



Annual Ministry Update  
2019

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# GOING WHERE GOD WANTS US

## Hilary Roath

I count it a privilege and a pleasure to be serving God and His people as Locum Lead Pastor here at GWAC. I am blessed to be working with an excellent team of staff; Bree, Ben, Bre, Roger, Julian, Ashish, Cathy, Kerrie, Bob, and Sue, and with our dedicated Governance Board; Wardens Anne-Marie, Rochelle, Josh, as well as fellow Board members Diane (Treasurer), Lynn, Gerald, Howard, and Sean.

There is much that happens in the parish with willing and competent Christians serving and leading in numerous ways. The ministry updates that follow in this Annual Report provide just a glimpse of the faithful ministry that is exercised through the services, events, and groups associated with GWAC. To God I give thanks not just for those who do the noticeable jobs, fulfilling established roles and offices, but for those ever-faithful members of GWAC who work behind the scenes. I give thanks to God for all, young and not so young, from newly arrived to long-time stalwarts, who make up the body of Christ here at GWAC. I give thanks to God for you, your faith, your fellowship and your service.

As Locum, I am still coming to grips with the complexities of the parish, including getting to know people and their names, but thoroughly enjoying the process. Thank you all for your prayers, your support, and your welcome.

It was with much joy and rejoicing that we received news of the Archbishop's appointment of our new Lead Pastor, the Rev Philip Meulman. We welcome him and his wife Barbara, and look forward to his induction on 30th January 2020. Many thanks to the Incumbency Committee- Bob Barclay, Rochelle Ratnayake, and Ray Ternes, who have worked hard to serve God and His people here at GWAC.

### **Where does God want us to be in 2025?**

This is the question about which we have been praying and seeking God's guidance in the **Envisioning Process**. We give thanks to God for the involvement of the whole parish, and especially for Frank Gribi and the team of hard-working dedicated parishioners and staff, who have led us patiently through this time-consuming process. They have gathered up what was on our collective hearts and minds, and formed them into the "GWAC Vision 2025".

This year has produced a significant season of change and I suspect most of us would have felt challenged, with feelings of insecurity and inadequacy. But if we could see as God sees, we would know that pain always signals the possibility for growth. Although we sigh for a world free of stress we know deep inside that such a world would not produce in us, strength, growth and maturity.

### **SEASON OF CHANGE**

**February:** We said farewell to Angela Footit, Pastor- Children & Families.

**March.** We said farewell to Sharon Footit, Associate Pastor- Seniors, to begin her retirement.

**June:** Began the 'Envisioning Process' to discern God's Vision for GWAC 2025.

**July:** We celebrated with the visiting team from Mission of Truth (Surabaya), and reconfirmed our commitment to future ministry, together.

**July:** Bree Mills was commissioned as Senior Associate Pastor at GWAC.

**July:** We said farewell to our Lead Pastor, Drew Mellor, and his wife Maz, after 13 years of faithful ministry in this parish, to take up the position of Senior Police Chaplain.

**August:** Hilary Roath was appointed as Locum Lead Pastor.

**August:** Ben Johnson, Associate Pastor & Church Planter at Harvest, Officer, announced that he and his wife, Emma, will be leaving GWAC, 1st December 2019. The congregation at Harvest, Officer, after much prayer decided to bring its ministry to a close on the same date.

**October:** Our new Children & Families Pastor, Julian Barnard, with his wife Daisy, began his ministry at GWAC.

**6th October.** The Archbishop announced that our next Lead Pastor will be the Rev Philip Meulman, to be inducted on 30th January 2020.

It is understandable that these changes and challenges can produce feelings of insecurity and inadequacy. But if we are willing, these feelings can bring us to a good place, a place of trust in, and total dependence on God. This is exactly where He wants us to be. This is God's mark of spiritual maturity. *"Immaturity is going where you want to go, and maturity is going where God wants you to go"*.

### **Do we really want to go where God wants us to go in 2020?**

Each time through faith and obedience we say **YES** to where God wants us to go we give Him the initiative in our life. He then works to move us towards His goal, both as His individual children and as His gathered family at GWAC.

The body of Christ, in any one place, is greater than the sum of its members. Every individual's relationship with God has a direct effect on every other member of GWAC. As one person says **YES** to God, we all receive the spiritual increase. We are all depleted, spiritually, each time we resist God and go our own way.

We can see that the responsibility God places on each one of us is an awesome one, and yet the power that keeps us moving towards maturity comes from our growing dependence on Him.

God never calls us to do anything for Him without supplying all that we need. Therefore, the spiritual health and growth of GWAC depends on the response of each and every one of us, individually and together, as a family.

As the new church year begins, will we at GWAC, in faith and obedience say **YES** to where God wants us to go in 2020? I am convinced that our response will be a wholehearted **YES**.

I want to thank each and every one at GWAC for your example of faithful service to Jesus Christ and His gospel, for your love of people and generosity of time, gifts and money to see that Jesus is honoured by all. When expressing gratitude, it is important to direct thanks to God the provider of gifts and faith, as well as to the generous hearts that exercise them. To God then, I give thanks for your faith, fellowship, and service. Let us together work towards a church, growing both in numbers and Christian maturity, building each other up in faith and love, all the more as we see the day of Jesus approaching.

# GATHERED CELEBRATIONS

## SUNDAY 8AM GATHERING – BOB BARCLAY

The year 2019/2020 has been very challenging for the parishioners, with so much to be excited about, specially with excellent preaching through the various series that took place. Many relationships have been blessed and strengthened with God, and many other people through His word. Besides ordained ministers, we had the privilege of hearing from our lay people as well. Many of the 8am congregation have accepted the opportunity to witness to non-believers in their own comfortable ways.

### Highlights 2019

- The Prayer Team has developed a wonderful ministry amongst the congregation and we are most thankful for this small group of faithful people. We have seen how God has worked in the hearts of many who have come forward to place their burdens before the team.
- The 8am service is blessed by those who worship and lead the singing, week by week. *“Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them” (Isaiah 42:10).*
- The 8am Leadership Team meet regularly to discuss and plan the 8am services. Using the online GWAC planner, the team can develop the services in a meaningful way so that we can worship God in all we do and say.
- There are many parishioners who faithfully carry out various duties week by week. These include readers, stewards, welcomers, audio and visual operators, Lord’s Supper assistants, teams undertaking kitchen duties and flower arrangement, just a few to mention. Unfortunately, due to aging and ill health, the numbers for these various positions have declined. Please pray for these positions to be strengthened with more people.
- We are blessed to have so many preachers who continue to teach and challenge us all in various aspects with our walk with Jesus. We give thanks to the staff, both present and past, who have encouraged us all in our nurturing and growth as Christians.

### Plans 2020

- 2020 holds many challenges in how we grow stronger in numbers. In doing so, we need to consider how to achieve and acknowledge God's calling in many areas. We need to expand the Stewards and Welcome teams by incorporating more people.
- We will continue to encourage each other in our walk with Jesus, so that we can be disciples of God. We will maintain a balanced approach to our UP, IN and OUT dimensions of being a disciple of Jesus.
- To explore the possibilities and use creativity in developing various styles of worship that will give significance to the on-going teachings. This may involve testimonies, skits, re-enactment of Bible stories, creative music, just to mention a few. To do this, we need input and ideas from the congregation.

