



Glen Waverley Anglican Church

ANNUAL MINISTRY UPDATE

2021

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SENIOR MINISTER'S REPORT

To The Mighty Saints Of GWAC

Introduction

Having read through the reports from our church community, I am blown away by the amount and variety of ministry undertaken by all the saints of GWAC. Even in a pandemic, there has been so much taking place. I am humbled to be the Senior Minister of such an extraordinary church.

As you read the reports and hear of the challenges faced this year, I want to encourage you to stop and give thanks to God for all the ministry leaders who have persevered and in turn helped others to keep connected.

There is a wide range of ways for people to get involved, whether as leaders or participants, in 2022. Opportunities include joining our water colour painting group, leading services at retirement villages in the Monash area, missions support, involvement in a Connect Group, numerous serving roles at our worship services and many more.

I encourage you to continue to pray regularly for GWAC's ministry involvement in the wider community for 2022.

Reflection

As challenging as these past 2 years have been for the world, and as we have seen growing unrest among Victorians because of COVID-19, Jesus can shine hope into the darkest corner. What an opportunity for us all as saints in Christ to be peacemakers, loving everyone regardless of their vaccination views in the name of Jesus. Jesus loved the outcast, sinners, tax-collectors, lepers and others, often at great cost. Jesus welcomed Jew and Gentile equally. From the rich Nicodemus to the poor widow, from the Roman centurion to the leper, the gospel of Jesus is for all, even me and you, welcomed and loved at the cost of the cross. In the coming year may we as the mighty saints of GWAC extend the welcome and embrace of Jesus to a hurting world.

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Jude 1:24-25

The year 2021

Last year I wrote in our annual report:

“Our challenge as a community in 2021 will be reconnecting in a meaningful way with worship that honours God; that encourages and grows God's people”.

Well as I write this report, we are in our last four days of lockdown before an early opening across metropolitan Melbourne comes about. Last year I could not have predicted that we would still be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic that would see us in and out of lockdown in the manner that we have been. Melbourne now holds the title of most days in lockdown anywhere in the world.

That said, we can give thanks that Australia has been spared the devastation wrought by the virus in many other countries.

Despite all the twists and turns of the year that was, there have been 'silver linings' and 'glimpses of glory' for people of all ages. The attached annual reports seek to give us all a picture of how the people of St Barnabas' have gone about ministry in this most challenging season. As always, I am grateful to God for each and every one who has contributed to the life of GWAC prayerfully, financially, and with their time and talents. Without this support this church would not exist.

Here is a snapshot of some practical things that have taken place over the past year:

Facilities upgrade

The Governance Board undertook the task of releasing funds from the sale of property some years ago for overdue maintenance on the St Barnabas' building. The result is that while the building has been out of use due to COVID-19 we have been able to repaint, recarpet, refurbish offices, kitchens, meeting rooms and playground. We are in the process of finalising new electronic signage outdoors on Waverley Road and awaiting new indoor lighting for the worship area and the fellowship area. It is all looking fabulous, and I think we have a great facility in and from which to be involved with mission in the community. I would like to thank Howard Walker for his leadership of this major project along with the refurbishment team of Shivani Astley, Glen Bachelor, Bob Barclay and Diane Craig.

Church Plants

Over the past year GWAC has pioneered two new church plants:

1. Sent Collective
2. Mandarin Ministry

Both church plants have issued from years of prayer by the faithful people of GWAC along with generous financial support to each initiative. The Sent Collective church plant evolved from lessons learnt with the Harvest/Officer church plant. Bre Wilkinson utilised the majority of her ministry time working on Sent Collective from around September last year. Sent Collective was launched in February and today, despite the challenge of not being able to meet in person, the ministry is set up with a good future under Bre's leadership. There is an enthusiastic cohort of members (some from GWAC and others from unchurched backgrounds). GWAC is now fully releasing Sent Collective to be on mission with St Philip's in Mt Waverley, where Ruth Newmarch is the minister. Sent Collective will still be funded in part by GWAC over the coming year but will largely be raising its own support. This is a good thing as we seek to equip, build up and release people for mission rather than trying to keep things all to ourselves. Though Bre will be missed from the GWAC team I am confident that we will hear more about the good work of Sent Collective in the years ahead. Bre's ministry will be acknowledged more formally on the 20th of November with an afternoon tea at GWAC.

Our second church plant is the Mandarin Ministry. Work began on this more than 20 years ago! Then in 2020 Gordon Li joined the GWAC community and its small team of people working toward the establishment of a Mandarin ministry. The fellowship commenced meeting on Zoom during last year's long lockdown. Following Gordon's ordination as an Anglican minister in February we launched a parallel 10.30am service for Mandarin speaking people. Gordon has led this plant and with the help of his leadership team has seen the Mandarin congregation develop with up to 50

people gathering in person prior to the most recent lockdown back in July. This growth has meant that we have had to relocate the Mandarin service from a meeting room into the hall so that we can comfortably accommodate the congregation in the coming year.

Each of these plants began with an idea, and developed with prayer, planning and hard work. God has done amazing things. So, thank you to all of the Mighty People of GWAC for your grace, for the manner in which you have allowed these new ministries to come in to being, and for the general excitement and enthusiasm you have shown along the way. Please keep praying for Sent Collective and the Mandarin ministry in the coming year as they continue to proclaim our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Staffing 2021 and 2022

We said farewell to Bree Mills and family as Bree concluded her ministry at GWAC last year to pursue doctoral studies. Jamie Yeung concluded her time as our media and design coordinator in February. Bre Wilkinson, as mentioned earlier, concludes her ministry as assistant curate at GWAC in later November to continue her curacy at St Philip's Mt Waverley as well as leading the Sent Collective church plant.

Joining the team this past year we welcomed Bishop John Harrower as our seniors' minister. Many current GWAC people know John well, having benefitted from his earlier ministry as Vicar of GWAC prior to becoming Bishop of Tasmania. We also welcomed Brad Jackson during this past year. Brad's role largely has been across our 8 am, 10:30 am and 5 pm services while he prepares for ordination in the Anglican Church in February. He has also had primary leadership of the youth and young adults' ministry across GWAC.

We welcomed Kevin Eames and Chloe Hamilton as assistant youth ministers and Kathryn Bickerton has joined the team in an honorary role assisting me with admin and the challenging area of child safety and compliance.

My thanks to each of these people for their valuable ministry, and my continued thanks to Jules, Roger, Ashish, Kerrie, Bob, Diane, and Gordon for their key contributions to the GWAC staff team.

A word about staff and gender at GWAC

While we do have women on staff the team has become more male dominated in recent times. I want to assure you that this is not an intentional plan of mine nor of anyone on the Governance Board. We have a church policy that seeks to embrace male and female leadership without distinction, and I would ask that you pray with me that God will continue to raise up both women and men for ministry not only at GWAC but also for his wider church.

What does 2022 look like?

1. God willing there are no more lockdowns! But if there are, we are ready for them. We have livestreaming in place and a hugely capable team of people able to run church services at relatively short notice. Praise God for this unexpected blessing.
2. 2022 is also a year where we 'keep connecting' with one another developing a ministry strategy that will engage the wider community.
3. A planning morning with the Governance Board and some of the staff back in August is seeking to build on the 2025 Vision. This involves developing a pathway that:

- a. CONNECTS with the community through intentional relationships and at some stage along the way offers the hope of the good news of Jesus through the witness of our lives as we invest in the people to whom God's Holy Spirit leads us.
- b. In addition to this community connection, we will continue to intentionally BUILD, TRAIN and SEND people from GWAC to make disciples who will in turn make disciples of Jesus.

So, as we journey into the year ahead my prayer and hope is that this great community of GWAC will be a light on the hill as we seek to live in step with Christ.

Acknowledgements

- My heartfelt thanks go to the staff team for the way each member has contributed to the life of GWAC in trying circumstances over 2021. There has been incredible resilience shown by each staff member with the stop/start nature of ministry caused by lockdown. Your partnership in gospel ministry is greatly appreciated.
- My thanks also go to outgoing Governance Board members Lynne Pryor, Sarah Su and Howard Walker for their contributions to the monthly board meetings and input over the years.
- I also want to acknowledge the ministry of Yeny Lukito and Jaffar Lie for their tireless work with the Mission of Truth Church partnership in Indonesia. Jaffar and Yeny are standing down as mission coordinators for this strategic partnership. They will relocate to South Australia in the new year.
- John and Selina Butcher have also expressed their intention to stand down from the GWAC Walkers' group and I thank them for their enthusiasm and energy in this ministry over the years.
- Fred Kreltszheim has concluded his ministry with the Willows Aged Care after 20 years.
- Bob Barclay has boundless energy and has managed many areas of ministry across GWAC. He will continue to do so in the future. However, we have identified the need to have a paid Property Manager in place for 2022, and so Bob is stepping aside from the property and facilities management role.
- Val Fugill has retired from 8am music ministry after many years of faithful service. She continues to play at the Wednesday 10am service and assists with our funeral ministry.
- Lesley Goulet has indicated that the Creative Craft group is winding up. Lesley informs me that she ran the Creative Craft group for 30 years. Wow! A well-deserved break indeed.

