

Together



Sunday 2 June 2024

Minister

Rev. Greg McConnell
0404 046 697

Administration Assistant

Katy Burfield
4945 4655 - office
Tues 9am - 5.30pm
Fri 9am - 5.30pm

Website

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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon this land

Worship services

Sunday 2 June	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	5.30 pm	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 9 June	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
	5.30 pm	Rev Greg McConnell

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 3.45pm

Dinner Church—every Sunday at 5.30pm

Dinner Church is a casual service for all ages with a message, a catered meal, prayer, discussion and more. This week Rev Greg McConnell will be giving the message and Marilyn & Ron will be sharing about St Luke's Community Garden. Greg Anderson and Eldrene will be catering .

Lectionary readings for the coming week

1 Sm 8:4-11,16-20	Ps 138
2 Cor 4:13-5:1	Mk 3:20-35

Onsite internet: St Luke's Guest - no password required



Welcome to St Luke's Uniting Church, Belmont



A place for everyone

A church where you are welcome regardless of who you are, where you are from, and whom you love

Pray for those known to you who are in hospital, not well or recuperating

Bank transfer option for your weekly offerings

If you would like to transfer your offerings into the St Luke's Uniting Church giving account the details follow.

All transfers are anonymous.

BSB: 634 634

Account No. 100028307

Account name: St Luke's Uniting-Giving Acc

Thank you for supporting the St Luke's Uniting Church!



Calendar

Monday 3 June

Activity Centre meet from 9.30am with a discussion this week

Tuesday 4 June

Quirky Quilters meet from 10am

Wednesday 5 June

Fellowship meet from 9.30am

Thursday 6 June

Thursday Bible Study meet from 1.30pm

Friday 7 June

Friday Plus Bible Study meet from 9.30am

Playgroup meet from 10am

Just Kids Term 2 dates

June 9, 23

July 7



Presbytery Prayer Diary

The Hunter Presbytery has produced a Prayer Diary which includes prayer points for every congregation in the Hunter Presbytery over the next few months. Each Sunday every congregation will be praying for one of our other congregations. By praying together we can encourage one another in mission as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across our region.

This week's Presbytery Prayer Point is Wallsend-Shortland Uniting Church

Wallsend Shortland Uniting Church meets each Sunday at 9.30am with a regular attendance of 20 people and weekly fellowship meetings over coffee and crafts. We are loving and supportive community of people, mainly in their 70s, 80s and 90s, who have been long term members. We have had a few new people come to our fellowship group and are making an effort to promote this in our community as there is a need for connection.

Prayer: We pray for the leaders of the Wallsend Shortland Uniting Church as they lead this community in ways of possibilities for change in a changing world, and maintain the buildings, and for the congregation as they seek to be a place of welcome and hospitality in their community. Amen.

1 **Trivia Night Update - Total Raised - over \$7000!**

After finding out that our total raised was so close to a nice round figure, someone kindly donated some cash to make the total over \$7000.

Appreciation Certificates: A HUGE thankyou to everyone for helping with the distribution of the these certificates to the many businesses that supported our big fundraising night in May. They are important for our ongoing relationships with them. All certificates were taken and it was lovely to see our church working together once again!

The full list of businesses is on the wall above the fundraising table and also on the church website for you to continue to support.

A special thankyou - in the weeks leading up to the trivia night I received a call from a new business that we approached this year to tell me that they wanted to support our church.

It was James from Unique Barber Co at Belmont Citi Centre. On visiting him the following day, he advised me that he wanted to donate 25 vouchers for people who are financially struggling so they could have a haircut. For this reason the vouchers were not used at the trivia night for prizes but instead we have found various avenues to be able to distribute them to those in need.

What a generous heart this salon owner has for his local community!

Alison Gill



2 **Uniting Church National Assembly Prayer Chain**

Continue to pray for the congregations of Warradale (SA) and St Luke's Uniting Church, Bothwell (Tas).

3 **Unite / All Families—'Soup on Sunday'**

Reaching Out to Everyone in their 30's—60's

Join Cathy & Michael Turner on Sunday 16th June at their home for lunch and a catchup after church. Optional backyard activities to do as well. We may be sitting outside so please bring appropriate clothing. Arrive between 11:30am and noon at the Turner's - 18 Carawa St, Blacksmiths *RSVP to Cathy via text: 0402 432 522 or email:ccjam@bigpond.com by 9/6.



4 **Friendly Foodies**



The Friendly Foodies will be meeting for lunch at Belmont 16s at 12 pm **today**, 2 June. Everyone is welcome to come, and bring your friends, family, relatives and next door neighbours!