- We look forward to 2020 in growing stronger in our community under the new Lead Pastor, Phil Meulman.

### **Acknowledgments**

- John Martin

## **SUNDAY 10.30AM GATHERING – BREE MILLS**

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

### **Highlights 2019**

- The variety in the teaching has been a highlight this year, enjoying many guest speakers and varied sermon series. The feedback has been incredibly positive, especially with the January sermon series, where many of our regular members shared their stories.
- One highlight was the multicultural lunch that was held. People enjoyed the extended time of fellowship. Attempts to make lunches a regular feature were unsuccessful but when they did occur they were highly appreciated.
- All-age services were a highlight, attracting some young families into the service and engaging all ages with puppets and storytelling. The addition of musical instruments during worship for children has also helped to engage all ages.

### **Plans 2020**

- We will be seeking to host a monthly lunch, assuming we can arrange a team of people to coordinate and clean up. Unfortunately, the lack of volunteers caused this to fall through in 2019. We will take a different approach in 2020 to try and bring it to fruition.
- We will be intentionally hosting a playgroup Christmas celebration in line with the 10:30am service on the last Sunday in December. This will help our playgroup families begin to engage in our wider church community and is a great opportunity for our community to demonstrate God's love and welcome to these families.
- We will be relaunching our all-age services and kids' talks once a month, to update the community on what the kids have been learning.

### **Final Comments**

Lots of new people have stepped onto rosters in the past year and I am very thankful for their generosity in serving our community!

## SUNDAY 5PM SERVICE – BRE WILKINSON

The 5pm Celebration gathering seeks to encourage the community in their 'UP' relationship with God, through music, prayer, word, and preaching; in their 'IN' relationships through space to foster fellowship, before and after main gatherings, as well as foster relationships in smaller gatherings and to celebrate the things He is doing in our smaller gatherings; and in their 'OUT' relationships with a focus on evangelistic / outreach services or shared meals before and after the service ('OUT').

### Highlights 2019

- Seeing families take ownership of hospitality after the service, with different life groups, gospel communities and families going above and beyond the regular tea and coffee, and providing food and other snacks as a way of demonstrating God's welcome and our care for others.
- Seeing our service teams become a more accurate representation of this gathered community.
- This year we held 'extended worship services' in which the openness to the work of the Spirit through prophetic words was clearly expressed.
- We have seen the regular commitment of members of the youth ministry (IGNITE) attending the service and choosing to serve with Bible readings, band, audio, and welcoming.

### Plans 2020

- To train and develop those who serve within our 5pm Service- especially in areas of hospitality and welcome, intercessory prayers, and preaching.
- To create a space of 'welcome' before and after the service; ideas were generated including a "Newcomers' Area" with people assigned to follow up, and the possibility of a Coffee Cart. A visual picture of our values and vision would be a great addition to this space, so that as people walk in, they get a sense of who we are.
- Plan for, and incorporate events and activities that foster deeper fellowship within the 5pm community, such as shared meals after the service and lunches in the park.
- To continue to grow the prophetic ministry at 5pm, and offer further training to those who are interested.

## WORSHIP MINISTRY: 10.30AM & 5PM – ROGER NICHOLSON

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

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

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

## Highlights 2019

- Our reason for existing is to glorify God. It is why He made us, and it is the music ministry's primary objective as we sing and accompany songs of worship and praise. This is our ongoing "story". We cannot measure this, we don't see what happens in people's hearts as they worship Him through song, but God does, and we believe in faith that people's hearts are being transformed- both believers and not-yet-believers. We are inspired by Paul's injunction to "*sing and make music in your heart to the Lord*" (Eph. 5, v.19).
- Anecdotally, young families at the 10.30am Service have felt more included as their kids use the percussion instruments provided at the front to join in with our corporate worship-music.
- The new "in-ears" system, combined with the drum screen and noise-absorption material installed behind the drum-kit, have all helped to reduce the ambient volume levels coming from the platform area. This in turn has improved the quality of sound able to be mixed through our PA system.

## Plans 2020

- Song-writing Project (ongoing): the aim of this Project is to promote a culture of song-writing from within our existing Music Ministry, so that at least part of our song repertoire can be songs whose themes reflect faith journeys and testimonies from within GWAC. The Project has three parts:
  - i. Conduct song-writing workshops and 'open-mic sessions', where new songs can be heard and critiqued.
  - ii. Record new original songs. This is with a view to (a) helping GWAC bands to learn the songs (in addition to music charts) and (b) promoting such songs to the GWAC community, probably via the GWAC website, and perhaps to the broader community via YouTube.
  - iii. Introduce new original songs to our GWAC repertoire (10.30am and 5pm Services).

## Acknowledgements

- Alan Thomasz
- Wayne Yeap
- Gayan Karunaratne
- Amber May
- Ben Footit
- Andrew Malone
- Michelle Xu
- Sam Vander Reest
- Elizabeth Nicholls

## New Members

- Philip Riley
- Paul Halliday,
- Jafar Lie
- Sanjay David
- Ian Peake
- Christine Walker
- Shannon Yeung
- Glenn Batchelor
- Anne-Marie Ternes
- Minelle Croner

## **Comments**

Whilst I am always grateful for new team members, it has been sad to see some people leave this ministry, and I pray earnestly for more musicians and audio operators to serve, especially at the 10.30am Service.

## **WEDNESDAY 10AM SERVICE – HILARY ROATH**

I thank God for all those who assist in the Wednesday service of worship at GWAC. There is a roster of faithful servants of God who minister to us week in and week out and have done so for many years. Thank you to our welcomers, readers, intercessors, lay assistants, music ministry, audio/visual operators, service planners, administration, and morning tea providers. Together, we exercise an important ministry of welcome to our weekly service of worship. Research into church life has consistently shown that the vast majority of people who joined the church did so after attending a service of worship. The worship service, therefore, continues to be the primary and most important door or point of entry into the life of the Christian community.

## **Highlights 2019**

- At the beginning of August, we began a preaching series on the book of Luke. It is a book filled with a message of Good News for everybody. Luke presents Jesus Christ as the compassionate 'Son of Man' who came to live among sinners, love them, help them, and die for them.
- Fellowship over a cup of tea at the end of the service deepens our relationships. It is a time to catch up with each other's news, which in turn help us to discern how best we can support and pray for one another.

## **Plans 2020**

- To encourage and develop the congregation to take up new ministries.
- Continue to seek to grow people in their taking-up of ministries in this congregation, and looking for new people to develop.

