



maleny
uniting



ANNUAL REPORTS
For Presentation to
Congregational Meeting
Sunday March 4 2018

Our Mission ... *“To be actively involved in sharing the love of Jesus with all People ... Growing Faith ... Sharing Hope”*

Our Values ... *“Faithfulness, Compassion, Humility, Truthfulness and Justice”*

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Leaders Council Nominations



Amity Louise Green

Nominated Period: 2 years

Role: Elder

Dear Elders and Leaders,

My name is Amity Green. My husband is Ben Green, and we have three lovely children: Joseph who is 8 years old, Elise is six, and Elliott is 9 months old. We live in a Queenslander near Bridge Creek, and have loved being close to nature in Maleny for the past three years.

I am the second child of three, to my mother, Christine (nee Radke), a teacher, and my father, Rev William Narnst, a Lutheran Minister. As a Pastor's Kid (or 'PK' as we were called), our family travelled frequently, but I always felt that the Church was my home... perhaps a little more than my parents would have liked, at times.

Having grown up in a Christian family myself, I feel blessed to be able to pass on a love of God to my own children, and have participated in a number of programs as part of the Lutheran Church, sharing His word with others. I have been a leader in playgroups, a Mainly Music Program, and even assisted in running a crèche as an adolescent.

I have completed a Bachelor of Social Work, a Post Graduate Diploma of Teaching and Learning, and a Post Graduate Diploma of Play and Childhood. I have worked for Child Safety, Queensland Health, Office of the Public Guardian and Education Queensland. I am now focussing on Play Therapy, as I am passionate about the importance of early interventions to improve quality of life in infants and children as they grow and develop. I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts and plans for me.

With hope that I can assist you all in serving the Lord and the Church with courage and faith,

Amity

Leaders Council Nominations (Cont'd)



Lynn Ross

Nominated Period: 2 years

Role: Leader

My association with Maleny Uniting Church began when Brian and I moved from Kawana Waters to Maleny. Our formative years were at Wavell Heights Methodist Church in Brisbane where we met in our teenage years and married. We have 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. I am very blessed to have this family!

My employment has always been in the accounting areas of the companies I worked for. We moved to Mackay in 1972 and became fully involved with the North Mackay Methodist Church. During this time we were involved in the Gideons. I became a telephone counsellor with Lifeline for 10 years.

In 1997 God called Brian and I to become involved in Mercy Ships. During a break in the time volunteering we spent 10 weeks on Palm Island and 3 weeks at Cherbourg working with Australian Indigenous Ministry. In 2000 I helped Brian commence Mercy Ships Australia in Caloundra. These years working with Mercy Ships were ones of self discovery in my personal relationship with God. During my time at Kawana Waters Uniting Church I spent 3 weeks on Thursday Island with a work party of 10 people, most from Kawana Waters.

Positions I have held in Maleny Uniting Church have been Congregation Secretary, and JMC Secretary. These I resigned from because of the ill health of my husband.

These past years since Brian went to be with his Saviour, I have found the presence of the Lord very real.

I have been involved in community organisations as well as clubs etc. My interests are music, singing, reading and hand embroidery.

Minister



I now enter my fourth year of ministry and it is a privilege and a challenge to serve in this cluster of congregations. In this report I will respond to the duties of a minister as outlined in the constitution of the Uniting Church (See Para 3, Constitution).

2.2.1 (a) Within the ministry of the whole Church, Jesus Christ calls men and women to proclamation of the gospel in word and deed through the ministry of the Word.

This calling is exercised by:

- (i) **preaching of the Word;** - *Preaching preparation takes a good deal of my time in one week. With reading, research, prayer, thinking, reflecting and finding stories/illustrations to bring a point home. I can't say how many hours as it varies from week to week.*

Preaching is just one aspect required for a Sunday service. At Montville, I conduct the whole service except the Bible Reading and Notices, whereas the other two congregations provide upfront leadership by other people. Some of my responsibilities across the congregations may include but not limited to leading prayers and readings, preparing PowerPoint for sermon and/or service, preparing and leading children's stories, liturgies for special occasions and incorporating community involvement across traditional and creative worship expressions. I have also coordinated the new 4:30 service – aiming to make this more of a team ministry opportunity this year.

