

Pastor's Report

In our church life we seek to grow in faith, hope and love, that is, in spiritual formation, mission and belonging. This requires a re-orientation away from the emphases of our culture to God's priorities expressed in part in our Church Covenant.

An important aid in this is our corporate worship and I am grateful to those who assist in leading us; our Music Team and choir members; Gwyneth Smith, Shirley Tuckwell and David Mynard on the organ and piano; folk who creatively present Christian truths in the children's segments; and to Geoff Blackburn, Basil Brown, Dorothy Dullege, Keren McClelland, June Robertson and Lindsay Smith who have assisted with preaching.

Given the variety in our temperaments and learning styles there needs to be a range of approaches, and we have sought to accommodate this through the different teaching series such as Ken Manley's, "Preparing for the predictable: reflections on the life of David" and "Questions for Baptist Christians today"; reflective worship opportunities in the lead up to Easter; Howard, John and Janine Barclay's messages on Mission; as well as my series on Jeremiah, The Holy Spirit, Philippians, The Church and Genesis.

It has also been encouraging to see people growing in their faith through involvement in small groups. This year these have covered Proverbs, Spiritual Gifts, Philippians, Discovering Jesus, Prayer, Evangelism, New

Testament Overview, the Five Love Languages, Ephesians, The Trinity, John's Gospel, plus another Alpha Group, and Baptism and Church Membership classes, with seven young adults following Christ's example.

The second dimension, hope, has to do with our outward focus - sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We see it not only in outreach through our Possums Playgroups and kindergarten, University Student Hostel and Karana aged care community, but in individual lives in our extended families, neighbourhood and places of work, study and leisure. Again this year there have been special initiatives through Children's and Hostel Services, parenting seminars, the Family Fair and Fun Day, Sunday School, Youth Group, Chat and Chew, Ladies Evening Fellowship, Drop In, as well as initiatives with the Kew Regional Ministry, the annual World Day of Prayer, and at Christmas and Easter in conjunction with the Kew Inter-Church Council.

There has also been growth in our Missionary Family with the addition of Les and Cathy Sherwen serving in China with Global interAction and John and Janine Barclay in India with Interserve, and our ongoing support for Lisa Detlefsen (Wycliffe Bible Translators at Ukarumpah), Mary Edgar (Interserve - Nepal), Allan and Meryll Gamble (Service Fellowship International - Bandung), Grace Munro (Global interAction Publications), Michelle Stancliffe (Youth With a Mission), and Cynthia Page, Chaplain at Kew High School.

Planning is well underway for the Franklin Graham Festival to be held at the Telstra Dome on March 18, 19 and 20 next year, with Christian Life and Witness classes on November 11, 18, 25 and December 2 providing an excellent opportunity for us to be further equipped in evangelism and discipleship.

In relation to the third area, opportunities to connect with and grow in love for one another have continued to expand this year through the Church hospitality lunches, Musical Soiree, Cup Day Picnic, Youth Group, Alpha and Church Camps, Music Conference, and the prayer and care notes in the church bulletin each week.

With two day-time and six evening Bible Study groups now running on a weekly, or fortnightly basis, plus four prayer meetings each week, the possibility of everyone being involved in a small group is being increasingly realised.

In all this I am grateful to God for the support of our Deacons, together with the Ministry Team: Chris and Janine de Paiva, Tuan and Hannah Huynh, Keren and Gwyn McClelland, Miriam and Louis Schmidt, Kingsley and Gwyneth Smith, Gillian Tonson, and Liz, Kerry, Tanya and Natalie Pell.

Although there have been times of pain as a result of sexual abuse in the history of the church, it has been encouraging to see God's Spirit at work in people's lives and a willingness to work through issues and develop procedures for handling concerns, as we seek to bring all areas of life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Can I encourage you to read these reports with an openness to which ministry group you might be part of to facilitate your growth in spiritual formation, mission and belonging.

