

2018

Annual Report



EMMANUEL
— *Uniting Church* —

Real People *with* Relevant Faith *for* Our Community

Emmanuel Uniting Church

15/03/2018

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Senior Minister

Opening Remarks

What a year! As always such a lot happens in a year in the life of a church that a report can hardly do it justice. On a personal note I wish to record my dearest thanks to Julie who helps me weather the storms of life with enormous amounts of grace and kindness. I'm sure you already know that she is by far my greatest attribute!

And to all of you who make up this wonderful church, thank you, for making it a pleasure to serve God and to follow Jesus here in Enoggera at Emmanuel.

My year has inevitably been coloured by recent health issues which currently mean that I am not up to speed with where I hope to be nor where I hope we would be as a church by this stage in 2019.

None the less 2018 was marked by some important events and changes in the life of our church:

- *Same Gender Marriage* – The decision to allow the marriage of same gender couples in the Uniting Church caused much upset in the wider church and in our own congregation the same was true. We have people who believe strongly both for and against this decision and it is important to acknowledge that. I think, considering not much work had been done previously, that our two “conversations” provided a new model of discussing vexing issues and it was good that people felt they could come and contribute. The church council took very seriously the various opinions expressed and whilst we decided not to allow the conduct of same gender marriages on our premises we were also very concerned that this not preclude us from showing the same level of welcome to each and every person who would choose to call our church their home.
- *Consultation* – Carolyn Kitto led us through a lengthy consultation process last year and again, it was good to have such a high level of participation by those providing feedback and insight as to how our church is travelling. The consultation affirmed much of what we are already doing. One of the key moments for me, was listening to a group from the 8am service list their concerns about the aging and consequentially diminishing nature of that service. There are some hard truths for us all to face in this regard. Growing old as a congregation has a number of similar traits to growing old as individuals and I sense that God is calling us to prepare and steward well, the way the future might pan out for that service. I look forward to discussing that further with those folk in some more group conversations later in the year.
- *Office refurbishment* – wow! Have you been out for a look? We've been able to include: improvements to Safe Ministry by having windows in each of the doors; much needed air-conditioning into each of those west-facing rooms; new carpet; fresh paint; secure main office; new, smaller meeting room (the “orange room”); a decluttering of the larger meeting room; a beautiful new

kitchenette; and a change of offices placing one person in the small office and two in the larger one! It is hard to describe but each of us who work there every day are coming with a smile on our face and we are very thankful for that provision and trust it will also help us do our jobs better!

- *"New" Events* – This last year we narrowed our "events" down to just the four main festivals in the Christian Calendar: Easter, Pentecost, "Emmanuel Day" (Thanksgiving) & Christmas. Copying the pattern of Jesus (in attending the major festivals of his day), the idea was to find ways to involve most people, include food and fellowship, create an "inviting" atmosphere – all without exhausting everyone. Each one had a highlight for me (except Pentecost when I was overseas!). The movement from Good Friday to Easter was palpable and significant – although different to the past. The installation on stage was breathtaking and I thought Jess led us superbly through that Easter transition. Emmanuel Day was so much fun with the Big Brunch afterwards, thanks especially to the Men's Breakfast catering team! Finally in the year we had our Christmas Community Carols which were an outrageous success. Well over four hundred people at both the Carols and Christmas day with so many not usually from our congregation. Many of us were smiling for a long time after that!

We're creating a community that is intentionally focussed towards those who are not yet in the church. We invited friends and families who are connected through Playgroup, Tiny Town, Enoggera State School, etc. We're doing it well and God is clearly blessing our endeavours. Yes, there is much that needs to be done as a result but they are good problems like: welcoming well; creating smaller communities for people to belong in and explore and grow in their faith.

I was ecstatic to see so many (17) from our invitations through Community Helping Hand. Did you know that C.H.H. helped around 733 people (417 adults and 316 children) through at least 258 food parcels in the last 12 months? I know some other churches that do similarly but we are also helping them find a place to belong in God's family which in terms of eternity, is by far the most important thing.

Staff

Last year saw a deliberate decision to invest in the training of our staff. Both Jess and Dom commenced tertiary-level ministry training. As you will read in their reports (and no doubt have noticed for yourselves) this is already bearing fruit both in confidence and competence. Helen too has been undergoing training to pick up the bookkeeping responsibilities for the church. This in turn will make our Treasurer, Barry's job easier for now and easier to find a replacement in due course!

I can't think of another group of people I've worked with who are as diligent, enthusiastic and fun. They are also very serious about their spirituality and as good leaders always do – they are prepared to "go first". Each week we spend time in the word together, listening to what God might be saying to us and holding each other accountable for putting that into practise. We also pray for the church. And we laugh a lot!

Challenges

Pastoral Care & Belonging – we are served well by each other and a dedicated team of Pastoral Careers, friends, and group leaders. Thank you to everyone who looks out for others. None the less, with new people we need groups who are built for new-comers and with aging members we need visitors and the means to grieve well and grow old together. And, it would be most helpful if we could have renewed vision and team to co-ordinate this. Do you have a passion for any of this? Would you at least commit yourself to praying for God's provision in this regard? Please come and speak to me if you're feeling called to an active role in this vital ministry.