## **Acknowledgements**

- Sharon Footit

# LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

## MISSION OF TRUTH CHURCH PARTNERSHIP – JAFAR LIE & YENY LUKITO

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

### Highlights 2019

- In early October 2018, GWAC parishioners were given the opportunity to contribute to a retiring offering for disaster relief for MoT church plant in the city of Palu (Indonesia), following the earthquake and tsunami that killed thousands of people and displaced thousands more. GWAC community responded generously to the need, raising a total of \$6,477. The money was sent to MoT, which was used to repair damage to the church building and to financially support the pastor and members of congregation during the post-disaster recovery.
- In early December 2018, the Partnership Ministry Team organised a Christmas card to be sent to MoT Church. It was encouraging to see the card filled in with several Christmas greetings and messages of encouragement from GWAC parishioners. Praise God that the card arrived safely in Surabaya, and the MoT Church expressed their joy and thankfulness upon receiving the card.
- Members of the GWAC congregation have shown generosity through financial contributions towards the Education Assistance Project (EAP). The fund collected during the period of July 2018 to June 2019 amounts to \$6,726.80. The EAP fund is mainly used to provide scholastic support for members of MoT who are undertaking secondary and tertiary study as well as providing English training to mentors/tutors of the Compassion program. At the end of year 2018, we rejoiced with MoT as they celebrated two graduations: Dian Sitohang (mentor/tutor with the Compassion program and a Sunday school teacher) who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Management, and Agus Wahyudi (a full-time staff member of MoT) who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Theology. Their tertiary studies were funded through the EAP.
- The Learning Centre, which had officially opened in July 2017, celebrated the first graduation for students at the end of June 2019. Presently, there are nearly 50 students enrolled in the Centre, with a number of students coming from Muslim families. The Learning Centre has received positive feedback from parents because they notice improvements in the development of their children who have enrolled in the Centre.
- Pastors Sartono and Devi came to Melbourne, by the invitation of GWAC, in July 2019. They brought with them, Angel and Richard, who are the leaders of MoT Youth Ministry. Grace

and Rio also came along for a visit and personal travel. It was encouraging to see the generosity and hospitality shown by many members of the GWAC community, through financial contributions to cover travel costs and other ways while the MoT delegates were in Melbourne. These included providing accommodation, inviting the MoT delegates for meals, taking them for sightseeing around Melbourne, making them feel welcomed, and financial contributions to Ps Sartono & Devi through retiring offerings. The Partnership Team has received positive feedback about the visit from various members within GWAC community. Many people said that they are encouraged to hear more about God's work through MoT in their community and how the partnership with GWAC plays an important role in their ministries. In addition, the involvement of Angel and Richard as part of the visit brought fresh insights to the youth/young adults' community at GWAC and helped to foster deeper relationships amongst youth/young adults between the two churches.

### **Plans 2020**

- The Partnership Team will run an information session for next year's Surabaya Visit on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019, which coincides with GWAC's *Thanksgiving Sunday*. Instead of having a separate information session for the Surabaya Visit in the afternoon/evening, as has been done in the past, the upcoming information session will be incorporated in each of the gathered celebrations that Sunday.
- The Partnership Team will be actively involved in the preparation for next year's Surabaya visit. This includes reviewing applications from potential team members, assisting in planning and running of preparation meetings, and liaising with MoT in matters related to the visit.

### **Acknowledgments**

- Nicole Harvey
- Drew Mellor

### **New Members**

- Bree Mills

## **CATALYST – ANNE-MARIE TERNES**

Catalyst serves to assist disciples of Jesus Christ to be a part of God's plan to restore justice in our world. In doing so, we aim to grow people's relationship with God by increasing their understanding of God's character and His desire to see all people receive mercy and justice. Extending justice and mercy to others in Jesus' name demonstrates His love to others; when we are involved in such ministry we are messengers of Jesus' love to those who do not yet know Him. We desire to run events and promote ministry initiatives whereby people encourage and equip one another to be Jesus' hands and feet.

### **Highlights 2019**

- The highlight for Catalyst this year was to hear from Tulsa Sharma, who is working with *International Needs Australia (INA)* to deliver health care and education to impoverished

communities in rural Nepal. Tulsa shared multiple stories of how the work of INA is delivering much needed assistance to people in the name of Jesus. There was opportunity, following the event, for people to discuss how the stories had impacted them, and encouraged them to be generous towards those who are less fortunate.

- Catalyst encourages a number of events and initiatives that are run by others inside or outside the GWAC community. These include, but are not limited to, TEAR useful gifts, The Justice Conference, the selling of cards to support CMS, the church partnership with Misi Aletheia (Mission of Truth Church), and Compassion child sponsorship. In all these ways we have been greatly encouraged to see God inspiring and challenging people to be sacrificial, in order to demonstrate His love to others.

### **Plans 2020**

- Catalyst will run at least one event whereby a speaker will be invited to share on a specific development program or topic. By God's grace, we will use these events to continue to challenge and equip disciples of Jesus to live in a way that is in line with His Kingdom values.
- Catalyst will continue to encourage the promotion of other events and initiatives (as previously listed) which will facilitate people to love God and love their neighbour.
- The gatherings which have contributed to the preparation of the Vision 2025 document have shown us that many GWAC members would like to see GWAC reach out to needy people in our local community. Catalyst will spend time in 2020, prayerfully considering this possibility.

### **Final Comments**

Thank you to the Catalyst team - Ray Ternes, Lisa Wilkerson and Allison McDonald. Also to Yeny Lukito and Kerrie Jones for their assistance in 2019.

## **MISSION PARTNERS & MISSIONS TASK FORCE – BREE MILLS**

The Mission Task Force oversees our local and global mission partners. Currently, this includes 12 mission partners.

### **Highlights 2019**

- It was great to hear visiting mission partners share with us personally, even when their stories are difficult, such as Rob and Teresa. There were good opportunities for people to demonstrate their love and support for them and to learn from their experience.
- Sending out Nicole Harvey as a new mission partner was also a highlight! It was great to hear the process of her discernment and journey into the mission field.
- Another highlight was the visit from the Mission of Truth Church team. It was a great encouragement to our GWAC family, and particularly to the young adults' community and has reinvigorated the partnership.

## Plans 2020

- Next year we will take on *Kids Hope* as a local mission we support, if we can find a coordinator and mentors to participate at Glen Waverley South Primary School. It is a great ministry to our local community and we are thankful for the board's support to make this possible.
- We intend to once again send our mission team to Surabaya in June/July, and preparations have already begun for this process.

## Acknowledgments

- The Gifford Family

## HARVEST OFFICER – BEN & EMMA JOHNSON

Harvest Church operates as a collection of Missional Communities, each of them seeking to create a space where God can be encountered, friendships can be nurtured, and their wider community blessed by their presence.

## Highlights 2019

- When you're going into labour and have nobody to call upon, who do you ask to take you to hospital? Why, your Gospel Community of course! One young woman, who has been journeying with our community, found herself in exactly this predicament, relying upon those she trusted to care for her in this hour of need.
- This year has been a year filled with prayer for many of our Harvest Community. Gathering in small groups of 2 or 3, these prayer partners have gathered to pray regularly for each other throughout this year. This has been a wonderful blessing, not just to those within our core community, but also as an opportunity to invite those on our fringe into experiencing the power of prayer.
- One of our Gospel Communities (they call themselves 'Local Harvest') has continued to see incredible breakthrough, as they meet together to freely share local produce, baked goods, and anything else of abundance. This has provided an avenue, not only for blessing others with local produce, but for the deepening of relationships to flourish.

