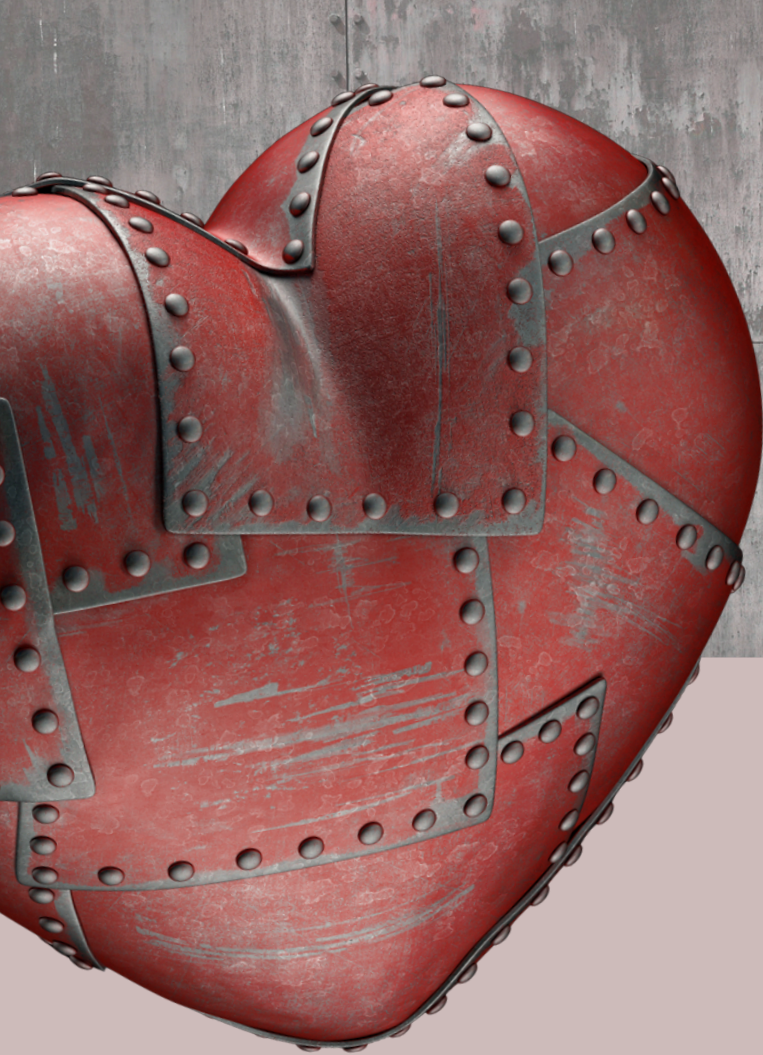


2026 ANNUAL REPORT





SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Ps Ben Betz

Hello church family, Helen and I have been here at this church for 10 years now, can you believe it? My how time flies. Seems like only yesterday we were dealing with a pandemic yet that was 6 years ago. I remember talking once to one of our older ladies about the speed of time and she commented back with; "Well, yesterday was Easter and tomorrow is Christmas!"

Once again, we find ourselves dealing with what it means to lead church in a world which is spinning and turning, trying to find its feet with sickness, misinformation, fears, wars, natural disasters, A.I etc all striving to take our attention front and centre. Some would say it is out of control! However, I want to respond by stating Jesus is still in control and is sovereign in ALL things! To know that simple and powerful truth should bring a refreshing hope to each of us.

The theme for 2026 is "Guard Your Heart." The reason we believe God led us to this theme for the year was inspired by the turmoil taking place in the world around us. To find hope in a season where it seems more difficult to find truth, peace and hope. To be able to dig deep and find truth when all the A.I and influencers are trying to take centre stage.

So, it's no surprise I have had several people come to me, agreeing the concept of guarding their heart seems very appropriate amid all that is transpiring.

Apart from our regular services and themes, we have also managed to hold a few creative services in both our morning and afternoon time slots. At Easter we had the theme Truth or Treason. The struggle between Judas and Peter to remain truthful towards Jesus at all costs. For Christmas we held two mirrored services called Back to the Future, looking at previous prophecies about Jesus and His birth. We really do try to make Christmas and Easter very special services so they can be used as outreach for those who generally don't attend church so they might hear the message of the Gospel.

Again, it has been good to see our Bible College students, Elders, staff and lay people preaching at various times. We are blessed to have a rich diversity of talent share on various topics which come under our theme for the year. I am so thankful for their gifts and their willingness to be good stewards of God's Word.

Behind the scenes, our Elders and Deacons having 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 Craig Woodburn as Chair of Elders and Mike Prunty as Chair of Deacons for the ongoing blessing of their leadership and the two teams they oversee.

It is appropriate now to thank Mike Prunty for his many years as a Deacon and Chair of Deacons as his term of office has closed, as he has decided not to stand for re-election. It is with heartfelt thanks to Mike for the many times he has dropped in to my office, fixed some maintenance item, cleared a drain, used his accounting skills and helped someone in need. The church has been blessed by his wisdom, availability and pastoral care.

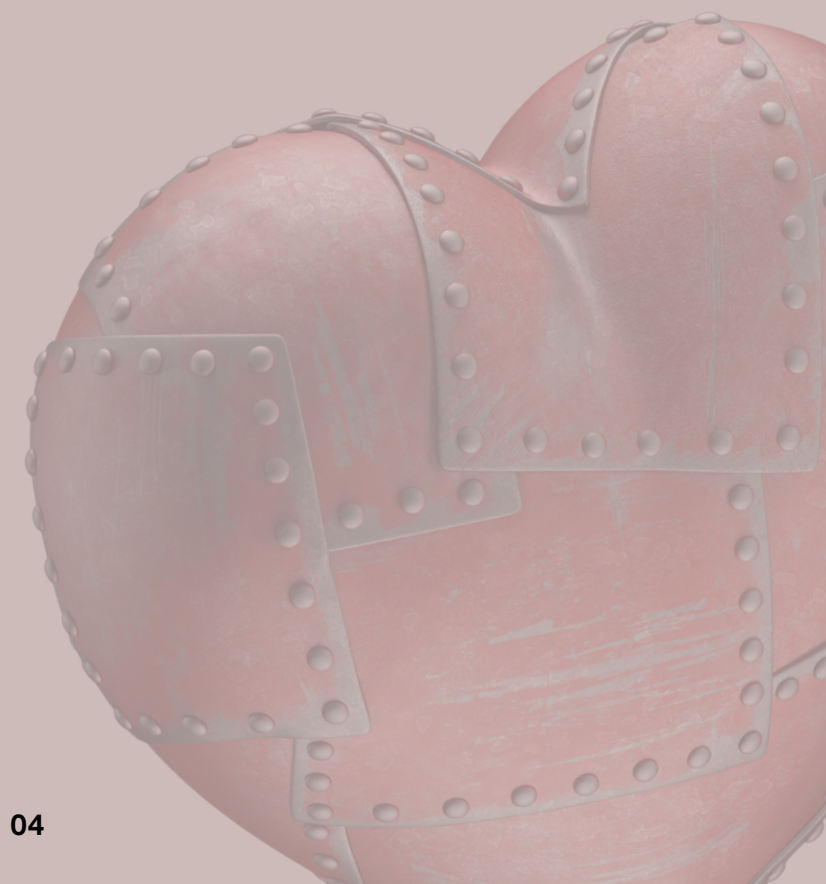
I also would like to acknowledge Graham Dietrich, who has made himself available offering his administration gifts for the work of the church as secretary and at one time Chairman of the Deacons. Both Graham and Mike have been in office for approximately 16 years each, what a tremendous blessing we have had from them. Thanks also to Micah Woodburn for his contribution as a deacon. There are also two Elders who are finishing their three-year terms, Nic Mogensen and Luke Behrendorff. It is with delight that I can confirm that they are both willing to re-stand as Elders for another three years. Their names will be put forward to the Nominating Committee for approval before the AGM.

Our staff team continue to prove to be a real asset to this church. I hope you are proud of them because I certainly am. They always give more than is required and as a church and community we are blessed because of it. 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/Play Group) two days per week; Helen Betz (Spiritual Director/Arts) one day per week; Jordan Harrison (oversight 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 gain a greater understanding of the diversity of gifts they bring to the church.

As a church we have various avenues we provide for people to connect with our community; these are essential to create open doors for people who don't yet know Jesus. These include Playgroup, One Voice Community Choir (starting again soon), Life Groups, Bible Studies, Women's/Men's Ministry, Prayer Groups, Young Adults, Youth, Kids church, Worship, School programs at Stromlo and Arawang and two Bible studies in aged care facilities. To all of those who help serve, run, set up, pack up, pray, love, clean and connect in any context, your contribution does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Thank you for your heart and acts of service.

This church has a long history of working with the local schools, and our ministry into Mt Stromlo High and Arawang Primary School continues, with us running some programs for the students there. At Stromlo High we have two programs; one for the girls which Sharnay runs called Shine related to self-worth and life skills, and one for the boys which I run which is called Meccano where I get the boys to build models out of steel and I gently challenge them about life and values. They may be small opportunities, but they are wonderful doors, nevertheless. Arawang Primary School also allows the church staff team to teach Scripture with Christian Education. Once a term we get to share Jesus with about 100 children which is a tremendous blessing.

