

# St. James Lutheran Church Whyalla ANNUAL REPORT 2013



## Inside

## Hope and a Future

3

Chairman's Report

4

Women's Fellowship  
Church Camp 2013

5

Spiritual Ministry Team  
Shed Men

6

Support Group  
Faith Kernel Events

7

Pastor Tim answers the call!  
Pride In The Park

8

Thomas Heywood Concert  
Lobethal Male Harmony Choir

9

Christmas Program

Pastor Tim Spilsbury

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)*

I wonder what Jeremiah would have felt like as he encountered this promise from God. Jeremiah had a prophetic career that was made up of proclaiming God's truth into a culture that had twisted the things of God into something else; something that no longer honoured God or took seriously his command to protect the most vulnerable within society. Those in power had rejected the notion of placing themselves under God and instead they had set up themselves as Lord's over all things; responsible to none and answerable to no one.

What a difficult environment that Jeremiah had been called to work in; persecuted by some, ignored by many. I wonder if there were days where Jeremiah lamented, questioning the purpose of enduring such work in an environment where

Continued on page 2 . . .

## Pastors Report Continued . . .

his message was met with mass apathy.

To him then I imagine that God's declaration that he had plans for Judah, plans that would see his people prosper, to have hope and a future; would have been precious. God's affirmation to Jeremiah was that the faithfulness of the faithful, during a time of cultural rejection of God would help bring about a future where the nation would once again see itself as God's people.

God's word to Jeremiah I imagine would have been, "I know it's hard. I know that your faithfulness as my witness may at times seem pointless, as the world around you rejects both me and the message you proclaim, but trust me when I tell you that it will not all be for naught. Jeremiah, a time will come where the work of the faithful during this meagre time will cause the harvest to reap many multitudes of that which was sown".

What a wonderful promise!

The truth for you and I, is that we live in a culture not so different from the one which Jeremiah was born into. And like Jeremiah perhaps we wonder if there will be a future of faithful people of God in our world.

We might wonder in the future, who will be left to take up the faith? Will there be anyone left to inherit the legacy that for 2000 years has been passed from one generation to the next?

God's word to Jeremiah is also for you and me and for God's Church in the world today.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

My dear brothers and sisters, my prayer for you in 2013 (and into the future) was that we might begin to rediscover we are a community that exists with hope for a

future; not one that looks towards tomorrow with dread and despair.

Jesus said to Peter

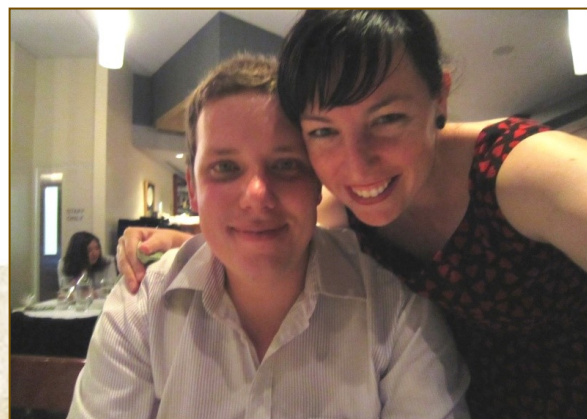
*"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it."* (Matthew 16:18 NIV)

Peter's faithfulness to Jesus and his message was a foundation stone on which all future generations of the Church were built. Our faithfulness now becomes part of that foundation on which all future generations of the Church will stand. The promise to Peter now stands for us and not even hell itself will overcome the Church in our world.

There is a future for God's people in our world and in the generations to come and that is the promise which we hold onto with hope during the meagre seasons. May you be blessed knowing our faithfulness during difficult times, enables in God's time, an abundant harvest to take place!

Be blessed my dear brothers and sisters. Live in the Church and the World as a people who are assured that what was passed onto us will be passed onto others in the Future.

And may the Peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds guarded in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!



# Chairman's Report

Keith Sichler

**E**ach year as I write this report, I pause to reflect and give thanks to God for the people of this congregation, for it is through you that God's work is done.

St. James is a congregation blessed with many volunteers who pitch in and help wherever and whenever they can. Volunteers who support the work of the church in many places and at many times and seek no recognition or reward. Be assured however that your work is recognized and appreciated.

