

MINISTRY REPORT 2018

Minchinbury Anglican Church



Family.



Bible based.



Multicultural.



Community.



Christ centered.



Tangible love.



Transformation renewal change.



From the Senior Minister

Rev. Mike Smith

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. To those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”

Romans 8:28-30

I continue to give thanks to God for this wonderful promise. He doesn't promise good things to all who love him, but he promises to work in all things for the good of his people. Sometimes this will involve things that are uncomfortable or even painful. But the promise is that God is with us and working in every situation for our ultimate good. And notice what that ultimate good is - “to be conformed to the image of His Son”. My prayer for myself and all of us is that no matter what has happened in 2018 and what will happen in 2019, we will trust in this promise and respond with joy every time a situation (even a difficult situation) pushes us forward in Christ-likeness.

There are many ways that God has obviously been at work amongst us over the past year, from the smallest child whom we welcomed into our world, to the frail elderly, whom we farewelled to glory. 2018 saw the launch of new morning congregations, a partnership with the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church, a new visual (brand) identity for the church, and many other initiatives.

One of the highlights of my year was seeing many new people join our church, and seeing some put their trust in Jesus for the very first time. What a joyous moment to witness when God calls the lost home! Another joy was seeing the overwhelming generosity of

our church in sponsoring 20 children in the Phillipines through Compassion as well as making an investment into the future through our Minchinbury25 vision. May God continue the good work he has begun in all of us.

Strategic Priorities for 2019

Our mission statement says that in everything we do we want to bring glory to God by Loving Jesus and Showing Jesus' Love so that all people in multicultural western Sydney, and beyond, might find renewal.

Having launched new congregations and a partnership with the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church we will continue, under God, to build and enhance the richness of these communities throughout 2019. But we also want to think and pray hard about the next thing God would have for us in seeing our vision a reality. So this year the Ministry Team and Parish Council we will be doing some strategic planning and prayerfully seeking God's guidance for this next stage of mission.

Some of the areas that we have on our list are:

- Leadership Training & Development
- Youth & Young Adult Ministry
- High Level Pastoral Care Team
- Enhancing our Properties for Growth and Ministry

If you'd like to participate in this strategic planning, please send me an email.

There is much more to report, as you'll see from the following pages. We thank God for the grace he has shown in the past year. May he answer our prayers and bless our efforts to his glory as many more people turn to his love and show that same love to others.

Serving Christ Together,

Mike Smith

Rev. Mike Smith

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY IN 2018

LOVING JESUS AND SHOWING JESUS LOVE

REACH



- 270 people reached through Fresh Food Monday.
- 286 young people reached through PlayTime, Kids' Club, Youth Group, and Scripture.
- 219 individuals at our Christmas Eve, "Born is the King", Celebration.
- 20 children in Philippines sponsored through Compassion.
- 2 Women's Evangelistic Events.
- 1 One Life Course.
- 1 Year 13 mission trip to Fiji.
- New partnership with Anglicare's SHIFT program.
- 1 CMS Mission Partner reaching many in Kenya.
- 1 AFES Mission Partner reaching university students in Sydney.

ENGAGE



- 58 new people active in our church community.
- 4 Newcomer lunches.
- 1 Belonging course.
- 1 Winter picnic.
- Hospital Visitations.
- Countless coffee's and meal's.

NURTURE



- 15 Discipleship Groups
- 133 people in groups (55%).
- 60 kids church average attendance.
- 4 "Strengthening Ties" womens events.
- 3 Mens ministry events.
- 1 Young Adult Weekend Away.

EQUIP



- 2 Student Ministers
- 2 Year 13 Students
- 125 people serving in ministry areas
- Training in Welcoming, Mentoring, and Evangelism
- 1 Minchinbury Leadership Summit.
- 1 Marriage Enhancement Dinner

WORSHIP



- 5 Sunday gatherings.
- 261 average attendance.
- 4 prayer nights
- 190's music celebration.
- 1 celebration Sunday
- 1 Thanks...Giving service
- "Born is the King" Christmas Eve celebration.

Our Vision

We long to see all people in multicultural western Sydney, and beyond, renewed through the love of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission

We seek to make disciples and multiply communities that love Jesus and show Jesus' love.