Overseas and local mission are an essential part of any church work and is certainly a big part of ours. Mission Exposure and Mission Week are both opportunities for us to learn more about God at work here in our community and abroad. We have some excitement on the Mission front. It is our pleasure to equip and support the Mellett's on mission as they have spent this year in Australia building funds and infrastructure for a return to the mission field in Zambia. Gary and Jayne Overett and family have been working hard in their mission field, please continue to pray for them, as they are so far away from family and Roy (Jayne's father) hasn't been well. As a church we are also looking forward to hearing what God may be putting on the hearts of some of our members regarding the call of the mission field.



Our church plant in Gungahlin is chugging along with various ups and downs. I want to congratulate Suanu and Victoria for hanging in there and being committed to Covenant Life Alliance Church. They have struggled to really maintain a core group of people to help them. Unfortunately, just when they get some consistency, people are called away to other states for work or family, they then feel they have to start all over again. Please keep them in your prayers.

On the pastoral care front, we must recognise there are many needs within a church of our size. We are blessed to have a multi-generational church and because of this we have many in the older age bracket with end-of-life challenges. Sadly, we have had to say good-bye to some of our friends and loved ones, yet we also know, now they are fully restored and healed, and we will see them again in heaven with Jesus

We have had to dig deep with empathy and prayer for those needing extra care with relationship struggles, addictions, mental health struggles and nervous breakdowns. Some of our members have wrestled with very difficult diagnosis, and others have celebrated with healing. There have been moments where having a Deacon's fund has been a great help, so thank you for your generosity.

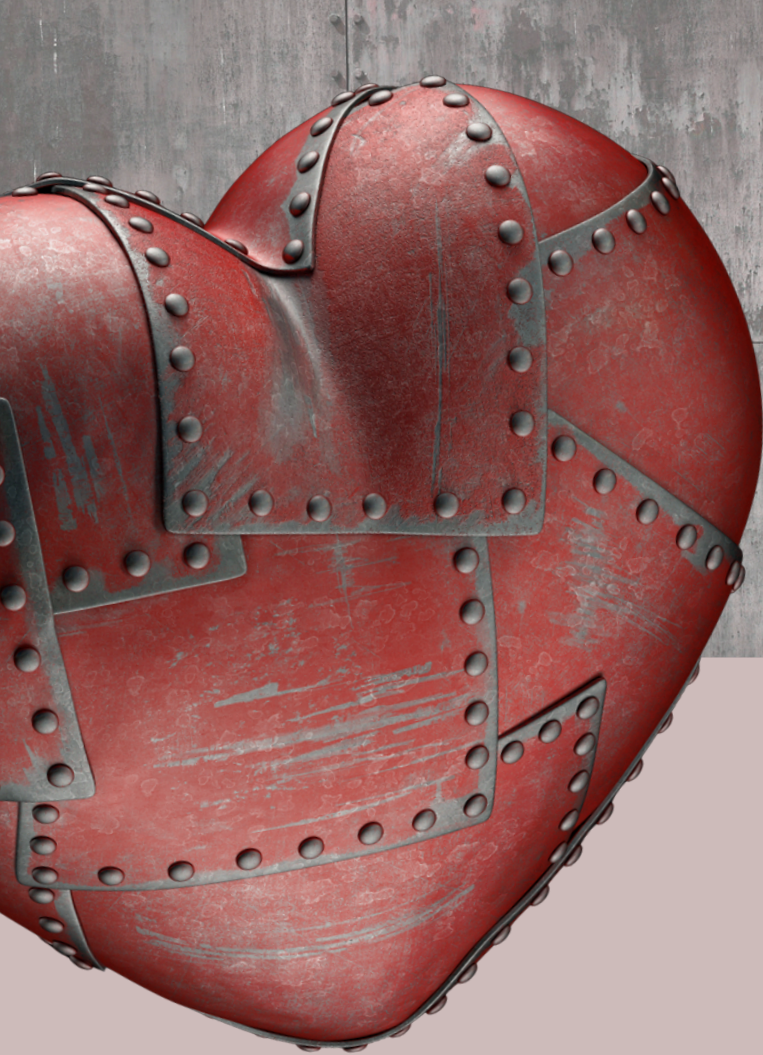
We have had weddings, baby dedications and baptisms. We have had celebrations when there is a new party hat placed on the table and we are encouraged to see the work of Holy Spirit in the lives of those who seek first the Kingdom

In summary, despite another tough year, as Paul says, we press on for the prize. We are continuing to look ahead and are already doing some intentional praying and planning based around our vision/mission statement (Loving God, Living Life and Reaching out for Jesus) to fully embrace what we are capable of in this church. We recognise the wonderful opportunities God has given us with you as members, with this property and in this community, and we want to be good stewards of our gifts and time, so we value your prayer and support. We are excited about what God has ahead for us. We hope you are too!

Finally, can I encourage you not to look within yourself for strength, but look towards Jesus the Author and Perfector of life? As Paul states in Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up! Let us not give up, but keep our eyes on Jesus, wait for the harvest and press on for the prize.

Helen and I would like to thank all of you for continuing to trust us to lead you. We are living in strange times and only with your prayers and support will we be encouraged and sustained.

Blessings to you all,
Ps Ben Betz



ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

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.

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 musicians young and not-quite-as-young serving and worshipping together.

We've had new team members join, and other members finish their time with us. New members bring fresh enthusiasm, gifts and skills to our teams and we certainly miss those who have moved to serve in other areas. There is always room for more musicians, singers and production team members – 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 each Sunday and it's great having the ability to record and post our weekly sermons online. This year we have experimented with posting "reels" of our sermons across our social media platforms. These 1-2 minute clips share a small snippet from our Sunday message and are designed to engage with those who 'scroll' on their devices. Our hope is that these reels will encourage viewers to engage with Jesus through the full message from that week and by connecting with us either in person or online.

Please join me in expressing 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. Thank you to all who have served on our teams this past year, for your faithful service to Jesus and our church.

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, learn from God's Word, 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 and I've been greatly encouraged as I've supported Sharnay in her leadership role. 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.

Please check out Sharnay's report to see what our Youth have been up to.

The Resist Program is a new initiative we've commenced in 2026 that seeks to provide support to people struggling with pornography. We don't have to look far to see the effects our sexualised culture is having on men and women both outside and inside our churches. Resist is a six-week program that talks openly and plainly about the issues and tackles them head on with scripture. It provides a place to talk openly and provides solid, practical steps to grow closer to Jesus and overcome addiction. We have successfully taken our first group through the program and aim to run more groups this year. Thank you to Nick Mogensen who co-led with me. Please be praying for this program, that people will want to change and be willing to take the steps necessary to do so.

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 are 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.

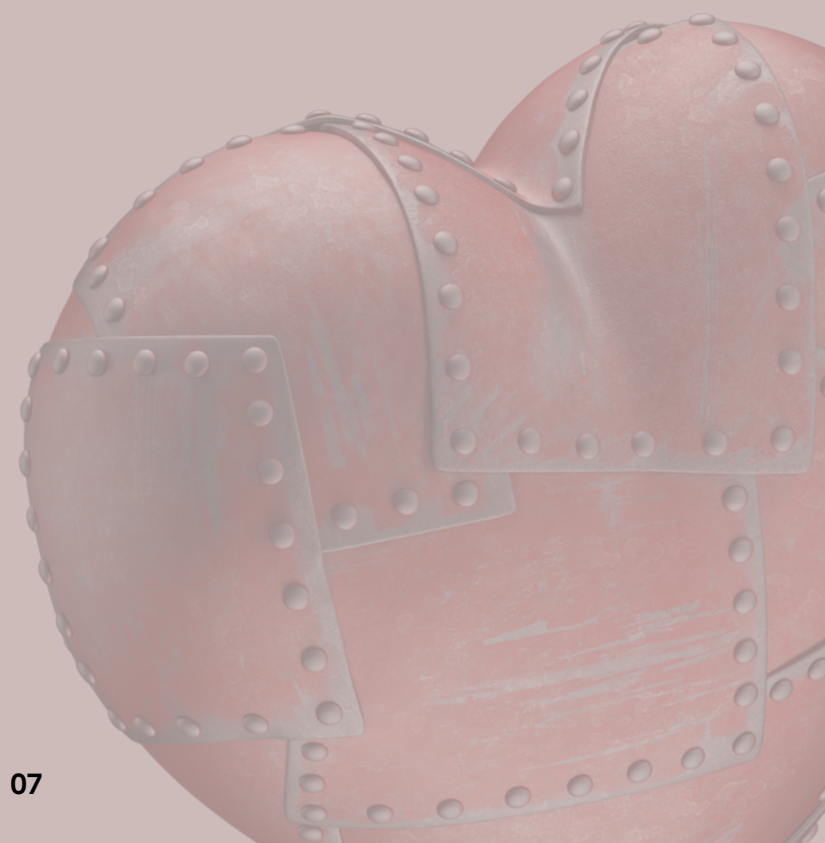
Safe Ministry training is a requirement for anyone who volunteers in any area or program at WVAC. Thank you to everyone for getting on board and completing your training. Accreditation is current for three years; please ensure you complete your online training and remain accredited; we'll send you a 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.