5 **Fellowship**

A reminder that Fellowship will meet next Wednesday 5th June, beginning at 9.30am with the usual cuppa and chat followed by the meeting at 10 o' clock. As usual we would be pleased to welcome any visitors to join us.

6 **Friday Plus Bible Study**

What happened following the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles and other followers of Jesus at Pentecost? This week, June 7th, Friday Plus Bible study group will look at the impact of this life changing event and the difference it made to the apostles and the wider range of visitors to Jerusalem at that time (Acts 2: 22--47).

You are invited to join us for tea/coffee in the Gathering Area at 9.30, followed by a time of sharing, prayer and study. We plan to finish by 11.30. Enquiries to Julie Killeen 0427 505 874 or Jan Kellahan 0424 139 100.



7 July 2023 to March 2024 Budget Update

	Actual	Budget	Variation	Variation %
Income	\$184,624	\$204,973	-\$ 20,349	-10%
Expenditure	\$192,422	\$213,376	-\$ 20,954	-10%
Result	\$ -7,798	\$ -8,403	\$ 605	+7%
Bank Balance	31.3.2023	\$189,955		
	31.3.2024	\$182,574	-\$ 7,381	

This summary of our financial position represents the third quarter of the 2023/24 Financial Year from July 2023 to the end of March 2024. The result is a slightly lower than the budgeted deficit of \$7,798. Although income is down by 10% this has been offset by a reduction in spending of 10% or \$20,954. As we are now well into the last quarter of the current financial year, we should see an improvement to the bottom line due to fund raising activities and additional grant income. However, we also have some large one of payments falling due in this period as well. E.g. our annual insurance renewal has increased by \$2,700 to \$11,283.

If we compare our bank balance on the 31.3.2024 with 31.3.2023, our funds have dropped by \$7,381. Back in December, the gap was more substantial at \$17,563.

Notes

Income – under budget by 10%

- Offerings are down by 6.8% with \$84,335 received against a budget target of \$90,563. The offerings taken on 31.3.24 (\$900) were banked in April therefore the amount in the budget report is under what was actually taken. For those who have opted to use direct debit for their offerings and would like to amend the amount they contribute, forms are available in the stand in the Gathering Area.

- Donations including Wider Work are 30% under target with \$3,127 donated.
- Fundraising down by 95% with \$1,219 raised against a target of \$25,500. Please note some very successful fund raising activities have occurred from April including the Bunnings barbecue and the Trivia Night.
- \$3,500 received for grants against an annual target of \$10,000 which will be nearly met as we have recently received two additional grants in May.
- Rental income of the Community Centre is down by 10% although the report does not include the Glue Dance group which is invoiced for school terms. \$15,013 has been collected with a target of \$16,875.
- Preschool rental income is slightly under target by 3% with \$40,363 paid to the 31.3.24.
- Sundry income is 302% over target with \$30,103 banked against a target of \$7,480. The insurance claim for damage associated with the lightening strike and Greg McConnell's Long Service Leave reimbursement from Synod are behind the surge in Sundry income. Sundry income also includes monies received for Unite, Dinner Church and other activities e.g. the Mens/Boys weekend camp.
- Please note that grants, insurance claims and donations will have a corresponding or higher expense under the expenditure report.

Expenditure – under budget by 10%

- Administration expenses are down by 21% with \$16,604 spent against the allocation of \$21,154. This is a substantial saving.

- Congregational expenses are slightly over budget with \$23,255 spent against a budget of \$21,281. These expenses include our Presbytery and Synod levies, cleaning products and bathroom supplies, Quilting Group, Unite events, Dinner Church and Men/Boys weekend camp outings.
- There have been no costs associated with fundraising, saving \$5,000.
- Donations to external groups (including Wider Work) are down by 43% or \$5,201. This also includes the donations to Mosaic (Northern Settlement Services) up until the end of February when the project was cancelled.
- Total Property expenses are \$7,569 under budget with \$39,430 spent against the budget allocation of \$47,000. Breaking this down further, Handyman, Painting and Grounds work are all under budget. Plumbing and Electrical expenditure is 77% over budget with \$8,871 spent against the allocated amount of \$5,000. Majority of work relates to the electrical outage associated with the lightening strike and repairs to the roofs of the Manse and Gathering Area. Electricity costs are on target with \$5,282 spent.
- Wages including ongoing and casual are on target.

Actual	\$130,399
Budget	\$131,621

If you have any questions about our Finances or this report, please feel free to contact me.

Greg Anderson
Treasurer

1 Samuel 3:1-20 NIV

The Lord Calls Samuel

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

And the Lord said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them.

Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’”

Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.”

Samuel answered, “Here I am.”

“What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.” So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.”

The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord.

Mark 2:23-3:6 NIV

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”

Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shrivelled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.”

Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.