



COLLINS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

A church for the city since 1843

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

With special thanks to Geoff Maddock
for his photography

OUR MISSION

In the 176th year of the church's life, the people of Collins Street Baptist Church have continued to heed the call of the prophet Micah *"to do justice, to love kindness and walk humbly with God."* As it has done through the church's history, this call has shaped our life together this year and determined our priorities in mission: the priorities of hospitality, justice and growth.

HOSPITALITY

Collins Street is a church of open doors. The hospitality of God is key to our understanding of mission. In all that we do, we seek to embody the welcoming and indiscriminate grace of God.

JUSTICE

Collins Street is a community engaged with the challenges facing our neighbours near and far. Wherever possible, we seek to play our part in nurturing a just and inclusive society.

GROWTH

As followers of Jesus, the people of Collins Street form a community deeply rooted in the Christian tradition. Through practices of faith, worship and mutual support, we seek to encourage one another to a deeper engagement with God through Jesus Christ.



OUR LEADERSHIP



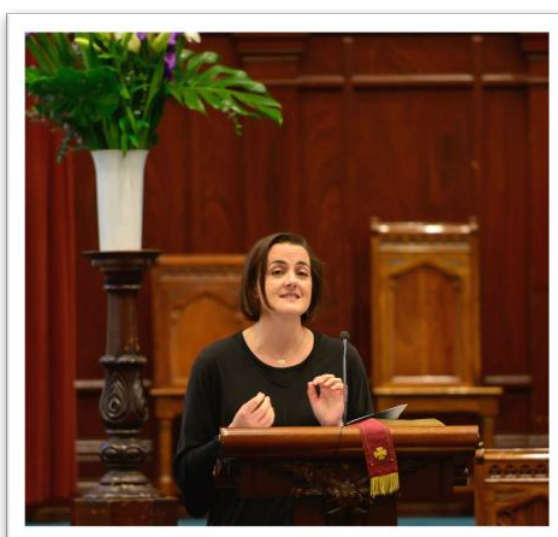
The ministers of Collins Street Baptist Church are members of this community who respond to the call of Jesus, 'Follow me!' From among these, our deacons are elected to provide leadership and administrative oversight to the community, each one invested with a particular area of responsibility. In the past year our deacons have served us in various ways: Robert Iles (secretary); Paulo Pereira (treasurer); Ros Otzen (worship); Lynne Chapman and Neil Wright (pastoral care); Katherine Jones (spiritual nurture and education); Nigel Smith (property development); and Stefanie Pearce (partnerships).



OUR PASTORAL TEAM



Upon the unanimous decision of members, and in a service of commissioning on Sunday February 10, Simon Carey Holt and Carolyn Francis were officially inducted as co-pastors of the church, Carolyn as *Pastor for Teaching and Worship* and Simon as *Pastor for Care and Community*. This represents a new chapter in the pastoral leadership of Collins Street, supported by the reappointment of Sherry Maddock as *Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator* for a further three-year term.



OUR CHURCH STAFF



Over the past year we have been gifted with the work of a dedicated staff team including Anne Junor (PA and Receptionist), Setel Adem (Caretaker), Tekeste Andemeskel (Property Officer), Linda Bossard (Kids@Collins Coordinator), Linda Cully (Bookkeeper) and Vicky Gomes Pereira dos Santos (Barista).

OUR NEW MEMBERS

Since our last AGM, we have welcomed eight new members into the ministry and fellowship of the church.

Penny White first joined us at Collins Street when she moved with her husband Peter to the inner city suburb of Fitzroy. They came to us after many years of service with St Hilary's Anglican Church in Kew. Penny works with the Bible Society.

Mardea Tachee and her husband Ernest first came to Collins Street on their arrival in Australia as refugees back in 2004. They fled civil war and persecution in their homeland of Liberia. Though there have been many moves since then, entering formally into the membership of the church has been an important step for Mardea.

Joanna Lee is originally from Malaysia where, at 12 years of age, she was baptised in a Baptist church. Joanna first came to Melbourne in 2010 to begin her university studies and is now in the final stretch of her PhD in history at Monash University.

