the crew every six weeks or so to share together about NC, plan and pray for the congregation. I have also appreciated meeting with Crew members individually to get a sense of how things are going, and encourage them in their roles. Some of the challenges this year have been the difficulty in finding times to meet together, the large size of

the Crew being potentially unwieldy, and the infrequency of the meetings meaning most of our time is taken up with important "business", and not as much time as would be ideal is spent in prayer. However, despite these teething issues, God has been helping direct the Crew through this year in a helpful way.

I have also been able to see God at work through the NC small groups. In 2014, NC has operated 9 small groups, which have recently consolidated to 8, and a large number of new people to NC have joined groups, taking our total number of people involved to 79. In addition, the House and the Res Support Staff have been operating informal girls and guys groups over the year, and other informal gatherings of NC members for Bible discussion,

encouragement, and prayer abound. A highlight for me has been the opportunity to meet regularly with the small group leaders to encourage and support them in their groups. It is at these times in particular when God's work through small groups has been most evident, drawing people to grow in faith and in knowledge and love of Him. At times the groups have undertaken content in parallel with the sermon series, and at other times have led their own material or content. Wendy Henry has been a great support and resource for the small groups, also meeting with the leaders, and providing valuable advice and encouragement for the groups.



One way God has been working quietly behind the scenes

is in the area of mentoring and pastoral care. Following the training event in March, there have been a steadily growing number of healthy mentoring relationships among members of NC, overseen by Kyle and Jane Horton. These relationships are aimed at helping believers take the next steps forward in their faith, to deepen their



trust in God and live out their faith in their day-to-day lives. While not flashy, this ministry is crucial in the lives of many young NC members. I have been able to support Kyle and Jane in this ministry, as well as informally mentor a couple of guys through the year. I've also been able to catch up with a much larger number for general pastoral care and conversation, and it's at these times that I often hear of God's quiet work in the lives of large numbers of people.

God has been at work week by week at our NC services in 2014. Through the calendar year, we've worked through a lot of material, our big series' being Thessalonians, Genesis-Exodus, the Parables and now Knowing and Loving God. This year we've also been blessed with worship nights, guest speakers, and recently the "Pew

Preachers" series of sermons from NC members. 2014 has also seen an increased emphasis on welcoming newcomers through interviews, and hearing stories of God's work in people's lives from the front. The Crew has been helpful to ensure that those overseeing various ministries are able to connect well and communicate helpfully.



Another way God has been at work at Kew in 2014 has been through welcoming. Across the year, the number of newcomers who have described NC as a welcoming church has increased gradually, and it has been great to see the spirit of God among the congregation members, reaching out with the welcome that God has shown us to welcome others. Dinners after NC have been particularly helpful in creating opportunities for newcomers to meet other congregants, and welcoming at the church door has generally been consistent. Small groups have now also started to be involved in welcoming at church, and that is likely to continue in 2015. Finally, I have had the privilege of hosting four "Welcome Dinners" through the year, gathering regular newcomers and others for a meal, where they can meet others and get to know more about Kew.

I have seen God working in the re-start of the youth group in 2014. From mid-year, six young Res students have taken up the leadership of the youth group, and I have been fortunate enough to oversee this ministry. This has been a particularly great example of God working through others at church, by His spirit, empowering them in leadership and support of the youth. It has been particularly encouraging to see the Res student leaders preparing their testimonies to share with the youth over the last few weeks of semester two.

In addition, God has been at work in a number of other events and programs that I have been able to be partially involved in. Love Abbotsford has again proven a great opportunity for NC to show love and social concern for the residents of the Collingwood Estates, and four events have taken place this year, organised and managed by Mary-Anne Philip. While each event is different, God's spirit has consistently been at work through the volunteers, in attitudes at the BBQ, tirelessness in looking after young kids, and through the many great, encouraging conversations that take place between Kew volunteers and Estates' residents. The St Hilary's Food Drive was a great success for gathering large quantities of food for Anglicare, and Kew NC was again able to be a part of this. However, this particular event was again poorly attended from NC (as 2013), and while the event as a whole is going well, our role as a supporter church will need to be reconsidered in 2015. Finally, NC Camp is to be held on the weekend of 28-30 November. It has been great to see some NC volunteers stepping up to organise this event, and it should prove to be a great weekend of fun and fellowship as a way to cap-off the year

#### Goals and changes for 2015 and prayer points

There are a number of proposed new steps for NC in 2015, and prayer in these areas would be appreciated.

At present, we are considering a potential new structure of NC small groups in 2015, as a possible way to help busy NC members to streamline commitments, while at the same time giving the groups more focus and mission. The aim is to help people more directly live out their faith, while being more closely supported by a

smaller community of believers. Please pray that we will discern God's will and leading in this, and the proposal will reflect God's aims, not just our own. Please also pray that teething issues and challenges will be sorted out, and any new structure will just be an aid to helping change people's hearts and lives for Jesus' sake, and helping NC members impact the lives of others.

While 2014 has been a great year for Crew, heading into 2015, we will be reconsidering the structure of the Crew and the way it might best look going forward. Again, please pray that God will have his way with this, and that the structure will serve the purpose of helping NC grow to know and love God more and more. Please pray for leadership at NC generally, that God will be glorified by those who have various responsibilities in the congregation.





Some questions that have been asked about NightChurch services recently include:

How can we best integrate new people into the life of church?

How can we be as welcoming as possible?

How can we pass on wisdom of older generations?

Please pray about these questions as we head into 2015, and that God will continue to guide us as we gather at 5.30pm on Sunday night.

Discussions about the role of the House for 2015 have been particularly exciting, with various possibilities being flagged. Please pray for me as my role with the House is likely to

increase in 2015, and more generally, for the new House members, that they will be able to effectively serve the Res students and provide welcoming and faithful examples of Christian life. Pray that they will be able to form an effective link between the Res and NC in 2015.

