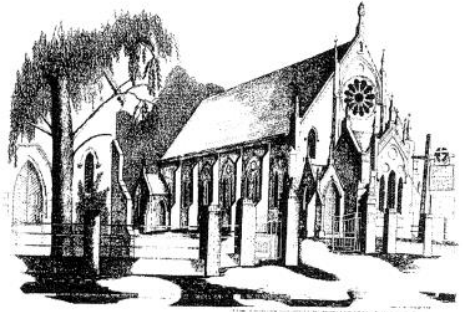




Uniter



Armidale Uniting Church Annual Congregation Meeting 2018 Report

July 2018

Minister's Report

W

ell, here we are at the beginning of July and it is hard to believe that Lou and I have been in Armidale for eight months. We have settled in well and appreciate the amount of hospitality and support that we have received from members of the congregation and the community groups in which we are involved.

I have been taking time each week to visit some of the groups which are operating within the church and have made pastoral visits to many members of the congregation, particularly those who have been ill, in hospital or recovering from surgery and undertaking further treatment. If you would like me to visit you, or if you know someone who may appreciate a visit, please let me know. I would rather receive a few calls telling me about someone, than not know what is happening.

I appreciate the many people who have stepped in to lead worship on the third Sunday each month (and fifth Sunday if there is one) so that I can enjoy worship myself. I have been attending the Armidale service some months and the Guyra and Uralla services as well, taking the opportunity to get to know the people in those outlying areas and listen to any concerns they might have.

One of the things most often talked about on my home visits is the way I have introduced some different elements to our worship services, with most feedback being very positive.

I appreciate the fact that we are a diverse congregation whose theological and musical tastes vary from one extreme to the other. While some people prefer things done one way, others like a different format. What I would like people to understand is that worship is not

Minister's Report

about 'YOU' and what you like or dislike.

We worship in community to show our love and respect to the God who created us and provides us with all our needs, and to find encouragement and growth through sharing our faith and spiritual journey with other Christians. Through our use of prayer and good biblical interpretation of the scriptures, we intercede to God for self, congregation, community and the wider world.

Our Basis of Union document reminds us that God is the head of the church and that the church will use its worship, witness and service to God's eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord. (para 18)

Worship is about bringing glory to God in everything we do.

While you may not always enjoy every element of worship, please remember the needs and feelings of others. I am trying to please most of the people most of the time, and serve God in the best way I can.

I would like to involve more of our many talented musicians and other lay people in our worship services, and will call a meeting one night after I return from Assembly for anyone interested in being part of a larger worship team to make that happen.

I am looking forward, with a little trepidation, to attending my first Assembly Meeting in Melbourne from 8th-14th July.

The three main issues to be looked at are-

1. Discerning the Church's approach to Voluntary Assisted Dying, looking at the theological, ethical, social, pastoral, health, cultural and service aspects of the issue.

2. Acknowledging that the church community is not immune to incidents of Domestic and Family Violence, and adopting a statement

Minister's Report

that among many other things, repudiates all forms of domestic and family violence, expresses God's desire for life-giving mutually respectful relationships, and educating members about the reality of the situation and how they can respond to point people to the support, resources and care required.

3. Marriage and same gender relationships and whether the church will consider changing its policy on marriage to include the opportunity for same-gender couples to be married according to the rites of the Uniting Church. Of the three, this one is the most divisive. However, regardless of whether the proposal is accepted or rejected, there will be a lot of people hurt, and I remind you to be aware of the feelings of others in any conversations you might have on the subject.

My first eight months have been packed with activities, too many to mention, but some of the highlights have been-

- *The Christmas concerts hosted by the Uniting and Anglican churches.

- *The women in ministry retreat at Kincumber.

- *Preaching with Paul course held in Tamworth.

- *The World Day of Prayer service hosted in our church.

- *Sunday market concerts in our church.

- *Participating in the Dangarsleigh and Armidale City Anzac Day services.

- *Speaking to over 800 people at the CWA Service in the Cathedral.

- *Monthly birthday lunches.

- *Joining the choral society, and the concerts.

- *Speaking at U3A and enjoying a chat over morning tea.

- *Supporting a floor of students with Jeanne and Brian at Austin Col-

Minister's Report

lege and the meetings and dinners attended, including a BBQ at our home.

*The many cups of coffee and meals shared with members of the congregation as we all learn a little more about each other.

Coming up, I will be attending a two day workshop at the Centre for Ministry on 2-3rd August. The subject is Trauma Informed Care and Practice in Institutions Implementing Redress. Especially developed for the Synod, it will provide information and develop skills relevant for ministers, chaplains and lay persons who may come into contact with survivors of child sexual abuse.

I will also be attending the Uniting Women Conference in Brisbane in the last week of September.

As I continue to settle into life in Armidale, my prayer is that we will all serve God well and bring glory to his name in everything we do and say!

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." Romans 8:28

Rev Jo Smalbil

Chair of Congregation

I commend to your reading these compiled annual reports which give us an important insight into the living, breathing organism that is Armidale Uniting Church, indeed the body of Christ in this place, with all of us an important component to the overall life, each with a unique gifting and call. The Sustainer, Redeemer and Spirit bind us together as would the circulatory and nervous systems in the human body so that we can celebrate the richness of our diversity and unity.

It has been wonderful to welcome Rev Jo-anne Smalbil (and Lou) to ministry with us in the last 12 months. We have experienced worship from many new angles which can complement our previous journeys. Jo's energy has been a blessing for us, and we look forward to further deepening our relationship as we continue to explore the call we have for ministry together.

