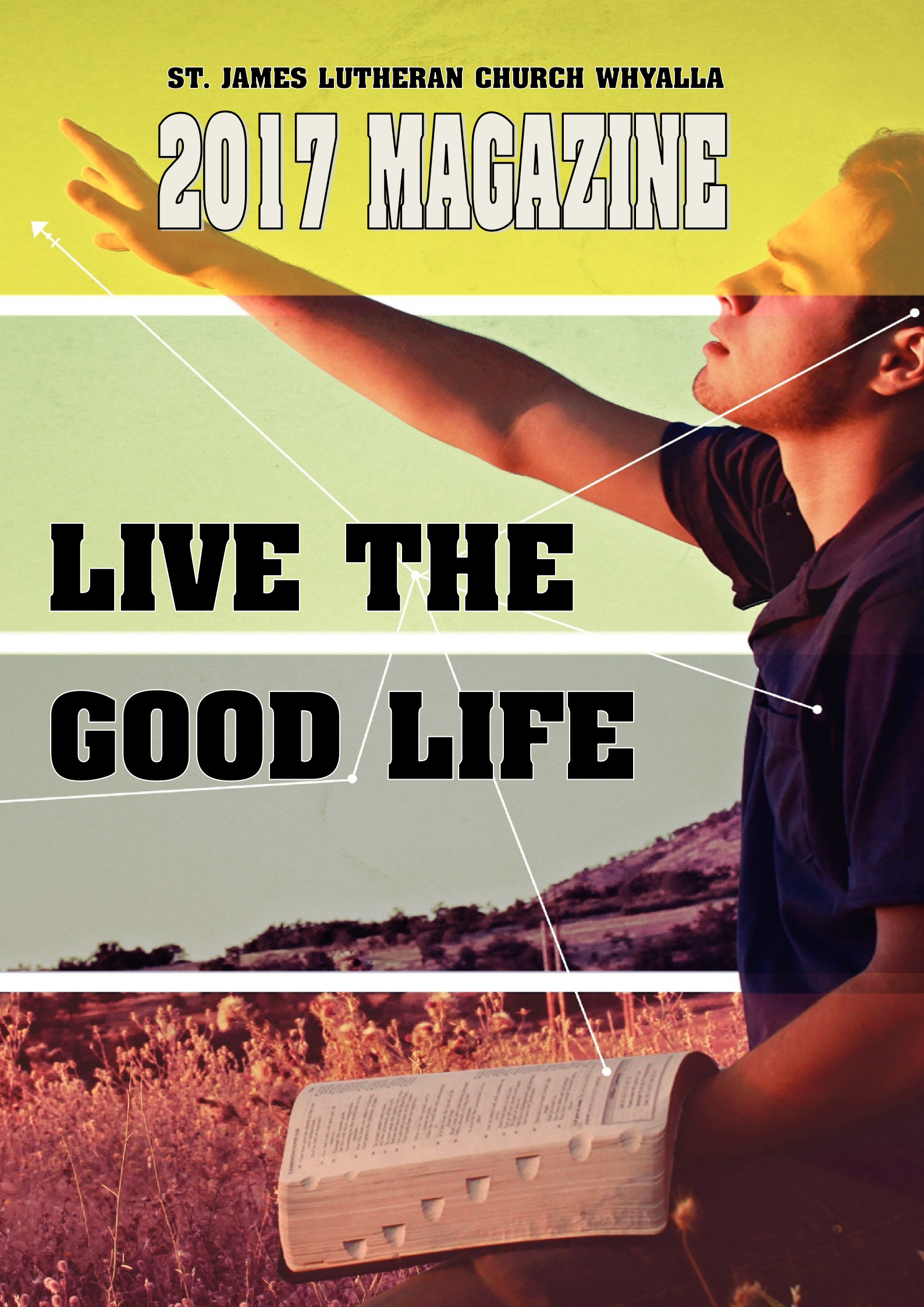


ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH WHYALLA

2017 MAGAZINE

LIVE THE

GOOD LIFE



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PASTOR

The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. (Psalm 18:2, NLT)

It truly is a blessing to know that we have a God who never changes. Perhaps that's why the image of God as a rock or a fortress is found so commonly in the psalms. Our lives can be frustratingly chaotic, filled with uncertainty and change. For many anxieties rise as they speculate on the future and ponder what it might hold.