And should we call what we do 'work' when what is done is given freely, as a gift, as a donation of time and effort, as a willing and voluntary contribution to the wellbeing of the congregation.

The care and support provided to those who need it both within and outside of our congregation is a blessing both to those who give, as well as those who receive. This is what makes us the body of Christ and this is how we follow Jesus' lead, to love one another.

So thank you to all of you for what you give in time and resources for the benefit of this congregation and the glory of God.

To Pastor Tim and Lauren, you are indeed a blessing to us and we thank you for your presence, guidance and leadership during this year.

The Church Council meet regularly each month and follow the Faith Kernel practice of sharing our highs & lows and praying for and blessing each other. It has been a joy to work with such a positive and committed group who are always on the look-out

for new and better ways of supporting each other and connecting with the wider community. Often this means changes to the way we do things and looking at practices and processes with fresh eyes. As John recorded in his Gospel, when the disciples had fished all night and had caught nothing, Jesus instructed them to 'fish from the other side of the boat'.

Fishing from the other side of the boat means trusting God to guide us and not being afraid to step outside of our comfort zones to embrace opportunities which are regularly presented to us.

People come to know God through the relationships we have with them. So lets remain positive and outgoing; lets continue to show care and lets continue to support each other and those we meet in our daily life and God will continue to bless us in our endeavor's.



## John 21: 5 & 6

**<sup>5</sup>Then he asked them, "Young men, haven't you caught anything?" "Not a thing," they answered. <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat, and you will catch some." So they threw the net out and could not pull it back in, because they had caught so many fish.**

***Sometimes if things are not working out, should we also consider "fishing from the other side of the boat?"***

# Women's Fellowship

Pauline Jones

**W**e have fifteen members who attend most meetings which are held monthly.

Our winter meetings are held in member's homes.

This year, we farewelled Pastor Jade Bauer and welcomed Pastor Tim Spilsbury .

Two of our members travelled overseas one to America and one to Uzbekistan and they told us about their travels.

Meetings which remain popular are show and tell and handy hints, and meetings that encourage us to get to know our fellow members a little better.

We entered a Christmas tree in the Christmas Tree Display at Westland's and used the decorations as handouts after our Christmas Presentation .

We held our final meeting for the year at a Des's home. We have a shared meal, enjoy a Christmas gift and sing carols.



Harvest Thanksgiving preparations.

Our projects for the year were sponsoring a Cambodian student and church plant maintenance. Our fundraisers were making and selling mini pizzas, a trading table and selling soup after service in winter. We cater for funerals and some church events. We have mite boxes which we donate to Lifeline.

We thank our Heavenly Father for watching over us and giving us the ability to finish another successful year .

## Church CAMP

**T**he 2013 Church Camp was once again a great time for relaxing and enjoying the company and the scenery at Trinity Haven.

There were relaxing walks to be undertaken, lots of games to play, some fishing and for the more active and adventurous, swimming and canoeing. Sometimes the swimming immediately followed the canoeing, but that is another story!



# Spiritual Ministry Team - 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 generally been happy with the congregation's involvement in letting us know of any issues that they are aware of, that require SMT input' However, there have been some instances where people have suffered in silence and not contacted Pastor or any SMT members for support and encouragement. We are here for Spiritual support but we cant help if we aren't aware of Your needs!

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 have been blessed by having Pastor Tim and Lauren leading us this year. We give thanks to God for Pastor Tim's Christ centred



approach to real life ministry, but we need to remember he is the coach not the player. It is up to us to take God's word into our hearts and spread it to all the people of the world (Well lets start in Whyalla then the whole world?).

You don't have to wait for a SMT meeting if you need to contact Us. The dates of the SMT meetings are the second Tuesday of the month and we endeavour to have these listed in the bulletin before the meetings, so if there are any special requirements, please contact Judith, Annette, Di or me.

---

## Shed Men **OUTREACH**

**S**hed Men continues to provide an informal forum for the discussion of men's issues and an opportunity for Christian outreach to men who are not yet ready to commit to church or formal worship.

