

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>02</b>	Pastor's Report
<b>05</b>	Associate Pastor's Report
<b>08</b>	Covenant Life
<b>10</b>	Elder's Report
<b>11</b>	Deacon's Report
<b>13</b>	The Gathering
<b>15</b>	Youth Ministry
<b>17</b>	Children's Ministry
<b>17</b>	Women's Ministry
<b>18</b>	Prayer Ministry
<b>19</b>	Spiritual Formation
<b>20</b>	Men's Ministry
<b>21</b>	Creative Arts
<b>22</b>	Treasurer's Report
<b>24</b>	Faith Promise
<b>25</b>	Budget

# SENIOR PASTOR

Ps Ben Betz



I truly thank God for all the wonderful things which have transpired over the last 12 months. Although we have had some setbacks, our health has suffered and there have been delays, we have still seen God faithfully care for us and help us, both personally and as a church to grow closer to Him. We believe the church has been moving forward in so many different aspects. Our vision of Loving God, Living Life and Reaching out for Jesus is helping to shape us as we allow our focus on God to direct our thoughts, programs and changes.

Essentially, we are striving to be a church where God is our priority, where we chose to live in such a way that it reflects our love for Him and connect with others evangelistically and through mission.

We are also aiming at raising and releasing new leaders, caring for our church plant in Gungahlin and teaching the whole truth of the Gospel.

As you are aware, it is my job to look at the preaching topics for the year. Last year we finished our series on “*Life in Focus*” and this year we wanted to follow on with that by looking at “*In His footsteps*”. The assurance and gentle confidence we have as we are challenged to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. To be able to learn from the word, to live a life of faith and to lead others onto this same pathway. It has been good to see our students, elders, staff and lay people preaching when available, we are blessed to have a rich diversity of talent share on various topics which come under these themes.

Our Elders and Deacons have been working hard over the past year to manage and maintain the church in many and varied capacities. This has been such a blessing to me, the staff and the church family. You can read in their reports all the work which has been accomplished over the past year. I once again want to thank both Andrew Muir Chair of Elders and Mike Prunty Chair of Deacons for the ongoing blessing of their leadership and the two teams they oversee.

It is appropriate now to thank Andrew Muir for his many years as an Elder as his term of office has come to a close and he decided not to stand for re-election. My heartfelt thanks to Andrew for the many times he has dropped in to my office to chat and just make sure all is well. The church has been blessed by his wisdom availability and pastoral care.

Once again, I am humbled by the champion team of paid staff, each have their own gifts and abilities which are a real asset to this church. Our paid staff team now consists of: myself (Senior Pastor) fulltime; Andrew Edwards (Associate Pastor) four days per week; Antoinette Hildebrandt (Office Administrator) three days per week; Sharnay Harrison (Youth) two days per week; Helen Betz (Spiritual Director) one day per week; Jordan Harrison (in charge of the Gathering) one day per week; Talitha Woodburn (Kids Church) half a day per week and Suanu Ikoro (Church Planter) one day per fortnight. Please take time to read their reports to see the work they do to get a greater understanding of the diversity of gifts they bring to the church.

As a church there so many great events happening and so many people who are committed to facilitating them. I get excited about the various avenues we provide for people to connect with our community. These are essential to create open doors for people who don't know Jesus yet to start knocking on His door. These include Playgroup, Community Choir (starting again soon) Life Groups, Bible Studies, Women's/Men's Ministry, Prayer groups (Sat and Wed), Young Adults, Youth, Kids Church, Worship, Art Healing, and School programs at Stromlo and Arawang. To all of those who help serve, run, set up, pack up, pray, love, clean and connect, your contribution does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Thank you for your heart and acts of service.

Many of you have been serving as volunteers either for a short time or for many years and church could not function without you. All our services, programs and behind the scenes work, largely because of those of you who volunteer, so, I truly want to thank you all for your hard work and commitment. However, as with any organisation like a church there is always a real need for more volunteers. We want to be a church which is known for our diversity and commitment. For this reason, I urge you to take time to pray into where God is calling you to serve. We are especially looking for volunteers to help with Kids Church on Sundays, people gifted in music for Worship and volunteers for Playgroup on Tuesdays.



When we think of making disciples it can come in all different forms. The two formalised groups we run are the Internship Program and Spiritual Formation. Our Internship Program has been running now for almost 9 years and our Spiritual Formation group has now run for 5 years. We didn't imagine when we first decided to start these programs that they would have the momentum they carry. We have been so blessed by all those who have enrolled, they have really stepped up in their Christian walk.

Mission and ministry are an essential part of any church work and is certainly a big part of ours. Mission Exposure and Mission Month/Week are all opportunities for us to learn more about God at work here in our community and abroad. Just recently our first short term mission trip in some time took place, with a team heading off to Cambodia. The Interns came back with many stories of God at work and this displayed God's compassion and His favour.

Some of our church members have heeded that call for overseas mission and we want to recognise the Overetts in their calling, and the Mellets and their ongoing work in Zambia as they wait and prepare in Australia for the next season on the missions field. Don't forget we have great delight in our yearly challenge to send as many Operation Christmas Child boxes as we can, what a joy for us when we calculate many new converts through this ministry.

One of the core values of the C&MA is faith-based risk. This value always stirs my heart because I know it is often when we leave our comfort zones behind us, God works more clearly. As you will see the new budget will reflect some of the struggles we have been having as a church. The costs of maintaining a church such as ours has many extra costs. Paying staff, maintenance of buildings and insurances costs are expensive and take much of the income, as we have aging buildings, a large property and maintenance requirements. I realise the cost of living is increasing and money is getting tighter. So, this is why it will be a year of faith-based risk when it comes to finances. Wonderfully in the past this church has been a generous church, and I praise God for your obedience. May the Lord bless you all for your faithfulness in your giving of tithes and offerings.

