

Part 3
1956-2006

Jean Williams

This section of the book is dedicated to Wynsome Penn,
a committed Christian, and to all those who remain steadfast through change.

**INTRODUCTION TO PART 3 -
THE 1956 HIGHTON SCENE
ONWARDS ...**

World War II had been over for more than ten years, the lengthy period of post war reconstruction had accomplished a rebirth of domestic industry, while a combination of world demand and high tariff protection for industry had created a climate for expansion. These factors had begun to impinge upon the rural boundaries of many regional cities in Australia.

By 1956, Geelong's population was 88,000, and growing at the rate of 5,000 a year. Families favoured Geelong, with its expanding industrial and commercial base, which created a wide variety of employment opportunities.

Scenic Highton had a nucleus of public facilities - a progress hall, two established churches, a school, a store and an all weather road network. This formed the foundation on which the community developed.

As the land that could be easily subdivided was built on, developers for housing and retail facilities purchased the larger areas of sprawling gardens, orchards, poultry farms and dairy properties.

A wide range of newcomers arrived comprising migrants and couples with young children. They were willing to assist with the development of community organizations, which complemented the existing facilities and fulfilled the needs of growing families.

The new arrivals possessed a wide range of skills and they worked together to form a comprehensive force for change that would develop an astonishing array of businesses, community assets and

organizations in a remarkably short space of time.

The Highton Methodist Church benefited from this influx of young families and kept pace with the local development by building a preschool centre in 1964, and a hall in 1965.

The first Highton Presbyterian Church service was held in the Highton hall in February 1960. An all-purpose church hall was built in Roslyn Road in 1962, followed by the manse in 1964, and the Sunday School hall in 1966.

Cooperation developed between the Highton Methodists and Presbyterians from 1972 to 1976 with the formation of a Parish which included the congregations of the Barrabool Presbyterian church from 1972 and the Ceres Methodist church from 1975.

The name of St. Luke's was chosen in 1974 to represent all combined Highton church organizations.

In 1977, the congregation welcomed the advent of the Uniting Church in Australia.

All activities were consolidated on the larger site in Barrabool Road in 1980 and the Roslyn Road property was sold to the South Barwon Council in 1982. A new worship centre was built on the Barrabool Road site in 1983.

The histories of the former Highton and Barrabool Presbyterian Churches and the Ceres Methodist Church are limited in this section to the period that the Highton-Barrabool Hills Parish was in operation.

Highton continues to grow, and we give thanks to God that the St. Luke's Church complex is truly a centre for the community, providing worship, mission,

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teaching, outreach and pastoral care, together with diverse activities catering for all age groups.

The title of our book *Steadfast Through Change* is reflected in the lives of the

many families who have known the love of God as a steadfast influence, while embracing the many changes that the church and society have shared.



Above: Church complex circa 1990



Above: Corner of Barrabool & Scenic Roads, looking towards Ceres lookout, 1988.

Right: Corner of Barrabool & Scenic Roads, looking towards Ceres lookout, 2006. Note the round-a-bout and housing development.



Above: Highton shopping centre, 2006.



Chapter 23

**MINISTERS, LAY PREACHERS
& WORSHIP**

The following list of ministers and staff commences in 1958 with the appointment of the first full time minister to the Highton Methodist Church. The Highton Presbyterian Church ministers are listed from 1956.

Highton Methodist Ministers

- 1958-1960 Rev. Cyril Stroud
- 1960-1966 Rev. M. Steve Box
- 1967-1968 Rev. David Pentecost
- 1969-1973 Rev. Ronald J. Yeats
- 1974-1979 Rev. John B Robson

**Highton Presbyterian Church
Ministers**

- 1956-1959 Rev. Max Griffiths
- 1960-1963 Robert G Hazeldine, Home Missionary
- 1964 January to June Rev. W Rae from St. David's Newtown
- 1964 (July) - 1970 Rev. Brian Ball
- 1967 William Service, Assistant Minister from June to December
- 1971-1974 Rev. Arthur Richardson
- 1974-1982 Rev. Colin Thomson

Uniting Church Ministers

- 1977-1979 Rev. J B Robson
- 1977-1982 Rev. C W Thomson
- 1980 Rev. A North, Assistant part time
- 1981-1986 Rev. R B Patterson
- 1983-1984 Rev. Ann Painter
- 1987-1989 Rev. K. Ralph
- 1988 Rev. A Hilliard, Assistant part time
- 1989-1990 Rev. C W Thomson, Assistant part time

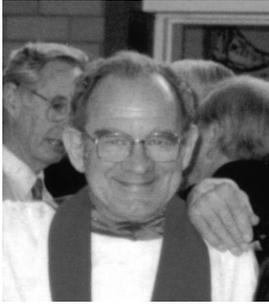
- 1984-1990 Mr P McKenzie, Lay Assistant to the minister
- 1990 Supply ministers, Rev. E Derbyshire, Rev. K Tinkler, Rev. D Howard
- 1991-1995 Rev. Chand Prasad
- 1991-1998 Rev. G Grimmett, to March
- 1997-1998 Rev. K Gilson, shared arrangement with Winchelsea-Moriac
- 1998 Rev. W Trigg, part time
- 1998 Rev. A Hardie, March to December, Interim Intentional Minister
- 1998 Rev. Dr A Reid, Consultant part time
- 1998 Rev. Alex Hodgson, part time - Pastoral Care
- 1999-2004 Rev. Dr Marian Zaunbrecher
- 2002-2003 Rev. Rachel Franklin, 0.4 part time from February 2002 to March 2003
- 2002 Mr Andrew Jewell, Youth & Family Worker, April to December of 2002
- 2003-2004 Rev. Rachel Franklin, 0.7 part time from March 2003 to June 2004
- 2003-2005 Pastor Iain Nixon, 0.7 part time from March 2003 to February 2005
- 2004 Rev. Rachel Franklin Appointed 12 June 2004 (Inducted 6 February 2005)

Ministers in Association

- 1978-1997 Rev. Ken Williams
- 1983-1989 Rev. Lindsay Morris

Following Page: The photos show resident Methodist and Uniting Church ministers and staff from 1960 to 2008.

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Rev. Steve Box



Rev. Colin Thomson



Rev. George Grimmett



Rev. David Pentecost



Rev. Robert Patterson



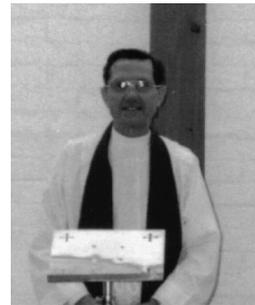
Rev. Chand Prasad



Rev. Ron Yeats



Rev. Ann Painter



Rev. Wes. Trigg



Rev. John Robson



Rev. Kenneth Ralph



Rev. Alan Hardie

Steadfast Through Change



Rev. Alex Hodgson



Mr Andrew Jewell



Rev. Rachel Franklin



Rev. Dr Marian Zaunbrecher



Pastor Iain Nixon



Peter McKenzie, Lay Assistant to the minister 1984 to 1990

Highton Lay Preachers Since 1953

1950s to 1980s period

- Ralph Williams
- Ray Baverstock *
- Wes. Marshman *
- Ken Allen *
- Sid. Falla
- Millie Lehman
- Dr Rod Clark *

1980s to 1990s period

- Robert Packett
- Dr Ian Lyall
- Beth Allen *

1980s to 2006 period

- Noel Patchett *
- Les Oliver

* Still attending St. Luke's in 2006

Worship Services

The following article is contributed courtesy of Mark Seller, Church Council Chairperson 2006-2007.

“Faith Journeys

In the same way that our faith journey is a continuum so is our worship life at St. Luke's.

Change brings with it opportunities to grasp if we are open to them - opportunities for spiritual growth, opportunities for new insights and experiences, and opportunities for mission and outreach.

Change, not for change's sake, but change that is prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Our mission is about reaching out to the community and nurturing those within the fellowship of St. Luke's. To do both of these more effectively we need to be alert to the possibilities, within worship, of providing relevant, inspiring and challenging experiences for people to engage with God, wherever they are in their own personal faith journey.”

Steadfast Through Change

Sunday Worship at St. Luke's – 2006

Since mid-2004, Rev. Rachel Franklin has been the minister at St. Luke's. Worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 is a cross-cultural community, welcoming worshippers of different nationalities.

With the hostess at the door to greet people, the ushers ready to hand out the notice sheets, a rostered person to greet newcomers, the organist setting the focus for the spiritual journey, the flowers and banners making a colourful splash against the white wall, all is ready for the minister to be escorted to the lectern.

The service follows the traditional format of the Uniting Church, with prayers, bible readings, preaching of the word, hymns, prayers of the people, and offering for the work of the church and mission. Communion is held on the first Sunday of the month.

The church is fortunate to have an excellent choir and choir master to lead the singing, accompanied by experienced organists and pianists. Instrumentalists also accompany the singing on special occasions.

The children attend Kid's Church in the hall and join the service towards the end, to show and tell the congregation of the morning's experiences. They also participate in communion. Younger children and babies are cared for in the fellowship room.

Sharing time is an opportunity to share information and celebrations.

Announcements and hymn words are projected on the large screen, eliminating the need for hymn books.

After greeting the minister at the end of the service, morning tea and fellowship are shared in the hall.

Midweek Worship

The following article was provided courtesy of Pam Seller in 2006.

“Midweek worship is a regular monthly service held at 2:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The service commenced in the early 1990s when the Friday morning study group was challenged by Rev. Chand Prasad to reach out in faith and provide a lunch and worship service for our elderly members unable to attend Sunday services. This has now become a part of our regular worship program.

The service planning is overseen by Joan and Wes Marshman, Joy and Frank Hicks, Pam and Mark Seller, and until recently Joyce and Clive Champion. Joyce and Clive have been involved since the very beginning of the services and have nurtured it through several ministers and some difficult times. Beth and Ken Allen have now become part of the coordinating group. Members of the congregation provide transport and all the normal service requirements for sound, ushers, organists, readers, power point, afternoon tea servers, communion servers, plus the many ladies who provide home-made biscuits for afternoon tea and the twice a year luncheons. The minister leads this ‘outreach’ service that is open not only to St. Luke's members, but also to anyone who may be interested.”



Above: Mid-week service, 10 May 2000.

L-R: Don Slater, Ian Allan & Peg Paine

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Above: Mid week service, May 2007

Back Row L-R: Brian Williams, Ken Allen, Jenny Patchett, Don Slater, David Christie, Ron Wise, Jenny Pooley, Ian Pooley & Bob McClelland

Middle Row L-R: Beth Allen, Carole Findlay, Eric Thomas, Mary Thomas, Jan Jones, Bette Gregor, Joan Bell, Olive Hunt, Jean Groves, Ena Reid, Marion Stainsby, Rev. R Franklin & Val England

Front Row L-R: Evan Williams, Peg Vigar, Nell Gribben, May Wise, Lena Baverstock, Ray Baverstock, Clive Champion, Joyce Champion, Peg Paine, Isobel Forsyth, Alison John, Cecily Everett, with Glenis Stewart & June Longmore behind Cecily Everett



Above: Group at Mid-week service, 10 May 2007. L-R: Isobel Forsyth, Beth Allen, Ron Wise, David Christie, Brian Williams, May Wise.



Above L-R: Sunday & Mid Week Service, bus drivers, Phil Phelan, Judy Boehm, liaison person, Rae Anderson & Des Younghusband

House Church

The following article is provided courtesy of Carole Findlay.

“House Church started in the mid 1990s in answer to several parishioners and friends wishing to examine a range of faith issues.

Over dinner and wine one evening, David and Carol Manks, Elizabeth and Ray Nicholls and Noella and Murray Johnson developed the concept of a house based group to explore these issues through expert leadership, discussion and debate.

It was decided to start monthly meetings in homes on a Sunday evening, with a time for devotions, followed by input from guest speakers, discussion, supper and an early finishing time of approximately 9:00 p.m. Members are advised of the topic and speaker each month.

Over a period of ten years the group has continued to grow and now has over 20 families from St. Luke’s and neighbouring churches participating.

A great deal is owed to Rev. David Manks and his wife Carol for their contribution and leadership over this time. A range of current issues and topics are discussed and speakers have been many and varied, from different faiths and backgrounds, e.g., Jews, Catholics, Baha’i, Buddhist etc., also agnostics and atheists.

A very strong support network exists within this fellowship, and it is a valuable extension of The Family of St. Luke’s.”

The Lord’s Prayer

Traditional Version

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass
against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the
power and the glory, forever and
ever ... Amen

The contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer that we use in worship was an ecumenical liturgical reworking of the prayer. It was first published in draft form in 1971, with the final publication in 1975 and has been included in the 1988 revision. So while it appeared in use in worship as the Uniting Church in Australia came into being - it was not an exclusive UCA production - rather the UCA keeping abreast of world wide Ecumenical Liturgical Revisions. Contributed by Rev. Rachel Franklin.

Contemporary Version

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth
As it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and
the glory are yours, now and
forever ... Amen

Chapter 24

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

In the Methodist tradition, the Highton Methodists would celebrate their faith in song and music. Occasional choirs and soloists performed at anniversaries, tea meetings and other celebrations.

Choirs

The church supported two choirs in the 1960s, encouraged by the minister Rev. Steve Box. There was an adult group and a youth choir of secondary school girls led by Colin Hunt, with organists Brian Williams and Albert Fordham

The following were senior choir members:

- Frank Loxley (tenor soloist)
- Joan Loxley
- Joyce MacRobbie
- Wes Marshman
- Wynsome Penn (soprano soloist)
- Freddie Weaver
- Mr & Mrs Barker

The youth choir comprised:

- Katherine Cations
- Marilyn Cations
- Rosemary Cations
- Brigetta Gerisher
- Glenys Harrison
- Lois Iskov
- Elizabeth Jacka
- Marianne Jacka
- Robyn Jacka

Colin Hunt recalls that one of the highlights for the Youth Choir was the presentation of the 20th Century Folk Mass. This involved our own choir and young singers from the Highton Presbyterian Church, accompanied by organist Albert Fordham and pianist Bob Cayzer the Presbyterian Choir Master.

On several occasions a number of other instrumentalists accompanied the singers.

After the Methodist and Presbyterian choirs combined in the 1970s and 1980s, we had talent in abundance, and for many years this musical talent, plus local actors, produced great evenings of entertainment as listed under 'Fund Raising and Celebrations'.

Choir Leaders & Directors

- 1960s -70s Colin Hunt
- 1960s -70s Freddie Weaver
- 1980s Alf Swan *
- 1980s Joyce MacRobbie *
- 1980s Elizabeth McKenzie
- 1990s David Wade
- 1999 Dr Malcolm John **

*Still singing in 2006

** Still Choir Director in 2006

Chorus Singers

Commencing in 2000 a group of young singers interested in performing in a modern chorus style participated in the evening service called 'Church Alive'. See page 338.

The following people were chorus singers during morning services 2004-2005.

- Mary Rose Coleman
- Frank Hicks
- Joy Hicks
- Wes Marshman
- Rev. Bob McClelland
- Velma Oliver
- Heather Schwennesen
- Dawn Fielder

Musicians accompanying them were:

- Brett Adams or Martin
- Lawrence on the drums
- Brian Fielder playing the tuba
- Emily McClelland on the flute
- Les Oliver playing the piano

Hymn and Music Books

- 1960 Methodist Hymn Book
- 1974 Canadian Hymn Book
- 1981 Australian Hymn Book
- 1992 Sing Alleluia Book
- 1999 Together In Song (Australian Hymn Book II)
- 2000 Praise and Chorus Books for Chorus Singers



Above: Andrew & Ena Reid, whose family has been singing in church choirs for generations. Their love of music has been passed down to their children & grandchildren.



Above: Mrs Joyce MacRobbie, December 1996



*Above: St. Luke's Choir December 1996
Back Row L-R: David Wade, Alf Swan, Wes Marshman, Bob Packett, George Grimmett*

Middle Row L-R: Lila Stanway, Mary Jones, Dorothy Last, Wynsome Penn

Front Row L-R: Joyce MacRobbie, Elsie Eldridge, Jean Sinclair, Joy Leigh, Christine Ash, Joy McAvaney



*Above: St. Luke's Choir, January 2005
Back Row L-R: Dr. Malcolm John, Rev. Wesley Trigg, Noel Patchett, Wes Marshman, Alf Swan, Wynsome Penn, Wendy Ellis*

*Front Row L-R: Jenny Patchett, Lila Stanway, Una Trigg, Joy Leigh, Dawn Fielder, Alison John & Wenda Saxon
Absent: Joyce MacRobbie*

Choir Memories

Mrs Joyce MacRobbie has been a choir member since the early 1960s, and Musical Director at times during that period. Joyce has kindly related some memories that describe her love of music. St. Luke's is fortunate to have

Steadfast Through Change

benefited from Joyce's knowledge and experience during the past 40 plus years. We offer her our grateful thanks, and extend our appreciation to all who have contributed to the richness of services by providing a diversity of music praising God. The following is Joyce's story.

"The late Elsie Eldridge rang me one day and told me that St. Luke's choir needed a conductor. 'Will you take on the job?' she asked. 'It will only be temporary!' I was working full time 'chefing' at my restaurant the 'Sitar', and to fill in my spare time, I had the Highton CWA Choir.

We used met our home on a Monday morning for practices, and we would go out singing at various aged care facilities in the afternoons when the Sitar was closed. 'What is one more choir?' I thought. Besides, there is so much music out there waiting to be sung. I had worked with church choirs before, and was happy to be able to help. "I will give it my best shot," I said.

In the 1980s the minister of St. Luke's was keen that I introduce the Psalms of David to the choir. We were using the Australian Hymn Book. The choir learnt to chant the psalms from the Scottish Psalter I had in my music collection. We sang these in the church service whenever required. We had a good collection of anthems too, enough to keep us busy.