Of course, many other people contribute to our worship, whether leading from the front or boiling the kettle - we are grateful to all for their faithful service.

I particularly want to celebrate the advent of Messy Church. The quiet determination of a few has slowly grown into a joyful living-out of faith. In two hours once a month this expression bubbles to the surface for 30-40 participants of all ages, and to me at least, God's blessing is apparent. I am reminded of the parable of the mustard seed

Chair of Congregation

that we read recently. If you have not yet experienced Messy Church, then I urge you to take a look sometime.

In Christ, we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. Let us continue to meet and share together, building up each other and the whole, and on the solid foundations of our faith, move onwards in the hope to which we are called.

Lindsay Brash,
Chair of the Congregation

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is a group of approximately a dozen members of the congregation. An individual, in the chain, will receive a request from one of our community for prayers addressing a concern of theirs. This request is passed on to the other members of the Prayer Chain. A dozen people are then praying for that one request.

Only the recipient of the request will or may know who is making that request. In this way privacy is maintained.

If you are interested in making use of this Prayer Chain don't hesitate to contact one of its members whose names and phone numbers are found on the back of the Directory.

Marian C. Stone

From the Council Chair

We are pleased this year to have new members in our enlarged Church Council. We regularly have a high level of attendance at our meetings. The contributions of Susan McMichael as secretary, Russel Glover as Treasurer and Marian Stone as the provider of meeting reports for Snapshots are also greatly appreciated. Decisions at monthly meetings of Standing Committee, which includes representatives of Elders, flow through to the decision making process of Church Council.

We were pleased to participate in the Induction Service for Rev Joanne Smalbil in November 2017 and to work with her at Armidale Uniting Church as she becomes familiar with our groups and activities, and as we move forward together.

Church Councillors and Elders have participated in the ethical training session arranged through Presbytery in May and will participate in a retreat on a Saturday in October.

The level of giving by the congregation has increased this year, but we still face the need to draw on reserves to cover our expenses. We are looking at ways to reduce our costs and increase giving if we are to maintain a ministerial position into the longer term.

A lot has happened with property matters in the last year. Some long term projects have been completed - window protectors for stained glass windows, painting of the vestry and front section of the Church, rearrangement of seating in the Church. Some of our groups have contributed to significant improvements, particularly to the Youth

From the Council Chair

Centre - painting and upgrading the front entrance, painting windows in the lounge, and reorganising and removing unnecessary material from many of the rooms and the stage. We are extremely grateful to the Property Committee and to all others who have contributed to these property improvements. We are currently aware of the need to consider the significance of the heritage status of our buildings for work being undertaken.

It has been good that hymn books and hymn boards which are no longer used at Armidale Uniting Church have been accepted and appreciated by some of the surrounding Uniting Church congregations - and provided us with useful space.

St Andrews House continues to provide accommodation for UNE students and we are grateful for the work of the committee which continues to undertake property and resident responsibilities. We still await confirmation that funds are available from Synod for UNE Mission. The Youth Centre is currently used by 'townies' on Monday evenings, and some members of our congregation staff our rooms at UNE during term time.

The life of our Church has been enriched this year by the work of the Welcoming Committee which has provided welcoming cards and a welcoming meal early in the year. The committee has encouraged all of those who welcome regular attenders, newcomers, visitors to services. The other newly formed group is Messy Church which is now meeting regularly on the second Sunday of the month for a time of learning, activities and sharing a meal. It is a friendly

From the Council Chair

and welcoming group which provides enriching family, community and worship time.

We continue to have some time with our Presbyterian neighbours on Australia Day and during the year. Currently a meeting is being arranged to discuss their desire to extend their children's area.

Our outreach to the community includes provision of food parcels and frozen meals to people seeking assistance as well as the opportunity to obtain food from the Community Garden. An application for a grant from Uniting has been forwarded by Armidale Neighbourhood Centre and AUC to fund materials for 'Winter Warmth' and we await information on the success of this application.

All this is added to the ongoing outreach of the Worship Committee, the Christmas Day Lunch group, the Catering group, the Fellowship group, the Outreach and Social Concerns group, Discussion groups, Family groups, Gardening group, and the Sunday Explorer

Church Council is pleased to work with our Church Elders to manage the issues which arise as we provide a place for worship and outreach at Armidale Uniting Church.

**Margaret Waters,
Chair of Church Council**

About Armidale Uniting Church

As at July 13 2018 on the Armidale Church Roll, there are 282 households and 302 individuals.

Of the people who have specified their membership on the Roll, there are 126 who have not acknowledged membership; Confirmed members 114 ; 42 are Baptised; 11 are Adherents ; 10 are Members in Association and 3 are Ordained Ministers.

Since the last Annual General Meeting in August 2017 (11 months)

Funerals

Fay Irene Edgar	29 August 2017
Eda Ann Edmunds	23 October 2017
Christina Mae Wilson	24 October 2017
Elizabeth Annette Wolfenden	10 November 2017
Christine Gillian Dunlop	8 December 2017
Errol James Russel	29 March 2018

Baptisms

<i>Liam John Farmer</i>	<i>25 May 2018</i>
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Elders' Report

In 2018, we have 13 Elders elected from the congregation, a refreshing increase on the last few years. The role of Elders is detailed in the regulations but is chiefly about spiritual oversight and support of the congregation, and ensuring that spiritual considerations are not neglected in the councils of the church.

