

September 2011

Armidale Uniting Church Annual Congregation Meeting 2011 Report

Armidale Congregation

As the over-arching local structure, the activities of the Armidale Congregation include all that is reported elsewhere in this document, but this section will focus particularly on the things we do together.

Worship at 9.30am continues to be our most significant weekly gathering. Through the year we have enjoyed a wide range of experiences and input. Of course, not everything pleases everybody but we hope that everyone will have enjoyed many challenging and enriching experiences over time. A personal highlight for me is the Alwyn Jones Award presentations, and I have also welcomed the quality and diversity of music - this is clearly enhanced by the grand piano and we look forward to the completion of restoration work on the Willis organ.

Many people share the load in presenting worship and contributing to the welcoming experience we hope to offer to all those who join us on a Sunday morning. In addition, a variety of "niche" worship opportunities are available at 8am Worship, Sundays@7, Hillgrove and in several residential care facilities. All of these are significant in the lives of those who participate.

Outside of worship, the Mid-winter Dinner was a great success and a very enjoyable time to join together. The Congregation has formally met twice since our last AGM: late in 2010 to elect elders and congregational representatives for 2011, and in May to approve the 2011-12 Budget, and make decisions about the Living is Giving program. Copies of the minutes are in the booklet

Lindsay Brash, Chair of the Armidale Congregation.

From the Minister

Changing Our Culture

My Key Goal for Armidale Congregation

In my first report to the Armidale Elders' meeting in February 2009, I indicated that my key goal was to enable the Armidale congregation (personally and corporately) to live effectively as the people of God in this place by:

- hearing, knowing, experiencing, understanding and giving their allegiance to the story of the Christian faith (as that faith is understood in that part of the body of Christ which is The Uniting Church in Australia);
- wrestling and playing with the intersections of their personal stories with the Christian story through study, worship, witness and service; and
- becoming more comfortable with expressing their personal faith and the corporate Christian faith in word and action.

In effect, this goal is seeking to assist people to engage in good theological praxis (action and reflection): “deliberate engagement with the Christian tradition out of the life experience of believers for the sake of making sense of that experience through the good news of Jesus Christ and being equipped for renewed practice as the body of Christ”.

I understand this goal as very much part of the role of an ordained minister in seeking to help the church be the church, i.e. the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church; the body of Christ, the people of God, the communion of the Spirit.

18 Month Reflections

After 18 months with the Armidale Congregation, I offered the following reflections to Elders and Church Council:

- The Congregation is solid but fragile. Its fragility comes with its concentration in the upper age limits. There is a solid core of caring people, but as the Congregation ages so do those who care, give, help out...
- We are clearly missing the strong regular in-

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From the Minister

volvement of “middle agers” although there are a number listed on our rolls. There are a number of issues related to this, including the increased pressure on workers in the contemporary economy.

- However, even when there are people around who might be asked to participate in other ways in the Congregation, there is a limited level of trust that they can participate from those who are still the doers. If generational change in leadership is to happen, current leaders will have to trust that future leaders may do things differently, but will still act as part of the body of Christ.
- While the Congregation is quite diverse, there is still a need to embrace greater diversity, if we are to understand the way in which those missing generations operate in the contemporary world.
- There is an amount of anxiety about all this, and some high hopes about how things could be different.
- If we act out of those anxieties and hopes related to numbers or age groups, we will continue to be sadly disappointed.
- Our action must be theologically and missionally grounded, i.e. grounded in our understanding of God and our sense of being caught up in God's mission.
- Safe spaces where people can talk about their faith will continue to be important. Our small groups and study groups like “Living the Questions” are key. Relationships are key in being the community which our relational God calls us to be.
- We need to change our way of judging success—it's not about numbers and ages; it's about worshipping God and relating together as the people of God.

From the Minister

• We are a Congregation which is aware of needs and issues beyond itself. Enhancing this awareness will also help us to focus on God's big picture, and not simply to get caught up in our own anxieties.

• We do not need to save the world. God has done that. We need to be faithful followers in the way of Christ, participating in the bringing about of the completion of God's reign; and that begins and ends in relationship God with us, us with each other, and with the surrounding community.

Theology and Mission

Theologically, the marks of the Church are not numbers, age profile or size of offerings. They are firstly, the oneness, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity bestowed on the body of Christ by virtue of our incorporation into Christ. This "Christ-like" nature is then regarded as manifest in the markers of "worship, witness and service" in the terms of the *Basis of Union*. This second group of markers has been described in a variety of ways throughout Christian history but essentially they provide a framework for assessing the "activity" of the church by asking us whether we are worshipping God with word and sacrament; witnessing to the good news of Jesus in word and deed; and demonstrating the presence of the Spirit in unity/communion and our participation in service to God's world. When we work out of this kind of understanding of church, we are theologically and missionally grounded. Over recent decades, many "mission" models have actually focussed on consumer and/or market-driven models. These models ask questions like "How many?", "How much?", "How old?", "How young?", "What do people like/want?" These kinds of models set us up for failure. They are not well theologically and missionally grounded.

