



# Welcome to Bayside

Community Church



Summer 2015/2016

## OUR LEADERSHIP

### Staff

**AM Congregational Pastor** Mark Falson  
0423 201 261 • [mark@baysidecc.com.au](mailto:mark@baysidecc.com.au)

**Breathe Congregational Pastor** Nicole Regan  
0423 246 482 • [nicole@baysidecc.com.au](mailto:nicole@baysidecc.com.au)

**Children's Pastor** Carolyn Schache  
0416 084 413 • [carolyn@baysidecc.com.au](mailto:carolyn@baysidecc.com.au)

**Youth Worker** Tom Burton  
0450 625 963 • [tom@baysidecc.com.au](mailto:tom@baysidecc.com.au)

**Communications/Admin** Amanda Faase  
0432 842 866 • [amanda@baysidecc.com.au](mailto:amanda@baysidecc.com.au)

**Community Support Coordinator** Matthew Pettett  
Concord West Public School

**School Chaplain** Chris Prouty  
Homebush West Public School

## 2016 Oversight Team

Sanjay Chandumal • Daniel Debenedetti • Rob Kirk • Daniel Lee • Tania Tsang

## CONTACT US

**Web** [www.baysidecc.com.au](http://www.baysidecc.com.au) **Email** [info@baysidecc.com.au](mailto:info@baysidecc.com.au)

**Office/Arthur St Centre (ASC)** 59 Arthur Street Homebush West 2140

**Phone** 9029 3024 **Mail** PO Box 338 Concord West 2138

Are you getting our weekly enews?

If not and you'd like to, send us an email and we'll be sure to include you!

## OUR OFFERING ACCOUNT

Bayside Community Church BSB 704-922 Account No. 100001094



[www.facebook.com/buildingcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/buildingcommunity)

Bayside Community Church is part of the NSW & ACT Baptist Association



*May God bless you today! And may God surprise you and amaze you in the coming weeks.*

As we approach Christmas this December, we are focusing on the mystery of Christmas. You can surely say that "God works in mysterious ways" when you think about the events of the Christmas story! **May we be stunned** by God's love and ingenuity to send us Jesus as our Emmanuel, "God with us". **May you be astonished** at how God works in mysterious ways in your own life, as you recognise Jesus with you in the ongoing events of your own story. It is wonderful to have a Saviour! As a community we are seeking to embrace this season with thankfulness and openness to what God wants to do, as we walk with him - together!

This January we are exploring the theme 'Limitless'. It's a big challenge to try to grasp the awesomeness of a **limitless God** with our puny human minds. We're so used to living with our own limitations, but let's not limit our expectations about God! What better way to start the new year than by blowing away the cobwebs of our old, limited thinking? God is graciously giving us a fresh start.

Believing in a **limitless God** means we can stop predicting the same old patterns for ourselves, regardless of what has or hasn't happened in the past. We can leave all that behind, and press into knowing our God who is...limitless. His love for us and for our world is limitless. His power is limitless! As we grapple with what God's limitless nature means for us together, may God bless you with refreshment, new hope, and good friends to share the journey of life. Enjoy the summer!

*Carolyn Schache, children's pastor*

**Kids Christmas Service**

Puppets\* Music\* Craft\*

10am

Concord West Public School

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Carols on the Tennis Court**

7.30pm

Wentworth Point

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Kids activities from 6.30pm



**Breakfast on Christmas Day**

Concord West Public School

9-10:15am

No RSVP necessary

Our gift to you



Want to know more? Contact Mark 0423201261 ★ Nicole 0423246482 ★ [info@baysidecc.com.au](mailto:info@baysidecc.com.au)

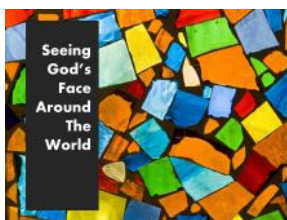
## Bayside AM in 2015

In many ways, the annual thanksgiving and celebration service at the end of November summed up the year nicely for Bayside AM congregation. A story of God's movement among us, of a number of people stepping up and out in faith (in both breathe and AM) and of a community preparing in some ways in anticipation of a new senior pastor, the sense of story and celebration of our God on that day was palpable.

Earlier in the year after our summer series in January we'd explored together 'Whispers of another Kingdom', checking out some of the many hints and inklings we get in the scriptures of the reality of God's Kingdom even as we live right in the 'here and now' of Sydney in 2015. This awesome Kingdom of invitation, of growth, of Good News and grace offering hope in Jesus for right now but also stretching into eternity impacts powerfully on the way we live and see our lives. It was a good place to start!



Term 2 began out of a Spirit-inspired conversation which led to Carolyn and Mark speaking about how each one of us as new creations in Christ can 'flourish' and pursue our God given dreams, with the unique passions and giftings He has given us. It was a challenge to look around us, eyes wide open, and see the opportunities God gives us to be the presence of Jesus to all those we come into contact with each week.



Mission month followed in June as we were encouraged to 'See God's face around the World', to see God at work through His people in His world, including some Baysiders who shared stories of their involvements in this.

After a 'big' and melodic visit from Watoto in July, the second half of the year brought reminders about why we do what we do (because God so loved the world, he sent Jesus!), so we too can love others as He loves them.



