

# ANNUAL REPORTS

## for 2009...

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### **Session Annual Report**

*“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly, nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” 1 Peter 5: 2-3 NKJV.*  
Christ Himself set the example for all of us.

The year 2009 was one of many blessings and we have seen a steady growth of the flock.

Following from the Embers to a Flame programme Session studied “Outgrowing the ingrown Church” which pointed the way to small group outreach. This has born fruit in the growth of Know Your Bible (KYB) groups and further development in this outreach is expected with KYB 4 M (for Mixed/Men).

Attendance at church over the past twelve months has been at a comfortable capacity most Sundays and on a number of occasions an overflow has occurred. Session felt it was led to commence the second morning service, but of a contemporary format, this service at 10.30 a.m. will include Kids’ church. Many issues we pray will be solved by the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they emerge.

The Pastoral Care programme, which has served us well, is under review and will be restructured at an early date.

Home communion is being conducted on a regular basis. Should you know a member who desires home communion please contact the Rev. William Morrow or Elder Bruce Logan.

A number of ministry teams have been established in order to share responsibility and enhance process. Each team consists of an Elder with lay persons. This should not be seen however, as an obstacle in making an approach to Session or as a delaying process.

Rev. Stephen Gould presented and ran the “Jesus All About Life” (JAAL) programme, a multi church outreach. Session agrees with the Rev. Stephen Gould that a successful result was achieved.

Several meetings were held during the year with Committee of Management and other group leaders. These meetings have been beneficial and are scheduled to continue.

Succession planning is a vital part of Session's role. Session is looking to add new faces to the eldership in early 2010. Ministry needs and suitability of assets are continually under review.

In the later part of the year, elder Imre Nagy retired from session, Elder Craig Morrison is on twelve months leave as co-ordinator of Kids' Church and Mrs. Denise Sylvester advised she will be looking to train an assistant in 2010 to take over as treasurer in 2011.

All have done sterling work in their relevant areas of work for you, God's people. We wish them well, thank them, and may God be with them.

And, we have been blest under the spiritual guidance of our Moderator; the Rev. William Morrow his application of the scriptures to our daily lives is surely a blessing.

A challenging year is ahead of us with a stretching budget. For growth it has been seen ministry towards younger adults and youth is essential, necessitating an associate minister. This requires additional stipend and allowances. Members of the congregation have been generous over the past year. We thank them and give praise to our God that He has touched the hearts of those able. May they be blest.

Additionally, Session is grateful for all those members who have given their time and used their gifts in various ways, the fete, readings, collections, singing and music, cleaning and leading. Mowing and maintenance along with providing flowers are all contributions we give in thanks.

We pray that continued growth will ease the financial strain in maintaining a growing ministry. However, in the short term may our God enable us all to be generous in return for the incalculable gifts and blessings He has bestowed on us.

*"Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."* NKJV 1Tim. 6: 18 – 19.

May our gracious and great God bless all.

R.W. (Bob) Green,  
Session Clerk.

# **PWA Evening Group Annual Report**

## **Aim of PWA**

*To unite women of the Presbyterian Church throughout the State in a friendly comradeship for worship, mutual help and inspiration, and for united service to Christ and His church in the local congregation, at home and abroad, by spreading the knowledge of God as revealed in His Son Jesus Christ, and to provide a channel of information, expression of opinion and action in all matters which concern women; To extend the range of Presbyterian women's influence by co-operation and/or affiliation with other organizations (other than political organizations) of a religious, educational, social, national, and international character, working for the advancement of God's kingdom, upon such conditions, and subject to such provisions, as the State Conference may approve.*

*"We are a state-wide network of Christian women supporting our Church's ministries, and participating in the wider work of Christ through inter-church and community bodies" SPAN September '09. Throughout 2009 the Evening PWA has used this premise as a basis for how we can, as a group, better work to demonstrate Jesus' love for one another, both in our home church, and in the wider community.*

Our group of ladies meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm. We have 16 members, led by our President, Margaret Clements. Our meetings are quite informal, with each meeting beginning with a time of devotion. Each month a different member takes responsibility for this devotion, by leading the group with a bible passage, message and prayer. All important part of the meeting continues to be our time of sharing,, where members are able to share their worries, concerns, joys and achievements with a group of like-minded friends. It also gives us the chance to share as a group with God, as we pray for specific needs. During the remainder of the meeting we discuss the correspondence received and sent, plan and organize activities, often help with the preparation of items for one of the many children's ministries we support, and we conclude with supper. Our time together is characterized by laughter and sharing, but underlying all of this is the goal of service to our Lord.