To each of these people my grateful thanks for your faithful service and I look forward to our continued partnership in gospel ministry in new and creative ways in the coming year.

There are many other people both up front and behind the scenes who do so very much in all our ministries. My heartfelt thanks to every one of you.

Blessings

Phil Meulman | Senior Minister

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching. – Heb 10:23-25

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY 8AM SERVICE – BOB BARCLAY

The year 2020/2021 has been challenging for the parishioners, as we have met infrequently together due to various lockdowns. We have still been able to meet through livestreaming and the ZOOM welcome lounge after each online service. We have enjoyed the preaching series and discussions in our Connect Groups using the study materials made available by the preachers for further studies.

Highlights 2021

- The main highlight of the year has been the development of the live streaming to a near-professional standard. This has allowed services to be streamed not only for the regular congregations, but to the various Care facilities, those who are unable to leave their homes and many families and friends not only in Australia, but overseas.
- The advancement of Information Technology (IT) has opened up many opportunities for our Service Leaders and congregations in terms of how we present our services and the availability of vision when we are unable to attend church services on site. It is an era of change for all of us and we thank God for bringing us together no matter what the challenges are.

Plans 2022

- Whilst we have only met a few times in person due to lockdowns, the Sunday morning Prayer Team has developed a wonderful ministry among the congregation, and we are most thankful for this small group of faithful people. We have seen how God has worked in the hearts of many who have come forward to place their burdens before the team.
- The support from the staff has as always been encouraging. We are blessed to have staff who are dedicated to bringing God's word and their gifts to share. A big "Thank you" to Roger Nicholson for his endless energy in producing and directing the music for the services, particularly the live streaming.

Closing comments

We remember those who have been called home to their heavenly Father this year. We give thanks and praise for their lives in honouring God and being witnesses to many people. Further, I acknowledge with thanks, the IT support provided by Brian and Bree Mills and later Andrew Dunn, as well as the livestreaming teams under Roger Nicholson. We are blessed by God to have such dedicated and wonderfully gifted people in our teams.

SUNDAY 10.30AM SERVICE – PHIL MEULMAN

The 10:30am service seeks to encourage the community that gathers to grow as disciples of Jesus through musical worship, prayer, and opening God's word together. The community focuses on times of fellowship after the service, and occasional lunches. The service is often attended by new people, especially for baptism and other special event services.

Highlights 2021

- One of the key highlights again this year was the January sermon series where many of our regular church members shared their stories. The variety of speakers, including many guest speakers, is always a highlight for the 10:30am gathering.
- Another key highlight was the launch of the Mandarin Service which was celebrated in a combined service on Palm Sunday included baptisms and reception of people into the Anglican Church, followed by lunch. This service realised the vision of many years of prayer in the formal establishment and launch of the Mandarin congregation.
- The development of livestream with fixed cameras installed in the worship area, the development of the tech team in order to run livestream from GWAC into homes has been an ongoing learning experience for many people. The recording of music, sermons, prayers etc has been demanding on many people but has been a blessing for the church and wider community.

Plans 2022

- The biggest plan for the 10:30am community in 2022 is to be able to meet together consistently in person, on site!
- It was intended to develop a welcoming process in 2021 but due to lockdown this was put aside yet again. The review has however now begun, and some elements have been put in place, including a coffee machine, new signage and seating. Training in our welcoming process will be further developed in the coming year.
- Keeping connected and re-engaging as a community will be a key challenge after the many months during which we have been unable to gather in person. Much fervent individual and corporate prayer is required as we live with COVID, and God-willing post COVID.
- An overall review of the 10.30am service will take place in the early part of 2022.

SUNDAY 5PM SERVICE – BRAD JACKSON

The 5pm service seeks to encourage the community to grow as disciples of Jesus through musical worship, prayer and the ministry of the Word. The post-service supper time is an important opportunity for fellowship, and young adults often head out to share a meal after the service.

Highlights 2021

- At the beginning of the year there was great joy in reconnecting, re-establishing the service and enjoying the January series of testimonies.
- Growing a larger volunteer team of people to serve during and after the service. In particular, seeing the youth beginning to serve was a positive.
- We have a gifted variety of preachers in our church and it was great to have many contribute to the ministry of the Word.
- New families joined the service and the number of people attending increased steadily until lockdown. We had a great response to the newcomers' welcome event.

Lockdown challenge

- It was not sustainable for us to continue the 5pm service during lockdown. There was very little demand for a service at 5, as many people chose to watch the 10:30am service livestream at their convenience.

Recommencement

- In person 5 pm services recommenced on 7 November- a great blessing to many.

Plans for 2022

- The great hope of 2022 is that we will be able consistently to meet together in person, without the interruption of lockdowns.
- Pre-service youth Bible studies.
- Training and development of volunteers serving in welcoming, intercessory prayers, Bible reading and hospitality.

WORSHIP MINISTRY & AUDIO-VISUAL TECH – ROGER NICHOLSON

UP: we address God directly as we worship Him through song for who He is and what He has done, and also express our response to His grace and His call on our lives

IN: we encourage each other as we sing together, expressing shared faith and values as believers

OUT: those who are not yet believers may be prompted to learn more about Jesus as they hear and see our faith expressed in this way

Highlights 2021

- Seeing our volunteers rise to the technical and other challenges of recording themselves at home, and even enjoy the experience! It's also a bonus when members of the same household are able to do recording together. I'm so grateful that we have been able to continue our ministry via our livestream services, during what has been a highly disruptive and challenging year. Another highlight for me has been using more creativity in both audio and visual areas, e.g. use of videos and stills at the start / end of some of our response songs, to help convey the meaning of the songs.
- On the A/V front, a new PA system (partly made up of old, "pre-loved" components from our storeroom but with the addition of one new speaker and one new mixer) has been installed in the "Stadium" (formerly "Hall"). Very soon a new projector and screen will also be installed there. These are mainly for the benefit of our new Mandarin Ministry, who will be using this space for their Sunday Services.
- The new audio-visual desk in the Auditorium has been working exceptionally well. It was finished off at just the right time last year (2020) and continues to be one of our greatest material assets as we livestream, which continues whether we are in lockdown or not (for our morning services). A more recent upgrade this year was the purchase of a new computer and large (32") monitor for the Visuals station, which has been helpful to our volunteer operators. There have been numerous small upgrades to our a/v systems, all of which help to make the broadcasting of our livestream services go more smoothly, with particular thanks due to Andrew Harding who has worked very hard on these important changes.
- Establishing a new Core Team for our 8am Music Ministry, developing new systems for our Songs/Hymns repertoire, music selection for Sunday Services and rosters.
- Working with some of our Mandarin-speaking musos in our Combined Bi-Lingual Services

Plans 2022

To be honest, I'm almost scared of planning anything for 2022, having seen so many plans cancelled or postponed by multiple lockdowns over the past 18 months. Nevertheless, certain priorities are clear:

- Priority 1: training for volunteers: the need to review and sharpen our skills in all areas, both in terms of individual musicianship and working together as a team (band)
- Priority 2: recruit more volunteers for our 10.30am and 5pm Service Teams
- Priority 3: develop more worship-leaders and band leaders
- Priority 4: develop and refine our songs repertoire, to include more "God-centred" songs (including original songs)

Acknowledgements

- Sarah Su
- Jamie Yeung
- Lizzy Walker
- Shannon Yeung
- Tahlia Mills

New Members

- Liz Folland
- Philippa Hillman-Laub (returned)
- Bailey Jackson
- Philip Riley
- Tim Laub (returned)

Comments

We pray for a less disruptive 2022 and that God will continue to lead us to reach out to our local community with His message of hope.

WEDNESDAY 10AM SERVICE – JOHN HARROWER

We thank God for the opportunity to worship and fellowship in Christ's name. Our relaxed style and traditional prayer book service provide a time of building relationship with God and with one another. We participate in gathering for the worship service through welcoming, hospitality, and the preparation of the audio/ visual operators, and in the service through singing, reading, learning, praying, sharing in Holy Communion, and the opportunity for prayer ministry. Following the service, we enjoy morning tea generously and graciously provided by our members.

