

TA BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL

REPORT 2023-2024

PREPARED JUNE 2024

2024

THANKFULNESS
FOR THE YEAR
THAT WAS

KIDS MINISTRY UPDATE

COMMUNITY MINISTRY REPORTS-

COFFEE & CHAT, ALPHA,
LITTLE SPARROWS & BOWLS

FROM THE ELDERS DESK:

PRAYERFULLY DISCERNING
GOD'S DIRECTION



LIFE GROUP UPDATES:

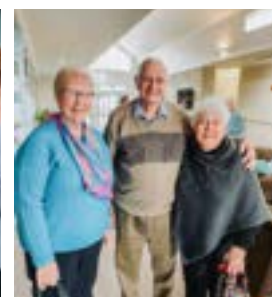
WHAT'S GOD BEEN DOING IN OUR CHURCH?



JUNE 2024

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2023/2024

CHURCH OVERVIEW

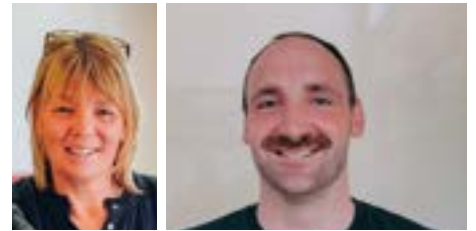
PASTOR ——— KEVIN ROBERTSON



PASTOR ——— LYNETTE LENNOX



ELDERS ——— RYAN WILLIAMSON
————— PETER LEACH
————— JENI WILLIAMSON
————— TIM CAMERON
————— STU LENNOX
————— JENNY SCOTT



ADMIN ——— LAURA KANNAN



2023/2024

CHURCH OVERVIEW



ANNUAL & WEEKLY OFFERINGS



BUDGETED
ACTUAL

ANNUAL

MONTHLY

\$250,000

\$20,833

\$193,909

\$16,159





2023/2024

PASTORS REPORT



Report by Kevin Robertson



It is a rainy, grey, and wet day outside. I sit in the warmth of my office and wonder what to write in a report for the last year. My mind drifts to the opening of Philippians: 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Looking back over the last year I am full of gratitude. Thankful for your acceptance of the changes that have been instigated and thankful for those that have stepped up into positions of ministry that have been new for them. In particular I am full of thankfulness for my two colleagues – staff members who bring their A game every day – Laura and Rebekah. I am thankful for their friendship, their positive ‘can do’ attitude, their creativity and honest hard work!



“IT IS SO GOOD HAVING PEOPLE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE AND BRING THEIR PERSONALITIES TO OUR SERVICES”

I am full of gratitude for those who have joined the team to MC services. It is so good having people willing to participate and bring their personalities to our services. You all add a richness to our gatherings, and I appreciate what you add to our worship. Our talented worship team makes me grateful for the goodness of God. It is more than your combined skill – it’s your willing hearts to serve and your desire to worship and be in God’s presence that inspires me.

One of the biggest changes in the last year was the team that came together to preach through the book of Philippians. How blessed we were as a church. Most of you were preaching for the first time but not the last time. It was a privilege to sit under your ministry. Thank you.



Shall I keep expressing my gratefulness to God for His continuous work among us? It excites me that we have a dedicated prayer meeting, that there is new life in our life groups, increasing engagement in our Sunday services, having a growing number of mum’s on Wednesdays, seeing our youngsters actively involved, that Alpha is strong under new leadership, that we’ve sent missionaries out, etc. etc. etc. – it’s an exciting time to belong to TA Baptist!

Other than our staff, my most frequent interactions are with the eldership, and what an exceptional group of humans they are! These five remarkable individuals, alongside their spouses, are the backbone of our church. Their unwavering care, support, and encouragement have personally uplifted me. They are not just leaders; they are mentors who aren't afraid to challenge when needed. A unified team. I love them. We are immensely blessed as a church to have such a dedicated and cohesive team guiding us forward!

But...

There is still work ahead of us all.

With blessings, Kevin-Lead Follower



ELDERS REPORT

Report by Ryan Williamson



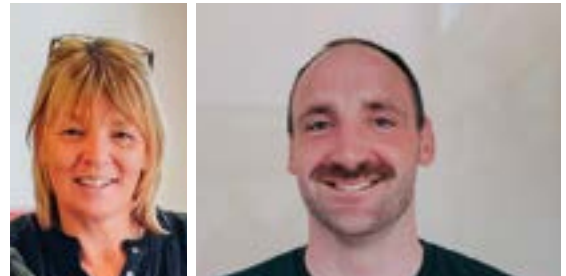
The Te Awamutu Baptist Church Elders have had another busy and transformative year. At the last election, we welcomed Jeni Williamson onto eldership, along with Stu Lennox, who was re-elected for another term.



We have focused on prayerfully discerning God's direction for our church and how this aligns with the future, following the work done on the church strategy last year.

PRAYERFULLY DISCERNING GODS DIRECTION

Unfortunately, in the past few months we faced the significant loss of Stu, one of our longer-standing elders, when he moved to the South Island to join the mission field. This was a big loss for the team, however exciting times for Stu and Lynette. Despite this, the year has been marked by a strong sense of trust and harmony within the group.