Among other things a significant challenge to our modern ways of living came in our 'God, Rhythm and Rest' series and there was also a look at the 'enlivening' presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Steve Frost shared a timely message with us over two weeks, 'The Way of Love', the second week of which, interestingly, considering the topic material, coincided with the November attacks in Paris.



**Sometimes it's when you look back over a year that you see most clearly the weavings of the Spirit through what we've explored together and that is certainly the case for Bayside AM in 2015.**

There has been a real sense that the Spirit has led us to hear and to focus on the things we most needed to this year. He has used a great variety of voices to do that among us so thanks to Carolyn, Rachel and Tom from staff team, to Ben Hallam, Bron Fraser, Mel Wellings and Steve and Louise Bartlett from our own Bayside community and to Warren Griffin, Pete Davies and Steve Frost for coming in to share with us at various times during the year. Our community's ability to hear God's voice well is enhanced by hearing through such a gifted variety of mouthpieces.

But perhaps the most powerful 'story' of the year was the many stories we heard along the way of God at work in the lives of various extraordinary, 'ordinary' Baysiders who were listening to the whispers of the Spirit, pursuing the 'dreams' and opportunities he has given them and serving the Lord in a variety of ways.

For these are the real life testimonies of a God of 'movement' who graciously works among the people he loves for the sake of the world.

All the other stuff is simply encouragement to keep our eyes fixed on Him in all of life, and be ready to 'move' with Him. And this is some of what we were able to celebrate, alongside our brothers and sisters from Breathe, so wonderfully in our combined service in late November.

*May 2016 be full of new opportunities to see God at work in and amongst us in new and perhaps surprising ways, and may we each continue to be ready to respond to His voice and promptings along the way.*

*Grace and peace,*

*Mark Falson (AM congregation pastor)*

# 10am @ Concord West Public School

## December 13

It's the KidZone Christmas service with guest puppeteers Quiz Worx. There's also singing and craft.

## December 20

Explore the Christmas story this morning. It's going to be a time of carols and bible readings and reflection. The service will suit all ages. So come along!



## December 25—Christmas Day

We're again hosting breakfast for the community. Everyone's welcome!

The morning starts at the earlier time of 9am. In addition to some great food, there'll be some carol singing, Christmas fun and a short message.

## It's Summer church in January

The God of the bible is a God without limits which is a concept beyond our imagining. What does this mean for us as we allow a limitless God to impact us personally and powerfully with His limitless love.. limitless grace.. limitless joy.. limitless hope and limitless peace?



We'll hear from Tom Burton (27th Dec), Carolyn Schache (3rd), Ben Hallam (10th), Mark Falson (17th & 24th)

***KidZone and Priority One will resume on 31 January. Activity Sheets suitable for all the KidZone ages will be available during the services over the holidays. Holiday Hullabaloo starts 10 January.***

**Podcasts of the messages can be downloaded at [www.baysidecc.com.au](http://www.baysidecc.com.au)**

*You're invited to a*  
**Christmas Celebration**  
*5pm Sunday December 20*

Pulse Outdoor Pool Room  
Corniche Dr Wentworth Point

Join us in celebrating  
the year that's been &  
the joy of the season!

Please bring your favourite  
Christmas main to share,  
swimming optional.

More info needed?  
Contact Nicole 0423246482

 **breathe.**  
breathecommunity.com.au





## 2015 Highlights

### Easter

This year Breathe once again helped our local community celebrate Easter. It was a really fun morning with storytime, craft, guessing competitions, and games. Some community members commented that they were glad to hear the story of Easter for the first time, and to introduce their children to it. What an amazing privilege to share the good news of new life and hope in Jesus with people for the very first time!

### Serving Wentworth Point

Along with helping our neighbourhood celebrate Easter in style, and our weekly English Conversation Group, some of us were also able to lend a hand when a fundraiser was held mid-year for a local in need. Putting our hands up to help with kids activities on the morning seemed like a great step to show our community God's people care for all people, especially those doing it tough.

### It's not just about our back yard!

In addition to serving and advocating for the homeless communities across Sydney, Breathe continues to have a strong heart for justice on a range of issues. These include climate change, treatment of asylum seekers, overseas development, just to name a few. We get behind those in our community who work in these areas in prayer. Some of us also dropped in on our local MP to voice our concerns regarding current government policies in these areas where it is the vulnerable who are impacted most negatively. It's great to use our voice to share God's just and merciful heart for all.

### Sharing Faith

Breathe has continued to build relationships and point the way to Jesus with friends new and established in 2015. It has been great to share with people who are sometimes only in Australia for a few months about the hope we have. At other times we have journeyed with friends who are now exploring and celebrating God's overwhelming kindness to us all and seeing his transforming work in their lives. It is so exciting and a privilege to walk with people into relationship with God. We have many more friends we are praying for that we might have the same privilege with.



## Faith Steps

Many Breathers have taken courageous faith steps into new adventures in 2015. Our God is a dynamic God and is always leading us forward. We have loved journeying with Dave & Tash as they prepared to head into the unknown, finding ways to serve the people of Uganda. Others such as Em and Melinda tried their hand at leading in new and different ways through our Easter Celebration & Breathe Leaders Group respectively. Others stretched themselves by using their gifts in new ways during gatherings or with English Group or the Vinnies Van.