Our Strategy

In prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, we seek to make this happen by giving priority to the following 5 core values and purposes of God's church. We call this our RENEW Pathway.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| REACH | We want to actively reach out to the different communities of Western Sydney, proclaiming the good news of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus Christ alone. |
| ENGAGE | We seek to engage people in the life and community of our church through loving welcome, hospitality, and practical care. |
| NURTURE | We seek to nurture each person in their knowledge and love of Jesus through a commitment to the prayerful proclamation of God's word, individually and in community. |
| EQUIP | We value every Christian in our church community being trained and equipped to joyfully use the gifts God has given them for the benefit of the church and the mission of Jesus. |
| WORSHIP | We want to be known as a church that honours Jesus, not just with our lips, but with our lives, so that Jesus is honoured wherever we are: at church, in our homes, and our places of work and leisure. |

The Ministry Staff Team

Our church's mission was led by a team of full-time ministers supported by a team part-time staff and lay leaders in the church.

During 2018, we said farewell to Matt Baines and his family. Matt decided to take up an opportunity to study a PHD in theology at the university of Edinburgh. We thank God for Matt's ministry at Minchinbury, and are delighted that God in his kindness has given us a replacement associate pastor in Chris Gray.

Sandy and Dani were employed part-time as student ministers (Youthworks college) in 2018. Sandy will continue her studies in 2019, whilst Dani has finished. We thank Dani for her leadership of Kids Church during 2018 and look forward to her continuing involvement in children's ministry as a lay volunteer in 2019.

Ministry Team

The responsibilities of the ministry team stretch across multiple dimensions. Generally speaking each of the full time Minister's are responsible for:

- a particular RENEW focus area that helps strengthen our mission to make disciples across all congregations and communities.
- a particular COMMUNITY focus as they seek to build up a group of people in a particular life stage or congregation as disciples of Christ.

In each of the areas our tasks are somewhat similar – as we engage in the ministry of the Word and prayer we look to build teams of church members to not only carry out the work that exists at present, but to make it possible to take the work further. A major role of each staff member therefore is to mobilise church members, recruit them, equip them, support them, setting up teams with leaders over them so more and more people can join in the work.

Please pray for our hard working ministry team as they lead us, teach us, and set an example in faith and godliness.

Admin Team (Support to Ministry)

The Admin team is concerned to develop and maintain the systems that support the Vision and Mission of the church. The Wardens and Parish Council are responsible for Property and Finances but week-to-week management is delegated to the team in the office. This involves:

- **Finances:** this involves overseeing the book -keeping, banking, payroll, and payments.
- **Grounds & Facilities Management** making sure they are maintained, cleaned and that various weekly and occasional events are well coordinated.
- **Design & Communications** Production of all manner of graphics and other communication in our church life, including branding, events, flyers & ministry collateral.

I am grateful for the wisdom and commitment of our Wardens and the members of the Parish Council. The energy, skill, and wisdom they bring is very much appreciated.

Each year I say this, but once again I want to pay tribute to our members who faithfully and regularly give to support the work of the Gospel (see further details in the Wardens and Financial Reports).

The R.E.N.E.W Pathway

Reach

We want to actively reach out to the different communities of Western Sydney, proclaiming the good news of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus Christ alone.

Highlights of 2018

Some of the REACH highlights in 2018 included:

Fresh Food Monday

We started a fortnightly partnership with Anglicare's Mobile Community Pantry (Fresh Food Van) in February 2018. Throughout the year we connected with 270 people in our community needing assistance. We had the opportunity to proclaim the gospel in 2 formal sessions as well as countless 1-1 conversations. We have seen fruit from this ministry with new people engaging with other ministries at church (e.g. Sunday Services, Have-a-Chat and PlayTime).

Christianity Explored

We ran Christianity Explored in term 2, following Easter. This course continues to see people turn to Christ or be restored to Christ, and equip church members looking to get back to the basics of the Christian faith.

Christmas Eve "Born is the King" Celebration

We ran the "Born is the King" nativity play and carols service on Christmas Eve in 2018 and it was great success. We had over 200 people attend the service, which included a BBQ dinner beforehand and a brand new Minchinbury Anglican jumping castle! It was a wonderful celebration of the birth of Jesus led by our church kids and music team.