As a group, we have also aimed to assist the whole church to better express genuine caring love for one another. Our regular activities have included the organization of the Congregational Picnic at Tench Reserve; the stocking of the Casserole Bank; helping to support the Scripture Teachers 'm several of our local schools; assisting with the preparations for, and being part of, STAKZ and Holiday Kids Club; the collection and preparation of the many boxes for Samaritan's Purse. We continue to supply meals for the Youth Group on a Sunday evening, and again held a combined PWA Luncheon, where both the Day and Evening groups invite other ladies from the church to see and hear how, with God's grace, we can plan and work together for his work in our church.

We held two new functions during the year - a Soupa Winter Warmer Luncheon in August, at which we heard from Andrew Price, a Baptist Minister, who spoke to us about the work of the Penrith Kitchen. We were pleased to welcome many men and women who joined with us in enjoying a variety of delicious soups and desserts while listening to Andrew speak about the work that is undertaken by this organization to assist homeless people in Penrith. We have also held several Cuppa-n-Craft afternoons, at which ladies are able to bring along a piece of craft work that they are currently working on, and then spend a couple of hours working on the craft and chatting to the others who attend. Each afternoon begins with a short devotion, and we have the chance to enjoy a cuppa and a chat while we work. It has been a great opportunity to see just how "crafty" some of our friends are!

Another new opportunity to show God's care and concern for others has seen the group prepare nine baby baskets to present to the parents of new babies in the congregation. Wonderful donations have been received for both babies and new Mums, and the baskets have been really well-received.

Joining with other PWA groups is both an enjoyable and valuable time. Some of our members have attended at variety of different activities - a Sharing Day, The Dorcas Rally in March, which was held at St Andrew's, the Hawkesbury Presbytery Group Rally, which was held at Springwood, and The Annual PWA Conference at PLC, where one of our members, Dorothy Shinn, conducted the PWA choir, who performed several items. Members have attended The Timeout Study at Castle Hill, The Study Camp, and the Creative Camp at Stanwell Tops. Several members also attended a fashion parade at St Stephens, Merrylands, a concert at Springwood Presbyterian, the fiftieth Anniversary of Blaxland Presbyterian, and the celebrations for the re-formation of Wentworthville PWA.

Presbyterian Market Day was again a great time to meet up with ladies from all over the state, and, at the same time, support the work of the wider church. Once again having the prize-winning fruit cake made by one of our members, Wendy Ford, was a great thrill. Congratulations also go to Lesley Westcott who won three prizes in the Photographic section -a First for Portrait, a Second for Architecture and a Second also for Action. We also joined in congratulating Thelma Bragg, from the Day PWA, who was runner-up again this year with her fruit cake.

The PWA Evening Group also share love by financially supporting Sandy Wade Ferrell, Samaritan's Purse, The Committee of Management, Scripture classes, Fellowship of the Smallest Coin, and each of the Standing Committees of PWA - Dorcas, Christian Education, Home Missions and PWMU.

We pray that our group continues to grow in love towards one another, and towards others in our church and beyond, therefore demonstrating the love that Christ showed to us. We all look forward to serving our Lord in 20 10 and pray that He will enable us to grow both spiritually, and in the ways we are able to use the various gifts that God has given to each of us.

"And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples" John 13: 34,35.

*~ Pam Perriman - Secretary, Evening PWA*

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## **Know Your Bible (KYB) Annual Report**

*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path....Psalm 119:105.*

The nine Bible study groups have continued to function throughout the year using KYB study material. To remind you KYB comes under the umbrella of CWCI which is an International evangelical ministry, so within our Bible study groups we have people joining us from other denominations, or with no church connection, who are interested to know what the Bible teaches.

There are five ladies groups, two mixed groups, one group for men, and one group for young adults. The groups meet in different venues at different times throughout the week. There is a total of eighty people involved in the groups, with a promise of others joining us in 2010, for which we give thanks to God.

The groups meet during the four school terms, commencing at the beginning of the school year, and finishing mid November. In the four terms we look at two Old Testament and two New Testament books of the Bible. At the start of each school term, the day groups meet together including other groups within the Penrith area, when we have an introduction to the study with some background information. There is also an evening introductory session for evening groups.

In 2009 we have completed studies in Colossians, Philemon, Jeremiah and 1 and 2 Thessalonians. In the fourth term most of the groups joined in with the 'Jesus All About Life' program, a five week course conducted by Steve Gould. Some of the groups also covered the KYB fourth term topic on Jonah. In 2010 we will look at .... Psalms 1-41 .... Romans 1-8 ....Hosea .... 1,2,3, Letters of John. There is need for more help in the creche on Tuesday mornings. Can you help?

The consistent, regular looking at Scripture does truly enrich our lives, and strengthens our faith. We would love to see more folks joining the K.Y.B. groups, or helping with the creche. Do think about it and come and join us.

