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# KBC LIFE AND MINISTRIES

## PASTOR'S OVERVIEW

As a community of God's people our desire is to:

- grow in our relationship with God as we follow in the ways of Jesus;
- understand ourselves and others in the body of Christ, and develop the gifts His Spirit has given us; and
- support each other in the different situations and circumstances in which He has called and placed us.

This year we have been blessed in the first area by the input of Ken Manley and Bill Leng as well as members of the preaching class and others in the congregation. In the morning services we have studied Hosea, Psalms, Church, Baptism and Communion, Luke, Philippians, Covenant, and John's Gospel; and at NightChurch, messages on James, reflections on overseas and summer missions, Luke, Revelation, Psalms and Barriers to Belief; as well as our special emphases during Advent and Lent.

Our small group study notes on *Jesus in Luke* and *Things that really matter: studies in Philippians*, have helped us explore and discuss in more detail issues raised in the sermons; and the variety of other groups such as *Introducing God*, *Sharing our Faith*, and the Baptist World Aid 50/50 studies on social justice have enabled people to start or continue on the journey according to their interests.



Liz Taylor's work in co-ordinating our small groups, encouraging our prayer life and developing one on one contacts between people has greatly enhanced opportunities for us to grow in our relationship with God and others, and an increasing number of people are taking advantage of times to pray with someone else before or after services. The weekly prayer meetings, occasional extra prayer gatherings and creative prayer nights have provided opportunities along with regular times of prayer in the many small groups.

In relation to the second area, workshops on worship, parenting, leading small groups, mentoring and preaching have given opportunities for people to grow in their understanding of themselves and others and to develop the gifts His Spirit has given us. It has been encouraging to see initiatives such as the Possums Party expo, Highbury Grove street party, Camcare appeals, Carols at Petrie square, Good Grub, Carrical, camps, beach missions, coffee shops, summer soccer, youth ministry, friendship in the flats, and the Abbotsford house which have provided opportunities to relate to others as an outworking of God's love in our lives. Moreover, each of our day to day interactions with friends, family, fellow students, work colleagues, other retirees, and neighbours, remain significant places of connection and outreach.

In this regard, the third area – supporting each other in the situations in which God has placed us, is vital. For example, each year we have more folk involved in teaching, Christian Religious Education and chaplaincy in schools and universities and the commissioning of Dorothy Dullege and appointment of Rory Chambers with *ACCESS* Ministries has continued this trend. In addition, structured programs like the ministry of Possums to young families, our Sunday School, Junior and Senior youth groups, and outreach to university students through the Residence are significant, and we are grateful to Miriam Schmidt, Liz Pell, Steph Bowers and Stephen and Michelle Duke for their co-ordinating roles, Res support staff and residents of the House, and the many folk who give of their time each week in playgroups, teaching Sunday School classes, leading Bible studies and organising social events.

One of the things I like about KBC is our diversity:

- the spread of ages (0 – 95 at present)
- range of socio-economic backgrounds
- variety of nationalities, and
- different ways of expressing our faith,

embody and reflect the Good News of Jesus Christ who breaks down dividing walls which so often separate people (Ephesians 2).

Over the last few months since my diagnosis with myeloma and particularly with the commencement of chemotherapy at the end of May we have been very conscious of the love and support shown by and between members of the KBC community. As a family we have been thoughtfully, generously and lovingly cared for by the church community and we are grateful for the many folk who have stepped up to take on

additional responsibilities, including other members of the pastoral team: Ken Manley as Acting Senior Pastor overseeing the preaching and life of the church; Grace Munro carrying an additional load co-ordinating pastoral care, alongside administration and baptism classes; Lindsay and Meryl Smith who have taken many funerals in addition to their regular pastoral contacts, Hymnfests, Pleasant Sunday Afternoons, maintenance of our properties, and the Bible study for young mums; Kingsley Smith for his ongoing leadership of the Sunday morning prayer meeting, monthly Chat and Chew luncheons for retired men, and contacts with a wide variety of people; Liz Taylor co-ordinating the Sunday School for six months in addition to organising our small groups, prayer and mentoring ministries; and our Interns – Steph Bowers, James Docking, Amy Hill and Andy Hunter – who facilitate our youth, music teams, and young adults ministries.



It's a joy to serve the Lord in such a diverse community of faith and we pray that His name will continue to be glorified and His Kingdom extended in all that we do.

In the coming year let's continue to grow in our relationships with God and others; use the gifts His Spirit has given us; and support each other in our personal and collective ministries in Melbourne and beyond.

**Rod and Liz Pell**

### **VIETNAMESE CONGREGATION**

Early on Sunday afternoons the KBC Vietnamese community gathers in the Church Hall for our worship time and then for a meal together. We have been fortunate to have various guest speakers come to lead us during this time when we do not have our own pastor. Rod Pell continues to offer his guidance and joins us from time to time when his health permits.

The young people meet for a Bible class at 11am on Sunday, and every Tuesday night at homes in the Western suburbs. Luan Walker has been active with the young people's ministry. The Adult Bible Study groups meet on Saturday evenings in people's homes in the Kew/Richmond areas. It has been very encouraging to have quite a few students from Vietnam participate in the community's life, and some of these are learning about Jesus for the first time through their interaction at KBC.

Since the beginning of this year, God has blessed us with about 10 new converts, some older folks as well as several young people. Ngoc Ha has been helping us with the baptism classes.

The music during our Sunday services has been a real blessing; we are growing this ministry and we look forward to some fundraising activities to add a set of drums and a keyboard to encourage more young people in this wonderful ministry.

Khoi Doan continues to provide overall leadership as Secretary. During the past year Huong Do was appointed as Treasurer. Whereas previously the Vietnamese congregation's offerings were handled through the Church Office and the general accounts of KBC, we have now opened our own bank account and have set up separate financial processes.



We have been continuing to pray about our need for pastoral support of the congregation as a whole and of our young adults, and have had discussions about the possibility of making an appointment as soon as this becomes possible. We value the prayer of the wider church as this process continues. We would love for the wider congregation to join us sometimes in our services; please feel free to come and join us on Sundays, especially the first in the month, where we can share in communion as well as a meal afterwards.

Shalom,

**Khoi Doan**

*The Sunday meal together is a significant aspect of the Vietnamese congregation's life (Mr Minh, Mr Tran, Richard Marshall)*

## CHURCH SECRETARY

There are two main things which struck me when I attended a morning service following two months overseas and I think they sum up the whole year so well. There was excitement due to the growth in numbers of people attending, and there was energy and varied participation.

It has been an exciting time to be part of the Diaconate with a focus on the overview of the whole church during the last twelve months. There has been anticipation watching the NightChurch community continue to grow numerically and spiritually, but also an element of uncertainty as the whole church banded together in prayer for our senior pastor, Rod Pell, as his health suffered some setbacks. We have very much been challenged as to where we, as individuals, but also as a church, look for our strength and direction. It has been inspiring to receive feedback on the various ministries of the church from all the deacons, as they are each involved in a variety of different activities.

We are absolutely spoilt at Kew Baptist with the depth of theological training and experience, and have been grateful for Ken Manley, Bill Leng and many others joining Rod Pell in providing challenging teaching and guidance. The whole church has benefited from the shared sermon series at the beginning of the school year, complete with small group studies. One overwhelmingly positive feedback received from the church meeting discussions has been appreciation of intergenerational mingling and sense of community these shared studies, now in their second year, have helped foster.



*Church Camp—Lilly Ballot-Jones makes a visitor (Rhianna Walsh) welcome; Krista Celle congratulates Jazlyn Langford on her newly announced engagement to Glynn Chambers; Callan Stephen looks forward to his meal.*

Church camp is always a time of meeting new people and forming deeper relationships with folk we may only see on a Sunday. While unfortunately I was unable to attend this year, all reports have been glowing with a large number of younger people attending, an answer to the faithful prayers of many in the congregation from 10 years ago. It has also been great in the NightChurch community to share with people exploring the gift of preaching, as Ken Manley led the preaching classes as a precursor for overseeing young adults preach on the book of Revelation.

Worship services are not the only focus of the deacons meetings, with general running of the church important to ensure that all activities are appropriately supported. It has been great to see maintenance improvements completed to the hall, in painting and upgraded toilets, as well as some safety changes made to the front entrance to the church. Many 'little' jobs which keep the building standing have been completed, thanks to the tireless work of Lindsay Smith and others. Working bees, for the Student Residence, the Possums group and also the church have seen some great interactions with people who do not necessarily attend the church services, but also big jobs completed where 'many hands make light work.'



The wider community has always been important and new expansions on initiatives such as the Friendship in the Flats are inspiring as we see God at work in many different ways. Ongoing outreaches such as Karana and Carrical continue to see relationships strengthened, as people are faithful to be where God has inspired them to serve.

It has also been inspiring to see that the initiative we took in faith to have three interns and Liz Taylor as part-time paid personnel, as well as adding to Grace Munro's administrative role in the office, has been validated in terms of the financial support and their important contribution to the life of the church.

***Helen Lewis, Church Secretary***

## **CHAIRPERSON**

I have had the opportunity to be the Chairperson of the Deacons for a number of years and I thought it may be helpful to tell you something about this group.

### **Firstly - who are we?**

Helen Lewis is our Secretary and Steve Taylor is the Treasurer. Deirdre Willis, Chris De Paiva, Glynn Chambers, and Geoff Trevaskis are the Deacons and Rod as Pastor and Grace Munro as Church Administrator are part of the group. And me of course.

### **When do we meet?**

We have a scheduled monthly meeting, usually on the third Tuesday of the month, and if the need arises special meetings as required.

### **What do we do?**

We review the different ministries of the church (the Student Res, Possums, Karana etc) and we receive reports from the Deacons regarding groups they are involved in or have a connection with (eg. Deirdre as President of the Possums, Geoff and his links with young families, etc.).

We deal with special matters that may come to our notice and we are bound to treat them with the utmost confidentiality.

There are a number of administrative and practical matters such as the church finances and property maintenance.

### **How do we function?**

When I first became a Deacon, most of the Deacons were male, elderly and wore suits and hats. We have moved on and are a lot less formal, and have some great younger people in the group.

We welcome submissions or ideas about how we can be more effective and how the church as a whole might continue to grow in faith.

We recognise that we are not the centre of all knowledge and that many ideas that have had a major effect on the life of the church have been put forward by people outside this group.

### **What do we hope to achieve?**

We rely on God to give us direction and we have seen the results of His leading, particularly in the decision to employ the interns and Liz Taylor to support Rod.

The opportunity to employ Grace as administrator (30-hours a week) has added significantly to the smooth running of the church.

We welcome new talent and if you feel you have something to offer and would like to know more, don't hesitate to talk to any one of us.

### ***Ray Leigh, Chairperson***



*From left:  
Ray Leigh  
Glynn Chambers  
Chris de Paiva  
Rod Pell  
Steve Taylor  
Grace Munro  
Geoff Trevaskis  
Deirdre Willis  
Helen Lewis*

## NIGHTCHURCH

### Who we are

NightChurch. Simply, a community who are striving to be like Jesus. We come from many walks of life. For the majority of us though, this walk has been about 18-26 years long. Many of us are from country areas; Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Horsham, Lancefield, Kyabram, Shepparton, Barham, Albury, Henty, Wodonga, Yea, Whittlesea, Leongatha, and Warragul. Some of us are from different countries; India, China, Nepal, New Zealand and the United States. Some of us are currently living in different countries; Singapore, Germany, Holland, Canada and India. And some of us much more local than that. God has brought us together. And for that we are very thankful. We rely on each other, walk with each other, struggle with each other, live with each other and enjoy life with each other.