It is awesome to see people stepping into new possibilities with God, and we know there are more adventures ahead for us all!

## Challenges

Our simple church community, Breathe, has faced many changes and challenges in the last 6 months especially. As we look to the new year there are more transitions ahead! We have had to relocate and are yet to find a suitable permanent home in Wentworth Point. We have farewelled dear friends and new connections. And the Regans will be away for an extended period in early 2016, followed by Nicole's maternity leave from May. Over January we'll be seeking God's wisdom and direction as to where he is leading us, his church. We'd appreciate your prayers for us also in this new season!

Breathe gatherings are a relaxed, informal way to connect with God and community.

Everyone is welcome to join in January gatherings, which will be held in various homes, 6:30pm Sunday nights (except the last of the month)

Please contact Nicole on [nicole@baysidecc.com.au](mailto:nicole@baysidecc.com.au) for venue & other details.



## Wentworth Point English Conversation Group

ECG (English Conversation Group) has had many highlights in 2015. We have welcomed 2 new volunteers- Shabai from the local community, and Trina from Breathe. Jeffrey, Michael and Nicole have continued to volunteer this year.

Shabai is fluent in both Mandarin and English and she has been able to engage with older Chinese grandparents in the area who have very little spoken English. Her leadership with this segment of the group means we have been able to help them develop their language skills, confidence and connectedness with one another and the local community as a whole.

Meanwhile our non-Mandarin speaking students have been from Iran, South America, and Eastern Europe. It is a real highlight meeting and learning from our friends from around the world, of all backgrounds and beliefs. Participants with moderate to good skills often come and go from the group quickly. Others stay longer to continue developing their skills, enjoying the opportunity to talk and be heard by our friendly and patient volunteers. 5-15 participants can arrive on any given week.

Sometimes we meet people going through many life challenges in ECG. Whether it be culture shock, family breakdown or health issues for example we try to make ourselves available to listen and support in whatever way we can. Sometimes our ECG volunteers are the only friends participants know in Australia when challenges hit. We hope by caring for them at these times that our participants see a glimpse of Jesus.

We would love to have more volunteers join in this community focused work in 2016. Volunteers need to be patient, willing to listen and to help people learn, grow and connect with others.



If you would like to know more about the English Conversation Group or volunteering please contact Michael on 0402 908 147.



## Serving our Friends on the Street

### Vinnies Van Team

Here we are at nearly at the end of another year of serving our friends who are homeless or have very little in Mt Druitt and Parramatta. The Vinnies Van goes out every night of the year except New Years Eve, serving sandwiches, tea, coffee, biscuits, soup and muesli bars and offering a listening ear with empathy.

This year we changed locations from Penrith to Mt Druitt as the Penrith area was being over serviced (this is a good thing!). We continue to build numbers in Mt Druitt as the word gets around where we are located and the assistance that is available.

You never know what you will encounter when heading out with the team. On many occasions it is as simple as offering a hot drink and friendly face on a cold night. One night earlier this year we had a man arrive at the Van who was not sure whether he wanted to keep living anymore - as one of our volunteers listened she realised he was in need of urgent support. Together they were able to make an agreement that he would go to his GP the next morning and talk about how he was feeling. When next we saw that man he said "Life isn't perfect, but it's better". We were so glad to have been there for him that night - no doubt God brought that person in contact with the Van to save his life.

### Eat Out & Sleep Out for Homelessness

This year Breathe, along with its many supporters and partners, hosted another Eat Out & Sleep Out event in Homeless Persons Week in August. There was again an amazing response, many donations of warm clothing and blankets, and almost \$10,000 raised which will support the running of the vital Vinnies Van service.

We really felt the presence of God amongst us during this cold cold night. We heard from a couple who were once homeless, they shared their stories of struggle and hope. It was great to come together from all walks of life to understand and be challenged to care for those overlooked in our society. We just had a glimpse of sleeping out, yet there are many who permanently have no home!

From the Eat Out & Sleep Out we have been blessed with 3 new Vinnies Van team members who will start their life-changing journey of serving on the streets this month after completing their training.



Thank you so much to those who have been on the Vinnies Van team-your commitment has been appreciated. Thank you also to Dorothy who has regularly donated items for those we serve - thanks so much Dorothy, you have blessed many.

If you would like to join our team and take turns serving on 4th Sat of each month please contact Kath on [skimmcap@gmail.com](mailto:skimmcap@gmail.com). Please note there is a compulsory 1/2 day of training.

# Praying @ Bayside

## Some things to pray for together over summer

*“Enter his gates with **thanksgiving** and his courts with **praise**; give thanks to him and praise his name.” Psalm 100:4 (NIV)*

PRAY and give thanks and give thanks to God for His sense of ‘movement’ among us this year we were able to celebrate at the Annual Celebration and Thanksgiving service. Give thanks for the gifts, abilities and resources that God has provided through His people among us and for the ongoing privilege of seeing lives transformed through encounter with Him!

PRAY for Neale Valentine, for the Dunne family, the Prouty’s, the Brice’s and the Crane family in the ongoing part they play in ‘Impacting Globally’ with the Good News of Jesus. Pray for them especially at this time of year as they miss friends and family at ‘home’.