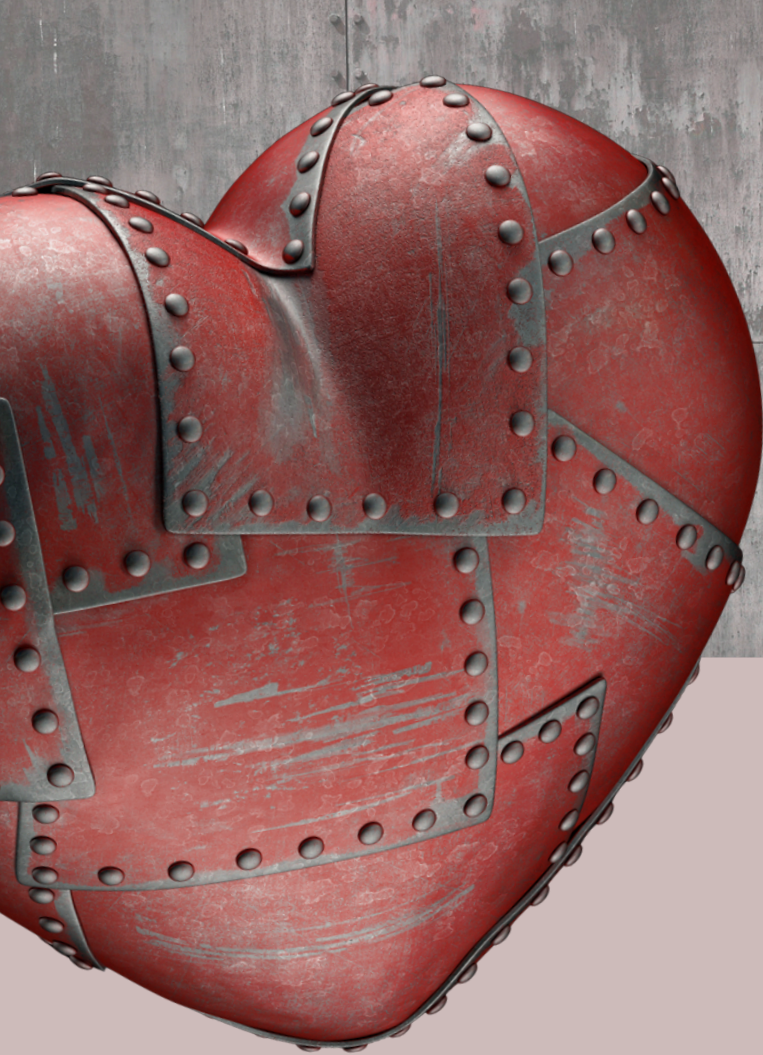
Alongside these roles, I've been involved with the Gathering, taught Christian Education at Arawang Primary, led and taught in church services, continued to serve on the Board of Elders, created video content for our ministries and services, edited Sunday sermon videos and reels, managed the worship 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!

Blessings,
Ps Andrew Edwards





COVENANT LIFE CHURCH

Suanu & Victoria Ikoro

It is with gratitude to God that we present our annual report for Covenant Life which reflects our collective efforts in worship, discipleship, evangelism, stewardship, and community life. It also outlines our progress, and priorities as we seek to remain a Christ centred, Spirit-led and evangelism focused congregation.

Worship and Spiritual Life We have continued with our hybrid meeting pattern of in-person and online gatherings. Weekly attendance at our Sunday Family Worship services has continued to fluctuate. For example, the average weekly attendance at the end of March 2025 was 9.0, but it was 10.8 in March 2026. It was 10.2 in May 2026.

Prayer and Discipleship We meet weekly for online prayer meetings on Fridays at 7pm. Participation remains negligible, as many congregants do not attend in a consistent manner. Our Bible study is also held online on Wednesdays from 7pm. Participation remained steady which is very encouraging. Our eight-week discipleship class for new believers is available.

Governance The Pastor's monthly reports were regularly provided to the Senior Pastor of WVAC. The Pastor's Professional Supervision and First Aid classes were completed. Relevant Ministry Leaders completed their Safe Policy trainings as required.

Evangelism The ACT Government renewed our permit to conduct open space evangelism at Market Place East, Gungahlin. The permit allows us to speak with people in the area every Saturday if they are willing to engage with us. We are also able to hand out tracts and church invitations to people who want them.

Key Achievements OF the Year

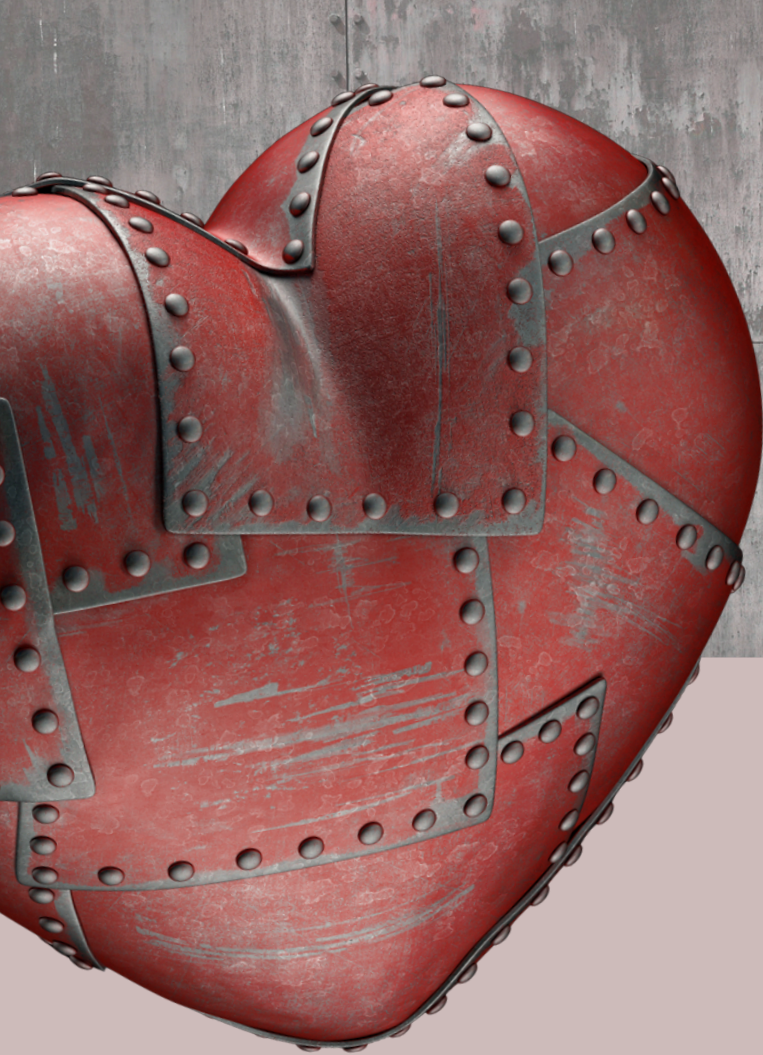
- We successfully conducted an ALPHA course in 2026.
- We continued to meet at the Gungaharra Homestead, Harrison for our Sunday Family Worship services.
- Our key ministry activities: weekly family worship, Bible Study, Prayer Meeting and Evangelism continued.

Strategic Priorities for 2027

- Depending on numerical growth, strengthen discipleship by expanding small groups.
- Explore options for increasing community partnerships and evangelism.
- Plan for a 12month lease for the current in-person meeting place prior to the current lease expiring.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone at Covenant Life, the WVAC Elders, Deacons and Ministry leaders. Your faithfulness, generosity, and service have made this year fruitful and impactful.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence in God's faithfulness and a renewed commitment to our vision and mission. May the Lord continue to guard and lead Covenant Life as we seek to glorify Him, serve our community as a house of prayer for all nations, and make disciples of all the nations.



ELDERS'S REPORT

Craig Woodburn

One of the privileges of serving as an elder is having the opportunity to see the life of our church from many different perspectives. Throughout the year we have celebrated with those experiencing joy, walked alongside others through seasons of challenge, welcomed new people into our fellowship, and watched God continue His transforming work in the lives of His people. Through it all, we have been reminded that the church is far more than our Sunday gatherings. It is a family of believers seeking to grow in Christ together, serve one another in love, and share the hope of the gospel in the community we live.

This year has also been one of transition for the eldership. Following Andrew Muir's many years of faithful service as Chair of Elders, I have had the privilege of stepping into the role and continuing to serve alongside a committed and God seeking eldership team. On behalf of the church, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Andrew for his decades of faithful leadership, wisdom, and servant-hearted ministry in this role.

The eldership currently consists of John Hildebrandt, Luke Behrendorff, Nick Mogensen, Scott Coleman, Pastor Ben Betz, Pastor Andrew Edwards and myself.