The Elders meet in most months of the year on the third Tuesday - this is useful for feeding into the Church Council meeting on the fourth Tuesday. Our new meeting time of 5.30pm has been successful. The meeting times are opened with devotions and have prayer as a focus, as well as mutual support and encouragement. This environment is also supportive of the minister. Pastoral concerns can be shared confidentially, and pastoral needs addressed, such as communion for shut-ins and worship in aged care facilities. Our Pastoral Care Co-ordinators, Kim Bastock and Lyn Jobson are a valued part of this.

At a time when our ageing congregation means that there can be many members who are in need, ill or grieving, the pastoral task is always challenging.

We also try to keep a finger on the pulse of the outreach happening in the congregation, and activities happening beyond our church, such as Emmaus and Kairos, so that we can facilitate practical and moral support, and encourage active involvement by members.

Lindsay Brash, Chair of Elders.

Sunday School

This year has been a fun year so far for Sunday School, we regularly have at least 8 children in attendance and this has changed the whole dynamic of the morning and creates much more diversity in our activities.

The children enjoy music, led by Elizabeth Ellis and then a short story relating to the bible readings for the day and a craft activity. The majority of the kids really enjoy craft and expressing themselves creatively so this appeals greatly.

Katie Chambers-Sauer has offered to join a Sunday School roster and take turns with Elisabeth Dell at leading the activities each Sunday which will be a lovely chance for Elisabeth to enjoy a sermon or two from time to time.

We are using the Seasons of the Spirit material again this year which is full of stories and craft and is usually quite helpful. In addition, there are often great puzzles, mazes and word challenges available on Sermons4Kids for the older children who enjoy an extra activity sometimes.

All in all, Elizabeth Ellis and Elisabeth Dell are having quite a bit of fun spending time with our church kids and we look forward to welcoming Katie to our team as well. We also appreciate the time that Celia has given to the kids, doing activities at the back of the church and joining us in the Youth Centre Lounge .

Elisabeth Dell

Jobson's Bible Study

A dedicated group of between 10-12 people meet on Thursday to study our Bible using material from KYB - ably lead by Warren McElroy. This year we decided to change our time to mornings at 11.00am to allow more people to keep on coming. This has made a difference to our numbers.

This group enjoys the structured but relaxed manner in which this study is run and each participant is encouraged to share their interpretation of the material studied.

The study concludes with prayer followed by a cup of tea or coffee.

We look forward to many years of these meetings.

Want to join us? You are welcome.



Lyn & John Jobson

Tuesday Group

Tuesday Group meet at the home of Marlene Burrows, each Tuesday at noon. It is an interdenominational group of 11 women who meet for one hour.

We start with a prayer. Then we each read a paragraph aloud, of the chapter of the book we are discussing. We are currently reading "Doubts and Loves" by Richard Holloway.

We each share our differing views, on what we have read, which is always very stimulating and interesting. We stand at the end and repeat the Blessing.

The group is led by Margaret Barger.

Margaret Barger

Adult Fellowship

What a great little fellowship group we have going. For the last 12 months we have had an average of 10 members enjoying each other's company on the second Thursday of the month. We meet at 1.30pm in the Youth Centre Lounge and on alternate months we just meet for a coffee sampling various coffee shops in and around Armidale.

The Christmas in July 2017 lunch was a great success with about 38 attendees. This is again happening on 26th July 2018, a great Christmas feast will be shared for a cost of \$10 per head. All are welcome. At our August 2017 meeting Mary showed us her beautiful lace work, In September, Joan gave us an insight into a book she had been reading, "Simply Christianity". December was a Christmas lunch at the Grand Hotel and 2018 saw a game of Scattergories, and we made some cards for Mother's day.

Pat and Warren continue with their Crazy Whist every second month and a soup day was organised. Beryl made shortbread for Christmas and all proceeds went to the Fellowship. A big thankyou to Pat, Warren and Beryl.

These efforts have enabled us to help out by buying a piece of furniture for a member of the congregation, painting the entrance to the youth centre and decorating with a canvas and we are very proud of the fact that we could donate \$300 to PNG to go towards rebuilding after the earthquake.

New members are always welcome.

**Cheryl Green,
Secretary**



Kairos Outside for Women

Kairos Outside For Women New England (KOWNE)

Kairos Outside for Women in the New England region, begun in 2012, was set up to provide loving and unconditional support for any female relative or friend of a current or former prison inmate. This part of the wider Kairos ministry is especially designed for women on the **outside** of prison who are affected by the imprisonment of someone close to them. KOWNE is blessed to have strong support from our Armidale Uniting Church, whose generous financial, prayer and other forms of support are *really* appreciated.

As with last year, there are over thirty women on our regional inter-denominational team for 2018, which includes four members of our church and four Chaplains from other regional areas.

Our special Weekend for 'guests' (women invited to come) was held in late October last year at Lake Keepit. It was evident that the gifts of God's grace shared there helped to give hope to these women's damaged lives. Two full weekends of team development and training are a necessary part of preparation for these weekends and these were carried out in Tamworth in August and September last year.



Kairos Outside for Women

Four post-Keepit weekend reunions have been held in Tamworth to date this last year, with the next one planned for 4 August at the Bruderhof Danthonia Community near Inverell. These follow up reunions over lunch together where concerns and joys are shared, are an important way for our team to keep contact with our guests and each other. Other active small groups (e.g., sewing, coffee, play groups) involving former guests and team members have been established in various New England towns.