ELDERS 2023/ 2024

RYAN WILLIAMSON, PETER LEACH,
JENI WILLIAMSON, TIM CAMERON,
STU LENNOX, JENNY SCOTT

The Elders continue to lay the groundwork for a vibrant and intergenerational church community that focuses on making disciples and praying without ceasing. We are genuinely excited for what God has in store for Te Awamutu Baptist Church as we take our next steps forward together. Bring on the next year!

2023/2024

ADMIN REPORT

Report by Laura Kannan



This month marks one year that I have worked as the church Administrator, and they say time flies when you have fun and this is definitely testament to that! The past year has been filled with many accomplishments and exciting changes. One of the key achievements has been moving our office system to Google Workspace. This transition has streamlined many office processes, allowing us to securely store files online and significantly reduce the amount of physical paperwork in the office. Additionally, I have undertaken a complete revamp of our logo and branding to reflect our key priorities.

Alongside this, I have updated our website to display our vibrant and thriving church community. This has created a lot of traction from groups within the community wanting to hire the facilities- the online calendar is packed and with this it has created a good consistent income for the church. Among these changes, I took on the challenge of redoing the Parents Room and an office space for Lynette, now well-used by Rebekah who I am extremely excited to be working alongside witnessing her vision for the Kids Ministry unfold.



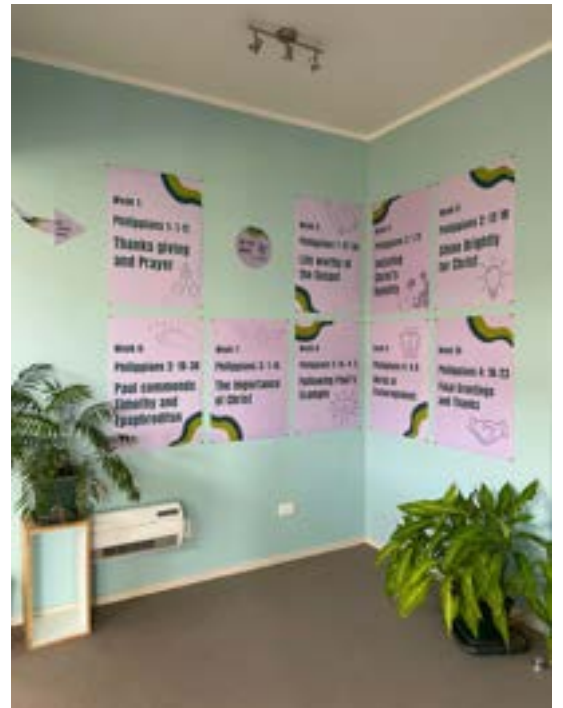
For you're new to the area, seeking a deeper connection with your faith, or simply curious about church, we extend our warmest greetings to you!

As you explore our website, you'll discover valuable information about our Sunday services, groups, and our various life groups designed to serve and uplift. Our church is not just a place of faith, but a family where faith is nurtured, connections are forged, and lives are transformed.

We invite you to join us every Sunday at 10am for our worship service and Fellowship time.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

CONTACT US



Kevin's office also received a much-needed revamp in his choice of green!! Additionally, like many others, I found myself roped into preaching during the Philippians series—perks of the job, I am told! It was challenging and grew me in more ways than I expected but it was an honour to serve the church in this way.



“I HAVE WITNESSED INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY, BE IT TIME, MONEY OR EFFORT FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY”

Currently, my focus is on updating the Atrium, bit by bit, to continue reflecting the lively nature of our church as well as continuing to move the library to an online catalogue, refreshing the main office and entrance way as well as the well-used garden lounge... stay tuned and trust the process!

Beyond the numerous administrative tasks, I cherish the conversations I have with church members and the public throughout the week. I have witnessed incredible generosity, be it time, money or effort from our church community and the desperate needs of others, often seeing how God's hand brings these together in a divine way.



I have enjoyed working alongside Kevin to creatively capture what God has been speaking to him through eye-catching stage installations. These installations have helped define the different sermon series and themes throughout the year, including missions, Christmas, the book of Philippians, and the recent series on relationships with more series in the works... watch this space!

WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE HIS WISDOM, EXPERIENCE, AND KNOWLEDGE GUIDING OUR CHURCH.

Working alongside Kevin has been a privilege. We share a similar sense of humour, and his "Dad jokes" often bring much-needed laughter to our workdays. In the past being someone who rarely stepped into church during the week between mum life and working full time, it has been eye opening to see the immense effort, endless hours, and numerous meetings that occur between the Sunday services.



This experience has highlighted the multifaceted nature of church leadership and reminded me that Kevin is a remarkable leader AND he is also human- someone who we can all relate too! We are blessed to have his wisdom, experience, and knowledge guiding our church. I am grateful for the freedom he allows me to be creative and often laugh when, after seeing a completed project, he admits he should have trusted my vision from the start!

I am grateful for our amazing Elders. Their diverse life experiences, willingness to help, friendship and the shared vision they have for this church. They have supported me to make creative changes and send constant words of encouragement and appreciation my way, this bunch is a truly remarkable one!

A report would not be complete without a mention of appreciation for Rose our church cleaner, she works tirelessly to ensure the place is looking its best for our Sunday services as well as the many groups who hire the facility during the week. Her bubbly nature is something that brightens my Monday afternoons! Thank you Rose!



“THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM YOU THE CHURCH FAMILY”

I look forward to what God has planned for our church in the coming year. I feel privileged to witness this as a staff member as well as a member of our church.