Our Shedmen are a social bunch who get together to share friendships in each others sheds. It should be

noted that the definition of 'shed' is most liberal and often meetings are held outside of the shed so that membership is not limited. Size is not an issue as far as sheds are concerned.

The BBQ is an essential part of the evening and is cooked by the host. Although salad is not compulsory it is sometimes provided however this

practice is not condoned when provided on a large scale.

Meeting are generally held every four weeks on Friday evenings and Steve Murphy or Michael Simpfendorfer will provide details of the location. It is not compulsory to follow football, car restoration, or consume red wine but it has been found that an interest in one or more can be an aid to conversation.

# Support Group

Peg Brereton

**O**ur Support Group meets every alternate Monday morning where six to fourteen members attend. We try to have a varied programme and always begin our meetings with devotions given voluntarily by some members. We were, for a time, starting with singing songs in the church. We made up a special song book as a variation to the All Together books.

We celebrated Joyce and George Cosgrove's 60th wedding Anniversary, Pastor Tim's 30th and Coby Dean's 70th birthdays. Sadly, we farewelled our long time member, Golda McDonald.

We had visits to Barratt's shack at Black Point, Arid Lands and Wadlata, and Mondiali's Café at TAFE. Other activities included talks about our favourite Bible verse or hymn, showing wedding photos, (one member even brought along her gown and veil) and the Bible Society morning tea. We showed and talked about our crafts, brought an Antique piece to show and tell,



Support Group members enjoying a regular luncheon at Roopena.

and held DVD mornings, one of which was a special Easter one called "Four Gardens - Thoughts at Easter".

Through collecting bottles and cans we were able to make a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (\$200) and the Philippine's Disaster(\$100) . The group remains as active as age and health will allow and we thank God for the things that we can still do and offer support to one another and enjoy fellowship.

We welcome any new members.

---

## Faith Kernel EVENTS

Chris Jaensch

**W**hat a blessing our children are. A big thank you to the parents who bring their children to church to worship with us and to learn more about what Jesus does for us. It is a joy to have children in church.

During 2013 we used the Bible Song material that is provided by Faith Inkubators. We worked through the Good News series which is the story of Jesus from his birth to his Ascension. We covered each topic over a 3 week period. A typical session would cover the books of the New Testament, using the Bible, singing a song, some sort of craft or

activity, sharing lows and highs, prayer and blessings.

At times we have had some very in depth discussions about world history or events. It's great to see that the children are comfortable to bring up issues that concern them.

Thank you to the volunteers who have both led the sessions and who have assisted. Without your help this important mission would not happen



# Pastor Tim answers the call!

The 10th February 2013 was a special day for the Whyalla Parish with the installation of Tim Spilsbury as Pastor of the Whyalla Parish by Bishop David Altus.

Pastors attending were Ben Mogg (Pt. Lincoln), Ron Buchold (Cleve), Rodney Witmitz (Mid North) and Howard Beard, (Cummins).

Pastor Tim and Lauren were welcomed by representatives from all points of the parish, Pt. Augusta, Whyalla and Wilmington.



L-R: Bishop David Altus, Pastor Ben Mogg, Pastor Tim Spilsbury, Pastor Ron Buchold, Pastor Howard Beard & Pastor Rodney Witmitz.

## Pride in the PARK

In October, St James hosted a children's activity tent at Pride in the Park. The Lord blessed us with wonderful weather.

What a stupendous day!

We had messy tactile activities with trays of slime, goop and bubble mix. I am not sure who had the most fun, the adults or the kids.

Other activities also included threading coloured pasta to make a necklace and making an underwater scene. It was great to see so many parents take time

out to sit and work with their children. This was a good opportunity for us to chat with them.

We gave away 80 show bags and balloons. The bags had "Smile Jesus loves you"

novelties, lollies, tracts and pamphlets in them.

Thanks to all those who helped on the day with setting up, assisting the kids, supervising and packing up.

Chris Jaensch



# Thomas Heywood Concert

**T**homas Heywood and wife Simone have been regular visitors to Whyalla and Thomas again entertained us with a virtuoso performance on the organ when he performed a collection of well known classical pieces for us on March 3rd.