NIGHTCHURCH COMMUNITY

Small Groups

We've had two huge semesters of small groups in the second half of 2003 and first half of 2004. Those who have been able to be committed to a group (including the leaders) have found it very rewarding: great friendships, prayer support and a meaningful creative space to think through some issues in a setting that fosters dialogue.

Over the summer break (mid December to the end of January) we ran a summer small group for whoever was around at the McClelland's in Gellibrand St. It was a great time together, with lots of different people from week to week.

More recently, some people with a passion for incarnational ministry have begun to a slant Please pray for Kim Fleming, Carly McNaught, Luke Wilson, Ben Prime, Tania Sutherland and Clint in this exciting calling. The other small groups this coming semester have quite particular foci: Thinking about God (Gwyn McClelland and Andrew Kollmorgen), Ephesians (Steve Taylor and Ryan Harper) and Spiritual Formation (Liz Taylor). A few young adults have also joined Rod and Liz Pell (Philippians). Thanks to all our leaders, including Rod Pell, Kylie Geelan and Bron Steel who also lead small groups in first semester, 2004. Thanks, too, to people who are hosting groups in their homes.

www.nightchurch.com

Thanks to Andrew Kollmorgen for the immense amount of work done on the website and keeping my office computer up to date. Jocelyn Tyler is coordinating weekly emails and updating relevant info on the NC website. Check the above site out ☺ It's great!

The forum on the website has kept many occupied (or procrastinating from study?!) with hearty discussion. Last year David Miller and David Hanslow took over from Ellen doing the weekly NC News for a few months. This year I have continued the job, but without the same time available –we are really in need of someone to take over this job! Feel free to offer your hand in this.

In the January holidays Katie McGowan, Kim Fleming and a few others spent a number of days removing traces of 'mission brown' from the NC Office upstairs in the hall that I now occupy. It is much nicer inside with my brilliant red wall! It is great also to have a private space to use the phone, computer and catch up with people.

Mentoring

Fourteen adults from the church have made themselves available for people from the NightChurch community as mentors. Everyone who requested one was paired up for the year of 2004. Many of these relationships have been really meaningful. Thank-you so much to those who have been available; being a young adult is a difficult business at times and the more support you get the more resilient you are in stressful situations.

7pm Service Sunday nights

In the past year we have had a large range of input in the 7pm services:

<i>Bounded and Centred sets</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>	<i>Healthy Sexuality</i>	<i>Panel – Gwyn, Rod, Liz Pell and Chelle Wade.</i>
<i>Justice x2</i>	<i>Martin Reilly</i>	<i>Relationships</i>	<i>Tim Hein (Tabor)</i>
<i>The Kingdom of God x3</i>	<i>Janine & John Barclay</i>	<i>Healthy Relationships (Mark) x 2</i>	<i>Keith Dyer</i>
<i>Caring for one-another</i>	<i>Ange van der Leeuw</i>	<i>Passover meal/ communion</i>	<i>In the Hall</i>
<i>Caring for one-another</i>	<i>Ange van der Leeuw</i>	<i>Spirituality 101 (ACTS)</i>	<i>Darren Rowse</i>
<i>Journeying – healing of the blind man</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>	<i>Missional principles</i>	<i>Rob Lutton</i>
<i>Psalms 130</i>	<i>Mavis Payne</i>	<i>Missional Church</i>	<i>Darren Rowse</i>
<i>Esther 3-4 – boom where you are</i>	<i>Rod Pell</i>	<i>Labyrinth</i>	<i>Rob Lutton</i>
<i>Everyday Spirituality</i>	<i>Simon Holt</i>	<i>Isaiah and multiculturalism</i>	<i>Mark Brett (Whitley)</i>
<i>Mark's Gospel – reading through 'fair dinkum mark'</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>	<i>David and Samuel (1Sam 16:1-13)</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>
<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Ros Gooden (GiA)</i>	<i>David & Doeg (1 Sam 21-22)</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>
<i>Worship</i>	<i>Rory Chambers, Michelle Edwards & Kim Fleming</i>	<i>David & Abigail (1 Sam 25)</i>	<i>Anna Nyhuis</i>
<i>Hostel Service</i>	<i>Geoff Trevaskis</i>	<i>David & Nathan (2 Sam 7)</i>	<i>Grace Munro</i>
<i>Our church a safe place – how do we work to avoid abuse of power?</i>	<i>Keren McClelland and Rod Pell</i>	<i>David & Creation (1 & 2 Samuel)</i>	<i>Mark Brett (Whitley)</i>
<i>Communion</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>	<i>David & Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12)</i>	<i>Gwyn McClelland</i>
<i>January Break</i>	<i>----</i>	<i>Healthy Singleness</i>	<i>Marion Lemin (MLC)</i>
<i>Africa -Zambia</i>	<i>Jonathan/Janelle –</i>	<i>David & God (2 Sam 22)</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>
<i>Decision making x 2</i>	<i>Yvonne Lindner</i>	<i>David & Abishag (1 Kings 1-2)</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>
<i>Hostel service –culture shock</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>	<i>Baptism</i>	<i>Rod Pell</i>
<i>Baptism service</i>	<i>Keren McClelland</i>	<i>Ethics</i>	<i>Brian Edgar</i>