## Plans 2020

- Over the last few months, Harvest has undertaken a season of discernment, to determine its place and presence in 2020. It's been decided that Harvest will cease active ministry as a church plant as of the end of 2019, coinciding with Pastor Ben Johnson's conclusion of ministry at GWAC/Harvest.
- While many of our Gospel Communities will continue on into 2020 and many of the patterns of life will continue for our people, there has been an ongoing sense that the season ahead is one of significant change. Please continue to pray for the community of Harvest as they continue to discern God's call into a new season.

## **Final Comments**

Along with Ben and Emma Johnson, we would like to acknowledge and thank Mel Trotter who has played a significant role in serving part time over the last 3 years at Harvest Church. We would also like to acknowledge Ian Nyholm, who for the past 8 years, has served as the link between GWAC and Harvest. Ian has provided much encouragement and wisdom to the local leadership team over these years.

## **DEFENCE CHAPLAINCY – BEN JOHNSON**

Ben Johnson has been released (part time) by GWAC/Harvest to provide chaplaincy support to the 22 Engineering Regiment in Ringwood. As a chaplain within the Australian Defence Force, Ben provides pastoral care, spiritual and religious ministry, character formation training, and specialist advice regarding welfare, religion, morale, religious and cultural matters.

### **Highlights 2019**

- The 22 Engineering Regiment has training locations in Ringwood, Oakleigh, and Newborough (Moe). Ben spends many Tuesday evenings (and the occasional weekend) travelling between each of these three locations to support, equip, and encourage the soldiers and officers who serve within the regiment.
- Much chaplaincy time is spent building relationships with the men and women who serve within our defence force. Through something as simple as building a relationship, opportunities emerge to have conversations of faith. In a society which is increasingly distant from the Christian faith, there is a high regard for chaplaincy within the ADF (Australian Defence Force).
- As a defence force chaplain, we are often called upon to provide key support during times of crisis for a military member. Many members are not connected to a local faith community, and chaplains are their first point of call when they need support.
- A great opportunity this year was providing chaplaincy support to Australia's largest training exercise - Talisman Sabre. This exercise happens every two years, with over 35,000 men and women involved. This was both a great experience to be involved in a key training activity, and provided many opportunities to engage in chaplaincy support to the men and women involved.

### **Plans 2020**

- Ben will continue to serve as a chaplain to 22 Engineering Regiment in 2020. A key plan next year is to conduct the Character and Resilience training across the regiment, as we seek to not only train men and women in their skills, but also in their character development too.

# NURTURE & GROWTH

## Hilary Roath

Much of the pastoral care that occurs at GWAC takes place in an informal and an unofficial way, as we personally seek to express our faithfulness to the commands of Jesus, and through our life groups and gospel communities.

We also have a formal Ministry of Nurture & Growth in which we intentionally seek to fulfil our commitment as a parish to love and care for one another. The members of this team are authorised visitors of GWAC and exercise a ministry with a degree of professionalism that reflects the best practice in the duty of care GWAC offers to its parishioners. I continue to be awed and inspired by the love, care, courage, good humour, faith and hope that I encounter each day in the lives of those who are facing difficult life-changing challenges.

On behalf of the parish, I wish to thank the members of our Nurture & Growth team for their ongoing care and ministry to those in our parish who are unable to get to church. Their faithfulness, despite their own personal challenges, is an inspiration to me. They honour God in the expression of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

### Highlights 2019

- Completed the "Nurture and Growth" Duty of Care Policy and Procedures.
- We saw people faithfully persevering in service over a very long time.
- A new monthly service of Holy Communion started at Nellie Melba Retirement Village.

### Plans 2020

- To review the needs of the four aged care facilities where we hold monthly Holy Communion Services.
- To hold a six-week course on pastoral care called "God's Love in Action", re-scheduled from August 2019.

### Acknowledgments

- Sharon Footit
- Don Mahaffy

## WEDDINGS & SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING

- Marriages entered into our Register – 2019: 3
- Funeral Services conducted at St Barnabas Ministry Centre, or off-site, by GWAC Pastors– 2019: 6

## TUE PRAYER MIN, PRAYER CHAIN, PRAISE IN SONG – PHYL AUSTIN

- UP: God-focused.
- IN: Christ-centred.
- OUT: Spirit-directed.

### Highlights 2019

- Re: 8am Service- Comments often heard from others: *"To pray with someone who cares, and to experience God's peace, is wonderful"*.
- Letter received - *Dear Phyl, it is always wonderful to have people who genuinely care, to pray for you and importantly, listen to you without passing judgement. For me, the other wonderful thing is that it just does not end with a prayer, there is a real sense of caring in the follow up. As I said the other day, the warmth that I felt from your hand on my forehead the other day, I knew God was also there. Blessings - G*
- Praise in Song: Comment from a member - *"I came with many questions and it seemed every song was just for me. The Lord was there guidance ministering to me and I left with such an amazing peace within my soul, mind and heart"*.
- Non-member – *"When I go to Songs of Praise, tears are always in my eyes at the pure beauty and peace that I feel where everyone is of one accord. I thank Phyl and the team of willing ladies who supply the food, attend the sound system, display and type the overheads - to God be the Glory."*
- It was a joy to behold in one service when we listened to Jyotika, and her parents, Bimal & Bimala, singing a hymn of praise in their native tongue, Hindi.

### Plans 2020

- To explore the possibility of including a time, specially for children, in the Praise & Worship meetings - during the school holidays.
- Advertising the Praise in Song in the Monash "Seniors' Magazine", to encourage non-Church people into a time of fellowship and group singing.

### New Members

- Tuesday Prayer Ministry - Diana Pompilio
- 8am Prayer - Frances Whitehurst, Hilary Roath

## LIFE GROUPS – BEN JOHNSON

Life Groups provide a place for individuals and families to connect regularly in smaller sized groups (usually 6-12 members). As these groups meet together, they seek to journey alongside each other through the gathered study of scripture, gathered time of prayer, and pastoral support, growing in their relationships with one another, and encouraging each other in missional living.

## Highlights 2019

- We have continued to see many of our Life Groups utilise and value the weekly study resources associated with the Sunday teachings. This has provided a wonderful opportunity for groups to engage on deeper level with the teaching, encourage each other in their discipleship journey, and hold one another accountable to living out what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- 2019 has been a year in which many of our life groups have been wrestling with what it means to live in authentic community, together. Across GWAC, we've seen groups grow, as well as individuals and families connect into a group for the first time, experiencing this significant form of authentic community.

## Plans 2020

- Our desire is to see greater diversity throughout GWAC of Life Groups, both within various demographics engaging in groups, but also in how they engage (rhythms, studies, missional focus, etc).
- Life Groups remain an integral part of community at GWAC. We desire to continue to see these groups multiply, and provide an avenue for individuals to journey alongside a smaller group, as they seek to train, equip, and release followers of Jesus for His mission.