Without a solid place from which to draw focus we will become captive to the chaos and confusion that surrounds us. Every challenge we face starts to seem insurmountable and eventually we find ourselves directed by life's storms; Blown about and shaken by every obstacle that time and chance might throw our way. We lose direction and become lost, hope fades as apathy begins to settle in.

The Good news is that we are offered another way to see the world. Our eyes are drawn to one whom dwells outside of time and chance, one who can order the chaos and calm the stormy seas.

This is our God.

Not only do we look to him, but we are invited to share in his life and walk in his ways. He becomes the foundation on which we stand, as we do his vision becomes our vision and we begin to see things differently.

And that's perhaps the most wonderful things that we are given as God's people we are given a better perspective.

God wants this for you he wants to renew your hope by transforming your perspective.

My friends God is good, God is in control and there is nothing that can overcome his purposes for us if we give ourselves into his hands.

In James 1:16-18 we are told

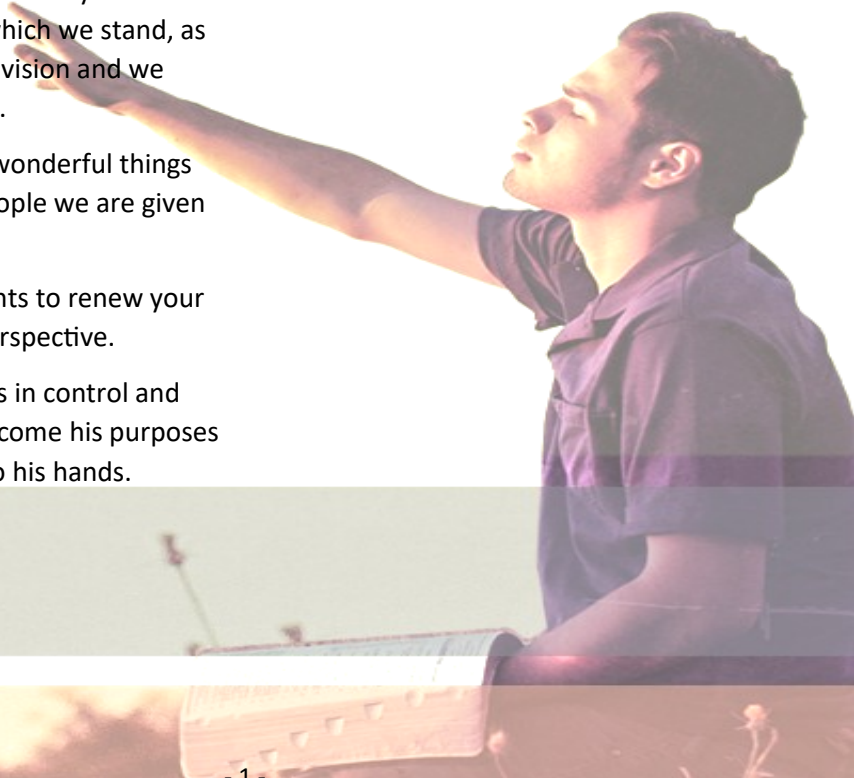
So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. (NLT)

You are valuable to him and he wants your life to be whole, rich and complete. He wants you to know peace and an abundance of Joy, he wants you to have the good life.

We will never find the fullness of things if we look to the world for our portion nor will it come by our own strength only when we give ourselves over to him in thought, word and deed do we begin to truly walk that path of the good life.

Let us recognise that the Good life is found in him. And never give up striving attain all that he has for us. He is for you what can possibly stand in your way if your heart is willing?

Pastor Tim.



CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the Good Life!

I must thank Pastor Tim for introducing this topic into his sermon series recently because just the topic itself suggests there are a variety of ways of looking at it.

For some, a good life would be having all the material comforts and enough money to do anything we want, whenever we want. For others it would be enjoying the simple things in life whilst for others it would be a happy life free of health issues and stresses.

For us, it is a life lived in the footsteps of Christ; loving God and loving our neighbour. It is a life of service. We get help in

the day to day living from the Holy Spirit and we have Jesus to represent us before God when we stuff up. That's a pretty good deal any way you look at it.

It takes a choice on our behalf to take up our cross and follow Jesus and it doesn't mean this life on earth is any easier or that bad things don't happen to good people, but it does mean that God is always with us to help us through, and that means a Good Life.

Within our congregational group, there exists a strong ethic of service toward one another as well as outwardly to our community. This is evidence to me that we have

an understanding of how to live a good life in the context of the gospel. We do not always get it right of course but in our hearts we conscientiously give it the best we can and we ask God's forgiveness when we fail.