We are called to make disciples, to raise and release new leaders and to open ways for missions and missionaries to embrace their callings. We do this with you as members, with this property and in this community and we trust you value these also. If so, we ask for your ongoing prayer, service and support. When we all work together a great deal is accomplished for God and we are excited about what God has ahead for us. We hope you are too.

Finally, Helen and I would like to thank all of you for trusting us to lead you, serve you and speak into your lives. Thank you for accepting us as leaders, even when we have been unwell and our ability to give and lead has been diminished. Thank you for playing your part as a valuable family member and contributing in your way to growing the Lords Kingdom.

# ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Ps Andrew Edwards



Greetings Church Family!

The past 12 months have been full of the blessings of The Lord, and for that, I am eternally grateful! Being a Pastor is not an easy gig, and my role, although busy, is one that brings me great joy as I'm blessed to serve God and His local church at WVAC. I am blessed to serve alongside such a talented and Godly staff team who seek God first in all things. I want to acknowledge and thank God for the team here at WVAC, we are truly blessed to have such a team of hard-working individuals dedicated to seeing God honoured and His Kingdom grown.

I have continued to work hard this year to maintain a healthy work/life balance and reduce the hours I work outside of those I'm employed for. It's not as easy as it sounds, there are always things that need to be done, but I am getting better at it and the benefits for me, and my family, have been many.

My role continues to be wide and varied as I oversee numerous ministries and support Ben in his role as Senior Pastor.

**Discovery Internship** meets every Monday during school terms from 9am – 3pm. Discovery gives people a unique opportunity to explore and discover more about who they are, expand their faith, develop their gifts, and discover what serving in a local church, local community and in a missional context is all about. Students are offered a wide range of opportunities to discover, sample, learn, and explore who God has created and called them to be and how they can live Christ-centred and surrendered lives.



“Interns” runs for an 18-month period with the current cohort completing their journey on June 30<sup>th</sup> this year. Sharnay joined me as co-leader this round and I have very much appreciated working together to lead this group.

The group continued to meet weekly this year as we continued our discipleship journey and prepared for our mission trip to Cambodia.

I want to thank you, Church Family, for the amazing fundraising event showcasing the talent we have at WVAC! That was such a special afternoon with many amazing and memorable acts that enabled us to raise funds to help support those we visited on our mission trip. Our mission trip to Cambodia was a special time, one where we were stretched, blessed and grown as we stepped out in faith and into all that Jesus had for us.

Thank you for your ongoing, generous support of the Internship ministry. Your prayers, encouragement, gifts and participation in fundraising and sharing events is greatly appreciated!

**The Worship Ministry** continues to be a blessing in both our morning and afternoon services. Our desire is to seek God for His leading as we create worship spaces that are God honouring and sensitive to the Holy Spirit. It’s wonderful to have a multi-generational band most weeks, with younger musicians learning how to use their gifts and talents to worship the Lord. A huge thank you to our amazing team of volunteers who serve diligently each week, enabling us to have quality, God-honouring worship both in-house and online.

We have seen an increase in volunteers across the ministry, with new musicians and production team members welcomed and serving well. There is always room for more, we’d love more musicians and singers – please speak to me if you’d like to explore this opportunity.

Our online services continue to be a blessing to the many who connect with us online each Sunday. It’s a blessing to have our services available for those who can’t make it in person on a given week and for those who connect with us from far and wide. It’s also great having the ability to record and post our weekly sermons online. A huge thank you to the team who manage our online broadcast each week and keep us “on the air”.

It is a pleasure and an honour to worship with you all each week and I thank you for engaging with all the aspects of worship each Sunday. I am greatly encouraged as we read scripture together, speak out words of prayer and praise, stand quietly before the Lord and of course raise our voices in praise and worship to our great God!

**Impact Youth** has continued to provide a safe and welcoming place for young people to engage with each other and with God. It caters for young people from year 7 to year 12 at school and is run by an amazing team of young adult volunteers.

Sharnay continues to do an amazing job leading this ministry along with the volunteer team of leaders. I’ve been greatly encouraged as I’ve supported Sharnay in her leadership role with Youth. It’s been a privilege to walk beside Sharnay as we’ve worked through the ups and downs of leadership and to see Sharnay grow in her gifting, calling and relationship with Jesus.

Thank you to those generous members from our church who bake goodies and provide meals for our hungry teens – having two teens myself, I know first-hand how welcomed those gifts are!

**Life Groups** have continued to be havens of care, support and growth as they gather together to go deeper in the Word. This year we once again ran our Life Groups 2x8 program to encourage more of our congregation to join a life group and participate in this important area of church life. Thank you to all who lead a Life Group, host a Life Group and support our Life Groups.

**As WVAC's Risk Management Officer**, I've continued to oversee compliance with our policies and procedures to ensure that we continue to be a safe place for all who walk through our doors and attend our various events and ministries.

Reporting requirements to Government and the Alliance National Office continue to increase, requiring more of my time. This is a necessary part of church governance, and it's important that we do our best to stay current with the requirements and regulations. A big thank you to Antoinette, who works with me to make sure we meet all our obligations.

Safe Ministry training is a requirement for anyone who volunteers in any area or program at WVAC. Thank you to everyone for getting on board and completing your training.

Accreditation is current for three years; please ensure you complete your online training and remain accredited; we'll send you a reminder when it's due and will be here to assist if required. Thank you for your cooperation and participation in making WVAC a safe place for all.