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From the Minister

When Russell Morris did his presentation on "Resource Ministry" last year, he drew our attention to some of the key transitions that the church is facing. In his words, these transitions are:

- from "survival anxiety mode" to "generous mission activism";
- from "denomination preservation" to "communal vocation";
- and from "congregation as client" to "creation and community as client".

In effect, these transitions are movements from an individualist consumer market-driven approach to an approach grounded in our identity in God. They are about our continual re-discovery of what it means to be disciples of Christ; about the continuing process of "becoming disciples".

Cultural Markers

Mission Approach

A missional approach begins with asking:

- Who is God?
- Who are we in relation to God?
- What is God calling us to do at this time, given our understanding of the first 2 questions, and the resources we have?

Market Approach

Some small, but significant markers, of this approach include tendencies to:

- begin from "What is wrong?" (Sometimes conversations begin with this, even skipping normal greetings.);
- demand that "the church", "the Church Council", "the Elders", or "the minister" should do this or that without any commitment to be involved in this or that;

From the Minister

- think that the answers are easy or programmatic (i.e. if we do this..., then this will happen);
- give the impression that the church owes us something;
- judge “success” in terms of numbers and amount;
- avoid affirming individuals or groups in who they are as part of the people of God;
- try to make things “nice” or “acceptable”;
- accept “uncomfortable” people over there but not when they are in our Congregation;
- ignore or downplay conversation about the nature of God and the people of God;
- attempt to by-pass agreed processes for decision-making;
- blame other people or “the church” for what is seen to be wrong.

Ongoing Questions

So, how do we continue to help Armidale Congregation (each other together) act out of a theologically and missionally grounded approach as the people of God in this place? In order to answer this question, we need to begin with the 3 questions which govern a missional approach:

1. *Who is God?*
2. *Who are we in relation to God?*
3. *What is God calling us to do at this time, given our understanding of the first 2 questions, and the resources we have?*

Anita Monro (Revd Dr)
22 June 2011

About Armidale Uniting Church

At July 31st 2011 there were 249 households, and 449 people on the Armidale Church Roll

Funerals

Phyllis Mary Bowden	18 February 2011
Florence Amy Ashley	24 February 2011
Mary Anderson	14 March 2011
Edith Alma Madrick	24 March 2011
Robert John O’Sullivan	28 March 2011
Valerie Edith Wheaton	28 April 2011
Edmond Robert Styles	22 July 2011
Sandra Fay Newell	29 July 2011

Baptisms

Lydia Jane Sewell **11 March 2011**

Weddings

James Waters /Jennifer Delves **8 January 2011**
Matthew Samuel Hall/ Hannah May Simpson **19 August 2011**

Jan-Piet's Choice

On Wednesday 22 June, Dr Jan-Piet Knijff, a Lecturer in Music at UNE, started a new weekly music event at the Uniting Church: 'Jan-Piet's Choice'. Every Wednesday at noon, Jan-Piet plays a piece of music and talks about it. Not a concert, not a lecture, not a lecture-recital (sounds too serious!)—but a lot of fun!

At the time of writing, there have been four 'Choices', featuring music by Sweelinck (17th-C. Dutch), Haydn, Bach, and Rosenmüller (17th-C. German/Italian).

Jan-Piet has played piano and organ, both alone and with friends and students. Attendance, usually around 20, peaked at 27 at the fourth 'Choice'.

A free-will offering gives people an opportunity to contribute to the church's Organ Fund. Jan-Piet donates his 'Choices' to the Armidale community. Near the end of August, ten concerts have raised \$498.60 for the Organ Fund.

Jan-Piet Knijff

Tuesday Group

Tuesday Group is an inter-denominational group which has been meeting for fifteen years. We read current books on religion and discuss the relevant issues.

The facilitator is Margaret Barger, phone 6772 7825 and the group meets at 183 Faulkner Street, each Tuesday from 12 until 2pm (except school holidays).

The aim is to enrich and enhance the spiritual life of each person. The group is at maximum capacity for 2011; this allows each person to express their ideas and listen to each other respectfully.

Margaret Barger

Uniting Church of Australia, Armidale Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2011

	2010 \$	2011 \$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
General Fund - 844003S6	8,044.08	9,280.73
Westpac - General - 921208	2,304.67	3,102.92
Giving Direct - 844003S26	100.00	184.96
General S.H. Fund - 844003S1	77,252.48	88,704.41
Self Help Benefit Ac - 844003S25	34,108.36	32,462.17
Willis Organ Fund - 844003S1.2	14,224.50	13,721.20
Sims Bequest - 844003S1.3	8,492.15	8,353.55
Armidale Property - 844003S1.1	33,481.92	32,297.26
Armidale Uniting Ch Dep - 844003S2	6,415.07	6,310.39
Expense Facility	2,042.87	2,040.75
St Andrews House	31,148.19	11,089.01
Petty Cash	15.00	15.00
Total cash and cash equivalents	217,629.29	207,562.35
Trade and Other Debtors		
GST receivable	8,297.19	8,116.28
Total Current Assets	225,926.48	215,678.63
Non-Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment		
Plant & Equipment at cost	58,160.29	47,733.11
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-19,736.40	-14,014.67
Total plant & equipment	38,423.89	33,718.44
Total Non-Current Assets	38,423.89	33,718.44
Total Assets	264,350.37	249,397.07
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables		
Trade Payable	1,209.18	0.00
Payroll Deductions Payable	3,309.96	3,153.96
O'Sullivan Benefit Account	799.34	799.34
Will Person Benefit Account	-109.49	-109.49
Total trade and other payables	5,208.99	3,843.81
Total Current Liabilities	5,208.99	3,843.81
Net Assets	259,141.38	245,553.26