Highlights 2021

- We enjoy our community and welcome newcomers. There are a number of retirement villages in the area, and this is proving to be an opportunity to encourage people moving into those villages to form new friendships in a smaller congregation that knows how to party! The Fellowship Area plays a significant role in building community. We celebrate life events such as birthdays and anniversaries with joyful singing and plentiful cake!
- Due to the extended lockdown we decided to continue our fellowship via Zoom, a Pastoral Catch-up on zoom, at 10am Wednesdays. We share a time together which is followed by a devotional, breakout groups of 3-5, and a return to the main group. This hour has proved to

be valuable to a good number of us. Thank you to Phil Meulman and Gerry Thornevell for providing the tech team. An unexpected highlight of our moving to a Pastoral Catch-up on zoom is being able to see each other 'face-to-face', i.e., we have been 'mask-less' in lockdown Melbourne! As one of our number commented, "It is one time when I can see your faces!"

- Our worship service provides opportunity for prayer ministry and pastoral ministry. Our smaller size, perhaps 30-50 participants when out of lockdown, facilitates pastoral care. During Holy Communion we have also taken the opportunity to lay hands in prayer on our members who have been too unwell to partake of the bread and wine.
- The dedication of Lynn Pryor and Val Fugill in bringing us the music ministry week by week. A big 'Thank you'.

Plans 2022

- To meet face-to-face! To encourage a full return to worship and fellowship. When we return, we will probably be wearing masks and therefore may not be able to see each other's faces unmasked as we could on Zoom, but we will see each other's eyes and experience the magic of simply and beautifully being in each other's presence. What joy! Recently, we have spoken about abiding in Christ, and what joy to abide with one another in worship, fellowship and outreach at our parish church.
- To train and equip members in the various ministry opportunities available in our worship, fellowship and outreach.

Final Comments

We close our report adapting the words of the Apostle Paul to Philemon in verses 3-7, in saying 'Thank you with prayer' to all our participants:

'Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always thank our God as we remember you in our prayers, because we hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. We pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given us great joy and encouragement, because you, brothers and sisters, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.'

MANDARIN MINISTRY – GORDON LI

The Mandarin Congregation was officially launched on 28 March 2021. The people meet at 10.30am, parallel to the English service. Despite the long period of COVID lockdown, by God's grace and provision, the Mandarin ministry has enjoyed steady growth through Sunday service, small group fellowship, Sunday Bible studies, seek classes, the "D2B" ("From Doubting to Believing") program, and traditional Chinese Festival Gospel outreach events. We saw an increase in the number of people regularly attending Sunday services and volunteering for various roles.

Highlights 2021

- Coinciding with the official launch of the Mandarin Congregation on Palm Sunday commissioned by Bishop Paul Barker, 23 people from the Mandarin congregation, including 4 just baptised, were confirmed and received into the Anglican communion at GWAC. Mandarin Ministry Leaders were commissioned on 16 May 2021.

- While the lockdown did make it more difficult to conduct “Seek” classes, which rely on a lot of interactive in-person discussion and prayer, nevertheless, from July to August, the Mandarin Ministry completed six modules of the Gospel Exploration online classes with fruitful results. Three persons attended these classes and they all accepted or reaffirmed their faith in Jesus. In addition, some new coaches were trained, and they joined the coaching team established last year. The Mandarin Ministry continues to use the D2B (“From Doubting to Believing”) program started last year for one-to-one evangelism.
- The brothers and sisters meet fortnightly on Thursday nights for fellowship via Zoom. Through sharing of the Word, praying in truth and love, and mutual caring, a close fellowship among brothers and sisters has been established. These fellowships have contributed to the steady growth of the Mandarin Congregation.
- Sunday Bible Studies have been conducted fortnightly since 7 March 2021. We have completed 12 studies on Ephesians and now continue our study of Acts which is schedule to be completed by the middle of next year. The number of participants in the Bible study is usually about twenty.
- Although it had to celebrate the Chinese New Year and Mid-Autumn online amid COVID, the Mandarin Ministry worked closely with the English Ministry to organize these celebrations rich in Chinese culture. These events were part of the Outreach Evangelism Program to reach out to the wider local community.

Plans 2022

- To develop a full range of volunteer Mandarin ministry teams, including worship, coaching, audio-visual, pastoral care, next generation care, etc.
- To care for and nurture disciples through fortnightly fellowship among brothers and sisters, fortnightly Sunday Bible studies, and one-to-one coaching.
- To focus on spiritual growth by encouraging one-to-one prayer partners, daily devotional prayer, and monthly corporate prayer.
- To continue to equip and train individuals who are willing to commit to one-to-one evangelism through the D2B (“From Doubting to Believing”) program, which complements the Gospel Exploration Classes that rely on their coaching team.
- To reach out to the wider local community by organising traditional Chinese Festival bilingual worship services.

Acknowledgements

- Jacky Hou

New Members

- Gordon Xuefeng Xu

Comments

Gordon Xuefeng Xu, who is studying M Div at Melbourne School of Theology (MST) joined GWAC on student placement form February 2021

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

MISSION PARTNERS – PHIL MEULMAN

GWAC partners with a wide range of missionaries and mission agencies, locally and globally. The Governance Board allocates mission funds at the beginning of each church year to support our missionaries. Mission support in 2021 included: BCA, CMS, Compassion, Ridley College, Power To Change, Sent Collective, Anglican Overseas Aid and Mission of Truth.

Highlights 2021

- Releasing Bre Wilkinson to lead the Sent Collective Gospel Community in Notting Hill. Sent Collective exists to invite people to see, follow and become like Jesus together.
- The Sent Collective Team was commissioned in February following Bre's ordination as Deacon. The community has continued to gather during lockdown and continues to work out its kingdom purpose in creative ways.
- Mission of Truth sadly lost their Senior Pastor, Sartono, due to COVID 19 earlier this year. While there has been and continues to be much grief at Pastor Sartono's loss, the church continues to serve its purpose with Jesus as its head. GWAC's support, prayerfully and financially, at a time of crisis for MOT, has been inspiring to both churches. With the appointment of a new Senior Pastor we can be confident in God's leading for MOT in the future.
- GWAC entered into an informal partnership with Anglican Overseas Aid for this year. Our financial support has primarily been through the sale of jams made and donated by parishioners. Even during lockdown over \$650 was raised in support of AOA work - impressive since we can't really gather together.

Plans 2022

- Renewed partnership with the Mission of Truth Church (MOT) through a new Memorandum of Understanding.
- Planning a mission trip to MOT for 2023.
- Establishing partnership with a new link missionary, Zoe Creelman, through CMS, as the Beer family return from Mission work in the Northern Territory.
- Intentional review and development of GWAC's Mission Task Group.

Acknowledgments

- Yeny Lukito
- Jaffarudin Lie

Comments

We give thanks to God for the prayers and generosity of GWAC members who support our link missionaries and pray for continued generous support in the year ahead.

SENT COLLECTIVE- BRE WILKINSON

Jesus sends us to go and make disciples, and He sends us to go together. As Sent Collective, we are on about multiplying communities that invite people to follow Jesus in times of worship, community and mission.

Highlights 2021

- **LOCAL GYM:** This year a number of the women in Sent Collective joined the same local gym in Mount Waverley. As a group we are seeking to connect with the women there by being present in that space. As a result, one of the gym trainers has joined Sent and is now a core member of the collective. She shares an incredible story of how she had walked away from God and disconnected from Him, but that Sent has helped her reconnect with Jesus and feel a part of a Christian community that loves and supports her.
- **NOTTING HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE:** This year we've made wonderful connections with the manager and team at NHH. As a team we have served the community in their Halloween and Christmas celebrations. We've partnered with them in providing for the community pantry and have had regular faith conversations with the manager there. As we shared the vision for creating spaces for people to worship in places that are familiar to them, she offered for us to use the hall there and was open to advertising and sharing our church gatherings with people who might be interested.
- **GATHERED WORSHIP:** A key focus for Sent Collective this year was to establish our gathered worship. We have been a number of individual communities for some time now; this year our heart was to bring those communities together for corporate worship in a way that was contextually relevant. We spent time at the Neighbourhood House and more recently moved our gatherings to the fellowship hall at St Philip's Mount Waverley.
- **DISCIPLESHIP:** A huge highlight for us has been the way our community has bought into the desire to be disciples who make disciples. We ran a book discussion on "Reappearing Church", a book that focuses on helping the church be a part of God's renewal now and in the future. This stirred conversations to help us think about the key ways in which we disciple one another. Now we have three discipleship groups meeting weekly where people are dreaming about what could be and discerning the people and places God is sending them for the year ahead.

Plans 2022

- **PARTNERSHIP WITH ST PHILIP'S:** As we partner with St Philip's in 2022, our plan is to establish new connections and relationships with the people there. There are young families and young adults who are right on the fringe of St Philip's. Our hope is that Sent Collective will be a place they can be discipled and worship God together.
- **MULTIPLYING COMMUNITIES:** This year has been difficult going in and out of lockdown, but our plan is to relaunch our three existing communities with the hope for multiplying them and their leadership teams mid-2022.
- **LAUNCH A MISSIONAL LEADERS COHORT:** Seeking to multiply missional communities starts with raising up lay leaders who know and understand how to contextualise worship, community, and mission. This requires coaching, training and mentoring. Our hope is to build a program for aspiring missional community leaders, that will develop their character and grow their competency. The program will include retreats, conferences, training days

and immersion trips. These leaders will be the ones who multiply the network of missional communities seeking to reach their local area.