Megan Williams began attending here at Collins Street upon her move from Canberra to begin policy development work with World Vision. Megan comes to us from the Canberra Baptist Church and is studying theology at Whitley College.

Leigh and Cheryl Reeves began attending at Collins Street after moving into their new home in the Docklands. They came to us after three decades of service and leadership in the Beaconsfield Baptist Church.

Judy and David Morgan began attending at Collins Street on their move from Rowville to Kensington after many years of fellowship at City Life Church in Waverly. They are both involved in tertiary education.



TEACHING AND WORSHIP

Carolyn Francis

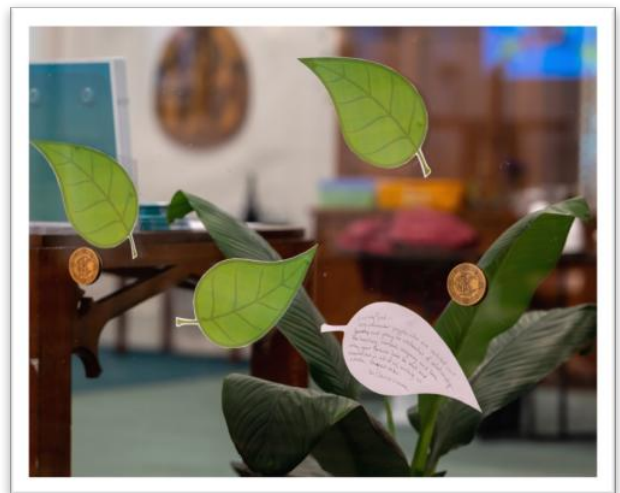
After 7 years of ministry as Associate Pastor at CSBC it was my great privilege to be appointed this year as Co-Pastor of the church, with responsibility for Teaching and Worship. I have experienced this new responsibility and calling as a great gift and affirmation, as a confirmation of my vocation, and as a challenge to rise up to and meet. I am growing into this significant new calling.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our Sunday morning services have continued to provide the focus for our worship and teaching. It has been a significant source of joy to me that our music, which is so central to our worship, has been led by a range of people this year. David Cundy, Christopher Parsons, Marita Munro and Kenny Wang have all regularly led our congregational singing from the organ, piano or keyboard.

Our themes for teaching and preaching have reflected the diverse range of interests and convictions of our community, and our ongoing commitment to engagement with the scriptures and with the cultural and experiences of our time and place. The continued teaching ministry of my friend and colleague Simon Carey Holt has been an ongoing encouragement to us all, and I am delighted that he continues to serve in this way, even as he turns much of his attention to the ministry of care and community this year.

In the latter part of 2018 we explored the affirmation of creation in Genesis **And It Was Good** as we were encouraged by God's delight in, and love for, all the world and its people. We were grateful for the preaching and ministry of Sherry Maddock who helped us explore our commitments to the neighbourhood, to asylum



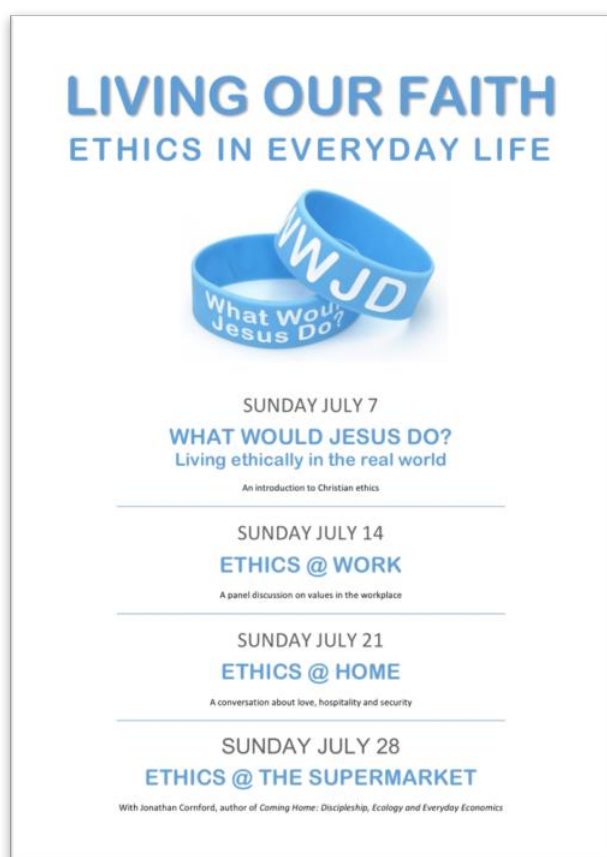
seekers and refugees, to hospitality and to the living and growing plant life of our green city.