So thank you for your contribution and your service to St. James Church this year. So much unseen and publicly unacknowledged but still you serve generously. This way we live 'A Good Life' rather than 'The Good Life'.

May God bless us as we travel into this year in trust and faith.

**Keith Sichler
Chairman.**

CITY PLAZA STREET PARTY

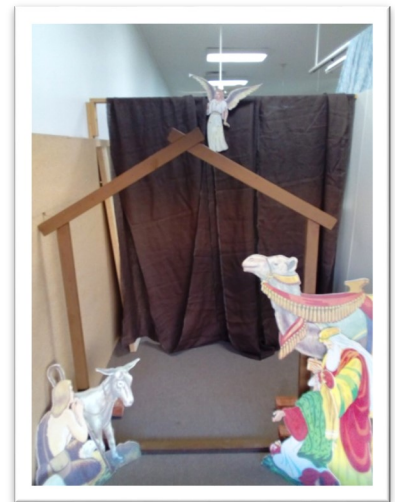
It was something new for us to be invited to the City Plaza Traders Street Party this year.

Our Kids Activities at Pride in the Park had not gone unnoticed and it was felt that we could add something of the true meaning of Christmas to the event.

We ere offered some space in the former Civic Library so we partnered with the Bunyara Christian Church to provide some

Christmas activities involving craft, story-telling and games.

A great highlight for visitors was to be able to dress-up in some of the costumes we use for Christmas presentations and have a photograph taken in the stable using some of our large cut-outs of animals. This was a real hit and often whole families participated.



SUPPORT GROUP

Another year has passed and by the grace of God, our members were able to continue meeting each fortnight for support, fellowship and fun. Meetings always begin with devotion by members, prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Activities were visits to the beautiful Ada ryan Gardens, the Wetlands and Barratt's shack at Black Point. We played bowls, trivia and Beetles. Can you imagine playing a game of Beetles and not scoring? Beryl Berrett didn't

appreciate that game, nor could the rest of the group believe it! We watched DVD's on the life of Moses and Jesus excellently narrated by Charlton Heston.

Members brought along old photo's and talked about them and we also enjoyed sing-a-longs and social time.

Our second visit out of town was to the Royal Flying Doctor centre at Pt. Augusta. The size of that centre was amazing. We were shown a short film of their history and then taken to the hangar next door to see the aeroplane and were invited to inspect the layout of the inside for carrying patients and all their equipment. Very interesting and educational. We gave them a donation of \$100. The day concluded with a very tasty meal at the Hannaville Hotel in Pt. Augusta.



Attendances have been very good and we would welcome any new members to share our fellowship and fun.

Our Christmas break-up was enjoyed by all who attended. Our thanks again goes to Maralyn and Colin Barratt for all the preparation of food that they did. The whole Support Group took part in telling of Christmas customs and carols. Pastor Tim concluded with a blessing and Kris Kringle gifts were exchanged which brought the very pleasant day to a close.

**Peggy Brereton,
Secretary.**

BEACH PICNIC

On a fine sunny day last November, we headed out in great number. The foreshore was our destination for a spot of lunch and conversation.

We spread ourselves big under the Moreton Bay fig and proceeded to lunch on our fare. There was barbeque, salads and drinks for all and plenty left over to share.

Around about three, there was coffee and tea and a cake which someone had made. It was tasty and sweet and so good to eat; too good to refuse I'm afraid.



Not long after, mid the fun and the laughter, the wind took off with my cap. So I packed up my chair and my esky as well and headed home for a nap.

COFFEE & CHAT

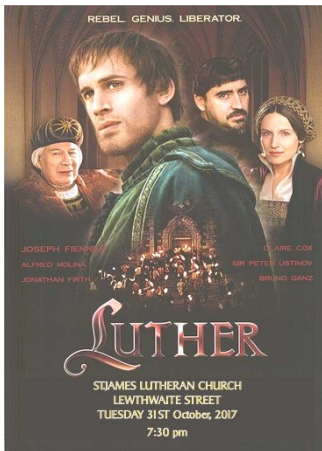
This is quite a fun group to be part of and comprises a wide range of women, of differing ages and experiences. The only criteria is that you are a woman who likes a chat.

Coffee & Chat is held on Friday mornings, moving from house to house each week. This is a most important social group who support and encourage one another in sharing their stories.

The man of the house generally vacates early and only returns in time to tidy up the left-overs.



MARTIN LUTHER - 500 YEARS



To mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the Wittenburg Gates in Germany on October 31st 1517, we decided to view the motion picture 'Luther'.