- NETWORK OF YOUTH COMMUNITIES: St Philip's has a budding group of young people that needs a space to experience worship and community in a contextually relevant way. The model of micro-churches has been shown successfully to grow and multiply in this space. Our plan is to spend time to train and equip young lay leaders to grow this type of church expression.
- DEVELOPING A HEART FOR THE HARVEST: Currently our missional communities are doing an effective job of making the gospel known and helping people encounter Jesus for the first time. We want to take advantage of these learnings to launch more effective missional outreach initiatives. This means working with the current St Philip's small groups and programs to help them see their role as taking responsibility for the whole discipleship journey.

Acknowledgments

- Phoebe Leung

New Members

- Shane Fischer
- Tarity Finnigan
- Vanessa Thompson
- Tracy Chen
- Nancy & Mercy Xavier

Final Comments

We want to thank GWAC for supporting this church plant prayerfully and financially. We acknowledge that this church plant would not have been possible without GWAC's generosity and kingdom mindset. We hope that our two churches can continue to partner together as we seek to make Jesus known in the city of Monash.

MISSION OF TRUTH CHURCH PARTNERSHIP – JAFAR LIE & YENY LUKITO

In relation to the 'UP' dimension of discipleship, the partnership with Mission of Truth Church (Partnership Ministry) seeks more deeply to experience the grace of God through Jesus Christ in the vision and mission to which God has called the people of GWAC. The Partnership Ministry also seeks to encourage and foster the development of godly relationships between the GWAC congregation and the Mission of Truth Church (MoT) congregation ('IN' dimension). Through the sharing of God's gifts and resources with MoT Church, the Partnership Ministry seeks to build up and equip the body of Christ to be witnesses in reaching out to non-believers ('OUT' dimension).

Highlights 2021

- Members of GWAC continue to faithfully and generously contribute towards the Education Assistance Project (EAP) fund through direct transfer and Change4Change coins collected on the first Sunday of the month. The fund collected during the period of July 2020 to August 2021 amounts to \$7,946. The EAP fund is mainly used to provide scholastic supports for

members of MoT Church who are undertaking secondary and tertiary study as well as providing English training to mentors/tutors of the Compassion program.

- This year (2021) marks 10 years since the partnership between GWAC and MoT Church began (the first Memorandum of Understanding was signed in June 2011). Over the past ten years, GWAC has sent six Visit Teams to Surabaya (the most recent one was in 2018). The Surabaya Visit makes it possible for people from both churches to make friendships and build deeper relationship with each other. Those who were part of the Visit Teams expressed positive feedback about their experience with the visitation, as they saw how God answered prayers and the amazing works He has done through the partnership.
- Ps Sartono and Ps Devi tested positive for COVID-19 early in July 2021. While Ps Devi has made a recovery, sadly Ps Sartono passed away on the 22nd of July 2021. Ps Sartono's untimely death was mourned not only by MoT Church, but also by members of GWAC who had close relations with him over the years. GWAC hosted a Thanksgiving Service for Ps Sartono on the 11th of August 2021. The service was held online (due to lockdown restrictions) and was livestreamed to MoT Church members. Praise the Lord for this opportunity to celebrate the life of Ps Sartono and the impacts he made on many GWAC people. An appeal was made to the wider GWAC community to contribute towards Ps Sartono's funeral costs, and a total of \$3,730 was collected.
- At the end of August 2021, the MoT Church Council announced that Rev. Reonald Simatupang (Ps Reo) was appointed as the Senior Pastor of MoT Church, to continue the ministry of the late Ps Sartono Bakara. Ps Devi Bakara was appointed as the Associate Senior Pastor. Ps Reo's induction was held in September, and Phil Meulman (GWAC Senior Pastor) recorded an encouragement message for Ps Reo that was shown during the induction service.
- The Partnership Ministry gave thanks to the Lord and rejoiced with MoT brothers and sisters as they celebrated their 20th anniversary in September 2021. The MoT 20th Anniversary thanksgiving service was live-streamed and a number of GWAC members were able to join the celebration via Zoom. The Partnership Ministry prepared a short video of congratulatory messages from various GWAC members to MoT Church, which was shown during the anniversary service.

Plans 2022

- A transition process is underway as the current Partnership Ministry Leader, Yeny Lukito, and a ministry team member, Jafar Lie, will step down from the ministry by the end of this year. The Partnership Ministry Team will hold a meeting in November, inviting members of GWAC community to prayerfully make a commitment to join the Partnership Ministry Team and to further this ministry on a continuing basis.
- GWAC Wardens and Governance Board have agreed to extend the partnership with MoT Church for another three years. The Partnership Ministry will liaise with both GWAC and MoT Church leadership in preparing and organising the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding to officially mark the renewal of the partnership between the two churches.
- The Partnership Ministry will continue to be actively involved in preparation for a Surabaya visit in the future. Due to the severity of the pandemic, at this stage it is still uncertain when the next visit can be undertaken. The Partnership Ministry will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, both in Australia and Indonesia, and consult with the leadership of both churches before a decision is made.

Acknowledgments

- Yeny Lukito
- Jafar Lie

Final Comments

The Partnership Ministry Team has approached certain GWAC members to invite them to join the Partnership Ministry Team. A further invitation to be involved in the Partnership Ministry will be extended to the wider GWAC community through a meeting in November. Subsequently, the names of new ministry team members who join the Partnership Ministry later this year will be included in next year's Ministry Report.

NURTURE & GROWTH

PASTORAL CARE – JOHN HARROWER & KERRIE JONES

As a parish, we aim to be "a caring community making, maturing, and mobilising disciples of Jesus Christ locally and globally", and our pastoral work is a key contributor to this goal. Pastoral care is a ministry of all Christians, and we seek to encourage prayer and practical care, an openness to vulnerability in people asking for assistance, a heart of compassion and an ear and response of empathy. May the Spirit of Christ guide and heal our needy world.

1 John 4:19 'We love each other because he loved us first.' (NLT)

Highlights 2021

- Individuals and/or their families of the church community, who are going through difficult health, relational, emotional/spiritual and grief issues are supported by the ministry team. A listening ear, support and prayer is part of giving pastoral care.
- Intentional care, support and prayer is offered to women in their time of need. At times, a prompting from the Lord encourages following up with the person as well.
- Thankfully, the six-week pastoral care course, "God's Love in Action" was able to take place in term 2. The morning and evening sessions were well attended. We give thanks for Hilary Roath's leadership in preparing the course and leading both the sessions.
- Since late August two meetings have been attended by Phil Meulman, John Harrower, Veronica Barclay, and Kerrie Jones. The focus is on the Sunday 8am service and Wednesday 10am service attendants, and how they can be supported if not part of a connect group. The next step is to establish their needs and offer a nurture/growth support person. The objective is to have this in readiness for 2022.
- The warmth of personal relationships and parishioners' care one for another is a highlight - a characteristic of nurture and growth. This mutual care reflects Christ's abiding in us and our abiding in Christ - the Spirit's powerful and gracious work in weaving the Body of Christ. What a privilege we share! People are in contact with one another, keen to care and add that special personal touch: a note of thanks, surprise gifts delivered to people's front door, smiling eyes over a facemask - the unexpected breaking in of grace.
- A funeral during lockdown limits personal contact and shared emotional engagement. This limits pastoral care; yet we experienced offers to write words for use in the eulogy, to share photos, to make a flower arrangement, to send cards and to join in the funeral thanksgiving service online. Ties are strengthened in grief.
- We have been reviewing the currency of our pastoral information in order to improve our pastoral attention to church people. Veronica Barclay for the 8am Sunday service, and Kerrie Jones for the 10am Wednesday service, are playing a key role, along with Phil Meulman and John Harrower, in updating information, contacting people, and progressing our pastoral care.
- Zoom catchups following the Sunday services, and the pastoral catchup including devotions replacing the Wednesday service, have played a significant role for a good number of our people during the extended Melbourne lockdowns. These Zoom catchups have allowed the exchange of news, prayer, learning and encouragement. We have also been able to encourage, and in some cases train, parishioners to upgrade their IT skills, and so join the

ranks of our 'high-tech' parishioners! - through the pain of upgrading skills, the vagaries of internet connectivity, and learning to "Zoom along", we have moved from "I can't stand computers!" to the joy of "How good to see you all!" PTL!

- The importance of online services to nurture our growth through worship and fellowship. Some comments often heard were- "Thank you for the sermon. I value the teaching." "I enjoy seeing different people participate in leading us in the worship services". "Thank you for the music ministry: I'm singing in a pandemic!" "Please thank the online tech team."