Appropriate anthems were sung for the different seasons of the Christian calendar. Suitable cantatas were sung for Easter and Christmas. For a pleasant change I introduced the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas. They were very meaningful and told the Christmas story from Prophecy to Birth. Carefully chosen readers read each of the Nine Lessons without overly dramatizing the readings.

A Christmas hymn and/or anthem followed each reading, and the service commenced and ended without any interruption or announcements. This added to the meaningfulness and solemnity of the occasion.

The recessional hymn, "O Come All Ye Faithful" brought the service to an end on a joyful note. The service was so popular that the church was packed. We also had many visitors for the occasion.

Because of the additional carols and hymns needed for these services, I added *Carols for Choirs* Books 1 and 2 to our music library. I am grateful to the church for generously financing that project.

Some of the younger members used to join us for our special services. We had Katherine McAvaney sing with us, also Michael and Fiona MacRobbie. Christopher McAvaney played the flute whenever needed.

In November 1988, at the 120th anniversary of the Chapel, John O'Brien, boy soprano, and Fiona MacRobbie, also soprano joined in a beautiful and moving rendition of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Agnus Dei".

Another occasion that stands out in my memory is when Gary Firth brought the Gisborne Singers to St. Luke's. After a lunch of rice and curry provided by the Sitar they joined our Choir and the Highton Ladies Choir to put on an afternoon of lovely choral music which culminated with the combined choirs rendition of Mozart's "Gloria". I was granted the privilege of conducting this. It was a very inspired performance, much enjoyed by all.

One Easter, we sang "The Crucifixion" by John Stainer, and invited Russel Purdy to sing the tenor role. Alf Swan

Steadfast Through Change

sang the bass role and Alison Ralph sang some of the tenor and bass solos.

The soloists were magnificent in their individual roles and the choristers performed brilliantly.

You could tell they all enjoyed it. It was a meaningful and moving experience for me as well.

Because of the formal nature of services, in 1994 I felt it would be fitting for the choir to be robed. I put on a fund-raising dinner at the Sitar. Most of the choristers attended the dinner, and many other church members lent their support. Enough money was raised to give each chorister a robe made by Helen Williams. The choir looked really impressive in their green robes. We wore them every time we sang as a choir until 2004, when the robes were donated to Christ Church in Moorabool Street, Geelong.

I was to conduct the St. Luke's choir 'only temporarily', but lasted 8 years. I was grateful to David Wade who took over the choir from me. I invited him to sing tenor but after a year, and at my request, he stayed to conduct the choir. In 1999, David successfully applied for the position of Organist and Choir Master at the church in Newtown to which he belonged.

We are very fortunate to have the eminent musician, pianist, organist, composer and chorus master, Dr Malcolm John, who is taking the choir along the path of more challenging music. We are privileged to be the first choir to perform some of his own compositions.

The choir plays an integral part in our worship services. I want to thank each member who lent his or her voice to the choir, and I want to thank the church for the opportunity it gave me to

put into practice my knowledge and experience of church choral work. The eight years were very demanding but enjoyable ones, with hours of preparation for the different services.

Where did I find the time for it, with the Highton Ladies Choir plus at least ten hours of my day spent working at the restaurant? They say that if you want a job done well, ask someone who is busy. I think they may be right!"

Ladies' Guild Singing Group



Above: Ladies Guild Singing Group 1980, conducted by Elsie Eldridge.

Back Row L-R: Dorothy Perkins, Mary Dawson, Ena Reid, Mary Thomas, Wynsome Penn, Olive Hunt, Joan Bell, Mary Jones

Front Row L-R: Jean Harvey, Elsie Maddern, Lauris McCann, Patti Tinney, Joyce Champion, Mary Shepherd, Lila Stanway

Several members of the Ladies' Guild were known for their musical talents, so in the late 1980s, Mrs. Elsie Eldridge formed a singing group that provided entertainment at many functions, church services, and at local nursing homes. The group was a source of pleasure for both singers and audiences for many years.

Steadfast Through Change



*Above: Ladies' Guild Singing Group 1993, led by Elsie Eldridge in the front.
Back Row L-R: Jean Harvey, Dorothy Perkins, Mary Dawson, Ena Reid, Pattie Tinney, Olive Hunt, Joan Bell, Mary Jones
Front Row L-R: Val Garratt, Elsie Maddern, Lauris McCann, Margaret Gleeson, Joyce Champion, Mary Shepherd, Lila Stanway*

St. Luke's Carol Singers



*Above: The 1999 carol singers
Back row L-R: Len Dawson, Dorothy Turrill, Keith Turrill, Wes Marshman, Mark Seller, Rev. David Manks, Don Slater, Peter Gill, Wynsome Penn, Carol Manks
Middle Row L-R: Mary Dawson, Christanne Ellerton, Mary Shepherd, Carlene Gill
Front Row L-R: Jenny Patchett, resident Elsie Maddern, Wendy West, Joan Marshman
Note: Missing from picture, Alison Ralph, Judy Blackmore.*



*Above: The 2005 carol singers
L-R: Mark Seller, Carlene Gill, Peter Gill, Jenny Patchett, Patti Tinney, Marj Butcher (resident), Jean Williams, Pam Seller, Heather Schwennesen. Photo provided by Noel Patchett.*



*Above: The 2005 Carol singers
Back Row L-R: Peter Gill, Wal Wall, Noel Patchett, Pam Seller, Mark Seller
Middle Row Standing L-R: Patti Tinney, Carlene Gill, Heather Schwennesen
Front Row: Jenny Patchett, Wynsome Penn. Photo provided by Jean Williams.*



Previous Page Bottom Right: *St. Luke's Carol Singers*

L-R: *Mark Seller, Pam Seller, Carlene Gill, Peter Gill, Patti Tinney, Heather Schwennesen, Jean Williams & Jenny Patchett. Photo provided by Noel Patchett.*

The following information was provided courtesy of Carlene and Peter Gill and from copies of the *Parish News*:

“Some early modes of transport for the carol singers in 1979-1982 included Bob Pullin's furniture van containing a piano, and a nervous Freddie Weaver firmly strapped to the piano stool. In 1982, Elizabeth McKenzie led the 55 singers and instrumentalists and it was reported ‘that she was determined not to fall off the truck this year!’ Bob Pullin was expert at backing up the van in several driveways with inches to spare.

Later the singers rode in the comfort of Graeme Tomkin's bus, and more recently teamed up and shared cars to spread the joyful message of Christmas.

The church members visited warmly welcome the singers and sometimes invite their neighbours to join in the carols. For the past ten years Peter and Carlene Gill have organized the Christmas carolling in the Belmont and Highton areas to visit people unable to attend church. The residents, singers and the instrumentalists enjoy this pastoral care program of St. Luke's.

For a period the carolers visited Aged Care Homes such as Kalkee, but we now concentrate on calling on as many of our members in their own homes as time permits.

For many years we have had the benefit of Jenny Patchett's talents, accompanying the group on her piano accordion and lately her portable keyboard, or perhaps

the resident's piano. We have also been fortunate over the years to have some other talented musicians - trumpeters, violinists, flute and zither, players. Some fine singers have also led the much-loved carols found in the hymn book.

Carlene and Peter Gill generously prepare a small gift for each person visited, and some residents provide Christmas fare and gifts for the singers to show their appreciation to the group.

Some people who have been part of the carol singers for years are now on the receiving end, and when visited, heartily join in singing the carols they love. The smaller group in 2005 still enjoyed visiting seven of our older church members to share with them an appreciation of the miracle of the Christmas story in song.”

Organists & Pianists

1950s

- Isobel Adams
- Nellie Allan
- Betty Hill
- Betty Johns
- Edith Leigh
- Pannell Leigh
- Freda Merritt

1960s-1970s

- Robert Cayzer
- Joyce Champion
- Albert Fordham
- Wesley Marshman
- Jenny Patchett *
- Alf Swan *
- Barry Walker
- Freddie Weaver
- Brian Williams *

1980s

- Fay Horman
- Elizabeth McKenzie
- Alison Ralph*
- Jean Sinclair
- Alf Swan *

Steadfast Through Change

- Freddie Weaver
- Brian Williams*

1990-2000

- Joyce Champion
- Dr Malcolm John *
- Les Oliver *
- Alison Ralph
- Mary Thomas *
- David Wade
- Brian Williams*

2004-2005

- Sarah Cheah*

*Playing in 2005/6

Organs & Instruments

The following article was provided courtesy of Brian Williams, 2005.

“Before pianos and organs were introduced to lead the singing in the early church, a Precentor would give the note with a pitch pipe, and by singing the first line of the hymn, set the tempo.

For a time the ‘Tonic Solfa Notation’ was taught, and classes formed for those interested.

‘At Highton, a pedal organ led the singing until the 1960s when the increasing congregation and rapidly growing Sunday school necessitated a larger, more modern instrument. A Baldwin two-manual with half pedal board electronic organ was purchased for £615.0.0 in 1963, and this was retained in the sandstone chapel for many years.

With the uniting of the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, the Presbyterian Lipp organ, a large two manual instrument with a full pedal board, was transferred from Roslyn Road to Barrabool Road in 1980. Sunday worship at this time was held in the hall.

As the Lipp had a valved system, it became increasingly unreliable and parts were difficult to obtain, so a sub-committee was appointed to investigate the longer-term needs of St. Lukes.

Below: Brian Williams on piano & Alf Swan on organ, Easter 1999



Steadfast Through Change

In 1987, the resulting recommendations were carried out.

- All of the older instruments were disposed of except for the Gulbransen piano, which was refurbished by Meredith, Jean and Brian Williams and placed in the hall.
- On 26 April 1987, a new American Allen digital computer organ and remote speaker system was purchased for the Worship Centre, at a price of \$21,330 through the McDonald bequest.
- A new XU-1 Yamaha piano was purchased for \$4,442 for use in the Worship Centre as a result of a specific fund-raising program, and a portable keyboard was also bought for the Sunday School for \$390. Brian Williams donated a Yamaha organ for use in the Fellowship Room.

For special services and themes, various additional instrumentalists have also augmented the traditional church music making.”

Youth Band

During the 1990s, Mark Pullin organized a Youth Band, and the band accompanied church services on several occasions

Chapter 25

CHURCH BUILDINGS

The Gothic Chapel 1955-2006

After 138 years, the chapel still serves God and the people of Highton – remaining steadfast through change.

When built, the chapel was on the edge of the suburb. It is now surrounded by the ever-expanding demands of suburban growth. Today the building serves the community in different ways, and is still a symbol of the church's presence in Highton.

Interior

For many years the congregation read the text 'The Lord is in His Holy Temple' every Sunday as they sat in their pews. The words looked down upon the congregations attending church services, weddings, baptisms, funerals, harvest thanksgiving, anniversaries and many great celebrations over the years.



Above: The interior of chapel, prepared for a wedding service, February 1995.

Chapel Pulpit and Sanctuary

In 1970, the interior layout of the chapel was altered. Royal blue carpet was laid down the centre isle and in the sanctuary, and a timber communion rail was installed. A large timber back-lit cross was mounted on the north wall above the sanctuary. The large timber pulpit and choir seats were removed. After

unsuccessfully offering the pulpit to several other churches it was stored on the property and not discovered again until 2003, when Ian Allan restored and mounted the front panel of the pulpit on the wall in the entry to the chapel. A suitable plaque was attached with the following wording.

This is the front panel of the pulpit installed in the Highton Wesleyan Church in 1927 Following the tornado damage in 1926. The pulpit was removed in 1970

The pulpit is of historical significance as it was a gift from Mrs J E Leckie in memory of her parents Mr & Mrs J P Best in 1927.

Sunday School Room

In 1985, the large former Sunday School room at the rear of the chapel was partitioned and false ceilings installed. This provided two rooms named the west and east vestries, with the entry through the south-facing door. The rooms were refurbished and the areas are now labelled the Scenic and Roslyn rooms.

Former Kitchen

The former kitchen at the rear of the vestries was built in 1955, and was used regularly for church functions and also by the tennis club for afternoon tea from 1966.

Tennis club members renovated the room in 1978-1979 by painting the walls, providing new bench tops, a new blind and tiling around the sink. The church Trust provided the new floor covering. This arrangement lasted until 1984, when the Lane Memorial Hall became the Tennis Club Rooms.

The kitchen was converted into an additional Sunday School room in 1988.

Steadfast Through Change

Then when School numbers declined it became a storeroom for many years. Since 2005, the Sudanese community has used it as an office and meeting room.

Maintenance

Under the management of the Property/Finance Committee, repeated attempts to solve cracking of the plaster on interior walls of the Chapel have been generally unsuccessful due to movement of the foundations of the building.

In 1975, Mrs Vera McDonald donated the cost of removing moss from the Chapel roof.

In 1990, the bluestone base and sandstone west wall were tuck pointed to preserve the fabric of the building. The cost of nearly \$10,000 included repairs to other faces, plus bagging the high north brick wall.

Some of the Scenic and the Roslyn room floor stumps were replaced in 1990.

Occupants of the Chapel

Since the new worship centre opened in 1983, the chapel complex has been used by many church and community groups, including the Youth Club, St. Luke's Choir, church fairs, Bible Study Fellowship, the Geelong Chorale, and by members of the Sudanese community.

Sudanese Community Sewing Centre

In 2005 the Chapel became a sewing centre for members of the Sudanese community. Led by Una Trigg and Val England, the ladies are taught by members from St. Luke's, St. John's and other sewing groups.

Volunteers from St. Luke's looked after the Sudanese children, and students from the Gordon Institute of Technology now undertake this task as part of their Children's Services course.

The support given to the Sudanese community by Ken Anderson, Convenor of the Mission Outreach Ministry Team, supported by other members of St. Luke's, has required considerable effort and organization, but has shown remarkable success. It is a great example of caring acceptance in diversity, and providing opportunities for our sisters and brothers who may be struggling in their new land.



Above L-R: Val England & Una Trigg teaching some of the Sudanese ladies.



Above & Following Page: Students and tutor from the Gordon Institute, caring for the Sudanese children as part of their Children's Services course





Above: Ken Anderson transporting some of the Sudanese ladies to the sewing group

Lane Memorial Hall

The early history of the Hall is described fully in Section 2 of the book.

Apart from Sunday School classes, meetings and other church functions, the building has been used as the St. Luke's Tennis Club Centre since 1985 following extensive alterations.

The roof was replaced in 1990, and new sliding glass doors replaced the old timber door on the south wall. The Resources Ministry Team organized repainting in 2007.



Above: The interior of Lane Memorial Hall 2006 on the occasion of the 150th Sunday school anniversary.

The upper walls are lined with framed photographs of St. Luke's winning tennis teams. (See Sporting Clubs chapter in this section).

Sunday School - Preschool Centre

Located on the Barrabool Road frontage on the east side of the hall, and the first of a new 1960s building program, this structure was initially used for the Methodist Sunday School kindergarten classes every Sunday morning for some years, and also by the preschool from Monday to Friday.

The architect was J Gordon Williams & Associates. In 1964 Pescott Building Industries constructed the building in brick at a cost of £9,377.17.6.



Above: The opening of building, 1964, with L-R front: Rev. Steve Box, Rev. Laphorne slightly behind Norman McDonald, Ed. Pescott, & Rev Vertigan beside Mrs. Gwenda Box in red, with members and children of the congregation.

A plaque is located on the internal north wall with the following inscription.

To the Glory of God
This Kindergarten was Officially Opened
by Mrs. M. S. Box and Dedicated by
Rev. M. S. Box B.A. B.D.
On June 21st 1964

Steadfast Through Change



St Luke's Preschool Centre

The church provided this facility to act as an outreach to the community and to cater for the expanding child population of Highton.

Mrs E Pigdon was the first preschool director-teacher when the doors opened in June 1964. Since then many hundreds of children have been taught by the skilled and caring teachers. Mrs. Jenny Patchett retired in 1996 after being the director and teacher for 22 years.

The church has maintained representation on the Preschool Committee.

In 2005, St. Luke's Highton Preschool Centre provided for three and four year old children, in groups of up to 27. The three year olds attend twice a week for two and a half hours, and the four year olds attend three times a week for a total of twelve hours. For some years St. Luke's Preschool enrolments were so high that three-year-old children were also taught in the church hall. Four staff members are now employed by the Preschool - two teachers and two assistants.

Under new government legislation, all Uniting Church sponsored preschools must be linked to a group employer. Geelong Uniting Care is now responsible for the overall management of St. Luke's Preschool. The building and grounds remain the property of St. Luke's, and St.

Luke's Resources Ministry Team and the Preschool Committee maintain them to a high standard.



Above & Below: The interior and exterior of the Preschool Centre, May 2006



A Local Miracle

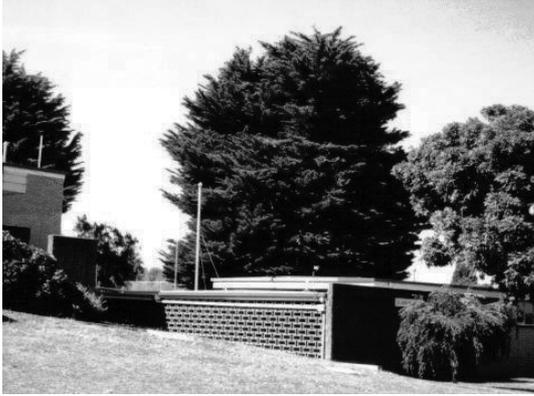
On a still day in November 2005, when most of the children were playing in the preschool playground, one of the large spreading branches that formed part of the trunk of the large cypress tree in the centre of the playground fell to the ground spreading across the playground and breaking through the fence, damaging a shade house on the way.

The miracle was that while most of the children and teachers were in the playground, only one child received a few scratches.

This tree, and another cypress outside the preschool fence were the remainder of an Avenue of Honour planted in 1918 to honour the forty-four Highton soldiers

Steadfast Through Change

who left for war service, six of whom did not return.



Above: This photograph shows the remaining cypresses after the Preschool was built.