Our theme for Advent in 2018 was **All Things New**. David Cundy added his gifts to our annual Christmas service of carols and readings with the beautiful addition of a harp, and by leading our choir, which rehearsed throughout December.

We marked Lent and Easter in 2019 by calling one another to engage in some of the **Unfashionable, yet Necessary Practices** of the Christian faith, including Restraint, Silence, Slowing Down, Sacrifice and Forgiveness. During Holy Week our beautiful services of contemplation and participation included opportunities to share communion, to engage our senses of smell and touch led by Ben Verghese, to receive musical gifts from David Cundy, and to hear again the story of Christ's Passion and Death. As is our annual tradition, members of our community walked in the city's *Good Friday Walk of the Cross*, organized by the Melbourne City Churches in Action with the lion's share of the work done by our own Stefanie Pearce. As the procession of thousands of people makes its way down Collins Street to the steps and street in front of CSBC, it is always an immense honour to lead the people in liturgy and prayer.

Simon curated a wonderful series on **The Ethics of Everyday Life** drawing on contributions from a range of people in the community and beyond. We have been immensely grateful for the preaching and teaching offered this year by our gifted church members and friends of the community. We have heard from Sean Winter, Penny White, Frank Rees, Jonathan Cornford, Robert Iles, Brenda Holt, Ros Otzen, Geoff Maddock and Sherry Maddock.

In August, our annual **Festival of Films** was, once again, a great highlight in our teaching and preaching programme. Coinciding with the Melbourne International Film Festival, this series



offers us an opportunity to engage with contemporary stories and art forms, and also encourages us all to learn new ways to exegete our own culture. This year's films included 2 Australian explorations of Indigenous Culture, *Samson and Delilah* and *The Song Keepers*, as well as the 2018 Academy Award winner for Best Picture, *Green Book*.

We have recently completed a 4-week series on the **Letter to the Ephesians**, exploring possibilities for spiritual growth and call to Christian maturity through the lens of this significant piece of New Testament wisdom.

TEACHING & LEARNING

The teaching and preaching which occurs on Sunday mornings is accompanied by other opportunities to learn throughout the year. Several small groups meet either in people's homes, or at CSBC on weeknights or Sunday afternoons. Simon Holt, with Brenda Holt, Katherine Jones and Sean Winter offered an immensely popular series, ***Let Your Life Speak*** in which people engaged with questions of calling, vocation and purpose. Sherry and Geoff Maddock have provided opportunities for learning in the Green Room through the ***Propagate*** series. Barbara Martin, Thomas Cheok and Amanda Mao lead a bible study on Sunday afternoons, and are currently exploring the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

In 2019 we farewelled our Children's Ministry Co-ordinator, **Linda Bossard**. For several years Linda has offered a place of teaching and discussion for our children during part of our Sunday morning service. Linda was dearly loved by our children, and saw this ministry as an important part of her own vocation as a teacher. Linda has moved away from Melbourne, and we now face the challenge of re-imagining our approach to teaching and engaging with the children in our community. This is an area of prayer and discernment in the community months.

Collins St Baptist Church's **7th ANNUAL**

FESTIVAL OF FILMS

EXPLORING FILM THROUGH THE LENS OF FAITH



SUNDAY AUGUST 4, 10.30am
Green Book

Inspired by the true story of African American pianist Don Shirley and his 1962 tour of the Deep South accompanied by his unlikely ally, Italian American driver and bodyguard Frank Vallelonga, this movie won the Oscar for Best Picture in 2018.
Presented by CAROLYN FRANCIS



SUNDAY AUGUST 11, 10.30am
Samson and Delilah

A confronting film about love and survival filmed in and around Alice Springs. This drama by Warwick Thornton won the coveted Camera d'Or prize for best feature film at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival.
Presented by SEAN WINTER