Plans 2022

- Encouraging the return of parishioners to worship, fellowship and outreach at our ministry centre.
- Carrying forward the learning and energy from the Rev'd Hilary Roath's six-week pastoral care course, 'God's Love in action'.
- Continuing to improve pastoral care through the update of pastoral information.

Comments

And in the words of APBA page 688, we continue in prayer for one another:

Father of all mercies,
for your gifts of healing and forgiveness,
for grace to love and care for one another,
for your hidden blessings,
and for all you have in store for us,
we give you thanks,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION - HILARY ROATH

'God's Love in Action, Pastoral Care for Everyone', written and compiled by Jill McGilvray is a six-week morning/evening course, that was offered to the GWAC congregation on 3 May 2021. However, after completing four weeks, a COVID shutdown was imposed for the following four weeks. The final two weeks of the course took place on 28 June and 5 July.

This course is designed for those who want to refresh and develop their skills in caring for others in the church context. Each session includes prayer, teaching, homework, questions, group reflection and refreshments.

Highlights 2021

- The course was well attended, with 24 enrolled in the morning and 16 in the evening session. We sought to develop, refresh and renew the gifts and skills God has given us as we work through the course topics e.g. The qualities of a good carer, Spiritual gifts, Skills, e.g., listening, using scripture and prayer, caring for the carer, confidentiality, grief, illness, pain, depression, hospital visiting, abuse of children, domestic abuse, elder abuse and abuse of those with disabilities, special needs of women and men, caring for families in need.
- Many thanks go to those who helped with the organisation of the course: Sue Collier, Kerrie Jones, Christine Reid, Kathryn Bickerton, Diane Craig and a bunch of guys from the five o'clock congregation who set up the room each Sunday evening.

- Many thanks also go to the participants who together created a 'safe space' enabling us to personally experience 'God's Love in Action' as we worked through some very challenging topics.

WEDDINGS & SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING 2021

For the period 1 Oct 2020 – 30 Sept 2021, the following information is provided:

- Marriages entered into our Register: 3
- Funeral Services conducted at GWAC and off-site by GWAC Ministers: 14

TUESDAY PRAYER MINISTRY, PRAYER CHAIN, PRAISE IN SONG – PHYL AUSTIN

Overview

In Prayer Ministry we are called to listen intently, love deeply and minister with care. The challenge is always to keep our eyes on Jesus and not on the problems. We hold in confidence the deep sharing entrusted to us. We minister to all people both connected and not connected to GWAC. This year we welcomed Bob Barclay to the Team.

Highlights 2021

- We thank God for the times when we were able to meet together and also for the times when people come more deeply into the felt presence of God.
- Some feedback after Praise in Song this year included a lady saying, "I feel 40 years younger" and others saying, "we both appreciate the opportunity of participating in this monthly event". There were many other encouraging comments.

New Members

- Praise in Song – Pat Hodges
- Prayer Ministry – Bob Barclay
- Praise in Song – Paul Collier
- Praise in Song, Pianist Bev Bennett, Assistant Diana Pompilio

Comments

Thank you to all involved to these ministries. You are very much appreciated. Let us continue to...

"Trust steadily in God,
Hope unswervingly,
Love extravagantly."

CONNECT GROUPS – BRAD JACKSON

The goals of Connect Groups are to connect with God, connect with each other, and connect with our community. A Connect Group is a place to experience care and transformation as people meet to read the Bible, pray, share a meal, have fun and care for each other. These groups are central to our mission at GWAC to mature and mobilise disciples of Jesus Christ.

Highlights 2021

- Once again, many of our groups moved online and continued to meet together during this on-again, off-again season.
- Many groups reported growth in members and enjoyed the study resources provided to complement the sermon series.
- The re-badging of all small groups under the banner of “Connect Groups” was an important step towards re-shaping the ministry.

Plans 2022

- Our goal is to see all groups open to multiplying. In order to facilitate this, we will offer training for new leaders in the hope of opening new groups to existing members and newcomers to GWAC.
- Reintroduce leaders’ gatherings for prayer, support, training and the sharing of ideas.

Comments

- Training was planned for this year following the Alpha Course, but the extended lockdown frustrated this plan.
- One of the challenges our GWAC family faces is that many of the Connect Groups are full. It is difficult to find places for new people. Many groups are closed to new members. We need new leaders to open new groups.

WAVERLEY VALLEY AGED CARE – NERIDAH PEIRCE

The Waverley Valley Aged Care Team develops members' up relationship with God through prayer seeking guidance in providing this ministry and thanking Him for His answers to these prayers.

The relationship with other believers is a twofold one. Firstly, there is the ongoing team building and trust in each other. Secondly, the reaching out to other believers to be involved from time to time: guest speakers, liaising with other aged care teams, office assistance and asking for prayer support.

Out relations involve residents and staff of Waverley Valley Aged Care.

Highlights 2021

- This year has presented many challenges to continuing with this ministry due to Covid19 lockdown regulations. The team has been blessed with God's enabling us to get through these challenges.
- We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing cheerful assistance of the Lifestyle staff at Waverley Valley Aged Care.

- Our prayers for guidance and enabling have been answered. Increasing flexibility in the team has been most valuable when we have sometimes experienced the late unavailability of team members.

Plans 2022

- To continue to hone our spiritual gifts, as team members, to serve the Lord in this ministry.
- To help residents to trust and serve the Lord by presenting a service that is suitable to their needs and interests.
- To pray for staff, that conversations with them may yield fruit and build God's kingdom.

THE WILLOWS AGED CARE – FRED KRELTSZHEIM

Our main goal is to spend time with this elderly group during our monthly Communion service with them, having fellowship through prayer, and sharing God's word with them.

During our monthly worship service our main focus is to encourage all attendees to draw closer to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We make time to chat and to encourage all those who attend the services.

Highlights 2021

- Unfortunately, no visits were possible during the year due to the Covid 19 outbreak which resulted in the Willows Aged Care not permitting any visitors to conduct any activities.

Plans 2022

- Fred has been the Co-ordinator of this group for around 20 years, but due to his ill health and a number of key members leaving the core group, Fred is unable to lead this group in 2022.

Acknowledgements

- Rosemary Kreltszheim
- Frederick Kreltszheim
- Don Mahaffy

HIGHVALE RETIREMENT VILLAGE – RENUKA JESUDHASON

Overview

- UP: we spend time in prayer, upholding each other and reassuring the residents as they stand firm in their faith
- IN: we have fellowship after the service where we encourage and share with each other
- OUT: we reach out to residents who are not regular members and encourage them to invite others to join our time of worship and fellowship

Highlights 2021

- We have had minimal contact during 2020-2021. In the few months that we were able to meet, the residents expressed their great joy at being able to worship together again.

Plans 2022

- We would like to replace the paper copies of the service order and liturgy with an online display. The technology is already available in the venue
- To expand the team and include more musicians.
- To include more resident participation in the services by inviting residents to read the Bible passage, etc.

Acknowledgements

- Lynn Pryor

OAK TREE HILL RETIREMENT VILLAGE – DON MAHAFFY & DOREEN THOMAS

This Worship group meets once per month on the 3rd Wednesday in the Residents' Centre at Oaktree Hill Retirement Village, Viewmount Road, Glen Waverley. It is an ecumenical group, and the leaders are Doreen Thomas and Margaret Hill. The meeting incorporates hymns and prayers, and a visiting speaker from one of the local Churches gives a Bible message. The morning ends with fellowship over morning tea. The number of people varies from approximately 5 to 15.

Highlights 2021

- This year the gatherings have been severely impacted by the Covid lockdowns, so the group met only in the earlier months of the year. Don Mahaffy led in the Bible reflection on one occasion. The last worship service was in June, as advised by Margaret Hill.

Plans 2022

- Covid permitting, we are hopeful of continuing our worship service next year.

NELLIE MELBA RETIREMENT VILLAGE – HILARY ROATH

As we continue to face the challenges of the COVID virus shutdown, Nellie Melba Retirement Village has been unable to open its facility to any outdoor organisations. As a result, GWAC has only been able to hold one service of Holy Communion since last year's 2020 AGM report.

Highlights 2021

- I have appreciated the ongoing communication from the Nellie Melba activity coordinator, Charlene, along with Veronica Barclay, who have kept me updated on the status of the COVID shutdown at the village. At the time of this writing, Charlene has informed me that no date to open up is yet on the horizon.

- Many thanks go to our GWAC members who have been actively building this ministry of Christian care and support within the facility. These include Bob and Veronica Barclay, Lily and Loy Yeo, Dorothy Francis and Gerry and Marie Thornewell and staff member Kerrie Jones. We are looking forward to the time when we will again celebrate and worship together in the Lord's Supper at Nellie Melba.