The idea of planting the avenue of trees originated from Mr Robert Lane, our veteran Sunday School Superintendent. He had taught many of the Highton boys who left for the war, and some of their fathers also! So a tree was planted in honour of Mr Lane. (See more details and photo in Section 2).

The trees grew to a great height, and the north east row was removed in 1955. Others were removed in 1962 prior to the preschool being built in 1964.

Following the above incident, the Resources Ministry Team sought expert advice as to the future of the trees, and it was the considered decision that the cypress in the preschool grounds and the one just outside the fence should be cut down.



Left and Above: Four stages in the removal of the cypress to the final stump in the playground under a shade.

Steadfast Through Change

It is sad that the Avenue of Honour no longer exists, but the trees were a magnificent tribute to our brave soldiers. The trees endured through all seasons and have provided shade and shelter for generations of Highton preschool children.

Hall, Fellowship Room and Facilities



Above: Excavating for the hall, 1964. Note the hedge, which extended from the Chapel to Barrabool Road.

The foundation stone plaque, which is located on the lower external south wall of the hall, reads as follows.

THIS STONE WAS LAID
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
ON 4TH OCTOBER, 1964
BY REV. M.S. BOX B.A. B.D.
MINISTER



Above: Rev Steve Box at the unveiling of the foundation stone, 4 October 1964

J Gordon Williams & Associates designed the complex, and it was built by L Poulston & Sons Pty. Ltd., at a cost of £18,475.

The plaque located on the inside of the hall on the south wall reads:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
THIS HALL WAS OFFICIALLY
OPENED AND DEDICATED BY
REV. M. S. BOX B.A. B.D.
ON 28TH MARCH 1965



Above: The Highton Methodist Church Hall

Mr & Mrs Norman McDonald endowed the fellowship room, and the wall plaque reads:

THIS FELLOWSHIP ROOM
WAS THE GIFT OF
MR & MRS. NORMAN McDONALD
OFFICIALLY OPENED
28TH MARCH 1965
TO THE GLORY OF GOD

During the past forty years, the hall complex has been used for numerous functions, including church services, meetings, Sunday school, exhibitions, youth activities, preschool, badminton club, ballet classes, church fairs, entertainments, luncheons, church library

Steadfast Through Change

as well as music and choir practices. Several community groups also use the hall regularly.

Toilets

These facilities are located on the lower south concourse.

Kitchen

In May 2005, the kitchen was enlarged to include the adjoining store room, and all new cupboards, flooring and appliances were installed.

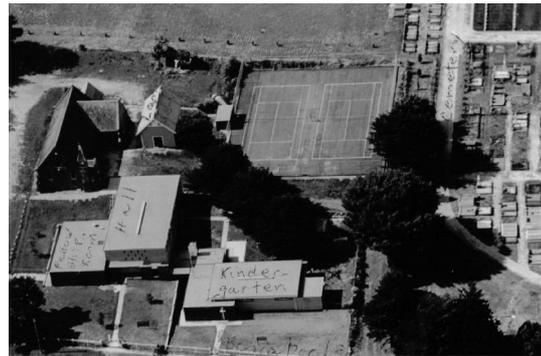


Above & Below: St. Luke's new kitchen, 2005.



The cost was approximately \$56,000 and Derbyshire Builders supervised the work. Keith Turrill coordinated the project for St. Luke's.

New storage cupboards had been installed in 2003 along the east wall of the hall for the Sunday school, Archives, Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, Craft Group, Bible Study Fellowship and cleaning equipment.



Above: Two aerial views of St. Luke's taken between 1964 and 1983, before the worship centre was built in 1983, showing Barrabool Road on the left and Scenic Road at the top.

Accommodation Dilemma

After the Highton Methodist-Presbyterian Cooperating Parish came into being in May 1972, attendances at services and Sunday school were increasing, and with all morning services held at Roslyn Road from August 1972, the Sunday school classes were large enough to require the use of both properties to accommodate nearly 400

children, and some 46 teachers, in two sessions each Sunday.

Committees Study Options

The opinion of the Parish Conference held on 31 October 1976, was that consolidation on one site was necessary for the unity of the congregation.

A report from the Property Investigation Committee was presented to the Property Board in September 1977, recommending:

- (a) That the congregational life of St. Luke's be consolidated on the Barrabool Road property;
- (b) That the Roslyn Road property be developed as part of the mission of the church;
- (c) That an architect draws up preliminary plans for the Barrabool Road property.

The report was received by the Board and sent forward to the Parish Council. The Parish Council thanked the Property Investigation Committee, and the matter was referred back to the Property Board for further action.

The members of the committee explored various options during 1978, including:

- Ascertaining the current value of the Roslyn Road property;
- Arriving at an estimate of costs to make Barrabool Road capable of catering for the whole congregational life. A property in Vanessa Avenue was dismissed due to possible future flooding.

Further delays occurred when all former Presbyterian property transactions were 'frozen' following a challenge to the Property Commission's decision to allocate two colleges in Melbourne to the Continuing Presbyterian Church.

Architect Appointed

It wasn't until 1979 when an almost desperate situation had been reached in trying to operate over the two separate sites that a series of congregational meetings voted on a number of proposals and as a result the services of Mr Keith Butler, Architect were engaged.

Following Mr Butler's report it was firmly resolved to sell the Roslyn Road property, and to consolidate all future activities on the larger Barrabool Road site. Alterations were made to the stage in the hall to enable Sunday services to be held there as well as in the chapel, from 2 March 1980.

The following is a brief history of the churches that eventually became members of the Highton Presbyterian-Methodist Cooperating Parish between 1970 and 1975.

Highton Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Sunday School was commenced in the Highton Hall in Barrabool Road in 1956 and in 1959 a meeting of 45 residents resolved to establish a church. Three blocks of land in Roslyn Road were purchased from Mrs M Pickrell on 8 September 1960 for \$2,500

A foundation stone was laid on 15 October 1961, and a multi purpose hall, used as the Presbyterian Church was opened on 11 February 1962 at a cost of £9,846.

An ex-army hut from Point Lonsdale was later installed at a cost of £100.

Mr J Holt, builder, was hired to erect a manse at 224 Roslyn Road, next to the hall, at a cost of £6,805. Rev. Brian Ball and family occupied the manse in July 1964.

Steadfast Through Change

The Sunday School Hall was built and opened on 26 August 1966 at an approximate cost of \$9,000. The ex-army shed was removed in February 1973.

Although still used as a Sunday School, the hall was upgraded & converted for use as a preschool centre during the week. The Bellevue Preschool Centre commenced in the Sunday School Hall in May 1973.

The multi purpose hall and Sunday School Hall were sold to the South Barwon Council for community use in 1982 for \$160,000.

The Roslyn Road manse was upgraded in 1992 at a cost of \$90,000.



Above & Below: The Highton Presbyterian Church, 1962 and a Christmas service in the late 1960s



Barrabool Uniting Church

Originally a Presbyterian Church, the building was opened on 9 April 1871, whilst the manse was built and occupied in 1860.

Ceres Uniting Church

Originally a Methodist Church, the building was opened in May 1855, whilst the Sunday school opened in 1890.

The Roslyn Road Church Closes

The following abridged story is from an article entitled 'HOW TO CLOSE A CHURCH – AND ENJOY IT', which appeared in *Church and Nation* on 21 May 1980. It was written by Rev. Colin Thomson.

Leaving – Grieving – Believing



Above: The congregation making its last walk from Roslyn Road church to Barrabool Road Church. In the foreground are Dulcie David and her guide dog Inga and Mrs. Audrey Thomson on the left. Photo provided courtesy of Church & Nation, 21 May 1980.

“On the first Sunday in March 1980, an overflow congregation gathered for the last service of worship at Roslyn Road. It was a service ‘to be continued later’, with communion at Barrabool Road.

Leaving Roslyn Road was a grief for a good many people.

When you have hoped and planned, worked and built, occupied and worshipped year after year;

When children have been baptised, and young men and women have knelt to commit their lives to Christ and His ways;

When sons, daughters, others, have been married;

When we've sorrowed in the death of loved ones;

When we've broken bread and shared the cup and been uplifted by Christ's presence ...

To have to walk away from such a place is a 'little death'.

By all means we should cherish our memories, and grieve honestly - it's the quickest way through.

Exodus & Pilgrimage

There was silence as Ian MacDonald took down the cross from the wall behind the Communion table, and handed it to Helen Weaver and Andrew MacDonald. Then the Rev. John Robson took the Bible from the lectern and handed it to Margaret Weaver - these were young people who had been baptised and confirmed in the church.

Bible and cross were carried through the people in silence. There were tears in a good many eyes.

Then we sang Sydney Carter's "One More Step", with its buoyant chorus, "And it's from the old we travel to the new, Keep us travelling along with you".

The congregation moved out and up Roslyn Road, with children irrepressible, out in front.

John Angus carried the bible, Ian MacDonald the Cross, and the rest followed. Alex Cameron was there, in his 92nd year. Catherine McAvaney, aged two weeks was there, blissful in her basket. Dulcie David and her faithful guide dog 'Inga' were there, trying out a new route for the first time.

It was a family crowd making a quiet pilgrimage, and thereby witnessing to the community.

Celebration

On arrival at Barrabool Road, the walkers joined with those who had travelled by car, and the hall was crowded for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Clive Champion fixed the cross in its new position.

Vera McDonald, who had prepared the elements for Communion at the Barrabool Road Church since 1915, carried in the Bible. It was a memorable exodus and arrival.

The ministers who took part were the Rev. John Robson, Rev. Ken Williams (Minister in Association), Rev. Arthur North (part time in 1980), and Rev. Colin Thomson (Parish Minister). Alf Swan led the choir; Jenny Patchett played the organ, and Paul Allen, the trumpet. It was a great day!

The Sale of the Roslyn Road Church

After lengthy negotiations, the Roslyn Road property, less the manse, was sold in early 1982 to the City of South Barwon for community use, for \$160,000. Mr Bill Rush negotiated the sale for the church.

Steadfast Through Change

The Bellevue Preschool continues to operate in the former Sunday school building at Roslyn Road.

Consolidated at Barrabool Road

From March 1980 to August 1983, the Family of St. Luke's settled into a pattern of great activity, with traditional services held in the chapel, and informal worship held in the hall each Sunday.

As the preschool also occupied the hall during the week, many tasks were necessary to prepare the hall for worship each weekend. Sunday school classes were held in all other buildings.

The congregation was committed to effective Christian education and pastoral care, with a broad base of people involved in the Parish Council, Council of Elders, Property-Finance Board, Ladies Evening Fellowship, Ladies Guild, Mission, youth groups and sporting clubs.

Building Committee

A new building committee was formed in May 1982, with the specific task of determining precisely the building requirements for the future life of the congregation. This committee worked assiduously under the chairmanship of Murdoch Finlay. Members of the Building Committee were:

- Ian Pooley (Secretary-Treasurer)
- Ian Allan
- Judy Angus
- Joan Bell
- Len Bell
- Stan East
- John Findlay
- Doug Green
- Peter Last
- Rev Bob Patterson.
- Rev Colin Thomson
- Jean Williams

Building Appeals Committee

A Building Appeals Committee was formed in October 1982 with the following members.

- Doug Cameron (Chairman)
- Annis Ballard (Secretary)
- Don Smith (Treasurer)
- Ken Allen
- John Angus
- Clive Champion
- Stan East
- John Grills
- Ross Lamont
- Ian MacDonald
- Harry Moodie
- Ed. Nickless
- Alan Wurm
- Richard Watson

Building Approval

At a meeting on 10 October 1982, attended by 101 members of the congregation, the following motions were carried.

“That the congregation approve the construction of a new Worship Centre attached to and on the west side of the existing hall complex at Barrabool Road, at an estimated cost of \$276,000.

That Keith Butler be appointed as architect for the new Worship Centre, providing he can meet the proposed construction time table of the Building Committee.”

The Committee convinced Synod that it had the capability and expertise to manage the project, and the Synod Buildings & Sites Committee approved the plans for the new church on 11 February 1983, with construction to be by local subcontractors.

Turning of the Sod

A great day of celebration was arranged for the turning of the sod ceremony in January 1983. This pleasant duty was

Steadfast Through Change

performed by Vera McDonald, a lifetime member of the church, assisted by the Rev. Bob Patterson.



Above: Rev. Bob Patterson and congregation at the service for the turning of the sod of the New Worship Centre, January 1983. *Below:* Rev. Bob Patterson with Mrs Vera McDonald, turning the sod for the new Worship Centre



The Construction Begins
Construction proceeded with great speed.



Above: Excavations for the new worship centre, 1983.



Above: View of the hall and fellowship room during worship centre excavations, 1983.



Steadfast Through Change



The finished project was a combination of dedication, good communication, experience, and whole-hearted cooperation on the part of all concerned. Thanks were expressed to the following people:

- Keith Butler (Architect)
- Stan East (Site Supervisor)
- John Findlay (Estimator and General Consultant)
- Doug Green (Engineering Consultant)



Thanks were also expressed to the Highton Property Board and its subsidiary committees:

- The Building Appeal Committee
- The Building Committee
- The Opening Day Planning Committee
- The Synod Building & Sites Committee



Also to the many subcontractors, the many contributors of gifts and loans to the appeal, and to the many folk who assisted at working bees.

It is acknowledged with gratitude, that in addition to his ministerial and pastoral care work, Rev. Bob Patterson participated in the planning and construction stages of the new Worship Centre.

Opening and Dedication Day

At 9:30 a.m. on 7 August 1983, the new building was full for the Service of Dedication of the church and furnishings. The plaque on the interior of the south wall of the church reads as follows:

The final cost of the worship centre, vestry, church office, toilet, car park, modifications to the fellowship room, foyer and kitchen amounted to \$272,000.



Above: Installing the cross on the new Worship centre, 1983.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
THIS CHURCH WAS DEDICATED
BY
THE FAMILY OF ST. LUKES
AT A SERVICE HELD

ON AUGUST 7, 1983

MINISTERS REV. A.F. PAINTER,
REV. R.B. PATTERSON

The following people led the worship at the Service of Dedication, along with members of the congregation:

- Rev. Alex Hodgson, Chairman of the Presbytery of Barwon
- Rev. Graham Lehmann, Presbytery Officer
- Rev. Graham McAnalley, Secretary of the Synod of Victoria
- Rev. Ann Painter, Minister of the Parish
- Rev. Bob Patterson, Minister of the Parish



Above L-R: Rev. G. McAnalley, Rev. Bob Patterson, Rev. Alec Hodgson, Rev. Ann Painter & Rev. Graham Lehman.



Above: Rev. Alex Hodgson & the Rev. Ann Painter at the opening of the new Worship Centre, August 1983.

Leading the musical side were the following people.

- Jenny Green (Junior Choir Director)
- Jenny Patchett (Organist)
- Rob Stirling (Trumpeter)
- Alf Swan (Choir Director)

The Service

The chapel bell sounded and Ian and Dorothy MacDonald carried the original cross from Roslyn Road into the foyer, while Les Perkins carried the bible.

The Presbytery Chairman knocked on the door of the church and was handed the keys by John Findlay and Doug Green. The procession of ministers and choirs moved into the church to the singing of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation".

Steadfast Through Change



Above: The choir led by Alf Swan at the morning service for the opening of the new Worship Centre, August 1983.



Above: Dorothy & Ian MacDonald carrying the original cross at the opening service.

The Sunday School Choir performed, and Alf Swan, Chairman of the Congregation and Parish Council pronounced the welcome. This was followed by scripture readings by George Merritt representing the Barrabool Hills, Richard Grills representing the Youth Group, and Annis Ballard, Sunday School Superintendent.

Rev. Alex Hodgson delivered the sermon based on Ezekiel 37.

A prayer of intercession by Rev. Graham Lehmann followed the Affirmation of Faith. Following the prayer of dedication Rev. Graham McAnalley presented greetings from the Synod. Murdoch Finlay, Chairman of the Property Board then gave a background statement and acknowledged the work of all concerned with the construction of the new complex.

Rev. McAnalley unveiled the plaque inside the church.

Steadfast Through Change

Dedication of Furnishings

Ernie McCann presented the large wooden cross on behalf of the congregation of the Barrabool Hills, whilst the communion table, the candle holder, the lectern, the font, the prayer desk, pews, the bookmobile, benches and flower stands were presented by members of the congregation and dedicated to the glory of God.

Rev. Hodgson, Chairman of Presbytery, pronounced the benediction.

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

The service at 2:30 p.m featured the International Harvester Choir as well as other Geelong artists.

Service of Praise

Held at 7:00 p.m. in the church, this was a memorable event with young people leading the service.

Committed Christians

The building of the new worship centre was the culmination of many years of planning, meetings, and prayer by a group of committed Christians. We give thanks to these men and women, many with full time jobs involving travelling, young families, parental and domestic responsibilities, sporting activities and numerous other commitments.

They gave the church many hundreds of hours to provide a new place of worship by the people of God for the people of God.

Furniture & Facilities

Furniture

The large wooden cross in the centre of the west wall of the church was a gift from the Barrabool Hills congregations.

The furniture for the new church was designed in conjunction with the architect Mr Keith Butler.

The solid communion table, two candle sticks, prayer desk, two pedestals, floral arrangement tables and lectern are green stained timber. The pews are also green stained timber with green fabric on seats and backs. The baptism table matches the other furniture, and has an inset stainless steel bowl. The open Bible rests on a silver plated stand on the communion table. The flooring is tan carpet tile.

Vestry and Office

Located on the west side of the main entrance, the vestry is the minister's study.

On the opposite side of the entry, the office is well equipped with a modern computer, printer and phone.

Toilet

A toilet for the disabled is located next to the office on the east side of the foyer. A wheel chair and changing table are also provided.

Car Park

As a condition of the permit to erect the new building, the City of South Barwon required that 50 car parking spaces be provided on the site. It was necessary to remove the existing trees along the Scenic Road boundary. These were replaced with a wind break of large shrubs. The car park was sealed and line marked.