Buildings & Maintenance – as you know the Thursday Boys do a sterling job of keeping the grounds tidy and the buildings in good order. But even those seemingly indefatigable septuagenarians won't last forever. How will we meet this challenge? And now that the offices are done, we still have the toilets and our main kitchen which are looking pretty tired, if we're going to keep being honest with ourselves. They are not, perhaps, jobs for this year but they are looming . . .

Finance – some of this can be covered by our volunteering, but culturally we have far fewer volunteers available these days than in the past. In any case, some things just cost money and there's no avoiding it. I've started working with Barry Jardine to think about our ongoing budget and without changing anything we're currently doing, we'll still be running at about a \$26,000 deficit per year. This can only stretch out for about another two years before something will have to give . . . or perhaps someone(s) will have to give (if you'll pardon the pun!) You'll be hearing more about this as the year progresses but it's fair to say we'll all have to shoulder the burden. I've already increased my monthly tithe by 20%. Not everyone will be able to manage that but everyone can certainly participate. Please be praying and considering if you can make an increase to your existing tithe, save up for a thanksgiving offering on Emmanuel Day or perhaps commence investing in the ministry of the church for the first time. Have a look at what we've done and consider what we are going to do . . .

Vision – Building a Discipling Culture

In the old days, (even in the early days of my ministry) people talked about discipleship as what you did after you became a Christian. But what we see, in the life of Jesus, is an invitation to those who were willing to join him as he lived out his relationship with his heavenly Father. They would gradually orientate their lives more and more in the words, works and ways of Jesus. If you want to know how to worship God – look at Jesus. If you want to know how to pray – look at Jesus. If you want to know how to care for the world – look at Jesus. If you want to know how to transform lives – look at Jesus! It's not that hard, at least as a concept . . .

After three years of following him, he then commissioned his first disciples to go and do just as he had been doing. ¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matthew 28: 18-20)

They did it because they were captivated by his authenticity, his simplicity, his audacity and his repeatability. Nothing he did was off limits to them. Everything was possible. It was infectious. It was a continuous, rolling program of disciple-making. All the first believers were caught up in it. Even Paul, personally transformed by an encounter with Jesus began to understand that the only way to truly pass on the faith was to do it **life on life**. ¹ *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)*

We're in the family business of **making disciples** and seeing **lives transformed**. It's not for the feint-hearted but it is for the spirit-empowered . . . that's all of us! From the Staff at our weekly meetings, to the Council of Elders, to the leaders who come along to *Deep Foundations*, to all of us "Digging into Discipleship" in the weekly sermons; this is what we live for. This is the most important investment of our lives. You want to change the world? Make disciples who make disciples! Join me in ***Building a Discipling Culture!***

God bless,
Ian Weaver
Senior Minister

Families Pastor

Families Ministry continues to be full-on, fun, challenging, tiring and exhilarating all at once.

Sunday School & Worship

In 2018 we continued to integrate Worship, Sunday School lessons and Faith @ Home materials. Using the "Dig in to the Life of Jesus" Curriculum proved to be a great success and so are continuing with the new "Dig into Discipleship" in 2019. The talk-about videos in worship are a highlight, and we continue to provide Dig in @ Home and follow-up sermon questions to help facilitate faith conversations for all-ages at home. We also continue to strive to find ways to incorporate different teaching and worship styles to help all engage in worship.

Late in 2018 we permanently combined our Junior and Primary Sunday School classes for several reasons, and this new model of all ages meeting in the hall seems to be working well. The children enjoy interacting and learning with others of all ages, and leaders and helpers are enjoying overcoming the added challenges that this brings. After some training at Ignite in 2018 and 2019, we have introduced some new sensory items and techniques into the classroom to help children with additional needs to engage and learn. We continue to focus on Bible reading, prayer and engaging children in their learning about and loving God in the Sunday School classroom. Thank you again to all the Sunday School leaders and helpers for the work that you do and the ways you tirelessly serve the "little ones" (Matthew 18:6) in our congregation.

Again, it was great to worship in the EPAC over summer and celebrate our return to regular programming and 'Kickstart' our year on 3 February with a swim, BBQ and ice blocks. We have seen several new families visit and join us in worship on Kickstart day and in the weeks following. It is great to see new people join our 'family' and I pray that as we continue to see growth that you will continue to make them feel welcome and make space for them in your lives, hearts and homes.

I am looking forward to preaching more this year, a challenge that I have so far enjoyed and look forward to developing further in the future. I am also currently training to be able to preside over baptism and communion at Emmanuel in the future. I am excited to continue to serve alongside staff and volunteers to make worship and Sunday School accessible, interesting and engaging for *all* members of our community.

