

Please return your response on Sunday, November 28th at either of the three worship services or as soon as you are able.



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**STEWARDSHIP**  
**2010 - 2011**

## ***From the Minister***

When I was a kid I loved going to stationery day. All those new things! Pencils that were full length, and erasers still in cellophane, complete rulers and a brand new biro! But the best of all - all those books that had never been written in, all the blank lines and pages – all waiting for me to write something in them. I loved that. I loved the smell and the creaking of the pages as they were opened for the first time. All the possibilities!

That's a lot like the chance before us now. And in reality I'm asking you to open up a new page, to go somewhere no one has been before. To write on a new line some possibilities. I'm asking you to do that with your finances. To make an investment commitment to Unley and Malvern Uniting.

There is no doubt that we are pushing forward, and indeed making a difference. You'll be able to read through these pages and see the pictures to get some sort of grasp of just how extensive that is. This is a great church and is growing daily. But we need your help to the resources to provide ministry of quality and significance. continue and develop.

There has never been a more crucial time for the church to be proactive in the community as now. We are on the cusp of a significant time in history and with all this change our community of faith must remain. But more than remain we must be deliberate with our strategy. This booklet is about inviting you to partner in the life and health and ministry of this church. We need

Please read through these pages and prayerfully consider your response. I encourage you to increase your offering by at least 6% that way we have all the wherewithal to thrive.

It's exciting times please join with us to make it memorable!

*Blessings Jonathan*

## ***Unley***

We may not be a large congregation, in terms of numbers, but we are large in heart. This year we have cared for our "extended family" (each other, as well as those in the community). We have supported refugees; supported Trevor Russell, financially, by visiting and by correspondence; hosted visiting speakers; attended Indian fundraiser night at Malvern, made our "map" of gold coins and enjoyed hearing about GSAM Orphanage from participants on their return. Welcomed visitors to our service; joined in combined services and events at Malvern; provided transport for Senior Citizens (annual event each July, to enable attendance at Sunday concert); participated in "Small Change for Change" project; donated money and goods for "Samaritan's Purse"; joined with our Hungarian congregation in their special service to celebrate 60 years of the Hungarian Church in Australia and celebrated very special "0" birthdays for two of our members.

*Judy Eley*



## ***Adult Fellowship***

The Adult Fellowship welcomes male and female to share the friendship and activities of the Fellowship. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month, except January, and enjoy a variety of programs that widen our interests and enable us to socialise. We also like to support worthwhile projects and to keep in touch with those we do support. We also have a reputation for enjoyable afternoons teas! Come and join us – taste and see."

Elwyn Penna, President.

## **Malvern Shed**

Our vision is to build a Shed on the Malvern Church property for the community . Although the Shed will be open to all, it is expected that the main group to benefit will be older men. There are few places where these men can gather to promote sharing, learning, friendship and a sense of usefulness and contribution. It is hoped that this will be the catalyst for cross-generational participation and the handing on of skills to other participants. Studies have shown that involvement in a shed has positive impacts on health and wellbeing of the members.

Activities within Sheds are many and varied: woodwork, metal work, restoration of old cars, etc. The membership is diverse too, members from all backgrounds, ethnic and social mixes can enjoy a Shed, bringing their unique cultural characteristics to enliven the activities. The common theme in all Sheds is about feeling useful and contributing again to the community, learning and sharing skills, making friends, networking and exploring health information programmes and opportunities.

*Nigel Fleming and working group*

## **Counselling Centre**

*The Malvern Centre for Counselling* is a part our ministry to the community. It has always been part of Christian practice to offer support to those in need, and the Centre is here for anyone.

The centre sees many people for all sorts of reasons.

Natalie Williams currently operates the Malvern Centre for Counselling and is a Professional Member of *The Counselling Association of South Australia*, and adhere to the Association's Code of Practice. But more than that, she understands and importantly she listens.

## **Our Hope**

This publication tells some of the story of our combined efforts, some of our successes and important moments and some of our hopes. Its an invitation to join in with what God is doing among us. Is a 'please' that you would support the Uniting Church in Unley and Malvern with your financial giving. Without your continued help we cannot survive.

**To reach our target we need you to increase your giving by at least 6%.**

***Malvern Church is a busy community....  
.....with much achieved and much to do.***

Malfuncheon, Christmas Street Party, Strategic Planning, Sons of Korah, Malvern@6, new website, Acts of Random Kindness, Small Change for Change, Kids Club, Youth Group, Panda Group, Counselling Centre , and Chaplaincy to Annesley College.