### What we do

Many of us are studying, in fact we probably have every University in Melbourne accounted for and probably just about every discipline. Most of us work to pay the bills as well. As a community though, we connect with each other in a range of different ways every week.

Our Sunday night service is just one way we connect. If you want to know more about what we do, join us on Sunday at 7pm. You are more than welcome, you do not have to fit our demographics! We are always very encouraged by support from the morning congregation.

NightChurch has experienced a great loss following Rod's illness. God always has been and always will be our leader, but Rod has been very influential in exemplifying a life dedicated to Christ. We look forward to his return. In the meantime, we are very grateful to Bill Leng and Ken Manley for filling in the gaps. They have challenged us greatly, as have members of the preaching class led by Ken. We have heard from Chris Pickering, Taryn Atkinson, Renee Bazley, Michelle Edwards, Abrahm Gunn and Kez Pell. Thank you for your willingness to be used. Thanks too for the countless people who have been involved in curating the services, organising and playing music for the services, and for those on audio and data.

**Small Groups:** We also connect in a range of small groups throughout the week; *Ignitid* led by Steve and Michelle Duke, *Romans* led by Steph Bowers, *Guidance* led by Chris and Janine de Paiva, *Faith and Culture* led by Andy Mitchell, *Visionary Lives* led by Jazlyn Langford with Kendra and Johnathan Shaw, *Celebration of Discipline* led by Irene Schuringa and Mark Payne and finally *Girls Brunches* organized Laura Strange and Steph Bowers. Although not strictly a small group, a topical based group has been meeting to discuss many different areas regarding *relationships*. We are drawing on the wisdom and experience of many in the wider congregation and we are very grateful for their input.

**Carrical Boarding House:** NightChurch has a passion for reaching the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized. For many years a group has been going down to Carrical Boarding House once a month to put on a BBQ and spend time building relationships there. Many thanks to Dave McKeown, Christine Muller, Amy Williams and Steve Taylor and others who regularly give of their time and energy.

**Friendship in the Flats:** Twelve months ago another group joined members of a range of churches to reach out to the people living in the Atherton Gardens high rise commission flats on Brunswick Street. Here is what Taryn has to say: *The last few months have been really exciting at the Fitzroy Flats. We've been given free access to the community room on Wednesday nights, and it has been such a blessing to be out of the cold! Each week there have been opportunities to pray with people and we've been so encouraged to see different individuals' hearts be touched and affected by the love of Christ. We run a Bible study on every second Tuesday night, and although numbers are small and quite unpredictable, we really see that there is a hunger in people to study God's word. There is a transition going on at the*

moment within the core leadership team, and we're praying that God will continue to lead us and give us his vision for the flats. We're also looking to start a hiphop dance group, and are waiting to see if we have received funding from the council for this venture. Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement.



*The bus ride to Young Adults' Camp*

**Young Adults' Camp:** We kick-start every year with the young adults' camp. This year we were blessed to have use of Laura Bracken's parents' farm in Leongatha. It was a great time to meet new people and spend time with old friends. A highlight was the adventure to elephant rock – a completely unorganised adventure along the beach, on the rocks, across a channel and through the seaweed. It was totally worth it. Another highlight was Niru's Baptism at Inverloch. Good on ya Niru!

**Auburn Baptist** is very thankful to the commitment of particular members of our congregation for input into their services. Here is what Andy Hunter has to say: *Auburn Baptist continues to be another great way of serving for our music team. A group of musicians head to Auburn on the 3rd Sunday morning of each month, and provide the music for the small congregation who gather there. Thanks to Andy Hunter, Callan Stephen, Corey Leslie, Nathan Krelle, Joshi Philip, Dave Anderson, Amy Hill, Russel Dyer and Gorgee Gunaseelan, Tenielle McKenzie, Josh Taylor and Krista Celle for helping out.*

**ESA Camp:** Here is what Amy Hill has to say: *ESA Winter Teen Camp had a sea change this year (due to our Marysville campsite being destroyed by the Feb fires), we were made extremely welcome by Camp Wilkin! 80 campers and 25 leaders had a Mexican themed fun filled week. Rory Chambers led us in thinking about the Kingdom of God that was, is and is yet to come, reminding us of His promises and desire to see us bringing the Kingdom of God to earth. James Docking and I were stoked to have a significant number of our leaders from the Kew Baptist community: Lauren Smith, Tenielle McKenzie, Krista Celle, Jess Underwood, Coby Ramsden (and her folks as camp parents John and Flerina), Joshi Philip, Michael Ross, Josh Taylor, Andy Mitchell, and Andy Hunter. Thanks for your prayers.*

**The C's Camps:** NightChurch heavily supports The Camping Program based in Kyabram. This year so far the ministry in Corop has involved the following members from Kew; Ash and Bron Wright, Rory Chambers, Mat and Andy Hunter, Kate Steel, Glynn Chambers, Russel Dyer, Amy Hill, Jono Davenport, Alex Fronsko, Rene Bazley, Michael Ross, Lauren Smith, Freddie Gamadia, James Hayes and Dave McKeown.



*Niru Ramasamy tells of her journey in faith before her baptism at Inverloch*

**Scripture Union:** At the beginning of the year Jennie Taylor and Luke Gibbons were involved at Mallacoota with SUFM which was blessed with great weather and high attendances. Just next door to was the Theos group where we sent Laura Bracken, Em Hanscamp, James Hayes, Dave Hore-Lacey, Andrew Monk, Anna Muston, Jono Newmarch and Naomi Rock. Highlights were renewing contact with old campers and seeing them grow closer to God.

**STM:** Some of our community have been blessed to participate in various short term mission trips, Em Hanscamp (India with Apne Aap Women's Collective), Michelle Edwards (Philippines attending the International Christian Alliance Conference on Prostitution in Asia), Jono Newmarch (currently in Holland working at a Christian Backpackers Hostel, Niru Ramasamy and the Owen family (Philippines with Cornerstone Orphanage), Jenny Smith (South Africa with The Global Poverty Project).

#### **Other auspicious events:**

So far this year we have said *bon voyage* to Katie Adams (currently in Canada: travel and work), Sam Turner (Germany: study and work) and Tanya Pell (Amata: work), Ash and Bron Wright (moved to Wangaratta).

Since last annual report we've celebrated Andy and Claire Harkness' wedding, Russ Dyer and Gorgee Gunaseelan's engagement as well as Glynn Chambers and Jaz Langford's engagement and two baptisms: Niru Ramasamy and Julie McLachlan.

And a big thank you to Steve Pattison who diligently prepares NightChurch News to make sure we all know what is happening!

### **Where we are going.**

What is the point of all this? God is doing a lot in our lives and the lives of those He connects us with. Through various camps, beach missions, overseas missions, local groups, Bible studies, and services we are connecting with thousands of people from all walks of life. It is an honour to be used for His purpose. As a community we strive to be like Jesus. It is our hope and prayer that our individual lives show this as well as our life as a community of believers.



*After a NC service, lots of interaction*

We are expecting God to continue to do great things in our lives and in the lives of those around us. We expect to grow in our understanding of God and our relationship with Him and one another.

Please continue to pray for us that we might seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

### **James Docking**



*Mixed ethnicities and ages in the morning services*

### **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

Attendances at the 10.00am services have increased a little during the year, and it has been good to welcome some new families and individuals.

One recent innovation is having the various small groups in the church accept responsibility for helping to plan services and to assist in leading them. This has broadened the number who participate in the leadership of our services and various gifts have been apparent. Music has been

faithfully provided by our organist Gwyneth Smith, supported by David Mynard and Shirley Tuckwell, and the music teams. The choir under Ian Lowe's leadership and soloists, including Ian and Ann Bown-Seeley, have added to our worship.

Our pastor Rod Pell has again led us in a range of sermons including a series on Hosea and an advent series. Two series of sermons have been linked with church-wide study groups on Luke (Rod Pell) and then on Philipians (by Ken Manley). Since Rod's illness, Bill Leng on Old Testament themes, including on 'Covenant', and Ken Manley have preached regularly. Others from our congregation have preached, including Liz Taylor, Grace Munro, Dorothy Dullege and Basil Brown. Guest preachers have been Norman Pell on 21 June (when memories of the 1959 Billy Graham Crusade were recalled) and Geoff Blackburn.

Our thanks to all who have helped in numerous ways to assist us in our worship experiences.

### **Ken Manley**



*Elaine Hwang's baptism*



## PRAYER

*"If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. God's Spirit does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans." Romans 8:26 (The Message)*

*"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us too that God may open a door for our message." Colossians 4:2 (NIV)*

At the heart of all true prayer is a personal relationship with God. Often the difficulties of life are what God uses to test and refine that relationship. This has been the experience of our congregation since December last year as we have struggled with the reality of our pastor's illness (myeloma) and the uncertain future it has brought with it. This challenge, while not without its pain, is also able to stretch our prayer and increase our dependence on God. Sometimes this is an unseen effect, sometimes it is visible and outward. For example, on May 16 at Nightchurch, many of those present responded to the invitation to come to the front to pray for and lay hands on Rod and Liz, Kerryn and Natalie (Tanya was at Amata, SA). It was a moment of God-given encouragement – none of us present knew that a few days later Rod would begin his first chemotherapy treatment, five weeks earlier than originally planned.

God is wanting to renew our prayer but he is also inviting us to see how he is doing something new in our community. God's surprising grace has opened doors for Rod and others to share in potentially life-changing conversations with people at Possums and elsewhere. Let us not miss this amazing opportunity to pray for the coming of the Kingdom in our midst.

### **Tuesday prayer breakfast @ 7am**

Up to 12 of us have met for prayer each Tuesday morning in the Velvet Lounge. We pray for half an hour then enjoy breakfast together. A sincere thank you to Deirdre Willis for cooking the porridge in winter and generally looking after our needs. Since mid-May, Rod has been unable to attend



due to treatment for the myeloma and we have missed his leadership. We are grateful that Ken Lyall continues to come and inspire us with his Bible readings, usually taken from The Message paraphrase. Steph Bowers, James Docking, Amy Hill and Andy Hunter attend the prayer breakfast prior to their weekly Interns' meeting with Rod, and add a lot of life and vitality to the group and also keep us up to date with news of the Student Res and the NightChurch community. Our prayers focus on the needs of the world, our church community, including prayer for those serving God in distant places, and our own concerns. Recently Andy Mitchell and Naomi Rock have started coming along – you too are welcome! Why not come and join us?  
(Liz Taylor)

### **Tuesday prayer meeting @ 2.30pm**

This group meets at 2.30pm each Tuesday for prayer and fellowship. After a short devotion, we pray for our Church family needs, world difficulties and each other. We are blessed in this time and would welcome others who would like to share with us.  
(Val McPherson)

### **Sunday prayer meeting @ 9.30am**

Each Sunday morning at 9.30am a small group of people meet to pray for the worship service and those who have leadership responsibilities. Everyone is welcome to join them in the Pastor's vestry. Prayer is also made for people known to have special needs and the various ministries held in association with our church during the day and throughout the coming week. All are welcome to join in this ministry of intercession and encouragement.  
(Kingsley Smith)

### **Friday Young Adults' prayer meeting @ 7am**

Friday morning prayer happens at 7am, very faithfully, at the House (14 Highbury Gve, Kew). It is always on, and often attended by at least 4-5 people. In the last few months we have seen more Res students coming, which is great. Lately we have been averaging about 8 people.  
(Glynn Chambers)

## **Other Opportunities for Prayer**

We continue to offer an opportunity for people to have prayer before and after the morning service. I am grateful to those who help in this way. On Sunday evenings people involved in the service and others meet for prayer at the front of the Church before the service and afterwards opportunity is offered for those who would like to pray with someone.