Kids Club

Kids club was a real highlight in 2018. It was led by a gifted and caring team of leaders with up to 40 children coming along some weeks. We hope, under God, it will continue to be a great way to reach out and engage children and families from our local schools and community.

New Visual Identity (Rebranding):

In 2018, we implemented a new visual identity (rebranding) for our church. We purchased a new street sign and updated all our public communications which has greatly enhanced our visual presence in the community.

Challenges

- Please pray for Mike as he balances leading this important ministry along with the many pastoral and administrative demands of leading the church.
- The social, economic, and spiritual needs of our parish and wider Mt Druitt are immense. Please pray to the Lord of the Harvest that he would raise up more workers to send into this significant harvest field.
- The first strategic priority in seeing the lost saved is praying to the Lord of the harvest. This is always a challenge in our busy lives. Please pray for a growing commitment in this area by all members of our church.

Priorities in 2019 & Beyond

- Zambia Mission 2019 - For the first time this mission will involve a partnership of 3 churches (Minchinbury, Gladesville, and Kiama) along with with Anglican Aid. The mission will have 3 parts: School (Hope & Faith Christian School), Local Community, and Pastor/Leader Training.
- Reaching out to the Chinese community in Western Sydney.
- Continue building upon our partnership with Mt Druitt Indigenous Church.
- Involvement in the Franklin Graham evangelistic tour of Sydney in February 2019.
- Encouragement and training in 1-1 personal evangelism and ministry.
- A fruitful partnership with Anglicare's new retirement living complex opening in Rooty Hill Sth in 2019.





Engage

We seek to engage people in the life and community of Minchinbury Anglican Church through loving welcome, hospitality, and practical care.

Highlights of 2018

Some of the ENGAGE highlights in 2018 included:

Newcomer Lunches

Various newcomer lunches were hosted by Elizabeth Spencer (Engage Pastor) and others throughout the year to help new members build relationships with each other and older members of church. If you came to one last year, we do hope you enjoyed it!

Belonging Course

We developed the Belonging Course in 2018, a short course, designed to help integrate newcomers fully into the life our church community. We hope this course becomes a regular feature on the church calendar.

Church Social's

The members of Minchinbury love being together and it was so much fun sharing in camping trips, hot cross buns, a picnic at Nurragingy, BBQ's at church, post night church haps at the rectory, and many more events.

Challenges

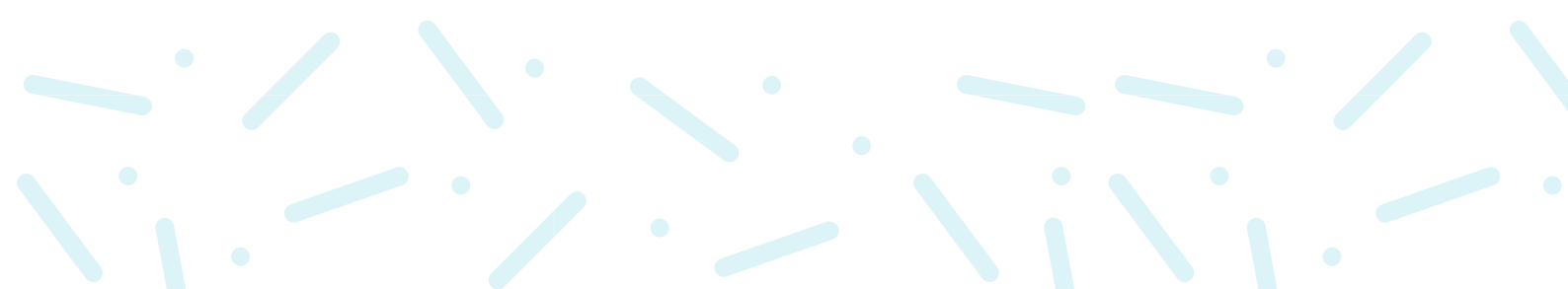
- Working hard to ensure our property and buildings are welcoming, safe, and comfortable.
- Every church member seeing themselves as a welcomer.