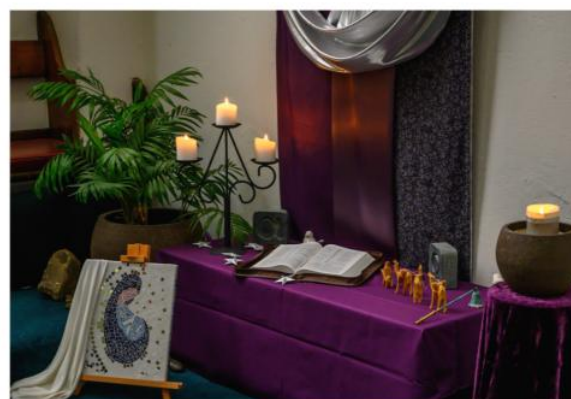


SUNDAY AUGUST 18, 10.30am
The Song Keepers

An inspiring documentary from 2017 detailing the international adventures of an indigenous women's choir, their charismatic conductor, and the extraordinary project to preserve ancient indigenous language alongside European musical influences.
Presented by CAROLYN FRANCIS

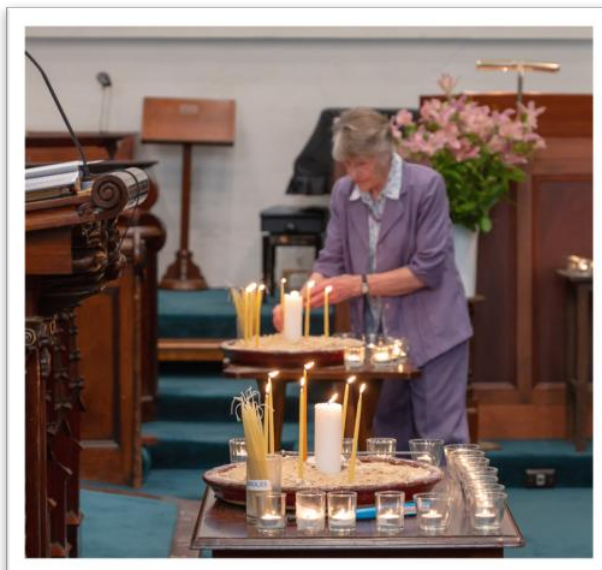
Watch the film at home, and then come and explore the impact of its story

COINCIDING WITH THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



In the year to come our aim is to enhance our ministries of teaching and worship in the following ways:

- increasing the participation of the church community in worship services and the provision of the music ministry
- introducing a new range of contemporary worship resources including congregational songs and hymns
- deepening our engagement with our culture through teaching and preaching which intentionally connects biblical wisdom, Christian theology and contemporary questions, concerns and issues
- offering a range of ways for people to engage with the themes and questions of our teaching and preaching ministries beyond Sunday services.



CARE AND COMMUNITY

Simon Carey Holt

In my tenth year of ministry at Collins Street, I have been delighted to accept a reimagined call to a co-pastoring role with my colleague and friend Carolyn Francis. Giving focus to the ministries of care and community has brought new energy to my work and a new appreciation for the unique worth this community.

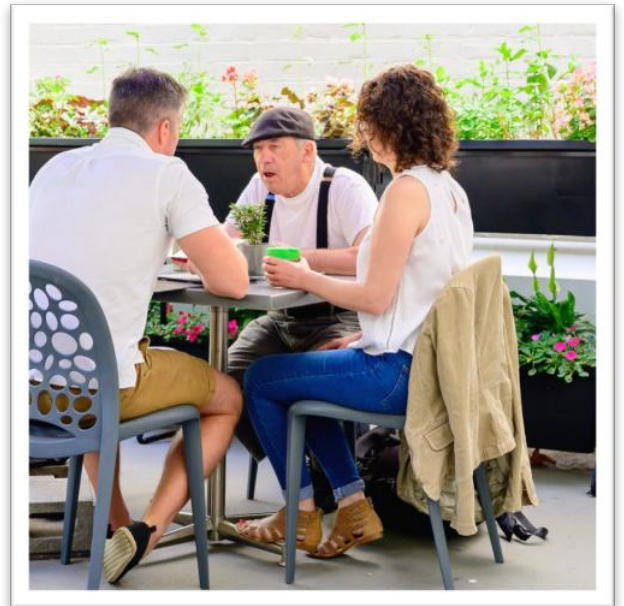
PASTORAL CARE

The experiences of care and connection have continued to be an important part of our life together. Though an increasing number of people in our church live within walking distance of our buildings, still we have people travelling into Collins Street from various parts of Melbourne. Finding ways to strengthen our sense of community and to care for those in need is an ongoing challenge.

