

## CONTENTS

### KBC LIFE AND MINISTRIES

Pastor's overview	Ken Manley	3
Vietnamese congregation	Khoi Doan	5
NightChurch	Andy Mitchell	6
Morning congregation	Grace Munro	8
Pastoral Care	Grace Munro	9
Deacons' report	Ray Leigh	10
Discernment Group	Irene Schuringa	10
Prayer in the life of the church	Liz Taylor	11
Choir	Ian Lowe	12
Music teams	Corey Leslie	12
Sunday School and Creche	Jenn Trevaskis	13
Boost Youth	Steph Bowers	13
Small Groups	Liz Taylor	15
Audio, data and recordings	John Hollow	16
Church Camp	Andy Hunter	17
Preaching class	Joshi Philip	18
Ladies' Evening Fellowship	Jannelle Benwell	18
Membership	Grace Munro	19

### MINISTRIES TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

The Student Residence	Michelle and Stephen Duke	20
The House	Yasmin McGrath	22
A fundraiser	Joshi Philip	23
Possums Playgroups	Miriam Schmidt	23
Chat and Chew	Kingsley Smith	25
Abbotsford	Amy Hill	25
Karana	Ruth Prentice	27
Mission, Aid and Development group	Deirdre Willis	28
Christian Religious Education	Ray Leigh	29
Carrical Boarding House	Dave McKeown/Christine Muller	29
Wider Contacts	Grace Munro	29
Auburn Baptist Church	Mark Payne	30
Good Grub	Ken and Edith Lyall	30

### MINISTRY SUPPORT

Church Administrator	Grace Munro	31
Maintenance	Lindsay Smith	32
Finances	Steve Taylor	33



***Farewell  
Rod and Liz Pell,  
February 7  
2010***



## KBC LIFE AND MINISTRIES

### PASTOR'S OVERVIEW

Inevitably this past year has been deeply affected by the serious illness and subsequent resignation of our pastor Rod Pell. We are grateful for all that God has done in our midst across the last ten years through the dedicated service of Rod and Liz. It is salutary to realise that his treatment for myeloma began in May 2009 and still continues. As the toll of his illness and treatment became increasingly apparent we knew what was coming, but when Rod advised us in November that he was in the process of completing his ministry here there was a sad sense of the inevitable. Characteristically, Rod's concern was to guide us as a community and his last sermon series with us was on 'Biblical Hope'. His own strong faith and hope deeply moved all of us, not least many in the wider community whom Rod had contacted during his time with us. A farewell was held on 7 February when we took opportunity to present some gifts and a book of personal greetings from the community. Thankfully the family continues in our church and we are always pleased when Rod's health permits him to join with us in worship. We continue to uphold Rod, Liz, Kerry, Tanya and Natalie in our prayers.



*A photo of Liz and Rod Pell  
taken in 2008*

We continue to pray for Rod and indeed there has been a noticeable growth in our community's praying together. Another special focus for our prayers has been the Waiting on God for a new pastoral leader. We appointed Dr Colin Hunter of the Brunswick Church as our Moderator and he has worked closely with a discernment committee that was set up in late 2009. This process continues and we trust an appointment will be made later this year.

This measure of uncertainty has, I believe, united us as a people and many have made special contributions to ensure that the work continues. All our staff have part-time appointments and we thank them for their faithful ministry. Grace Munro serves as our Administrator (30 hours/week) and her knowledge and skills have provided much needed continuity in ministry; Liz Taylor (2 days/week) is our pastoral worker with special responsibility to lead us in our study groups and prayer ministries, whilst I am acting as senior pastor (2 days/week). We greatly appreciate the contributions of Miriam Schmidt as our Possums leader with Stephen and Michelle Duke as our Student Residence managers. The church has similarly been greatly indebted to our three interns who are each appointed for 1 day per week. Andy Hunter and James Docking concluded last year, Steph Bowers has continued this year with Corey Leslie and Andy Mitchell who have joined us. These young leaders have given significant support to our Nightchurch community and youth programmes. We also greatly value the contributions of our experienced pastoral supporters: Lindsay and Meryl Smith and Kingsley Smith. We record our deep sympathy to Kingsley in the death of Gwyneth and we all miss her wonderful ministry on our organ. I have regarded it as a privilege to work with all these folk.

This report will indicate the wide range of ministries offered through Kew Baptist. A team of loyal and dedicated people has ensured that despite the absence of a full-time pastor the life and witness of our church continues. Our deacons, a strong team of pastoral carers and many others have helped to offer additional care and leadership to our fellowship. Ray Leigh as Chair of deacons has brought considerable drive and vision to his leadership. Helen Lewis resigned as secretary when she moved to Bangladesh and we welcome Bronwyn Hogan as our new secretary.

I believe the church is in good heart, people are coming to faith and a number are preparing for baptism whilst several outreach ministries continue. As this report will indicate, a number of long-serving members have been called home to the Lord and we are aware that an increasing number of our older members find it hard to share in our Sunday worship. Their faithfulness in prayer is valued.

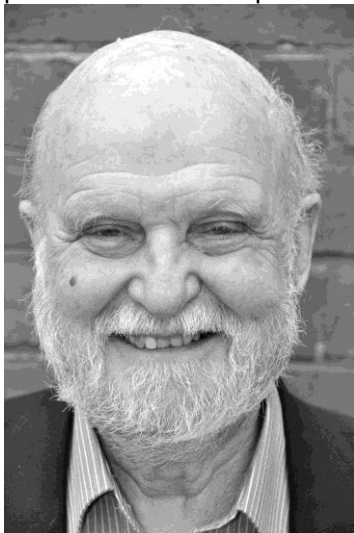
Our Sunday services continue to be well attended. In the morning services themes studied have been *Encounters with Jesus* in John's Gospel, *Biblical Hope*, *Galatians*, *Promises of God* and *First John*. Nightchurch, which has enjoyed considerable growth in recent months, has often featured members of our preaching classes as preachers, and visitors have included Laurel Gore from Prison Fellowship and Paul Dettman from World Vision.

Revd Bill Leng has again been a regular preacher at our morning service and we have greatly enjoyed his Old Testament teaching. Yvonne Lindner, Baptist Union of Victoria President, preached for us at our 153<sup>rd</sup> Church anniversary service in November. Other guest preachers have included Dr Frank Rees, Dr Colin Hunter, Dr Ross Langmead, John Barclay and Revd Stacey Aslangul. Three of our preaching class 'graduates' preached at the morning services in January: Andy Mitchell, Taryn Atkinson and Emily Hanscamp. Our church has entered into a support partnership with Auburn Baptist and their pastor Dr Darren Cronshaw has preached at Nightchurch and was the speaker at our Camp in July. Some of our young adults are sharing in the ministry at Auburn.

Special workshops have been held on leading worship, caring for others, leading Bible Studies and preaching. These have given opportunity for gifts to be affirmed and have enriched our life together.

One feature of our church life, especially within Nightchurch, is our awareness of global mission. This includes those whom we support as a church (as detailed in the Mission, Aid and Development report) and several of our community have visited overseas - Andy Hunter and Amy Hill visited Kenya, Emily Hanscamp visited India and is now in the Philippines, Irene Schuringa and Mark Payne visited Bangladesh with Global Interaction, James Docking and Coby Ramsden went to Africa, Helen Lewis accepted a position as a physiotherapist in Bangladesh and Tanya Pell continues to teach at Amata in remote South Australia. The global connections of our young adults today are remarkable and we are all enriched as they share their experiences with us. Three from our congregation, Mark Juers, Chris Rowlands and Steve Cook, work with World Vision.

Please read this report carefully and prayerfully. You will agree that there is so much that is encouraging and challenging. I do not want to summarise what you can read for yourself. We are waiting for God's plan for our leadership to become clear to us but we have not been marking time.

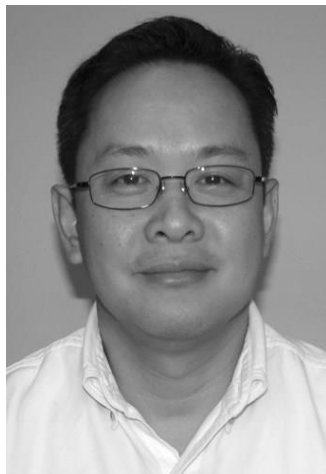


I do want to record that it has been a special (if unexpected) privilege to play some minor role in these days. I have thought of myself as trying to hold at least some aspects of our church life together and to offer specific ministry as I am able. I have been acutely conscious of much else that might have been done but I have simply focused on some aspects of teaching and care and tried to assist others with differing responsibilities to fulfil their roles. The encouragement, patience and support of the church has meant much to me as the months have been extended far longer than I anticipated when accepting the invitation to help in this way. I look forward to quietly resuming my place as a member of the congregation, offering support to our leadership and resuming other tasks more befitting a retired pastor-academic and grandfather.

In the meantime we take this opportunity to praise God for his sustaining grace during another year in the history of Kew Baptist Church.

**Ken Manley**

## VIETNAMESE CONGREGATION



The Vietnamese congregation continues to meet every Sunday at 1pm, regularly followed with a meal where it has become one of the most effective way for the everyone to share their stories and concerns during the week. We are still in the process of searching for a part time pastor for the congregation, however, in the meantime, we have seen God's blessings in many ways.

Earlier in the year, we attempted a new ministry and held a course (similar to the Alpha course) at some of the Vietnamese overseas students' homes. The result was wonderful as two young members have come to know Christ through that class, and are now regularly attending our services. They also started to bring their friends along. Following that, we are now conducting another similar course (*Quick Journey through the Bible*) at RMIT and Melbourne University during the week, we have every week from 8-10 students attending, some of them have never heard of the name of Jesus

before and are finding

*Khoi Doan, Vietnamese* the study really fascinating.