Thank you for the continued support from you the church family, allowing me the opportunity to serve in this way, lets continue to grow, support one another, and follow where God leads us.



WORSHIP REPORT



Report by Stefan Cooper



Through the last 12 months the worship ministry has continued to seek the presence of the Father and guidance for direction for our praise and worship members. We sought out to achieve some structure whilst really embracing the intergenerational mindset and direction from the Elders. We have got to welcome some young people into the teams, which is a blessing and will continue to see fruit from this.



WE ARE SO INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR OUR MUSICIANS, LEADERS, SOUND TECHS & PROJECTOR VOLUNTEERS.

We have been blessed with two specific teams with plans to grow into more in the short to medium term. We are so incredibly grateful for our musicians, leaders, sound techs & projector volunteers. The time and energy spent ensuring we welcome the Holy Spirit into the Lord's house often is unseen, and for that we pray many blessings on the team and wider congregation over the next 12 months".





2023/2024

KIDS MINISTRY



Report by Rebekah Miers



Kids church this year has seen a lot of changes, starting with myself (Rebekah), along with Eitan and Anna, stepping into the leadership role as of January. We have gone from one group, aged 5-12, to three different groups, split into 5–7-year-olds, 8-10 year olds and then intermediates. On a standard week, we have 20–25 kids aged 5-10, and we regularly welcome visitors and new children into our group.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, I'm excited to share our July holiday programme which will, hopefully, be the first of many.

I am so grateful for the support and the volunteers I have in this ministry, but as ever, if this is an area you think you could serve in, I would love to hear from you. The harvest is great, but the workers are few!

Crèche has also seen a bit of an update, both in its paint and curriculum, and I am excited to see how it continues to grow. Thank you so much to all of you who regularly volunteer your Sunday morning to run the show out there. We truly could not do it without you!

'I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT AND THE VOLUNTEERS I HAVE IN THIS MINISTRY'



INTERMEDIATES REPORT



Report by Cheryll Robertson



An Intermediate Group formed at the start of 2024 as three of the Kid's Church girls had reached the heady height of 'Intermediate School' age. What a privilege it has been to get to know these three lovely girls and spend time delving into the scriptures together looking at things Jesus said and did. We have been focusing on the parables of Jesus and the last couple of weeks we have been discussing forgiveness and how it relates to the parable of the unmerciful servant.

WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT HAS BEEN TO GET TO KNOW THESE THREE LOVELY GIRLS!



As part of integrating the Intermediates into 'Grown Up' Church, they are staying in for the full service on the first Sunday of every month. They are also delighted at being a part of the Worship Team. The girls had fun making the little biscuits they gave out to mum's and women on Mother's Day, and we are presently hatching another plan that includes making food as a fundraiser for mission... so watch this space!





YOUTH REPORT

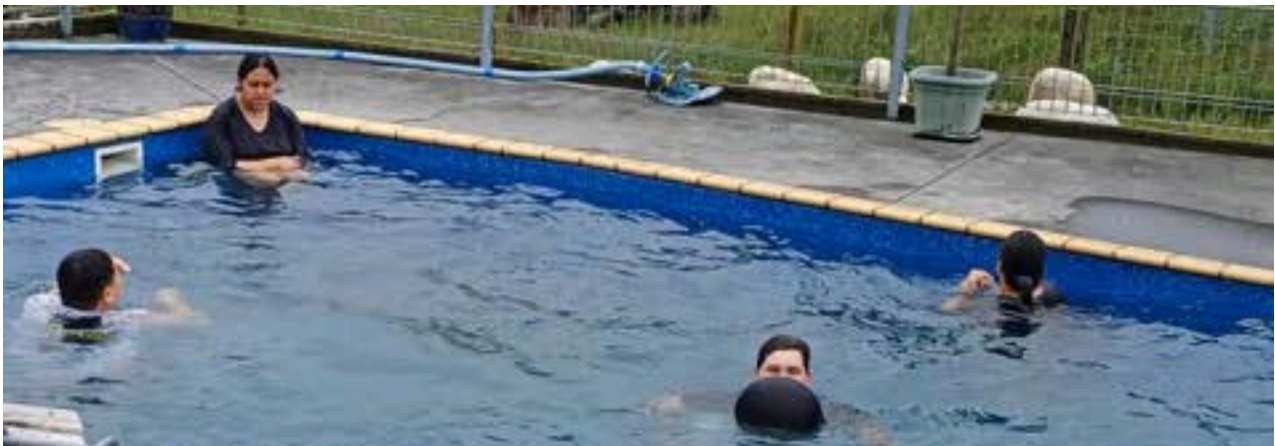


Report by Sharlene Frost



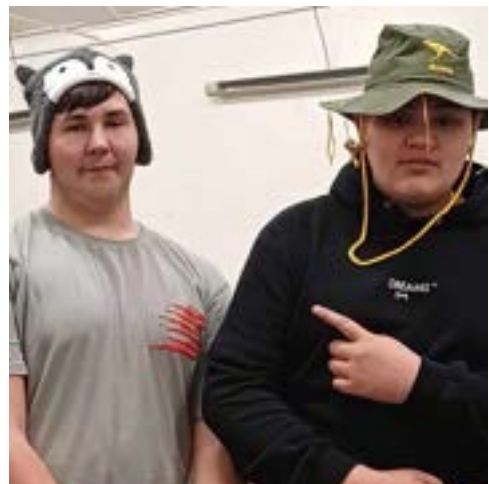
Well, what a year! We enjoy a mix of fun and laughter, with some study on our weeknights... including feeding their growing bodies with snacks. We have along with that enjoyed fellowship by having fun outings at different homes, swimming, playing cricket, BBQs etc.