**Alongside these roles**, I've also been involved with the Gathering, taught Christian Education at Arawang Primary, led and taught in church services, continued to serve on the Board of Elders, created video content for our ministries and services, edited Sunday sermon videos, managed the worship team, our production gear, online services and Sunday morning services, trained and developed team members, managed the Church and Mission Centre IT systems, participated in prayer and planning retreats, mentored leaders, and prayed with and supported many in our church family and wider community.

Finally, thank you for your continued prayers and support for me and my family. Samantha, Anabelle, Levi, and I are blessed by the love, care, encouragement, and prayers we regularly receive.

Let us continue to obediently surrender every area of our lives to the One who laid down His very own to save us!



# COVENANT LIFE

Rev. Dr Suanu Ikoru



We continue to gather for our Family Worship Services at Gungaharra Homestead, Harrison. The gathering commences at 10.00am every Sunday. We also gather online for Bible Study on Wednesdays (7.00pm), and Prayer Meeting on Fridays (7.00pm). Attendance at the Bible Study is very encouraging. Importantly, some of the attendees are not part of Covenant Life Alliance Church. We have people dialing in from locations in the USA and NSW.

Our preaching theme for the 2025 Calendar year is “Living a Victorious Christian Life”. In this regard, some of the messages we have delivered so far were entitled: “More than Conquerors”, “Limiting the Unlimited God”, “The Glory of God”, “Kingdom Prosperity”, “The Grammar of Kingdom Prosperity” and “Jabez”.

Our monthly reports for WVAC’s Senior Pastor and Board of Elders provide a list of sermon topics delivered each month. PowerPoint notes (slides) on some of our Messages are also available on our Facebook page.

During this reporting period, we baptised one person who accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The Baptism service and actual baptism took place on 22 December 2024 at Cotter Bend, Canberra.

We have a sister of Chinese descent joining us from time to time at our Family Worship Service. Her current grasp of spoken and written English appears to be extremely limited.

To assist her in overcoming this challenge, we now translate key parts of our Family Worship services, including Sermons (PowerPoint Slides) and Scripture readings into Traditional Cantonese, using Artificial Intelligence.

We remain grateful to God for the opportunity and privilege to serve. We truly appreciate the love and commitments of our wonderful Covenant Life Family, including the children, youth and young adults who serve willingly and joyfully.

We thank Pastor Ben Betz, his staff and all members of WVAC for their prayers and encouragements.



# ELDER'S REPORT

Andrew Muir

As I reflect upon the past year my primary thought is towards Gods faithfulness to His church. It is His church with Jesus Christ as its head and the rest of us are called to be part of the body of Christ and to use the gifts He has given to each one of us for the benefit of the whole body. It is pleasing to see people of the church using their different gifts in a variety of ways with no one being more or less important than the other. I also appreciate, and am thankful for, the unity within the church, knowing that our unity in Christ commands a blessing.

This year we welcomed Scott Coleman to the eldership and I praise God for the gifts and contribution he has made to the team. I would also like to express my thanks for all of our elders Luke Behrendorff, Scott Coleman, Nick Mogensen, Craig Woodburn, Pastor Ben Betz and Pastor Andrew Edwards. We continue to meet monthly on the first Monday of each month and to also have two one day retreats during the year. Decision making is by consensus after prayer and discussion under the guidance of Holy Spirit.

We continue to be thankful for Pastor Ben and Helen, Pastor Andrew and Sam and the rest of the staff - Jordan and Sharnay Harrison, Antoinette Hildebrandt and Talitha Woodburn. Thank you team for all that you contribute to the life of the church.

Pastor Ben has been with us for 10 years now and his passion is to see the gospel message proclaimed, people to be saved and disciplined so that they become fully functioning members of the church. We as an eldership support him in his ministry as Senior Pastor and look forward to the day when there will be standing room only in the church.

On a personal note after 24 years as an elder (9 years under Pastor Ben and 15 years previously) I have come to realise that my season as an elder in WVAC is drawing to an end. I finish in this role knowing that the church is in good hands and it has been a privilege to serve in this role over the years and I will continue to be involved in the life of the church into the future.

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
And to present you faultless  
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,  
To God our Savior,  
Who alone is wise,  
Be glory and majesty,  
Dominion and power,  
Both now and forever.  
Amen.*

# DEACON'S REPORT

Mike Prunty

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord..” 1 Cor 15:58*

At the August 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM), five deacons were re-elected to the Board as well as two new Deacons, namely Tracey Mogensen and Micah Woodburn. The Board elected Mike Prunty as Chair and Hannah Hildebrandt as Secretary. Joe Ree was confirmed as the new Treasurer, having previously been nominated by the Elders. The Deacons accepted assigned specific areas of responsibility, Rhonda Brennan (units), Tracey Mogensen (kitchen), Micah Woodburn (Church Hall) and Peter Burns (grounds). In November 2024, Hannah resigned as a deacon in order to move interstate for employment. Consequently, Graham Dietrich was appointed as a Deacon and subsequently elected Secretary. The Senior Pastor, Ben Betz, is an ex officio member of the Board and, as well as adding continuity and spiritual guidance, reports each month on relevant matters for consideration from the Board of Elders and ministry leaders.

In the past year, the Board has had protracted discussions with the Urban Treescapes unit of the ACT government. Subsequently, it was agreed that several large gum trees on public land adjacent to the church needed to be pruned and in one case removed at public expense. The latter involves a 18 month delay as priorities were reassessed by the government agency. The Board is now keen to progressively replace our ageing gum trees with smaller trees and bushes so that future leadership generations will not have to stress over the pruning and the potential cost of removal.