Christmas

Christmas looked a bit different at Emmanuel in 2018 with the trial of a two-day Holiday Club, and Community Carols event. Both events were well attended and executed, involving and engaging families from all over the Enoggera and surrounding suburbs. Holiday club saw 34 children and 19 adults “Dig into Christmas” while connecting in song, bible discovery, prayer, swimming, craft, dancing and games. 16 of the children that attended were from ‘outside’ our congregation, connecting to the event through Tiny Town, Enoggera State School and Playgroup. The Christmas event also saw large numbers of families from Holiday Club, Brigades, Playgroup, Tiny Town, Enoggera State School and Community Helping Hand attending. Thank you to everyone who assisted in small and large ways with these events and helped share the “Good News of Christmas” with the individual and families that attended.

Boys’ and Girls’ Brigade

Our Boys’ and Girls’ Brigade companies continue to provide opportunities for belonging, discovery, discipleship and fun for boys, girls in primary and high school from inside and outside our congregation. Of major significance is the massive growth in the Cadet (Prep-Year 2) unit of our Girls’ Brigade Company after Rachel committed to praying specifically for new girls and seeing 6 new girls starting during the year. Thank you to the leaders and helpers who show up to disciple and made a difference in the lives of the boys and girls that attend each week. We are still looking to fill the roles of Boys and Girls’ Brigade Chaplains which have been empty for some time now, please continue to be in prayer for this need.

Playgroup

I continue to attend playgroup weekly and love the opportunities that I get to connect with children and their carers over food, play, craft, stories and singing. We are slowly but intentionally introducing more “faith content” into playgroup and this is being well received by all. Thank you to the leaders and helpers who show up and make playgroup so welcoming and inviting and giving it the title of ‘the best playgroup around’.

Tiny Town

I have been visiting Tiny Town casually since Easter 2018 and weekly since September 2018 to read stories, say grace and connect with the children and staff. The children have embraced me with love and affection and look forward to my visits. I was named “Jess from the cool church” by the children last year and the name has stuck and can be regularly heard shouted through the carpark as I arrive for and leave work. I thank Tiny Town for the open arms, hugs, high fives and smiles that greet me when I visit.

Enoggera State School

We are continuously blessed by our relationship with ESS as we strive to support the students, staff and families at the school. We are thankful for their generosity in letting us use the EPAC and pool again for Holiday Club, Summer Worship and Kickstart, and are thankful that Kids Hope and RI can again continue in the school. Thank you to the wonderfully gifted mentors and instructors that continue to serve in these ways, and a special mention to Jan Ribero who retired from RI teaching last year, and to Dom who will retire from Kids Hope this year to focus on other ministry areas.

I continue to work with Chappy Sarah as Chairperson of the chaplaincy committee to support her in her role at the school and am thankful to Helen for her support as treasurer of this committee. Last year we helped to run several fundraisers including two Pancake Breakfasts, (one at a 96.5 radio show visit), crazy sock day and sausage sizzles at the swim carnivals. Chappy Sarah is also very thankful of the ways that we support her role in the school, both physically and in prayer. Thank you to our CHH volunteers for collecting bananas from foodbank each week which she hands out to students during lunchtimes. We've also been able to support some families doing it tough with food hampers, and donations for contributions to student camps throughout the year.

I continue to run percussion club at the school and have between 5 and 25 students attend each week. It's great to be able to connect with the students each week and offer them a safe and secure place to learn something new, be challenged and express their musical ability. I was blown away with the students' performance at Arts on Stage at the end of last year and look forward to watching their musical talents grow again this year.

Family Events

In 2018 we celebrated key events in the church year with all-age events including the Good Friday Picnic, Family Picnic in June, Emmanuel Day Brunch in August, Community Carols and Kickstart. These events are designed to be easy to run and attend providing a space to join other members of the congregation in fellowship, and invite friends, family and people of peace to. It was great to see many Brigade and Playgroup families at the June Picnic, and so many visitors at the others. We plan to do similar events again this year and look forward to the opportunities that they present to foster relationships with families in our community.

Day Camp

July saw another Presbytery Day Camp at Triple C Samford with a double decker bus load of kids and leaders meeting at Emmanuel every morning. I again helped to run the Prayer Tent, which provided a great space for the children to learn about, experience and practice prayer. We provided information for leaders in their training manual, a pack of take-home materials to every child, and a Day Camp at Home resource sent to families to enable families to continue discussions and learning at home after camp.

Elvanto

2018-2019 has seen the long awaited set up and roll out of our new pastoral care, worship planning, rostering and check-in system, Elvanto. Using this program, we can

now easily and electronically plan worship services, allocate and communicate with volunteers, register, check-in and keep records for participants and leaders in our children's, youth and adult groups and events. While a considerable amount of time and energy has been used to set it up, and learn how to use it, the system will enable the staff and volunteers to more easily complete the administrative tasks associated with running the church, freeing us up to get on caring for and sharing Good News with people in our community.

Education & Training

Education, Training and equipping for ministry are so important in my role, and in 2018-2019 I have attended many training sessions including: *3DM Learning Community*, Presbytery *Grow Your Ministry Days*, First Aid and *Ignite*. I've also now completed four units of Study at Malyon College including New Testament, Children's Ministry and Pastoral Skills for Chaplaincy units. This year I will complete units in Old Testament, Youth Ministry and Christian Worldview. My study has greatly helped me be more confident and better equipped to plan and prepare for preaching, lead Sunday School, pastorally care for people, and build a theoretical and biblical framework for children's and families ministry at Emmanuel.