Finally, please pray for youth in 2015, including various possible additions and plans, such as the possibility of combining with the Vietnamese youth. Pray for the ongoing leadership of the Res students and that they will provide helpful role models for the youth in their faith.

**Paul Pallot** 

## Administration and Worship

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

One of the fundamental aspects of any administrative role is communication. Within our church context, the following question is frequently revisited: how can we, as church leaders and staff, communicate effectively to the wider church? With 'information overload' already so prevalent in our fast-paced 24/7 culture, we're often trying to find that balance of keeping people well-informed without overburdening them. We also have to consider the continuing trend away from hard copy print in favour of online digital communication. So we continue to produce the 'Kew News' newsletter each week, with time also devoted to maintaining our 'online presence'; that is, updating the church website and Facebook page. Here are some quick statistics from 2014:

- We've produced 46 editions of 'Kew News' since Jan 2014 every week, there are 100 copies printed and
   240 copies sent by email.
- We've produced **44** editions of 'NightChurch News' since Jan 2014 every week, this is emailed to **230** people.
- The official KBC Facebook page has over 200 followers. Since January, 96 posts have been published and
   152 photos have been uploaded. Some of these posts/photos have reached over 2,000 people through Facebook.
- The NightChurch Facebook group has 291 members; the Vietnamese Facebook group has 102 members.

We've also recently transitioned to a new online platform for service planning called 'Planning Centre'. This is basically a centralised database in which we are able to collaboratively plan worship services and put together the orders of service online. There are approximately **60** people who have been using this database so far.

Of course, there is more to administration than simple number-crunching. I find this job is often a juggling act between three main facets – the Sunday-to-Sunday preparation (e.g. newsletters, orders of service, rosters); the day-to-day office management (e.g. finance/bookkeeping, answering calls/emails, managing facility bookings); and the broader ministry responsibilities (e.g. revising policies/procedures, providing admin support for pastoral team). It's not always easy to find the right balance between all of these tasks; how easy it is for the 'urgent' to

win out over the 'important'! But I'm incredibly thankful for the ministry team — Nick, Wendy and Paul. It is a joy and privilege to work alongside each of you in serving the church community; thanks for your support, encouragement and friendship. Thanks also to Ray Leigh and the finance committee for their assistance in the financial aspects of my role.

#### **WORSHIP**

"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice." (1 Chronicles 16:8-10)

What a privilege it is to sing and make music to our glorious God! And what a privilege it has been to coordinate the music ministry at Kew this year.

February saw the beginning of a new structure for worship at NightChurch, as we shifted from a week-by-week 'ad hoc' system of band formation to a predetermined roster of regular music teams. Some of the reasoning behind this structural change was to facilitate a more equitable system of who plays how often; to provide opportunities for groups to develop and grow together as a team; and to provide a space for discipleship within music teams, helping to build up new leaders. This new structure proved effective for integrating new people into our music ministry, and it was particularly encouraging to have a number of Res students getting involved from early on in the year.

The transient nature of our NightChurch congregation means that we are often saying goodbye to some of our musos – but God always seems to provide new people to serve in this ministry! We are truly blessed with an abundance of gifted musicians at KBC. Huge thanks to those who have served on the NightChurch worship leadership team this year: Dave Powys, Mat Hunter, Romona Boswell, Mike Follent, Kate Steel and Tom Tuena.

In our 10am services, we continue to be blessed by John Sutcliffe's contributions on the organ for our monthly

communion services. We also have a great mix of 10am members, NightChurchers and Res guys serving in the morning music teams – though there's always room for more!

For the first half of the year, we held monthly Prayer & Worship Nights ('Upper Room') in the hall. This was a space for people to explore and engage in worship and prayer in a different context, outside the usual structures of a Sunday service. Although these nights were often an encouraging



time of gathering together, attendance was always quite small and only dwindled as the year went on. We made the decision to rest the events for the time being, while we consider some different approaches. Pray that we would be a church committed to intentional corporate prayer.

Over the last couple of months, our team of NightChurch worship leaders has been engaged in an ongoing discussion regarding the concept of 'worship' – what it truly means to worship God and what this might look like practically, both in our everyday lives and within our church services. The aim of this discussion is to work towards crafting a clearly articulated mission statement for our worship music ministry. Please pray for us as we continue these discussions and consider how God might be using our music ministry to serve His church and His Kingdom.

#### **Lauren Morgan**

## Deacons



The past 15 months have been another busy period for the Deacons as we seek to represent the church community and, along with the pastoral team, exercise oversight of various areas of life and ministry at Kew Baptist Church. The Deacons continue to meet together at least on a monthly basis as well as communicate more frequently via email and spend time responding to other needs as they arise.

There are a wide variety of issues that continue to face Kew Baptist Church going forward. The Deacons, along with

the church community, have spent significant time this year working towards a new approach to church governance. We thank the Student Residence Committee and the Vietnamese leadership who have put time aside to prepare responses and meet with the Deacons, and also members of the church who have provided feedback.

This year has also been a significant year for Possums with the decision to relocate Possums from Kew Baptist Church to North Balwyn Baptist Church, where Miriam Schmidt attends. Representatives of the Deacons have met with the Possums Committee, as well as a combined meeting with North Balwyn Baptist Church representatives, the Possums Co-ordinator and Possums Committee to ensure a smooth transition. We are pleased to see Possums continue at North Balwyn Baptist and sense God's leading as North Balwyn has recently appointed a families pastor and seeks to build up its playgroups.

With the finishing up of the Ministry Facilities Group, the Deacons have continued to discuss possibilities for a redevelopment of the church buildings. Our properties are a blessing for the church and the result of decades of faithful giving and contributions by the church community. However, they are deteriorating and also may not be the most suitable for our current needs. This is a great opportunity for the church but a sizeable challenge.