I have also joined forces with another life group once a term, where we will get together to mix the young ones with the older generation, to enjoy a dinner or dessert, and we have even had a mini quiz. I have a faithful set of kids who turn up every week, to which I am grateful. Without you, Youth would not exist.



I HAVE A FAITHFUL SET OF KIDS WHO TURN UP EVERY WEEK, TO WHICH I AM GRATEFUL.

Due to different circumstances, two leaders have had to step down, which left a bit of a gap, but have no fear, I am doing the utmost best that I can for your kids. I have a few ideas up my sleeve for the rest of year... so, watch this space.



2023/2024

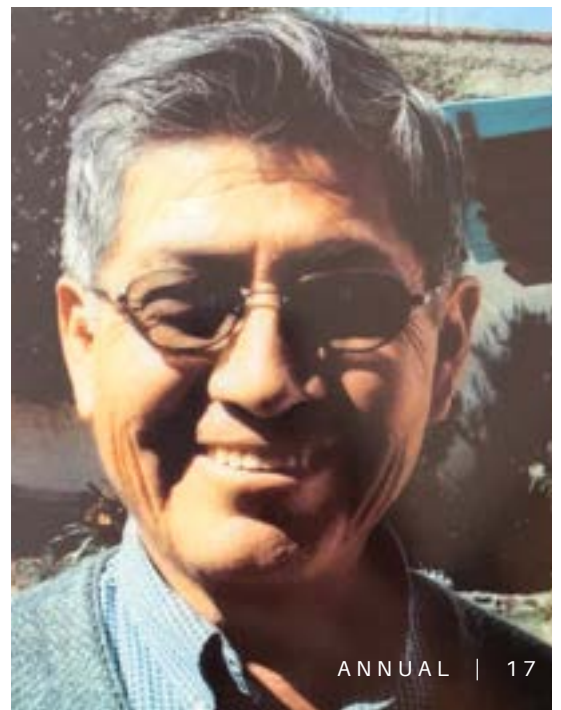
MISSION REPORT

Report by Kevin Robertson



There has been an attempt to shift our perspectives on mission. This has been twofold. Firstly, we have tried to envisage life groups as places where both pastoral care and missions are the responsibility of those who attend a life group. Secondly, we had a series of messages on mission. Over the last year we have continued to support three overseas workers both financially and through prayer. They have been Amos and Perry Mukasa in Uganda; Judy and Victor Gomez in Spain and Filliepe Martinez in Bolivia. Judy and Victor spoke during the mission's series as they were back in NZ on furlough. Filliepe has recently passed away and now rests with Jesus.

In my last AGM report on mission it states that "there is little engagement from the whole body" towards mission. The eldership have been working and praying on this and have recently made some significant changes with our overseas and local mission strategy. Judy and Victor and naturally Filliepe will no longer be supported. We are retaining Amos and Perry as overseas workers. They represent the "there" of mission and hopefully, we pray, that there will be members of the church that want to pick up correspondence with them for their support and encouragement and perhaps go to Uganda in person. The invitation is open!



Later in the year (September) we will be adopting Wade and Erica Gadsby as people we support. This is an exciting change as they represent the 'here but there' of mission. A MOU has been adopted for their support as they continue their good work in Vanuatu. This will hopefully open a way for us to become actively involved in short term mission trips and supporting work with people who have little.

'THIS WILL HOPEFULLY OPEN A WAY FOR US TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS'



Stu and Lynette Lennox have also been adopted as missionaries sent from our church. Working under clear guidelines in a MOU, they represent the "here" of mission in NZ, specifically to the West Coast of the South island. The hope is that as they serve and establish their mission contacts, that there might be ongoing opportunities to be active in sending people to support what they are doing on the coast.

'STU AND LYNETTE LENNOX HAVE ALSO BEEN ADOPTED AS MISSIONARIES SENT FROM OUR CHURCH'



2023/2024

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

Report by Lynette Lennox



In Matthew 18:10-14 and Luke 15:1-7 Jesus tells us the parable about the lost sheep and the joy that the shepherd had when one sheep was missing but then is found. Using this model, my goal was to keep an eye on the few sheep that were on the fringes of our church family. The 99 sheep that are involved in all the various small groups and regular Sunday church services, are loved, and care for by you all. Some of our church family, due to many various reasons live out on the fringes often unseen. Jesus loves us all and they are part of the body of Christ, a part of our church. So, my time has been spent on these few sheep, searching for them, contacting them, building trust, encouraging, and loving them back closer to the flock of sheep. A number of these sheep have been delegated onto others within the church body who are continuing the work.

'MY TIME HAS BEEN SPENT ON THESE FEW SHEEP, SEARCHING FOR THEM, CONTACTING THEM, BUILDING TRUST, ENCOURAGING, AND LOVING THEM BACK CLOSER TO THE FLOCK OF SHEEP'

Being part of a small group can be key to building these types of relationships. Zoomies was started as a new small group for those in our church family who find it challenging for various reasons to get out of an evening. Many thanks to the group for taking over the running of this each Monday night at 7.30pm and to Karen Morris for organising a social night each term. So much fun!!! Note there is always room for more!