*~ Emily C. Ward*

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## **STAKZ (Weekly Kids' Club) Annual Report**

It is with much pleasure and thanks to our gracious God that we, the STAKZ team present this Annual Report. With a total enrolment of 55 and an average attendance of 36, we acknowledge where more effective follow up of absenteeism is required and we aim to address this in the future.

In line with our church's Vision we have elected to 'REACH OUT CHALLENGING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST' through contact with the children and their parents.

The weekly program includes teaching, singing, games and craft and, of course, afternoon tea. This program operates on a rotation basis with children in age-appropriate groups. We try to acknowledge birthdays of children where possible.

After some prayer and discussion it has been decided to separate our Year 5 and Year 6 children and have a separate program for them. This required some reorganisation and we

have been blessed in having Bruce Logan, Tracey Mercer and Robyn Stewart agreeing to lead and nurture this group. The senior group worked well during 2009. At the end of the year Tracey Mercer announced that she would not be available for 2010. We thank Tracey for her leadership and hard work during her association with STAKZ. We will miss her.

The highlight of 2009 for children in Year 5 Year 6 was their attendance at Presbyterian Youth Winter Camp at Stanwell Tops where they met with many children from throughout NSW for a weekend of learning and fellowship in a Christian community. Most who attended are keen to attend in 2010 which indicates the value of being part of the outreach of the Presbyterian Church.

STAKZ is always in need of additional helpers and any members of the Congregation who feel called to commitment on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis would be welcome.

As a Team we look forward to the challenges in front of us recognising the great need we have for the support of the prayers of the congregation, as we labour together to achieve God's purposes in the lives of the children.

~ Lindsay Ferrington

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## ***Kids' Holiday Club Annual Report***

It is with great joy and recognition of the prompting of the Holy Spirit that the Team of the Holiday Kids Club presents this Report to the Congregation. The Holiday Kids Club activity for 2009 was the sixth which we have conducted, with forty four children being enrolled for the program.

The title was Son World - Adventure Park and the Power Point presentation focused on a group of young people and their concern for a friend who was lost. Teaching sessions were based on bible incidents about the lost and Jesus deep concern for them. The songs taught, further emphasized the importance of the choices we make to follow Jesus and passing on the good news to others.

Our daily program included craft, games, teaching, singing, a mission segment on India and (of course) morning tea. Many from the Congregation were involved in the leadership of these activities and we were grateful for the prayers of our church family.

A barbecue was held to conclude the program and we were pleased to welcome parents and friends of the children. This gave us a great opportunity to speak to people, many of whom were strangers to us.

Children participated in the service the following Sunday, singing and reading selected bible passages and even dancing down the aisle at morning worship. Also in attendance were many parents. Yes, it was a wonderful (if exhausting) week and we acknowledge the contribution of many. Mostly, we give thanks to our mighty God for the many blessings given to us in this outreach.

~ Lindsay Ferrington

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## **Prayer Group Annual Report**

Our theme in 2010 is "LORD, Teach us to pray". It's something we all need lessons in from our Master, Jesus. And with those lessons we need plenty of practice.

Each Wednesday morning during the year, a small group of people meet for the purpose of praying for our church, its leaders and people, its organisations, its missionaries, and for the world in which we live. There are usually 8 of us, and through praying together we have come to know each other better.

We are thankful for Doug Murray who weekly leads us in a devotion from God's word to focus our attention on prayer and the God who answers prayer.

We know that many of you regularly pray in private for God's work among us and through us. However we encourage you to consider joining us. There is nothing select about those who attend. You don't have to pray more than once in the 30 or so minutes we spend praying. You don't have to pray more than one sentence. You don't have to pray out loud.

We pray because we know that unless the LORD God builds the house, we labour in vain in trying to build it. If you would like us to pray about anything that concerns you please give a note to Emily, Doug or William. Please join us one Wednesday morning at 9.00 am at the manse where we now meet.

*~ William Morrow*

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## **Church Choir Annual Report**

2009 has again been a quiet and not particularly good year for the Choir owing to sickness, and periodic unavailability of members. In the months leading up to Christmas we have been able to sing on several occasions, but we have not been able to present a major work.

When there have been more than two or three members present we have sat in the choir seats to help lead the singing and also to keep the pianist company. It does really make a difference to the pianist to have people singing in close proximity to them. All members of the Choir have remained most interested in getting back on a regular basis as soon as possible, as we still remain a close group.

We are thankful that John's hand has greatly improved and that he can again play on most occasions, and we thank Andrew for playing for us. We have missed our Choir Mistress, Ann, who is recovering from an operation, and we hope to have her back with us early in 2010.

Our most enjoyable Christmas party this year was on 5 December at the home of Lyndall and John Pickering. Thank you to all who have prayed for us and expressed good wishes during 2009.

*~ Lynette Ryan*

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## **Scripture in Schools Annual Report**

What a wonderful opportunity we have in NSW to go into the schools and tell children about God's love. " Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." These are Jesus words to us from Mark 10 :14.