We ask God for his continued guidance as we seek to face these challenges and are thankful for his grace and blessings. I thank God for the community of Kew Baptist and the many opportunities for discipleship and growing in faith.

We also thank Nicholas for his continued leadership at Kew and his spiritual and practical contributions to our Deacons meetings. We are particularly appreciative of his leadership in time spent together in prayer and devotion.

It has been excellent to have Jono Davenport, a member of our NightChurch congregation, join the Deacons and provide another perspective from his relationships and experiences in NightChurch. I also thank Deirdre Willis, Ray Leigh and Phil Prior for their continued faithful service. The number of Deacons has been reducing over recent times and we would certainly welcome more members as we seek to address the challenges facing Kew Baptist Church. In addition to new Deacons we also need people to assist in the roles of Chairperson and Church Secretary. We are thankful for Ray taking up the role of Treasurer. I will continue in the role of church secretary on an interim basis.

Amy Repse (Interim Church Secretary)

## Kids@Kew and Crèche



Kids@Kew happens when the children leave the church part way through the morning service. First we gather for a creative and energetic time of singing with Ann Seeley and then move into more sedate activities which include a Bible story and craft or game activity.

This year has seen Jennie Taylor move from her long time, regular teaching role in our Kids@Kew programme half way through the year, to a fill-in role in Sunday teaching and regular involvement in children's talks during the morning service. We were thrilled to welcome Mel Morris to our team when she took over from Jennie half way through the year to regularly teach the Kids@Kew class

time. Natalie Pell still helps each week in the K@K group or occasionally the crèche.

As always we are very thankful to those who offer or are conscripted to look after our young children in the crèche.

And of course special thanks to our families who provide the children for both crèche and K@K! We are grateful for the opportunity to support you as you nurture your children in their increasing knowledge of the Christian faith and maturing love for Jesus.

Liz Pell

## Church Camp

Kew Baps church camp this year was a very relaxed affair, with lots of time for hot beverages, good chats and a variety of board games to suit everyone's taste. It was a great opportunity to mix with people from all age brackets in the congregation and get to know each other better. Highlights included, beach walks in the rain, roo spotting, good food, trampolines, a very competitive archery competition and Patrick Hibbins birthday alarm clock!

Camp concluded with a time of worship, sharing and reflection led by David and Mari Atkinson.

It was also an opportunity to farewell the Hibbins family who spent their last Kew Baptist Church event with us. Mark, Leonie, Nathan,



Patrick and Emily have been a treasured part of our church family over many years and they will be sorely missed. We wish them every blessing and pray God's leading and direction as they seek out a new church family to call home nearer to their home in Preston. A very big thank you goes out to Deirdre for all the time and effort she put into making church camp happen this year.

#### **Amy Hunter**

## Ladies' Evening Fellowship



2014 has again seen the ladies from the Ladies' Evening Fellowship gathering together each 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month to enjoy each other's company, partner with each other through encouragements and challenges, listen to a variety of speakers and raise money for mission projects.

We meet in each other's homes and share the responsibilities of devotions, prayers, sharing, providing supper, food for our annual dinner, transport to the meetings and birthday acknowledgements. Val McPherson has been filling this latter role for us even though she and Bev Smith are not able to actually attend our meetings. Audrey Bennett is also unable to attend and now resides at Karana; likewise

Margaret Clapton is unable to regularly join us, although we meet once a year in her home.

Ladies of all ages are most welcome to join us.

Liz Pell

# Ministries to the Community and World

## Kew Student Residence

#### Measuring the year

How does one describe a year - any year - in which approximately 50 people have lived together? To reduce this experience to one or two adjectives would not come close to explaining what it has been like to be part of the Res in 2015. The Res experience presents, perhaps, as a microcosm of society-at-large. It is a place where conversation of the most mundane variety is punctuated by profoundly important and meaningful discussion about individual lives and the big questions in life. It is a people experience joy, disappointment and success. The Res is home to frustration, interpersonal conflict, blossoming romance, laughter, sickness, tears, vulnerability, anxiety, celebration, cleaning, lack-of-cleaning, discovery and growth.



So how does one report on a year in the life of Res? One way to designate the current era in wider society would be to call the present the Age of Measurement. We love to measure things and determine their worth accordingly. While this works particularly well in some areas, it is more problematic when it comes to evaluating a place such as the Res. In the Broadway musical *Rent*, the central song, *Seasons of Love*, asks:

Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes

How do you measure, measure a year?
In daylights, in sunsets
In midnights, in cups of coffee
In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife
In five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure, a year in the life?
How about love?
Measure in love



Now, trying to measure in love is indeed fraught with its own problems. What do we mean by love? Is there a continuum ranging from "no love" to "extreme love" on which various acts, words and gestures can be plotted? Of course, the point of the song is much more rhetorical than these questions assume. It simply suggests that love might well be a better lens through which see, and reflect on, the success of a year.

Perhaps the single most time-consuming matter for the Committee this year has been the re-evaluation of our core values and mission. As mentioned in our last quarterly report, this was driven by a need to look at our marketing and promotions. The result was a much more powerful binding together of the Committee with

a strong sense of purpose and commitment to providing an affordable, supportive, Christian community in which our students feel a sense of belonging, explore important questions in life and ultimately grow in character, maturity and hopefully faith. As part of the wide-ranging discussion we had over many months, we talked about the importance of selflessness and service, hospitality, respect and love.

The richness and complexity of the word 'love', along with its misappropriation, make it a difficult word to use as part of our promotional material. But it is a concept and a mode of operation which we think lies at the heart of who we want to be as a community.

