

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

St. James Lutheran Church, Whyalla



In Action - Inside

| | Page |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| A Day in the Park. | 2 |
| Get the Kids Involved. | 2 |
| Unity in Christ cont. | 3 |
| Pastor on the move. | 3 |
| Support Group. | 4 |
| Faith Kernel Events. | 4 |
| Women's fellowship. | 5 |
| Domestic engineers. | 5 |
| Shed men. | 6 |
| Fishing - a reel sport. | 6 |
| Spiritual Ministry | 7 |
| Possums Pouch | 7 |
| The Misunderstood Christmas. | 8 |

Unity in Christ.

Chairman's Report - Keith Sichler

The glory days of a church full of worshippers and a Sunday School full to overflowing with children have gone and if we look around our church on any given Sunday, what do we see? More to the point, who do we see. Not many under 50 I suspect and not how it used to be is it?

Things have changed dramatically since I started going to church, but that was two, nearly three generations ago. So is it realistic to expect the current generation to worship and participate in the same way I did, and still do?

For at least a generation or two now, children have been far less accepting of things their parents told them and much more questioning; and many of those children are now adults. Have no fear, God can take such scrutiny, it's the rest **of** us that must adapt or watch our church disappear into the dust of irrelevance.

Change can be difficult at the best of times, especially if we have to change the way we do things or give up something we know and love.

Continued on page 3...

A Day in the Park - Celebrating Whyalla Pride Week

by Keith Sichler

In October, Whyalla celebrated Pride Week and St. James participated by running a Kids Activity Centre at the Pride in the Park event at Jubilee Park. This was the second time we had participated but this year took quite a different approach.

This time we put up a tent and lined it with many posters promoting our activities and groups. This time we joined with Advancing Whyalla who were providing activities for kids. The end result was that the tent had a constant stream of visitors, mums and dads and kids, who were entertained and looked after for hours at a time.

A team of volunteers were on hand to give out information and a show bag of interesting facts and Christian activities for the whole family to participate in.



Get the **kids** involved...

1. Faith Kernel Events is a weekly event during school terms for kids of all ages.
2. A high energy Sunday morning event which teaches children and parents to share their highs & lows, share their faith and communicate.
3. If you want your children to share their experiences with you and confide in you as they grow up, then this is a great place to start.

FAITH KERNEL EVENTS

Unity in Christ Continued ...

We still have a choice of course.

We can keep on following the same well worn paths and continue to do things the same way we used to; but if we do, I fear we will watch God's church in Whyalla slowly disappear into obscurity.

A choice however implies there are other options and there is at least one other to consider, but it involves sacrifice. Despite our better judgment, maybe we could resolve to try new and different ways of communicating with the next generations? Perhaps we should give the younger generation a go; people in their teens, 20's, 30's and 40's? The majority that aren't here most Sundays. Perhaps we should let their voices be heard, even though they are the minority.

Have you ever met young people who have discovered that special spiritual relationship with God, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit? I've met quite a few and met some more just recently. It reinforced to me that a direct relationship with God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit is still sought after and is still as relevant today as it ever was, but young people today speak a different language, like different music and use a totally foreign means of communication to most of us who attend church here on Sundays.

Sure, we have made steps in that direction in recent years and we have been blessed by a succession of Pastors who have nudged, challenged and even pushed us toward a more outward looking focus to our practices and our mission. It's time to take that next step.

Yes, we have been blessed significantly, but with those blessings comes responsibility, for we must do God's work here in Whyalla if we are to be the 'Body of Christ'. God will continue to provide blessings, support and opportunities but make no mistake, we must do our part and accept our responsibility to act.

It is our responsibility to go out into the community and bring help to the poor and needy and bring the love of Christ into their world. Just as Christ came into our world, we must go into their world and meet them on their ground.

So If you are under 60 and reading this then God bless you and please stick around?

Keith Sichler (Age 60)

Acknowledgements

As St Paul said, "We are the body of Christ" and so as all our body parts must co-exist and perform their special function, so must we.

In that context our congregation acts individually and collectively to ensure we function as a cohesive and supportive group. Different people all contributing to the collective ministry in their own way according to the gifts.

To list and mention any one person or persons specifically would be to acknowledge one body part as being more important than the rest. All are important.

In general terms therefore I would like to acknowledge the financial contribution that everyone has made this past year.

As you know, we faced considerable financial challenges at the beginning of the year, having, with the help of Pt. Augusta and Wilmington congregations, purchased a new manse and taken on a significant financial loan commitment.

All parts of the body have contributed and for that I am truly thankful.

I hope and pray that you will continue to give as generously in the future as you have this past year.