This comprehensive list generates a huge workload, which our management group feels compelled to appeal to our congregation's generosity, to help fund an Assistant Pastor to complement Jonathan.

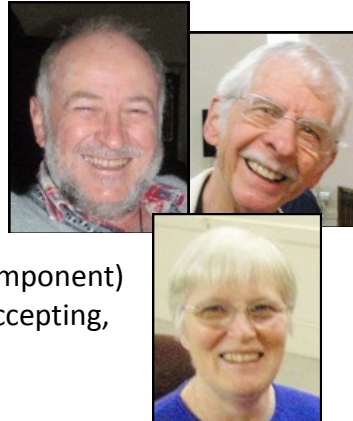
The financial workings of this plan are explained in this publication, I know you will do your utmost to help us.

*David French Chair of the Malvern Congregation*

## Unley Uniting Church

*An intimate and caring alternative*

With a history dating back to the foundation of South Australia (through the St Andrews component) Unley is a congregation with attitude: open, accepting, flexible, caring and loosely structured.



Small in number but significant in action, the people of the Unley Church community offer practical and spiritual support to its members, refugee families and an offender in prison. Fortunate in our financial resources we have been enabled to give significant monetary assistance to global disaster appeals and the wider church. Forums on current issues are promoted.

Worship is participatory, traditionally based and relaxed - lay leadership is a highlight. The 9.15 start makes for an attractive alternative. At Unley we encourage fresh theological insights to help us make the good news of Jesus relevant to our modern era.

We value our relationship with the Kindergym organisation and the Hungarian Reformed Church both of which, along with other community groups, use our premises.

We recommend you don't go to heaven before you have first been to Unley!

*Bruce Martin*

## Malvern@6

This year has been a challenging and rewarding one for our 6pm congregation. We have seen growth in ministry, discipleship, evangelism, worship and service.

We've seen people grow into new ministry positions, discovering God's call on their lives. This has included ministries like welcoming others, discipling youth, helping with cafe, praying with those in hardship, sharing a passion for worship and teaching others.

We've preached on the biographies of some famous Christians - ordinary people in the hands of an extraordinary God. We've also opened the pages of 1 John together and engaged with the text. In one small group we've taught through the basics of Christian belief in a baptism class.

Evangelism is rarely easy. Yet this year we've heard stories of people in our congregation sharing the gospel with both friends and strangers. Our worship has been heartfelt as we've praised God through good times and bad. This year we've sought to make prayer more interactive and often times we've involved the whole congregation. In September the Sons of Korah filled our church with praise, our pews with people and our hearts with thanksgiving.

Service has always been an integral part of the 6pm congregation. This year has seen us start our own charity and dig two clean water wells in Africa, transforming two whole villages and hundreds of people we will never meet this side of eternity. The ARK Group has continued to fundraise and invest in the Kingdom of God, supporting various ministries and charities including Indian Orphanage. This year, even more than ever, we've seen people "get it": that Jesus rescues us from sin and death in this life not just to be whisked to heaven in the next but so we can join him in what he is doing in the here and now. We worship a God of justice and compassion and are compelled to act like him. Our best days are yet to come.

*Josh Zwar and team*

## ***Sunday Children's Programs***

The past year has seen changes aimed at providing suitable programmes for all the children coming. We have restarted crèche in the Youth Room. Our High School group (now "SMURFS") widened its age range, to include those ready for a bible study. Minimo is now a thriving group based in the Memorial Hall, and "Focus "intermediate group meets at the back of the Goode Hall.

The *All-Together* services have been well attended. Such specials give many of our children a place to use their gifts in the services. We hope to continue encouraging each child to discover and use their God given gifts. Many adults have been encouraged by the children's' involvement.

The strategic planning group have highlighted some areas for change. A key priority is to provide purposeful activities for each age while they wait for church to begin or for their parents to have morning tea. we are looking to provide outside play activities, a computer games desk and a craft area.

Our aim is to provide a safe and happy place for all children to become followers of Jesus.

*Sheila Sinclair and team*

## ***Panda Playgroup***

On a Thursday morning you might not be able to walk through the Goode Hall as there are just so many parents and kids attending Panda. Its been so big that we began an afternoon session too!

What a wonderful way that the church engages with the community. Maybe you might like to come along and see! Many thanks to all the helpers.



## ***Essential Information on Giving***

### ***Giving is crucial to our own spiritual health***

If you stop and think the natural response to being loved is to love in return. Not to do so is unhealthy. We all have a need to give. Giving makes you feel free; free of the world's self-centred materialism. Giving promotes collective spiritual health, as well. Congregations who are spiritually healthy are also generous in many ways.