Above: Excavating the car park, 1983.

Steadfast Through Change

Worship Centre Facilities

Good News Bibles (Today's English version), were purchased by members of the congregation and placed in the pews in 1984 on the initiative of Pam and Mark Seller.

The Property-Finance Committee later known as the Resource Ministry Team under the chairmanship of Ian Pooley continues to provide improvements and maintenance to the church complex.

In 1984, three headphones were installed on the rear wall of the church for the use of hearing-impaired people, and a further four were installed in 1987.

The Tape Ministry also commenced in 1984, to provide tapes of church services, funerals and other activities held in the church. The tapes of services are still delivered by church visitors to members unable to attend.

Solar mesh screens were installed in 1984, on the high-level east windows of the church to reduce glare.

In 1987, a new Allen Digital organ was purchased from America, and paid for out of the Norman and Vera McDonald bequest. The plate on the organ reads as follows.

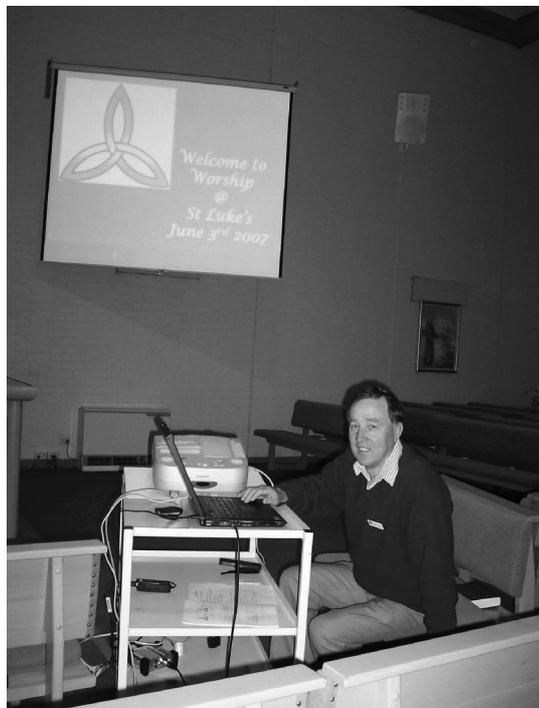
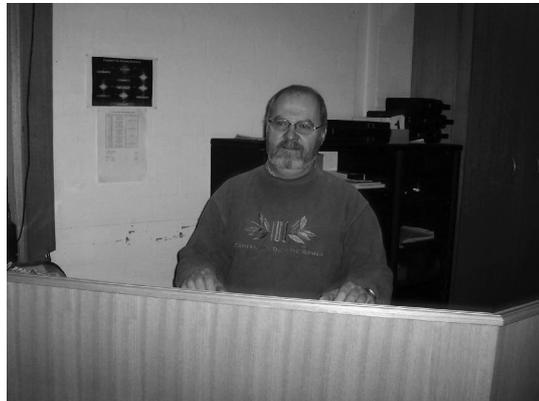
IN MEMORY OF THE CHRISTIAN
LIFE AND WORK OF
NORMAN & VERA McDONALD
DEDICATED APRIL 1987.

A new Yamaha piano was also purchased for the church in 1987, along with a small Yamaha portable keyboard for the Sunday school and other groups.



Above: Ian Hopper in the PA Room, 11 October 1998

Below: Ian Lawrence in 2006



Above: Mark Seller operating the overhead.

Steadfast Through Change

The hearing loop was installed in the floor of the church in 1989.

In 1991 copies of *Uniting in Worship* were purchased to enhance services.

The year 2000 saw a new video projector and sound system installed in the church, together with a large, high-level screen. Improved lighting was also installed.

In 2002, a roundabout was constructed by the Greater City of Geelong on the corner of Barrabool & Scenic Roads, necessitating the vehicle entrance to the church car park to be moved higher up Scenic Road.

Gas was connected to the property in 2004, and three gas heaters were installed in the church while a reverse cycle air conditioner was located in the foyer.

In 2005, reclaimed piping from the old preschool fence was installed along the top of the garden bed on the west side of the church building, and the hall kitchen was also enlarged and completely refurbished.

St. Luke's Memorial Garden

The following article was contributed courtesy of Joan Marshman in 2005.

“The Rev. Colin Thomson and Stan East had explored possible locations for a Memorial Garden in 1981, and in 1982 Ian Allan and the Rev. R Patterson established a temporary memorial area for cremated remains. This was in the sanctuary of the chapel, and a register for names of the deceased was provided. The Memorial Garden was eventually established in the courtyard at the rear of the fellowship room, and was dedicated on 14 August 1983. Sid Olsen was appointed chairman of the committee to oversee the garden's management and

remained in this position until the time of his death on 23 September 2006.

Joan Marshman was appointed as secretary of the Committee in 1987. Other members of the original Committee were John Grills, Arch Scott and Ian McDonald.

Plaques with details of the deceased were mounted on concrete blocks set in the garden, with the cremated remains of the deceased returned to mother earth after removal from the container.

The policy changed in 1996, and the plaques are now adhered to large marble tiles, mounted on two freestanding metal frames at the rear of the garden. The cremated remains are buried in the garden, usually during a family ceremony. This policy provides ample space in the Memorial Garden for many years to come.

The Property Committee (Resources Ministry) has set a time limit of 30 years on the placement of each memorial plaque, after which time the plaque may be removed.

Information regarding the preparation and cost of plaques may be obtained from the secretary. A memorial book containing details of each deceased person is located in a display cabinet in the church foyer. As a safeguard, a duplicate of the book is kept at the home of the secretary, Joan Marshman.

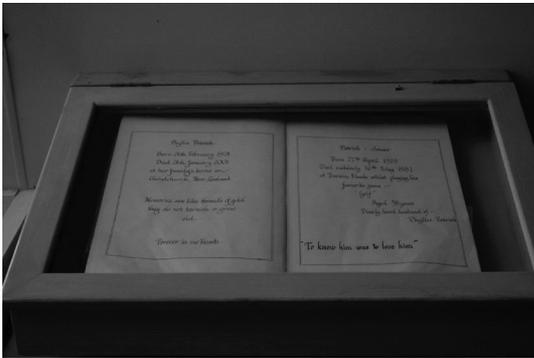
After consultation with the minister, relatives of deceased church members may place a small vase of flowers on the communion table, to commemorate a special anniversary.”

Steadfast Through Change



Above: Building the Memorial Garden wall, 1983.

Top to bottom: Daphne Stewart, Ian Allan, Ian Page, Ian MacDonald, Ron Wise.



Above: The Memorial Book and cabinet situated in the church foyer



Above: St. Luke's Memorial Garden, 2000.

The Parsonage & the Manse

The Parsonage

The Methodist parsonage was built in red brick at 136 Barrabool Road, Highton, and opened in January 1960 by the Rev.

S I Weeks of Wesley, Geelong. Thanks were expressed to the following people.

- Mr R L Johns for the gift of the land
- Wesley Church for carrying out the agreement to build a parsonage in exchange for the parsonage and church property at South Geelong;
- Mr T Mann the architect
- E J Lyons and Son, builders
- Mr & Mrs N McDonald for preparing the house for occupation
- Mrs G Vertigan for choosing furnishings and furniture



Above: Photo of Manse at 136 Barrabool Road



Above: The Manse at 224 Roslyn Road, Highton

The following ministers and families have occupied the parsonage.

- 1960-1966 Rev. M Steve Box
- 1967-1968 Rev. David Pentecost

Steadfast Through Change

- 1969-1973 Rev. Ronald J Yeats
- 1974-1979 Rev. John B Robson
- 1981-1986 Rev. Bob Patterson
- 1987-1989 Rev. Kenneth Ralph
- 1991-1998 Rev. George Grimmett

The title of 'parsonage' was dropped in favour of 'manse' at the time of the Uniting Church in 1977.

The house has been leased since 1998, and in July 2005 St. Luke's subsidised the rent to accommodate a refugee family from Sudan.

In 2006 members of the congregation carried out external painting and also painted some of the rooms.

The Manse

The manse was built of cream brick in 1964 at a cost of £6,805. Situated next to the Presbyterian Church, it was upgraded and re-dedicated in August 1992 at a cost of approx. \$90,000.

The following ministers and families have occupied the manse:

- 1964-1970 Rev. Brian Ball
- 1971-1974 Rev. Arthur Richardson
- 1974-1982 Rev. Colin Thomson
- 1983-1984 Rev. Ann Painter

The manse was leased out from 1984 to 1991. The Rev. Prasad and her family were accommodated in a leased residence in Highton for 18 months from 1991 to August 1992 while the manse was upgraded.

- 1992-1995 Rev. Chand Prasad
- 1995-1999 Leased
- 1999-2001 Rev. Dr. Marian Zaunbrecher vacated the manse in 2001 to occupy her own residence
- 2001-2006 Leased

Chapter 26

A SUMMARY OF CHURCH STRUCTURES

Methodist Church Structures from 1958

Victorian & Tasmanian Conference

District: Geelong

Circuit:

The Highton Methodist Church was part of the Geelong West Circuit from 1871 to 1958, then the Belmont circuit from 1958 to 1977.

Pastorate

1958 Highton pastorate formed

1968 Bellbrae, Ceres and Moriac added to Highton

1971 Moriac joined Winchelsea

1972 Bellbrae removed from Highton

1972 Church Trust superseded by Property Boards

1972 Highton Methodist/Presbyterian Cooperating Parish formed

- (Highton Presbyterian Church commenced in 1960)
- Parish Council formed comprising Methodist Leaders and Presbyterian Session members
- Leaders and Session replaced by Parish Council of Elders

1972 Barrabool Presbyterian Church joined the Parish

- Parish title – Highton / Barrabool Hills Co-operating Parish

1974 Highton Congregation adopted the title of ‘St. Luke’s, Highton’

1975 Ceres Methodist Church joined the Parish

1977 The Uniting Church in Australia inaugurated

1977 Methodist Circuits changed to Presbyteries

- St. Luke’s became a member of Barwon Presbytery
- Methodist Leaders and Presbyterian Session replaced by Parish Council of Elders

1980 St. Luke’s Property & Finance Committee replaced Methodist Property Board and the Presbyterian Board of Management

1998 Parish Council & Council of Elders formed joint Parish Council

1999 Parishes replaced by individual Church Councils

1999 St. Luke’s joined the South Barwon Uniting Mission Group

2003 New Church Council formed with 6 Ministry Teams - Council of Elders disbanded

2004 St. Luke’s withdrew from South Barwon Uniting Mission Group

St. Luke’s & Wider Church Structures from 2003



Steadfast Through Change

Chapter 27

DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

Taking up the story from Part 2 of the book:

Church Leaders

“Every active church member is, in a sense, a Leader, because he influences others.” So states E Keith Ditterich in *A Methodist Member's Manual – 1958*.

Lay Leaders

“From the very beginning Methodism has made provision for Lay Leaders to have charge of groups of members, and to assist the Minister in exercising pastoral oversight. Lay men and women (Methodism was far ahead of its time in realizing the great work that women can do for Christ), have proved themselves again and again as leaders of societies and groups. The Leaders' Meeting elected the local preachers, church stewards, the Sunday School Superintendent, communion stewards and Leaders of Societies. They also attended to the church rolls, and consideration of the work of the Sunday school and Youth Societies.”

Leaders were in the proportion of one for every 30 members of the church or any remaining fractional part of 30. All Leaders were expected to attend Circuit Quarterly meetings.

Church Stewards

At each church and preaching place there were at least two stewards, one of whom was recognized as the Senior Church Steward. When the adult membership exceeded fifty, additional stewards were appointed in the proportion of one to every twenty five members or part there of, with a maximum of ten stewards for each church.

Church Stewards would open the church, welcome the preacher and those attending the service, show them to appropriate seats, take up the collections, and if the preacher failed to attend, make such arrangements for the conduct of divine worship.

The following members were Highton Senior Church Stewards from 1958.

- Laurie Johns
- Ian Allan
- Keith Thomson
- Lloyd Cole
- Jack McGibbon
- Alan Strahle
- G Wallace
- Les Perkins
- John McDonald
- Ross Lamont
- Ed Pescott

Communion Stewards

These were appointed in a similar manner, and Vera McDonald and Nellie Allan performed this task for many years.

From the Archives

We are fortunate at St. Luke's to hold in the Archives several minute books of the Leaders' meetings, commencing in 1896. The minutes were of course hand written, and although the ministers' names were recorded as they confirmed the minutes, the secretaries' names were not mentioned. Thereafter, the handwriting changed several times but the secretaries' names, or their election, was not recorded until 1964.

The author has extracted some interesting items that may reveal the relationship between church and society during the past fifty odd years.

1956 Referendum on hotel closing hours: The Highton Methodist church was

Steadfast Through Change

asked by the Circuit to appoint a representative to accept donations and to organize a local campaign to retain six o'clock closing of hotel bars.

Rev. Gallacher reported that he had conducted well-attended classes of young people for instruction in doctrine and beliefs of the Methodist church.

1957 A meeting was called to approve the transfer of Highton, Moraic and Ceres, from the Geelong West Circuit to the Belmont Circuit.

A recommendation was sent to the Ladies Church Aid asking them to consider appointing from among their members a committee to welcome any person who may be worshipping at the church for the first time. The committee to work on a roster system

1960 The Parents and Friends Association was granted permission to hold a dance in the Sunday school hall, and the members were thanked for providing equipment for the Sunday School.

Members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship received badges, and two groups were formed - years ten to fourteen and fourteen and over.

Fifty-eight children were attending the Sunday School.

1961 The Leaders agreed to the first stewardship campaign organised by the Department of Stewardship Promotion. A Finance Committee was formed comprising the senior steward, two trustees, and the Sunday School Superintendent.

Wes Marshman was thanked for his leadership of the Youth Club.

1962 Colin Hunt was appointed Choir Master, and the Leaders recommended to the Trustees that a new organ was needed.

The Ladies Guild applied to the Trustees for permission to hold a Garden Party at the church, but the Leaders' Meeting ruled that no functions involving direct appeals would be permitted because of the Canvas Appeal. House Church: The Leaders' Meeting approved the formation of a monthly House Church system.

Leaders would be trained and extend invitations to folk within their area.

The formation of a Men's Brotherhood was approved.

A Preschool sub-committee was set up to investigate the operation of preschool centres.

Thanks were extended to Jack Cations for the additions of heating and improved lighting in the church.

The Ladies' Guild advised that a separate Evening Guild named 'Ladies' Evening Fellowship' was being established.

The Leaders' Meeting endorsed the formation of a church tennis club.

1963 A Harvest Festival was planned with proceeds to go to prisoners' families.

General approval was given to combine the PFA and MYF clubs after discussion with Pastor Hazeldine of the Highton Presbyterian church.

The Quarterly Meeting allocation of £140 for Highton was agreed to a £10 per quarter rise on the previous allocation.

Steadfast Through Change

1964 Records showed a total of 134 church members. Twenty-three infants were baptised, and a junior choir was formed.

The secretary, Lloyd Cole reported that discussions were held with the Highton Presbyterians regarding church union.

A Kitchen Tea was held for Rosalie Jones and Nat White in recognition of their services to the church.

Jack Cations presented a Visitation Committee report.

After examination of the plans drawn up by J Gordon Williams & Associates, it was decided to proceed with the building of the Sunday School/Preschool Centre, also a toilet block and two tennis courts. Leaders were represented on the Preschool Committee. A committee was authorized to appoint a directress and assistant. The building was officially opened by Mrs M S Box and dedicated by Rev. M S Box on June 21, 1964.

1965 A sub-committee recommended the deletion of the Knife and Fork Tea, to be replaced by a Finger Tea. The Leaders' Meeting recommended to the Trustees that a Gestetner duplicator be purchased. A combined communion service was held at the Highton Presbyterian church in June. The badminton club was formed. Howard Hinchliffe was appointed secretary of the Leaders' Meeting. Wes Marshman was thanked for ten years of service as Bible Class leader.

1966 There were 180 children attending Sunday school and a Church Life Mission was held.

1967 Allowing dancing on church property was questioned and Rev. David Pentecost pointed out that the decision rested with the Leaders' Meeting.

Members roll - 225 members, 3 members in association, 4 adherents, 223 children under nurture

1968 Support was given to the Billy Graham Crusade.

Combined evening services were held with the Highton Presbyterian Church.

A request was made to the secretary A. Pettifer, that the out-house be divided into divisions so that umbrellas could be kept separate.

1969 A request was received from the tennis club for permission to play social tennis on Sunday afternoon - the request was refused.

Rev. Yeats stated there were 12 candidates for confirmation.

1970 Sunday school classes were conducted on the Methodist and Presbyterian properties.

It was recommended that the practice of sending out annual membership tickets be discontinued.

1971 Permission was granted to the tennis club to play social tennis on Sunday afternoons.

Darcy Seller was appointed secretary following John Macdonald in 1970. The church supported the Methodist Million Appeal, and 'Blobs' Adult Saturday night fellowship group was formed.

1972 The Leaders' Meeting recorded its unanimous approval of the Scheme of Co-operation between the Highton Methodist and Presbyterian congregations.

1973 The Leaders' Meeting expressed opposition to the introduction of poker machines in Victoria.

Steadfast Through Change

Support for the Action for World Development program and Freedom From Hunger appeal was recommended to the congregation.

Twenty young people attended confirmation classes and were confirmed by Rev. Ron Yeats and Rev. Arthur Richardson.

1974 A report from the Joint Working Committee to the Presbyterian Session and to the Leaders' Meeting was voted on and recommendations approved with the exception of recommendation A5 which was amended to read: "We support the principle of a 'common purse' which would accept responsibility for meeting allocations to both the Circuit and the Federal Board of Management."

Rev. Robson reported that all Religious Instructors' positions in local schools had been filled.