In Action – **Pastor** on the move for God!

After a short ministerial vacancy at the end of 2011, we were pleased to welcome Pastor Jade Bauer as our pastor on 4th March, 2012.

Together with wife Cher and children Kiara, Shakira, Trinity, and baby Kohen, they made a valuable contribution right from the start.

However in August they were called

away due to the health requirements of one of the children.

Nevertheless we give thanks for the contribution they all made to our congregation through their presence.

May God bless you and keep you in your life's journey, wherever you may travel.

In Action - Support Group

by Dorothy Traeger.

Just a big thank you to all committee members for a job well done!

To Brian for his help in cashing in bottles etc. which raised \$269 and Pot Plant sales which raised \$69. Thanks to Jude Wittwer who helped with the potting.

This enabled us to donate to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Marcelino and the Bible Society.

Des Theologou gave an interesting insight into her trip to Uzbekistan and Peg & Yvonne gave us a beautiful rendition on the pipe organ.

We also made a trip to Iron Baron and found not a trace of the beautiful township, which was most disheartening and a trip to the Iron Knob Hotel was just what we needed!

We also made another trip to Pt. Lowly however the flies and strong winds were not what was needed to enjoy the day and so we adjourned to the Barrats' shack for shelter.

The visit to Ada Ryan Gardens was again a most relaxing time.

Many have struggled to attend Support Group meetings due to health and age taking their toll. Our average attendance is nine or so, but we would love more.

This year we lost one of our valued members in Ron Collins whose poems and stories as a Rat of Tobruk were always entertaining.

Our Christmas wind-up was held at the Roopena Clubrooms and nineteen attended ensuring a good time was had by all.

Wishing everyone a better year ahead.



In Action - Faith Kernel Events

by Chris Jaensch

The Bible Song principle: "To connect parents and children with each other and the Bible every night in every home and every week in every church."

During 2012 we have had a number of children attend Faith Kernel Events and it has been a pleasure to get to know them on a deeper and more meaningful level. .

FKE enables

- Children to learn the bible stories and text through art, music and movement.
- Children to freely share their lows and highs in a respectful atmosphere.
- Children to learn to pray.

FKE is an Event for children aged from 5 to 12. It uses a PowerPoint presentation on a Sunday morning to teach the children the books of the bible, bible texts and bible stories.

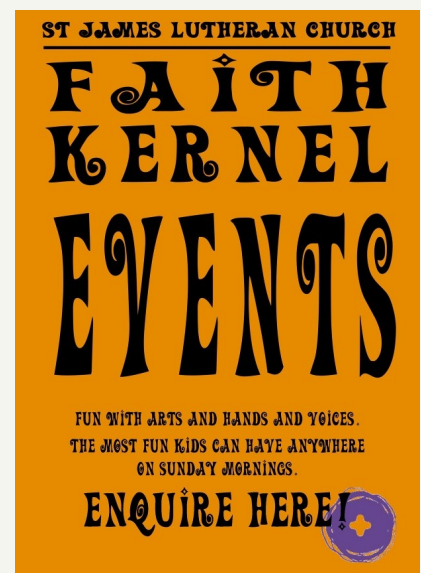
The songs are often lively and the bible stories are written and drawn in a language in a style relevant to their age.

Part of the program is Art Attack. This is an opportunity for the children to use their creative juices as well as discuss their lows and highs for the week, create their own prayers and bless each other. The children are encouraged to continue this blessing ritual at home.

The congregation are included in the program when the children present something of their Art Attack time during the worship service as their offering. This could be by singing a song, performing a drama, or leading a prayer.

We pray that by offering this program to families, children will come to know Jesus as their Saviour and friend.

A big thank you must go to our helpers.



In Action - Women's' Fellowship

by Pauline Jones

Our membership for the past year has remained steady. When preparing our program for 2012 we were aware that we had to consider that our ladies are getting older and for some it is becoming more difficult to join in our fund raising activities. So to raise the amount of money for our projects that we did, raise shows that our Heavenly Father has watched over and blessed us in many ways.

We donated \$500 to a Cambodian student whom we have supported for three years, \$700 to Australian Lutheran World Service, \$700 to School Chaplaincy and \$500 to our Faith Kernel Events Program. Money from the Mite Boxes went to Lifeline.

Our winter meetings were held in members homes where we shared our treasures in 'show and tell' and had a 'hand pamper' night using Mary Kay products. We also had a talk by Pastor Jade and a mystery night where we looked at some books on family history.

As our April meeting fell on Anzac Day we watched a DVD documentary on World War One. Anisha Ninan treated us by showing us how to cook some Indian food which we thoroughly enjoyed tasting.

