

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Gungahlin Uniting Church and Community Centre

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INTRODUCTION

Gungahlin Uniting Church adheres to the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Our activities reflect our values, which are:

- to share the love of Christ with each other and our community
- being inclusive, accepting and welcoming to all people
- being generous and caring for others
- being informal and friendly
- being open to new ideas
- nurturing spiritual growth
- commitment to community outreach and social justice

Our Churches mission priorities are

- Providing a safe and welcoming place for worship and gathering
- Caring for each other
- Caring for our community
- Growing our church community
- Encouraging lifelong Faith Formation

FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Jenelle Martin

In March 2024 we welcomed our fourth minister Reverend Hugh Park and his wife Yoonhee to Gungahlin Uniting Church. Hugh's induction service was a celebration of great joy for us. His gift of pastoral care has been a focus during his first year; having visited most of the congregation and provided communion for members unable to attend services regularly.

2024 has been a year of growth at GUC. We have seen growth in the number of people attending Sunday worship and in our church ministries. I pray that we will continue to listen to God's calling and obey his direction as we strive to serve the Gungahlin community.

We have also seen growth in the focus on our young people. Church Council have developed a strategy for building a sustainable and vibrant young peoples' ministry. This year we are looking at our current programs, increasing the visibility of our young people, and encouraging our young people to attend camps and other youth activities. We are also exploring Growing Young with the Synod's Pulse team by exploring successful strategies in building young peoples' ministries.

This year we relaunched 'Grow One', an initiative first used at GUC more than 10 years ago to encourage congregation members to consider their financial giving. This year's 'Grow One' asked you to consider your financial giving as well as your voluntary capacity. I am very thankful to everyone for participating in 'Grow One', knowing that this is a difficult time for many people.

We have so much to be thankful for at GUC. We would not be the dynamic and caring Christian community we are if it were not for the hundreds of hours of volunteer time our congregation contributes. Thank you to everyone involved in our Sunday morning worship, those volunteering in our youth ministry programs, those who volunteer in our food pantry and those who volunteer their time to keep our building in good order. I also want to acknowledge the enormous contribution Alison Tweedie, our Office and Food Pantry Administrator, makes to this congregation. Her attention to detail and ability to attract, maintain and value our volunteers is an understated gift.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate JJ Hamilton who has been accepted for candidacy for ministry in the Uniting Church. Unfortunately, she will be moving interstate to complete these studies. While we wish her all the best, we will greatly miss her worship services, her leadership on Church Council, and her warm friendly face.

With Christmas just around the corner, the words **joy**, **hope**, **peace** and **love** come to mind. My **hope** is that everyone can think back on this year and identify times of **joy** either within their family, their jobs, this congregation or in their personal endeavours. My **hope** is that 2025 brings **peace** for this community of faith, for Canberra, Australia and the world. And finally, I **hope** that everyone feels the **love** of God as they venture into the new year with new hopes and dreams.

I would like to thank all the members of this year's Church Council - Narelle Dodd (treasurer), Bruce Warren (secretary), Rev. Hugh Park, Elizabeth Phythian, Lynne Butson, JJ Hamilton, and Prince Jyubeh. I wish Narelle Dodd, Rev. Hugh Park and the incoming Church Council all the best in 2025 as they continue to discern God's will in the Gungahlin area.



FROM OUR MINISTER

Rev. Hugh Park

Introduction: As we reflect on the past year since my induction here at GUC, I am grateful for the ways God has guided and blessed our church community. I've been constantly amazed by how many people are eager to take on important roles in our congregation. For me, this year has been one of growth, learning, seeking, and resilience, as many of us have answered Christ's call to serve both our church and the wider community.

Worship and Ministry: Our worship services have continued to be a central part of our life here at GUC. We've made an intentional effort to create a welcoming atmosphere for newcomers, particularly with the integration of multi-generational and multi-cultural elements into our services. Our average attendance has remained steady at around 75 – 85, though we have seen one or two new visitors almost every month. However, as we've noticed, some attend once or twice and then don't return, which remains an area of focus for us moving forward.

In my years of ministry, I've learned that two key things really make a difference when it comes to helping newcomers feel at home: 1. Building welcoming and friendly relationships with them, both inside and outside of church; 2. Giving them roles and responsibilities in church life, including during Sunday worship. We might need to do number 1 in a more structured way soon. When we do these two things well, there's a much better chance that new people will feel a sense of belonging and stay with us.

I have recruited new worship leaders who will lead worship with me each week starting in 2025. These leaders will have the chance to meet and get to know almost everyone at worship as they greet and farewell people before and after Sunday worship.

Our GUC music team has been a huge blessing, not just for me but for everyone who attends worship each Sunday. Their contributions give me a strong sense of confidence and teamwork during our services.

Pastoral Care: Pastoral care has been a key focus this year. I've worked closely with those who were interested in pastoral care to ensure that our elderly and isolated members as well as new members feel connected. In this regard, pastoral visitations and coffee catchups have been a key focus in providing pastoral care for the church.

Pastoral Care for the Food Pantry: Spending Thursdays with the Food Pantry staff and volunteers has been a rewarding part of my role as the minister. Their dedication to the ministry gives me a deep sense of hope and confidence for the church. It's also been a privilege to meet and talk with the people we serve.

Safe Church Culture: This year has seen significant work done in implementing and improving the culture of a Safe Church for us. Our Safe Church person, Narelle Dodd, has been a great help in managing the regulations needed for a safe congregation. We are mindful of balancing these rules with creating a warm and welcoming environment, especially for new members. I will continue to work closely with the Safe Church leadership and volunteers to ensure these policies are followed with care and clarity.

Challenges: Despite the growth in diversity, we face challenges around building a stronger sense of belonging and consistency in attendance. I am aware of the need to develop specific discipleship and ministry programs that cater to the diverse needs of all the members of our multi-generational and multi-cultural congregation. We also need to strengthen our follow-up with new visitors to help them integrate more fully into the life of the church. We might need to develop a special pastoral care group who will extend support to younger and new families through specific children's ministry and more active home group program.

Goals for the Coming Year:

1. **Developing Discipleship Programs:** Focusing on age-specific and cultural groups to foster deeper connections within the congregation.
2. **Engaging the Youth and Young Families:** We need to continue investing in our youth ministry and young families to encourage their participation in worship and other church activities.
3. **Membership Growth and Retention:** We plan to introduce small group initiatives and welcome events for new members to strengthen their sense of belonging and commitment.

Conclusion: In conclusion, I am grateful for the dedication and support of the church council, our leaders, and all who serve in various ministries. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to lead us as we work together to build a strong, Christ-centered community in the coming year.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Hugh Park

Minister of Gungahlin Uniting Church

Treasurer Financial Report

Narelle Dodd

Financial year 2023-24[1]

Summary

In 2023-24 Gungahlin Uniting made an operating profit of $23,397, with the food pantry making a a small loss of $763. This resulted in a total profit of $22,634.