That is something  
with great challenges as

*Congregation Secretary* amazing that God is doing, but it also comes  
we are now not only looking for a pastor for the

congregation but also someone to carry on with this overseas student ministry. So please pray for us, and let us know of any way you can do to help.

The young people also meet for bible study every Sunday at 10:30am, after the afternoon service. We now hold some sport sessions (badminton, basket ball, volleyball). This is a great opportunity for the young people to get together. We are raising funds to get a table tennis table for different people to join as well.

The older folks continue to meet every Saturday night for bible study. This year we rotated one week in the east and one week in the west to cater for those living in each direction. This is a challenge for some of our members, in fact, for some, we encourage them to change to a local church so they don't have to travel too far and can attend regularly. We also held a regular prayer time between 12-1pm each Sunday where all members are encouraged to spend this time praying for issues facing our congregations.

Late last year, we were involved with Bridge Church (Richmond AOG previously) to get the local Vietnamese business people in Richmond to partner in a fund raising event. The event raised some \$60,000 to bring water filters and wells to the displaced Vietnamese people in Cambodia. (Two members of our church, Tin Van Pham and Anh Ngoc Thi serve in Cambodia among Vietnamese people.) It was a great success, and the local paper and the community TV documented the event. We have been asked to once again take lead for another event next year (given the enormous effort needed, we are still considering...).

Closer to home, our congregation is now leading a Christmas event for all 16 Vietnamese churches around Victoria. This event has been conducted previously, but this year, it would be the first time where we have almost all churches on board. We are planning this event for at least 1000 Vietnamese non-believers. We envisioned that the Vietnamese people in this city can only be reached if we work closely together. We also planned for a number of follow-up events, including a open seminar on the issue of internet and gaming addiction for the community. There are so much work needing to be done and prepared, but we trust that God has directed us this way.

All of this is possible because we have some very Christ-committed people. Even though we don't have a great number, we continue to pray that if



*Huong Do, Vietnamese  
Congregation Treasurer*

God does send more people into our community, we would be ready to care for them. One of our emphases therefore is in developing some of our leaders. We are struggling with this without a pastor, but again, we trust that all in good time, God will bring us someone.

We have been talking on how we can organise some activities to bring our congregations together instead of just by passing each other at the morning tea time. May God bless all of our congregations and that His name is praised because of what we do.

**Khoi Doan, Secretary**

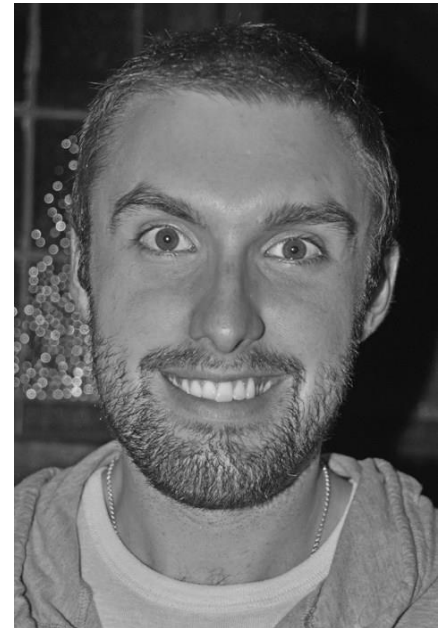
## **NIGHTCHURCH**

### **Who are we?**

We are a congregation within Kew Baptist Church comprising mainly 18-25 year olds, who strive to know God and serve Him better. We meet together at 7pm on Sundays with the intention of being a part of one another's lives and supporting one another in our individual walks with God. Our services focus upon fellowship and worship of the one and only, true God who has died so that we may be without sin, whom we love. This is a vibrant and passionate community of (predominantly) young Christians.

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

Within our congregation are people at many different stages of life: We have a large number of university students, representing many of Melbourne's tertiary education institutions, with an enormous range of areas of study; Kew Student Residence students, married couples, young professionals, parents, babies and a rapidly growing number of engaged couples.



*There are numerous people engaged in leadership in NightChurch, but we are very grateful for the great contribution made by our Interns, Steph Bowers, Corey Leslie and Andy Mitchell (though why Grace Miller would want to marry that middle guy when he looks like that, one wonders! Congratulations to you both!)*

For the majority of our congregation the Nightchurch service alone is not representative of our community. We meet at various times throughout the week, from casual catch-ups, through to one off gigs by Jubal<sup>1</sup>, to regular Tuesday night movies at the Men's House<sup>2</sup>. One of the great things about the Nightchurch congregation is that there are always things happening and ways to be involved.

Our congregation is also involved in an enormous range of mission/ministry/outreach activities, outside of our immediate church community. For example, Helen Lewis is currently abroad doing physiotherapy work in Bangladesh, Kez Pell is heavily involved with Prison Network Ministries at the Deer Park Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre and a number of our congregation are involved in ministries at Auburn Baptist Church.

Within our church community we are thankful for the large numbers of musicians who contribute to our worship, and think particularly of those who lead worship for us. We are thankful too for those involved in the preaching class run by Ken Manley. We are fortunate enough to have heard from Joshi Philip, Jess and Lachlan Underwood, Tim Gray, Jono Davenport, Michael Piper and Glynn Chambers already this year, and look forward to sermons from Michelle Edwards, Andy Hunter and Abrahm Gunn in the following month. We think too of all those who contribute through leading services, doing audio and data, bringing supper, collecting offerings, giving Bible readings, praying and sharing parts of their own journeys with God. We praise God particularly for the work of Grace Munro, Ken Manley and Liz Taylor who contribute hugely to the direction and running of our congregation.



Corey Leslie (who coordinates the music teams), Nic Barclay, Naomi Rock, Josh Taylor and Mat Hunter

**Small Groups:** We are thankful for Liz Taylor's faithful organisation and maintenance of our small groups. We are currently involved in a range of 1 John groups including: Wednesday night, led by Grace Lawry, Cat Sietkiewicz and Andrew Crawford; three groups on Thursday nights, one led by Tim Gray and Veronique Schocroft, another by Ash Moore and Tim Hunter and the third by Amy Williams.

**Carrical Boarding House:** Members of our NC congregation continue to serve faithfully at Carrical, by collecting Christmas gifts and putting on regular barbeques for its inhabitants.

---

<sup>1</sup> A band made up of Tenielle McKenzie, Chris Pickering, Mat Hunter, Joshi Philip and Braden Pullen.

<sup>2</sup> The home of Abrahm Gunn, Chris Pickering, Simon Pickering, Mat Hunter and Matt Hill.

**Nightchurch Camp:** We were very appreciative of the Bracken family who generously allowed us to invade their farm for the weekend of camp. We camped in their back paddock, with lots of cliff climbing, swimming and camp-fires. It was an important time of fun and fellowship for our congregation.

**ESA Camp:** Many of our young adults led on ESA camp in Anglesea over the first week of July. The camp was directed by our own Coby Ramsden and James Docking, who were accompanied by Naomi Rock, Joshi Philip, Corey Leslie, Mary-Anne Philip, Jono Newmarch, Jono Davenport, Ash Moore, Kate Steel, Sarah Vosti, Abrahm Gunn and Andy Mitchell.

God truly blessed us with a smooth and safe camp. We saw God work powerfully through prayer and many campers made new commitments to follow Christ. In the month since we have seen God continue to change the lives of the campers who attended camp.

**The C's Camps:** A large number of young adults also attended the C's camps at Korop, which cater for every age of youth and young adult. Andy Hunter writes, "C's Camps had another successful year. Many young adults were involved from Kew in all camps throughout the year. The newest addition this year is a marriage weekend planned for November, designed as a support, retreat and enrichment for married couples".

**Baptism Class:** A group of our young adults have been meeting weekly with Grace Munro exploring the possibility of baptism. It is likely that the class will result in several baptisms in the near future.

**Andy Mitchell**

## **MORNING CONGREGATION**

For many years, the morning congregation has been a foundational aspect of church life at KBC. We are grateful to the many people who have shown remarkable commitment and dedication to ensure that the morning church services run well.

The pastor normally presents the message, and we are grateful first to Rod Pell for giving sound, Biblical sermons regularly, even when his health was failing. Ken Manley has added an additional vibrancy to the preaching, through which he regularly calls on us to challenge our walk with God. We have also had visiting speakers, and Bill Leng has led on several occasions and has been much appreciated.

Over recent years there is a much wider engagement of people in leading the services. Early in 2009, one of the deacons suggested that it would be good to have the Small Groups leading services. This has been a great bonus in adding diversity to the ways in which we are able to worship God. There have been a few ups and downs as a result, but through it many people have learnt more about what is involved in leading the services.

Music is an important part of worship. The death of Gwyneth Smith, our organist, early in 2010 has been a great loss, and it has not been easy to find organists to replace her. We are very grateful to David Mynard who has increased his playing to two Sundays a month, and to others who assist as needed. During the past 10 years, the introduction of a Music Team to the morning service has been very helpful. Teams, which provide music for the NightChurch service as well as the morning, need to spend a lot of time practising. The music team coordinators, Andy Hunter and in 2010 Corey Leslie, do not always find it easy to find people willing to commit to the morning services. But we express our appreciation to those who offer their gifts to us in this way.

Over many years, Rory Chambers made a great contribution to the music of the whole church, and we wish him and Jenny well as they have moved to a church nearer their home. We are grateful that Glynn Chambers and others have been willing to work with the music team coordinators to help re-invigorate the music in the morning service in mid-2010.

It has been encouraging to have several people joining the congregation during the year, many of them in the 25-35 age group. We are grateful to the Sunday School and Youth Group teams which are working



hard to enhance the ministry among children, and this has the potential to build up the number of families in the morning services, which is necessary. We feel the loss of those who are no longer able to attend regularly due to the frailty of age, and we have been saddened at the deaths of several people. Even so, it is encouraging that numbers have held up well even though we are in a period of change.