Many small groups meet during the week. The sharing of prayer points and praying for each other and community needs is a significant part of the time together.

This year has seen a much greater use of prayer email inviting people to pray for various situations and people in need. This has been an excellent way of keeping people aware of what is happening during the week and linking many of us in a fellowship of prayer. Thank you to Grace Munro who co-ordinates all this from the office – the prayer emails are very much appreciated.

Two creative prayer nights have been held, one in September and one in May. Scripture readings, music, journal writing and painting have been used as a means of worship and connecting with God, others and ourselves.

More traditional Church prayer evenings have been held in December, May and June. These have been a blessing to those who have attended.

***Liz Taylor***

## **PASTORAL CARE**

The Pastoral Care team meets bi-monthly in the church vestry, normally with Rod Pell. In Rod's absence on sick leave, Ken Manley has been heading up the team. Recently, Jenny Clark and Anastasia Panagiotidis have joined the group, which is a joy to all. Each meeting is preceded by us having lunch together; thank you to Grace Munro for this wonderful time of fellowship over a very yummy lunch.

The purpose of the team is to try to keep in touch with all of the congregation, especially those unable to come to church, for example the folk at Karana. Between us, we make contact regularly with many people and in addition try to respond appropriately when particular needs come to our attention.

Grace has implemented a very efficient program of letting the team know of anyone who is sick, or who hasn't been able to come to church, or has made contact with the office about a matter of concern.

The leaders of all the small groups which meet weekly or fortnightly also maintain contact with folk, providing care if necessary. The Interns and other leaders in the NightChurch community are trying to ensure that one of them keeps in touch with those from that congregation who are not participating in small groups.

It has been inspirational to see the way Rod has continued to offer pastoral care to people through phone calls, emails, notes and personal contact during the time he has been receiving treatment for Myeloma.

The spirit of love and caring within KBC is very encouraging and much appreciated by all.

***Bev Smith***



*Prayer—foundational to all God is doing among us (Michelle Edwards)*

## MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

The trend in numbers of members and active participants in KBC is once again encouraging. And we are grateful that the numerical growth is accompanied by spiritual development as a community and for many individuals within it.

In our recent discussions about Covenant and being a Covenant Community based on God's grace, the topic of membership has also arisen. This raises questions about the intent and meaning of membership, and its outworking in the present climate. I believe there is good reason for us to look carefully at some of the ways we think about Church membership.



*Group discussion about Covenant at the Church Camp: Leonie Hibbins, Chara Meredith, Chris de Paiva, Clint Burfoot, Sarah Vosti*

- There are many people who are highly committed to God, our church and ministry who have chosen not to become "members".
- There are some who are "members" but who have chosen minimal involvement.
- There are others who no longer attend but would consider themselves still as "members" of KBC on the basis of having joined a long time ago. In this case, membership is seen to be like "citizenship" of a country.

This situation is not unique to KBC; most churches face the same dynamics. There seems to be a widely held perception that becoming a church member means joining an "institution" and, not surprisingly, that has little appeal to most people.

The traditional membership model may not be adequate in today's setting and we might consider what adjustments may be needed. Possibly it is about changing perceptions; that is, having people see that joining the church means joining not an institution but a covenant community, committed to God, each other and the purposes to which we are called. Or maybe there is a need for us also to make some changes to our processes. I would encourage ongoing discussion about these matters in the coming year.

In bringing this report, we note the passing during this year of Agnes Taylor, Ern Smithson, Nance Stewart and Winsome Abbott, and give thanks for their lives.

### **Grace Munro**

#### **MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AS AT SEPTEMBER 2008, prior to changes**

	English Sp.	Vietnms	Totals	
<b>Active members</b>	99	29	128	<b>2008</b>
<b>Absentee members</b>	6	4	10	
<b>Active non-members</b>	146	10	156	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>294</b>	
<b>Active Members as at 2008</b>	99	29	128	
<b>Add:</b> Accepted into membership	6		6	
<b>Deduct:</b>				
Moved to absentee roll	-7		-7	
Members who have died (Winsome Abbott, Nance Stewart)	-2		-2	
Members who have transferred away		-2	-2	
Roll revision/request	-2		-2	
<b>Active Members 2009</b>	94	27	121	
<b>Absentee members as at 2008</b>	6	4	10	
<b>Add:</b> transferred from Active Members list	7		7	
<b>Deduct:</b> Roll revision		-2	-2	
<b>Absentee members 2009</b>	13	2	15	
<b>Active non-members 2008</b>	146	10	156	
<b>Add:</b> New active non-members	60		60	
<b>Deduct:</b>				
People no longer attending	-22		-22	
Those who have died (Agnes Taylor, Ern Smithson)	-2		-2	
Those who became members	-5		-5	
<b>Active non-members 2009</b>	177	10	187	
<b>MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS, SEPTEMBER 2009, after changes</b>				
<b>Active members</b>	94	27	121	<b>2009</b>
<b>Absentee members</b>	13	2	15	
<b>Active non-members</b>	177	10	187	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>323</b>	

## **CHOIR**

The Choir has been able to continue to make a monthly contribution to the morning worship services despite a drop in numbers. A suggestion during 2008 that Music Team members not involved in the service sing in the choir was initially met with enthusiasm but this has since waned.

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first Billy Graham Crusade we extended an invitation to anyone interested to join with the choir in an afternoon of memories and song. We had a wonderful response and were particularly grateful to the Emmanuel Singers and The Melbourne Singers for their support. It was a great afternoon and my thanks go to all who helped to make it such a success.

My thanks to Gwyneth Smith for her valuable contribution to our services and grateful thanks to the little band of singers who make up the choir. Music is an important part of our worship and many in the congregation express their appreciation for our contribution. As music of this nature is heard less and less in our churches let's hope that it will still be heard at Kew Baptist for some years to come.

***Ian Lowe***

## **MUSIC TEAM**

The Kew Baptist Music Team continues to serve our community with music twice every Sunday. We have an incredibly cohesive team who put Christ at the centre of worship. There are nine music leaders, all of whom do an incredible amount of work; Chara Meredith, Chris Pickering, Claire Mullet, Jono Newmarch, Corey Leslie, Emily Hanscamp, Glynn Chambers, Erin Juers, Michelle Edwards, Rory Chambers.

The job of the music leaders is to commit to a roster for the year, where they become responsible for organising the music for a particular service. This involves: talking to the curator, prayerfully choosing songs, organising a team to play, setting up and running a practice, communicating the relevant information to those who need it, learning a kids' song, arriving at the service early, leaving the service late after they've packed up, caring for their team, caring for the congregation, running workshops and meeting every four weeks to discuss all the jobs they do.

That's just their official job description; they often end up picking up any loose ends before a service as well, just to ensure that it all runs smoothly.

So thanks to our music leaders. Thanks as well to the 40+ musicians who play in the team from time to time. Music at Kew Baptist would not be anywhere near as brilliant without the huge amount of work that goes in from lots of people!

***Andrew Hunter, coordinator***



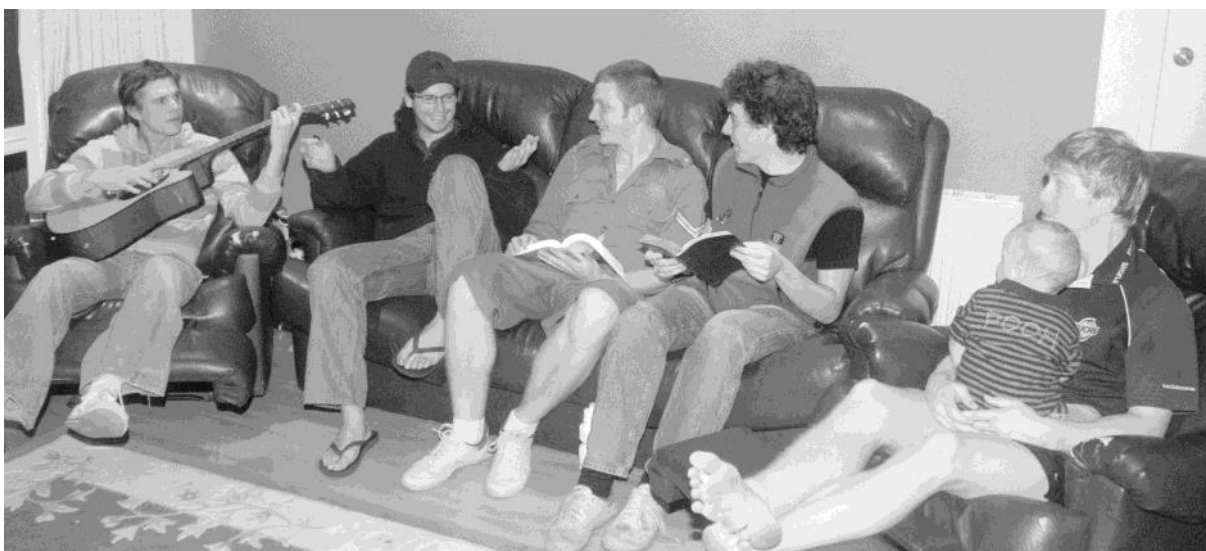
*The extent and diversity of musical ability at KBC is amazing (Nathan Krelle, Chris Pickering, Jake Owen; Katie Adams, Claire Mullet, Krista Celle)*

## SMALL GROUPS

For many people in our Church small groups are vitally important in their ongoing journey of faith, as places of learning, sharing and prayer. I asked a cross-section of the KBC community what they liked about their small group and these are the answers I received:

- *I am joyful and feel encouraged to see these young people who are really seeking God, really wanting to know Him and walk in His ways, passionate people. In our group we usually go around saying our prayer/praise requests—almost everyone has something to say, and the things shared are both challenging and encouraging.*
- *The thing I love about a home group is being able to meet with other Christians and just talk about God. I don't mind when we go off the topic a bit—I just love the conversation and being able to share with people my age about how good God is.*
- *I've enjoyed the opportunity to explore various spiritual disciplines, to share my thoughts, and to be encouraged and challenged as I hear other members of the group recount their experiences.*
- *The things I like best about small group are that I can study the Bible, worship the Lord, and form relationships with others in the group.*
- *I have really valued being part of a small group this year and the opportunity of getting to know new people. I have particularly enjoyed our current study on Guidance and God's will. It's been a great topic for discussing how God guides his people and how to trust him whatever our daily circumstances.*
- *I'm enjoying the Psalms small group because the Bible studies have given me new insights into this book. I like small group because I tend to be an introvert and feel comfortable praying in my small group. In contrast I wouldn't feel comfortable praying at NightChurch because of the large number of people there.*
- *I'm enjoying the Romans small group because of the cohesion of the group and the great leadership. Comfort in the group is achieved so readily and easily which is fantastic as well. I love the fact that everyone gets to share and give varying interpretations of the chapter being read.*
- *Small group has provided a great forum for discussion. It's fantastic to study with people who think so differently and yet approach the study with a heart for God. We can agree whole-heartedly or disagree passionately and still chat over a cuppa knowing no one has taken offence.*
- *Our study group has become dearer to us as it brings us closer to God and to each other.*

In first term in 2009, our whole church community studied the gospel of Luke (ch 4–12) through the sermons which Rod Pell preached in the morning and at NightChurch and through the weekly study groups; a total of 150 people were involved in 17 groups. Most groups were a mix of ages and this facilitated both learning and people getting to know others.