Early this year when our numbers for the year were looking a little grim, we were led to explore what really matters to us as a Residence. For the writer of 1 John, it would appear that conflict within the Christian community led to the penning of some of the most profound words about living together bound by the love of Christ. 1 John 3:16-18 says: This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. Later, in chapter 4, it is made abundantly clear that love is inextricable from God and, so, to be God's people, love must be central in our life together. The measurement of this love – not in the sense of a mathematical calculation – is how we treat each other. Verses 19-21 declare: We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

I'm not sure it is necessary that we offer a confession that we do not always live up to this at the Res – individually or collectively. That fact is undoubtedly a given. But we do try. Behind the scenes, much of this year has been about working through what it might look like for us to be even more intentional in seeing love – and its many implications of selflessness, respect etc. – as the central, driving force behind all that we do at the Res.

#### Committee

This year saw a number of changes at the Committee level. Nicholas Barclay and Tim Jones did not seek reelection at our AGM. Tim had served as Treasurer for almost twenty years. Both men demonstrated enormous commitment to the Res during their time and have contributed significantly to its success. Ryan Harper has replaced Tim as Treasurer and has already spent considerable time thinking through the budget in light of

projected long-term needs. We welcomed Peter Todd onto the Committee and he has very quickly shown an understanding of the kind of ministry which we aim to be and it is clear that his skills and experience will be invaluable. Our Chair, Leonie Hibbins, also informed us that she will be leaving the Committee at the next AGM as she and the family have moved to a church closer to home. Sheila King continues to do an enormous amount of work as our Secretary and Kate Steel has continued on in her role.

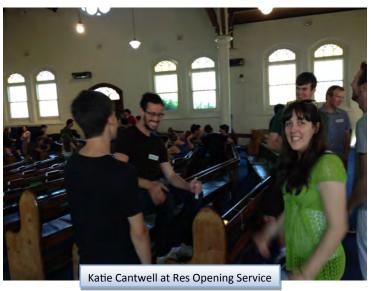
The Committee is a wonderfully passionate and skilful group of people who govern the Res by balancing perfectly the business needs and the ministry heart. The trust and camaraderie that has been built within this group allows for discussion to take place with equal doses of robustness and care. It is a genuine pleasure working with such a team.

As alluded to earlier, as a group, we have agreed on the words "belong, explore, grow" as our "tag line". These words are to be the easily-identifiable and "ever-present" set of words that we use to define the intentions for

the student experience at KSR. We plan to incorporate this tag line into our promotional materials and letterheads etc. The words are designed to capture the essence of the Res experience and will generally not be explained any further. We are firm in our belief that they should not merely be aspirational words that live as an abstraction in our promotional materials but will lead us to always look for new ways to ensure that the Res is a place where people belong, explore and grow.

#### **Staff**

We had a complete change in support staff this year, and increased the number from two to three. Kristy Chapman joined us after being at the House last year, Marny Croot returned after being



a resident here in 2011/12 and Simon Pickering also joined us after being involved in the church and leading youth group in recent years. Having the presence of these three around the place is very important to the "feel" of life at the Res. Simply being around during dinner or playing pool with the residents helps to create an atmosphere of care and support. Marny and Kristy have also hosted weekly evenings for the girls of Res, creating spaces for fun, support and growth. We are pleased that Marny and Simon will both be staying with us in 2015.

#### House

This year we aimed to provide an intentional program for the House. The idea behind the program was to nurture the spiritual formation of this group as they spent the year serving the Res and Church communities. The year did not progress as we expected, but we managed to meet regularly to discuss books and readings focused on discipleship, mission and contentious issues within the church. There is no doubt that such an opportunity to test our beliefs and ideas, stretch ourselves intellectually, be challenged and inspired about what it means to be a disciple has been a valuable part of the House experience. Katie Cantwell, Jadon Dutra, Jordan Kube, Caitlyn Pryse and Ben Ramsay have demonstrated great commitment to service and building bonds of friendship this year and we are very grateful for their contributions.

In reflecting on this year and the possibilities for the future, there continues to be many possibilities to make the House experience one of great growth through service.

#### **Buildings and Maintenance**

The two major works undertaken in 2014 were: the re-carpeting of all common areas and downstairs bedrooms on the "old side" of the building; and the renovation of the bathroom and installation of a "European laundry" in the House. Significant work will be done this summer on the east-facing balcony of the Res, along with some internal painting and an overhaul of the infrastructure for our computer network.

An initiative that we have introduced for next year is a student capital levy. The money that is gained from this levy will be used by the students themselves, using a set of guidelines, to decide on a capital improvement that

they want to make. We think this will be a great initiative to allow students a significant role in making the Res the kind of place where they want to live.

#### Gratitude

One of the things we have reflected on this year is the culture of expectation (or, as Joe Hockey put it, "Age of Entitlement") in which we currently live. We don't see living at the Res as a simple transaction of money for board. We do have an obligation to provide quality service, but we also want to nurture an attitude not just of selflessness but also of being grateful for what we have. So, with that in mind, we'd like to mention some things from this year for which we are grateful (other than things we have already mentioned).

Running a successful student residence with no ties to any particular tertiary institution is no easy task. We can be thankful to God that this ministry continues to be a Christian home for students from all kinds of backgrounds.

We are grateful for the good people who are part of this community. This includes the Committee, Staff and House, Nick and Paul, in particular, from the church but also the students themselves.

Pleasingly, our numbers continued to pick-up over the course of the year so that, on average, we are looking at having the equivalent of about 45 students for the year. This is a significant achievement for which we give thanks to God.

Being part of the Kew Baptist complex certainly makes things more, well, complex at times; but ultimately it is a great gift to be part of a larger community with a common purpose to love God and love people. For this gift of Christian community, we are grateful.