- Pastoral Care in any size church is a privilege but also challenging. This dynamic expands exponentially the larger the church gets. The ministry team devoted its weekly meetings to praying regularly for those in our church who were sick, suffering, and struggling, but it can be hard for ministers to see everybody who is in need. Pray for an ongoing commitment of the wider church membership to practically care for each other.

Priorities in 2019 & Beyond

Ongoing training in welcoming and integration.

- Appoint "engage" champions in each our mid-week ministries that have a Reach focus (Food Van, English Classes, PlayTime, Kids Club, and Youth).
- Developing a high level pastoral care system and support team.
- Supporting and Building relationships with the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church.



WHEN GOD TAPS YOU ON THE SHOULDER

Michael Tatlock

For some time now God has been tapping me on the shoulder encouraging me to live the life I was meant to live. He became quiet aggressive with his persuasion. My daughter Emily had been asking me for some time if she can go to Church as she enjoys her Religion classes at School and wanted to know more. Not being part of a practicing Christian family, I didn't pay too much attention to this. Then one evening, Emily told me that she had downloaded a Bible Application on her phone. This was a shock to me as I did not realise she was so keen to walk in the light of our Lord. This convinced me that this may be a real opportunity for me to finally go to Church on Sunday's to become a Christian as I know deep down that this was what I needed. After all, I have no right to deny Emily the Love of God.

Emily and I wondered up to the church not knowing how we would be received or the type of people we were going to meet. We were both welcomed with open arms initially by Elizabeth Spencer followed by an introduction to you. Following a long discussion with Elizabeth, I entered the Church and was shown a seat where I listened with an open heart for the remainder of the Service. The biggest and most gracious surprise for me was the number of people who walked up to me and introduced themselves. I could tell that they were genuinely happy to Emily and I there. Following the Service we stood around talking and had further introductions. The hairs standing on my arms and the love that was directed at me confirmed that I had made one of the best decisions in my life in deciding to make my way to Church that day.

I now know that there are more important things in life than work and worrying about matters that I have no control over. Or being the person that everybody thinks I should be. My life has changed for the better in so many ways. Initially, I stopped lying and making excuses. I am much more patient with people and don't expect more than what a person offers. I take people for what they are and appreciate them more for who they are.

The biggest surprise for me in becoming a Christian is that I have realised that the Love of God is not only an emotional and spiritual presence, but it also a physical one. I have also learnt that evil has been in my heart for most of my life thinking it was just my personality. Once I allowed my Heart to be opened to God I realised that there is indeed room in there for him. I immediately felt his presence and that there was a battle underway way to fill my heart with his Love and cast out the evil within. I want to state again how much of a shock this realisation was for me as it has changed everything I thought life was about. While I now consider myself a Christian, the battle is still far from over.

I have made so many new friends. Or as like to refer them – Brothers and Sisters. We are all equal, and love and care about one another accordingly. I am able to talk to any of my brothers and sisters about anything and not be embarrassed or made to feel like a lesser person due to my faults and shortcomings. The Love is so strong in my new family that I still get goose bumps when I think about conversations I have had with any of them.

I think that Minchinbury Church may be unique in this respect. Other Churches I have previously attended on various occasions have not been able to convince me that following God is the way to live my life. In our Church (home) at Minchinbury, God's presence, joy and love can be felt Physically, emotionally and spiritually. The Ministers and staff at Minchinbury Church are extremely good at

there Job in preaching God's word. I am sure that this will help me become the Christian I know I need to (and want to) become.

Thank you Mike, all the staff and God for accepting me into your family. A family I shall forever love and cherish.



"Once I allowed my Heart to be opened to God I realised that there is indeed room in there for him."

John Dara

I was born in Iran, a country that after its revolution at 1979, everything including the country's law have been affected by strict rules of Islam which under these laws which is still apply until now, non-believers would have been killed/ hanged or best case scenario sent to jail and punished physically.

I was also one of those people who were physically punished with lashes while being at jail but luckily I could escape from it and look for a safe place to live so at least my children don't experience horrible things I have gone through.

But I have always believed that God is more than what my country's government tried to force people to believe. I always believed God is kind and full of love, until my journey to Australia began and I migrated here. My first time getting to know Jesus was at Christmas Island and there I got to know he is full of never ending love and kindness, something very different from what I have known about God in Islam.