- (ii) **presiding at the celebration of the sacraments;** - *Holy Communion: Maleny 1st Sunday and Montville and Palmwoods 2nd Sunday of the month (10am and 1pm combined congregations). Ten (10) Baptisms have been celebrated across all congregations in 2017.*
- (iii) **providing for other persons to preside at worship and/or preach within the pastoral charge in which the Minister is in placement;** - *A responsibility across the three congregations requiring communication, organisational skills and time. Not all preachers are ordained so there has been extra support required at times for lay preachers. I also support the Palmwoods Tongan preachers as required.*
- (iv) **witnessing in the community to the gospel of Jesus Christ;** - *I have reduced some of my community involvement as I haven't been able to fit everything into my schedule. I*

no longer: am a board member for Maleny Neighbourhood Centre; attend workshops or events at the Palmwoods Community Garden unless specifically related with church; attend the Palmwoods Business and Community Assoc meetings; and I'm not involved in any associations within Montville. However, I continue to connect with significant events in the communities, ie Australia Day Remembrance Services and celebrations, Walk against Domestic Violence in May, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Services, etc. I continue to have a strong relationship with Erowal Blue Care Aged Centre at Maleny and Sundale Palmwoods in assisting in conducting worship services. I also attend meetings for the Primary School Chaplains at Maleny and Palmwoods (there is no chaplain at Montville) and occasionally with the High School Chaplains at Maleny. I am the chair of the Range Christian Leaders Network who meet once a month. This role has been and continues to be a challenging aspect of ministry.

- (v) guiding and instructing the members of the Church and equipping them for their ministry in the community;** - *The three congregations each require different levels of support in ministry. In 2017 I undertook an intensive planning strategy with Palmwoods 10am congregation, focussing on four priorities for 2018 (not in any order) – connecting with community; children and youth support; discipleship; and worship development. Throughout 2017, the Maleny congregation has focused on Sharing Faith Growing Hope through Discipleship. We are building on Connect Groups for 2018 and working towards a more solid young family ministry.*
- (vi) nurturing candidates for baptism and confirmation;** - *Preparing for Baptisms requires one/ two visits with families, preparing the service and organizing gifts for the family. 2017 Baptisms:*
Maleny – Paxton Winter, Mariella Kruger, Kirbeh, Jayden and Brianna Gillis;
Montville – Aria Wood and Mila Hammelmann (Edmondstone)
Palmwoods - Zahli Bennett, Takorua Rokovaka and La-Keylee Gela.
There were no confirmations in 2017.
- (vii) pastoral oversight and counsel wherever needed;** - *I only have time to visit on a high need basis – i.e. unexpected health issues, marriage problems, end of life preparation, funeral preparation (seven funerals in 2017), follow up of loss, ongoing serious health issues, visits to hospitals (on the coast and in Brisbane) and serious mental health issues. In the three years of this placement, quite a number of people across our cluster have transitioned from attending church every Sunday, to occasionally, to never due to immobility, ageing and ill-health. These people require more visits during these transitions and they tend to come from a generation expecting the minister to provide this support. Visiting newcomers often becomes secondary. I continue to provide care to our brothers and sisters in Kenilworth and surrounds. There is a need across the three congregations to streamline or implement pastoral systems that work for each context. One system does not fit all.*
- (viii) serving in the community, especially among those who are hurt, disadvantaged, oppressed or marginalized;** - *With connections with Maleny Neighbourhood Centre and Men's House in Maleny I am called upon to listen, support or provide transport. These calls can come at any hour of the day/night.*
- (ix) careful attention to administrative responsibilities;** - *The cluster has three separate Church Councils; a Joint Management Committee JMC (where I chair and prepare agendas three times a year); in Feb/Mar we will hold three AGM's; I organise meetings and follow up for the IT Group and the Mission Cluster Group (sub groups of*

