

Annual Reports

August 2018



Our Purpose

Encouraging faith in Jesus, bringing hope to our world and showing love for each other.

Our Vision

A people transformed by the reality of the resurrection of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit

A church that share everything, loves everyone, sees miracles and enjoys the favour of all

A church that invites people into a wholehearted and passionate life of worship

A church that asks our community how we can help, listens to the response and then acts to make a difference

A church that empowers, encourages and equips people to live together as fully devoted followers of Jesus

A church that fully reflects the diversity of our local area

Our Values

Living for Christ means loving all people

Putting others first means making new friends

Mission means being good news to the community

Obedience means changing everything as God directs

Growth means greater freedom, hope and peace

Honouring Jesus means supporting and developing leaders

Trusting Jesus means taking risks and trying new things

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Secretary's Report

It has been another busy year at Ettalong Baptist Church (EBC), as you can see from all the reports. I'd like to take the time to thank everyone involved in EBC, as we are many parts of the one body and together we work to follow God. Thank you to our leaders (Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Group Leaders, and Ministry Leaders) of our church who have bravely led us through another year. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time and resources to help EBC and its many ministries. Your efforts are invaluable and very much appreciated. EBC is a blessing to our local community.

We currently have 106 Ministry Partners and many more who attend our services. Through prayer and all our outreach ministries, we are striving to reach more in our community.

We had the joy of dedicating Micah Sharpe to God. Sadly, we have not had any baptisms this year. If you have not been baptised, or know someone who hasn't, please consider being baptised or encouraging those around you to be baptised.

May we continue to encourage faith in Jesus, bring hope to our world, and show love for each other. May God bless each one of us as we go forward and spread God's love and hope to our local community.

Blessings
Stephanie van Leeuwen
Secretary

Lead Pastor's Report

I love the story of the feeding of the 5000 men plus women and children. Such a large crowd had gathered on a hillside by the Sea of Galilee. It was late, the people were hungry, and they were in a remote area where there were no shops. Jesus tells his disciples, "We are going to feed all these people."

His disciples are flabbergasted. They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" (Mark 6:37). "Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" (John 6:8-9)

This was an impossible situation. I love the boy who offered his lunch though. He reminds me of some people in our church who are so generous. Out of this whole crowd he was the only one who offered his food. I am sure others in the crowd had food, but if this is true, they kept it for themselves. I guess they considered that they needed to eat, and the others should have thought to bring their own food. In any case, as the disciples said, how can one person's lunch feed so many. It seems ridiculous to even offer it.

I am sure many people would have thought this boy was very naïve offering his food for one... but see how wise he is! The boy gave what he had, Jesus gave thanks for the food they had, and God the Father provided the most awesome miracle... 5000 men plus women and children were fed.

The best is yet to come however. God didn't provide just enough. Because of that boy's faith, God provided an abundance. The gospels say they all ate until they could eat no more, and then, "the disciples gathered what was left and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of bread and fish left over."

What an exciting occasion! This account is such a challenge to me.

Jesus gave the disciples a huge problem to solve. Our church has some huge problems to solve! Our building is 50 years old. The roof needs replacing. The upstairs hall is inaccessible to many people. We have limited funds and limited income. We have lots of dreams of what we could do, but we're struggling to know what to do and how to do it. I am challenged that I need to be like this boy. I need to bring to Jesus what I have. We need to be wise with our resources, yet one of the wisest things we can do with our resources is to hand what we have to God knowing that he can use them just as he used that young boy's lunch. He will generously provide for our needs, and a whole lot more!

We are an aging congregation, yet we have a strong desire to be reaching our community. We need to see that God is already helping us in this. Our Friday night Youth Group is impacting many young people for Christ. Our Girls Brigade has been growing significantly this year. Our men's shed continues to mentor young boys from our local Public Schools. Our church is again planning to provide a community Carols event in association with the local school. Some people in our church have conducted a survey of service providers for victims of domestic violence in our community. We have discovered a huge shortage of emergency accommodation. We have been providing practical gifts and support to Gosford Hospital and the Homeless. Our 5pm informal service is slowly growing and many who attend it have expressed that they have found a true spiritual home. Ettalong Baptist Church is having a huge impact. God is already taking the small amount we have and doing huge things through us.

I give thanks that there are many members of our church who are imitating this boy. For example, as a church, we are blessed with many very committed, gifted and talented leaders. I am constantly in awe of the time and effort that our leaders are willing to give to our church. I thank God for our Elders, Deacons, Johnny our Associate Pastor, our Group Leaders and all the leaders of our various ministries and groups.

Finally, I want to give glory to God. In the feeding of the 5000 Jesus had such compassion on the crowd. He could have sent them away hungry as the disciples were suggesting. Instead he fed them. He used the gifts of a small boy to feed them all until they could eat no more. He loved the crowd and he blessed them abundantly. We worship a great God who never lets us go. As you read the reports in this book I pray you are astounded by just how much God is blessing us. He never leaves us and he never lets us go!

Keep trusting God. Always remember this is God's church. Never stop encouraging faith in Jesus, bringing hope to our world and showing love for each other.

Blessings
Pastor David Gilchrist

Associate Pastor's Report (Youth & Young Adults)

I have been challenged recently by these powerful words in Mark's Gospel. Two of Jesus' disciples, James and John, seek influence and prestige. They ask to sit 'at his right and left in glory'.

Mark 10:42-45 *Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

God has called me to be a servant here at Ettalong Baptist Church, to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, the Lord who came to serve and give his life for us all. Likewise, it is the role of each one of us to be servants of one another, and servants of our community here on the Peninsular and beyond. It is an honour and a privilege to serve in ministry, and I am seeking more and more to have a servant-heart, using the gifts God has given me for *His* glory.

Sunday Night Informal Service

Our Sunday night informal service has become a place for people to belong, to explore the bible and their faith together, to connect with one another and with God. Each week we set aside time and space to learn, to reflect, to share, to pray, to worship, and to fellowship together. Most weeks there are about a dozen of us, and while we began this service as a young-adults service, there is now a broad range of ages present. This year we have been reading, exploring and learning from Jesus in John's Gospel, and have been challenged to go deeper with God through developing Spiritual Habits, and late last year we read Ephesians together. Those who attend have been enriched and encouraged by this service, and we hope to share this unique kind of church service with others in the year ahead.

Brisbane Waters Secondary College

I have been involved in leading the lunchtime groups at both campuses of BWSC for the past year, with the help of a few volunteers from Hope Church Umina. At the junior campus we have a good group coming along every week, sometimes as many as 20 or 30, including a significant number who attend the youth groups at EBC or Hope Church. For those who I see on Wednesday mornings and Friday nights, it has been great to be able to build relationships and see them grow in their journey with God. At the senior campus, we have had a downturn in numbers recently, with many of the year twelves unable to continue to attend due to study or other responsibilities. We have a new group of year tens coming most weeks, and there is a good rapport building with them. Please pray that this ministry would flourish, as it is a wonderful opportunity to connect with teenagers who are not ready for youth group but are interested and open to Christian ideas and learning more about Jesus and faith.

Soul Survivor Conference April

This year's Soul Survivor Conference was in Coffs Harbour. I had the privilege of taking a group of five youth on the road-trip up north to serve the communities of the north coast. We painted, gardened, met some amazing people, learned how to be courageous Jesus-followers, and worshiped Jesus together in song and in service. It was an amazing, life-changing experience for the youth who attended, and God was certainly at work in their lives.

Upcoming Ministry Opportunities

In September, I will be organising the Parenting Teenagers Course to run on Friday nights while youth group is on. In November, I am organising a Regional Youth Leaders Training Day with Baptist Youth Ministries, for youth leaders from all over the Central Coast to get further training and fellowship with one another. These are both exciting opportunities to serve, and I will be asking for some volunteers for these events soon! You too can serve in youth ministry as you support these events.