**Uniting Church of Australia, Armidale
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2011**

ASSETS (continued)	2011	2010
MEMBERS FUNDS		
Opening Balance at 1 July	245,553.26	233,562.43
Current Year Earnings	13,588.12	11,990.83
Closing Balance as at 30 June	259,141.38	245,553.26

**Uniting Church of Australia, Armidale
Income Statement
for the year ended 30 June 2011**

INCOME	2011 \$	2010 \$
General Offerings		
Armidale Offerings	24,243.24	22,915.53
Armidale Pledge	75,383.40	77,650.55
	99,626.64	100,566.08
Donations		
General	589.75	16,097.60
Willis Organ	1,689.15	985.15
New Piano Fund	1,355.90	0.00
	3,634.80	17,082.75
Property Income		
Armidale Property	14,831.00	12,063.00
Armidale Residence	36,951.13	31,656.96
Carriages	150.00	0.00
	51,932.13	43,719.96
Investment Income		
Self Help Scheme benefit	1,558.40	4,773.20
Willis Organ Fund	503.30	478.03
Sims Bequest	138.60	291.03
Armidale Property	1,184.66	1,125.18
Depreciation A/c Interest	104.68	237.60
General Fund	3,694.42	1,315.03
	7,184.06	8,220.07
Wider Work of Church		
Special Appeals	13,410.65	1,075.05
Benevolent Fund	0.00	60.00
	13,410.65	1,135.05
Grants Received		
Administrative Officer	18,430.00	0.00
Willis Organ Restoration	6,244.35	0.00
	24,674.35	0.00
Ministry Groups		
Hospitality	0.00	285.00
Social Responsibility	51.65	0.00
	51.65	285.00
Sundry Income		
Sundry Income GST Free	1,162.15	3,125.45
Morning Tea	57.35	74.10
Telephone reimbursement	89.23	10.00

**Uniting Church of Australia, Armidale
Income Statement
for the year ended 30 June 2011**

INCOME (continued)	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Insurance	0.00	466.58
Photocopy	303.60	236.20
Wedding/Fun/Bapt GST Free	2,685.00	1,761.40
Camps/Conferences	5.00	107.25
Functions	1,020.00	683.05
	5,322.33	6,464.03
Total Income	205,836.61	177,472.94
EXPENDITURE		
Minister's Stipend		
Wages, Salaries & Stipends	61,266.20	62,425.58
Minister's Residence Benefit	11,400.00	11,856.00
	72,666.20	74,281.58
Ministry Related Expenses		
Minister's Support - LSL	11,842.50	12,538.00
Superannuation	1,249.66	0.00
Other	2,816.84	1,246.89
	15,909.00	13,784.89
Other Salaries/Expenses		
Caretaker's Wage	6,374.55	3,029.88
Administrative Officer	7,127.04	0.00
Home Endowment Fund	1,902.50	1,915.00
Professional Development	920.00	997.00
	16,324.09	5,941.88
Office/General Expenses		
Postage	644.72	330.73
Repairs & Maintenance	695.35	590.85
Telephone	1,876.91	1,772.55
Internet Access	2,170.97	1,738.14
Office Supplies	1,506.12	2,008.63
Other	273.59	2,673.68
	7,167.66	9,114.58
Planned Giving Expenses		
Envelopes - Newsletters	99.27	1,587.20
Mission & Service		
Monthly Contribution	9,300.00	9,300.00

**Uniting Church of Australia, Armidale
Income Statement
for the year ended 30 June 2011**

EXPENDITURE (continued)	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Wider Church Work		
Benevolent Fund	1,057.55	874.82
Special Appeals	1,656.55	3,616.65
Other - Wider Work	0.00	0.00
	2,714.10	4,491.47
Property Expenses		
Armidale Property	4,107.54	9,060.54
Armidale Residence - Yallambee	1,366.75	2,012.27
Armidale Residence -Manse	1,962.38	2,910.85
Carriages	14.59	0.00
Gas & Electricity	12,876.91	6,437.25
Insurance	8,147.92	9,152.02
Organ Maintenance	2,038.37	832.50
Piano Tunning	140.00	160.00
Rates	2,368.84	1,205.30
	33,023.30	31,770.73
Ministry Group Expenses		
Social Responsibility	51.65	0.00
Education	1,000.00	0.00
Sunday School	395.31	229.31
Worship	1,087.95	696.88
Hospitality	559.68	445.45
Pastoral Care	200.00	0.00
	3,294.59	1,371.64
Sundry Expenses		
Accountancy	1,540.00	0.00
Functions	686.87	0.00
Morning Tea Supplies	84.57	105.62
Presbytery Levy	2,444.00	2,444.00
Funerals & Weddings	152.50	428.71
Other	5,565.61	4,678.59
	10,473.55	7,656.92
Capital Expenditure <\$500		
Organ Restoration	500.00	0.00
Office Equipment	0.00	125.41
Resident Equipment	105.00	989.96
Property Equipment	14,950.00	943.82
	15,555.00	2,059.19