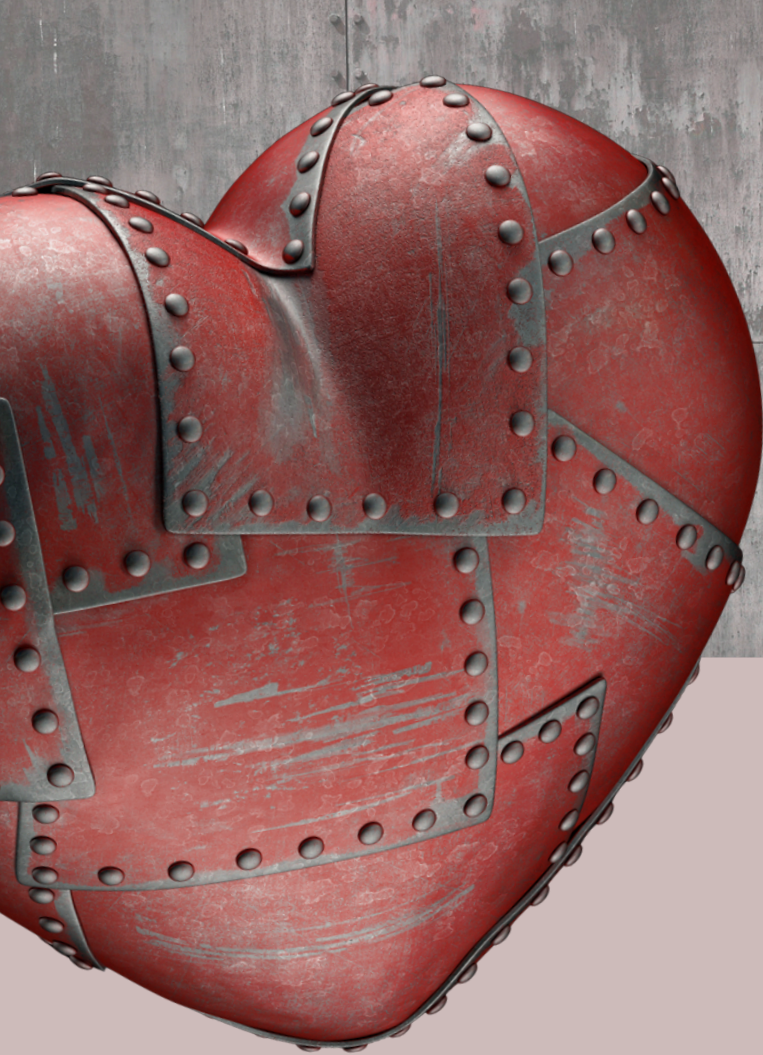
We continue to meet monthly throughout the year to pray, discern God's leading, provide governance, oversight and support the ministry direction of the church. We remain committed to seeking unity in our decision making, relying on prayer, discussion and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We are thankful for Pastor Ben and Helen, Pastor Andrew and Sam, Jordan and Sharnay Harrison, Antoinette Hildebrandt, Talitha Woodburn, and the many volunteers who invest their time and energy into serving the church. Their dedication and faithfulness make a significant contribution to the health and ministry of our congregation.

Throughout the year we have been encouraged by the many ways people have connected, grown and served. Small groups have continued to provide places for fellowship and discipleship. Ministries across the church have faithfully served people of all ages and stages of life. We have celebrated answered prayers, welcomed new faces into our community, and continued to proclaim the hope of the gospel both within our church and beyond.

As elders, we remain excited about what God is doing and hopeful for what lies ahead. We continue to pray that Woden Valley Alliance Church will be a place where people encounter Jesus, grow in their faith, discover their gifts and become fully devoted followers of Christ. Our desire is to see lives transformed by the gospel and our church increasingly reflect the love, grace and truth of Christ in our community.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of our church through prayer, service, generosity and encouragement. It is a privilege to serve alongside you.



DEACON'S REPORT

Mike Prunty

***"LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING
GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL
REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP."***

GALATIANS 6:9

At the August 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM), all seven serving Deacons were re-elected to the Board. The Board re-elected Mike Prunty as Chair and Graham Dietrich as Secretary. Joe Ree was confirmed as the Treasurer, having previously been nominated by the Elders. The Deacons accepted assigned specific areas of responsibility, Rhonda Coleman (units), Tracey Mogensen (kitchen), Micah Woodburn (church hall) and Peter Burns (grounds). 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 ongoing discussions with the Urban Treescapes unit of the ACT government. Subsequently, it was agreed that several large gum trees on leased land adjacent to the church needed to be pruned and in one case removed at the church's expense. The latter involved a mandatory planting of eleven smaller native trees to replace the canopy lost by the removal of the large dangerous gum tree adjacent to the containers. The irony was that we would not have had to do this if we had negligently allowed the tree fall of its own accord.

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.

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. Under the creative direction of Ps Ben and Helen Betz the mission centre's demountable main room has been transformed to a neat and useful area for kids church and counsellors. A renewed effort has also been undertaken to maintain the garden beds around the mission centre with the removal of dead trees and shrubs. Several native plantings will add to the long term vista. Bindi poisoning, graffiti removal, roof and air conditioner repairs, drain clearing, testing and tagging of electrical appliances and pest fumigation were among the many 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.

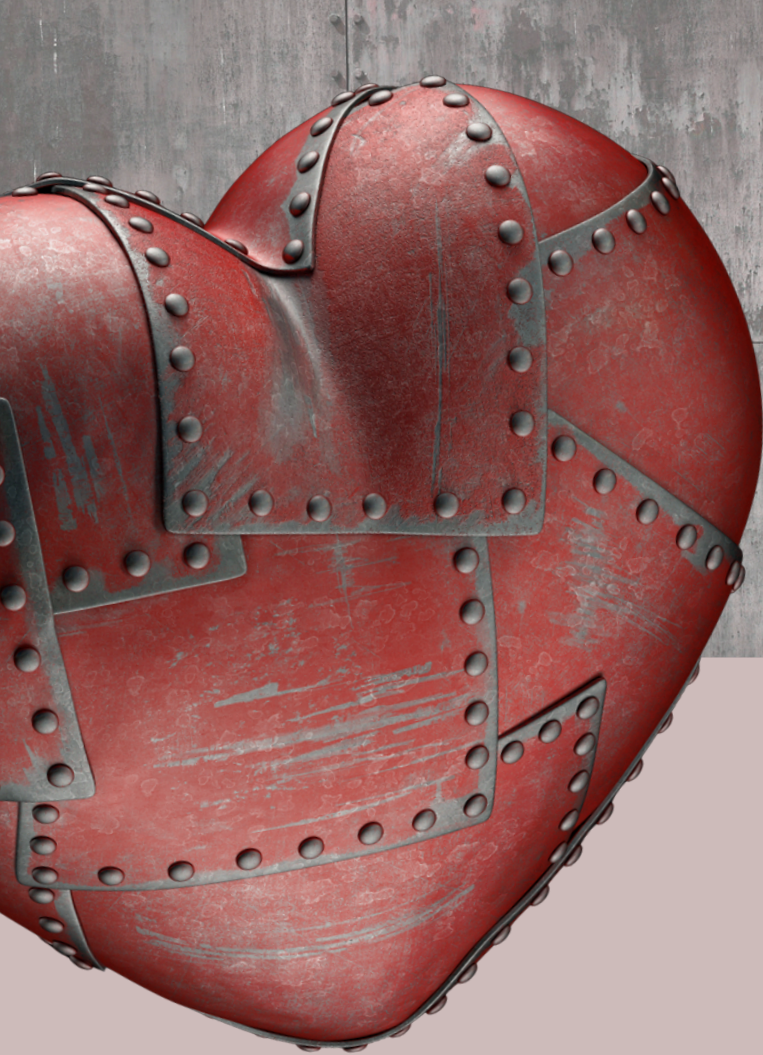
The Deacon's Fund is a fund that exists as the result of the church fellowship specifically identifying financial contributions to support church members in times of hardship or need. At the discretion of the Elders and Deacons the Fund is used when recommended. In the past year over \$2000 has been given to those in urgent need to assist in covering household and car expenses.

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

Overall, despite Australian economic headwinds, the church remains in a solid financial position, thanks to the continued generosity of the fellowship and efficient management by ministry leaders.

Finally, this being my last report as Chair, I wish to acknowledge Antoinette Hildebrandt for her many years of dedicated management support to the Board and my fellow Deacons past and present, for their willingness to dutifully serve by helping with the church administration and upkeep of the property.

Mike Prunty
Chair of the Deacons



THE GATHERING

Jordan Harrison

Welcome to this year's edition of my portion of the AGM report containing the events and activities of The Gathering.

But before we get there, let me first say thank you to everyone who has supported Sharnay and I in our journey of becoming foster parents. At the time of writing, William and Jaxson have been with us for ten months, and by the time the Annual General Meeting comes around, we will have been a family together for almost a year. It's been an absolutely huge adventure for all four of us, one filled with challenges and blessings. *(Thankful at this time, I can say the blessings outnumber the challenges for sure).*

Taking on the boys into our family has also affected The Gathering itself in a number of ways. To begin with, Sharnay and I took September off from ministry to spend time building a foundation as a family. During this time, Ben, (in addition to his regular work), facilitated The Gathering, supporting a number of guest preachers/teachers from our own congregation. Our thanks to Ben and these young teachers, who took on these roles on such short notice, given that the boys came into our care so quickly.

From October, I was back at The Gathering, this time with the boys in tow. Having the boys at our afternoon service has been an adventure in itself, but it has been a joy to see the young people care for them as part of the church family. Often, the boys will ask to go to church just to see these people, even if it's not a Sunday. A wonderful testimony of the love that has been shown to them through our community.

One blessing since The Gatherings' inception has been supporting the people of The Internship and Spiritual Formation Groups through giving them opportunities to serve and preach as a part of their growth journey. The latter half of 2025 saw the final members of Spiritual Formation (for now) gain preaching experience by sharing with us where they have grown in their faith, encouraging us to grow in ours. They did a great job. Definitely a case of last but not least.

For 2026, life at The Gathering has been focused on a series called '*How Faith Changes Us...*' This series is built on the sharing of testimonies, and through this, we have had more than a dozen people, of all ages and both male and female, in our church encourage us with stories of how faith in God has changed their lives. This has helped us as a congregation, as some people who attend have always gone to church, and others are new to faith or are returning to Christ for the first time. The effect of having people share what God has placed on their hearts through their own stories has been profound, regardless of people's faith experience. It's been a wonder to see how God's faithfulness has been recognised and glorified so many times, with no two stories ever being the same.