Thank you all for your continued support, prayer and encouragement as we work together to support and equip children and families in our community to be and make disciples.

Jessica Pinkerton
Families Pastor

Worship Pastor

The year that has been has had more of a focus on "mechanical" change. Change that works towards a unified rostering system that will hopefully reduce the double ups that we face. Furthermore, it is a step towards greater autonomy within the rostering, empowering volunteers to make changes as required and respond to scheduling conflicts independently from a third person being involved. Additionally we have taken on new software for church services that has allowed rehearsals to run more smoothly and reduce our paper usage. As we have navigated the training of users in the new software I have been impressed with the adaptability of our team. One of the goals that I continue to strive towards is finding aesthetically pleasing options for worship while ensuring that useability and accessibility are not compromised.

This past year we have been blessed with new musicians who have been able to step up and play; some of these musicians have had opportunities to grow through youth band. It has been excellent to be able to collaborate with new people as we worship together as a community of Christ.

Youth Band, as a youth and worship music centred group has been an excellent space to encourage and grow young musicians. Last year we started reading and interpreting the Bible together and I have been excited by the conversations we have had and the questions we've raised as we grapple with the word of God. This year I intend to find different ways of looking at scripture and music together. I am looking forward to working together to express what we learn when we read scripture in a creative way. One of the major aspects that we need to tackle is what is required to

help the group grow, and how it can be space where youth feel excited to invite their friends to.

One of the initiatives that has come out of the congregation is Emmanuel's Dance Group. It is exciting to find people seeking to serve God through the creative gifts that God has given them. Having a creative expression of God-centred faith that engages the visual senses as well as the aural senses is excellent. Furthermore, seeing the ways in which the participants were given the opportunity to express themselves creatively is incredibly encouraging. I am looking forward to seeing more movement-based worship in the future at Emmanuel during our services. Big thanks to Cathy Kent for her willingness to step up in faith and listen to what she believed was God call. Listening to her discernment together with Jess and collaborating collectively to decide if it is where God is leading has been one of the moments where I have been able to see where God is at work.

Studies at Trinity College are going well. I am learning a lot and have found myself thankful for the opportunity to engage in theological conversations with a diverse range of students. I find the lectures to be engaging and I am finding myself looking for ways of applying what I have learnt into my leadership and discipleship. In light of my studies, Ian has offered me the opportunity to preach once a month at Emmanuel; an opportunity that I am incredibly thankful for, and one that I intend to grow through.

My time at Emmanuel has been affected, influenced, and supported by those who have come before me and those who have come alongside me. As we continue to work together to find ways of honouring God through worship at Emmanuel I'd like to thank everyone who contributes for worship in ways seen and unseen. The more I learn about leadership, the clearer I understand the impact that the people we work alongside have on the ministries we participate in together. I look forward to uncovering the God's path before us as we worship together this year.

Grace and Peace
Dominic Chan
Worship Pastor

Tiny Town

Tiny Town continues to be a very much loved and appreciated visible presence of our church's mission and service to our local community. Thank-you all, for your continued prayer support for our families, our staff and the Committee. Much of what has kept us very busy since our last report, particularly in the past few months, has been very visible. Top of the list would be our playground refurbishment and a website redo.

Playground: We have been looking at how to best upgrade our playground for quite some time, but none of the proposals submitted previously captured what we were looking for or reused what was still good in the playground. Then we discovered a firm called Wearthy, who specialise in developing spaces for early childhood, who like to recycle as much of what is still usable as they possibly can and who are just as enthusiastic about developing a small space as a large one. We are thrilled with the result. Thank-you to everyone for your patience and forbearance as the work has

been carried out. We have titled the entrance to the grassed garden area, "Garden of Possibilities Matthew 19:26" so each time you go past and look into the garden area, remember too, 'with God all things are possible' Matthew 19:26 .

Website: We are also very pleased with our new website. We not only needed to update it, we needed it to be mobile friendly for our families. It now also includes a link to the Emmanuel website, a faith message and an invitation to contact our Families Pastor. Try www.TinyTown.com.au and see what you think.

Together time with our church family: Visits from Playgroup and the Friendship Group during the year were both a big hit with the children, with chaotic fun all round. Thank you to both groups for sharing time with Tiny Town.

Going forward: Please continue to keep us in your prayers, as we continue to seek and follow God's guidance for Tiny Town, that with you all, we are a true outreach, visibly Real People with Relevant Faith for Our Community.

Kaye Whitta

Chair

Tiny Town Child Care and Kindergarten Management Committee

March 2019

Boys' Brigade

Boys' Brigade offers a weekly program that challenges Boys spiritually, physically, socially, and educationally. Our focus is on friendships, leadership, the self-discipline needed to achieve excellence and understanding the Christian faith. All Boys can earn awards, badges, and participate in leadership training, working towards their Queen's badge (the highest award a boy can receive).