This film depicted Luther's faith and his courage on his path to the reformation and the realisation that we are not saved through works or payment of indulgences but by faith.

This provided the good number who attended a great insight to the life and times in which Luther lived and the personal struggles he endured as he sought to reconcile the theology of the time and his new understanding of the gospel.

GARAGE SALES

It is no great coincidence that the word 'Fundraising' begins with the word 'Fun', for fun is one of the most important ingredients in our Garage Sales.

Our Sales are held as soon as we have accumulated enough stuff to sell as all stuff is donated. Because of this, the stuff is very reasonably priced for the discerning buyer. Often there are little gems for the trained eye. Most often though, it is simply finding that something that one needs for oneself or finding that something that we decide someone else needs, which prompts the purchase.

There is everything from kitchen utensils, crockery, electrical items, clothing, games, toys, plants and books, books, books and heaps of other stuff.

The principle of many hands making light work applies here too because there is a lot of setting up, pricing stuff, chatting to visitors and cooking the world famous BBQ to do. In the end what stuff remains is sorted through, perhaps to be sold next time whilst the rest is donated to Lifeline. It is surprising though what stuff sells and what stuff doesn't. You never can tell!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Another year has passed and it has been a busy one. Although a lot of members are elderly we still have an average attendance of twelve members per meeting.

Our Projects for 2017 were: church maintenance and a special needs support for something in Whyalla.

Some of the money we donated went to \$ 150 to Plas Prai Cambodia, \$500 for Christmas hampers for Centrecare, and \$360 for Lifeline Coast to Coast from Mite Boxes

Pastor Tim has ably led us in Bible Study mainly using the devotions from Lutheran Women.

In February five ladies went to Retreat at Melrose.

In March it was decided to hold our meetings a half an hour earlier and this has worked well.

A Mothers Day trading table at the side of Woolworths Viscount Slim was a success raising \$1,400. This went towards our projects.

The L.W.S.A convention was held in May at Hahndorf with

eight of us women attending.

In June five ladies attended the Upper Northern Zone Fellowship Day.

In July birthing kits were put together. A combined Churches Fellowship Birthday Celebrations at St Teresa's was attended by seven ladies. Our ladies voted to donate \$1,500 to the congregation for repairs to the manse and a donated \$1,350 to the congregation to cover the cost of an Engineers report on the structural integrity of the sinking foundation at the south west corner of the church building.

Six ladies attended the Combined Fellowship Advent Service held at the Uniting Church.

Our final Christmas wind up was well attended by 16 members, six guests, Pastor Tim and five very willing and able male kitchen helpers.

Our Guest Speakers were Lynette Steele from the library and Trudy McNicol who showed us how to make greeting cards. If we don't have Bible Study or a Guest Speaker we enjoy having a chat.

Our meetings are held in member's homes during winter and this is greatly appreciated.

Our ladies generously give of their time to contribute towards our fund raising .

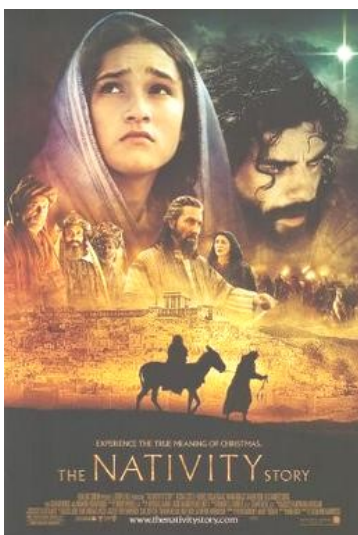
Caring, sharing, fun and fellowship is what we do and do well. Some of the ladies have been knitting squares for knitted blankets. A big thank you to Marion Zimmerman for crocheting the blankets together. \$485 was donated to the Centrecare Women's Shelter.

Anyone who is interested in coming to our meetings is very welcome. We would love to see you.

A thank you to Carolyn Ronan who was Secretary for a few years.

At the start of a new year for us we look forward to this coming year knowing that our Heavenly Father has blessed and watched over us and will continue to do so. He is the reason why we do what we do.

**Pauline Jones
Secretary.**



CHRISTMAS

Our Christmas Program this year was a departure from previous years as we decided to watch the movie 'The Nativity Story' supported by a couple of vignettes of previous Christmas Plays.