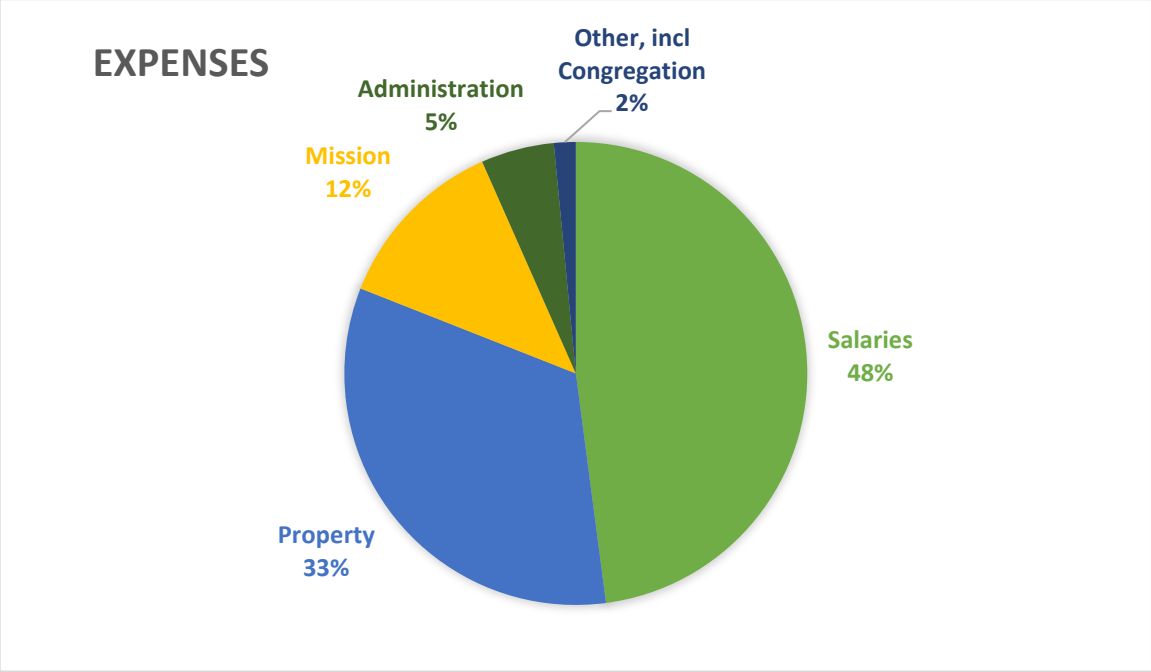
Our cash assets increased in 2023/24 by $28,931 to $272 314. Our net assets totalled $4,139,884.25.

Our book keeper, Kelly Dodd, resigned at the end of this financial year. Church Council has engaged Benkorp to manage our book-keeping, a business experienced in supporting churches and not-for-profit organisations. I would like to thank Kelly for her valuable contribution over the last five years.

I would also like to thank John McKenzie for his hard work as Treasurer for the first half of the financial year, and Church Council and Robert Shelton for their unfailing support.

What did it cost to run the church in 2023-24

In 2023-24 our expenses totalled $189,976 (excluding the food pantry). Our two key areas of expenditure are salaries and property (maintenance and overheads). We also contributed $12,516 to the wider work of the church through Synod and Presbytery.



Of particular note was maintenance, which continued to grow in 2023/24 to $48,279. This was some $24,830 more than 2022/23. It included

- Painting Multipurpose room ($3,500)
- New fire panel ($3,542)
- New security lights ($6,345)

[1] This report does not include the other mission activities & groups (E.g., Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade, Playgroup etc.) that are managed by the leaders of the activities

- Additional Manse downlights ($2,227)
- Cost of the Square, BBQ, white goods for manse, Minister's computer (no longer depreciated so expensed in P&L) - $5,200

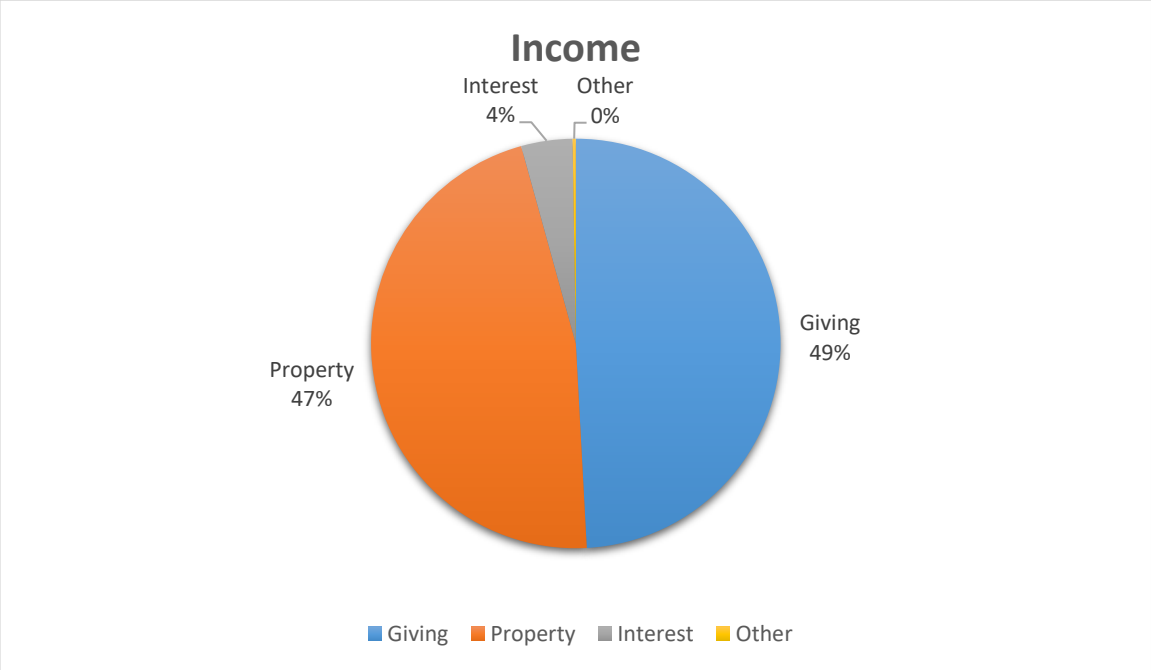
How did we pay for it?

In 2023-24 Income (excluding the food pantry) was $213,373. While this was similar to 2022/23, it was $7500 less than budgeted[2].

Compared to 2022/23:

- Congregational giving was $4 443 less
- Interest was $4 000 more
- Rental income from the manse was $18 670 less, as the manse was rented for only part of the year.
- Hall hire was $17 477 more

Most of our income came from two sources: congregational giving and hire of the church premises, with the church having a very heavy reliance on one hall hirer. This presents a significant risk to the church, should that organisation no longer wish, or be able, to use our church premises.



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry had a successful year financially, with income well above budget, at $48,427. As a result, the Pantry was in surplus for most of the year, falling into a small deficit of $763 in the final month of the year. This meant the Food Pantry was self supporting financially this financial year. As Pantry income is demand driven, Church Council will, nevertheless, continue to monitor their financial position closely.

Key expenses for the Pantry were stock and salary (10 hours per week).

[2] A variation was made by Church Council to the budget approved at the 2023 Congregational Budget Meeting. The proceeds from the GUC sales proceeds account were removed from the budget, as this had been included as income in a previous financial year. These funds have, however, been used for maintenance/property improvements as per Synod guidelines.

What do we own?