A constant challenge is keeping continuity with such a variety of different speakers but having series here and there seems to balance this better. We've done this better in 2004. Our series on David and missional principles have given some food for thought. It is good to see some of these things being acted upon.

The two NightChurch baptism services (Elise and Cameron Taylor, Kim Fleming, Kylie Geelan and Luke Gibbons) were real highlights during 2004.

Kim Fleming and Ellen McNaught led a great workshop on service leading in May 2004. There are about 15 service leaders who take on an exciting, but not always appreciated job (sometimes the only feedback you get is if something goes not quite to plan)! Some of the worship has included skits, songs, alternative prayer, listening, silence, candles and responsive prayers. At Kew, every member is a minister and therefore service leading is a real way to contribute to our worship and learning. Thanks for your enthusiasm, creativity, prayerfulness and faithfulness in leading us in these times. May we support you better in the year ahead. New Service leaders are always appreciated.

It will be great to have two series on ethics and Luke's Gospel parables in the coming months.

Personal blessings and challenges

Pastoral care is a privilege of ministry here in the community at Kew Baptist Church. I am so encouraged by people working through difficult issues and remaining faithful in traveling the not always straightforward path following Jesus. I am so encouraged when uninvolved and fringe people have been better included, cared for and loved in an inclusive community.

The SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) reflections (July 2004) were valuable in seeing some common hopes, dreams and frustrations, as well as perceiving the huge diversity of us as a group. We noticed that the focus was on the 7pm service rather than on all the things throughout the week that make us a healthy community. In the year ahead I would love to see continued development of people who are responsible and creative not just in the 7pm service, but also in the areas of pastoral care, social events, communication and small groups. We need to continue to reiterate that our church is in the people, not the building Sunday night!

Working only 2 ½ days (and trying to keep it manageable with family, mission and other commitments) has meant lots of creative thinking: about speakers for the 7pm service and working on keeping up considerable amounts of people contact (not doing just office stuff!). Andrew Kollmorgen, Katie McGowan, Kim Fleming and Ellen McNaught (now in Adelaide) have supported me wonderfully throughout 2004 in the ministry support team. Thank-you you are amazing people.

Kew Regional Ministry

We hope to connect in better with Kew Regional Ministry and the work Natalie Dixon is involved in throughout Boroondara. Many contributed toiletries to the famous 'toothbrush' box this year and a few attended the community dances (and got a lot out of it!). In the year ahead we hope we can connect in better still with taking groups of people from the various boarding homes out for a coffee or to the movies, supporting the monthly service in the Uniting Church for people with intellectual and physical disabilities and attaching ourselves to a specific boarding house leading up to Christmas.

Social

Another missional opportunity to minister is in the hostel and university context. It is great working with Janine and Chris de Paiva and participating in joint NightChurch community (such as Passover and Olympic Social) and Hostel events. As the community grows in size it is harder to have impromptu social events, but we need to balance both organised and informal gatherings.