*One of the many small groups which has met during the year.*

In second term, Ken Manley did a series on the book of Philippians in the morning services and he also wrote a study booklet for groups. Eight small groups (some a mix of ages and others with people of similar ages) used this material to study Philippians.

There were four other groups catering for different interests and needs:

- *A Christian Response to Global Poverty*, a study developed by Baptist World Aid;
- *Sharing your Faith*, using Matthias Media material, *Six Steps to Talking About Jesus*;
- *Introducing God* a DVD series (similar to Alpha);
- Mums' Group, using KYB material on Mark's gospel.

In all, over 100 people were involved in groups during second term. The biggest group was the "Introducing God" group attended by 15-20 Student Res people each week.

This term, most of the groups which studied Philippians have continued but have chosen a variety of study materials. The Mums' group has taken a term off as it has been hard to get a regular number of mums together each week to make the group viable. A significant development this year has been the groups for young workers, a mix of young marrieds and singles plus a few older people. There are now three such groups – one group is studying *Acts (Ignition)*, another Faith and Guidance and the third group Spiritual Disciplines. Groups for Uni students, which include many students from the Res, continue to thrive. This term there is a group studying Romans, another group Faith and Culture and a third group Living Visionary Lives. Three evening groups—Psalms, "Breathing New Life" and "Neglected Voices" (a study of minor Biblical characters)—and a daytime group (Ephesians) for older people continue to be well supported. A number of young adults continue to have a ministry-focussed small group—Friendship in the Flats—in which they visit the high rise flats in Fitzroy each Wednesday night, distributing bread, chatting with people and running activities for children. In total, in term 3 around 110 people are involved in all these different groups.

This year another important aspect of the small group ministry has been the involvement of many small groups in the leading of morning services. This idea originated at the Deacons' Retreat in January. It has helped involve people who would not normally take an upfront role, got groups working together on a project and injected fresh life into our worship (reflecting the statement which appears in our bulletin each week, "we are all ministers of the church"). One visitor commented that it was a wonderful thing that so many members of the congregation were involved in leading services! There have been a few hiccoughs but overall I feel it has been very beneficial and blessed of God. Many thanks to Grace Munro for working with the groups in co-ordinating the morning services.

My sincere thanks also to all who host or lead a small group – it is a vital ministry you are involved in and well worth the time and effort.

If you are not in a small group but would like to be, please see me. Groups meet at different times and study various topics so hopefully there is a group suitable for you.

*Liz Taylor*

### **KEW BIKIE CLUB**

**KBC** is Kew's newest club, Kew Bikie Club; a group of us who ride bikes and ride bikes hard. We have a range of bikes and riders; from learners to old heads, and Posties to Ducatis. Our most successful trip this year has been down to the Great Ocean Road, an all-day trip with eight bikes. We had a great time and look forward to hitting the road again soon.

**Andy Hunter**



## **LADIES' EVENING FELLOWSHIP**

LEF meets monthly and proves to be a meaningful and inspirational time for all attending. Our speakers have provided much to think about and learn from while being interesting and informative.

Prayer times continue to inspire and encourage and are great times of fellowship. We are thankful for the rich sharing and caring and our feeling of unity.

A more informal time of sharing happens around our cup of tea or coffee and we would encourage ladies of all ages to come along and participate in this friendly fellowship evening.

Once again, a highlight of our calendar has been the Annual Dinner held at the Davie's home, and our thanks to Gwen and Arthur for their gracious hosting of this event. This year we were delightfully entertained by Ian Lowe and Gwyneth Smith. And it was wonderful to have our men along to share in this evening



*Birthday Celebrations at LEF in July: Audrey Lowe, Joy Griffin, Audrey Bennett*

We have continued to support an overseas child in Uganda with sponsorship through Baptist World Aid for another year, while gift tables and produce donations have supplemented our annual giving - which this year amounted to \$1,525.60 (July 08-June 09) enabling us to also make donations to Baptist Union *Mission in Victoria Fellowship*; Home Missions; Overseas Missions; Michelle Stancliffe and Lisa Detlefsen.

***Janelle Benwell***

## **PREACHING CLASS**

Preaching class is open to anyone within the Kew Baptist Church community who feels they may have the gift of preaching, and who would like to learn more about this gift and have the opportunity to test it within a nurturing and edifying environment. It comprises both prescribed teaching by way of handouts and reflective questions, and informal teaching, discussion and prayer.

Under the extraordinary pastoral leadership of Rod Pell and, more recently, Ken Manley, and assisted by Grace Munro and Liz Taylor, the class meets weekly during a series that runs for several months. In the initial meetings, topics such as the character and role of a preacher, preparing a talk, and the pragmatics of talk delivery in terms of speech and presentation are discussed. The group then conducts an exposition of a book or passage of Scripture, which constitutes a 'series'. All those who feel comfortable doing so are invited to contribute a talk to the series and to present this at NightChurch. Class time is divided between listening to and offering suggestions for talk preparations, providing feedback after each presentation, and praying for each other, the series, and our community.

This year in April, the series was led by Ken Manley and was titled 'All who have ears ...'. It explored the seven letters John wrote to the churches, in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. The group as a collective agreed that these letters have spiritual, scriptural, and practical relevance for the church today. Ken introduced the series, giving a context for the seven letters and the historical significance of these scriptures. Each speaker explored a single letter, specifically addressing the spiritual condition of the church to which the letter was addressed, considering its message for the present-day church. Some of the themes presented included the forsaking of our first love, Jesus; the importance of seeking and living in truth; and how to be spiritually alive.

The pulpit is a privileged position and for a church leadership team to be willing to entrust it to members of the congregation is something to be truly honoured. On behalf of the Preaching Class, I would like to sincerely thank Rod, Ken, Grace and Liz for inviting us to walk in what we believe may be our gifting and for generously encouraging, sharpening, and exhorting us in this.

***Renée Bazley***

## CHURCH CAMP

The theme of the camp was *Church Covenant; we're lovin' it*. People arrived throughout the evening on Friday night and as we arrived we were invited to create models of ourselves using toilet rolls and paper, etc, and place them in the 'Kew Baptist Church' built from cardboard to symbolise our relationship with God and with each other in this particular community of his people. The time proved to be an excellent opportunity to begin getting to know one another over a cuppa – as well as to listen to the story of how Glynn proposed to Jazlyn during the week (well worth hearing to if you don't know the story).



*Church camp started with the symbolism of making and placing 'ourselves' in 'Kew Baptist Church', and ended with us putting our thumbprints around the logo of the church to represent our commitment to this community. In between, we had lots of fun, learning and interaction.*

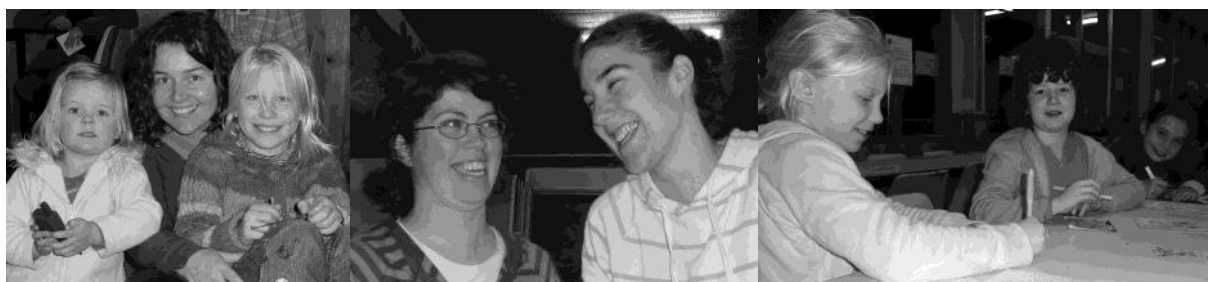
On Saturday, while the children enjoyed themselves with specially arranged activities, the adults discussed the nature of a church community, KBC in particular, and how we might express our commitment to God and each other in a covenant or mission statement. We worked in small groups discussing the current covenant and what, if any, changes we felt were needed to make it more relevant to our community. Everyone seemed to have something to contribute on the topic and there were lots of great discussions that had several common themes (too numerous to list here). The discussions could have continued much longer than the time allowed for, so consequently a group of people, coordinated by Geoff Trevaskis, is continuing to hear people's views.

Unfortunately the wet weather on Saturday meant there were no high ropes course, canoeing or bonfire this year which was disappointing; but despite this most campers ventured out in the afternoon—the coffee shop at Airey's Inlet Lighthouse was popular as was the trampoline! In the evening we shared roast dinner whilst grappling with some trivia questions and then came *Theatre Sports* (with elements of word association, charades and dramatic skits). The capacity of the children and young adults to work together to think quickly while acting out stories was quite remarkable. Later in the night there were several board games in use around the dining room as well as cards and *Assassins*.

Sunday morning's worship gave opportunity for a creative prayer time, for people to tell of God's goodness to them, and to hear from Bill Leng. We reflected on the symbol God gave to Noah, the rainbow, and objects which remind us of special times and events. Then, by placing our thumb prints around the church logo, we symbolised our commitment to the process of learning more of what God wants of us as a community formed by Him and dedicated to His service.

Thank you to all who made the Camp a great time—it definitely was a real team effort, but some people deserve special mention: Steph Bowers and the Youth Groups for the Friday night activities; James Docking for numerous phone calls and organising Saturday evening's social interaction (with many helpers on the night; unfortunately James was sick and wasn't at camp); Tim Jones and Claire Ballot for the children's activities on a damp Saturday; Grace Munro and Bill Leng for facilitating discussions on the Church Covenant; Chris and Janine de Paiva for the Sunday morning service and several others who assisted with the 106 registrations (full-time campers and day visitors) in the weeks leading up to camp.

### ***Leonie Hibbins and Grace Munro***



*Left: Zoe Duke, Amy Hill, Lilliana de Paiva; Centre: Jennie Taylor, Sally Whyte; Right: Lilliana de Paiva, Lauren Hunt and Rhianna Walsh (who joined the de Paiva family for the weekend).*



## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CRECHE**

A dedicated group of Sunday School teachers give of their time and creative energies each week to teach our children Biblical truths. Kathryn Barclay, Tarnya Harper, Kylie Kollmorgen, Tina Le, Annie Makar, Rebecca Makar, Christy Makar, Elizabeth Murari, Mark Payne, Natalie Pell, Lauren Smith, Jennie Taylor, Jenn Trevaskis, Ash and Bron Wright and Trina Zhou have all contributed during the past twelve months and we thank God for the support they are to our fellowship, enabling parents to worship God and to have Christian truths taught in the family, reinforced from outside.

At the end of last year we farewelled the Le family, returning to Footscray Vietnamese Fellowship, and Ash and Bron Wright moving to Wangaratta to live. We are thankful to God for Tina's faithful contribution to the Sunday School and Bron and Ash's gifts in teaching and relating to the children which they shared with us over six years.

An even larger number of committed folk look after our very small children in the crèche each Sunday morning and we are thankful for their willingness to share their love of children in this way, enabling their parents and the rest of the Church to focus on worship.

At present we have thirty-six children on our Crèche/Sunday School lists. This is a significant number of young lives we have the privilege of ministering to, although the numbers fluctuate each week. We continue to follow the Scripture Union materials and spend the first ten minutes of Sunday School time singing songs which will enhance the children's understanding of God's work in the world and in their lives.