Johnny Sharpe

Pastoral Elder's Report

My how time flies here we are at the end of another year. Thank you God for all the guidance and wisdom you have given to me and the Church over the year.

A big thank you to all those who have volunteered to visit other folk from our Church family who are not well, just need care and understanding, and those who can't get around as they used to. I know that from the visits I make that I am the one who feels blest with time spent with our Church people. If anyone wants to be involved in a visiting ministry please ring my mobile 0403 520 278 as I am not always in the Church Office.

On the first Thursday of each month I lead the Christian Fellowship how gathers at The Cove and every month I feel blessed. Thank you to those who speak from time to time I have also an arrangement with the Management of The Cove that they can call me at any time there is a need.

The National Board of Campaigners for Christ want me to thank the Church at Ettalong for allowing me to be its Chairman as we work together with Gods people to win Men and Women, Boys and Girls to our Lord and Saviour.

I also meet each Thursday with our Lead Pastor David and with our Youth Pastor Johnny for prayer and Bible Study and support and to look at ways we can help our Community in various ways and grow Christ's Church at Ettalong.

Colossians 3:23 *"Whatever you do work at it" and as the old Hymn says "Work for the night is coming"*.

Graham Checkley
Pastoral Elder

Elder's Report

As Elders we have been meeting every month and sometimes more than that to seek God's guidance and Spiritual Direction for Ettalong Baptist Church.

Our Lead Pastor continues to give us his preaching plan so we can know the way he believes God would have us go.

A lot of time and prayer regarding Safe Churches Document

Checking of Employment Contract for Pastors

Check of our Policy of Acceptance document.

Considering names put forward by the Nominations Committee

Each meeting includes a time of prayer requesting God's will for His Church

There have been other matters that have kept us busy, however I think you can see where we have been.

Please continue to pray for us that we will keep close to our God and that we will be ready to do His will.

Graham Checkley
On behalf of Pastor David, Bev Izzard, Ian Durrand and myself.

Children and Families

Ministry Group Leader – Janine Arrua

40th Ettalong Girls Brigade

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Leaders: Janine Arrua, Michelle Stoddart, Sheila Hooper (chaplain), Claire Mercer (admin)



Cadets are girls in kindergarten to Year 2 at school. We have five girls in this age group. This year they are working on

- Other Countries (Term 1)
- Our Feelings (Term 1-2)
- Skipping (Term 2-3)
- Creative Art (Term 2-3)

Juniors are in Years 3-5, and we have 6 girls in the group. They are doing

- Travel: Moses (Term 1)
- Friendship: Jonathan (Term 1-2)
- Courage: Paul (Term 2-3)

Seniors are in Years 6-8, and we have one girl in this group at the moment so she is working with Pioneers on Creative Art at the moment.

Pioneers are in Year 9 and above. We have 3 girls in this group, with a 4th who is still trying it out to decide if she'd like to join. They work on three topics over 3 years and need to complete 20 hours on each topic. They work largely independently with only a little guidance. They choose their own topics at this age and have been working on two topics concurrently – Creative Art and Photography. One aspect of their Creative Art work was to illustrate the creation story from Genesis 1 and tell it to the younger girls. The artwork above is what they created and I'm sure you can see that they have a special gift in this area. Paul and Sheila have taken copies to Ukraine with them to use in their ministry to gypsy children.

Girls' Brigade also aims to encourage and mentor our girls to use their gifts to develop as leaders. In addition to telling the creation story, they have been running games, teaching craft and cooking, and generally acting as wonderful role-models for the younger girls. All of our girls do Our Brigade together each year, and we are also hoping to have all ages combining to a special Operation Reachout project this year on the Pacific region. We will be learning about the music, food, dance and customs of the countries in the region and raising funds to assist Girls' Brigade in places that don't have the resources we have in Australia.

2018 has been especially exciting for us as International Girls' Brigade are celebrating our 125th Anniversary. We were very happy to share the celebration with our EBC family as each of the girls were presented with their own special Bible.

We appreciate the support we receive from people at EBC. We are very aware that we have people who uphold our ministry in prayer – thank you so much to those people. We have also had people sharing their skills and talents through the year. Robert Mead re-sized the girls' skipping ropes, a professional photographer, Cameron Cooke, came along to teach our Pioneers about photography, David Gilchrist has operated the audio-visual desk for our movie night and taught us how to use the TV in the lower hall, Lyndal Jones and others jumped in and helped out in the kitchen for our 125th birthday. If you are gifted in Visual Art or Photography, if you have lived in the Pacific region and would like to share something of your culture, or if you have skills with technology and could partner with and assist parents with our increasingly online membership procedures please see me. Don't feel that because you don't have Working with Children certification that there's nothing practical you can do to help out at Girls' Brigade.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for the wonderful team I am privileged to be a part of. Michelle Stoddart faithfully programs and leads the Juniors each week, as well as doing a lot of the organising and running of special events like movie nights, our anniversary party Mother/Father-Daughter nights and our Awards Night. Claire Mercer does all our administration, freeing me up to work with Cadets, Senior and Pioneers. And Sheila Hooper has developed a very special relationship with the girls and their families as our Chaplain.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in and support for our ministry.

Kids Church

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Our Sunday morning Kid's Church program caters for children from 18 months to Year 5. Our children are always eager to learn and participate enthusiastically in Biblical learning through singing, stories, memory verses, crafts and games.

We have a faithful team of leaders comprising of Audrey and Chloe in the Hill Hall with the preschoolers and Chris, Margy, Dylan and Merrie in the Lower Hall with the Kinder to Year 5 children. We have been using a variety of resources including Sonseekers lessons which take the children through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and music from Hillsong and Colin Buchanan.

Working with Children Checks and the Safe Spaces Policy have implications for ensuring an ongoing supply of leaders. The church leadership may need to look into ways of encouraging more people to complete these requirements.

Our Children's Ministry Group leaders have met a number of times to discuss ways that we can reach out to our community to bring more families to our church. For any of the strategies to work effectively, we require support from everyone in our church, either through prayer or assistance in running events such as outreach services or social gatherings.

We would request prayer for wisdom in developing strategies that might assist in bringing families from our other children's ministries and the wider community into the church.

Kids Klub

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It is with great sadness that we had our last afternoon of Kids Klub on Friday 8th December.

We realised that Friday afternoon is no longer an appropriate time for Kids Klub. Many children could only attend every second week, and many other events were clashing with Kids Klub.

We had some fantastic Junior Leaders and some amazing helpers but were short on mature trained Leaders who could help our Junior Leaders and helpers.

Kids Klub has impacted the lives of many children and we built up some great relationships with local families, as we have shared the love and message of Jesus Christ.

Thank you to all those who have prayed so faithfully and supported Kids Klub over the years. Thank you especially to all our Leaders and Junior Leaders. It is the desire of many of us to see a new after school club begin in one of our local schools that better meets the needs of our local families. Pray for Child Evangelism Fellowship, Rick Keuning and others who are working on this and pray that if it's the Lord's will it may soon become a reality.

mainly music

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mainly music will celebrate its third birthday at the commencement of third school term (July 27th) and as a team we work, under Jesus' grace, to provide a program that delights, accepts and grows this God given community.

We are seeing God's hand at work with the beautiful group of young mothers, fathers and grandparents that come along each week. We begin our day with a prayer time and as we honour our amazing God, he is hearing our call and the safe faith spaces are beginning to occur. As a team, it is these safe faith spaces that we measure our Lord's fruitfulness by and we are now journaling these opportunities so that we can note the journey and see how God works His wonders to behold. These safe faith spaces occur with our children as well as our adults and it is where our delights come from. Watching the possessive child begin to share and give each other a cuddle, seeing the shy withdrawn child feel safe to come out the front to collect their prop or hold up a prop, have a child open their arms and give the team member a big smile and hug or maybe just "a high five" as they come through the door all because they know they are safe and as a team member we bless them with a quick prayer. We delight as a team in sharing about our church activities with the adults and this usually opens the door for a God conversation. As a team we often wish that these opportunities could be longer but often the little one needs attention. Packing up becomes a time of sharing and praising God.