Plans 2022

- Seek to re-establish and rebuild the monthly Holy Communion service at Nellie Melba on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

FRIDAY NIGHT CRAFT GROUP – FIONA DUNN

Friday Night Craft Group has been focussing on building relationships with believers and reaching out to those who as yet are not believers building friendships based on Christian values. We use craft as our conduit of building and strengthening our relationships and look for opportunities to share our faith.

The last year has had COVID challenges and has also created some great opportunities. We have continued to meet weekly during school term time over Zoom and in person when we have been allowed to. Zoom has enabled us to make connections with people from all over Melbourne and Geelong. We have also had people join us from Cambodia and Thailand.

Highlights 2021

- It has been a delight to see the Zoom Friday Night Craft group grow and be there for each other. It is lovely to hold each other up in prayer and to be able to ask for prayer. Zoom has also enabled us to reach out to others and relationships have been made globally. This has led to fantastic interactions, including practising the English language.
- Friday Night Craft Group worked together to facilitate an Advent Christmas Craft Series making Christmas Cards and paper craft, Christmas sewing projects, Gingerbread houses and Christmas baking treats. It was a delight to make up kits to send out, so people had the materials to be creative and run Zoom meetings to bring people together.
- In our last long lockdown to cheer us all up Friday Night Craft sent out Crafty Care Packages to people who regularly attended. These included something fun, something to eat and drink as well as some crafty challenges with fabric, yarn and paper craft wrapped in a Japanese fabric bento bag. It has been lovely seeing what people have made with these goodies :-). We managed to find a way to get them out to Geelong, in our GWAC area and by post. The aim was to show that even when we are apart, we care for and support each other - even when things are tough.

Plans 2022

- To reengage with those who haven't joined us by Zoom.
- To continue to build a caring community both in person and virtually, through craft.
- Proactively to demonstrate our faith and look for opportunities to have caring God conversations by putting in practice some of the strategies in "How to Talk about Jesus".

- To look for opportunities to "invite a friend" to join Friday Night Craft Group or crafty activities throughout the year, COVID allowing.
- To partner with GWAC to look at ways to build local community so that GWAC can be "A light on the hill". This may include an Easter / Christmas Makers Market on GWAC grounds, and other things to which we can invite members of our community, allowing us to start conversations and build relationships.
- To continue connecting virtually with those that can't join our inperson Friday Night Craft group due to location.

New Members

- Jyotika David and her friend
- Marion Creek and her sister Liz
- Wendy Hamilton
- Superwadee (based in Bangkok)
- Margaret Buckley

NEXT GEN MINISTRY

SPARK- JULES BARNARD

Spark is our ministry to our primary school aged children. It runs at both the Sunday 10:30 am and 5 pm services. This year we have continued to run Zoom gatherings during the lockdowns, and pivoted to be back in person when allowed.

We have continued to use the “Grow Curriculum”, which supplies us with all our wonderful content and graphics. To go along with these monthly themes, we have been making discipleship boxes, to help connect what we are doing on Sundays with families at home. We also use the SPARK ONLINE page to share extra videos and resources for families. The boxes have met with mixed success but have been wonderful to have when we suddenly moved into the different lockdowns we have had.

We have had many changes this year. We moved into the Stadium so that the Mandarin Ministry could start on-site gatherings in Meeting Rooms 1 and 2. Later we moved back into MR 1 and 2 and have split into an older and a younger group at 10:30. Thank you to ALL the wonderful leaders who have made this past year possible!

Highlights 2021

- When the Mandarin ministry started on site in March, I was also preaching that day. I said to the leaders that we would be expecting a few more kids to join in. Well, we had 20 new kids that day! It was a surprise! But we have been thankful for the combined Children's ministry at 10:30am service since then.
- Thank you to the WONDERFUL leaders who have helped with our extra setups and making of the discipleship boxes.
- One family says they have been attending GWAC regularly because their child really enjoys learning about God at SPARK. Praise God that he continues to speak to each of us, no matter our age.

Plans 2022

- We plan to continue using the Grow curriculum, as it gives a good base for our leaders to plan and teach from.
- We are looking forward to having a series of visioning days for our Children and Families ministries and look forward to seeing GWAC's vision and mission realised in these ministries.
- There are plans in motion to start a mid-week Kids Group (like youth group, but for younger ages).
- We are working with our Kids Hope mentors to see how we can further our partnership with the local school.

Acknowledgements

- Philip Riley
- Sharmini Ratnasingham
- Renuka Jesudhason

New members

- Jessie Bickerton

Comments

If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Jules, j.barnard@gwac.org.au.

PLAYGROUP - JULES BARNARD

Our Playgroup Ministry has been going well; last year we started meeting in different local playgrounds. This was a great success in terms of reconnecting with the Playgroup families and also connecting with other local families.

Highlights 2021

- We ended term 4 with an onsite Christmas Teddy Bears' Picnic, which was a great success, and we really enjoyed being back on site.
- We have loved the renovation work in Meeting Rooms 1 and 2, with the updated colours and general clean-up of the space.
- We have been able to keep connecting through lockdowns through care packages, letters and Zoom calls. We have missed in face gatherings, and Zoom is difficult for preschool kids, but those who have been connecting have appreciated the connection.
- We have been blessed to connect with 25+ new families through the year. We are looking forward to 2022 and being able to reconnect with these new families.
- We started giving welcome packs with a range of GWAC and Playgroup specific stuff.
- We have a NEW PLAYGROUND! We are so excited to be able to share this amazing new space with our playgroup families.

Plans 2022

- We are working towards having a community garden in the Playground space. We are really excited to see this develop in the coming year.
- We would love to develop a Bible study group that is specific for young preschool parents. Join me in praying for the opportunities in this space.

Acknowledgments

- Xiaoxi Lou
- Sarah Elliott

KIDS HOPE - JULES BARNARD, BARRY ROBERTS

Kids Hope is a great way for our church community to meet the needs of some of our young people at Glen Waverley South Primary School. Our mentors show Jesus' love and compassion through their words and actions. There is a growing need in our community to care for and support young people struggling under a range of stresses.

- Relationship with God: The Kids Hope Aus program enjoys the full support of the GWAC community, which provides a prayer support partner for each mentor and the support of our corporate prayers.
- Relationship with other believers: Kids Hope mentors will meet regularly as a group to support each other in prayer and to share their experiences.
- Relationship with those who are not yet believers: The Kids Hope Aus program is a marvellous outreach ministry linking church communities with public primary school teachers, families and particularly children in need of extra support. Although a secular program, mentors have the opportunity to display their Christian love, to care and support, to encourage the child and to help build self-esteem.

Highlights 2021

- This year we were able to commence at the school at the beginning of May. We had five mentors who started meeting in that month.
- There was a need for more mentors to be trained and in April we trained another three. Two of them started late in term 2 and early in term 3. There is always a need (outside of lockdown) for more mentors to join the team.
- We are thankful for the mentors' excitement in meeting with their mentees for the first time, and in subsequent catchups. This has been reflected in one mentee's family wanting to make time to Zoom with their child's mentor.

Plans 2022

- We would like to expand the mentoring program to better meet the school's needs. We would love to have more mentors trained and ready to serve the school community, as needed.
- We would like to organise ways to grow our relationships with the teaching staff and the wider school community where we can.
- Explore ways to further the partnership and support with the school community.

New Members

- Jay Ratnasingham
- Janet Cameron
- Bethany Vaughan

Comments

Thank you to ALL our mentors and prayer partners for their ongoing support and flexibility in this difficult and changing season. We look forward to being able to support the mentees for a full, uninterrupted, term next year!

BAPTISMS & DEDICATIONS, CONFIRMATIONS

Highlights 2021

- Infant Baptisms & Dedications: We haven't had any baptisms this year, but we have received some baptism inquiries. Phil and Jules have also been working on updating our baptism booklets and processes. We look forward to being able to journey with families interested in the coming years.
- Adult Baptisms: 4
- Adult Confirmations: 6
- Adult Reception: 17

IGNITE/YOUTH – CHLOE HAMILTON & KEVIN EAMES

Ignite meets on Friday nights for worship, community, and mission. Our vision is to create a welcoming community which allows youth to explore Christianity, their relationship with God, and how they can live to serve Him.

Highlights 2021

- The IGNITE community continues to be fun, and full of passion and love for Jesus.
- On the IGNITE Instagram page we've been posting teen resources on mental health, wellbeing, and self-care. Youth have engaged with the posts. They have asked questions and requested prayer for various matters.
- Over this year we have also seen the youth leaders growing into their roles, sharing themselves and their relationships with God with the youth. Leadership development can be helpful not only for youth ministry but also for other areas of church life and the lives of our leaders.
- Challenges: Without a doubt these past two years have been tough and have taken a toll on the youth. It's been particularly hard on those with Zoom fatigue and struggling to engage online. We've adapted programs to fit in with the youth's energy levels. This situation has also shown the importance of having a community to be a part of and the need to reach out to those who may be struggling. Ignite leaders have been calling and messaging both youth who have and who haven't been attending IGNITE youth online.