#### **Future**

As we head into the future, we are very aware of the need to think about both the seemingly big and seemingly small matters. That is, we need to always be vigilant when it comes to the huge costs associated with major renovation and so our strategic planning is important. But we are aware that we also need to ensure that administration and planning does not become so big that the relationships we build with staff and students suffer. Without a building that has been updated appropriately, we would struggle to get the students with whom we can build relationship. But a good building and great set of policies don't guarantee a ministry of Christian love is taking place.



#### **Summary**

2014 has been a challenging year in many ways, but has also been a generative and productive one. We continue to be well-governed and, we hope, well managed. We continue to be blessed with an enthusiastic group of volunteers and a diverse and quality cohort of students. In our second year as managers, we have been able to reflect on the way we currently do things with a view to continual improvement into the future. It is pleasing that this generally means fine-tuning rather than wholesale change; a tribute to those who have gone before us.

2015 is shaping up to be a great year with student numbers looking reasonably good for this time of year and with some solidified core values driving our decisions into the future. Thanks be to God.

#### Steve & Anouchka Chatelier

## The House

It has been such an incredible privilege to live in The House this year. We are so thankful for the support of



church members, pastors and the managers of Kew Student Residence. We are excited by the success of the #TUTT music nights in our backyard, and we've loved hosting dinners after NightChurch, and see that as a great opportunity for building community within the church. We've aimed to build connections between people from NightChurch students from the residence, and it is our hope and prayer that these friendships will continue and multiply. Most of all, we thank God for so many next-door neighbours to love and new friends to hang out with at the Student Residence. The House is such a clear, practical opportunity for us to let God's love flow through us, and practice generosity, discipleship and servanthood in the context of

community.

Caitlyn Pryse (on behalf of Ben Ramsay, Katie Cantwell, Jordan Kube and Jadon Dutra)

## Possums' Playgroup

As Possums prepares to move to a new home at North Balwyn Baptist Church, I'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate the wonderful mission that has been provided by the Kew Baptist Church playgroup ministry over the

past 26 years. So many families have been loved, cared for, supported and helped through what is for families a challenging but exciting time of life.

It has been a privilege for me to serve the Kew and surrounding communities alongside some really remarkable Christians, many of whom have or continue to attend Kew Baptist Church. Jesus has truly been at the heart of everything we have sought to do together over the years and we have welcomed the many opportunities to share His story and His love with everyone who has come through our doors.

I'd also like to acknowledge the participation, contribution and generosity of the Possums families



over the years. The unique partnership of Church and Possums families we enjoyed was so successful, as each played its part to provide the friendly and supportive service to families with young children that has been so appreciated over the years.

We look forward to seeing what God has in store for us at our new home.

#### Miriam Schmidt

## Karana



A number of folk have been connected in support and help to the residents at Karana. Myself, Ken Manley and Wendy Henry have led chapel each month, as well as visits to residents. Karana has a wonderful and committed chaplaincy team led by John McLerie and Ruth Prentice.

The Chat n Chew men's lunch has continued again this year. But we need a person or two who could step in to provide support and coordination to this ministry next year, otherwise it will not be able to continue. The role involves being host, arranging guest speakers/presenters, and being there on the day to welcome the residents. The lunch itself is provided by the Karana caterers. And other volunteers assist on the day.

It is vital as a church that we continue to care and support Seniors and those shut in from being able to be an active part of the life of our church.

**Nicholas Tuohy** 

## Love Abbotsford

We have the privilege of organising and being involved in a fun day of activities every two months at the housing commission flats on Hoddle Street. This day involves sports, live music, BBQ, face painting and the occasional impromptu karaoke song from the children residing at the flats.

God has been very generous and faithful in the running of this program. We have been particularly blessed by

how receptive, positive and involved the residents have been each time we are there. The program has been running for around 18 months now, and it is very encouraging to see a number of residents coming regularly. I think of one young woman in particular who is already waiting as we arrive each time; with her young children who cannot wait to have their faces painted.

Thank you to the members of our church for your involvement and enthusiasm in this event. Our consistency and enthusiasm is such a big way of showing we care.

The core aim of our ministry is to love the residents with a genuine, inclusive and sincere love, as God has loved us so generously. This verse was kindly provided

by Em Fox, and sums up our motivation for Love Abbotsford, **Luke 14:12-14**:



Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Thank you for your prayers. May God keep us humble and generous, ready to listen and ready to share. Please pray for safety, love, hope and good opportunities for the residents at the flats. Pray that our community in Melbourne would be ready to love and include them. It would be great for us to potentially be involved at the flats in other ways. Pray for God's guidance as to what other ways we can be involved.

#### **Mary-Anne Philip**

## Carrical Rooming House



Photo: Carrical residents helping to give out presents at Christmas

Carrical is a rooming house in Hawthorn, which is run by a not-for-profit organisation called Servants Community Housing which aims to provide affordable and safe housing to people on low incomes. Its motto so to speak is "respect, dignity and hope" which was birthed out of the belief that just as God values and loves all human beings, so should we. The residents are mostly men, and have a variety of backgrounds. Many have been homeless on the streets at different points in their life and a large proportion has been misunderstood by society due to living with a mental illness.

Kew Baptist is involved by providing a free meal to the residents monthly on a Saturday. This serves a few purposes. Firstly, it's practical. The residents at Carrical don't have a Saturday dinner provided for them and so we can meet that need. Secondly and maybe more importantly, it fosters community and builds relationships. Residents often remind me about conversations we had months earlier and indicate how much they value us coming and having these social events. Sharing a meal, sharing life experiences, laughing together, arguing about the football, playing pool, sitting

outside surrounded in a haze of the residents' cigarette smoke, these are all ways in which friendships have been built. Often we have the opportunity to talk about faith with the residents and we have been blessed to be able to talk about our own personal experiences while they share theirs. In these acts of community and expanding our experiences through conversations, we subsequently enhance the richness of our own lives.