Acceptance is a major part of safety and many interesting spaces have been shared. There are those who have moved to the Central Coast to overcome the trappings of being raised in a poor environment and want better for their children. They come with no family support or backup and just need somewhere to be accepted. Others are struggling through difficult separations, divorce and identifying who they are. Being able to offer some direction of where to find help or being able to step up as a group or church and assist have all shown acceptance and been relationship builders.

It is now after three years that we are beginning to see growth as adults are becoming open to Jesus' love. Several mothers have indicated that they are interested in a sharing time and knowing what the bible may say to help them. We are working towards commencing a mainly mums connect group and mainly kindy connect groups in mid-August. As a team we are praying for the Holy Spirit to open the eyes, ears and hearts of those who are asking and that they will not be frightened away.

This past year has had many challenges. We had two of our team having to step down because of major health issues. We give thanks for both Jan Rose and Jane Keuning's health improvement and we give thanks to God for all that they did in the service of mainly music. We also thank Soupie for her help and we are grateful to all three ladies for their ongoing support in the background. This required finding three new team members and we have been blessed after much prayer in Colleen Arkapaw, Jean, and Denise Psaila joining us. Our thanks also to Diane Wagemaker and Beth Wykes for their help when three of the team were overseas. Thank you, team for your love for these families and we bless you for it.

With Jane stepping down, we were without a barista to make the coffees that our adults so enjoy. We say thank you to the men who have joined the roster to now make this happen. A special thank you to Johnny who has helped out and joined in when some of the men have been unable to take their turn due to other commitments. We praise God for the blessings he bestows.

As a team we thank God for the faithful service of the ladies who provide our beautiful morning teas each week. God has gifted our ladies and the adults appreciate their gifts to them. One new mum shared on Friday how nice it was to have a hot cup of tea as hers is normally cool or cold when she is at home. Her comment also said how much better things taste and look when prepared by someone else. This new mum's family is in New Zealand and her partners family lives eight hours out west. She is lonely and desperate for a safe space and relationship. Thank you, ladies you are all a true blessing. Finally, we also need to thank the many who faithfully pray for us daily. As a church we are continually upholding the mainly music families in prayer and this is allowing God to work out his calling on these lives, being present at our sessions and providing the safe spaces for the team to speak. Thank you, church for your prayers.

Thank you again church for your support with mainly music. We continue to manage financially and are able to meet all our financial commitments. We are all truly blessed by all the support that you give to us. Thank you from the mainly music team.

Playtime

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Playtime has again had another great year. Over the year we have been blessed with lots of new families join with us. We presently have 26 children registered, from 20 families who attend PLAYTIME, ranging in age from 12 months to 5 years, with on average 15 children attending weekly.

We continue to meet on Tuesday mornings (during school terms), 10-12 in the Hill Hall. We are very fortunate to be able to make use of the Hill Hall and it gives the children the opportunity to be able to either have the option of playing in the hall or outside in the fenced area. The children love playing outside and making use of the cubby house and all our outdoor equipment that Playtime has either purchased or had donated to us. Setting up indoors at playtime requires special consideration, particularly as the children are of varying ages.

The main aim of Playtime is to provide an opportunity for parents/carers and children to meet in an informal and supportive Christian environment. It helps the children learn social skills in a group situation, with their parent or carer by their side for support. As well as that, it provides an amazing social time for many of our mothers/Fathers and carers to forge some lovely friendships and get to meet other locals who have children of the same or similar age, which they otherwise may not have met.

Playtime can only be accessible if it remains affordable, and this depends on everyone getting involved, by bringing morning tea, organizing a craft, leading singing, reading stories, washing and cleaning up – which is encouraged for the parents/carers who attend to get involved with.

All our Playtime fees each week or term are spent solely on Playtime, for craft supplies, new equipment or toys, and occasionally for special outings or provisions for a family in need and towards our end of Year Christmas party.

Each week at Playtime is made up of craft (generally based on the theme of the week), morning tea, free play and story, games and singing.

Each term incorporates many theme days; some of these have included painting and cooking, Season days, caterpillar's & bugs, Circus Days, Mad Hatter's Party, Pirate & Super Hero days and Australian animals and Under the Sea day, to name just a few. They have especially delighted in making beautiful Mother's and Father's Day, Easter and Christmas crafts for their loved ones.

We also like to have a planned outing or special activity each term; 2 special ones to mention being a visit from the Fire fighter's in their Engine from Umina Station and all enjoyed attending the Agricultural farm at Brisbane Water Secondary College (Umina). At the end of each term we have a breakup or end of term party, a lot of these based on a colour or special theme, where the children will come dressed in that colour or theme. We just completed this past Term with a Pyjama party where all the children and some brave parents came in their PJ's.

We always enjoy a visit from Santa the last day of Playtime each year. The children delighted in being able to meet Santa and receive a gift as well as learning about the true "Reason for the Season".

When it comes to Christmas we decided it would be nice to give to others less fortunate. Both parents and children made and wrapped shortbread and using a soap and face washer made a Reindeer. We had the privilege of donating them to the local outreach service that "Mary Macs" at Woy Woy provide. They were absolutely thrilled to receive them, especially when they were put together by such young children. They were later distributed to those who accessed their service over the Christmas period.

It is always so fantastic to see some of our parents/carers who attend our Playtime also come along to some of the social events put on at the church throughout the past year, including the annual church fete, Carols by Candlelight and Gingerbread person making afternoon. I pray that this is a continued thing for the future.

I have been the main coordinator/contact person for our Playtime for over 16 years now, with Jane Keuning, as "my right hand lady" and awesome support over the last few years. Over this time, I have seen a HUGE growth in our Playtime, supported over 100 families and blessed to have seen many of these children grow from coming along as newborns to graduating off to school. Many of which are now in their senior years of high school!! However, the time has come for me to step down as Co-coordinator of PLAYTIME, as it is becoming more and more difficult to juggle work and family commitments throughout the weeks. I have loved being the Playtime coordinator and will cherish those memories forever.

I personally feel, this vital ministry cannot succeed without help and support from the church. In past annual reports I have asked for more people within our church to volunteer their time for this ministry, however I haven't seen this occur as I had hoped. I ask as a church that we pray that as we head towards the end of 2018 that the right people will be put in place to take it over into the future.

I also ask that prayer will focus on encouraging our Playtime to be a positive outreach, resource and important ministry, particularly to our many non-church attending families. And that as a church we together can bring many of these families closer to their loving Heavenly Father.

School Scripture

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Our Church joins with a number of our local churches to teach Scripture in our local schools. Marion Edwards, Rick Keuning and myself teach every Friday morning at Umina Beach Public School. We teach the children practical Christian Living from the Bible and introduce the children (many for the first time) to Jesus. The school values Scripture and greatly appreciates the work we do even though there are many people in the school who are not Christian.

It is often a lonely ministry. We go into the classroom alone. The classroom teacher is occasionally quite ambivalent or even hostile to our message. And yet Christ goes with us. We know you are praying for us and we have seen God move amongst our classes in extraordinary ways.

I continue to coordinate Scripture for our four local Primary Schools. I would like to thank especially those who help me in this. Linda Kalantsis from the Uniting Church orders our curriculum and helps to coordinate at Ettalong Public School. Ann Thompson also from

the Uniting Church helps coordinate Woy Woy South Public School. Rosemary Gilham from the Anglican Church coordinates at Woy Woy Public School. Maria Janos is our treasurer and is an enormous help paying the bills and reminding the churches on the Peninsula to contribute their share towards the cost of the material.

Please continue to pray for Scripture and all involved to this amazing ministry to our community.