the JMC). Palmwoods Council has been in conversation with the neighbour to realign the property boundary requiring Presbytery and Synod involvement. Sue Callaghan has been vital in the office Tuesdays 9-12, but I have not been fully aware of the organisational stress that I have been under until late last year. With a Ministry Support Administrative Person starting in January 2018 (2 days a week), I am looking forward to delegate many tasks and develop better systems and processes. While administration is one of my gifts, I can only imagine how another minister without admin gifts would cope – or not cope – in this cluster.

- (x) due observance of the discipline of the Church;** - *I meet every six weeks with my supervisor and I am now due for Code of Ethics training.*
- (xi) the enhancement of the Minister's own gifts for the work of ministry;** - *I completed the 18 month Leadership Intensive Course mid last year. I'm yet to discern what ministerial education I will engage for this year.*
- (xii) pioneering new expressions of the gospel and encouraging effective ways of fulfilling the mission of the Church.** *Ministry initiative of the Reflective Art Gallery at Montville - opened 30th April 2017 (thanks to Ron Potter for the vision, curating and promoting); creation of Montville, Palmwoods and Maleny Facebook pages; conducted the Quiet Reflective Christmas Service at Montville; started the monthly contemporary and informal 4:30 service from June 2017; small groups at Maleny (crews); Alpha Course at Maleny; implementation of a Ministry Support Person Position; and Fundraising and project trip for Cunnamulla Burke & Wills support.*

(b) Every Minister shall participate fully and regularly in the public worship of God and the mission and fellowship of the Congregation with which the Minister is enrolled (See Reg. 2.9.3).

Participate in Worship – In July 2017, I attended a worship conference in Adelaide. While I didn't necessarily 'learn' anything new it was a joy to just participate in worship without having to lead or organise. It was soul refreshing.

Participate in Mission – I spent a week in Cunnamulla in 5-9 August 2017 for our Cunnamulla Burke and Wills Patrol support. Due to preaching commitments, I did not attend the Easter 2017 India trip. I participate in local mission foci.

Participate in Fellowship – wherever possible I attend social and growth groups across the cluster. I stay for morning tea after church services; however, this is difficult at Montville as most times I have to race off to the next worship service. I provided opportunities for congregations to come together for a combined service/over lunch on a Sunday and this was taken up by a number but not as successful as hoped.

(c) Every Minister shall report annually to the Presbytery with which the Minister is enrolled on the ways in which the duties of a Minister as prescribed in Regulations 2.2.1(a) and (b) are being exercised."

I have met with the new Presbytery Minister, Rev Chris Crause, and we have a great working relationship. There is an expectation that a Minister in placement not just attend Presbytery meetings but be involved in leadership across the Presbytery and/or Synod (wider work of the church). Last April I participated as an Assistant Spiritual Director on the Walk to Emmaus (interdenominational camp). I chaired the worship team and co-led for Synod in Session 5 Worship Services in October 2017.

At Synod I was elected onto the Synod Standing Committee (held once a month in Brisbane), so I immediately stepped down from Worship Convenor for the Uniting Women Conference in Brisbane September 2018 and I have declined requests to sit on Presbytery Standing Committee and the Pastoral Relations Committee for 2018. Our Presbytery Minister approves this decision, considering the demanding nature of this placement.

Also in 2017 I conducted five wedding ceremonies. I do not accept any personal payment for weddings or funerals (or baptisms), but request donations be given to the church. All donations (from \$380+ for a wedding) go directly back into our congregations. This is a wider Kingdom of God ministry than directly related to us here.