Now I am honoured to be identified as a christian and a believer. In the name of Jesus, now I have many brothers and sisters which are like a family to me, caring and loving.

I am thankful that God's never ending love has touched and healed my broken heart.





"I am thankful that God's never ending love has touched and healed my broken heart."

Nurture

We seek to nurture each person in their knowledge and love of Jesus through the prayerful proclamation of God's word.

Highlights of 2018

Some of the NURTURE highlights in 2018 included:

Bible Teaching

In our Sunday services and mid-week discipleship groups we enjoyed teaching through the books of Nehemiah, Matthew 5-7, Romans 1-5, Song of Songs, Acts 5-8, and Luke 1-2.. We also looked at hot topics such as Domestic Violence, Divorce, Death, and Contentment.

Discipleship Groups

In 2018 we had 15 discipleship groups, totalling 133 people, from across our congregations meeting at various times and places during the week.

Kids Church

On average across the 3 Sunday kids ministries; baby creche, pre school, and kids church we had around 60 children each week, and are so thankful to God for bringing new families to our church community this year. The Kids continued to enjoy puppet shows with Blueberry, monthly kid spots in church, and absolutely loved taking up roles in the "Born is the King" nativity play.

Women's Ministry

As usual, the womens ministry committee organised some epic events in 2018. Starting with Markets & Mocktails followed by the One Love Women's conference, and the "A Foodie Christmas" event. A real highlight was the introduction of once a term "Strengthening Ties" meetings, where women from across our congregations could gather in smaller groups to share testimonies and encourage one-another.

Men's Ministry

Our men once again enjoyed the MBM's men's conference and the Basecamp conference. Some also attended a 'Roll With It' roll playing games night. It was a fun night of encouragement!

Challenges

- We continue to face the challenge of equipping and raising up leaders each year
- Resourcing Kids church.
- Building into our mens ministry a focus on peer-peer discipleship in addition to the wonderful events being organised.

Priorities in 2019 & Beyond

- As always, it would be wonderful to see more members of our church family meeting regularly in D-Groups & being nurtured through personal Bible reading and prayer.
- We will continue to provide reading and study material to coincide with the Sunday preaching program, but will also look to resource the groups in other ways as well.
- The D-Group Challenge. We would like to challenge every D-Group to see at least one guest joining a Christianity Explored course in Term 3.



Equip

We seek to equip each person to joyfully use the gifts God has given them for the ministry of the church and the mission of Jesus.

Highlights of 2018

Some of the EQUIP highlights in 2018 included:

Year 13 Students

Tim Sladen and Mikaela Dane completed the Year 13 gap year program at Youthworks in 2018. It was so exciting seeing their passion for the gospel, ministry, and mission grow throughout the year. We look forward to seeing further growth in them as disciple-making disciples in the years ahead.

Student Ministers

We had two home-grown student ministers last year, Sandy Rigby (Youthworks College) and Dani Smith (Youthworks College). Sandy coordinated our youth ministry and Dani our Kids church. We thank God for the ministry of these two faithful women of God. Sandy will continue her second year as a student minister in 2019, whilst Dani has finished. We are also very thankful for Dani's ongoing commitment to ministry this year as a lay volunteer.

Developing Rector Program

Mike continued his involvement in a pilot diocesan program called the developing rectors program. They meet once a month, throughout 2018 for training on issues like financial management, strategy development, and conflict management. Mike also met with an older minister every month for 1-1 coaching and feedback.

Leadership Summit

In March 2018, all leaders (and aspiring leaders) in our church were invited to a leadership summit, to be trained and equipped to lead Christ's church. It was a great time thinking about the biblical foundations of leadership as well as practical strategies in leading, children, youth, teams, pastoral care, and preaching God's word.

Mentor Training

Matt ran a course during 2018 on equipping people to be mentors. The group looked at the power of 1-1 relationships and different models of mentoring (coffee chats, reading a book, monthly catch-up, and written covenant).