Our deacons Neil Wright and Lynne Chapman have continued leading our pastoral care team — a small band of volunteers who've worked hard to maintain contact with congregational members and in to make our visitors feel welcome. Conversations have begun about ways to expand the ministry of this group and to nurture more organic ways for people to connect and care for each other.

NURTURING THE SPIRIT

Over the last year we have offered various programs to nurture the spirit of those seeking a deeper relationship with God. In February and March we offered a five week program called **Let Your Life Speak**, assisting participants to explore their own sense of calling and vocation. We had more than fifty people participate. Geoff and Sherry Maddock have hosted a series of workshops through 2019 called **Propagate**,



drawing connections between plant life and our spirituality. And in October this year twenty-five of us participated in a one-day ***spiritual retreat*** at the WellSpring Centre in Ashburton.

SUNDAY LUNCHES

Our Sunday morning teas in the narthex have provided opportunities to connect with newcomers while the casual Sunday lunches hosted by Thomas and Theresa Cheek have provided more regular connections for those who join in. We have also hosted several *Soup in the Greenroom* lunches following the morning service.

THE JUNCTION

The Junction continues to provide a community of support most especially to those in the LGBTIQ community. Over the last year this group has provided both a context of worship and opportunities for connection and conversation. The flexibility of its leadership in adapting to changing needs is admirable and I am thankful for them.

SUPPORTING MISSION

Over many years we have provided financial and prayer support to those of our members engaged in mission in places as far afield as Taiwan, Cambodia, Uganda, and Indonesia. Barbara Martin's extraordinary leadership in fund raising and other expressions of support has added significantly to this.

COMMUNION FUND

Each communion Sunday we have taken up a special offering to provide support and care to those in and around our neighbourhood in special need. The generosity this has enabled is rarely seen by the majority of us but is deeply appreciated



NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT

Sherry Maddock

With a sense of privilege, I am delighted to have embarked on the next three years of my ministry as *Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator*.

THE GREEN ROOM

As an indoor garden and kitchen space at the back door of the church, the Green Room has been hosting regular events and activities for our neighbourhood. Every Wednesday, an open-door lunch includes staff in the building, volunteers from the café and a varying group of people seeking asylum. It is a time of food, learning and meaningful encounters. On Sundays, it is a place for gatherings such as *Propagate*, *The Junction* and *Soup in the Green Room*.

VERANDAH CAFÉ

After its beginning in 2008, and a short period of re-evaluation and restructure in late 2017, our reopened café is flourishing under Lesley Iles' expert management. The financial support required has dropped while the number of regular customers has increased. Visitors are delighted to discover the café and the peaceful sanctuary behind it. The Pearl Shop roof garden has become a green oasis and we are truly providing hospitality and warm engagement with the city.

Cafe volunteers (and bakers) this year have included Neil, Robin, Ben, Theresa, Yelena, Judy, Barbara, Abi, Peter R and H, Marilyn, Hirut, Yaya, Georgi, Anna, Judy H and M, Lynne, Natalie, Colette, Setel, Stefanie, Sherry, Simon, Iris, Pauline, Bruce, Sam, Ros, Michele, and of course Robert and Lesley; all supporting our dedicated paid baristas Vicky and David.



The garden on the Verandah continues to thrive and attract café customers. Each week people provide compliments to the plants, affirming the space as an appealing oasis in the heart of the city. Even our little Japanese Maple tree, planted in memory of Val Green, survived the winter and has awakened with the arrival of spring.