At the end of last year, with generosity from the church family, we were able to provide every single resident of Carrical with a small Christmas gift to remind the residents how important and valued they are. We hope to do the same this year and keep up this important Christmas tradition. We are also in talks with Christ Church Hawthorn to continue our recent tradition of a combined Christmas lunch celebration with the residents.

Sadly, the past year also marked the passing of one of Carrical's long term residents, Dennis. He was a quiet man who generally kept to himself. For years he could be relied on to grab the cowbell and stick and walk through the halls clanging the bell to let everyone know it was time to eat at the BBQ. He is especially missed by the residents and many came out to his funeral to say goodbye.

Continued prayer for the residents of Carrical would be greatly appreciated. Prayer in their individual struggles and for them to remember that they are worthy and precious. Prayer would also be appreciated for the new inhouse managers of Carrical, Mark and Anne Hislop, who are now settling into life at Carrical. Pray that they would have grace, patience and wisdom. Prayer would also be appreciated for the Kew Baptist members that come to the BBQs and that the number would increase. The team is dedicated but small which makes it difficult to sustain these regular BBQs. A few long term members from Kew who come regularly to Carrical have indicated they are unable to continue coming in 2015 so if you are interested or curious at all in joining the team, please contact me. We would absolutely love to have you on board.

#### **Grace Loh**

## Global Mission Team

The past year and a bit has been one of varied and wide-ranging activities. The priorities of the group continue to be:



- To support those working with least-reached people groups of the world, which make up 27% of the world's population, living in 7000 distinct people groups. Less than 1% of these groups are Christian and there is no viable faith-sharing community among them.
- To identify, send out and support those within Kew's congregation who wish to join Jesus in his global mission and to encourage all church participants to share in cross-cultural mission.
- Support specific cross-cultural workers and organisations involved in integral/holistic mission.

We have been very fortunate that during the past year, we have had visits from most of the cross-cultural workers whom we support, and excerpts from their newsletters have regularly been included in Kew News, which goes a long way towards helping us to understand how God is using them and to pray for them in a more informed way. Sincere thanks to Lauren Morgan for the missionary updates in Kew News and to Wendy Henry for inclusions in the weekly "Prayer Focus".

These are some highlights of the period since the last report in August 2013:

- In October 2013, supported cross-cultural workers Tin Pham and Anh Lam spoke to the morning congregation, while on home assignment from Cambodia, where they work with scattered Vietnamese-speaking communities in the capital Phnom Penh and along the highway leading from it, along the Mekong River. Their message was informative and challenging.
- Also in October, Tanya and Stuart Jamieson spoke briefly at both services about their lives since returning from the remote aboriginal community, Amata, in SA.
- In November 2013, Warwick and Natalie Short and their family, supported by KBC for their cross -cultural work with SIM in Niger, Africa, spoke at both services. For them, agriculture is one of the vehicles they use to build relationships with remote communities who do not know Jesus.
- The return from South East Asia at the end of 2013 of supported workers Mark and Val Holt permitted us to give support to a new young couple, Matthew and Natasha Sharpe. They have got to know many of the young adults by speaking at NightChurch and visiting some small groups. They are now preparing to set off for

'Welcome To My Place' Lunch

South East Asia as Global Interaction workers early in 2015. KBC was represented at their commissioning on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Croydon Hills.

- Supported cross-cultural worker Natalie Smith also spoke very briefly at both services about her changing role with The Leprosy Mission. She was finishing up in East Timor, then travelling and conducting brief projects in several countries, before moving to a new position in Myanmar in 2014. There she is providing training and support to physiotherapists working with people affected by leprosy and disability.
- A policy and guidelines for Mission Exposure Scholarships were developed for 2014, whereby KBC members and attendees were invited to apply for financial scholarships when considering short-term mission exposure trips. To publicise this opportunity to NightChurch attendees, Hannah and Sarah performed a rap of their own composition. We were delighted to award the first scholarship to Caz James



for her trip to Uganda in August 2014 with the World Share organisation, and to hear about it after her return.

- Following a year with Andy in Goroka, PNG, Amy Hunter spoke to a combined GMT and Catalyst Group about life and customs in the Eastern Highlands. Something very special experienced by Andy and Amy was to be accepted as family members by a PNG family and included in all family events. Amy described it as God's family being modelled through their relationship.
- During May Mission Month, Nicholas preached on four heroes of the Christian faith:
   F.W.Boreham, Mother Teresa, William

Wilberforce and Martin Luther.

- The mission project supported this year during May was for a recycling project in South East Asia, to complement our financial and prayer partnership in mission in that area. A total of \$1,319.20 was raised.
- Praise God for Laura Baker and the Kew Baptist Catalyst Group, who organised a memorable "Justice Week" in June with a series of guest speakers and two main events: "Welcome to My Place" lunch and "Who is my Neighbour?" community forum. Speakers were Brad Coath from Urban Neighbourhoods of
  - Hope, Brendon Birch from Baptist World Aid, Matt Maudlin CEO of Servants Housing, and John Anderson former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia. Assisted by Brad Coath, around 12 Tamil Asylum Seekers from the Maribyrnong Detention Centre came and cooked a delicious lunch for a large gathering from night and morning congregations. The community forum was well attended by people from KBC and the local community. The award-winning film "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea" was shown, followed by a panel discussion involving the local candidates for Kooyong and employees and volunteers with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.



• In July, it was good to hear from supported missionaries, David and Eryl Edwards, while they were on home assignment from South East Asia, and their work helping to develop an Education Foundation. Their prayer is for six families to become followers of Jesus and form the core of a local believer community.

While it is great to have a special mission focus in May and to take part in events such as those in Justice Week, let us all join in a resolve to make God's mission and justice actively part of our everyday lives.