The contribution by those who lead the children's time is much appreciated, and especially Janine de Paiva who coordinates that for us.

Thank you to all who contribute to the morning service.

### **Grace Munro**



*Bernie Hogan, Chris de Paiva, Frank Solomon, Lindsay Smith, Michelle and Zoe Duke, Michelle Stancliffe*

### **PASTORAL CARE**

Each week we have in our church bulletin the words,

"Ministers: All the members of the congregation."

Most of the pastoral care which takes place in our church happens as people offer support to each other through conversations, listening, emails, prayer, notes, gifts and phone calls. The leaders and members of small groups offer regular support and help. When difficulties such as sickness or death arise, people offer invaluable help in a multitude of ways.

There are some gaps – people who miss out on care, especially the elderly and frail. A group of people known as the Pastoral Care and Hospitality Group are intentional in trying to keep in touch each week with people such as these. We appreciate their efforts. Bev Smith has been a consistent member of this group and visited Karana residents weekly, and due to her health problems in 2010 this has not been possible, and she is missed a great deal.

Among the young adult community, Steph Bowers, Corey Leslie and Andy Mitchell, our Interns, give a strong lead in offering pastoral care, and we honour them for that, especially when some of the issues they have had to address have been difficult.

Rod Pell's contribution in Pastoral Care was exceptional, and we have missed him in this. Ken Manley, in addition to the pastoral support offered through his messages, has helped individuals work through personal and interpersonal difficulties. Liz Taylor spends time before and after worship services listening to people, and making contact with many during the week. Lindsay and Meryl Smith and Kingsley Smith also keep in touch with and visit many older folk, and this is highly valued.

We are grateful to all of the Ministers of this church!

### **Grace Munro**

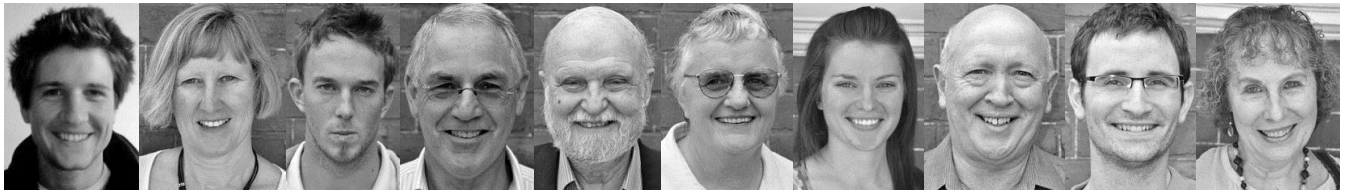
## DEACONS' REPORT

The deacons of today are a far cry from when I first became a deacon (more than 20 years ago). We are represented by male and female, there is a wide age range, there is no hierarchy, we dress casually, and we usually meet in someone's home. The meeting time is spent on both pastoral and administrative matters and we have a prayer time.

The major change this year was the departure of Rod Pell who played a significant role. Always well prepared and with an intimate knowledge of the church members and "goings on". However God provided Ken Manley (on a part time basis) and Ken has been more than generous with his time and came to grips with things very quickly. The other change was the departure of our secretary Helen Lewis (overseas) and we welcomed Bronwyn Hogan. Bronwyn comes with a wealth of experience, having chaired the diaconate some years ago. The young members play an important part and bring a different perspective to the discussions.

From time to time we invite representatives from groups within the church to gain a better understanding of current matters. The most recent has been a presentation by John Hollow regarding the ongoing noise issue we have with a nearby resident, involvement of Liz Taylor to speak of her role, and Steph Bowers to tell of the Youth work. We endeavour to be an inclusive group and we welcome ideas and views from everyone. It has been good to be the chairperson of the group and I thank each member for their contribution

### Ray Leigh



*Glynn Chambers, Bronwyn Hogan, Andy Hunter, Ray Leigh, Ken Manley, Grace Munro, Irene Schuringa, Steve Taylor, Geoff Trevaskis, Deirdre Willis*

## DISCERNMENT GROUP

Following Rod Pell's retirement from the senior pastor role at Kew Baptist church late 2009, a Discernment Group was formed in early 2010 to seek God's direction for the future senior pastor of KBC. Members of the Discernment Group are from a variety of backgrounds, ages and have been involved with KBC for between three and twenty-plus years. The members are Glynn Chambers, Janine de Paiva, James Docking, Amy Hill, Ray Leigh, Grace Munro, Irene Schuringa and Deirdre Willis. Colin Hunter was chosen as the moderator (Colin is currently the senior pastor at Brunswick Baptist and has had a strong relationship and understanding of KBC for many years).

KBC chose to follow the 'search' process as set out in a Baptist Union of Victoria resource guide. This involves completing a church profile and pastor profile, which is then forwarded to the BUV Advisory Board. The Discernment Group then commenced considering specific candidates for the senior pastor role. The process of completing the two profiles proved to be extremely valuable. It gave the church an opportunity to express their values, skills and specific areas of ministry interest. It also gave them an opportunity to identify key characteristics of a senior pastor at KBC. Once compiled, the data and information provided a comprehensive profile of KBC and its desired future direction.

As at August 2010, the Discernment Group is considering candidates for the role of senior pastor of KBC. The church is extremely thankful for Ken Manley's leadership and guidance during this interim period and trusts that God has the future of KBC in His hands.

If you have any questions as to the Discernment Group process, contact me, [irene.schuringa@gmail.com](mailto:irene.schuringa@gmail.com)

**Irene Schuringa**

## PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*"But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind." Isaiah 40:31 (The Message)*

*"Don't burn out, keep yourselves fuelled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times, pray all the harder..." Romans 12:11 (The Message)*

Prayer continues at Kew Baptist. It happens in many ways and at different times – individually, and in our services, small groups and prayer groups. We pray silently or aloud, formally or spontaneously, in times of joy and in sorrow. We cannot fully understand prayer – it is a great mystery but we can participate in it, with simple child-like trust.

Although we may study prayer, the best way to learn to pray is by actually praying. It is not about the eloquence of our words but the openness of our heart to God which makes prayer meaningful. Prayer changes things but even more, true prayer changes us.

**Tuesday prayer breakfast @ 7am:** In July we sadly farewelled Ken Lyall – he had been a founding member of the prayer breakfast when it started in 1970! We are inspired by his faithful commitment to prayer over 40 years. Currently up to seven of us meet for prayer each Tuesday morning in the Velvet Lounge, including the three interns (Steph Bowers, Corey Leslie and Andy Mitchell). We pray for half an hour then enjoy breakfast together. A sincere thank you to Deirdre Willis who cooks the porridge in winter and generally looks after us. Our prayers focus on the needs of the world, our church community, including prayer for friends serving God in distant places, and our own concerns. Why not come and join us - there is no better way to start the day!

**Tuesday prayer meeting @ 2pm:** This group meets in the home of Bev Smith and Val McPherson each Tuesday. It has been in recess for six months due to Bev's hip surgery and rehabilitation but it has recently resumed. After a short devotion, the group prays for the world, the needs of the Church family and for each other. Others are most welcome to join us.

**Friday Young Adults prayer meeting @ 7am:** Friday morning prayer happens at 7am at the House (14 Highbury Gve, Kew). The group mostly consists of the Student Residence staff and House members who join together to pray for the Res and the various students.

**Sunday prayer meeting @ 9.30am:** Each Sunday morning a group of people meet to pray in the vestry for the worship services of that day and for those taking part. We also pray for people with special needs and other concerns people bring. It is a short but significant time of intercession – please consider coming to church a little earlier and joining us.

**Sunday prayer meeting @ 5pm:** This prayer meeting was held over summer and also in August to support Rod Pell during times of intensive treatment and also to pray for others with special needs.

**Sunday prayer meeting @ 6.40:** Prior to the NightChurch service, people gather to pray at the front of the church.



*A group praying during Church Camp*

**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 prayer 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.

**Prayer emails** continue to be a very effective way of alerting people to pray for various situations and people in need during the week. Thank you to Grace Munro who co-ordinates this from the office.

Some young adults organised a **creative prayer night** in November. Scripture readings, music, journal writing and painting were used as a means of worship and connecting with God, others and ourselves.

A **Day of Prayer and Listening to God** was held on June 8 in response to a request from the Discernment group for prayer for the process of discerning who God has chosen to be our new pastor and also for this person.

The sessions during the day were led by Liz Taylor, Ken Manley, Howard Barclay and the one at night by Amy Hill. Small groups and individuals also received prayer points to encourage the whole church community to be a part of this prayer focus.

**Liz Taylor**

## **CHOIR**

Earlier this year members of the choir were devastated to learn of the unexpected death of our dear organist Gwyneth Smith. Her generous contribution to the music at the morning services was appreciated by so many and she is greatly missed. The organ now lies quiet much of the time and it is hoped this can be addressed sometime in the future. At present the few in the choir are happy to make a monthly contribution to the morning service but just what the future holds will depend on the new Pastor.

**Ian Lowe**

## **MUSIC TEAMS**



*Glynn Chambers*

This year has seen a number of changes in the music department at KBCs morning and evening services. With some of our longest serving/hardest working musician's having ended their time at Kew combined with noise restrictions, it has been a time for new things musical at Church!

With the passing of our beloved organist Gwyneth Smith there has been a different feel to the worship music in the mornings and it certainly helped us to further appreciate what a wonderful blessing her playing has been to our Church. However the time of transition has seen us continue to worship God with a variety of songs/styles and a variety of musicians leading us.

Night Church has had to make some musical adjustments this year with the realisation that our music can have the wrong kind of impact on our neighbours if we play too loudly! This has meant that for the most part our music has been relatively stripped back. Upon reflection, this has had some real positives. It feels as though we have had the chance to further explore the way in which music can lead us into a deep and intimate time of worship – a great and ongoing learning experience. We have seen also a huge variety of worship styles thanks to the ever-increasing number of musicians that have become part of our community. We're very grateful for their willingness to serve in what is an important part of our Worship Services.