### ***The mechanics of giving (several ways it can happen)***

#### ***E(give)***

**This is the easiest method of automating your giving.** If you have a bank or credit union account, UCIInvest (acting on behalf of the Synod) withdraws the offering from your account and pays it into the Church account.

If you want to become an E(give) member return the completed E(give) form to the Recorder (with the pledge card) who will forward it onto UCIInvest. **This method of giving is the easiest for the Treasurer. Each month UCIInvest sends a report to the Recorder who lets the Treasurer know how much has been given by each congregation.**

#### ***Direct transfers using internet banking***

If you use internet banking you can set up regular transfers to the Church account. The Recorder can provide you with the Church bank account details (and an identification code).

#### ***Use offertory envelopes***

The traditional method of planned giving in recent decades has been to place our offerings in a confidential envelope each week. It's a useful reminder of the undertaking we've made to give sacrificially, systematically and regularly. We will continue to offer this.

### **So why use automatic electronic automatic payment for your offering?**

E(give) and Direct Transfers are an increasingly popular method for congregations. In many UCA churches the majority of planned giving is done this way using E(give).

It's very practical – funds are automatically withdrawn from your account. Cash is no longer required at Church for your offering. It's convenient. Even if you are away on holiday or unable to come to worship on a particular week, the budgeted offering is still made. It's confidential.

### **Budget comparisons**

The table to the left summarizes the 2011 budget in compared to 2010. It assumes that an Assistant Pastor is engaged full time. Budget 2011 assumes that offerings will increase by at least six percent (6%). Offerings constitute sixty eight percent (68%) of Malvern & Unley income. Hence, to employ our ministerial staff we rely on your serious and prayerful giving. Without you we cannot function.

### **BUDGET 2010 V BUDGET 2011**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Offerings Income	171,000	180,400
Other Income	105,000	68,000
Total Income	276,000	248,400
Expenditure	<u>267,400</u>	<u>257,200</u>
Surplus / (deficit)	8,600	(8,800)

### **Youth Ministry**

The purpose of youth ministry at Malvern Uniting Church is to help young people develop closer relationships with God, and to enable them to be meaningfully connected to church life. We fulfil this purpose through a variety of activities, mainly through youth group and the Sunday morning youth program.

We have also had the opportunity for a couple of camps and sleepovers, which have been great relationship building times. We have had over 60 young people involved in youth over the year, some for the first time, and have built significant relationships with many of them. This year has been a growing year. The leaders, some of whom are brand new this year, have shown some amazing new skills, and have all contributed meaningfully to the team.

Next year we are going to continue building on what we have done this year. We are hoping to be able to offer more age appropriate activities, through different kinds of youth events. One of our most important goals is to develop stronger links between youth group and our weekly worship services. We also want to start a youth bible study group. Most of all, we want to continue loving the young people who come into contact with our church, and we pray that they will draw closer to Jesus.

*Rosalie Dow and team*

### **Kids Club**

Over the past nine months Kids Club has seen 215 kids attend the 3 Kids Clubs and we have had over 35 different leaders be involved at some stage during this time. Each leader has done a fabulous job and Kids Club owes its long, successful history to its leaders. Special thanks to Annabel Krantz for all her work.

As we look forward we are seeking ways in which to improve Kids Club for both those who attend and those who help out.

*Mark Fitzgerald and team*

## India Trip

In July this year a team went on a short term mission trip to the Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission in Northern India.

After months fundraising and gathering donations of goods from people in our church and local communities, we set off with your prayers and support, God's blessings and provisions and 180kg of check-in luggage!

As a group we spent 10 days in the orphanage, immersing ourselves in their daily life. We cooked, cleaned, child-minded, taught, welded, laughed, and most enthusiastically, played! We went about sourcing materials to build a playground climbing structure for the small boys. When there was electricity, they welded. When there wasn't, they played.

After the 10 days, the couples set off back home and Tahnee March stayed on for another 6 weeks. She continued playing, cooking and child-minding, including the night shifts looking after one of two twins. Tahnee taught the nursery kids Sunday School and ran a Bible Study group. Wednesday nights was youth group which she ran three times, including giving 20 minute sermons! *It was a time of personal strengthening and more importantly spiritual growth as I witnessed the indescribable faith of the children we were serving.* Tahnee

A big thank you to those who supported us and the mission in their thoughts, prayers, gifts and monetary donations. Look out future!