Nominations were called for eight places to be filled on the Parish Executive, four for a one-year term, and four for a two-year term. The following people were elected.

- Winsome Cations
- Brian Clarke
- Clive Champion
- Ross Lamont
- Ed Pescott
- Les Perkins
- Daphne Stewart
- Geoff Wootton
- Lorraine Randles - emergency

The following were nominated as members of the Preschool Association.

- John Findlay
- Mark Seller
- Graham Marshall
- Rod White
- Neville Smith
- Geoff Wootton

The non-voting Leaders' Meeting representatives on the ministerial selection committee of the Highton Presbyterian church were:

- Elsie Eldridge
- John Findlay
- Robert Packett

1975 Discussion took place regarding ladies being appointed as church stewards.

A Pastoral Care program was initiated, with 18 visitors.

Jack Cations was appointed secretary, temporarily replacing Darcy Seller who was working in Canada.

1976 Elders visiting lists were discussed, and Rev. Robson explained that there is a limit of one elder to every ten members under the proposed Uniting Church arrangements.

1977 The final meeting of the Leaders' Meeting was held on 14 June 1977. It was noted that 23 elders had been appointed, with one vacancy to be filled. Membership rolls were to be handed to the Council of Elders.

The meeting voted an expression of thanks to Darcy Seller, Secretary, and Ed. Pescott, Senior Steward.

The Journey to Cooperation and Union

Our records show that there was a combined Highton Methodist and Presbyterian service held in the Roslyn Road Presbyterian church as early as 1965.

Encouraged by Rev. Brian Ball, Rev. Steve Box and later Rev. David Pentecost, combined evening services were held periodically in the Methodist

Steadfast Through Change

church until 1968, then regularly until 1980.

In June 1970, a joint meeting of Methodist Leaders and the Presbyterian Session expressed a desire for closer cooperation between the two congregations, resulting in the Methodists using the Presbyterian church for family services eight times, and the Sunday school building for an hour each week, to accommodate increasing numbers of children.

Scheme of Cooperation

In April 1971, a Joint Working Committee appointed by the Leaders Meeting and the Session was established to continue the discussions. Accordingly, the committee unanimously recommended that a joint parish be formed to bring about 'reconciliation, renewal, and effectiveness in mission'.

A scheme of cooperation, based on Joint Advisory Council Document 9 and Guidelines, was submitted to the Leaders Meeting in November 1971, and to Session in December 1971. Both meetings unanimously agreed to the scheme as proposed. The document was amended to include the Barrabool Presbyterian congregation.

The Belmont Circuit Quarterly Meeting approved the scheme in December 1971, followed by Presbytery, Synod and Conference approval.

Voting

All confirmed members of the Highton Methodist congregation and communicant members of the Presbyterian congregations of Highton and Barrabool were invited to vote on the question: "Are you in favour of the Scheme of Cooperation - Yes/No."

The vote was taken on 5 March 1972, and of those voting the results were as follows:

- Methodist: 94% YES
- Presbyterian: 84% YES
- Barrabool: 81% YES

Acting on the advice of the Joint Advisory Council, a Parish Executive was elected, and together with ministers Rev. Ron Yeats and Rev. Arthur Richardson, the Parish Council continued to plan the implementation of the Scheme of Cooperation, including the Common Purse in 1974.

Thus the Highton Methodist-Presbyterian Cooperating Parish came into being in May 1972, five years prior to the formation of the Uniting Church.

The Ceres Methodist congregation joined the Highton-Barrabool Hills Parish in 1975.

It is interesting to note some figures from the Methodist Annual Conference, 1972: 'There are 21 new schemes of cooperation with the Presbyterian church of one type or another, including the Highton Scheme and the Regional Parish in North Geelong, Corio and Lara, making 128 'Cooperating Causes' in Victoria which have now accepted one of the four forms of cooperation made available under the Joint Advisory Council'.

New Name Chosen

After deliberating for nearly two years, the name 'St. Luke's, Highton' was proposed in 1974 by Clive Champion, and adopted, to represent all combined church organizations, and to give the congregation of Highton a greater sense of unity.

The name of St. Luke, the physician and healer, who believed in forgiveness and taking the message of the Redeemer to the gentiles, was adopted and espouses the philosophy that this congregation hopes to express in the community.

For several years a special day was held in October to celebrate 'St. Luke's Day'.

United

Having made the momentous decision to form the Cooperating Parish, the congregations were well and truly united, having overcome the 'adventure of untried ways' to bring about our goals of 'reconciliation, renewal and effectiveness in mission'.

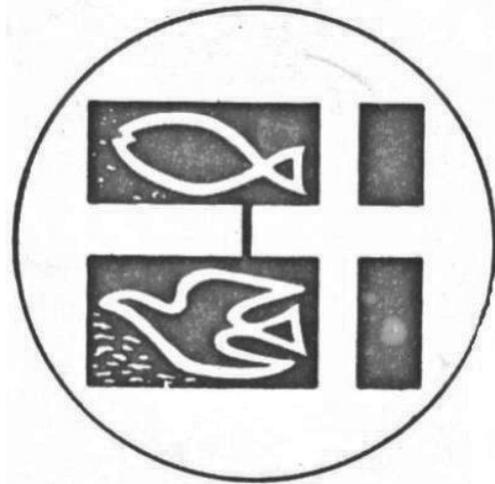
Believing the old motto 'The best of all is, God is with us', led the Highton Cooperating Parish to evolve through growth and development to become the 'Highton Barrabool Hills Parish', incorporating the Barrabool and Ceres churches, and eventually to 'St. Luke's Uniting Church, Highton', guided by ministers Rev. John Robson and Rev. Colin Thomson, with Les Perkins as secretary of the Leaders Meeting and Doug. Weaver, secretary of the Session.

Church Union 22 June 1977

Even though we had achieved co-operation between the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Highton in 1972 we rejoiced when union was finally achieved and the Basis of Union was approved by the Congregational Union of Australia (1973), the Methodist Church of Australasia (1974) and the Presbyterian Church of Australia (1974).

The Basis of Union

The original 1977 Basis of Union was revised in 1992 to update language and social concepts. Areas covered in the Basis of Union include the methodology of union of the whole church based on one Lord Jesus Christ; the place of biblical witnesses, interpreters and reformation, sacraments, membership, ministry, use of abilities, personal responsibility and the laws of the church. Full details of the Basis of Union are available from the Victorian Synod.



Above: Emblem for the Congregational Church



Above: Emblem for the Methodist Church of Australasia



Above: Emblem for the Presbyterian Church of Australia

Steadfast Through Change

Parish Celebration

The Highton and Hills congregations celebrated the day with a combined morning service at Roslyn Road, led by Rev. Colin Thomson and Rev. John Robson with the theme "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad of it".

The congregation offered the following prayer of thanksgiving and dedication:

O God our Father, You have blessed us, and brought us to this hour.

We praise You for Your love and mercy, and for Your call to be Your people - one people.

We praise You for Your presence, in all times and places, and for Your presence with us now.

Accept our new unity as an act of faith.

Give us patience and forgiveness, humility and love, that all who see our life together may believe.

Help us to find in each other, gifts and qualities which lift us to a new experience of Christian community.

And grant that we may go on, made confident by Your spirit, to honour You by serving others ... always. Amen

Barwon Presbytery Celebration

Members of the congregation attended the Presbytery celebration of the Inauguration of the Uniting Church at the Matthew Flinders Assembly Hall, Geelong at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday 26 June 1977.

During the singing of the processional hymn, members of the Presbytery entered the hall followed by the following people.

- Rev. G A Wood, Past Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church

- Rev. R C Mathias, Past President-General of the Methodist Church
- Mgr. J Murray, representing the Catholic Church
- Rev. Dr A De Robin, representing the Anglican Church
- Capt. B Jeffrey - representing other denominations
- Rev. J M S Johnson, The Secretary of the Presbytery,
- The Bishop of Gippsland, T. Rev. G Delbridge
- Rev. J C Lavender, The Chairman of the Presbytery

After prayers of thanksgiving and petition followed by hymns of praise, the Past Moderator-General announced the recognition of the Presbytery and the naming of the parishes and representatives.

The Highton-Barrabool Hills Parish was represented by Rev. J B H, Robson, Rev. C W Thomson, Ed. Pescott and Ann Anderson.

Presbytery Meetings

The meetings are attended by the minister and two members of the congregation who keep St. Luke's informed of regional church and presbytery activities and objectives. A comment made by Elizabeth Nicholls, who, together with Ross Lamont, is currently a St. Luke's presbytery representative: "It is important to see our place within God's wider church".

We affirm the dedication and commitment of the following St. Luke's presbytery representatives over the years: Charles Chappell, George Crawford, Joan Jackson, Alf Swan and Glenis Stewart.

The Uniting Church Emblem

The following explanation of the Uniting Church emblem is an extract from the Presbytery of Mid North coast of the Uniting Church of Australia, 2007. The explanation has no official imprimatur, but is merely an attempt to give a concise answer to general enquiries.

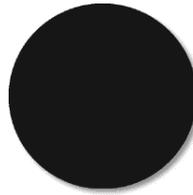
This explanation is based on commonly held beliefs within the Uniting Church community and observations from the Bible.



The emblem of the Uniting Church in Australia was adopted by the National Assembly of the Church at its inauguration in 1977 and has quickly become an identifiable sign of the Uniting Church throughout the Australian community.

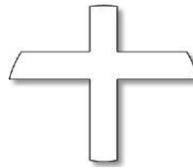
The emblem is simple in its design (involving just red, black and white with uncomplicated lines and curves) and yet embodies a wealth of meaning. The following explanation attempts to convey some of that meaning.

The Black Circle: The background to the emblem is the black circle. It is symbolic of the darkness and void that



Genesis records as all there was before God began creation.

It is symbolic, too, of the darkness of sin that characterises the human condition before the coming of the light of Christ.



The White Cross: The white cross that breaks the darkness of the black circle is, of course, symbolic of the cross of

Christ – an indication of the manner of his death and, paradoxically, a symbol too of his victory over death.

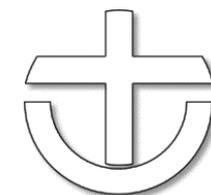


The White Semi-Circle: At the bottom of the emblem is a white semi-circle. This part of the design serves a couple of different purposes.

The light has come into the world but the world is still far from perfect. That is why the circle is incomplete. Never the less, the light of Christ has come and Christians have the task of bearing witness to the Light.

The semi-circle is also reminiscent, of course, of the letter ‘u’, the initial letter of the word ‘Uniting’ in our title. The Church made a deliberate choice to call itself ‘Uniting’ rather than ‘United’ because its founders recognised that the process is not yet complete and, in the name of Christ, we must go on bringing people into reconciliation with God.

The Little Ship or Anchor: When the



semicircle and the cross are seen together, they suggest a symbol of a ship. From very early in its history, the Christian Church has used the

symbol of a boat or ship to describe

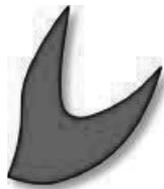
itself. Indeed, the main part of a church building is still called the “nave” from the Latin word for boat or ship from which we get the English word “navy”.

The combination of the semicircle and the cross have also evoked for some people an anchor, rather than a boat or ship, where it speaks of faith on Christ as being like an anchor to which we can cling for security.



The Dove: Central to the design is the stylised picture of a dove. Throughout the Bible, there are times when the Holy Spirit (or the Spirit of God) is indicated in one way or another by a dove.

But a dove is not the only Biblical symbol of the Holy Spirit...



The Flame: In the emblem, the wings and body of the dove are shown in red (or hatched in a black-and-white version), to remind us of the Biblical description of the Holy Spirit, specifically in Acts 2: 3, as being “like tongues of fire” or “like tongues of flame”.

Fire has always held human awe and, way back in the Old Testament, the force of God’s presence is likened to the fierceness of fire. When, in the New



Testament, John the Baptist was preparing for the coming of Jesus, he described him as one who “will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire”.

It is interesting that the two symbols of the Holy Spirit (a dove and a flame of fire) are in many ways opposite to each other – one stressing the gentleness of the Spirit, the other the might and even

the destructive power of the Spirit. Perhaps the lesson is that we need both in order to appreciate the full scope of the Spirit’s influence? The emblem’s symbol of the Dove with wings of flame keeps that scope in perspective.

The Council of Elders, 1977

The following article was researched and contributed courtesy of Alf Swan.

“When the Uniting Church in Australia came into being in June 1977, the Highton Presbyterian and Methodist churches had already formed a Co-operating Parish five years previously.

The first Council of Elders for the Parish meeting was held at Roslyn Road in August 1977, and meetings continued to be held there until all activities were consolidated on the Barrabool Road site in 1980. The first St. Luke’s Elders Council numbered 43 members.

The two ministers in settlement, Rev. John Robson and Rev. Colin Thomson chaired the meetings in rotation, and Jean Williams was elected secretary.

The business at meetings included:

- Maintaining and updating church rolls
- Receiving and transferring members
- Issuing communion cards for Elders to deliver quarterly
- Times of Sunday worship services. Initially 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- Rostering of elders to serve at Holy Communion
- Establishing confirmation classes, many young people being confirmed in the early years
- Participating in the many baptisms that took place at the church

Steadfast Through Change

- Establishing pastoral care lists and principles of visitation
- Receiving reports from Sunday school (Ian Allan Superintendent) and outreach activities
- Appointing elders to Parish Council (initially six)
- Organizing conferences and retreats such as Burnside 1979 and Avalon Community Centre 1984

It should be remembered that there were only two categories of church membership - members who had had their baptisms confirmed and members in association (those who were confirmed members of other churches or denominations, but who also attended St. Luke's). All others were known as adherents and could not be elected to any church leadership position. The rolls the elders maintained indicated these distinctions, and it was only to confirmed members that membership transfers applied and communion cards were issued.

As well as the Elders' Council, there was also the Parish Council, on which elders had representation. This Council had representation from St. Luke's and the Barrabool Hills congregations (Ceres and Barrabool), and dealt with administration and property matters. So the work of the elders was far reaching and demanding.

Elder's Role

UCA regulations made it clear that, "The ministry of Elders is one of spiritual oversight and may also be exercised in pastoral visitation, teaching, encouraging members of the congregation to share in mission and assisting the minister in leadership of worship and administration of the sacraments.

In electing Elders the congregation shall recognize and appoint confirmed members or members-in-association,

who are endowed with gifts fitting them to the responsibilities of the office."

Elders initially were elected for life, but at the time of establishing St. Luke's Council, regulations allowed retirement after five years. Some did retire, others offered themselves for re-election, were recommissioned or 'set-apart' and re-dedicated themselves to serve the Lord where their gifts were appropriate.

In terms of the above 'job description', pastoral visitation was not mandatory, so not all elders were initially involved. However, over time, it did become necessary for all elders to visit.

Some saw their gifts in teaching and took leading roles in Sunday School, youth activities, Bible Study etc. Others concentrated on mission and outreach to the community - to the unemployed, new migrants, university students etc.

Growth and Change

As the congregation numbered over 500 confirmed members and adherents, it was clear that more elders were needed.

Elections held in 1978 increased the elders' strength by sixteen. By the time of Rev. Colin Thomson's departure in 1982 numbers had grown to 63, supplemented by 33 lay pastoral visitors. These visitors however, were not part of the Elders' Council.

Rev. Bob Patterson had joined the ministry team in 1981 and it was during his term that the eldership and form of meetings underwent change. In line with Bob's new concept, "Creative Edge" groups were formed, with elders linked to worship, pastoral care, fellowship, education and outreach activities. These groups either met separately and reported to the monthly elders' meeting, or met as part of the monthly meeting.

Steadfast Through Change

Rev. Ann Painter joined the ministry team in 1983, and the ministers continued to chair meetings. Jean Williams continued in her role of secretary until 1983 when she retired and was succeeded by Beth Allen. At that time the new church on Barrabool Road had been built to accommodate about 300 at Sunday morning worship.

With the premature departure of Rev. Ann Painter in 1984 and the appointment of Peter McKenzie as a Lay Assistant to Rev. Bob Patterson, the pastoral care load on the elders was shared, but there were problems associated with a dramatic fall in youth members in the youth clubs and Sunday school.

An elders' retreat at Avalon Community Centre focused on building up youth numbers. Subsequently Sunday evening monthly youth services were organized and three youth elders appointed - Jane Patchett, Jenny Labrum and Stephen Lamont. In following years the principle of appointing youth elders continued.

Rev. Kenneth Ralph was inducted in 1987 and remained for another two years. During this time, goal setting seminars and study groups concentrated on the needs of youth and Christian education. Rev. Kenneth Ralph also led a team that organized valuable community education programs.

Evan Williams succeeded Beth Allen as Elders' secretary; the Leighton Ford Mission focused attention on evangelism, and Elders' strength was reduced to 55. But there were positives in that 13 young people were confirmed and informal worship was introduced to complement traditional services.

A big change took place in 1990 - the year when St. Luke's was without a settled minister. A Parish Elders'

Council was formed, St. Luke's and Barrabool Hills elders' councils combining (St. Luke's 51 elders, Barrabool Hills 8). This Council took responsibility primarily for ministry and worship. Bob Skewes was elected chairman - a layman for the first time, and moves were made to resume team ministry. Subsequently, Rev. George Grimmett and Rev. Chand Prasad were inducted in 1991 and worship times were adjusted to allow ministers time to travel from Highton to the Hills.