Marriage Enhancement Dinner

In conjunction with our teaching series on Song of Songs, we ran a marriage enhancement dinner at the Two Birds Cafe in Prospect. It was a great opportunity for married couples to take stock of their marriage, and think practically about spending special times together.

Ministry Fair

During the Recharge vision month in November, a highlight was the ministry fair held over two consecutive Sunday's. Many of the ministries of our church were showcased and people had an opportunity to ask questions and consider how they might be able to serve in the future.

Challenges

- Recruiting people to be involved in Kids Church leadership.
- Recruiting live Mandarin interpreters.
- Creating space for new ministry initiatives and new gifts to be expressed.
- Thinking how our children and youth can be disciple makers of younger children.
- Leadership succession.

Priorities in 2019 & Beyond

- Recruitment and Equipping of Kids Ministry Leaders.
- Equipping of church members to share the gospel 1-1 with more boldness.
- Encouraging senior high school students to consider the Leadership in Training (LiT) conference in Spring 2019.
- Equipping of D-Group leaders as key pastoral care providers.



Worship

We want to be people who worship Jesus, not just with our lips, but with our lives, so that Jesus is honoured wherever we are.

Highlights of 2018

Some of the WORSHIP highlights in 2018 included:

New Sunday Services

A major highlight of 2018, was the launch of 2 new morning congregations (9am, and 10:45am) in addition to our 6pm evening service. Additionally we entered into a formal partnership with the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church (10am in Tregear). According to elvanto, there were on average 220 individuals (including children and visitors) who attended our Minchinbury services last year (up from 216 in 2017). Another 15-20 people gathered weekly at Tregear and another 15-20 each month at Minchinbury Manor.

Live Mandarin Interpretation at 10:45

Investing in the Linguali system enabling simultaneous interpretation through smart phones was a real highlight of 2018. This has helped make our bible teaching on a Sunday more accessible to this growing group of church members. A big thanks to the translation team who continue to translate our sermons into Chinese text as well!

Prayer Nights

At the beginning of each term we gathered together to pray for our mission as a church, our overseas ministry partners, and those in need in our church. We also launched our term teaching series at these nights.

90's Music Celebration

In October we held a special worship event called "A Musical Flashback". It was a joyous time of singing 90's worship songs and fellowshiping together.

Christmas Eve "Born is the King" Celebration

Christmas Eve was a great celebration. The Kids loved being a part of the "Born is the King" nativity play, and our musicians did a wonderful service leading us in the singing of Christmas carols. It was also fun christening our new church jumping castle!

Challenges

- We gather as people across a range of ages, stages, and cultural backgrounds. This brings the challenge of providing services that are accessible, inspiring and caring for such a diverse group of people.
- Ensuring our church building is comfortable and welcoming for people as they gather to worship God. We still have a particular challenge now with our hospitality space (e.g. morning tea) and also with our lighting and sound.
- The Sunday night service is attended by a small, faithful and social group of mainly younger men and women. It's challenge is to become a place that is particularly oriented towards youth and young adults, but also accessible to others who cannot make a Sunday morning service.
- Gathering people to pray together is always a challenge. Please pray for a growing commitment in this area by all members of our church.