**Uniting Church of Australia, Armidale
Income Statement
for the year ended 30 June 2011**

Other Expenses		
Depreciation Expense	5,721.73	4,122.03
Total Expenditure	192,248.49	165,482.11
Net Profit / (Loss)	13,588.12	11,990.83

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report has been prepared for use by the members of the organisation and it is a special purpose financial report. It has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Uniting Church in Australia NSW Synod. The committee has determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations:

AASB 110: Events after the Reporting Date
AASB 1031: Materiality

No other Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis and is based on historic costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities for which fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Uniting Church of Australia, Armidale in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated;

Accounting Policies

(a) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and short-term deposits in the statement of financial position comprise cash at bank, cash in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less plus bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown as current liabilities within short term borrowings.

(b) Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis at rates calculated to allocate the cost less the estimated residual value over the estimated useful life of each asset.

Estimated balance of the useful life of assets is reviewed at least every three years or as required.

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Evening Adult Fellowship

Estimated useful lives of each class of assets are as follows:

Plant & Equipment	3 to 30 Years
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The assets carrying values are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. An asset's carrying account is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Profit & Loss on disposal are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These amounts are included in the income statement.

(c) Finance Costs

Finance costs shall be recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

(d) Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the Corporation and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised.

Interest Income

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates relevant to the financial assets.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(e) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and service tax, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. It is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of the expense. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Tax Office is included in the current tax asset or liability disclosure in the statement of financial position.

The Evening Adult Fellowship meets in the Youth Centre Lounge on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm with an average attendance of 12-14 people at each meeting.

We have an interesting and varied program for the year. Each meeting includes a time of devotion led by members of the group followed by the activity of the evening and supper.

The guest speakers for this year addressed topics that included: promotion of mental illness; information on dementia; information from a nurse practitioner; a reading of hymns and poems that were written by Michael Cherry.

Our Christmas in July evening in the warmth of Bev Pitt's home is an annual event that is enjoyed by all members. The musical night presented by the 'Sing Australia' group is another annual event that is a stimulating evening. We became experts at arranging floral displays and posies under the expertise of Patsy Fulloon.



Our outreach programs include filling shoeboxes with gifts for the Operation Christmas Child program and donations to many organisations including Armidale Youth Futures, Scripture in schools and the Salvation Army's Café de Lite with funds received from catering for various functions during the year.

Kim Bastock

Know Your Bible

KYB meet on Monday mornings at 10.30am at the home of Marlene Burrows. We follow a set programme put out by C.W.C.I. an evangelical organization which has a Bible based teaching ministry.

Our group consists of nine regular members. Our group leader is Annette Watts. This group is for Women only.

We have an occasional speaker and also join with other KYB groups once a year. New members are welcome. If you are interested please contact- Annette Watts – 6771 1404 or Jenny Sholl – 6772 5208

Marlene Burrows

Hash Browns

The name indicates that this group meets at McDonalds on the 3rd Friday of the month from 8-9am, commencing with a devotional time.

It was established 15 years ago to undertake matters referred to it by the Church Council and report back findings as well as prepare discussion documents and to implement programs by involving volunteers. It is always looking for those 'morning' people who would like to join in discussing the issues and helping in activities.

In the past year, the group was asked to look at future projects envisaged from the 2009 Visioning Day. The Welcomers program at Services was explored and suggestions made to Church Council.

From the decisions made, an information session was run for those involved. Work has continued on the Sunday Explorer Program. If you would like more information and like to join, then contact Graham on 6772 1482

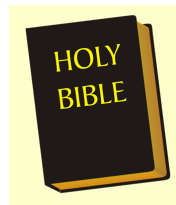
Graham MacKay

“Just Ask- Just Read”

As a group, we are aiming to simply ask for God's help and revelation as we *read*, mindful of his presence. Held at 15 Rusden Court, Bev Saunders' home on Wednesdays from 10 until 11.30.

New members are always welcome and can contact Bev Saunders on 6771 5671.

Bev Saunders — Organiser



St Andrews House

St Andrew's House is an intentional Christian community for students, established and run by our congregation. St Andrew's is located in the Manse next to the Church.

Over the past 12 months St Andrew's has had a full contingent of UNE students – Katie Evans, Celie Blake, Lucy Hipwell, Emily Duckett, James Ellis and Taulama Siuhengala. This group have forged a strong residential community and have been active in the life of the church. They have truly been a blessing to our congregation.

The residents are supported as a community by two mentors and also by Anita. The mentors meet regularly with the residents to share with them and to provide advice and assistance as required. This connection between the Church and the residents provides an essential pastoral oversight that is both a responsibility and a privilege for the congregation. Our special thanks and gratitude are extended to Noelene Raymond and Bev Saunders for taking on the role of mentor - and to Anita for the support that she also provides in this function.