Catherine Giersch gave a PowerPoint presentation on her trip to Cambodia.

We finished the year with a shared meal at Des' home.

Other activities included running a successful trading table, serving soup after Service during winter, making mini pizzas and catering.

We made mini crosses to give as hand outs after the Easter Service, we packed 30 birthing kits and entered a display in the Westlands Shopping Centre Christmas Tree Festival. Our display won the best church exhibit.

So now we start another year. We would love to see some new faces at our meetings. We try to have an interesting, enjoyable program never forgetting that what we do is because this is one way we can serve our Lord and support the congregation.

In Action – Domestic Engineers.

St. James Domestic Engineers is a Friday morning session of sharing and caring for one another over morning tea. Generally for women, but any domestic engineer is welcome and occasionally the odd male ventures in.

The Pastor regularly attends and will often be put on the spot to clarify a theological question or two. There are lots of laughs and it is all over by lunchtime as the engineers are busy people and have many other responsibilities.

The venue varies from week to week but is mostly in one of the engineers homes around the kitchen table from 10 am. Keep an eye on the Weekly Bulletin for the location.

Anyone wishing to experience a meeting of minds and practical solutions is urged to contact the chief engineer, Marilyn Sichler



This is a representative meeting of engineers. Our group prefer to be heard and not seen!

In Action - Shed Men.

Shed Men

Friendship through BBQ

Therapy since 2001



We meet once a month, in some-one's shed.

This is a big one, but size does not matter, As long as it's a shed!

Here are a few things about Shed men that perhaps you always wanted to know, but were afraid to ask.

1. Jesus Christ is the chief Shed Man. He is head of church, home and shed.
2. Visitors must hold another man's shed in high regard no matter how untidy it may seem to the visitor's eye. Other Shed Men's projects must be admired even if they appear to be a load of rubbish
3. Any man who at this time does not have a shed but intends to have one, has dreamt of having one, or would like to have one in the future, will be accepted as a full and honorary Shed Man.
4. Ladies will not normally be admitted because the Shed Men do not wish their sheds to cause offence.

Thanks to Steve Murphy and Dorf who keep things organised and to those brave men who have allowed us to congregate in their sheds.

For reflection

Fishing a reel sport...

by Pastor David Gogoll.

We went fishing with our grandson Henry on Monday. The fairest one caught the first fish, the youngest one, the biggest fish and the oldest one caught the most fish. But all in all, it was a remarkably unimpressive day of fishing - except perhaps for the long-necked tortoise which stuck its foot in the wrong place, got caught and was dragged unceremoniously out of the river.

Why did we have so little success? What did we do wrong?

Before you write us off as hopeless at fishing,... we had a variety of bait types our gear was in good working condition, we tried different spots and above all we were patient. Maybe we didn't do anything wrong.

But what if we'd fished for fish like we so often fish for people? Remember, it's OK to fish for people. Jesus said, **"Come with me! I will teach you to bring in people instead of fish."**

What if

- We hadn't used a variety of bait because we didn't want to put in the effort or give the fish the wrong idea.
- We hadn't tried different spots because we were comfortable in the first spot.
- We hadn't been patient because we expected instant results.
- We hadn't gone to the river at all because we expected the fish to come to us.

We mightn't have had much success on Monday, but I guarantee we'd have had none at all if we adopted those strategies.

So let's go fishing!

God the Father wants everyone to know about Jesus his Son and our Saviour so they might have life in its fullness and abundance.

So let's be

- Creative in our bait selection and use the greatest variety of ways to get people attention and interest.
- Out there where the people are - building relationships by making loving contacts with them.
- Patient and allow people the space and time to explore the concept of faith at their own pace.
- Sure that people fishing is a real sport we can all do.

God bless you with happy and successful fishing.



In Action - Spiritual Ministry Team

by Michael Simpfendorfer.

G'day all. The Spiritual Ministry Team has been meeting on a monthly basis, plus regular non formal contact as needs arise. We have been happy with the congregation's involvement in letting us know of any issues that they are aware of that require SMT input.

All the members of the congregation are actually members of the SMT, as we all have a role to play in the spiritual health of the congregation, our Pastor and his family and the entire community.

We look forward to being of service to Pastor Tim and Lauren. We give thanks to God for the

opportunity of having a new pastor when so many other congregations are awaiting a Pastor.

For this year we will try to make sure that the dates of the SMT meetings are in the bulletin before the meetings, so if there are any special requirements, please contact Judith, Annette, Di or Me.

We expect the meetings to be the 3rd Monday or Tuesday of the month beginning in Feb and will be listed in the Church Calendar.