This list does not include the crisis times that tend to come at the extremes - when I am most busy or think I have a quiet spell. There were some significant crisis points last year that certainly tested me personally and as a minister. I am thankful for God's faithfulness and power to lead, guide and give me the endurance, energy and wisdom to get through those difficult times. I also thank God for Andrew who has and continues to be my strong rock (after Christ of course). He is an amazing support and has encouraged me to get more serious in keeping fit through cycling and skiing.

Psalm 33:4 – “For the Word of the Lord is upright, And all His work is done in faithfulness.”

Thank you for your faithfulness in serving Christ in both the upfront, obvious ways and in the quiet, unassuming ways for the life of his church, and in shining Christ's light in our communities. All aspects are greatly appreciated as we continue to grow in our faith, to share Christ's love and to serve in grace and hope. May God continue to inspire and challenge us being filled with the Spirit and living lives as followers of Christ.

Every blessing as we venture into 2018.

Catherine Solomon (Rev)
Minister



Uniting in Christ
acting with love
living with hope
witnessing in faith
working for justice

Joint Management Committee

Three Joint Management Committee (JMC) meetings were held in March, July and November 2017. The purpose of the JMC is to extend our communication across the cluster honestly and openly, offering support to each other and insight into future directions. The financials are presented and the ministry of the Minister and the Community Pastor at Palmwoods are addressed.

There are two subgroups of the JMC – The Mission Cluster Group, and the IT Group. Across the cluster we support an International (the Amritsar Girls Hostel in Northern India) and a National Mission Focus (Cunnamulla Burke & Wills Frontier Services Patrol).

Amritsar Girls Hostel Trip

In April 2017 a group of eleven people visited Amritsar as guests of the Church of North India, Amritsar Diocese. The purpose of the trip was to visit the newly relocated girls' hostel in Amritsar, attend its official opening and spend time doing activities with the girls. The visit also coincided with the Easter Holy Week and there were many church services that the group participated in, including the Palm Sunday procession through the streets of Amritsar which was attended by around 8,000 people from all the Christian churches in the area.

It was hoped that a group from the Church of North India would visit us in November; however, all but one of the six delegates had their visa applications refused on financial grounds. We are in the process of following up with local federal MP, Andrew Wallace, and the Department of Immigration to try and get visas for the delegates so they may now visit in May or June. *By Andrew Solomon*

August 2017 Cunnamulla Trip

In 2016 the cluster agreed to work towards raising a one-off amount of \$10,000 for morale boosting in the Cunnamulla Burke & Wills Patrol for 2017. This total was raised through creative fundraisers: Maleny – Garage Sale and BBQ's outside Woolworths; Montville – hosting Open Gardens at Shambles (Michael and Kyleigh Simpson's property) with morning teas and selling other goodies; Palmwoods – hosting a Pasifika Concert put on by the Tongan Congregation and, in conjunction with Nambour Uniting, auctioning artwork by Jasmine Davies from the 10am congregation. Thank you to all who gave of their finances, their time and creative hearts. The \$10,000 was spent at Sunny's discretion for maintenance works on properties and the Cunnamulla church, gift vouchers and a 2017 Christmas dinner.

The trip to Cunnamulla was both enlightening and sobering to view at first hand what the area was going through and what effect it was having on the people. The team bonded extremely well and, with this united front, much was achieved to help both the patrol ministry and the local residents and property owners. There was a lot of interaction between team members and the people of Cunnamulla and some long-term contacts have been forged. God was very present in the strenuous day-to-day activities and also in the "street" encounters, and the overwhelming result of the trip was the response from so many people that our visit made them feel less isolated. *By Linda Robinson*

A big thank you to Linda and Doug in coordinating, liaising and organising the team. This trip would not have been as successful if it wasn't for their vision and commitment. As you move into a new era, we will miss you both worshipping regularly with us.