GUC total assets are $4,167,800 as at 30 June 2024. The vast majority of this is the church building and manse, including land. Other non-building assets were fully depreciated this financial year. Following discussions with Benkorp, Church Council decided to expense most (non-building) capital purchases in the profit and loss going forward.

We held $272,814 in cash assets at 30 June 2024.

Our liabilities were $27,916, the bulk being provision for staff leave entitlements. There are no outstanding loans.

Net assets were $4,139,884.

Future Outlook

While a net profit resulted in 2023-24, this was largely because we did not have a full time Minister for 9 months of the financial year. Rev. Dr Bruce Stevens was employed as a supply minister at 48% of full-time equivalent for the first half of the financial year. This also meant the church earned rental income from the manse for several months in the first half of the year.

In 2024-25, as we return to a full-time Minister, Gungahlin Uniting has budgeted for a loss of $10,600. In order to support future growth, Church Council has agreed:

- in the short term, to re-introduce a previously used stewardship program, Grow One, to support increased congregational giving
- in the longer term, encourage growth of the congregation through the Gungahlin Uniting's Family and Young Person's Ministry.

The congregation may also wish to consider opportunities for fund raising.

Gungahlin Uniting Church Profit & Loss

July 2023 To June 2024

	Period	Budgeted	$ Difference	% Difference
INCOME				
Congregation Offerings	**$104,871.40**	**$107,376.84**	**($2,505.44)**	**-2.30%**
Donations Non-UCA	**$542.00**	**$422.00**	**$120.00**	**28.40%**
Interest Income	**$8,641.26**	**$4,280.22**	**$4,361.04**	**101.90%**
Property Income				
Halls	$86,449.56	$90,000.00	($3,550.44)	-3.90%
Residential Properties	$12,868.87	$17,419.98	($4,551.11)	-26.10%
Total Property Income	**$99,318.43**	**$107,419.98**	**($8,101.55)**	**-7.50%**
GST Recovered on MEA	$0.00	$1,283.70	($1,283.70)	-100.00%
Total INCOME	**$213,373.09**	**$220,782.74**	**($7,409.65)**	**-3.40%**
EXPENSES				
Staff Costs				
Ministry Stipends Payroll				
Ministry Stipends & Allowances	$56,315.24	$76,710.00	($20,394.76)	-26.60%
Ministry Superannuation	$5,630.68	$6,934.02	($1,303.34)	-18.80%
Payroll Visit Preacher/Speaker	$0.00	$100.00	($100.00)	-100.00%
NonPayrollVisitPreacherSpeaker	$100.00	$0.00	$100.00	NA
UCA Payroll Funds Exp	$2,065.04	$1,284.96	$780.08	60.70%
Total Ministry Stipends Payroll	**$64,110.96**	**$85,028.98**	**($20,918.02)**	**-24.60%**
Support Staff Salaries				
Support Staff Salaries & Wages	$23,640.37	$17,116.68	$6,523.69	38.10%
Support Staff Superannuation	$2,600.78	$1,801.74	$799.04	44.30%
Workers Compensation	$924.54	$3,318.00	($2,393.46)	-72.10%
Reimburs minister costs	$485.96	$0.00	$485.96	NA
Total Support Staff Salaries [P2]	**$27,651.65**	**$22,236.42**	**$5,415.23**	**24.40%**
Provisions				
Provn for Annual Leave	$2,972.50	$506.04	$2,466.46	487.40%
Provn for LSL	$2,059.54	$3,172.02	($1,112.48)	-35.10%
Total Provisions	**$5,032.04**	**$3,678.06**	**$1,353.98**	**36.80%**
Total Staff Costs	$96,794.65	$110,943.46	($14,148.81)	-12.75%
Property Costs				
General Maintenance				
Handyman' repairs	$1,389.91	$2,822.04	($1,432.13)	-50.70%
Painting	$4,267.15	$5,539.00	($1,271.85)	-23.00%
Electrical Repairs	$8,370.53	$7,377.99	$992.54	13.50%
Plumbing Repairs	$6,089.95	$3,497.01	$2,592.94	74.10%
Cleaning & Waste Removal	$17,022.64	$12,570.96	$4,451.68	35.40%
Replacement Fittings	$6,032.14	$1,113.96	$4,918.18	441.50%
Grounds Maintenance	$149.82	$3,174.96	($3,025.14)	-95.30%
Fire and Security Systems	$4,956.76	$1,872.96	$3,083.80	164.60%
Total General Maintenance	**$48,278.90**	**$37,968.88**	**$10,310.02**	**27.20%**
Property Overheads				
Property Insurance	$4,255.00	$7,269.00	($3,014.00)	-41.50%
Electricity & Gas	$8,322.17	$7,611.00	$711.17	9.30%
Water Rates	$2,266.96	$2,440.00	($173.04)	-7.10%
Council Rates	$2,827.45	$2,095.00	$732.45	35.00%
Property Management	$1,145.70	$1,801.98	($656.28)	-36.40%
Land Tax	($309.78)	$1,053.00	($1,362.78)	-129.40%
Total Property Overheads	**$18,507.50**	**$22,269.98**	**($3,762.48)**	**-16.90%**

Total Property Costs	**$66,786.40**	**$60,238.86**	**$6,547.54**	**10.87%**
Mission Costs & Giving				
UCA Living is Giving	$3,132.00	$3,273.00	($141.00)	-4.30%
Other UCA Organisations	$0.00	$1,045.00	($1,045.00)	-100.00%
Presbytery Levies	$9,384.00	$9,806.04	($422.04)	-4.30%
Non UCA Organisations	$0.00	$1,359.00	($1,359.00)	-100.00%
Local Mission Support	$0.00	$1,316.00	($1,316.00)	-100.00%
Overseas Mission Support	$0.00	$1,463.00	($1,463.00)	-100.00%
Boys and Girls Brigade Support	$0.00	$1,045.00	($1,045.00)	-100.00%
Total Mission Costs & Giving	$12,516.00	$19,307.04	($6,791.04)	-35.20%
Total Mission Costs & Giving	**$25,032.00**	**$38,614.08**	**($13,582.08)**	**-35.17%**
Administration & Office				
Audit Fees	$600.00	$1,568.00	($968.00)	-61.70%
Professional Services	$600.00	$941.00	($341.00)	-36.20%
Depreciation Expense	$5,374.52	$0.00	$5,374.52	NA
Stationery & Printing	$2,230.48	$2,042.04	$188.44	9.20%
Telecommunications	$1,299.87	$3,135.00	($1,835.13)	-58.50%
Postage & Courier	$205.36	$174.00	$31.36	18.00%
Total Administration & Office	**$10,310.23**	**$7,860.04**	**$2,450.19**	**31.17%**
Other Expenses				
Licences	$489.86	$1,871.88	($1,382.02)	-73.80%
Edu Materials (excl mission)	$318.20	$204.99	$113.21	55.20%
Total Other Expenses	**$318.20**	**$204.99**	**$113.21**	**55.20%**
Congregation/Church Services				
Worship & Music	$1,211.79	$1,779.96	($568.17)	-31.90%
Hospitality	$580.73	$261.00	$319.73	122.50%
Members' Training/confs	$967.81	$1,663.00	($695.19)	-41.80%
Total Congregation/Church Services	**$2,760.33**	**$3,703.96**	**($943.63)**	**-25.50%**
Total EXPENSES	**$189,975.67**	**$204,130.23**	**($14,154.56)**	**-6.90%**
Operating Profit	**$23,397.42**	**$16,652.51**	**$6,744.91**	**40.50%**
Food Pantry and Garden				
Income				
Sales/Income/Donations	$48,426.79	$33,110.00	$15,316.79	46.26%
Total Food Pantry & Garden Income	**$48,426.79**	**$33,110.00**	**$15,316.79**	**46.26%**
Expenditure				
Management Employment				
Salaries & Wages	$15,547.14	$12,633.78	$2,913.36	23.10%
Superannuation	$1,709.87	$1,389.72	$320.15	23.00%
Total Management Employment	**$17,257.01**	**$14,023.50**	**$3,233.51**	**23.10%**
Operating expenses				
Purchase goods for sale	$30,327.52	$22,413.00	$7,914.52	35.30%
Other Food Pantry expense	$1,573.59	$785.00	$788.59	100.50%
Food Garden Expenses	$31.82	$0.00	$31.82	NA
Total Operating Expenses	**$31,932.93**	**$23,198.00**	**$8,734.93**	**37.70%**
Total Food Pantry Expenditure	**$49,189.94**	**$37,221.50**	**$11,968.44**	**32.20%**
Food Pantry & Garden Profit/(Loss)	**($763.15)**	**($4,111.50)**	**$3,348.35**	**-81.44%**
Net GUC Profit/(Loss)	**$22,634.27**	**$12,541.01**	**$10,093.26**	**80.50%**