Others matters of pastoral care were those who were in hospital. When time permitted in my nursing role, was to keep an eye on those in our congregation and/or their friends and family. For some I could pop in to visit them, listen, pray, and guide them through their journey with the NZ health care system which can be a challenge in the best of times. My challenge for the next year for us all, is to remember the other sheep in our flock, keep an eye out for them, the ones missing in action.



This can be done by contacting them, encouraging them and loving them. Leave the rest up to God, through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). I would like to say a very big thank you to you all in the church, for reciprocating the pastoral care, by employing me 12 hours a week. This also meant that I had a few hours to spend on my theological study and sermon preparation.



CORINTHIANS 13:11
FINALLY, BROTHERS,
REJOICE. AIM FOR
RESTORATION, COMFORT
ONE ANOTHER, AGREE
WITH ONE ANOTHER,
LIVE IN PEACE; AND THE
GOD OF LOVE AND
PEACE WILL BE WITH
YOU.



COFFEE & CHAT REPORT



Report by Carol Wise



It has been a wonderful year for Coffee and Chat. Our group has continued to be a warm and welcoming space for both returning and new participants. While we have retained many of the familiar faces from last year, we have also been delighted to see some new church members and even non-church members join us. This blend of old and new friends has enriched our conversations and strengthened our community.



One exciting development this year is that Neil, now fully retired, has been able to accompany me on Tuesdays. Neil's presence has been a wonderful addition to our group. He has started a side men's group chat in the atrium, which has been well-received. The men gather for their own discussions, which adds another layer of fellowship to our meetings. It has been encouraging to see these conversations flourish, and we are always open to more attendees joining us.



Our meetings are consistently filled with interesting and meaningful conversations. The diversity of experiences and perspectives shared by our group members keeps our discussions lively and engaging. There is always room for more participants, and we warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us.



2023/2024

BOWLS GROUP REPORT

Report by Ian Stratford



This year has seen good participation in our bowls group with an average attendance of about ten players each week. While our smallest group was four players, we've also had as many as thirteen, showing there is plenty of room for more enthusiasts to join us. The diversity in our numbers has brought a dynamic and vibrant energy to our sessions.

The camaraderie among our members has been fantastic, and the friendly competition has led to some exciting contests. Not only have we had a lot of fun, but we've also witnessed significant improvements in many of our bowlers' skills over the months. The supportive and encouraging environment has helped everyone, from novices to more experienced players, to enjoy the game and enhance their abilities.

THE SUPPORTIVE AND ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENT HAS HELPED EVERYONE

One of the highlights of this year has been our ability to make some donations to some very deserving causes. This spirit of generosity and community support has added a deeply fulfilling aspect to our gatherings.

We warmly invite you to join us on Friday mornings for some enjoyable games and great company. Whether you are a seasoned bowler or new to the sport!





2023/2024

LITTLE SPARROWS REPORT

Report by Emily Abernethy



We are delighted to report significant growth in attendance for Little Sparrows over the last year. Our playgroup, which runs every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 at the church hall, has seen an increase in participation, with up to 13 mums and 18 children joining our sessions. One of the most exciting aspects of this growth is that most of our attendees are not currently involved in any churches.

This has been a wonderful opportunity for us to reach out and connect with the broader community. The diversity of our group has enriched our sessions, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. We have also noticed a core group of mums who attend regularly. It has been heartwarming to see the bonds forming not only between the children but also among the parents.





These regular attendees have become an integral part of our playgroup, contributing to a sense of community and mutual support. To celebrate Christmas, we gifted each child either a Bible or a Bible storybook. This gesture was very well received and allowed us to share the message of Christmas in a meaningful way.

It was a joy to see the children's faces light up as they received their gifts, and it provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss the stories and messages within the Bible.

TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS, WE GIFTED EACH CHILD EITHER A BIBLE OR A BIBLE STORYBOOK. THIS GESTURE WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED AND ALLOWED US TO SHARE THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.



Overall, the past year has been an incredible journey for Little Sparrows. We are grateful for the growth we have experienced and the new connections we have made. We look forward to continuing this positive momentum, welcoming more families, and fostering a supportive and nurturing environment for both the children and their parents. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of Little Sparrows. Your participation and support have made this growth possible, and we are excited to see what the future holds for our playgroup.





2023/2024

ALPHA REPORT

August last year we had our first Alpha session. 20 people attended that Sunday afternoon with Stu Lennox the leader, Pete and Marlene Law small group leaders and Carl Lehmkuhl administrator. We had no idea how many, if any, would come but by the Grace of God, he sent those 20. With our motto we took from Abraham when Isaac asked his father where the animal is for the altar he replied, God will provide. And provided He did. At the end of the course, we had a Baptism at Josh and Rosie's place, relationships made, people grew in Christ.

Report by Carl Lehmkuhl



We are just over halfway through the course. Our Alpha day was held at Dan and Cecilia Elderkamp's house, where we watch 5 videos about the Holy Spirit. Such a blessed time, laying hands on people, praying, and testimonies. And expecting another Baptism this time as well. With our budget we bought a frame, banner, flyers all to advertise to get people interested in our Alpha course. We did a fundraising last year with the rugby world cup final, where there was a breakfast before the game. Funds went to Erica and Wade's Mission. For the future of Alpha, we would like to have it yearly. We learned so much over the two courses and would like to continue with it. At the end of the day, it is about God and His love for us, and this course helps us to share it with the people who want to see and hear it.