Rev Sunny and Eva will be starting a new placement in South Australia Parkin-Sturt Patrol from 1 March, 2018. As a result of finding a new patrol padre for this Cunnamulla Burke and Wills,

our relationship will look different. The suggestion at this point is that we keep the door open in communication with Cunnamulla and the Downs Presbytery.

IT Group

There has been considerable movement in developing our technology and administration support. Each congregation now has its own Facebook page (including the Palmwoods Community Garden Soil and Soul) with at least two administrators per page. Maleny and Palmwoods have their own websites (to be reviewed) while working towards creating a landing page for Montville. Maleny is in the process of streamlining its email addresses and implementing a new 'app' for mobile devices (thanks to Brett Gillis for this gift of the App). The app is another method of communication and information for new people and current congregation members. This group will continue to address and meet the needs of an ever-increasing digital age.

Rev Catherine Solomon, Chairperson



Discipleship

For 2017 the congregational focus was on discipleship. This was reflected across our worship services and through various activities. One of those activities was the Alpha series which attracted many of our congregation and their friends. Our small group ministry, under the umbrella of various names, continues to evolve as a conduit for touching our community. Encouragingly the Meditation Group continues to increase in number as recognition of the importance of spiritual reflection in our life journey. Read more about some of these activities below.

Know Your Bible (KYB)

Nine people have met regularly on a Friday afternoon to study the Bible. Over the year we studied John, Solomon, The Holy Spirit, and Haggai and Zechariah. Each study revealed new things to us about God and how he had the Big Plan laid out right from the beginning of creation. The more we study, the more we are in awe of our great God and challenged to think of how we relate to him and live our lives. As we studied our set books, it often amazed us how the reading fitted in with other things we were doing like Sunday church and Alpha. What a blessing. We were also able to share with all the District KYB groups at Buderim and worship together.



Know Your Bible is now available for men and mixed groups so someone may like to start a men's group using KYB material. We recommend it. *By Dorothy Tietze.*

Christian Meditation Group



The group, averaging around 17 weekly, meets in the church at 8.30am on Wednesdays to share a time of stillness, silence and simplicity before God. We have a reflection by various Christian leaders, then 20 minutes silence, ending with music and prayer. We finish well before 9.30 and head to Maple 3 for a pastoral coffee. We celebrated our seventh birthday with a party. Lots to celebrate. All are welcome. *By Graham Dempster.*

Peter Uhlmann

Evangelism and Mission

During 2017, work was done in the following areas, local outreach ministries, Christmas Tree Festival, interest groups and our mission projects. The aim is always to “connect people with God” and to do this in ways that meet people where they are. Ultimately it is not about programs and projects, but about transforming lives and communities.

Local Outreach

On MOTHER’S DAY, a team led by Bob Eather handed out flowers in Maple Street, resulting in many happy faces. At the Maleny Street Carnival Bob Eather and many helpers distributed cake and balloons to the large crowd. Although rain hampered the proceedings, this gesture was really appreciated. We also participated in the Carols Service in the Riverside Centre. On the Saturday prior to Christmas we sold Christmas trees outside Maleny News, a way to advertise the Christmas Tree Festival.

Christmas Tree Festival

THE COLOURS OF CHRISTMAS, our 6th festival, saw 60 plus committee members and helpers produce another outstanding week-long event. It has become part of the Christmas tradition in Maleny. Over 1,000 visitors were able to enjoy the 47 displays, including 34 community trees. Donations raised \$2,000 for Range Care, 70 New Testaments were taken from the Fun Day tree as well as 350 Colours of Christmas Gospel tracts and many gospel bookmarks. Together with the Christmas Eve Pageant and Christmas Day Service, the Christmas Tree Festival is a very important means of proclaiming the Christian message that is Christmas to all who come.

Interest Groups

Our Interest groups cater for many tastes; they are an ideal way to welcome newcomers to our church.

The Band of Brothers (10-12 members) enjoy discussion, bbq’s, fishing trips, and project work for worthy causes. Glen Gill has stepped down as coordinator; we thank him for his contribution. John Park has volunteered to take on the role for 2018.