Following Page - Council of Elders November 1986

Back Row L-R: Rob Ballard, Dorothy MacDonald, Evan Williams, Jenny Pooley, John Grills, Andrew Reid, Peter McKenzie, Max King, Ian Lyall, George Crawford, Brian Williams

Third Row L-R: Carole Findlay, Judy Nason, Annette Packett, Jenny Van Ginkel, Robert Packett, Nancye Wurm. Gil Rush, Clive Champion, Judy Angus, Ken Allen, Dorothy Last, Noel Patchett, Graeme Oke, Chris Coomber

Second Row L-R: Joy McAvaney, Jenny Patchett, Keith Turrill, Dorothy Turrill, Pam Seller, Barbara Patterson, Joy Hicks, Doug Jackson, Wes Marshman, Syd Olsen

Front Row L-R: Peter Gill, Carlene Gill, Jean Williams, Margaret Whiting, Beth Allen, Rev. Bob Patterson, Alf Swan, Joan Jackson, Edna Olsen.

Parish Elders Council May 1990

Back Row L-R: Bob Skewes, Jack Hunt, Eric Tinney, Judy Clark, Brian Williams, Shirley Logan, Jan Hale, Ross Lamont, Clive Champion, Evan Williams

Middle Row L-R: Pam Seller, Gil Rush, Doug Jackson, Annette Packett, Carole Findlay, Anne Salvado, Elizabeth McKenzie, Ian Lyall, Neville Anderson, Dorothy Turrill, Keith Turrill

Front Row L-R: Beth Allen, Joan Jackson, Max Anderson, Joy Leigh, Edna McCann, Ros. Leigh, Peter McKenzie, George Merritt

Steadfast Through Change



Above: Council of Elders, November 1986 (See list of people on previous page)



Above: Parish Elders Council, May 1990 (See list of people on previous page)

Steadfast Through Change

Staff Changes

Because of financial constraints with the resumption of team ministry, Joan Jackson, office secretary, and Peter McKenzie, Lay Assistant, vacated these positions, the latter joining Frontier Services at Charleville.

In 1991, Evan Williams was succeeded by Yvonne Campbell as secretary, and chairman Bob Skewes by Ken Allen. The eldership was restructured with six committees: Worship, Christian Education, Mission, Social Issues, Pastoral Care and Youth; each committee convenor reporting at alternate elders' meetings.

Zones

Four pastoral care geographical Zones were established: Montpellier (later changed to North Valley), Bellevue, Thornhill and the Hills, each zone meeting bi-monthly.

By 1992 elders numbers had dropped to 48 (St. Luke's) and 8 (Hills) and Sunday school numbers to 31. With the resignation of Yvonne Campbell mid year, Jean Williams resumed the secretary-ship. However, there were encouraging signs on the youth front, with several confirmations, youth breakfasts and the attendance of three young people at National Christian Youth Conference in Canberra.

Rae Anderson succeeded Ken Allen as Elders' chairman in 1993, and in turn was succeeded by Ian Hopper in 1994. During this year the Elder's Mission Statement and Goals were revised at a special meeting held on 31 August 1994. Our mission statement and goals were as follows.

“Responding to the gift of God's love, risking the way of Jesus Christ out Lord and Savior, and enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Highton-Barrabool

Hills Parish is committed to being a family of disciples faithful to God's word, nurturing spiritual growth, sharing God's love with our community, and building up one another through worship, prayer, study and outreach.

Our Goals

We will:

1. Worship God
2. Nurture each other through loving interaction, prayer, worship and the study of God's word.
3. Celebrate with our local community.
4. Involve ourselves in concerns of our neighbourhood rather than live for ourselves.
5. Respond to unmet local community needs.
6. Develop and sustain programs to support our mission.
7. Concern ourselves with the wider world.
8. Address issues to justice, peace and the environment.
9. Promote an ecumenical approach to mission.
10. Be a people of hope, love and joy.”

A database of talents/interests of members of the congregation was established and the position of the ministry team was addressed. This resulted in recommendations to Presbytery to discontinue the ministries of Rev. George Grimmett and Rev. Chand Prasad at the end of 1995. The team ministry had not been a happy one. Rev. Chand Prasad decided to move on but Rev. George Grimmett declined.

During 1995 St. Luke's elders numbers dropped to 37, but confirmed membership remained steady at 446. Ten baptisms were held and morning worship service times changed to 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. An evening service was

Steadfast Through Change

reintroduced at 7 p.m., but discontinued in 1996. Rev. George Grimmett introduced a Baptism Book, which recorded the names and dates of the baptism of members of the congregation. A visitors' table was set up in the church foyer as a focal point and an elders' weekend retreat was held at Highton led by Rev. Jenny Byrnes.

Assistant Minister

Rev. Wesley Trigg was appointed as Assistant Minister for 1996, engaged on the basis of two days a week pastoral care, plus one Sunday Service. He continued to work closely with elders in zones; instituted Sunday morning breakfasts for elders on Communion duty, and took part in Zone dinners where the average attendance was 40.

Eric Tinney made home communion kits, and elders distributed communion to 15 home bound members.

Jean Williams completed her second term as secretary, succeeded by Murray Johnson.

Vale Max, Doug and Allan

May 1996 was a very dark month in the Parish with the death of elders Max Anderson, Doug Cameron and Rolls Registrar Allan Wurm. All had served the Parish and the wider community well and will be long remembered.

1998 saw several changes in the ministry at St. Luke's - Rev. Grimmett departed in March, and Revs. Ken Gilson, Alan Hardie, Alex. Hodgson, Wesley Trigg, and Rev. Dr. Alan Reid, all contributed leadership during the year.

Another big change to the eldership came in 1998. The Parish Council and Council of Elders agreed to the formation of Joint Parish Council.

Joint Parish Council

The Elders' Council delegated most of its administrative responsibilities to the Joint Council and was represented by two elders from each Zone plus new elders' Convener Alf Swan and once again secretary, Jean Williams.

Despite no longer existing as a Council of Elders, St. Luke's 30 elders and the Hills 6 elders continued to meet as a group once a quarter to hear a speaker and discuss matters of concern. The zones continued to meet bi-monthly and the conveners meeting monthly with the minister to co-ordinate pastoral care. As well elders were involved in three Alpha Courses and Lenten Study groups run during the year.

By this time St. Luke's Sunday School had ceased to function, being replaced by the Sunday Club formed to cater for primary and pre-primary age children with their parents and other helpers. As well, one Sunday Service at St. Luke's at 9:30 a.m. commenced.

In 1999 Rev. Marian Zaunbrecher accepted a call to be Minister of the Word at Highton and the Hills. At the same time congregational agreement was obtained to form a Cooperative Mission Group encompassing the congregations of Belmont, Highton, Moraic and the Hills with three ordained ministers. This Mission Group known as the South Barwon Uniting Mission Group, formally commenced on 1st June, and comprised the ministers settled within the group, plus an elder and second representative from each congregation.

As well the Uniting Church changed its regulations so that 'parishes' were no longer to be a recognized church structure and gave congregations until the end of 2000 to develop new structures.

Steadfast Through Change

The new structure developed at St. Luke's comprised a St. Luke's Church Council, (separate from the Hills) including the following:

- Ministers
- Nine elders, two from each zone plus convener and secretary and elder on Mission Group
- Nine congregational representatives
- An additional one or two co-opted elders to ensure that at least half of the council membership were elders giving propriety to "spiritual oversight" matters

The length of service offered by elders was changed when elders nominated to serve one to five years.

The form of elders' quarterly meetings was also changed to include pastoral care visitors, nominated by the eldership and approved by church council.

Under pastoral care, the Rev. Alex Hodgson was appointed to assist Rev. Marian Zaunbrecher one day a week and to meet with her and zone conveners monthly.

At the Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Elders held on 14 February 2000, 28 elders and 21 pastoral visitors were listed. Alf Swan was re-elected convener and Una Trigg secretary, replacing Jean Williams, who was warmly thanked for her commitment and dedication as secretary (three times), over many years.

The congregation approved new worship times as 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. It was understood that the nine o'clock service would be more informal and innovative, 10:30 a.m. traditional and the 6:30 p.m. primarily for young people and families. Elders were rostered on a zone basis to attend and support the young people at the evening service ('Church Alive').

The concept of appointing youth elders was revived in 2001 with Cameron Baird, wife Shelby Oliver Baird and later Jane Saxton-Hauser being elected to pastorally care for youth, particularly in the light of 11 confirmations having occurred during the year.

Wynsome Penn was elected secretary in February 2001 till February 2002 when it was decided to discontinue the position of secretary, but continue the role of convener (Alf Swan).

In 2002, with the appointment of Rev. Rachel Franklin as part-time pastoral care worker, the 'coverage' of care by elders and visitors was greatly enhanced.

Early in the year it was decided to discontinue quarterly Elders' meetings, in favour of meeting when needed. By this time discussions were being held on restructuring the Church Council, yet again, and on merging elders with visitors to become pastoral carers.

Later in 2003, congregational approval was given to form a new church council to consist of 16 members to be known as 'leaders', replacing the elders and being responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation. Former elders and visitors were encouraged to continue their role in pastoral care, with the zone structure to remain unaltered.

Accordingly, existing elders and Church Council members ceased office in November and elections for the new Church Council were held in December.

At Sunday worship on 1 February 2004 the 22 elders were presented with Certificates of Appreciation noting their period of service."

Steadfast Through Change

Members of Council of Elders 1977-2003

- Beth Allen, 1982-2003
- Ian Allan, 1977-1985
- Ken Allen, 1977-2003
- Ann Anderson, 1977-1981
- Grace Anderson, 1978-1980
- Ken Anderson, 1987-1992
- Rae Anderson, 1987-1997
- Sue Anderson, 1991-2003
- John Angus, 1977-1980
- Judith Angus (Lyll), 1977-1979, 1989-1991
- Lorraine Angus, 1977-1980
- Robert Angus, 1996-1998
- Keith Ash, 1977-1980
- Des Bath, 1977-1982
- Cameron Baird, 2001-2002
- Mary Baird, 2002-2003
- Annis Ballard, 1982-1987
- Robert Ballard, 1982-1987
- Aileen Barker, 1977-1981
- Gladys Beckham, 1977-1982
- Joan Jacka (Bell), 1977-1984
- Len Bell, 1979-1984
- Don Blackmore, 1988-1991
- Judy Blackmore, 1988-1991
- Mabel Brown, 1978-1983
- Adam Cameron, 1988-1990
- Douglas Cameron, 1982-1996
- Joy Cameron, 1987-1988
- Yvonne Campbell, 1988-1992
- Jack Cations, 1978-1983
- Winsome Cations, 1977-1982
- Clive Champion, 1977-2003
- Charles Chappell, 1977-1982
- David Cheatley, 1980-1988
- Judith Clark, 1986-2003
- Chris Coomber, 1986-1987
- Alan Cover, 1977-1979
- Frances Crawford, 1982-1986
- George Crawford, 1982-1988
- Eunice Dunstan, 1977-1984
- Jack Donnan, 1977-1982
- Elise Eldridge, 1977-1985
- David Ellerton, 1984- 1992
- Dawn Fielder, 2000-2002
- Anthony Findlay, 1987-1988
- Carole Findlay, 1982-1993
- Frank Fordham, 1978-1980
- Norman Freeland, 1978-1981
- Val Garratt, 1982-1986
- Carlene Gill, 1982-2003
- Peter Gill, 1982-2003
- John Gorman, 1987-1990
- Brian Gouge, 1979-1980
- Jenny Green, 1983-1985
- John Grills, 1982-1991
- Valerie Grills, 1991-2003
- Mary Grimmett, 1993-1997
- Faye Guthrie, 1996-2000
- Jan Hale, 1987-1992
- Alex Hand, 1977-1979
- Grant Harvey, 1978-1988
- Frank Hicks, 1977-1982
- Joy Hicks, 1978-1998
- Ritchie Hobbs, 1977-1982
- Terri Holloway, 1991-1992
- Ian Hopper, 1990-2003
- Barbara Hunt, 2001-2003
- Jack Hunt, 1983-2003
- Doug Jackson, 1977-2003
- Joan Jackson, 1978-2003
- Alan Jenson, 1978-1980
- Murray Johnson, 1995-1998
- Kinglsey Kent, 1977-1982
- Marion King, 1986-1998
- Max King, 1986-1991
- Jenny Labrum, 1984-1989
- John Lambert, 1995-1999
- Barbara Lamont, 1977-2003
- Ross Lamont, 1977-2003
- Stephen Lamont, 1984-1990
- Dorothy Last (Bentley), 1982-1998
- Peter Last, 1982-1985
- Millie Lehmann, 1982-1984
- Max Leigh, 1977-1978
- Shirley Logan, 1985-1990
- Dr. Ian Lyall, 1985-1994
- Alison Lyons, 1983-1988, 2002-2003
- Dorothy MacDonald, 1982-1987

Steadfast Through Change

- Ian MacDonald, 1977-1985
- Joy McAvaney, 1986-1990
- Vera McDonald, 1977-1982
- Elizabeth McKenzie, 1982-1990
- Peter McKenzie, 1982-1990
- Noel McMillan, 1977-1984
- Dorothy McNair, 1977-1978
- Wes Marshman, 1982-1987, 1998-2003
- Joan Marshman, 1998-2003
- Sharon Morris, 1987-1988
- Harry Moodie, 1979-1982
- Glenda Murrant, 1987-2002
- Susan Murrant, 1987-1994
- Don Nason, 1982-1987
- Judy Nason, 1982-1987
- Graeme Oke, 1986-1989
- Shelby Oliver-Baird, 2001-2002
- Edna Timms (Olsen), 1978-1988
- Joyce Olsen, 1978-1981
- Sid Olsen, 1978-1988
- Annette Packett, 1985-1990
- Robert Packett, 1978-1988
- Ian Page, 1982-1987
- Jane Patchett, 1984-1985
- Jenny Patchett, 1978-1979, 1986-1995
- Noel Patchett, 1986-1995
- Barbara Patterson, 1982-1986
- Bill Pelton, 1977-1979
- Wynsome Penn, 1996-2003
- Dorothy Perkins, 1984-1986
- Les Perkins, 1978-1986
- Ed Pescott, 1977-1987
- Jenny Pooley, 1982-1991
- Stella Pullin, 1995-1997
- Shelia Reed, 1983-1988
- Andrew Reid, 1982-1987
- Ena Reid, 1982-1986
- Bob Richards, 1982
- Bill Rush, 1978-1980
- Gil Rush, 1984-1994
- Anne Salvado, 1987-1992, 1996-1997
- Wenda Saxon, 2000-2003
- Jane Saxton-Hauser, 2002-2003
- Arch Scott, 1979-1984
- Darcy Seller, 1984-1990
- Mark Seller, 1977-1978
- Pam Seller, 1986-1992, 1998-2003
- Bob Skewes, 1988-1992
- Daphne Stewart, 1977-1985
- Glenis Stewart, 1996-2000
- Alf Swan, 1977-2003
- Eric Tinney, 1979-1997
- Patti Tinney, 1983-1985
- Una Trigg, 1995-2002
- Dorothy Turrill, 1978-2002
- Keith Turrill, 1978-2002
- Jean Tyler, 1977-1983
- Jim Tyler, 1977-1983
- Jenny Van Ginkel, 1984-1989
- Dougal Weaver, 1977-1979
- Winifred Weaver, 1977-1979
- Margaret Weaver, 1982-1983
- Les Westacott, 1982-1984
- Doug. White, 1986-1990
- Jill White, 2000-2003
- Lorraine White, 1995-1998
- Rod White, 1982-1987
- Margaret Whiting, 1977-1989
- Brian Williams, 1977-1996
- Evan Williams, 1985-1997
- Jean Williams, 1977-2003
- Ralph Williams, 1978-1983
- John Williamson, 1977-1982
- Ron Wise, 1982-1999
- Lavienna Wood, 1999-2000
- Nancye Wurm, 1979-1989

From Church Trust to Property Finance Committee to Resources Ministry Team

Steadfast through change certainly applies to the organization responsible for developing and maintaining our property and finances from the early Methodist Church Trust days, through to the Resources Ministry Team.

Trustees

Superintendent ministers of circuits were charged with the responsibility of seeing

that all properties were held “on the trusts of the Model Deed, 1902”, that is, as properties recognized by State Government law as being Methodist property. The trustees were responsible for the erection, maintenance and furnishing of the buildings required for the work of preaching and teaching the Gospel, including the parsonages. The trustees of a property were also responsible for the raising of funds to discharge Trust obligations.

New trustees were appointed some time after the completion of the parsonage at 136 Barrabool Road in 1960. The trustees were listed in the ‘Register of Trustees’ in accordance with the Certificate of Registration - “Section six of the principal Act of the said Acts in respect to the land held by the Highton Parsonage Trust at Highton being the land comprised in Certificate of Title volume 8266 Folio 914, and the names are to be entered in the Circuit Trustee Register. Dated 26 May 1969: Norman McDonald, Alwyn Martin Johns, Robert Lawrence Johns, Sydney Ernest Adams, Leonard Charles Dawson, Neville Keith Smith, Albert Rex Smith, Ian Leslie Allan, Harold Edward Pescott, Keith Pryce McDonald, Wesley Hewitt Marshman, Thomas Frederick Tice, Edgar Norman Harding, George Frederick Palmer”.

Trust Meeting Office Bearers

Chairman

The current minister usually occupied the chair at Trust and Property Board meetings.

Secretaries

- Ed. Pescott 1956-1959
- Wes Marshman 1959-1961
- Rex Smith 1961-1970

Treasurers

- Norman McDonald 1956-1967
- Tom King 1967-1973

The Property Boards

The title of ‘Property Board’ superseded the title of ‘Trust’ or ‘Trustees’ under the Methodist Church (Victoria) Property Trust Act of 1970.

The Highton Methodist Property Board maintained the property with the following early members of the board.

Secretaries

- Ken Edwards 1971
- Ralph Chappell 1972
- Jean Williams 1973-1977

Treasurers

- Frank Hicks 1973-1974
- John Rooke 1975-1977

Also

- Judy Angus
- Harold Best
- Jack Cations
- John Findlay
- Wes Marshman
- Maurie Redfern
- Graeme Williams
- John Worner.