This year's special Weekend will again be held in late October at Lake Keepit at no cost to guests. Once again, two training weekends will be held in Tamworth for team preparation before this weekend.

Kairos Outside for Women is now operating in 14 regions of Australia. There are a number of folk from different Armidale churches and other New England churches who are involved in this worthwhile interdenominational ministry.

We value highly UCA's ongoing support.

**Kay Harman Advising Leader,
KOWNE 2018**

2017– 18 Finance Report

For the financial year ending 30 June, 2017 the Church budgeted for a deficit of approx. \$55,700. This deficit reflects the additional expenses of appointing a full-time minister, painting of the church and vestry to remediate some severely damaged surfaces, and the (potential) upgrade of the kitchen of St Andrews House. The actual final result is estimated to be a deficit in the range of \$15,000-\$20,000. The improved result was in large part due to some budgeted items not being spent in this year e.g. upgrade of St Andrews kitchen \$15,000; reduced expenditure on the Winter Warmth program.

During this past year the Church continued to tithe 10% of its budgeted offerings to the Uniting Church NSW Synod - an amount of \$8,500. These funds are not tied to any particular Living is Giving project. In addition, the Church has contributed to a number of appeals such as Christmas Bowl, and collections responding to specific crises.

The Christmas Day Lunch was supported by approx. \$4,000 in donations including \$3,000 from One of a Kind (previously Lifeline). Some of these funds have been used to purchase an additional 50 chairs to accommodate larger numbers of participants.

Property assets have, in general, been a light touch on the budget with the one significant expenditure being the painting of the vestry and areas of the Church affected by water damage.

Following the receipt of a substantial bequest from the estate of Rog-

2017– 18 Finance Report

er Brown our financial reserves have generated interest of approx. \$14,000. This is a significant help to the bottom line.

We are blessed to have a full-time minister. This costs the Church approx. \$110,000 p.a. and will cause the budget to operate at a significant deficit in 2018-19, and in to the future. Our energy needs to be applied creatively to addressing this matter early, before it becomes a pressing issue that results in the Church not being able to afford the appointment of a minister.

A special thanks is given for the ongoing work of the members of the Finance Committee – Dan Waqa, Kay Harman, Colin Sholl and Henry Raymond. Each of these people provide their counsel and practical input with energy and commitment.

Russel Glover, Treasurer

Further, expanded Budget figures for the 2017-18 budget are a separate document.

Know Your Bible

Our group of 10 ladies from several different churches in Armidale meet weekly in term time, and enjoy the hospitality of Marlene Burrows' home. We meet to study the Bible, and support each other in prayer and friendship. Our studies are ably prepared by biblical scholars for CWCI a world-wide organisation .

Generally we cover four different parts of bible teaching each year. Coming from different backgrounds, we share a wide range of views but all agree that our weekly studies help us grow in our Christian journeys. Our group is one of four that presently meet in Armidale.



Jenny Sholl

Emmaus

2017-2018 is progressing well. The Men's and the Woman's Walks were held at PLC in Armidale.

There were folk from the Armidale Uniting Church involved as servers, and very much appreciated. Thank You.

If there is anyone who would like to go on an Emmaus Walk, please see either Brenda Faulkner (0402147896) or Chris Mitchell (0407100048), and they will be happy to help.

Brenda Faulkner

Armidale Carevan

Uniting Church Team at Armidale Carevan

A group of willing Uniting Church volunteers are part of the community Armidale Carevan, which was initiated by the Christian Outreach Centre in 2017 to support people in need.

The Carevan has operated twice a week, at COC on Tuesdays and at our Youth Centre on Friday evening. A wholesome hot meal has been sometimes prepared by Work For the Dole workers and sometimes by our team and served from 6.00pm.

Our team has found it is a time not only to provide food to those in need but also to support and befriend those who regularly attend.

However, numbers have dropped off in recent months so a decision was made in May to curtail the Friday night sessions for the winter months. The situation will be reassessed in the Spring.

Jenny Sholl.
UC Team Coordinator



University Ministry

It has been a very quiet year as we were not able to appoint any student workers. The trimester system has not worked well for us and it is evident that the first six months of the year is the critical time to make an impact. Russel advertised across the Synod for a potential student worker at UNE and St Andrews House and that led to an inquiry for a half-time position from an ordained worker in Sydney. Discussions were encouraging and he asked for a minimum of a two-year appointment, but the cost of such a position was beyond our resources as the Synod withdrew funding for University Chaplaincy across NSW and ACT in 2018. A compromise has been offered by Synod of \$50000 to an approved program in each of five Presbyteries. It is not clear if there will further funding in 2019-2020. The guidelines have now been released and we will need to test the interest from Church Council and the congregation as to the future of working on the UNE Campus. New creative ideas would be needed and a Missional focus needs to be clearly stated.

If funding is to come from Synod in the future, then they will require that we put up certain funding and services from the Congregation. It means that if we want to take our ministry to UNE then we have to take new initiatives involving volunteers. Already the Church Council has approved the use of the Youth Centre on Monday evenings for “townies” – to play basketball and indoor soccer. These students living in town are without the support and services of on campus Colleges. Many of these students are from overseas. The University has appointed Sarah Bowers to be in charge of these students and wants to



University Ministry

expand various services and opportunities. For example, they would like to have seminars in certain areas of study and we have some of those bases covered by people in the congregation.

The purpose of dining together is an important part of outreach and various options have been discussed for getting students together in new communities as we enjoy their cooked offerings while they want to learn more of how Aussies prepare meals. People in the congregation have shown interest in helping and have provided great hospitality in past years.