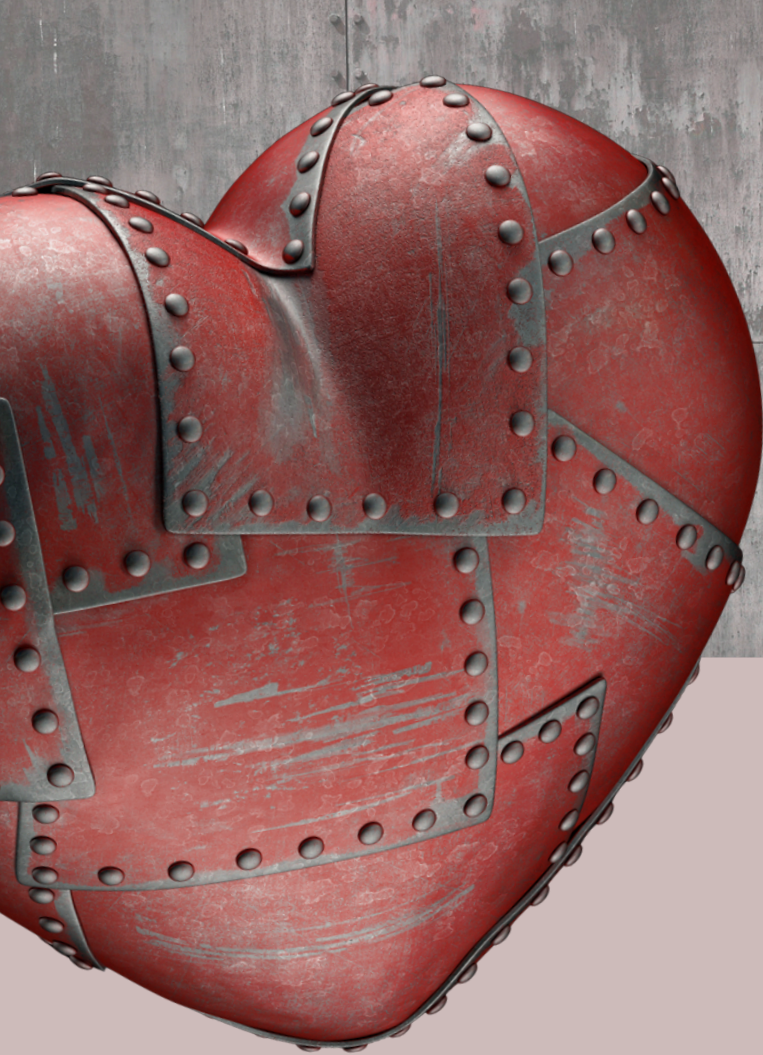
Aside from The Gathering, I have continued serving Woden Valley Alliance Church in various ways over the past year. This has included pastoral care, discipleship, prayer ministry, and more.

One new adventure has included a Home Group for young families that Sharnay and I helped to form. It's been a collective effort to run it, but how it works is that one week the Mums will do a study while the Dads care for the kiddies, and the next week, each fortnight, the opposite will happen. All with a potluck dinner to begin with. It's been a blessing to join together with these young families, although crazily, if you add the Mums, Dads and kids together, I think we are up to 38 people, so it feels like a small church.

Lastly, I just wanted to thank everyone in the church for their continued support of Sharnay, myself and our family. When our AGM is on, I won't be in attendance, as I'll be on mission in Nigeria. This trip wouldn't be possible without the church's generosity. Thank you so much again.

Please keep praying for us as a family; for Sharnay's role as Youth Worker and mine in facilitating The Gathering. We need God more than ever, and having people in our church family pray for us is such a blessing. God answers prayer. What a joy this is.

God bless you all,
Jordan



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sharnay Harrison

Once again I want to start off by saying, what a year it has been! Not only have I seen God shifting and changing things in my family (what a testimony of God's love and redemption!), but I have also been so blessed to experience the loving and powerful hand of God over each of the different areas of ministry I'm involved in too. All of this would never be possible without the continued support, encouragement and prayers from our amazing church family, for myself, my work here and my family. So I want to say a huge thank you to all of you. God is so faithful and so, so good!

Over this past year I have continued to come alongside Talitha in her role as the Children's Worker, 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 place.

The **Kreative Kids Playgroup** is a space for parents from our church family and wider community to come together on a weekly basis, during the school terms, to encourage and support one another as we build friendships and community. This ministry wouldn't be possible without the continued help of my two amazing volunteers, Lisa and Bev.

I am so grateful for all the work they put into helping things run but also in connecting with the different families that come through our doors. We are continuing to slowly grow, with new families coming every few weeks. We have also had to say goodbye to some families as well, as they have either moved away or their children have begun to attend childcare or preschool. 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.

The **Shine Girls Group** program continues at Stromlo Highschool during the school terms with one of the schools youth workers. Over the course of the year, I have been working with a different age group each semester, engaging with girls from all four of the year groups throughout the year. 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, and it has been a real blessing in constantly growing me and teaching me how to best connect and respond to the different challenges and struggles that each of the youth bring with them. It has really been a great space of encouragement, support, joy and friendship. I believe that God has placed me in this ministry space to provide a safe environment for these young girls to be able to come to relax and to

explore whatever struggles, questions, and thoughts that they may be dealing with each week

Each week we usually 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 each week looking at how to get through the week-by-week struggles we all face and to celebrate the joys and excitements of our weeks as well. In my most recent group, I had many challenges with the youth which meant that rather than running our usual program, I was simply showing up each week and connecting with whichever youth managed to come along that week. I am really looking forward to continuing my work with the Stromlo Highschool and with the girls that attend my groups.

Impact Youth continues to be a place for young people to fellowship with one another, hear the truth of Scripture and walk alongside each other and the leaders, as they learn how to have a relationship with God and what it means to be one of His children. We have recently welcomed a new youth leader onto the team, Jayden, but have also had to say goodbye to Sarah, who has been with us for a number of years and will be sadly missed. We continue to have a consistent group of around 12-15 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, with the youth community coming together to fundraise for this event with our trivia night and crafty corner, getting all of our youth members a bible so that we now have every youth, whether they are a Christian or not, with a bible of their own and we have seen so many of the youth stepping up in ministry and leadership as they volunteer in the Kids Church program and other areas of church life. I have been encouraged as I have watched each of the youth grow in their faith and really build a community together that encourages, supports, prays for one another that in turn helps each other to grow in their faith.

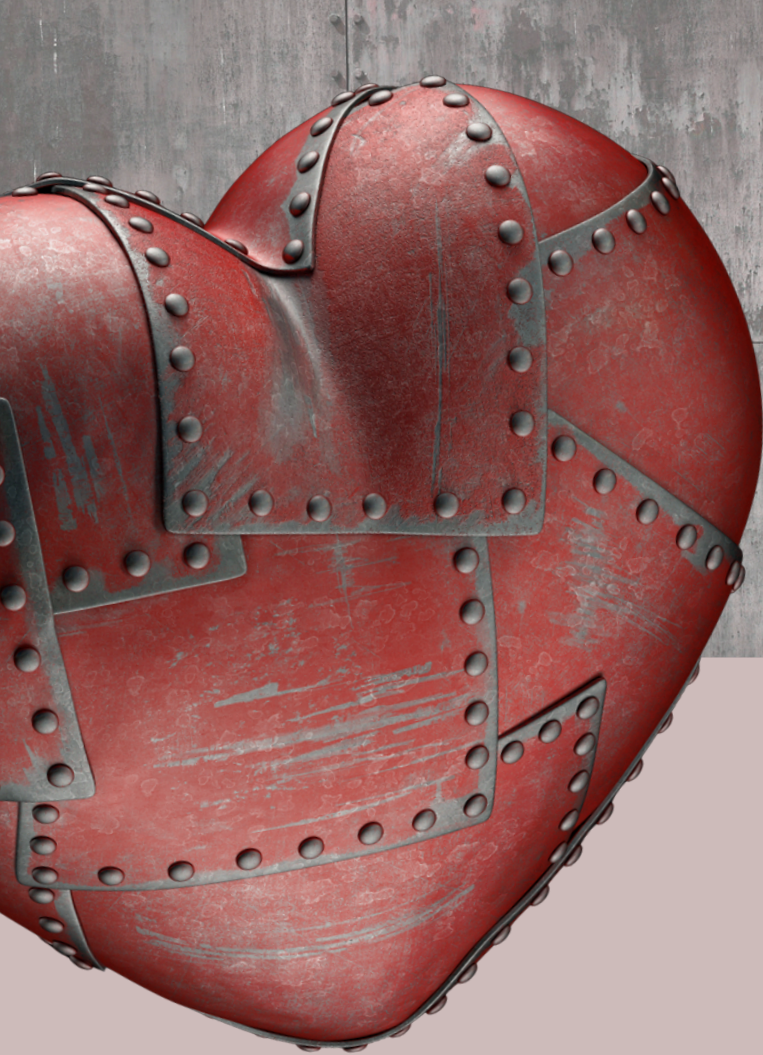
Part of my role in leading the youth group is supporting and encouraging my leaders, putting together programs, running team meetings, organising youth events outside of Friday nights, pastoral care for several youth and their families, and lots and lots of prayer!

The Sunday afternoon **Youth Bible Study** is held on every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. This group consistently has around 12 young people attending. My greatest joy has been seeing a those who cannot make the Friday night youth group join us to study God's Word together. Gavin has been invaluable as he co-leads this Bible study with me 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 Gavin. Over the past several months we have been going through the book of Revelation which has been both interesting and challenging for us all but has been such a great space for us to not only dive deeper into God's Word but to also use this to guide and teach the youth how to study the Bible well.