SUCH A BLESSED TIME, LAYING HANDS ON PEOPLE, PRAYING, AND TESTIMONIES. AND EXPECTING ANOTHER BAPTISM THIS TIME AS WELL.

This year we started the new Alpha with 14 people. Without Stu and Lynnette, Pete and Marlene law are still small group leaders and joining them is Aidan Keast and Charl-Leigh Myburgh and Carl Lehmkuhl took over the leadership from Stu.



TE AWAMUTU
BAPTIST CHURCH

Faith

Love

Hope

PRAY WITHOUT
CEASING
(3)

INTERGENERATIONAL
FAMILY
(1)

MAKE
DISCIPLES
(490)



Because of His great love

EPHESIANS 2:4

KEN & IVY GROUP REPORT



Report by Ken Holroyd



Our group meets every Thursday afternoons at 3PM. This new meeting time has proven to be particularly beneficial, especially for our retired members who find the afternoon slot more convenient and relaxing. We have a dedicated group of 10 members who consistently show remarkable support for one another and extend that support to our entire church family. The sense of community and fellowship within our group is truly heartwarming and reinforces our collective bond.



In our recent meetings, we've been watching and discussing the DVD series "The Chosen." This series has not only captivated our interest but also provided profound insights. We find the portrayal of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ in "The Chosen" both engaging and instructive. The series prompts deep discussions and reflections, enriching our spiritual journey and understanding of biblical events. Overall, our Thursday afternoon group sessions have become a highlight of the week for many of us, providing both spiritual nourishment and a strong sense of community.



MORNING MUMS



The morning mums group meets weekly on a Thursday morning along with our children of various ages. Our sessions have been enriched by studying prayer and fasting, guided by the Practising the Way series available on YouTube. This journey has been incredibly encouraging as we learn and adopt some of the practices of Jesus, seeking to integrate these lessons into our daily lives.

WE'RE A BIG SUPPORT TO EACH OTHER IN THE SEASON OF MOTHERHOOD RAISING LITTLE CHILDREN. WE HAVE ALSO HAD SOME LOVELY MUMS JOIN THAT DON'T ATTEND CHURCH.

Our mission extends beyond our weekly meetings. We are committed to supporting young mothers in need within our community. This support includes donating essential baby items and organising meal trains to ensure these mothers have the necessary resources and assistance.

Report by Rosie Palliser



Last Christmas, we extended our outreach internationally by donating clothes and toys to the community in Vanuatu, bringing joy and relief to families far and wide. We believe that God has been doing remarkable work within our group. Through answered prayers, He has been guiding us, inspiring our dreams, and deepening our faith. We are grateful for the incredible journey we are on together and look forward to continuing to grow in faith and fellowship.



YOUNG FAMILIES- LADIES

Report by Elizabeth Veale



The Women's Bible Study Group has continued to meet every second Tuesday evening throughout the past year. Our group, which focuses on topics relevant to living life with a young family, has provided a supportive and nurturing environment for spiritual growth and mutual support. This year, we explored the book "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" by John Mark Comer, which resonated deeply with our members as it addresses the challenges of living a hurried life. We also delved into the biblical principles of the Sabbath, discussing its significance and how its practices can be integrated into our contemporary lives.

'WE PLACE A STRONG EMPHASIS ON PASTORAL CARE, PROVIDING EMOTIONAL AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO ONE ANOTHER AS WELL AS A CONTINUOUS PRAYER REQUEST CHAT'

Our group is not only about studying the Bible but also about sharing life together. We place a strong emphasis on pastoral care, providing emotional and practical support to one another as well as a continuous prayer request chat where the group is free to share any prayer requests and also praise reports when these are answered. This year, we organised several meal trains to assist families during times of need, such as the arrival of a new baby or during periods of illness or loss. In addition to our regular meetings, we also enjoy social gatherings such as dessert nights and enjoy the friendship and encouragement the group provides.





2023/2024

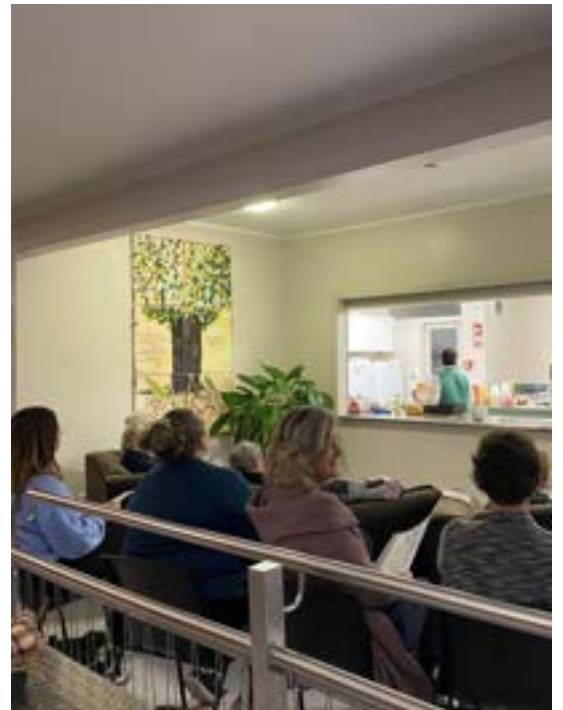
LIVING SIMPLY

Report by Laura Kannan



Living Simply is a group organised by Sue Dew, Cheryl Robertson, Amanda Keast, Laura Kannan and Sharon Mitchell. This initiative promotes a lifestyle of simplicity and sustainability through bi-monthly events. Designed to offer practical tips and enjoyable activities, these gatherings encourage participants to embrace the principles of living simply. Each event has been a resounding success, providing a welcoming space for both church members and the broader community.