As forecast at the AGM, the Board oversaw the replacement of all the mission centre internal lighting with modern and efficient LED lighting. This was subsidised by the ACT government by approximately a third. The resulting painting, hole and patch filling of the ceiling was an additional task, but in the longer term this project is seen as an ongoing financial saving. Inspired by the success of the internal refit of LED lighting, the Board agreed to the replacement of the five external mission centre security light fittings with LEDs. This has proved to be very effective.

The church is a large estate when the ageing residential units and mission centre are included and constant vigilance of the supporting infrastructure is required. Regular maintenance is necessary and, when appropriate, projects undertaken. Toilet and roof repairs, graffiti removal, hot water tank replacement, gutter repairs, drain clearing and pest fumigation were among the mundane but essential tasks undertaken in the past year. One pleasing aspect this past year was the organising and leading of working bees by the younger Deacons to maintain the external cleanliness of the mission centre and church. This is to be encouraged and bodes well for the future.

A new project this year was the installation of an overhead, reversible fan in the church kitchen. This has proved to be a popular investment for the comfort of the kitchen volunteers. An upgrade of the office furniture in the mission centre was also undertaken at minimal cost to make the area more functional for multiple users. A major purchase by the Board for the sound desk, was that of a new controller box to enable the easier and more reliable external streaming of services. In addition, it was necessary to purchase a new defibrillator for the church building.

An ongoing initiative that continues to prosper is the recycling of bottles and cans, as a fund raiser. The Board is particularly grateful to Kevin Woodcock who enthusiastically collects recyclables from the church and cashes them in, in bulk. The funds raised go to bless our Compassion child Doreen in Uganda, support missionaries and church youth activities.

Overall, the church remains in a sound financial position, thanks to the continued generosity of the fellowship and sound management by ministry leaders.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the Elders for their encouragement and my fellow Deacons, once again, for their willingness to dutifully serve by helping with the church administration and upkeep of the property. Please note, AI was not used in the production of this report.



# THE GATHERING

Jordan Harrison

Hello everyone,

And here we are again! It's hard to believe another year has passed since our last AGM report. Wow—what a year it has been, with its various ups, downs, and everything in between.

For me, my primary role in serving Woden Valley Alliance Church is facilitating The Gathering, our church's 4 pm afternoon service. This involves coordinating the different elements of the service, ensuring a welcoming environment for both newcomers and regular attendees, and supporting those involved in leading music, prayer, teaching, and fellowship. I see this role not only as an opportunity to help the service run smoothly but also as a way to cultivate a space where people can encounter God, build genuine community, and grow in their faith together.

Particularly memorable moments from the past year have included hearing from Greg Clifford in August, our Christmas Potluck, the Easter Communion Service, and, most recently, our July 2025 Sabbath Sessions.

In addition to overseeing the service itself, I invest time in building relationships with those who attend The Gathering, seeking to understand their spiritual journeys and how the church can best support them. This often means meeting with individuals during the week for prayer, discipleship, or simply to listen and offer encouragement. Sometimes this leads to these individuals facilitating a service themselves, much like our interns and Spiritual Formation students are invited to do. Over the past year, all of our Interns and Spiritual Formation students have each led at least one service, and our 2025 Spiritual Formation group is just about to begin doing the same.

One of the most exciting developments in recent months has been the arrival of several non-Christian visitors who, even more wonderfully, have chosen to continue attending. Their presence has brought a refreshing dynamic to The Gathering as we consider together what it means to welcome and care for people from different backgrounds and experiences. I would ask that you join us in prayer—for grace, compassion, and wisdom as we care both for these newcomers and for each other in the year ahead.

Beyond my role in The Gathering, I have continued serving the wider church in various ways. This has included providing pastoral care (including ongoing crisis and suicide prevention work), mentoring several young men, and creating spaces for prayer and worship (for example, the sunrise prayer session at Mt Arawang). One of my greatest joys has been spending time with those outside our church context—what I like to think of as “not-yet-Christian” people. Entering these spaces has opened my eyes further to the many challenges people face today. While these challenges are significant, we are reminded that, by God's help, we are called to care for them with His love and compassion.

Another highlight of the past year was when Sharnay and I travelled to China in late 2024 to come alongside missionaries in different contexts and meet with local workers in the underground church. It was deeply humbling and inspiring to fellowship with these believers, and we continue to pray for them in the midst of growing hardship.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Sharnay. Her immeasurable support, prayer, and partnership in ministry have been invaluable. Much of what I do would not be possible without her care, encouragement, and faithfulness.

I look forward to continuing to serve you all as we close out 2025 and head into 2026 (plans for which are already underway!).

Every blessing to you all.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Sharnay Harrison

What a year this has been! And what a blessing it has been for me to not only step into each opportunity in this community that God has led me to, but I am also so joyfully overwhelmed and grateful for the continued support, encouragements and particularly the prayers of our church family for myself and my work. God is faithful and so, so good!

In July last year I began to transition out of my role as the Children's Ministry worker and have stepped into my new role as the 'Youth Worker.' Since then I have been coming alongside Talitha as she has taken up this role and it has been such a joy to not only support and encourage her in this role but to also see how God has been moving and working in her and through her in this space.

Over this past year I have continued to work alongside the amazing team of volunteers for the Kreative Kids Playgroup, which is held at the church weekly, during school terms. The team continues to work together to provide this space for the families in our community that attend. We have welcomed Lee onto the team, and it has been such a blessing to have her join us. We continue to grow, with new families coming nearly weekly. There is a real sense of community that is being created and fostered in playgroup as the families connect with one another and with the volunteers during our Tuesday morning program and also throughout the week as well. We continue to see the fruits of this ministry through our engagement with the families that attend and look forward to all that God has in store for playgroup into this next year.