As part of the staff team, I have 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.

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.

God bless.
Sharnay



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Talitha Woodburn

Kids' Church continues to run on Sunday mornings, during the regular church service. The second half of 2025 was a continuation of our theme on Old and New Testament characters and the biblical practices or characteristics they demonstrated. Through this, we focused on how we can follow in their footsteps and actively implement the practices we know to be godly and beneficial to our faith, as a way of showing our trust and obedience to God. This included lessons such as Zacchaeus and godly repentance, Stephen and forgiveness, and Timothy and obedience to God despite our youth.

This year, we have been focusing on some basic ways to connect with God. Term 1 was spent looking at prayer, with lessons on how God hears our prayers, how to respond to both answered and unanswered prayers, and how to pray for others and ourselves. While the initial plan was to explore a different way of seeking God each term, I felt it best to continue with prayer in Term 2, as there was still much to explore in this topic. By spending two terms on prayer, my hope is that the children will better understand what prayer is and be encouraged to practice it in their own lives. This included breaking down the Lord's Prayer and examining its different aspects, such as praise and repentance.

In Term 3, we will move to the next way of seeking God: Bible reading. This will include looking at its purpose and how we know it is reliable. It has been such a blessing to lead this ministry in so many different aspects. I continue to pray and thank God for the children we are ministering to and for the leaders who so diligently serve in this ministry. I have been blessed to see the ways God is moving in and through the team, and to see the children mature in their faith throughout the year. I want to thank each leader who has planned lessons, run them, or helped out in any way in the groups, as well as those who continue to pray for this ministry, the leaders, and the children.

Talitha





SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Helen Betz

In 2025 I ran another Spiritual Formation (SF) group which means we have held 9 years of internship, 5 years of spiritual formation and a short-term discipleship intensive in this church since I have been here! For 2025 I had another 5 students enrol in SF, with a wide age range and diverse backgrounds. We met once a month on Monday evenings and held three retreats throughout the year, plus an additional day retreat. Seeing the way God gently strengthens and develops people's faith over the course of the year, is always a great encouragement to me and reminder just how much God loves to take a deeper walk with us.

Towards the close of every year, I begin to pray and ask God what the new year will look like and how many students will enrol, knowing some people had already voiced their desire to join the 2026 SF class. Yet as I prayed, I heard a small whisper from God that those who hadn't joined in 2025, would miss out as I would not be running SF next year. This was actually a bit of a shock. As I began to pray more, I felt God impress on my heart I needed another round of neck surgery. That 2026 would look very different. Honestly, this is not what I wanted to hear. As it turned out I did need more surgery and knowing my voice would again be compromised, I began to ask what else God might have for me.

Instead, so far this year I have: helped renovate the demountable and made the back kids church room so much nicer and cleaner; I am a regular on the preaching roster; I have been involved in creative services; I've taken some holidays; connected with people and pastorally cared for them; I have also helped my family with some important milestones and I have run a silent retreat.

Perhaps my three biggest contributions for the first half of 2026 would therefore be, the renovation at the mission centre, the two Easter services and the silent retreat held at the Convent. As this is a Spiritual Formation summary let me close with some reflections on the silent retreat.

When I began to prepare for the silent retreat in April, I felt God ask me to include married couples. I also heard Him say I would have a "full house." Now for me a full house is usually 12 participants plus myself. However, due to a technical glitch on my end, I sold out the venue. I "accidentally" had 16 of us and there wasn't a spare bed or a spare room or a spare chair free. It really was a full house, including 5 married couples. But it was a wonderful retreat, some people heard God speak for the first time, others had God reveal an answer to something they had been waiting on Him for, others just sensed more of His nearness. We also had some fun moments when God asked me to use a group of trees as an object lesson and the locals had no idea what we were up too!

There are some other activities planned for the rest of 2026 and I am looking forward to what Holy Spirit will unfold next.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve and help people go deeper with Jesus.



CREATIVE MINISTRIES

Helen Betz

Did you know creativity encourages connectivity? Did you know that we “hear”, learn and remember not just by what is spoken? 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 teaching.

This year we have again had some wonderful creative services and events, although the standouts would be our usual four: Celebration Sunday, Christmas, kicking off our new theme and Easter.

Our Christmas service this year was Back to the Future! If we want to understand what is happening in the world and what is still to come, we need to go back to the Manger and look at all the prophecies about Jesus’ birth which have been fulfilled. We also need to remember Jesus Christ is coming again not as a baby but as a victorious King! There are prophecies about His return in the future too, and these will also be fulfilled! We need to see Jesus not just in a stable, or on the cross, but on the throne! This gives us hope in an uncertain world!

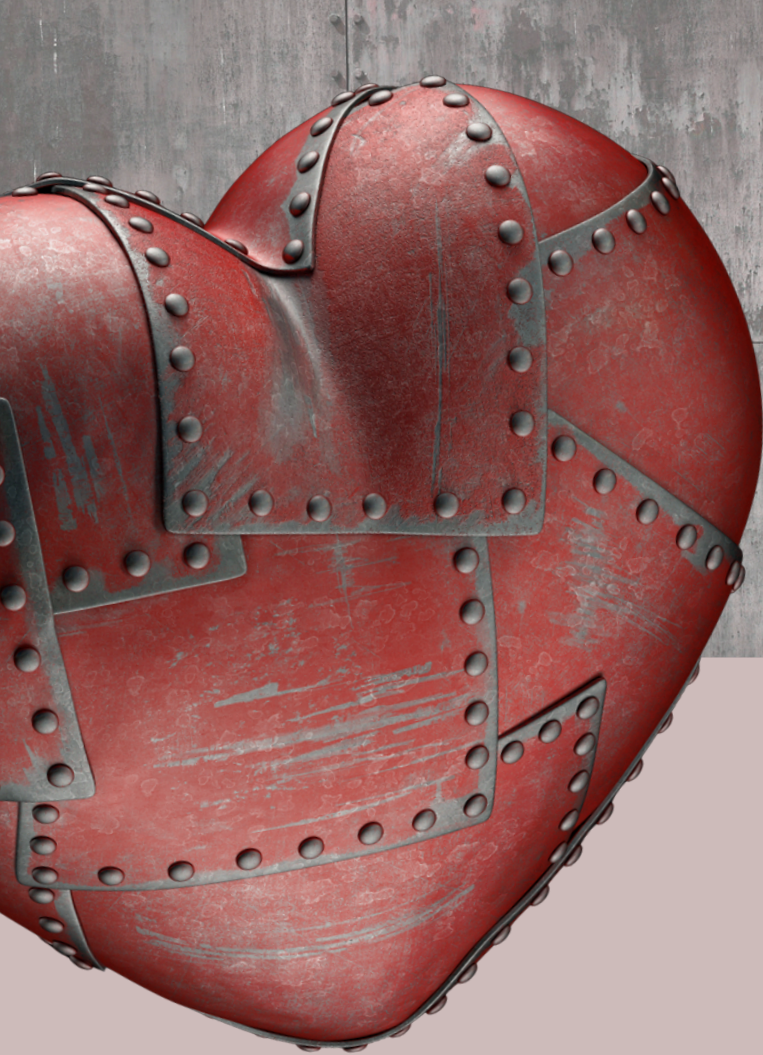
Then for the first Sunday in February, to launch our new theme Guard Your Hearts we handed out small squishy foam hearts. These mini heart stress balls remind us not to be stressed, not to be compressed by the world but to guard our heart and live as a children of God and children of the Light! I know these hearts were a hit with some of our little people who decided they couldn’t get through the day without having their Jesus heart with them.

For our Easter services we had Truth or Treason! We looked at the two Gardens, the garden of Eden and the Garden in the New Heaven & Earth. We realised sin has made us all fall short of God’s standards and like Adam and Eve, or like Peter the disciple, when questioned we must decide if we speak truth or shall we speak treason. But even though we have become entangled in the lies of the enemy and our own fears, because Jesus paid the price, we are not imprisoned but free, we do not face death but have an eternity with Him. The two Garden scenes set up in the foyer showed the contrast between a life in sin and a life abundant in sweet communion with Jesus.

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, but I have worshipped God in so many other ways and thank God that He stirs our hearts when we seek Him.

Helen





WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Antoinette Hildebrandt

The highlight of the past year was our One Day Retreat, *"The Measure of a Woman - What Really Makes a Woman Beautiful."* We held it at Royalla Common where our guest speaker was Rachel McClure. Rachel spoke to us about what beauty is, how to find in purpose in beauty and what happens when things get ugly; getting personal and sharing with us the highs and lows of her journey of life and faith.

Our Christmas event was *Hands at Work* where we created gift bags of personal hygiene items for a women's refuge. Lisa Woods was our guest speaker and shared about doing good works and the impact it has both to the giver and receiver.