At the Schools Ministry Conference on Thursday, 4th February, 2010, we were asked to pray that this ministry can continue on and not be replaced by Ethics classes. It was an inspiring day.

Our Easter and Christmas Assemblies were again presented by Pastor Allyson Parker and her team from Imagination Church. Fun, songs, games and then a powerful message. My sincere thanks go to Michelle Parker and Diane Lower (from the Cambridge Park Community Church) and Jo Peacock (from PCLC now Imagination Church) who help teach at Penrith South. Thanks to Joy Reid and Beth Moore and others who share Jesus elsewhere.

If you have a spare Tuesday morning and would like to come and watch, or help, please talk to William, Steve, Michelle or Heather. Thank you to all who pray for our work. You are an essential part of sharing Jesus with others.

*~ Heather Shaw - SRE Coordinator for Penrith South Public School*

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## **Day PWA Group Annual Report**

During the year 10 meetings were held with an average attendance of 8 members. We have a membership of 10.

We started our P.W.A. year with our Annual Christmas Breakfast in November. Our speaker this year was Naomi Reed who gave us an- inspiring and moving dramatisation entitled "Mary Remembers", which recalled the life of Christ from a baby to the Cross. It was well attended and we enjoyed a delicious breakfast cooked for us by a group of men. Once again the young people set up the Hall for us.

The December meeting was held in the Hall, and we invited all ladies of the Congregation to join us. Emily Ward was our speaker. After which we enjoyed a time of fellowship over afternoon tea.

Harvest Thanksgiving was held on 15/3/2009 with children from the Kids Church participating in the service. Again we donated the goods collected to the Penrith Kitchen to help support the great work that they do for the needy of our city. The combined P.W.A.'s luncheon was held in March, with 27 ladies attending, some of whom do not belong to either P.W.A.

In July we held our Annual Luncheon. This year we invited Evelyn Mill to speak to us about the role of the P.I.M. in bringing the Church to people in remote parts of Australia. To complement this theme we decided on an Australian day, with the Hall decorated with gum and wattle leaves. The menu was meat pies, peas and mashed potato followed by fruit salad and ice cream. Approximately 80 people attended and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. Our

thanks to all those people who are not members of the Day P.W.A. who helped us on the day.

During the months of August and September we again had the Small Coin Jar for donations to Market Day in the Church. This year \$210.00 was donated. Our thanks to the Congregation for their generous support.

September again saw the Annual Church Fete with our members joining with members of other organisations and members of the Church to make this a great day, both financially and socially.

We were pleased to be able to help 10 of our primary school children from STAKZ attend the PY Winter camp.

This year some members attended P.W.A. Conference, Craft Camp, Market Day, Time Out Days, and North Hawkesbury Rally. We have also attended functions at neighbouring P.W.A.'s and local Churches.

Our major donations this year were to: Committee of Management, Home Mission and Church Extension, P.W.M.U., Homes for the Aged, P.1.M., and Christian Education.

I would like to thank all members for their support in 2009. We look forward to being able to continue to work for Jesus in the coming year.

~ Lynette Ryan – Secretary

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## ***Kids' Church Annual Report***

Praise God for all the wonderful children who have come along to Kids Church during 2009.

This past year we have had four classes.

- **Pre-schoolers** have finished working through the “Big Purple Book”, just in time for 6 of our pre-schoolers to move up into the infants class – Now they're big kindergarten children.
- The **Infants** class has been using the “Kids@Church” Adventure series &
- The **primary** class has been using the “Kids@Church” Over the Top series. We have found this material helpful in teaching these groups.
- The **senior** class worked through book 3 in the “One the Way” series.

The end of year Kids Service that was held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December went smoothly. There were 32 Kids there. Almost all of these kids are regular attendees.

At the end of 2009, I decided to take leave of absence from the position of Kids' Church Co-ordinator. For 2010 we have a team of very dedicated teachers that come out each week and teach the kids which God has entrusted to our care. These teachers have a great passion for ensuring that our kids receive Godly teaching each week.

The leadership team for 2010 is Geoff & Lesley Westcott, Elaine and Craig Morrison, whilst leading the team in the position of Kids' Church Co-ordinator is Simon Enese (with the help of his wife – Angela). Elaine and I will start to fade off into the background as we work our way through 2010.

Kids Church for 2010 is going to see some exciting changes, and, as always, we look forward to see how God is going to work through the team of Kids Church leaders, helpers and the kids themselves. A big thank you to all that have taken any part in the teaching of our kids in 2009 and please keep praying for, 'the church of the future'.

God Bless!!