There is no doubting Thomas' extraordinary mastery of the instrument and his informative and humorous introductions provide much needed background to the composer and the origin of the musical piece.

It is indeed a remarkable commitment for a performer who can fill the concert halls of

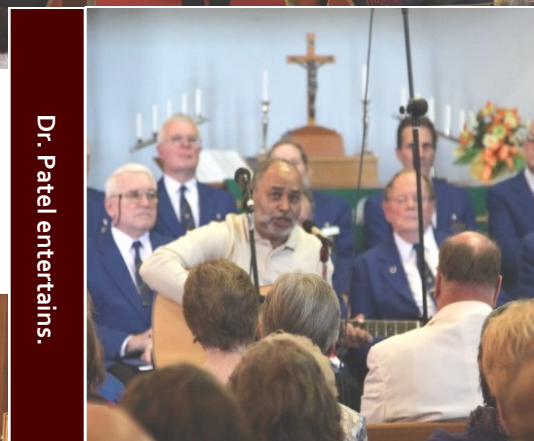
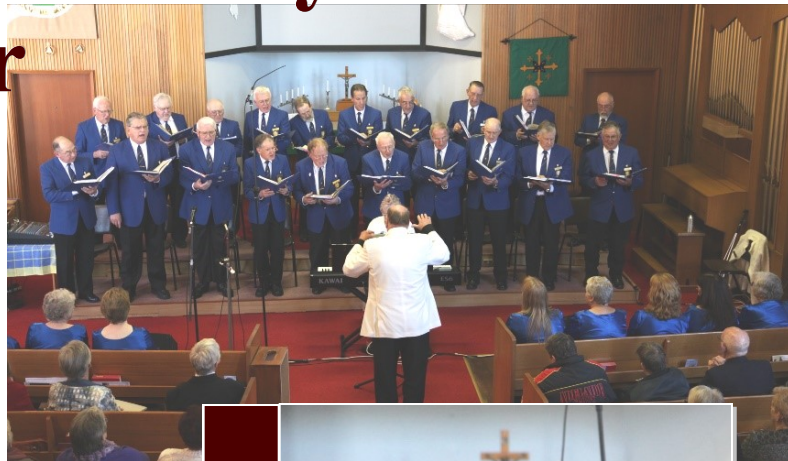
Europe and the U.S.A. to return to Whyalla on such a regular basis for our pleasure and enjoyment.



# Lobethal Harmony Club Male Choir

**O**n June 9th, we were again privileged to host a return visit by the Lobethal Harmony Club Male Choir and associated artists. This is a very professional group in all respects and are renowned throughout South Australia and have a dedicated local following.

The Choir were ably supported by The Whyalla Singers and popular local musician Dr. Hemant Patel.



Dr. Patel entertains.



Whyalla Singers

Our sincere thanks to evergreen MC Phil Stone and organiser, coordinator & promoter Jim Havelberg for another outstanding presentation.



# A Hollywood Kind of Christmas

Sandra Wittwer

**C**an the Christmas Story be told as a Hollywood blockbuster?

For that to happen, they need big-name stars; they got Joseph & Mary. There needs to be conflict, which a pre-marital pregnancy would surely provide but the conflict was resolved with Joseph quietly marrying Mary. A road trip that could be fast and furious, but it just plodded on.

Luxurious accommodation for the couple in Bethlehem would stir imaginative awe, but there was nothing at all booked ahead. Royalty came into the story with the travellers from the East but a violent confrontation with Herod was avoided. Supernatural themes are fashionable now but angels aren't quite the same thing.

Fleeting glimpses of firm direction from a person separate to the earthly filmmakers occurred throughout the production. It seemed that the avoidance of everything 'Hollywood' is actually what made the story truly 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' with



Directors & Producers

ourselves and the filmmakers eager to begin the sequel for Easter.

I'm glad I wasn't asked to dress formally to walk the red carpet and meet the press. The musicians did wear 'black tie' but in the form of printed black T-shirts.

Thank you St. James for once again producing a personable and eminently joyful musical presentation of the story of the birth of Immanuel, God with us, the Prince of Peace, Jesus and the generous after-party for your first-night presentation.



A talented cast