BAPTCARE SANCTUARY

Over the last year CSBC has a strong, multi-plex relationship with Baptcare Sanctuary's program for people seeking asylum. As a ministry of housing for those most at risk for homelessness, we have two women settled and at home on level 9 of Central House. In addition, the Verandah Café is a warm and welcoming space for a few asylum seekers to volunteer and gain much needed language skills and work experience. Finally, the Green Room on level 1 of Central House is growing in familiarity as a place of hospitality, learning and a resource for indoor plants.

PLANTED PLACES

In addition to cultivating relationships with people, plants and place in the Green Room, Planted Places maintains the garden on the Verandah and plants throughout Central House. Currently Planted Places is conducting a twelve-week garden project at Sanctuary Brunswick, a housing facility for 35 men seeking asylum.



GOSPEL HALL INC.

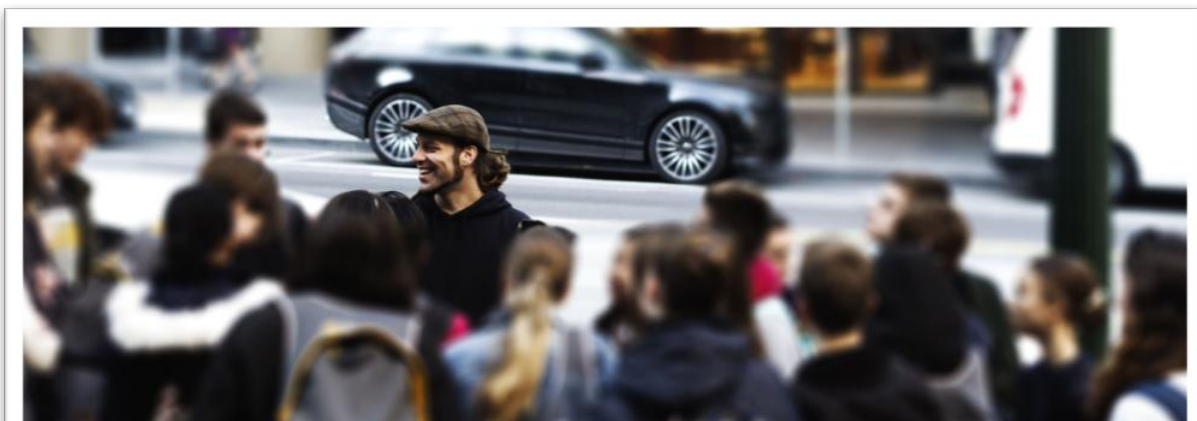
Stefanie Pearce

With a long and extraordinary history birthed by and associated with Collins Street, the *Gospel Hall* continues to provide supported accommodation for young people at risk of homelessness. The facility located in Little Bourke Street, *Lion Garden*, has, to date, provided a home to 89 young people who have lived there for up to three years.

THE INTERSECTION

The Intersection: Urban Education emerged out of the closure of *Urban Seed* and is now thriving as a ministry of the *Gospel Hall*. With a dedicated staff team of educators under the leadership of Managing Director Mayra Stark, *The Intersection* continues to operate guided walks and educational programs for school and community groups and is headquartered on the ground floor of Ancient Times House, the Gospel Hall facility.

Each year GHI seeks the endorsement of CSBC to appoint its committee of management. This year those appointed are Frank Rees, Stefanie Pearce, Monica Lusardo, Peter White, Carol Geyer, Noel Williams, Lynlee Williams, Ian Hughes and Susan Frykberg. We are grateful for their service.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Paulo Pereira

Here we are at the end of another financial year and as I present our Annual Financial Report and I thank God for the church He has blessed us with.

Figure 1 below depicts our sources of income for the recently completed fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. The figure shows that the biggest share of income comes from the Trust Fund (52%) followed by offerings from our community (24%) and rent from our facilities (16%).