Another area of ministry that I have continued to serve in is the Shine Girls Group program which I run at Stromlo Highschool during the school terms. Over the course of the year, I have been working with a different age group each semester, engaging with girls from all four grades. These groups are formed by the schools youth worker who selects girls that are known to have a difficult home life, struggles with mental health, or isolation/difficulties at school. I have really appreciated my time running this group, particularly in the most recent semester as there had been such a good sense of community with the girls who attended. It was a great space of encouragement, support, joy and friendship. I believe that God has placed me in this area to provide a safe environment for these young people to be able to come to relax and to explore whatever struggles, questions, and thoughts that they may be dealing with. Each week we explore a new question or topic, looking at how to deal with stress, worries, understanding our emotions, identity, and many other areas. We also spend time looking at how to get through the week-by-week struggles we all face and to also celebrate the joys and excitements of our weeks as well. I am really looking forward to continuing my work with the Stromlo Highschool and with the girls that attend my groups.



My role also involves running the Friday night Youth Group and the Sunday afternoon Youth Bible Study. Impact Youth continues to be a place for the youth to come fellowship with one another, hear the truth of Scripture and walk alongside one another and the leaders as they all learn together how to have a relationship with God and what it means to be one of His children. We have a consistent group of around 12 youth who attend each week, with a total number of 20 youth members. Among these numbers are a mixture of youth who are Christian and those who are exploring what it means to love and be loved by God. Some of the highlights from the past year include attending the KYCK conference, the youth community coming together for our Car Wash fundraiser for this event, 2 youth getting their own personal Bible for the first time, 4 of the youth getting baptised and having some of the youth families begin joining us during our Sunday morning services. Part of my role in leading the youth group is supporting and caring for my leaders, putting together programs, running team meetings, organising youth events outside of Friday nights, pastoral care for several youth and youth families, lots and lots of prayer, and providing encouragement and support for myself and my team to grow as individuals and as youth leaders.

The Sunday afternoon youth Bible study has been running since August last year and is held on every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. This space has consistently had around 12 youth attending. My greatest joy has been seeing a group of young people who do not attend the Friday night youth group and the blessing it has been to provide a space for the youth in the community to come together to study God's Word. Gavin Walker has joined me in leading this Bible study and I am so grateful for the effort and skills that he brings. Part of my role in the Youth Bible study is organising and providing lunch for the youth who attend, supporting and caring for the youth and their families, putting together programs, and providing guidance and support for those who help me lead this program.

In my role at church I have also continued to help with Scripture teaching at Arawang Primary school once a term, which has been a real joy for me. I am also so grateful for God's leadership as He continues to guide me in my role of pastoral care for those individuals and families who are a part of the different ministry spaces I am involved in.

One of my greatest joys over this past year has also been continuing to be a part of the ministry of the Discovery Internship program. It has been such a blessing coming alongside Pastor Andrew in the leadership of this program and to be able to walk alongside the interns.

I thank God for His guidance and wisdom as I continue to serve Him in these different roles. I would also like to once again thank everyone who has kept me in their prayers over this past year, and I can't wait to see what He has for me over the next 12 months.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Talitha Woodburn

Kids Church has continued to run on Sunday mornings. At the end of 2024, we finished our theme on the timeline of Jesus that we started at the beginning of 2023. It was helpful going through Jesus' life and ministry on earth a bit more in depth. This year, we started a new theme, looking at both New and Old Testament characters and the spiritual practice or characteristic they showed, focusing on how we too should be following these in our daily lives as Christians. It has been interesting and challenging looking at some of the more practical sides of faith, such as building up our habits of prayer and trust. In term 2, we brought in regular Bible verse memorisation, looking at a new verse from every second week's lesson.

We have continued with the three different age groups, which has been challenging at times because of the large age difference in some of the groups. While we have gained more leaders, we are still struggling with a lack of helpers and leaders. It is our continued prayer that God would bring more people to volunteer in this ministry. It has been such an encouragement to have a team that is excited and dedicated in serving, whether that is through their prayers, the planning and leading of lessons, or turning up on the day to help where needed. I continually feel blessed with the team God has provided for this ministry, and I pray that God would bless them and grow them as they serve so wholeheartedly.

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Antoinette Hildebrandt

As a team we try and cater to the varied interests, ages and abilities of the women of our church by mixing up the times and types events we hold. We've had bushwalks, breakfasts, afternoon teas and craft. For our Christmas event, Linda Mellett shared about her work in Zambia and we were able to create Christmas ornaments made from beautiful African material.

This year we have been following the book *"The Measure of a Woman - What Really Makes a Woman Beautiful"*, looking at the characteristics that reflect God in our lives. We are excited to be holding a One Day Retreat at Royalla Common where our guest speaker will be Rachel McClure.

I want to thank the team, Robyn, Iva, Vanessa and Georgie, whose help has been invaluable this year.

# PRAYER MINISTRY

Andrew Muir

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil 4: 6-7*

This is a favorite Scripture of mine because it declares a promise of God to each one of us and provides a way of dealing with the complexities of life that we all encounter. Jesus also proclaimed to His disciples shortly before his death that "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14: 12-14.

These are powerful promises and a motivation to continue to pray earnestly and wholeheartedly for those things that God leads us to pray for. Fortunately all believers have Holy Spirit dwelling within them, prompting them when to pray and how to pray. And God has designed prayer for our benefit so that faith and trust in God grows as we see Him move in response to our prayer.

From Gods perspective I believe prayer is the most important activity of the Church and as such every member should be encouraged to prioritise prayer in their daily lives. Take advantage of the opportunities to be involved in a prayer group such as Wednesday morning 7.30 to 8.30 in the Mission Centre which focusses on breakthroughs within our church and community. Or Saturday evenings from 7 to 8pm via Zoom where every person within the church is prayed for. Or start one yourself and invite some others to join you. God acts when we pray and this is why prayer is so important.