Although our Church has been very blessed to have quite an influx of musicians this past year, it has also farewelled the long-serving Rory Chambers. His years of valuable contribution to the music team are hugely appreciated, so our thanks and best wishes go out to him and his lovely wife Jenny as they continue to use and explore their gifts in their new community.

**Corey Leslie, coordinator of music teams**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CRECHE**

I want to begin this report by acknowledging and thanking Liz Pell for her coordination of the Sunday School and Creche programs. She has faithfully played the piano, photocopied sheets, hosted meetings, filled in at the last minute for absent teachers. For all of these things, on behalf of the past and present teachers, students and families, I thank Liz for her efforts over the past decade.

Sunday school and crèche have been in a period of change, that change is an answer to prayer and is certainly positive! We now have a team (hooray!) of teachers who are preparing activities for our kids each week. As a team, we have committed to pray for the kids and families and each other over this term. It will be very interesting to see where God is leading us in a couple of month's time.

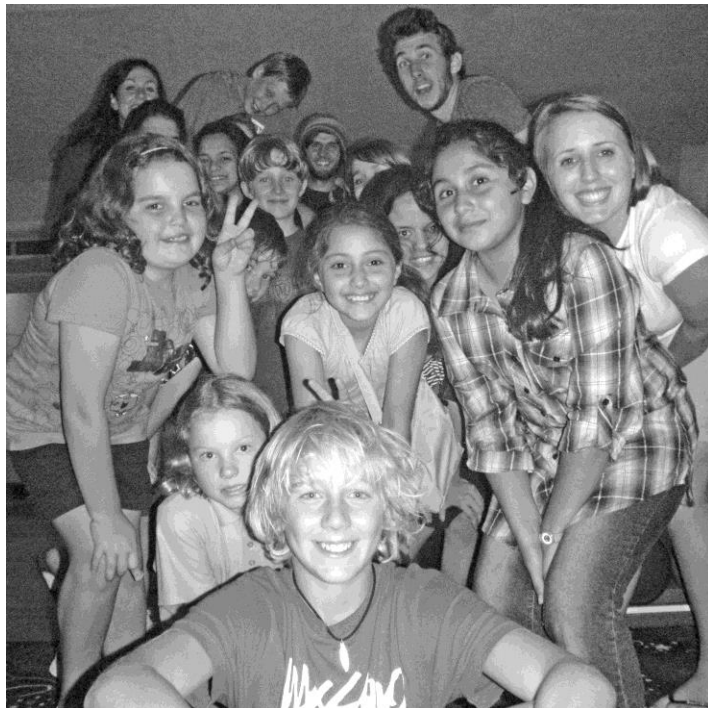
We have reassessed every inch of the Sunday School program. We are currently in the process of trialling a new model of planning that we believe will engage our kids and offer them different and interesting ways to encounter God and the Bible. We continue to provide some 'straight forward' Bible study lessons, but have also introduced a week of community service (for our Junior Youth) and a week of sharing for all students.

As we develop our program further, we will share our ideas with the congregation.

**Jenn Trevaskis**

## **BOOST YOUTH**

As 2009 drew to a close, we reflected on where the Youth Group was at, how we'd spent our time throughout the year, how we'd grown and where we were headed. We realised that there is such a huge opportunity for discipleship within Youth Group, and from personal experience know how important it is to have people who partner with you on the your faith journey. We came to believe that if we were to build on the foundations we had laid with the students, that we would need to spend more time together



and create a space where a community of people their own age could grow, and discipleship could flow naturally out of friendships.

So... we changed things up a bit, hoping not for a program that would function well, but for relationships and community to flourish, for God to be centre, for us as leaders to be open and humble partners journeying alongside the students, for students to be comfortable inviting their friends, and for parents to be supportive and committed to their children being a part of it.

How has it looked? Last year the junior youth met Sunday mornings during Sunday School and the senior youth met Sunday evenings at 5pm. This meant that we had only an hour together and remained as totally separate groups except for activities. This year we've been meeting in the hall

together from 6-9pm every Friday night, spending time hanging out together, eating dinner, sharing stories and testimonies, spending time in small groups in God's word and prayer, and worshipping together. We've tried different approaches along the way and have hoped to not become program-focused. Each of the leaders has taken turns every few weeks running the night, taking it where they feel God is leading. This was intended to keep the focus on spending time with God together, rather than being busy playing games or just filling our time together with 'stuff'. The small group times have been different for each group, as we've tried to meet students where they're at and plan studies that have been appropriate for the particular group of students.



*James Worboyes, Lachlan Hogan, Ben Cronshaw*

Who has been involved? Earlier this year, Luke Gibbons and Kate Steel stepped down after serving faithfully for several years. Jono Davenport and Beth Strange have stepped in, taking their places and bringing new and great qualities to the team. The team is now made up of myself, Corey Leslie, Laura Holley, Mat Hunter, Beth Strange and Jono Davenport. Other young adults have also helped us from week to week by cooking dinner for everyone. This has been a great way for the youth to get to know more NightChurch young adults. Changing Youth to a Friday night was a big decision from a leadership perspective, as sacrificing from 5:30-9pm every Friday night is a huge commitment. The leaders have been wonderfully faithful and their passion to see the youth know Christ more deeply is truly inspiring.

We've been blessed to have the youth from Auburn Baptist join us, and the friends they have brought along with them. Other students have begun to invite friends also, which is a huge answer to prayer because we would love to see the youth sharing their faith at school and connecting their friends to faith communities.

At the end of last term we looked back on the year so far and realised there have been quite a few answers to prayers we prayed when the year began - not for glorious amounts of young people or for impressive big programs to run well, but for community to start to form and for discipleship to start to happen however God would have it look...and we're blessed to say we've seen Him at work.

We're looking forward to spending more time together as the year continues and seeking God's direction for the group. Please keep praying for the young people in our church, their friends, and for fruit that will last!

**Steph Bowers**

## SMALL GROUPS

Why join a small group? As a Church gets bigger, it can be hard to know many people and to feel we belong. Alone, we may find it difficult to study the Bible, to grow in our faith and to reach out to others. In small groups we can:

- get to know others, study the Bible and “do life” together.
- share our joys and struggles and pray for others and ourselves.
- meet informally in a relaxed setting, complementing our Sunday worship.

In first term this year, our church community studied the book of Galatians through the sermons which Ken Manley preached in the morning and at Nightchurch, and in weekly study groups; a total of 145 people were involved in 15 groups. Most groups were intentionally intergenerational and this was helpful in building connections with others and enriching our learning.

In second term, 11 small groups met; some were a mix of ages and others were made up of people of similar ages, with about 100 people involved.

Each group chose its own topic – these included:

- Bible studies such as Ecclesiastes, Characters of the Old Testament, Characters of the New Testament, Spiritual Warfare, John’s Gospel, Book of Acts, Life of David
- “Christian Women in 2010” led by Jazlyn Chambers
- a “Group for Guys”, co-ordinated by Andy Mitchell. Some weeks older men from the congregation shared on different topics suggested by the group.
- an Alpha Group led by Luke Gibbons and Dave McKeown
- one group studied a book called “The Vertical Self” by Mark Sayers

In third term, 11 small groups are meeting (some groups have continued, others are new) ) to do another Church series – this time seven studies on 1 John using a study book written by Ken Manley and accompanied by a sermon series. Over 100 people are involved and finding the studies very beneficial. Ken is preaching in the morning and four of the more experienced young adults are preaching on 1 John themes at Nightchurch.

This year members of the different small groups have continued to lead morning services. This has brought freshness of ideas and diversity of experience. Many thanks to the small groups that have helped in this way, and to Grace Munro for working with the groups in co-ordinating the morning services.



*At Church camp, as during the year, small groups helped build links and strengthen friendships.*

Recently, 16 people, mostly young adults, attended a Saturday morning small group leaders' training workshop in the Hall run by Aaron Boyd and Jenn Wert from Latrobe Uni Christian Union. This was a very helpful time both in developing skills and also in challenging our thinking about the "big picture" we might have about small groups.

Questions like

- how intentional is our program - do we have a long term plan?
- do our groups have an outward focus?
- do people grow in discipleship and maturity in Christ through our small groups?

My sincere thanks to all who host or lead a small group – you make a very significant contribution to the health and well being of our Church community. I would also like to thank Ken Manley for the time and effort he put into preparing the study books for Galatians and 1 John – they are an excellent resource.

For many people in our Church being involved in a small group is a very important part of their ongoing faith journey. If you are not in a small group but would like to be, please contact me.

**Liz Taylor**

## **AUDIO AND DATA, RECORDINGS**

The Audio-Data Groups operate the sound-system and the video (data) projector, an essential part of our worship services.

The NightChurch group has quite a number in the group on roster, with several new members recently volunteering and learning the ropes. The morning-Church group is functioning with lower numbers in their team. Richard Marshall has now taken over the duplication and distribution of recordings, a ministry which is appreciated by typically 6 to 10 folk each week.

There have been noise complaints from a few neighbours, including notification through Boroondara Council, regarding music from the church from both morning and evening services. We engaged a professional sound consultant to make measurements, and recommend ways to reduce the impact on neighbours. The principal recommendation was to provide sound insulation (acoustic double-glazing) on the windows of the south wall of the church. Financial assistance to enable this insulation to proceed would be appreciated, as externally we need to keep our music down to required levels. We want to return the music volume inside the church to the levels we have typically had previously, and insulation will enable us to do that.

We have some longer term development projects that could be useful to pursue (e.g. regular edit and uploading of services for Kew Baptist "expats" to the web-site, some how-to guides for audio and video, some equipment development, construction and maintenance, recordings library collection etc.). It would be good if some technically-inclined folk could contribute by teaming their efforts for some of these projects. These could be useful contributions to Kew Baptists ministries, and would provide an opportunity for folk to learn and contribute to a learning environment for others in the church fellowship.