Gungahlin Uniting Church - Balance Sheet

As of 30 June 2024

ASSETS			
Current Account non-UFS			
Petty Cash Acct #444629		$500.00	
Ministers' Benefit Accs			
UFS MBF 100089145		$3,627.23	
Fixed Assets			
Land			
Church Grounds	$400,000.00		
Manse #2 Land	$371,000.00		
Total Land [A3]		**$771,000.00**	
Building & Contents			
Church Sanctuary	$2,490,297.60		
Manse 2 Building	$568,946.18		
White Shed	$6,898.08		
Food Pantry Building	$44,946.06		
Food Garden	$7,058.73		
Food Garden Accum Deprec.	($7,058.73)		
Contents Church Sanct	$37,319.39		
ContentsChurch Accum Deprec.	($37,319.39)		
Contents Halls	$18,423.65		
Contents Hall Accum Deprec.	($18,423.65)		
Contents Office	$11,785.58		
Contents Office Accum Deprec.	($11,785.58)		
Total Building & Contents [A4]		**$3,111,087.92**	
Investments			
UFS Main Account 100037339	$24,772.70		
UFS 100037436	$16.59		
UFS 100034744	$164,529.77		
UFS Fix Term #2 - 100044182	$18,826.38		
UFS Fix Term #3 - 100044516	$18,826.00		
UFS Fix Term #4 - 100044517	$18,541.87		
UFS Food Pantry 100092370	$26,800.97		
Total Investments		**$272,314.28**	
Debtors			
Accounts Receivable	$9,271.00		
Total Debtors		**$9,271.00**	
Other Assets			
Play Equipment/ground	$14,460.65		
Play Equipment Accum Deprec.	($14,460.65)		
Furniture	$45,025.83		
Furniture Accum Deprec.	($45,025.83)		
Computers	$10,604.58		
Computers Accum Deprec.	($10,604.58)		
Audio Visual	$999.79		
Audio Visual Accum Deprec.	($999.79)		
Total Other Assets		**$0.00**	
Total ASSETS			**$4,167,800.43**

LIABILITIES			
Minister Benefit Exp Liability			
Min. Wright Benefit Liability	$0.24		
Min. Park Benefit Liability	$4,589.11		
Total Minister BExp Liability		**$4,589.35**	
Provision Staff Entitlements			
Provn for Annual Leave	$14,952.87		
Provn for LSL	$4,990.64		
Total Provision Staff Entitlements		**$19,943.51**	
Other Liabilities			
Tax Summary			
GST Collected	$2,701.68		
GST Paid	($2,790.36)		
PAYG Payable	$3,472.00		
Total Tax Summary		**$3,383.32**	
Total LIABILITIES			**$27,916.18**
Net Assets			**$4,139,884.25**
RETAINED FUNDS			
Accumulated Funds			
Asset Revaluation Reserve	$1,352,977.72		
Accum General Funds	$2,778,538.52		
Prior Period adjustments	($14,266.26)		
Current Surplus/deficit	$22,634.27		
Total Accumulated Funds		**$4,139,884.25**	
Total RETAINED FUNDS			**$4,139,884.25**

FROM OUR CHURCH LIFE WORKER

Alison Tweedie - Administration & Encouragement

Church Life Worker- Administration & Encouragement is a diverse role with three main areas: 1) Church Administration; 2) Bookings & Building Manager; 3) Oversight of the Mustard Seed Food Pantry.

In the area of Church Administration my role is to prepare the *Bulletin* each week, prepare church rosters, create name tags for newcomers, keep our congregational database up to date, keep our *Safe Church Volunteer Register* up to date, produce the *Church Contact Directory*, collate the annual *Volunteer Forms,* and prepare the Annual Report each year. I work closely with the Treasurer and Benkorp, our bookkeeping service, to help oversee invoices and other small financial matters from week to week.
I organise the annual "Test 'n' Tag", keep a log of keys and security protocols, and liaise with trades people for site visits. I also attend to emails and enquiries, order supplies for the kitchen, bathrooms and office and many other day-to-day tasks as well as more seasonal tasks throughout the year. I am often the face that welcomes and greets people who drop by our building throughout the week with a range of enquiries and needs, from the simple to the more complex. I also work closely with our minister Hugh supporting him in his role.

As Bookings & Building Manager I liaise with our current tenants and organise any new or one-off events that happen in our facility. In this role I liaise with our church cleaner and with the Church Property Group on maintenance issues.

My role as Mustard Seed Food Pantry Co-ordinator involves preparing and managing the rosters, orientating and training new volunteers and enabling and encouraging our team. Each week I place a food order with Foodbank, update our customer database and make Membership Cards for new customers. Throughout the year I attend Foodbank Forums, speak with community groups about the work of the pantry, liaise with our donors and supporters and each Friday I send out an email updating our team on the happenings from the past week.

My days of work are spread over Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, totaling 20 hours per week.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Worship Team

Chris Dodd- Convenor

There was great relief for the Worship Team at the 2023 AGM when we learned that Rev Hugh Park was planning to join us all at GUC as our new minister in 2024. Our group had taken responsibility for planning for worship services, with leaders and preachers, since early 2022. We were thankful for the ministry of Rev Dr Bruce Stevens as our supply minister, but as a limited placement he was only able to preach twice a month. The role of leader and preacher on the other Sundays was shared between a number of our own members. Their contribution was always greatly appreciated.

We also appreciate the work of Patsy Coleman who was part of the team up to the end of 2023. Thanks Patsy.

After the final service with Rev Dr Bruce Stevens on 31 December 2023, Worship Team continued to share leadership of services until the arrival of Rev Hugh Park in March.

Some special services led by Worship Team during the year were a 'Blue Christmas' service of reflection for those who find Christmas difficult, on 17 December 2023, and an Ash Wednesday service on 14 February 2024. We also had the Boys Brigade/Girls Brigade service which featured the Girls Brigade this year and was led by Liz Warren and her team.