We also are part of a larger network of companies in the local area Battalion as well as at State, National and International levels. One way we connect with the wider movement is by providing the Boys the opportunity to compete in competitions with other Boys Brigadiers. Through these activities during the year the Anchors and Juniors have grown closer together as a group. This has been shown in them winning 5 of the 6 competitions they have entered. This included International and Battalion team games, the Battalion swimming carnival and State soap box competitions. 2018 has been a successful year seeing an increase in both leaders and members. Through the year there were opportunities for our older Boys and younger leaders to attend training and developmental courses. The skills that they learnt at these have been put into practice throughout the year as they have taken more on responsibility in the company leadership. This has reduced the programming load carried by the long serving officers and provided mentoring opportunities with the younger leaders. We have been fortunate to be able to join with the Girl's Brigade to share in several activities. These have included fundraising barbeques, church parades throughout the year and our annual combined display night. This has allowed us to promote ourselves as 'Brigades at Emmanuel'.

As a company Captain it's easy to miss the big picture while working hard at home company level so having the opportunity to serve the movement at state and national levels again this year has been a privilege. I look forward to seeing where 2019 will

take us in the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys. This will become evident as the start of 2020 will see our Senior Boys attend the Pan Australia Camp in Wollongong.

Noel Pinkerton
Boys' Brigade Captain

Girls' Brigade

We have started the year with 26 girls, young leaders and leaders at Emmanuel this year. Girls' Brigade is a group committed to seeing girls' lives transformed and God's world enriched and to help girls and leaders seek, serve and follow Christ. Our weekly devotions are relevant and fun and capture the girl's interests, provide new ways of looking at the scripture, engaging for the girls and are always full of fun. It is encouraging to see the girls each week get excited about scripture and the stories we share with them and the songs we sing. We have continued to end our devotion time with a prayer huddle this year as it encourages us all to serve God.

We are continuing with our community nights this year where we clean, celebrate birthdays and fill bags for Community Helping Hand, it is always an enjoyable night where we see the girls having fun and building relationships while serving our community in a small but meaningful way and the girls always love giving back to the church community.

God is amazing and has increased our number again this year and we pray that more girls will come and can share in the fun, activities, craft, groups and friendships that Girls' Brigade offer. Girls' Brigade provides many opportunities through our programs for girls to be accepted for who they are, to grow in confidence and self-worth and be challenged while gaining new skills and making new friends. It is encouraging to see the girls grow throughout the year in their faith and belief in themselves as they work together and learn from the Bible and each other. We are continually blessed and amazed to see how God is working through the girls and the relationships built at and through Brigade.

I encourage you to speak to one of the leaders about Girls' Brigade and hear some of the ways God is moving at and through Brigade and the lives of the girls.

Sonya Cornwell
Girls' Brigade Captain

Playgroup

Emmanuel Playgroup offers a safe place for children aged 0-5 and their carers to play, chat and develop social skills. We meet on Friday morning 9:30 – 11:30am weekly during school terms and welcome many families of children and their carers which includes stay at home, work-from-home, work outside the home, mums, dads, grandparents and nannies.

The families that attend say it is a great place to make new friends, learn new things and be part of the community. Each week we have a different theme and activities including sandpit play, playdough, craft, painting, water play, story time, singing time and free play to engage the children. Our large range of toys helps provide new experiences every week.

Across 2018 we had 70 families participating with about 10% of the group graduating to Primary school at the end of 2018. Numbers in 2019 so far average about 20 children plus their carers per week. Highlights from 2018 include hosting playgroup at the park, a few families visiting worship and other church events like the family picnic, Easter and Christmas services.

In late 2018 and recently we feel we have had more opportunities to relationally connect particularly with some of the mums who attend. Through these conversations we have been able to listen to their stories and offer prayer. We have even had a few prayer requests come from those who say "prayer is not my thing".

We ask that you pray for Playgroup as we add more Christian content to our program as well as make and maintain relationships with all participants. Thank you for your support and if you would like to know more about Playgroup, our prayer requests or how to help please speak to Jess Pinkerton, Ann Pegg or Susan Walker.

Ann Pegg and Susan Walker
Playgroup Co-ordinators.

Pastoral Care

At Emmanuel, the Pastoral Care team oversees the running of the various areas of Pastoral care. With the ethos in our church being that *Pastoral Care is for everyone by everyone*, each small group is asked to look after its members while referring specific needs to either the Ministry team or the Pastoral care team.

Feedback from people who have been helped has been positive i.e prayers through our prayer team, meals from the frozen food ministry and letters on the anniversary of a bereavement of a loved one.

While a "Service of Solace" was not held at Emmanuel, we were able to link into two other similar services which were attended by team members and advertised through the Church Newsletter. The people who attended these services expressed their appreciation for a quiet and gentle "time-out" from the festivities of Christmas.

A recent request for prayer came via the new Church App. Although this person, who does not belong to the church, wished their details be kept private and did not want any follow-up, it indicates that the church still has a vital role to play.

The team also acknowledges there are many acts of caring carried out quietly by various members of the church family. This caring includes maintaining contact with former members who are no longer able to attend church as well as extending to the local community.

In your prayers we ask that you give thanks for the caring carried out by so many people. Please pray for the continuation of the pastoral caring and that it may be extended in other areas where people need support.