Two **Book Clubs** (16 members), meet monthly to discuss their books on a variety of topics: some good, others not so. Glori Cowan has stepped down as a club coordinator; we thank her for her contribution. Jocelyn Brooker has taken on this role.

The **Ladies Friendship Group** nurtured friendships through a variety of programs. Friendships were strengthened, and support given in these activities. Opportunities to share and learn abounded and good attendance numbers were maintained. One of the strengths of the group is that it is OK to attend when possible and to bring friends where appropriate e.g. to The Orangery for the Big Pink Cuppa.

The speakers were inspirational. (Thanks Lynda for showing how church flowers can be done). Our ladies entered into the spirit of helpfulness, often called on to do “cutting out” for Fun Days or Christmas Tree Festival. Devotions were always beautifully presented. Morning teas were lovingly prepared and shared. Stories were told, and scarves were knitted. Care Bags were packed for the Neighbourhood Centre. Visits were made to Erowal and Range Care. One of the combined churches women’s breakfasts was hosted. The frozen meal supply was maintained and distributed, and donations of food for Neighbourhood Centre kept coming.

Five **Men’s Ecumenical Breakfasts** were held in 2017. We had the companionship of members of the congregations of the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Church on the Rise Churches, as well as men from our own Congregation. The attendance is between 30 and 35. The speakers moved us from India (moving a girl’s college) to Germany (discussion on Luther) as well as matters of local interest.

A new group, **The Boomers**, commenced in 2017, led by Peter & Helen Uhlmann, with social get togethers in a variety of venues, to welcome newcomers.

Mission Projects

Cunnamulla and Burke and Wills Patrol

Please refer to Joint Management Committee's Report on page 8.

Dostana, Amritsar Girls Hostel North India

Please refer to Joint Management Committee's Report on page 8.

Murray Robertson



Property

Firstly, a BIG thankyou to the many volunteers who assisted with mowing, cleaning, building and grounds maintenance work and working bees through 2017. We cannot understate the value of the contributions volunteers make to the functioning of the Church. This group of people also maintain the amphitheatre and Obi Obi Creek access pathway.

This year, we made some headway with planning for the future development of the building and grounds through the formation of a building committee. The committee meets twice yearly.

Some plans have been decided but not implemented as they rely on decisions about future Ministry, too. In essence, though, planned activities include extending and re-carpeting the stage, changing the position of the pulpit to better align with the overhead screen, adding a disability car park, securing the building and commencing a key register, together with securing and air conditioning the office and the Kidz Biz area. In addition, we are working on improvements to the sound system and hearing loop.

Safety of our congregation is a priority. This year, eight incidents were reported. The incidents were mainly related to safety e.g. slips, falls, lights left on or windows left open. Identifying the things that cause accidents (hazards) is important, so we can rectify problems. Please help us by registering incidents and hazards in the Incident Book so we can investigate and rectify problems.

In 2018, John Benn will be the leadership contact person for the building and grounds. Malcolm Baker continues to do a great job as Maintenance Coordinator.

Peter Callaghan/John Benn



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

ABOUT US

The Uniting Church in Australia is the third largest Christian denomination in Australia. In Queensland, the Uniting Church has around 250 congregations and a number of schools, colleges and community services (such as UnitingCare Queensland and Wesley Mission Queensland).

Pastoral Care

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry is intended to undergird all aspects of our Church Life as we seek together to be obedient to our Lord in “Loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and loving our neighbours as we love ourselves.”

Within our Congregation we have three groups of people, some overlapping, who intentionally commit themselves to this ministry on a regular basis. This does not deny that there are also many other members of our Church family who quietly, in private, include the people and ministries of our Church in their prayer times.