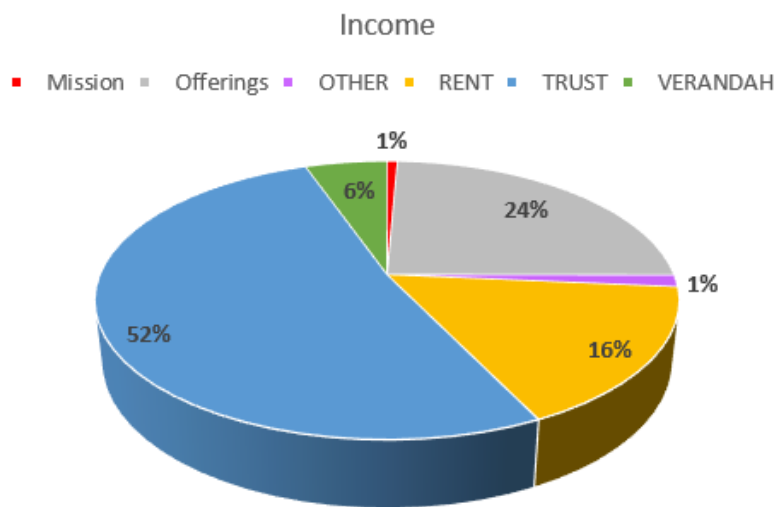


Figure 1 – Sources of Income – FY 18/19

Figure 2 shows how CSBC uses the money entrusted to us.

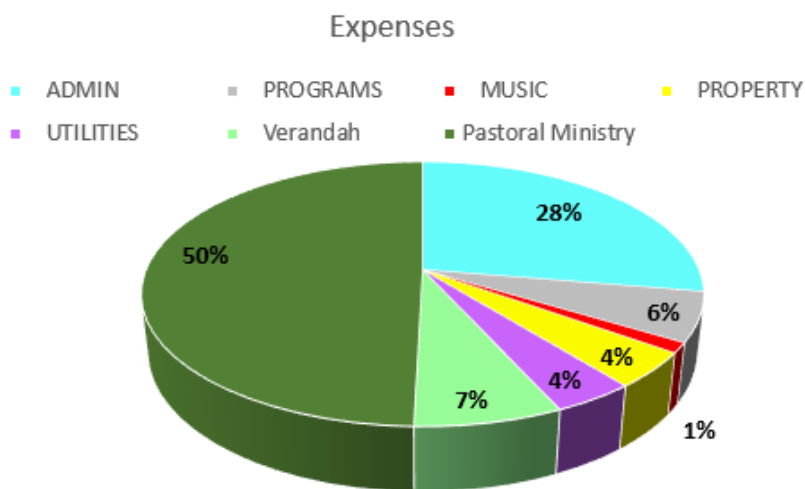


Figure 2 – Operating Budget Expense – FY 18/19

For the second consecutive time, we were able to finalise the fiscal year without using the 12 cash transfers from the Trust Fund. This was only possible due to the generosity of our community

demonstrated by a significant increase in our offerings. I would like to stress that, regardless of not using all the grant transfer we were able to achieve everything that we planned and more, including an extra donation to the missionary fund.

The full financial statements for the financial year ending June 30 2019 along with the auditor's report are provided to members as a separate document. Copies of this document are available in the narthex for those who are interested.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our *Strategic Financial Committee*, Anne Junor and Linda Cully.

Finally, I thank all of you for the confidence and support I have received from church family, Diaconate, Pastors and the Church Trust Fund trustees. I ask you to keep the Financial Committee in your prayers so that we can continue in our mission:

***"... to do justice,
to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God."***

Micah 6.8

IN MEMORY



Rosalind Frances Wright 1947 – 2019

Our beloved member, friend and sister in Christ, Ros Wright, passed away on March 30, 2019 after journeying with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma for nearly 2 years. It was our great privilege to host Ros's funeral service at CSBC on April 8 and we continue to hold Ros's family: Neil, Karyn, Malcolm and Jackie, in prayer.

Ros and Neil became members of Collins St Baptist Church in 2005. Both have served as deacons of the church, and were part of our former 5pm community before finding their home as treasured members of our morning congregation. For the last 19 years of Ros's life her ministry and vocation was as a spiritual director. Her love of contemplation, prayer and beauty had a significant impact on this worshipping community, and is most tangibly seen in the prayer space at the front of the sanctuary, which Ros envisaged, created and nurtured. "Ros's corner" continues to be nurtured by Neil Wright and Tania Hurran – a gift to us all and an ongoing tribute to Ros's ministry, faith and vocation.

We give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Ros Wright.