~ Craig Morrison - Kids Church Co-ordinator

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## **PTG Youth Group Annual Report**

Our aim at P.T.G is as Paul wrote in Philippians 3:14 to – *press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus*. That's why we're called P.T.G – Press Toward the Goal. We pray that the kids we minister to will not only start strong in the Christian life, but continue on following Jesus their whole lives, pressing toward our heavenly goal.

Each week we begin with games, then Bible study and discussion, followed by dinner together. We then move across next door and worship God and encourage one another at Night Church. It's a full afternoon / evening, but an eternally significant one.

Although it sometimes appears that EVERYONE is talking all at once, having dinner together each week really helps us all bond as a group and share our lives. We want to thank again the evening P.W.A ladies for providing delicious dinners for our hungry teenagers.

In 2009 we continued to support two people (APWM / ECM) in their mission work in Portugal. In our Bible studies, we did a youth version of Christianity Explained called 'Cross-examination', 'XTREME disciples' – studies and talks from the Sermon on the Mount, and also looked at some topical studies. We also used a question box for those 'curly questions'.

We also enjoyed fun nights and excursions during the year. Highlights included: Cricket and pool night at Steve and Ingrid's, outing to Don Bosco, Youthsurge, rollerskating, Winter Camp and a trip into the city for the 'Rice' Youth rally.

Additionally, we had a training focus in 2009. The kids were trained in: reading the Bible and praying in Church, singing and music ministry, and working the sound desk and computer. This equipped the kids to serve at the four Youth services we had throughout the year. On these nights, PTG 'took over' church and served the wider church by running all aspects of the service. All the kids were involved in running the service in some way. To see all the kids involved was a real joy for many people, especially the leaders!

I greatly appreciate the faithful, prayerful and hardworking leadership and support of Hannah Mercer and Kelly Sheldon. They work hard each week and really love the kids. The three of us worked well together, using the different spiritual gifts God has given us, with the common goal of sharing Christ with teenagers. This year we are excited to announce that we've invited Sean Sperinck to begin to step up into leadership. This is planned to happen progressively

over the year.

This year we've adjusted our start time by moving it forward to 4.30pm on Sundays, to 'decompress' our time together, allowing more conversations over dinner ... and, of course, time to clean up!

We are expecting around five new year 7 kids to join PTG this year – praise God! Of course there is always room for more, so do you know of any other high school aged kids who you could invite along? Please let me know. Please partner with us in prayer that these kids might grow to be mature disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Steve Gould

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## **YFC Annual Report**

This year has been a humbling experience to say the least. Why do I say this you may ask? Well, as most of you may have noticed there haven't been many articles published and I haven't organized any events as planned. I emphasize the word "planned" as I think this was vital in how to explain the year I have had.

In last year's report, I shared a vision for the following year:-

*"During the following year, I intend on focusing on "Demonstrating God's love for one another" and the area of marriage. I will do this in a number of ways by:-*

- *Focus on marriage related articles, such as ways to outreach to married couples and how to demonstrate to others by the way we behave as a married couple.*
- *Run events such as marriage courses and family days out."*

As you can see it didn't exactly go to plan and I was left asking myself why it didn't work? To put it bluntly it was "my plan" not "God's plan".

When I proposed this role I had many ideas and visions of how this role would work out and even up until recently I believed I was doing what God had wanted me to do. I like to have a say, express a point of view, you could say! I like to talk, not listen, and unfortunately sometimes that's not what God wants me to do. God humbled me by simply causing me to be silent until I realized I needed to make God the centre of my life before I could do His work. I can't do that when I am talking all the time!

I think it's ironic that the word *silent* uses the same letters as *listen*. To really listen to God you first have to learn to be silent. So pray for me and this role as I learn to listen to His plan, His word, and His guidance to truly use the gifts he has given me for His glory.

~ Neil Sperinck  
Young Families Coordinator

## **Assistant Minister's Annual Report**

Overall, 2009 was a year of great encouragement to me personally. I think we can all say that our mighty God has done great things amongst his people in his Church this past year. May all the glory go to Him! Individuals have grown in their relationship with God, families and individuals have been added to our number, and the gospel has been proclaimed faithfully on many occasions and in many ways on Sundays and during the week.

It was particularly encouraging to see how our theme of '*Sharing Jesus with others*' was embraced and lived out by our Church family. Many of you stepped up and took 'risks' for the gospel and found our God faithful in always supplying what we need: boldness, answers to our prayers for the 'lost', courage when needed, opportunities to speak of him and his constant presence and guiding us always.

After my ordination service in late January, 2009 became a year of firsts for me: first time leading Communion, first funeral conducted (with four more to follow in the year), first Baptism (a great time of rejoicing as twelve of our children were brought for baptism).