The 'Andies' residents have reciprocated the connections made with them through a very active engagement with Church activities. This has included frequent worship the 9.30 am service; a strong involvement in the Sundays @ 7 service; and, a leadership role in the LA afternoon youth group. This involvement has helped to build a core of young people in the Church and has helped to attract others of this age group also.

In the middle of 2011 St Andrews had its first departures as Lucy, Emily and Celie finished study based in Armidale and commenced work in their chosen professions (teaching, nursing and agronomy). New residents are currently

Student Residence

being sought to take up the vacancies. The re-building phase for the House will be a testing time following an extended period of stability, and the prayers of the congregation for a smooth transition and the creation of a harmonious 'new community' are very important.

Lindsay Tasker has been a tower of strength as always in attending to furniture and heating needs, providing maintenance, and ensuring an attentive response to service and infrastructure needs. St Andrew's has a strong financial foundation as a result of an extended period of high occupancy. Attention will need to be given in the forthcoming months to ensure that new residents are attracted to this wonderful community this year and into 2012 when other residents will finish their studies.

Russel Glover, St Andrew's House Committee Chair



Elders' Report

Our role as elders is to encourage and support the spiritual life of the Congregation as a whole and as individuals.

We have aimed to do this by:

- Supporting our minister, Anita Monro, as she focuses on faithfully presenting the Gospel and building us up as the Body of Christ.
- Sharing the ministry with Anita and others in conducting Sunday services at Armidale for the 8am, 9.30am and 7pm congregations, as well as at Uralla, Guyra, Hillgrove and Kingstown.
- Sharing in and supporting the ongoing services at senior citizens homes and nursing homes including BUPA, Thompson Lodge, Wollemi, Autumn Lodge and Ningana.
- Enabling God's people to grow in faith by supporting, and encouraging (or facilitating):
 - Sunday School teaching and youth ministry
 - Pastoral Care
 - Bible Study and Home Groups
 - Friendship and fellowship through the Family Groups
 - Living the Questions
 - Emmaus Walks
 - Kairos Ministry to prisoners and their families



Elders' Report

- Friendship Dinners
 - St Andrew's House Community
 - University Chaplaincy and UNE mission workers
 - Informal visits, calls, and hospitality
 - Groups that provide mutual support and social networks
 - Use of our library and other resources
 - The welcoming and enfoldng of new people
 - Generous giving to the work of the church globally, nationally and locally
- Setting aside a considerable part of Elders meetings for worship, learning, communion and intercession for our congregation and community

We are challenged by the aim to have our 'finger on the pulse' of congregational life at all times. Pastoral Care is always our collective concern.

There are so many in our Armidale UC community who are quietly and faithfully giving of their time, energy, hospitality and resources to minister to us all in the name of Christ. We thank God for each one, and for all that He is doing amongst us.

Bev Saunders for Elders

Family Groups

Family Groups are an important part of our church and play a vital role in developing friendships and pastoral care among our congregation. This year there have been four Family Groups functioning within the church: The Consonanters, the Sojourners, the Sunshiners, and The Wise Ones. A large percentage of the church congregation belong to one of these groups and enjoy regular social events together as well as caring for each other in a very special relationship. Each group meets about once a month for an activity or meal.

Highlights this year have included two combined events, the Australia Day BBQ, and the Potluck Mid-Winter Feast in July, that were attended by most of the church. Special thanks to the group leaders Lyn and John Jobson, Anne Chaffey and Bev Pitt, Kay Cope and Graham MacKay and Jenny and Colin Sholl.

Jenny Sholl, Family Groups Coordinator



**Conversation starting
at St Andies for the
Midwinter Feast...**



Sunday Explorer

The Sunday Explorer program operates on Market Sunday and was introduced to run activities at the Church, after the morning Service that would serve our community as well as an opportunity to introduce and explore faith issues. The idea has been difficult to introduce but the past year has seen a large growth in people coming early to the 12.30 Concert in the Church to enjoy the BBQ with Henry, Lindsay and volunteers, together with Brenda's scones and jam. It has been great to have over 70 people sitting and enjoying conversation with each other and church members. Using 'gold coin' donations is more than covering the cost of the venture. Profits are channelled in providing provisions for the Food Cupboard (providing food packages for disadvantaged people).

Before the end of the year, it is planned to have four sessions on Mental Illness run by Sarah McFarlane-Eagle from 11am to Noon. These sessions will focus on a growing area of community concern and all members of the congregation are invited to stay after the 9.30 service to participate.

Graham MacKay



Enjoying Easter Sunday's Explorer



Uniting Church Chaplaincy

Regular Activities:

- Weekly campus bible study on Wednesdays 12:30. Until July 2011 average of 4-7 people. Currently nil.
- Be-Squared Knitting on Thursdays 10am-12. Until July 2011 average of 2-5 people. Currently nil.
- St Andrews House Bible Study. Supported by Chaplaincy, actually activity of the House.