If you have a personal request for prayer and would like our prayer team to pray for it please phone, email or text your request either myself or Pastors Ben or Andrew. Your request will be sent to prayer team members and it will be prayed for, in confidence. Prayer requests can also be made through the church portal.

Finally prayer by prayer team members is available at the front of the church at the conclusion of each service and you are welcome to seek prayer during this time.

There has been a couple of sunrise prayer events on top of Mt Arawang in the past few months and both have been a blessing to those who attended and thanks to Dennis and Jordan for organising these.

Finally despite all that is going on around us, or perhaps because of this, keep praying. Prayer is Gods plan to activate and encourage His church to take its rightful place of influence in the Woden Valley.



# SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Helen Betz

Can you believe we have been running discipleship programmes in this church for 8 years? And at the close of 2025 we will have had 9 years of internship and 5 years of spiritual formation and a short-term intensive! It all began when in December 2016, I presented the elders with an idea I had for setting up a discipleship program. With a brief outline and some rough plans, I had suggested an internship program, thinking it would need lots of time to discuss, set up and eventually run. Instead, a couple of weeks later I was given the green light by this church and ACOM to establish the Discovery Internship program, with a strong push to have it up and running by early February 2017. That year we kicked off our initial internship with 4 students. Andrew Edwards became my co-pilot with the interns, and we had lots of adventures.

Every year after that, I wondered if it would run again; I would pray and God always seemed to bring more students. Eventually I also set up the Genesis Spiritual Formation group to see how that would go and again it ran with consistent success. After several years of leading the interns and also the SF crew, I handed over the internship program to Ps Andrew. This was to allow myself time to focus on just SF, run the retreats and also to add some more preaching into my schedule.

This season has been no exception. In 2024, I prayed whether we would have another round of Spiritual Formation and again we had 4 students enrol, some studying with ACOM and some without. For 2025 we had 5 students enrol, with a wide age range and diverse backgrounds. We meet once a month on a Monday evening and hold three retreats throughout the year, plus one day retreat.

Our evening sessions include interactive learning, sharing of stories, and being challenged and encouraged in the faith journey. Although I think everyone finds the retreats the highlight, being the most intensive but also the most rewarding! Having three long weekends away to intentionally focus on your faith journey is a huge blessing! Every retreat I am so encouraged with how God's Holy Spirit works amongst the students! It is a privilege to see people grow closer to Jesus over the course of the year, as they learn more about their Heavenly Story.

My work, week to week, is diverse and varied and that is just the way I like it! Whilst most of my work is focused on spiritual formation and running retreats, I also do some pastoral care, lead creative services, and do some preaching every now and then. This is more than enough to fill up my allotted hours of one day a week.

Overall, I enjoy my ministry here and I am grateful for the trust which has been given to me to use my gifts to serve within the church. I pray it continues to encourage and inspire others.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this way.

# MEN'S MINISTRY

Craig Woodburn

The Men's Ministry at WVAC continues to be a place of spiritual growth, fellowship, and discipleship for men across all stages of life. While 2024 began with a slower pace in terms of events, the ministry has maintained strong engagement through weekly Bible studies and other regular gatherings.

## **Fellowship Events**

- Men's Breakfast (August 2024): Featured a guest speaker who is serving overseas. The event was marked by strong attendance, deep sharing, and extended ministry time.
- Badminton, Board Games and Burgers (September 2024): A great night of fun, where we learnt some board games take a really long time to finish!
- Canoe Breakfast (Feb 2025): A well-attended event that fostered team work and connection, even for some of our younger men.
- Cotter Dam Bike Ride (May 2025): Concluded with a BBQ lunch at the Cotter picnic area.
- Campfire, Burger and Testimony Night (June 2025): A great night to hear the testimony of God's goodness in healing.
- Attitude Adjustment Days: These have continued this year semi regularly (around once every month or two) and are a great opportunity to invite a friend along who hasn't met Jesus yet. See Craig or Rob if you'd like to join us for a day's break from the busyness of the work week.
- Upcoming Plans: Two events are currently planned for August and September and both will provide opportunities to be fed, experience some great fellowship and hear from guest missionaries who are currently active in the field.

## **Bible Studies**

Three studies have anchored the ministry's discipleship efforts:

1. Wednesday Morning Study (Waramanga Café): A consistent group of 6-7 men meet weekly at 7:30am for sharing, a cuppa, study and prayer before starting their day.
2. Friday Zoom Study: Led by Dennis Terracini, this virtual gathering at 7am accommodates men with early work schedules or travel commitments.
3. The Measure of a Man Study (August 2024 to April 2025): A 20-week series on Christian masculinity, based on the book *The Measure of a Man*, meet after church with occasional shared lunches.

## **Ministry Impact**

- The ministry has seen spiritual growth through consistent engagement in prayer and study.
- Events have provided opportunities for testimony, healing, and deeper connection among men.
- The ministry continues to support the church's broader mission of Loving God, Living Life and Reaching out for Jesus.

## **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to all who have participated, led, and supported the Men's Ministry this year. Your commitment to growing in Christ and encouraging one another has been a blessing to our church community.

# CREATIVE ARTS

Helen Betz

As a leadership team and as a church, we try to include different learning styles as part of our worship and preaching! It has often been said that if we just hear something, we are more likely to forget! But if we see and hear and experience, we remember!

Using creativity, art, drama, object lessons, video clips, worship and interactive moments as well as the spoken word, allow us to process and remember the truths of God more deeply! It's for this reason we often use extra elements when preaching and encourage our Bible college students to do the same. Creativity encourages connectivity!