**John Hollow**



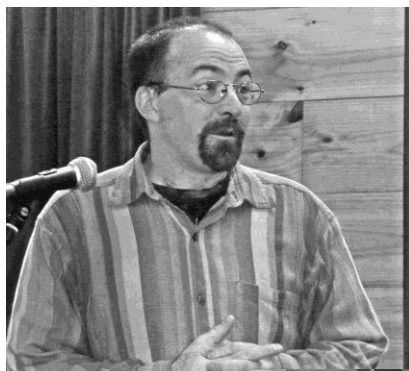
## CHURCH CAMP

Church Camp this year was another raging success. It was the first year I can remember when the 'young adults' demographic made up the largest portion of attendees. It was also wonderful to have a great mix of ages from new born babies to seasoned campaigners.

We were thrilled to have the Cronshaw family with us as part of our open partnership with Auburn Baps this year. Darren did a wonderful job of leading our teaching sessions. It was practical teaching based on caring for each other, so we had plenty of time to put our new skills into practice during the weekend.

Thanks to everyone who was involved. Meals, activities, childcare, organisation and whole heap of behind the scenes jobs were delegated to many able and willing volunteers. So thanks to all for making it such a great weekend!

### Andy Hunter



*Darren Cronshaw,  
pastor of Auburn  
Baptist, the speaker;*



*Worshipping and learning together*



*With wet weather, lots of chatting (Jenny Clark, Sheila King, Emmeline Tyler, Margaret Manley)*



*Lots of games – Lily and Tim Jones,  
Emily Cronshaw*



*And the inevitable washing up! Steve  
Taylor, Sarah Vosti*



*The level 2 preaching class: Michelle Edwards, Andy Hunter, Glynn Chambers, Ken Manley, Andy Mitchell, Abrahm Gunn*

## **PREACHING CLASS**

At preaching class this year we have been looking at 'prayers in the bible'. Over a number of weeks Jess and Lachy Underwood, Michael Piper, Tim Gray, Jono Davenport and I have been guided by Ken Manley in the ways of preparing a sermon. Not only were we looking at delivering a sermon but also important questions such as do I have a gift in preaching? Apart from the bible, which sources do I draw upon for inspiration? We looked at the characteristics of many great preachers throughout history and discussed what techniques they used to be more effective.

Looking back over the past few months, I've enjoyed learning more about what it takes to prepare a sermon and found the preaching class a very valuable and encouraging place to begin exploring some of these ideas. The feedback I received from Ken and my peers was both constructive and encouraging and we are all looking forward to having another go at preaching in the future.

**Joshi Philip**

## **LADIES' EVENING FELLOWSHIP**

It has been another year of encouraging fellowship for the ladies who attend the monthly meetings of the Ladies Evening Fellowship. Our speakers have proved to be of much interest and inspiration. It has been particularly nice to hear from some of the younger women in our congregation who have come along and enthused some of our longer standing members.

We find our times of prayer to be enriching and powerful as we share our burdens and blessings and as we pray for the church and its ministries.

There's a fair bit of sharing at supper time and its *not* all cake and coffee; we have time to catch up with one another and we would encourage ladies to come along and enjoy a night of friendly fellowship.

Our monthly offerings are supplemented by gift tables and donated produce sales and we continue to support various missions and individuals linked to our church.

**Janelle Benwell**

## MEMBERSHIP

We now have around 300 adults plus children in our English-speaking congregations (around 170 adults at services), and another 20 adults plus children in the Vietnamese group.

Attendances at NightChurch have continued to grow, with 100+ present most weeks – though a different mix each week. It is hard to hold the 'community' feel we had when just 50 people attended. Many in the group, including our Interns, work hard to integrate new people, but it is a challenge. Thankfully, there are still many people engaged in the leadership, and a strong sense of 'real faith' evident.

In the morning congregation, we miss those who are now unable to attend. Notably, 20 years ago, a busload of people came from Karana, but early in 2010 the last regular Karana attendee, Basil Swanton, decided he would no longer be able to come. We have also felt the loss of those who have died during the year: Frida Kingdom, Jean Smithson, Gwyneth Smith, Emily Rowe and Mary Pocklington. It is encouraging to see new people attending the morning congregation. In the past few weeks alone there have been three mothers, each with two children, who have come from Asia. The efforts of the leaders of the Youth Groups and Sunday School give us strong hope that families such as these will find a long-term 'church home' here.

It is difficult now to get to know people, except through small groups, camps and the like, as the total number of participants has increased; there is relatively little cross-over between congregations; and a number of people are irregular in attendance.

The only event during the year when most people in the church were in the one place at the one time was at the farewell of Rod and Liz Pell. Thank you to those who make the effort to get to know new people! It is worth it.

### Grace Munro

#### MEMBERS

##### ***Number as at Sept 08***

	English	Vietnms	Total
<b><i>Number as at Sept 08</i></b>	<b><i>93</i></b>	<b><i>29</i></b>	<b><i>122</i></b>
ADD - Accepted into membership	15	7	22
ADD Transferred into membership	2	0	2
SUBTRACT Members moved to Absentee roll	-3	0	-3
SUBTRACT Members who have died (Mrs Elfrida Kingdom, 13.12.09, Mrs Gwyneth Smith, 12.3.10, Mrs Mary Pocklington, 3.5.10)	-3	0	-3
SUBTRACT Members transferred away	-5	0	-5
SUBTRACT Members no longer attending	-1	-9	-10
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 10</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>125</b>

#### ABSENTEE MEMBERS

##### ***Absentee members as at Sept 07***

<b><i>Absentee members as at Sept 07</i></b>	<b><i>14</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>	<b><i>18</i></b>
ADD members moved to be Absentee members	3	0	3
SUBTRACT Absentee members who have died (Mrs Jean Smithson, 30.10.09, Mrs Emily Rowe, 29.3.10)	-2	0	-2
SUBTRACT Absentee members removed by roll revision	-7	-2	-9
<b>TOTAL ABSENTEES SEPTEMBER 10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>

#### ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS

##### ***Active non-members as at Sept 09***

<b><i>Active non-members as at Sept 09</i></b>	<b><i>181</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>191</i></b>
DEDUCT Active non-members who have moved away	-29	-8	-37
DEDUCT Active non-members who became members	-13	0	-13
ADD New active non-members	45	0	45
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 10</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>186</b>

#### **MEMBERSHIP / PARTICIPATION, AT SEPTEMBER 2010, after above adjustments**

	English Speaking	Vietnamese	Totals	2010
<b>Active members</b>	98	27	<b>125</b>	
<b>Absentee members</b>	8	2	<b>10</b>	
<b>Active non-members</b>	184	2	<b>186</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>321</b>	

## MINISTRY TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

### THE STUDENT RESIDENCE

Another year in the life of the Residence has passed, and it's difficult to remember all that has happened. Life is full and exciting when living here, so much happens, so many people grow and change and there is always much to be thankful for.

We have had another year with a full house, all places filled, even with a couple of students leaving early in Semester 1 of 2010. Generally students have been willing to get involved in activities and have organized many social events themselves. This adds to the sense of community and closeness experienced here. It's a privilege to be able to share life with the students, to get to know them – all at different points in their journey, and to encourage them along the way.



Lots of social events have happened over the past year, both formal and organized, and those more informal and spontaneous. Trips to the blood bank, girls weekend last August – aptly organized by Yas McGrath and held at Phillip Island, guys week held in September – a mix of Res and church boys or should we say 'men', camping and doing manly things by the Murray River, the formal in October (Casino Royale theme, with a fantastic 'dance-off' at the end of the night), Relay for Life in March (where we again won the award for best theme – 80's retro), Easter celebration in April and soccer world cup night in June, just to name a few. The end of year BBQ normally held at Alexandra Gardens, was this year moved to the Hawthorn Lawn Bowls Club. This was a great way to finish the year in a relaxed and fun way. Krista also organized a team (called *The Young and the Res*), again a mix of Res, Nightchurch and other people to participate in State Youth Games. This is the first year we have entered a team, and they were very successful, winning the Russell Croxford Award, awarded to the team scoring the most points per person participating in sport. They were also placed second in the medium churches section. Hopefully this is an event we can continue to be part of in the future. In May we held a family weekend, with about 25 families attending at various times over the weekend. The weekend entailed ultimate Frisbee at the park on Saturday afternoon, a BBQ for dinner, bush dance Saturday night, and a football competition with four teams – Res, ex-Res, church, and families of Res, on the Saturday afternoon. Each event was a success and a great way to promote connections between students and their families as well as linking the wider Kew Baptist community on the Sunday. While it was a big event to organise, the positive feedback we have received indicates that it is definitely worth the effort.

There have been many minor maintenance jobs carried out over the past twelve months. Thirty mattresses have been replaced, a new instant hot water service installed, the bike shed extended and re-roofed with bike racks installed, installation of an automatic watering system in all gardens (including part of the Highbury Grove House), exterior painting of the Highbury Grove House, the upstairs old side bathroom re-floored and re-tiled, downstairs old side bathroom floor tiles replaced with vinyl, kitchen

cupboards repaired and repainted, the airlock at back door reduced in size and space built for fridges to create more space in dining room, blinds on new side replaced, wardrobe built into second bedroom of managers residence and the purchase of new lunch fridge. Some gym equipment was also purchased and is located in a small room next to the basketball court. This is used by students as well as some members of the night church community and provides another way for students to socialize and connect with each other. They are contributing per semester to gradually pay for this item.

We attended three accommodation expos in Shepparton, Bendigo and Ballarat. These are worthwhile events, as we have attracted quite a large number of students from these areas.

Our cook, Cindy, left at the end of September (a career move to another site to become a manager) and we welcomed Linda who is very capable and appreciated. Several students spend time with her regularly, as she adopts a 'mother' role with some of them.