Men's Ministries

Ministry Group Leader – John Jira

Men's Shed

Contact Details of Coordinator: Peter LeMay

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Over the last 12 months we have enjoyed a great time together as men and I hope that this continues as it is a great way to get engaged with the Community, as you may have notices some have come into our Church family, please look after them.

Although we do spend a long time eating and drinking tea and coffee we have done some "work". To give you some examples, here are the following:

1. At the Church Fete we opened our "Shed" to the public to show them our involvement in the Community and to display some of our work. I must say a big thank you to the women who came over with tea and cakes. They were well received.
2. Empire Bay School has had built for them a new shed for their students to get involved in craft and the like, as we had built two carpentry benches for them we were invited to the opening of their new shed. It was because of the good work of Chris Ruby, a community school chaplain, who did all the ground work for this project. The day went very well and we had a few other organisations give talks and I was able to speak on behalf of the Men's shed which gave me the chance to reflect on the work of our Shed. It was good to catch up with people who we knew and talk of old times. The local State member for Terrigal was there and gave me details on future grants that the State Government is offering.
3. Over the last few years we have been having our Christmas Party at the Central Coast Leagues Club and a good time is had by all. This allows others who partake in other "refreshments" not allowed on Church premises.
4. We had a request from the Uniting Church of Umina to make a wooden cover for their spear pump, as the pump was larger than normal it turned out to be quite a challenge. The Church gave us a donation.
5. As you know each term we mentor 10 boys for one and a half hours for 5 weeks in which they all get a buzz out of it. They make various items that have already been made into kits to save time. At the end of each term they all receive Certificates of Completion, sometimes the teacher gets involved and makes a kit as well. As a point of interest, we have estimated that over 100 boys have passed through the shed to date.

6. Our local member Liesl Tesch MP gave us a project last month involving tree planting in the local area. This involved us making 20 wooden ground protection guard fences to go around the young plants. I could go on, but we do many smaller items for people who call in to be repaired or restored. Last but not least I would like to thank Graham Checkley for his support and ministry he gives to the men, and the ladies who over the past year gave us morning teas and for sending cards to men who are in hospital.

Men's Social Committee

Contact Details of Coordinator: Richard Foster

Phone Number: 4326 1889

Mobile: 0411 242 242

Email: rjf60@icloud.com

As most of you are aware I took over the organising of the men's breakfasts to take the pressure off John and ultimately Tracy. I am enjoying this, in the year we have had some very enjoyable times including a barbecue dinner with speaker, a ferry trip with lunch at Palm Beach plus the usual breakfasts. Our numbers are low at the moment, most likely the cold has a lot to do with this. I have several ideas for coming months, however if anybody has any ideas I would be glad to hear them and include them where possible. Thanks for your support guys.

Pastoral Care

Ministry Group Leader – Graham Checkley

Connect Groups

Contact Details of Coordinator: Heather Crawford

Phone Numbers: 4341 2559

Mobile: 0419 297 496

Email: heathercraWwford@bigpond.com.au

In 2018 we have 13 connect groups functioning, which is an increase in numbers from last year. Two community outreach activities/programs of our church namely, Pastimes and mainly music have started connect groups to cater for the growing spiritual development of their members.

The groups are varied and cater for a wide range of spiritual/biblical topics, age cohorts and groups of individuals. We have Connect groups now meeting every day or evening except Saturday. Again, several new people have joined our connect groups which is pleasing to see as it allows them to make church friends quickly.

Connect Groups this year continued praying for a specific youth program within our church and are made aware of specific prayer points for the various youth ministries.

This year connect groups also fully participated in a church prayer strategy regarding discerning the direction God is taking our church into the future and one connect group actually facilitated the more general prayer meeting for church members to attend who don't belong to a connect group. The Monday night Home group organised a fund raising

morning team where over \$576 was raised to support the churches short term mission trip to the Ukraine where our church supports a missionary family.

As Coordinator of the connect groups I also coordinated a whole of church Pascal Meal as part of our churches Easter Celebrations and we had over 100 people in attendance.

I would like to thank Graeme Checkley who is our Ministry Group Leader and our Lead Pastor David Gilchrist for their support throughout this year as well as our Connect Group Leaders who prepare prayerfully and well for their respective groups.

Prayer

Ministry Group Leader – Greg Beckenham

The prayer groups I attend are quite small which is a little sad. However, I believe God is answering our prayers. In the Tuesday prayer group, we continue to pray for the specific needs of different people as well as for our church. Sunday morning prayer group is again quite small and we are specifically praying for the worship of our church and for revival. I wish there were more people who made time for these meetings, but we do believe the meetings have great impact.

As I reported in my report to the Deacons, 21.5.2018, I have struggled with the way all too many treat prayer as they seem to think all they have to do is go through the motions and then let's see what happens. If God answers the prayer, wonderful! If He doesn't, "Oh, well, so be it." Some might even say, "Well, I asked a leader to pray so what more can I do?" There is a simple brave answer: "persevere! Expect God to work!"

In the area of healing so many come and are prayed for. The Lord shows them the healing, but there has to be more. They have to do more.

In the area of spiritual awareness, no, it is not just praying once and it all goes away. You have to persevere! You have to keep praying, keep fighting, keep standing on the Word of God.

When I think of what might be over our community with all of its problems instead of just saying, "what should we do?" "How do we help the community?" Why don't we go into spiritual warfare for the community and use the gifts of sight and discernment to not only see what is there but defeat the spiritual dynamic over of community. Yes, it will be a battle, but we are meant to be overcomers through the power that Jesus has placed within us.

When I think about the way we question why people are not joining our church, why don't we ask the Lord to show us? It will be a brave church that does that because in the end it will humble the church because if we are serious then it will mean we will need to humble ourselves to achieve what the Lord wants.

I think of the folk in our church suffering with anxiety and depression. Perhaps it is time for the deacons and elders to offer to lay hand on those people and pray for them. It is simply amazing to watch the person with anxiety and depression suddenly relax before you. I can only encourage the church to think in this way. Laying on of hands should not just be for the desire to see miracles. Rather it should be something to help the spiritual health of our people.

I can only suggest these things, but I do so because I know they work.

Welcome

Ministry Group Leader – Jane Keuning

Library

Contact Details of Coordinator: Maria Janos

Phone Numbers: 4342 5442

Mobile: 0404 009 300

Email: maria.j@ozemail.com.au

Our Church library is in room 1 in the church Hall

The library is available from 10.30am to 11.00 am during morning tea after the 9.00 service. It is also available for any church ministries that have their meetings in the Hall. I would like to be contacted if it is to be opened. All books taken must be written in the borrower's book, which is on the trolley, when they are taken and when they are returned. They also have to fill in a membership form. There is no cost in joining the church library.

It has been an ongoing ordeal cataloguing the books on a data base in their specific categories and we will be printing out the list so that books can be located easily. Church members have donated many books.

We have a good collection of books. Large selections of Novels, many are in series, Inspirational, True stories, Auto-biographies and a children's library.

There is also a Bible Reference selection of books for anyone who needs information for any bible studies they are undertaking.

Kitchen & Morning Teas

Contact Details of Coordinator: Irene Makepeace

Phone Numbers: 4368 2718

Mobile: 0414 879 670

Email: lavendermake@hotmail.com

Everything is fine in the kitchen. We have done a good clean up, rosters all done until the end of the year - all good.

If you are interested in being on the kitchen roster, please come and see me.

Welcome Lunches

Contact Details of Coordinator: Sheila & Paul Hooper
Mobile: Sheila 0414 790 691 Paul 0414 256 750
Email: paul.sheila.hooper@gmail.com

Lunch held 11/03/2018

We welcomed four newcomers, and seven ministry partners attended, three other invitees were unable to attend. Lunch was able to start earlier due to the change in services, there being no 11am service.

It was a great time of sharing and getting to know each other.

The next lunch will be scheduled for late August or early September.

A big thankyou to everyone who made it a success by cooking yummy food or attending.