One notable event was the Cooking Demonstration Night teaching how to prepare a simple, nutritious meal using affordable ingredients. Participants left with new recipes and cooking techniques. Another popular event was the Plant Growing Tips and Tricks workshop, where there were insights on growing various plants indoor and outdoor, participants left with many plant clippings, seedlings and a wealth of knowledge on keeping those plants alive!





The Handmade Christmas on a Budget workshop focused on creating handmade Christmas decorations and gifts using inexpensive materials, encouraging creativity and frugality. The Op Shop Crawls event allowed participants to visit several stores to find unique and affordable items, highlighting the value of second-hand shopping as a sustainable and budget-friendly practice as well as a few laughs at the items we found! The Paint and Sip Evening provided a relaxed social event where participants enjoyed yummy homemade treats while painting canvases, socialising and getting to see masterpieces take shape!

Attendance at Living Simply events vary depending on the type of activity and the time of year, but each event has seen a significant turnout, reflecting the interest and enthusiasm. These gatherings offer an excellent opportunity for social interaction, allowing participants to meet new people and build relationships. The inclusive nature of the events, open to both men and women, ensures broad appeal and encourages participation from individuals who may not regularly attend church activities.



Living Simply has a series of exciting events planned, continuing to focus on practical, enjoyable activities that promote a simpler lifestyle, as well as organising a Women's Retreat later in the year. Whether you are a regular church goer or new to the community, these events offer a fantastic opportunity to learn, socialise, and embrace living simply.



2023/2024

DAN & CECILIA GROUP REPORT

Report by Dan Elderkamp



It has been a full and satisfying year for our group, with great discussions, participation and contributions from members. We studied a number of topics, including unity, love, know your enemy, Romans 12, healing & the gift thereof, priorities, tithing & giving, hearing from God, and watched & discussed the movie *The Shack*. We also visited the Redoubt, prepared for and ran a service on 14 January, and shared an evening with the youth group, enjoying a great dessert and quiz together.



IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE LEADING THIS GROUP - I'VE PERSONALLY LEARNT SO MUCH, AND I TRUST OTHER MEMBERS HAVE AS WELL - SO MUCH TO THANK AND PRAISE GOD FOR!

Numbers attending have been fairly steady, averaging around eight people, but varying anywhere between four and fourteen. It's been a privilege leading this group – I've personally learnt so much, and I trust other members have as well – so much to thank and praise God for! For the 2024/25 year we will start off by studying the Person of the Holy Spirit, followed by the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and then His gifts. Our hope and desire is to see this result in us being more fruitful in serving God, TA Baptist and the community in which he has placed us.

PHILEO GROUP



Report by Pam Carlisle & Carol Wise



We have had the pleasure of enjoying several wonderful outings and cherished moments of fellowship together over the past year. When we weren't out exploring, we gathered for shared lunches at the church, where we enjoyed engaging speakers, fun games, or a captivating movie. Some of our memorable outings included visits to Manuka Health, the Space Centre, and the enchanting Tree Church.

Each destination offered unique experiences and opportunities to learn and bond as a community. Our Christmas celebration was particularly special, marked by a Christmas lunch and the exchange of gifts, creating a warm and festive and welcoming atmosphere.



As we look ahead to the coming year, we anticipate more exciting outings and meaningful gatherings. We are grateful for the blessings of fellowship and the joy of sharing these moments together. Blessings to all- Pam & Carol



PRAYER MEETING



Report by Dan Elderkamp

The prayer group was started during 2023 in response to a prompting by the Holy Spirit for more prayer in and for our church and community, initially on Tuesday nights. Early this year we felt that we should change this to Sunday morning before the service, and this has worked well for those attending, as most of the group come to church on Sundays anyway, thus cutting out an extra trip into town during the week. Prayer topics have ranged widely, from personal prayer requests for healing, our church leaders and pastor, to praying for countries, governments and the other churches in TA.

We've seen some answers, which we praise God for, and continue to look for answers to other prayers, as led by scripture and the Holy Spirit. Attendance has been pretty steady on about 5 persons for a while, but we'd love to see more of you – prayer is vitally important in the life of any church, and there's so much to pray for! Meetings start at 8.15 am on Sunday mornings, and last until about 9.15 – 9.30 am. Come for the whole time, or for as long as you want – we'd love to have you join us!

WE'VE SEEN SOME ANSWERS, WHICH WE PRAISE GOD FOR, AND CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR ANSWERS TO OTHER PRAYERS, AS LED BY SCRIPTURE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.



2023/2024

ZOOMIES LIFE GROUP

Report by Jenny Sinclair



The Zoomies life group was initiated by Lynette Lennox in October 2023 to cater for those who live remotely or find it difficult to get to in-person groups. Meetings are held online every Monday night from 7:30 to 8:30pm and include a quick catch-up and discussion about the Sunday sermon, a short, animated video from the Bible Project followed by a review of the learning, and then finish off with a prayer session. So far, the focus has been on understanding the themes and make-up of the books of the bible. The numbers involved in the group have dwindled from a high of seven people to a steady four.