Following the formation in 1972 of the Highton Barrabool Hills Parish, a joint St. Luke’s Property Finance Committee was formed in 1977 with representatives from the Methodist Property Board and the Presbyterian Board of Management to administer the Barrabool and Roslyn Road properties. The following people were appointed members of the new board:

- Ted Murrant (Chairman)
- Ian Pooley (Secretary)
- John Rooke (Treasurer)
- Beth Allan
- Des Bath
- Doug Cameron
- Clive Champion
- Eunice Dunstan
- Stan East
- John Findlay
- Murdoch Finlay,
- Claire Peel

Steadfast Through Change

- Bill Rush
- Ken Saxon
- Arch Scott
- Graham Reid
- Patti Timney
- Jean Williams
- John Zimmer

Grounds Committee

- John Zimmer (Convenor)

Building Committee

- Stan East (Convenor)

Noel Patchett, assumed the role of Treasurer of the Property Finance Committee in 1978.

Under the sponsorship of the Property Finance Committee, regular stewardship campaigns have been held. See 'The History of Stewardship-Planned Giving'.

Working Bees have been well attended by committee members supported by members of the congregation, and much has been achieved by hard physical work. Great camaraderie was developed through these communal activities.

During 1985, the following members comprised the Property Finance Committee.

- Ian Pooley (Chairman)
- Frank Hicks (Secretary to March)
- Gil Rush (Secretary from March)
- Noel Patchett (Treasurer)
- Judy Angus
- Des Bath
- Doug Cameron,
- Clive Champion
- Geoff Dawson
- Stan East
- Carole Findlay
- Murdoch Finlay
- Harold Fowler
- John Grills
- Bob Hale
- Jack Hunt
- Don Kendall

- Dorothy Last
- Rev. R Patterson
- Ken Saxon
- Mary Shepherd
- Alf Swan
- Richard Watson
- Jean Williams
- John Zimmer.

Maintenance

It is impossible to list all the projects carried out or authorized by the Committee. Major alterations included the following.

- Alterations to the main Barrabool Road building entry in 1980.
- The construction of a corrugated iron shed between the hall and the preschool fence.

The next major project was the oversight of the construction of the new worship centre and car park in 1983. A special sub-committee was formed to plan and manage the construction. The journey to the completed project is described in an earlier chapter.

The Roslyn Road manse was upgraded in 1991-1992. The two manses require regular attention, particularly when one of the properties becomes vacant between tenancies.

The preschool centre, the hall, the Lane Memorial Hall, the chapel, the memorial garden, two manses, the tennis courts and the worship centre and car parks amount to a considerable asset and require constant monitoring. General maintenance is continually required to keep the property, gardens, equipment and furniture in good working order and to provide a welcoming appearance.

The 1995, records of the annual meeting of the Property Finance Committee show the following names.

- Ivan Stanway (Chairman)
- Gil Rush (Secretary to 1996)

Steadfast Through Change

- Joan Jackson (Secretary from 1966)
- Noel Patchett (Treasurer)
- Ian Allen
- Ken Anderson
- Des Bath
- Clive Champion
- John Grills
- Rev. George Grimmett
- Bob Hale
- Lory Hines
- John Lambert
- Nola McMillan
- Ian Pooley
- Rev. Chand Prasad
- Jean Williams.

This committee functioned until 1999.



Above: Some of the Property Finance Committee members in February 1996.

Back Row L-R: Ivan Stanway, Ian Allan, Des Bath, Lory Hines, Rev. George Grimmett

Front Row L-R: Jean Williams, Joan Jackson, Clive Champion, John Grills, Nola McMillan

With expanding areas of housing development in Highton causing additional traffic, one of the recurring matters pursued by this committee was communicating to the City of Greater Geelong and Vic. Roads the necessity for a roundabout at the corner of Barrabool and Scenic Roads. The completion of this task took some years to achieve

(2002), due to lack of Vic. Roads funding.

In 2005 a major renovation was the enlargement of the hall kitchen to include the adjoining storeroom space. All new cupboards, flooring and appliances were installed. Additional cupboard space was provided in the hall, and a storage cupboard for banners was built on the stage.

Distribution of Parish Assets

A major change in the church organization came in June 1999, when the churches in the Highton-Barrabool Hills Parish joined the South Barwon Uniting Mission Group. This involved certain changes to the ministers' preaching plans, parish finances and assets. It was agreed that the following principles be applied to the distribution of the parish's physical assets.

- The Barrabool manse be assigned to the Hill's congregation.
- The two Highton manses be assigned to the Highton congregation.
- Parish equipment in the Parish office be assigned to the Highton congregation.
- If funds permit, the Parish loan from Highton be repaid.
- If funds permit, some or all of the Development Fund loan on the Roslyn Road manse be repaid.
- Any outstanding loan amount be assigned to the Highton congregation.
- Any funds remaining in the Parish accounts be shared between the Hills and Highton congregations in the ratio of 8:92.

New Structures

In 1999 when individual Church Councils replaced the Parish Council, new structures were adopted at St. Luke's. The following Church Council committees were formed.

Steadfast Through Change

- Property & Finance
- Worship
- Information
- Social Issues
- Youth
- Christian Education
- Pastoral Care

The following people were appointed to the Property & Finance Committee.

- Ivan Stanway (Convenor – Chairman)
- Bob Hale (Secretary Treasurer)
- Ian Allen
- Lory Hines
- Malcolm Marquardt
- Noel McMillan
- Nola McMillan
- Ian Pooley
- Graham Reid

The minister and chairperson of the Church Council were ex-officio members.

Terms of Reference.

1. To manage the Uniting Church properties in the care of the congregation.
2. To be responsible for the leasing of the Highton manses when not required for UCA use.
3. To manage the congregation's finances.
4. To approve routine congregation payments.
5. To recommend significant congregation payments to the Church Council.
6. To monitor the finances of the St. Luke's Highton Pre-School Association.
7. To prepare the annual congregation budget.
8. To manage the congregation's stewardship programmes through sub-committees
9. To oversee the Memorial Garden

Procedural Guidelines for the Property and Finance Committee

1. The Church Council shall determine the committee's membership and appoint the committee's convenor/chair.
2. The committee shall hold an annual meeting in the first part of each calendar year to elect a Secretary, determine its sub-committees for the year and appoint convenors and members for the sub-committees. At least one member of each sub-committee shall be a member of the Property and Finance Committee
3. The committee will keep minutes of its meetings.
4. The committee will report significant issues and recommendations to the Church Council.

When the Church Council was restructured in 2003, the name of the 'Property Finance Committee' was changed to 'Resources Ministry Team'.

The following people were members of the 2006 Resources Ministry Team.

- Ian Pooley (Convenor – Secretary)
- Ian Allen
- Max Hunt
- Nola and Noel McMillan
- Joan Marquardt
- Graham Reid
- Ivan Stanway
- Keith Turrill

Auditors

St. Luke's has been privileged to have the services of auditors who have performed the task of auditing the church finances in a professional manner, always on a gratuitous basis. We are grateful for their generosity, and for the time they have spent working with our treasurers.

Steadfast Through Change

Ray Baverstock performed the role of auditor in the 1960s and 1970s, followed by Keith Turrill and Max Hodder. Frank Hicks followed in the 1990s.

Ivan Stanway has audited the books for the UCAF and other committees.

Don Smith has been the auditor for many years, firstly for the Property Finance Committee, then the Parish Council and he now performs the task for the Resources Ministry Team. We are greatly indebted to Don for his contribution to St. Luke's.

Appreciation

Decisions regarding priorities of spending and making recommendations to the congregation have been part of the Property/Finance Committee's brief. We have been fortunate to have the services of men like Ian Pooley, who has held the position of Secretary from 1979 to 1984, then Chairman from 1984 to 1995 before he took up a position interstate.

A Minute of Appreciation dated 27 February 1995 appears in the Property Finance Committee minute book as follows.

“We record our appreciation of the work of Ian Pooley who has been a member of the Property Committees of the former Presbyterian Church, and since then St. Luke's, since 1970, with the exception of a short period when absent from Geelong. For most of the time he has been involved as chairman/secretary/treasurer, and not only has he fulfilled that role with diligence and foresight, but has also given freely of his time, knowledge and talents in carrying out and organizing the many maintenance tasks and other matters that required his attention.”

Those sentiments continue to apply today. Following Ian's return from

interstate he assumed leadership of the Property Finance Committee in 2000.

Our gratitude is extended to Noel Patchett, who held the important position of treasurer for twenty-one years from 1978 to 1999. Noel's patient and thorough attention to detail, his ability to present comprehensive statements and budgets made a valuable contribution to the smooth operation of the church.

A tribute to Ian Allan is recorded elsewhere. Over the past 40 years, Ian has been a member of the Methodist Leaders' Meetings, the Church Trust, then the Property Finance Committee and is still serving the church as a member of the Resources Ministry Team.

It has not been possible to mention by name all the members of every committee, but we give thanks for each one, not only for the skills and physical work they have contributed, but also the time devoted to the planning, meetings and organization of events. Their efforts have been appreciated, and have been an invaluable contribution to the community of faith at St. Luke's.

Office Staff

- 1980-1990 Mrs Joan Jackson (Secretary-Administrator)
- 1991-1993 Mrs Felicity Johnson (Parish Coordinator)

Office Volunteers

Allan Wurm succeeded Felicity Johnson in the office until ill health prevented him from carrying out the many tasks that he so ably performed, including the Membership Rolls Registrar in 1994.

During this time there were a number of volunteers assisting with the publication of a weekly notice sheet.

Steadfast Through Change

Des Bath then volunteered to compile and print the weekly notice sheets. He performs many tasks that contribute to the smooth running of the office and the church generally.

Since Linda Salamy was elected to the position of convener of the Communication Ministry Team in 2006, the office has been repainted and, updated equipment purchased to permit faster and more efficient operation for the many items produced in the office each week.

The Roles of the Congregation & Congregation Executive

The following article is contributed courtesy of Noel McMillan, Congregation Chairperson, 2007.

“Under Uniting Church regulations, the congregation is the embodiment of the church in the community it serves and has a wide range of purposes. In addition to its faith witness, care and nurture responsibilities, the congregation has many specific functions to perform, such as the selection of a minister, the adoption of a financial budget, the determination of worship times, the direction of its mission outreach and the development of facilities.

In most congregations Church Council is formed to carry out the day-to-day affairs of the congregation with major decisions being referred back for approval at a formal meeting of the congregation.

The congregation also elects representatives to Presbytery and any other bodies that require congregational representation.

Uniting Church regulations require at least two formal meetings of the congregation per year, plus other general

or special meetings as circumstances may dictate. At St. Luke's we normally hold our Annual Congregation Meeting during the first quarter of the year to approve the financial budget, elect the executive and other representatives and to receive reports of activities for the previous calendar year. The Meetings of the congregation also serve as an important communication medium and provide a valuable opportunity for members to raise any issues that they believe should be addressed within the congregation.

The executive of the chairperson and secretary are responsible to the congregation. It is the executive's role to arrange, conduct and keep records of meetings of the congregation as necessary. As the congregation elects church council representatives, the executive also arranges for the election of church councillors, now called 'leaders' and this is done late in the year to take effect in the following calendar year.”

The following people have been office bearers of St. Luke's Congregation meetings:

Chairmen

- Alf Swan 1979-1988
- Mark Seller 1988-1992
- Max King 1993-1997
- Mark Seller 1998-2003
- Noel McMillan 2004 -

Secretaries

- Jean Williams 1978-1988
- Alan Wurm 1988-1995
- Noel McMillan 1996-2003
- Rae Anderson 2004-2005
- Dorothy Ayrton 2006 -

Steadfast Through Change



Above: St. Luke's Congregation, 15 April 2007

Back Row L-R: Malcolm Marquardt, Joan Marquardt, Linda Salamy, Helen Swan, Alf Swan, Brian Williams, Alison Lyons, Max Robertson, Ian Pooley, Liam Salamy, Jeni Verwoert, Geoff Boehm

Second Row From the Back L-R: Marlyn Gilbert, Wes Trigg, Ian Allan, Des Younghusband, Ron Wise, Graham Marshall, Peter Gill, Dawn Ives, Jenny Pooley, Reg Tonkin, Noel McMillan, Ian Lawrence,

Third Row From the Back L-R: John Findlay, Dorothy Bath, Bob McClelland, John Baird, Alison Ralph, Alison John, Elva Baum, Merv. Baum, Ken Allen, Harry Evans

Fourth Row From the Back L-R: Claire Peel, Pam Hopper, Graham Reid, Joy Cameron, Darcy Seller, Ian Hopper, Pearl Mills, Harry Blackmore, Dorothy Perkins, Les Perkins, Beth Allen, Pam Reid, Nola McMillan, Margaret MacDonald, Jill White

Fourth Row From the Front L-R: Mark Seller, Des Bath, Carole Findlay, Lyn Robertson, Heather Tonkin, Una Trigg, Brenda Fraser, Doug Jackson, Edna Hunter, Keith Turrill, Jack Cations, Winsome Cations, Olive Hunt, Carlene Gill, Barbara Cox, Judy Boehm

Third Row From the Front L-R: Kathryn Champness, Patti Tinney, Glenis Stewart, Lyn Evans, Olga Tomkins, Mary Baird, Bev. Baum, Kevin McAvaney

Second Row From the Front L-R: Noel Patchett, Jenny Patchett, Pam Seller, Val Garratt, Loris Murphy, Mary Dawson, Joan Jackson, Trudy Johnson, Cecily Everett, Stephanie Cameron, Hannah Cameron, Peg Vigar, Joan Daniel, Meg Seller, Frances Crawford, Lyn Seng Hpa, Joy McAvaney, Catherine McAvaney

Front Row L-R: Standing - Malcolm John, sitting - Clive Champion, Joyce Champion, Jean Williams, Keith Ash, Lidya Ajak and baby Nehemia, Al. Henderson, Melanie Henderson and Monty, Maurine Wrigley, Betty Bottger, Joan Smith, Anna Salamy, Judi Lawrence, Rev. Rachel Franklin



Above: Supplementary photo of St. Luke's congregation, 27 May 2007

Back Row L-R: Elizabeth Nicholls, Sue Anderson, Wes Marshman, Ian Hunter, Ken Saxon, Ken Anderson, Phil Phelan, Frank Hicks

Centre Row L-R: Emmanuel Eneriko, Terry Ayrton, Dorothy Ayrton, Glad Beckham, Margaret Hunter, Emily McClelland, Wenda Saxon, Christopher McAvaney holding baby Abigail, Robyn McAvaney, Max Hunt, Lino Deng, Lidya Ajak, Gazim Chol in front of Lino

Front Row L-R: Sheridan Salmon with Bronson and Teague, Joan Bell, Ena Reid, Alex McGreachin, Jordon McGreachin, Sarah Chol, Rae Anderson with Joyi Chol, Terzai Amaylick, Joy Hicks

The Parish Council to Church Council

Oversight

The 1971 Joint Advisory Council Document 9 stated that the oversight of the co-operating congregation shall be the responsibility of the Parish Council which shall comprise the members of the Methodist Leaders' Meeting and the Presbyterian Session. The document also stated that: "The function of the Parish Council shall be:

- (i) To share with the ministers the responsibility for spiritual oversight of the congregations; and
- (ii) To have general oversight of all organizations within the congregations.

The Parish Council shall exercise its oversight through an executive comprising leaders and elders, together with the ministers". The executive was directed to report to the Parish Council. An Interim Administration Committee was also formed'.

The implementation of the Cooperating Parish was not without its problems. Some people were enthusiastic and worked hard to fulfill the vision, while others became lost and confused necessitating careful pastoral care. We are indebted to those who shared the vision to make Reconciliation, Renewal and Effectiveness in Mission a reality.

Steadfast Through Change



Above: Parish Council 1981

Back Row L-R: John Findlay, Max King, Lindsay Noble, Eric Tinney, Ian Peterson, Alf Swan, Allan Wurm & Charlie Chappell

Middle Row L-R: Ron Embrey, Keith Turrill, Clive Champion, Rev. Colin Thomson, Stan East, Alan Jensen, Robert Packett

Front Row L-R: Roy McKim, Murdoch Finlay, Jennie Currie, Merle Anderson, Jean Williams & Kevin McAvaney



Above: Highton Barrabool Hills Parish Council, 1986 (Names on the following page)

Steadfast Through Change

Previous Page Bottom: Highton Barrabool Hills Parish Council, 1986

Back Row L-R: Lindsay Morris, Evan Williams, Gil Rush, Mark Seller, Ian Lyall, Lindsay Noble, Lex Gugger, George Merritt, Ken Williams

Middle Row L-R: Doug Green, Jan Hale, Jack McGibbon, Una McGibbon, Ros Leigh, Dot Last, Rod White & Jan Hosie

Front Row L-R: Phillip McGibbon, Graham Lehman, Val Garrett, Ed Nickless (secretary), Max Anderson (chairman), Des Bath, Annis Ballard, John Findlay (secretary)

Parish Council Representation

In accordance with the regulations of the Uniting Church, the following representation was agreed to at a Highton-Barrabool Hills Parish Council meeting in April 1977.

Highton Barrabool Ceres Total				
Elders	6	1	1	8
Lay Preachers	2			2
Member Representatives	16	3	3	22
Property Boards	2	1	1	4
Ministers				2
				38

The following people were present at the meeting.

- Rev. J Robson (Chairman)
- Allan Wurm (Secretary)
- Ray Baverstock (Treasurer)
- Max Hodder (Auditor)
- Ken Allen
- Neville Anderson
- Winsome Cations
- Clive Champion
- Charles Chappell
- Alan Cover

- Stan East
- Ron Embry
- Dianne Glasson
- Richie Hobbs
- David Leigh
- Geoff Leigh
- Edna McCann
- Roy McKim
- George Merritt,
- Ted Murrant
- Lindsay Noble
- Noel Patchett
- Bob Pullin
- Sheila Reid
- Bill Rush
- Lorelle Schonfelder
- Daphne Stewart
- Alf Swan
- Eric Tinney
- Rev. Colin Thomson
- Doug and Freddie Weaver
- Jean Williams

In May 1977, three additional Council members were welcomed.