The Induction service for Rev Hugh Park on 16 March was a significant moment for the congregation. This service was led by a member of Canberra Region Presbytery.

The pattern of hearing the Scripture read in English and in one of the languages represented in our congregation is much appreciated. This year church members have read for us in Mandarin, Arabic, Urdu, Japanese, Sinhala, Korean, Welsh and German.

The music team has been very active this year, with a new pattern of monthly practices and a monthly list of preferred song choices to help musicians prepare new material and practice familiar songs. Some new singers have joined the group. We are grateful for the excellent leadership that our musicians give each week.

The preparation of everything needed by leaders in terms of technical support and material to be displayed on the screens is done by Chris Martin. This help is invaluable and we are thankful for the smooth way everything 'just happens'. Thank you, Chris and your tech team.

This year we have been recycling previous banners, apart from an Advent hanging by the Billabong group and a colourful Pentecost hanging prepared by Rose-Mary Faulkner-Schwartz. Church members provided a series of festive wreaths during Advent.

Due to several circumstances, the Worship Team has only met once this year. Leadership and planning for worship services has been in the hands of our minister Rev Hugh Park, who has been recruiting additional people to share in this ministry. There are plans for training for new people to prepare them to lead worship in future. One helpful action has been to invite several different people to present an All-Age message, with a focus on the children.





Playgroup

Cassandra Nokham – Coordinator



Playgroup started back in February 2024 when school started back.
The year started off quite busy with quite a big group and a number of new families starting. The numbers did wain off during term 2 for various reasons, which often happens.

Playgroup is for babies up to age 5 before they go to school. We have a variety of ages.

We have continued with free play both inside and outside, singing and a story for those who want to join in. Parents who wished to provide a craft activity did so.

The morning tea roster continued, bought by the parents and our committed 'grandparents' from GUC, were on hand to make tea or coffee to our parents and carers. We welcomed Yoonhee to the team when Shirley went travelling and Lily, Shirley and Margaret continued to help.

At the end of term 2 we went on an outing to the indoor play centre in Mitchell. We had enough money to pay for the children.

We have charged $10 per family per term which has helped to pay for these excursions and will help pay for end of year celebrations. At the end of 2023 we held a Christmas party where I provided food using funds and gave a gift of a book to each child using the funds.

2024 has been another great year for Playgroup. I am very grateful for our Grandparent helpers who still support Playgroup by making tea and coffee for the parents and carers and who are a support to myself and to families. Thanks also to Alison.

Once again it has been wonderful to see the friendships that have come out of Playgroup – both children and parents. Playgroup continues to be a great community service and is a place where people are welcomed and included in line with GUC's values.

Oasis

Liz Warren

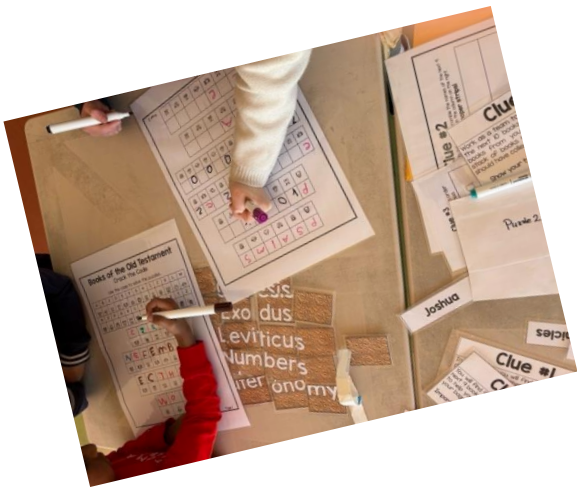
Oasis, (what we call Sunday School) has had a good year, with a variety of topics covered. We have had from 2 to 15 children (there were visitors that day), with most days having between 5 and 7 children. Many thanks to Sung for faithfully coming every week to support the children and weekly leaders. A TV on a stand was donated, to support our lessons with the ability to use fun videos.

In Term 1, Liz looked at the concept of Faith, using stories of Daniel as its basis. Caroline, using the Faithbox material, covered God made is in his image, we are to look after his world, we are all part of God's family and everyone matters, among other things. Term 3 was all about learning about the Old Testament and starting to learn how to use the Bible. All of our children, so far, have been given their very own Bible, and have been given opportunities to find references and read from it.

Sadly, Caroline is unable to continue with Oasis beyond a couple of weeks in Term 4. Caroline started with Oasis a year or so ago, stepping well outside her comfort zone to take on the role. Her bravery is very much appreciated.









Billabong

Elizabeth Phythian & Lynne Butson

Billabong has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis during term time throughout 2024. This group is for our young people who are in years 6 to 8 at school. There are 6 young people in our congregation who fall into this age category: Lanna, Esther, Natalie, Sophia, Elijah and Matthew.

This year, we have offered a mix of biblical, practical and social activities, such as:

- Leading and participating in the Safe Church service, including the debut of 'The Billabong Band' (pictured).
- Breakfast with Hugh, discussing faith, baptism and confirmation.
- Using 'The Big Questions High School' resource to explore the topics 'knowing Jesus changes everything' and 'you don't have to prove you're enough'.
- Cooking scripture cookies and using the bible to work out the ingredients.
- Co-leading the Advent service with Oasis.
- Coordinating morning tea after worship, including baking morning tea goodies.
- Learning to crochet.
- Pizza and fire pit night.
- 10 pin bowling – both as a Billabong activity (pictured) and as part of the combined Presbytery youth activity organised by Kippax Uniting Church.
- Bushwalk and BBQ – a combined Presbytery youth activity organised by GUC, where Kippax Uniting, Melba Uniting and the Canberra City Tongan Uniting Church were invited to participate.





Girls' Brigade

Liz Warren – Captain

2024 has, so far, been an interesting year. We have had new girls start with us, while others have moved on, either because of school commitments, or moving away, while others stop coming when the weather turns cold and return when the weather improves. Girls' Brigade meets on Wednesday evenings during school terms, at 6:30pm. We meet at the Salvation Army, next door to GUC. We currently have 16 girls on our roll, with six leaders. Sadly two of our leaders will be finishing up at the end of the year.

While we are a youth ministry of Gungahlin Uniting Church, we are also a part of a world wide organisation. It's exciting to be a part of an organisation that supports, encourages, and in some countries, educates girls and young women, both spiritually and practically. Girls' Brigade Australia's program works on a framework around Friendships and Faith. This is done though achievements based on achievements that cover four themes: SELF; LIFE; PURPOSE; COMMUNITY. We also participate in EXTRAORDINARY ACTIVITIES & MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS, ie serving each other and our communities. All our activities have underlying spiritual aspects to them.

Our Cadets (Kinder to Year 2) and Juniors (Years 3-5) combined this year and worked on, among other things, Kindness, Animals, Environment, and Feelings. They have investigated caring for animals, and those who care for animals, including the RSPCA and other rescue organisations. They have taken part in the Aussie Bird Count, used music to investigate their feelings, used recycled materials for crafts and games, chatted to a Youth Olympian, and painted some tulips.