There is an opportunity to meet new students on campus at the Language Centre as our Church office is next door. Having a volunteer roster would be great if people could spend an hour at Morning Tea time to chat with students who also want to practise their English. We need to be aware of those students who might wish to come to our morning services and for following up and support. We need to be thinking and praying now about Orientation plans for 2019. We have some funding available from the past couple of years and it is evident we can move forward in funding some small initiatives while the help of volunteers will be essential.

We currently have a presence on Campus with the Rev Jo and Jeanne on the Austin College Senior Common Room (SCR), while Des and Graham are on the Wright College and Village SCR. This allows good contact with students.

Graham MacKay



Messy Church

Messy Church is an exciting initiative in intergenerational worship undertaken on the second Sunday of the month. Involving a mix of games, Biblical message, related activities and a meal, the intention of the Messy Church ministry is to grow a Christian community of faith made up of regular church-goers, those re-engaging with 'church' and faith, and those who are new to Armi-dale Uniting Church.

The inaugural Messy Church was held on the 8 April, and since then has gathered on the 13 May and the 10 June. On each occasion an average of 24 adults and 11 children and youth have been involved. On average 3 participants are new to our church and an average of 7 are a part of our wider family but do not attend worship on a regular basis.

An evaluation meeting is held after each Messy Church to ensure future planning is responsive to positive and constructive feedback. Having the autonomy to continually evolve through an evidence-informed approach is crucial. It has provided opportunities to listen and to build a faith community from the grass roots upwards, by responding to the needs, ideas, and creativity of the participants. As we acknowledge the 41st anniversary of the Uniting Church we are mindful of the imperative of reimagining worship and outreach.



Messy Church

The Messy Church community is very grateful to a number of our congregation, including, but by no means limited to:

- ◆ Betty Pearson for encouraging Patsy Fulloon to investigate Messy Church in the first instance;
- ◆ Lindsay Brash who enabled Patsy to present her case for Messy Church to Elders and to Church Council;
- ◆ Margaret Waters who advocated for approval of this ministry through her role as Chair of Church Council and who attends and provides ongoing practical support,
- and to,
- ◆ Henry and Noelene Raymond who provide tremendous wisdom and faithful commitment.

In concluding, it has been wonderful to see the original Messy Church team expand to include three young mums, Alli Walker, Sarah Farmer and Bronnie Jones and their children and partners, and also Olivia Freeman (a teacher education student), all of whom bring hope and vitality. We welcome the continued prayers and involvement of the wider congregation to ensure the continued nurturing and growth the Messy Church ministry and our Armidale Uniting Church as the body of Christ.

**Marguerite Jones, Anita Brown
and Patsy Fulloon
(on behalf of the Messy Church team)**

Sunday Explorer

First I feel I must say, that the people who help us are much appreciated and valued, Thank You.

The Sunday Explorer is very well accepted by the public. It has been going for around ten years now: tea and sausages and scones before each concert. We have a regular group of great supporters who turn up each month, many of whom, it goes without saying are our own Church goers. Some concerts are particularly well attended. We don't mind the numbers and say hello to everyone. Everyone donates, small and large amounts. This year the Explorers raised \$599.65.

I'm sorry that I had my Sundays mixed up and didn't cook any scones on June 30th. I promise I'll be on board this month.

I believe that Sunday Explorer does fill the role of a welcomer to our Church for the Market Sunday Concerts one of the reason for having our sausages and scones as an outreach to the community.

The Concerts are also a donation. The money raised from the Concerts is split between the musicians who are playing that month and the Church. This year the concerts gave us \$766.30.

Brenda Faulkner

OAKS

The OAKS , Older, Alive and Kicking Still, is the new name of the Hospitality Group .

We have changed the name hoping that a new name might let others know that our lives don't rely on cooking and visiting, though we are still very involved with the Community Christmas Dinner, and if a meal is needed by someone we are always willing to arrange this.

We encourage others to join us on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The aim of each meeting is to take time to renew friendships and learn more about each. The activity for each evening is usually a relaxed meal followed by chat time, or on occasions an outing to a play/concert might be arranged.

The host/hostess usually provide a welcome drink, and some nibbles, but the meal is provided by each person/couple providing a portion of the main course, or a dessert. Numbers of group at meetings range from 8 to 20 depending on holidays and health. It is a relaxed evening and all are welcome.

Beverley Pitt —Convenor

St Andrews House Student Residence

St Andrew's House is an intentional Christian student residence in the Rusden Street manse. Established in January 2010, St Andrew's provides accommodation for up to six post-secondary students who wish to live in a Christian community. Currently the House has four residents – Lilian Lian (commenced in 7/15), a nursing student from China; William Balyehele (1/17), from Tanzania is studying a Master of Science in Agriculture; Blessing Ogunleye (1/17) is a Master of Science in Agriculture student from Nigeria; and, Peter Musinguzi (6/18) is a PhD student from Uganda. Enquiries by other students seeking a room are also being handled at present.

A committee comprising Marguerite Jones, Lindsay Brash, Airlie Bell, Henry Raymond and I seek to support the students by hosting meals and spending some time with them. The lack of a strong base of young people of their age engaging with the Church does make it difficult to maintain a strong connection. The congregation are invited to contribute to our efforts by inviting the students to a meal, a cup of coffee or to participate in a visit to a point of interest in Armidale or the local region. Any of the Committee will help to connect you with the students.