Some Larger Activities throughout the year:

- O-Week: Very successful with a full o-week calendar of activities. Made a few important relationships. First time we were able to give ourselves a large visible presence.
- Retreat: great turnout! Led by Revd. Rob Hanks from Synod Youth Unit. Some people attended the whole weekend (6) and others joined us for Sunday (another 4). Sundays@7 was at the carriages for that weekend, led by Anita and retreaters. Much enthusiasm for a second retreat.
- School of Discipleship: Synod run. 3 people from Armidale chaplaincy attended (James, Katie, Taulama). Tessa Bradbury also went. Armidale was well represented! Heard from Dr Ben Myers, Systematic Theologian at UTC.



Team @ une



- “Consume: Sex, Money, Power...God?” – Queensland Synod Initiative. Being supported by Presbytery and Chaplaincy. James so far going.
- UCATSA Advent Retreat: Run by the Sydney Uni Chaplaincy’s. Always a good event held in Chatswood – people will be encouraged to attend.

The Future?

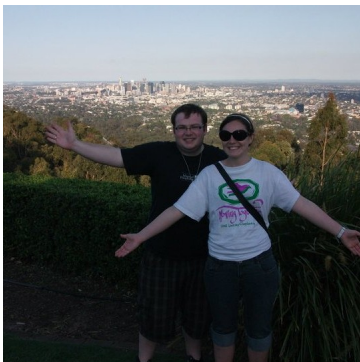
The future of this chaplaincy is guaranteed funding wise until June 2012. Presbytery has officially requested funding be extended until June 2013 to be in line with all other current Uni Chaplaincies.

Both Mission Workers finish in December. It would be vital for new one/s to be found prior to O-Week in order to make that vital connection with new and returning students.

For what is and always will be a small group, we don’t compare to badly with other UCA Chaplaincies. There will always be the challenge of other more highly funded Christian groups on campus – but we really strive for

being that alternative people often seek out. We can owe this to the UCA’s reputation as a church that works for Social Justice and Inclusion.

James Ellis & Katie Evans *Mission Workers*



Data Projection

The data projection roster has been running for about 18 months in Armidale. Recently Craig Merrick has joined the roster. Welcome Craig. There are currently seven people on the data projection roster, and the names are rotated, with people swapping shifts when they have other commitments. I would like to thank all people who have made the roster work. While the current members are committed and the data desk has been occupied at all services, it would be good to have some more people prepared to operate the data desk. It is not a particularly difficult job, but requires some technological awareness. The PowerPoint is usually prepared by Sue McMichael and all the data operator has to do is set up about half an hour before the service and click every time a slide needs to change. Sometimes audio-visual material is required to be played and occasionally a CD has to be played on the CD player. Training can be arranged for anyone who wants to assist. The current roster is running until 27/5/2012.

Anna Vlasoff Data roster coordinator
Ph: 6772 4478 or 0447 724 473
or avlasoff@aapt.net.au

Rosters in the Uniting Church

If you would like to join a group or help on a roster

Please contact the Church Office 6772 3233

and they will put you in touch with someone...



Church Congregation Meetings

Congregation of the Armidale Uniting Church

Agenda -

**Annual General Meeting,
Sunday 4 September 2011 in Wesley Church**

Present / Apologies:

Opening:

Minutes:

Annual General Meeting 8 August 2010
Congregation Meeting 28 November 2010
Congregation Meeting 22 May 2011

Reports:

Ministry
UNE Chaplaincy
Finance
Elders
LA
Sunday School
Sunday Explorer
Hash Browns
Family Groups
Evening Fellowship
Outreach and Social Concerns.

General Business:

Close

Minutes of the Armidale Uniting

Annual General Meeting

on Sunday 8 August 2010 in the Church Extension

Present: Lindsay Brash (chair), Brenda Faulkner, Rossi Leayr, Beryl Hamel, John Hamel, Colin Sholl, Russel Glover, Henry Raymond, David McDonald, Kim Bastock, Chris Mitchell, Bev Saunders, Alex Brash, Anita Monro.

Apologies: Celia Smith, Eddie & Patsy Fulloon, Graham MacKay, Jenny Sholl, Kim Glover, John & Lyn Jobson.

Meeting Opened in prayer at 3pm.

Minutes: Annual General Meeting 26 July 2009:

Adopted by consensus.

Congregation Meeting 6 December 2009: not to hand – held over.

Reports Tabled: Ministry

Finance Report

Elders

LA

Hash Browns

Sunday Explorer

Family Groups (*Consonatas, The Wise Ones
and Tatty Angels*)

Evening Fellowship

Outreach and Social Concerns

Sunday School.

All reports **Received by consensus.**

Meeting Closed with the Grace at 3.25pm

Church Congregation Meetings

Congregation Meeting on Sunday 28 November 2010 in Wesley Church

Present: Lindsay Brash (chair), Jeanne Madison, Brenda Faulkner, Tessa Bradbury, Colin Sholl, Henry Raymond, Noeline Raymond, Robert Luxton, Rossi Leayr, Bruce Redman, Jenny Sholl, Beryl Hamel, Joan Tasker, Lindsay Tasker, Anna Vlasoff, Don Crawford, Beth Crawford, Ken Waters, Tom & Betty Killen, Muriel Noble, Graham MacKay, Chris Mitchell, George Henderson, Phil Sharpe, Deidre Waters, Betty Yeomans, Warren McGrath, Lex Waters, Margaret Waters, Anita Monro.