An organisational change has occurred this year with the youth in Years 5 to 8 meeting during Sunday School time under the care of Corey Leslie, Grace Miller, Mat Hunter, Kate Steel and Laura Strange. This group is linked with a couple of social activities each term and now comes under the care of Steph Bowers who has been looking after Youth Group for Liz Pell while Rod has been undergoing treatment. There are ten young people who come into this category and they have had some worthwhile and fun times together this year.

I would also like to thank Liz Taylor who has taken over responsibility for co-ordinating the Sunday School during the second half of 2009 while Rod is in and out of Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

***Liz Pell***



## YOUTH GROUPS

It has been a year of change for the Youth Groups with Liz Pell, who has been the coordinator for almost a decade, handing the responsibilities over to Steph Bowers once Rod began treatment for Myeloma. Liz has done a fantastic job, and is missed.

### Junior Youth

What an entertaining year the junior youth have had so far! For those unfamiliar with the format of the fairly recent 'Junior Youth', those attending morning services from grade 5-8 have begun to meet in the velvet lounge each week for chats, learning, and of course messy (but informative) activities.

These mornings have been a great opportunity for all to have fun while learning what it means to live as a Christian and have a relationship with God, and also getting to know each other. First semester's studies focussed more on the essential yet oft forgotten basics of being followers of Jesus, while in second semester we are learning about 'heroes' from the Bible who have displayed inspiring amounts of faith in God, and are trying to take that into our own lives.

On top of these Sunday sessions, Junior Youth also embarks on two or three external activities a semester ranging from "Hunt the (oddly dressed) leader" at Vic Gardens, to watching the footy at the MCG or sightseeing at the Dandenongs. Leaders of Junior Youth this year have been Grace Miller, Laura Strange, Mat Hunter, Kate Steel and Corey Leslie, and we are looking forward to spending more quality time with these awesome youths as the year continues. (Corey Leslie)

Here are some reflections on the past year:

- Loved the egg game and 'in the den, out of the den' —demonstrates the importance of never giving up and keeping on trying! Also the strong faith and courage displayed by Daniel in the lions' den was memorable. (Milly Pizarro-Cardenas)
- Also enjoyed those games and what we learned. Particularly the egg game (which consisted of two teams passing a raw egg between team mates until the yoke broke... was the record 112 cycles?) (Zach Pudney)
- Learnt to never volunteer! (after graciously receiving peanut butter all over his face...) (James Worboyes)
- Decided my favourite thing was making Crunchie slice—and eating it of course. (Mat Hunter)



Left: 'Hunt the leader' night (Lower picture: Milly Pizarro-Cardenas, a visitor, Amanda Tan, Hailey Hunt, Lilly Pizarro-Cardenas; Centre: Matt Hogan, Jacob de Paiva and James Worboyes; Right: Lachlan Hogan)

### Senior Youth

This year, the senior youth have been led by Steph Bowers and Luke Gibbons and have enjoyed meeting together in the House on Sunday evenings to study a range of topics. We began the year looking at the book of Luke with the wider church community, and also studied Philippians and Colossians later in the year. Currently we are working through a Tim Hawkins *Discipleship Training Series* and considering our commitment to God within every aspect of our lives.

The youth have each had the opportunity to try leading the Bible study for a week, and we have also spent time studying the Bible one-on-one with young adults from NightChurch. It was wonderful to see the youth lead a NightChurch service together and seek to serve God in new and challenging ways. (Steph Bowers)

Here are some reflections on the past year:

- At church camp, the youth organised the Friday night activity, which was an awesome success! We also played table tennis round-robins—so much fun! During the studies we have focused on Philippians, Colossians and right now we are studying a *Discipleship Training Series*. This year has been a great year of learning, growing and making new friends. (Bec Makar)
- At youth group this year we have joined with the junior group and gone to the footy, played Hunt the Leader and gone bowling. In our Bible studies we have studied Philippians, how to trust God, how to treat Jesus as Lord and how to make godly decisions. (Christy Makar)
- Youth group has been a great opportunity to create new friendships and strengthen those that we already had. Our studies have been based on our relationship with God and with others, how to be joyful in Christ and to live for Him. This year the senior youth group joined with the junior youth group and together we ran a NightChurch service. This was a great opportunity to get to know the younger people and also the young adults in our church community. (Annie Makar)
- It is so encouraging to see the young people gathering week after week in a small group as they grow closer to God. We have also had a lot of fun, going to Sky High in the Dandenongs & bowling together. (Luke Gibbons)



*Top: Youth group bowling night. Above: Grace Miller, Amanda Tan, Milly Pizarro-Cardenas, Kate Steel.*

**Steph Bowers, Coordinator**

Special thanks to **Janine de Paiva** who coordinates the Children's Times in the morning services, and for all the people who have helped lead these segments, almost always with remarkable creativity, and in the one pictured (led by Andy Hunter), a bit of mess as the result of eating icecream!



## MINISTRY TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

### KEW STUDENT RESIDENCE

It's exciting to look back on all that has happened in the past twelve months and see the many ways in which God has worked. There was a smooth transition last July with the de Paivas leaving and the Dukes moving in. It was great that Chris could spend a few days with Dukey going through some of the details of running the Res.

Despite a couple of students leaving mid-year in 2008, we managed to fill their places, so had a full house for the whole year. This has again been the case in 2009. We acknowledge God's provision in the students who are currently living at the Res. There is a sizeable group of committed Christians who have been positive leaders and influences on other students. The sense of community and belonging is evident and it is exciting to see the way relationships between students, students and House, and students & staff deepen.

Because we have had a full house for a couple of years, it has meant we have been able to carry out some significant maintenance. In the past twelve months the entire external of the building has been painted, old side upstairs bathroom fixed with new showers and floors, the disabled toilet re-clad, heating re-zoned, improved and serviced, insulation installed, fire alarms hard-wired and new panels installed, re-guttering and re-roofing as necessary, slate roof repairs, decking at managers' residence, balustrades on new wing replaced, solar panels installed, creation of the study room (and it is well used), car park garden revamped, as well as re-flooring, re-stumping, installing heating and insulation at The Highbury Grv House. There are plans to install a solar hot water service and water tanks in the near future. While costly, this work means a safer and more comfortable environment for all who live here.

The 'Spring Racing' formal last October was a fantastic event. Reflecting on the year through stories and photographs made it clear to see that it had been and full and fun year. A second footy match was held in October between Res and ex-Res, and the mixed netball teams continued. The Res Olympics, held in August, were definitely a highlight.

The end of year service in November 08 went well and the barbeque in the park was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy each other's company, say thanks and give Kris Kringle gifts. Sadly, at the end of the year we farewelled Amy Hill from her support staff role. It's impossible to express in words the impact Amy has had on the many students she's worked with over the past four years. Her commitment, wisdom and enthusiasm are admirable and we, along with the de Paivas, value her input into the Res. Amy and Glynn Chambers worked exceptionally well together and have been a great support to the managers. Thankfully Glynn stayed on for a second year meaning the transition between Amy and Krista Celle went very well. After no initial applications, we are so thankful that Krista prayerfully considered and took on the support staff role and there is no doubt she is the right person for the job. Glynn and Krista continue to play a significant role in the Res. The dedication they show to the students, the energy they bring, and the insight and advice they offer foster a healthy and supportive environment for students. We are thankful too for the work of Andrew Cramer (senior student) and the contribution he makes.



*The contribution made to the students and church young adults by former and present support staff at the Res is immeasurable—Amy Hill (pictured with Niru Ramasamy), Glynn Chambers, Krista Celle*

In February the Dukes, Glynn and Krista and the five members of The House (Steph Bowers, James Docking, Andrew Hunter, Yasmin McGrath and Chris Pickering) enjoyed a weekend away at Phillip Island. This was a great opportunity to set some goals for the year and discussing our purpose at the Res. It was encouraging to be able to share ideas and pray together for the year ahead. The opening service in 2009 went well. It was great to see so many of the parents and families here, as well as many members of the Church. We really appreciate the support the church offers in practical, financial and prayerful ways.



Relay for Life in March again provided an opportunity for students to become involved in the life of the Res and the wider community. Again we won the prize for best-dressed team – the Ancient Greek Theme worked a treat. The chariot was ridden proudly around the course during the night, although the togas were replaced with warmer clothes once the temperature started to drop.



*The Res / ex-Res and Res / Church footy matches are fun for players and spectators alike*

We shared an Easter meal, as well as listening to and discussing issues around the Easter story, and finding 400 eggs hidden in the Possums playground. The Res vs Ex-Res footy match was held again in May, and the contest was fierce with Ex-Res winning by one point. A mixed netball team made finals after a sluggish start to the season, and a basketball team will soon begin. Andy Mitchell began a 'Res Small Group', providing a fantastic opportunity for people to ask questions and find out more about God in a non-threatening environment. It has been exciting to see many students (Christian and non-Christian) attend this small group and then become involved in the life of the Church. It's amazing to watch the way God works in the lives of students during the year.

Our chef, Cindy came to us in September last year and has been a blessing. As well as cooking good food, she has become involved in the community and comes along to a lot of social events, contributing above and beyond what is asked of her. We appreciate that she has been able to stay for this time (and hopefully for longer).

Overall the Res continues to be a vibrant, healthy community. We are thankful for the many people who contribute to this. Special thanks to the Committee (Carin Kloppers, Sheila King, Tim Jones, Nic Barclay, Amy Hill, Kylie Kollmorgen, Rod Pell/Ken Manley, and Ray Leigh as Loans' Officer) who have been so welcoming and supportive of us, as well as having fantastic visionary ideas. The contribution made by Leeanne Hunt and Shirley Tape who concluded on the committee at the last AGM has also been much appreciated.

We also appreciate the support from the Church and trust you'll continue to pray for the happenings at the Res as well as the lives of the students. We are looking forward to what the rest of the year holds and trust God to continue to work in all things.

***Stephen and Michelle Duke***



*Michelle, Stephen, Zoe and Ambrie—how fast those little girls are growing. The photo at left was from early 2009, at right at the July Church Camp.*

## THE HOUSE (14 Highbury Grove)

At the beginning of the year Glynn Chambers, Krista Celle, the Dukes (Res staff) and members of the house – Andy Hunter, James Docking, Chris Pickering, Steph Bowers and Yas McGrath - got together in Phillip Island for the weekend to spend time getting to know each other and plan the year ahead. Together we were able to determine what our main goals for the year would be and plan out activities for 'O week'.

The main priorities of the house are to help build community by providing a space for the students of the Res and members of the church to come over, hang out and meet new people, in a safe environment, and support the Dukes and Staff at the Res.

Throughout this year already the house has been host to many BBQs; Girls Brunch which has been a great way to get to know the girls from both the church and the Res; Movie nights; Supper; Youth Group; Small Groups; Sunday night dinners and numerous cups of tea and coffee.

Recently the house has had some repair work done, making the house much more comfortable which each of us are very grateful for.

A big part of living in the House is building relationships within the church and Res community, being genuinely interested in each and every person that knocks on the door, trying to live through example and to work together as a team of diverse individuals to pursue the mission God's given us.