PRAY for our brothers and sisters at SHACC (Shoalhaven Aboriginal Community Church) as they seek to bring the Good News of Jesus to those they connect with, many of whom face significant life challenges

PRAY for God’s favour and fruitfulness through Breathe and Bayside AM congregations in our local footprint areas as we celebrate Christmas and move into a New Year full of possibilities and likely new pastoral leadership. Pray for a spiritual hunger for those we connect with that will not be satisfied except in finding Jesus

PRAY for rest and refreshment over the summer break for all those who have played a part in ‘Transforming the Next Generation’ this year by serving in ministries to children and youth through Kidzone, SRE, KLAG, Mainly Music, Crosseyed and Priority One!

And finally...as we round off one year and prepare for the new one, pray that as a community of God’s people we would continue to ‘step up’ and ‘step out’ in faith as gracious loving ambassadors of Jesus wherever we are each given presence and opportunity in 2016!

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” Phil. 4:6-7 (TNIV)*



# Youth Ministry in 2015

It has been another good year for the youth at Bayside. Both Friday night 'Crosseyed' and Sunday morning 'Priority 1' have continued to run exceptionally well with a great bunch of Leaders heading up those programs, week in week out. Sadly we said goodbye to Rachel our Youth Pastor in term 2 after 3 years of service here at Bayside, as God called her onto her next chapter. Despite this significant loss God has continued to bless the youth and the youth work of Bayside this year.

**Crosseyed** has continued to meet at Arthur Street Centre on Fridays during school terms. We have seen a growth in numbers, especially in the second half of the year with 15+ attending each week. Energy levels have been high; noise levels have been through the roof and we have no doubt that this will continue into 2016 as God moves in this place and in the hearts of the youth that Bayside are in contact with.

The themes this year were Teen Fandom (Term 1), Countries (Term 2), Working Out (Youth Alpha) in Term 3 and Colours/Youth Matters in the last term.

Crosseyed is all about demonstrating Jesus' love and connecting with our community to create a positive, youth-focused culture which facilitates opportunities to explore faith and have a lot of fun.



**Priority one** has worked through some deeper topics this year with the youth who are attending Bayside on a Sunday morning. Our aim has been to challenge the teens and encourage reflection on what Jesus is saying to them personally. We have been pushing for more than just the 'bible study' answers such "Jesus saves" and "God is good" so that they, the youth of Bayside can be really thinking that if they believe those answers to be true, then what does that mean for them in their everyday lives and faith walk. God is has certainly been present at Priority 1 on Sundays.

We have been looking at The Creed in Terms 1 and 2, Prayer in Term 3 and Heroes of Faith in Term 4.

The Youth work that comes out of Bayside would not be possible without the prayerful support of the church; the delivery of the youth by the parents; the enthusiastic participation of the youth themselves; and the ongoing commitment and love from the leaders.

God is working here. There are exciting times ahead of us. Watch this space.

*Tom Burton (on behalf of the youth team)*

# Kids Ministry at Bayside

## KidZone Highlights

- We learnt a lot about the Bible and some of us tried finding passages and reading them for ourselves.
- We learnt about stories from the Bible, played games, and talked about things that were happening for us.
- We encouraged our teachers to read the Bible by giving them a devotions help.
- Teachers, helpers and some parents and friends met together to pray for all the kids and share ideas for our ministry team.
- In addition to many kids being involved in Bayside ministry teams regularly, the kids took the lead in the morning services for mothers' day and our KidZone Christmas service where we also had Quizworx delighting us with their puppet show
- KidZone resumes Sunday 31st Jan



## mainly music

- The low point was at the end of term 1, when we had to farewell Raeleigh from our team! But it was beautiful to see such an outpouring of love for her by many people who had been touched by her caring heart and blessed by her awesome music.
- Highlights were Ella, Rhonda and Jessica all stepping up to take a turn at leading in various ways. Also, Jessica and Peggy had babies so we have welcomed Eloise and Jeremiah into our team! Most of all, we have had a lot of fun making new friends and being a blessing wherever we can in this community.
- Mainly music will resume Thursday 4th Feb

# Music Team

It's the reason there's life in my soul

And breath in my lungs

It's the greatest gift ever given

It's poured out for everyone,

And it's the only way I'm forgiven

And I am saved, yeah, GRACE! (c) Steve Fee - Grace

We really are very blessed to have such a large group of musically gift people in our midst at Bayside's morning congregation. From young to not-so young, we've had some great times together this year, both on a weekly basis, but also at our "all in practices" once per term. They do get a little loud and crazy at times, but are an opportunity for us to learn new songs, refine our skills and try something new. These are great for newer musicians to have a go and grow confidence.

In 2015 we set the challenge of setting a goal around our music team involvement. Over the year it has been great to see team members stepping up and taking action in achieving these goals. It has included playing a new instrument, learning lyrics better, encouraging younger member musically, practicing more at home.

We see it as a real privilege to serve and encourage our community to direct their attention towards our great God!

If you'd like to find out more about the music team - speak to Melanie Wellings or email [findmellings@gmail.com](mailto:findmellings@gmail.com)



## Mission Team 2015 Highlights

2015 has been an amazing year for Bayside's Mission Team!