The three groups mentioned above are:

- ⑩ **The Tuesday Morning Group** who meet at Moyra Jones' place from 7am for 30minutes of quiet reflective prayer followed by breakfast together which also includes discussion and Bible study. About 6-8 attend every Tuesday morning.
- ⑩ **The Monthly Prayer Group Meeting** which is held on the second Saturday of each month at 9am in the Church building. This is a shared group prayer time usually attended by 6 -10 members.
- ⑩ **The Prayer Team** of about 15 members who respond to prayer requests as needed by e-mail and also to a monthly prayer bulletin. Some of this group also diligently have been praying regularly through our Directory covering all of the Church family in prayer.

We are grateful for every person who God has called to this powerful ministry.

Ray Jones (Phil 1 : 3 – 4)

Pastoral Care

As it says in our Terms of Reference, 'the whole church is called to be people who are expressions of God's love “let loose in the world” ', we are blessed with many people who look out for each other and are willing to do what they can when they see a need. We seek to keep in contact in person, by phone, or by letter. The Vine is now sent by e-mail so the personal contact has been reduced, but some are delivered by hand. New people have been welcomed and we hope they feel at home here.

The Dinners of Eight has been functioning in a reduced capacity, bringing people together in a relaxed, social situation. It is an ideal place for old and new residents to meet each other.

The meal bank has been maintained and well used, with Marnie supervising it diligently.

We would like to have a designated hospital visitor, but this has been missing in 2017.

Joyce sends a card to families one year after a death.

Quarterly meetings were held to review the needs of the people in our care.

This year, designated carers have left or found the task too difficult for them, so we are looking at possibly doing things a little differently in 2018.

May we be humble servants of God, seeking his guidance in all we do.

Dorothy Tietze

Young Families

On the Deck and 4.30 Family Services

In 2017 we continued with On The Deck gatherings of families, trying alternate social gatherings and worship/ prayer related each month. Numbers started at 12-18 each time, but tapered off.

In consultation with the families who expressed a desire for a family worship service, it was decided to try a 4.30 service on the third Sunday and focus on this, and put a hold on the deck gatherings as we focussed on these services. From the middle of the year, once-a-month 4.30 family services were started, with great involvement and leadership from many members of the congregation. This has really succeeded with more than 40 attending most services, including 20 or more children, and great connecting afterwards. A desire to hold two of these services per month came out when a planning session with family representatives was held before Christmas, and planning is under way to start this in the second half of 2018. On The Deck will recommence on the 5th Sundays or other suitable dates to encourage families to gather, particularly for non-churched families as a safe place to become involved.

Kidsbiz

This has continued under Bob Grice's guidance but has really struggled with the lack of people offering to lead Kidsbiz. Many thanks to Jina, Claire, Amity for their efforts and particularly Bob who has done an amazing job under his current circumstances. When the 4.30 services are being held, no Kidsbiz is being held at the 9.45am services, but children are given kits with activities to do and draw during the services, plus the children's segments in the services.

R.I.

With Faith as leader, the team of Faith and Merilyn teach two classes of year 2 children at the Maleny State School with an average of 36 students attending each school week, where children have in many cases the only exposure for them to the love of the Lord, making this a significant mission field where many of these children have been touched, some for life (our way or God's way?). This will continue in 2018 with another 2 year 2 classes and, as before, parents have to sign consent forms for each child to attend.

Chaplaincy Support

Minister Catherine and Claire are part of the LCC team supporting Chappy Becky at the Maleny primary and Conondale schools, the major fundraiser being the Milkin It event held at Maleny Dairies in March. Many great stories about her chaplaincy can be shared by Chappy Becky. Another initiative has been the mentoring programme (pseudo grand parenting) where children and adults are paired up for regular contact one-on-one time, the feedback being that for some children it is a main safe constant in their life. Eighteen are currently paired up, with the opportunity for more if people feel called and can commit the time required.

Fun Days

A fun day was held in the mid-year holidays with the largest number, by my (faulty?) memory 36 children involved. There was lots of fun for the kids with everything wrapped around the message of Christ. The sausage BBQ to wind things up with, as always, lots of talking amongst the adults, and children playing when not eating making for a very happy occasion!