Other highlights included:

- Experiencing 34 people being trained and encouraged in our desire to naturally share Jesus with others as we did the Contagious Christianity course.
- Our Guest invitation services and seeing a number of new faces in the congregation.
- Getting out into our community with some of you, door knocking and distributing copies of the 'Essential Jesus', and meeting some interesting people.
- Training up 8 men to lead our Sunday morning worship services.
- Running the Jesus All About Life course across six of our Bible study groups for 59 people (a 'full on' five weeks, but very exciting). And the follow-up discipleship that is flowing out of that.
- Leading a faithful group of leaders and kids at Youth Group (see details in PTG report)
- And not to forget the everyday things like encouraging people by phone or face to face to keep persevering in following Jesus.

These were some of my highlights of 2009 and I look forward to proclaiming the Good News we have in Jesus on Sundays, and throughout the week alongside you this year. And I pray that we together might be built up in God's grace and grow in our maturity in Christ this year.

I am excited about 2010 as we as a church invite God to 'Teach us to pray'. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and I look forward to working with you in 2010.

~ Steve Gould

**“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”**  
- 1 John 4:11-12

# **Committee of Management Annual Report**

## **ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PENRITH**

In reviewing the year 2009, the members of the Committee of Management recognize the magnificent provision of our God in enabling the committee to finalise the books with a small deficit at the end of the year. The year began with serious doubts that we would be able to fulfil our budgeted expenses as the budget for 2009 was far in excess of any previous budgets. As Isaiah said "The Lord will guide you always. He will satisfy your needs in a sun scorched land and will strengthen your frame" (Isaiah 58: 11). In the past year we have witnessed the generosity of our God in this parish.

### **Committee Meetings**

At the Annual Congregational meeting in March, Paul Sheldon, Michelle Parker, Denise Sylvester, Joe Ifopo, Neil Sperinck, David Woodruff, Margaret Clements and Russell Kirk were elected to the committee. As this was less than the usual number of ten elected members the committee was empowered to co-opt additional members but no other members were co-opted. In addition, three members of the Session, namely the Moderator, William Morrow, and Elders Bruce Logan and Craig Morrison have exercised their right to attend committee meetings.

The committee met monthly, with the exception of January, for ordinary business and had two joint meetings with the Session to discuss matters of mutual concern. The average attendance at committee meetings was 8 members.

At its March Meeting the committee elected the following office-bearers – Chairperson: Michelle Parker, Deputy Chairperson: David Woodruff, Secretary: Paul Sheldon, Treasurer: Denise Sylvester, Maintenance Committee: Craig Morrison, David Woodruff, Joe Ifopo, Paul Sheldon and Neil Sperinck, and Fete Conveners Paul Sheldon and John Pickering.

### **Finance**

As mentioned in the opening remarks, our God has shown His generosity, but over the year the 2009 budget was not quite met. We still give thanks for this. The budget was more than previously as we took on a full time second minister. This included salary, mortgage payments on the residence and moving costs.

The committee also replaced the photocopier. More details of this will be available in the treasurer's Annual Financial Report.

The committee continued to support missionary families through Mission Partners, Presbyterian Inland Mission, Presbyterian Social Services, General Mission Program, Hospital Chaplaincy, European Christian Mission, the Manton family through Mission Partners, the Bible League, the Bible Society and Tear fund as donations were received from individual members of the congregation. An extra appeal was collected for the Victorian Bushfire Victims during February.

### **Maintenance**

Our buildings – The Manse, Church, Church hall and Education Block and their surroundings continually require effective maintenance of both major and minor in nature. Smaller projects included, a night light over the gate, a new sign above the hall, painting the

front room of the education block, replacing the door to the education block, installing fans in the church which were generously donated including the cost of installation, deterring the pigeons from the front door of the church and a number of electrical jobs including replacing light globes when needed. Future maintenance is a shelf under the zippy urn, moving the down lights near the front fans in the church, and dual flush cisterns.

### **Presbytery Visitation**

The Presbytery did their scheduled visit to check the workings of the parish. This ended in a favourable report.

### **Rosters**

A great deal of work is carried out by members of the congregation who make themselves available on various rosters. We are very thankful for these people and we are extremely thankful for Margaret and Ross Clements in preparing these rosters and maintaining the calendar of the church buildings. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010 the committee with the help of the Clements will be resetting the rosters.

### **Sharing Facilities**

During 2009, the Samoan congregation continued to use the church each Sunday for regular church services, and other facilities by arrangement. We welcome this opportunity to assist them and the contribution they provide.

### **Annual Fete**

Our 2009 Annual Fete in September was an outstanding success providing a great time of fellowship for our members, a wonderful opportunity to meet members of the community and to interest them in the gospel and it was a huge financial success. Our thanks go to our conveners John and Paul and to all those who worked so hard before the day preparing the treats for sale and on the day selling them.