Thank you

The NightChurch community is not a separate event from the whole of KBC, in fact, the community benefits KBC as a whole by support in morning music, Sunday school, youth group, prayer, admin, camps, service leading, audio, small groups, missions, pastoral care and website... NightChurch members also give generously in the more universal 'church' through involvement in summer missions, camps, Kew Regional Ministry... and just living with faith in the place that God has them right now... loving God and loving neighbour. Keep up the good work.

Thank you to those praying for this part of KBC and to the ministry team, deacons, and particularly Rod and Liz Pell who support the NightChurch community and Gwyn, Lydia, Geordie and me in *many different ways*.

As the NightChurch community continues to integrate faith at home, study, work, church and play...
God grant us the energy, balance and love to do it with our whole beings!

Keren McClelland
Keren McClelland

Morning Service Report

The morning worship services have been a great blessing to our church community. They have allowed many people to be involved whether in the preaching, the leading, the music, or the reporting on an activity.

There has been preaching in series (eg Ken Manley) and a number of our members have preached from time to time.

The music also has provided a contrast and we are blessed with many fine musicians and voices.

This has been supported by a prayer meeting before each service in which the Holy Spirit is asked to work in the hearts and minds of "each" person attending.

Thanks to all who have taken part and to Rod and Gillian who put a lot of work into the organization.

Ray Leigh

Music Team

Under the joint leadership of Rory Chambers, Andrew Harkness, Trish Lerk and Katie McGowan the music team has played an active role in both morning and evening church. Andrew Kollmorgen, who has led the music team over the last 4 years has felt a calling to other areas of leadership and has taken a break from leading the music team. Working alongside Gwyneth on Sunday mornings has resulted in many positive comments regarding the balance of contemporary songs and hymns. Thanks to Gillian for her tireless battles with copyright and photocopying licensing, and to Rod for his support.

It has been exciting to see the proficiency of this group ever improving, allowing us to try new and creative things as well as the introduction of many new songs from varied sources. It is hoped that we will start to use some material written by members of our own music team in the near future. Time and prayer is spent each week to choose songs that are appropriate and relevant to the sermon.

A challenge we are facing is how best to approach the long term sustainability of the music team which is comprised mostly of Uni students with ever changing timetables. A heavy work load is falling on a small number of people and we would value prayer in how best to balance time and workload. Thursday night practice for the morning service has been cancelled for a while and replaced with a 9:00 start on Sunday morning in an attempt to free up time for musicians and singers to attend small groups on Thursday nights. We are also looking at ways we can grow spiritually as a team, and develop accountability systems, and also get to know each other away from the music scene, i.e. with social events, dinners etc.

We are looking to involve even more people in the music team over the coming months, and we are trying to stay aware of the new developments in the Christian music scene, locally nationally, and internationally.