Our Seniors (Years 6-8) have enjoyed learning about and undertaking self-care through mindfulness and physical activities, found out about safety in the home environment, and have learned social skills and leadership skills though teaching each other boardgames, and leading young girls in games and activities. They have undertaken cooking challenges and led the younger girls in games.









Our Pioneers are finishing up Creative Arts.
They have, among other things, learned some basic knitting and crotchet, planned craft activities and games for the younger girls, and started and maintained our Instagram account, Gungahlin Girls Brigade. They have all undertaken leadership training and organised events for the younger girls. They also helped the young girls with finding out the meaning behind the Girls' Brigade Crest.



Our extraordinary activities are those that the girls will remember long after their time at Brigade is finished. This year we went rock climbing, swimming, our Fitness is Fun night with a Physical Trainer, and had our sleepover, organised by one of our Pioneers. We also walked in Mulligan's Flat,and took our mums to Bunnings for a scavenger hunt, followed by a drink at McDonalds. We also had a number of girls attend the ACT sleepover and paint gnomes for Floriade.
Our Positive Contributions activities included taking part in Clean Up Australia, looking out for each other, and cooking for each other.
We celebrated Carrie receiving her hard earned Queen's Award, the highest internation award in Girls' Brigade. It took four years of hard work, including a six month community service, twelve months of service to GUC, a twelve month major project, an oral presentation on a current social issue, and attendance at a state or national event, and extra service to Gungahlin Girls' Brigade This was on top of her work at Brigade.
Thanks to all the people who make Girls' brigade possible – our leaders, Jordanna, Carrie, Lorelle, Fi, and Barbara, and Shirley, who provides prayer support and a listening ear, as well as Shirley H who spent time teaching our Pioneers how to knit. Thanks to our parents and carers who bring the girls, and to our girls for wanting to attend. The Salvation Army continues to rent their building to us, and are very supporting of Brigade by providing a reduced rental rate to us. Thank you. Thanks also to GUC, who helps us pay the rent.

Opening Balance (01.01.24) $7,023.43

Closing Balance (13.10.24) $5,908.40

INCOMING

Fees $3,675.00
Activities $30.00
Container Refund Scheme $187.40
(rent supplement)
TOTAL $3,892.40



OUTGOING

Rent $935.55
First Aid Training $508.00
2023 Annual Fees $2,584.20
Uniforms $210.00
Equipment $73.89
Program costs $342.14
End of year costs $151.05
Activities $150
TOTAL $4,954.83

NB:
Approx. $1200 set aside for Fono subsidisation.
Some rent still to be paid.
Approx $2500 for 2024 annual fees to be paid in December.



Boys' Brigade

Bruce Warren - Captain

The purpose of The Boys' Brigade in Australia is to provide, in cooperation with the local church, a supportive Christian community for boys and young men to assist in their Christian growth with balanced personal development, leadership training, and to assist the church reaching out into the community. The Motto of the Boys' Brigade is 'Sure and Steadfast' taken from Hebrews 6:19. The Objective of Boys' Brigade is "The advancement of Christ's kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness." Boys' Brigade has been running for 141 years across and operates in 60 countries around the world.

Gungahlin Uniting Church has been running a very successful Boys' Brigade program for the last 20 years. Our Boys' Brigade group is split into two groups, a combined Anchors (5-7yo) and Juniors (8-11yo) group and a Seniors Group (12-18yo). The boys are split into 4 squads with each squad containing a mixture of Seniors, Juniors and Anchors. Boys' Brigade meets on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm (during school terms) at Gungahlin Uniting Church. We currently have 34 Boys on our roll.

Boys' Brigade came up with a four-sided development and achievement program using Luke 2:52 as our inspiration, "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man". This formed the basis of our program for the year.

Term 1 - Physical [Healthy bodies]:

This is to encourage a spirit of comradeship and allow individual boys to develop their own physique through team games and individual games and activities. This term we ran a Dodge Ball competition, went canoeing on Lake Ginninderra, did a bike ride around Throsby, ran a Squad games competition, held a Nerf Gun night, and had Easter activities. Rev Hugh Park led the Seniors in Communion prior to Easter.

Term 2 - Educational [Active minds]:

This is to teach the boys something practical or artistic as an introduction to leisure time activities. This term the boys learnt knot tying, and planted succulent pots for boys' mothers as Mother's Day presents. We learnt about Boys' Brigade, cooked biscuits, learnt how to build a fire and burnt marshmallows and damper. We also had a visit from two ACT Federal Police officers to learn about the role of ACT Policing and the boys were allowed to check out and sit on their Police motorcycles. The boys Improved their skill at board games, did Lego constructions, and practiced water safety at Gungahlin pool. During the term the Anchors and Juniors had a sleepover at GUC and the Seniors did sessions on car maintenance and practiced leading drill. Our leaders and older Seniors

completed a First Aid course to ensure we maintain our First Aid qualifications. During the school holidays two of our Seniors attended the Boys' Brigade Leadership camp in Queensland to further develop their leadership skills.

Term 3 - Spiritual [Christian Citizenship]:

This encourages Boys to learn about the Christian faith, and to grow up to become responsible members of the community. The words 'Bring Forth The Ancient Scroll' rang out most nights at Brigade during our nightly parade. An Ancient Scroll was summonsed from our Vault of Ancient Texts and one of our Seniors proclaimed the words written on the scroll (a Psalm) to the attending masses. We also incorporated a weekly memory verse into our Squad competition. The boys also learnt the BB Vesper (our closing prayer). We also did a night hike in Mulligans Flat to wonder at Gods Creation. The Boys visited a holy site (Bunnings) with their dads for a Bunnings scavenger hunt. We completed the term putting our faith into action by going indoor rock climbing. An important part of our Brigade program is our nightly devotions. During this year the Anchors and Juniors have been doing devotions based on the Psalms while the Seniors have been reading through and discussing the gospel of Mark

Term 4 - Social [Respect & Community Service]:

This encourages the boys in progressive ways to gain knowledge about looking after himself and others, and then apply this in practical service to other people. We will complete this term with a few social activities incorporated into our normal nightly program. Daylight Savings allows us to spend more time outdoors. We will be playing outdoor games, going for a walk down to the Gubur Dhaura Heritage Park, launching water rockets and having an outdoor Physical Training session (the boys will be learning how to be nice to a Personal Trainer who is making them exercise). We will complete the year with our annual presentation night and an end of year BBQ at Moncrieff Park.

I am thankful for the boys who attend every week, their parents who send then and help when needed. I am also thankful for the wonderful team of leaders we have, Alistar Buchannan, Billy Cook, Phil Monley, Mathew Bielenberg, Thomas Bielenberg and the BB ACT Training officer Mike Cappelletti. I would also like to acknowledge our NCOs (leaders in training) Caleb Warren, Mathew Swan, Timothy Bielenberg and Lyle McCormack, with the running of our program. We are thankful to Gungahlin Uniting Church for letting us use the building on Wednesday nights and provide support when needed. Most importantly I am thankful to God for this wonderful ministry and the changes I see in the boys' lives over the years.