At the end of last year we said farewell to Glynn from the support staff role. The contribution he made to the Res community over the many years he has been involved is invaluable. He and Jaz continue to support the Res in prayer, and in their friendship with us, Krista and some of the students and we appreciate their input. We welcomed Tim Hunter to support staff at the beginning this year and he is also an asset to the community, and Krista Celle (support staff) continues to be an inspiration in the way she lives and shares life with those around her. God continues to provide great people for the vacant roles and we are grateful for the way he works through all situations and relationships. Included in this are the members of the Highbury Grove House and the contributions they make at different levels, in sometimes seen ways and at other times in unseen ways. Each time we meet with them (retreat at the beginning of the year, prayer each Friday, day trip canoeing on Yarra in July, and incidentally during the week) we are inspired to continue sharing the love of Christ with those around us. We also acknowledge the support and efforts of Tim Gray and Kirrily Schwarz, the senior students.

Several students are on exciting journeys in the pursuit of life and the meaning behind it. In these moments and discussions, we are reminded of God's overall sovereignty in drawing people towards him through the power of his Spirit. We see this in the growth of many students, some Christian and others not, and the way they become involved in Res and at times the Church community.

It is difficult to encapsulate a whole year of Res life in just a couple of pages. It is also difficult to specifically acknowledge all who have input into what goes on. We thank the Committee for their ongoing support and work, Tim Hunter and Krista Celle, Michael Ross, Yas McGrath, Steph Bowers, Joshi Philip and Katie Ward. Above all we acknowledge God's provision, protection and blessing on the ministry of the Res.

### **Michelle and Stephen Duke**





*The Res and House staff members: Yas McGrath, Krista Celle, Michelle (and Cademon as a bump), Stephen, Ambrie and Zoe Duke, is that Tim Hunter at the back?, Steph Bowers, Katie Ward, Michael Ross, Joshi Philip.*

## THE HOUSE

At the beginning of this year the Dukes, Tim Hunter and Krista Celle, and the members of the house (Mike Ross, Joshi Philip, Steph Bowers, Katie Ward and Yasmin McGrath) got together in Queenscliff for a weekend of chatting about the year to come and what some of our goals as a team were.

The Res year began with the House organizing 'O-week' activities for all the students. Things didn't always go exactly to plan, especially when a certain house member wondered if his finger could stop the blades of the blender – the answer for all those curious ones is NO!! So a trip to the hospital was required. The O-week activities ended with the house 'housewarming' party, which was a glow in the dark theme. The housewarming is always a great way to introduce the res students to the greater Kew Baps community.

Since the O-week activities the role of the house has been to build relationships with the students at the Res and provide a place for them to be comfortable and be able to just pop over whenever for a cuppa and always feel welcomed.

Every Friday morning the Dukes, Tim Hunter, Krista Celle and the house members meet to pray for each of the students that live in the res and each other. Living in the house or Res is never an easy thing, and things such as patience are often put to the test, so it's important for us to try and support each other and the students through prayer.

There are a few more events in the pipeline for the house still to come this year, one being an 'invent your own super hero' party where people from res and the church have the opportunity to meet new people.

**Yasmin McGrath**, on behalf of Steph Bowers, Joshi Philip, Michael Ross, Katie Ward

## A FUNDRAISER



Russel Dyer plans to take a group of students from his Broadmeadows school to Cambodia late in 2010, and Joshi Philip offered to shave off his dreadlocks to raise funds for them. While announcing this intention at NightChurch, he said, "If we raise more than \$5,000, I'll shave my whole body!" A few weeks later in the hall, prior to NightChurch, crowds gathered to see the dreadlocks go – and \$8,000 was raised. And, we're told, the body hair went as well. As he was just about to launch into a school placement, it was felt that maybe the eyebrows should stay for a week or two!

There are many other fundraising events which happen as NightChurch people support local and overseas charities – but perhaps none as successful as this one!

## POSSUMS PLAYGROUPS

At time of writing I am enjoying a weekend of quietness and contemplation on a beautiful farm property in Lysterfield. I am privileged to be part of a small group who are journeying in silence as we explore "Sacred spaces~Thin places". It is certainly a change of pace from my normal busy and rather noisy life at Possums. Yet the two are very complementary as without either, neither would be as appreciated.

One aspect of this weekend was exploring the presence of presence. It is said that our presence impacts on everyone and everything in a 15 metre radius of us, and of course others also impact us. Each of us has our own unique presence and how we are on any particular day will influence those around us accordingly.

It got me thinking.

As a church community what sort of a presence do we wish to convey to the families who attend Possums each week? What presence of the Kew Baptist Church do the families expect or wish for from us?

I would like to thank the wonderful team of church helpers who attend each week and make KBC a visible presence. As the face of the church, not only are they visible, they are welcoming, friendly, cheerful, supportive, interested, helpful, caring and committed. They model Christ to everyone who

comes in our doors and even if those entering don't quite realise what it is that makes Possums that bit special I know it is the invisible Presence of God made visible through Carol Warner, Ray Leigh, Helen McLean, Natalie Pell, Anastasia Panagiotidis, Deirdre Willis, Ronnie Coffey, Jenny Clark, Ann Bown, and up until the end of 2009, Rod Pell. We have also welcomed time spent by Jazlyn Chambers and Sarah Trebilcock. These plus the prayers of the people are what makes the difference.



Once again Possums has benefited greatly from Grace Munro's administrative support and David Benwell's financial expertise. The committee have worked hard to keep Possums well organised and running smoothly. Special thanks to Ann Seeley who has stepped up to the role of president, to Jo Giarracca for all her work with enrolments, Marisa Vendramini in keeping us all in touch via the newsletter, and Bec Rugers with her expertise in fundraising. Nella Dimasi remembers all our little Possums birthdays, and Anthea Price organises a welcome gift for all our new baby possums. Our group representatives, above named, plus Karen Cresp and Alison Walsh, look after their individual groups socially as well liaising between their group and the community as a whole.

Once again I have appreciated wonderful support from the two kindergarten assistants, Jennifer Bede and Anastasia Panagiotidis.

At our annual inspection by Playgroup Victoria this year it was indicated to us that for bureaucratic reasons we are no longer allowed to call ourselves a kindergarten as we are actually registered as a rostered playgroup. We just happen to have a qualified kindergarten teacher running a three year old program! To this end, to differentiate between our two different programs we will remain Possums playgroup where child and carer attend all sessions together, and what was our kinder groups will now be Possums Little Learners Rostered Playgroup. Same program, new name.

Once again, for another year, thank you for your continued support of the playgroup ministry. Every time you are a visible presence at a working bee, a fundraising event, a social encounter, the Annual General Meeting, or a playgroup session you are making the invisible God visible to some who may never have encountered Him before. Every prayer said or word of encouragement expressed are valued beyond measure.

May you be richly blessed, as you are a blessing to many, and thank you for allowing me the privilege to minister alongside you.

**Miriam Schmidt, Co-ordinator Possums.**





## CHAT AND CHEW

Chat and Chew has continued for another year, expressions of appreciation encourage us to keep going into another year. The handful of men who have been promoted to higher service are greatly missed. However, new attendees have made up for that loss.

Our decision made a few years ago to meet at Karana has proved to have been a good one. What we need is an influx of younger men who feel called to reach out in fellowship and chat with those in wheelchairs. Our attendances average just under 30, half of them being residents of Karana. The meals are first class as is the service. A few ladies sneak in from time to time to hear the speaker. This ministry appreciates the church's prayer and encouragement.

**Kingsley Smith**, Convener

## ABBOTSFORD

Well it's been quite a journey over the past 18 months for me, for those that have lived in the Abbotsford House and for Kew Baptist Church as they have constantly supported us.

I have to say that although the 'project' didn't necessarily turn out how I had anticipated or expected, God certainly used it as a time to teach all involved as much as he could. We have been challenged both in our personal lives and in the mission Jesus has called us all 'to live our lives to serve him and bring his Kingdom to earth'.

The Abbotsford house set out with the following ambition...

- Immerse ourselves in the neighbourhood and community, to become a local, to understand what it's like to live in the area and to connect with it as best we could.
- Provide friendship to our neighbours, not charity.
- Commit to serving our neighbours, living hospitably, openly and sharing life with those we came into contact with.
- Commit to praying together as a household and having an open house that is always warm and inviting to others.
- That our home would provide a real capacity for people from the Student Residence, Nightchurch and other places to build relationship with amazing people who have come from places and lived lives very different to our own. We want to give them an opportunity to share God's love with people who really need it through action and friendship. Also to learn from the life experience and hardships of others and be stretched in our understanding and perception of God.



*Abbotsford – a place of hospitality for local residents, family and friends*



*2009: Laura Bracken, Robin Madden, Jazlyn Langford (now Chambers), Amy Hill*

An almost complete changeover in the residents of 19 Stanton St in February 2010 in some ways meant starting again.

Jazlyn Langford married Glynn Chambers in January and they moved into Hawthorn, Katie Ward decided to take on a new position as a member of 'The House' supporting the Res students, Laura Bracken completed her university studies and moved back home to Leongatha. Amy Hill travelled in Africa and America and returned in February to four new housemates: James Docking, Naomi Barker, Ali Smith and Elise Hanscamp.

Amy continued to work for Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre and regularly came into contact with many of the newly arrived refugee and migrant families and young people living on the Fitzroy and Collingwood Housing Estates. She was successful in obtaining the Yarra Council Grant to run a 'Girls Group' for young African women living on the public housing estates. The group continues to run weekly on a Wednesday night out of the 'Youth Space' at the bottom of the Collingwood Housing Estate. She is also in regular contact with the local language centres, schools and youth services.

James continued to visit the Atherton Gardens Housing Estate in Fitzroy on Wednesday nights building on relationships with the residents. This involved basketball, BBQ's, chatting, visiting homes, planning a dance group, etc.