We have had the privilege of staying in close contact with our overseas partners and others from Bayside making a difference around the world. It was wonderful to **reconnect with Neale**, who is normally working in Asia, when he returned home for a couple of months at the end of 2014. Many Baysiders gathered to hear his story, pray with and for him whilst he was here. Unexpectedly we faced the challenge of raising extra support for Neale to ensure his return to Asia. **Thank you church** for your huge generosity in providing for him at a time of real need!



Mid-year saw Mission Month across Bayside- a great time to be encouraged and challenged as we saw God's face across the world, in both our missionaries and in those they seek to reach. It was great to hear from a range of people about their experiences in cross-cultural work. And we especially enjoyed **reconnecting with the Dunne family** during their sabbatical from work with Mercy Ships. It was wonderful to see and hear from them and also to begin supporting them as a church. Again we saw God's generosity through the church in providing over and above our support target for the education of the 3 boys. **Thank you again church!**

As a team we've enjoyed liaising with Simone & Ken Burton and building the connection with SHACC, Shoal Haven Aboriginal Community Church . It was wonderful to have the **church's elders visit** with Bayside's morning congregation so we could share worship, prayer and friendship together. Not to mention an awesome lunch with the 45s & Up group afterwards which everyone enjoyed thoroughly.

Finally we have supported **Dave & Tash Brice** from the Breathe community in their faith step of heading to Uganda to see how God might work through them there for the next 6 months and possibly beyond. We are inspired by their courage and heart for justice, that God's resources be shared with everyone around the world especially where there is great need. As a church we were able to gift them financially as we sent them out to **be people of influence** and blessing on the other side of the world.

The Mission Team has welcomed **2 new members** this year- Robyn Moore & Ben Hallam. Together we have all had alot of fun as we meet once per term. The Holy Spirit is always at work leading and inspiring us as we pray for our partners and dream of new ways for the church to bless and get behind them. We are really looking forward to what God has in store for 2016.

If you would like to join the team for 2016 please contact Mel Wellings  
[findmellings@gmail.com](mailto:findmellings@gmail.com).



# Connecting with Our City and World



Jonno and Heather Crane and their children Samuel, Caleb, Hannah, Micah and Josiah living amongst the Yao people in Mozambique. They're connected with Global Interaction.



Neale V in North Asia living amongst a Muslim minority group.

Keep in touch with him at [euodoo@swissmail.org](mailto:euodoo@swissmail.org)



Bob and Chris Prouty helping families and groups of friends discover for themselves what God is like and how he wants them to live both locally and overseas via the internet. Chris is also chaplain at Homebush West Public School helping recent migrants connect with the school and wider community.



Mick and Tammy Dunne and their children Jack, Mark and Harry volunteering on board the Africa Mercy hospital ship that provides free state-of-the-art medical treatment to the forgotten poor in West and Central Africa.

Keep in touch with them at

[Mick.Dunne@mercyships.org](mailto:Mick.Dunne@mercyships.org)

[Tammy.Dunne@mercyships.org](mailto:Tammy.Dunne@mercyships.org)

The boys have email addresses in the same format too!

## Q&A with the Dunnes on board The Africa Mercy Ship

### *How are you going to celebrate Christmas?*

Christmas on the ship is a crazy time with so many events going on. The celebrations include traditions from many of the nations serving onboard and this makes it a very special time. The Australian and New Zealander crew organise a Carols by Candlelight service, which is on the same day that Mick returns to the ship - 21st December. A favourite is the Dutch / German tradition of putting shoes outside your door, then placing treats in the shoes. We love that it promotes the spirit of giving - particularly when most of the treats are homemade onboard. We make rum balls to place in the shoes and all get involved in putting them out.



Mick has been in UK since Sep and returns just in time for Christmas. He has been studying towards his Second Engineers licence and will return to the UK again in Feb 2016 for another 2 months of study and exams. As you can imagine this has been tough on everyone but it will great to all be together for Christmas.

### *What are your plans for 2016 and what are you looking forward to?*

The Africa Mercy will remain in Tamatave, Madagascar until early June, then sail to Durban again for annual maintenance. We will take our annual leave again then and return to Australia for a 6 week break. On return to Durban we expect to then sail to Cotonou, Benin via Cape Town for a logistics port visit. The rest of 2016 will then be spent in Benin. We will be sad to leave Madagascar but are excited to be going to Benin.

### *What are some lessons and highlights from the past year, both in your faith journey and everyday life?*

Highlights for Mick this past year have been seeing our boys growing up to be fine young men. Although he has not been on the ship for much of the field service it has been very satisfying to hear the great work that has been going on, work that will leave a lasting

legacy. Some of this has been the training of local Malagasy surgeons, nurses, anaesthetists, dentists and health workers as well as the life changing surgeries. Elsewhere the renovation of an operating theatre in the local hospital and the establishing of an Obstetric Fistula Centre - which will remain when the ship sails away.

The other exciting news is that the first steel was cut for the new ship a few months ago, and just last week the Main Generator Factory Acceptance Tests were completed in Finland. The first two of four generators will now be shipped to Tiajin in China. And I have seen pictures of sections of ship in the production hall in China. On 18Dec16 the first 4 modules will be placed on the building ship signifying the laying of the ships keel. Exciting times.