Apologies: Graham & Carol Maddox, Bev Saunders, Brian Sepelt, John & Lyn Jobson, Beverley Luxton, Audrey Peters, Judy Redman, John Hamel.

Meeting Opened in prayer at 11am.

Minutes: Congregation Meeting 6 December 2009: **Adopted by consensus.**

Election of Elders and Office-bearers for 2010:

Nominations had been duly received for:

Elders: Kay Cope (1 year), Susan Farmer (2 year), Beryl Hamel (1 year), Susan McMichael (2 year), Chris Mitchell (3 year).

Church Council Representatives (all 1 year): Katie Evans, Dan Rasiga, Henry Raymond.

Presbytery Representatives: James Ellis, George Henderson.

Presbytery Alternates: Lindsay Tasker, Anna Vlasoff.

Congregation Chair: Lindsay Brash.

Nominees present were invited to speak briefly.

Tessa Bradbury was appointed Returning Officer **by consensus.**

After the counting of votes, all nominees were declared elected.

Meeting Closed in prayer at 11.20am.

Minutes of the Armidale Uniting

Minutes of the Congregation of the Armidale Uniting Church Meeting on Sunday 22 May 2011 in Wesley Church

Present: Lindsay Brash (chair), Martin Hazell, Warwick Olphert, Robert Luxton, Bev Luxton, William Steel, Bev Saunders, Beryl Hamel, John Hamel, Anna Vlasoff, Brenda Faulkner, Chris Mitchell, Robin & Heather Jessop, Carol Maddox, Michael Cherry, Elizabeth Lawson, Susan McMichael, Graham MacKay, Margaret Waters, George Henderson, Lex Waters, Warren McGrath, Lindsay Tasker, Joan Tasker, Anita Monro.

Apologies: Marlene Burrows, Marcie Hazell, John & Lyn Jobson, Eric & Margaret North, Graham Maddox, Dan Rasiga.

Meeting Opened in prayer at 11am.

Budget: Anita Monro introduced the Budget documents approved by Church Council, on behalf of the Finance Committee. Following questions and discussion, including concern over the budget deficit, **Resolved by consensus** to accept the 2011-12 Budget as presented.

Living is Giving: Consideration given to allocating Mission and Service contributions to particular projects under Living is Giving, or continue with untied contributions.

Resolved by consensus to annually elect projects to be supported. A preferential ballot followed, counted subsequent to the meeting and forwarded to Church Council.

Church Congregation 2011

Preferential vote (20 votes cast)	First	Distribution			
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
* Speaking Up for Justice, Fairness and Peace	5	5	5	6	9
* Sharing Faith in Schools and Universities	3	4	6	9	9
Lay Ministry and Discipleship	3	4	4		
Ministry with Mental Health Patients	1				
Ministry with Prisoners	1				
Encouraging Young People in the UCA	2	2			
* General Contribution	5	5	5	5	

(Exhausted 2).

Meeting Closed with the Grace at 11.35am.

Uniting Church Singers

We meet mostly on Monday afternoons at the church under the direction of Pam Douglas.

We sing in church approximately once a month except for school holidays. Our major event this year is presenting two items for Hymn Fest on September 11th at 2pm.

We are also encouraging the children from the Sunday School to sing at the end of the program.

Cheers
Patsy Fulloon



Outreach and Social Concerns

The year has been, as usual, a busy one, at times a bit too busy, but invariably rewarding and fruitful. We would always be glad to welcome new members or helpers aboard!

Two of our main annual activities are the Christmas Bowl and the Sharing Simply Meal. Neither has happened yet this year, but we have set the date for the Meal (13th November, lunch at noon... it is a Sunday) and have already started contacting other churches in town and planning the venue. In due course we will be asking people to help with the simple food we serve, and we have yet to invite the St Andrew's House people to help set up etc, but we are pretty sure they will be able to assist us again. It would be wonderful to have a large attendance from other denominations as well as ours. This is an ecumenical venture, and we would dearly love to see it more so in practice.

Christmas Bowl will of course be 'on' as usual in December.



The financial results for both of these activities last year were excellent, and we know people will again rise to the occasion when they are asked. The total amount sent to the Council of Churches was well over \$2,000 in all.



The Christmas Tree in Church is another successful activity for which we thank everyone ... the Family Support people in town are very grateful for

Continued on page 28

Outreach and Social Concerns

the presents they are able to give to children in need. Again, this will happen during Advent.

The TEAR Fund is almost single-handedly run by Bev Pitt, whose entrepreneurial activities are well known and hugely valued. With the sale of gift cards, puddings, cakes, jams and pickles Bev raises a prodigious amount of money for TEAR, another cause close to our hearts.

This year we sent \$810 through the TEAR cards. We raised \$370; \$350 was raised thanks to the cakes and puddings; and \$20 from the Friendship Dinner.

Donations we have sent this year are:

\$100 to Uniting World;

\$120 to Leprosy Mission;

\$100 to Pakistan Floods; and \$50 to Somalia.