Welcome Team

Contact Details of Coordinator: Thelma Minto
Phone Numbers: 4341 2510
Email: thelminto@optusnet.com.au

Before church begins we set up the Welcome banners both inside and outside the church building and set up the Welcome Table.

We operate independently of the stewards on "the door roster" who also welcome, hand out Bulletins and assist people to find seats.

The Welcome Team meet in the Foyer, our focus is to speak to newcomers to the church, to welcome them as guests, to engage in conversation, to make them aware of our Welcome Table in the hall and try to meet them after the service. If it is appropriate we ask for some details and give them a phone call or email to encourage them to join us again. We invite them to join us for morning tea and seek to introduce guests to church members during that time. We wait for latecomers at the back of the church and assist them to find seats of their choice.

First impressions are important, our aim is to create a warm welcoming atmosphere. We operate on a roster, we would welcome new members. Our sincere thanks to all the team.

Women's Ministries

Ministry Group Leader – Jessie Checkley

From the beginning, let me say that as I observe the Women in Ministry; I see groups of Ladies who are in harmony and reaching out to the Community. Outreach at Ettalong Baptist Church is certainly happening through each of these Ministries. The Ladies work together and share fellowship with each other and the wider community.

Ladies LIFT Programme.
Ladies Afternoon Fellowship on Tuesday.
Friday Craft.
Ladies Social Activities.

I attend these meetings and activities when possible or appropriate, they are all a vital part of our church and I commend them all on the part they each play in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to a needy world.

Ladies Fellowship

Coordinator: Linda Strapps
Phone Number: 4342 5039
Email: lstrapps@bigpond.net.au
Contact Details of Secretary: Lee Oehm
Phone Number: 4344 2495
Email: leeoehm1@gmail.com

This year in the month of March, Ladies Fellowship Celebrated its 69th Anniversary. For that occasion, being Women's Ministries Group Leader, Jessie Checkley was our guest speaker.

Despite declining numbers of ladies attending over the years, our group has continued to give Praise and Worship to our God on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. We thank God for this.

This year we welcomed new members Betty and Heather and sadly said good bye to Stella, Dorothy and Lauren who have moved from the area to be closer to family. At present our group consists of 11 ladies and I am happy to report full attendance most weeks this year.

I would like to thank all our ladies for their participation within the group, sharing their Christian experiences, hostessing with lovely afternoon teas to enjoy informal fellowship, playing the piano to sing our hymns and choruses and most of all helping each other rejoice in God's love.

Thank you to our guest speakers Maria Janos, Jessie Checkley, Joy Watts, Jan Harris, and Beth Wykes. A special thank you to Yvonne, who has been our treasurer, she will step down from that position after many years of dedicated service. Generous donations are given to our Churches overseas missions and local Youth Life.

We look forward to planning our program for the coming year and to welcome new ladies to our fellow ship "A Warm Welcome Awaits" our meetings this year and the opportunity to grow in faith and give thanks to our God who loves us.

LIFT - Ladies in Fellowship Together

Contact Details of Coordinators:

Maria Janos	DVD Mornings	4342 5442
Marion Edwards:	Luncheons / coffee etc	4372 1411
Di Wagemaker	Board game afternoons	0411 273 124

LIFT began a number of years ago when a need for social interaction among single or single again women in the church, was identified. Recently it was decided to invite all ladies to join our LIFT activities. This has proved to be a positive decision and our numbers have grown.

Our program includes three main activities. Monday morning movies (fortnightly), board games (held on some Wednesdays) and Friday lunches (fortnightly). Programs are available in the church foyer.

DVD Mornings

This year we began having our LIFT Movie Morning at the church as it was more convenient for the girls who attended. It is a social get together and all who wish to come are welcome. We meet at 9.30am for coffee and then relax to watch a video. Some of us bring our lunch which we enjoy together.

Friday Lunches

We meet for lunch at 12.30pm on Friday, (usually fortnightly) at various cafes/clubs on the peninsula. Attendance at these luncheons has been very pleasing, our numbers increasing as more ladies are joining us. Every effort is made to arrange transport if needed. Again, all are welcome.

Board Games

From time to time we meet on Wednesday afternoon in The Hill Hall for board games. This has been a small group of enthusiastic and competitive players. A light lunch costing \$5 is available from midday before the play begins. This is always a most enjoyable time for those who attend. All are welcome.

Sincere thanks and our appreciation to Beth Wykes who faithfully produces the LIFT Program for us.

Pastimes

Contact Details of Coordinator: Heather Crawford

Phone Number: 4341 7482 **Mobile:** 0419 297 496

Email: heatherlcrawford@bigpond.com.au

Pastimes have continued to meet this year each Friday Morning during school terms.

Its activities are guided by an Executive Team consisting of Thelma Minto, Lee Oehm, Sheila Hooper, Maureen Moreland, Maria Janos and Heather Crawford. We have been assisted with the support of many of our ladies who help set up, clean up etc and I thank them for a year of full service that has both been effective and rewarding in seeing God's answer to our prayers. We would have no craft activity if it wasn't for our table leaders all experts in their field of craft and our thanks and gratitude is expressed to them, they give a lot of their time to prepare for activity each week and we recognise their commitment.

Numbers attending are about 45 - 50 women per week and it is pleasing to have seen new ladies arrive this year. New craft activity/tables and tuition has included colouring in and scrap booking.

Also, several coffee mornings have been organised and these add to the social side of our year.

A spiritual program is offered each week with a specific theme for each term and this year we are talking on the topic of Savouring Life centred on abundant living etc. One topic included the importance of prayer and we have been since that time having regular prayer with many members of the group as they face sickness, troubles and trials. It is a privilege to be able to support our women in this way and we are grateful for the women of prayer that lead these times of personal prayer. As a result, we have seen much spiritual growth in our members.

We started a connect group that meets fortnightly under the leadership of Thelma Minto and they have been studying John. It was good to see that our ladies were keen to discuss the bible and to learn more about God in a more structured way.

We have been assisted in presenting the word of God each week, with our own Executive members as speakers but we would also express thanks to Elva Badman, Jody Sharpe, Dr Lesley Earp from Terrigal Uniting Church, Jessie Checkley and Ginny Terawsky especially for their assistance as guest speakers. Our spiritual program has seen a significant increase in interest for all things of God.

The proceeds from our trading table sales have again been sent to our missionaries KK and BJ in India and proceeds from our other activities have been sent to our missionaries in Ukraine and Kenya as well as continuing to support a SAO child.

We have continued to support local charities, organisations and activities and have provided a range of goods and Christmas hampers/gifts for Mary Mac and The Women's Refuge and also been involved in creating cards for those in nursing homes who would otherwise not receive any Christmas mail, as well as knitting beanies for RPA Hospital. Our ladies continue to be a major contributor to the church fete, Youth Life and Kisii street stalls with craft and white elephant goods.

We thank God for his provision and empowerment to the Executive in this major outreach activity of the church; we also thank our Group Ministry Leader Jessie Checkley and our Lead Pastor David Gilchrist for their support.

Women's Social Group

Contact Details of Coordinator: Margy Gilchrist

Committee: Margy Gilchrist, Joy Watts, and Raelee Hockings

Phone Number: 4344 2823

Mobile: 0447 431 234

Email: margy1@internode.on.net

In December 2017 we had our annual Gingerbread House Making night. As usual we filled the Lower Hall with many very excited women and children. Our guest speaker was Jacq Bohr, one of high school teachers with Youth Life. Her message was very well received by all and she did well to keep all the kids listening as well. We had an awesome team of men who served our delicious supper, cleared it all away and worked extremely hard cleaning up our hall afterwards. They all deserve medals!

In March we had a breakfast at the Impact Plants Café. The food and coffee were amazing as usual, the weather was beautiful and the women both young and old had a great time together. This seems to have become an annual pilgrimage because it is so nice there and therefore hard to consider going anywhere else.