*Ian & Sheila Sinclair, Ian & Susie Clarke and Tahnee March*



## How much should I give.....

**...this is a perennial, recurrent question**

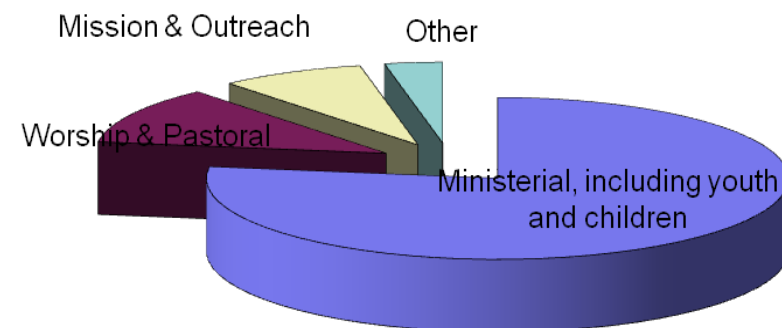
Many people subscribe to the 10% rule; that is, work out your income, and give 10% of that to the church. This is still a very good way of discerning a response.

However, there are circumstances that need to be thought through carefully. Some people just cannot afford to give 10%. They may be students; they may be retirees, or have any number of other constraints upon their income. So a prayerful approach is required.

Some though, can give far more than the 10% mentioned, as their income far exceeds their need. These people have the privilege of giving generously.

As we prayerfully choose our giving option remember one thing – we must be mindful of the One we worship. God has blessed us and it is to God we respond.

## Expenditure Budget 2011



### ***Other ways to give....***

#### ***Donate all or part of your tax refund to your church***

Donate all or part of your tax refund to your church. This can be on top of your regular giving and enables the church to meet unexpected expenses.

#### ***Work out a viable increase in giving***

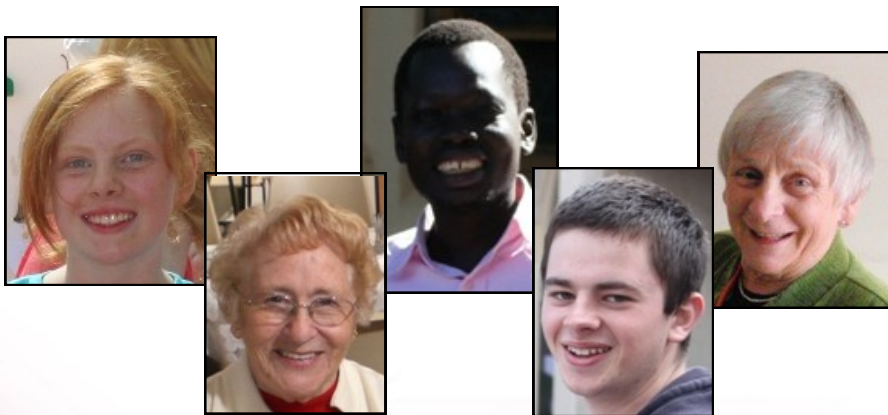
**For instance** Increase your sacrificial giving by just \$3 a day. This is nearly \$1,100 per adult per annum. \$3 a day is neither hear nor there for most people.

#### ***Remember the congregation in your will***

One of best way to assure resources are available in the future of the church is to remember the church in your will.

#### ***Unexpected windfalls***

Give a portion of an unexpected windfall to share blessings. We are never lucky, but always blessed. We can stipulate whence the windfall came or remain anonymous.



## ***Our Church Life Today***

### ***Christmas Street Party***

In December last year, we held our first Christmas Street Party as a follow-on from the Mal//FUN-ction community outreach festival.



We provided local businesses and artists with the opportunity to set up market stalls. There was free entertainment including a bouncy castle, petting zoo, mini golf, giant board games, dunking machine and Christmas carol performances. We ran a cafe, sausage sizzle, ice cream van and fairy floss stall, all at near cost-price, enabling our local community to affordably celebrate Christmas together.

We were also encouraged by the response of the local Unley Council who awarded us a \$1650 community grant to go towards hosting this event.

What a great way to reach out to our community and show them the love of Christ, in a non-confronting way. Thank you to the organising team, countless volunteers and our entire church community for your support.

*Tahnee March*

### ***Focus on family***

Over the next 12 months we will be working hard to develop a playground for Malvern Church to meet the needs of growing families. A group have already been active looking at suitable equipment, selecting the best location and meeting with a consultant from Forpark. They will soon have a well developed plan and suggestions for funding implementation in 2011.

*Ian Kroehn, Wendy McLeod and Kath Cousins †*