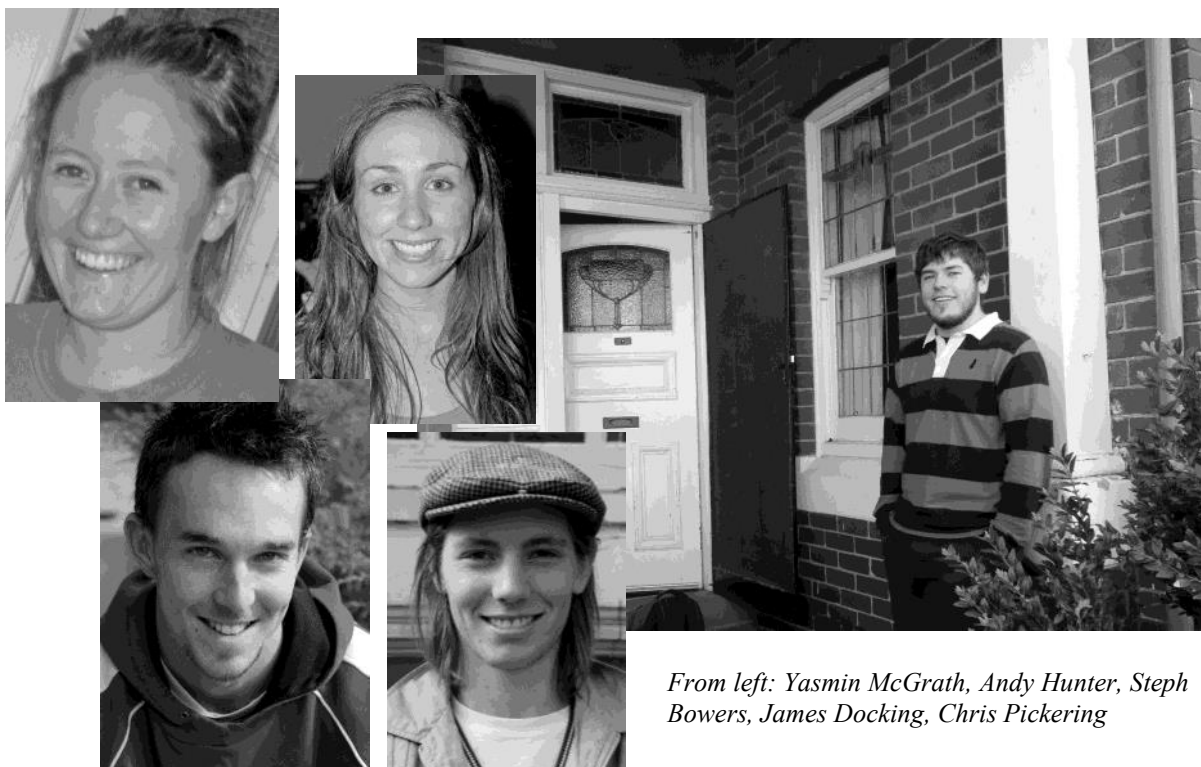
For me personally the House has probably taught me more than I had ever expected. Moving in at the beginning of the year I didn't really have many expectations of how the year was going to unfold.

It's not always very easy living in the house surrounded by people constantly (although it's made a bit easier when you have a bunch of amazing people to share the house with) and trying to make sure that I spend enough time with each of the students at the Res.

I think one of the things that living here has taught me, apart from time management and you don't need as much sleep as you think you need, is that there are so many people in this community who are so selfless and always willing to help you out. Whenever we decide to organise an event, or even taking over the Sunday Night dinners while the Pells were unable to do them, people are so kind, generous and always willing to help out - whether that be through providing food, money or their time to help set things up.

I am so grateful for being given the opportunity to share a house with four other great people and to be a part of the Kew Baps community.

### Yasmin McGrath



*From left: Yasmin McGrath, Andy Hunter, Steph Bowers, James Docking, Chris Pickering*

## POSSUMS PLAYGROUPS AND KINDERGARTEN

It has recently been the time for school reports. This often triggers conversations at Possums amongst those with children at school. Occasionally, I have even been privileged to share a good report with a proud parent. Discussion can be very wide ranging. An overriding theme this year was whether the child's results reflected the effort that had been expended. Did the teacher's assessment of the child's effort match that of the parent or even the child itself? Overall, it appeared that the actual result was less important than having that effort box ticked at one hundred percent. It's like that with Christian ministry: we often don't see the results we expect or like, but that doesn't mean that we are to discount our efforts or put in less than a hundred percent, and there is always room for improvement.

The effort involved in maintaining Possums is considerable. Being a Kew Baptist Church ministry it has Christian parameters that we try to work within, and being a community resource we have regulations that we must meet. The integration of these two aspects is what makes Possums special. How are we doing at Possums? If a measurement of success is numbers attending, then we are doing well, with close to capacity enrolments. However, in ministry, numbers aren't everything and some of our hopes and aspirations are less easy to measure. As in all things, though, more time and effort working towards our goals and objectives can only help. We have two groups of people who are definitely putting in one hundred percent. They are the Possums Committee (including David Benwell, Ray Leigh and Deirdre Willis from KBC), who do a marvellous job looking after the day to day, week by week operation of Possums, and the Possums Ministry Support Team (Jenny Clark, Ray Leigh, Anastasia Panagiotidis, Rod Pell, Ann Seeley, Carol Warner and Deirdre Willis), who look at the bigger picture of mission and represent the Kew Baptist Church ministry aspect.

Jenny Clark comes to Possums on a Thursday morning and she has agreed to share some of her thoughts with us. She writes:

*"When I was approached by a member of Possums Committee, asking if I would like to be involved as a helper, I was reluctant. Due to the fact my grandchildren had attended and loved going to Possums and also my admiration for Miriam and her leadership, I decided to do a term. That term became a year and now over three years later, I realise my involvement has become an important part of my commitment to God.*

*Times spent with Possums families, mums and dads, grandparents, nannies, has become very special....making new friends, lending a listening ear, helping to mind siblings, offering encouragement and support. We watch newborns arrive, nurse and care for them, then all of a sudden those babies are joining in, being part of the activities.*

*We all become involved together in all activities, whether it be preparing fruit platters, cleaning, music time, craft or outdoor play.*

*The children and families all become our friends. We miss each other if any are absent, or when it is holiday time.*

*At times I have been asked to pray for family situations. God gives me many opportunities to share my faith and trust in God and tell of my involvement in our church life here at Kew."*

Having some time away this year, I especially appreciated the stability that the church helps provide for their groups. Having Bec Rugers, who is one of our Possums mums, take on the teaching position was also a blessing as it meant that there was no disruption to the program or attendees.

To everyone who contributed to Possums over the past twelve months in any way at all, thank you. All efforts are appreciated and valued and mostly don't go unnoticed. We look forward to a future of reaping the rewards of all the efforts expended on Possums' behalf. If you, like Jenny, would like to be more involved, we would be pleased to welcome you. Sharing this ministry with you is my pleasure and privilege.

**Miriam Schmidt, Possums Co-ordinator**



*Deirdre Willis, pictured here with Patrick Worboyes, is a regular and welcome participant in Possums.*



### **CHAT AND CHEW**

Chat and Chew was started in February 2003 and has met on the last Thursday of the month from February to November, that is, ten times each year. Lunch starts soon after noon followed by the program, concluding no later than 2pm.

The aim of Chat and Chew has been to provide friendship for older men, early retirees and the unemployed.

Today, Chat and Chew meets at Karana where the catering is done by the kitchen staff, and Felicity Rentos coordinates the workers who set up the community centre and the carers who see that assistance is given to those who have limited mobility.

Of more recent times, in spite of considerable 'drop outs' due to deaths and changed circumstances, numbers attending have increased to about 30 including a good representation from the independent living apartments at Karana.

A varied program is offered, including community singing led by Brian Garth and David Mynard, interesting speakers on a variety of subjects, and appropriate visual displays.

Many expressions of appreciation have been received for different aspects of the programs, including the inherent encouragement to accept and live the Christian life.

God's blessing is evident, and all members of the Chat and Chew team are appreciated.

***Kingsley Smith, Convenor***

### **CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

I started teaching CRE at Kew East Primary School where I found a solid and strong team, and I learned a lot from them. When I felt braver, I came to Kew Primary to help to build a CRE team, because for more than ten years the school had struggled to set up a team. We would value prayer for an increasingly good relationship with the Principal and staff in relation to the teaching of CRE in this school.

Sometimes it can be very tiring and discouraging but when I feel down I think of the kids and their big eyes when I read the Bible to them. They want to know more about Jesus and his miracles all the time.

This year I'm teaching three grade 3 groups, and I'm loving it. God is providing more volunteers each year. At the moment from KBC we have Deirdre Willis, Ray Leigh and me and I'm sure we can have more next year.

This is a very rewarding job and it is such a privilege to be able to connect God with children; it is just magic; every lesson is a journey.

Most of the kids are not linked with churches, and they know little or nothing about God. But they are not afraid to ask the things they want to know. The majority have never read the Bible, and do not even have one at home. But, one thing is sure, they are open to God and sometimes they ask me for a Bible.

**Marisol Pizarro-Cardenas**



## MISSION, AID AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Meeting about every two months, this group provides one venue amongst several for us to share recent experiences with others who have a heart for action arising from social justice concerns and a desire to share the faith.

Time is spent in prayer for the speakers and for others from Kew BC working in cross-cultural ministries in Australia and overseas. In addition, between Sept 08 and Sept 09, post cards were written to many, including Aidan, John and Janine Barclay, Peter and Sue Bird (Sarah's parents), Lisa Detlefsen, John and Margaret Docking (James and Thomas' parents), Thomas Docking, Russel Dyer, David and Eryl Edwards, Bonnie Miller, Tanya Pell, Michelle Stancliffe, Tin and Anh Van Pham and Sarah Vosti.

### October 08: Laura Bracken, Niru Ramasamy and Anna Muston

- **Laura, Niru and Anna** showed slides and talked of their trip to visit rubbish dumps in the Philippines, in order to document, on film, the lives of people who live as squatter communities and scavengers on and around these dumpsites. The girls were able to visit and see the work of organisations such as Samaritana in Manila, engaged in sharing and living out the Gospel among Filipino women caught in prostitution, and Cornerstone House, an orphanage for 18 boys (former street kids) on Cebu Island.

### November 08: Amy Hill and Michelle Edwards

- **Amy** reported on plans to move to the Collingwood/Abbotsford area, with Laura Bracken and Katie Ward, as a different form of outreach to people in that area, offering friendship, not charity. A team of young adults from Kew BC has been visiting the high-rise flats every Wednesday evening for many months, offering friendship and a range of after-school activities to children and families who live there.
- **Michelle** shared her plans to attend the Asia Regional Conference in Manila, in January, of the International Christian Alliance on Prostitution.

### February 09: Michelle Edwards and Russel Dyer

- **Michelle** reported on the various intense activities of the conference she had attended, including training in counselling, panel workshops, networking and learning of the shocking extent of human trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Russel** talked of his year teaching English and sport at the International School in Yemen. Russel expressed thanks for prayer during his time away, also gratitude to God for the provision of finances and career opportunities that had opened up after his arrival. He had roomed with Josh Power (formerly of Kew BC) in the old part of the capital, Sanaa.

### March 09: Bonnie Miller and Janine Barclay

- **Bonnie** showed slides and spoke about her six months in Cambodia, assisting in a number of ways with the running of Hope International School, which was established in 2002 by her parents. She spoke of the many challenges of cross-cultural work of this kind, and of what she had learned of patience, trust, and reliance upon God.



*Children, made in God's image and precious to him, living in the squalor of rubbish dumps in the Philippines, as pictured; the horror of being trafficked and forced into addiction and child prostitution with resultant HIV/AIDS; the terror of fleeing from conflict and war as refugees; the sadness of homelessness in Melbourne. KBC, with the MAD group, plays a small part in shining God's light into the lives of children and adults such as these.*

- **Janine Barclay** spoke briefly of the plans she and John had for returning to India for a further six months, for John to assist the new Principal of Hebron International School to settle in and learn the ropes, for Janine to continue her role as Third Culture Kids (TCK) Advisor, and both to act as dorm parents in the boarding school. Janine's job will require her to find and train regional TCK advisors. Beyond that, they were unsure what God had for them in 2010.