### **Insurance and Licences**

The committee holds a number of insurance policies including building and contents insurance, public liability insurance, sickness and accident insurance to provide protection for the congregation in the event of untoward incidents. These insurances are blanket policies arranged by the central office of the church to provide maximum value for money. Insurance values are regularly updated to provide the requisite coverage for the property or personnel.

The committee also holds a number of licences which enables us legally to use copyright material such as songs, music, the playing of CD's and DVD's as part of worship services or other church activities.

### **Advertising**

The committee is continuing to advertise in the Penrith Press each month and did letterbox drops for both the Fete and Carols in The Park.

The members of the committee acknowledge the confidence you have shown in them by electing them to serve our God and you, the congregation, by endeavouring to wisely manage the temporal affairs of the parish; and they acknowledge the privilege of serving our Sovereign God in this role.

*~ P.A. Sheldon - Secretary*

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# **Church Treasurer's Annual Report**

As at 31 December 2009

We continue to sing praises to our Mighty God. Our God who knows our needs before we ask. Through his faithful people He meets the challenge of all our needs.

As servants of our God most high we are challenged daily to trust God and this includes our personal finances and the finances to operate our church.

Be encouraged, we had the largest ever budget commitments to meet in 2009. We needed to trim some items from the budget set for 2009 therefore incurring less costs than originally anticipated.

At the end of the day we have only had to borrow \$3,152.05 from our trust accounts, an amount that needs to be restored as soon as possible.

Our total income from offerings, donations, thanksgiving offering, Old time dances, fete, garage sale, our PWA's and some small receipts amounted to \$161,932.89. Our budget was set at \$177,260 however with some trimming and the small loan from trust all our 2009 accounts have been met and reconciled.

The 2010 budget is set for \$174,830. The Presbyterian Church - Ministry and Mission, have adjusted the clergy stipend and like everyone else we anticipate an increase in water and power charges. There will no doubt be an increase in our gas usage with the third service during winter. I believe the budget is realistic and this year there is no place to trim.

With God as our guide and in whom we trust I encourage you, each person individually, to review your financial commitment and meet this year's budget. Our desire is to operate our church with integrity and honesty within our community and to pay all our accounts promptly.

May we report as at 31 December 2010 all our accounts are paid and our trust funds are intact.

As the treasurer I must thank the person unknown to me who donated the ceiling fans and the cost of installation for the comfort and benefit of the congregation during our very hot summers. This gesture is greatly appreciated by all and again THANK YOU.

Listed are the various trust funds showing the opening balance as at 1 January 2009. The movements in and out of the different trusts show that the congregation has supported various activities with funds received to the value of \$15,854.80. There is \$7,463.45 to hand. The Carols trust is not complete for 2009 with a Council refund of \$600.00 anticipated and some expenses not received at this time. As soon as the transactions are finalised cheques will be remitted to the Children's Ward and ICU at Nepean Hospital.

The TEAR gift purchases are also not included. This will be finalised and remitted during January 2010 along with the Christmas eve and day offering.

Trust funds are remitted on a monthly basis. Any mission giving received by the church is in the relevant mission organisation's hands during the following month.

**Trust Funds Handled  
2009**

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Opening bal</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Closing Bal</u>
Tear	0.00	568.60	25.00	543.60
Christian Ed Board	0.00	170.00	170.00	0.00
Carols in the Park	3,032.06	5,357.60	6,872.01	1,517.65
Short Term Mission	865.81	0.00	0.00	865.81
Bible League-				
Persecuted Christians	0.00	1,783.55	1,783.55	0.00
PresAID	0.00	403.05	403.05	0.00
Pioneers –	0.00	130.00	120.00	10.00
European Mission	0.00	10.00	10.00	0.00
OMF -	0.00	115.00	115.00	0.00
Mission Partners -	0.00	120.00	120.00	0.00
Mission Partners -	0.00	1,170	1,050	120.00
Choir Trust	229.18	0.00	0.00	229.18
Kids Church Trust	2,278.44	80.30	0.00	2,358.74
STAKZ Friday Children’s Club	28.06	1,664.55	1,260.24	432.37
Kids Holiday Club Trust	782.93	570.00	331.93	1,021.00
Youth Camp	0.00	2,145.10	2,120.00	25.10
Victorian Bush Fires	0.00	1,062.20	1,062.20	0.00
Organ Trust Funds	340.00	0.00	0.00	340.00
PIM Dollars for Diesel	0.00	504.85	504.85	0.00

7,556.48	15,854.80	15,947.83	7,463.45
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	2008 GST Paid	2009 GST Paid	Refund received	GST for refunded
			2009	Jan 2010
GST Movements	1,233.73	1,581.63	2,766.00	49.36
	2008 Withheld	2009 Withheld	2009 Remitted	2009 for Remittance
PAYG	909.00	6,520.00	5,815.00	1,614.00

In addition, we have remitted \$7,000.00 to GMP (now known as MDP) Mission Development Program, nearly double that being sought.