- Murdoch Finlay,
- John Findlay
- Max Anderson

It was agreed that an executive be appointed consisting of the two ministers, a secretary and four members of the congregation, including one each from Barrabool and Ceres.

Committee Structure

1. Parish Finance Committee
2. Property Finance Board for each member congregation
3. Pastoral Care Committee
4. Parish Stewardship Committee
5. Worship Committee according to each congregation's needs
6. Parish Education Committee
7. Mission Committee

This structure operated with many different members bringing their skills and knowledge to the transition stages of

Steadfast Through Change

the Parish organisation, until 1999, when the Highton-Barrabool Hills Parish joined the South Barwon Uniting Mission Group.

Parish Council Office Bearers

Parish Council Chairmen

- Alf Swan, 1983-1984, 1993-1995
- Max Anderson, 1985-1989
- Ken Anderson, 1990-1992, 1996-1999

Parish Council Secretaries

- Allan Wurm 1983-1984
- Ed. Nickless 1985-1988
- Doug Thompson 1989-1991
- Dennis Holloway 1991- 1992
- Robert Packett 1992-1999

Parish Council Treasurers

- Des Bath 1983-1995
- Bob Hale 1996-1999

Church Council Chairmen

- Ross Lamont 1999-2005
- Mark Seller 2005-

Church Council Secretaries

- Joan Jackson, 1999-2001
- Darcy Seller 2002-2005
- Rae Anderson 2006-

Church Council Treasurers

- Bob Hale, 1999-2001
- Keith Turrill,
- Joan Marquardt
- Dawn Fielder
- Ian Pooley

Auditors

- Frank Hicks
- Don Smith
- Doug Thompson
- Keith Turrill
- Diane Walker

We give thanks to God for these faithful workers ... they have made a difference! Our apologies if we have left anyone out of the list.

In 1999, Synod decreed that individual Church Councils would replace Parish Councils and Parish Elders Councils.

Thus ended a long, productive and affectionate association with the Hills congregations.

Hills Congregation

It is appropriate to mention the names of some of the dedicated workers for God in the Hills' congregations. Several generations of dedicated families have revealed generosity of spirit and faithful commitment as they worked steadfastly through changes in their lives and their church.

These members of the Hills' congregations represented their churches on the Parish Council and other church councils for many years. We do not overlook the contribution and support of these families in their endeavours to serve God and His people in the Barrabool hills.

Barrabool Church

- Dale Anderson
- Max Anderson
- Neville Anderson
- Bob Dickins
- Lex Gugger
- Maureen Lange
- Ken and Nina Loffell
- Lindsay Noble
- Lorelle Schonfelder
- Annette Warren

Ceres Church

- David and Ros Leigh
- Geoff Leigh
- Joy Leigh
- Kevin Leigh
- Edna McCann
- Roy McKim
- Hedley McKim
- Gregor McCann
- George Merritt
- David Thompson

Main Regulation Changes

Two main changes to the Uniting Church regulations were summarized as follows:

Steadfast Through Change

1. The removal of the 'Parish' as a formal structural level within the church, with congregations now relating directly to Presbytery.
2. The method of election of the congregation Church Council.

Task Force

A Task Force was formed on 2 March 1999 to develop a plan for the implementation of the new local church structure at St. Luke's. The following members were nominated with power to co-opt as necessary.

- Jill Bye
- Bob Hale
- Carol Manks
- Keith Turrill

Bob Hale presented the Task Force report to a congregational meeting on 13 April 1999. The report was passed and arrangements for the new structures were approved. Members of the Task Force were thanked for their deliberations and concise recommendations on the future processes.

St Luke's Church Council

Under the new arrangements, St. Luke's Church Council, comprising the minister, elders and congregational representatives, carried out its responsibilities through the following committees:

- Christian Education
- Information
- Social Issues
- Pastoral Care
- Property & Finance
- Worship
- Youth

The work of these committees is described in separate chapters.

Purpose Driven Church

The following article was contributed courtesy of Darcy Seller.

'In 2003, St. Luke's congregation endorsed a recommendation to embrace the central theme of writings by Pastor Rick Warren by re-positioning St. Luke's as a 'purpose-driven church'. Adopting the proposals of a Steering Committee, chaired by Darcy Seller, set up to re-evaluate the church's organizational structures, congregational approval was given to form a new Church Council consisting of the minister and 17 members to be known as 'Leaders'. The Council of Elders was disbanded, the roles of Elders being transferred to the new Leaders, and elections for the new Church Council were held in December 2003.

Six Ministry Teams comprising 6 to 8 members, each convened by a leader, replaced the former committee structure, the complement being made up of interested members of the congregation. The Ministry Teams were set up in response to the church's newly adopted Vision Statement – "To Grow Christians", which focused on the five key purposes of the church – "Exalt ... Encourage ... Edify ... Equip and Evangelize".

The following Ministry Teams were named.

- Communications
- Education
- Mission Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Resourcing
- Worship

The above is only an outline of the functions of the Parish Council in the period through to the Church Council. The work accomplished by the members has been covered largely in other chapters. Space does not permit listing all the activities and the people who have worked to make the churches in Highton, Barrabool and Ceres, steadfast through change.

South Barwon Uniting Mission Group 1999-2004

The Highton-Barrabool Hills Parish joined the South Barwon Uniting Mission Group in June 1999. The Group comprised the Belmont, Highton, Moriac and Barrabool Hills Churches (Ceres and Barrabool).

The Mission Group's goals were to promote co-operative mission between the four congregations and facilitate communication and fellowship. It was agreed that the ministers in the Group would share her/his skills and gifts with all congregations within the Group.

The Mission Group was served by the following people.

Belmont

- Rev. Bob Thomas
- Rev. John Clark
- Nola Noble

Highton

Rev. Dr. Marian Zaunbrecher

Moriac & the Hills

- Rev. John Clark

Plus an elder and a second representative from each congregation.

Robert Packett, Bob Hale and Joan Marshman gave invaluable assistance to the formation of the Mission Group. Max Hunt and Ross Lamont followed them as St. Luke's representatives on the Mission Group Council and we thank them for their commitment and sensitivity.

St. Luke's withdrew from the Group in 2004.

Team Ministries

The Uniting Church policy of team ministries may have worked successfully in many churches, but over a period of years, St. Luke's has endured the tensions and the inherent problems of

several team ministries, and of one joint ministry.

St. Luke's Church & Wider Church Structures in 2006

National Assembly
↓
Synod of Victoria & Tasmania

↓
Presbytery of Barwon

The following are Highton representatives:

- Rev. Rachel Franklin
- Ross Lamont
- Elizabeth Nicholls

↓
Congregational Meetings

- Noel McMillan (Chairperson)
- Dorothy Ayrton (Secretary)

↓
Church Council

- Mark Seller (Chairperson)
- Rae Anderson (Secretary)
- Ian Pooley (Treasurer)

↓
Ministry Teams

Worship

- Jenni Verwoert (Convenor)
- Mark Seller (Leader)

Pastoral Care

- Joan Jackson (Convenor)
- Rae Anderson (Leader)

Education

- Darcy Seller (Convenor)

Mission Outreach

- Ken Anderson (Convenor)
- Alison Lyons (Leader)
- Sue Anderson
- Elizabeth Nicholls

Communication

- Linda Salamy (Convenor)
- Ross Lamont (Leader)

Resources

- Ian Pooley (Convenor)
- Joan Marquardt (Leader)
- Keith Turrill
- Ivan Stanway

Steadfast Through Change

Congregational Meetings Office Bearers



Above: Noel McMillan, Congregation Chairman & Dorothy Ayrton, Congregation Secretary

Church Council Members & Ministry Team Leaders



Above: Rev. Rachel Franklin



Above: Rae Anderson, Secretary of the Church Council, 2006



Above: Jenni Verwoert, Team Leader for the Worship Ministry Team



Above: Mark Seller, Chairman of the Church Council, 2006



Above: Ian Pooley, Treasurer of the Church Council, 2006, as well as Team Leader for the Resources Ministry Team



Above: Linda Salamy, Team Leader for the Communications Ministry Team

Steadfast Through Change



Above: Joan Jackson, Team Leader for the Pastoral Care Ministry Team



Above: Ken Anderson, Team Leader for the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team



Above: Darcy Seller, Team Leader for the Education Ministry Team



*Above: The Worship Ministry Team
L-R: Joan Marquardt, Carole Findlay, Ken Allen, Wes Marshman, Mark Seller & Rachel Franklin*



*Above: The Education Ministry Team
L-R: Lyn Seng pha, Glenis Stewart, Wenda Saxon, Beth Allen, Ian Lawrence, Darcy Seller & Des Younghusband*



*Above: The Resources Ministry Team
L-R: Ian Allan, Nola McMillan, Noel McMillan, Max Hunt, Graham Reid, Ian Pooley*



*Above: The Pastoral Care Ministry Team
L-R: Rae Anderson, Pam Seller, Joan Jackson, Alf Swan, Joy Hicks, Barbara Lamont & Meg Seller*

The History of Stewardship & Planned Giving

Alf Swan wrote the following abbreviated History of Stewardship-Planned Giving in July 1988 when Alf had completed the task of Planned Giving Director for the 1988 campaign. Alf has been involved in many Planned Giving Campaigns both before and after 1988, and his contribution to St. Luke's is widely appreciated. Additional names and information have been added by Jean Williams.

A study of the history of the Methodist Church in Highton reveals that many families pledged annual sums of money and paid pew or seat rents to support the church in the early days. Records show that Highton participated in a free will offering scheme (envelope system) operating in the Circuit in 1929, and the envelope system for weekly circuit collections was in place in 1948 with Norman McDonald as Envelope Steward.

By this time the church was debt free and possessed the sandstone church and the Lane Memorial Hall.

A kitchen was erected at the north end of the church and vestries in 1955.

It was not until 1961 that the first Stewardship Canvas was organized by Stewardship Promotion to raise £10,000 to provide new buildings and outreach.

The minister at this time, Rev. Steve Box, commented in the stewardship brochure "In this rapidly expanding suburb of Geelong, the tremendous challenge which faces us calls for a bold adventure in Christian stewardship.

Through systematic giving, all of our families are invited to share in this programme (of building a new

kindergarten and meeting preaching circuit commitments), and I commend the new method to you."

The 'new method' referred to set the pattern for the years that followed. That is:

- The programme covered a three-year period.
- A printed brochure set out specific objectives and costing.
- A family dinner was held to explain the programme.
- All families were visited and challenged to pledge a 'regular and sacrificial gift'.
- Weekly envelopes were supplied to those who agreed to pledge.

By 1966 two campaigns had been held; dollars replaced pounds and \$30,000 had been paid off a debt of \$60,000, raised to build the kindergarten in 1964 and a new church hall and fellowship room complex, built in 1965.

The Stewardship Review of 1967 sought to raise \$31,500 to reduce the debt and to service the Church's running costs. The minister at the time, Rev. David Pentecost, challenged families "to make the occasion a time of self examination and complete dedication". It was indeed, a continuation of the "bold adventure in faith", which had seen the expansion of buildings, witness and ministry over the intervening years.

The 1970 Methodist campaign was a Stewardship Review with Chairman HHC Williams. In the meantime, the Highton Presbyterian Church, established in 1960, had been following the same pattern of planned giving. In 1972 the Methodist and Presbyterian churches agreed to form a Co-operating Parish and in August the first combined church services were held at the Presbyterian property in Roslyn Road.

Steadfast Through Change

It was appropriate therefore that a one year 'Growing Together' Stewardship Campaign was launched in 1973 by the Highton Cooperating Parish. John Findlay reported that the Methodist campaign did not achieve the budgeted amount and a further campaign would be held in 1974. The chairman of that campaign, John Findlay, was "satisfied with the result." This was followed by another programme in 1975 with Ken MacDonald as chairman. The Parish Joint Purse was introduced in 1975.

Clive Champion as convenor organized a programme in 1976. Noel Patchett was the convenor of the 1978 programme. The Stewardship Committee then decided not to proceed with the usual canvass and recording of pledges until 1980 when it could be seen that St. Luke's was falling behind in its contributions to the wider work through Synod and Presbytery and that the consolidation of all activities at Barrabool Road required a big lift in giving.

In 1981, the Uniting Church Stewardship Promotion Agency's David Ackland was engaged to run a Planned Giving Campaign with the re-introduction of pledge recording and quarterly reporting to all involved. Alf Swan was the convenor.

By 1983, it was clear that a larger worship centre was needed to cater for St. Luke's 300 families and the number of meetings and associated organizations. So a Building Appeal was launched, quite separate from Planned Giving. The response to this was quite staggering, enabling the present worship centre to be built and opened in August at a cost of \$235,000, \$160,000 of which came from the sale of the former Presbyterian church property at Roslyn Road.

The Stewardship Promotion Agency was engaged again in 1984 for a three-year programme. The Director was Laurie Ackland and the Chairman was Bob Hale.

At a Congregational meeting in June, 1987 it was resolved that a further three-year Programme should be organized and Alf Swan was elected Director. A number of positive things emerged apart from an increase of 12% in giving. The canvas visitors performed an important pastoral function by visiting all families, including over 100 new families since 1984, half of whom pledged.

By 1988, 211 families were pledging and their offering supported the bulk of the Church's local and wider outreach. Alf Swan's final comment reads as follows.

'Whereas the first stewardship campaigns were aimed at increasing plant and the ability to meet local needs, the more recent emphases have been on funding services and outreach to the wider community. The Church buildings are used much more by a diversity of organisations. Maybe we are seeing the return of the Church in its fullest sense as the community centre'.

The Next Period

The Property Finance Committee allocated \$2,000 annually for future stewardship campaigns. 'New Life Through Planned Giving' was the theme for the 1989 programme under the direction of Geoff Harwood of Stewardship Australia.

The 1992 programme followed this, with co-chairpersons Beth Allen and John Fox. 'Celebrate Your Gifts' was the theme of the programme directed by Peter Brake of Stewardship Australia.

In 1995, the programme was conducted by Stewardship Australia - goals were

Steadfast Through Change

'Planned Growth – Mission'. During the second year of the programme Noel McMillan, chairman, reported, "The excellent result to date reflects the discipline of members in maintaining their pledge commitments."

The Continuation committee comprised Noel McMillan, chairman, Ken Anderson, Nancye Wurm, Sue Anderson, and Joy Hicks. Nancye and Allan Wurm were also thanked for their secretarial contributions.

After extending the 1995 campaign for a further twelve months, the next successful programme was coordinated by Noel McMillan in 1999 with Geoff Harwood, Stewardship Consultant from Stewardship Australia. Noel reported a committed increase in giving of approximately 16%. At the end of the programme 92% of the amount pledged was received.

Recent programs have been:

2003 March - St. Luke's Mission Program organized by the Mission Strategy Group. The committee reported 92.58% received for the programme to January 2004.

2005 May - Investing for Mission Program. Coordinated by Keith Shrimpton, the committee included the following:

- Ken Anderson
- Judy Boehm
- Rev. Rachel Franklin.
- Joan Jackson

The congregation was encouraged to use the 'direct debit' method for stewardship contributions.

2006 May - Investing for Mission Program. Coordinated by Des Youngusband, the committee included:

- Ken Anderson
- Judy Boehm

- Rev. Rachel Franklin.
- Joan Jackson
- Keith Shrimpton

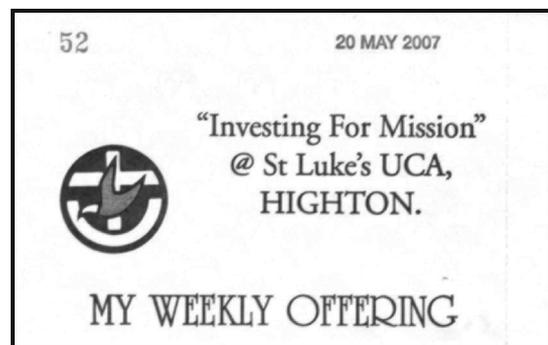
Continuation Committees

We need to recognise and thank the members of the Continuation Committees who have worked in the background over the years. These dedicated people keep the progress of pledge fulfillment under review and report to Church Council via the Resources Ministry Team. The following people are members of the Continuation Committee in 2007.

- Ken Anderson
- Judy Boehm
- Rev. Rachel Franklin.
- Joan Jackson
- Ian Pooley



Above: The planned giving continuation committee, May 2007 L-R: Judy Boehm, Joan Jackson, Ian Pooley & Doug Jackson assisting. Absent were Rev. R Franklin and Ken Anderson



Above: A pledged giving envelope

Steadfast Through Change

Recorders

Offering envelopes are available for distribution to all pledged givers and other envelope users. It is the responsibility of the Recorder to see that the records are kept and at monthly or quarterly intervals, provide the Continuation Committee with the details of progress of the pledged giving. With the Continuation Chairman, the Recorder is responsible for advising all families of offerings received quarterly.

- Sudanese Community
- Tennis Club
- UCAF
- Youth Club
- Youth Housing

We are indebted to known Recorders in the past such as Helen Swan, Recorder for eleven years, Nancye Wurm who carried out the task regularly for three years, and Joan Marshman, who was the Recorder for four years to 1999. Judy Boehm has been St. Luke's recorder since 1999.

Church & Outreach Groups 2006

- Archives
- Book Club
- Bushikori Orphans
- Carol Singers
- Choir
- Church Carnival & Expo
- Cooking Classes for Men
- Craft Group
- Environment Action
- Investing In Mission Stewardship
- Kid's Church
- Know Your Bible
- Library
- Memorial Garden
- Midweek Worship
- Office
- Praise & Worship
- Prayer Chain
- Preschool
- Refugee Loan Fund
- Sewing Group for Sudanese women
- Social Issues
- St. Luke's Wheels
- Study Groups