## WAVERLEY VALLEY AGED CARE – NERIDAH PEIRCE

The Waverley Valley Aged Care Team develops members' relationship with God through prayer seeking guidance in providing this ministry and thanking Him for His answers to these prayers. The relationship with other believers is a two part one. Firstly, there is the ongoing team building and trust in each other. Secondly, the reaching out to other believers to be involved from time to time: guest speakers, pianists, liaising with other aged care teams, office assistance and asking for prayer support. Out relations involve residents and staff of Waverley Valley Aged Care.

## Highlights 2019

- Our prayers for guidance have been answered: increasing the flexibility of the team which has been most valuable when we have faced sometimes late unavailability of team members. In addition, we give thanks for the assistance of Roger Nicholson, often at very short notice. What a blessing!
- We have been blessed with the contribution of the Lifestyle Staff in getting those wishing to attend the service, to arrive well in time for the service. New residents have come to the service due to the encouragement of two of the carers. Three of the carers now take communion!

## Plans 2020

- To continue to hone our spiritual gifts, as team members, to serve the Lord in this ministry.
- To help residents to trust and serve the Lord by presenting a service that is cognisant of their needs and interests.

- To pray for staff, and for conversations with them to yield fruit and build God's kingdom.

### **Acknowledgements**

- Joyce Sumsion
- Sharon Footit

### **Comments**

A special mention must be made of Joyce Sumsion's outstanding and longstanding contribution to this ministry. She willingly undertook any task and provided kind and gentle guidance to newer members. She has been an absolute blessing to this ministry. Likewise, Sharon Footit, who was always willing to assist in an emergency as well as being an important and guiding part of our planning.

## **THE WILLOWS AGED CARE – FRED KRELTSZHEIM**

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

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

### **Highlights 2019**

- By encouraging those attending the service through prayer and the monthly message given by different members of our team.

### **Plans 2020**

- My fervent wish is that we can find a few younger members to join and even lead this team as several have indicated that they wish to retire from this ministry. We seek people to join this team and serve this community.

### **Acknowledgements**

- Fred Kreltszheim (*please see comments below*)
- Val Fugill

### **Final Comments**

Current members of the team are Fred and Rosemary Kreltszheim, Val Fugill, Russell and Patricia Mills, Don Mahaffy (when in good health), and Lily Yeo.

My sincere thanks go to Val Fugill, for all the hard work she has put in over the last 18 years. Her Medical Practitioner has advised her against taking on too much work due to a few health issues. At almost 85, I also think it is time for me to step down from the leadership role (*Fred*).

## HIGHVALE RETIREMENT VILLAGE – RENUKA JESUDHASON

- UP: Residents are invited to the monthly service at Highvale where we praise God and worship together.
- IN: During the service we pray for specific needs and requests - most of the residents have mentioned how much they appreciate our prayers.
- OUT: ALL residents are invited, and some who are not believers also attend the service and stay for fellowship and supper after the service.

### Highlights 2019

- E has attended our service regularly for many, many years. She very often tells us that she appreciates our prayers and feels uplifted and secure in the knowledge that we are praying for her.
- We have a different speaker every month to share God's word, and most of the residents remark on how their lives have been enriched by the messages and personal experiences shared by the speakers.

### Plans 2020

- To continue to invite a different person every month to share a message at Highvale and to invite ALL speakers to the Christmas service in December. This will give the residents an opportunity to share with and grow their relationship with those who have explored and explained God's word with them during the year.
- To offer prayer ministry to residents between services.
- To invite more residents to participate in the service by reading the passage of scripture.

### Comments

A small percentage of Highvale residents gather every month to worship with us. ALL of them tell us that they very much appreciate our Service and our fellowship with them. As new residents arrive at the village, they are invited to attend our service. This year we've had at least three 'new' residents who regularly attend our services.

## OAK TREE HILL RETIREMENT VILLAGE – DON MAHAFFY & DOREEN THOMAS

Held monthly at the village with visiting clergy or replacement from local churches. During 2019, GWAC brought inspirational messages from Drew, Bree and Sharon to residents, with prayer for the sick, and remembrance and thanks for the life of the departed loved ones.

Residents generally have felt comfort and strength from the visits and we look forward to the service continuing where possible, over 2020.

### Acknowledgements

- Drew Mellor
- Sharon Footit

## NELLIE MELBA RETIREMENT VILLAGE – HILARY ROATH

A new, monthly, Holy Communion service has been established at the Nellie Melba Retirement Village. Bob and Veronica Barclay instigated and organised the service, which was warmly welcomed by the staff of the facility. The first service took place on 28<sup>th</sup> August at 2:30 PM and will continue to be held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. This is a significant new ministry for GWAC as we continue to reach out into our community. It is particularly valued by the residents and their families who, at their stage of life, are unable to attend church. This ministry has been supported by members of GWAC who are also residents at the Nellie Melba Retirement Village, and are actively building up a ministry of Christian care and support within the facility- Bob and Veronica Barclay, Lily Yeo, Dorothy Francis, Gerry and Maree Thornewell. My thanks also go to the members of staff who have supported this ministry – Ben Johnson and Kerrie Jones.

### **Plans 2020**

- To establish contact with more Anglican residents at the Village.
- Offer training in pastoral care to all members of GWAC who are supporting the residents at the Nellie Melba retirement village.

# MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

## Bree Mills

Missional Discipleship seeks to equip disciples of Jesus to make disciples. This happens via various training initiatives through The Discipleship Institute such as Alpha, Heartbeat and other training days as well as through our various Gospel Communities. Gospel communities seek to do life together as believers, to make disciples in the particular network or neighbourhood that they believe God has called them to, and to grow one another in their faith.

### Highlights 2019

- The growth of the Oikos and Vermont communities has been encouraging. Both communities have worked through the Alpha materials in their community and seen people make great steps forward in their faith.
- Alpha was well attended in 2019 with many GWAC members and their friends completing the course. Many have gone on to join life groups after the course.
- The Heartbeat course was run with over 20 attendees at the end of 2018, each completing the course and exploring new ministry possibilities to serve and lead. There was a very positive response for attendees who expressed their growth through the course.

### Plans 2020

- We will relaunch Gospel Communities and a training community for all gospel communities in 2019. This ministry has suffered from a lack of staff attention in 2019 and this will be rectified in 2020.
- Alpha will be run again in line with the national campaign after Easter.
- Heartbeat will be rebuilt to allow for a broader outcome, not just involvement in current ministry opportunities but also to facilitate the birthing of new ministries. It is anticipated that this new course will run in Term 3, 2020.

# NEXT GEN MINISTRY

## SUNDAY CLUB & PLAYGROUP- JULES BARNARD

This year we have continued to run a variety of ministries. In Sunday club, we have changed to use *Grow Curriculum* and teaching teams who serve up to four consecutive weeks. This is helping to grow young people in their relationships with God and their leaders. Playgroups continue to reach out to members of our community.