Our Boys' Brigade group is self-funded, it relies on fees parents pay to attend our program and some fund raising, these fees cover the boys' BB polo shirt, awards, BB Australia Insurance and BB ACT equipment and resources. It also covers most activities,

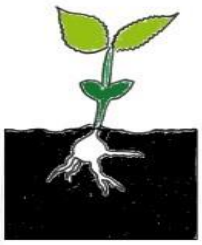
equipment, supplies and training. We are aware that with the cost-of-living pressure some families are under they may not be able to pay our fees. We would rather have their boys attend Brigade than have them miss out. This year we did invest in a set of 2-way radios, as well as paying for our leaders' First Aid Training and contributed to costs for the BB Leadership Camp attendees, which has reduced our bank balance. Some of this money came from the previous year's fund-raising activities.

BB Financial Statement

Opening Balance		$6,352.08		
Income			Expenses	
Fees	$4,505.00		BB Capitations	$3,700.00
Fundraising	$90.70		Activities	$525.51
Uniforms	$30.00		Training	$1,497.00
			Equipment	$458.98
Total	$4,625.70		Total	$6,181.49
Closing Balance		$4,796.29		



COMMUNITY AND MISSION



Mustard Seed Food Pantry

Alison Tweedie

The Mustard Seed Uniting Food Pantry has now been operating for eleven years.
We continue to open between 11am-1pm and 6pm-7pm on Thursdays to provide low-cost nutritional food to people who need a helping hand.

We have a committed and dedicated team of twenty volunteers who spend time each Wednesday and Thursday assisting and serving. Each volunteer seems to enjoy the experience and adds their mark on what we do. All our volunteers have a spirit of generosity to make our pantry an enjoyable and helpful service to the people who seek assistance and support. Our volunteers engage in bubbly, light-hearted conversations through to the more serious and heavy-ladened conversations with people who come by each week. Our generosity is on display in more ways than just our food offerings. There are always good connections and conversations, information provided, and practical assistance given to those we encounter. We all sense that even though we only see people for a short period of time and can only assist in a small way we are making a difference to those with whom we journey.
This year we have had four new volunteers join the team serving in various ways- Jan arrived in March to join the Wednesday team in receiving deliveries, Helen is a welcome addition to the Café team, and Ash and Kim help at the Thursday evening opening.
The Café volunteers work quietly in the background offering hospitality in the form of a warm or cold beverage, light snack, a listening ear and good conversation. A beautiful way in which we have been able to connect with those who stop by the Cafe is through some of our volunteers' gifts in crochet and knitting, this has sparked many a conversation while engaging in these crafts. Some of the Café volunteers have also baked and cooked their own food to enhance our food offering. Thanks to those who have made soup, sandwiches and cakes or biscuits.
A highlight of this past year was our team gathering in July. Most of our team were able to attend a Saturday afternoon tea which served as a 'thank you', 'get to know you', as well as a time of reflection and fun and games.

We continue to source most of our food from Foodbank in Sydney. Most Wednesday's we receive two pallets of food delivered by Roadmaster. These pallets contain more than 600kg of food, costing between $1500-$2500.

We also receive deliveries of fruit, vegetables and bread through Ozharvest and Canberra City Care Second Bite who pick up from local supermarkets.

Each week the Wednesday team receive, unpack, price, shelve, sort and move many thousands of kilograms worth of stock and fresh produce. As the workload increases there have been small adjustments and continual improvements made to how our Wednesday team operates. The range and amount vary from week to week but most weeks our customers receive a good amount of free fresh produce. One week when we didn't receive much fresh produce stands out. We started Thursday morning with only fifteen mixed bags of fruit and vegetables to distribute, made from the deliveries received on Wednesday. However, after serving forty-five people we still had six bags and some loose produce left over for those who were to come in the evening. In part it's a miracle to how this happened, but in the explainable it was due to the timely arrival of extra produce harvested through our own food garden, donations that arrived on Thursday morning from the Kaleen and Crace Organic gardens, as well as some other smaller donations.

Thank you to Tam and Ngaire who faithfully turn up each Wednesday to sort the edible fruit and vegetables from the non-edible. Tam also moves the heavy wooden pallets once unpacked. He prices and places stock onto the shelves, along with many other jobs. Ngaire also devotes many hours to the work of the pantry each week, supporting me with decision making, the banking, and of course overseeing Thursday evenings.

The Crace Organic Community Garden continues to deliver vegetables weekly on Thursday mornings. John, Liz, and more recently Vera have been doing this for over ten years now.

Our own church community continues to provide donations through the *Giving Basket,* which is part of our weekly Sunday offering. Mustard Seed is indeed blessed to have the backing and support of the Gungahlin Uniting Church congregation. Thank you to the GUC community for gifts of money, food, time, prayer, clean egg cartons and shopping bags. The generosity from the greater Gungahlin community never ceases to amaze too.

The St. Ninian's Uniting Church in Lyneham continue to show support by regularly dropping off food donations collected by their congregation. The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church continue to contribute fresh produce in May each year. Richard from the Kaleen COGS Garden has also come regularly with donations of fresh fruit and vegetables which he has grown, as well as bags of manure for our own vegetable garden. There have been many other individuals who have dropped by with food donations this past year, including one lady who brought a whole Halal goat, that I was able to gift to one of the Muslim

families, and a beautiful family who regularly donate the *first* ten percent of the eggs their hens lay. I have written previously about a woman who was homeless for a time, living out of a car with her two children. Her situation has progressed and with much strength and determination her life is moving forward in positive ways. She has a new job and over the past year or so she has been supplying us with fresh eggs from her place of work- a wonderful gift to us from this lady and her boss. Her generosity is testament to the fact that there really is no helper or helpee, no 'us' or 'them', there is just 'us'.

Before we re-opened for the year in January, we held a working bee where some of the volunteers thoroughly cleaned the pantry and defrosted the three deep freezers. This year we also introduced a 'Square' EFTPOS terminal which now means our customers can pay by card as well as cash. This is well utilised, although many people still prefer to budget and pay using cash. In August we were contacted by a group of enthusiastic gardeners known as *Canberra Seed Savers*. This group plants seeds, raises the seedlings and then distributes them to organisations like Mustard Seed to have them available with the aim of encouraging people to grow their own food. They provide a QR Code with information and advice about raising the free seedlings. This has been well received by the visitors to the pantry.

Each week we serve between forty and sixty people across our morning and evening opening times. In February we had our 1000th member join. As of mid-October, we have had 1058 memberships since we first opened in 2013. Behind these membership numbers (a membership is for a household) are numerous family members. It is estimated we feed up to three hundred people per week. One week we had six new people join needing food for their families, which in real terms meant we were now supporting an additional thirty people.

Most weeks we see people and hear stories that remind us that what we are doing makes a difference. It is always lovely to hear the difference we make in the lives of those we meet each week. We always need to be on the look-out for signs of life and ways to connect. I recounted one such meeting I had to the team earlier this year in one of my Friday emails.

"A great week serving many in need, including a very distressed mum with a one-year-old. She arrived teary, feeling lost and unseen. She had been unable to find the help she needed at several other organisations throughout the morning before arriving here. We were able to spend time talking with her, assisted with some further information about services she may wish to access, addressed her immediate need to cover some blisters

and gave her some food for a few days. But the most important thing in all of this was that she was seen. By the time she left she had had two meaningful conversations-we had given her our time and love and she was now calm and left with some sense of hope. It is not fixing problems that leads to a person's transformation but the presence of people in their lives."