Katie McGowan

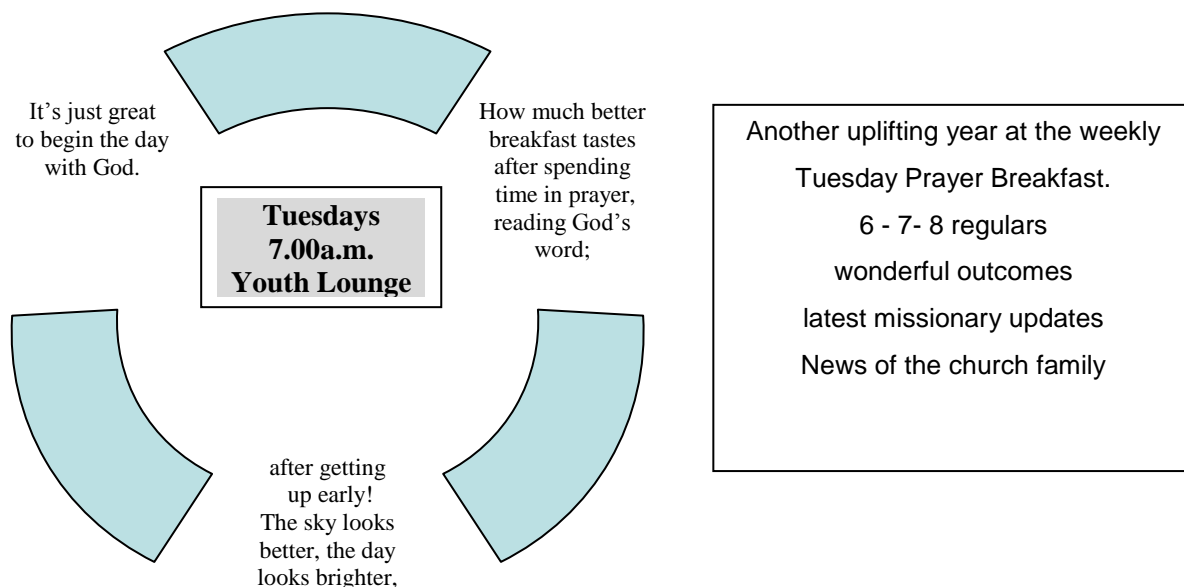
Sunday Morning Pre-service Prayer Meeting

This small group of 6 – 12 persons meets each Sunday to seek God's blessing on all the participants in the day's ministries. We pray for our Pastor and worship leaders, and all who have 'up-front' roles to play. We also pray for cross cultural workers – missionaries and relief agents – and any people we

know who have special needs. In a quiet unobtrusive way we seek to undergird all sections of our church life.

We meet at 9.30am for 15 minutes. Some who have special duties to attend to come and go. We meet in the Pastor's vestry which has space for another 6 or 7 prayers. Why not consider joining this concerned and joyous group.

Tuesday Prayer Breakfast



Ken Lyall

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting

Most Wednesdays six of us meet together to pray. Mostly, we share the leadership. We start with someone bringing a thought from The Word, may be about 5 – 8 mins, then we pray. The time we spend together in prayer is very precious, and very well spent.

Over the last 12 months we have shared together, we have grown together, and really come to know each other. The friendship we share is something we could never have developed from worshipping each Sunday at church. God is blessing us individually and together. We finish promptly at 8pm.

2 Peter 1: vs 3 and 7 : *His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness ... to brotherly kindness, love.*

God has answered so many prayers that have been prayed here on Wednesdays. Come and share the blessing !

Bev Smith

Thursday Study Group

Thursday
Bible Study
At John Sampson's
65 Edgevale Rd, Kew.
The Acts of the Apostles
have been our topic this semester,
with extended periods for prayer as well.
We have just finished studying Acts.
Now Paul's letter to Ephesians
with its heavy theology.
We battle on
with supper too.

We have a great time together and have plenty of room for a few more. So if you would like to join us please give me a call on 9818-7756 and I will make sure there is an extra cup for you.

John Sampson

Mothers and Children's Bible Study – MACBS!

MACBS has continued to grow, not only in numbers, but also in the way we have been able to support each other practically and prayerfully through the celebrations and difficulties in life. We continue to meet fortnightly on a Friday morning at 9.30 – 11.30ish in the Youth Lounge with our children congregating with their carer down in the Possum's rooms. Over the past year we have studied the 'Five Love Languages' of children, the 'Beatitudes' for women and now we are presently studying 'Women of the Bible' – a great study series focusing on women of the Bible and aspects of their lives that we can apply to our own lives as wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, employees and women in ministry. Not all of our group are from the church, many are Possums contacts and other fantastic women from our local community.

Our greatest dilemma in our increased numbers is our increased need for more child carers. Since our inception our child care funding has generously come from the church and MAD group budgets, but over the past few weeks we have as a group felt the increasing need to be more self funding, allowing us to employ another child carer from the Hostel. To raise this extra money we are in the process of running a Pie Drive, selling sweet and savoury pies to people in the church and beyond, with proceeds going towards our child care expenses. Thank you to the church for your continued interest and support, both financially and spiritually.