This year we have again had some wonderful creative services and events, although the standouts would be our usual four: Celebration Sunday, Christmas, introducing our new theme and Easter. Although there have been many other wonderful creative services both in the morning service and in the afternoon Gathering but far too many to mention!

Our Christmas service this year was The Promise! Heaven touching earth! The presence of God coming down to us as a child in a manger. The ladder coming from the glitzy clouds in the roof and meeting the humble stable below, conveyed the image well. Each person could collect a reflective magnet to remind them of God's glory and God's promise to never leave us.

Then for our first theme service of 2025, to launch In His Footsteps, we handed out wrist bands, to remember to walk the talk! To learn, live and lead as a child of the Most High God!

For our Easter services we had The Witness. On Good Friday we had a monologue from eye-witnesses to the story of the cross of Christ. A Roman centurion and Pontius Pilate's wife told their tales. For Easter Sunday we heard from Nicodemus and Mary Magdalene, all sharing what they saw and experienced. With a dramatic stage scene and various props, this helped us see the Easter story through a fresh set of eyes.

As always, it's a blessing to hear feedback how people have often been encouraged, challenged or inspired through these services and we pray they continue to give God all the glory and draw hearts to Him! We serve a creative God and He delights when we use creativity to worship Him.

I thank God for another year to worship Him in all these various formats with you all. I may not have been able to sing with my voice for a large chunk of the year, but I worshipped God in so many other ways and thank God that He stirs our hearts when we seek Him.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

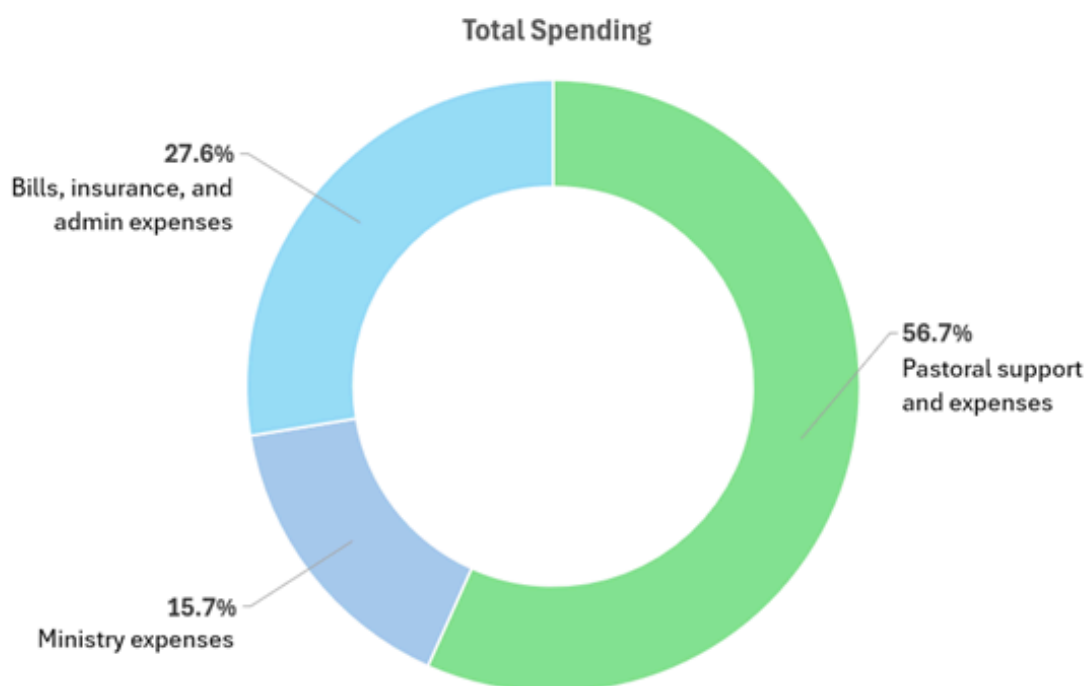
Joe Ree

First of all, I would like to thank God for His provision for our church. He has provided for us in many ways, especially in our finances. In tandem, I would like to thank the church for the generosity and commitment shown in the offerings. Through your generous giving, the church supported the various ministries to further God's kingdom.

Over the past financial year, the church agreed to a budget of over \$343,000 for general offerings. Through your generosity, we met and exceeded this budget by over \$22,000. Again, I would like to thank God and the church for this provision. Without it, we are unable to financially support our staff, our ministries, and our ever-surmounting bills.

The church spent the budget as agreed in our last Annual General Meeting. Majority of the budget was spent on pastoral support and expenses. A decent fraction was spent on the different ministry programs and events throughout the year. Over a quarter of the budget was spent on bills, insurance, and admin expenses.

- 56.7% went to pastoral support and expenses
- 15.7% went to ministry expenses
- 27.6% went to bills, insurance, and admin expenses