The Lent Event may also be categorised as being under the Outreach umbrella, and to those of us who contribute to this, we say thank you. Similarly the Food Cupboard, which is certainly a real outreach to people in need within the community.

The monthly Friendship Dinner (for intellectually disabled adults) is possibly where most of our physical energy is expended, with cooking, setting up tables, clearing and washing up, tidying the inevitable necessities, organising and taking part in table games after dinner and then driving many of our guests home. This is where we would love to ask for more help.... perhaps with

Continued on next page

Outreach and Social Concerns

providing a casserole, perhaps with setting up or clearing away, and especially with socialising with our friends. It is a happy evening, satisfying beyond what most of us would have expected when we first began the venture, and we would like to offer others within the Church the opportunity to join us, either regularly on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm, or occasionally, whichever you can manage. In December we organise a Christmas Party for our Friendship Dinner people.

Thank you to everyone who contributes in any way to working with us, regularly or occasionally. You are all valued very much.

Carol Maddox
(on behalf of the Outreach and
Social Concerns Committee)

Sunday School

2011 has seen a pleasing increase in numbers coming to Sunday School each week during second term of the year. Many weeks have seen up to ten children in Sunday School, held during the 9.30am Service. We have had a small group of dedicated teachers, but we need help to cater for the different ages. We would like to have a separate class for the younger children if helpers were available.

This year we have used *Seasons of the Spirit* material and are now following the lectionary readings. The children have been enjoying reading about the same stories that they hear about in the Bible reading at Church, in Sunday School. It has been great to have all the children this year and to have the helpers each week.

Janet Butt – Organiser

Property Committee Report

Report for 2010 – 2011

The Armidale Property Committee has the following members:

Lindsay Tasker (Convenor), Martin Hazell, Beverley Pitt, John and Lyn Jobson, Kim Bastock, Phil Sharpe and includes Rev Anita Monro and Chris Mitchell (Church Council).

This year has again kept the committee busy with maintaining our properties at 114 Rusden St & 1 Yallabee Ave, Brockley, Hillgrove and the Carriages camp site.

At the Church we have this year had the car park resealed, new gas heaters installed in all buildings as well as beginning the organ restoration.

In St Andrews House we have sought to keep the house in good repair and so have had major repairs undertaken to all the windows to ensure that all can be locked and each room has fly screens. Door locks have been updated and other maintenance done.

Yallabee Ave has long term tenants and we have done little work this year but have planned to renew the side fence.

The Carriages has been used on a number of occasions this year and cleaning and repairs done as required. The future use of the Carriages is being reviewed by the Church Council.

At the moment the Brockley church is being used occasionally by the Guyra Presbyterian Church and looked after by local families. It has been brought to our attention that the Uniting Church owns two properties, one at Metz and one at Argyll. The sale of these properties is being implemented by Church Council if possible.

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Property Committee Report

Future Plans:

- Painting the exterior of the Youth Centre
- Remediation of sound problems in the Youth Centre
- Feasibility of fitting fans in the Church
- Review of policy for use of church properties
- Sale of extraneous church pews

Apart from these matters members have sought to be diligent in maintaining the little things that break or need fixing when caring for a property that is aging, like most of us.

We look forward to continuing this role and we are always willing to new people to join us in caring for the gifts left from past generations.

Lindsay Tasker - Convenor

Uniting Church Adult Fellowship

Afternoon Group

This group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Youth Centre Lounge. Although numbers are small, averaging around nine, we enjoy our time together.

We have had two guest speakers this year: Margaret Kennedy spoke to us about her travels, and John Hamel spoke to us about growing up at "Argyle." 18 people attended our Wanter lunch at Shenanigans and had a very pleasant time.

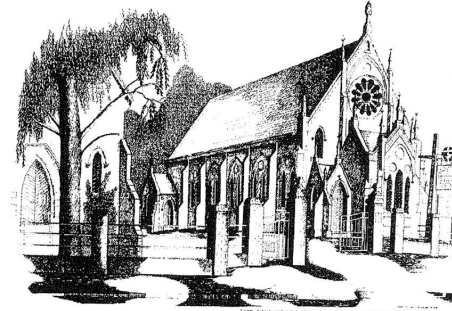
We have helped with catering for funerals and church functions, and have been pleased to make donations to various Church funds as well as Scripture in Schools, and various missions.

WE also run a crazy Whist afternoon on the third Saturday afternoon every second month, which many other people attend and enjoy.

We would love to have more of our Church family join us and share some of their interests with us.

President, Audrey Peters; Secretary , Beryl Hamel

Armidale Uniting Church



Office Hours 2011

10 am—12 noon

Monday to Friday

p 02 6772 3233

e: admin@armidaleunitingchurch.org.au

website: armidaleunitingchurch.org.au

Armidale Uniting Church

Church Services



Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion in Youth Centre

9.30am Family Service

7.00pm Sundays @7

Second Sunday of the Month 9.30 Service —
Holy Communion Service



Last Sunday of the Month from 11.30 —Explorer Sunday. Sausage sizzle and scones and cream followed at 12.30 by Market Day Concert.