An offshoot of the online group was the Zoomies biking group, who enjoyed a river trail ride in the Karangahake Gorge in January 2024 and met for evening rides once a week over summer as well. Other in-person social events have included a picnic in the park in December and a delicious tropical themed farewell dinner for Lynette and Stu, hosted by Ken and Karen Morris. We are a group who have plenty of laughs, and we enjoy fellowship both online and in person.

SO FAR, THE FOCUS HAS BEEN ON UNDERSTANDING THE THEMES AND MAKE-UP OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.



2023/2024

MIGHTY MISFITS GROUP

Report by Karen Phillips

'The disciples were perhaps a group of misfits joined together with common beliefs and a sense of brotherhood' So too is our group of fourteen who meet fortnightly to study God's word, do life together and have fun.



OUR GROUP OF FOURTEEN MEET FORTNIGHTLY TO STUDY GOD'S WORD, DO LIFE TOGETHER AND HAVE FUN.



Once a month the Mighty Misfits start the evening with a meal of burgers and chips. Our studies are a mix of DVD studies, and study books. We may not always agree with what a presenter is sharing in the DVD, but you can guarantee after viewing our discussions are thought provoking.

A paint and nibbles night has been held and we are looking forward to a ten-pin bowling night in June.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Abernethy Emily	Kannan Krispin	Simes Helen
Abernethy Jimmy	Kannan Laura	Sinclair Jeni
Anderson Jenny	Kennedy, Danny	Sinclair Pete
Bosch Alice	Kennedy, Ian	Stratford Ian
Bowler Frances	Lankow, Joanna	Stratford Paulene
Brickland Caitlyn	Law Pete	Tauai Gina
Brickland Daniel	Law Marlene	Tauai Latu
Brickland Ron	Leach Peter	Taylor Maureen
Cameron Michelle	Leach Rachel	Tombs Claire
Cameron Tim	Lehmkuhl, Carl W.	Townley Coral
Carlisle Pam	Lehmkuhl, Cindy	Turner Carol
Carter Julie	Lennox Lynette	Turner Chris
Carter Wayne	Lennox Stuart	Turner Ross
Chick Rosemary	Lusby Neville	Veale Andrew
Clark Judi	Lusby Rayna	Veale Liz
Cleverly-Tuatara Norma	Mackinnon Donna	Vincent Michael
Collins Geoff	Murdoch, Keith	Vincent Tulona
Collins Lisa	Murray Allan	Vincent Alefa
Colville Helen	Murray Ann	Vincent Jucinta
Cooper Stefan	Murray, Donna	Walker Robert
Cooper Kathleen	Oosterman Herman	Walker Abigail
Dew Russell	Palliser Josh	Williamson Jeni
Dew Sue	Palliser Rosie	Williamson Melissa
Dexter Bruce	Robertson Mildred	Williamson Ryan
Dexter Leila	Robertson Neil	Williamson Vaughan
Dexter Stuart	Robertson, Cheryl	Wise Carol
Dittmar, W. H Murray	Robertson, Kevin	Wise Melissa
Earwaker Gill	Runciman Phil	Wise Neil
Elderkamp, Cecilia	Runciman Sylvia	Woolley Julie
Elderkamp, Dan	Saunders Amy	Wright Kath
Frost Anne	Saunders Erick	
Frost Howard	Schellingerhout Dan	TOTAL 114
Frost Mike	Schellingerhout Emma-Lee	
Frost Sharlene	Scott Jenny	
Frost, Sarah	Scott Malcolm	
Gamage, Indrajith	Shaw Janne	
Griffin, Sarah	Shaw Stephen	
Groenstein Chris	Shaw, Lyn	
Groenstein Sue	Shearer Ray	
Hedges Ann	Shepherd Margaret	
Holroyd Ivy	Shepherd Tony	
Holroyd Ken	Simes Gary	



2023/2024

FINANCIAL REPORTS



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

TE AWAMUTU BAPTIST CHURCH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED- 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	193,909	187,241
Service delivery grants, contracts and income	3	679
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1,357	586
Other revenue	8,252	9,718
Total Revenue	203,521	198,223
Expenses		
Employee remuneration and other related expenses	141,554	118,563
Other expenses related to service delivery	62,853	57,091
Grants and donations made	22,552	14,218
Other expenses	29,762	32,492
Total Expenses	256,721	222,363
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(53,200)	(24,140)

2023/2024

FINANCIAL REPORTS



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

THE AWAMUTU BAPTIST CHURCH
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	31 MAR 2024	31 MAR 2023
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and short-term deposits	59,601	70,653
Debtors and prepayments	1,385	9,118
Total Current Assets	60,986	79,771
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,252,319	1,282,046
Total Non-Current Assets	1,252,319	1,282,046
Total Assets	1,313,305	1,361,816
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	4,752	757
Employee costs payable	9,114	8,421
Total Current Liabilities	13,866	9,178
Total Liabilities	13,866	9,178
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)	1,299,439	1,352,639
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated surpluses or deficits	1,299,439	1,352,639
Total Accumulated Funds	1,299,439	1,352,639



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2023/2024



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