In addition, we are fortunate to be good friends with the Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dr Frank, and his lovely wife and Operating Room Team Leader, Kathleen. We see a completely different perspective of the hospital through their eyes. They work really long hours to get the best results possible for their little patients. And then we see the lame walking with straight legs. A blessing to know them and be part of what they do.

Two major highlights for Tammy - she has recently befriended a patient in the Fistula Centre. Her name is Minette and she is 14 years old. She can not have surgery yet until she is stronger. When she arrived at the centre, she was only 28 kg. It is always a challenge to connect with language barriers but totally worth it. Minette wanted to paint Tammy's fingernails on Wednesday - not really her colour but a new way of connecting without Malagasy language. Tsara be. (Great!)



The second is that she continues to offer swimming lessons to the African crew. At present, she is teaching 5 ladies from Madagascar, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. It is a joy to see them gain confidence in the water - especially when they relax and float for the first time. Teaching swimming was one of the last things on our minds when we applied to serve - yet, there are people asking regularly to start. In 2016, one Malagasy lady will swap French lessons for swimming lessons. C'est fantastique!

Mick found this recently when reading and it is one of his new favourites:

*In his heart a man plans his course, but The Lord determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9* We know that our Father is guiding our steps as we continue to serve with Mercy Ships.

For Tammy, the past few months have been a time of really leaning on the Lord whilst Mick has been away. We heard a sermon once that we strongly identified with - about Peter stepping out of the boat and walking towards Jesus then sinking when he looked away from Jesus. She has learned that it is easy to follow and be faithful when everything is going ok, but when the waves are whipped up, you really have to focus on your faith so you don't start sinking. And focus on being who God created you to be.

2016 looks like an exciting new year. It will be very different to go to Benin. We anticipate less freedom of movement than Tamatave or Congo as it is much more crowded and not as bike friendly:-) However, it will be exciting to go to a new country and be part of the setup. We plan to come home in June - July maintenance period again and look forward to catching up with our home church.

Be blessed over the Christmas season. May you all experience peace and joy as you celebrate with family and friends.

*Mick, Tammy, Jack, Mark and Harry*



Mark in a tuk-tuk



Dressed as favourite book characters for Jubulani Day (L-R) Harry Potter, Sirius Black & Jason Chaser the Hover car racer



At the Nelson Mandela Recapture site near Durban

## Q&A with Bob and Chris Prouty

This Christmas we'll be celebrating pretty much the same way as most Australians. We'll also be sharing breakfast with the Bayside Community on Christmas morning.

As we look to 2016 we are waiting to hear if Chris' role as Chaplain at Homebush West Public School has been funded for the next 3 years. We are also asking: Where should we focus our planting efforts next year? Two fields stand out: reaching Indonesia and Disciple-making.

Indonesia has the largest Muslim population of any country in the world. Last year, the Indonesian team I lead helped 19,000 people on the next step of their spiritual journey. When we redesigned the evangelistic website for mobile phones, we saw an 80% increase in the response rate. This year a highlight of my work with them has been seeing the Indonesian team starting to connect people wanting to explore faith with believers on the ground. Next year I want to help the team sharpen their skills in relating to Muslims and their ability to motivate new believers to meet Christians for face-to-face meetings. My prayer is that soon a majority of the people in this country will follow Jesus.

Disciplemaking is helping people help others become Jesus' followers. It is what we do through our Discovery Bible Studies. Chris helped Ruby and Carrie come to faith in Jesus. Now both of these Chinese women lead their own Discovery Bible Studies. The next step for Ruby and Carrie is seeing their group members come to faith and then helping them start their own groups. Ruby has seen five people become Christians. Carrie has three who are close. Seeing God at work in and through them has been a highlight of our year!

We are in the early stages of disciple-making. My heart is to see God raise up leaders who will start 100 disciple-making groups in 10 languages. Imagine the harvest when each of these 100 groups start groups that start new groups that start new groups.

Personally a highlight of this year has been having our daughter Ruth living with us and giving us ideas on how to teach Scripture!



**Ruby (on right) and her Discovery Bible Study**

## Q&A with Dave and Tash Brice in Uganda

Since arriving in Uganda at the start of November Dave & Tash Brice have begun work serving their local communities. Tash is working in a local clinic and will be learning from and training local nurses in the months to come. After praying for open doors Dave has had the opportunity to work with friends in establishing a non-governmental organisation (NGO) from scratch! They haven't had real showers in over a month, and are embracing the chance to do the everyday tasks of life Ugandan style which takes a lot more time and hands on labour. They are enjoying making friends with their neighbours and other expats.

### *How do the locals celebrate Christmas in Gulu Uganda?*

Christmas Eve, people work a half day and Christmas itself is a public holiday. People usually attend midnight prayers (that's what alot of people call church) on Christmas Eve and also slaughter the meat for the Christmas Day meal. Gifts of clothes are usually given to the children of the family and you can also buy some new clothes for yourself too. Christmas day is spent cooking and eating and then watching Nigerian movies (according to our next door neighbour!).

### *How are you hoping to celebrate Christmas this year?*

We plan on inviting our neighbours and local friends over on Christmas Eve for an afternoon of tea, cake and cookies cooked in the pizza oven. Christmas Day we will spend with our Aussie friends Dan and Jody, and a few of their friends.

