**Annual Report: 2021**

Change is everywhere including our congregation.

What we do with it and how we react to it defines us and it.

Some of the changes that have taken place around the congregation include the cessation of Lunch on Chapel and conclusion of our Tuesday Morning Playgroup. As well as these two activities the Japanese Playgroup has not resumed its Monday program since the last ‘shutdown’.

Of course, these changes have come reluctantly and have caused some grief. However, we should celebrate their impact during the time when each program was running.

Other changes have taken place. During the past 12 months we have farewelled a number of our dear friends who have made significant contributions to the community. We should acknowledge their passing and continue to hold their families in our prayers.

At this time, we also recognise the contribution of retiring Elders. One of the functions of the Annual General Meeting is to elect Elders to serve on Church Council for up to 5 years. Morialta Uniting is fortunate to have been able to rely on the skills of its members who have served as Elders.

Other changes have taken place. Margaret Cargill has stepped back from the role of Team Leader Pastoral Care to concentrate on assisting with the expanded needs around Audio Visual support. Jenny Swanbury who has held the role of team Leader Worship & Faith Education for some time has relinquished her position. For the time being Rev. Bob Hutchinson will assume this responsibility. While we will mark the contribution of these two people, we also recognise the efforts taken to support our Mission and Worship Program throughout the year by many volunteers.

Throughout the past 12 months we have received messages of thanks from individuals and groups who participate with Morialta Uniting Church through our Live-Streamed Worship. Those who work behind the cameras and in front make a difference to many other people as well as those gathered in the building.

Our market made its return in November last year too. Although the time for preparation was shorter than usual the many who helped ensured the event went off with aplomb. Interestingly, because of impending inclement weather we held all activity inside. We will probably follow the same practice again. Afterall, isn’t a tradition you have done at least once!

Fellowship continues to perform an important function within the life of the congregation. Members have participated in a range of activities, but most importantly are able to meet and support each other.

Provision of Pastoral Care within the community was changed over 12 months ago. Members of the congregation and community were asked to indicate whether they would like to be part of a group, have a specific Caring Connection person, or be supported more informally. During this year Margaret Cargill undertook a review of the program by contacting members. While there was some small change the majority of members are happy with the present situation.

For the first time ever Morialta Uniting was the venue of a Polling Booth for the recent State Election. While the election resulted in a change of government it was probably not caused by anything that happened at Chapel Street. However, the generosity of our members showed again with provision of baked goods to sell on our rather hastily convened Cake Stall. Thanks to those who served on the stall and Barbeque we raised over $900 which will go, as donations, to three areas of need nationally and internationally.

One thing that has not changed is the provision of information through our weekly Newsletter and periodical ‘Morialta Vision’. During the last year we have been informed of activities and opportunities for action through both these publications. Thanks to those who contribute and importantly prepare the issues each time!

As usual, this report should be considered alongside the two above mentioned communications

By now the reader will probably have realised that the theme for this year’s Annual Report is ‘change’. However, amongst all the change, some imposed and some planned, there is one thing that doesn’t change.

***“The steadfast love of the Lord never changes, His mercies never come to an end…”***

I hope that as your involvement with Morialta Uniting Church continues, even if it changes, you still feel a part of God’s Mission as it is expressed through the teaching of Jesus here at Morialta Uniting.

As we have developed an increased reliance on digital media of all types we are fortunate to have a cadre of volunteers who deliver information, in printed form, to those who are not able to access information electronically.

Thanks go to all members of the congregation and community for all that you do to provide a space of Hope, Faith, and Love here.