#### **Deirdre Willis**

## BUV Delegate

Kew has a long history of active participation in the Baptist Union of Victoria (BUV), the association to which all Baptist churches in the state belong. We were one of the founding churches of the BUV in 1862. Kew has contributed many leaders across the years (can you name the two present members who are past-Presidents of the BUV?)\* and we continue to both contribute and receive from our membership of the BUV. Every time a church needs to appoint a new pastor or faces some special challenge or opportunity the BUV is quick to offer their resources and to help.

In past years annual assemblies were held over a week, received interminable reports and debated all manner of what were thought to be crucial issues of church and national life. In recent years the business aspect of our denominational life is dealt with over an annual dinner for delegates from all our churches. In between courses, as it were, we endorse policy issues and adopt large budgets. We have been happy to represent Kew during this past year (but would welcome nominations of others, especially from our young adult community).

The Church office receives reports of these meetings and I encourage you to peruse these carefully. For example, at our most recent gathering (on 10 October) we not only welcomed seven new churches to our Baptist family but on the following Sunday shared in the ordination of six new ministers including one woman. We approved the recommended stipend (salary!) of pastors and a budget of over 4 million for our shared ministry.

In addition, we noted the Australian Baptist recommendation of the definition of marriage as being 'the union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of others, voluntarily entered into for life' and that Baptist celebrants are only able to solemnize such marriages 'according to Baptist rites'. This resolution will be considered at the May 2015 Assembly meeting.

Two other statements were adopted which are available from the Church office. One is a statement about the 2014-15 Federal Budget and its impact on the vulnerable and which urged a greater allocation to foreign aid. The other statement related to mental illness and urged our churches to participate in the efforts to 'destigmatise' mental illness and supported an appeal across all levels of government to provide adequate funding to promote mental health in our community.

We would welcome questions or inquiries about the BUV and how it relates to our own church's life.

#### **Margaret and Ken Manley**

(\* Ken Lyall and Ken Manley)

## Kew Inter Church Council

KICC has been active for some years and most local churches are affiliated. (St Hilary's is the exception)



The KICC, comprising clerical and lay members of local churches has a history of meeting quarterly, and more recently 6 monthly. This is a quite friendly gathering and sharing news and catching-up has been important.

The KICC has sponsored a few activities, particularly:

\*A small shared Good Friday Service in Kew in Petrie Square

\*The annual KICC run "Kew Community Carols" which receives a grant from the local Council.

Local ministers have also met for a lunch – usually 3mthly.

Involvement has reduced in recent years. Churches that contribute most are St Anne's (RC, East Kew), HTK (Anglican), St Paul's (Anglican East Kew) and Kew Baptist.

#### **Kew High School Chaplaincy**

This has been an important shared ecumenical ministry for many years with Clergy and lay members of local churches serving on the KHSCC (Chaplaincy Committee) and churches have given financial support. (Income from Sales at the Kew Carols event goes to support this chaplaincy ministry.) Most local Churches have a table at the annual Fundraising dinner and this is an important annual event.

**Nicholas Tuohy (KICC Chairperson)** 

# Ministry Support

## Tech Team

After our audio upgrade in January 2013 things have been going quite well on the audio side. The new equipment is working perfectly which has led to a lot less stress for the audio team. Our next big issue is our projection and Lighting. With such a high roof it's nearly impossible to replace things when they stop working (like lights) so our focus for the next year will be on these areas as well as building and training our team. We'd love some more volunteers in the morning service as well.

**Phil Prior** 

## Membership

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AS AT NOV 2	Viet	Totals	
ACTIVE MEMBERS 2013	<u>85</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>111</u>
Baptised into Membership	3	7	11
Transferred into membership	4		4
Transferred from Absentee Roll			
Moved to Absentee Roll	-2		-1
Died	-1		-1
Transferred away	-2		-1
No longer attending			
<u>MEMBERS 2014</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>120</u>
ABSENTEE MEMBERS 2013	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>14</u>
Transfer from active members			
Transfer to Active members			
Death			
Roll revision	-4		
ABSENTEE MEMBERS 2014	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>
ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS 2013	<u>170</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>174</u>
Deduct people moved away	-30		-30
Died			
Deduct - became members	-7	-7	-14
Add new active non-members	20	5	25
ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS 2014	<u>153</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>155</u>

## Finance

The Finance committee was formed to strengthen the role and assist the Treasurer in attending to the stewardship of the finances of the church.

With the departure of our longstanding Treasurer Steve Taylor, it has been a slightly rocky transition, due to illness, studies, and overseas absences of the members of the group.

However the worst may be over, and we have a budget for the year ending 30 June 2015 to give us a guide as to what is before us.

The budget shows that in order to avoid a deficit for the year ahead, we must increase our income by higher giving and/or fundraising activities.

This committee is not able to tackle that issue alone, and it is a matter for all groups of the church to take ownership and come up with a plan.

At the time of writing this report, our cash flow is sufficient to meet our needs.