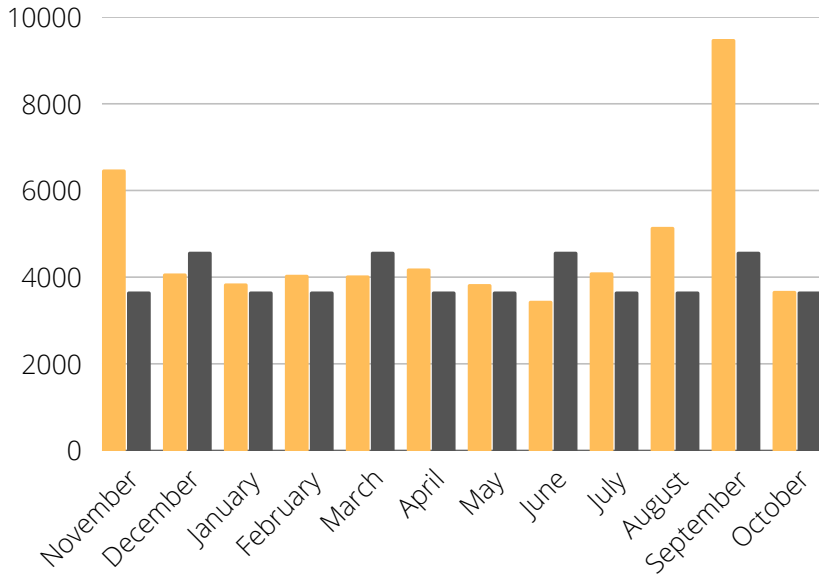
Separate from the general offerings, we committed to give almost \$50,000 for our Faith Promises to support our missionaries. We are on target to meet this commitment.

Unfortunately, we are reporting a deficit of around \$34,000 for this financial year. Most of the deficit came from the budgeted deficit of \$10,000 and the depreciation of assets of over \$13,000. However, there were several expenses that have grown with 'cost of living' increases, and expenses that were not foreseen. It's a long list, but just to name a few: building insurance premiums, (the revaluation of our buildings doubled our insurance costs), repairs and maintenance of units, new hot water tank for the mission centre; new defibrillator; streaming equipment; etc.

Last but not least, I would like to give a special thanks to Antoinette for all that she does behind the scenes. She does a lot for the church and much beyond what she is paid to do. Please join me in thanking her for her tremendous effort that ensures the church operates well.

# FAITH PROMISE

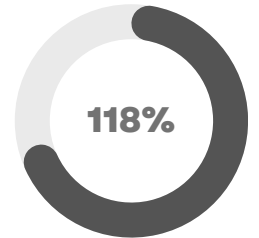
## FAITH PROMISE GIVING 23-24 YEAR



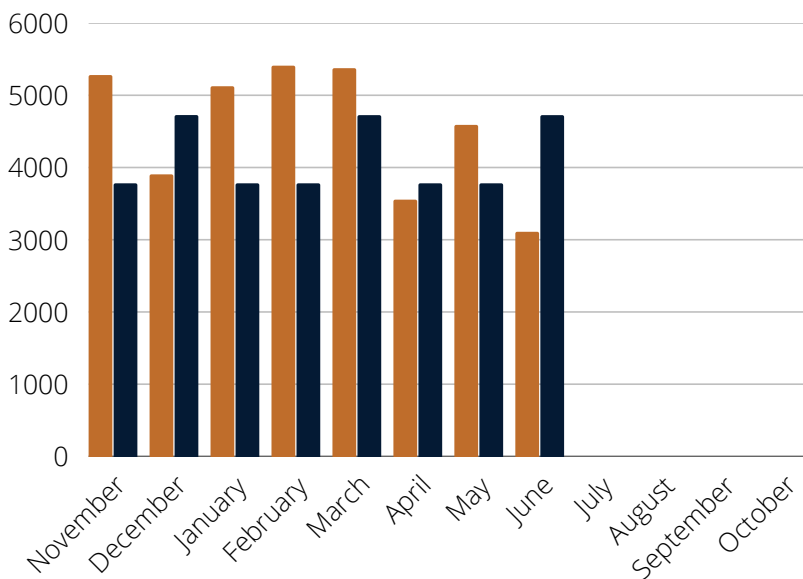
**GIVING  
TOTAL**



**PLEGGED  
\$47,700**



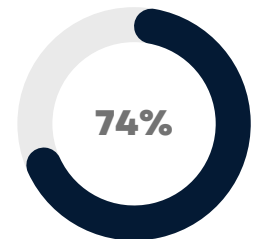
## FAITH PROMISE GIVING 24-25 YEAR



**GIVING  
TOTAL**



**PLEGGED  
\$49,150**



# BUDGET

	ACTUAL 24-25	BUDGET 24-25	BUDGET 25-26
<b>INCOME</b>			
General Offerings	\$357,455	\$343,140	\$360,000
Special Offerings	\$8,019	\$0	\$5,726
Other Income	\$20,199	\$14,840	\$14,300
Discipleship Programs	\$24,745	\$35,830	\$43,400
Unit Rentals	\$45,400	\$50,980	\$56,140
Mission Centre Income	\$22,710	\$18,000	\$19,200
Covenant Life Church Plant Income	\$27,230	\$26,632	\$26,632
<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$505,758</b>	<b>\$489,422</b>	<b>\$525,398</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Pastoral Support	\$281,358	\$276,645	\$290,823
Pastoral Expenses	\$25,488	\$29,083	\$30,583
Church Ministries	\$23,435	\$21,080	\$23,481
Outreach Ministries	\$8,704	\$10,636	\$10,886
C&MA National Contributions	\$23,295	\$22,463	\$23,475
C&MA Conferences	\$2,679	\$4,050	\$3,600
Meeting Hall Expenses	\$30,914	\$30,783	\$33,556
Operating Costs <i>(Actual includes depreciation)</i>	\$27,143	\$17,822	\$18,098
Discipleship Program Expenses	\$27,999	\$19,830	\$28,008
Unit Expenses	\$10,603	\$7,750	\$11,180
Mission Centre Expenses	\$38,675	\$26,544	\$18,548
Mortgage & Interest Payments	\$17,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Covenant Life Church Plant	\$22,792	\$20,736	\$21,160
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$540,085</b>	<b>\$499,422</b>	<b>\$525,398</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>(\$34,327)</b>	<b>(\$10,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Income from existing savings</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>	
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>(\$34,327)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>





**LEARN - LIVE - LEAD**