This drama focused on the

period in Mary and Joseph's life where they journeyed to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

Their struggle against Jewish customs, the cruelty of the Roman army and the evil nature of Herod were all captured in the film demonstrating their faith and commitment,

KID'S CHURCH

As we reflect on 2017 I can see how the Spirit has been at work in the lives of our children and Kids Church. Not only have our children grown in size & age but also in confidence and faith.

At times during the year I have been humbled by the knowledge and understanding that our small group of people have about Jesus, His life and His purpose.

Our children actively participate in our weekly sessions that consist of either week 1 or 2 of a lesson plan by reciting the books of the Bible, using the Bible, sharing their lows and highs, praying for each other and doing art work or craft.

Our Kids Church leaders and volunteers are such a valuable and rare resource. 2017 has

seen the retirement of a leader and a helper. If you have an interest in our children's ministry but are not sure if you have the ability please feel free to talk to Maralyn Barratt. Maralyn, who is technically challenged, has risen to the task this year by making the commitment to be a leader. We thank God for her and all of our other volunteers.

Dear parents, please note that your effort is truly appreciated. It is hard in this day and age to get to worship regularly especially when it involves getting children out of bed and ready. But please note that when the children attend they really engage with the message and each other. The leaders and helpers also appreciate your effort, it makes their effort worthwhile.

During the year after worship activities for children in the

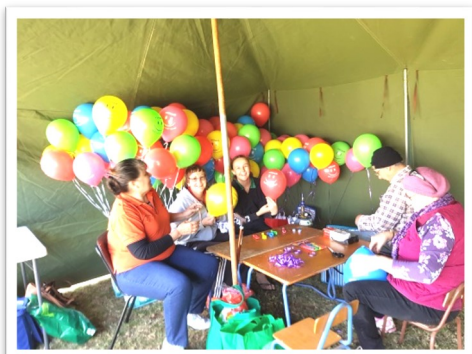
hall have been introduced (playdough or toys) and appear to be well received by both parents and children. A big thank you must go to the people who set up and clean up each week.

So my 2018 challenge to St James is the same as last year. HOW CAN WE CHANGE WHAT WE ARE AND DO so that people, especially the children, feel welcome, loved and valued members of our church? Come on people, how about spending some time with the kids, I know that you think that you have done your time but as you are still alive then God still has a purpose for you, and maybe this is what He wants from you and for you.

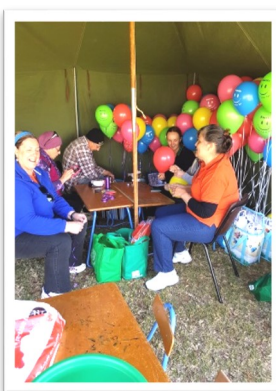
**Yours in Christ
Chris Jaensch**

PRIDE IN THE PARK

READY!



SET!



GO!



This is probably the sixth year we have taken our 'Kid's activities tent' to Pride in the Park'.

As always this is a great opportunity to engage with the parents whilst the children have fun amongst the gloop, slime and bubbles.

Our 'Goodie Bag' always includes a Christian message along with a few kids surprises.

SHED MEN

Whilst not a secret society, we Shed Men do like to keep things to ourselves. We meet for fellowship every month or so and discuss shared interests such as cars, sports, economics and world politics.

Generally we don't solve a lot but we do enjoy the discussion.

Meetings are held in sheds; houses are not permitted. However, 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

Jesus Christ is of course the chief Shed Man. He is head of church, home and Shed.

Thanks to Dorf for coordinating Shed Men meetings and venues this year. Please contact his personage should you be curious enough to give it a look.



This one of the biggest sheds we visit, however to Shed men, size does not matter.

CHURCH BUSY BEE'S CAN BE FUN!

The re-establishing of the Property Committee since the 2017 AGM has seen registers completed on Asbestos, Chemicals, contractor on site and fire extinguishers/safety audit of plant.

This committee includes Bob Freund (Co-ordinator), Trevor Zimmerman, Jim Havelberg, Colin Barratt, Scott Jones and Carolyn Ronan (Minute taker).

Much work was been done by Jim Havelberg to collate a working list of all structural and equipment items of the church, hall and manse to prioritise into major jobs and recommendations when funds available.

Church busy bees can be fun just have a peek at these pictures on the 15th July 2017. It was all action stations putting a sparkle in the church and hall buildings. Bob thanked all helpers and was delighted with the turn out for this major clean up.

The outside team kept a steady pace trimming trees and loading up the trailer with Bob keeping the blower hot!! Well done to everyone.

Carolyn Ronan.



The busy bees at the Busy Bee.