Special thanks are due to Henry for his work in renovating the upstairs bedroom (looking so much better now); Marguerite and Airlie for auditing the bedding and purchasing a range of new items to improve our support of the students; and, Colin Sholl for his help in tweaking the internet and wifi, both of which are heavily used for study and leisure.

Russel Glover, St Andrew's House Committee

Welcomers' Committee

Welcomers are people who meet you at the door of the church with a friendly smile and handshake. They have an important part to play because being welcomed sets the tone for the church experience, whether you are a regular or a visitor.

The Welcomers' Committee met three times, to discuss how to improve their job, and also looked at issues like not leaving people out, giving out the appropriate handouts, not getting into a cosy long chat with friends while ignoring people who are coming in the door.

Welcomers also designed and had printed the bookmarks that are handed out to visitors. These were also given to church people to share with family and friends. If you feel you would like to share a bookmark with a friend, feel free to take one. When they run out we will print more.

Welcomers also arranged a "meet and greet" dinner held earlier in the year. This was a great success with about 50 people getting to know each other better. Our friends from St Andrews House came to this event.

Later in the year we plan a barbeque or picnic when the weather is kinder.

Welcomers' Committee

You are welcome to become a welcomer. All you need is a smile and a desire to make people welcome in our church both before the service starts and after over morning tea, to hand out bookmarks to visitors, newssheets to locals. See Ken Waters or Patsy Fulloon, Elizabeth Lawson or myself if you would like to be on a roster, or work beside someone who is doing the job.

Betty Pearson

Wednesday Discussion Group

The Wednesday AUC Midday Discussion Group has been meeting weekly over the last few years. Our weekly attendance is between 12 and 21 attendees.

We are currently exploring the 2009 Living the Question series that includes a DVD followed by accompanying questions that stimulate observations and perceptions... and discussion!

We rotate the leadership of the weekly session amongst those in attendance which makes the conversation diverse and stimulating.

The DVD includes participants from a wide variety of educational, experiential, and cultural backgrounds which encourages the range of perspectives from those in attendance.

Jeanne Madison

Alwyn Jones Community Service Award

The Alwyn Jones Community Service Award was held in conjunction with the New England Volunteer Awards on Tuesday 22 May. The Award Committee consists of Armidale Uniting Church congregation members, Armidale Regional Councillors (present and past) and members of the Jones family.

There were seven nominees for the award – four groups / organisations and three individuals. The award winner for 2018 was EALD Homework Centre (English as Additional Language or Dialect) which provides sessions two afternoons per week during term time for students who live in homes where English is not the language of choice. As usual, the judging panel was impressed by the quality of the applications and by the contributions made by volunteers in the Armidale community.

The nominees and award winner were recognised during the 9.30 am service at AUC on Sunday 22 May.

Margaret Waters
– Committee Chairperson

Community Garden

It is now over 6 years since the Community Garden began with just two raised beds. It has now more than twelve beds. In the year ahead we hope to raise two beds to a higher level as part of developments. Maintenance has recently been completed on the 10000 litre tank and it opens the way to attach another large tank to ensure the watering program which has been difficult this past year. To do this we will need to reinvent our Bun-nings BBQ team to supplement current funds to obtain another tank and buy more children's play equipment. We would appreciate your ideas as the garden is developed.

We have probably had more people drop in to help with the garden on alternate Saturday mornings, due to Jane Davies passing on names of interested people coming to the Volunteer Centre. People have turned up for a session but have not continued. We have three or four regulars from the Congregation who look after plant selection, seed growing, planting, mulching, weeding, mowing etc , but we need more of you to contribute to this ministry. We are missing Stuart who has not been available this year and hope he is again available.

We are seeing less rabbits but seeing more people who are dropping in to look and collect particular vegetables. Most interest comes from Overseas students. The flowers that have

Community Garden

been planted attract attention and appreciation. Being winter time, it is currently a planting time and experimentation is ongoing of what are best growers for our climate.

The garden is used, not only for our activities but also from outsiders. The Armidale Garden Club who meet in the Youth Centre enjoy BBQs in the garden. It has been an open garden for people visiting as part of the Sustainable Living Armidale initiative. Hopefully we can organise another Morning Tea with the Presbyterians after our Sunday service when Spring returns.

We are thankful to Prue and Olive Café these past four years for their coffee grounds to help in the mulch production. With their departure we welcome the Paper Tiger Café who are giving us, not only coffee grounds, but vegetable scraps as well.

Please drop in to the garden, behind the Youth Centre. It will be a growing experience.

Graham MacKay

Property Committee

The

2017-18 Committee is unchanged from last year and consists of: Kim Bastock—Beverley Pitt—Robin Jessop-John & Lynn Jobson—Martin Hazell; We try to meet every 2nd.

Month.

Yallambie Ave. Seems to be going very well, the place looks neat and tidy each time we inspect it.

Armidale Church: the repairs and painting of AUC including the vestry have been completed and looks good.

Screen protectors for front 'lead-light' windows were fitted this year

Front glass doors were repaired since the last report .

Wesley Hall floor will be done in the very near future by Nick Sewell.

All remaining '**fluro**' **lights** to be fitted with LED lights ASAP.

All **gas heaters** have been serviced for the winter and work well.

Youth Centre: Extra power points and speaker outlets for YC are still being investigated—

Extra chairs (plastic) have been purchased & will be used for Christmas and other functions. —

Sound panels for YC need some younger persons to assist in their preparation and installation, (ongoing)—

Some wonderful hard working Angels have done a remarkable job in cleaning out and tidying up the YC, THEY NEED OUR ETERNAL THANKS FOR SUCH A GREAT JOB, WELL DONE Marguerite & Phil

All other 'work' is being undertaken as and when necessary.