Ali Smith and Elise Hanscamp were new not only to the area but also to the fellowship of Kew Baptist. Through their studies at local educational institutions like Collingwood NMIT and Australian Catholic University they were able to get to know many local classmates who provided meaningful discussion.

Naomi Barker spent some time sharing in worship at the local church, St Martins in the heart of Collingwood, and also got to know people through joining a local netball team and yoga class.

We have also had the privilege of gathering with members of the Otter St House (a group with similar goals to our own) to pray weekly for the Collingwood area, its people, its circumstances and each other.

The household provided friendship, sanctuary and security for everyone in what has been a year of change and challenge for all of us.

Unfortunately we were forced to exit the property at the conclusion of our lease due to the Stanton St house going on the market. With three of the house members getting engaged and the other two feeling God's call to move on, the household and Collingwood ministry has somewhat disbanded for the time being. However there are still many opportunities for continued interest, support and investment in Kew's neighbouring suburb which is still in need of both our prayer and support and also offering a wonderful experience of diversity and community.

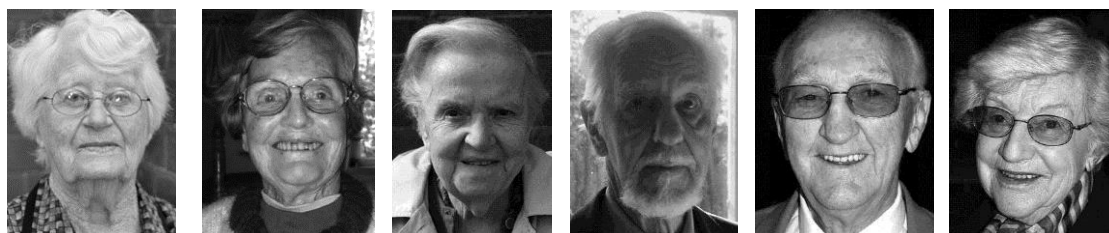
We are very thankful to Kew Baptist for their overwhelming support in prayer, finance, interest and encouragement of me and us throughout this journey.

**Amy Hill**

## KARANA

Change and transition seem to be the theme of Karana as many residents now come into care at a later time in their lives when the level of care required is much higher. Originally the first floor was Hostel care but has increasingly become High Care. However in the midst of change God is faithful and we acknowledge with gratitude our Manager Carlo Rizzi, and his support of pastoral care and services held at Karana. The Leisure and Lifestyle staff are also a wonderful support in portering residents to Chapel services as clinical staff are limited in the assistance they can now give.

It is with some sadness that a number of volunteers have had to retire due to ill health and other commitments. They are missed but their prayer support of Karana is highly valued in the midst of changes. We give thanks for those volunteers who are able to continue in providing care in a number of ways at Karana. An afternoon tea to acknowledge their contribution will be held in November.



*Audrey Bennett has been a key supporter of work at Karana for many years; Betty Barclay and Audrey Lowe are comparatively recent residents; Basil Swanton has lived at Karana for many years and until early in 2010 attended KBC. Similarly, Doug Mathews and Wyn Priest, living at Strathalan, have recently been unable to attend KBC*

The last two years have also seen the death of many of our regular Chapel attendees and longer term residents, and they are missed. However, we are thankful for those residents who are still with us (some for more than twenty years) who know and love the Lord and contribute to the general environment at Karana.

We give thanks as well for the Robinsons and Trevarthens who faithfully come to Karana on Sundays and assist residents, provide music and lead services on occasion. It is with a note of thankfulness too that we acknowledge the contribution of young adults from Kew Baptist Church who assist on Sundays. Their youthful presence is a joy to many.

Another recent change is the reduction of mid week Chapel services from three to two with the exception of the Holy Trinity Anglican communion service which is held on the third Friday morning of the month. This service provides for a number of residents who prefer a more liturgical style and are of Catholic faith. The Bible Study continues once a month on the first Friday and is well received with about eight residents attending and ably led by Rev Rowena Curtis. Rowena commenced at Karana recently and provides extra pastoral support, due to my increased responsibilities as Team Leader of Baptcare's Residential Aged Care Chaplains, and it is great to share the work with her.

Our offerings for the last few months have diminished due to less folk able to give and slightly less residents attending Sunday services. There are usually 25-30 folk who come, who enjoy the different styles of service leadership throughout the month, including Gary Bradley and the Chorale, Ruth Nicholls and Professor Basil Brown who leads the communion service.

It was a joy for me personally when a resident who was a woman of faith was dying and I was able to sit with her and hear her say the Lord's Prayer and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm as she acknowledged her dying process. Many residents know that they are nearing the end of their lives and openly look to God for comfort at that time. As Chaplain I feel it is a wonderful privilege to support them in this journey. On a personal level I give thanks for God's enabling and the opportunity to share with residents and a network of supporters with whom there is a sense of teamwork and collegiality.

**Ruth Prentice**, Chaplain.

## MISSION, AID AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The purpose of the Mission, Aid and Development (MAD) Group is, with God's guidance, to **Make a Difference** in the world, both local and overseas, in the areas of justice, mission, aid and development. The group aims to do this by increasing awareness of the world's needs and their causes, promoting action to address those needs and by supporting and praying for those who are involved in various ministries that encompass the areas of Mission, Aid and Development. Any interested person is very welcome to attend any event or meeting.

In October 2009, Chris Rowlands and Mark Juers spoke of their work with World Vision, which helped members of the group understand more of what is involved in facilitating beneficial long-term change for communities gripped by poverty. Chris gave examples of how appropriate action can help farmers and other primary producers to gain access to larger markets for their goods and to maximise the benefit gained from their efforts. Through his expertise with computers, Mark and his colleagues are helping to maximise the efficiency of reporting processes and information provided to donors about the children and communities they support.

The new year brought innovative ideas about how to involve more people in the activities planned, and resulted in two successful gatherings based around meals. In April, ten others joined Natalie Smith around the dinner table, to hear about her work with the Leprosy Mission in Timor Leste. Natalie is in charge of the team ministering not only to leprosy sufferers, but also to those with disabilities, addressing a wide range of issues, including rehabilitation, vocational training, screening programs and medical treatment. Much of her time is spent in applying for grants to enhance the work, and in overseeing the training and operation of the team of national workers over a large area.

At the end of May, a pancake breakfast was held, attended by over 50 people interested in hearing about Third Culture Kids (TCKs). Chaired by Kerryn Pell and John Barclay, and with input from Howard Barclay and Meryl Smith, ten young adults from our KBC fellowship shared their own very varied personal experiences of how their lives have been impacted by spending a significant number of their growing-up years in a culture different from their parents' 'home' culture.

Plans are being finalised for delicious desserts and delightful music, to accompany an evening devoted to hearing about the experiences of a number who have been involved in the area of advocacy.

Members of the group will continue to support those from Kew BC and others, working in cross-cultural ministries in Australia and overseas. 13% of KBC offerings has been allocated to the Mission, Aid and Development budget.

These were distributed as follows:

Support of personnel:	John and Janine Barclay and Aidan, working with Interserve in India	\$6,250
	David and Eryl Edwards, with Global Interaction in SE Asia	\$5,200
	Mark Holt, preparing to return to Indonesia with Global Interaction	\$1,800
	Michelle Stancliffe, returned from Tanzania with YWAM	\$1,300
	Tin van Pham and Anna Ngoc Thi Lam, with C&MA in Cambodia	\$2,600
	Lisa Detlefsen, teaching MAF families' children in northern Australia	\$2,600
	Abbotsford rent subsidy	\$7,796
	Gifts for the poor not covered by Barnabas Fund	\$200
Organisations:	Asylum Seekers (Brunswick) housing	\$500
	Kew High School Chaplaincy	\$500

**Deirdre Willis**

## **CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Teaching Christian Religious Education at Kew State School is a mixed affair. You hope the lesson which takes about one and a half hours to prepare will be well received and the kids will behave sufficiently well and listen.

The room where the lesson is taken is the size of a small office and the kids sit (or lay) on the floor. Not the best set up for learning. My lesson time is the first period after lunch so they can be hyped up. Added to this they see "non teaching staff" differently to their usual teachers and act accordingly. I hope I am not drawing too drastic a picture.

On the other hand, when the lesson goes well it is magic and you feel something worthwhile has been achieved. They are really nice kids and sometimes they amaze you with what they have remembered.

If I think about it, I don't look forward to CRE but remain involved because what I do is better than if no one did it and it may be the only time these children hear about God and Jesus and what being a Christian means. I also believe that God wants me to do it, so there is a purpose to it.

The school is short of teachers and if you feel called to be involved, let me know.

It is better than it sounds and well worth the effort.

**Ray Leigh**

## **CARRICAL BOARDING HOUSE**

Dave McKeown and Christine Muller continue to head up a small team which visits Carrical Boarding House each month. There, they provide a meal for the residents (mostly men), and spend a lot of time chatting with them.

This is highly valued by the men, and also by the staff at the home. It is also a good learning experience for those involved.

## **WIDER CONTACTS**

Lindsay Smith represents KBC in the Kew Ministers gathering, and he and Grace Munro at the Kew Inter-Church Council, the groups which organize the community carols event and the Good Friday service in Petrie Square.

Gatherings of the Baptist Union of Victoria have changed a great deal over recent decades, and Ken Lyall, Brian Garth, John Sampson, Ken and Margaret Manley have represented us in discussions there.

At a broader level, we maintain our links with Global Interaction, Baptist World Aid Australia, Crossover and the Baptist World Alliance by our donations to their work.

Through practical and financial support the congregation has links with many other groups as well, especially through our young adult community. Perhaps the most startling one was when Joshi Philip's offer to shave off his dreadlocks raised \$8,000 for a group of students to travel from Broadmeadows to Cambodia under the leadership of Russel Dyer! But there have been many other fundraising events, and gatherings to support agencies serving our communities.