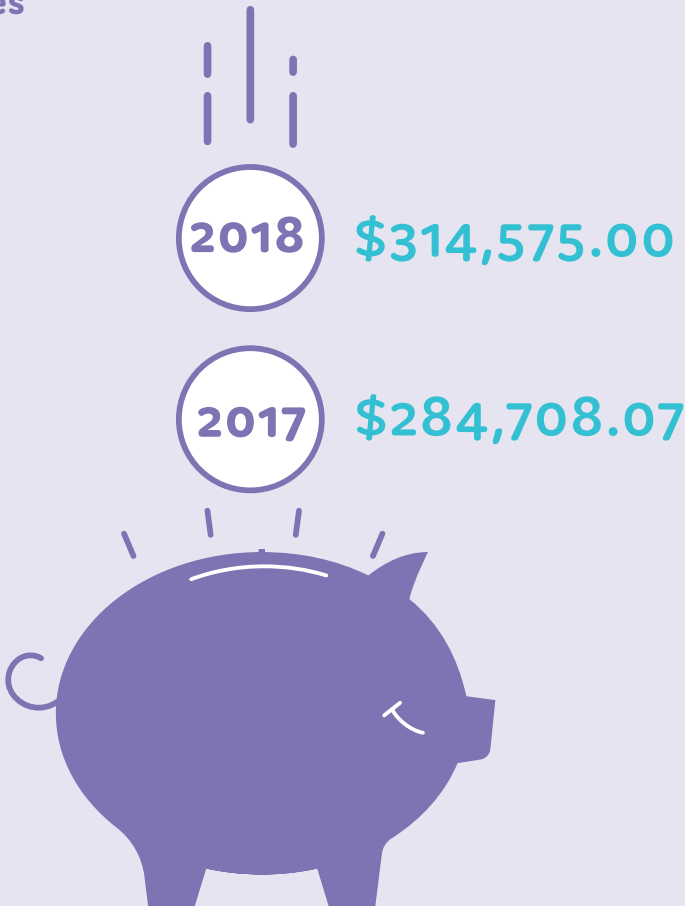


Priorities in 2019 & Beyond

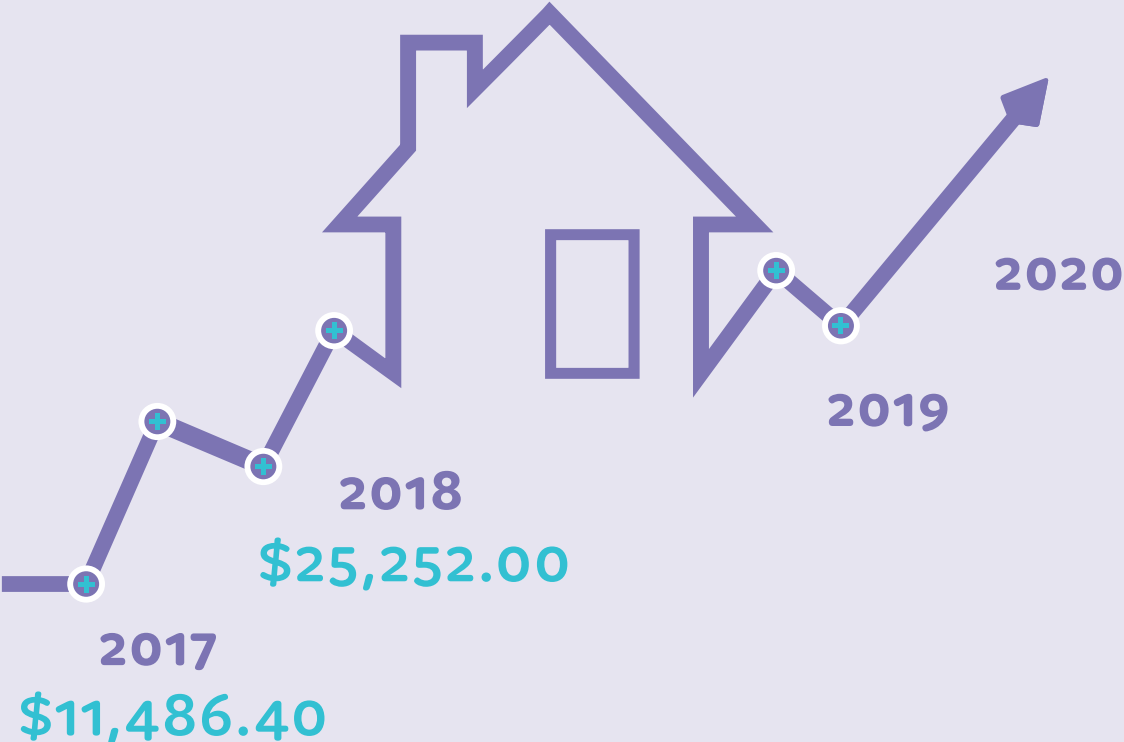
- Enhancing worship outside the Sunday gatherings, by equipping families and individuals with devotional material and other aids.
- Build on our partnership with the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church to provide a worship service in our community for our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters.
- Review and consider ways of growing our 6pm Evening congregation. Chris has been appointed as focus pastor for this congregation.
- Building a stronger connection between our youth ministry and the evening service.

Finances

Offertories



Building fund





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