Yours faithfully
Martin Hazell (convenor)

Family Groups' Report

We have three active Family Groups in this church, caring about each other and meeting socially on a regular basis. Anyone can join just by contacting any of the leaders or coordinators.

The Wise Ones: We have met each month, at various locations, usually around food. There are 22 in our group, all very wise and we enjoy our regular get togethers as well as looking out for each other as the year progresses. Leaders - Jenny and Colin Sholl

The Consonantas: enjoy meeting over meals to share fellowship together. When everyone is present we total 23, so there is always much chatter! We have enjoyed delicious morning and afternoon teas and recently had a soup lunch to welcome winter! Leaders - Lyn and John Jobson

The Sonshiners: Our group went into recess at the end of last year because of illness. However, we are now up and running again. We like to meet on a Saturday for breakfast, a coffee or lunch. We seem to have interests in music and the arts. Recently we had a trip to Samarez homestead and plan Christmas in July on Saturday 14th July at Fulloon's. If anyone would like to join our family group, please talk to Ken Waters or Patsy Fulloon. If anyone would like to join our family group, please talk to Ken Waters or Patsy Fulloon.

For many years now Family Groups have combined to organise a family BBQ on Australia Day in the Youth Centre, inviting friends and neighbours.

If anyone would like to start a new Family Group, please see us.

Lyn Jobson & Patsy Fulloon , Family Groups Coordinators

Meals on Wheels



or many years, on the 3rd Friday each month a group from our congregation have continued as regular volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program. We each do a regular run each month, so get to know the route and the people to whom we deliver meals. Some of our members deliver several times a month. The cheerful faces of our group may be the only person they see on that day and provides an opportunity for the clients to have a friendly chat.

Many thanks to all the people who deliver these meals - you are doing a wonderful job.

Joan Tasker has decided to retire after many years of faithful service - thanks Joan for doing such a wonderful job, no doubt you have had many a conversation with those lonely people who wait for their lunch.

A big thankyou also to the people who have joined our group as relief drivers - you are a very important part of this wonderful outreach. We would like to welcome Heather and Robin Jessop who have now taken over from Joan.

We would encourage those people who may be able to spare a couple of hours on the 3rd Friday of the month to consider joining our group as either full time or relief drivers as we are always looking for more people to be on the roster.

Meals on Wheels

The aging population of Armidale is increasing and more volunteers are in need of this service. We are asking if you might join this volunteer army.

You can pick one day each month to volunteer, or perhaps choose extra days.

In May, 128 clients needed meals, (plus a friendly smile and chat) and 2,700 meals were delivered. Each run takes from 20 to 60 minutes depending on the day. Runs depart at 11.30 with 11 delivery runs to cover sections of the city.

Who can volunteer: Anyone with an insured car, licence and a bit of spare time. When you apply the centre will arrange (and pay) for a basic police check. This is required for anyone working in the Aged Care sector.

As well as thanks from the clients and staff, petrol vouchers are available to cover the cost of your petrol.

You can make a difference! Call the centre today on 6772 8970 or for more information ask Lyn Jobson who organises our church group, or Beverley Pitt, Martin Hazell, or John Hamel who are each members of the Meals on Wheels committee.

Lyn Jobson & Beverley Pitt

Outreach and Social Concerns

The Outreach and Social Concerns Committee runs a number of projects during the year: some are ongoing, some come up from world events. This year was not quite as busy as previous years

Family Support Christmas Presents: This activity collects presents for children in need. In July 2017 we asked everyone for presents and then when we received exact numbers of children from Family Support in November, asked others who hadn't contributed, for the rest; Family Support know their numbers in November. **We sent about 80 presents and \$420 dollars for the workers to buy more presents. We didn't have a morning tea this year in November, however, Family Support appreciated the presents.**



Christmas Bowl occurs each December. The Christmas bowl is passed around after church and envelopes are sent out in Snapshots for those who don't have money on them at Church, during December. In 2017, AUC raised \$ 445 The money is sent to Act for Peace who distribute it to particular projects.

The TEAR Fund is 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 huge amount of money for TEAR, another cause close to our hearts.



In 2017 the cards and donations raised another amazing amount of **\$1635** . Most of this is from Bev's cakes. The card sales are a very small part of that amount Huge thanks go to Beverley Pitt, who like Beryl Hamel with her shortbread, donates her time, most of the ingredients and her labour to this service. If this year the OSCC has made an effort anywhere, it is in this area.

Food Cupboard: Each month Church members are asked to

Outreach and Social Concerns

bring tinned food for the food cupboard, particularly on Communion Sunday We have regular donations from other groups in the community as well, both churches and individuals. This is certainly a real outreach to people in need within the community. It gives us a chance to chat to people, to hear their stories and to find out what is going on in people's lives, as well as to help. There is a regular need in the community for this, and we have been fortunate to have Carevan (see report page 21) assist with this need.

With community groups, we started cooking food on a semi regular basis, to enable people to have access to meals

Simply Sharing is one of the activities that we usually participate in There were a number of activities during the time that Simply Sharing happens so last year's event didn't occur, however, but we are planning a Simply Sharing meal for September /October this year.

We have had a retiring offering to do with PNG

Any other suggestions are welcome.

We are planning a morning tea in **August** for this year's Christmas presents.