The theme for 2026 is *"Look Up - Keeping our Eyes Fixed on Jesus"* We we have been focusing on keeping our eyes on Jesus - the Author and Perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2)

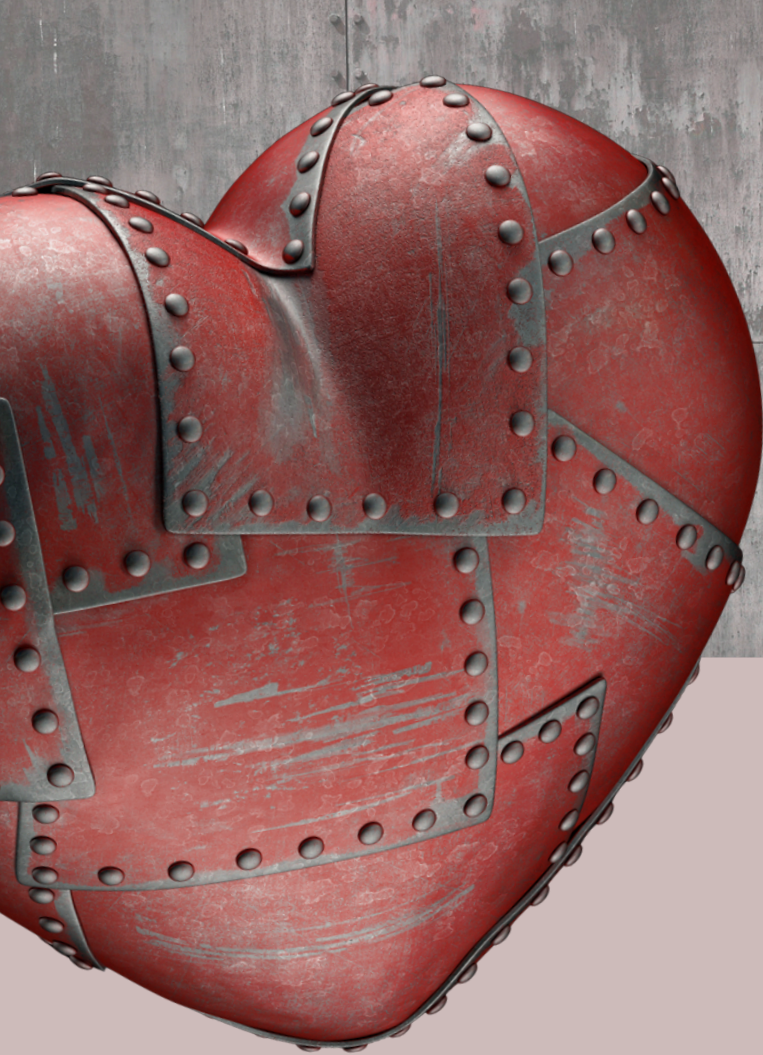
Fixing our eyes on Jesus is intentional, an act of faith. Fixing our eyes on Him, helps us to run the race of faith with endurance, avoiding weariness, discouragement, and distraction. We have been trying to provide opportunities to keep our focus on Him.

Our first event for the year was a Treasure Hunt at the National Gallery of Australia which was an unexpected challenge. It was interesting to see how difficult it was to identify Christ-like qualities such as love, joy, and hope in the artwork on display. Perhaps this isn't surprising, given that we live in a culture that demonstrates very little of these attributes, or presents them in a distorted way. Vanessa later shared about a "treasure hunt" she experienced during her recent trip to Thailand. She described how, even in some of the most difficult and unexpected places, small but meaningful treasures can be discovered—shining brightly within the communities around them.

Other events have included doing the bridge to bridge walk around Lake Burley Griffin and learning how to crochet with Sharnay.

Those who joined us for the Prayer Warrior Bootcamp were greatly encouraged. Over the course of the morning, we stretched our prayer muscles and discovered some new truths about prayer. We looked at strengthening our prayer muscles by learning an exercise routine that would help us; the ACTS prayer method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication), making prayer simple, approachable and meaningful. What a privilege it was for the team to lead 20 women in prayer, praising and thanking God for who He is, confessing our sin and praying for people or situations in our lives. Following on from the boot camp we participated in a Prayer Walk at Fetherston Gardens during Sabbath month

Finally, I want to thank the team, Vanessa, Iva, Georgie, Michelle and Amy for their invaluable assistance and support.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Craig Woodburn

The past year has been another encouraging one for the men of WVAC, with plenty of opportunities to build friendships, encourage one another in our faith and invite others to connect with the life of our church.

In August we enjoyed a handball and Asian food night, where Greg Clifford joined us as our guest speaker. It was a great evening of food, fun and fellowship, with Greg sharing from his own experiences and encouraging us in our walk with Christ.

September saw us host "A Night with Daniel", where Daniel Shayestah shared his remarkable story of growing up in Iran and the journey that ultimately led him to faith in Jesus. His testimony was both challenging and inspiring and gave us a valuable perspective on God's work in very different circumstances from our own.

In November we gathered around the fire for a men's burger night and bonfire. Our guest speaker, Alan Hahn, shared stories from a lifetime involved in elite rowing, including coaching and supporting Australian rowing teams at Olympic Games and World Championship events. His reflections on perseverance, leadership, teamwork and character resonated strongly with many of the men.

In May we gathered again for a burger night around the fire with Andrew Horne sharing his testimony and playing his didgeridoo for us, in what was an encouraging event demonstrating God's reconciliation in difficult circumstances. June saw us gather again over food (pizza this time) and with Lachlan sharing his powerful testimony of God's grace, forgiveness and reconciliation.

As part of the church's Sabbath "Wintering the Soul" month, our July event was a day retreat in the sunshine, with Bibles and pens in hand for prayer and reflection.

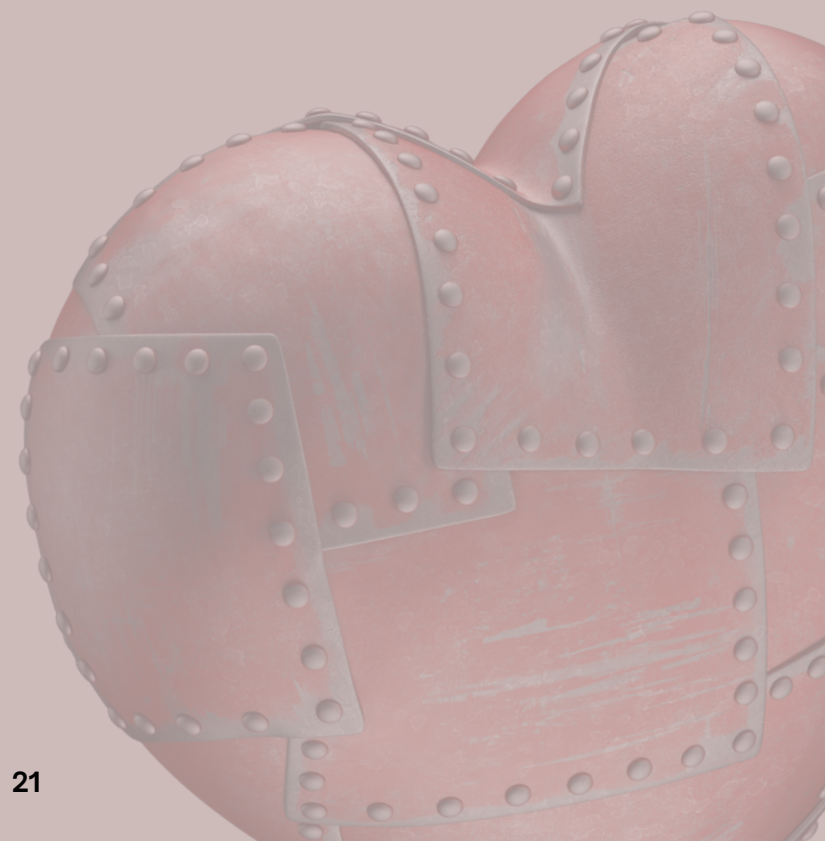
Beyond these larger events, one of the real strengths of the ministry continues to be the friendships that have developed amongst the men. Throughout the year we have continued meeting regularly for Bible study, prayer and encouragement, while also supporting one another in practical ways. Several groups of men assisted with house moves for Samara, Luke and Natascha, and other practical help and encouragement to Augustine and Pamela as well as Josh and Melissa.

The men have also continued our tradition of occasional "Attitude Adjustment Days", where a group heads outdoors for a bushwalk or other adventure as an excuse to step away from the busyness of life, enjoy God's creation and spend time together. These informal gatherings often create some of the best opportunities for deeper conversations, encouragement and support.

Earlier this year we also reformed a men's ministry leadership team to help plan future activities and keep us focused on discipleship, friendship, outreach and helping men grow closer to Jesus.

We remain thankful for everyone who has organised events, shared their testimony, cooked meals, lent a hand, invited a friend or simply turned up and encouraged the men around them. It is a privilege to see the friendships, support and spiritual growth that continue to develop as we journey together, and we look forward to seeing how God continues to work among us in the year ahead.

Craig





PRAYER MINISTRY

Andrew Muir

A question that is often asked is why do we pray. What is the purpose if God already knows what we are thinking and knows all our concerns and fears. I have heard it said that God wants to do many things on this earth but holds His hand until prayers from mankind are spoken forth with sincerity and passion that are in agreement with Gods heart and will. The issue in prayer is to align our hearts desire in prayer with what is on Gods heart. When we pray in that manner then God hears, answers and the connection between God and man functions as it was intended.

The Australian Prayer Network puts it in another way - Lord do in me first what I want you to do in others. God is first and foremost concerned about aligning the hearts of those who pray with His own hearts desires. When this happens, I believe, answers to prayer flow.

Sometimes our reluctance to pray is brought about by the subconscious thought that my prayers don't really matter or when I pray nothing seems to change. Let me encourage you to keep praying and to align our hearts to Gods desires and pray as He leads us by Holy Spirit.