### Highlights 2019

- This year has been challenging with the changing between staff. Every single person who volunteers as part of Sunday Club and Playgroup has stepped up to meet the need this year to ensure these vital ministries continued to run. THANK YOU for your support!
- It is great to welcome Jules on to the staff team.

### Plans 2020

- Easter Holiday program for school children. This will function as a gathering place for other community outreach programs for children.
- Exploring the possibilities of a weekly program. This will start the following week after the Easter Holiday program.
- Exploring the interest and possibilities of starting KIDS HOPE back with the local primary school.
- Laying foundations for family ministry spaces.

### New members

- Fiona Ye

## BAPTISMS & DEDICATIONS, CONFIRMATIONS

### Highlights 2019

- Baptisms & Dedications: 13
- Confirmations: 9

## IGNITE/YOUTH – BRE WILKINSON

Our vision is to create a place for young people to come together and build relationships within their community, whilst exploring Christianity and their relationship with God, in order to understand how they can live out God's mission.

## Highlights 2019

- The Youth camp is always a huge highlight. This year we had Ryan Holt share with the youth, the importance of knowing WHO you are following and how we can follow Jesus in our everyday lives. With the largest number of youth ever attending, and fantastic focus groups, it was a wonderful time away. Many young people shared testimonies about what God did in their lives through this time.
- The development of deeper discipleship in community groups has been a real highlight, facilitated by the ministry of the families that host our community groups. Meeting in homes has really helped our leaders focus on the discipleship needs of their community group and adapt teaching appropriately, with positive feedback from youth and families.
- This year we combined our VCE community to be mixed gendered. It has been so good to see our young people gather together and share with one another.
- The development of a youth-led worship band has been a great highlight, developing young people who are not only able to play in the band but also lead the band and the community to worship God.
- Seeing new youth come to be a part of IGNITE and feel welcomed by our current community.

## Plans 2020

- To incorporate an apprentice model of leadership, so that our current IGNITE leaders can be training and looking to the Seniors' community as potential community group leaders – either leading themselves or a younger community group.
- A renewed focus on schools' ministry. We currently run a Christian Group at Caulfield Grammar School, but we are hoping to see more Christian Groups birthed in other schools that our IGNITErs attend.
- To have each worship night be run by a different community - to empower our young people to lead themselves
- To have one "Worship Training" night a term where youth can be trained in how to lead and run worship nights.

## Acknowledgements

- Amber May, Sarah Su

## New members

- Michael Wilkinson, Assaad Issaa

# YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

## Bre Wilkinson

This ministry seeks to grow Young Adults (YAs) in their relationship with God through involvement in the 5pm Service, Discipleship Groups, and Gospel Communities. As a YA community, this ministry seeks to place YAs into discipling relationships where they can journey with each other and seek to share how God has been growing and challenging them. Our YAs are encouraged to be members of a Gospel Community where they can use this as a vehicle for doing life with others and reaching out to a specific neighbourhood or network.

### Highlights 2019

- **YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT: YAR** was a huge highlight for the year as it was a place of incredible teaching, worshipping in community and enjoying each other's company. Our input sessions focused on how we live as disciples in the way we use our words and actions. We saw many people on the fringes of our community be connected in and spend time with the YA community. God used these talks as both a challenge and encouragement to the community to rediscover our life in Christ.
- **STUDIO 7:** The Studio 7 YA Community attended the Alpha Course earlier in the year as participants. This gave them a place to invite friends and grow in radical discipleship of Christ.
- **OIKOS:** This year OIKOS (Monash University) as a community has really flourished. With Bre and Michael getting married and moving into a new home has given the group another place to gather. We are seeing many people come into their community. The team has continued to minister to people on campus through the serving of Pancakes. OIKOS also ran Alpha for a series of weeks.
- **BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION:** Nine young adults have decided to publicly declare their faith in Jesus. This was a breakthrough and such an encouragement to see so many young adults step deeper into their relationship with Jesus.

### Plans 2020

- To launch a few different discipleship groups. These will be places of accountability and discipleship. This year we have trained a few young adults in being able to lead their own groups in the hope of launching them in 2020.
- To gather Young Adult Gospel Community Leaders together, in order to create a hub where they can share experiences, stories, wins/losses and different learnings. And as leaders in this space, begin living out this culture in all aspects of GWAC.
- To build a YA team that will take on the responsibilities of leading and organising once a month YA gatherings throughout the year.
- For different YAs to be trained in serving within the 5pm community. Whether this is by being point person, upfront ministries, welcoming, follow up, or hospitality.
- To launch a Young Adult Life Group, for young adults who want to connect in with GWAC and seek a YA community.

# SENIORS MINISTRY

## Hilary Roath

**“This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”**

Always on the move with fellowship and activities, the seniors' groups definitely enjoy their time together in and out of the church. There are lots of fun, food, fellowship, and an abundance of good humour. The seniors, many in their 80s and 90s, are involved in many different activities and ministries such as: MU & Friends, Creative Craft, TYB (Train Your Brain), EDI (Easy Does It), GWAC Walkers, MatesPlus, Life Groups, Prayer Ministry, Nurture & Growth (visiting), leading services at four Aged Care Facilities, leading and serving in all aspects of our Gathered Celebrations on Sundays and Wednesdays. They lead and are a strong support to Local and Global Missions, they serve on the Governance Board and Incumbency committee, assist the Playgroup ministry, assist in the administration of the Parish, lead and make a significant contribution to the general maintenance of the property and much, much, more. Wherever you look in the church, there are seniors active in ministry... always looking to grow in their faith, serve God and serve others.

We encourage all GWAC members and their friends, 60 and over, to become part of this exciting ministry group. Whether you would like to volunteer or would like to benefit from the group activities, you are welcome. Your skills, abilities and maturity are needed.

Older adults are the fastest growing age demographic in our society. At GWAC they offer their love, care, vitality and special gifts to Christ and his church. We give God thanks and praise and ask for his blessing on the Seniors' Ministry here at GWAC.

God has much to say in Scripture about ageing, which is a gift from God and has a purpose.

**Job 12:12. “Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.”**

## MU & FRIENDS – LYNN PRYOR & MARGARET JERRAM

Each monthly evening meeting commences with a service from our MU Service Book and has followed the International MULO ( "in Step With GOD" ) program, which relates to our "UP" relationship with GOD. Our MU members enjoy fellowship together and through our guest speakers which encompasses our "IN" relationships. Our MU group reach "OUT" to others locally, such as our GWAC Playgroup Mums, and our direct support to the PNG Parenting Program.

### Highlights 2019

- Our MU Meetings are always open to "all comers" and attract many non-members. Each month we have a special presentation, including Hilary Roath, who spoke of her past experiences and her current Parish commitments, Drew Mellor speaking on his trip to Surabaya, Tony and Robin Hickson covering their "Anglican Overseas Aid" trip to Kenya and Gaza, and our MU Eastern Co-ordinator, Rosemary Hicks, who presented the MULO "In Step With GOD" - ACT.