**Grace Munro**

## AUBURN BAPTIST CHURCH



*Darren Cronshaw*

This year at Auburn Baptist has been an exciting time. The wonderfully open congregation has welcomed new pastors Darren and Jenny Cronshaw, along with their children Ben, Jessie and Emily. Although Both Darren and Jenny are carrying dual roles, Darren as leadership training coordinator at BUV and Jenny as an aged care professional with Baptcare, their commitment to Auburn has been noticed and appreciated already.

The church has also experienced recent growth with a number of new members and regular attendees. Auburn has greatly appreciated the regular support in musical leadership from Mat Hunter, with the occasional assistance of Corey Leslie, Chara Meredith, Glynn Chambers and Andy Hunter. The Kew-Auburn partnership has grown on a youth level also, with a number of Auburn youngsters joining the Kew youth group, with plans for a Sunday School partnership in the pipelines.

The Auburn community is one that promotes acceptance, and is keen to explore 'new ways of doing church'. The multicultural congregation is witness to this, as is the enthusiasm to connect with the local community and Swinburne University. This missional philosophy has found a recent practical outworking in the annual Auburn mission fundraiser, where our Christmas in July dinner raised \$400 to supplement Bangladeshi community projects.

The Auburn community is not one afraid of change. Recently we have seen the introduction of couches to our worship space (from Ha Vo, John Sampson and Arthur and Gwen Davie). Similarly, a number of Auburn members recently visited South Yarra Baptist Church to learn the advantages of ancient worship practices, and look forward to implementing some of their inspired ideas into our worship patterns.

However, Auburn is still a worshipping community looking to the future and continues to extend the invitation to those at Kew who might be feeling the call to a variety of ministry opportunities - music ministry, student ministry and community outreach. If you are interested in these ministries, or are curious about new expressions of church life, then come for a visit at 10:30am on a Sunday, Burwood Road Hawthorn.

Tim Hunter, Irene Schuringa and I are regular participants at Auburn, and are involved in various aspects of the ministry.

**Mark Payne**

## GOOD GRUB

Evelyn Meinderstma and Ken and Edith Lyall continue to assist at Tuesday's Good Grub at the Uniting Church in Highbury Grove. This provides a meal for people who are homeless or in boarding houses in the district. It is coordinated by Pam White, of the Uniting Church Regional Ministries.

## **MINISTRY SUPPORT**

### **Church Administrator**

This year has highlighted to me the fact that that we are, to a great extent, a volunteer community. There are of course a few people who are paid – at least for part of the time they spend helping at the church. But, on the whole, a great majority of what goes on in and around the church happens through volunteers. As a community, we have a high proportion of people who are dedicated to the purposes for our existence as a church, and are prepared to offer their time to do what is necessary to sustain the work.

Some of the tasks carried out are visible to everyone – people help out with rostered tasks, come to working bees, lead services, preach, do children's times in church, run the Sunday School and Youth Group, head up small groups, play or sing in music teams, look after the audio, distribute CDs of services, attend Possums' sessions, host hospitality lunches, count the offering, attend Deacons' meetings, fold the bulletins and much more. We try during the year in the church bulletin to thank these people for their contribution – and we repeat our appreciation here in this annual report.

Special thanks to those who coordinate people's contribution by organising rosters which affect our Sundays – the Interns and Sarah Vosti who coordinate NightChurch activities, and John Hollow, Anastasia Panagiotidis, Shirley Tape, Liz Taylor and Jenn Trevaskis for morning service work. A feature of a volunteer community is that it takes a lot of time chasing up people who are willing to help, but don't necessarily answer emails when one needs a response! So, thank you for your persistence in this.

Many of the tasks are not as visible – in particular those who keep in touch with others to offer pastoral support and help. This has been particularly valuable since Rod Pell concluded in ministry early in 2010. Pastoral Care was a key focus of his decade of ministry at KBC, and it is the area where we most miss his contribution.

However, much of the ministry of KBC takes place outside of the church buildings – our contacts with people who are not yet believers in our community, nurture of young people at camps, help offered to people who experience poverty and deprivation, a listening ear to those who are depressed, friendliness to neighbours and work colleagues, interaction with friends and much more. We are grateful that God has gifted us in remarkable ways, and that we have the opportunity to serve others in various ways.

We can be encouraged that during this transition period between permanent pastors, much of the work of the church has continued on, and in some cases is growing and flourishing, such as NightChurch, Sunday School and Youth Group. The ongoing life and vitality of the church, in part, is due to those who contribute in a paid capacity. We are particularly grateful to Ken Manley for providing the stability needed at this time. His knowledge of the community and its needs has been a great advantage. We thank too the other members of the pastoral team for their ongoing work.

But, most of all, we thank everyone in the community who helps make KBC what it is – a community of people who are committed to Christ and who are willing to serve him, the church and those whom they contact in the community.

**Grace Munro**

## MAINTENANCE

The major items needing to be done for the present have been completed. The last major tasks completed were refurbishing the paved areas outside the front of the church, and the Church foyer. This work was funded through an anonymous donation, and has been a welcome change to the entry of the church. The old doors that came off have been sold. Victorian Extension Design, led by Chris Laukart, provided the work at cost price because of his friendship with Rod Pell.

In order to comply with safety regulations, illuminated exit signs have been put in place and door handles have been changed – an expensive item which unfortunately needed to be done.

In the near future, the organ will be repaired following damage from a hail storm early in the year which led to leakage into the pipes. Thankfully, most of this work will be covered by insurance.

There are always a myriad of small jobs which need to be done - plumbing, electrical, equipment repairs, all involving tradesmen. This becomes costly but is inevitable.

In our most recent working bee, it was excellent to have a strong team of people who completed a lot of work for us.

Major jobs which are planned:

1. Landscape / re-model the area between the House (14 Highbury Grove) and the Church (we are waiting on a quotation for this).
2. The fence between the hall and The House is to be replaced, as also a small section of fence beside the Carport (Cost \$1500+/- to the church).
3. Noise levels need to be addressed. John Hollow has studied this carefully, and while we will aim to keep costs as low as possible, there will inevitably be substantial expenses involved. It will involve double glazing at least a few, if not all, the windows on the south side of the church, and new acoustic doors on the same side of the church (Minimal work \$15,000).
4. A major task will be to refurbish the Manse, ready for a new pastor. This will include a major upgrading of the main bathroom, re-carpeting, security screen doors and more (\$20-25,000 +/-).
5. It appears that the Data Projector will need to be replaced (\$1,000).

Other issues which are yet to be raised with deacons

6. Gas heaters in the Church should at some time be replaced.
7. I still believe we should rebuild the rear of the Church, providing rooms for multiple staff, Deacons' Vestry, Prayer Room, Counselling Room, Archives Room, Internal Toilets, with side enclosed corridor leading from side door to rear of the Church (\$250,000 +/-).

If people would like to give to specific projects, this would be very welcome.

**Lindsay Smith**, Maintenance Manager





## FINANCES

Our results for the year ended 30 June 2010 show that we incurred a deficit (loss) of \$16,870 (as per the Income & Expenditure statement).

The major reason for this was that our income was \$30,861 less than budget (mainly because offerings were \$36,633 less than the budget of \$240,000). Expenses were also \$13,321 less than budget, primarily because salaries were \$11,492 less than budget. (A full year had been budgeted for Rod but unfortunately he had to resign during the year because of ill health).

While this result was disappointing we were fortunate in having built up reserves in the previous years, particularly in the 2008/09 year, so this year's deficit can be absorbed. However we would not want to continue making deficits, as the funds held in reserve are limited!

Brief details for the reasons for variances between actual and budget are as follows:

<b>Variance – Favourable (Unfavourable)</b>	<b>Income/Expense Item</b>	<b>Comments</b>
670	Budgeted surplus for the year	
(36,633)	Offerings & Other Income	The offerings received were below budget.
6,401	General mission giving (unspent from previous years etc)	This item was not included in the budget.
378	Sundry income	More income was received for photocopying etc. than in the budget.
(2,746)	Rental income	The hall was not hired out as much as had been anticipated in the budget.
2,277	Student Residence loan interest	The interest was higher as there were less draw downs on the loan made to the Student Residence than expected.
(538)	Bank interest	Bank interest received was less than budget as there were fewer funds available for investing.
11,492	Salaries	These were less than budget mainly because Rod Pell had to resign during the year because of ill health.
(2,787)	Outreach & Ministry Expenses	This unfavourable variance includes \$4,254 (for the BUV Ministry Contribution that was paid prior to 30 June that relates to July to December 2010; (this was not included in the budget) and higher than budgeted Mission Aid & Development allocations of \$1,650 (funds held from prior years were included in the payments made) offset by a favourable variance for church ministry expenses etc. of \$3,117 (these were less than anticipated).
3,374	Administration & Other Expenses	Overall these expenses were less than budget. The interest paid on Vietnamese funds held was \$700 higher than budget because the funds were not paid out until June, this was later than expected.
1,242	Property Expenses	These were overall less than the budget because of the less than expected cleaning and insurance expenses, offset by higher than budgeted property maintenance expenses.
<b>(16,870)</b>	<b>Deficit as per Income &amp; Expenditure statement</b>	

In addition to the above, donations of \$57,550 were received for our property reserve fund (see Note 7); this fund is used for paying major expenses in maintaining and renovating our buildings and property. These donations are greatly appreciated.

**Church Budget for 2010/11:**

As can be seen in the proposed church budget, we again face a big challenge in the coming year. May we each know God's leading as we consider our giving and what part God wants us to do in the ministry at Kew Baptist.

In conclusion, I'd like to say a big thank you to Grace Munro for her fantastic work in looking after the finances of the church and in giving me timely finance reports; also many thanks to everybody else who assists with the counting of offerings, banking etc, all of your contributions are much appreciated.

**Steve Taylor**, Treasurer