I would like to thank Jono Repse and Casey Tan for their assistance, and in particular Lauren Morgan who carries out the day to day financial matters and is doing a wonderful job

#### Ray Leigh

#### 1. Balance Sheet

# KEW BAPTIST CHURCH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
Equity		
Property Reserve	10,000	(24,487)
Retained Profits	91,422	112,129
TOTAL EQUITY	101,422	87,642
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank - NAB Cheque Account Cash at Bank - NAB Cash Maximiser Account	10,707 22,656	1,426 21,196
Cash at Bank - NAB Camp Account	1,178	
Exempt Benefits #2 Account	2,903	2,487
Exempt Benefits #1 Account	8,077	2,059
Exempt Benefits #3 Account	3,670	-
Debtors	8,953	8,949
Loan - Kew Student Residence	62,500	62,500
Provision for GST	1,493	3,842
TOTAL ASSETS	122,136	102,459
Current Liabilities		
Superannuation Payable	1,446	1,729
Exempt Benefits Liability #2	3,062	2,487
Exempt Benefits Liability #1	8,077	2,059
Exempt Benefits Liability #3	3,670	-
Sundry Creditors		5,500
Camp Fees	1,386	53
PAYG Liability	3,073	2,989
TOTAL LIABILITIES	20,714	14,816
Net Assets	101,422	87.642

#### 2. Statement of Income & Expenditure 2013-14

# KEW BAPTIST CHURCH INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

2013		ACTUAL 2014	BUDGET 2014	VARIANCE Favourable (Unfavourable)		
	OFFERINGS & OTHER INCOME	-	-			
255,401	General Offerings & Gifts	232,601	283,500	(50,899		
-	Fundraising	- 1	-	-		
	Government Grants	3.				
1,045	Sundry Income	335	1,000	(665		
256,446	TOTAL OFFERINGS & OTHER INCOME	232,936	284,500	(51,564		
-	RENTAL INCOME					
31,900	Student Residence (Hostel) Levy	33,000	33,000			
2,280	Hall Rent	8,478	2,000	6,478		
1,800	Possums Contribution					
9,896	Vietnamese Congregation Contribution	9,696	9,700	(4		
45,876	TOTAL RENTAL INCOME	51,174	44,700	6,474		
	INVESTMENT INCOME					
2.812	Student Residence (Hostel) Loan Interest	2.812	2,812			
1,662		459	1,500	(1,041		
4,474	TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	3,271	4,312	(1,041		
306,796	TOTAL INCOME	287,382	333,512	(46,130		
03,120		201,002	000,012	140,100		
	LESS EXPENSES: SALARY COSTS					
177.843	Salaries & Associated Costs	188,517	202.592	14,07		
	TOTAL SALARY COSTS	188,517	202,592	14.07		
1113010	OUTREACH & MINISTRY ALLOCATIONS	100,011	LUZIOUZ	11101		
	Camp Subsidies		500	500		
3,909	Church Ministry	2,647	5,800	3,153		
-1,5-7.5	Contributions to Other Groups	171				
8,635	Baptist Union of Victoria - Ministry Contribution	7,985	8,900	915		
36,576	Global Mission Team & Local Needs	24,390	39,691	15,30		
1,285	Visiting Speakers	1,310	1,300	(10		
50,405	TOTAL OUTREACH & MINISTRY EXPENSES	36,332	56,191	19,859		
	ADMINISTRATION & OTHER EVERYORS					
1,630	ADMINISTRATION & OTHER EXPENSES Audit Fees	1,670	1,700	30		
1,030	Bank Fees	235	1,700	(235		
4,040	Computer Expense	1,469	3,500	2,031		
4,040	Consultant Fees	500	500	.2,03		
2,253	Equipment Maintenance	2,660	3.000	340		
-	Equipment Purchase	705		(705		
556	Postage	567	600	33		
892	Printing & Stationery	2,497	1,500	(99)		
2,527	Sundry Supplies Hospitality	1,822	3.000	1,178		
4,152	Telephone, Internet & Website hosting	2,846	5,800	2,954		
	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION & OTHER EXPENSES	14,970	19,600	4,630		
	PROPERTY EXPENSES					
8,852	Cleaning	7.006	9,000	1,994		
1,175	Council Rates	2,676	3,000	324		
6,819	Electricity	4,952	7,000	2,048		
2,341	Gas	2,146	- F	854		
13,771	Insurance	10,482	14,500	4,018		
1,868	Water Rates	3,425	2,000	(1,425		
6,403	General Property Maintenance	6,058	12,000	5,942		
41,229	TOTAL PROPERTY EXPENSES	36,745	50,500	13,75		
	OTHER EXPENSES					
	Property Reserve Over Spend	12,733		(12,73)		
	Audio Reserve Over Spend	18,792	-	(18,792		
-	TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	31,525	77	(13,254		
285,530	TOTAL EXPENSES	308,089	328,883	39,06		
	Section of the sectio	The second				
24 200	NET SURPLUS ( DEFICIT)	(20,707)	4,629	(25,33)		

# Kew Baptist Church Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Kew Baptist Church

#### Opinion

In our opinion:

- a. the financial report of Kew Baptist Church is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2012 (Vic), including:
  - giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2014 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
  - complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Act 2012 (Vic)
- the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.

David J Taplin

Tregear Bain Taplin & Co

Dated this 18 day of Avacuat 2014

## Auditors Independence Declaration Under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To Members of Kew Baptist Church

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2014, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements in relation to the audit;
   and
  - no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

David J Taplin

Tregear Bain Taplin & Co

Suite 3, 43 Railway Road, Blackburn Vic 3130

Dated this 18 The day of AVEVST 2014





In the light of the Word of God, and in response to God's acceptance, love and forgiveness demonstrated in the Good News of Jesus Christ's perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection, we the people of Kew Baptist Church covenant to:

## Love God

Strengthen our relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

## Love One Another

Nurture our relationships with each other within KBC

# Love Our Neighbours

Develop authentic and intentional relationships with others outside KBC

#### UPWARD- Disciples who Worship

- Honouring God
- Depending on God
- Living under God's direction
- Learning from God

#### INWARD Disciples who Serve

- · Affirming one another
- · Challenging one another
- Celebrating diversity
- · Empowering to serve
- · Forgiving one another
- Gathering together
- Giving generously

#### **OUTWARD**- Disciples who Go

- Sharing our experience of God
- Pointing people to Jesus.
- Living with integrity
- Loving others as they are
- Fighting Injustice
- · Giving practical aid