- Our annual fund-raising Stall between Sunday Services in June raised \$1,541 which was sent to assist the PNG Parenting Program. Members have continued to knit beanies for the Mission to Seafarers through BCA, and have knitted "Trauma Teddies" which have been sent to Kenya, to the Mumias Early Education and resource Centre. Our members have also created knitted/crocheted rugs for distribution to local Charities. We also supported the Hunter Valley Drought Assistance Program.
- During the year, Wendy Surtees celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. She has been a dedicated MU Member for many decades both at GWAC and her previous Parishes.
- Some of our members attended activities and Services at surrounding Parishes, assisting them with their Diocesan Fundraising. Members also attended Diocesan MU Services at St Paul's Cathedral and St Peter's, Eastern Hill.
- Our MU Members attended the GWAC Playgroups prior to Mother's Day, providing the mothers with morning tea and a small gift. This gives the mothers additional contact with the GWAC community.

### **Plans for 2020**

- For 2020, we plan to continue with our advertising program for our activities and meetings through the PowerPoint displays at our GWAC Services and display them on the general noticeboard in the Fellowship Area.
- As our general members are experiencing difficulties in attending evening meetings, especially in the darker winter months, we are seriously considering changing some of our meetings to daytime. This has proved successful with MU Groups in surrounding Parishes. Our membership numbers are not increasing and several members have moved to these surrounding Parishes for MU activities, but still attend the daytime Wednesday Services at GWAC
- As the new committee for MU@GWAC will not be elected until our AGM in late October, specific plans for 2020 are not available at this time.

### **Acknowledgements**

- We note the passing of Brenda Degenhardt in January 2018.

### **New Members**

- Selina Butcher
- Elisabeth Miglic

### **Final Comments**

This year, 2019, has been quite successful with attendances at our monthly meetings (depending on the program, and the weather) ranging from 18 to 30. Our members have worked well together, especially for our annual "Fundraising Stall", which was well supported by the parishioners at the morning Services. In common with many other MU Groups, the average age of our members is increasing, with no new/younger members joining. This has resulted in the closure or combination of many Groups and will ultimately be the demise of the global MU Membership.

## CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP – LESLEY GOULLET

While sharing news at each session of the Creative Craft Group, we commit each member to God's care.

We share happenings at GWAC and invite all our members to join other seniors' groups.

The Creative Craft Group members hope that others will join the group and we welcome new members.

### Highlights 2019

- Two of our sessions centered around creating small gardens - watching them grow. We all saw God's work as "Our Plants" grew and we rejoiced in the changing seasons.

### Plans 2020

- Promote the work of the Creative Craft Group within the Church and wider community using different ways of communication e.g. "Wotson4Seniors" and "Pals Magazine".
- Keep finding new craft ideas that the Creative Craft Group can do while chatting and exchanging thoughts.
- Encouraging members to bring up ideas for activities that we could work on.

### Acknowledgements

- Fiona Liu
- Archala Clegg
- Sue Wines

### New Members

- Judy Eldridge (late 2018)
- Barbara Seeber (late 2018)

### Final Comments

This group has enjoyed working within our different Churches for over 30 years - we have 4 original members still with us - and we will come back again next year ready for more fellowship and sharing of problems and pleasures.

## TRAIN YOUR BRAIN (TYB) – LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Train Your Brain Team runs a monthly event. Our relationship with the Lord through prayer is a vital part of this work. In outreach to other believers we seek the assistance of 30 volunteers to run the various activities and the office for forwarding information. The team liaises with other Seniors' Ministries to produce a newsletter of events for distribution both within our GWAC and wider community. In our outreach to the wider community we seek to build relationships with all who join us each month. We have worked to build a relationship with Monash Council to help access the wider community.

## Highlights 2019

- The team has enthusiastically developed new skills which has increased variety in the program we can offer, as we seek to follow God's plan for this ministry. The team gratefully acknowledges the blessing it was, to work with Sharon Footit, until her retirement this year.
- Numbers have been maintained throughout the year, which has been very encouraging. Speakers, most of whom are members of GWAC, have been very well received. We give thanks for these blessings. Feedback from attendees' mentions: positive and friendly atmosphere, interesting theory topics and appreciation of the exercise spot now taken by Sarah Edwards, a practising physiotherapist. The widening focus of the "Theory Spot" to the "Topic for the Month" has been very well received.
- A couple of people have become members/attendees at GWAC services through relationships formed during their attendance at Train Your Brain. This is very much a work in progress for us.
- WOTSON4Seniors@GWAC Newsletter: The Train Your Brain teams continued to liaise with other Seniors' Ministries to produce a newsletter of events for distribution both within GWAC and the wider community. The change in focus this year has brought excellent responses. There is also an opportunity to include a message from Sharon Footit, our Seniors' Pastor, prior to her retirement, Bree Mills, and Drew Mellor (prior to the move to his new job). Their comments on current issues with a Christian focus enhanced our outreach.
- Joining in community events for Seniors arranged by Monash Council which gave greater access to wider community.

## Plans 2020

- Further develop WOTSON4Seniors@GWAC to improve our communication both within GWAC and the wider community e.g. using short accounts, and pictures of previous events, as well as notification of future events.
- Increase outreach to the wider community in an endeavour to have conversations with community members that will bear fruit for God's kingdom.
- Increase the number of folk willing and able to assist activity leaders.
- To continue to widen the scope of topics relevant to Seniors in the Topic for the Month, (formerly the Theory Spot segment)

## Acknowledgements

- Sharon Footit

## Comments

The Train Your Brain Team looks forward to further developing the Train Your Brain program in 2020, in conjunction with other Seniors' Ministries, to foster outreach both within GWAC and the wider community.

## EASY DOES IT (EDI) – WILL JERRAM

### Highlights 2019

- EDI is a weekly, one-hour exercise session for Seniors. It is divided into two sections, one is chair based and the other is more vigorous and mobile. The upgrade to the 'sound and video' systems in rooms 1&2 and the mobile AV system for use in the main hall have enabled greater utilisation of the videos from "Arthritis Victoria" and those found on YouTube.
- Our EDI and TYB programs have been included in the City of Monash "PALS - positive ageing lifestyles for seniors" booklet, and have attracted many participants from outside GWAC, some of whom have then attended our GWAC church Services. This reinforces our "Out, IN and UP" relationships.

### Plans 2020

- In 2020, the EDI and TYB programs will continue to improve the utilisation of the GWAC Elvanto database. Currently there are around 40 attendees at EDI (with about 7 to 14 people opting for the gentle "chair based" exercises), and in excess of 70 attendees at TYB (depending on the seasonal weather). We will continue to contact all participants through our Monthly "Wotson4 Seniors @ GWAC" emailed advertising.
- Both Seniors' programmes monitor the needs and feedback comments from the participants and subsequently modify the activities regularly to satisfy the comfort and safety of those attending.
- Both EDI and TYB regularly enlist the continued support of the attendees to assist in the implementation of the activities. With Sarah Elliot now engaging in permanent employment, our experienced professional assistance is to be replaced from within the participants.