The space we provide each week gives many the opportunity to connect face to face, something that eludes many these days. Hearing and being part of the chatter amongst customers while waiting to shop is uplifting. Some see the wait as an inconvenience to their busy day, but for many it is also an opportunity to slow down and an opportunity to connect. Grace and beauty can be found everywhere. The beauty of life is looking for us, and it finds us when we least expect it. Each week we walk away changed and all the richer from our interactions with each other.
Thank you to all who have supported the life and work of the food pantry this year.



When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."
Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."
"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.
"Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14:13-21










CORN
FLAKES

Vegetable Garden Group

Mark Phythian

We have continued to meet on the first Saturday of each month except during winter. We have four regulars from the wider community that have planted out several garden beds and have donated some of the produce to the food pantry during the year.

Again, I would like to thank the generosity and support of our church community, through whose support we have been able to purchase fertiliser and received seedlings/plants to put into the garden.

Anyone is welcome to come along, so if you are free on one of our Saturday get togethers, please come along!







SMALL GROUPS

Spice Kids

Jean Terbeth

Spice Kids, a lunch gathering for adults meets after church on the 5th Sunday of the month.

Pub Group

John McKenzie

The Pub Group is a social gathering where we share a meal at a number of different venues across Gungahlin. It is a time for us to unwind from our daily lives, share experiences, and support each other no matter what our circumstances. It is open to anyone to attend. The group has all ages with varying backgrounds. While there is a small group of attendees (up to around 10 people), we are always open to new people joining us. This year we branched out from the usual pub location to trying different eating places and supporting the local community. This has included the old favourites such as the George Harcourt Inn (Nicholls) & The District Bar & Restaurant (Crace) to the Raiders Gungahlin, Casey Jones & Myanmar Corner (Casey), and the Ogawa (Gungahlin). Our aim for the coming year is to continue to explore new venues while continuing to support each other and making new newcomers feel welcome & part of the group. We don't want to be the only ones enjoying this time! We meet every second Wednesday and generally at 6.30pm. As we are flexible on venues and timing, the Pub Group WhatsApp group is the ideal way to connect. Each week of the catch-up we confirm the venue, timing & numbers. There is a QR code on the slides prior to the church service that provides the joining link to the WhatsApp Group. Or, catch-up with John McKenxzie (bass player in the music team) after church.



Tea and Talk

Elizabeth Phythian

T&T is an opportunity for catching up with,
and getting to know, other GUC community members over a cuppa.
This group meets on the first Friday of the month at the Gungahlin Lakes Club coffee shop. The invitation to attend T&T is extended to all who attend GUC – anyone is welcome to join us! Reminder emails are sent to those who attend the group, and details of upcoming T&T's are included in the weekly bulletin.
This year, our attendance numbers each month ranged from 13 to 23, and the Lakes Club coffee shop area provided us with the flexibility to arrange as many chairs and tables as we needed. The venue also provided a great setting for the conversations, laughs and catch-ups that T&T is well known for. (PS The morning tea menu is also pretty great!)
If you have not previously joined us, and would like to, please keep an eye on the bulletin for details of our next T&T gathering.



PROPERTY, MAINTENANCE AND BOOKINGS

Property Team

Mark Butson

The team deals with matters relating to property management and maintenance of the building and grounds of the GUCCC facility and also the manse. The Property Team consists of Mark Butson, Alison Tweedie, Mark Phythian and Colin Christian.
The Property Team is responsible for :

• Regular removal of green waste - Mark Phythian has made multiple trips to the Green Waste Recycling Centre disposing of the accumulation of garden waste from around the GUCCC property

• Mowing the lawn – thanks to Mark P and Colin

• Weeding and pruning – thanks to Mark P and Colin

• Managing fire protection and alarm systems

• Managing annual inspection of roof anchors



• 2024 repairs/improvements include :-

- Replacing faulty external lights with LED lights
- Work on the Manse including installation of new white-goods and shower fittings
- New BBQ and picnic table
- Replacing faulty church water-tank pump & diverter
- Installation of wheel-chair access mat for Food Pantry
- Food pantry repairs – replacing faulty freezer hinges (thanks Alison for sourcing them)
- Installing remote monitoring device in Food Pantry to detect power outages (to avoid spoiling of frozen food)
- Replacing storm-damaged roof flashing
- Installation of child's safety barrier in hallway and associated signage
- Identification and repair of raised pavers (tripping hazard)
  thanks Colin for all your work on this





- Repair food garden water-tank pump (replace water-damaged bearings and installing drainage)
- Repair faulty baby-change table (gas strut needed replacing)
- Repair of damaged shed (due to break in)
- Repair of faulty MPR blinds
- Ordering and spreading of ‘soft fall’ mulch in playground area (thanks Mark P for organizing all this)
- A huge thanks to Alison for managing the Tradies!







Bookings, Building Hire and Cleaning

Alison Tweedie

Throughout 2024 GUC has had three main and regular tenants hire the building- Navitas, Girl Guides and the Canberra Korean Church. In April a second Girl Guides group started using the facility on a Tuesday evening, this is in addition to the group that use the building on a Monday evening. We have good relationships with our tenants, and they are very happy with the high standard of our facility.

As well as these groups, there are or have been several other regular users of the building including Boys' Brigade, Playgroup, Mustard Seed Café, a small support group and the mental health group- GROW. As of July, GROW is no longer meeting at this stage. The building has been well utilised by both the Girls' and Boys' Brigade groups not only for their weekly meetings but with many other activities such as sleepovers and training and leadership sessions. Many homegroups also like the ease that the building offers when having their homegroup gatherings.

We continue to host special one-off events for our church members, including birthday parties, weddings and funerals. We also continue to host workshops and events run by Presbytery and other organisations when needed.

It can be challenging at times keeping the building clean, in good order and ready for each use. There are many people who come and go through our doors each week. There is equipment that requires on-going maintenance and attention. We have many service providers that attend our site regularly such as our fire maintenance company, a waste removal company, sanitary bins provider and many other services that go along with the maintenance and legal obligations of owning a building. We also engage the services of a security company to monitor the alarm system and regularly call upon our painter, plumber and electrician.

We continue to engage a professional cleaning company to keep our building clean. In March we secured the services of a new cleaning company who are doing a good job at meeting our cleaning needs. At present cleaning is done twice a week on a Tuesday and Friday afternoon.

Mark Butson, Mark Phythian and Colin Christian have attended to many maintenance and repair jobs around the GUC building, spending time on practical fixes as well as administrative tasks such as engaging service providers and researching parts and products. They have kept up with the mowing of the lawns that needs doing on a regular basis, as well as ensuring the playground area has enough 'soft fall' woodchips and when needed have ordered more and spread it out. There is a need for working bees to happen on a more regular basis so our church grounds and gardens can be neatly maintained. The property group does its best, but it is a large job that with many hands would help to make the load lighter.

In July Kelly Dodd finished her role as *Accounts Manager.* Kelly was responsible for paying our many invoices and keeping on top of all things financial and worked alongside myself and the church Treasurer. I would like to acknowledge and thank Kelly for her dedication behind the scenes in keeping things running smoothly, she did a wonderful job. With Kelly's departure we have engaged an external provider to attend to this work. Thanks to Narelle who got the ball rolling and spent many hours wrapping her head around the logistics of the new system, even creating a comprehensive manual to help everyone involved in the new financial processes.