**June 09: James Docking and Amy, Laura, Jazlyn and Katie at Stanton Street**

The MAD Group met on this occasion at 19 Stanton Street, Abbotsford, and shared a meal with Amy Hill, Laura Bracken, Jazlyn Langford and Katie Ward. It was a chance to catch up with what they were each doing and how relationships were developing between them and others in the local community. In addition, James Docking reported on his parents' recent move to Jinja, a town in Uganda, where they had plans to stay and work for at least two years, his father (a plumber) as an instructor of youth in the trade school, and his mother as a midwife at the local clinic.

**August 09: Emily Hanscamp**

- **Emily** had just returned from a month as a volunteer intern with a Women's Collective working in a red-light district of Mumbai in India. Everything about her experience was deeply shocking and confronting – the gigantic numbers of women involved in prostitution (7.5 million in India), 50% being minors, and the vast majority having been stolen from their families at a very early age by the deception of people-traffickers; the appalling abuse and neglect of the girls and women by those who controlled them; the powerlessness of the victims to escape their lives of slavery and misery. Despite all these negatives, the Women's Collective and the Oasis organisation that Emily visited offered glimmers of hope, reaching out to the women with medical aid, emotional support, education for children born to the women, vocational training, and micro-credit. Under-staffed and under-funded, these organisations attempt to make a difference, and there were links with a number of churches who also sent workers into the brothels. Some rare stories of success gave hope. Emily reported overwhelming feelings of grief and sorrow after her return to Melbourne, and much prayer and soul-searching, to process her experiences and seek a direction for the future.



**Plans for 2009-2010**

The MAD Group will continue to support, pray for and write to those connected to Kew BC who work in cross-cultural ministries in Australia and overseas. Membership is open to any interested person and visitors are welcome at all meetings.

**Deirdre Willis**

*See the last page in the report book for the allocation of funds for Mission, Aid and Development*

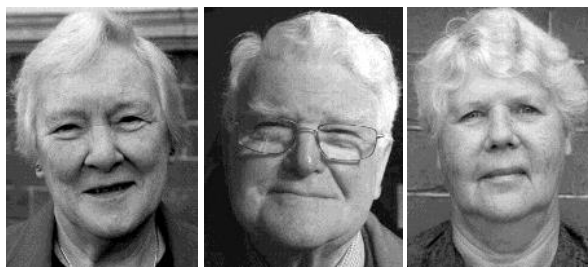
**GOOD GRUB**

It is sad that there is a need for Good Grub, but most encouraging that so many people are willing to help.

Rev Pam White, from the Uniting Church, oversees the whole venture – arranging rosters of volunteer helpers, planning and cooking barbecues and distributing gifts of clothing, toiletries and tinned food: gifts of good clean clothing, tinned food and toiletries are always welcome.

Good Grub is held at the Kew Uniting Church Hall in Highbury Grove. Every Tuesday, a hot meal is provided for about 50 lonely, disadvantaged folk in our area and they receive a warm welcome and have the opportunity for social interaction.

**Edith and Ken Lyall and Evelyn Meindersma**



## ABBOTSFORD HOUSE

### Household Aims:

- Immerse ourselves in the neighbourhood and community of Collingwood/Abbotsford.
- Become a local, understand what its like to live in the area, *connect*.
- Commit to serving our neighbours, living hospitably, openly sharing life with those we come into contact with.
- Commit to praying together as a household and having an open house that is always warm and inviting to others.
- Provide friendship, not charity!
- Connect people to one another (Nightchurch/Student Res/Collingwood community), share God's love through example, action and friendship.
- Learn from the experience and hardships of others and be stretched in our understanding and perception of God.
- Find out what God is already doing in this area and join Him in that.

Looking over these points as a household we feel we are beginning to touch the surface of these aims. We recognise that becoming a 'local' takes time and involvement in many facets of a community. With commitments to work, study and existing commitments Kew community, time is sometimes a challenge. The following examples are some of the ways we feel we have been able to begin to connect with the Collingwood/Abbotsford community.

- Connecting with some members from the local church (St Martins/Concern Australia) and some of their ministries. Jazlyn has headed up *Livewires*, sharing computer skills, laughing, and learning literacy skills with primary students from the Collingwood Housing estate.
- Being regular visitors to *Lentil as Anything* and forming relationships in the Abbotsford Convent community. Laura is particularly committed to making connections between local people and the refugees and asylum seekers that *Lentil as Anything* support (many are clients with whom Amy works).
- Local primary schools. Jazlyn has had the opportunity to pour into Collingwood kids through relief teaching, connecting to the community with parents through their children.
- Amy has had more opportunity to meet students at the Collingwood language centres for both secondary school age and young adult newly arrived young people. Amy's work at Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre has allowed her to submit a grant application for a 'girls only' youth group in the Youth Space below the Collingwood Housing Estate, she is eagerly awaiting the results of that!



*Do you recognise them?  
From top left: Laura  
Bracken and Amy Hill,  
Amy with Lauren Smith;  
Jazlyn Langford with her sister  
Kendra Shaw; Laura  
Bracken, Katie Ward  
(eating cat food?), and  
Katie again.*

- We have focused on hospitality, our home being a safe haven and a place for others to come to and share in. Katie is our amazing resident 'home maker' and chef extraordinaire!
- Forming relationships with some of our neighbours, eating meals with them, attending their parties, having them over to ours.

We are so appreciative of the prayer, support and interest from all at Kew Baptist and are thankful to God for His provision and the many life lessons he is teaching us daily, as individuals and a house. We are excited about what the new year holds, as we seek to live for Him in this community.

**Amy Hill**

## **KARANA**

"Congratulations. Fifty years of wonderful service to all who have had the pleasure of living and working here. Well done!"

These encouraging words epitomized the general feeling as we celebrated our anniversary on Tuesday 25 August. We shared a walk down memory lane as we heard some of the history, talked with previous staff members and looked at a photo board presented to Karana.

The opening of the new arbour in the rose garden is an acknowledgement of the tireless work of the Auxiliary over many years and will be enjoyed by residents in the warmer weather. The anniversary was a great celebration and for Mary Pocklington was filled with a mix of emotions. Her comment, "This home has given me peace of mind" echoes that of many others. It is with a note of thankfulness that Karana continues to provide care and support to the 93 residents. It is also with a sense of thankfulness that new staff who know and love the Lord have joined the team.

This year we welcomed Carlo Rizzi to the position of Manager following Heather Rota's resignation, so once again it has been a year of change.

All the regular monthly programs continue with Fellowship Afternoons, Pleasant Sunday Afternoons, Prayer Circle and Men's Chat and Chew. These times of presentation by guest speakers are welcome social occasions when residents are able to share together while enjoying something to eat and a cuppa. A new initiative this year has been the fortnightly Bible Study which is enjoyed by a small group of residents. We are slowly journeying through the gospel of John.

The regular Chapel services continue on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as well as Sundays. We are very blessed with wonderful speakers who give freely of their time and energy in preparing and leading the services. Sundays are always a special morning with the Chapel full, and around 40 residents attending regularly.

We give thanks for the support offered to Karana by the Kew Baptist Church and our thoughts and prayers are with Rod and family at this time.

We also give thanks to God for another year at Karana.

*Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he,  
I am he who will sustain you.  
I have made you and I will carry you;  
I will sustain you and I will rescue you. (Isaiah 46:4)*

**Ruth Prentice, Chaplain**



## **CARRICAL**

It's been great to continue serving the people at Carrical this year. We have enjoyed many fantastic conversations with the residents and have had the opportunity to get to know people on a deeper, more personal level. Some of the residents suffer from ongoing mental illnesses and depression. Although the managers, Pat and Brian Hall, and CEO Matt Maudlin do a great job supporting these people, some of them require additional medical or professional help. However, due to current pressures in the health system, many people miss out on the support they need – so your ongoing prayers and support are especially valuable. As part of this ministry it's been very encouraging to get alongside these guys and spend time together playing pool, darts, or simply chatting and hanging out, as relationships are being built.

Some prayer points for the monthly BBQs and residents of Carrical;

- Thanks to God for the current enthusiastic team who have been willing to give up their time and become involved with the BBQs.
- That people (from the church community or other) will continue to be involved and committed to the BBQs and that friendships with residents will keep growing.
- That the residents may come to know that they are valuable, important individuals loved by God, and that they can make a positive contribution to our society.
- Pray for wisdom in the words we speak, that we'll have meaningful conversations and know what and when to speak.
- Pray that we'd foster a sense of trust, openness and honesty with the residents.
- That management and other organisations who are committed to Carrical would be encouraged in their work.

We've started praying at Dave's house beforehand, which has helped solidify the team, as well as put God as our focus before we head in and host the BBQ. This is something that we have found as a real benefit and hope to continue over the next year.

Many thanks to Ha Vo, Amy Williams, Steve Taylor, Sarah Dovey and Krista Celle for their work at the BBQs throughout the year, as well as the efforts of West Hawthorn Baptist Church. We would also like to thank all those who have encouraged and prayed for us, this support is invaluable and can't be underestimated. Without the combined support from the church and community we would struggle to keep the BBQs running. We were very sad to have Ha leave us, we appreciate everything she brought to Carrical, not only her amazing food but also her lively personality. If you're interested in finding out more information or would like to come along, your support would be most welcome!

***Dave McKeown, Christine Muller***

## **WIDER CONNECTIONS**

Interaction with the wider community of God's people enriches our church and enhances our capacity for service.

The **Baptist Union of Victoria** is the administrative body that links Victorian Baptist Churches together and keeps us informed of the wider fellowship of believers. They inform us of new outreach opportunities, offer the counsel of Regional Superintendents and provide training seminars in many fields. Twice a year the BUV invites church representatives to gather in praise and worship together, with a rich time of sharing, and to participate in the decision-making processes of the Union. As the Incorporated Body, they hold the titles of Baptist Church properties. They are located in offices in Hartwell on Burwood Highway, and are led by Rev. Alan Marr, the Director of Ministries.

Our membership in the Baptist Union of Victoria provides our links in turn with the Baptist Union of Australia and the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

BWA is the worldwide body holding nearly 200 Unions and Associations together, so that unitedly we might participate in world need, when required. A BWA World Congress is held every five years, when delegates from all over the world gather – in 2010 it is in Hawaii (interested in sun and surf!?). They hold many other Conferences from time to time. Our own Rev. Dr. Ken Manley is active as member of a study commission of the BWA (he occasionally needs someone to carry his bags for him!). Gifted Baptist leaders and preachers deliver many helpful and challenging addresses, to be shared by all.

In the local Kew area, we are represented in the Kew Inter Church Council (KICC) and Kew Ministers' group. Two or three times a year Ministers and delegates meet, rotating among our Churches, to discuss ways we might be able to work together effectively in the Community. The meeting brings together Roman Catholic, Anglican, Uniting Church and Baptist fellowships. In recent years, the group has organised the annual Carols by Candlelight event and participation in the Kew Festival Parade. Grants are made KICC from time to time by Booroondara Council to assist with the Carols service.

One of the most inspiring activities is the Inter Church Service in the Carmelite Monastery in Stevenson Street Kew. This takes place at the end of the Kew Festival, and is run by the Carmelite order, with the ministers of Kew invited to participate.

***Lindsay Smith***

## MINISTRY SUPPORT

### CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

The administrative, financial and property functions of the office may be important—but only because they help keep the wheels turning in the wider life and ministries of the church. It is that broader view which gives perspective to what fills each day in the church office.