Janine de Paiva

Ladies Evening Fellowship

In writing the report for the Ladies Evening Fellowship I give thanks to God for the loyal members who attend each month and share in the fellowship in various homes. There has been a regular attendance of 15-20 members who share all our joys, sorrows and prayers for our Church and all the activities therein. We were pleased to share with Jean Jeffery, our past President and her family in her attaining 90 wonderful years of Christian service to her Lord and Master, may she be spared to enjoy many more years of friendship and support of all the ladies.

Our speakers have come from various walks in life, Nemat Makar spoke of her life in Egypt, Carin Kloppers also told us of her exciting life after leaving South Africa and her travels around the world before settling with her family in Melbourne, Alison Lyall was very interesting showing us her experience in Nepal at the Leprosy Hospital and her work with Lonely Planet. We also had Lindsay Smith telling us of his experience as Police Chaplain for 10 weeks and all that that entailed with the

members and their various religions. Laurie Barton explained some of his experiences as School Chaplain and what a responsibility it is to work with school-age children to-day.

Our Annual Dinner is held each year at Gwen & Arthur Davie's home and our Christmas Break-up at Edith and Ken Lyalls' home. Thanks to all the ladies who have opened their homes each month for our meetings. Our donations to Missions, Home & Overseas, Baptist World aid, Alan & Meryl Gamble etc. amounted to \$1400.00 for the year.

May God continue to bless our group as we serve Him in this way.

Elva Dyer

Sunday School

Sunday School provides an opportunity for our children to learn about God in enjoyable, age appropriate ways. We begin our sessions with energetic singing and then move into groups for a Bible story and possibly an art/craft activity.

The Sunday School is run by a dedicated group of teachers: Jo Austin, Janine de Paiva, Kylie Geelan, Christine Muller, Liz and Tanya Pell, Tarnya Smith, Bron Steel and Deirdre Willis. We meet each term to review our groups and to plan for the coming term, and continue to base our lessons on Scripture Union Salt materials.

Recently we changed the name of "creche" (where 0 - 3 year olds) have been playing together on a Sunday morning, to "Mini Minors", suggesting our youngest Sunday School group, and Janine now reads a story and offers a craft activity to these children. We still need the support of our faithful creche ladies and men, and appreciate their willingness to facilitate a happy Sunday morning experience for our very little Mini Minors.

Sunday School stops during the school holidays when children are invited to remain in Church and enjoy the work sheets provided in the back corner of the church. We appreciate your understanding during these weeks when the noise level during the worship service may be a little increased! These few weeks give our Sunday School teachers the opportunity to worship in a way they cannot when Sunday School is operating.

There have been a few new faces appearing in our Sunday School during the past year and we praise God for working in the lives of families who fellowship with us here at Kew. We do value your prayers for the smooth working of Sunday School, for our teachers, and for our children and their families.

Liz Pell

Youth Group

Our Secondary School age young people meet regularly on a Wednesday evening each fortnight for tea together, followed by a Bible study. The occasional "Night at Kim's" or outing to UTurn at North Balwyn Baptist adds to our usual program.

A highlight during the past year was our "break-up" weekend last November at the Fleming's farm at Camperdown. Despite the traumas of tiny insects biting in the waters of Geelong, witnessing a sheep being shorn and allergies to the newly cut hay, we had a wonderful time being country kids for a couple of days. We also attended the Church camp in July this year and thoroughly enjoyed it.

We appreciate the hospitality of our parents, who provide the meal and the commitment of the youth group leaders: Kim Fleming, Amy Hill, Liz Pell, Cameron Taylor and David Vo who lead the discussions. We value your prayers for our young people.

Liz Pell

MINISTRY TO THE COMMUNITY

Chat and Chew Men's Luncheon

When Chat and Chew started some may have wondered if it would see the year out. Now we look towards the completion of our second year. We believe that a real need is being met. On the fourth

Thursday of each month, February to November, between 25 and 30 men do what our name implies, Chat and Chew spells FELLOWSHIP.