Bronwyn Kelly
Pastoral Care Team Leader

Community Helping Hand

Community Helping Hand is an outreach and service initiative, provided by Emmanuel for a number of years now, to people doing it tough in our community. Ros Gepp coordinates the program, and with a team of helpers, purchases and packs food

parcels, which are then distributed to people who come to the church asking for assistance. In the last 12 months alone we have helped over 733 people (316 children and 417 adults) by providing 258 food parcels. This program would not be able to provide this service to the community without the support of its volunteers and your monetary donations. Thank you to every single person who has helped the program through driving, shopping, donating, packing and in prayer.

This year will see a shift in the way we do things with some of our regular helpers leaving to take a break. We have been blessed with some new helpers already coming on board for other jobs and we are very grateful to them for joining the team but we still need another driver to go to Foodbank to do the shopping and collect bananas, to fill a gap later in the year. Can you please include this in your prayers?

I have been excited in the last 12 months to see the gap close a little between CHH recipients and the Church Community. An example of this is that as part of our Christmas Hampers (which were an initiative of one of Emmanuel's Explore Groups) each CHH friend received a personal invitation to attend our Community Christmas Carols Event. Over 17 of our CHH friends came to this event and reported that they had a great time and were touched by the welcome they received. We have also been intentionally inviting these friends to the Men's Breakfast with reports coming back that those who have attended felt welcomed and enjoyed the fellowship and the faith talks.

CHH has also been connecting with Enoggera State School, supporting the work that Chappy Sarah is doing. Through provision from foodbank, we supply a box of bananas to the school each week that Sarah hands out to students at her weekly fruit discos. We also supply hampers to needy families as requested and assisted with her Christmas Hampers of Hope initiative by providing bags.

It is an honour to be working with Emmanuel to help provide this community service and as the front face of this I can honestly say that I have been changed through it, and that my view of it has changed during my time here at Emmanuel. I now see it as a way of connecting with people, not just a service that we provide to them. I feel like Emmanuel feels that way too and it shows how our heart has changed. I am deeply honoured to be part of this team.

Helen Smith
Office Coordinator

Financials

REPORT ON 2018 FINANCIALS AND 2019 BUDGET

2018 FINANCIALS

The overall financial situation for 2018 was a Cash Deficit of \$49,623.

Although there was a small general operating surplus of \$12,101, we then incurred Refurbishment Expenses of \$34,562 and completed Loan Repayments of \$27,000. This Deficit was able to be covered by drawing on Reserve and Loan Funds and, although we still have access to Synod Loan Funds due to our large early reduction of our Loan in 2017, we need to be aware that this situation cannot continue indefinitely.

A few general comments on significant income and expense items in relation to the previous year (2017) follow:

Offering income fell by \$10,840 some of which was as a result of long-term illness or relocation of members of our congregation. In addition, we conducted an extremely "low-key" Thanksgiving/Stewardship campaign in 2018 which meant that there was not the "usual" increase in Offerings from this source.

Transfers from Church Groups increased by a little over \$5,000 due largely to an increased contribution from Tiny Town.

Stipends were around \$9,000 lower due to the departure of Paddi Mullan early in 2018.

Church Council took a conscious decision to invest in the Training of Jess and Dom in 2018 and, as a result, these expenses increased in excess of \$11,000.

Ministry costs were up almost \$7,000 due to the costs of the Consultation.

Admin wages increased due to the increase in Helen's working hours.

Refurbishment Costs of \$34,562 were incurred with the major spends being:

Hall \$8,800 – mainly sound equipment and TV.

Church \$6,400 – mainly the illuminated sign and Church wall signage

Office \$19,400– mainly air-conditioning; office partitioning and plumbing, electrical and design costs.

2019 BUDGET

The Budget for 2019 anticipates a similar Cash Deficit of \$48,713 and, as indicated above, whilst we still have access to Synod Loan funds to cover this, we need, soon, to either increase our Income or we will be faced with scaling back of our expenses. Some general comments on significant 2019 budget income and expense items in relation to the previous year (2018) follow:

We have budgeted for a further decline in Offering Income (down \$8,200) which takes into account the full-year impact of the decline which began in the 2nd half of 2018.

Transfers from Church Group reflect a conservative estimate of Tiny Town's contribution – it is hoped that their financial position improves during the year which would then provide an increase in contributions.

Lower Stipends (\$8,700) reflect the full-year impact of Paddi's departure.

Ministry cost have reduced by \$7,400 as the 2018 Consultation impacted on last year's costs

Staff training cost again increased by \$4,200 due to the full-year impact of Dom's training (he only studied in the 2nd Semester of 2018)

Admin wages increased by \$5,000 due partly to the full-year impact of Helen's extra hours and also due to her taking on the book-keeping responsibilities for Emmanuel. Property costs have increased slightly as property maintenance costs begin to increase after a couple of years of lower costs due to the significant refurbishment work which was carried out in 2016-2018.

Refurbishment Costs of \$24,000 relate mainly to Office painting; carpeting and cabinetry.