KBC's year took an unexpected turn when Rod Pell was diagnosed with Myeloma at the end of 2008, and then began chemotherapy in late May 2009. We have been impressed with the way Rod, Liz, Kerryn, Tanya and Natalie have coped, and their faith has been inspiring and challenging.

One question we as a church community might ask at this time is, *What does God want to teach us in this situation?* And there may be several answers to this question.

One response relates to the present relatively healthy state of the church. In the past ten years under Rod's leadership we have seen numerical and spiritual growth, and many people using and developing their God-given gifts within the church and in the wider community. It may be helpful to identify some of the patterns of ministry which have been used by God so effectively. Clearly these patterns are strongly evident in Rod's style, but also in that of others, and under Christ's headship and Rod's guidance, it is a team effort.

- **Mutual care** – we see this in Rod's endless phone calls and conversations, the Interns' follow-up of young adults, the pastoral care/hospitality group who keep in touch regularly with people, and the many individuals who offer care in informal but effective ways.
- **An inward/outward balance:** Much effort goes into nurturing the church community, but there are also exciting and effective outreach initiatives, some through "church" programs such as Possums Playgroups, the Student Residence, the allocation of 12% of our offering income to mission, aid and development projects and more; and some in personal or group initiatives such as Friendship in the Flats visits to refugees and immigrants in Fitzroy, Andy Mitchell's facilitation of a small group for Students at The Res, the Abbotsford House occupants' links in the Collingwood area, Andy Hunter's and James Docking's interaction with exchange students at Swinburne, the visits of young adults to cross-cultural mission situations, and much more. Again, these are just samples.
- **Lifestyles which attempt to take seriously Gospel values and priorities:** this is evident in people as diverse as Eugene Veith and some young adults who constantly think about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and for whom this is a priority.
- **The use and strengthening of God-given gifts:** the diversity of abilities God has given this church is quite remarkable. The internship program has been very effective for the individuals involved and for the church. The initiative early in 2009 of inviting small groups to lead Sunday morning worship has been helpful to the groups as well as the congregation. The preaching class has nurtured some amazing God-given gifts. And there is so much more as people give themselves to God for him to work through them.
- **Networking, team ministries and small groups:** although there are still individuals and families on the fringes of church life, we are blessed that so many people feel well connected and supported, especially at times of difficulty or illness. The mutual care, teaching and prayer are important aspects of study, prayer and ministry groups, and in turn these clusters strengthen the whole church. There is also much informal networking which goes on.
- **Commitment and consistency** – a core group of people are extremely reliable in their attendance at worship services and in their ministry responsibilities. We see this in many of our friends whose consistency has impacted the church for years even though their strength has now begun to fail with age. We see it also in others of all ages and in diverse forms of involvement – we could name just a handful as examples: Deirdre Willis, Steve and Liz Taylor in several ministry areas; Dave McKeown and Christine Muller with the Carrical BBQs, John Hollow with the audio recordings; Natalie Pell in mowing the church lawns; Luke Gibbons and Steph Bowers with the youth groups. For some people, this consistency of attendance is not easy – some because of heavy work responsibilities, some due to having partners who do not see church as a priority, others due to family concerns. Let us not underestimate the benefit of consistency – not just for our own growth, but also for the others in our church or group.

As Bill Leng pointed out, we are a community of faith, but at an even more fundamental level, a community based on God's grace, and for that reason we can have a quiet confidence as we move forward, even though none of us know what that future will hold for us.

In the office itself, this year has gone relatively smoothly despite the major change of Rod not being present as much since May.

We have introduced a few changes, such as the increased use of the email for distribution of prayer news and some adaptations to the content of the bulletin. I would love to have feedback about these and other changes, or ideas which might enhance further the ministry from the office.

At around the time Rod began treatment, someone stole the office computer and, after a few weeks of not having a fully functioning computer, I am grateful to George Dullege for sorting that out.

After six years helping Bev Smith with counting the offering, Audrey Bennett decided it was time to hand over to someone else, and Anastasia Panagiotidis has stepped in. Robyn Scott, who came regularly to tidy the church and do photocopying, felt it was time to move on from KBC, and now Deirdre Willis does some of this, while Natalie Pell continues to empty the bins and Karen Lim folds the bulletin for us. We appreciate the contribution of each of these people. I am also grateful to the residents of The House next door, who without complaint help with various tasks—often when there is some heavy lifting to be done.

***Grace Munro***

## **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

It is obvious to all that we are bringing the property up to acceptable standards and a better appearance, and we are grateful for the provision of some legacies and other gifts which are enabling this work to proceed.

The two external tile areas at the church look really good and the re-fit of the hall toilets is finalised. The hall painting is now complete and work on the external painted areas of the church is proceeding. Lighting has been improved and plumbing needs have been addressed. Insurance payments helped cover the cost of replacing the computer stolen from the church office. Broken glass areas have been replaced.

Possums Playgroups have done a lot of work upgrading the playground area at the hall and we are grateful for their contribution.

The manse needs two new security doors powder-coated to a matching colour.

The church internal porch is to be refurbished to allow Mums with babies to attend to their needs, yet still hear and see the service through proposed glass doors. We are awaiting some funds to do this. We are also planning to replace the two sets of church front doors, and make them more friendly to visitors. Again we need funding for this project. The side path on the northern side of the church (house side) needs a complete rebuild as it is not a safe surface to walk on. If you feel you can help, we would love to hear from you.

***Lindsay Smith***

*The re-tiling outside the front doors of the church looks great. Painting has begun on the church exterior.*



## AUDIO AND DATA GROUPS

The Audio and Data (audio-visual) groups are volunteers who operate:

- the sound desk, providing
  - public address amplifiers from the various microphones,
  - audio-recordings of the services, and the hearing-aid loop
- the data projector and screen at the front of the Church, providing:
  - video images of songs, photos and movies.

For NightChurch, there is a group of over 20 who can “drive” the equipment, with a rotation roster of five people for audio and another five for data. Andy Hunter is the organiser for the NightChurch audio and data teams. The operation works quite effectively.

For the Sunday morning service, the team is smaller, being around five or six in total. Richard Marshall joined the team early this year. His willingness and diligence weekly (doing preparatory setup of the equipment in the ½ to 1 hour before the service) has significantly reduced the stress on other team-members, and helped increase reliability of the presentations.

One notable event was the Billy Graham Memories service and afternoon (21 Jun 2009) – this took some weeks of technical preparation (with lots of video clips to be edited). The preparation paid off with the presentation proceeding smoothly and appreciated by many.

Over the past year or so, we have developed our weekly audio recordings of services in “MP3” format. The recordings are distributed within days to folk who want them (often because they cannot attend the service). Typically, six to eight folk regularly receive these weekly recordings, and they are very appreciative of them.

For team-members, knowledge of the process and equipment is interesting, and is a rewarding (and challenging) contribution to Church-life, with Church services clearly depending on their valued contribution. Presenters and organisers of the service can help us with early notification of what is coming up, giving us a chance to setup the equipment (eg screen and projector, say a 10 minute job) and to check/adjust the compatibility of DVDs and computer-files with the computer (never a foregone conclusion, and taking anywhere from two minutes to an hour or so). Overall, more long-term work needs to be done, including training team-members, equipment maintenance and development, and communication/integration with other groups in the Church.

***John Hollow***



*Members of the team who look after audio and data at NightChurch—Nic Barclay, Josh Carter and Chris Pickering.*



## FINANCES

It has been most encouraging to see the way in which the church responded to the financial challenges we faced for the last financial year.

As shown in the Income and Expenditure report, our offerings for the year were \$234,044 (compared to the budget of \$215,000); this was very pleasing and helped in achieving a surplus for the year of \$32,445. Some large donations were received, including a bequest of \$62,625 from the estate of Stephen Kidner. Stephen's generosity is much appreciated.

Importantly these results mean that the church has a much improved position from which it can operate in the future.

Brief details of the main variances between actual and budget are as follows:

Variance – Favourable (Unfavourable)	Income/Expense Item (as shown in Income & Expenditure Statement)	Comments
5,251	Budgeted surplus for the year	
19,044	Offerings	Offerings received were above the budget.
2,722	Hall rent	Hall hired out more than per the budget.
1,500	Possums contribution	Extra \$1,500 received for painting & tables (cost of tables was \$570; this is included in property maintenance expenses). Painting is yet to be done.
2,395	Student Residence Loan interest	Interest received is above the budget as additional funds were lent during the year.
1,570	Church ministry expenses	Overall expenses were less than the budget
2,346	Baptist Union of Victoria- Ministry Contribution	Total invoiced by BUV for 2009 was \$6,032; \$2,346 will be paid in July-Dec'09.
(2,300)	Mission Aid & Development	The allocation was more because offerings were higher than the budget. The allocation of \$28,100 represents 12% of the offerings received. Also see the following note detailing the distributions paid.
900	Ministry resources	Overall these expenses were less than the budget.
600	Visiting speakers	Less visiting speakers were used than in the budget.
846	Advertising	The budget of \$1,000 included website expenses – \$350 was paid for these from Stephen Kidner's bequest.
600	Internet access	Internet access costs were less than the budget.
(400)	Office equipment maintenance	Costs included photocopier maintenance, piano tuning and sundry music equipment, all up these were slightly higher than the budget.
(1,600)	Printing & stationery	Costs of \$4,596 included new stationery & business cards \$2,800, these were not in the budget.
654	Telephone	Overall usage less than the budget.
(820)	Cleaning	Reflects increased fees during the year made by the cleaning contractor, not in the budget.
(1,063)	Other minor variances	
32,245	Surplus as per Income & Expenditure statement	

In addition to the above, it should be noted that:

Donations of \$6,490 were received for our property reserve fund (see Note 6). These were greatly appreciated. The property reserve fund is used for paying major expenses in maintaining our buildings and property. Allocations made for Mission Aid & Development distributions were \$28,100; this was distributed as follows:

Balance of unspent allocations brought forward from previous year		2,674
Gifts received for missionary giving		960
Allocations made to Mission Aid & Development (as per Income & Expenditure report)		28,100
		31,734
Less distributions made:		
Interserve – John & Janine Barclay (& Aidan)	6,000	
Global InterAction – Mark Holt (\$2,000) & David & Eryl Edwards (\$6,000)	8,000	
YWAM – Michelle Stancliffe	2,500	
Christian Alliance Missionary Association in Cambodia – Pastor & Mrs Tin Phan	2,500	
Missionary Aviation Fellowship – Lisa Detlefson	2,500	
Contribution to purchase video camera for group filming documentary on "Smokey Valley" in the Philippines	500	
Contribution for ministry in Abbotsford	3,400	
Donation to Asylum Seekers house in Brunswick	500	
Contribution to person in need	20	
Donation to Kew High School chaplaincy work	250	
Total distributions		26,170
Balance unspent to be carried forward to next year (this amount is included in the amount of \$6,658 shown on the Balance Sheet for "Gifts not paid out" )		\$5,564

### **Church Budget for 2009/10**

As can be seen in the proposed church budget (which was approved in principle at the last church meeting) we again face a big challenge in the coming year. The budget shows that to meet our estimated costs, our targeted offerings will need to be \$240,000. It is important that we keep up the great effort from the previous year and achieve this target, so that the current ministries of the church can be continued.

I'll close by saying a big thankyou to Grace Munro for her hard work in looking after the church accounts and to all those who assisted in other ways; all of their help is greatly appreciated.

***Steve Taylor, Treasurer***