I would also encourage everyone to link up with a prayer partner on a regular basis – someone you can share your heart with. There is power when we pray in unity and in agreement with one another.

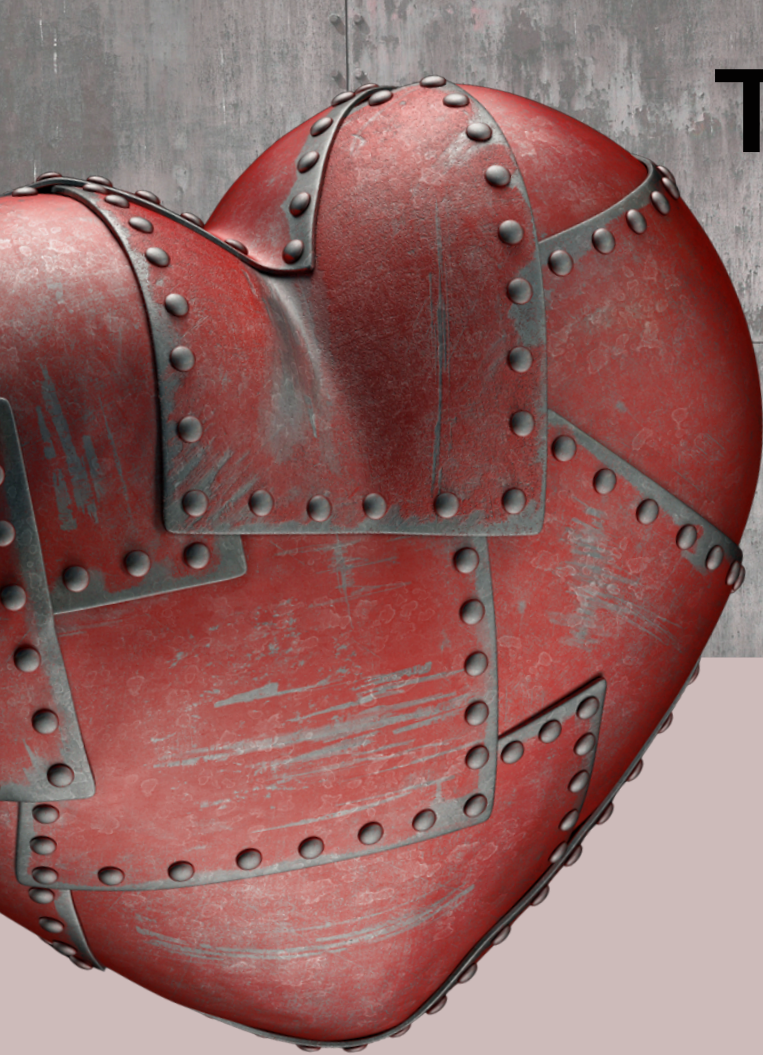
I would like to express my thanks to Dennis Terracini who led the Saturday evening prayer meetings on Zoom for a number of years and is taking a well earned break. Thank you Dennis for your faithful ministry to the Lord.

There is a prayer meeting in the Mission Centre every Wednesday morning from 7.30 to 8.30 with a focus to see God break through in our church and community. All are welcome and you are encouraged to come and join us.

Prayer is also available after the service by Prayer Team members and Elders and online prayer requests can be sent to the Pastors, myself or through the WVAC portal.

Yours in Christ
Andrew Muir





TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe Ree

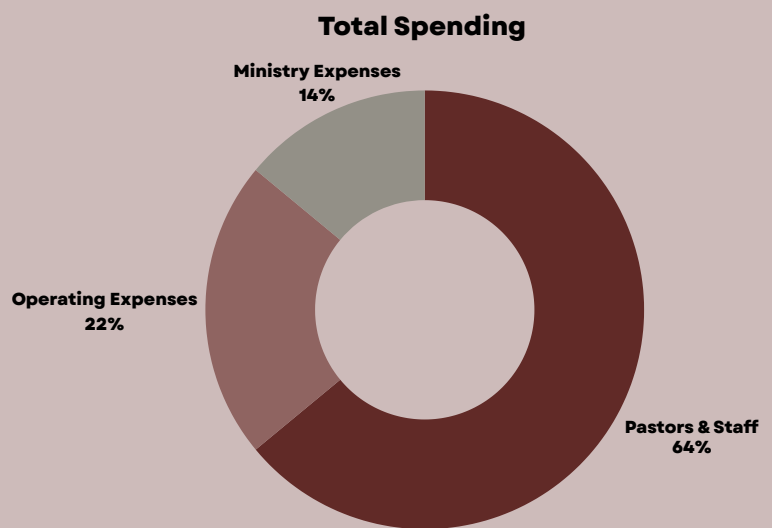
"Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them." - Matthew 6:26

Praise God for sustaining us in our finances, like how He feeds the wild birds we're blessed to encounter in Canberra. He has yet again provided for us and our church. I would also like to thank the church for its generous giving, especially as we all face the rising cost of living.

In the past financial year, the church agreed to a budget of over \$365,000 for total offerings and was just shy of this budget by around \$6,000. With the offerings and other incomes, we have supported the ministries across our church for God's kingdom.

Almost two-thirds (64%) of our spending supported our pastors and ministry workers. Over a fifth (22%) of our spending paid the bills, insurance, and operating expenses. The remainder (14%) was spent on ministry expenses.

We are reporting a deficit of around \$24,000 for this financial year. Most of the deficit can be attributed to the depreciation of assets of around \$13,000 and the shortfall in giving of around \$6,000. The rest is due to the ever increasing 'cost of living' and the unexpected cost of having the



tree removed near the church hall which was \$3000. These continued rises, changes to the Discipleship Programs and the Covenant Life Church Plant, have greatly impacted our budget for 26/27 (see page 25).

Separate from the general offerings, the church committed to giving almost \$47,000 for the Faith Promise to support our missionaries. Noting the cycle begins and ends in November, we are on target to meet this commitment.

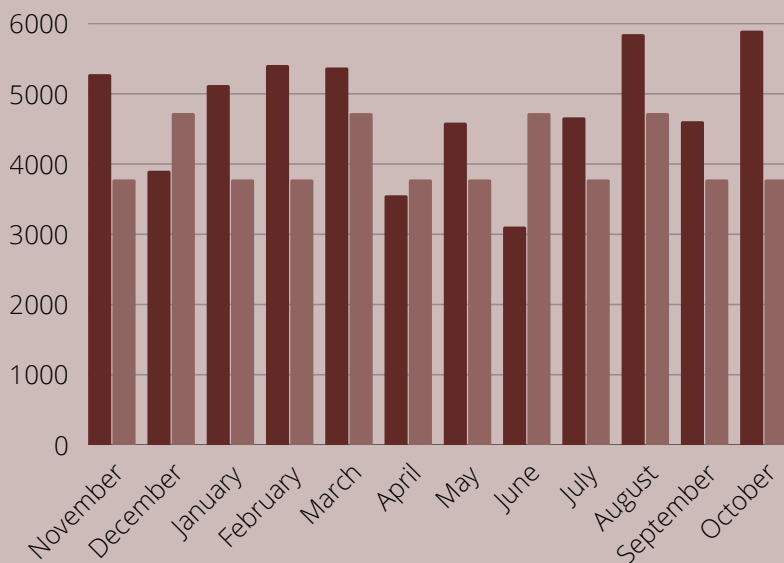
The current balance of our loan with the Christian & Missionary Alliance Development fund is \$122,506

I want to thank Antoinette for all that she does behind the scenes. I want to thank the church for the generous giving. Most importantly, I would like to thank God for all that He provides for us.

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:19

FAITH PROMISE

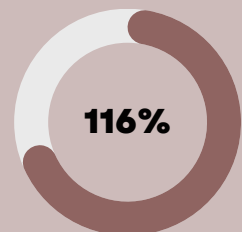
FAITH PROMISE GIVING 24-25 YEAR



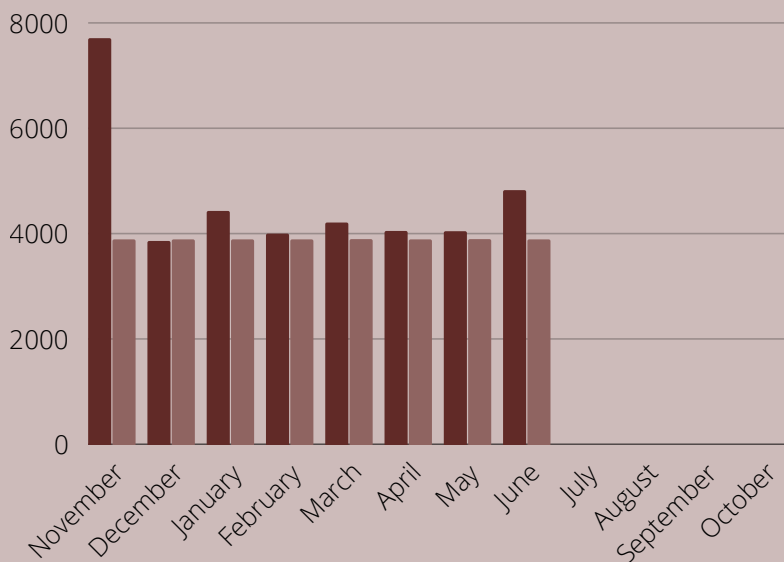
**GIVING
TOTAL**



PLEDGED
\$49,150



FAITH PROMISE GIVING 25-26 YEAR



**GIVING
TOTAL**



PLEDGED
\$46,690