At the beginning of July this year a group of very excited shoppers went on a trip to Birkenhead Point DFO travelling in Erina Baptist's bus. It is great that Erina are happy to hire out their bus to our church from time to time. Raelee did all the organising and Paul did the driving. It was lots of fun as usual. Events such as this are great to bring along those who aren't Christians just as a way of getting to know some of the women from our church in an informal way.

At the end of August 2018, the annual Women to Women conference takes place at Camp Elim at Foster. Marion Edwards is organising a group of women to attend this conference. There are many ladies who look forward to going every year. As well as hearing some inspiring talks they enjoy various crafts and other activities and have lots of fun together.

In December we will once again have our Gingerbread House making night. This always attracts lots of women and kids from our community and is our major outreach event. We always have heaps of fun and eat way too many lollies on the night!

In conclusion I would like to mention that Joy, Raelee and I are always looking for interesting things for women to do, so please let us know if you have any suggestions. We would love to hear from any women who are interested in joining us on the Social Events team. It would be particularly good to have younger women on our team.

Worship

Ministry Group Leader – Joshua Edwards

I would like to start my annual report with a vision that I had when I went to a Pre-Awakening event at Narara Valley Baptist in the first week of July. It was an incredible night and I have already shared this with the leadership but would like to share it here as well. If you want to find out about the "Awakening" movement their site is: <https://www.awakeningaustralia.org>

To give some context to the vision that I had, there are two passages that I was given, Psalm 42 and Colossians 3:1-17.

The night overall was very alive and on fire, very prophetic and the Spirit was moving in powerful ways as a whole bunch of different churches and leaders gathered together in worship. It was not long in and just before we sang a song called "Reckless Love", which is also so relevant to the vision that I had, that I had an image come to me of a wave. And I opened myself to the Spirit and asked for some clarity, and discernment of that image. The first thing that came to mind was a tidal wave, a Tsunami, the power and force, just as there is power in Jesus. But that felt a little uneasy at the time, Tsunami's tend to lead to destruction and that was not the feeling from image that I had.

So then I prayed, 'ok God, water and waves can mean so much and symbolise different things along with a bunch of different metaphors and all that,' and this is what followed for me: There is a wave coming, and that has started to come, an awakening, and God's riding that wave and he wants us to catch that wave with him, he wants us to be on the same wave length as him.

But that's not all, God's "wave" is a flooding over of our souls, our hearts, our leaders, our churches and all people of his mercy and grace and forgiveness and compassion and

love and Spirit. What's more, to deepen the image further, waves come in sets, if you go to a beach you can count the waves that roll in one after the other, with that in mind and how a surfer feels the water and observes the waves, this wave of God isn't just a one off, God continuously wants to be at work in and through us and our lives and he's continually transforming. This idea is also reflected in how the wind, (same Greek word for wind is used for spirit in the bible - *pneuma*) and also the waves, shift and transform beaches and move the sand, that stuff constantly changes.

Look at Ettalong, Ocean and Umina Beaches, look at how the beach constantly is changing, and so our faith and God's work isn't static, we aren't just people who are once saved and always saved, we are a people that are riding the wave with God and yes it may feel like at times we are about to get swallowed up, we all know that feeling, but just as the surfer rides out the barrel of a wave into the light, so too we ride that wave with God into the light, he is the light. If we bail in the barrel of the wave, yes we will fail, but just as David shared at the last church meeting and in his report with Peter and Jesus walking on the water, it was when he took his eyes off Jesus that he sank.

But the thing is if we do sink, remember God's work is not static in us and he will be there to pick us back up and put us back on the board, riding his wave. We aren't to be a people that sit back and simply say God's got it, we have a wave to catch, and yes it won't be comfortable and yes, we don't like taking risks, but God wants us to be riding this wave with him, and he wants to do powerful things. And this is where the Tsunami comes back in, I think the Tsunami represents God's coming judgement but He is the God of salvation, He is the God of love and forgiveness and power, and light, and just as the Psalmist writes "I hear the tumult of the raging seas as your waves and surging tides sweep over me. But each day the LORD pours his unfailing love upon me, and through each night I sing his songs, praying to God who gives me life." (42:7-8). He is the God of life, and may we always cling to that and never take our eyes off Him.

My prayer for EBC and for the worship ministries is that there will be a flooding over of God's spirit, and for that to happen we need to humble ourselves before Jesus.

In this light I would like to share a little on the worship ministries:

It would be great to see more people step up and serve in the worship band, (as well as the sound team), and whilst we haven't grown a lot in number there has been growth spiritually as we continue to pray together, to learn new songs and serve through our gifts, abilities and talents that God has given us in music and leading the congregation in worship through music.

We have had a new team of communion helpers for a while now and they do an amazing job. The Baptistery also still hasn't been used, in quite a long time. Baptism is a key part of worship and faith as Christians so I would like to encourage everyone to see this as an opportunity in our worship together, to encourage those who worship with us who may not have been baptised yet but also to encourage us all to see and be impacting others in our local community so that more come to know Christ.

My prayer overall is for revival through our worship and that we will be active in catching God's wave.

But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24

Audio Visual / Sound Desk

Contact Details of Coordinator: Alan Sinclair

Phone Number: **Mobile:**

Email: alansinclair69@gmail.com

Well another year has passed already, and what can I say, but thank you to all the sound desk team operators that have helped me throughout the year. A special thanks to Anthony for being my right hand man.

I am thankful to God for placing these people in my life, and their willingness to help me out as Sound Desk leader. As without them, I wouldn't be able to manage with my health issues.

We have had a great year and have learnt so much about what worship means to each other, and to the people who are in the service each week.

We have made improvements with the way that we can share files, songs, and files. This is so if anyone isn't able to do the sound desk on a day, we can easily access it. Recently Bernadette has been learning to create all the slides for the service, which has been a great help to all on the sound desk team. Thank you!!

I am planning a few little changes to a few things, so we can streamline everything more. Thanks everyone for your support, and your feedback.

Band

Contact Details of Coordinator: Bev Izzard

Phone Number: 4369 4701 **Mobile:** 0409 841 062

Email: bev@izzard.com.au

Once again, I want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of everyone who is a part of our EBC worship band. Thank you to those people who have been involved in the band for many years and to those who have recently joined us. We have the privilege of leading the 9am service in music worship and we appreciate the thanks from the congregation that we receive for this.

The band members extend their own appreciation to those who work on the sound desk. We can't do our job without you.

Please let me know if you would like to share your musical talents with us. We welcome new members to our band.

Communion Report

Contact Details for 9am: Helen Aspland & Merle Shumack
Phone Number: 4342 4627 0419 411 974

Contact Details for 10.45am: Maureen Morland
Phone Number: 4344 4310

We have two Communion services a month.

1st Sunday of the month during our 9am service and a traditional one on the 3rd Sunday after the 9am service at 10.45am.

The numbers at the traditional service have been consistent.

Youth

Youth Group - AXIS

Contact Details of Coordinator: Johnny Sharpe
Phone Number: 0450 955 811
Email: johnny.sharpe@gmail.com

Over the last twelve months we've had a lot going on at Axis. We attended the first ever 'Revive Central Coast' night at Narara, combining with the Baptist Church youth groups of the Central Coast. We farewelled Jodie as a youth leader with a surprise baby shower. We had a worship night with Erina Baptist Church led by the Soul Survivor team, had a Soul Justice night where we learnt about ethical fashion, and had the second ever 'Revive Central Coast' night, now with ten youth groups, reaching out beyond our Baptist family of churches to include other youth groups from around the coast. We did the Alpha course terms 3 and 4 last year, and this year so far we've discussed what the bible says about 'How God Speaks' in term 1, and 'Tough Topics' in term 2 (including such topics as identity, social media, bullying, dating, and addiction). They've been very thought-provoking topics, challenging to all the kids we've got coming along, whether they're Christians or still figuring faith out. And we have seen God at work in the hearts of so many of the teenagers, seeing them come to belong to the Christian community of youth group and growing to understand and believe in the Gospel of Jesus that we talk about each week.