## GWAC WALKERS – JOHN BUTCHER

We offer walks of 6 to 10km of easy to moderate difficulty, somewhere in the great outdoors. The walks are mostly held in the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in December which will be our Annual Meeting.

We offer the hand of friendship and Christian fellowship to a multicultural group of mixed faiths, as we pray, walk and "let our light shine" as we interact together. The walks are done in open air to enjoy the beauty of the natural environment that God created. Our aim is to get to know one another and support one another. Often the relationships made on the walks have continued after them. Several of our regular walks have become frequent parishioners at one or more of our services. We have quite a friendship group now!

### Highlights 2019

- Despite the fact that many of our original walkers have retired or passed away, the number of walkers has remained strong and the average age has tended to drop. We have had as

many as 25 walkers on some of our walks. We are constantly getting new walkers. Some don't return but others have stayed.

- We are making contact with many in the Chinese community and they are telling their friends, and there exists an opportunity for more Chinese to be attracted to our church community.
- Several of our part timers have become regular attendees at GWAC. Several of the new walkers have also attended our Sunday services several times.

### **Plans 2020**

- We will keep the walks as local as possible so that less car travel is involved. We are trying to get more people involved in the planning of walks.
- We will try to use public transport more often. We are also trying to recruit young people to the walks, with a view to recruiting future potential leaders.
- We will limit our walks to no more than 10 km.

### **Acknowledgements:**

- Dorothy Francis

### **New Members**

- Ann Chang
- Julie Wong

### **Comments**

Please pray that God will bless us and that more will come to see the value of walking with a bunch of Christian friends. We pray that God will provide more walkers from the other congregations in the parish.

## **MATESPLUS – DAVID CHAMBERLAIN**

The awareness of the ever-presence of Jesus constantly reminds us that His sacrifice must be acknowledged by our loving God with our whole heart and soul. We interact with Mates by sharing each other's ups and downs, especially on our monthly outings. We support each other in the name of Jesus whenever the opportunity arises.

We hope that the quality of our relationships with each other is obvious to non-believers and that they may observe that these relationships are a direct result of our Christian beliefs.

### **Highlights 2019**

- We have gathered together for outings on the third Thursday of most months of 2019, and have been able to exchange stories of what our lives encountered, what troubles we have faced, how God has affected our lives, how other Mates are faring physically, mentally, and

spiritually. We have discussed how we can assist those in less-fortunate circumstances. We have arranged to share our attributes where these can benefit others. We have visited Mates in poor health and encouraged prayer groups for extra support in more serious cases

### **Plans 2020**

- Key plans will continue to focus on our monthly outings and support for Mates who are suffering major health issues.
- We will canvas Mates to develop a list of possible venues for the monthly outings for 2020 before deciding.
- We will monitor the welfare of Mates whose health prevents attendance at monthly outings to identify any needs we may assist with, and to arrange any such assistance.

### **New Members**

- Barry

# ADMINISTRY

## Ashish Roy

Administry gives opportunity for believers to assist the church in general administrative and clerical tasks. Volunteers assist in various roles such as reception, communication, data-entry, graphics, promotion, publication, proof-reading and IT. This ministry trains ministry leaders in the fields of data-management, publications and also supervises the logistics of events taking place at SBMC such as funerals, weddings, and external events. Some volunteers also assist us by working from home on our web-based church information system and the website.

### Highlights 2019

- Launch of the GWAC App: The App is available on the Apple Store and Google Play Store, and was launched in 2019 for the church members- to have ready information at their fingertips, greater interactivity with the church leadership and ministries, and an easy way to donate/ give offering for the Kingdom work.
- The key highlight of Administry is our amazing team of volunteers who lead in various roles, onsite and offsite, and serve the Lord with their skills and time.
  - Office & Reception: Lynn Pryor, Chris Brassington, Sue Lovegrove, Christine Reid, Don Mahaffy, John Butcher, Sharmini Ratnasingham (new in 2019).
  - Publication & Proof-reading: Beryl Barter, Don Mahaffy, Paul Collier, Joan Slegers.
  - Elvanto (Church Mgt System): Sue Collier, Gillian Brohier.
  - Sermons online (mp3): Gayan Karunaratne.
  - IT Coordinator: Brian Mills.
  - Graphics: Rachel Hooker (graphics intern), and the graphics team- Rachel Hooker, Sarah Su, Steph Gooden, Jamie Yeung, Gerald Yam, Will Thomasz, Jason Hooker
  - We thank God for all the AV techs, Flower Ministry, and Kitchen Ministry who assist with special events taking place at GWAC, e.g. school programs, conferences, weddings, and funerals.
  - A very special “Thank You” to Bec Featonby for assisting with coordinating and putting this report together- by emailing leaders, follow up, monitoring, collation, and finalisation she did this all with great enthusiasm and energy.

### Plans 2020

- GWAC App:
  - To make the church App more interactive, using regular notifications and new sections with useful information for spiritual growth.
  - Encourage a greater awareness of the App for communication, reflection, Bible reading, and financial support.
  - Recruiting & training volunteers to manage the App.

- Church Website: A new church website is currently being developed- the aim is to have a fresher and cleaner look, with ministry information readily available and easier to access.

#### **Acknowledgements**

- Margaret Norris

#### **New Members**

- **Graphics Team:** Rachel Hooker (design intern)
- **Office & Reception:** Sharmini Ratnasingham

# PROPERTY, FACILITIES & GROUNDS

## Bob Barclay

During the last year, much has been achieved in general maintenance repairs/replacement/upgrades as well as significant maintenance projects. General maintenance continues to be a challenge. "Thank you", to Rob Norris then later David Mills, for their great planning and preparation for the Working Bees.

### Highlights 2019

- "Thank you", also to the garden keepers who spend many hours in making the spring time come alive. Then throughout the year, keep a watchful eye in maintaining a lovely appearance.
- To our lawn mowing roster team, thank you so much for making the site look great and pleasing to visitors and our own family. This is a task that I'm sure the team would love to hear from anyone who has a few hours per month to spare.
- Air conditioning units (5) were installed in the auditorium in autumn. Also at the same time, solar panels were installed on the roof of the hall. Many users of these facilities now enjoy the benefits of this heating system. This project was made through a wonderful anonymous gift. Due to the very high running expense of the in-floor electrical heating, the new A/C has dramatically reduced the electrical account.
- This year we have upgraded the security system. This system has so many advantages compared with the previous system.

### Plans 2020

- Under the electrical regulations, GWAC is due to undergo electrical tagging in 2020.
- We will also be investigating new lighting proposals for the Fellowship area to be carried out in 2020.
- I would also like to investigate the possible external CCTV covering all entries to the site and possibly other locations in the carpark.

### New Members

- Glenn Batchelor - Security and maintenance matters

### Comments

I'm so grateful to all the various people who have assisted me in the last 12 months. Thank you to you all, and may you be continually blessed by God in your ministries at GWAC.

## FLOWER MINISTRY – ELISABETH MIGLIC

The ladies of the Flower Ministry provide flower arrangements each week to assist worship and to bring glory to God. They also provide arrangements for special services in our church life.