Other outreach commitments directly from church funds include:

- Wentworth area Chaplaincy \$2,000.00.
- Support for clergy in outback areas where clergy are desperately needed but the funds to support them are not available; \$1,600.00
- \$500.00 was donated to Christian Education in the Western Sydney Area.

- Donations totalling \$600.00 was made to the four missions, represented by speakers at our church services.

We continue to reach out from our church touching many areas. God's love through you, our congregation, is ministering far and wide, in our district, country and overseas. I encourage you to continue to look outside our square.

I will continue to praise your efforts by saying so much love and support was seen to happen with Samaritan's Purse, the Church fete, Kids Holiday Club & STAKZ.

The Kids Holiday Club was supported to the extent that no additional supplies were needed to meet the morning teas for just on 50 children for each of the five days the event ran, that is a lot of morning teas. With some left overs, STAKZ was the beneficiary as afternoon tea is served to approximately 40 children each Friday of the school term.

2010 is a new challenge with our expenses anticipated to be \$174,830.00, Please search your heart for your commitment and God's will in your life to make it possible for our church to meet its commitments in a timely way.

We have the responsibility of two full time clergy and two manses to support including the on costs of superannuation and workers compensation insurance.

We continue to step out in faith with an additional morning service, in the hope this will meet a special family need, giving families time to ready themselves for church and come as a family. Encourage the families near you to take advantage of the second service and come along for a special family time.

As we commence 2010 we are not planning any major work with our existing buildings so hope to control expenditure in repairs and maintenance.

Having said we are not planning major outlays 2010, we need to remember the manse in Stafford Street is in need of quite major work. The carpet needs replacing and the kitchen is long overdue for a facelift. Remember when you turn on your air conditioning on very hot days the manse is not air-conditioned. These jobs certainly need to be considered again in 2011.

We commence the year with a bank balance of \$6,496.08 and as previously mentioned our Trust responsibilities are greater than this balance. The congregation funds are behind in the amount of \$3,152.05.

The full Profit and Loss and budget breakup will be discussed on a power point presentation at the Congregation meeting in March. This is after the auditors have reviewed the accounts.

May God prosper you as He prospers our church.

May God's grace and love be with you.

~ Denise Sylvester

## Attached P & L Statement:

<b>Penrith Presbyterian Church</b> <i>230 Stafford Street</i> <i>PENRITH NSW 2750</i>	
<b>Profit &amp; Loss Statement</b> <b>January 2009 through December 2009</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Freewill Offering Mornings	\$81,276.55
Freewill Offering Direct Depos	\$55,219.37
Freewill Offering Evenings	\$8,809.35
Bank Interest Received	\$27.32
Cake Stall	\$190.60
PWA Day Donations	\$100.00
Thanksgiving Offering	\$1,725.10
Garage Sale	\$1,736.05
PWA Evening Donation	\$100.00
Samoan Christian Church	\$2,926.05
Penrith Valley Christian Bus	\$100.00
Old Time Dance	\$1,000.00
General Donations	\$1,700.00
Church Fete	\$7,012.50
Expense Refund	\$10.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$161,932.89</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Advertising	\$590.91
Bank Charges	\$7.00
Carols in the Park Donation	\$250.00
Christian Education Board	\$490.00
Church Supplies	\$70.43
Donation Wentworth Area Chapl	\$2,000.00
Donation/Support Clergy O'back	\$1,600.00

Dues & Subscriptions	\$80.00
Electricity & Gas	\$1,513.92
Insurance	\$3,966.00
Long Service Leave Expense	\$680.00
Manse Allowance	\$20,540.04
Music Licence	\$646.42
Offering Envelopes	\$201.00
News Sheet Expense	\$25.00
Pastoral Care Expenses	\$13.20
Photocopy Expenses	\$2,084.12
Presbytery of the Hawkesbury	\$425.00
Presbyterian General Mission	\$7,000.00
Presbyterian Assembly Fund	\$2,530.00
Printing & Stationery	\$172.72
Rates - Council	\$490.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,078.64
School Scripture	\$100.64
Speakers Fee	\$600.00
Stipends	\$57,805.92
Subscriptions	\$83.18
Reimburse Trav & Ministry Ex W	\$22,440.00
Reimburse Trav & Ministry Ex S	\$22,440.00
Workers' Compensation	\$1,788.65
Internet Exp Reimbursed WM	\$393.30
Internet Expense Reimbursed SG	\$393.30
Superannuation - W Morrow	\$6,193.44
Superannuation - S Gould	\$6,193.56
Telephone	\$1,160.02
Water - Rates	\$452.20
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$166,498.6</b>
<b>Net Profit / (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$4,565.72)</b>