In Action - Possum Pouch Groups

by Michael Simpfendorfer.

G'day all. The interest and commitment to the Possum Pouch groups by the congregation has been very disappointing. There are 3 groups "active" in the congregation. One group is perhaps leaning more towards a Bible study group and another group is perhaps the "next wave" of the support group. These 2 groups are fulfilling a function and for that we are very grateful, but the Possum Pouch philosophy is the vertical integration of people of various age groups involved in the groups.

So that leaves us with one group in the entire congregation that tries to fulfil the Possum Pouch philosophy. Unfortunately that group is feeling quite lonely and alienated, wondering why they are the only ones participating. This has limited their exuberance to embrace the change and give it a real go.

Remember, if we keep doing the same things, we will keep getting the same outcomes. Is this what we want?

Possum Pouch Group's are to.

- Have Fun and grow together.
- Help Members explore their own faith, grow in their faith, pray with and for other

people in a one to one situation, or in a small group situations within a supportive and understanding setting.

- Help members become more confident in sharing their faith with one another and eventually with non-Christians as situations arise within a supportive and understanding setting.
- Help the members support the congregations ministry with prayer.
- Help members relate their Christian faith to their own personal and family life e.g. helping our children keep the faith they were baptised into.
- Help members encourage and empower fellow members to be involved in the day to day life of the church e.g. using their talents and interests in situations they come across.
- To help members who express a desire for closer, more personal worship and sharing opportunities; not because they are good at it, but because they want to be part of such situations.
- To help members who express a desire for making the Bible a tool for real life situations

They are a celebration of congregational life whose purpose is to

- assist the congregation to fulfill its mission and goals,
- help individuals grow in their faith and commitment,
- provide care and support for each other,
- motivate members in Christian living,
- assist in assimilating new members into the congregation and giving them practical personal Christian supports.

Possum Pouch Groups have a vertical structure, a cross-section of ages in each group, to give it a family structure. So everyone from the oldest, to the youngest can have some input. This is one of the greatest strengths that St James has, because we have so many old people who know so much, and can share this with others, if they wish to!

If you have any interest in these groups, please contact me and I will be happy to run through the possibilities, with no obligation.

All that is necessary for the triumph of Evil is that good people do nothing!

Richard and Hyacinth's The Misunderstood Christmas.

Hyacinth's plans to showcase the Nativity went wildly astray as the players took their cues quite literally from the Bible verses and it seemed no-one understood their part except for Hyacinth and poor Richard.

Firstly, the string quartet supplying the music turned out to be a bunch of hippies, the wise men, looking for a 'star and a king' somehow came across Elvis, and brought with them, Frankenstein and Myrtle.

Joseph was intent on 'putting Mary away' and the Angel greeted the shepherds with 'Peace Man!' Add to that an innkeeper with a 'sled out the back' and Joseph enquiring about the poker game when told there was a 'full house'.

Could anything else go wrong? Well, yes as a matter of fact, plenty!

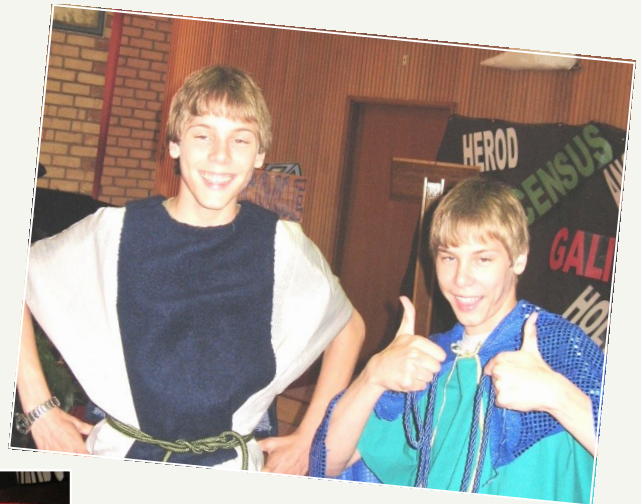
At the end of the night however the message was plain and simple. Let us not misunderstand the true meaning of Christmas.

Con Theologou directed the play and played the part of Richard. Marilyn Sichler adapted easily into the part of Hyacinth and together with script support from Chris Jaensch and a brilliant supporting cast they had us in fits of laughter the whole night.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the events success. I'm sure that Hyacinth would have been suitably impressed with the supper, if nothing else!



Hyacinth is dismayed as the Orchestra leader has an electric guitar instead of a violin!



Wise men.



Mighty Caesar.



The Four Peace band.

The Angel meets a Shepherd,