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

Susan McMichael
on behalf of the
Outreach and Social Concerns Committee

Minutes of Armidale Uniting Church Congregation Meetings

Minutes of the Congregation of the Armidale Uniting Church

Annual General Meeting on Sunday 6 August 2017 in Wesley Church

Present: Lindsay Brash (chair), Warwick Olphert, Jan Bowlay, Sharon Davidge, Des Bowlay, Kim Glover, Arthur Wooster, Margaret Wooster, Betty Pearson, Will Pearson, Rene Dasey, Robert Luxton, Jenny Sholl, Colin Sholl, Carol Maddox, Graham Maddox, Susan McMichael, Heather Jessop, Robin Jessop, Robert Bell, Airlie Bell, Henry Raymond, Noeline Raymond, Kay Harman, Dorothy McRae, Beverley Pitt, Graham MacKay, Patsy Fulloon, Eddie Fulloon, Oliver Brooks, Doreen Fay, Lex Waters, Margaret Waters, Sue Farmer, John Farmer, LJ Hill, Celia Smith, Ken Waters, Elizabeth Lawson, Sandy Lawson, Marian Stone, Mary Roach, Brenda Faulkner, Russel Glover, Joan Tasker, Pat McGrath, Warren McGrath, Bev Saunders.

Apologies: Bev Luxton, Anna Vlasoff.

Meeting Opened in prayer at 10.48am.

Minutes: Annual General Meeting 5 June 2016
Congregation Meeting 7 August 2016
Congregation Meeting 27 November 2016
Congregation Meeting 16 July 2017.
Adopted by consensus.

Reports Tabled:

Minutes of the Armidale Uniting Church Congregation Meetings

Armidale Congregation
Church Council
Statistics
Elders
Children in Church
Jobson's Bible Study
Uniting Adult Fellowship
Know Your Bible
Kairos Outside for Women
Carevan
Tuesday Group
Sunday Explorer
UNE Chaplaincy
Sound Desk & Data Projector
Emmaus
Community Garden
St Andrews House
Alwyn Jones Community Service Award
Property Committee
Family Groups
Hospitality Group
Meals on Wheels
KYB Too
Uniting Singers
Outreach and Social Concerns
Wednesday Discussion Group
Prayer Chain
Finance Report

All reports **Received by consensus.** Thank you to all the report-writers and to Sue McMichael for compiling

Budget. Presented by Russel. **Passed by consensus.** Thanks given to Russel and the Finance Committee.

Minutes of the Armidale Uniting Church Congregation Meetings

General Business. Carol moved thanks to our retired ministers, lay preachers and leaders.

To which Patsy added the Worship Committee, and invited more men to join.

Meeting Closed with the Grace at 11.04am.

Minutes of the Congregation of the Armidale Uniting Church

Meeting on Sunday 26 November 2017 in Wesley Church

Present: Lindsay Brash (chair), Brian Seppelt, Phil Spark, Oliver Brooks, Hans Graser, Ruth Keddie, Jeanne Madison, Dorothy McRae, Margaret Hutchings, Stanley Hutchings, Lex Waters, Chris Mitchell, Bev Luxton, Kay Harman, Jenny Sholl, Colin Sholl, Robert Luxton, Margaret Barger, Joan Tasker, Arthur Wooster, Margaret Wooster, John Hamel, Des Bowlay, Jan Bowlay, Margaret Waters, Marian Stone, Doreen Fay, Jo Smalbil, Lou Smalbil, Beverley Pitt, Joy Spark, Elizabeth Lawson, Sandy Lawson, Celia Smith, Debra Wilkinson, Bev Saunders, Ken Waters, Brenda Faulkner, Patsy Fulloon, Eddie Fulloon, Bev Lilley, Carol Maddox.

Apologies: Susan McMichael, Graham Maddox.

Meeting Opened in prayer at 10.54am.

Election of Elders and Office-bearers for 2018:

Written nominations had been duly received for:

Elders: Margaret Barger (1 year), Des Bowlay (2 years), Susan Farmer (2 years), Brenda Faulkner (2 years), Doreen Fay (1 year), John Hamel (1 year), Kay Harman (2 years), Betty Pearson (2 years), Beverley Pitt (1 year), Marian Stone (2 years), Kirsty Walker (3 years).

Church Council Representatives: Bob Bell (2 years), Henry Raymond (1 year), Philip Spark (2 years), Ken Waters (2 years), Margaret Waters (1 year).

Minutes of the Armidale Uniting Church Congregation Meetings

Presbytery Representatives: Des Bowlay, Brenda Faulkner.

Congregation Chair: Lindsay Brash.

Nominations from the floor:

Presbytery Alternates: Jan Bowlay (Des Bowlay/Brenda Faulkner)

Beverley Pitt (Jo Smalbil/Oliver Brooks).

Colin and Jenny Sholl were appointed Returning Officer **by consensus**.

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

Meeting Closed with the Grace at 11.05am.

Congregation of the Armidale Uniting Church Agenda - Annual General Meeting, Sunday 22 July 2018 in Wesley Church

Present / Apologies:

Opening:

Minutes: Annual General Meeting 6 August 2017
Congregation Meeting 26 November 2017.

Reports: Will be circulated prior.

Budget:

General Business:

Close.

Armidale Uniting Church



Office Hours 2018

10 am—12 noon

Monday to Friday

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Minister: Rev Jo Smalbil joannesmalbil@gmail.com

Armidale Uniting Church



Church Services

Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion in Youth Centre

9.30am Family Service

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.