Plans 2022

- Next year our focus and drive will be similar to what it was at the start of this year. We are aiming to focus on reconnecting with youth.
- In first term we will be running a program with the help of a ministry called Big Kids Table, where we will be teaching the youth a Christian perspective on relationships and sex. This program will include an information event for parents.
- We will seek to establish youth Bible studies to meet on Sundays before the 5pm service.

YOUNG ADULTS

YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY - BRAD JACKSON

The ministry to young adults seeks to grow YAs in their relationship with God and each other through the YAs Connect Group, special monthly events, discipleship and services. Our YAs are encouraged to be involved across all ministries of the church, using their talents according to their gifts and passions to bless the church family and glorify God.

Highlights 2021

- YAs Connect Group: Throughout the year we have met for Bible study and fellowship. This group has been well attended and people have spoken positively about enjoying growing in faith together.
- YA special events: While most of our events were scuttled by lockdown, we held a very fun trivia event, giving our YAs the opportunity to invite friends.
- The one-on-one discipleship of YAs to grow godly character, ministry competence and Biblical wisdom.

Plans 2022

- Will Thomasz is stepping in to help lead this ministry and has great vision for community building and outreach. God willing our plans for monthly gatherings will not be shut down.
- A YAs retreat in February.
- The hope is to see YAs trained and equipped to lead Bible studies as we share leadership of the Community Group.
- Many senior youth are graduating and we hope to welcome all of them into our community to see them grow to love and serve God.
- Expanded discipleship as more YAs are encouraged to mature through one-to one ministry.

SENIORS

MU & FRIENDS – LYNN PRYOR

MU & Friends meets monthly for fellowship and encouragement of one another in our walk with Christ. Worship, reflection on God's word and prayer are essential components of our gatherings. Members are encouraged to invite friends along, especially when we have special interest speakers.

Highlights 2021

- This year we invited members of the GWAC staff team to share their ministries with us: Brad spoke of life as a missionary in Japan, Kevin informed us about the youth ministry programs in which he is involved, and Gordon introduced us to the development and aspirations of the ministry to the Mandarin community around Glen Waverley.
- We all enjoyed a very interesting and informative address given by Margie Mills, telling us of her loving and caring ministry to the Iranian community around Melbourne. Her outreach ministry is an inspiration!
- Our annual dinner, this year a luncheon at the local RSL restaurant, gave opportunity to invite friends to join us for social fellowship. This event happened in the nick of time: while we were gathered, we heard that lockdown #4 was to begin the following day.
- Caring for each other, for neighbours and for friends, is an essential aspect of Mothers Union. Members are kept informed, by email or phone, of the sick or those needing prayer for various reasons. Joy Boxes have again been a special means of reaching out to encourage one another. Our knitters have again produced over 200 beanies delivered to the Mission to Seafarers.

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP – LESLEY GOULLET

During the time October 2020 to September 2021, the Creative Craft Group was able to meet only four times. One of our main aims was to encourage each other with prayerful thoughts to make the best of these hard times.

Highlights 2021

- When our meetings had to be cancelled, we rang each of the members of our Creative Craft Group. In chatting with them we tried to build up a feeling of hope that God is still with us.

Final Comments & Acknowledgement

We thank Lesley Goulet for running this ministry, faithfully, for 30 years. In the meeting of the group that took place on 17 Nov, Lesley stepped down from her leadership role, therefore concluding this ministry at GWAC.

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN (TYB) – NERIDAH PEIRCE & THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Train Your Brain Team runs a monthly event that welcomes all members of the community. Our up relationship with the Lord through prayer is a vital part of this work. In outreach to believers and non-believers we seek the assistance of 30 volunteers to run the various activities, also the office for forwarding information. The team liaises with other Seniors' Ministries to produce a newsletter of

events for distribution both within GWAC and the wider community. In our outreach to the wider community, we seek to build relationships with all who join us each month. We have worked to build a relationship with Monash Council to help us to access the wider community.

Highlights 2021

- In this reporting period we had just three events due to the Covid19 lockdown regulations coming into force. All three events were well attended and well received by participants. Unfortunately, most of the plans for the year were placed on hold.

Plans 2022

- To increase outreach to the wider community, in an endeavour to have conversations with community members that will bear fruit for God's kingdom.
- To further develop our newsletter, WOTSON4Seniors@GWAC, to improve our communication both within GWAC and the wider community, eg by using short accounts and photos of previous events as well as notification of future events.
- To continue to widen the scope of topics relevant to Seniors in the Topic for the Month.
- To increase the number of volunteers willing and able to assist activity leaders.
- To continue developing links with Monash Council to increase outreach possibilities

Comments

Thank you to each member of the TYB Team, Don, John, Julie, Judy and William for their willingness to always go the extra distance to get things happening. The Train Your Brain Team looks forward to resuming the Train Your Brain program in 2022, in conjunction with other Seniors' Ministries, to foster outreach both within GWAC and the wider community.

EASY DOES IT (EDI) – WILL JERRAM

Easy Does It is designed to be a weekly exercise session (lasting for about an hour) for the benefit of Seniors with a wide range of physical needs and abilities. The participants include many GWAC attendees as well as other Seniors within the broader community.

Highlights 2021

- Under normal circumstances, the attendance has been around 30 participants, but during this year of disruptions the program was available for only 10 weeks of the year and attendance was halved.
- As proposed last year, we employed the services of a local physiotherapist who worked with the more "mobile group" and supervised their activities.
- The smaller group of "chair-based" participants (ranging from 3 to 10 persons) usually followed the video presentations developed by "Arthritis Victoria" which are predominately "chair based".

Plans 2022

- We will continue with our prior programs, including the assistance of the physiotherapist, and hope to resume some "normality" for these activities which are beneficial to our Senior attendees.

New Members

- Kevin Xu

GWAC WALKERS – JOHN BUTCHER

The GWAC Walkers seek to demonstrate to non-believers the happiness which comes to the believer due to the close relationship we have with our God! We pray together, we walk in the open air and experience together the glories of God's world! We seek to influence our non-believer friends to follow the Saviour by letting them see the quality of our lives. We seek to attract more non-believers to join us in our walks.

Highlights 2021

- We have been severely affected by COVID and have only been able to conduct four walks in the reporting period. Our attendances have been affected severely by fear of this virus. Nevertheless, on the Yarra River walk early in 2021 we attracted about 8 new walkers.
- We had reason to believe that the Rhododendron Gardens walk would bring some of these newcomers back, but the big lockdown came, and we have not been able to conduct that walk.

Plans 2022

- My wife and I are reaching 80 years and feel that we cannot commit to run the Walkers in 2022. We hope to recruit a new leader. We are praying for new leadership and new blood for our walkers. Unfortunately, most of the enthusiastic walkers from past years have either grown too old or have passed away! Please pray for new blood to arrive.
- The walks have become harder and harder to run due to a shortage of drivers. We hope to recruit more!

MATES PLUS – DAVID CHAMBERLAIN

One of the objectives of Mates Plus is to provide the fellowship that many men shared with workmates for most of their lives, but which was seriously curtailed upon retirement. During their working lives their employment preoccupied a huge chunk of their waking hours. Mates Plus now tries to fill some of that empty space in their lives.

With Jesus as our focus we band together in a different fellowship to support and nurture one another, but unfortunately our aging bodies are curtailing the range of suitable activities.

Highlights 2021

- Coronavirus has affected everyone's activities, but before we were placed in lockdown in Victoria we managed, over the past twelve months, to visit/share in the following:
 - Christmas Luncheon at Dandenong Club.
 - BBQ at GWAC (address by Phil Meulman).
 - Immigration Museum
 - Skyrail Adventure

Plans 2022

- To be mindful of the needs of Mates whose mobility may be compromised, so as to enhance their prospects of attending outings.
- To plan and conduct Gospel-focussed gatherings.
- To visit Mates in poor health.
- To encourage Mates to continue to develop a list of prospective outings.
- To develop lists of members' personal and professional skills that may be of assistance to other members.
- To discuss how we can assist those in less fortunate circumstances.
- To identify how to grow the membership of Mates Plus.

Acknowledgements

- Tommy Slegers
- John Martin

Comments

Many thanks to Tony Hickson, Russell Mills, Gerry Thornewell, Barry Roberts, Brian Brown, John Butcher, Ian Nyholm and Miles Tiller for their volunteering to lead various outings. Thanks also, again, to Ian Nyholm for his slide preparations for each of the outings.

It was pleasing that there were good numbers wishing to attend some of the outings. Unfortunately, a couple of these were cancelled at the last minute due to restrictions brought about by Coronavirus. Fifteen of us turned up for the Immigration Museum and we enjoyed the outing immensely, but eleven of us missed out when the Koori Heritage Trust was forced to close.

OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS - ASHISH ROY

We have a great team of volunteers who assist in various roles such as reception, communication, data entry, graphics, promotion, publication, proof reading and IT. This ministry also trains leaders in the fields of data management and publication, and also supervises the logistics of events taking place at SBMC such as funerals, weddings, and external events. Some volunteers also assist us by working from home on our web-based church information system and website.

Highlights 2021

- We have an amazing team of volunteers who serve in various roles, onsite and offsite, and serve the Lord with their skills and time. Thank you all for your diligent work:
 - Office & Reception: Lynn Pryor, Chris Brassington, Sue Lovegrove, John Butcher.
 - Publication & Proof-reading: Sue & Paul Collier
 - Elvanto (Church Mgt System): Sue Collier, Gillian Brohier.
 - IT Coordinator: Andrew Dunn
 - We thank God for all the AV techs, Flower Ministry, and Kitchen Ministry who assist with special events taking place at GWAC, eg school programs, conferences, weddings, and funerals. Special thanks this year go out to Andrew Harding, Neridah Peirce, Richard Dennehy, Susan Tucker, and Will Thomasz for their audio-visual and livestream support for funerals that took place this year.
- The new website for GWAC was launched early this year and we thank Sean Hsien for his expertise in building the website from the ground up to include the features we wanted, and his continued effort in innovating it further over time.

Plans 2021

- Elvanto (GWAC's Church Management System):
 - To update the church management system and add features that add more value for ministry use.
 - Training of church leaders (ministries, Connect Groups, etc) on how to use Elvanto to manage their groups on a regular basis.
- GWAC App: To revamp the church App to make it more interactive, with use of regular notifications, and to add new features that will help the congregation connect better with the church.

Acknowledgements

- Don Mahaffy

PROPERTY, FACILITIES & GARDENS

CHURCH REFURBISHMENT - PHIL MEULMAN

Highlights 2021

- The St Barnabas' facility has been extensively upgraded in the past year. Internal and external painting, carpeting, seating, improved sound desk and AV area, lighting, refurbishment of various areas (auditorium/worship space, Staff offices, kitchen and meeting rooms), new playground, and security lighting and video are the major improvements, which will help to facilitate gathered worship and the training and equipping of Christians for Kingdom work.

Acknowledgements

- Howard Walker
- Bob Barclay
- Dave McQueen
- Glenn Batchelor
- Shivani Astley

Comments

My thanks are also extended to Ian Nyholm for the organisation of the new seating in the worship area. We give thanks to God for his generous provision of the St. Barnabas buildings which seek to serve our mission.

PROPERTY, FACILITIES AND GROUNDS - BOB BARCLAY

In managing a property, there are many legal requirements (Government, Local government Industry and Diocese) of which we need to be aware.

Highlights 2021

- First, I would like to thank David Mills and his team of dedicated people who spend many hours in looking after the grounds.
- A major renovation of our building was carried out during the year by various contractors who did an excellent job. We are thankful to God that no injuries occurred.
- My sincere thanks to Glenn Batchelor who has undertaken works with lighting, security, WIFI and others.
- Thank you to the various sub-contractors who maintained and kept a safe working environment for the parish.

Plans 2022

- In this coming year, new lighting will be installed in the Auditorium and Fellowship Area.

GROUNDS, GARDENS & WORKING BEES – DAVID MILLS, GLENN BATCHELOR, KYLE HAYES, DON REID

Gardens, lawns, shrubs and trees on our property help us be thankful for the beauty of God's creation. Alongside those who care for particular gardens and mow lawns, our occasional working bees help to maintain our grounds and sometimes buildings. They also offer opportunities for fellowship.

Highlights 2021

- Interruptions due to the pandemic affected 'normal' activities during this past 12 months, with only three regular working bee events in November 2020, January and April 2021. These were well attended and typically handled a dozen specific maintenance tasks in addition to weeding, mulching and pruning and trimming bushes and trees.
- We're thankful for the skills, equipment and perseverance brought by members of the body of Christ, as well as scrumptious morning teas when permitted! Specific jobs have been carried out by small groups and individuals including the laying of new lawn beside the courtyard, repairing paving, painting fences and removing rubbish/excess stuff.
- Gardens: Our gardens bring joy and reflect God's glory. Thank you to those who regularly care for them - Patricia and Russell Mills, Lynn Pryor, Mandy Dennehy, Robin Hickson, Mary Riley, and recently Graham Churchill. Margaret Jerram has had to finish her long stint of wonderful care. Thank you, Will Jerram, for weed-control spraying. Regular garden carers are needed for general tidying of our grounds - please contact the office for information.
- Lawn mowing: The mowing group attends to keeping the lawns tidy, based on a roster arranged by the leader. The roster is published for several months at a time, and the leader reminds the team one week ahead. The team members report when their work is complete; the leader follows up should the reports not be received.

The work of the team has been made difficult due to limitations on visiting the church. This made rostering much more difficult, needing input from the Diocese and GWAC staff. Despite this, once visiting, even one at a time, was allowed, the mowing was completed. The number of members on the roster has continued to fall, making a reasonable spread of work difficult. We need to have more people join the roster. A great positive has been the number of ladies on the roster, although this number is currently fast approaching zero.

Plans 2022

- With restrictions being eased now, we have a wonderful opportunity to catch up on lost time! Gardens and shrubs will show the blessings of tender loving care at the next working bee - be there to care!! Working bees are open to all - just turn up or ask about specific tasks as lots will need to be done in coming months. Thank you.

Acknowledgments

- Sarah Su (mowing)
- Josh Humphreys (mowing)
- Sean Hsien (mowing)

- Alan Thomasz (mowing)
- Anne-Marie Ternes (mowing)
- Diane Craig (mowing)
- Siva Sabapathy (mowing)

New members

- James Nankervis (mowing)
- Brad Jackson (mowing)
- Dan Johnson (mowing)

FLOWER MINISTRY – ELISABETH MIGLIC

UP-It is indeed a privilege and joy to serve God as, recognising the beauty in His creation, we seek to bring Glory to His Name as the flower arrangements assist worship.

IN-good and supportive relationships are made amongst team members, as they prayerfully work together.

OUT-opportunities for discussion with those being supported, for example at a memorial service or other special service.

Highlights 2021

- Arranging flowers in memory of a loved one has on several occasions resulted in ongoing church attendance from the requesting person.

Plans 2022

- To resume rostering ladies to prepare arrangements for each church service from Nov 7th.
- Praying for God's guidance as the team is now depleted to fourteen members. This ministry cannot continue without more members.
- To have a meeting of members to discuss the future of the ministry.

Acknowledgments

- Val Fugill
- Pat Moore

New members

- Jyotika David

Comments

- Thank you to each member of the ministry for assistance given during the year and especially fitting in with COVID requirements.
- Thank you, Val, for all the years of service to this ministry and the care you have provided. Your retirement is so richly deserved but you are missed.

- Sadly, Pat Moore passed away after a brief illness late in September. Her beautiful and thoughtful arrangements, her readiness to assist and her lovely enthusiasm are already greatly missed.

KITCHEN – SONIA PAULETT

Highlights 2021

- Although there has not been a lot to report regarding the working of the kitchen this year, there certainly has been much joy derived from the appearance and functionality of the new, renovated kitchen facilities when we have been able to be on site. How fortunate are we to now have the area freshly updated! Thank you to everyone who helped in the planning; preparation for the work to be done in the kitchen prior to the renovations and restoring it to the way it is now.
- Thank you to all those who have served on the morning tea rosters when we have been able to attend services. Your help is very much appreciated.
- The Mandarin community now join us for morning tea after the 10.30am service and we look forward to getting to know them better as they join us on the roster.
- A donation was made for the purchase of a new coffee machine. It has been very well received and the “barista” coffee has been trialed free of charge. A small charge will now be introduced to cover the cost of the coffee. However, tea and percolator or instant coffee will still be available free of charge after services.

Plans 2022

- We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the very near future. What stories we will have to tell of the time we have spent, separated from each other but hopefully with time to draw closer to God!
- Please don't hesitate if you would like to help with serving in this way. New people are always welcome to join this group of volunteers. To be on the roster only involves setting up prior to the service, serving tea and coffee, and clearing the kitchen afterwards. You are not expected to serve food. It is a good way to catch up with regular parishioners and welcome visitors and newcomers into the GWAC community.

Acknowledgments

- Pat Moore: We grieve at the recent passing of Pat Moore who was on the original planning committee of our GWAC kitchen layout 25 years ago. The kitchen required only an upgrade befitting the year 2020, and not a wholesale reconstruction, because of the forethought of those on that first committee. We thank Pat for her faithful service and dedication then and throughout all the years that followed.