### *What are your plans for 2016 and what are you looking forward to?*

We will be living in Gulu until the end of April, then we are travelling for a wedding and to visit friends in north and south America before heading back to Australia. Then it's very open from there, depending on if an opportunity presents itself in the next period of life. So we have lots of things to look forward to and the possibilities of where the next few months will take us is very exciting.





*What are some lessons and highlights from the past year, both in your faith journey and everyday life?*

A big highlight has been moving to Uganda! I would say it is a life highlight! A dream in the making for both of us for quite some time. It was a bit of a faith step, especially as Dave did not have any specific job lined up when we arrived, but after praying for open doors, that same day was when the opportunity came to set up an NGO.

## Q&A with Neale V in North Asia

### *How are you going to celebrate Christmas?*

Dec 25 is not a public holiday here so most of my friends will have to work on that day. Planning to have a party on the following Sunday when most (but not all) of my friends will be free. We have already had some very light snow falls. I'm hoping maybe this year may be a truly white Christmas.

### *What are your plans for 2016 and what are you looking forward to?*

The biggest change next year will be hopefully leaving full time language/culture study and starting to work here. I am hoping to help some local like-minded friends set up a business training centre. However the process to get my business visa is taking longer than expected and is far from certain at this stage. I'm asking if this visa is Father's desire for me then He will open the necessary doors. I am looking forward to being able to tell people I meet that I have a job rather than getting strange looks when I tell them I am a 40 something year old student!

### *What are some lessons and highlights from the past year, both in your faith journey and everyday life?*

A **highlight** is being introduced to a guy (by one of my not yet believing friends) who lives about an hour and a half away from me by public transport. This guy had never before met a foreigner or been to a fellowship. Although by local standards there are quite a few around his area. But this guy was so hungry to hear the good news. He knew the history of our faith in this country almost better than me but had never seen The Book. I was honoured to give him The Book this week. Also working on connecting him with some foreigner and local like minded folks closer to him.

I am still **learning** that I should wait upon Father and that He is good and trustworthy. While some things here happen a lot quicker than you would expect others take a lot lot longer. Still learning in the waiting to look to Him for support, guidance and joy. He has been so faithful to me so many times. I've definitely been growing in this area for quite a few years now but still have further to go.

I'm also **thankful** that even though I had a "special" interview with the provincial authorities here last week that I was able to answer their questions in a truthful manner, plus in a way that for now I can still remain living where I am although it seems rather

strange to them. Thankful that He gave me the right words to say and mostly in the local language even. May Father continue to keep me here for as long as He wants.

### *Any New Year resolutions?*

- To continue to grow in my reliance on Father and approach the trials of life here with greater joy.
- That I could fully share the good news with my local friends using the local language and in a way that is understandable to them.
- That even though I will finish formal language classes that I would continue to work hard at improving my language.



*Neale (on left) and friends*



Earlier this year, Baptist World Aid Australia released their latest 'Behind the Barcode' ethical shopping guide to wide international acclaim.

The Australian Fashion Report examines 59 companies and 219 brands operating in Australia and provides an overall grade from A to F based on companies labour rights, management systems and whether workers overseas are being paid a basic living wage

Publication of the report was timed to coincide with the second anniversary of the factory fire in Bangladesh which killed more than 1,100 workers, aiming to make people think about where their clothes are coming from and how the people producing them are treated.

Go to: [www.behindthebarcode.org.au](http://www.behindthebarcode.org.au) to download the Fashion Report and the Ethical Fashion Guide, empowering you to make every day ethical purchasing decisions. You can take action and be a voice.

# Shoalhaven Aboriginal Community Church (ShACC)

## God is amazing!

Our friends of Shoalhaven Aboriginal Community Church have also experienced a year with a **sense of movement**! Although they exist in a cultural, geographic and denominational setting different to ours we have much in common. The vision and values we hold so dear are also evident in the life of the ShACC mob.

## Let's see how:

January's prayer focus for the year ahead was that this would be one of growth for individual members and for the church as a whole; that ShACC would be able to increase the amount of Bible input into the life of the church. **(Vibrant Faith)**

A sense of change was felt early in the year after the passing of the second of two sisters who were significant elders in the church. *"We have now reached the end of an era at ShACC. These two ladies were stalwarts of our church and important people in the community and we will miss them both very much."* **(Community)**

The most significant event that demonstrated ShACC's sense of moving forward this year was the official joining together in July of ShACC and All Saints Anglican Church Nowra. The theme of the day was 'All One in Christ'. The hope of the members of ShACC is that one day they will be ready to again go out on their own, having benefitted from the experience and wisdom of All Saints. **(Kingdom Living)**



They have seen some positive developments in the life of the church as well as numerous challenges in the lives of members this year. ShACC expresses thanks to God for guiding them through both the bad times and the good.

*"The most important thing we do as a church is to carefully and consistently study God's word. In the end it is only God's word that can change the hearts of people, as it is applied to our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit."*



ShACC also holds Bible studies throughout the week. **(Building people)**

One of those is the 'Young Men's Bible Study' which meets on Wednesday afternoons. Three or four guys attend and Phil leads the studies.