Youth Sunday Bible Study

Contact Details of Coordinator: Johnny Sharp
Mobile: 0450 955 811
Email: johnny.sharpe@gmail.com

The Sunday morning youth connect group has been reading the book of Romans alongside the preaching series of the morning services. Before that, we have been discussing the purpose and values of our church. These two series have allowed us to discuss some of the core elements of Christianity, both theological and practical. We are looking forward to exploring 'Vision' together, and how the youth of our church can bring their enthusiasm and energy to impact the wider church family.

Local Welfare and Outreach Mission

Ministry Group Leader – Helen Brooks

Carols

Contact Details of Coordinators: David Gilchrist, Johnny Sharp, Linda Strapps and Joy Watt

Again in 2017 we combined with Ettalong Primary school to provide Carols in the community in Ettalong school grounds. We were blessed with fine weather for the evening. The children enjoyed participating in the different craft activities which carried a message of the true meaning of Christmas.

Thankyou to everyone who helped out to make the afternoon and evening run smoothly.

Crossroads Counselling

Contact Details of Counsellor: Meg Toon
Phone Number: 0414 238 614
Email: megtoon@bigpond.com

The past year has seen significant changes to Crossroads Counselling. In the second half of 2017 I was invited to apply for two new additional casual positions. The first was as music therapist at the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music in Gosford. This initially involved providing group music therapy sessions for residents in Peninsula Village, to cover a colleague's annual leave. However, that very quickly developed with joining the music therapy team at The Conservatorium and then this year, with the diaconate's approval, the Crossroads room became a Music Therapy annex of the Conservatorium, enabling parents of disabled children to have much easier access to clinical music therapy than previously in Gosford and also often meeting our smiling Pastor! With other mainly NDIS clients, music therapy has been keeping me busy this year.

Secondly, I was approached by the Newcastle Diocese of the Anglican church to apply to join the clergy supervisor team for both the Newcastle Anglican and the Newcastle and Maitland Roman Catholic Diocese. This has been set up following a Royal Commission

insistence that all Anglican and Roman Catholic priests receive at least 10 hours of pastoral supervision each year.

Clinical supervision accreditation was a pre-requisite for the clergy supervisor position. It was something that I was trained in but had not got around to obtaining. With Pastor David's encouragement this was granted by the Christian Counsellors Association of Australia and after due process I then received the invitation from Bishop Peter last November to join the team. As with all changes, this has been slow to be taken up, but we are pleased to report that it has started and so some clergy members can from time to time be seen coming to Crossroads for pastoral supervision.

Low cost services subsidised by Crossroads continue to be available when needed. Counselling numbers remain low, probably due to lack of advertising and a web page! I would far prefer to be doing clinical work than advertising and administration! I am hoping that a group for carers of children on the Autism Spectrum will start soon on Wednesday mornings fortnightly or monthly.

I appreciate being a part of the Ettalong Baptist Church team, the encouragement that I receive from Pastors David, Johnny and Graham, and the wonderful office staff. I look forward to another year serving the community, hopefully with increased local awareness of the services offered

Meg Toon
Registered Clinical Counsellor and Music Therapist

Sign

Contact Details of Coordinator: Terry Izzard
Phone Number: 4369 4701 **Mobile:** 0404 841 064
Email: terry@izzard.com.au

It occurs to me as I read the bible that God has been giving us signs from the beginning of time. After the flood God left a rainbow as a sign. Isaiah records that the Lord would give you a sign. When Jesus was on earth he showed who he was by many signs and wonders. I admit they may not be strictly in context but it seems good that we have a church sign. This for us is a great form of witness to a community which is largely not looking for God. Sometimes the messages are truly inspired and really hit the mark, meeting people's needs from time to time we can be a little too confronting but even then, God by his spirit will touch people where they are and maybe even one might be saved. What a privilege it is to serve God with our sign.

I would like to thank those who often give great ideas for what to put on show. Thank you Paul and Rob for your inspiration and for filling in when I'm not around.

Remember God is perfect,
It's people who
make mistakes.

National and Global Mission

Ministry Group Leader – Paul Hooper

Fete

Contact Details of Coordinator: Beth Wykes

Mobile: 0431 749 743

Email: bethwyks25@gmail.com

Members: Colleen Arkapaw and Helen Brooks

The committee once again did an amazing job of organising and coordinating the annual Missions Fete in March. With the help of so many people in the church they were able to raise the amount of just over \$10,000 towards the ongoing support of the mission work around the world as well as in Australia. Our thanks and appreciation go to all involved.

Missionary Committee

Contact Details of Coordinator: Paul Hooper

Phone Number: 0414 256 750

Email: mission@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au

Members: Heather Crawford

Once again, I am pleased to report that through the support and generosity of the church, we have been able to provide financial and prayer support for 11 groups or individuals who are working to spread the word of the Lord to unreached people.

This has included the three outreach programs in Australia as listed below:

The Marta Mission in Newman WA - John and Angela Wilmot and their children are working amongst the Marta people to bring the Gospel through a self-sufficient enterprise Nursery and social ministry amongst the indigenous people living in tribal groups.

Youth Life operates here on the peninsular and provides funds and support for two educators teaching Scripture in the Brisbane Waters Colleges.

Child Evangelism Fellowship which seeks to teach the gospel in all the primary schools across the state. Rick Keuning is the state director and a member of our church.

We also provide funds and prayer support for another eight mission works around the world.

In the Ukraine we support Andrew and Oksana Ford in their ministry with orphans and street kids as well as the half way house for older children. Andrew and Oksana visited our church in November 2017 for a week of ministry and sharing. We were so enthused by their ministry that a group of seven people from our church are going on a short-term mission to help with summer camps and to work with the orphans in August this year.

We have continued to support Clinton and Ross Webb as they work for the Lord in Lebanon through a teaching and friendship programme. We continue to pray for their safety in such a dangerous part of the world.

In India the ministry of B. J. David and his family continues to amaze us as they teach the Gospel in Hyderabad where they have school projects, student accommodation and friendship ministries.

Andrew and Wendy McCulloch are working for the Kingdom in Indonesia where they lead the Café ministry set up by the Southerland family as well as being involved in the "Clean Up" programme in their local community.

In Mozambique Tobias and Heather Houston are continuing to work on the translation of the Gospel into the local dialect, so that it can be presented in the many remote villages around the country. What an amazing commitment to the Lord to take on such a challenging task.

The Reyes family continue to work with the remote people in Paraguay and we were most encouraged when they visited our church earlier this year. They have set up home in one of the remote villages and are learning the language and customs of the people so that they can present the Gospel to the people there.

In Kenya we as a church continue through many ways to support the work of Benwel and Diane Asiago at Kisii. There are many community projects as well as the Mango Tree Academy and accommodation for the students. We continue to pray for the safety of all the staff involved as this is a very unstable part of the world.

Beatrix Watofa is an amazing lady who travels around South East Asia teaching the gospel to poor isolated people. She is also involved in the translation of Gospel Films into many local dialects so that the message can be heard across this vast area of unreached people.

Church Maintenance

Contact Details of Coordinator: Matthew Edwards

Phone Number: 4340 4839

Mobile: 0418 636 513

Email: matthew.ebc1@bigpond.com

There is not a lot to report on this year as we are considering roof and lift options. Please continue to be in prayer for God's will on these large expense items and that we as his church will clearly see his will.

There was some vandalism in the form of smashed glass to pastors' vestry door and window in July last year and a couple of Graffiti attacks which were painted over in October, but fortunately no other such incidents.

The Church buildings and grounds are kept clean and tidy inside and out thanks to a number of volunteers, seen and unseen. Thankyou to Caroline, Bev, Ben, Pat and everyone else who helps out and those who come to working bees.