Our 2019 Budget represents our Investment in God's Mission through Emmanuel and I would encourage all who read this Report to prayerfully consider what, if any, contributions (additional or new) you may be able to make in relation to this Investment.

Barry Jardine
Treasurer

Receipts and Expenditure Statement
12 Months to 31st December

| 2017 | Receipts | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Actual \$</u> | | <u>Actual \$</u> | <u>Budget \$</u> |
| 335,870 | Offering | 325,030 | 316,860 |
| 10,405 | Donations | 8,816 | 10,100 |
| 2,172 | Interest - Bank & Mutual Support | 1,589 | 1,140 |
| 8,282 | Hall rental | 6,480 | 6,500 |
| 28,633 | Manse Rental | 28,868 | 29,120 |
| 36,645 | Transfer from Church Groups | 41,990 | 36,568 |
| <u>422,006</u> | <u>Total Receipts</u> | <u>412,773</u> | <u>400,288</u> |
| 2017 | Expenditure | 2018 | 2019 |
| <u>Actual \$</u> | | <u>Actual \$</u> | <u>Budget \$</u> |
| 217,192 | Stipends | 208,058 | 199,352 |
| 7,307 | Manse Operating Costs | 6,198 | 7,000 |
| 2,661 | Refurb Loan Interest | 587 | 700 |
| 5,090 | Ministry costs | 11,880 | 4,400 |
| 5,481 | Training (Staff & General) | 16,773 | 21,000 |
| 23,626 | Admin wages | 35,429 | 40,469 |
| 67,670 | Mission & Service Fund | 71,407 | 69,370 |
| 22,911 | Property costs | 19,837 | 23,750 |
| 30,086 | Operating costs | 30,503 | 32,080 |
| <u>382,023</u> | <u>Total Expenditure</u> | <u>400,672</u> | <u>398,121</u> |
| | <u>Surplus of Operating Income</u> | | |
| \$ 39,983 | <u>over Expenses for period</u> | \$ 12,101 | \$ 2,167 |
| | <u>Non Operating Expenses</u> | | |
| (9,000) | Manse Loan Repayments | (9,000) | (9,000) |
| (10,424) | Refurb Loan Repayments | (13,993) | (13,880) |
| (4,000) | Solar Loan Repayments | (4,000) | (4,000) |
| - | Tfr to Solomons Reserve | (169) | - |
| (18,000) | Tfr to Future Ministry Reserve | - | - |
| (393) | Tfr to Other Reserves | - | - |
| (9,783) | Property - Major Projects | - | - |
| (3,823) | Property Refurbishment | (34,562) | (24,000) |
| <u>(55,423)</u> | <u>Sub Total Non Operating Expenses</u> | <u>(61,724)</u> | <u>(50,880)</u> |
| <u>\$ (15,440)</u> | <u>NET CASH DEFICIT</u> | <u>\$ (49,623)</u> | <u>\$ (48,713)</u> |
| 2017 | | 2018 | 2019 |
| <u>Actual \$</u> | | <u>Actual \$</u> | <u>Budget \$</u> |
| | <u>CASH FUNDING STATEMENT</u> | | |
| | <u>(How we fund the Deficit)</u> | | |
| 9,090 | Property Refurb Fundraising | 650 | - |
| 8,164 | Property Refurb Loan Funds Drawdown | 20,000 | 50,000 |
| - | Tfr ex Property Reserve | 20,000 | - |
| - | Tfr ex Future Ministry Reserve | - | - |
| 857 | Tfr ex Other Reserves | 2,855 | - |
| - | Tfr ex Retired Ministers Reserve | 2,900 | - |
| <u>18,111</u> | <u>CASH FUNDING INFLOW</u> | <u>46,405</u> | <u>50,000</u> |



Reserves and Donations
12 Months to 31st December, 2018

Reserves (Church Controlled Funds)

(Held Predominantly in Term Deposit with UCIS)

| | <u>30/09/2018</u> | <u>31/12/2018</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Equipment replacement | 21,527 | 22,027 |
| Property Maintenance | 24,954 | 4,954 |
| Manse Property Maintenance | 873 | 873 |
| Future Ministry Expenses | 17,811 | 17,811 |
| Families Ministry | 1,508 | 1,508 |
| Children's Outreach | 2,838 | 2,838 |
| Outreach | 2,624 | 2,624 |
| Community Building | 1,279 | 1,279 |
| Solomons Project | 1,859 | 2,028 |
| Community Helping Hand | 6,454 | 3,599 |
| | <u>\$ 81,727</u> | <u>\$ 59,541</u> |

Church Group Accounts etc. Total \$ 11,852

Working A/c Bank Balance 31/12/2018 \$ 13,468
TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED \$ 84,861 **

GST for the December, 2018 quarter accounted for

Donations to Special Appeals during Period

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Bible Society - Indigenous Scriptures(Christmas & Carols) | \$ 839 |
| Hampers (Incl \$250 ex Health Save Pharmacy) | \$ 300 |
| Gift for Paddi & Glenys | \$ 2,020 |
| | <u>\$ 3,159</u> |