In addition to a strong core group of our own church men, we have visitors from Karana Community and Hamer Court. One man recently said, "Chat & Chew is my family and my only outlet". This surely meets one of the reasons for our church life and ministry, to make the Gospel really good news spiritually and socially.

At the time of writing this report we are keenly anticipating holding our August gathering at Karana. The Karana staff will do the catering and host the event; another practical link between "the church" and "the home".

We are planning to make our final gathering for the year open to ladies also. It is a little too soon to reveal the plans, but book the date now, Thursday November 25th 2004 in Newnham Hall 12 –2pm.

Thanks to those who are on our Honour Roll of volunteers : our Pastor Rod Pell, for his support and encouragement; Ken and Edith Lyall together with Gwyneth Smith for catering and kitchen duties assisted by Robyn Scott; Adrian Grice (from the Balwyn Baptist Church) helps set up the hall and arrange tables while Richard Godden is "good-man Thursday" doing all that Crusoe can't do; Felicity Rentos is our Karana contact, and Judith Tumbri links us with Hamer Court. And everyone else does what they can with waiting and clearing up.

I have sometimes wondered if two or three times a year Chat and Chew should metamorphose into a friendship club for men and women, married and single, enjoy a catered lunch and entertainment. Tell me what you think. Would you like to help plan something?

Kingsley Smith, Cor-ordinator

Drop In

This is a caring group who share fellowship, at present on the first Friday of each month. But we would like to revert to the weekly meeting. Each year in June, we ask the whole church community to contribute non perishable food and toiletries to give to those less fortunate in our area to help in the winter. In November our Christmas appeal seeks gifts and extra Christmas food for local need families. Apart from these two appeals to help Camcare, we also help other causes like Samaritans Purse and needy families we know. We would love you to share with us.

Valarie McPherson

Karana Community

It is 45 years since the opening of Karana, and the church's interest in, and commitment to the facility, has been maintained through that time. During the past year I have been very grateful for that support, expressed in a variety of ways.

The pastors and others from the congregation assist with weekday chapel services and Sunday morning services and their ministry is greatly appreciated. On weekdays the average attendance at chapel is about 25 while 40 – 45 residents attend on Sundays. These are truly ecumenical gatherings with people from a variety of denominations glad to worship God together. Miss Phyl Taylor continues to co-ordinate the Sunday morning program. From very small beginnings at a time when it became clear that few people were no longer able to go out to church, the Sunday service has become central in the life of the community. The eighth anniversary will be held in September. Pastor Rod Pell, Miss Bev Smith and I meet with Phyl on a three monthly basis for support and encouragement in regard to the Sunday service.

Those residents who are still able to worship at Kew are grateful for the transport provided each Sunday.

A group of men from Karana have attended the monthly Chat & Chew lunches. To enable a larger number of people to share in this activity it is planned that several meetings each year will be held at 55 Walpole Street. The last year has seen an influx of men into High Care and they are looking forward to being present at the first Chat and Chew at Karana on 26 August.

Some ladies from the church maintain a link with Karana through the Fellowship Meeting which is held on 2nd Thursday of each month at 2.30pm. Others are very welcome to attend.

The church has faithfully provided pastoral care for residents associated with the church, and the pastors have willingly agreed to be "on call" at times when I have been on leave, responding to any urgent needs during my absence. Rev Kingsley Smith has commenced some pastoral visiting amongst the men at Karana.

Visitors to Karana consistently comment, "there is something different about this place". Although many things have changed through the 45 years – the buildings, the staff, the regulations under which we operate – God's amazing love continues to pervade this place. Please pray that people will encounter God here.

Sally Burton, Chaplain

Mission Aid and Development Group

"To make known the love of God to the world".

The Kew Baptist Church Covenant says that we covenant before God and with each other *to make known the love of God... to the world.*

The M.A.D. Group has sought to do this, among other ways, through our missionary support. We have divided our budget allotment between eight of our mission representatives whose mission focus is overseas, as well as to eight church members studying theology and related studies locally.