Thanks to Geoff Toon and his team for the hard work put in to build the new access ramp to Hill Hall and also for the continued work upstairs renovating a new break out room for youth. It is now two years since we came together to renovate upstairs, and the space is well used despite access problems for some, it is used by Girls Brigade as well as Axis youth, and it is open to be used by any other groups or activities.

Administrator's Report

Contact Details of Administrator: Raelee Hockings

Mobile: 0412 851 964

Email: rap@exemail.com.au

To the ladies who work in the Church office – Thankyou, we truly appreciate your time and efficiency in running the office.

We have the same tenant in the church rental property who is happy living in the house.

We as a church need to prayerfully consider where God is leading us and what we are expected to do with the bounty God has given us.

Treasurer's Report

Contact Details of Treasurer: Colleen Arkapaw

Mobile: 0409 020 249

Contact Details of Assistant Treasurer: Rob Allan

Mobile:

Email: robert@allsuper.com.au

Financial Report

Income & Expenditure for the year to 30 June 2018

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2018

It is hard to believe a year has passed by so quickly. As stated in previous updates, this year has been one of seeing things through for the first time. I cannot say in this coming year, that I haven't done that yet! No excuses, head down and let's move forward. It has been more than a great benefit to have Rob Allan by my side as Assistant Treasurer, and I assure you he has earned his place this year. I am grateful for his expertise.

My thanks also to Paul Hooper and his helpers for faithfully counting the offering and doing the banking each week.

Due to family commitments I was unable to prepare a budget for the beginning of July, but one has now been prepared, thanks to Rob's help, for your perusal and endorsement.

Last year in David Blandford's report he mentioned that with the substantial deficit of the 2017's budget the diaconate would have to take care to keep an eye on expenditure so that important items such as the pastoral team, electricity, rates, water etc could be covered. I am thankful to God that in this difficult period, we were able to meet all our needs, through the faithful giving of his people. I did experience a little hiccup with missionary payments, but that has been rectified and hopefully will never be an issue again. Thank you for your patience with me.

There are so many areas/missions/charities/sponsorships that require support, and they are all important and worthwhile and we need to consider carefully our responsibilities and where we can best use what God gives us. I trust that the church family is an important part of that consideration.

“...the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.” 2 Cor 9:12

Financial Analysis Snapshot:

- Overall 2017/18 financial year (excluding special collections) resulted in a shortfall of \$3,384. This is a significant improvement from the deficit reported for the 2017 financial year of \$25,217. This mainly resulted from an increase in general offerings of \$16,144.
- We received a grant from the Central Coast Council of \$3,118 which was support towards our cost of organising the Christmas Carols at Ettalong Public School.
- Whilst 2018 general offerings increased by \$16,144, this was short of our 2018 budget amount by \$3,551. Our interest, rental and other income was also short of budget by \$4,620.
- Whilst budget savings were incurred with church property and capital expenditure of \$9,401 the following outgoings exceeded our 2017/18 budget: -
 - Ministry expenses - \$3,632
 - Missionary and Outreach expenses - \$496
 - General expenses - \$321
 - Rental property - \$166
 - For our 2019 general offerings we have kept the same budget figure as for 2018 and kept our outgoings budget similar to our 2018 actual expenditure, allowing for extra outgoings towards our 70th.church celebrations in February 2019. If our 2019 budget is achieved, it would result in a deficit of approximately \$4,050.
- The 2019 budget has not factored in any capital or ongoing costs associated with the proposed roof and lift improvements as timing when these are likely to be incurred has yet to be determined. Should the cost outlay of approximately \$200,000 be incurred during the 2018/19 financial year and funded by our cash reserves, together with our proposed 2018/19 budget deficit of \$4,050 will deplete our cash reserves to approximately \$17,000.

Ettalong Baptist Church
2017/18 Actual and 2018/19 Budget (cash basis)

	Budget 2017-18	Actual 2017-18	Variance 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Receipts				
General Offerings	231,920	228,369	(3,551)	232,000
Interest	7,748	4,200	(3,548)	4,000
Rental Property Income	16,900	15,655	(1,245)	15,700
Special Collections (incl mission fete)	9,360	33,191	23,831	33,000
Other Receipts	-	173	173	200
			-	
Total Receipts	265,928	281,589	15,661	284,900
Payments				
MINISTRY				
Pastoral team remuneration / super / lsl	162,520	165,611	(3,091)	166,000
Workers compensation	1,384	1,522	(138)	2,000
Ministry expenses	1,300	1,511	(211)	1,500
Guest speakers	468	150	318	450
Pastoral Training	1,560	730	830	750
Council / water rates #18	930	1,127	(197)	1,200
Insurance #18	1,819	962	857	1,000
Repairs and other property expenses #18	-	-	-	-
Ministry support	-	2,000	(2,000)	2,000
Ministry Expenses - Total	169,981	173,613	(3,632)	174,900
MISSIONS / OUTREACH / GROUPS / SUPPORT				
Missions - sponsored	15,600	18,890	(3,290)	15,600
Missions - other	-	3,785	(3,785)	4,000
Outreach - local	12,844	12,203	641	18,000
Outreach - other	-	-	-	-
Support groups / departments	9,308	4,786	4,522	5,000
Community aid	624	200	424	500
Council / water rates #117	1,170	1,221	(51)	1,300
Electricity #117	800	255	545	500
Insurance #117	1,060	562	499	600
Repairs and other property expenses #117	-	-	-	-
Missions / Outreach / Groups Total	41,406	41,902	(496)	45,500
GENERAL CHURCH EXPENSES				
Advertising	156	-	156	300
Audit fees	312	600	(288)	600
Bank fees	104	-	104	-
Cleaner salary / super	7,800	7,303	497	7,800
Church supplies	1,400	1,593	(193)	1,600
General expenses	576	-	576	-
General literature	416	-	416	-
Membership / Partnership fees	-	1,995	(1,995)	2,000
Music / copyright fees	832	829	3	850
Printing, postage and stationery	5,356	4,170	1,186	4,200
Telephone / internet	3,380	2,953	427	3,000
Church Activities & Courses	-	1,210	(1,210)	-
General / Office Expenses Total	20,332	20,653	(321)	20,350

Ettalong Baptist Church
2017/18 Actual and 2018/19 Budget (cash basis)

PROPERTY - CHURCH				
Council / water rates - church	1,066	2,066	(1,000)	2,100
Electricity - church	4,920	7,802	(2,882)	7,900
Insurance - church	9,721	5,147	4,574	5,200
Repairs and other property expenses - church	8,892	6,174	2,718	6,000
Church Property Total	24,599	21,189	3,411	21,200
PROPERTY - RENTAL #1				
Council / water rates #1	2,450	2,925	(475)	3,000
Electricity #1	-	-	-	-
Insurance #1	660	351	309	400
Repairs and other property expenses #1	-	-	-	-
Rental Property Total	3,110	3,276	(166)	3,400
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
Improvements	5,980	510	5,470	-
Equipment	520	-	520	-
Capital Expenditure Total	6,500	510	5,990	-
Total Payments	265,929	261,142	4,787	265,350
Net surplus / (deficit) applied to net funds available	(1)	20,446	20,447	19,550
Net surplus / (deficit) without special collections			(3,384)	(4,050)
Total Available Funds		\$	\$	
Westpac Cheque Account		\$25,859		
BFS at call		\$40,002		
BFS I27.9		\$0		
BFS-Property Trust (#12) I74		<u>\$201,433</u>	\$267,294	
Less amounts set aside for special purpose				
Missionary Support		\$10,551		
Outreach / Community Support		\$8,942		
Support Groups / Departments		\$15,678		
Church operating expenses		\$9,037		
Money set aside for future expenditure		<u>\$2,078</u>	-\$46,287	
Net Available Funds as at 30 June 2018			<u><u>\$221,007</u></u>	