Bob Eather

Administration

In Administration we have covered a broad range of activities in the life of our Maleny U.C. and the Blackall Range Uniting Churches as a whole.

However, going forward into 2018 there are significant changes within Administration. This report is primarily a report of **THANKS** for the wide-ranging areas that have been covered by a wonderful group of volunteers. I will put forward my sincere vote of thanks to all our volunteers at the end of this report.

Sue Callaghan has worked for the church office as an Administrative Assistant since April 2015. This role was for four, five or often more hours each Tuesday morning. Rev Catherine used Sue's skills to assist her with the huge amount of administrative duties that are now expected of our ministers. Sue previously worked as part of the Friday office team. Sue, a wonderful job done with grace and respect.

Jing Wang has accepted a volunteer role in the church office as Rev Catherine now requires at least twelve hours per week from an Administrative Assistant. Jing is now working Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm. Jing is taking over duties including *The Common Life*, photocopying of various publications and maintaining records for all the congregations of the Uniting Churches on the Blackall Range. Thank You Jing for your willingness to be involved, your dedication is really appreciated.

Friday Morning Office: Many volunteers have taken part in this team, if I try to name them all I will almost certainly forget one or two, and I don't want to do that as each has given of their time so willingly. However, in the last twelve months Faith McKinnon, June Eather and Karin Ellemor have been the mainstays of the Friday team, working well together to make sure all the congregations were kept informed through photocopying *The Common Life*, preparing bags for the children, changing our banners, plus many more duties for our Maleny church. In the early part of 2017 Pat Dunn also took her turn on the roster. Thanks must also go to Helen Uhlmann who was prepared to help out in the early part of 2018 until an Administrative Assistant was appointed.

Muriel Wilson and Robyn Robertson have been editing *The Common Life* for more years than I can remember. This task has always been completed to a very high standard and they both were only too willing to try and accommodate people with their various requests. Really, you have both put yourselves out to do the very best job that you could do. Your input has been very gratefully received. Barbara Richards was a member of this team in the past and also deserves to be remembered for her willingness to be involved.

Maggie and John Ginty have taken over the preparation of our Rosters – this is a very difficult task. Sincere thanks to you both for a job well done.

Rev. Graham Dempster and Muriel Wilson are involved with *The New Vine*. Graham as editor and Muriel as the person who puts it all together. We are all enjoying this publication and look forward to each new edition.

Muriel Wilson also assists in compiling the Annual Report – another job that is always done to the highest standard.

You, the Roster Volunteers. Our church roster is filled by all different people doing so many tasks that I will not mention them here for fear of missing some. Our church could not run so smoothly without your valuable input.

So, in closing a **sincere thank you** goes to each and every one of you. Thank You for all the time and effort you put into your role or roles within our Maleny Uniting Church. Each of you are doing your “utmost for the highest”.

Merilyn Milton



Minister: REV CATHERINE SOLOMON

Treasurer: ROGER SMITH

Joint Management Committee:

JOHN BENN
PETER CALLAGHAN
JOHN DANIELLS
DUNCAN DREW
IAN GLEADALL
NAUA LOLOHEA
PASTOR KAY NIXON
KARIS ROSS
ROGER SMITH
REV CATHERINE SOLOMON (CHAIR)
REV GEORGE WOODWARD

Church Council:

JOHN BENN
PETER CALLAGHAN (CHAIR)
SUE CALLAGHAN (MINUTE TAKER)
BOB EATHER
MERILYN MILTON (SECRETARY)
MURRAY ROBERTSON
REV CATHERINE SOLOMON
PETER UHLMANN

Congregational Meetings:

PETER CALLAGHAN (CHAIR)
KARL TIETZE (SECRETARY)

Presbytery Representative:

PETER CALLAGHAN