VARIOUS LOAN ACCOUNTS

| | <u>MANSE</u> | <u>REFURB</u> | <u>SOLAR</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | <u>(Tiny Town)</u> | <u>(Synod)</u> | <u>(Presbytery)</u> | <u>LOANS</u> |
| Initial Loan | \$ 90,000 | \$ 128,127 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 238,127 |
| Additional Draw-down of Loan | | \$ 20,000 | | \$ 20,000 |
| Less Principal Repaid to Date | \$ 48,750 | \$ 24,417 | \$ 8,000 | \$ 81,167 |
| Less Special Paymt (ex Future Ministry Reserve) | - | \$ 109,445 * | - | \$ 109,445 |
| Outstanding 31/12/2018 | \$ 41,250 | \$ 14,265 | \$ 12,000 | \$ 67,515 |

Funds held on deposit on behalf of various Church Groups

* N.B. Approx \$100,000 can be re-drawn from the Synod Loan Account

**** Net Cash Funds held in:**

| | |
|---|------------------|
| St George Bank Account | \$ 27,658 |
| UCIS Term Deposit & Mutual Support Account | \$ 53,327 |
| Petty Cash Float | \$ 400 |
| Deposits with Vendors (Manse & Refurb Deposits) | \$ 5,344 |
| Prepaid Income as at 31/12/18 | \$ (1,867) |
| | <u>\$ 84,861</u> |

| <u>Church Group Accounts etc. as at 30/09/2018</u> | |
|---|-------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| Sunday School (Kidzone) | \$ 1,061 |
| EUC Play Group | \$ 773 |
| Youth Group | \$ 957 |
| Donations - All Causes | \$ 1,553 |
| Indoor Bowls Group | \$ 891 |
| Young at Heart | \$ 744 |
| Friendship Group | \$ 1,057 |
| Monday Mothers' Bible Study | \$ 57 |
| Retired Ministers' Luncheon | \$ 5,726 |
| | |
| Accrued Expenses (Included in Accounts but not yet paid) | \$ 1,000 |
| | |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$ 13,819</u> |
| | |



Minutes of Congregational Meeting
AGM
Sunday 29th April 2018

1. **Meeting Opened at 11.00am:** Graham Emblen welcomed all in attendance, provided a reminder to sign the attendance record, outlined expected meeting behaviour and opened with prayer. He also notified the meeting that he was standing in as Chairperson for Alison Anderson and that Barry Jardine was standing in as Secretary for Christine Manning.
2. **Attendance:** 74 present with 10 apologies as noted on the attendance sheets.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings:** The Minutes for the last congregational meetings held on Sunday 28th May 2017 were approved. (NB Minutes for the last AGM on 26th March, 2017 which had been approved on 28th May, 2017 were again tabled.)
4. **Election of Elders for Church Council:**
 - Graham reminded the meeting that Joy Salmond had not sought re-election and thanked Joy for her excellent contribution to Church Council during her term in office.
 - Graham announced that Richard Robinson and Ray Witheyman would act as scrutineers
 - Ballot papers were handed out containing the names of the nominees – Graham Emblen, Kristy Johnson, Barry Jardine and Nathan Robertson.
 - Graham reminded those present that the results would first be notified to the nominees and would then be published in the next newsletter.
 - Scrutineers collected the ballot papers and, after the Meeting, counted the votes. They subsequently notified the acting Chairman and Secretary and Minister, Ian Weaver that all four nominees had been successful and that the ballot papers had been destroyed in accordance with Church Council procedures.
5. **Reception of annual reports:** taken as read.
 - Senior Minister's Report
 - Families Pastor's Report
 - Worship Pastor's Report
 - Tiny Town
 - Girls' Brigade
 - Playgroup
 - Pastoral Care
 - Treasurer – Barry Jardine drew the attention of the meeting to the deficit budget which had been presented and outlined the significant items which contributed to this deficit.

Resolutions:

1. That the Reports for the year ended 31st December, 2017 be received
2. That the 2018 Budget be received and adopted.

6. Other Business:

➤ Office Refurbishment

- The Chairman provided an update on the Office refurbishment to take place. A modified refurbishment of the staff office area is planned primarily to ensure safety for Helen in the office and to refresh areas which are now over 20 years old. Although the toilet area refurbishment was still on the Agenda, nothing definite had been planned for this work.

7. Questions: Questions of a general nature were sought from the floor:

Q: What are we doing about the rubbish behind and next to the shed and garage? Concerns were raised due to safety and unsightliness.

A: The situation would be referred to Trevor Battley on his return and it was noted that any spare "tip vouchers" or offers from Moreton Shire residents to take rubbish to the tip would be welcomed.

Q: Are banners being used sufficiently and should two banners be offered back to the person who donated them?

A: Dom Chan undertook to review the use of banners but there was concern that offering to return the banners may not be appropriate. It was also noted that it may be possible to find an additional place to hang the banners.

Q: Are hall rentals to external users creating problems for Church users?

A: It was generally considered that utilising our premises for the use of others was a good service to our community. Occasional booking clashes had occurred but it was noted that, with Helen being at the Office every day now, it should be possible to work around external bookings.

8. Graham closed the meeting in prayer at 11.30am.