We have used meeting times to write to our missionaries. It is hoped that our bright postcards and our words of encouragement have warmed their hearts.

It has been exciting to welcome four new members. But we need more – and with growing commitment.

To show God's love to the world, we need to know the needs of the world. So we saw a demonstration of Abdul's story. He is a fictional but typical person from the wider world. Most of Abdul's basic needs, pruned to the basic minimum, could fit on a coffee table. But to pay for these basic necessities, "Abdul's" income is less than \$2 a day. How many Abduls (\$2 a day people) are there in the world? Answer = 2000,000,000.

We were challenged to ask, *How many of these can we reach with God's love?* We saw that one very far-reaching way is through the Millennium Development Goals. In the year 2000 all 191 member nations of the United Nations pledged to work together To halve world poverty by 2015. In this election year, we have written To key members of our government to remind them of this pledge.

We have put on two mini-dramas. The first, called, *I was Thirsty*, focussed our attention on the International Year of Fresh Water. One of the actors held up a jar of filthy water and called out "... *over one billion people drink this stuff!*" Later that day, one loyal church member wrote a thank you letter to the M.A.D. Group and said that she could still not get out of her mind the sight of that filthy water which so many millions have to drink.

The second mini-drama sought to link Mothers Day with the Third World. It was called, *Mothers Day under the Bridge*, and it told something of the more than 40 families who live in cardboard shacks under a bridge in Delhi, India. What a challenge to show God's love!

In these and other ways, we have tried, in the words of the Kew Baptist Church Covenant to make God's love "... relevant to today's world ..."

Stephen Kidner

Wider Baptist Connections

Baptists stress the importance of the local church. So here at Kew we are grateful for all that we experience as a part of Christ's Body here in our community. But whilst each local church is gifted and blessed to fulfill its unique ministry, we also realise that we are more than an independent and autonomous church body. We need other Christians in order fully to express our Christian mission and calling.

One way we do this is in our relations with other denominations here in Kew and in our city - but another special way is through our wider connections in the Baptist family of Christians. So Kew is a member church of the Baptist Union of Victoria. Thus we share with about 16,000 members and over 37,000 people who attend Baptist churches in our State. Each church sends delegates to meetings of the Union where significant decisions are made about our joint work and regular reports about what is happening in our churches are received. Together we support the work of our director of ministries (Alan Marr) and our regional ministers as well as in the boards that are responsible for our College, the Baptist schools, evangelism, youth work, insurances, social services etc - this is a large enterprise and we are grateful to be a part of Christ's mission through the Baptist Union of Victoria. Our delegates bring regular reports to the church of what is happening and all of us can read about it in our monthly Victorian Baptist Witness. But the Victorian Baptist Union is one member Union of the Baptist

Union of Australia which has 956 churches and about 60,000 members. Mrs. Gwyn Milne of Victoria is our current President. Once again we work together on a national level, so we can support world mission (Global Interaction), or evangelism (Crossover Australia), world aid including the child sponsorship program in which many of us share. Yet there is more!

The Baptist Union of Australia is a member body of the Baptist World Alliance, formed in 1905 and so anticipating its centenary next year. Thus from our church we are apart of a world community of Baptists with over 180,000 churches and over 46 million members - probably a community of at least 00 million people. Kew has made a gift of \$1,000 and we are now a Global Impact Church of the BWA, which means we are a contributing church to the various programs of the BWA in evangelism, world relief, education, movements for freedom and justice around the world. The next Congress will be in Birmingham England next July. It would be great if others from our church would join Margaret and me as we plan to be there. I hope Kew can continue to be a global impact church through the BWA. So as we worship and serve here in Kew we remember that we are apart of a special family- in our state in our country and in the world. Those of us who are privileged to represent you - as delegates to the Union Assemblies or to the BUA or its member boards and to the BWA are grateful for your interest and support.

Ken Manley