**(Transformation)**

A step forward that has excited the church mob this year has been the restarting of the Sunday School. ShACC also continue to monitor the

Cody Murray-Green Education Trust which financially supports the schooling needs of a young man within the church family. **(transforming the next generation)**

Uncle Tom, a church elder, is 'stepping up and stepping out' by visiting supporting churches with ShACC's Pastoral Worker, Phil. Ours is a slightly different relationship but we were blessed in October with a visit and were able to spend time getting to know each other better. **(expanding influence)**



The Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee oversees the work of ShACC and two other Indigenous churches in Tregear and Macarthur. This year there has been some very significant meetings of discussion and vision setting and much anticipation of concrete benefits to be explored and acted upon in 2016.

ShACC has particular interest in and gives support to a 1<sup>st</sup> year student at Moore College. Nathaniel worked at ShACC as an MTS worker previously, and now is preparing for ministry. **(Empowerment)**

ShACC is more able through its partnership with All Saints and the wider Anglican Church to **impact globally**

***We look forward to 2016 and beyond to see how God chooses to grow and develop this special friendship with our brothers and sisters of the South Coast.***

# What's Usually On?

## **Scripture Classes**

Each Tuesday 9-9.30am @ Newington Public School (school terms) KLAG  
Each Thursday @ Homebush West Public School

## **mainly music**

Each Thursday 10-11.30am @ Newington Community Centre (school terms)  
Contact Carolyn Schache 0416 084 413

## **crosseyed youth group (Yrs 6-12)**

Friday nights during school terms.  
Arthur St Centre, 59 Arthur St, Homebush West  
Contact Tom Burton 0450 625 963

## **LifeGroups and Connect Groups**

Contact Mark Falson 0423 201 261

## **Breathe**

Sunday night 6.30pm (except last Sunday of the month)  
@the Brice's home, 214/4 Stromboli Strait, Wentworth Point  
Contact Nicole Regan 0423 246 482

## **10AM Sunday Service**

### **with KidZone & Priority One (Yrs 6-9)**

Concord West Public School Hall, 378 Concord Rd (near Killoola Ave)  
Parking in Queen St

## **Vinnies Van run**

4th Saturday of month  
Contact Kath Simmonds 9890 5850 or kathsimmonds@yahoo.com.au

## **English Conversation group**

each Wednesday 7.30pm @ Wentworth Point Community Library  
except last of the month  
Contact Michael Villis 0402 908 147



# Our Story

Bayside Community Church began in 2000 to serve the growing population in the suburbs around the Sydney Olympic site. We wanted to be a fresh, relevant expression of the Christian faith, based on the teaching of Jesus



It started in a lounge room in Liberty Grove with Steve and Louise Bartlett and 2 other families, moved to Newington Community Centre and then to Concord West Public School as our congregation grew.



Our second congregation called “breathe” began in the Gloria Jeans cafe at North Strathfield in 2006. A couple of years later it was replanted into the Waterfront estate at Wentworth Point.



In 2009 we were given the church building in Arthur Street where Strathfield-Homebush Baptist Church met until it closed down. We now call it the Arthur St Centre. We’re privileged to continue their legacy of ministry into the Homebush/Flemington district. Our Crosseyed Youth group meets at the Arthur St Centre on a Friday night and it’s also the Bayside office.

## Bayside Community Church is part of the NSW & ACT Baptist Association

Even though we don’t have Baptist in our name that doesn’t mean we don’t value the fact that we are a Baptist church. Being part of a movement connects us with many other churches with similar heart to see people impacted across our nation and world for Jesus

“Being Baptist’ is not only (or even most importantly) about how much water you get baptised with. Our whole movement started just over 400 years ago by people who were committed to the capacity of every follower of Jesus to know God’s presence and guidance and to be free to worship in the way they wanted to. Our heritage is also one of energetic commitment to mission. These emphases were in responses to the mainline church of the day in England which did not value these things. And they are the emphases that have been a key thread in the story of what is now one of the largest movements in the church worldwide.

We are part of a heritage that is worth celebrating, and though it is seldom ‘front and centre’ in our minds at a local level, who we are and what we are part of impacts our values and vision as a church.

Have you ever checked out the movement we are a part of? Go to <http://www.nswactbaptists.org.au/get-connected/who-are-we> and have a squiz.

# Our Values



## **Vibrant Faith** connected to God, living in His power

Expectant for what God will do in our lives and in His church  
Leading a life of worship that pursues intimacy with God  
Believing prayer expressed together and individually

## **Kingdom Living** changing our world with Jesus

Relentlessly seeking to connect people with Jesus  
Intentionally biasing our time and resources  
towards those who are yet to enter the Kingdom  
Actively making a difference in the world,  
promoting God's compassion, justice and peace

## **Community** sharing life deeply

Practicing inclusiveness and acceptance  
Serving one another, sacrificially as needed  
Honesty and integrity in relationships

## **Transformation** becoming more like Jesus

Consistently seeking opportunities to grow our faith  
Lifelong growth into Christlikeness in the power of the Holy Spirit  
Practicing appropriate accountability

## **Empowerment** developing, releasing, multiplying

Developing—intentional apprenticeship to facilitate  
the growth of new leaders  
Releasing of people to new levels of discipleship and leadership  
Multiplying—an expectation of the birth of new disciples, leaders, ministries,  
congregations and churches



***We exist to love God and love people;  
encouraging everyone to grow into  
passionately committed followers of Jesus***